

RAYMOND SLADE

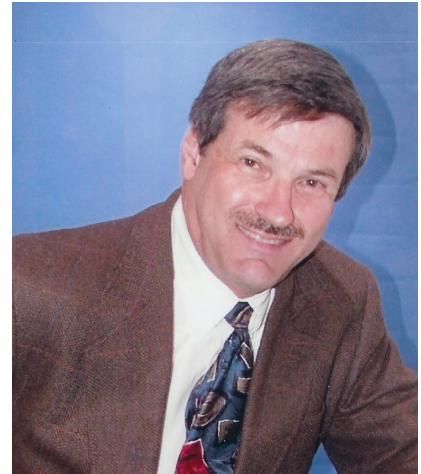
Slade Hydrology

Certified Professional Hydrologist

1978-Present

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I have studied and written about 30 scientific articles and have many PowerPoint presentations on the hydrology and water quality of Barton Springs. Several of the reports have served as partial basis for almost every City of Austin environmental ordinance regarding Barton Springs, by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in protecting water quality, by the Texas Water Development Board in modelling water availability for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards aquifer; and as documentation used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to protect the Barton Springs Salamander.

As a child growing up in Austin, Dad would take us kids to Barton Springs many weekends, especially during hot summer days. While working at Bergstrom Air Force Base, he had obtained a giant inner tube that came from a B-52 bomber. Only partially filled, it would hang over both sides of the top of Dad's station wagon as he transported a bunch of us excited kids to the Springs. No other swimming pool in Austin would allow us to bring in that giant tube. My brother and I, along with neighbor boys and Dad's Little League team, spent many hot afternoons on top of the tube while trying to bounce each other from it.

Even as a child, I loved math and earth science and knew I wanted to protect Barton Springs for future generations. My dream came true in 1978 when, working as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Fort Worth, I got the opportunity to transfer back to Austin to supervise a comprehensive study of the water resources of the Austin area. The study was funded by the USGS and City of Austin and included analyses of the hydrology and water quality of the Springs and associated aquifer.

I know how the aquifer works and am still amazed that nature provided this perfect treasure—mankind could not conceive of a better framework for a spring to be enjoyed by society. Even though I retired from the USGS in 2003, I still use every opportunity I can to try to educate the public on the environmental sensitivity of this gift. I do so by continuing to write reports and giving PowerPoint presentations.

I am saddened to know that future land development will eventually degrade the water quality of the Springs so that swimming will be prohibited. However, at the top of my earth science accomplishment list is the knowledge that I have contributed a little to protect this resource so that at least a few generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of swimming in this oasis.