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1993-Present

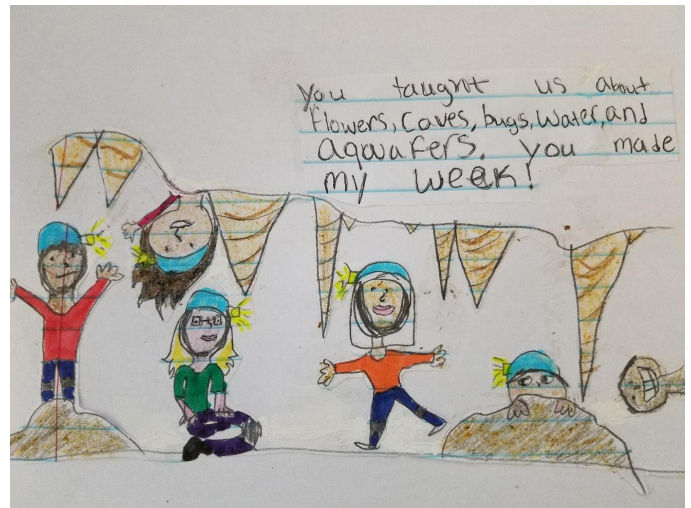
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I taught at Buda Elementary in the early 1990s where I brought school kids to Onion Creek to sample the water as part of a volunteer Riverwatch program. In 1995 I received an education award from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District for my efforts to develop stewardship in Hays County for the largest watershed source of flow to Barton Springs, which is 15 miles away. In 1997, I began developing the Earth Camp program with the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department, which brought low-income elementary school kids to creeks, caves and Barton Springs for environmental science immersion.

Currently Earth Camp teaches about 1,500 fifth-grade students a year and provides additional opportunities to train other teachers to lead their own tours of the sites. Earth Camp brought students to the Splash! Exhibit at Barton Springs and Wildflower Cave to learn about the sensitivity of the Edwards Aquifer. The efforts of Earth Camp have been



supported by similar programs for middle and high school students and a group of highly-trained educators.

It is important to reach out to all areas of Austin to teach about Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer that supplies it, using exciting innovative immersion camps. Many of my former students, now as adults, are working in environmental protection and education. Investment in today's children will ensure the future for Barton Springs.

Since the 1990s, Earth Camp and other education programs have helped shape the awareness of the City of Austin to the importance and sensitivity of

Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer, including its caves and creeks. It is important that Austin experiences its heritage.