



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month, we are giving a special shout-out to one of our founding member groups, the Watershed Association!

The story of this organization is a pretty amazing one. We have an inexpressible amount of gratitude for the work this organization and their founder David Baker have done to preserve such a prized Hill Country jewel.

Jacob's Well is truly a unique treasure. The artesian spring provides millions of gallons of fresh water to Cypress Creek that runs through the center of the historic square in Wimberly Texas, the City of Woodcreek, and the famous blue hole swimming area. It is the second-longest underwater cave in Texas and a one of kind geologic wonder. The well is connected to the Edwards Aquifer and to Barton Springs in Austin stretching roughly 5,550 feet!

When Baker and his family moved to Jacob's Well in the late 80's, the spring and surrounding land was divided into over a hundred privately owned parcels. In the 90s, when threats of developing a mobile home park and condos on top of the Well, as well as a second golf course development in the area that would use water from the aquifer to water the course, Baker joined local landowners to form Wimberly Valley Watershed Association. **The 501c3 nonprofit would serve as protector of Jacobs Well, Cypress Creek, and would address critical water issues of the region.**

After expanding beyond Wimberly Valley into many parts of Central Texas, they are now known as the Watershed Association. **They strive to bring a much-needed awareness of the relationship between the natural environment and people, seeking partnerships to enlarge the impact of conservation and carry it beyond the measure of acres and dollars to the measure of social and individual well-being.**

One of their latest initiatives, Art4Water advocates for environmental protection through the lens of art. The Sacred Springs Kite Exhibition at the Austin Central Library is a must-see. Of the thousands of springs throughout Texas the exhibition highlights 8 of Texas' most unique springs, treasures that deepen the human connection to the environment and inspire stewardship for thousands who come to visit them each year. More on the exhibition is here:

<https://watershedassociation.org/impactareas/art4water/sacred-springs-kite-exhibition/>

6/13/23