



SPRING LAKE

LOCATION: **Texas State University, San Marcos, TX** SOURCE: **Edwards Aquifer**
ENDANGERED SPECIES COUNT: **8** SPRINGS BENEATH THE SURFACE: **200+**
CONSTANT TEMPERATURE: **72°**

A TEXAS ORIGINAL

YOUR WORLD From the sandy floor of Spring Lake, ancient waters bubble forth just as they've done for 10 million years. The heart of one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites by humans in North America, the San Marcos Springs have sustained life for millennia; now we are working to sustain them.

OUR RESEARCH Spring Lake holds the key to scientific discoveries that inform sound water management decisions. Dr. Thomas Hardy explores the vital relationship between spring flow and the survival of the lake's endangered flora and fauna. Underwater archaeologist Fritz Hanselmann unearths long-hidden evidence of prehistoric cultures submerged and preserved beneath the lake, a window to our common past. And what our researchers learn here cascades outward and is helping find ways to provide sustainable water supplies for humanity and the environment all across Texas, the nation and the world.



Peck's cave amphipod



Texas blind salamander



Comal Springs riffle beetle



San Marcos salamander



San Marcos gambusia



Texas wild rice



Comal Springs dryopid beetle

A WATERSHED GIFT

Thanks to a generous gift from The Meadows Foundation, the River Systems Institute has been renamed The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. The foundation's initial gift of \$1 million and an expected \$4 million over the next few years will be matched to create a \$10 million endowment for the center.

This gift makes it possible for The Meadows Center, led by noted conservationist and author Andrew Sansom, to ensure that both water and knowledge flow freely.

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