

# THE MEADOWS CENTER ANNIVERSARY TALKING POINTS

Starting in January 2017, we will recognize the extraordinary impact The Meadows Center has made for the past 15 years. Please see the messages below for ideas on how you can align your team's activities with the Center's big picture goals throughout the year:



## FAST FACTS

Received a total of **\$31,668,387** in grants for research projects since 2002.

**93** partners who have supported our work for water and have shared in our success.

Hosted **8** total conferences about water and the environment.

Engaged approx. **500,000** students in environmental learning at Spring Lake.

Published **26** books and numerous educational materials that serve as trusted sources of information on water and environmental topics.

The Meadows Center has supported **533** total student workers and graduate assistants across campus through research projects.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Since 2002, The Meadows Center has been steadfast in its commitment to inspire research and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all of humanity.
- We envision a world where all people understand and embrace the value of water and environmental stewardship.
- The Meadows Center fulfills its mission by focusing its work in 4 key pillars: research, education, stewardship and leadership.
- Our work in each pillar begins at Spring Lake – one of the largest artesian springs in the world – and ripples outward across Texas and beyond.
- You're only 15 once! Come join the fun at Spring Lake this year and help us celebrate the past and future of the Meadows Center. Check out our calendar at: [Calendar.MeadowsWater.org](http://Calendar.MeadowsWater.org).
- We invite folks to share their experiences and reminisces by clicking on "The Meadows Experience" tab on the Meadows Center's website and then clicking on the blue, "Tell Us Your Story" button on the right.

### Research: Conducting solutions-focused research

- Faculty, staff, and students at The Meadows Center conduct applied research to address real-world problems.
- The Meadows Center researchers provide multi-disciplinary expertise to advance science-based solutions for the most pressing water resource challenges facing Texas and the world beyond.
- Our location on historic Spring Lake provides a living laboratory where researchers promote sustainable management of water systems and seek to increase the understanding of complex water and natural resource topics.

Since **2012**, the Biology Field Lab has contributed to an overall **55%** increase in Texas Wild-rice distribution in the San Marcos River.

Our diving programs has trained **705** volunteer divers to become a part of Aquacorps.

Aquacorps members have come together in **15,000** hours dedicated to underwater conservation at Spring Lake since **2013**.

Since **1991**, Texas Stream Team has trained **8,993** citizen scientists who have served **50,530** hours monitoring **429** sites across Texas waterways.

### **Education: Encouraging life-long learning**

- The Meadows Center's educational programs encourage life-long learning about the environment—and people's relationship to the environment.
- Our interpreter-led field trips offer a unique learning environment at Spring Lake with 30 TEKS-aligned curricula that create customized experiences to meet specific learning goals of any age group, from pre-school to post-retirement.
- The Meadows Center provides hands-on opportunities for Texas State University students, inspiring future careers and studies in natural resource related fields.

### **Stewardship: Cultivating a stewardship ethic**

- One of the greatest privileges of the Meadows Center is the stewardship and management of Spring Lake and its habitat, endangered species, and cultural resources.
- Hundreds of Springs bubble up to form Spring Lake, which one of the largest aquifer-driven spring systems in the world.
- Human history at Spring Lake stretches back 12,000 years – making this possible the longest continually inhabited settlement in North America.
- Our diving program trains citizen scientist divers and, in return, they volunteer their time to one of the most unique habitat restoration projects in the country.

### **Leadership: Transforming knowledge into action**

- The Meadows Center is a leader in water and environment management and policy topics in Texas, the U.S. and internationally.
- We operate one of the largest, longest running and most successful water quality citizen science program in the country: Texas Stream Team.
- The Meadows Center's Watershed Services Program lends its expertise to build the capacity of local communities so that they can protect and manage their own water and natural resources.