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waternews



Your source for all things water

WaterSaver Coupons Are In Bloom

Birds are singing and the wildflowers are bursting forth with their intoxicating aromas. It's the sweet sounds and scents of spring in the air, and that means SAWS WaterSaver coupons have emerged from their winter slumber to inspire smart landscape makeovers.

Through May 31, SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons in order to replace part of your thirsty lawn with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds and/or permeable patios. That's a whopping \$400 in savings!

Stop dreaming and start creating your own rich garden bed, complete with radiant plants like butterfly iris, esperanza, mistflower, mountain laurel and more. These water-efficient landscapes will not only keep your lawn looking fresh for spring, but also help you conserve water and save money on your water bill year-round.



Butterfly Iris

Each coupon is intended to cover only a portion of the cost of the plants or patio materials. Combine the coupons to your liking to create an inviting outdoor living space.

For each coupon, you must remove at least 200 square feet of grass, since that's the single most water-demanding element in a residential landscape. You must also cap any irrigation heads in the area where you install beds or patios. By doing so, you may also qualify for our residential irrigation design rebate, which may further lower the cost of your outdoor project.

If you have an automatic irrigation system, contact us to schedule a free check-up at consult@saws.org or 210-704-SAVE (7283).

Learn more and apply online at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.

Testing ... Testing ... 1-2-3



It usually takes a South Texas gully washer to get Mud Creek flowing. But recent flushing at SAWS' Agua Vista Station has turned the normally dusty Stone Oak-area creekbed into a temporary river of some renown. The water release is the result of testing and cleaning of the pipes, pumps and tanks that will deliver the city's new Vista Ridge water supply. The 142-mile pipeline is scheduled to come on line in April and supply up to 20 percent of San Antonio's water for the next 50 years.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:





Tune in to the birds around you and learn to tell them apart at the **Birding by Ear** workshop at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Wednesday, April 1. Suggested donation \$10. Details at mitchelllake.audubon.org/events.

Event Calendar

San Antonio Book Festival

April 4
Central Library
600 Soledad
sabookfestival.org

Starving Artist Art Show

April 4-5
La Villita Historic Arts Village
418 Villita St.
lavillitasanantonio.com

Native Plant Walk

April 11
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Viva Botanica

April 12
San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Earth Day San Antonio

April 18
Woodlawn Lake Park
1103 Cincinnati Ave.
sanantonio.gov/parksandrec

San Antonio Cactus & Xerophyte Show

April 23-25
San Antonio Garden Center
3310 N. New Braunfels Ave.
sacxs.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency
210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Hold Off on Lawn Watering for Now

If you've kept the hoses and sprinklers stowed away all winter, good job! Stay the course for a little while longer to get your spring lawn off to a healthy start.

Plentiful rain has kept things green, but most turf grasses don't hit their growing season stride until April. If you start watering too early, the weeds will certainly get a boost, but your lawn won't benefit much at all. With a few good spring showers, you might even push back watering until Tax Day, April 15.

That's good news for your grass and your pocketbook. Since SAWS water rates are tiered, the more you use the more it costs per gallon. That could cause a big jump in your bill if you water too much or too

early. So keep that in mind when you set your sprinkler system.

For more ways to reduce outdoor water costs and still have the prettiest yard on the block, visit GardenStyleSA.com.



Calling All Citizen Scientists — City Nature Challenge Starts April 24

It can be challenging to identify flora and fauna when exploring the natural world. Fortunately, there's an app for that! And there's a workshop to help you use that app to improve your observation skills.

San Antonio residents and visitors are encouraged to indulge their inner scientist during the iNaturalist workshop Thursday, April 23 at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place.

You'll learn expert tips and tricks from a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

biologist and naturalist, all in preparation for the City Nature Challenge, April 24-27.

The challenge, which started in 2016 and became an international event in 2018, encourages people to document nature to better understand urban biodiversity. Cities across the globe compete to see who can log the most observations, find the most species and have the most participants. You can help San Antonio rank among the top competing cities!

For more information, visit sabot.org.



A Bowl Full of Fiesta Fun Coming Soon

Fiesta season is nearly here and it wouldn't be the same without the SAWS don of Johns. Where else but San Antonio can you see a colossal commode rolling along the parade route of the largest night parade in the country? Stranger things have happened ...

In addition to the Fiesta Flambeau parade route, SAWS' charismatic "running" toilet will be dropping in to various events around town throughout the 10-day Fiesta celebration, April 16-26.

To get the scoop on where we'll be, follow @MySAWS on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!