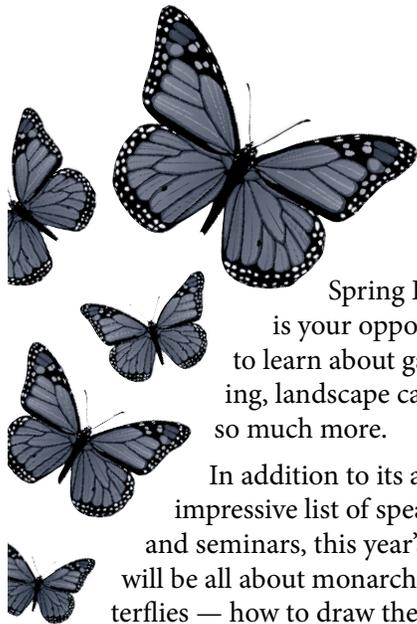


A Flutter of Blooms

SAWS Annual Event to Feature Monarch Butterflies



Spring Bloom is your opportunity to learn about gardening, landscape care and so much more.

In addition to its always-impressive list of speakers and seminars, this year's event will be all about monarch butterflies — how to draw them to your landscape and, most of all, help them along their journey during spring and fall migrations.

Spring Bloom happens from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at SAWS

Headquarters, 2800 U.S. Hwy. 281 North. The free event also features tasty treats from local food trucks and a fun-filled learning area for children.

Your favorite local gardening and landscape experts will be speaking throughout the day, offering great tips to help spruce up your yard while still saving water.

Other “fan favorites” back again this year include a plant propagation area and hands-on container gardening-demonstrations. There will be plants for sale at the event, courtesy of Bexar County Master Gardeners, Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, San Antonio Botanical Society and the San Antonio Herb Society.

And as always, the first 1,000 visitors get a free plant! To learn more visit saws.org/springbloom.

Notice a Change in Your Bill?

As of Jan. 1, your SAWS services are now being billed at our new rates.

Rate adjustments approved in November by San Antonio City Council will pay for needed maintenance to water and sewer infrastructure and fund the continued development of new water supplies.

In addition, a new rate structure has been designed to provide life-sustaining amounts of water at a very affordable rate. Customers with monthly usage no greater than 2,992 gallons should see a decrease in their combined water and sewer bill of as much as 8.8 percent.

The average residential customer can expect to see an increase of \$3.97 in their monthly bill (excluding pass-through fees). To learn more, visit saws.org/rates.

When Big Pipes Go Bad



SAWS crews worked day and night to successfully replace a section of failing 48-inch water main near Loop 1604 and Bulverde Road on the city's Northeast Side, Jan. 9-10, 2016. Thanks to careful planning, only about 650 homes were without water service during the repair. The operation was also carried out over the weekend to minimize the outage's impact to residents' work and school schedules.

Join the **MySAWS** conversation:



Time to Prune the Rosebushes

Many old-fashioned roses and climbers bloom only once a year, flowering on last year's wood; if this sounds like your rose, it can be pruned later in the year, after flowering.

But for modern, ever-blooming roses like hybrid teas (including Knockouts and Belinda's Dream), February is the time for renewal pruning. Since these cultivars bloom on new — not old — wood, last year's growth needs to be removed to provide a fresh canvas.

- You'll need sharp, curved-edge pruning shears; loppers; and gloves.
- It's a good idea to perform the major prun-

ing just as the spring buds begin to swell (typically mid-February).

- Start pruning away all dead, unproductive and crisscrossing canes and selectively cut the rest back to strong bases.
- Visualize reducing the entire bush to four-to-eight bare canes about 18-24 inches tall. The result: a strong base for this year's new stems and flowers.

Rosarians always recommend cutting stems to an outward-facing dormant bud. This directs new growth outward, improving air circulation inside the bush to discourage fungal disease.

Was My Bill Estimated? Here's How to Tell

Beginning this month, SAWS customers will be able to determine if their water usage was estimated for any particular month.

On the back page of the bill under the heading "Usage Details," customers can locate their current meter reading. If that number is followed by an asterisk (*), then that month's reading was an estimate.

In most cases, estimations occur when SAWS meter readers cannot access a customer's meter because of aggressive pets, locked gates or debris placed over the meter. Customers can help the meter reading process by ensuring SAWS has safe and easy access to the meter.

YOUR METER READING						
0	1	3	7	9	X	X
SUBTRACT PREVIOUS READING FROM CURRENT:				CONVERT TOTAL TO GALLONS:		
1,379 - 1,368 = 11				11 X 748 . 1 = 8,229		
USAGE DETAILS						
TOTAL DAYS OF SERVICE	33					
DOMESTIC METER READING ON:	DEC 08 2015 1,368					
DOMESTIC METER READING ON:	JAN 09 2016 1,379*					
METER WATER USE (GALLONS)	8,229					
*Indicates that this reading was Estimated						

Don't Be a Drip Fix a Leak Week is March 14-20

Household leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted nationwide every year. That's equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes.

Common types of leaks found inside and outside the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets or showerheads, faulty outdoor spigots and broken sprinkler heads. All are easily fixed.

Fix a Leak Week, part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program, encour-

ages you to be proactive and check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

For more information on fixing leaks, or facts and figures about costly water leaks, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.



Fix a Leak Week

Save the Date!

Leon Valley Earthwise Living Day is Saturday, March 5 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Leon Valley Community and Conference Centers, 6427 Evers Road. The free event features health and wellness speakers, composting demonstrations, solar options, recycling, organic gardening and more! For more information, visit leonvalleytexas.gov.

Crockett Fiddlers Festival

March 5
 The Alamo
 300 Alamo Plaza
thealamo.org/calendar

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

March 13
 Arneson River Theater
thesanantonioriverwalk.com/events

Spring Plant Sale

March 14-18
 San Antonio Botanical Garden
 555 Funston
sabot.org

Dog Days

March 19-20
 San Antonio Botanical Garden
 555 Funston
sabot.org