

# Wise Water Words

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners and Happy 2020!

I hope you are all enjoying the season with family and friends.

I wanted to let you know about our continued presence in water conservation efforts for our community and state. This past fall, SAWS invited me, as BCMG Water Conservation Coordinator, to be part of the San Antonio delegation attending a national water conservation summit in Austin called "One Water". This summit is sponsored by the US Water Alliance, which is a non-profit organization that includes public officials, community leaders, and environmental organizations in its membership. Their goal is to help advance policies and programs to secure water quality protection and a sustainable water future.

There were more than 50 delegations with over 900 people from all over the country in attendance. The San Antonio Delegation represented the City and our conservation efforts in several forums on different focus subjects. We also attended several seminars each day to learn about the various programs throughout the country that are using conservation practices and water quality initiatives in their respective cities.

It was very insightful to see the range of challenges around the issue of sustainable water. SAWS is trying to raise national awareness on the importance of residential water conservation, along with the supporting the other pressing issues being discussed. Studies indicate about 50% of residential outdoor water use is wasted, not providing any benefit to the landscape. Reducing this waste not only saves money, but also reduces the demand on our water systems. This reinforces how our education programs and Earthkind® Principles can continue to make a difference for our community and ourselves.

It was a great learning experience for me personally and I was proud to help represent our community and the Master Gardeners to this national forum. SAWS will be incorporating more "One Water" concepts in their outreach. I encourage all of you to look at the US Water Alliance website (<http://uswateralliance.org/>) and learn more about the efforts across the country to conserve and protect this precious resource.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Conservationally Yours,

Anna Vogler  
Water Conservation Coordinator

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