



February 2023

December 2022 Residential Gallons Per Capita Water Use: 55.11 Gallons

*Note: Water savings data reflects water use three months in the past. Also, "gallons per capita" is the standard of "measure" for tracking water conservation efforts. **The State has determined our water use per person per day is 47 gallons by 2025, and 42 gallons by 2030. Keep saving, Joshua Tree!***



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

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Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Regular Board of Directors meetings:

- Wednesday- March 1, 5:30 PM
- Wednesday- March 15, 5:30 PM

Docent/Volunteer Meeting

(rescheduled to:)

- Friday- March 3, 4PM-5PM (See update below)

Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting

- Tuesday-March 14, 5PM

Refer to our website for meeting status

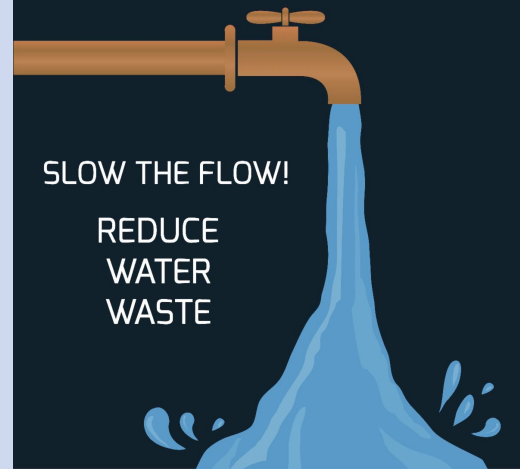
MARCH WATER SAVING TIP

As our season moves from frigid cold to blooming spring, dormant plants begin to wake up and for many, landscape watering demands will start to increase. Keep in mind that temperatures and winds impact plant water absorption, which can vary with the time of day that you water.

In our newsletters we provide the monthly recommended time of day for watering (under the "Plant of the Month" column) to maximize water use for your outdoor landscape.

This information can also be found in our free water wise gardening calendars which are available at the Farmers' Market on Saturdays at our booth, or at the District's Customer Service desk.

related to being in person vs. virtual.
For Agendas, Zoom links, and other
calendar items visit: www.jbwd.com



OFFERING:

- Acton's brittlebush
- American threefold
- Bladderpod (pictured)
- Catclaw acacia
- Cheesebush
- Creosote bush
- Desert alyssum
- Desert globemallow
- Desert lavender
- Desert willow
- Fragrant sumac
- Galleta grass
- Jojoba
- Mojave aster (pictured)
- Mojave buckwheat
- Mojave cottonthorn
- Mojave yucca
- Paperbag bush
- Parish's goldeneye/or Cat's tongue
- Rayless goldenhead
- Smoketree
- Whitestem milkweed
- Woolly brickelbush

Note: Many specimens are limited in quantity

Additionally, a free seed and plant swap booth will be offered (please only bring healthy specimens). Offerings are available to all at no cost with or without contributions. For more information, contact Kathleen at kjradnich@gmail.com.

SPRING (TRUE) NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday, March 26, 2023 from 1PM (sharp)-3PM
Joshua Basin Water District
61750 Chollita Rd., Joshua Tree, CA

Seedlings cost \$9.00 each/or 3 for \$25.00

Cash or local (JT) checks only

*Proceeds benefit the JTNP/JBWD Native Plant
Wildcrafting Program*

Seeds were collected locally by JBWD volunteers and grown by the JTNP nursery.

Add some color to your landscape with true local native plant seedlings. Once established, native plants offer low-water use, natural defenses against wildlife and pests, while providing food and shelter for local animals. Native plants are also heat and cold resistant and tolerate our poor soil.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

SPRING FORWARD! Remember to move your clocks one hour ahead (and don't forget your automatic landscape timers, as well). This is also a perfect time to replace batteries in your smoke detectors, too!



Daylight Saving
Time

**IN CASE YOU MISSED
IT...**



The Lobby Is Open For Customer Assistance

**Regular business hours are Monday
through Thursday, 7:30AM-5:00PM.**

Our "refreshed" lobby now has ADA compliant access doors that will enable easier access for both customers and employees, alike.



**CURIOUS
MINDS
WANT
TO KNOW:**

Often, at our Farmers' Market booth or on social media, we get good questions that others may be asking. Here's more of a sample:

Q: "Water flows through my water meter, and I receive a monthly water bill accordingly. Why did the District decide to replace my meter when it works just fine?"

A: Water meters have a 10-12 year shelf life. After that, they begin to slow down and give inaccurate "reads" that reflect less water flowing through the meter. If we pump 1000 gallons to your residence, and your old meter only reads it as 750 gallons, that adds up. We must report to the State monthly, and they want to know where the missing water is!

CONGRATULATIONS Lisa Thompson!

Lisa Thompson moved to the Hi- Desert from Riverside County with her family back in 2004. A year later, she was hired as a temporary employee at Joshua Basin Water District. In 2005, she became a permanent employee in the Customer Service Department. During her career, she earned a degree in Business Administration and was promoted to



the Lead Customer Service position.

Lisa gained extensive knowledge about the Water District over the years and has developed great relationships with customers, which she finds rewarding. She is now working as JBWD's Executive Assistant, all while training new Customer Service Representatives--*Lisa style!*

Lisa looks forward to providing support to management, staff and the Board of Directors, while continuing to grow with the District.

RESCHEDULED: DOCENT VOLUNTEER MEETING FOR MARCH 3RD, FRIDAY, 4-5PM

Due to projected inclement weather, for the safety of all our valuable volunteers, our first meeting for 2023 was moved to March 3rd, Friday, from 4-5 PM. This meeting will be held indoors at the District Office. New and returning Docents and volunteers are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP your intentions to participate to: kjradnich@gmail.com. Bring a friend! Our spring agenda is packed!




Agenda Items:

1. March Plant Sale (help needed!) Sunday, March 26, 1-3PM
2. March-May Seed to Salad Course-Free
3. April 26, Wednesday 10AM-12 Noon: PVES 4th &5th graders visit our garden (help! We anticipate 40 students!)
4. May (20?) Saturday: *Help Yourself /Help Your Neighbor* event at the Yucca Valley Walmart parking lot (we'll be sharing on water for emergencies)
5. May--all Friday mornings: Wildcrafting course--Free
6. May 31, Wednesday: Water Education Festival: one day with 400-8th graders teaching water conservation!
7. Potential (edible) community garden opportunity

From SEED to SALAD: A comprehensive 12 session Desert Edible Gardening Course

Check out this brief video about the course: <https://vimeo.com/802056310/0334d40445>



FROM SEED TO SALAD!

A COMPREHENSIVE 12-SESSION WATER WISE DESERT EDIBLE GARDENING COURSE!


A FREE On-line Virtual Course!

- 12 weekly, one-hour classes take you from step one to step "yum" as you begin to harvest your garden at the end of 3 months! Successful course completion is MWA Certified. All are welcome to attend and learn.
- Designed for the beginner gardener, this course walks you through each step at a weekly, comfortable pace—virtually, on line— in the comfort of your home.
- Perfect for residents with small yard space or even just concrete patios—we'll show you how to grow your own fresh fruits and vegetables in 12 easy lessons!

COURSE DATES: Tuesdays, March 7-May 23, 2023 @ 6-7PM

REGISTRATION: By Friday, March 3, 2023 (an application will be sent to you): kjradnich@gmail.com

INSTRUCTOR: Tony Walters, Program Manager
Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District




A WARM WELCOME TO David Shook!

A Southern California native from the Imperial Valley, David began his time in the Hi-Desert in 2000, serving in the Marine Corps in Twentynine Palms. Once his end of active service arrived, he enrolled at Copper Mountain College and began working as a student employee in January 2004 and ended his time there after 13 years as Financial Aid Specialist and almost 4 years as Financial Aid Director.

He holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from National University.

He spends personal time as a vocalist with Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel, writes and records original music, loves trips with his family and enjoys serving the community.

He is ecstatic in his new role as Director of Administration at Joshua Basin Water District.

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Recent Board Action Items of Note:

A Public Hearing was held on February 15, 2023 to discuss, and



then vote on a proposed water rate increase that reflected what the industry refers to as, "Best Management Practices" (Option A). Two other options (earlier) were also under consideration, Option B and Option C.

Presentations were made at this Public Hearing meeting, and all public in attendance were afforded a chance to speak. 81 written oppositions were received (far below the 51% requirement to stop the rate increase proposal).

The Board voted 5-0 for option A, which initiates a rate increase of up to 76% over 5 years, however, the Board also chose to *amend* the rate increase resolution to reflect "*billing*" customers at the lower (Option C) rate. This means the water rates will only increase at a 9% rate annually (to match inflation)...*for now*. In the event of a funding emergency, the Board will have the standing legal ability to increase rates, as presented in Option A.

Background:

This decision does several important things:

1. *It is a direct response from the feedback received from our customer base.*
2. *Should the State Department of Water Resources impose a costly unfunded mandate (i.e.: to remove the naturally occurring Chromium-6 from our water), the "Option A" mechanism is in place to amend what the rates need to be increased to, without subjecting the District to another expensive Proposition 218 rate study (costing \$70,000 to \$100,000)!*
3. *The Capital Improvement and Replacement Program funding for infrastructure and purchasing of extra water can still move forward with Option C, however it will move at a much slower rate than projected, had we implemented and billed exclusively according to Option A for the full projected five years.*

NOTE: The new rates will begin March 1, 2023, and will be realized with your March water bill (which you will receive approximately May 1st, 2023).

MARCH FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH: "GROW NATIVE!"

Spring has sprung, and many local residents find themselves yearning to be outdoors, enjoying our desert blue skies and agreeable temperatures. Local garden stores are stocking up on greenery of all kinds, but only *native plants* boast being low water users, low maintenance, heat and cold resistant, poor soil tolerant and nearly pest free--all at once.

True native plants are often hard to find, which is why JBWD and the Joshua Tree National Park partnered to teach an annual class on growing native plants from seed (aka: *Wildcrafting*). This year's four-part course will be held each Friday morning in May (involving two indoor class sessions and two classes in the field). This *FREE* course is funded by our annual plant sale.

While fall is the best season for planting native plants, early spring works well with our award-winning "deep root" planting system (see adjacent photo).

Stop by our booth at the Farmers' Market in March to see a few samples of our seedlings (to be offered at our March 26 Native Plant Sale). Also, we'll have more to share about our upcoming



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (C.I.R.P.)

Part of the C.I.R.P. funds go to purchasing water from the State Water Project (which is not inexpensive). In January, 2023, we began importing a portion of our annual water allocation.

As of January 23, our aquifer had received over 303 acre feet of water. That equates to 98,778,774 gallons of water!



DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

March Watering Schedule:

Between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM

Replace batteries in your irrigation clocks when Daylight Saving time starts.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

Warm, mild weather this month prompts rapid growth of plants, as well as insect pests

- Plant perennials as early as possible this month if you missed the fall planting season
- Transplant Yuccas (and Joshua Trees if deemed legal to do so) from March to mid-April
- Teach your plants to grow deeply for moisture. In spring, for average soils, water deeply only every two to three weeks
- Check aphids on new growth; wash off with a strong jet of water
- Get rid of weeds while they are small, especially before they reseed

HISTORIC USES OF: Greek Sage / Salvia fruticose

OTHER NAME(S): Greek Oregano, Salvia Griega, Salvia triloba, Three-Lobe Sage.

NOTE: *Historic uses, or "ethnobotany" is a new feature added to the Tier Drop "Plant of the Month" 2023 segment when possible. Did you know...*

EDIBLE USES: Greek Sage (aka; Greek Oregano) is a versatile herb that can be used in many dishes. It goes well with a variety of food items, making it a favorite herb to have on hand. Some of the food items that go well with Greek Sage include chicken, steak, lamb, rice, potatoes and beans. Sage is also a flavorful herb that can enhance the taste of any dish, including soups.

MEDICINAL USES: Greek sage (Salvia fruticose or Salvia triloba) is a plant. The dried leaves are sometimes used to make a medicinal tea. People use Greek sage tea for [inflammation](#) (swelling) and other purposes, but there is no good scientific evidence to support any use, even though the Greeks, to this day, commonly and routinely use it medicinally.

Historic uses are noted as being beneficial in gynecological problems such as vaginae with leucorrhea (white discharge) and chronic genital catarrh. In Cretan traditional medicine, the oil is used as a cerebral sedative, in treatments of colds, bronchitis and coughs and excessive sweating. Externally used it relieves menstrual pains, stomach-aches and colic. Antiseptic, antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory action, especially for the mouth and throat area. There have been some reports on blood sugar and blood pressure lowering activity of Greek sage.

Greek Sage

Salvia fruticosa

Plant Form: Perennial sub-shrub

Water Use: Very low, low

Mature Size: 3-3.5 ft. tall x 3-5 ft. wide

Exposure: Full sun, very light shade

Bloom Time: Spring (March – May), Summer (June – Aug)

Native to: Mediterranean region, North Africa, Canary Islands

Hardiness: Cold hardy to 15 - 20°F

Greek Sage is as beautiful as it is useful, from its aromatic leaves to its tall spikes of striking blue flowers. No pampering is needed, because this heat-tolerant plant prefers poor soils to fertile ones, is drought-tolerant, and is fairly cold hardy. As long as the soil is well-drained and the plant gets lots of sun, Greek Sage will thrive. Maintenance is simple: a hard prune in early spring for shape, and a light prune after flowering in summer to encourage a denser bush and tease out another flush of flowering (trim below flower stalk to the next pair of new buds). Despite its similar appearance to Garden Sage, it grows taller and is prized for its distinctive aroma and flavor, considered more subtle. Greek Sage actually contributes between 50-95% of all dried culinary sage sold in the US. Besides its long history of medicinal uses, this sage is valued in borders, beds, pots, flower-cutting gardens, herb and hummingbird gardens, and Mediterranean or rock gardens.



March 2023 Plant of the Month

awac
Water—Conserve Today for Tomorrow

Alliance for Water
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water use gardening,
contact your local water provider or go to
www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/

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