

TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



MARCH / 2022

JANUARY 2022 Residential Gallons Per Capita Water Use: 66.53. Note: During this drought, "gallons per capita" will be the new "measure" for tracking our water conservation efforts. Soon, the State will determine how much water per person per day will be targeted.

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

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Careers in Water (Third in a series)

If you are looking for a rewarding career with great pay and one that will undoubtedly become a passion, then start your hunt with these viable websites that offer job openings in the water industry --and always check **JBWD's** website employment opportunities as your #1 go to!

www.epa.gov www.careerjet.com
www.indeed.com
www.waterandwasterwater.com
www.calwater.com www.americanwaterworks.com
www.jobsonline.com www.swrcb.ca.gov
www.awwa.org www.waterjobsonline.com
www.iwa.com www.dwr.com
www.waters.com www.bcwaterjobs.com

Keep in mind, some office positions are "recruited" indirectly via employment "Temp Agencies," who verify a candidates office skills and abilities well before walking through our doors. Office positions will not be found on our website. Two such agencies worth connecting with are:

Robert Half Temp Agency: 888-641-4713 &

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- **Legislative and Public Information Meeting:** Wednesday, March 2nd at 9:30 AM (Virtual) See website for Agenda
- **Regular Board of Directors Meeting:** Wednesday, March 2nd and 16th at 5:30PM (Virtual) See website for Agenda
- **Citizen's Advisory Council:** Tuesday, March 8th at 6PM (Virtual) See Website for Agenda
- **Native Plant Sale!** Sunday, March 27, 1PM-3PM outside at the District Office (See information in this news

Other calendar items: www.jbwd.com

Design a Drip Irrigation System!

Watch for information in our April Tier Drop newsletter for our upcoming FREE class on:

"DIY Designing a Drip Irrigation System".

Funded by a grant from the Mojave Water Agency, this (virtual/ZOOM) course is slated for April 15, Tuesday from 6PM-8PM, and is taught by Tony Walters, from the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District. For early registration or more information, email:

[Drip Irrigation Course](#)



IMPACTS OF THE 2021 SWAMP COOLER STUDY

With the help of local residents, a Grant from the Mojave Water Agency and expertise from the Mojave Desert Conservation Resource District, JBWD participated in a mighty effort to study and test the water use of varying swamp (evaporative) coolers in our area last year.

The results were eye-openers, with usage from a single swamp cooler using as much as 90 gallons of water per day when summer temps were in the tripple digits!

How does this impact us? With the state pushing for residents to reduce their indoor water use to as little as 55 gallons per person per day, some tough choices would have to be made regarding their water use, should such an ordinance go into effect.

This study *could* influence the state to give disadvantaged communities, such as ours, a varience for those who depend on swamp coolers to provided cooler temperatures during days of extreme heat.



**MARCH 14-20 IS
"FIX A LEAK WEEK"**

Until that decision is made, we encourage everyone to use this spring season to tune-up their existing swamp/evaporative cooler for *optimum efficiency*: resulting in saving both water and power use. To learn more on how to do-it-yourself, visit:

[Swamp/Evaporative Cooler Maintenance](#)

THE FACTS ON LEAKS

10

percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day



Did you know?

Minor water leaks account for nearly



trillion gallons

of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in nearly



A shower leaking at

10 Drips

per minute wastes more than

500

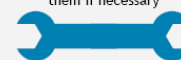
gallons per year



million homes

Repair

leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary



Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save



13,000

gallons of water savings for the average family

Homeowners can save



10 percent on their water bills

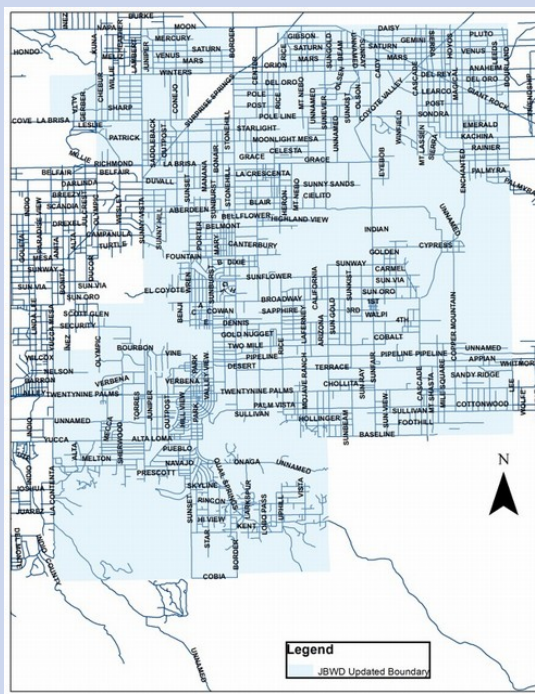


epa.gov/watersense

WHY IS JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT "REDISTRICTING?"

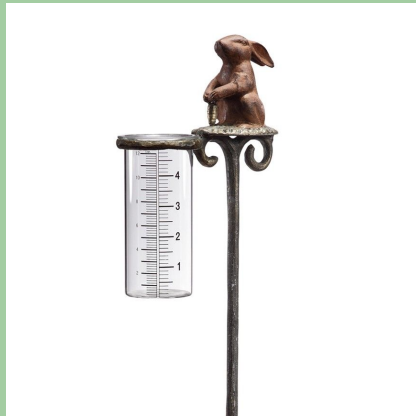
The 2020 Census revealed that Joshua Tree's permanent residential population declined. Joshua Basin Water District is a community owned "District" and therefore, must be accurately "divided" to reflect its five-member elected Board representatives.

As mandated by the State of California (Election Code 2200 *et seq.*) "...the Board shall hold a public hearing to receive a presentation and public and Board comments relative to proposed Census data. The Board may identify its preferred map(s) and otherwise provide direction related to its proposed consideration of final maps at its **March 16, 2022 meeting.**"



In other words, since JBWD customers no longer vote for the placement of all five Board Members (referred to as "at large" voting), the District must be divided into five geographical/demographical/ or likewise "divisions" that are nearly equal in population. Each division votes on a Board member to represent their specific area, even though the elected representative thereafter is duty-bound to work on behalf of the entire District as a whole, once elected.

The Public is encouraged to join our virtual March Board Meetings on this topic to learn more. visit: [JBWD Board of Directors](#) for access to upcoming Board Meetings.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Drought Water Conservation Emergency Regulations as of January 2022

- Turn off decorative water fountains
- Turn off/pause your irrigation system when it's raining and for two days after rain
- Use an automatic shutoff nozzle on your water hose
- Use a broom, not water, to clean sidewalks and driveways
- Give trees just what they need: avoid overwatering

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: *Do I really need to call #811 --Dig Alert"? I'm only planting a flower bed.*

A: Did you know that many utilities are buried just a few inches below ground? You can easily hit a line when digging for simple gardening projects, like planting flowers or small shrubs, putting in a mailbox post, or a fence. Contact your 811 center anytime you're putting a shovel in the ground to keep yourself and your community safe!

The service is FREE to everyone. Besides *...it's the law.*



SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday, March 27, 2022 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

NOTE: Current COVID 19 Health Mandates will be followed at this outdoor event.

OFFERING:

- Cat's Tongue
- Woolly brickellia
- Desert Willow
- Acton's encelia
- Galleta grass
- Bladderpod
- Paperbag bush
- Catsclaw acacia
- Creosote bush
- Desert needlegrass
- Mojave aster
- Mojave yucca
- Jojoba
- Desert Lavender
- Buckwheat
- Four wing salt bush
- Milkweed
- Cheesebush
- Desert rock pea

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.

1. 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.
2. Also, take a walk on the wild side—wildcrafting, that is, and discover the 12 steps to growing your own native plants!
3. Want to learn the tips and tricks of Wildcrafting? Early sign-ups for our May course (4 classes) will be available at the plant sale, as well.



FREE Desert gardening tips to help you enjoy your property's outdoor beauty and save water, too!

XERISCAPING 101

Xeriscaping is the process of landscaping or, gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation.

Attendees must pre register!*

Email: kjradnich@gmail.com with your name and phone number to pre register. *Computer/internet access will be required to participate.



PO Box 675 • 61750 Chollita Road • Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Ph: (760) 366-8438 • Fax: (760) 366-9528
Website: www.jbwad.com • Email: customerservice@jbwd.com

❖ **DATE: March 15, Tuesday**

❖ **TIME: 6PM-8:00PM via Zoom***

❖ This class is open to all Morongo Basin Residents, and offered **free of charge** on behalf of the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District, (MDRCD) the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation, and the Joshua Basin Water District.

❖ **Instructed by Tony Walters.**

JTNP Desert Institute's Native Plant Spring Courses

Note: JBWD and JTNP are contracted partners for the promotion of native plant gardening, and often will share other learning opportunities like below when they serve to benefit our mutual missions.



**Mar 8/12-13:
Flora of Joshua Tree National Park
/ Fee: \$170**

For more information or registration contact:
Phone : (760) 819-4714
Email : desertinstitute@joshuatree.org
Online : joshuatree.org



**Mar 27 or April 24:
Wildflower Wanderings / Fee: \$95**

For more information or registration contact:
Phone : (760) 819-4714
Email : desertinstitute@joshuatree.org
Online : joshuatree.org

MARCH AT THE FARMERS' MARKET IN JOSHUA TREE:

Our State is in a drought--and increased water costs and rationing may be a reality in California's near future. Living in arid land, desert dwellers know the value of water. Native plant gardening is just another smart way to save every drop, plus it offers other great benefits:

- Obviously, saving water on your landscape can translate into water bill savings, as well.
- Native plants have adapted to our desert climate, so they won't struggle like non native plants just to survive (saving costs, as well as your time and energy for replacing plants year after year).
- Native plants generally don't require soil amendments (saving costs, energy and time).
- Native plants don't require toxic chemicals for pest infestations common with non native plants.
- Once established, native plants develop their own defense mechanisms against the local critters. While not always 100% fullproof, this acts as a natural deterrent and boasts of their survival mechanisms.

So, join us at the Farmers' Market in March to learn more about our special **"deep root"** container system (*right photo*) for seedlings, classes, garden tours, our native plant sale this month, and more!





Improvement and Replacement Program: "C.I.R.P." UPDATE *You're water dollar\$ at work*

With COVID-19 restrictions relaxing, the District decided to redesign our existing lobby to meet the new Cal OSHA health and safety requirements--allowing us to resume "in person" customer service assistance *sooner than later*. The former remodeling plans (pre COVID-19)

were spectacular in design, but were unable to meet the permitting process due to the building's aged structure limitations. Now, the alternate remodel design's work is being done "in-house", resulting in a cost savings to the District. Stay tuned for our announcement for when we can resume normal lobby customer service again!

DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

March Watering Schedule: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Replace batteries in your irrigation clocks when Daylight Saving Time starts (March 13).

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 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 strong jet of water (avoid chemicals).
- Get rid of weeds while they are small, especially before they reseed.

Showy Penstemon

Penstemon spectabilis

Plant Form: Perennial herb

Water Use: Very low

Mature Size: 2-4 ft. tall x 3-4 ft. wide

Exposure: Full sun

Bloom Time: Spring (March - May), Summer (June)

Native to: Southern California, Central California, Baja California

Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 0°F

Showy Penstemon knocks you out with its spectacular blue, purple, and pink flowers, while their wide-mouthed, tubular blossoms also attract butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and other beneficial pollinators. The upper half of their leafy stems can produce up to 100 flowers—what's not to love? This fuss-free, fast-growing perennial herb is easy to grow and needs little to no added water once established. Cut back stems after early flowering, but allow later flowers to set seed for new plants. Water every 3-4 weeks or not at all after established. While it has no serious pests or disease issues, it is susceptible to root rot if kept in wet, poorly-drained soils. Showy Penstemon provides charm at the back of dry borders and beds either singly or in masses, in hummingbird and butterfly gardens, Mediterranean and cottage gardens, and in bold groupings.



March 2022 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.hdawac.org

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