

TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



JANUARY / 2022

***NOVEMBER 2021 Residential Gallons Per Capita Water Use: 84.13.** 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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Upcoming Events and Meetings

- **CAC** January 11th, 6PM Tuesday (Virtual) See website for Agenda
- **LPIC** January 19th, 9:30AM Wednesday (Virtual) See website for Agenda
- **Regular Board of Directors Meeting:** Wednesday, January 19th at 5:30PM (Virtual) See website for Agenda
- **Volunteer / Docent Meeting** January 21, Friday 3PM-4PM at the District Office

Other calendar items: www.jbwd.com

JANUARY

Drought Water Saving Tip:
House fires use precious tap water!



Get rid of your Christmas tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

A dry tree is dangerous. It can catch on fire easily.



VOLUNTEER DOCENT WINTER MEETING SLATED: January 21, Friday 3PM-4PM

New and returning volunteer Docents are invited to come together to revisit our seed propagation efforts and to discuss our March native plant sale (the proposed plant inventory) and free seed/plant swap event.

The "seed" bank will be made available for those needing more seeds--or wishing to begin to dabble in the art of Wildcrafting, and more training will be shared on ethnobotany (historic uses) of additional native plants.

The meeting will be held at the District Office (hopefully in person) so your RSVP is needed in advance should plans change.



WHAT IS THE SILVER TSUNAMI?

(I.E.: Farewell to Water Production Supervisor Randy Little)

Appropriately named, the "Silver Tsunami" refers to nation-wide massive retirements occurring within the water industry. Notably, in just a few years it is estimated that 60% of life-long career water experts will be retiring out of the water workforce throughout the USA. Joshua Basin Water District is no exception.

Last year, JBWD's CFO, Susan Greer, retired after 33 years--and now, Water Production Supervisor Randy Little, our "guru of infrastructure" will be retiring after 33+ years and handing the reins over to his ever capable side-kick, Steve Corbin. Randy began his career in water after serving in the Marine Corps and briefly in private industry, gaining training in electronics, inventory control and purchasing. His first main job outside of the military was installing, servicing, and repairing major household appliances, but he was looking for something "else." Then a door opened at age 29: Randy jumped into water and got both feet wet, never looking back and staying at JBWD all these years.

In retrospect, Randy mused that, "It's been a good career--stable, lifelong, and fulfilling--and definitely a roller coaster of responsibilities..." This is truly an understatement when you consider all the positions and training afforded him during his tenure with our Water District.

Randy hired in as JBWD's *Warehouseman and Inventory employee*, which led to overseeing *Maintenance of Mechanical and Vehicle Equipment*, to moving over to *Water Distribution* for installation of mainlines and servicelines, then trained for *Meter Reader*, and then stepped in to provide *Special Services* (JBWD's inhouse information technology). That was followed by taking on JBWD's *Meter Installation and Replacement Program*. If you've been counting, you'd see just how many hats Randy was able to wear...

Open to all training opportunities, he learned the skills required to operate large machinery, such as backhoes, trenchers, and a host of others, while taking on-line courses in the water industry (many being free), which moved him to "*Water Production Lead*", where he worked troubleshooting and the repairing of our SCADA system (aka: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition). Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to *Water Production Supervisor*, where he continued to manage the upgrades to the SCADA system, along with our entire water infrastructure (pumps, wells, reservoirs, and more.)

"Diversity and flexibility are key," noted Randy. As a leader, he has tried to pass these values on to JBWD's younger workforce. His parting message: "It's not just a job. You have to hold the mentality that it's all about service to the people, and about doing your best for your community."

Note: Watch for more information on "*Careers in Water*" in coming newsletters.



**CURIOUS
MINDS
WANT TO
KNOW:**



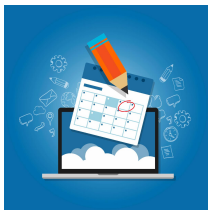
Often, at our Farmers' Market booth or on social media, we get

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Winter temperatures are here. Yes, we've addressed "winterizing" your pipes to prevent freezing in recent past issues, but JBWD still has had numerous calls for broken residential pipes due to freezing temperatures in the past few weeks. So, here's a quick review:

- Wrap all exposed pipes now. It is never too late!
- Or, turn off water to exterior pipes, then disconnect hoses from those hose bibs and allow the remnant water to drain out. Leave the faucet "open" just in case.
- Worst case scenario: allow water to flow (more than a drip) if freezing temperatures catch you off guard. Be sure to address the situation in short order as running water is wasteful, and adds up on your water bill.

Remember: If you are out and about and see water running in the streets where it should not be, call the District Office ASAP, day or night, 24/7 at: 760.366.8438. We're working hard to save our water!



IN-COMING: 2022 Sneak-peak FREE CLASSES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February:

Desert Edible Gardening (2-part)
2/9 & 2/10 -- Wednesday & Thursday 6PM-8:00PM (Virtual)

March:

Native Plants & Xeriscaping
3/15--6PM-8PM (Virtual)

April: Basic Drip Irrigation Design (2-part) 4/14 & 4/15--Monday & Tuesday 6PM-8PM (TBD: Virtual or in-person)

May:

Wildcrafting (4-part Course)
5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27 (all Friday mornings--varied start times) Virtual and in-person

good questions that others may be asking. Here's more of a sample:

Q: *I was advised to never use hot water from the tap to cook with (like boiling water for noodles, or making soup, baby formulas, and more). Why?*

A: *Believe it or not, it has nothing to do with JBWD's quality of water itself, but it does involve your hot water heater. Mineral and other sediments will collect at the bottom of your hot water heater, which will regularly distribute through the pipes (including your kitchen pipes) when you turn on the hot water tap.*

Hot water systems like tanks and boilers contain metallic parts that corrode as time goes by, contaminating the water. Hot water also dissolves contaminants in pipes faster than cold water. And no, boiling the water does not make those contaminants go away. You may also experience a smell of "sulphur or rotten eggs" coming from your hot water--which is another indicator of mineral build-up in your hot water heater.

The debate amongst professionals continues as to whether to flush or don't flush, drain or don't drain, or just replace the hot water heater. Meanwhile, consider doing your own research first, but avoid cooking directly with hot tap water.





Desert Edible Gardening Class

February 9 & 10, 2022 @ 6-8 PM

Virtual/ZOOM (4 hours total /course)



Gardening in the desert is not for the faint of heart: extreme heat, extreme cold, extreme winds, extremely poor soil, extreme lack of rain, not to mention extremely hungry critters, all make for a meager family meal at the table.

Don't despair! Join us for a free 4-hour, two-evening course on Desert Edible Gardening. Learn some tricks that may make a difference in your edible bounty and with your enjoyment for gardening.

COVERED TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- *Winning the war against desert environmental challenges: wind, temperatures, dryness, animals, etc.*
- *Best choices for your garden (heat resistant and disease resistant varieties (GMO) vs. organic)*
- *Pros and cons: container gardening, raised bed gardening, hoop houses and more*
- *Amending desert soil to encourage healthy produce*
- *Best solutions for infestations*
- *Water conservation efficiency for gardeners*

YOUR RSVP IS REQUIRED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022-5PM:

Email Kathleen Radnich at kjradnich@gmail.com, or call: 760.218.2822. Your name and email will be required for a confirmation link to be sent to you directly to attend via Zoom. Instructed by Tony Walters, this program is presented in partnership with the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District and Joshua Basin Water District .

JANUARY AT THE FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH

*Visit our booth for a free 2022 Desert
Gardening calendar!*

Just how complicated is it to put new pipe in the



ground? HINT: It's not easy, not simple, and not quick. But, we're doing it and doing it well!

Stop by the Farmers' Market this month (starting on the second Saturday, January 8th through Saturday, January 25) to see just what miracles are preformed to upgrade our water delivery infrastructure.

Our water rates increased over the past few years to "put pipe in the ground"--and it is becoming a reality.

We bet you have no idea what's involved...*it's seriously complicated!*



JBWD Announces Board of Director's OPEN SEAT:

Until January 6, 2022

Director Mike Reynolds has resigned from his seat of leadership on the Joshua Basin Water District's Board of Directors. In accordance with law, the Board will be accepting applications for an appointment of a new Director to the Board until close of business on January 6, followed by final public interviews that will

be held at the Board of Directors' meeting on January 19. For an application, email: bkrushat@jbwd.com, or you can find applications at the Joshua Tree Community Center, at Z107.7 Radio Station, or online at www.jbwd.com.

Meanwhile, all at JBWD-- and on behalf of the Joshua Tree Community--wish to express our gratitude to Director Mike Reynolds, for his years of leadership and commitment to water. Good luck on your new endeavors in your new home, in your new community, and in your new state! We raise a glass (of great tasting water) to you, Mike--cheers!

Capital Improvement and Replacement Program: "C.I.R.P." UPDATE

You're water dollar\$ at work

Photo Caption: (Top) Well 14 in disrepair being dismantled for a massive overhaul; (Bottom) Well 14, along with completed 4-log system and chlorination plant ready for production

Rain or shine, delayed shipments or holiday time--our crews have been busy ramping up our newly refurbished Well 14 over the past month with great success. Well 14 is not online yet to the customer, but is operational for our testing purposes. We



currently have five weeks of sampling data proving the 4-Log System works perfectly, showing no contamination issues at the end of the process!

The 4-Log System doesn't add more chlorine to the water, it just "exposes" the water to the normal amount of chlorine for a longer period of time--four times longer, in fact, before being allowed into our safe water supply system. Well 14 is our largest producer, and once officially back online, it should produce 1,750 gallons of water per minute (keep in mind that a "unit" of water used by customers is 748 gallons of water). Well 14 will be able to produce a maximum of up to 2.5 million gallons of water daily!

Before receiving final approval from the state, we will complete the 2" system resupply line, last 4-Log valve programming for remote monitoring, final chlorine analyzer installation, and conduct system testing scheduled for completion by mid-January. We expect the State Water Resource Control Board to issue final approval by the end of January. What a great way to start the new year off!

DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR JANUARY

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

To prevent ice forming on driveways and sidewalks, water only during the warm time of day.

This month in your Desert-Smart Landscape:

Frost is likely on dry, windless, clear nights this month: protect your fragile plants. January to do list:

- Keep plants watered at the soil level to help prevent frost damage
- Wrap irrigation valves and pipes to protect from freezing
- Turn off irrigation timers if it rains
- Apply mulch around plants to retain water and soil, and to feed nutrients into soil with each rain
- Prune roses and summer-blooming, deciduous fruit trees
- Don't prune frost-damaged plants until spring growth appears

- Plant bare-root trees and shrubs now through early March
- Mulch around plants and under gutter downspouts with bark compost, or gravel.
- If gutter downspouts feed into rainbarrels, be sure rain barrel screens are clear of debris

Rush Milkweed, Ajamete

Asclepias subulata

Plant Form: Perennial sub-shrub

Water Use: Low

Mature Size: 3-5 ft. tall & wide

Exposure: Full sun, reflected sun

Bloom Time: Spring (April - May), Summer (June - August),

Fall (September - November), Winter (December)

Native to: California, Arizona, Nevada, Baja California,

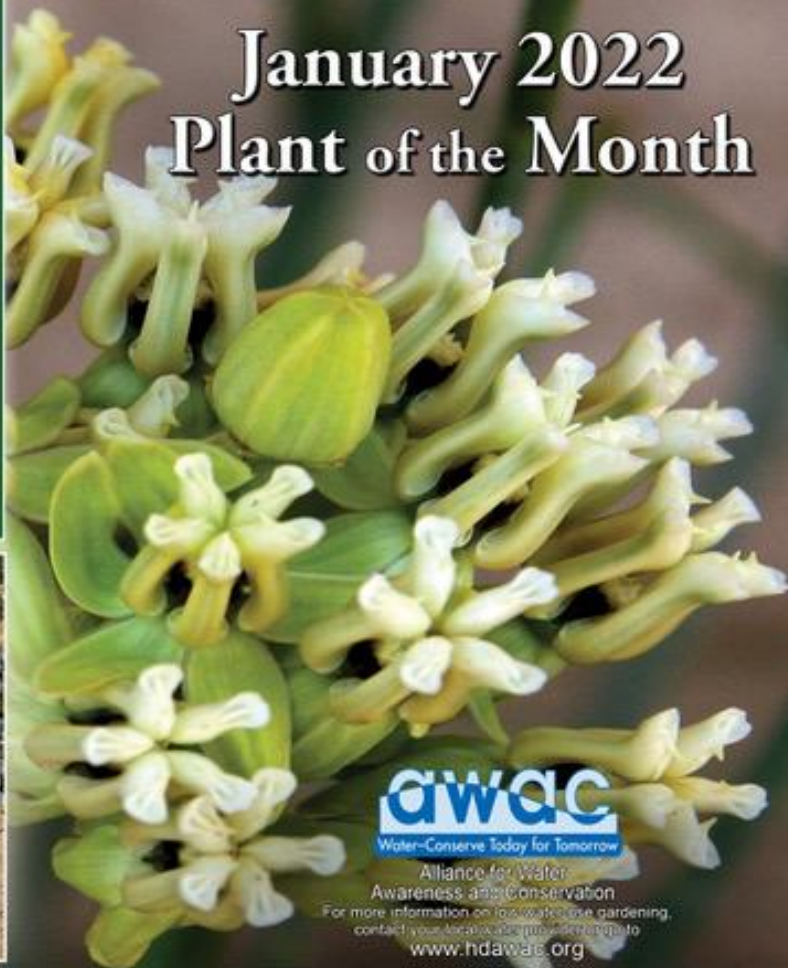
northwest Mexico

Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 20°F

Rush Milkweed is an erect, perennial herb named for its dozens to hundreds of rush-like, leafless, green stems. Small, narrow leaves appear after rain and on new growth, but fall off quickly. Rush Milkweed blooms periodically throughout year, and is an important food source for Monarch Butterflies, so conservation-minded groups encourage its planting. Fascinating pollen packages are specialized to clip onto legs of insect visitors, and unclip when inserted into another flower. Pairs of distinctive, horn-shaped, 3-inch-long seed pods follow the flowers, filled with many flat seeds that are covered with long, silky plumes. This milkweed oozes a rubber-containing latex when cut or wounded, which can irritate skin. While moderately easy to grow, this desert native is susceptible to aphids and death by root rot if overwatered. Its strong vertical lines make it eye-catching in desert landscapes, in borders, flowerbeds, and butterfly and rock gardens.



January 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 utility or visit us at

www.hdawac.org

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