



## APRIL 2023

January 2023 Residential Gallons Per Capita  
Water Use: 44.42 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- April 5, 5:30 PM
- Wednesday- April 19, 5:30 PM

**Special Board of Directors  
meetings:**

- Wednesday- April 26, 11:30 AM  
Board Training Workshop -  
Emergency Management

Visit [www.jbwd.com](http://www.jbwd.com) for agendas,  
Zoom links, and other info.

### APRIL WATER SAVING TIP



Water in the desert is beautiful in all its forms: Snow, rain, virga, micro-bursts, monsoonal summer thunderstorms, the recharging of water basins...even our filled potable water tanks! All said and done, *all water matters!*

In the months ahead, California is mandating that we reduce our water use significantly. Here's how to start: review your current water usage on your bill with your last year's usage to determine a beginning point.

**If you are using the same amount,** you might need to reconsider changing out a more efficient water appliance, or re-evaluate your landscape's water use, or rethink your use of graywater.

**If you are using less, kudos!** You are already ahead in lowering your water use!

**If you are using more** and have ruled out

## JBWD's Outdoor Classroom Day

**PLEASE NOTE:** Wednesday, April 26, JBWD's Water Wise Demonstration Garden will be closed to the general public from 8AM-12Noon for a special elementary school outdoor classroom educational experience.

an unseen leak, check this list to help lower your water: [Ways to Save Every Drop.](#)

*Photo thanks: Craig Dicht, BDVWA Director (Winter 2023)*

## Not All Heroes

### Wear Capes...

Thank you, Melissa Spurr, for sharing with us!

“These are the JT Water District employees that saved us, Spencer, Andrew and Jake. They are heroes and deserve bonuses and recognition definitely!

Those guys saw me up the street doing a strange dance and drove up and told me to get on the back of the truck so they could drive me out of the swarm. The bees were beating on their windows. Still, two of them got out to help me load up Emmie because she was freaking out, and one of them, Andrew, was stung.

It would have been A LOT worse had they not driven us out of the swarm.”

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*Photo (L-R) Your JBWD awesome field crew: Spencer Laymond, Andrew Sanchez ("Emmie" the dog) and Jake Palmer*

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*All residents take note: It is not uncommon for bee swarms to "establish" their new hives in water meter boxes. Take care when opening up your meter boxes now that spring is here! □*



*~In Memoriam~*

## Director Barbara Delph

January 17, 1951 -- March 8, 2023

With heavy hearts, our District acknowledges a prominent void, left to us all too soon, by one of our amazing Directors: Barbara Delph. Her keen sense of financial integrity, along with her background knowledge in policy and procedures served as her leadership's shining attributes.

Barbara's intense commitment for ensuring our community's quality and quantity of water resources was stellar. Joshua Tree has lost a true water champion.

Godspeed, Director Delph.

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

**CURIOUS MINDS WANT**



The CAC performs as a public "voice" to JBWD's Board of Directors on behalf of the Joshua Tree Community.

In March, the Council bade farewell to Karen Tracy, who will be relocating out of state. She was one of the first Council members since it was established back in 2005.

Tracy served as CAC Chairperson for the bulk of her CAC tenure and has addressed the Board of Directors countless times (as seen below) on public opinions on many critical water matters impacting our District.



Special thanks to David Carrillo, who passed on the leadership baton as Chair-person of the CAC to Glen Harris. Newly appointed to Vice-Chair position is Karen Morton, and Hannah Campbell was retained as the CAC Recording Secretary.

Volunteer CAC positions are open for public appointees at this point in time. To apply, contact the District Office and ask for an application.



## 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:** *"With recent snow and rains, we're getting weeds everywhere! How do we know what we should remove, or leave for wildlife?"*

**A:** Spring is our season of desert green. Many of the "spring greens" that nature grows are for sustaining habitat (tortoise hatchlings, baby bunnies, etc.) and thus, have purpose. In short order, those are consumed, but then remnants with the summer heat can dry them into a deadly fire hazard. Clearing your property of these dead weeds is good fire prevention insurance.

Weeds that survive and grow, are often labeled as "invasive" plants--foliage that will compete with the natural habitat for water while disrupting the eco-system balance of our native plants. As invasive plants take over, they also increase the risk of brush fires.

Removing these unwanted invaders *before they go to seed* is a "win-win" for the desert eco-system, as well as, for protecting against brush fires--which once they start, can hurt everyone: plants, animals, and our community as we know it. □

To learn more about native and invasive plants, register for our Wildcrafting course, starting in May (see article in this newsletter below).

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## WATER FOR EMERGENCIES: PREPARE NOW!

### April is California's Earthquake Preparedness Month





## Water for Emergencies

Tape this sheet to the inside of a closet or cupboard door for when you need it!

Take the time NOW to review and restock your emergency water supply. Store a minimum of one gallon per person per day for 3 days. Store more if possible. You'll need water for drinking, for preparing food, for hygiene, and for your pets.

- ▶ For emergency supply, commercially bottled water is recommended.
- ▶ If you are preparing your own containers, you can purchase food-grade water containers from camping supply stores.
- ▶ If you want to re-use containers, two-liter plastic soft drink bottles are a good choice.
- ▶ Don't use containers that have been used for milk or fruit juice.
- ▶ Don't use glass containers—they are heavy and may break.
- ▶ Clean the plastic containers with dishwashing soap and water and rinse well.
- ▶ Sanitize the bottles with a mix of 1 teaspoon unscented regular liquid bleach to 1 quart of water; swish the bottles, then rinse thoroughly.
- ▶ Fill to the top with tap water and tightly twist on the original cap—avoid touching the inside of the cap before putting it on.
- ▶ Write the date on the container. Store in a cool dark place. Do not store directly on concrete (leaching chemicals destroy plastic).
- ▶ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends replacing water every six months (if not using commercially bottled water.) Observe / disinfect water in commercially packaged bottles if past their expiration date.
- ▶ If stored water is warm, cloudy, or has debris floating within, disinfect the stored water to prevent illness.

### Extra Water Sources:

**Use:** Water heater water, water in water pipes, or ice cubes in freezer.

**Don't Use:** Water from toilet tanks or bowls, swimming pools or spas, or water beds.

**Remember:** If you don't know if your tap water is safe in a disaster, play it safe and disinfect it automatically until you've been reassured it is safe to drink by the authorities.

## HOW TO DISINFECT WATER

### #1 Boil water to make it safe.

This is the preferred method to assure that the water is safe to drink. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms that may be present. First, boil the water for one minute. Let it cool, then store in clean containers with covers.

#2 Disinfect with bleach (use *fresh*, unscented, regular household bleach from a new bottle). Add 1/8 teaspoonful (8 drops) for each gallon of clear water, or 1/4 teaspoonful (16 drops) per gallon of cloudy water. Stir well. Let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. A chlorine-like taste and odor will result *at first*, indicating disinfection has taken place.

#3. Water Disinfection tablets may be used by following the manufacturer's instructions.

Mark you calendars! Joshua Basin Water District will be there!



# HELP YOURSELF HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

**COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS EVENT: LEARN PRACTICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS AND SELF-RELIANCE PRACTICES FROM A VARIETY OF DEMONSTRATIONS, CLASSES & PRESENTATIONS, HANDS-ON TRAINING, AND MORE. MEET FIRST RESPONDERS!**



**MAY 20TH  
9AM-1PM  
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**WALMART  
PARKING LOT IN  
YUCCA VALLEY**

**58501 29 PALMS HWY**



## **BOOTHS & ONGOING DEMONSTRATIONS:**

BASIC FIRST AID + HANDS ONLY CPR + HAM RADIO + SHELTERING + 72 HOUR KITS + PET/ANIMAL PLANS + SB COUNTY FIRE DEPT + CHP + JT NATIONAL PARK RANGERS + SEARCH & RESCUE + PERSONAL/FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANS + FOOD STORAGE + HOPE THERAPY DOGS + USMC CANINE TEAM + CERT DEMONSTRATIONS + STOP THE BLEED + MORE



SUPPORTED BY: AMERICAN RED CROSS • CERT • TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY • CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS • MORONGO BASIN COAD • SBC FIRE DEPARTMENT • WALMART • USMC • SCE • HOPE • SB COUNTY DESERT REGION FIRE SAFE COUNCIL • HIGH DESERT EMERGENCY ACTION ALLIANCE

## **YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION**

### ***Recent Board Action Items of Note:***

At the March 15th Board meeting, the Board of Directors voted 4-0 to use the "Appointment Process" to fill the newly opened Board seat. The Board established April 6, 2023 for the application deadline (by close of business), and interviews to follow at the April 19, 2023 Regular Board meeting. The new





Board Appointees will be sworn in by the May 3, 2023 Board meeting.

**Background:**

*Government Code § 1780 provides that the Board of Directors may within 60 days either (1) fill the vacancy by appointing a new member or (2) calling an election \* that will be held on the next statutorily established election date that is scheduled more than 130 or more days after the date the Board calls the election. \* This option would result in a financial liability to the District potentially in the amount of \$20,000 to \$100,000 for a special election. In the event the Board does not appoint or call for a special election within 60 days notification of the empty Director's seat, the County is empowered to make that appointment directly.*

**Voting residents residing in JBWD's Division 2 that are interested in applying for this open Director's seat can obtain an application and all related information at: Division 2 Board Member Application**

## BEHIND ON YOUR WATER BILLS?

### What is LIHWAP and how can it help?

All Californians deserve access to safe and clean water, and many households need assistance now. LIHWAP stands for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program and it may be able to help you pay your water utility bill.

LIHWAP is a federally funded program that offers low-income households a onetime payment to help pay residential water costs. If you're like many Californians struggling with higher costs on everything from food to gas, LIHWAP could help your family stop worrying about how to pay your water bill and keep the water flowing. The amount of help that you could get will depend on your residential water bills.

Households whose utility payments are included in their rent may also be eligible for LIHWAP. In addition, program participation is limited to households receiving services from water systems enrolled in LIHWAP to receive the payment of assistance benefits. Recipients of CalFresh, CalWORKs, and LIHEAP are automatically income-qualified for LIHWAP assistance.

LIHWAP can offer a one-time payment to help you:

1. Pay your residential water utility bills.
2. Manage an emergency or water crisis, such as a service disconnection.
3. Prevent other adverse effects such as debt collection or placement of liens.

If you are struggling to afford your residential water bills, please visit [www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill](http://www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill) to see if you qualify for payment assistance through LIHWAP and to find a local service provider near you to apply.



## APRIL FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH: "WATER FOR EMERGENCIES"

Water supplies come in countless shapes and forms--so



stop by our Joshua Tree Farmers' Market booth on Saturdays in April to get great ideas on how you can easily start preparing when the tap water stops flowing!

Remember: you'll need potable water stored for more than 3 days per person (and don't forget your pets)!



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

Moving up the pipe replacement priority list was a commercial line in downtown Joshua Tree (running behind the JT Saloon area). In the past three months alone, this waterline had a total of ten water leaks, and last year at least 30 leaks. This repair was estimated to cost approximately \$30,000 after removing and replacing 700 feet of pipelines, and upgrading another water source for

maintenance and water quality purposes. JBWD's crew is confident this upgrade will be completed in about 4 weeks (early April).



# Spring 2023 Desert Wildcrafting

Join us and learn along the way!

A four-part training seminar helping you to grow native plants—FREE!

## PART ONE:

**\*Wildcrafting Overview: A Comprehensive class on seed types, seed harvesting, and seed cleaning : Friday May 5, 2023, 9:00AM to 11:30AM at the Joshua Basin Water District**

*Learn to identify "viable" seeds to be harvested, wild crafting harvesting tips, storing of seeds, seasons to collect various seeds in the Morongo Basin, and more!*  
***\*This first class is a pre requisite for Part Two.***

## PART TWO:

**\*Seed Harvesting Class Field Excursion: Friday, May 12, 2023, 7AM-9:30AM** \*Participants are to first meet at the Joshua Basin Water District and will thereafter caravan to a local undeveloped area to identify and harvest local native plant seeds . Seeds collected in this exercise are used for the JBWD/JTNP Native Plant Sale program. Follow the tips below:



## PART THREE:

**\*Invasive Plant Module + Seed Propagation: May 19, 2023, 9 AM to 11:30AM, at the Joshua Basin Water District**

*Are invasive plants just weeds? This module helps clarify what is an invasive plant to our area; why it is detrimental to the health of your native plant garden, as well as, the entire desert ecosystem; and how to mitigate the spread of invasive seeds and plants within your landscape.*

## PART FOUR:

*\*(NOTE: Participants must have attended at least one of the sessions above to participate in this tour)*

**JTNP Private Nursery Tour: Friday, May 26, 2023, 9AM-11:30AM JTNP Nursery (at their Visitor Center), 29 Palms, CA. See techniques that are being used by the pros!**

**Class size is limited. For more information or to RSVP your participation, contact Kathleen Radnich at [kjradnich@gmail.com](mailto:kjradnich@gmail.com). Registration is required on or before April 30, 2023**

## DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL

***April Watering Schedule: Between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM***

Test-run your irrigation system to check for leaks and spray heads that are broken or out of adjustment.

## HISTORIC USES OF: Daylily *Hemerocallis varieties*

### Daylily History

These edible flowers record to ages back. Their edible and medicinal usages have been noted since ancient days. This flower was mentioned in the Chinese book called *Materia Medica* for the first time in 656 A.D. it originated



## THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

Color season is reaching its peak-- spend time outside and enjoy it!

- Reset irrigation schedules and increase watering time as temperatures rise
- Work compost or soil amendments into planting beds to improve moisture retention as summer approaches
- Plant cold-tender perennials, preferably in pots so winter protection is easier
- Keep mulch on the soil to temper the drying and heating effect of the sun; irrigation will be more effective with less frequency and quantity
- Continue pulling weeds before they form seed heads (if weeds are brown, you waited too long; you'll have fewer weed problems later)

from East Asia. It is assumed that daylilies were first introduced to Europe in 1500 A.D.

### Daylily Edible Usage

Daylilies are very common in south-eastern and eastern Asian cuisines. They are mostly used as a nutritious herb in many dishes. These herbs are used fresh and dried also. They are used in both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes.

### Daylily Health Benefits (*historically proclaimed*)

1. It helps in detoxifying entire body system.
2. This herb is known to help with reducing symptoms of red urine.
3. The flower lessens hemorrhoids.
4. Consumption of daylily in proportionate amount helps with curing insomnia.
5. This herb helps reduce jaundice symptoms.

### Medicinal Use

1. Daylily has some medicinal property which can cure arsenic poisoning effect. That is why they are used as an antidote to it.
2. Extracts of this herb is also used as anti-tumor.
3. Ancient folk tales suggest that these herbs were used in cancer treatment.

### Other Uses

1. These plants can prevent brush fires. Since their roots are deep merged in water, they put down the brush fire.
2. They can prevent soil erosion if planted in slopes.



**Daylily**  
*Heimerocallis varieties*

Plant Form: Perennial herb  
Water Use: Low, moderate  
Mature Size: 2-3 ft. tall x 1-3 ft. wide  
Exposure: Full sun, part shade  
Bloom Time: Spring (March – May),  
Summer (June – August)  
Native to: Asia  
Hardiness: Cold hardy to -20°F

Daylilies are one of the most adaptable flowering plants in the world, with over 80,000 varieties, and more being developed every year. Sometimes discounted because they are so common world-wide, they have good reason to be embraced by so many gardeners. Besides their beauty, Daylilies are cold hardy, heat tolerant, drought tolerant, low maintenance, and happy in almost any soil, providing dependable color and lush foliage in even the hottest, driest summers. Their thick, tuberous roots not only sustain them through drought, they provide excellent erosion control by holding soil in place, even on steep slopes. Use a mix of varieties to extend the bloom season. These versatile plants work well in shrub borders, pots, perennial beds, on slopes, as groundcovers, and in butterfly and hummingbird gardens.

**April 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/](http://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/)

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