

Mission Statement: To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

Daylight Savings Time



Spring has sprung! Move your clocks forward one hour beginning early Sunday, March 10th (3 AM) for Daylight Savings Time.

Monthly Water Use

**November 2023
67.92 GPCD**

The unit of measure for water conservation reporting is called Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD). The GPCD listed here represents water usage from three months prior. CA's goal for is to reach 42 GPCD by 2030!

Keep saving, Joshua Tree!

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Special Articles:

- March Native Plant Sale!
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- Last chance: LIHWAP Event!
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MARCH MEETINGS

Board of Directors Regular Meetings

- Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 PM
- Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 PM

Committee Meetings

- **Finance Committee**
Wednesday, March 13, 9 AM
- **Water Resources & Ops**
Wednesday, March 13, 11 AM

Citizens Advisory Council:

- Tuesday, March 12, 5 PM

Visit www.jbwd.com for agendas, Zoom links, and other info.

MARCH WATER SAVING TIP:

Tortoises and other critters come out in spring to dine on the tender native plants sprouting up and leafing out everywhere after our winter rains.

GROWING NATIVE not only supports the desert ecosystem, but the native plants

Conserve water like a tortoise~

not a hare...

And stay hydrated and carry water with you—everywhere.

Remember: WATER IS LIFE!



Brought to you by your water providers: Joshua Basin Water District, H-Desert Water District, Bighorn Desert-View Water Agency, 20 Palms Water District, and the Mojave Water Agency.

require very little water use once established!



Double the inventory of deep rooted seedling plants from past years!

Sponsored by Joshua Basin Water District and Grown by the Joshua Tree National Park Nursery

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday, March 24, 1-3PM*

at 61750 Chollita Rd., Joshua Tree

Aka: Joshua Basin Water District's Office

**Note: the plant sale starts at 1:00PM SHARP*

Native Plant Seedlings are \$9 each or 3/\$25*

(Cash or local checks only. Proceeds benefit the JBWD/JTNP native plant education program)

***FREE to all! 5 gallons of compost and mulch (bring your own buckets or bags to fill) — until supplies last!**

- FREE Garden tours!
- FREE Planting advice
- FREE Native Plant classes (May)
- FREE Seeds at the Swap Booth!
- FREE Plants at the Swap Booth!

Note: You need not have items to swap to partake in the Free seed/plant booth!

NATIVE PLANT SEEDLINGS OFFERED THIS YEAR:

Acton's Brittlebush
American Threefold
Bladderpod
Brittlebush
Cat's Claw Acacia
Creosote bush
Desert Alysum
Desert Milkweed
Desert Willow
Four Wing Saltbush
Galleta grass
Jojoba
Mojave Aster
Mojave Yucca
Paperbag bush
Parish Viguirea
Red top buckwheat
White Stem Milkweed
Wooly Brickellia

SAVE time, save \$ on soil amendments and on insect sprays: GROW NATIVE!



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 an example:

Q: *I brought my prized roses with me when I moved out here, and keeping them alive has been a struggle. What am I doing wrong?*

A: The simplest answer is you brought them out here. With the exception of specific drought-

hardy rose varieties, the desert environment is far too harsh for roses. Our soils do not support their nutritional needs naturally, their demand for water far exceeds most household budgets, the temperature swings (and high heat) wreak havoc on their stability, and they unwillingly invite insects and larger pests to dine on them at will.

Surely, some hardier varieties may prove otherwise, but without copious amounts of water, annual soil amendments, adequate shade cloth protection from the harsh sun, and routine insecticides, roses will struggle in the desert. Try growing native plants -- *they don't just survive, they thrive here!*



NATIVE PLANTS

Gardening Class

Want to learn more about how to start your own garden with local native plants? This course will discuss methods and practices to grow your own garden at home. Learn more in this FREE online course.

This course will cover:

- ✓ What are native plants?
- ✓ Different methods
- ✓ Identifying different plants
- ✓ How to grow different species
- ✓ How to use specific tools

March 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Register Now



www.mojavewater.org 

760-218-2822 

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

JBWD's New and Improved Website!

- Simple design
- Easy to use
- User-friendly navigation (with the least amount of "clicks")
- American Disability Act (ADA) Compliant (required by law)



[Check it out at www.jbwd.com](http://www.jbwd.com)

SAVE WATER



by preparing your home for Summer

Join the Mojave Water Agency for a seasonal workshop on how to save water (and energy) throughout the warm summer months. This online course is FREE and open to the public.



This course will cover:

- ✓ Water-saving tips and benefits
- ✓ How to protect your landscape
- ✓ Water meter monitoring
- ✓ Methods to conserve energy
- ✓ Swamp cooler tips

April 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Register Now

This is an online course



www.mojavewater.org

760-218-2822





**JOSHUA BASIN
WATER DISTRICT**

*Proudly providing water from an ancient
source...well into the future*

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT'S

! FINAL LIHWAP DAY

**LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS -



10AM - 12PM
LUNCH BREAK 12PM-1PM
1PM-3PM RESUME

MARCH 12, 2024

JBWD

BOARD ROOM
61750 CHOLLITA RD
JOSHUA TREE, CA

ITEMS TO BRING (REQUIRED)

- 1) Current Water Bill
- 2) Household income for last 4 weeks (noncash benefits, state/federal help, SNAP, EBT, IHSS, SSI, SSDI)
- 3) Current Government Photo ID
- 4) Have **NOT** been previously assisted with this program.

DETAILS!

LIHWAP REPRESENTATIVES FROM
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
WILL ASSIST YOU WITH THE APPLICATION!

FIX-A-LEAK WEEK MARCH 18-24, 2024

Every drop counts. Use water wisely.



Fix leaks around the house and save 110 gallons of water a month.



SaveOurWater.com

March 2024 FARMERS MARKET BOOTH *"Grow Native!"*

Spring is here, and for many of us, the outdoors is calling! Our booth at the Farmers Market welcomes all your questions on desert gardening--native, water-wise, or edible. Not only that, but with March touting "Fix-A-Leak Week", we can give you tips on ways to find those sneaky leaks that are suspect before calling a plumber.



So stop by our booth at the Joshua Tree Farmers Market any Saturday in March (8 AM-1 PM) and see actual samples of our native plant seedlings in our special "deep root grow pot." These and many more varieties will be offered at our native plant sale on Sunday, March 24th.



YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION *Recent Board Action Items of Note:*

During the February 21st Board meeting, General Manager Sarah Johnson presented the proposed (updated) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement between the Joshua Tree National Park and Joshua Basin Water District for a native plant (wildcrafting) program initiated in 2013. The MOU expires every five years unless renewed by both parties. Consultant Kathleen Radnich, who oversees the program, was on hand to answer questions. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of renewing the MOU.

Background:

This program was realized when JBWD needed to educate their community on the water-saving benefits of gardening with native plants, along with the benefit of decreasing the use of insecticides and other potential gardening pollutants that could harm our community water source. Meanwhile, Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP) struggled with invasive plants finding a home in the National Park terrain. Some of these unwanted plants were generated by locals planting non-native plants.

JBWD's focus is providing great water, not growing plants. JTNP's focus is growing native plants for park restoration, not providing water. Unfortunately, as a Federal Agency, they could not "sell" their native plants to the public, but JBWD as local government could, if JBWD's volunteers collected the seeds outside of the the Federal Park boundaries, the Park could grow the seeds under their

Together in partnership, an educational program was created and now flourishes to benefit our entire community and in harmony with the mission of JTNP!



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM: "C.I.R.P." UPDATE:

JBWD offered two tours of the District's "behind the scenes" water story this past month. Tour guests learned about the upgrades being worked on or accomplished by our CIRP team during portions of this 4-hour tour.

Attendees questioned the many facets that comprised JBWD's water delivery system, as well as, how refurbishment/replacement/and or repairs of given components may impact all of us-- or seemingly--just a few in an isolated area.

The number one question answered during these moments of revelation was, "If this particular part of the system costs *that* much for water to so few, do they have to pay extra for it?"

The answer was always, "Our system delivers one water to all of us-- all upgrades, large or small, impact JBWD's entire water delivery system. Everyone benefits from all upgrades, thus we all share the costs."

To quote JBWD Board member, Director Fick, an attendee on one of the tours: "Water is complicated!"

In the end, tour guests walked away understanding, "It is our community, our responsibility, and our water."

Photo Caption: Staff member Jake demonstrated the technique used to quickly stop a pipe leak, noting it was far easier to do it "above ground" (as shown) where as truth be told, they are almost always below ground level and buried in muddy water!"

MARCH DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS

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

Remember to 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 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

HISTORIC USES OF: FENDLER'S SUNDROPS

*Calylophus hartwegii
fendleri*

Fendler's Sundrops is used in traditional medicine by the Native American people. The plant is said to have astringent and antiseptic properties, and the roots

- 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

can be boiled and used as a poultice to treat wounds and sores.

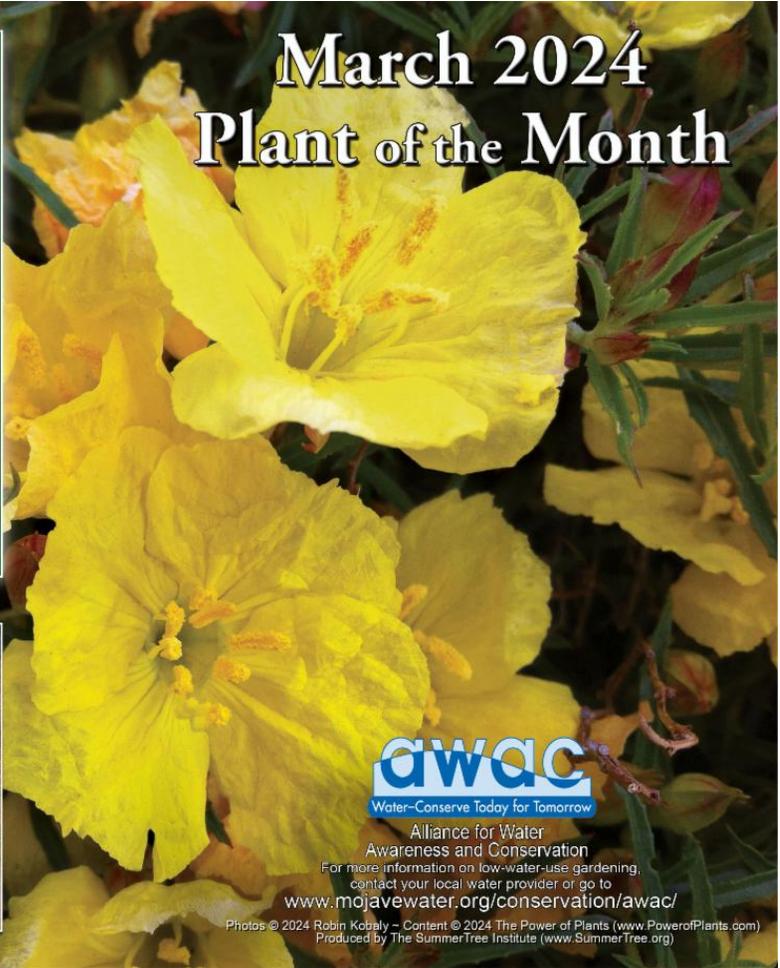
Sundrops, Fendler's Sundrops
Calylophus hartwegii fendleri

Plant Form: Perennial subshrub
Water Use: Low
Mature Size: 1 ft. tall x 2 ft. wide
Exposure: Full sun, part shade
Bloom Time: Spring (Mar – May),
Summer (June – Aug), Fall (Sept – Oct)
Native to: Arizona, Colorado, Kansas,
New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Mexico
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 0°

Sundrops cheer up drab spots in your garden, and quickly spread by underground rhizomes into rounded, flower-filled mounds. Masses of yellow 1-2 inch flowers appear over a long season above narrow, bright green leaves. Flowers open in the afternoon and remain open until the next morning, providing nectar to night-flying moths. Each flower lasts 24 hours, and then fades to orange-pink, creating a nice sunset color palette. Cut back the stems of this evening primrose look-alike when it goes dormant in winter to reshape and prepare for new spring growth. This tough plant takes heat and drought, and is attractive between boulders, massed in clusters, or in containers. Plant in well-drained soil, and even though they don't like to be overwatered, they appreciate a little extra water in summer. Lovely in rock gardens, meadow gardens, borders, beds, on slopes, as groundcover, or anywhere they can drape over edges.



**March 2024
Plant of the Month**



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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