

TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



APRIL / 2022

FEBRUARY 2022 Residential Gallons Per Capita Water Use: 58.56. 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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APRIL IS CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Here's what you need to know:

In 1992, the Morongo Basin experienced one of the largest earthquakes in the world for that year, measuring 7.4 to 7.6 in magnitude. That being said, did you know that an earthquake at even half that size under any water pipe has the capability of damaging it and interrupting your tap water service?

A regional earthquake can keep your tap water from flowing for weeks when you consider the significant aftershocks that continue from a major seismic event.

Water in the desert is life--especially when our summer heat comes. When the ground moves, it is JBWD's #1 job to focus on repairing the damaged water delivery infrastructure--which can surely prove to be a challenge when competing with Mother Nature. Meanwhile, our customers need to be prepared with their own emergency water supplies *before* things start shaking.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- **Regular Board of Directors Meeting:** Wednesday, April 6th and 20th at 5:30PM (Virtual). See *website for Agenda*
- **Designing a Drip Irrigation Course:** Monday/Tuesday, April 4/5, 6-8pm (Virtual). See *information below*.
- **Landscape Tours:** JBWD's Water Wise Demonstration Garden is OPEN to the public Sunday, April 24, from 10AM-3PM. See *information below*.

Other calendar items: www.jbwd.com

LEGISLATIVE WATER UPDATE

Our recent March snow-pack measurements were dismal for current seasonal averages. 2022's precipitation shortage has resulted in California's State Water Project allocations to be reduced from our recent 15%, now down to 5%. This limits JBWD's ability to purchase water to replenish our aquifer during this drought.

Please remember: If your tap water is still running after a major quake, assume it needs to be treated if communications are down and you have not heard from JBWD that the water is safe to drink.

See the guide sheet below for more information on preparing your own *Water for Emergencies*.

Print the information sheet below (or stop by our Farmers' Market booth for a copy in April) on "Water for Emergencies" and tape it to the inside of a cupboard or closet door so it is always readily available when you need this critical information when the tap water stops!



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.
- ▶ Then sanitize the bottles with a mix of 1 teaspoon unscented regular liquid household 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 commercial ly 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.

More on...

CAREERS IN WATER *(Fourth in a series)*

**MEET JBWD'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER:
Sarah Johnson!**

A career in water offers opportunity -- just ask Sarah Johnson, Joshua Basin Water District's newest General Manager. Sarah grew up working in a family business, and at age 23, she opened a business of her own. After ten rewarding years, she decided to move on to more challenging roles in grant administration and human resource management. Sarah has also earned a bachelor's degree in business management along with several certifications, including one in project management.



Sarah came to the District in 2016, initially wearing multiple hats in human resources, contract management/negotiation, safety, and risk management. In short order, she was promoted to Director of Administration, maintaining her former duties while expanding into new responsibilities such as customer and field service management, strategic planning, administrative budget management, and many other complex administrative tasks.

Sarah's previous business experience and years at the District have provided her with the foundation and knowledge leading to the role of the District's General Manager!

Are you looking for a rewarding career and the chance to give back to your community? If so, please keep an eye on our website for future career opportunities coming soon at jbwd.com/jobs.

**DESIGNING YOUR OWN DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM COURSE:
Rescheduled! New Dates!** *Note: Due to instructor illness, we have rescheduled this invaluable 4-hour course for April 27 & 28, Wednesday/Thursday, from 6-8 PM.*

FREE!

Designing your own
DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM

April 27 & 28, 6PM-8PM
(Wed. & Thurs. -4hrs total)

Held **VIRTUALLY** by
Joshua Basin Water District

Please RSVP by: April 22, 2022
TO: kjradnich@gmail.com with your
name and phone number

LEARN ABOUT:

- Micro Drip uses and benefits
- Saving water using mulch and compost
- How grading effects soil and water conservation
- Saving time, water and money using native plants
- Basic micro drip, design, maintenance, winterizing and summarizing
- ...and more!



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

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Create you own desert oasis!

Spring 2022 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 harvesting, cleaning, propagating and growing native plant seeds: Friday May 6, 2022, 9:00AM to 11:00AM, (Virtual/Zoom)**

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 13, 2022, 7:00 AM to 9AM.** *Participants are to first meet at the Water District's Water Wise Garden 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:



REMEMBER TO:

- ✓ Bring your water bottle
- ✓ Bring a hat or wear sunscreen (or both!)
- ✓ Bring garden gloves
- ✓ Bring sunglasses
- ✓ Wear sturdy shoes (no sandals!)



PART THREE:

***Invasive Plant Module: May 20, 2022, 9 AM to 11:00AM, (Virtual/Zoom)**

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 27, 2022, 9AM-11AM 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; Registration is required on or before April 30, 2022

Sponsored by the Joshua Basin Water District and the Joshua Tree National Park.



**CURIOUS
MINDS
WANT TO
KNOW:**



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Our March 27th Native Plant Sale was a huge success, and it is thanks to all our local residents who came out to support this annual endeavor!

Without our dozen+ volunteers, this short term event could never be realized: a heartfelt thankyou to all of our wonderful community volunteers! Job well done!

In case you missed it, keep in mind we have a class coming up teaching you how to directly collect, harvest and propagate your own native plant seeds. See the course information above on *Wildcrafting*, and register today!

Next year we anticipate an increase in inventory. As for other varieties being offered...well, it's the luck of the draw when our volunteers go out to collect seed. Much depends on if the wind or animals got to the seeds before us, or if enough rain was realized in former months.

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: Is JBWD required to provide bottled water if an earthquake damages the community's water delivery system?

A: The short answer is, "no."

However, the District may be a point of distribution for emergency water supplies *when they become available* from the San Bernardino County's Office of Emergency Services or other sources in the event of a major regional earthquake disaster.

Sometimes, water provided during disasters come in water bottle sizes, and sometimes in 1-gallon quantities. Either way, it is much easier to store your own.



Joshua Basin Water District's Water Wise Demonstration Garden will be open for free tours, or just to take a casual "walk-about" on Sunday, April 24, 2022 from 10AM-3PM for public garden tours. For more information on the Desert-Wise Living Landscape Tours, visit: [Landscape Tours](#)

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.

JTNP Desert Institute:

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April 24:

Wildflower Wanderings / Fee: \$95

For more information or registration contact:



Phone : (760) 819-4714
Email : desertinstitute@joshuatree.org
Online : joshuatree.org



APRIL AT THE FARMERS' MARKET IN JOSHUA TREE:

Water for Emergencies--what will you do when the tap water stops and the stores have empty shelves? Do you know what options you have?

Stop by our booth (we're on the west end) Saturdays from 8AM-1PM and explore multiple solutions for emergency water storage that only YOU can prepare for!

We'll help you get started...*now!*

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

While responding this past month to more than 112 Service Orders, 214 Dig Alerts (for water customer water lines), 19 Fire Flow Water Pressure Checks, Repairing 6 Mainline Leaks. and installing 7 New Services, our CIRP crew has been helping with the "refresh" of our Customer Service Lobby, Board Room and our employee work spaces. These improvements will help our District meet the post-COVID 19 health and safety requirements, as well as, address some ADA (American Disability Act) compliance needs for our staff and customers.

DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL

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

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

This month in your Desert-Smart Landscape:

Color season is reaching its peak--spend time outside enjoying 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 if you address the weeds early

Blue Palo Verde

Parkinsonia florida

Plant Form: Tree
Water Use: Very low
Mature Size: 20-30 ft. tall and wide
Exposure: Full sun
Bloom Time: Spring (March - May)
Native to: California, Arizona, Mexico
Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 12°F

Blue Palo Verde is prized as much for its unique green branches and trunk as it is for the masses of lemon-yellow flowers that cover this fast-growing tree in spring. Its green limbs allow this graceful but thorny tree to continue to carry on some photosynthesis when its small leaves drop due to drought or cold. A popular hybrid of this species known as 'Desert Museum' has no spines. Palo Verde is so drought tolerant, it needs very little or no irrigation after becoming established. Prune to showcase its beautiful branching, but avoid pruning heavily at any one time to maintain its growth structure. Desert birds including hummingbirds and verdin love to nest and raise their young in Palo Verde trees. This extremely popular tree provides filtered shade all year, and can be used as a sculptural focal point or shade tree in many garden styles.



April 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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