



## AUGUST 2022

**APRIL 2022 Residential Gallons Per Capita  
Water Use: 81.01**

*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 will determine how much water per person per day will be targeted soon.*

***Keep saving, Joshua Tree!***



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

□ Save Water Now...It will Save you Later □

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### Upcoming Events and Meetings:

**Regular Board of Directors meetings:**

- Wednesday, August 3 - *Cancelled*
- Wednesday, August 17 - 5:30 PM

**Docent / Volunteer Meeting:**

Wednesday, August 31, 6 PM in the  
Demonstration Garden (Bring a chair!)

### AUGUST WATER \$AVING TIP:



**READ  
YOUR  
METER  
WEEKLY**

**Of all  
summer months, August can  
be one of the highest for water  
use!**

This is often due to:

- running evaporative coolers 24 hours a day (at 6-13 gallons/hour)
- increasing water needs for a landscape that has had no rain for many of the recent hot summer weeks prior
- animals, in their quest for water, targeting (damaging) landscape irrigation lines, creating leaks
- seasonably warm tap water in toilet tanks prevents gaskets not to seal tight, allowing for leakage.
- Increased water "play" to cool off

**SOLUTION: Read your meter weekly!**  
To learn how to use your water meter to

For Agendas, Zoom links, and other calendar items visit: [www.jbwd.com](http://www.jbwd.com)

stop sneaky leaks early visit:

**Meter Reading for LEAK Detection** or stop by the Farmers' Market in August for a hands-on tutorial.

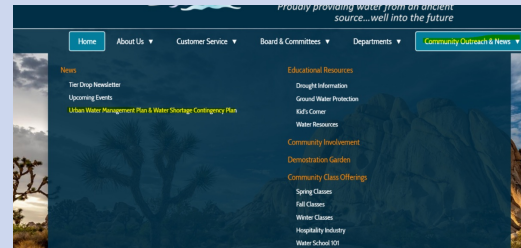


## LAST CALL: JBWD Director candidacy election application deadline for an open Board seat is August 12

Two JBWD Board of Director's seats are open to run for as a candidate in the upcoming November elections. You must be a physical resident in either JBWD's political Division #1 or #2 to file as a candidate.

To check your location visit: [District Divisions' Boundary Map](#).

To learn more on what is required to become qualified candidate, go to: [How to run for an elected office](#)



## URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN / Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Today, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, is the official 1<sup>st</sup> day of public review/comment for the District's updated Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan documents. The documents are available on JBWD's website (see link below).

The public has until August 17<sup>th</sup> to make any comments. To request an appointment to view the documents in person, or to make any comments, contact [bkrushat@jbwd.com](mailto:bkrushat@jbwd.com) by August 17th. You can view the report at: <https://www.jbwd.com/uwmpwscp>

## Discover the Abundant Uses of California Native Desert Plants!

(Pictured: Desert Apricot GlobMallow/Spaeralcea Ambigua)

Offered by JTNP Desert Institute ([Course Fees Apply](#))

Discover the abundant uses of native desert plants during this one-day field class. Instructor Yanina Aldao Galvin has studied the relationship between plants and humans for almost two decades.

“Yani” will teach participants about the plants historically harvested by the native people of Southern California for food, medicine, and utilitarian purposes,





and how these plants are used today by other Nations. The program will start with an overview of local Native American tribes and how culture defines plant use or the other way around.

Attendees will also learn about plant communities, habitat, and distribution, focusing on the ethnobotany of key species found in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. In the afternoon, the class will follow the trails for a hike to identify edible, medicinal, and other useful plants found in the area. No plants will be harvested in the National Park.

Respectful gathering practices will be discussed as well as restrictions on collecting on federal lands and in the National Park.

Please download the course outline "**Practical Uses of CA Native Plants Fall 2022**".

*Note: JBWD and JTNP are contracted partners for the promotion of native plant gardening and often will share other learning opportunities like the one above when they serve to*

*benefit our mutual missions.*



**United Way of the Desert**

## LOW-INCOME WATER ASSISTANCE

**NOTE:** By law, JBWD may not use rate payer fees received to assist other customers (aka: "a gift of public funds" which is illegal.) We do fund this assistance account with funds received from the county via a percentage of defaulted property tax fees collected--which is legal.

□ **Approximately 130 customer low income assistance credits have been applied from United Way of the Desert from August 2018 to current.** □

### What is this program?

Joshua Basin Water District has partnered with United Way of the Desert to manage a customer assistance program to help eligible customers who are having trouble paying their water bills.

### How does this program work?

Eligible residential customers can receive a \$50 credit on their water bill once in a 12-month period. Customers must reapply for subsequent years.

The Help2Others customer assistance program is managed by United Way of the Desert. United Way of the Desert screens eligible customers and provides them with assistance in paying a past due water bill.

### How do I apply for assistance?

For your convenience, there are several options to apply:

- Submit an **online application**
- Call United Way of the Desert at (760) 323-2731

- Download an [application](#) and email it to [water@uwdesert.org](mailto:water@uwdesert.org)

## How can I learn more?

For more information visit [United Way of Desert's website](#)

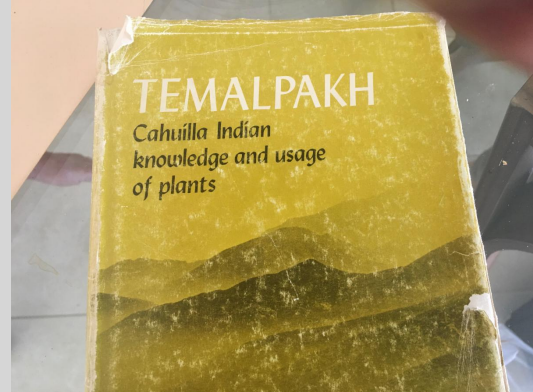


## SEE MBCA'S 2022 VIRTUAL LANDSCAPE TOURS- -FREE!

[4 video virtual tours](#) of additional sites throughout our High Desert environment are captured in these virtual videos. They include residential landscapes, the Harrison House Music Arts and Ecology Center, and the demonstration garden at the Mojave Water Agency.

The caring and intentional use of our most precious resource, water, is the common element of all the sites featured. We encourage you to 'Enjoy the Show' and see how these varying sites incorporate Desert Wise Living.

*Note: JBWD is a proud sponsor of the MBCA annual Landscape Tours.*



## JBWD DOCENT AND VOLUNTEER MEETING

New and returning JBWD docents and volunteers are welcome to our seasonal training session where we continue to learn more about our native plants, this time, focusing on those that are "edible".

We'll also discuss garden tour opportunities and wildcrafting efforts by those with a green thumb, and more.

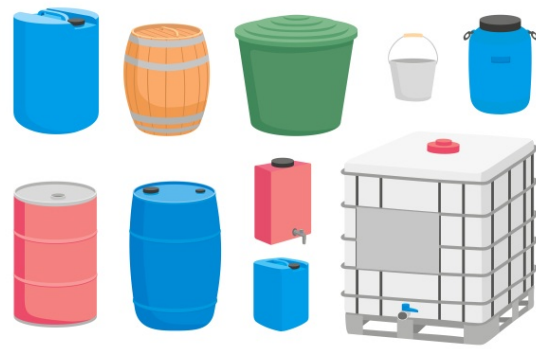
Join us in the Water Wise Demonstration Garden (located at the District Office) at 5:30PM-6:30PM on Wednesday, August 31. Bring a chair, and a friend or neighbor, too!

Please RSVP your intentions to attend in the event we must cancel due to weather to: [Kathleen Radnich](#)

## HARVEST RAIN AND GET FREE WATER!

Rain in the desert? Well, August can bring us Monsoonal rains. Long time residents know that often, with our summer thunderstorms, when it rains it pours! So, get ready to save every drop...





**Rain barrels** offer a sustainable option for using the water that falls on your property to maintain gardens and other plants. Two 55 gallon rain barrels (=110 gallons of water) can adequately irrigate about 180 sq. feet of a vegetable garden for any given watering session, and possibly more.

When you figure that the roof of a 1,000-square-foot house can collect around **600 gallons** per one inch of rain—you'll find that you'll have enough free water to fill more than **15 bathtubs!** Not that you would use water from your rooftop that way, but your thirsty landscape would truly benefit from this collected water. That being said...

Rain harvesting can be as simple as either leaving a bucket outside to fill up, to capturing gallons upon gallons of free water from rooftops into properly maintained receptacles called rain "barrels, tanks, or bladders"--all to be stored for drier days.

Modern rain catch systems have become quite attractive in design--often lending to your outdoor garden decor. Online shopping sources will support this--check it out, and while you're on the web, visit [rain-water-harvesting](#), for more DIY help to you get started!

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

### #1 Joshua Basin Water District's Virtual Tour:

Take a whirlwind tour of your tap water source without leaving home! You can take this virtual tour in less than 10 minutes by clicking or entering the web address below:

<https://vimeo.com/672105673/67b6f51e21>

### #2 Well 14 Is Back On-Line!



Photo: After five long years, Staff, Board



## 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:** *When visiting a friend's home (elsewhere in the Morongo Basin), I saw where their tap water produces lots of bubbles in a glass of tap*

members, and Citizen Advisory Council members gathered on July 12, 2022, for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony launching Well 14 --JBWD's largest producing well!

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**#3 Customer Service** is open by appointment only for *in-person* assistance. To schedule an appointment or for any other assistance, call 760.366.8438, or email: [customerservice@jbwd.com](mailto:customerservice@jbwd.com)

**water. Does that mean there is a line leak making the water unsafe to drink?**

**A:** It usually means that there is extra air in the service delivery pipeline, which is caused from not keeping the pipeline at full water capacity. The aeration resulting from this does not impact the water safety.



## OUR AUGUST FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH

### "RAIN HARVESTING"

Visit our Farmers' Market booth every Saturday in August to learn more about the benefits of rain harvesting for your water dollars, conservation efforts, and the environment.

We'll also have a water meter on hand to show you how easy it is to (1) lock your meter off on your side; and (2) read your meter's leak detector.

Our booth hours are Saturday mornings from 8AM-1PM, and we're located on the extreme west end of the market.

## YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

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

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES** – At the July 20th meeting, the Board approved a new contract with Emergency Management Services Consultant Gary Sturdivan (voted: 4-0).

**Background:**

To ensure safe drinking water to our community, JBWD is required to maintain an active plan for emergencies and disasters. The preparedness, training, and implementation of this action plan also involves mitigation of infrastructure and incident cost recovery, which involves grant writing to the California Office of Emergency Services, as well as, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. For contract details and costs, see pgs. 30-34 at: [Emergency Consultant Contract](#).

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

### TILFORD PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

**DID YOU KNOW?** In a year and a half, we have had over 20 leaks amongst the Tilford Project pipeline area involving the aged pipes. Roughly 5,934,765 gallons of water had been lost\* due to these leaks, not including the flushing done with every temporary repair.



The good news is we have severed the old main and activated newly replaced water lines in the Tilford Project area. ☑

*\*Note: "Lost" water is a term used to reference tap water that did not reach the customer as a destination. "Lost" water, as a rule, returns back to our aquifer over time, to be reused.*

## DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY

### **August Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM --after 6:00 PM**

Reduce your water bill during peak temperatures by cutting just one watering day per week out of your daily irrigation schedule. This can lower your water use by as much as 10 to 15 percent.

### **This month in your Desert-Smart Landscape:**

This is a good month to sit back and enjoy your garden--few chores besides watering and grooming

- Walk irrigation lines to check for clogs, leaks, and breaks
- Deadhead spent flowers, trim off dead flowering stems (save any seeds for replanting)
- Continue deep-watering trees and shrubs once a month
- Keep adding to mulches to conserve water, keep soil and roots cool, and reduce the frequency of watering

## August 2022 Plant of the Month

### **Desert Senna** *Senna armata*

Plant Form: Shrub  
Water Use: Very low  
Mature Size: 2-3 ft. tall x 2-4 ft. wide  
Exposure: Full sun  
Bloom Time: Spring (April - May), Summer (June - July)  
Native to: California, Arizona, Nevada, Baja California  
Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 15°F

Desert Senna is one of those surprising plants that almost disappears into the landscape until it bursts into bloom with an explosion of flowers that can cover almost every inch of the plant. Most of the year, Desert Senna is a tight collection of erect green and gray stems that add vertical texture to the landscape but fool many people into thinking it is dead. Its small leaflets in two to four pairs drop off soon after emerging, leaving its spine-tipped branches naked most of the year. Occasional water will tease out leaves again, but make sure not to overwater, and plant only in soil with excellent drainage. The bright yellow, fragrant blossoms from late spring to early summer attract butterflies, moths, other pollinators, and photographers. Desert Senna adds spring color in a native or xeric garden, dry washes, butterfly and wildlife gardens, and rock gardens.



**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](http://www.hdawac.org)

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