

THE METER READER

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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agenda

Board Meetings:

- Regular Board Meeting: 09.02.26 at 5PM
- Regular Board Meeting: 09.16.26 at 5PM

Other Meetings, Classes, or Events:

- Native Plant Workshop: Thursday, October 1, 2026, 8:30AM -12Noon at the Joshua Tree National Park Nursery in 29 Palms. See more information below.
- Mojave Water Agency "ROAD TOUR" of three water providers in the Morongo Basin. Happening on Wednesday, September 16, 9AM-12:30PM. See more information below.

Monthly Water Use

JUNE 2026: 121.11 GPCD

The measure used for reporting water conservation is called Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD). The GPCD value reported here reflects water usage from three months earlier. California aims to achieve 42 GPCD by the year 2030.

Keep saving, Joshua Tree!

>>> WATER SAVING TIPS SEPTEMBER



Water saving tips also apply to saving water for an emergency. We cannot impress how important having back-up water storage can be should the tap water stop! Earthquakes, extended power outages, mainline pipe breaks and more, can impact our daily use of water. In the event of interrupted water service (causes known or unknown) ALWAYS disinfect your water supply before using until you are reassured from JBWD that your tap water has been tested and deemed safe to use!

>>> Curious Minds Want to Know

Enjoy the question of the month.



Question:

If we have an earthquake, how long would it take JBWD to get the system back on line?

Answer:

Much would depend on the damage to our system, and aftershocks that would continue to endanger our pipe infrastructure. We have well trained staff for such emergencies, and emergency generators to pump water, emergency fuel for the generators, but this is only for short-term interruptions. Mother nature is still the ultimate source to reckon with--so it is best to be prepared at home, at work, and even traveling in a car.



>>> IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

If you missed our "Storm Water Preparedness/Rain Harvesting class in August, take heart. While the National Weather Service still anticipates a wetter than usual fall/winter season this year, you still have time to learn about capturing the rain. This free water is a bonus for residents looking to cut their landscape watering costs. Visit this web site to learn more about rain harvesting because every drop matters!

<https://theecoshift.com/rainwater-harvesting-for-beginners/>

SEPTEMBER AT OUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET BOOTH:

"Water for Emergencies" is the absolute focus for September being the *National Emergency Preparedness Month* throughout the USA. Living in the desert, seasonal weather changes can challenge how you store emergency water safely. It is important to understand the pros and cons associated with different methods of storing your life saving waters so that ultimately, you and loved ones stay well until your tap water is restored. Come visit our booth on Saturdays (8AM-1PM) and we'll share what works, and what doesn't, and how easy it is to get your emergency water supply started today!





YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

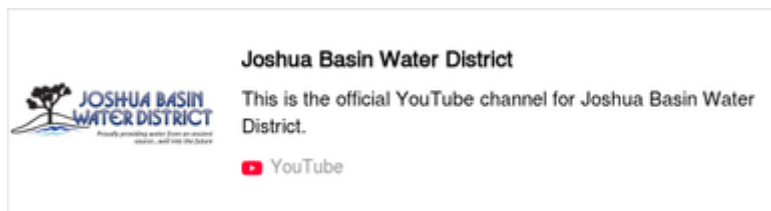


[Click here to learn more about these Agenda items](#)



Click to find our YouTube channel.

The August 5, 2026 Board meeting included several significant agenda items, including items 7A and 7B concerning Board organization and governance. These Board-initiated matters included a proposed reorganization of the Board and consideration of censure of the Board President. Following public comment and Board discussion, both items were removed from the Agenda. Related comments were subsequently raised during the open public comment period and Director Comments at the August 19 Board meeting. Other business on August 5th included consideration of membership in the Joshua Tree Association of Business and Culture (JTABC), a review of the Customer Account Assistance Program (a leak assistance program), and a Customer Support Report. August 19th was a busy agenda as well, including the 2025/26 Bad Debt Write-off, a Collection Enforcement Policy, and review of Guarantee Deposit Requirements. For additional information, visit jbwd.com or view the August 5 and August 19 Board meetings on YouTube (below left).



CHROMIUM 6 UPDATE

Federal and State Standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently regulates total chromium (which includes Chromium-6 and Chromium-3) at a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 100 parts per billion (ppb). In California, as of October 1, 2024, the [State Resources Water Control Board \(SWRCB\)](#) authorities have set the MCL for Chromium-6 at 10 ppb.

Our Commitment to You

The Joshua Basin Water District has initiated pilot-scale testing of a water treatment technology to evaluate its effectiveness in reducing naturally occurring hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) concentrations. Pilot testing involves operating a smaller-scale version of the proposed treatment process under representative water quality and operational conditions to assess treatment performance, operational requirements, and overall suitability. The results of the pilot study will be used to help determine whether the technology represents the most appropriate and effective treatment solution for the District's water supply. Updates continue to be posted on our website.

Turpentine Bush

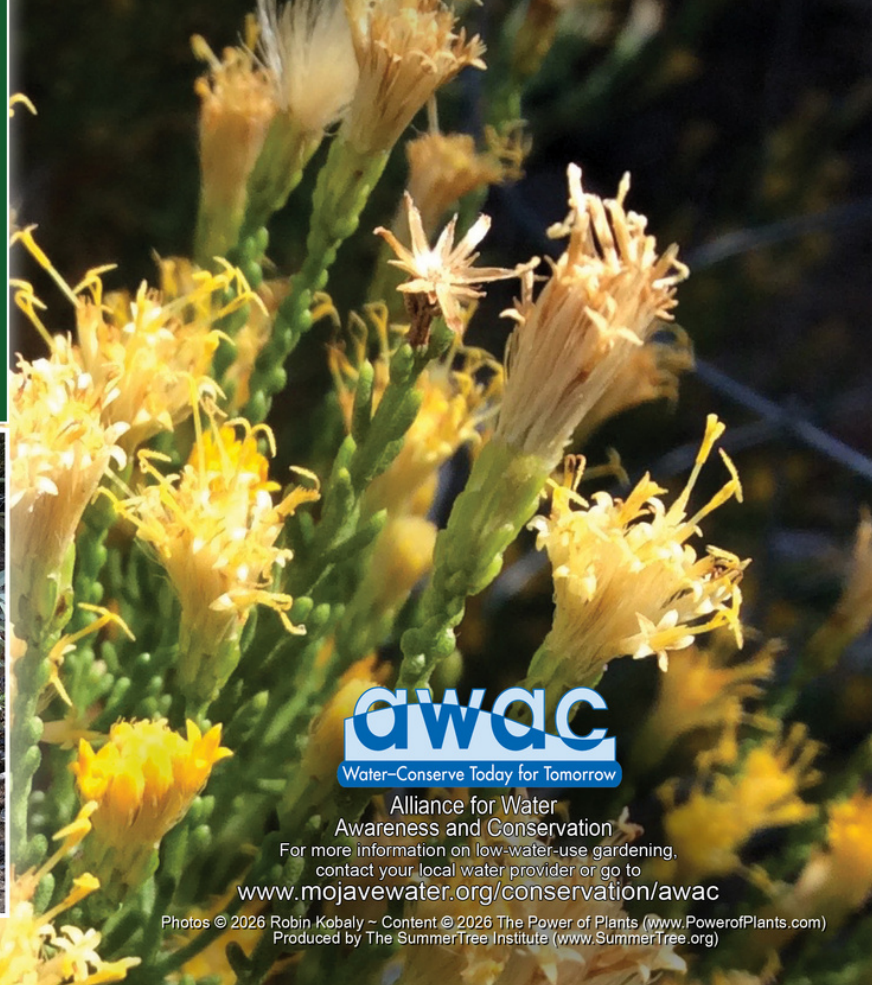
Ericameria laricifolia

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub
Water Use: Very low
Mature Size: 2-3 ft. tall x 2-4 ft. wide
Exposure: Full sun, part sun
Bloom Time: Summer (August), Fall (Sept-Nov)
Native to: Southeast California to Texas, northwest Mexico
(between 3000 - 7000 feet)
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 0°F

Turpentine Bush is a dense evergreen shrub with bright green, needle-like leaves that smell like turpentine when crushed. Golden yellow flower clusters from late summer to fall turn this rather modest plant into a showstopper, attracting butterflies and other insect pollinators. Flower heads have many tiny, vase-like disc florets, but few to no ray florets (long petals around the outside of the flower). This aromatic plant requires minimal water once established, resists rabbits and deer, and takes reflected heat. It may become leggy in shade or if overwatered. Attractive as an accent or in mass plantings in borders, rock gardens, butterfly gardens, dry washes, medians, and wildlife gardens, and on slopes for erosion control. Turpentine Bush is native to the East Mojave & Sonoran Deserts. Its West Mojave cousin, Cooper's Goldenbush (*E. cooperi*) looks very similar, but blooms in spring. Also try Linear-leaved Goldenbush (*E. linearifolia*) with long, showy, golden petals in spring.



September 2026 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

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Produced by The SummerTree Institute (www.SummerTree.org)



GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE

- Water before 9AM and after 6PM
- Late Sept. to mid-Nov. starts the most important planting season of the year
- Plant native and drought-tolerant plants; warm soil helps develop deep roots before summer, reducing water needs during new plants' entire two-three-year establishment period
- Fall opportunity to transplant yuccas from late Sept. to Oct.
- Reduce water to cacti and succulents to prepare them for winter rest and protect against frost damage
- Protect against wildfire as Santa Ana winds start; prune dead limbs, clean away brush, and clean leaves from gutters



HISTORIC USES OF Turpentine Bush/ *Ericameria laricifolia*

Turpentine Bush has been used historically for its aromatic resin, which can repel pests and is sometimes utilized in traditional medicine. Additionally, its bright yellow flowers attract pollinators, making it beneficial for local ecosystems.



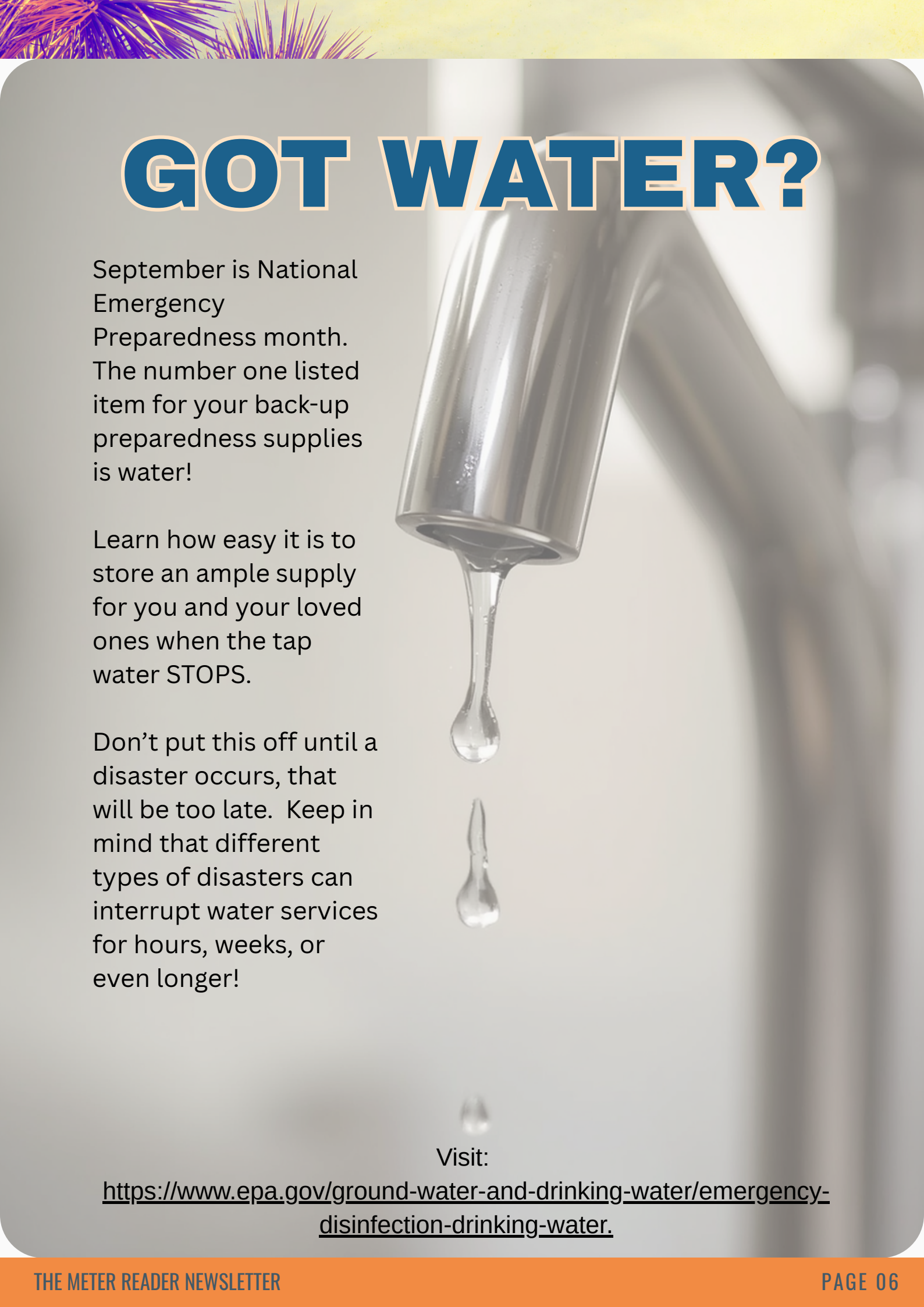
NBS community SPOTLIGHT!

Recognizing Community Impact:

Anne Roman, JBWD Director of Finance & General Manager Pro Tem

- At NBS, we're proud to recognize Anne Roman, Director of Finance for the Joshua Basin Water District, for her thoughtful leadership and dedication to the responsible stewardship of public resources.
- Anne plays a key role in helping the District make sound financial decisions that support today's operating needs and tomorrow's water reliability. Over the past year, she has led or supported several major financial initiatives, including:
- Long-range financial planning to prepare the District for major capital investments, including future Chromium-6 treatment requirements and other critical infrastructure projects.
- Transparent communication with the Board and public through financial reporting, quarterly updates, and presentations that translate complex financial information into understandable decisions.
- Implementation of sound financial policies, management of standby charges, and modernization of financial procedures that strengthen the District's fiscal foundation.
- Support for regional planning efforts, collaborating with District leadership and regional partners on long-term infrastructure initiatives that benefit the Joshua Basin community.
- Anne's work illustrates the important role finance professionals serve in public agencies, balancing financial accountability with strategic planning to ensure reliable services for years to come.
- We've appreciated the opportunity to partner with Anne and the Joshua Basin Water District team. Her collaborative approach, attention to detail, and devotion to accuracy make complex financial and assessment processes efficient and successful.
- Thank you, Anne, for your leadership, professionalism, and devotion to serving the Joshua Basin community.

Note: NBS is a California-based public finance consulting firm that helps local governments, special districts, and communities design and manage funding solutions. They assist JBWD with Standby/Water Availability billing and Copper Mountain Mesa (CMM) Assessment District management.



GOT WATER?

September is National Emergency Preparedness month. The number one listed item for your back-up preparedness supplies is water!

Learn how easy it is to store an ample supply for you and your loved ones when the tap water STOPS.

Don't put this off until a disaster occurs, that will be too late. Keep in mind that different types of disasters can interrupt water services for hours, weeks, or even longer!

Visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/emergency-disinfection-drinking-water>.

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

Mojave Water Agency

HI-DESERT WATER DISTRICT

BIGHORN-DESERT VIEW WATER AGENCY

Roadshow!

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH

ARRIVE 9 AM
6171 Sunburst Ave.,
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

HI-DESERT WATER DISTRICT
55439 29 Palms Hwy,
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
61750 Chollita Rd,
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

BIGHORN-DESERT VIEW WATER
622 South Jemez Trail
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

LUNCH 11:30AM
6171 Sunburst Ave.,
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Register today!

www.mojavewater.org

IT'S ALL ABOUT WATER!

Not all of our water providers face the same challenges in the Morongo Basin-- and this *FREE Roadshow Tour* will give you a whole new perspective on the key challenges water is presenting here, in our desert communities.

In one brief morning you will be shown insights for three water providers, plus an overview of water resources from our State water wholesaler, the Mojave Water Agency.

FREE NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOPS SLATED AT THE JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK NURSERY

In preparation for our March 2027 native plant sale, the first of four *FREE* hands-on workshops is slated for Thursday, October 1st, (8:30AM-12Noon) to focus on growing native plants from seeds. Join the fun and learn while you help! To RSVP, email: kjradnich@gmail.com by Monday, September 28, 2026.

