

MBCA News
Monday, April 13, 2015

We're in the full-swing of Spring and have lots of news and dates for you!

BLM Draft Environmental Impact Statement WEMO (Western Mojave)

MBCA Director Pat Flanagan has done an incredible job of analyzing the recent BLM Western Mojave (WEMO) ORV routes plan and pointing out in words and illustrated maps the many bad consequences of their plan. We have placed the [PDF of her PowerPoint presentation](#) on our website. Pat will present this at the **MAC meeting, Joshua Tree TONIGHT at 6:30 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 13TH.**

There is also a **BLM public comment meeting THIS WEDNESDAY:**

When: Wed., April 15, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, Yucca Rm., 57090 29 Palms Highway

Hope to see many of you at one or both of these meetings! It is important for us to attend the BLM meeting to publicly comment and also send BLM comments on how the proposed routes will negatively impact you, your home, and our community!

As the result of a successful lawsuit by environmentalists, the BLM was forced to reconsider ORV routes in the Western Mojave Desert that allow for trespass and damage to private property, natural and cultural resources. Unfortunately, the BLM has responded with alternatives that double the miles of ORV routes!

Here is the webpage with some background:

http://www.mbconservation.org/off_road_vehicle_issues

And here again is the link to the presentation itself:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/mbca/pages/296/attachments/original/1428896642/Presentation_WEMO_FINAL2.pdf?1428896642

Black Rock Lecture: Climate Change Response

When: April 17th, 7:00-8:30pm

Where: Copper Mountain College, Bell Center

This symposium is Free, but pre-registration is required. <http://www.joshuatree.org>

Earth Day Celebration

When: Saturday, April 18th, 9am-2pm

Where: Yucca Valley Community Center

Visit the MBCA table: say hello and sign up for the Desert-Wise Landscape Tour. Other participants will offer environmental education including gardening and composting advice. Enjoy live music and dance, art and crafts vendors, and kids activities. Free admission and parking.

MBCA Desert-Wise Landscape Tour returns for 5th year!

When: Saturday, April 25th, 9am - 4pm

With over twenty sites on this year's tour, this promises to be another great chance to see desert-wise, water-use-smart and creative landscapes. Many new sites are included. You know if you've gone on previous year's tours, this is not to be missed!

We recommend you Register before Tour Day to get the Tour Book early and plan your day. You may Register:

- **online** - until 5PM the day before the Tour (Friday, April 24) via PayPal or credit card at http://www.mbconservation.org/2015_landscape_tour;
- **before the Tour** - Earth Day, Yucca Valley Community Center, April 18th, 9am-2pm;
- **day of the Tour** - Saturday, April 25th from 9am-noon from: 1) Cactus Mart in Morongo Valley; 2) Pioneer Crossing Antiques (back parking lot) in Yucca Valley; 3) Wind Walkers in Joshua Tree.

California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act

As reported in the previous E-Blast, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced the CDCRA bill to Congress proposing the long anticipated creation of:

- [Mojave Trails National Monument](#)
- [Sand to Snow National Monument](#)
- as well as providing additional protections to other federal lands through out the Mojave Desert, including [ACEC status for Black Lava & Flat Top Butte in Pipes Canyon](#).

Tell Congressman Cook you support the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act in its entirety!!!

Call his office: Washington, D.C. 202/225.5861 / Apple Valley 760/247.1815

Joe Zarki's book is published!

Many of you know Joe from his many years of service at Joshua Tree National Park where he served as chief of interpretation and education. He retired in 2012 after 39 years with the National Park Service. That experience and knowledge is reflected now in Joe's book *Images of America: Joshua Tree National Park* that was just released by Arcadia Publishing. This is a wonderful compilation of historic images and text telling the history of human experience: the first native peoples, miners, ranchers, homesteaders, archaeologists, now environmental visitors, campers, climbers in the place we now know as Joshua Tree National Park. Congratulations Joe!

You may get a copy at the JTNP bookstore (check to see about availability first) or online via the publisher or other sources. For a preview of the book's first chapters, click [here](#).

Thanks Deborah Bollinger!

Deb Bollinger has served as a Director of the MBCA for over four years. In March the Board very reluctantly accepted her resignation. Deb was a fabulous Director who spearheaded the Invasives program, was a founder of MBCA's Clean 'n Green Team, and coordinated the participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program. We will miss her intelligent, engaging presence, and leadership at board meetings. Luckily she will

continue to coordinate the Clean 'n Green Team and support ongoing efforts to "Pull the Mustard." Who will ever forget the horrifically giant Mustard specimens Deb brought to meetings and workshops in efforts to enlist other "Weed Warriors" to join her campaign! We can't thank you enough, Deb for your time and dedication!

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2015 MBCA Board
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www.mbconservation.org

*MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment
that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth,
and economic well-being.*