

MBCA News
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Thanks to those of you who entered the Essay Contest with recollections of the MBCA's **2014 Landscape Tour**. We are pleased to announce the winners:

1st place: Kathy DeRouen won a \$200 gift certificate to Unique Nursery
2nd places (a tie!): Sarann Graham & Marsha Straubing each won prizes of \$150 gift certificates to Cactus Mart
3rd place winner: Peter Grame won a \$100 gift certificate to Wind Walkers

I think you'll agree their essays are imaginative and heart-felt. We are grateful to see that each reflects what MBCA intends to provide with the visitors' Tour experience – recognition of the creativity of Basin residents in water-wise solutions to their landscapes. The essays validate our efforts to inspire and educate and will certainly prompt others to join next year's tour. Essays are now posted on the MBCA [website](#).

Thanks also to Essay Contest Judges: Cynthia Anderson, Caroline Conway & Greg Gilbert

The Desert-Living Series will continue in the fall with a lecture program. Stay tuned to hear what will be planned and scheduled.

Mark your calendars to attend these upcoming events:

Morongo Basin Project Connect

Thursday, June 5th, 2014, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.,
location: The Sportman's Club, 6225 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree, CA.

The San Bernardino County Homeless Partners will provide free on-site services for homeless residents that will include: medical & dental screenings, hygiene kits, senior services, child care information & services, legal services, transportation assistance (for the day of event); dept. of Veteran's Affairs, Transitional Assistance Department, and much more.

* Free lunch will be provided for the first 500 attendees.

For more information contact: Deanna Luttrell (909) 382-7006, dial 2-1-1 or via email at: dluttrell@dbh.sbcounty.gov. For questions,

concerns, interpretation services or requests for disability related accommodations call (909) 382-7006 or 7-1-1 for TTY users.

– **MAC (Municipal Advisory Committee) meeting**

First Monday of month: June 9th, 6:30 P.M.

location: Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Avenue

The MAC has requested input from *Desert Heights* residents. Mary Reeves, community columnist for the *DesertTrail* will provide a brief overview of the Desert Heights area (demographics, boundaries, community players, issues of concern.) Desert Heights residents interested in being involved or providing comments may contact Mary (mary.reeves35@yahoo.com).

– **MBCA Board of Directors meeting**

second Thursday of the month

location: Yucca Valley Community Center, 5:00 –7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend what is always an information-packed meeting. Summer meetings: June 12th; July 10th; no August meeting (Board meets for an annual day-long retreat.)

Conservation News:

HVCC's objection voiced to CPUC & BLM re. Coolwater Lugo Substation & Transmission Project

Residents in Homestead Valley have expressed strong objections to the citing of a proposed industrial scale renewal energy projects in their endangered rural-living community. In opposition to the *Coolwater Lugo Transmission Project* comment letters submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission noted that Southern California Edison's public outreach was poorly accomplished and writers specifically requested public hearings in their community in order to take oral public comment. Additional commenters asked the BLM to place an immediate moratorium on any further construction or project review and/or approval until this matter has been resolved. "*Smart proactive planning needs to be inclusive, not dismissive.*"

Thanks for your continuing interest and support! !

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2014 MBCA Board

Sarah Kennington, President
Steve Bardwell, Treasurer

David Fick, Vice President
Deborah Bollinger, Director

Pat Flanagan, Director
Ruth Rieman, Director
Laraine Turk, Director

Meg Foley, Director
Claudia Sall, Events Director
Marina West, Recording Secretary

www.mbconservation.org

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