

MBCA News
Saturday, December 13, 2014

Rain in the high desert - isn't it glorious! Is it too early to think about a spring bloom? We can always dream! In Pipes Canyon we're even thinking about snow. Tis' the season!

First I would like to thank those of you who attended last month's DRECP scoping meeting in Joshua Tree. The Community Center was packed and Basin residents spoke articulately and passionately making substantive comments. Increasingly the message is becoming the demand that calculations must include the capacity for degenerated generation (roof-top solar) to meet energy requirements. If you haven't already weighed in on the future of utility scale projects in our desert, you can do so online:

<http://www.drecp.org>

Thanks also to the National Parks Conservation Association and the California Desert Coalition who joined MBCA in the pre-DRECP meeting that helped prepare us to make substantive / impactful comments to the panel.

Note also that the BLM is offering two informational [Webinars](#):

1) Renewable Energy and Permitting Monday, Dec. 15, 2014 10:00am-Noon;

2) Conservation Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014 1:00pm-4:30pm

Part I. Biological Conservation Strategy 1:00pm-3:00pm

Part II. Conservation on BLM Land (Non-Biological Resources) 3:00-4:30pm

It's been quite a year tracking and responding to the DRECP. The 20th Anniversary celebrations for the Desert Protection Act also kept us on our toes last month. No lack of important engagements for the conservation community! Some more joyous than others, but rest assured it's critical to remember what we've achieved as well as what remains to be accomplished.

Please mark your calendars for **MBCA's Annual Meeting** that will take place **Saturday, January 24th**. It will be held at the Joshua Tree Community Center from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Details about the program will follow in the New Year in a subsequent E-Blast. Last year's program that featured Angelina Galiteva will be a hard act to follow, but rest assured we're working on it and are excited about the elements that are already in place.

It is also the time of year we think about MBCA Membership. We encourage you to renew or become a member for 2015. Now with MBCA website's improved capability you may [renew or join on-line](#) via PayPal or credit card. Alternatively you may bring a check or cash to the annual meeting on January 24th. Whatever's easiest for you!

I'm looking forward to working with you in the New Year in pursuit of MBCA's mission. This is an amazing community with a great capacity to protect what we value. Working with you is truly a reward in itself. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2014 MBCA Board

Sarah Kennington, President
Steve Bardwell, Treasurer
Pat Flanagan, Director
Ruth Rieman, Director
Laraine Turk, Director

David Fick, Vice President
Deborah Bollinger, 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.*