

MBCA News
Friday, October 4, 2013

Our fall Event is tomorrow! Hope you are planning to attend:

Desert Wise Landscape Workshop
A "How-To" Workshop with Robin Kobaly
Saturday, October 5
12:30-3:30 PM
Joshua Tree Community Center
\$20 donation for materials requested; \$15 for current MBCA members
http://www.mbconservation.org/desert_wise_landscape_workshop

Here are some other items of interest to MBCA:

1. Questar Oil Pipeline

A number of Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley residents were contacted during the summer in relation to Questar's pursuit of an oil pipeline across the Morongo Basin. We learned that company official Steve Chapman recently said that the project "has been shelved for now." It is a typical response that leaves a door open, but at least the possibility seems to be greatly reduced.

2. The Bobcat Protection Act, AB 1213

The bill is still on Governor Brown's desk, *thus your calls and emails are still needed*. We know that the trapping/hunting lobby will also be making phone calls, requesting that he not sign the bill. Once again, the main points are:

- Protect national parks & tourist dependent economies.
- Protect Private property rights.
- End state subsidized trapping.

Actions you can take:

- Phone: (916) 445-2841
- Fax: (916) 558-3160
- Email: <http://govnews.ca.gov/gov39mail/mail.php> (use the drop-down "subject" menu to designate your email for AB01213 – you have to scroll down a long way)
- Additional actions you can take include: 1) modifying and resending any letter you may have written earlier in this campaign, making sure the request this time is for the Governor to sign it into law; 2) writing a letter to the editor locally and/or to other newspapers (here's a link to all California newspapers, with thanks to Tom O'Key: <http://www.usnpl.com/canews.php>); and 3) commenting or "liking" such letters and comments online. Volume can help.

3. Joshua Tree's Community Plan

Residents of the Joshua Tree community had a lot to say at the September 19 meeting with County Land Use Planning Staff. The long meeting resulted in 12 large sheets of paper lining the walls of the Community Center, filled with specific ideas about improving Joshua Tree's Community Plan and/or finding a means of creating a Downtown Specific Plan. Topics ranged from banning formula retail to creating sidewalks to enhancing services for low-income residents. Tom Hudson, Director of the Land Use Services Department, said that within about 2 months they would return to

move ahead with the community to the next steps in the planning process. Here are local news stories on the meeting from KCDZ and the Hi Desert Star:

<http://www.kcdzfm.com/an-emotional-meeting-with-the-county-on-development-in-joshua-tree/>

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_547d03be-2279-11e3-be46-001a4bcf887a.html

4. Renewable Energy in San Bernardino County

More information has been added to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Resources website. It is full of current and valuable information, and even offers you the chance to add relevant information. Go to: <http://www.dreocr.com>

5. MBCA's Developing Website

We have placed a photo and short essay on MBCA's home page, a contribution by Board of Advisors member Greg Gilbert. Please take a look and enjoy! We are working on expansion of the site with as much time and energy as an all-volunteer group can give!

MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER! Join us for information sharing and discussion at our regular meeting on Thursday, October 10, at the Yucca Valley Community Center (usually the Mesquite Room, the one with a fireplace). We meet from 5-7 PM.

Thank you.

Your 2013 MBCA Board
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