

MBCA News
Sunday, August 2, 2015

Happy Summer! Hope you are enjoying the rains and keeping cool! It's been awhile since we've checked in with our members and supporters and want to catch up now!

The Board of Directors met last Saturday for our annual day long Retreat. In a productive session we assessed our efforts towards meeting goals set for 2014-2015 and then focused on the year ahead. Two milestones in 2015 have provided MBCA renewed strengths to carry out our mission. The first we announced early this year was the approval for our application to the IRS for non-profit 501(c)(3) status – you can now deduct your membership dues and donations!

The second milestone that we are announcing in this E-Blast was the generous donation from the estate of long-time MBCA member, Ruth Denison. Ruth is renowned as a meditation teacher and pioneer in bringing Buddhist teaching to American. She founded the Dhamma Dena Desert Vipassana Retreat Center in Joshua Tree in 1977 and held three retreats a year there for more than 30 years. The Board of Directors will consider the best use of this unexpected gift in coming months and will announce our decision at the annual meeting in January.

The Board is in the process of ensuring we continue to engage in "best practices" for MBCA in light of our new status. Several policies are being developed that will be posted on *mbconservation.org* upon Board approval. While these milestones are significant, they do not change our mission. We remain a thoroughly volunteer run organization with a Board of committed Directors and Advisors in support of our remarkable community.

Check out *mbconservation.org* for new content!

MBCA's Desert Wise Living committee has been working through the summer with plans to make the 2016 Landscape Tour as successful as it has been in the past – maybe more so! If you haven't had a chance to read the [winning essays](#) from visitors and hosts of the 2015 Tour, we encourage you to do so. They are wonderful reflections of experiences and lessons learned!

You will find that new content has been added as our web team endeavors to regularly archive MBCA activities and news impacting our Basin communities. Highlighting just a few of the features: The [Resource](#) tab hosts a wealth of information, including [Encouraging Effective Land Use](#). To keep abreast of WEMO (BLM's proposed West Mojave ORV Routing) use the link to [Off Road Vehicle Uses](#).

From [Conserving the Natural Desert](#) you will find a link to [Invasive Plants](#). MBCA Director Pat Flanagan has created fifteen pages, each showcasing a particular plant. Photos and text help you positively identify these pests so that we can proactively eliminate them from our yards and landscapes. Great work Pat and thanks also to MBCA Director Laraine Turk and her web committee for their ongoing efforts to improve our outreach via *mbconservation.org*.

The Mojave Project

Our congratulations go to Kim Stringfellow, Basin resident & recipient this year of a

Guggenheim Fellowship. She is the creator/ leader of [The Mojave Project](#), a trans-media documentary exploring the physical, geological and cultural landscape of the Mojave Desert. *The Mojave Project* will materialize over time through deep research and direct field inquiry involving interviews, reportage and personal journaling supported with still photography, audio and video documentation.

NOTES: The Board will not meet in the month of August. Typically, the Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. However, due to conflicts the September and October Board Meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday: September 9th and October 7th, 5-7PM.

We'll be back on the regular Thursday track in November! Please join us.

If you've begun to receive MBCA E-Blasts lately and wondered how we found you, your address was inadvertently added to our list of supporters from a CDC e-mailing you are on that related to the Joshua Tree National Park border study.

We're happy to have you as a supporter and believe you may share our point of view. But we also understand that you may NOT want to hear from us (MBCA E-Blasts go out on average once or twice a month). To unsubscribe: at the bottom of this e-Blast, click to indicate you would like to STOP receiving our e-Blasts. Sorry for any confusion you may have experienced about this. Welcome aboard for those of you who chose to stay – we're happy to have you with us!

Remember: *It takes a Basin!*

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2015 MBCA Board
Sarah Kennington, President
Steve Bardwell, Treasurer
Pat Flanagan, Director
Ruth Rieman, Director
Laraine Turk, Director

David Fick, Vice President
Marina West, Recording Secretary
Meg Foley, Director
Claudia Sall, Events Director

www.mbconservation.org

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

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