

MBCA News
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News Release

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**“Water in Dry Times” Desert-Wise Living Program Coming
September 19, 2015**

Yucca Valley, CA. The Morongo Basin Conservation Association [MBCA] will host a Desert-Wise Living program focused on the critical issue of water usage on Saturday afternoon, September 19th, 2015. Multiple presenters will address practical steps that citizens can take that will stretch dwindling water reserves as Californians learn to cope with severe water shortages from a historic drought and meet State emergency mandates for water usage reduction.

Governor Jerry Brown has noted the importance of education and “pulling together” in this water crisis, and MBCA intends to provide such an opportunity for the Morongo Basin communities with this event.

The 3-hour program will put in context our local and individual water footprints within California’s current and projected water resources. First, Keynote Speaker Peter Brooks will paint the big picture with his presentation **“The Future of Water: Understanding the World’s Most Precious Resource.”** After four years of service in the US Marine Corps including two tours of duty in Iraq, Peter has had a distinguished career in academic and policy research related to water resource management. He was awarded a Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship in India, an MBA from Harvard Business School and a Master’s of Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. While at Harvard, he won a teaching award. In January 2015 Peter joined NLine Energy, Inc., as director of business development. NLine Energy is a renewable energy company that has developed a process to convert wasted energy found in water transmission and distribution systems into renewable electricity.

Bringing the conversation into local significance will be Jill Giegerich and Tim DeLorey, addressing “What difference can each water-user make?” They will discuss local water conservation through wise landscape planning, emphasizing the integration of hardscape elements and water retention techniques. They are co-owners of their permaculture design business, *On Contour Regenerative Design*. Jill is an artist, a certified permaculture design consultant, and an Art Professor Emeritus at

UCR. Tim DeLorey is a highly published scientist and a certified permaculture design consultant. They both are long standing members of Transition Joshua Tree.

Deborah Bollinger will present an overview of how water audits are conducted and share current landscape elements that save water, bringing attention to efficient irrigation systems. Deborah has worked as a consultant to desert water districts for over 10 years, specializing in landscape water conservation, and is the founder of Bollinger Consulting Group. Deborah's aim is to bring the desert closer to net zero water use in the landscape.

A panel of representatives from local water purveyors will discuss how they are addressing the drought.

The Program will be held at the Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 from 12:30-3:30pm. A donation of \$5.00 at the door is requested.

This Desert-Wise Living program is made possible through generous funding from the Mojave Water Agency.

http://www.mbconservation.org/water_in_dry_times_desert_wise_living_program



Jill Giegerich