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Desert Communities to Celebrate California Desert Parks' Ten-Year Anniversary with Fun, Diverse Events

Ten years ago this fall, the California Desert Protection Act created the Mojave National Preserve and also enlarged and redesignated Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments as national parks. Communities all over the California desert are planning to observe this anniversary with a series of diverse events that celebrate these National Park Service units and the surrounding desert areas. A calendar of events is provided below. For more information, contact the number listed for each event, or contact the National Parks Conservation Association (Howard Gross, 760-366-3035, hgross@npca.org). All events are free unless otherwise noted. For updated information, visit www.jtnp10years.net.

Experience Nour Parks...

Events and Activities

September 22nd, 7:00 am - 8:00 am

Celebrate Joshua Tree National Park's 10th anniversary at the Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Breakfast at Miracle Springs Resort, 10625 Palm Drive, Desert Hot Springs. Joshua Tree National Park Superintendent Curt Sauer will be the guest speaker. Breakfast cost \$3.50, 760-329-6403.

October 2nd, 6:30 pm

Join David Korzilius from the San Jacinto & Santa Rosa Mountains National Monument to learn what wilderness is and how it became designated in the desert. Palm Desert Library, 73-100 Fred Waring Rd., Palm Desert. 760-341-9312.

October - November

The Arts Council for San Bernardino County will host an exhibit featuring interpretations of the California desert from the 29 Palms Art Guild. Arts on Fifth, 468 W. 5th St. (between D and E), San Bernardino. 909-388-4126.

October - November

Display of historical desert photos from the Palm Springs Desert Museum's Stephen H. Willard Photography Collection. October 4th - 31st at the California Welcome Center, 56711 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley. 760-365-5464. November 1st - 28th at Joshua Tree Nat'l. Park Visitor Center, 74485 National Park Drive, 29 Palms. 760-367-5500.

October 15th, 7:00 pm

The Desert Institute and Hi-Desert Museum present Apostle of the Cacti: The Story of Minerva Hoyt; The Creation of Joshua Tree National Monument. Joe Zarki, Chief of Interpretation at Joshua Tree National Park, presents a lecture on the life of Pasadena socialite Minerva Hamilton Hoyt at the Town of Yucca Valley Community Complex Center (Dumosa Avenue and Highway 62 behind the Hi-Desert Nature Museum). Admission \$5. 760-367-5535.

October 22nd, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Presentations on Death Valley National Park by J.T. Reynolds, Park Superintendent, and William Tweed, co-author of *Death Valley and the Northern Mojave: A Visitor's Guide* will be held in Ridgecrest City Council Chambers, 100 W. California Avenue, Ridgecrest. Refreshments to follow. 760-375-6900.

October 23rd, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Ridgecrest Celebrates Death Valley National Park with a community celebration in Helmer's Park from 11:00 am-6:00 pm including live music, a community cookout, Death Valley displays, and a visit from a mule team wagon! Two Death Valley presentations from National Park Service Ranger Charlie Callagan in the Ridgecrest Senior Center, 125 S. Warner St., Ridgecrest, will also take place. 760-375-8202.

October 27th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Opening reception for the *Art and Protecting Public Lands* Exhibit at the Riverside Art Museum. The exhibit celebrates the 10th anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act and recognizes the role of art in marshalling public support for the appreciation and protection of public lands. Exhibit runs from Oct. 23-31. 3425 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. 909-684-7111.

October 29th, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Opening reception for the *Joshua Tree National Park Appreciation Exhibition* at Coyoteria Exhibitions in Bruce's Coyote Kitchen at Copper Mountain College. The exhibition will feature student and faculty art projects in all media that examine all aspects of this amazing desert park. Exhibit to run from Oct. 29 through Dec. 3. 6162 Rotary Way, Joshua Tree. 760-366-3791, x0228.

October 29th - 31st

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Mojave National Preserve with the Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter and California/Nevada Desert Committee, who will sponsor a weekend campout at the Hole-in-the-Wall group campground in the Mojave National Preserve. Saturday night celebration to include potluck, campfire and surprise activities. Hikes on Saturday to Cima Dome and Sunday from Midhills

Campground to Hole-in-the-Wall. Reservation required. Contact 760-245-8734 or earthlingwiley@webtv.net.

October 30th, all day

At 3:00 pm the Shoshone Museum on Highway 127 will unveil a new exhibit highlighting the designation of Death Valley as a National Park. The exhibit will represent a timeline on how the American public has viewed Death Valley since the 1930's. That evening there will be a program in Shoshone sponsored by the Death Valley and surrounding communities' Chambers of Commerce. Speakers will include past and current superintendents of Death Valley with a reception following the talks. 760-852-4524.

October 31st, all day

Ranger-led programs at Death Valley National Park, and a 10th Anniversary exhibit at the Furnace Creek visitor's center. More information to follow. 760-786-3200.

October 31st, 1:00 pm

National Park Service program and exhibit about Mojave National Preserve's 10th anniversary and National Park Service history will take place at the Mojave National Preserve's Information Center in Baker. 760-733-4040.

November 2nd, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mojave National Preserve's 10th anniversary celebration and open house at the Preserve's Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Center. 760-255-8801.

November 4th, 7:00 am

Celebrate Joshua Tree National Park's 10th anniversary at the Basin Wide Foundation's monthly breakfast. A bronze plaque celebrating the park's anniversary and honoring Minerva Hoyt's role in the designation of Joshua Tree National Monument will be presented to Joshua Tree Superintendent Curt Sauer. Howard Gross of the National Parks Conservation Association will be the guest speaker. Helen Grey Educational Center, Hi-Desert Medical Center, 6601 White Feather Rd., Joshua Tree. Breakfast cost \$6.760-365-7219.

November 6th and 7th, Saturday 12:00 – 4:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

29 Palms Historical Society Annual Weed Show. 2004 theme is "Our Desert Heritage: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act," with several national park and desert-oriented show categories. Old Schoolhouse Museum, 6760 National Park Drive, 29 Palms. 760-361-7100 or 760-830-4777.

November 9th, 10:30 am

Death Valley National Park anniversary ceremony at Badwater and related displays at the Furnace Creek visitor's center. For more information, call 760-786-3200.

November 9th - January 21st

The Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council hosts a Joshua Tree-inspired art show at Gallery 62, inside Roadside Attraction, featuring artwork by members. 69197 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms. 760-362-4100.

November 11th, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Panel/community discussion highlighting Morongo Valley and Big Morongo Canyon Preserve as neighbors to Joshua Tree Nat'l. Park and as ecological link to the San Bernardino Mtns. Presenters will be Dee Zeller (Big Morongo Canyon Preserve), Greg Hill (Bureau of Land Management), Robin Kobaly (SummerTree Institute), and Kristeen Penrod (South Coast Wildlands Project). Desert photography displays and free refreshments. Covington Park All-purpose Room, 1116 Vale Drive, Morongo Valley. 760-218-6668.

November 12th, 7:30 pm - midnight

New Moon Over Joshua Tree! An evening of speakers, star-gazing, musical entertainment, and food at the Hi-Desert Playhouse. 7:30-9:00 pm: Renowned night-sky photographer Wally Pacholka will present a slideshow, followed by an update from Donna Charpied (Citizens for the Chuckwalla Valley) on the fight against the Eagle Mountain garbage dump, followed by the Desert Music Foundation Junior Philharmonic. 9:00pm-midnight: The Andromeda Society will provide star-gazing opportunities through their telescopes, and there will be live music by Rojer Arnold & Paul Elliot, Ritmo Loco and others until midnight. Hi-Desert Playhouse, 61231 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree. 760-366-3723.

November 13th, all day

A fun-filled day in 29 Palms! Joshua Tree Nat'l. Park displays at park visitor center and Old Schoolhouse Museum. For info on ranger-led tours in the park, get a brochure from or contact the ITNP Visitor Center. At 10:00 am, 11:30 am, and 1:00 pm, bus tours of the 29 Palms murals will leave from the 29 Palms Historical Society (Old Schoolhouse Museum) parking lot. From 12:30-2:30 pm, the Joshua Tree Nat'. Park Museum Collection Bldg., housing over 100,000 items, will be open for public visitation. At 3:00 pm, an anniversary commemoration will take place at the Joshua Tree Nat'l. Park visitor center, including dignitary speeches, dedication of Minerva Hoyt mural, presentation of bronze plaque honoring Minerva Hoyt, and presentation of 1st Annual Minerva Hoyt California Desert Conservation Award. Refreshments. At 6:00 pm, an Anniversary Gala dinner at 29 Palms Community Services Center, featuring music and presentations by Jim Cornett, educator/ desert ecologist, and Huell Howser, television personality. Gala tickets: \$25/person. Call 760-367-3445.

November 13th, 8:00 am

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve will lead two hikes at 8 am—a bird walk and an interpretive canyon hike. The Hummingbird Moon Lodge of Morongo Valley will serve refreshments at the kiosk at 8:00. 760-363-7190.

November 14th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Yucca Valley hosts an afternoon of fun, park-oriented activities for the whole family at the Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley. Music, art and historical collections, community organization displays, school project displays, and Joshua Tree anniversary cake and refreshments will be included. 760-369-7212.

Look for the re-opening and dedication of the historic Kelso Depot at the Mojave National Preserve in early 2005!

Regularly updated information can be viewed at visit www.jtnp10years.net.

to event sponsons!

Participants and supporters for this fall's events include:

A Roadside Attraction Action Council for Twentynine Palms Andromeda Society Arts Council of San Bernardino County Astropics.com Basin Wide Foundation Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Bureau of Land Management California Welcome Centers Citizens for the Chuckwalla Valley City of Twentynine Palms Collins Computer Innovations Death Valley Chamber of Commerce Death Valley National Park Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce **Desert Documents** Fric Neil **Huell Howser Productions**

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& Visitors Bureau Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce Ritmo Loco Riverside Art Museum Roier Arnold and Paul Elliott Shoshone Museum Sierra Club South Coast Wildlands Project SummerTree Institute Touch 2 Town of Yucca Valley Twentynine Palms Art Gallery

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