

Every so often someone will ask, “why is the Mono Lake Committee still around? Isn’t Mono Lake saved?” I wish everyone who asks that question could visit our office in spring.

Take this week, for example. Geoff traveled to Sacramento where he met up with Betsy to talk with our state senator and assemblyman about Mono Lake policy issues. Lisa was hashing out the details of the clarifications letter, a joint project with DWP, for the Water Board. Bartshe put the final touches on the Mono Basin Field Station for the summer scientific research crews. Erika was readying the Committee’s internship program—hiring and setting up training. I’ve been pulling together this issue of the Mono Lake *Newsletter*.

Ellen has been learning the mail and membership ropes. Greg was keeping tabs on all things hydrological in anticipation of the runoff season. Clare was training Emily on policy issues ranging from EPA dust regulations to land ownership. Santiago and Herley Jim were scheduling Los Angeles community groups to participate in this summer’s Outdoor Experiences program. Elin was gathering the final materials for the all-new education wall in the Information Center & Bookstore. Brett and Laura were ordering the newest books and Mono Lake goods in preparation for Tioga Pass’ opening, and Donnette was getting the bills paid.

All of this, and then news arrives that the Cunninghams re-purchased their 112-acre property alongside Mono Lake with the intention to subdivide for resort homes! Stand anywhere in the office and the energy is palpable.

There is no singular answer to why the Mono Lake Committee still here. Every morning Committee staff come to work focused on what’s best for Mono Lake. We’re here because of you, the 15,000 members and friends who trust us to do just that—for you, for us, for future generations. We are inspired by the conviction and dedication of the Mono Lake Committee membership, by Mono Lake, and by the idea that we’re doing the right thing. I hope you’ll see this in the pages that follow. And we all hope that you’ll see it on your next visit to Mono Lake.

Come quick, the birds are already singing!

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



COVER PHOTO: WOOLLYBEAR CATERPILLAR, CHRIS MCCREEDY

GREG REIS

A cheeky chipmunk spotted just east of Mono Lake.

### Mono Lake Committee Mission

The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens’ group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.



### Mono Lake Office Information Center and Bookstore

Highway 395 at Third Street  
Post Office Box 29  
Lee Vining, California 93541  
(760) 647-6595

[info@monolake.org](mailto:info@monolake.org)  
[www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)  
[www.monobasinresearch.org](http://www.monobasinresearch.org)

### Los Angeles Office

322 Culver Boulevard  
Playa Del Rey, California 90293

### Staff

Executive Director..... Geoffrey McQuilkin  
Eastern Sierra Policy Director..... Lisa Cutting  
Education Director..... Bartshe Miller  
Communications Director..... Arya Degenhardt  
Office Director..... Erika Obedzinski  
Membership Coordinator..... Ellen King  
Information Specialist..... Greg Reis  
Policy Coordinator..... Emily Prud’homme  
Sacramento Policy Associate..... Betsy Reifsnider  
Outdoor Experiences Mgr..... Santiago Escruceria  
Los Angeles Education Coord..... Herley Jim Bowling  
Communications Coordinator..... Elin Ljung  
Retail Operations Manager..... Brett Pyle  
Bookstore Manager..... Laura Walker  
Bookkeeper..... Donnette Huselton

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Founded by David Gaines in 1978

**MONO LAKE**  
NEWSLETTER

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