



# MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

## Mono Lake Office

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On February 17, 1983 the California Supreme Court declared that the public trust must be protected at Mono Lake. The decision was, is, and will continue to be monumental in its significance—not only at Mono Lake but throughout the United States, and even the world. Here at the Committee we wear the court's words

on the back of our staff T-shirt almost daily, a reminder of the source of Mono's protection, and the reason for our continued work here. Author John Hart wrote, "The public trust decision pointed the way to a permanent solution." It is that solution—balancing the needs of the environment with the social and economic needs of people—that is the thread that ties all of the Committee's programs together.

So, this issue of the Mono Lake Newsletter focuses on the public trust doctrine. I suggest starting on page 3 with Executive Director of Operations Geoff McQuilkin's overview of how the public trust fits into the Mono Lake story. On pages 4–5 U.C. Davis law professor Hap Dunning delves into some of the philosophy and depth of the doctrine. Don't miss the article with a global perspective by Sandra Postel on page 6. You'll find and update on Walker lake from on page 7. And of course, you'll find all of the traditional goodies as well, so enjoy!

—Arya Degenhardt



Photo by Arya Degenhardt

A shrine amongst the reed beds of Lake Biwa, Japan. The 5th Living Lakes Conference, with the theme of "Education and Biodiversity," took place at Lake Biwa last November.

## 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 is a part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, a member of the international Living Lakes partnership ([www.livinglakes.org](http://www.livinglakes.org)), designated as an Outstanding National Resource Water under the Clean Water Act, and home to a National Forest Scenic Area and a California State Reserve.

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