

Mono Lake under the full moon in winter is nothing less than breathtaking. However, striking-out from a warm house too see it is nothing less than freezing. But as winter gives way to spring, we've had a stretch of particularly warm days, and the nights have not been too cold for bundled trips to the lakeshore. Frozen ground crunches underfoot—the only sound other than the even rhythm of water hitting the shore. The air is so crisp you feel like you can see further into space than ever before. You can see so much in the moonlight—Black Point, Negit and Paoha Islands, alkali flats on the east shore, the Mill Creek delta, the Mono Craters, and the wide-open expanse of water. It's like walking inside of a black and white photograph.

On this issue's cover we're lucky to have a Jim Stimson image, *Alkali Pond/Negit Island Land Bridge*. The staff voted on this photograph to represent both winter and spring—as this is a combination issue and part of the plan to stay on-budget. With ice along the shoreline, snow among the grasses, and a stormy sky sending spotlights on features like Paoha in the background, we figured this one was a perfect fit.

And inside, you'll find elements of winter and spring too. See pages 8–9 for a new perspective on birding. A spring selection of goodies from the store is on pages 12–13. Don't miss the 2002 Field Seminars on pages 20–25 to sign up soon. We've also got a policy update from Southern California on pages 4–5, and updates on the Mono Lake Highway Widening Project on page 7. And don't miss the heart-warming poetry by past Outdoor Experiences participants on page 16.

As always, thanks for reading!

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



COVER PHOTO BY JIM STIMSON
JIM STIMSON

Spring Snow Storm from local photographer Jim Stimson's book Mono Lake: Explorations and Reflections.

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.



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