

A week ago I went down to Sally Gaines' house to take a look at her slide collection. In search of old photos of researchers for this issue of the Newsletter, I was hoping to find a previously-undiscovered quintessential 1970s-undergrad-scientists-at-Mono-Lake shot. As we looked through the slides a story was woven—of camaraderie, open expanses of alkali, bird counts, dry creeks, exposed beaches, bug studies, dust storms, Mono muck, nights by the campfire, deep friendships, life-changing decisions, and creative and resourceful people investigating intriguing questions with compelling answers. By the end of the box of slides the story was complete, and I could see that there were far too many pieces to capture it all in one slide.

But what really hit me was this: 25 years later, we *still* wouldn't be able to take one photo to sum up all of the research happening here. There are all kinds of scientists out and about in the basin—asking questions, piecing together clues, and adding their pieces to the puzzle that was started by the legacy of science before them. Just like the original crew, they are motivated not only by their love of science, but also by their love of this place. Just like the original crew they work collaboratively, and are supportive of new work. Just like the original crew they see how their work can fit into the ultimate goal of restoring ecosystems in the Mono Basin.

The Mono Lake Committee is proud of its scientific roots, and of the science-based policies and decisions that continue to guide all of our work. So, here is a hat-off to the scientists who sat around that legendary fire, and to the ones who continue to keep it alive today.

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



COVER PHOTO BY DAVID GAINES

JOHN DITTLI

This photograph, Impending Storm, South Tufa, is just one of the many spectacular photographs by local photographer John Dittli on display at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore this summer. The show, entitled Wild Places, features images of the Eastern Sierra and the Great Basin.

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
www.monolake.org
www.monobasinresearch.org

Los Angeles Office

322 Culver Blvd.
Playa Del Rey, California 90293
Phone (310) 316-0041

Staff

Executive Director, Policy Frances Spivy-Weber
Executive Director, Operations Geoffrey McQuilkin
Eastern Sierra Policy Director Lisa Cutting
Eastern Sierra Policy Coordinator Craig Roecker
Education Director Bartshé Miller
Assistant Education Director Santiago Escrueria
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Founded by David Gaines in 1978

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