



From the Mailbag

News from Members and Friends

by Erika Obedzinski

"A Light exists in spring
Not present in the year
At any other period..."
~Emily Dickinson

All winter when I found myself down by the lake, I would spend a few minutes looking into the water for brine shrimp. I know that adult brine shrimp die off in cold winter temperatures, leaving behind their dormant eggs at the bottom of the lake, which will hatch when temperatures rise again. But still I would look, wondering if there just might be a few adults that survived through the cold months. All winter, I never spotted one. So a few weeks ago, when I was sitting on the dock by the lake, and finally did see a handful of shrimp swimming through the green water, I knew it must be a sure sign of spring!

The warmer season arrives in Lee Vining in subtle ways—this silent hatching of brine shrimp under the blue-green water, the sound of melting snow, the sight of California Gulls flying overhead, and Spotted Towhees calling across the trail to each other from their sagebrush perches. I like learning these signs of spring, which are different from those I knew in San Geronimo (where I lived before moving to Lee Vining). They all mean the same thing—the passing of winter, and the arrival of spring!

In Memory

Mr. & Mrs. John M. Aitken of San Francisco gave a donation in memory of Susan Aitken-Simon, Carol Mathews of Walnut Creek gave a gift in memory of Robert Mathews, Peter Messner of Belmont made a donation in memory of Dorothy Messner, Rita & Eugene Russell of North Highlands gave a gift in memory of Michael Daniel Ember, Nicki A. Spillane of Kensington made a contribution in honor of Paul Green, Mary Lou Swarner of Escondido made a donation in memory of Catherine Steele, Mary E. Vestal of Boise, Idaho gave a gift in memory of Elden Vestal, John & Laura Weeks of Richmond made a contribution in memory of Martha Hill Niccolls, and Elaine Anderson White of Bakersfield gave a gift in honor of David Gaines.

We have received many generous donations in memory of Alberic "Rick" de Laet in addition to those mentioned in the Winter 2003 *Newsletter*. Gifts were received from Mr. & Mrs. Leo Cheslak of Redford Township., Michigan, Ellen S. Cole of Winnetka, Illinois, sisters Patricia Elward and Susan Risoli of Santa Cruz, Margery & Jeff Haywood of London, Ontario, Canada, Kirsten & Jok Legallet of Burlingame, Randie Lintz & Susan Peterson of San Francisco, Philip Merrill of Belvedere, Lea & Bud Shea of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Margery Spielman of Ventura.

We bid farewell to local friend June Engel of Mammoth Lakes. In addition to supporting the Committee, June was an avid supporter of many local causes including the Friends of the Mammoth Lakes Library, the Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Club.

In Honor

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kawamura of San Jose made a gift in honor of Sue Imada of San Jose, who has been a long time friend and supporter of Mono Lake.

Special Thanks

Many thanks to Snowdy Dodson of the USGS for donating a copy of the 1886–87 U.S. Geological Survey Annual Report for the Committee's research library.

Secure Mono Lake's Future

Remember the Mono Lake Committee in your will or living trust, or name the Committee as a beneficiary of your IRA, qualified retirement plan or life insurance policy. Your thoughtful gift will help us protect and restore Mono Lake, educate youth and young adults about water and the environment, and move the state toward a strong ethic of conservation and water use efficiency. For more information contact Frances Spivy-Weber (frances@monolake.org) at (310) 316-0042.

Erika Obedzinski is the Committee's Membership Coordinator. She gracefully made it through her first snowy winter ever in the Mono Basin.



Music and Ecology Camp at Mono Lake

Explore Mono Lake through this independent camp for instrumentalists ages 11–18. Camp will take place during the week of June 22-28. Mornings will focus on activities to learn the ecology and natural history of the Mono Basin and Sierra Nevada. Afternoons will focus on music practice and lessons. The week will conclude with a concert held at the historic Mono Inn. For more information, contact camp organizers Cole and Priscilla Hawkins at (530) 753-1927.