

There is always something needing to get done at the last minute before an issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter* goes out. This time it was one photo. So I set out to take the necessary photo ... ok, maybe it's not quite as simple as that, because I needed to get the photo from the top of Black Point.

Black Point was the first place ever I visited in the Mono Basin and like many people I've spoken with since, I remember it in surprising detail and with strong emotion. It was with my high school natural history class and we climbed the dark sand slopes, sat at the top, and wrote in our journals. At sunset we headed down—making our way through the brush only to find that the most fun way to go about it was to jump over the shrubs. You can't help but laugh when you do this—the scent of narrowly-missed sage filling the air and soft sand filling your shoes.

This trip to Black Point was different. I was on a mission—all business. Take a couple of photos at the top, and quick, back to the office! But as focused as I was I couldn't help but launch a few jumps on the way down. Pure freedom! There, basically flying through the air, I was taken right back to my first day at Mono Lake.

The Spring *Newsletter* is filled with articles—from big policy news to reflective stories—all inspired by, dedicated to, and infused with pieces of Mono Lake. For instance, the cover photograph of a common buckeye was taken just this past week by Bartshé on a hike up Lundy Canyon. This is the best way we know how to share spring in the Mono Basin with you. We offer this issue to you in hopes that you will hear the messages and stories in the articles, but also in hopes that they remind you of your own Mono Lake memories.

So, with a sigh of relief, a photo on page 13, and sand in my shoes I present to you the Spring 2004 Newsletter. Enjoy!

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



COVER PHOTO COMMON BUCKEYE BY BARTSHÉ MILLER  
CLAUDE FIDDLER

*Beginning in May, and throughout the summer, photographs by local photographer and mountaineer Claude Fiddler will be on display in the Mono Lake Committee gallery and slide show room. Make sure to stop in to see Claude's beautiful images of the Sierra!*

*Curious to see this and other Newsletter images in color? It's online in color at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org).*

### 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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Founded by David Gaines in 1978

**MONO LAKE**  
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