

August 9, 2001

Restoration Days Celebrate Stream Recovery at Mono Lake

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For Immediate Release

The Mono Lake Committee, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of Mono Lake, is hosting it's annual "Restoration Days" on Labor Day Weekend, August 31 – September 2, 2001.

Restoration Days begins with a Garden Reception at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining at 6:30 PM on Friday, August 31. The reception includes free food and beverages, a photographic art display, and an Open House. Author Bob Madgic will be on hand to personally sign copies of his book, *Pursuing Wild Trout*, and talk about conservation and fishing in the Eastern Sierras. Also at the reception, MLC Co-Executive Director Geoff McQuilkin will deliver the 2001 "State of the Lake" address – a slide presentation and report that summarizes the social, ecological and economic health of Mono Lake.

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“In addition to the State of the Lake and other activities designed to educate people about Mono Lake, we’ve scheduled a lot of fun family activities this year,” said McQuilkin. “Except for the canoe tours, all events are open to the public at no charge during Restoration Days.”

This year’s marquee event at Restoration Days will be a fly-fishing creek walk on Saturday morning at Rush Creek, co-sponsored by CalTrout. Fly-fishing experts and stream scientists will be on hand to discuss fish and stream health, and hands-on fly-fishing instruction will be provided free by local guides.

Lucy Parker, a descendant of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika’a and Pomo peoples, will offer a Kutzadika’a blessing for Mono Lake at the annual Rehydration Ceremony on Saturday afternoon. Water brought up from the East Valley Water Recycling Project in Los Angeles, a facility built with funds the Committee secured to help offset Mono diversions by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, will be poured in a symbolic gesture celebrating the rising lake level.

Saturday night at the north shore of Mono Lake, Committee staff will present the annual “Defender of the Trust” award to Judge Stan Eller and CalTrout. This award recognizes those who have made extraordinary contributions to champion Mono Lake. In the 1980s, Eller and CalTrout were instrumental in guaranteeing minimum flows in Rush and Lee Vining Creek, a big step in protecting the Mono Basin environment.

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Restoration Days

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On Sunday, scientists and Committee staff will enlist the help of the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power and members of the public in removing tamarisk from the Rush Creek delta. Tamarisk is an invasive, non-native plant that is impeding the natural restoration of riparian areas at Mono Lake.

Restoration Days are filled with fun activities that showcase Mono Lake for people of all ages. Walking tours of Mono Lake's unique tufa formations, canoe tours on Mono Lake, and a hands-on workshop on native plants of the Mono Basin will be offered, and attendees will get a chance to water trees that have been planted in years past.

“Together we can all help in restoring the Mono Basin environment. We invite the public to come and enjoy a fun weekend at Mono Lake, and to learn about and participate in the restoration of this unique ecosystem,” said McQuilkin.

For more information or a complete schedule of events, phone the Mono Lake Committee at (760) 647-6595, e-mail the Committee at info@monolake.org, or check out the Restoration Days web page at www.monolake.org/events/restdays.htm.

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The text of this press release may be downloaded from www.monolake.org/press

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