

Fall

1996

MONO



LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R

Conway Ranch
proposal

Mono Lake
Gift Catalog

Mono Lake Newsletter

Fall 1996

Volume 19, Number 2

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IN THIS ISSUE



egit and Paoha islands capture the foreground in this issue's cover photograph, taken by frequent Mono Basin visitor Don Jackson while he assisted with this past summer's gull research program. Don and other participants sighted a coyote on Negit, which is a reminder that truly eliminating the landbridge requires even more water in the lake.

Autumn is rolling into the Mono Basin, bringing changing colors to the aspens and a tinge of winter to the air. Phalaropes and grebes have been passing through by the thousands—and returning to some old haunts (see page 8).

It's also time for the annual Mono Lake Catalog (pages 9–14), a selection of books, shirts, and other items from the Committee Bookstore in Lee Vining. Thanks go to Juliet Breckenridge for her thoughtful descriptions of the merchandise and Matt Newman for his careful product photography.

Sacramento looms large as we prepare to return to the Water Board's hearing room to discuss—and debate—DWP's restoration proposals in October (see page 5). It will be the Committee's most important work of the year, and the outcome will chart the course of the next decade of restoration. We hope to know the results before the snow starts to fall.

—Geoff McQuilkin

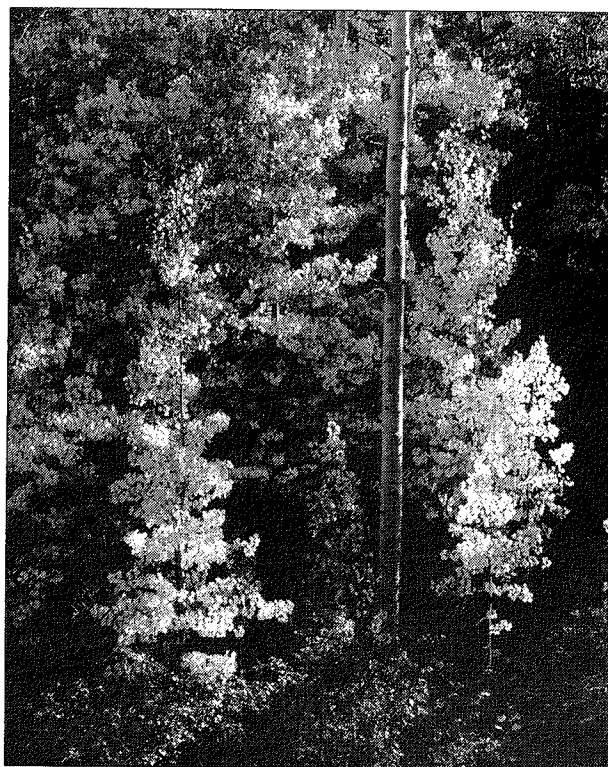


Photo by Don Jackson

In the Mono Basin, autumn colors are beginning to show on the aspens and cottonwoods.

Mission of the Mono Lake Committee

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 to protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

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Land of water

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

Water. Shimmering silver stretching to the horizon. Cold and flowing across white granite cobbles. Indigo in the sunrise, broken by Mono's islands. Frozen and slow, grinding paths through granite, carving cirques and leaving peaks. Freshly melted, leaving snowbanks behind, rushing down streams. Violent, carving away shoreline, cutting away its own streambed. Frothy on wave tops, invisible in the air, then appearing like gray sheets hanging from thunderclouds. Trapped in the concrete tubing of aqueducts, draining to far away. Turned loose again down its old trails.

Much more than we usually think, and much more than casual observation shows, the Mono Basin tells a story of water over time. A story that, through glaciers and Pleistocene lakes and aqueducts and Water Boards, continues onward today. Indeed, today's Mono Basin is the legacy of water.

Walk the basin floor—so dry, so full of sagebrush, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, and desert peach—and such an assertion seems fantastic. Where is the water? What significant difference can it make in such an arid land?

The answers lie hidden in the geography, the history—not where is the water, but where *was* it and what did it do—and, unavoidably, the politics of the Mono Basin.

As you walk the landscape, almost every natural landform, every hill, rill, canyon, and berm has been built, carved, or marked by water. The ice age was a major force here: massive glaciers scoured the likes of Lee Vining Canyon, and expansive Lake Russell—Mono's ice age forbearer—put the future townsite of Lee Vining deep under water. Vast plains of sediment were deposited, then rearranged by longshore currents. Deltas built out into the ice age lake and now, in drier days, dictate the flow of highways. The berms that snake across the basin



Photo by Jim Stinson

floor today, the ancient lake terraces high on pinyon covered hills, the strange V-shaped cuts in the middle of nowhere, even the distribution of the basin's trees and plants are all the work of water.


These water-sculpted landforms remain, sometimes hidden beneath the sage, shaping the reality of the basin with which we must work, affecting our experience of the lake without our knowing. Stream incision, the unfortunate result of 50 years of water diversions, happens because of the staircase-like basin structure created by the recession of the ice age lake. Waterfowl habitat, both extant and lost, depends on the embayments and springs put into place by the lake thousands of years ago.

Not to be forgotten, of course, is the aqueduct. Built of steel and concrete, buried and hidden, it drew Mono's waters away, changed the water balance of the entire basin.

But the lake and its tributary streams have many values of their own: avian habitat, riparian corridors, aquatic life, recreation, aesthetic values, ecological values. The list goes on. And so here the removal of water spawned political action: locals, the Mono Lake Committee, the courts, the Department of Water

and Power, and ultimately the State Water Resources Control Board.

Now there is water returning to the lake again and it is time to look beyond the damage the aqueduct did and to ask: what could be? The answers frequently involve water, but they don't always include the aqueduct. Mill Creek, for example, is a Mono Lake tributary that was never put into the aqueduct but still suffers from over a century of irrigation and hydropower diversions. Can water be returned to its lower reaches? Can its dry channels be reopened, its dusty cobbles covered with water? Could its once-rich bottomland habitat—so rare, and thus valuable, in the Great Basin—be brought back? Could its delta be rejuvenated; might waterfowl return to the freshwater skims of the delta region; might these habitats compensate for those permanently lost at other locations due to diversions? In the specifics, it's all a question of water: where it is now, how much there is, and how it might be returned.

And the specifics are part of a larger story: the long, ongoing tale of water in the Mono Basin. For water continues to shape the basin. And us. And our actions. No doubt it always will. 

Conway Ranch option presents restoration opportunity

by Heidi Hopkins

A project proposed by Mono County and the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and advocated by the Mono Lake Committee, holds great promise for restoring historic wetland habitat at Mono Lake. If the project is successful, water would be returned to Mill Creek, restoring the natural hydrology of the creek's extensive bottomlands. Rewatering Mill Creek is listed in the Mono Lake restoration plans as the most important action next to raising the level of the lake itself for riparian and waterfowl habitat restoration at Mono Lake (see *Newsletter*, Spring 1996, 8-9).

TPL, a national land conservation organization, has acquired an option to purchase the Conway Ranch and its associated Mill Creek water rights and would like to convey them to Mono County for open space preservation, development of a fish-rearing facility, and the rewatering of Mill Creek. To this end, the county has submitted a grant for

North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding, and DWP has agreed—subject to certain conditions—to provide up to \$2 million in matching funds for the purchase of the Conway water rights.

Mill Creek, located in the northwest corner of the Mono Basin, is one of Mono Lake's major tributaries but was never diverted by Los Angeles. For over 100 years, however, Mill Creek water has been diverted for hydropower, as well as irrigation of the Conway Ranch. As a consequence, Mill Creek's delta and bottomlands were dewatered and the riparian habitat—rich, wooded wetlands—was lost. Because Mill Creek was frequently dry during the period when Mono Lake was falling due to DWP diversions, Mill's delta and bottomlands were less damaged by stream incision than were those on Rush Creek. As such, rewatering Mill Creek offers an excellent opportunity to compensate for irreparable damage to the Rush Creek bottomlands.

The beauty of the current situation at Mill Creek is that restoration could be accomplished by simply restoring the creek's natural hydrology.

Rewatering Mill Creek also presents some thorny issues that need to be addressed. These include: 1) potential loss of riparian and stream habitat along Wilson Creek; 2) impacts on irrigated meadows on the Conway and Thompson ranches; and 3) the cost of upgrading the facilities which return Mill Creek water from the Lundy powerplant to Mill Creek.

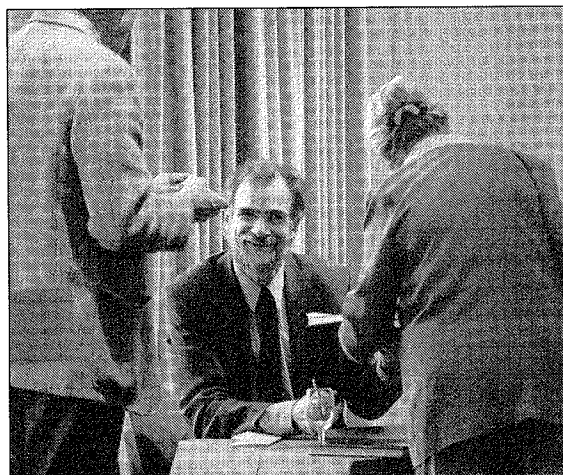
While it remains to be seen whether the grant will come through and whether all issues can be resolved, the Committee is actively supporting the restoration of historic habitat at Mono Lake through this initiative.

Heidi Hopkins is the Committee's new Eastern Sierra Policy Director. Despite solid efforts, we haven't managed to overwhelm her with Mono Lake information. 🐦

Booksigning celebrates tale of Mono Lake's protection

A May booksigning in San Francisco celebrated the publication of *Storm over Mono*, author John Hart's history of the effort to protect Mono Lake. With many of the book's cast of characters in attendance, the event was both a fundraiser for the Mono Lake Committee and a chance to discuss the protection achieved for Mono so far.

"A chain was built," Hart told the audience, reflecting on the great number of people involved in Mono's protection, "which depended on each link, and if even one of the 'lost generations'—



Author John Hart signed copies of *Storm over Mono*, his critically acclaimed history of the struggle to protect Mono Lake.

which worked so hard on Mono Lake and got nothing out of it and saw no victory and saw no hope—had not done the work they did, the result today would not be the satisfactory one it is."

A silent art auction, which also benefitted the Committee's work, accompanied the event and featured framed prints of Mono Basin images used in the book.

Copies of *Storm over Mono* are available from booksellers and from the Committee, where profits from sales help protect the lake; please see page 9 of this newsletter for ordering information.

STREAMS

RESTORING MONO LAKE'S TRIBUTARIES

WATERFOWL HABITAT

RESTORING ONE OF MONO LAKE'S LOST RESOURCES

ALTERNATE SUPPLIES

PROVIDING L.A. WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND WATER

In October, the State Water Resources Control Board will review proposals for the restoration of Mono Lake's damaged streams and waterfowl habitat.

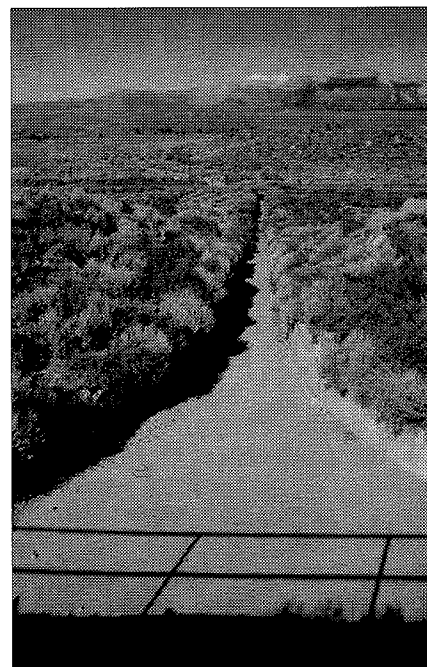
The proposals, produced by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), contain significant flaws, and the Committee will be joined by California Trout, the Department of Fish and Game, the State Lands Commission, and others in presenting improvements to the Water Board (for a view of DWP's proposals, see *Newsletter*, Summer 1996, 5-6).

Over the summer, DWP was able to test one portion of its restoration strategy: augmenting flows in Rush Creek with water diverted from Lee Vining Creek. The plan, which is intended to create high peak flows without constructing a new outlet facility at Grant Lake Dam, requires backing water up in

the aqueduct so it spills out a relief structure and down a concrete channel to Rush Creek. However, with the aqueduct "sealed" and an inflow of 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water, the promised spill failed to happen due to leakage at the "seal." Later experiments with 100 cfs of water also failed to produce a spill, pointing to the need for a reliable outlet structure which will achieve the high peak flows needed for Rush Creek restoration (see page 7 for another augmentation problem).

Restoration planning is proceeding as part of the 1994 Water Board decision. Restoration work is intended to partially make up for losses, such as stream desiccation and habitat destruction, caused by DWP's fifty years of water diversions.

Watch for news of the Water Board's restoration decisions in the winter issue of this newsletter!



DWP's Rush Creek augmentation attempt at 50 cfs: still not putting water in the right place.

Sponsors support Outdoor Experiences program

by Bartshe Miller

This year's Outdoor Experiences program has been a tremendous success. With the help of numerous Mono Lake supporters, youth from all around Los Angeles are experiencing Mono Lake and the Sierra Nevada for the first time in their lives.

The mission of Outdoor Experiences is to provide youth with the opportunity to explore and appreciate the Mono Basin while understanding its connection to Los Angeles and the importance of water conservation for both. Besides canoeing, South Tufa hikes, snowball fights, camping, and "Night Prowls," kids participate in the stewardship of Mono Lake by watering newly planted trees


along Rush Creek. Years from now these individuals will hopefully return with their children to see mature creek habitat which they helped to restore. Eleven-year-old Steve described the whole experience best when he said, "This is better than Six Flags Magic Mountain!"

The following individuals and organizations all helped to make the program possible. Their contributions either sponsored a child or young adult, bought educational supplies, provided staff time, or helped with transportation.

Individuals: M. Ankeney, John Arnold, Nancy Burdge, Joan Chithea, Paul Cooley, Dawn Cope, Carla Duke, Joan Edwards, Urla Garland, Steve Ingram &

Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Mara Melandry, C. Blaine Shull, Marion Siciliano, and George Tredick.

Organizations: C.M. & Raquel H. Newman Trust, Marin Community Foundation, L.A. Data Center of Bank of America, Diverse/CTSI, Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts, Metropolitan Water District, and the Southern California Gas Company. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power graciously provided its Cain Ranch facilities.

After a hectic summer in the field, Bartshe Miller, MLC's Education Director, hopes for calmer days ahead. 

Mono Basin Journal

A roundup of less-political events at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

Mono's waters are covering old ground. With an occasional burst of bubbles, frequently fringed with a spray of vegetation, old shoreline paths can be seen beneath the waves. Grasses that once bent in the wind now twist in the currents as brine shrimp drift by, and land which lay beneath the lake for thousands of years is wet again.

Monsoons from the Gulf of Mexico visited the Mono Basin this summer. After several years of absence, the building clouds, towering thunderstorms, and nearby lightening displays once again enlivened the summer days.

One evening Paoha was backed by sheets of rain, topped by

thousands of feet of white and grey cloud. As evening breezes brought the scent of wet sage to town, flashes of lightening made the clouds glow from within while jagged daggers of energy flew from sky to island.

Forest fires were a feature of the summer, and the Sierra blazes frequently reminded us of their distant presence. Great masses of smoke slid over the Sierran granite and down the canyons into the basin. One day, at sunset, Negit Island was barely visible through the pall; the strong oranges and reds of sunset had to force their way through the sky, and the air smelled of woodsmoke, just like winter, now on the way.



Photo by Stephen Anderson

Benchmarks



Photo by Alan Sahakangas

Summer 1988: South Tufa at lake level 6,378 feet.

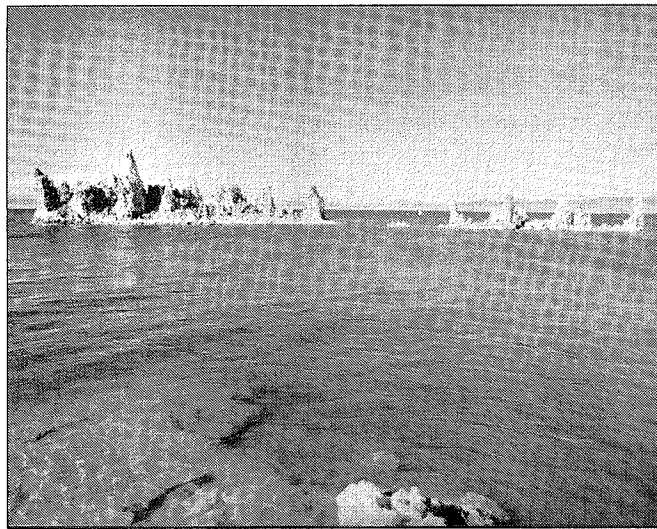


Photo by Kay Ogden

Summer 1996: South Tufa at lake level 6,380 feet.



Lake Level Watch

Mono Lake surpasses 6,380'

by Greg Reis

Over the past two years, the word "rising" has been used numerous times to describe Mono Lake and its recent behavior. This summer has been no exception.

On August 15, 1996, Mono Lake stood at an elevation of 6,380.1 feet above sea level. This is 2.3 feet higher than it was last October 1, when the 1996 water year began. Combined with the previous year's rise, Mono Lake has risen 5.5 vertical feet since the Water Board decision—the result of two years in a row of above-normal runoff and limited diversions from the lake's tributary streams.

This year's runoff is officially classified as "wet-normal." Snowmelt-fed streams peaked in June, but flows were a little over half as high as last year's tremendous peak flows. Grant Lake Reservoir, on Rush Creek, spilled from May 6 until the end of June. This was roughly the same period during which Mono Lake was rising the fastest, about a tenth of a foot per week.

This runoff eventually reached Mono Lake, but two events adversely affected Lee Vining Creek. The first occurred on

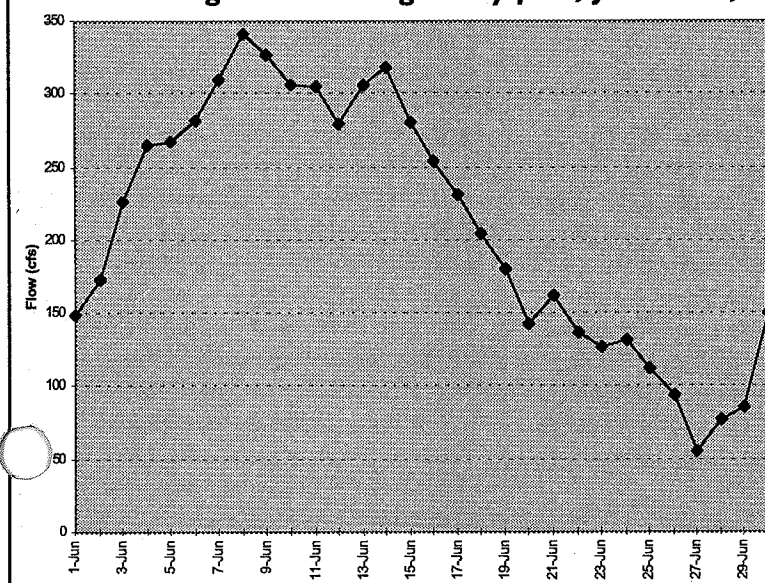
June 20 when Southern California Edison had a malfunction at its hydro-power facilities upstream. The plant shut down automatically, reducing the flow in Lee Vining Creek by about 110 cubic feet per second (cfs). At the same time DWP was testing a scheme to augment Rush Creek flows with water diverted from Lee Vining Creek. As a result, Lee Vining Creek was running at only 68 cfs below the diversion dam at a time of year when flows typically exceed 150 cfs. This caused newly exposed algae to smell, the water to warm up, and some side channels to be dewatered.

The inflow drop, it seemed, was due to an unlikely combination of events—until it happened again seven days later. The second event had similar causes and worse effects. Streamflow below the diversion dam fell much lower, down to only 16 cfs, which violated the Water Board's 1994 Mono Lake decision. DWP reduced its diversions as soon as it became aware of the situation, and streamflow

returned to normal levels within twenty four hours. The Mono Lake Committee documented both events extensively, and the information points out the need for an outlet in Grant Lake Dam which can reliably provide high flows in Rush Creek without drawing water away from Lee Vining Creek.

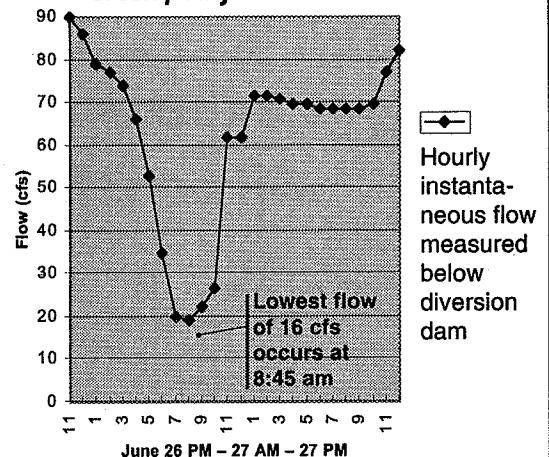
The last time Mono Lake was at 6,380.1 (not counting brief rises following the wet winters of 1984 and 1986) was in 1974. That was 22 years ago, even before the Mono Lake Committee formed. Today's elevation is only 8 feet above the lake's historic low, however, and the lake is still a whopping 37 feet below its prediversion level. Its surface area is 18

Lee Vining Creek average daily flow, June 1–30, 1996



Lee Vining Creek flow below diversion dam

Creek flow June 26–27



Hourly instantaneous flow measured below diversion dam

square miles smaller, its salinity is 75% higher, and it only contains 58% of its pre-diversion volume.

Mono Lake has 12 vertical feet to rise and 8.5 square miles of surface area to cover before it reaches the Water Board-ordered stabilization level, a rise expected to take 20 years or more.

Greg Reis, who watches the creek flow daily, is the Committee's Information Specialist.

Phalaropes returning to west shore of Mono Lake

Tens of thousands of phalaropes—both Wilson's and red-necked—visit Mono Lake on their annual migrations. In fact, Mono is one of the most important stops in the world for Wilson's phalaropes, functioning as a staging area for nonstop flights to saline lakes in Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. In recent years, however, phalaropes have been little seen near the human-traveled shores, apparently preferring the distant eastern reaches of the lake.

It wasn't always so. In 1973, for example, aerial surveys noted that most phalaropes spent their time along Mono's western shore between Black Point and South Tufa. Stories of flocks of

phalaropes weaving among the south shore tufa towers abound.

Now the phalaropes are reappearing along the western shore, possibly because the rising lake has submerged tufa and vegetation, creating new habitat for the phalaropes' favorite food: alkali fly pupae.

Of the phalaropes, David Gaines once wrote: "Of all Mono Lake's shorebirds, Wilson's Phalaropes are the most numerous, graceful, and trusting. Sit quietly, and they will feed at your feet. Float in the lake, and these curious birds will paddle within arm's reach." It's exciting to have the chance to swim with them again. 🐦

Boat expedition to Belize will benefit Mono

Coming up in February 1997, a special expedition to Belize and Tikal will benefit the Mono Lake Committee. Organized by longtime volunteer Mildred Bennett, the 11-day trip will be aboard the 30-passenger yacht *Rembrandt van Rijn*.

Ports of call will include wildlife sanctuaries and reserves to see special birds and fish in their natural habitats. Visits to villages and Mayan ruins will add to the allure of the trip. Dr. James McIver, an avid diver, birder, and ecologist will lead the trip with the assistance of knowledgeable local guides. A portion of the trip fees will be donated to the Mono Lake Committee.

One particularly exciting stop on the trip is Half Moon Cay National

Monument, a critical Belizian refuge for red-footed boobies and frigatebirds. Snorkeling in the area also offers the chance to see butterfly, trumpet, and parrot fish.

Archaeological stops include the ancient Mayan city of Tikal. Once a flourishing city, habitation of Tikal mysteriously collapsed around 900 A.D., and the city was lost in the jungle for many years.

If you'd like further information about this fascinating trip to nature reserves, marine parks, and the archeological wonders of the Mayan world, contact: Mildred Bennett, 2719 Marin Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708; 510-526-1260. Space is limited and time is short, so call soon!

Committee receives support from wilderness program

by Kristen Drake

Lifesong, a nature awareness and wilderness program for adolescents and adults, was created in order to provide a means of increasing one's awareness of nature and to teach wilderness survival skills.

Founded by Mark Weinert, Jr., Lifesong is based out of Groveland, California, near Yosemite National Park, where Mark has resided for over 20 years. The programs, which last from one to six days, are outdoor experiences offering Introductory and Advanced options.

For every Committee member who enrolls in one of his classes, Mark has generously offered to make a donation to the Committee, recognizing the importance of Mono Lake and the education efforts the Committee pursues. Many of the skills he teaches, such as identifying common edible plants, will come in handy while hiking in the Eastern Sierra next time you visit Mono Lake.

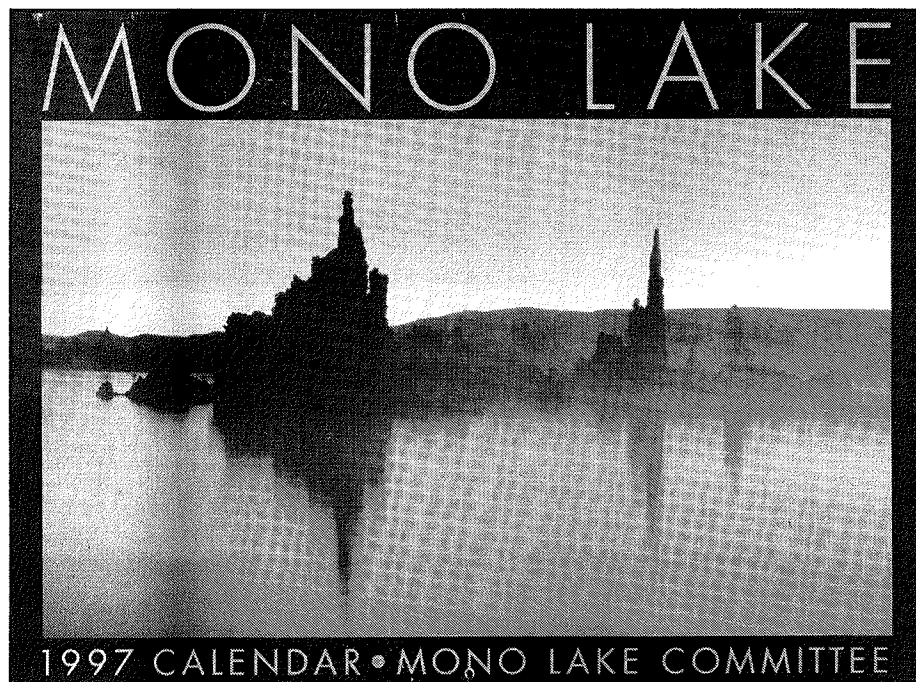
Contact Mark for more information and a program brochure by either calling 209-962-6872 or writing P. O. Box 333, Groveland, CA 95321, and be sure to mention that you are a Mono Lake Committee member!

Kristen Drake is a Committee Intern. To the regret of the office, she packing up her baking tools and joining the Peace Corps.

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE'S

Mono Lake Catalog

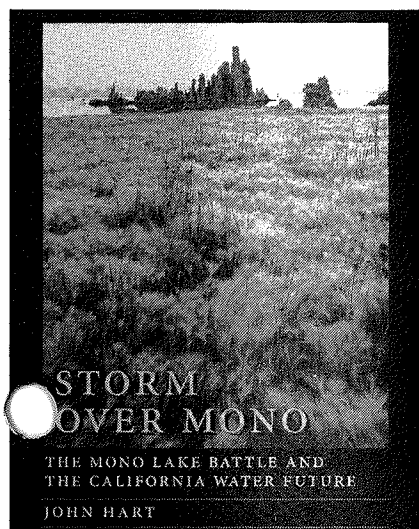
1996-1997



1997 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

This award-winning design features photographs by Don Jackson, William Neil, Jim Stimson, George Ward, Fred Hirschmann, and other leading photographers. With an essay by *Storm Over Mono* author John Hart, the 1997 calendar captures the unique beauty of this remarkable inland sea and the surrounding basin. Measures 13 1/4" x 9 3/4".

\$10.95 (Item #1201). Quantity discounts: 2-4, \$9.95 each; 5-10, \$8.95 each; 11 or more, \$7.95 each; Rigid mailer: \$1.00 (Item #3001).



**AUTOGRAPHED
COPIES!**

STORM OVER MONO:

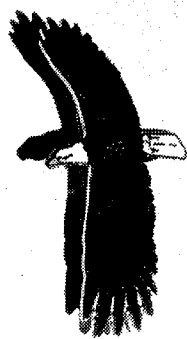
THE MONO LAKE BATTLE AND THE CALIFORNIA WATER FUTURE

Author John Hart has spent the last five years conducting interviews, attending Water Board hearings, and tracking down legal maneuvers in dusty archives. The result is a thoroughly researched, well balanced, and readable work that covers the history of the modern day Mono Lake controversy. If you want to relive the early days of the Mono Lake Committee; answer those nagging questions about CalTrout II, stream restoration, and the Water Board process; or just enjoy a good story of the triumph of grassroots action, this is the book for you! 253 pages, 31 color plates, 61 b/w photos, and ten maps.

Each copy is signed by the author.

Softcover: \$29.95 (Item #191); Hardcover: \$50.00 (Item #190)

THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



WILDLIFE PINS

These colorful champlave pins, designed by William Spear, are enameled by hand. Perfect for adorning a winter sweater or as a collector's item.

Top, left to right

Eagle: \$16.00 (Item #309)

Kingfisher: \$10.00 (Item #310)

Bottom, left to right

Canada Goose: \$10.00 (Item #312)

Western Tanager: \$12.00 (Item #311)

Please call regarding pins of other animals.



NIGHT TUFU T-SHIRT

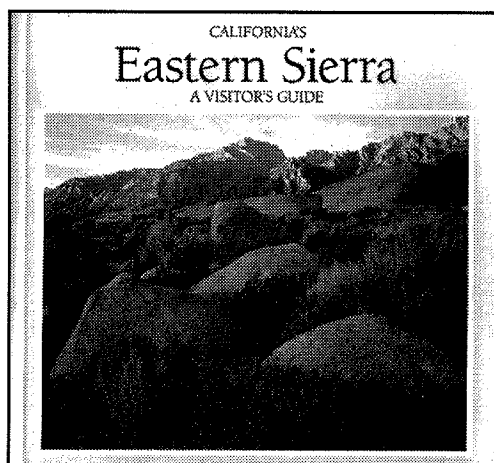
Interns Juliet and Kristen look great after a long day leading canoe tours in their Night Tufa shirts. Available in short or long sleeve, this unique design depicts Mono Lake's tufa against a starry night of deepening blue, all reflected in the lake's water.

Shirt color: white

Short sleeve: \$16.00 (Item #204); Long sleeve: \$21.00 (Item #205)

LAPEL PINS

An enameled $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{7}{8}$ " pin displaying the official Mono Lake Committee logo in blue and purple. Perfect for enhancing the lapel of a supporting Monophile or as a stocking stuffer! *\$2.50 (Item #1113)*



CALIFORNIA'S EASTERN SIERRA: A VISITOR'S GUIDE

Sue Irwin's definitive guide brings the Eastern Sierra to life with lively text and photographs from the nation's top outdoor photographers, representing one of the finest collections of color images ever assembled on this beautiful region. Featuring over 100 scenic and historic destinations including Mount Whitney, Mammoth Lakes, Devils Postpile, and (our favorite) Mono Lake.

Softcover, 144 pages, 148 color plates: \$16.95 (Item #111)

THE MONO LAKE CATALOG

MONO LAKE: MIRROR OF IMAGINATION

This collection of images by Eastern Sierra photographer Dennis Flaherty captures the natural beauty and awesome scenery of the Mono Basin like no other. From wildflowers to wildlife, from moonrises to sunsets, *Mono Lake: Mirror of Imagination* comprehensively covers the moods and seasons of our favorite lake. 96 pages, with an essay by Mark A. Schlenz.

Softcover: \$16.95 (Item #128)

Hardcover: \$29.95 (Item #129)



MONO LAKE

Mirror of Imagination



Photography by
DENNIS FLAHERTY
Essay by Mark A. Schlenz

WILD BRYDE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

These keepsake ornaments, which are gold plated and 2 1/2" - 3" in size, celebrate the season with a reminder of those animals whose existence is threatened.

\$11.00 each

Wolf Howling Beneath Starry Sky (Item #307)

Peregrine Falcon and Star (Item #308)

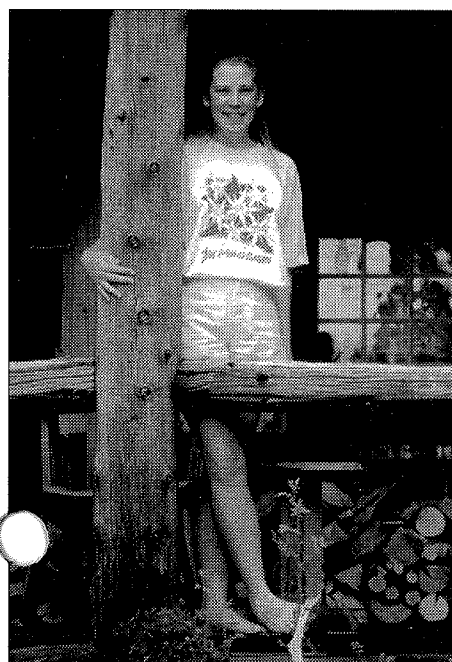


BLAZING STAR T-SHIRT

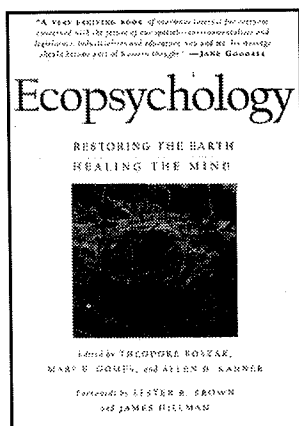
Wendy relaxes in the shade in the mountains above Mono Lake in one of our best selling T-shirts, depicting a striking Mono Basin wildflower: the blazing star. Set against an ebony black (on the white shirt) or royal purple (on the ash shirt), the brilliant yellow of this flower leaps off the fabric. A must for wildflower lovers everywhere.

Shirt colors: white or ash

Short sleeve: \$15.00 (Item #209)



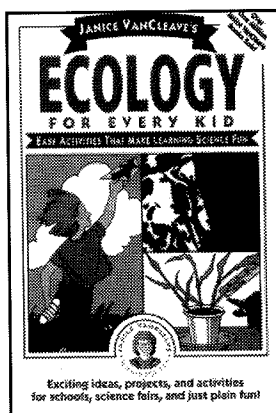
THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



ECOPSYCHOLOGY

This fascinating book explores the connection between the human psyche and the environmental movement. A "must read" for anyone concerned with the future of our planet, *Ecopsychology* explores revolutionary concepts of mental health along with a vision of renewal for the environmental movement.

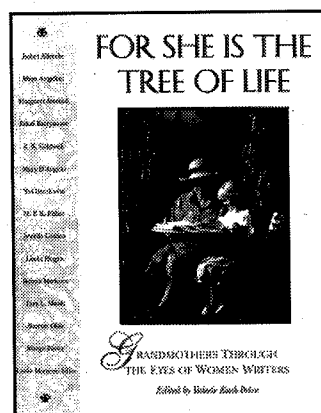
Softcover, 324 pages: \$15.00 (Item #1607)



ECOLOGY FOR EVERY KID

Make learning science fun! Ever wonder why mountains have a cooler climate? This book has the answer! This comprehensive activity guide written by Janice VanCleave contains 25 different projects which explore the water cycle, the food chain, the greenhouse effect, and lots more.

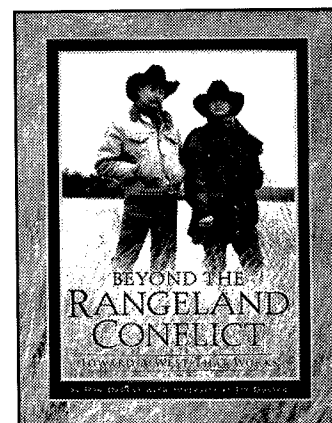
Softcover, 213 pages: \$10.95 (Item #114)



FOR SHE IS THE TREE OF LIFE

A unique and powerful selection of stories and poems explores grandmothers through the eyes of women writers from a variety of racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds. This is not only a celebration of grandmothers, but of women everywhere.

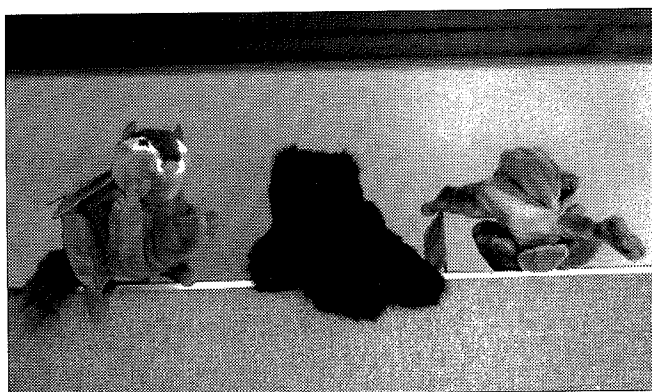
Edited by Valerie Kack-Brice. Softcover, 197 pages: \$14.95 (Item #1609)



BEYOND THE RANGELAND CONFLICT

This much-discussed book was recently nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. It profiles ranchers experimenting with unconventional grazing techniques which are designed to be more sensitive to the environment. Written by Dan Dagget, with portraits by Jay Dusard, the text sheds new light on the complex web of issues linked to grazing in the West.

Softcover, 104 pages: \$19.95 (Item #1611)



FOLKTALE PUPPETS

These adorable puppets are a sampling of what we have available in our store. Each of these soft hand puppets has its own special personality as well as an attached folktailed head featuring the animal (and despite the photo, the bear has a face!).

Chipmunk \$21.00 (Item #404); Bear \$18.00 (Item #406); Frog \$15.00 (Item #405)

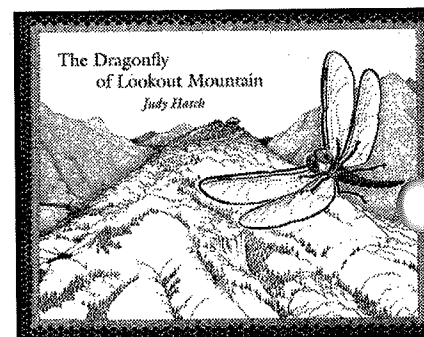
Other animals available, please call.

THE DRAGONFLY OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Judy Hatch explores the world through the eyes of a dragonfly in this riveting children's book which will capture the imagination of both young and old alike.

The beautifully detailed illustrations were drawn during the author's six summers working on a fire lookout near Mt. Shasta.

Softcover, 126 pages: \$14.95 (Item #1610)



THE MONO LAKE CATALOG

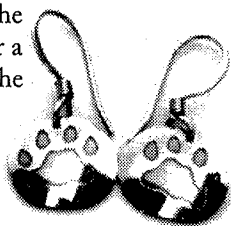


RAM PETROGLYPH EARRINGS

These Ram Petroglyph earrings are a Wild Bryde design favorite. When ordering please remember to indicate your choice of gold or silver.
Select from gold (Item #313) or silver (Item #314): \$13.00

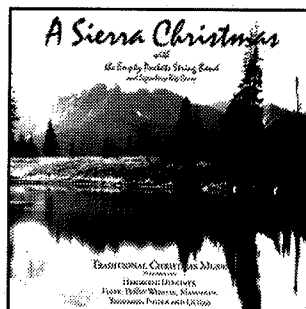
MOUNTAIN LION PRINT EARRINGS

Paw print earrings from the Alchemists' collection make for a gift which recognizes the presence of the mountain lion in the Mono Basin; tracks are the only sign we usually see.
Bronze and copper
(Item #315): \$12.00



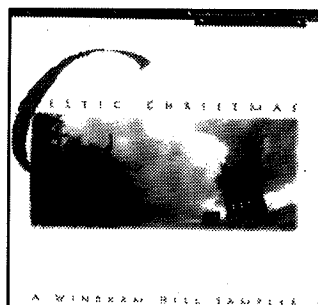
MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO T-SHIRT

Interns Paul, Nathan, and Matt proudly wear the Mono Lake Committee logo shirts whether they are hard at work in the office or just hanging out on a Tuesday night. This exclusive design, created for us by Patagonia, comes on both ash and white shirts. The Committee's logo is on the upper left front in two colors while the back features a tri-color graphic of Mono Lake's fluctuating levels.
Colors: Select from white or ash; short sleeve: \$15.00 (Item #291); long sleeve: \$20.00 (Item #293); heavy duty sweatshirt: \$26.00 (Item #295)



A SIERRA CHRISTMAS

Local Eastern Sierra group The Empty Pockets String Band and legendary Big Gerry perform traditional Christmas music such as "Silent Night" and "We Three Kings" on the numbered dulcimer, flute, penny whistle, mandolin, recorder, fiddle, and guitar.
Cassette: \$10.00 (Item #2555)
CD: \$15.00 (Item #2505)

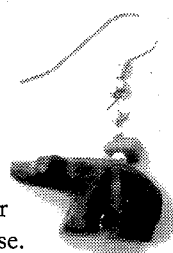


CELTIC CHRISTMAS

This Windham Hill sampler contains a remarkable cross section of the most accomplished modern Celtic musicians in a program of traditional carols and newly composed pieces inspired by the spirit and beauty of the holiday season.
Cassette: \$10.98 (Item #2556)
CD: \$17.00 (Item #2506)

BEAR EARRINGS

The bear was widely regarded by many Native American tribes as an animal with great healing wisdom. Created from stone, these bear earrings depict a three-dimensional bear totem in serpentine and turquoise.
\$13.00 (Item #316)



BRINE SHRIMP EARRINGS

A Mono Lake Committee exclusive, this Wild Bryde design celebrates the brine shrimp, *Artemia monica*, which is one of Mono's unique and important species.
Select from gold (Item #301) or silver (Item #302): \$12.00



THE MONO LAKE CATALOG

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Unless otherwise indicated, all our shirts are available in sizes S-XL. Most, but not all, of our designs are available in size XXL; phone your order in to insure availability.

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Gift Certificates

Make certain you give exactly what they want! Gift Certificates work just like cash in the Committee's Bookstore—and via mailorder. Or give the gift that keeps on giving: a Committee membership! *Gift Certificates must be redeemed within a year of purchase.* Available in any amount of \$10.00 or more.

Staff migrations

We welcome the Committee's newest staff member, **Heidi Hopkins**, who has joined our Lee Vining office as the Eastern Sierra Policy Director. Heidi unites a deep affection for the Eastern Sierra with an astute eye for the essential, a passion for problem solving, and a phenomenal level of patience. She comes to us from the Trust for Public Land where she coordinated national land trust training programs.


In earlier years, Heidi lived in Alpine County where she was the founding president of the Friends of Hope Valley as well as the editor of the *Alpine Enterprise*, a monthly community newspaper. In coming to Mono Lake, Heidi is returning home to the Eastern Sierra; we couldn't be more fortunate than in having her join our staff.

With the coming of fall, most of our devoted summer staff head off to new challenges. Outdoor Experiences Coordinator **Matt Moule** departs for Oregon State to get his teaching credential and Masters degree; he plans to teach science in inner-city schools. Canoe Coordinator **Michelle Hofmann** will be making the Eastern Sierra her home and is looking for work during the non-canoe season.

Of the intern staff, **Nathan Bomer** is

off to college in Oklahoma, **Juliet Breckenridge** is teaching at the Desert Sun Science Center, and **Kristen Drake** will be entering the Peace Corps for several years of work in Niger. **Matt Newman** heads off to graduate school in mechanical engineering, and **Paul Levine** returns to college at Brown University. We hope to see them all again soon.

Happily, summer intern **Wendy Stanford** is staying with us for the fall. She'll be working on improving the Committee's Web page, so keep an eye on it for new developments (<http://www.monolake.org>). Joining us is **Davin Bowker**, a recent graduate of Humboldt State University. Davin looks forward to winter snows, the chance to get out on cross-country skis, and the opportunity to learn a little telemark technique.

Helping us stay sane during the end of the busy summer season are **Tiffany Taylor** and **Tim Tierney**. Tiffany is spending a few months in the Mono Basin after a summer exploring Alaska. She plans to continue her travels in August, possibly heading to Belize. Tim, a Mono Lake Committee veteran, is helping out for a month before starting his new job (congratulations!) with a southern California geological firm. 

Accolades

Special Gifts

The following donors have sent in gifts in honor of the recent wedding of Committee supporters **Michael and Kathy May**:

Gijs and Anke Buijze, residents of deBilt in the Netherlands; **Gerald and Marcia Hatzenbuehler** of Lawndale; **James and Patricia Macauley** of South San Francisco; **Roger and Kathleen** of San Rafael; and **Dennis and Patricia Van Der Sluis** of Torrance.

Of special note

Over the years, we have received

numerous donations from the **Donald A. and Carolyn Honer Foundation**. The foundation is now being dissolved; we appreciate the years of support.

Best wishes to **Rick and Helena Verrow**, who joined the Committee in memory of their friend **Panda**, a 14½-year-old border collie.

Thanks to the students of the **Mari-rosa schools** for stopping by to show us a video of their school play on Mono Lake and the history of water diversions.

Special thanks go to **John Frederickson**, of the Mono Basin, for providing, storing, and maintaining the

The Restoration Team

A chronicle of Mono Lake supporters who have contributed their time to Mono Basin restoration projects.

In June, Committee members **Pat and Tim Preston**, of Petaluma, volunteered their time over the course of several weeks to help monitor peak flows on Walker, Parker, Rush, and Lee Vining creeks.

In July, a **Mothers of East Los Angeles Santa Isabel** group helped water Jeffrey pine seedlings in the Channel 10 area of Rush Creek, and volunteer **Mike Klapp**, of Davis, joined in to assist with the work.


In early August, **Alan Brown**, of Laguna Beach, and **Dana Jacobson**, of Sacramento, stopped in to help us water the Rush Creek seedlings once again.

In addition, **Mark and Mary Hoyt**, of Guerneville, have been making occasional watering expeditions whenever they are in the area, helping the seedlings survive their first year.

Thanks to all for the assistance!

boat used for gull research on Mono's islands; and to **Tim Hansen**, also of the Mono Basin, for providing a boat launch and a place to sort through all the research gear.

Volunteers are always welcome at the Committee, and **Miriam Smith**, of Pasadena, kindly lent us a week of her time.

Joe Fuhrman, of Los Angeles, gets a round of bright thanks for his recent in-kind donation of light bulbs for use in the Committee store. 

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**RESTORE MONO LAKE
FREE DRAWING**

ENTER SOON AND WIN BIG FOR MONO LAKE

Tickets enclosed in this Newsletter!

Grand Prize

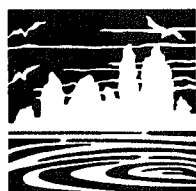
5-DAY LLAMA TREK IN SEQUOIA-KINGS CANYON

Enjoy five days of hiking, fishing, and sightseeing while traveling through dozens of High Sierra wildlife habitats—while llamas carry your gear! Includes a guide, cook, meals, and transportation from the LA area. *Donated by Cal Nature Tours*

You could also win:

A Special Edition Ansel Adams Photograph, Eastern Sierra and Redwoods weekend getaways, Bushnell Binoculars, an Olympus 35mm camera, and other great prizes!

For the official rules and a complete list of prizes, write or call the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6595. Tickets must be received in Lee Vining by midnight, November 1, 1996. Sorry, donations made through the drawing are not tax-deductible.



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