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MONO



LAKE

NEWSLETTER

Mono Lake Catalog!

# Mono Lake Newsletter

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MONO LAKE  
COMMITTEE

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This issue's cover photograph by photographer and supporter Stephen P. Anderson takes us back in time to 1985, when the lake level was two feet lower than today. The view is from South Tufa, looking to Mount Gibbs, Mt. Dana, and the rest of the Sierra Crest.

A lot of events are coming up, so pull out your calendar while you read the following pages. The Century ride (page 8) is probably just days away by the time you read this. We have a film premiere coming up in Berkeley in October (page 21), and our Fall Party in the Eastern Sierra on October 10. New this year is our first Fall Forum, an annual event which will focus on scientific discussion and debate of Mono Lake issues. This year's forum (page 9) will be on stream restoration and begins October 11.

An interview with Bill Trush begins on the next page and provides a view into Mono Basin stream restoration. Conway Ranch is now in escrow (page 7) and a public process is gathering information on north Mono Basin water use (page 6).

And then there's our annual fall Mono Lake Catalog. Look for lots of new items, great reading, and gifts on pages 13-20. Of course, mailorder isn't required—you're always welcome here in the Bookstore in Lee Vining!

—Geoff McQuilkin



Along Mono's west shore, vegetation gives way to the rising lake.

## 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 of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

The *Mono Lake Newsletter* is a quarterly publication on the Mono Lake Committee. Written material contained in this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced for review, news reporting, educational purposes, or related non-profit uses; a copy of the publication is requested. Reproduction or quotation for other purposes may be approved upon written request. ISSN #0275-6633. Copyright ©1997 Mono Lake Committee.

An interview

## Bill Trush on Mono Basin stream restoration

*Editor's note: In 1994 the State Water Resources Control Board ordered the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to restore the four Mono Basin streams desiccated by fifty years of water diversions. A restoration plan was developed by a team of scientists, and Dr. Bill Trush is one of the scientists in charge of implementation in the coming years. Dr. Trush, who is a co-founder of McBain and Trush and director of the Institute for River Ecosystems at Humboldt State University, has spent time here in the Mono Basin researching the streams and will oversee their restoration for decades to come. We managed to interrupt his busy schedule long enough to ask him a few questions about his background and the future of Mono Basin streams.*

Q

*Can you tell us a little about your background with stream restoration?*

A

What's most germane to the Mono Basin is the work we've done on the Tuolumne and the Trinity River, particularly the Tuolumne, where we've been designing flood plains. As a company [McBain and Trush], what we mostly do is analyze the downstream effects of dams. We do stream restoration, in that we try to get the floods and the natural flow regime to do the work for us. I've helped reconstruct flood plains and pull back levees on bigger rivers. What we really try to do is get a wide enough river corridor to let the river migrate and high enough flows to surpass geomorphic thresholds, such as mobilizing the channel bed surface.

Q

*Could you talk a little more about your philosophy of restoration? Is it from your professional work that you've reached these conclusions, through your education, or from some other source?*

A

It's hard to put a label on it. When I first got into Berkeley for a Ph.D., I was into theoretical population dynamics of invertebrates in streams. It was when I took a course from Luna Leopold that I realized I had no idea of how the ecosystem operated because I was just delving on the biological side. And so that was a real pivot point for me, when I

started to look at the physical processes that would be involved in biological communities. Working under Luna gave me my start.

*Why is restoration needed in the Mono Basin? Couldn't you just leave things alone?*

Q

Sure, you could. If you leave it alone, you will have a stream ecosystem, and you can even throw the word "dynamic" in front of it. But it won't be the kind of system that was there before, and that's the crux of the issue. We're going to try our best to bring the former system back.

A

*What do you see as your role in Mono Basin stream restoration?*

Q

I see my major role as helping make the idea of adaptive management work. What we've done to date is we've relied on some scientific recommendations to tell us what to do, but we know that these are just our best guesses. So we're relying on science in the next eight years to get better numbers and to be sure these numbers get turned into policy.

A

**Adaptive management: The modification of future management actions based on scientific information derived from process-based monitoring.**

*What are the critical stream processes you hope to see restored on the streams?*

Q

Well, the most glaring one is the lack of confinement on lower Lee Vining Creek. That's number one. Confinement keeps the flows deep for a given discharge, which then mobilizes the bed. Right now we just have shallow flow. The process that will probably bring confinement back the quickest is the

A



## An interview with Bill Trush (continued)

riparian vegetation establishment close to the channel, which is happening at a fairly rapid rate. The riparian vegetation is going to create enough roughness in the stream channel to create a lot of deposition, which will start bringing back that confinement. Of course we're worried about the whole corridor and whether the middle and upper terraces will come back—that's somewhat of a different issue really. But I think that the main issue is to see the confinement come back to Lee Vining Creek. And it's going to take a while.

**Q**

*What would be one or two other things you hope to see?*

**A**

The rewatering of more of the flood plain. To me, the lower Rush flood plain is mostly an issue of bringing back the higher elevational riparian vegetation. We've got pretty decent channel morphology in lower Rush. There's a lot of nice pools forming down there. But when you walk by all those cottonwood stumps on the middle terraces you know something is still off.

Maybe a third is: when these channels all do start to reach some kind of equilibrium, whatever that word means, will we be able to maintain a multi-thread channel like what we're seeing the creek do right now on lower Lee Vining? The Restoration Technical Committee scientists originally leaned more toward the idea that there was one main channel with other, secondary channels. But the way this January's flood looks, there might be more than one primary channel, as Scott Stine has maintained. So maintenance of single or multi-thread channels, confinement, and the rejuvenation of the upper floodplain and terraces—I hope to see those three processes.

*In general, could you talk about what we might expect to see in ten, twenty, fifty years?*

**Q**

**A**

I'm looking forward to seeing what sort of confinement will begin when we get the cottonwoods up to about one foot diameter. When the forest gets that mature in lower Lee Vining, I think we'll start seeing an acceleration of the confinement.

*That would be about . . . 20 years from now?*

**Q**

**A**

Yes, maybe fifteen years from now. We were asked at this year's Water Board hearings if there are any geomorphic and ecological thresholds, and I think that accelerated confinement with riparian community maturation will be one of them. I don't see any major change suddenly in lower Rush Creek. I see more flood plain expansion and rewatering. I see greater meandering occurring—it'll be fast for a while and then start to slow down. We'll see more point bar features.

*When you say "fast" what do you mean?*

**Q**

**A**

I think the meander rate is pretty rapid now as far as cutting into certain areas. But as those outer banks erode, they also collapse and armor themselves. With a lot more flow now there's going to be lush vegetation, so it will probably slow that process down. Historically it looked like the migration rate was rather slow—historically we saw deep, incised channels.

*You've talked a little bit about the distinction between Rush and Lee Vining creeks. Can you say more?*

**Q**

**A**

I guess for Rush Creek I see a channel not terribly out of whack, with sediment bypass being looked into at the Parker and Walker diversion dams, so whatever little sediment supply Rush is getting will reach the main stem. I see it well on its way. Lee Vining

Creek is still a basket case, and I just think it's going to take a long time.

**Q**

*What underlies the problem on Lee Vining Creek?*

**A**

My guess is that it's steeper. And when the fires came through and wiped out a lot of the riparian vegetation, in addition to the desiccation, this was a second whammy. Then when the floods hit [in the 1960s and 1980s], they just took out the terraces. When I modeled flow in the valley-wide cross sections, I predicted 5,000 cfs was needed to inundate the middle terraces, which is way too much flow. What that's really saying is there was a lot more terrace historically. So it's going to take a long time to increase the roughness and promote deposition. Most of that roughness is going to come from riparian vegetation.

**Q**

*We haven't mentioned Walker and Parker creeks. What would you say is their contribution; why would we even care about restoration on Walker and Parker?*

**A**

I think we're interested in them because they have a right, just like any other stream, to be restored. But they are also connected via sediment. In a creek that has most of its sediment being trapped in lakes, whatever sediment there is, is important—disproportionately so. We're not getting a lot of channel migration and so we're not getting sediment being recycled from terraces and flood plain and being dropped back into the channel. So Walker and Parker provide important sediment to Rush. We felt there wasn't a need to spend a lot of money trying to quantify all the sediment contributions, but we realized that the tributaries are important sediment sources. Which is why sediment bypass on these creeks is being remedied.

**Q**

*What about peak flow?*

**A**

Yes, Walker and Parker do contribute to peak flow. Collectively, on the bigger years they might get us over the threshold more years than we would otherwise. Collectively,

they can kick in 100 or more cfs. The only problem is the timing of it. If we're going to release floods on Rush Creek, they're always released a little later than would occur naturally. So we may not get the full benefit of those flows for channel maintenance.

*Let's say it's the year 2040. What do you think will be the biggest difference between the streams then and the streams as they are now?*

You won't be able to see them. I'm not saying the confinement will be back to pre-disturbance level, that's going to take a long time. But I think we'll be able to see a measurable confinement occurring. You're going to have a dense canopy. It's already happening on Rush and Lee Vining creeks.

*What does monitoring really mean and what is its importance for restoration?*

It's going to shape future policy. It's going to shape how we manage the creeks in the future. That's the big difference from most monitoring programs—here monitoring and adaptive management has been provided in the language of the restoration agreement. We targeted stream processes as goals. For example, the channel bed should periodically be scoured, so our monitoring will assess if scour is being provided by the specified flow releases.

*Disagreement has characterized both the Mono Lake struggle and the development of the restoration plans; as we get into adaptive management this will continue—would you have any comment on that?*

I think adaptive management is a good way of reducing the stress caused by uncertainty. Everyone will know what we're doing. We may not get results fast enough for some folks—I'm sure that will happen. But I see it working. Without adaptive management and monitoring, potential confrontation over flow recommendations will only be delayed to a future time.

*Dr. Trush will be a panelist at the upcoming Fall Forum on stream restoration in Lee Vining—see page 9 for details. ⤵*

# Community energizes public process

by Heidi Hopkins

A public process, suggested last December during Mono Basin community meetings, has finally hit the road. Initiated by State Water Board staff member Jim Canaday, the process will focus on the management of the Conway Ranch, the Mill Creek restoration proposal, and related issues.

The public process is termed CREW—for Conway Ranch Evaluation Workgroups—an acronym coined by Canaday. It is designed to engage county residents, resource agencies, and public interest groups in constructive dialogue about land and water use in the north Mono Basin.

The Committee sees CREW as an excellent forum for examining why Mill Creek restoration is proposed—its potential contributions to the lake ecosystem as well as to the Great Basin environment—and for discussing practical alternatives to achieve those restoration goals.

While the mandate and the goals of CREW remain somewhat undefined, recent meetings have served to bolster the idea that CREW will be an effective means of melding scientific knowledge with public input. The process will help

identify, clarify, and resolve issues. It provides a safe place for people to openly express their opinions about what should be done with Mill Creek water. It also will go a long way towards informing—and involving—the public in what may be several years of study related to Mill Creek, particularly if the State Water Board orders environmental review of this waterfowl habitat restoration proposal.

Three CREW workgroups have met so far. The Historical Land Use workgroup is gathering existing information on the history of ranches in the north Mono Basin, particularly the Conway Ranch. The Hydrology workgroup is bringing together information on the hydrology of the north basin, including the water distribution systems. The Stream Biology workgroup is focusing on the ecosystems associated with current water use and with proposed changes in water use.

Participants in CREW meetings include interested local residents, Forest Service staff, Bureau of Land Management scientists, People for Mono Basin Preservation, and the Mono Lake Committee.

Areas that likely will be examined are linked by their dependence on Mill Creek water. These areas include:

- **Mill Creek** and the potential it offers for restoring riparian and bottomland vegetation, raising groundwater tables, recharging springs, and maximizing freshwater conditions at the mouth of the creek, all of which will benefit migrating waterfowl and other wildlife;

- **Wilson Creek**, which delivers Mill Creek water to rights holders and which, because of the augmentation by Mill Creek water, currently supports a riparian corridor and a naturally reproducing population of brown trout;

- **Conway Ranch**, which has rights to Mill Creek water primarily for agricultural purposes;

- **Thompson Ranch**, which is owned by DWP and is kept green with Mill

Creek water;

- **DeChambeau Ranch**, which historically has been irrigated with Mill Creek water (see sidebar for an update); and

- **DeChambeau and County ponds**, enhanced duck ponds between DeChambeau Ranch and Mono Lake.

CREW is formally linked to the Conway Ranch purchase. In the recent memorandum of understanding signed with the Trust for Public Land (see page 7), Mono County identified its general interest in the property—for open space, fish-rearing, wetland mitigation, historic preservation, and/or waterfowl habitat maintenance and enhancement—and agreed to consider recommendations made by CREW about how to manage the ranch and its resources.

In a sense, CREW is getting a jumpstart on the public scoping process, should the Water Board—in its decision on the Mono Basin restoration plans—decide to study the Mill Creek restoration proposal further.

Regardless of what the Water Board decides, CREW has a valuable role to play in the north Mono Basin. The Mono Basin waterfowl habitat restoration plan, the change of ownership of the Conway Ranch, the Forest Service management of DeChambeau Ranch—all are separate but linked initiatives that are calling for careful review of water management in the north Mono Basin.

The Committee is an advocate for CREW. The process promises to build bridges in the community. It will develop a foundation of knowledge in the Mono Basin about beneficial water use in the north basin watershed. Ultimately, CREW's recommendations will help shape the future of the north Mono Basin landscape and ecosystems.

*Heidi Hopkins is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director. She's not quite ready to see summer go. ☞*

## Water Board hearings conclude

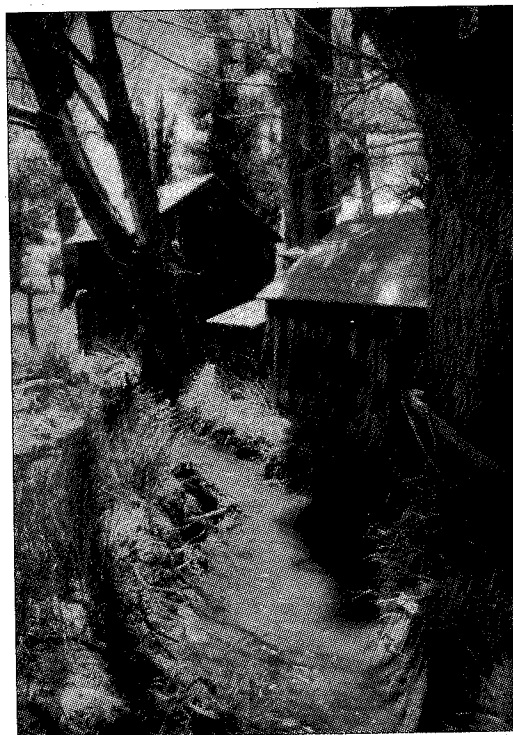
The State Water Resources Control Board concluded its hearings on DWP's Mono Basin restoration plans on July 17. The Water Board is now considering the settlement proposed by DWP, State Lands Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service, California Trout, National Audubon Society, and the Mono Lake Committee. A decision is expected by fall.

## Conway Ranch purchase moves forward

In late July, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) moved to purchase the historic Conway Ranch; the sale will be complete after a 60-day escrow period. The Conway Ranch property, located in the northwest Mono Basin, was once slated for development.

The purchase followed on the heels of the signing of a memorandum of understanding that outlined Mono County's interest in purchasing the land from TPL. A number of management options consistent with protecting open space and historical resources are being considered for the land.

At the same time that it secured the commitment from the County, TPL also secured a commitment from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to serve as a back-up purchaser for the property. If the County fails to come up with financing, BLM ultimately could acquire the property through exchange. Or BLM could act as a partner with the County in the acquisition, acquiring specific portions of the property. ➤



**The DeChambeau Ranch** is one area that will be part of the CREW investigations. The U.S. Forest Service resumed irrigation of DeChambeau Ranch this summer at the prompting of People for Mono Basin Preservation, the group that formed over concern about potential changes in use of Mill Creek water. Community members volunteered equipment and time in building diversion flumes, opening historic irrigation ditches, and managing the flow of water. The irrigation activities will provide hands-on information about how well open irrigation ditches transport water, how much water is needed to maintain the historic trees, and how much ditch maintenance is required. CREW workgroups will consider this information as they examine the use and distribution of water in the north Mono Basin.

## Committee seeks donation of current meter

The Mono Lake Committee measures stream flows on creeks throughout the Mono Basin, and we've recently expanded our stream monitoring to include measuring flows in the Mill Creek and Wilson Creek watershed. Various proposals for the use of Mill Creek water require thorough knowledge of what is happening hydrologically.

To achieve accuracy in our monitoring efforts, we are looking for a device known as a current meter or pygmy meter, which is used to accurately measure the velocity of water in streams.

If you are able to donate a used (or new) pygmy meter in good condition, we could put it to good use! New meters cost \$1000-2000. We'd be more than happy to accept donations toward the cost of purchasing one, should we not find a willing donor.

Please contact Heidi Hopkins ([heidi@monolake.org](mailto:heidi@monolake.org)) or Greg Reis ([greg@monolake.org](mailto:greg@monolake.org)) at 760-647-6595 if you can help.

# Memories of a Mono Lake Century

by David Wimpfheimer

*Editor's note: For many years the 350-mile Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-a-Thon was the Committee's premier fundraising and athletic event. Beginning last year, we trimmed the ride to a short 100-mile Century ride on local roads. Here, cyclist Dave Wimpfheimer recalls last year's Century ride. If you feel inspired to ride, we're doing the Century again on September 13 of this year, and there are still spots available!*

Although I had ridden in many Mono Lake Bike-a-Thons I had mixed feelings of doubt and confidence as I started the Century ride last year. The former were compounded by the large amount of smoke in the Mono Basin, a result of the fires that raged on the western side of Yosemite. At least when a number was pinned to my back I felt official and pedaled south along the quiet Main Street of Lee Vining at 7:45 am.

As I rode south on Highway 395, I could just barely see the Mono Craters to the left and the glacial canyons of the Sierra to the right. I couldn't stay with Jim and realized that unlike the camaraderie of a Bike-a-Thon, I would be riding this one mostly alone. It felt strange not having my camera and binoculars along, but with so many miles I knew I didn't need that extra weight nor the temptation to pause and look at any birds along the way.

I labored up the newly constructed lanes of 395, still closed to vehicles. At least most of the smoke was now behind me and the sky was the intense mountain blue color that the Eastern Sierra produces in the late summer. Two "hotshot" riders passed me and I knew instinctively that I was the last rider. My hope was that the incredible natural beauty of the area would be strong enough to distract me from the tiredness of my body and allow me to complete the ride.

Actually I was feeling pretty good as I

climbed slowly up to Deadman Summit. Because of my speed—or lack of it—I was able to hear and enjoy the sounds of mountain chickadees, pygmy nuthatches, red crossbills, and other birds. It was strange to think that I had ridden up to the summit from the other direction eleven times before on the last day of past Bike-a-Thons.

At the summit I thought of group photos and cross country ski tours, but mostly felt relief at the clear air ahead. And what a view it was. The nearby volcanic cones of Wilson and Obsidian buttes led my eye up to San Joaquin Ridge and then I traced a line south to Mammoth Mountain and southeast to Mt. Morrison.

I sped down to the first SAG (rest) stop after 18 miles and was very happy to rest and stuff bananas, muffins, and liquids into my body. Going south to the Mammoth exit there was some up and down—fortunately more of the latter—but there was also a moderate head wind that reduced my pace to a crawl. I had figured that I would need to average at least 12 mph to finish the ride decently, but was doing less than that now. I passed George who had a flat tire and felt a psychological boost that I was no longer the last person. He and I would do a "tortoise and hare" kind of ride for the next 80 miles.

As I neared the Mammoth exit, the wind was blowing straight at me from the mountain, and then splitting to the north and south. In the space of less than a minute the headwind turned into a fantastic tailwind and soon I was doing 20 mph and passing the airport. It was great to have the wind in my favor and at that rate I was soon at the green church and turning off the highway.

It was wonderful to be on a small, quiet road as the tailwind blew me east away from the Sierra. I sneaked a look back to the dramatic, folded metamor-

phic rock above Convict Lake. The road pointed straight at Glass Mountain and its flat, dark surface contrasted boldly with a border of brightly blooming orange rabbitbrush. Nearby meadows reminded me of soaks in the hot springs and birds that I had seen over the years.

The fantastic scenery and tailwind inspired me and gave me a confidence that I might just be able to do this challenging ride. I crossed over the Owens River and turned to the south. The Sierra was now to my right and stretched from McGee Creek south past Mt. Tom. I ate part of a Powerbar as I rode over the bumpy road.

Soon the road turned east again. I realized that I hadn't been on it in about ten years. I knew I had to climb up to the next SAG stop, but fortunately it wasn't too hot and there were hardly any cars. I had time to examine every bush and rock. It was quiet, very quiet. A sage thrasher flew across the road past me. At last the yellow sign with the bike symbol showed me that I had made it.

It was wonderful to rest my body and devour a cheese and turkey sandwich. Thank you Pete, King of the SAGs. I still had more than 50 miles to go, but with six hours left, I figured that I should be able to make it.

The recently paved road gave me a great roller coaster ride as I descended 600 feet. Too bad I just had to gain it again as I climbed up to Wildrose Summit. Near the top I passed George again and told him to look back and enjoy the view: peaks of the Sierra extending south of Bishop. Then I gazed ninety degrees to the east where the White Mountains loomed closer and even larger. A dense forest of piñon pine carpeted the hillsides near the pass; I wondered what birds might be around, but knew there was no time for that and sped downhill rapidly into Adobe Valley.

Glass Mountain was now to the south. I focused on how the rabbitbrush ►►



## Freeman to head DWP

**O**n September 2, S. David Freeman became the new general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Committee board members plan to meet with Freeman soon to discuss Mono Lake. In the meantime, the following news comes from DWP press releases:

David Freeman has had a distinguished career in electric and water utility management, and he is known for his pioneering work in energy conservation. At the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, where he served as general manager from 1990-1994, Freeman initiated the nation's most intensive utility conservation program.

Prior to that, Freeman cancelled or halted construction of eight unnecessary nuclear power plants at the Tennessee Valley Authority. He also launched a \$1 billion air pollution mitigation effort and established an energy efficiency program that reached more than one million homes. Freeman responded to his selection as general manager by saying, "I can think of no other challenge I would rather tackle. I am excited at the prospect of DWP becoming the most competitive, customer-oriented utility in the nation."

➤➤ and sagebrush blended into dense forested slopes of pine and aspen. A road sign read "dips next five miles." It was a strange feeling to crawl up one side at six mph, attack the top and then go zooming down the other side at 28 mph.

Then came the hardest part of the ride for me. I had to go up 1600 feet in ten miles against a moderate headwind having already pedaled over 70 miles. At least there were things to look at: a road cut through rhyolitic rock, more views of Pass Mountain, and then the Granite Peaks. I knew the distance I had to go to Sagehen Summit, but it was a long uphill. Finally I crawled to the top, a SAG,

and friends.

After more fruit and drinks, and a short rest, I thrilled to the long descent into the Mono Basin. There wasn't much smoke or wind. I flew through a stand of Jeffrey pines below the Mono Craters and soon was at the last SAG. This was my first view of the lake since the morning. From a spot I've camped and birded in over the years, it looked more beautiful than ever.

Only a little bit of uphill near Panum Crater remained although there were more headwinds than I wanted to cope with. At last I turned north onto 395 with five miles to go. The wind was at my back and I figured "I've got this one in

# FALL FORUM: Mono Basin Stream Restoration

**October 11, 1997 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

**Lee Vining Presbyterian Church**

**The Forum will feature presentations, questions and answer sessions, and debate among panelists.**

**Panelists: Dr. Bill Trush and other restoration experts**

**Potential topics include:**

- **Overview of Mono Basin stream restoration plans: what the plans call for and why**
- **Stream morphology and dynamics**
- **Public involvement: tree planting and student stream monitoring**
- **Fish harvesting and monitoring**

**Meet the panelists and Committee friends at our annual Fall Party at Whiskey Creek in Mammoth Lakes on October 10!**

**For more information call 760-647-6595 or email [info@monolake.org](mailto:info@monolake.org)**

the bag." The late afternoon sun's rays lit up Mono Pass to the west. From past Bike-a-Thons I knew exactly the last climb up to the intersection with Highway 120 followed by that exquisite coast into town and back to the high school.

This was an incredibly scenic, challenging and fulfilling ride. I hope I can do it again in September 1997.

*Dave Wimpfheimer was an early Committee staffer and is a veteran supporter. We hope to see him out on the road again for this year's Century ride. Contact us at 760-647-6595 if you want to be part of the event! ➤*

# Mono Basin Journal

*A roundup of less political events at Mono Lake*

*by Geoffrey McQuilkin*

Seventy degrees and hazy, and it looks like another day of thunderstorms ahead. The anvil tops of overgrown thunderheads have been prevalent this summer, spreading far and wide across the Mono Basin sky. Sudden downpours, sweeping sheets of rain, distant thunder, and late night flashes of lightning have all marked the season.

Numerous lightning strikes have electrified the surrounding mountains and a few not-so-far-away trees. Fires burn here and there for a few days at a time,



smoky reminders of storms now evaporated. Driving after dusk, distant mountain tops—usually dark—hosted small beacons of fire shining out into the night.

Down by the lake, waves cut terraces and cliffs out of the shore, revealing hidden underground secrets. Tufa coated pumice boulders, layers of loose pumice, roots of grasses and willows, and soil are all briefly displayed in cross section. Once underwater, underwater they go again. 🐦

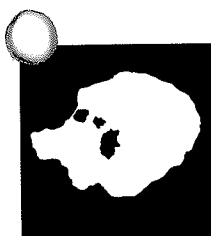
## Benchmarks



Spring 1996: The County Park boardwalk near the lakeshore at lake level 6,379 feet.



Summer 1997: County Park boardwalk from a similar location at lake level 6,382 feet.



Lakewatch

# El Niño returns— Another wet winter coming?

by Greg Reis

**T**he early signs of El Niño Southern Oscillation are appearing. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting wetter, cooler weather for the southern half of the United States from November through March. This could mean another wet winter for the Mono Basin!

The El Niño Southern Oscillation—or ENSO—usually occurs every two to seven years. It is characterized by abnormally high sea surface temperatures (SST) in the eastern Pacific Ocean near South America.

There are three types of ENSO events. Type 1 events have the strongest SST anomaly (+2.0 C). There have been 8 type 1 events between 1949 and 1995. Type 2 and 3 events have a weaker SST

anomaly (between 0.0 C and +2.0 C), but Type 2 covers a larger area of ocean.

There is no meaningful trend in rainfall data for Type 2 and 3 events, but Type 1 events show a distinct pattern. There is a strong effect in the south, with San Diego having above normal rainfall in eight out of eight Type 1 ENSO years, and a decreased effect in the north, with Eureka having above normal rainfall in only four out of eight years.

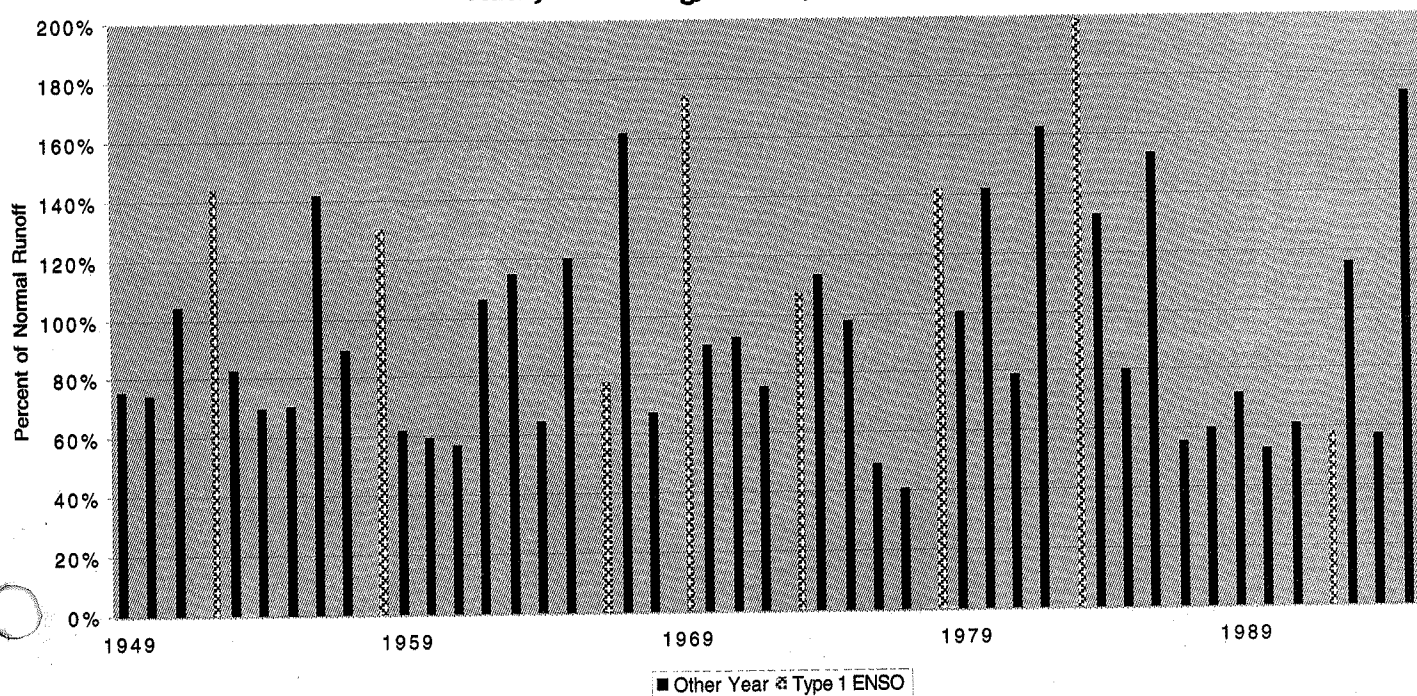
The graph below shows that Mono Basin runoff has been above normal in six of the eight Type 1 ENSO years. Five of the top ten runoff years in the Mono Basin have been ENSO years, with four of them Type 1 events. 1995 was an ENSO event, but not Type 1. Since 1950, only the 1982-83 warm episode featured SST anomalies greater than those

presently observed. For more information on El Niño on the World Wide Web, see the current events section of the Mono Lake Web page ([www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)).

So where does Mono Lake stand now? As of August 7, Mono Lake stood at an elevation of 6382.4 feet above sea level. This is a .6 foot rise for the months of June and July, a 2.3 foot rise from the same time last year, and a 7.8 foot rise since the Water Board decision in 1994. The lake will drop a little at the end of the summer due to evaporation, and El Niño will determine what happens from there.

*Greg Reis is the Committee's Information Specialist. He's honing his video game skills. 🎮*

**Mono Basin Runoff 1949–1995**  
**Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks**



## Summer bird census results

**June 26, 1997:** black-crowned night-herons (11) ... white-faced ibises (3) ... green-winged teals (37) ... blue-winged teals (37) ... cinnamon teals (11) ... mallards (25) ... gadwalls (45 plus 12 chicks) ... ruddy duck (1) ... unidentified ducks (24) ... osprey (2) ... northern harrier (1) ... common nighthawk (2) ... American coot (1) ... snowy plover (11) ... semipalmated plover (3) ... killdeer (56) ... American avocets (190) ... willets (7) ... spotted sandpipers (16) ... long-billed curlews (3) ... marbled godwits (2) ... western sandpipers (6) ... least sandpipers (6) ... short-billed dowitcher (1) ... long-billed dowitchers (2) ... common snipe (8) ... Wilson's phalaropes (3050) ... red-necked phalaropes (25) ... Caspian terns (4).

## Naturalist Notes

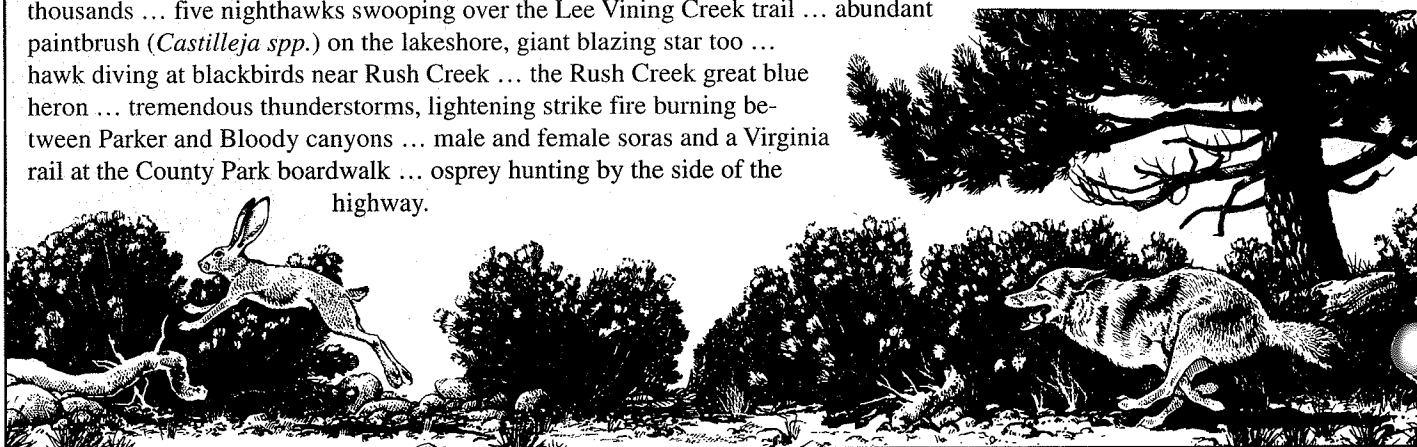
### A Mono Basin Chronicle

**Early June:** western tanager sitting in a piñon pine north of Lee Vining ... Three Canada geese plying the water near the shoreline ... Great Basin spadefoot toad sightings, particularly in sprinkler system valve wells ... two great horned owls roosting in a cottonwood on the northwest shore ... five Caspian terns overhead at County Park ... northern pintails, gadwalls, and three black-crowned night-herons ... Great Basin spadefoot toad tadpoles in shallow freshwater lagoons.

**Late June:** two common nighthawks hovering around Navy Beach ... thousands of alkali flies along Mono's shore ... great horned owl looking after late night affairs in Lee Vining ... prairie falcon over Sagehen Peak ... three hundred Wilson's phalaropes at Simons Spring, also three black-crowned night-herons, avocets, gadwalls, and many eared grebes ... near the lakeshore princes plume (*Stanleya spp.*) and littleleaf horsebrush (*Tetralymia glabrata*) blooming ... other flowers in bloom: yellow cryptantha (*Cryptantha confertiflora*), evening primrose (*Oenothera spp.*), sand verbena (*Abronia turbinata*), minute blazing star (*Mentzelia torreyi*) ... black-necked stilt gliding through the moonlight, spadefoot toads in chorus along the shore ... Sierra sky pilot (*Polemonium eximium*) just below the summit of Mt. Dana, wolverine tracks on a snowfield ... giant blazing star blooming (*Mentzelia laevicaulis*) ... shorebird census ... more flowers near town: unidentified purple phlox (*Eriastrum spp.*), pincushin (*Chaenactis spp.*), lupine (*Lupinus spp.*), sego lily or mariposa lily (*Calochortus spp.*) ... possible rare sighting of yellow-billed cuckoo along Lee Vining Creek ... Williamson's sapsucker among the lodgepoles and mountain hemlock near Gibbs Lake.

**Early July:** out with a Massachusetts Audubon group, sightings included sage thrashers, mountain bluebirds, green-tailed towhees, cliff swallows, common poorwills, rufous-sided towhees, black-chinned hummingbird, warbling vireos, red-breasted sapsuckers ... two black-necked stilts in the DeChambeau ponds ... down by the lake, a long-billed dowitcher, western sandpiper, savannah sparrows, eared grebes, and those omnipresent California gulls ... eight-pound trout above the Lee Vining diversion dam ... juvenile California gulls, a long-billed curlew, one lesser yellowlegs ... red-tailed hawk flies over Lee Vining Creek trail with a snake in its talons.

**Late July:** rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) beginning to bloom ... more Wilson's phalarope sightings, flocks in the thousands ... five nighthawks swooping over the Lee Vining Creek trail ... abundant paintbrush (*Castilleja spp.*) on the lakeshore, giant blazing star too ... hawk diving at blackbirds near Rush Creek ... the Rush Creek great blue heron ... tremendous thunderstorms, lightning strike fire burning between Parker and Bloody canyons ... male and female soras and a Virginia rail at the County Park boardwalk ... osprey hunting by the side of the highway.



Help us protect and restore Mono Lake!



# THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE'S

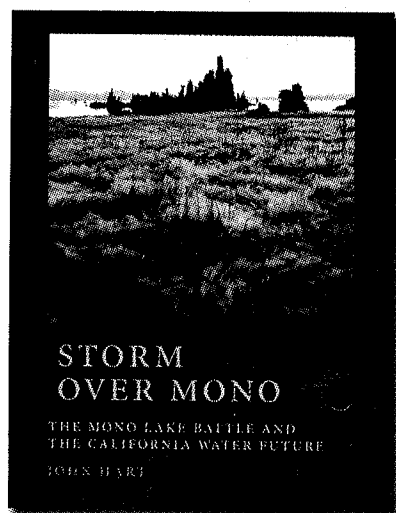
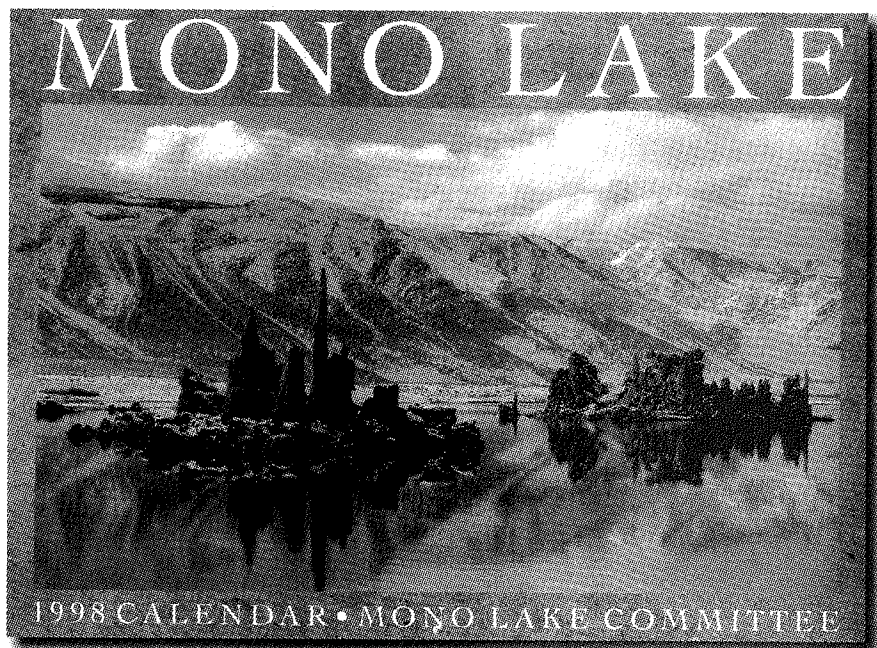
# Mono Lake Catalog

## 1997-1998

### 1998 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

Capture the unique beauty of this remarkable inland sea and the surrounding basin with full color photos by renowned photographers such as William Neill, Jim Stimson, Fred Hirschmann, and Don Jackson. An introductory essay by former Committee Executive Director Martha Davis looks back on the many years of struggle for Mono's protection. Measures 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Our special gift mailing program—see page 21!  
\$10.95 (Item #1201). Quantity discounts: 2-4, \$9.95 each; 5-10, \$8.95 each; 11 or more, \$7.95 each; Rigid mailers: \$1.00 each (Item #3001).



### STORM OVER MONO:

#### THE MONO LAKE BATTLE AND THE CALIFORNIA WATER FUTURE

Winner of the Commonwealth Silver Medal! Author John Hart has produced a thoroughly researched, well balanced, and readable work that covers the history of the Mono Lake controversy. Includes profiles of prominent figures and a section of striking color photos.

UC Press, 253 pages plus photos and maps

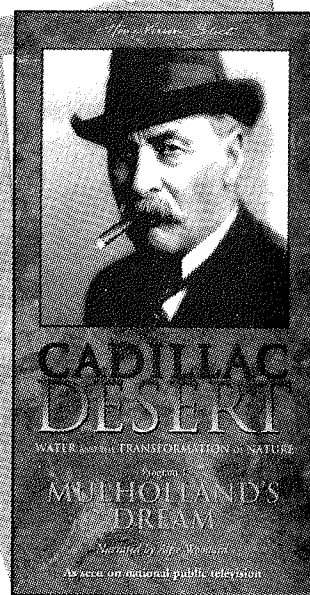
Softcover: \$29.95 (Item #191);

Hardcover: \$50.00 (Item #190)

### NEW! CADILLAC DESERT PBS DOCUMENTARY

Enjoy your own copy of the highly acclaimed four-part PBS documentary based on *Cadillac Desert* (see pg. 14) plus a copy of the movie *Chinatown*! Each episode is over an hour in length, and the first chronicles a subject close to home: the history of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Includes rare footage and interviews with Committee luminaries such as Sally Gaines, David Gaines, and former Executive Director Martha Davis!

All four episodes plus the full version of *Chinatown*, on five VHS cassettes: \$99.95 (Item #104)

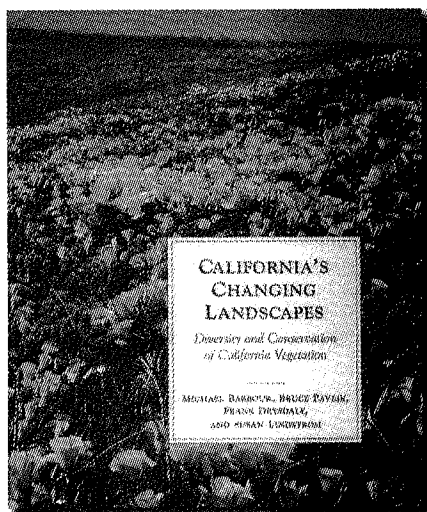


# THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



## A SIERRA NEVADA FLORA

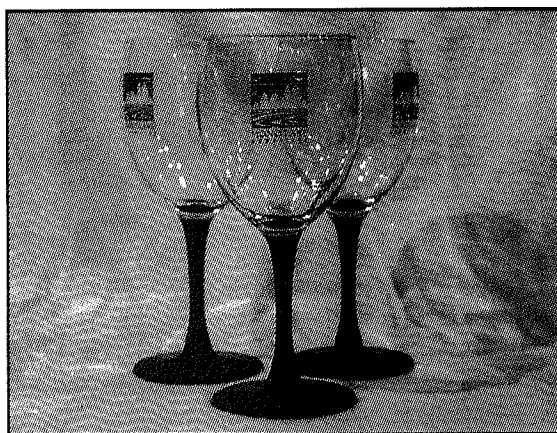
A new fourth edition! This practical field guide for the amateur botanist and outdoor enthusiast will be helpful throughout the Sierra. The keys are based on plant characteristics that are easily observed in the field. By Norman Weeden, Ph.D. *Softbound, Wilderness Press, 259 pages: \$15.95 (Item #107)*



## CALIFORNIA'S CHANGING LANDSCAPES

This book addresses the future of California's landscapes by examining the diversity and conservation of natural vegetation. From tidelines to mountain tops and the deserts beyond, this book explores the ecology, use, and restoration of California's changing landscapes. By Michael Barbour.

*Softcover, California Native Plant Society, 244 pages: \$24.95 (Item #108)*



## MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO WINE GLASSES

These fine wine glasses feature the Committee's tufa, birds, and sky logo in dark blue with a matching stem and base. *Shipped in special mailers: \$5.00 each (Item #1120)*

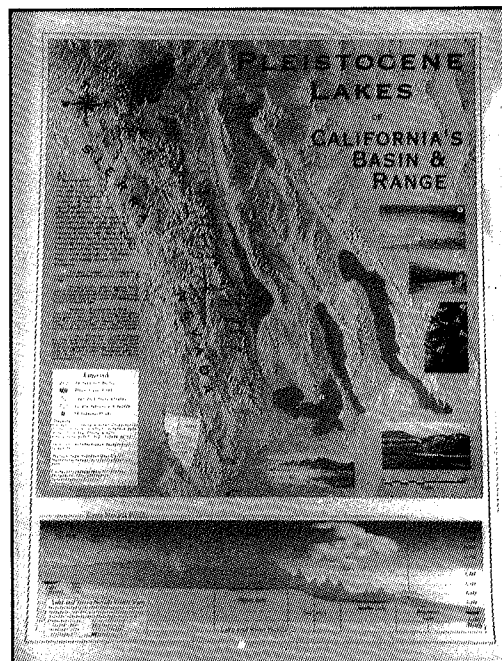


## BIRD DROPPINGS T-SHIRT

Bookstore Manager Laura Walker proudly displays one of our more esoteric new designs—but where else can you get a key to identifying birds by their droppings? Includes the common raven, yellow warbler, and California g

*Shirt color: teal*

*Short sleeve (M-2X): \$17.00 (Item #208)*



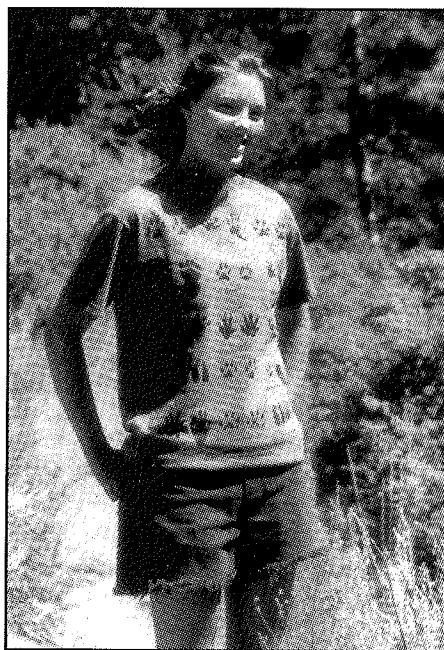
## PLEISTOCENE LAKES OF CALIFORNIA

Learn the location and extent of California's ice-age lakes, including our own Lake Rus

This wall poster also includes a cross section profiling the elevation of Pleistocene lakes.

*Full color poster: \$12.00 (Item #902)*

# THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



## NATURE TRACKS T-SHIRT

Featuring the tracks of bears, beavers, wolverines, and many other mammals, this field guide on a T-shirt is a favorite of our model, Intern Arya Degenhardt.

*Shirt color: walnut*

*Short sleeve (M-2X): \$17.00  
(Item #209)*

## WILDFLOWERS OF THE WEST T-SHIRT

Nine beautiful color illustrations of western wildflowers are featured on this shirt, modeled here by Canoe Coordinator Michelle Hofmann.

*Shirt colors: natural, sage*

*Short sleeve (M-XL):  
\$17.00 (Item #210)*



## INDIAN PAINTBRUSH T-SHIRT

The simple yet elegant balance of paintbrush and larkspur makes this shirt a local favorite. Intern Michelle Petter models this popular design.

*Shirt colors: iris, natural*

*Women's boxy T cut (XS-L): \$19.00 (Item #202)*

*(This boxy T runs large—order one size smaller than normal)*

## MONO LAKE PATCH AND STAMP

The Mono Lake Committee patch and stamp are veterans of the twenty-year fight to protect the lake and feature "Save Mono Lake"

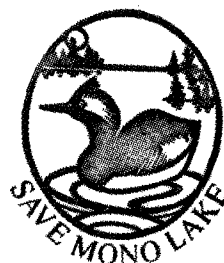
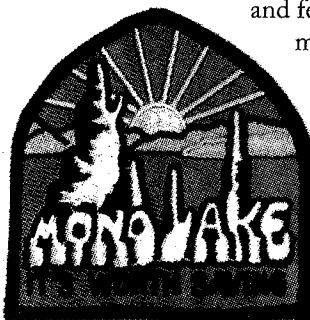
messages. The patch is perfect for a backpack or binoculars case and the stamp will compliment the look of your outgoing mail.

*Rubber stamp:*

*\$5.95 (Item  
#1114)*

*Mono Lake patch:*

*\$2.95 (Item  
#1106)*

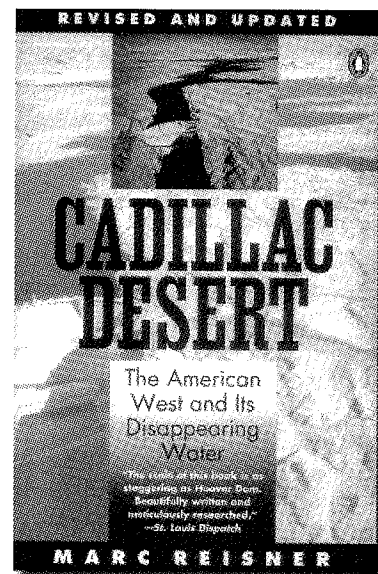


## CADILLAC DESERT

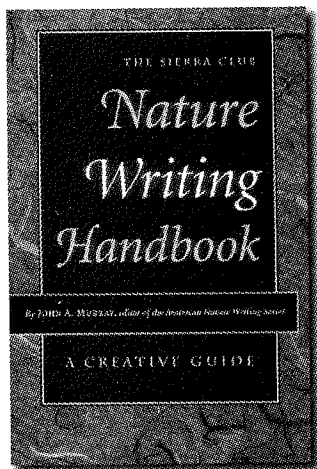
The book that inspired the recent PBS documentary series! Reisner's tale of water in the West is a thoroughly researched classic. *Cadillac Desert* is a tale of rivers diverted and dammed, of political corruption and intrigue, of billion-dollar battles over water rights, of ecological and economic disaster.

Revised and updated.

*Softcover, Penguin Books, 582 pages, 33 photographs: \$15.95 (Item #103)*

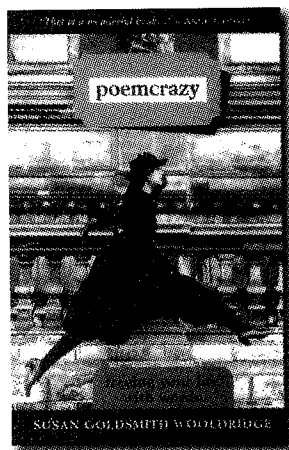


# THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



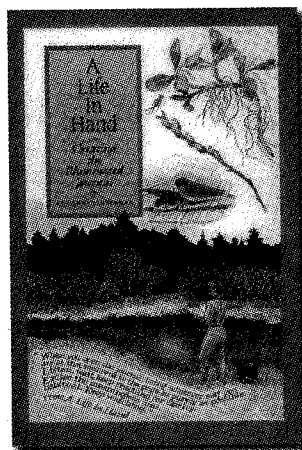
## NATURE WRITING HANDBOOK

A practical and inspirational guide. An indispensable reference for anyone who has experienced nature and the outdoors and is moved to express and share that experience with others. By John A. Murray. Softcover, Sierra Club Books, 196 pages: \$14.00 (Item #110)



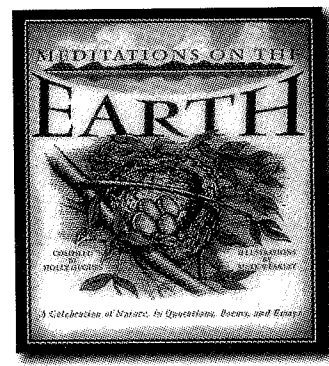
## POEMCRAZY

More than an instruction book for tapping creativity and beginning to write, *Poemcrazy* is about being alertly alive. It is a field guide to imagination. Inspiring, short meditations on scenes and events spark new ways of seeing. By Susan Goldsmith Wooldridge. Softcover, Three Rivers Press, 210 pages: \$13.00 (Item #1601)



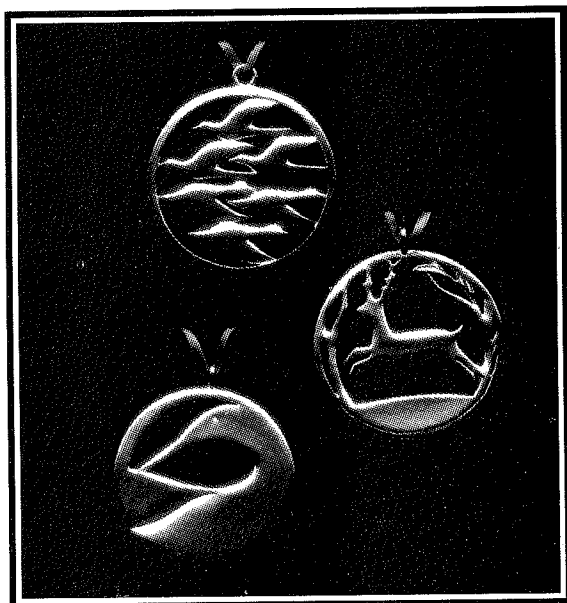
## A LIFE IN HAND

This book shares the love of writing and drawing for themselves, and also as a means to a richer awareness of the world. Included is not only good instruction, but also a taste of the real practice of art. A great gift for the creative genius in process. By Hannah Hinchman. Softcover, Gibbs Smith, 144 pages: \$19.95 (Item #1602)



## MEDITATIONS ON THE EARTH

Nature provides the inspiration for this eloquent collection of thoughts from naturalists, writers, philosophers, and scientists. An excellent gift selection! Edited by Holly Hughes. Cloth, Running Press, 288 pages: \$14.95 (Item #116)



## NEW! CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Great as gifts or to hang on your own tree, these pewter designs are handcrafted and sure to strike a unique note in any home.

*Reflections*: \$15.00 (Item #306)

*Leaping Stag*: \$15.00 (Item #307)

*Preening Loon*: \$15.00 (Item #308)



## MONO LAKE LICENSE PLATE HOLDERS

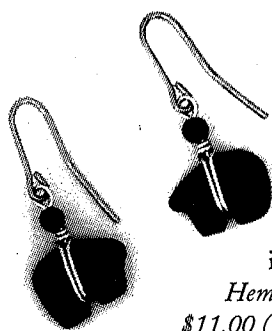
Show your support for our favorite lake with these durably printed, metal license plate holders. Available with two different declarations in white with dark blue behind.

*Long Live Mono Lake*: \$5.95 (Item #1112)

*Restore Mono Lake*: \$5.95 (Item #1111)



# THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



## NEW! ZUNI BEAR FETISH

These adorable bear earrings have been a big hit in the store this summer! Three-quarter inch in size.

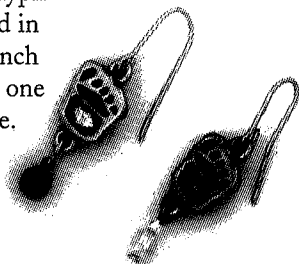
*Hematite with black onyx:*  
\$11.00 (Item #303)

## NEW! BEAR PAW PETROGLYPH

An ancient petroglyph design is captured in these attractive one inch earrings. Two colors; one of each shown here.

*Gold plated with black onyx (left): \$12.00*  
(Item #304)

*Pewter with rock crystal (right): \$12.00*  
(Item #305)

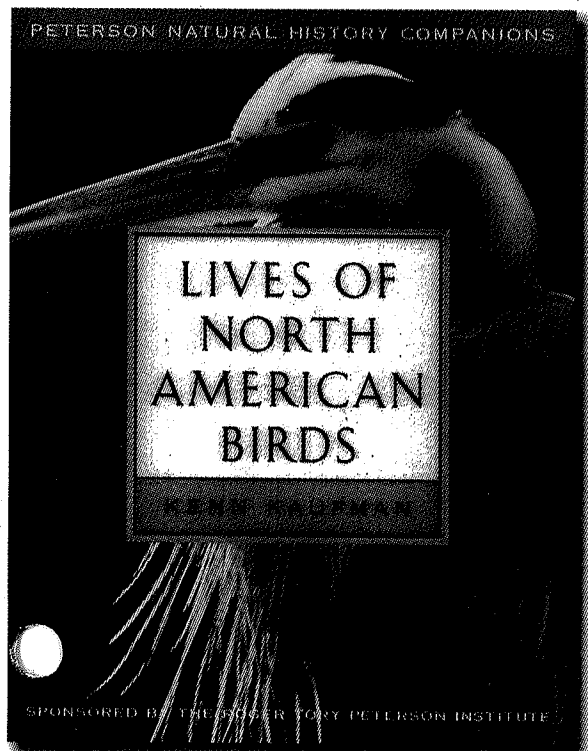


## MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO T-SHIRT

Former 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 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.

*Shirt colors: white, ash Shirt sizes: S-2X*

*Short sleeve: \$15.00 (Item #291); long sleeve: \$20.00 (Item #293)*



## POMOAN BASKET EARRINGS

The Pomoan people are skilled and artistic basket weavers, and these half-inch earrings capture the beauty of their designs.

*Pewter: \$12.00*  
(Item #309)



## 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. One inch in size.

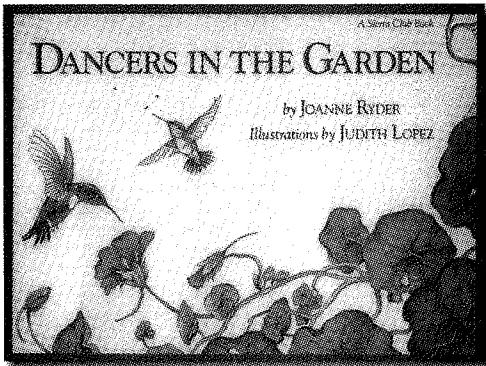
*Gold (Item #301) or silver (Item #302): \$12.00*

... Many other animal designs from Wild Bryde are available—call for ordering details!

## LIVES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

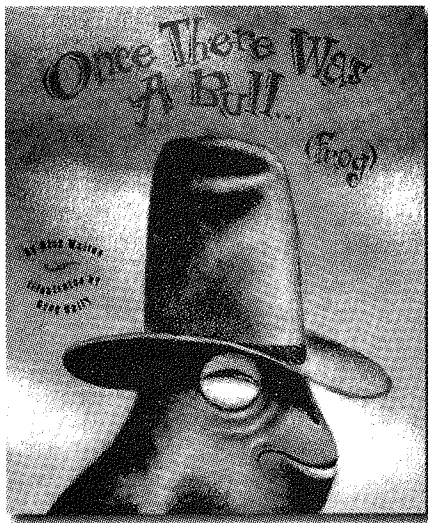
The new classic on North American birds! Not a guide for naming birds, but a reference for understanding them—a complete, handy, one-volume encyclopedia on the fascinating lives of birds. By Ken Kaufman. Cloth, Houghton Mifflin, 674 pages, numerous photos: \$35.00 (Item #123)

# THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



## DANCERS IN THE GARDEN

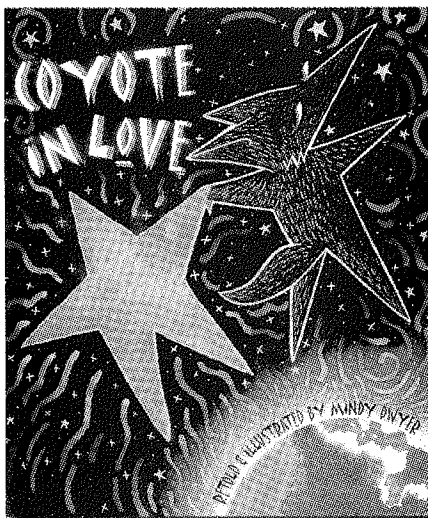
This beautifully written and illustrated children's book follows the activities of a hummingbird and his mate in a garden on a sunny day. By Joan Ryder. *Softcover, Sierra Club Books, 34 pages: \$5.95 (Item #119)*



## ONCE THERE WAS A BULLFROG

A bullfrog in the Old West loses his hip hop in this lively tale in which each page must be turned to complete the previous image. By Rick Walton. *Cloth, Gibbs Smith, 34 pages: \$14.95 (Item #106)*

**GIFT CERTIFICATES  
AVAILABLE—SEE PAGE 20!**

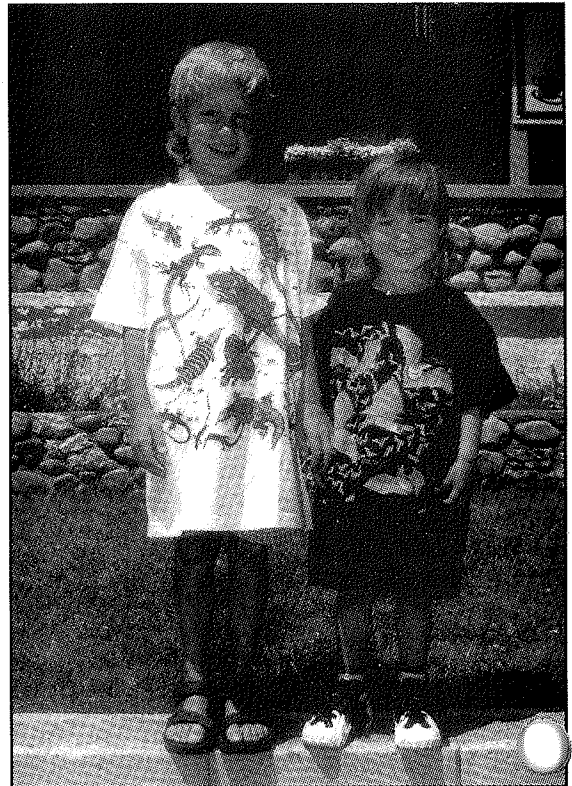


## COYOTE IN LOVE

This is an old tale of love and the way things came to be. A retelling of a Native American legend about Coyote's love for a beautiful blue star, which resulted in the creation of Crater Lake, Oregon. By Mindy Dwyer. *Cloth, Alaska Northwest Books, 32 pages: \$15.95 (Item #115)*

## WATER DANCE

For children and adults, the quiet, powerful poetry of *Water Dance* stands alongside beautiful illustrations which are inspiring and alive. Water does dance through the world and *Water Dance* shows us how in a beautiful way. By Thomas Locker. *Cloth, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 30 pages: \$16.00 (Item #122)*



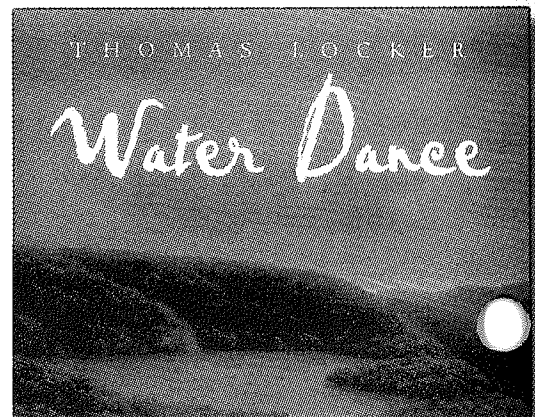
## LIZARDS AND BATS T-SHIRTS FOR KIDS

Sky Beaux and Shane Greytak of the neighboring El Mono Motel model these two fun, animal-filled shirts for kids.

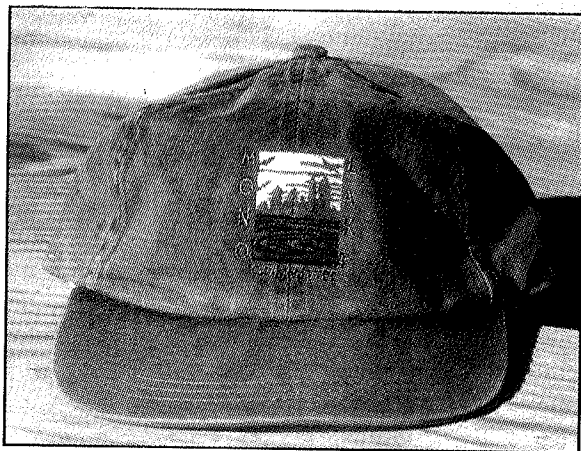
*Both designs available in kids' sizes S, M, and L.*

*Lizards All Over, white: \$14.00 (Item #211)*

*Bats!, black shirt with glow-in-the-dark bats: \$14.00 (Item #212)*



# THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



## MONO LAKE COMMITTEE CAPS

Perfect for year-round wear, the Committee logo is featured on this baseball-style cap with an adjustable cloth band at the back.

Sage, blue, or heather grey: \$15.00 (Item #221)

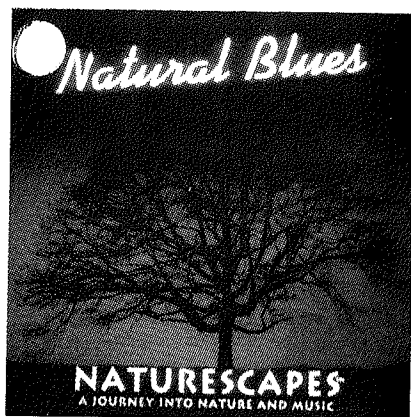


## PUPPETS

These delightful hand puppets from Folkmanis are sure to please

children and adults alike. Here, Committee Controller Kathi Richards takes two of our most popular puppets for an adventure in our wildflower garden.

Hedgehog Puppet: \$16.00 (Item #401); Standing Bear Puppet: \$16.00 (Item #402)



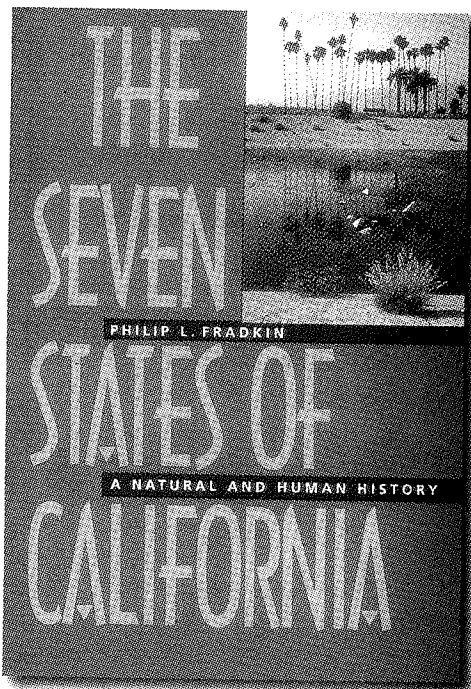
## MUSIC! NATURAL BLUES

The soulful sound of the blues expressed through the moods and voices of nature. A top seller in our store!

60 minutes. Compact disc:

\$14.99 (Item #1001); Cassette:

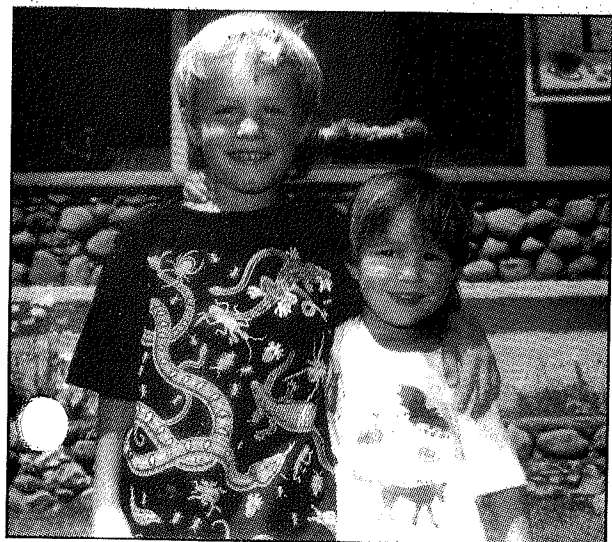
\$9.98 (Item #1002)



## THE SEVEN STATES OF CALIFORNIA

A personal and historical exploration of California. Stories and places from each of the seven "states" of California make a fascinating journey. By Philip Fradkin

Softbound, UC Press, 474 pages: \$14.95 (Item #102)



## KIDS'TEES

Our similes shirt cleverly links text and pictures to make phrases like "stubborn as a mule," while the Creepy Creatures shirt celebrates the side of nature that always gets a reaction! Both designs available in kids' sizes S, M, and L.

Creepy Creatures, black with glow-in-the-dark creatures: \$14.00 (Item #213)  
Animal Similes, white (XS also available): \$14.00 (Item #215)

# THE MONO LAKE CATALOG

## ORDER FORM

### ORDERED BY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAYTIME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### SHIP TO

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 GIFT FROM \_\_\_\_\_  
 GIFT MESSAGE \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	SIZE	COLOR/STYLE	ALTERNATE COLOR/STYLE	ITEM PRICE	TOTAL

### Payment

☐ CHECK

(payable to Mono Lake Committee)



CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

### Store Profits

All profits from merchandise sales support the Committee's work to protect Mono Lake, restore Mono Basin resources, and provide watershed education programs.

### Ordering

#### BY MAIL

Use attached envelope or send to:  
 Mono Lake Committee  
 P. O. Box 29  
 Lee Vining, California 93541

#### BY PHONE

Call (760) 647-6595  
 9A.M. to 5P.M., seven days a week

#### BY FACSIMILE

Fax your order to (760) 647-6377

SHIPPING (see chart below)

SUBTOTAL

CA RESIDENTS: ADD 7.25% SALES TAX ON SUBTOTAL (including shipping)

☐ New ☐ Renewal MLC MEMBERSHIP (see attached envelope)

MLC DONATION

TOTAL

### Shipping

Up to \$10 ..... \$4.00  
 \$10 - \$25 ..... \$5.00  
 \$25 - \$50 ..... \$5.50  
 Over \$50 ..... \$6.00

- Additional mailing addresses: \$4.00.
- California law requires us to charge sales tax on shipping.

### ★ ★ 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.



# October benefit will premiere PBS documentary The Battle For Mono Lake

**A story of victory—your victory!**

**O**n Sunday afternoon, October 19, 1997, the Mono Lake Committee and UC Berkeley's Water Resources Center Archives will host a benefit premiere of the public television documentary *The Battle for Mono Lake*. The joint event also celebrates the Committee's decision to donate its papers and archives to the Water Resources Center Archives for use by future researchers and decision makers.

*The Battle for Mono Lake* was produced by Stephen Fisher, in associa-

tion with PBS station KTEH in San Jose. Actor Richard Hatch narrates the film, and conducts interviews with attorneys, scientists, water managers, indigenous peoples and activists, while exploring the Mono Basin. Through Hatch's experiences and discussions, the viewer discovers the many people who were important to saving Mono Lake. Those interviewed include Mono County supervisor Andrea Lawrence, public trust expert Joseph Sax, biologist David Herbst, and geologist Scott Stine. Mono Lake Committee founder David Gaines also appears via historical footage. The film concludes with the actual hearings and final vote by the State Water Resources Control Board.

At the event, Martha Davis will receive the Mono Lake Committee's Defender of the Trust Award for her incredible accomplishments and her dedication to Mono Lake's cause. After the screening Stephen Fisher will join a panel of experts which will field questions from the audience about *The Battle for Mono Lake*. A reception immediately

following the program at UC Berkeley's Alumni House will provide an intimate setting where guests can continue conversations with both film and panel participants.

The event will begin at 3:00 pm at Berkeley's Wheeler Auditorium. The venue seats 700 people and we hope to have a full house. *The Battle for Mono Lake* is a victory, your victory. We hope you are able to join the celebration!

Ticket prices are as follows:

- \$25, Supporter: Film screening and panel discussion;
- \$50, Benefactor: Film screening and panel discussion with priority seating;
- \$250, Monophile: Film screening and panel discussion with priority seating, priority parking, reception at UC Berkeley's Alumni house with experts and film participants.

For more information about the film or the event, contact Committee Development Director Shelly Backlar (shelly@monolake.org) at (818) 716-8488. 🐾

## Committee cosponsoring water policy conference

**T**he Mono Lake Committee is co-sponsoring a statewide conference on water policy October 29–30 at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel. "California Water Policy VII: The Search for Certainty" will attempt to place hard numbers on the various supply options now being considered by California and Federal agencies and others in the so-called CALFED process.

Everyone concerned about water supply will find this conference an excellent opportunity to expand their understanding of the connections between southern California needs, northern California watersheds, and water exports from places like the Mono Basin and the Colorado River basin.

For more information, please check our web site ([www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)) or contact conference coordinator Debra Dodson at 619-272-9627.

## Special Mono Lake Calendar offer

**E**njoy holiday shopping the easy way! Share Mono Lake's beauty with your friends, family, and business partners *and* take the stress out of the holidays! It's easy ... send us your gift list by November 15, and we'll package and send a beautiful 1998 *Mono Lake Calendar* to each person on your list in time for the holidays! Each calendar is shipped in a special protective mailer and includes a gift notice with your name.

Pricing is simple: \$11.95 per calendar includes the calendar, mailer, gift notice, and shipping (there is an additional charge for international addresses).

The 1998 *Calendar* features spectacular images of Mono Lake and the Mono Basin by renowned photographers such as Fred Hirschmann, William Neill, and Jim Stimson. This year's essay is written by former Committee Executive Director Martha Davis, who looks back at the many years of struggle for Mono's protection.

Contact Kay Ogden ([kay@monolake.org](mailto:kay@monolake.org)) with your list or questions as soon as possible at (760) 647-6595.

# Cadillac Desert benefit premiere held

by Shelly Backlar

**O**n Tuesday, June 17, members from the Mono Lake Committee and the Natural Resources Defense Council gathered at Sony Studios in Culver City to attend the premiere of "Mulholland's Dream," the first episode in the four-part PBS documentary series *Cadillac Desert: Water and the Transformation of Nature*.

If you'd like to learn more about the *Cadillac Desert* series, visit our web site ([www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)) for links to further information.

The Mono Lake Committee would like to thank the Natural Resources Defense Council for inviting us to participate in the benefit premiere of "Mulholland's Dream," particularly Patricia Sullivan, Dana Rosenkrantz, and Lori Michaels for their exceptional organizational skills. Thanks also to volunteers Herley Jim and Mollie Bowling, Corie Takasane, and Jorge Wong for staffing the information table during the event.

We would like to thank the organizations who generously contributed: St. Thomas Creations; Honeywell DMC Services, Inc.; The Law Firm of McClintock, Weston, Benshoof, Rochefort, Rubalcava, MacCuish LLP; Global Stratagem Group; Mercury Air

Group, Inc.; and P.S. Enterprises.

But most of all, we thank the Mono Lake Committee members who contributed to the event for continuously supporting our efforts to ensure Mono Lake's protection, to restore the Mono Basin ecosystem, and to provide watershed education programs. Together we can heal the damage caused by 50 years of destruction at Mono Lake!

Supporters who contributed to the event include: Mike Allen, Rich & Erin Atwater, Nancy Bacal, Shelly and Roger Backlar, Barbara Blake, Stan Bluhm, Stacy Brown, Jean Bulpitt, Lawrence Bush, Thomas Byrd, David Cobb, Paul Cooley, Martha Davis, Marc Dymaly, Maureen Erbeznik, James Finch, Richard Fox, Anne Friend, Reid Fry, Steven Gabriel, Ruth Galanter, Herb Hain, Chris Holabird, Amy Holm, Melanie Ingalls, Lillian Kawasaki, LeAnn Killian, Robert Glenn Ketchum, Mike Kleinman, Robert Krauch, T. Ladewski, Ellen Lehman, Clara Link, Elsa Lopez, Alan Magree, Ed & Maria Manning, Rob Marks, Albert Miller, Lloyd Mill, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Richards, Rick Ruiz, Trudi Sandmeier, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Selegarth, Tom Soto, Frances Spivy-Weber, Mr. & Mrs. George Speechly, Howard Strauss,

Michael Weber, Lisa Weil, Alexa Williams, and Walter Williams.

*Shelly Backlar is the Committee's Development Director. To make a long story short, she's back! ☺*

## Gaines, Davis honored

**O**n August 9, the Cancer Federation of Riverside California presented its Annual Environmental Health Award to Committee co-founder Sally Gaines and board member Martha Davis in recognition of their dedication and accomplishment on behalf of Mono Lake.

The award was given in memory of Leslie Ralston Brusky, a tireless Federation volunteer and Eastern Sierra homeowner who was dedicated to environmental preservation.

The Committee thanks the Cancer Federation and Executive Director John Steinbacher, a lifelong Committee member, for the recognition and support.

## Staff migrations

**W**ith summer ending we bid farewell to most of our seasonal staff: **Yee Kee Lam, Sedina Banks, Carol Heinz, Michelle Petter, Nathan Bomer, and Davin Bowker.** We'll miss you all and hope to see you again soon in the basin.

Canoe Coordinator **Michelle Hofmann** also heads on to new fall opportunities, hopefully through a job with AmeriCorps. We always manage to convince a few seasonals to stay on;

this year Outdoor Experiences Coordinator **Mike Klapp** will become one of our two winter interns. Joining him from Los Angeles is **Anna Henze**, who has spent her summers in the Bishop area for the last 15 years and is excited about Mono Lake.

Helping us through August and September—a busy season at the lake when we're often short staffed—are **Arya Degenhardt, Chris Candito, and Hillary Hansen.** Arya extended her summer internship by a month to help

out. Chris is new to California, having moved out from Vermont this year, and has already spent much time on Mono's shores. Hillary Hansen, daughter of local brine shrimp plant owners Tim and Diane Hansen, is putting her familiarity with the area to work, helping in the Information Center and Bookstore.

Rounding out the crew is **Michelle Mealey**, who is spending several months helping us plow through a backlog of bookkeeping work. Welcome all!

## From the mailbag

In celebration of the beginning of the school year, we thought it only appropriate to highlight some of the many letters of support and thanks we get from students:

"I received material from you for a college geography project ... and want to report I did receive an 'A' grade ... I am pursuing a degree in environmental studies, and the example set by the Mono Lake Committee in saving the lake is an impressive case to learn from."

—Nancy Parsons, Quincy

"As a student ... I have heard the story of Mono Lake for many years and am delighted by your success. It gives me hope for the many other stories needing happy chapters. I look forward to visiting a pristine Mono Lake some day soon."

—Terri Green

The 10<sup>th</sup> grade biology class at the Gig Harbor, Washington, high school wrote to us recently to express their concerns and appreciation. Here's an excerpt from one of their letters:

"I wholeheartedly support your movement to save Mono Lake. I believe the lake is an important environmental, educational and aesthetic asset ... if it dies we can't ever bring it back."

—Sean Allphin, Gig Harbor, WA

## Storm over Mono wins Commonwealth Medal

Congratulations to author John Hart on the recent announcement that his history of the Mono Lake controversy, *Storm over Mono*, will receive a Commonwealth Medal.

The medals, given in several different fields, honor distinctive work in writing. Hart will receive the Commonwealth Club of California Silver Medal for Californiana.

Hart, who addressed the club in August, commented that he received the medal in large part "due to the excitement that's in the story and the people that made it happen."

*Storm over Mono* is available by mail from the Mono Lake Committee Bookstore—see page 13!

## Gaines Island

We received several letters and emails in response to the question posed in the last newsletter: what should we call the former-land-bridge-now-island feature between Negit and the mainland. The unanimous vote: Gaines Island. That doesn't make it an official place name, but you'll hear us using it in the future

## Accolades

### Special Thanks

Thank you again to all the **Committee members and supporters** who made donations to match the Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership Grant.

The **Marin Community Foundation** issued a generous donation on behalf of **Shirley Hicklin** of Carmel.

The **California Community Foundation** administered a gift at the request of **Mrs. John S. Cain** of La Cañada.

Former Mono Lake Committee board member **Genny Smith** made a donation through the **Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund**.

Thanks to former staffer **Matt Newman** and **Sarah Taylor** for their help with the enclosed catalog.

Thanks to the following sponsors of the Committee's Outdoor Experiences education program: **Joan Barker**, **William Noble**, **Mothers of East Los Angeles Santa Isabel**, **Southern California Gas**, **Metropolitan Water District**, **Los Angeles Department of**

**Water and Power**. Look for news of the summer's education activities next time!

Thanks to **John Brennan** who has tended 600 pine seedling through the summer for planting on Restoration Days.

### In Memoriam

**Mort and Edith Gaines**, parents of Mono Lake Committee founder Dave Gaines, sent a gift in loving memory of Dave's aunt, **Marilyn Justman**.

**Irene Kendall** of Redwood City sent in a donation in memory of the happy times she and her beloved companion of 49 years enjoyed in the Mono Basin. We wish her well and many happy memories of the Mono Basin.

**Mary Kenney** of South Canterbury, New Zealand, stopped in at the Lee Vining bookstore to leave a donation in memory of friend **Tom Cochrane**.

Bishop business owner **James Wilson** sent a contribution in memory of expert Sierra ski, mountain, and river guide **Allan Bard**. ☞

## Matched gifts

**Jeanne Karpenko** of Glendale sent in a donation that was matched by the **Times Mirror Foundation**.

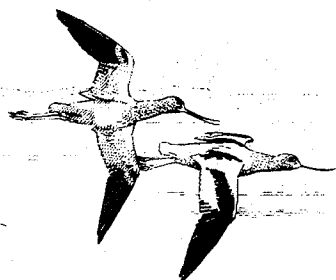
**Edmund J. Miller** of Ann Arbor contributed a gift that was matched by the **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**.

**Flock to Berkeley with us  
for a benefit premiere of the PBS documentary  
The Battle for Mono Lake**

*A story of victory—your victory!*

**October 19, 3–7 pm**

**Details inside on page 21**

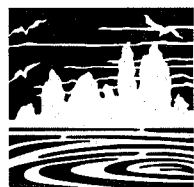


**A Llama trek ... the Ansel Adams Prize ... A  
Mono Basin Weekend ... A Mammoth  
Getaway ... Yosemite at the Ahwahnee**

*Your Free Drawing tickets are enclosed!*

**November 3 deadline!**

*Tickets must be received in Lee Vining  
by midnight November 3, 1997.*



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