2019 MONO BASIN FIELD SEMINARS
EXPLORE WITH A GUIDE

The Mono Lake Committee provides educational Field Seminars and custom trips that offer opportunities to deepen knowledge and understanding of the Mono Basin’s fascinating natural history, cultural history, and complex political history.

Through a combination of field excursions and classroom presentations, Field Seminars and custom trips emphasize a spirit of learning and camaraderie in a magnificent outdoor setting at a reasonable cost. Instructors are experts in their fields and include scientists, professors, naturalists, and acclaimed photographers, writers, historians, and artists.

The programs are based out of the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. Please visit monolake.org/seminars for minimum participant ages and other details about each course. Rates do not include lodging or meals.

MAKE PLANS AND SIGN UP

1. Preview our custom trips and Field Seminars on the following pages. Find detailed program information at monolake.org/trips and monolake.org/seminars.

2. Book a custom trip by emailing guides@monolake.org; register for Field Seminars at monolake.org/seminars. You can also call 760.647.6595 to sign up. Mono Lake Committee members can register early and receive discounts on seminars. Participants who are not yet members can join when signing up and receive discounts.

3. Make lodging/camping reservations. Visit the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce (leevining.com) and Mono County Tourism (monocounty.org) websites for information about motels and campgrounds.

4. Pack your bags and we’ll see you at Mono Lake!

ACTIVITY LEVEL

This rating system is meant to give a rough idea about the physical demands of seminars. For more specific information, please call 760.647.6595.

- Be prepared to hike up to 1 mile per day, at a leisurely pace, through relatively flat terrain on maintained trails.

- Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, at a moderate pace, with elevation gains up to 500 feet. Some off-trail hiking possible.

- Be prepared for moderate-to-brisk hiking, up to 5 miles per day with climbs up to 1,000 feet. Loose rocks, uneven footing, high-stepping, and off-trail hiking possible.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

CUSTOM TRIPS: If you cancel three weeks prior to the trip date, we will refund your deposit less a $50 processing fee per person per trip. No refunds can be issued for any reason if cancellation is within three weeks of the trip date.

FIELD SEMINARS: If you cancel three weeks prior to the Field Seminar start date, we will refund your payment (less a $15 processing fee per person per seminar). No refunds can be issued for any reason if cancellation is within three weeks of field seminar date, but tuition can be applied to another seminar within one calendar year of your cancellation date. If you cancel within one week of the seminar start date, no credits can be issued for any reason. If a seminar has less than six participants two weeks before it takes place, it will be canceled and full refunds will be issued.

HIGH ELEVATION

All Field Seminars and custom trips begin in Lee Vining, at an elevation of 6,700 feet above sea level. Most programs spend time at higher elevations, up to 10,000 feet at the highest.

It is a good idea to acclimate at the elevation of Lee Vining for at least 24 hours prior to the start of any program. Those with a history of heart, ear, or respiratory problems should consult their doctors before attending.

All Field Seminars and custom trips operate under Inyo National Forest and California State Parks permits. Field Seminars and custom trips are supported by Mono County Tourism.
CUSTOM TRIPS

The Mono Lake Committee offers custom trips for those looking for a personalized experience. Let us do the planning—we will tailor a trip to your specific interests, group, and schedule. Whether you are looking for a natural history adventure, a new hiking spot, a special canoe tour, or a birding trip, custom trips are perfect for all ages and ability levels.

YOUR INTERESTS
You can choose and combine multiple options:
- Natural history
- Birding
- Human history
- Geology
- Hiking
- Photography
- Fall colors
- Wildlife

YOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL
Want to get your lungs pumping and your blood flowing on a brisk hike? Or do you prefer leisurely roadside stops? Choose one of the activity levels listed on the page to the left. We’ll set up a trip that matches your desired activity level.

YOUR TIMEFRAME
Choose from a half-day trip (4 hours), a full-day trip (8 hours), or the duration of your choice. Book multiple days for a more in-depth experience. Early start times are strongly recommended for the best chance of seeing birds and other wildlife.

RATES
MEMBER RATE: $50 per hour for 1–3 people, plus $50 for each additional person
NON-MEMBER RATE: $65 per hour for 1–3 people, plus $65 for each additional person

EMAIL GUIDES@MONOLAKE.ORG OR CALL 760.647.6595 TO BOOK YOUR TRIP
FIELD SEMINARS

BIRDING MONO BASIN HOTSPOTS
May 31 (half day)
Nora Livingston
$110 / $100 for members
Mono Basin creeks and canyons are hidden jewels for breeding and migrating songbirds in a region where high desert habitat dominates. This half-day birding trip will explore lush riparian areas that are rich with bird life.

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE MONO BASIN
June 1
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members
Late spring and early summer are the best times to find breeding birds in the Mono Basin. This one-day seminar will visit several spots in the Mono Basin to learn about the many breeding birds that raise their families here.

VISIONS OF THE PAST: SIERRA GOLD, AURORA SILVER
June 1–2
Terri Geissinger
$197 / $182 for members
The gold-mining operations of Bennetttville and the Log Cabin Mine and the silver-mining town of Aurora offer visions of the past to those who visit these now-deserted outposts at the Sierra crest and in the high desert. During this seminar we will visit huge mills that once processed millions of dollars’ worth of gold and silver ore and get a sense of people’s lives in these early settlements.

TWILIGHT BIRDING & OWLING
June 2 (half day)
Nora Livingston
$90 / $80 for members
Spend the twilight hours with a naturalist while clouds light up with vivid color, fading light turns the landscape inky blue, and unique wildlife emerges. We will look for songbirds, search for snipes and nighthawks, scan the trees for owls, and scour the back roads for poorwills.

NATURAL HISTORY OF MONO BASIN WOODPECKERS
June 11–13
Steve Shunk
$182 / $167 for members
Join this seminar for a dynamic overview of Mono Basin woodpeckers. One of the most specialized bird families in the world, at least nine species of woodpeckers occur regularly in the Mono Basin, making the forests around Mono Lake a perfect stage for observing these amazing forest carpenters.

CAPTURING THE MONO BASIN IN PASTEL
June 28–30
Ane Carla Rovetta
$192 / $177 for members
The sparkling light and radiant skies of the Mono Basin are pure inspiration. Add a set of brilliant pastel chalks and your own imagination, and you have an incredible weekend of color exploration and art. Each participant will go home with at least one small finished painting and several sketches, color studies, and value experiments that will fuel future artistic endeavors.

WILDFLOWER WALTZ
July 5 (half day)
Nora Livingston
$110 / $100 for members
Working on your wildflower identification? July is the perfect month to practice as the flowers will be out in abundance, taking advantage of plentiful sunlight and warm temperatures. We will scour meadows and canyons for the plethora of blooms that grace the trails, focusing on the identification and natural history of the flowers we see.

MONO BASIN & BODIE PHOTOGRAPHY
June 21–23
David Gubernick
$300 / $275 for members
Enhance your photography skills in the uniquely beautiful Mono Basin and at the world-renowned Bodie State Historic Park. Field trips and classroom sessions will combine to cover a multitude of photographic topics, and the group will visit Bodie for private after-hours evening access.

WILDFLOWER WALTZ
July 6
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members
This fast-paced birding seminar will attempt to record as many bird species as possible in the Mono Basin in one day. Over 300 species have been recorded in Mono County, with over 150 species occurring regularly in the summer. Throughout the day, we will visit a variety of lakes, streams, ponds, forests, and fields to build our list.

MEMBER REGISTRATION: FEBRUARY 1 • NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION: MARCH 1

monolake.org/seminars | 760.647.6595
BIRDING THE WHITE MOUNTAINS
July 12
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members
The gradient from the Owens Valley to the White Mountains provides a great swath of diverse habitat, from desert oasis to high-elevation woodland. This one-day field seminar will search high and low for a great variety of bird species.

BUTTERFLIES OF THE MONO BASIN & SIERRA NEVADA
July 13–14
Kristie Nelson
$172 / $157 for members
With a range of habitats and plant species that butterflies depend on, the Mono Basin and Sierra Nevada high country are excellent regions to get acquainted with these bright splashes of living color. In this seminar, we’ll focus on noticing and keying into butterflies, identifying their host plants and habitat preferences, and understanding their life cycles.

FULL MOON HIKE
July 16 (half day)
Nora Livingston
$90 / $80 for members
There is no better way to deeply immerse yourself in the majestic calm of the Mono Basin than to experience it by moonlight. On this seminar, we will take a natural history hike as the sun sets and the full moon rises. We will find a perch to enjoy moonrise and hear stories about the night.

WILDFLOWER WALTZ
July 18 (half day)
Nora Livingston
$110 / $100 for members
Working on your wildflower identification? July is the perfect month to practice as the flowers will be out in abundance, taking advantage of plentiful sunlight and warm temperatures. We will scour meadows and canyons for the plethora of blooms that grace the trails, focusing on the identification and natural history of the flowers we see.

MONO BASIN MAMMALS
July 19–21
John Harris
$182 / $167 for members
This class will cover the diversity of mammals found in the Mono Basin, from desert sand dunes to forests and alpine meadows of the high Sierra. More mammals occur here than in many states, and the group will try to see as many as possible by live-trapping and field observation.

THE ART OF WILDFLOWER MACROPHOTOGRAPHY
July 26–28
David Gubernick
$275 / $250 for members
Learn to take creative and beautiful close-up images, further develop your artistic vision, and enhance your photographic skills. This seminar will emphasize the artistry of macrophotography and the technical means to render such images; this is not a course in botanical identification.
MINING THE PAST THROUGH BINOCULARS
August 10
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members

This seminar will visit locations that give historic context to the tenacious pioneers, legendary basket weavers, and hardscrabble miners who came before us. We’ll also learn about the animals and plants that inhabit these places now.

FALLING FOR THE MIGRATION: BRIDGEPORT VALLEY & MONO BASIN
August 15–16
Dave Shuford
$172 / $157 for members

The east slope of the Sierra Nevada is a major migration route for birds traveling from northern nesting areas to warm southern habitats. As a result, late summer is the time of year to see fall migrants and early arriving wintering birds in the Mono Basin and Bridgeport areas.

GEOLOGY OF THE MONO BASIN
August 16–18
Greg Stock
$182 / $167 for members

From volcanic craters to glacial moraines, earthquake faults to tufa towers, the Mono Basin displays some of the most unique, spectacular, and accessible geology anywhere in the world. If you’ve ever wanted to know more about the geologic forces that formed the diverse landscapes of the Mono Basin, this seminar is for you.

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BIRDING THE WHITE MOUNTAINS
August 30
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members

The gradient from the Owens Valley to the White Mountains provides a great swath of diverse habitat, from desert oasis to high-elevation woodland. This one-day field seminar will search high and low for a great variety of bird species.
FIRE ECOLOGY OF THE EASTERN SIERRA
September 14–15
Malcolm North
$172 / $157 for members
Fires are inevitable in much of the western United States, but many modern fires burn differently than what forests evolved with. This seminar will visit several recently burned areas in the Mono Basin, show fire effects on forest ecosystems, and discuss the good, bad, and ugly of current fire management and policy.

LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCT TOUR
September 20
Bartshé Miller
$165 / $150 for members
The Mono Basin extension of the Los Angeles Aqueduct began transporting water 350 miles south to the City of LA in 1941. Visit all the major aqueduct facilities in the Mono Basin and learn about their modern relationship with Los Angeles, Mono Lake, and its tributary streams.

GEOLOGY OF THE MONO BASIN
September 20–22
Greg Stock
$182 / $167 for members
From volcanic craters to glacial moraines, earthquake faults to tufa towers, the Mono Basin displays some of the most unique, spectacular, and accessible geology anywhere in the world. If you’ve ever wanted to know more about the geologic forces that formed the diverse landscapes of the Mono Basin, this seminar is for you.

CREATING THE ILLUMINATED FIELD JOURNAL
September 6–8
Hannah Hinchman
$192 / $177 for members
A field journal is an ideal vehicle to record moments of discovery about the natural world, as well as a quiet way of simply being present outdoors. Through guided explorations of nearby habitats, you’ll learn to personalize these experiences through journal entries, both drawn and written.

MONO BASIN TREE IDENTIFICATION
September 13
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members
This seminar will delve into the diversity of trees in the Mono Basin and their identifying features. We will examine, observe, and even smell the trees to help ingrain the knowledge into our senses.

VOLCANISM OF THE MONO BASIN
August 31
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members
Mono Lake sits in a geologic bowl formed by ancient volcanic sediments and recent volcanic eruptions. This seminar will visit several volcanic formations around Mono Lake while addressing the overall picture of volcanism in the Mono Basin and its role in shaping the landscape we see today.

A LONG JOURNEY: SHOREBIRD MIGRATION
September 1
Nora Livingston
$140 / $130 for members
As birds fly south for winter, we wonder “Where exactly are they going? Where are they coming from? How long does it take them to get there? How do they know where to go?” This seminar strives to answer these questions and more while observing these ultra-lightweight travelers as they fuel up along their migration.
FALL COLOR FORAY
October 4 (half day)
Nora Livingston
$90 / $80 for members
Every fall, quaking aspen trees paint the landscape with golden hues as their leaves change. This half-day seminar will visit the most colorful aspen groves during peak season. We will enjoy glittering golden, ruby, and emerald forests while learning about aspen ecology.

WATERCOLORS IN THE WILD: AUTUMN FLORA
October 4–6
Andie Thrams
$192 / $177 for members
Painting in wild places is powerfully transforming, yet working outdoors can be overwhelming. During guided studies focused on autumn flora, with a particular emphasis on fall’s color palette, we’ll carefully observe local plant life, collect ideas, and experiment with drawing and painting techniques using watercolor, gouache, and ink.

ARBORGlyphs & ASPEN NATURAL HISTORY
October 5–6
Richard Potashin & Nancy Hadlock
$197 / $182 for members
A century of sheep grazing brought Basque sheepherders into the Mono Basin’s aspen-bordered meadows, and they left numerous carvings—arboglyphs—on the aspens. Join the instructors for an enchanting journey into the aspen groves at peak color to explore this historic art form and to learn about the wildlife, insects, and birds that are drawn to the groves.

FALL COLOR FORAY
October 11 (half day)
Nora Livingston
$90 / $80 for members
Every fall, quaking aspen trees paint the landscape with golden hues as their leaves change. This half-day seminar will visit the most colorful aspen groves during peak season. We will enjoy glittering golden, ruby, and emerald forests while learning about aspen ecology.

MONO BASIN FALL PHOTOGRAPHY
October 11–13
Robb Hirsch
$275 / $250 for members
In autumn spectacular foliage and skies combine with exceptional light, presenting ample subject matter to photograph. Explore shoreline locations at sunrise and sunset, fall color in nearby canyons, and grand overviews of the Mono Basin in this seminar.

MONO BASIN LANDSCAPES & MOON PHOTOGRAPHY
November 8–10
Jeff Sullivan
$275 / $250 for members
Late fall is the season for sunset, moonrise, and reflections at Mono Lake. The departure of summer heat reduces wind, leaving the dense, salty water of Mono Lake mirror-smooth. A passing storm may leave a dusting of snow or bring clouds to decorate our compositions. This seminar will cover techniques for composing and capturing stunning landscape and night sky photographs.
TERRI GEISSINGER is a Bodie Foundation historian and guide. She is active in the Mono Basin Historical Society, and has been interviewing the last surviving residents of Bodie to collect their stories and memories before they are lost. Terri has a talent for making history come alive.

DAVID GUBERNICK is a nationally published and award-winning photographer and workshop leader. His first photography book, *Wildflowers of Monterey County*, was published in 2002 to rave reviews. He provides fine art prints and stock images for advertising, corporate, editorial, and home décor markets.

NANCY HADLOCK was a naturalist, interpreter, and educator for the National Park Service and US Forest Service for over 30 years. She has been studying Basque culture for many years, taking classes at the University of Nevada’s Basque Study Center, and compiling an extensive Basque resource library.

JOHN HARRIS is a retired Mills College Professor of Biology. His interest in Mono’s mammals began in 1975 while working as an undergraduate assistant in a study of chipmunks. He has studied small mammals in the Mono Lake dunes, Sierra Nevada, San Joaquin Valley, and Mojave Desert.

HANNAH HINCHMAN has written and taught on the subject of illuminated field journals since the mid-1980s, and her books are used as texts in environmental studies programs. Her visual journal, *Little Things in a Big Country*, won the Mountains & Plains Booksellers Award in 2005.

ROBB HIRSCH is a biologist/naturalist turned professional photographer based just west of Yosemite. His images have appeared in numerous publications, including Nature’s Best, Sierra Club, and Mono Lake Committee calendars, and several textbooks. His work is known for strong composition and fine light.

URSULA JONES, daughter of Lucy Parker and granddaughter of Julia Parker, is carrying basket weaving traditions forward into the next generation. Ursula went with her grandmother to the Yosemite museum and learned to weave there, the same way her mother did. Her own daughter, Naomi, is now learning in turn.

NORA LIVINGSTON is the Mono Lake Committee’s Lead Naturalist Guide and has worked as a field biologist all over California. She has spent a decade birding the Mono Basin, is an expert on Mono Basin birding locations, and holds the Mono County Big Day record after seeing 153 species on July 26, 2011.

BARTŠÉ MILLER is Eastern Sierra Policy Director at the Mono Lake Committee, where he works with agencies and scientists on the protection and restoration of Mono Lake and its tributary streams. He has lived in the Mono Basin for over 20 years, and subsequently no longer has space at home for more field guides.

KRISTIE NELSON has conducted ornithological fieldwork throughout much of the state and has been the project leader for California Gull research at Mono Lake since 2005. When not engaged in butterflying or birding, she is busy running a small diversified farm in the Mono Basin with her husband Joel.

MALCOLM NORTH is a research scientist in the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station and a professor in the Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis. He has studied Sierra Nevada forests for over 20 years, authored or co-authored over 150 papers, and worked with forest managers to apply research findings.

PENNY OTWELL paints full-time in oil, acrylic, and watercolor, often *en plein air* in Yosemite National Park. Penny has taught workshops in Yosemite at the Ansel Adams Gallery, Yosemite Art Center, and Parsons Memorial Lodge, and her work has been exhibited in galleries all over California.
**JULIA PARKER** is one of the famous basket weavers of California; the only weaver still practicing who was taught by women who wove in the early 20th century. She retired after 68 years as a cultural demonstrator in Yosemite, and was named a National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2007.

**LUCY PARKER** is Julia Parker’s daughter, and is a descendant of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika’a, and Kashaya Pomo peoples. She learned traditional handiwork from her mother, a master basket weaver, and passes on some of her knowledge in classes around California.

**RICHARD POTASHIN**, aka “Alkali Aspenowza,” is a longtime Eastern Sierra resident and past Mono Lake Committee intern and canoe guide who has been discovering and documenting aspen carvings for many years. He and his wife Nancy Hadlock have amassed an extensive Basque resource library.

**ANE CARLA ROVETTA** is a landscape painter known for her realistic depiction of our golden Western lands. Her formal training was as a zoologist, and like the artisans of the European Renaissance, she is committed to the practice and teaching of art and science as kindred disciplines.

**DAVE SHUFORD** is an expert birder, naturalist, and teacher, and was a full-time ornithologist with Point Blue Conservation Science for over 40 years until his recent retirement. His bird research included the ecology of Mono Lake’s California Gull colony and breeding birds in the Glass Mountain area.

**STEVE SHUNK** has studied the ecology of western forests from his home base of Sisters, OR for the last 16 years. He co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy, and he now lectures and leads birding tours. Steve is the author of the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America*.

**GREG STOCK** is the first-ever Yosemite National Park geologist, and has studied and interpreted the geology of the Sierra for over a decade. He has authored or co-authored over 50 papers and abstracts on Sierra Nevada geology, and is co-author of the book *Geology Underfoot in Yosemite National Park*.

**JEFF SULLIVAN** is a landscape photography and astrophotography workshop instructor, and author of the guidebook *Photographing California Vol. 2 – South*. His photography is licensed for use in magazines, books, websites, calendars, and his time-lapse videos have been featured in commercials and documentaries.

**ANDIE THRAMS** is a California-based visual watercolor artist. Merging the lineages of illuminated manuscripts and natural history field journals with a contemporary art and science awareness, her paintings evoke the complex interconnections within ecosystems of the greater West.

**DAVID WIMPFEIMER** has been teaching people about birds and the natural history of California for nearly 30 years. His connection with and love for Mono Lake started with educational work for the Mono Lake Committee in 1983 and continued as he rode in 11 Mono Lake Bike-A-Thons.
Become a Mono Lake Committee member for discounts and early registration

Field Seminars fill quickly every year—becoming a member for early registration is worth it! Call us at 760.647.6595 or visit monolake.org/seminars to join and sign up.