

# THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

Winter 1983

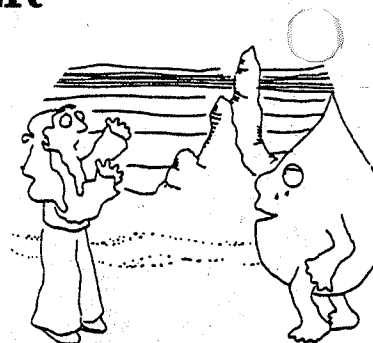
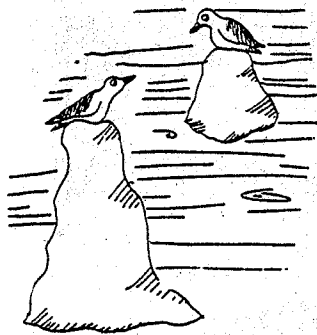
Vol. 5, No. 3



# THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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The *Mono Lake Newsletter* features updates on the latest developments affecting Mono Lake's future as well as articles on the natural, geological and human history of Mono and other Great Basin Lakes. We invite your comments and contributions. The newsletter is edited by the Mono Lake Committee in cooperation with the Mono Lake Coalition.



ON THE COVER: We could hardly believe our eyes, and old-timers say they've never seen it before: ice on Mono Lake from the west shore to Paoha Island. Our cover shows the view looking west from several hundred yards offshore. The ice resulted as much from fresh water inflow as from subfreezing weather (see p. 9).



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## The Mono Lake Committee

### LOS ANGELES OFFICE

1355 Westwood Blvd., Suite 212, Los Angeles, CA 90024  
(213) 477-8229

Ed Grosswiler.....Executive Director  
Kathleen Kaz.....Business Manager

### MONO LAKE OFFICE

P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386

Steve Catton.....Information Officer  
David Gaines.....Chairman and Editor  
Sally Judy Gaines.....Mail Clerk  
Debby Jewett.....Office Manager  
Dean Cutter and Paul Johnson.....Interns

### SACRAMENTO OFFICE

926 J St. Bldg., Room 914, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 448-1045

David Takemoto-Weerts.....Legislative Representative

### BAY AREA OFFICE

1045 Sansome Street, Room 219, San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 956-7532

Martin O'Malley.....Development Director

### OFFICERS

Ed Grosswiler.....Executive Director  
David Phillips.....Treasurer  
Genny Smith.....Secretary

### CORPORATE COUNSEL

John Paul Hollinrake, Attorney-at-Law  
145 South Washington St., Suite F  
P.O. Box 743, Sonora, CA 95307; (209) 533-2356

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Larry Ford

# Mono Lakewatch

## Rising Lake, Rising Spirits

On September 23, we awoke to a torrential rainstorm. The heaviest downpour in memory soaked the eastern Sierra with up to nine inches of rain in less than 24 hours. A dam on Bishop Creek gave way, and floods ravaged several Owens Valley communities.

For Mono Lake, the storm meant another drink of life-sustaining water. Only weeks before, the Los Angeles Department of Water (DWP) had "turned off" Lee Vining Creek, shunting its entire flow into the aqueduct system. Swollen by the storm, the creek cleared its diversion dam, and roared joyously to the lake.

Storms continued to buffet the Mono Basin throughout the autumn, generating what may be the highest runoff recorded in a calendar year—over 170% of average\*.

With reservoirs filled to capacity, DWP freed Mono's streams for most of the autumn. About 100,000 acre-feet replenished the lake during 1982, raising it to a January 1983 level of 6373.7 feet—24 inches higher than a year before, and 11 inches higher than in January, 1980!

Walking Mono's shores, we rejoiced to see the lake beginning to cover muck and alkali. Rising water even re-encircled Twain and Java Islets, where coyotes routed thousands of gulls last summer.

But we must not forget that Mono Lake is rising despite DWP, which continues to divert all the water its aqueduct

system can handle. During 1982 about 105,000 acre-feet were shunted into the aqueduct or stored in Grant Lake Reservoir. If this water had reached the lake, Mono would have risen another 2-3 feet and begun to flood the landbridge around Negit Island.

Indeed DWP could have halted all diversions this year. Alternative water supplies were readily available. But since DWP does not pay for the damage inflicted on Mono Lake, Mono Basin water appears cheaper.

On the other hand, DWP is finally acknowledging that a problem exists. In November, Chief Aqueduct Engineer Duane L. Georgeson announced that DWP "plans to provide additional fresh water along the shore of saline Mono Lake during times of California Gull nesting." Probably this means, not a reduction in diversions, but additional "bird enhancement projects" like last summer's spring-fed, 60-foot long "bird bath" on the south shore. Such projects won't save the lake, but may help the birds in the short run.

On another front, proposed revisions to the Los Angeles City Charter, endorsed by the Water and Power Commission, would give the city greater freedom to exchange or sell water rights. "We would be able to enter into agreements and

\* Mono Basin runoff has been accurately measured since the 1930s. The 1982 runoff ranks with 1938 and 1969 as the highest on record.

not lose our water rights by making it available to others," DWP Northern District Engineer Jim Wickser told the Sierra Daily News. "It fits in with the context of what we're talking about with Inyo County and the Mono Lake Committee . . . It might enable us to let someone use the water to save the lake, but without actually jeopardizing our right to it." The proposed charter revisions go to the City Council, and, if approved, to Los Angeles voters in the April general election.

Meanwhile, hopes are high for another wet winter. But nature's generosity will not last forever. It's up to us, Mono Lake's friends, to use this time to gather strength and support.

On behalf of Mono's millions of birds and trillions of shrimp, we thank you for your faith in our efforts, and wish you a happy, healthy, harmonious New Year!

## 1982 In Review

**FEBRUARY 2.** Congressman Norman Shumway (R-Stockton) and James Santini (D-Nevada) introduce HR 5424 to establish a Mono Lake National Monument and find ways to curtail diversions.

**MARCH 1.** California Assemblyman Norman Waters (D-Plymouth) introduces AB 2884 to fund Mono Lake research; the bill passes the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee unopposed, but dies in Ways and Means due to lack of funds.

**MAY 3.** California Supreme Court hears oral arguments on whether the "public trust doctrine" can be invoked to limit water diversions and save Mono Lake; by year's end, the court has yet to hand down a decision.

**MAY 18.** National Monument legislation is heard by the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks in Washington D.C.; Chairman John F. Seiberling (D-Ohio) assails Los Angeles for its "rigid position" on Mono Lake.

**MAY-JUNE.** For the third spring, adult brine shrimp populations are down to less than 10% of those recorded in 1979; however, numbers rebound to record highs in mid-July, and remain high through autumn.

**JULY 6.** The annual census of Mono Lake's California Gull colonies tallies only 5,010 chicks compared to 11,698 last year, 28,197 in 1980 and 35,500 in 1976; however, the chicks are healthier than last year, and an estimated 3,900 fledged, compared to 1,500 in 1981.

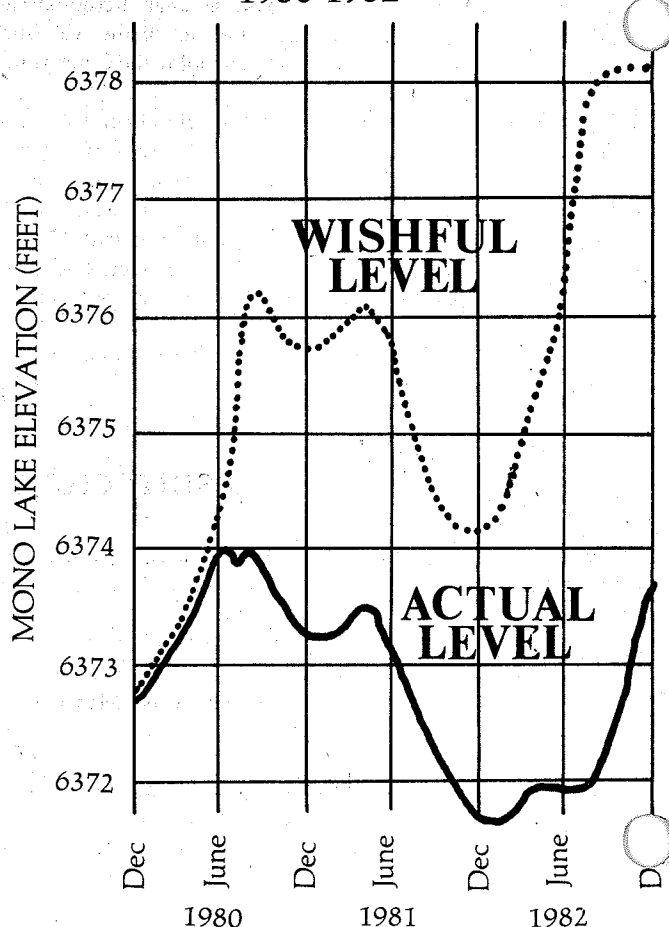
**JULY 6.** Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, responding to requests by California Senate Majority Leader John Garamendi, Assemblyman Norman Waters and 47 other state legislators, expresses concern for "environmental problems associated with Mono Lake."

**AUGUST-OCTOBER.** Phalaropes, grebes and other migratory birds return in their usual high numbers, thriving on the copious shrimp; over 70,000 people visit California's newest state park, the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, and visitation for the year exceeds 100,000.

**NOVEMBER 19.** Congressman John Seiberling tours the Mono Craters and Mono Lake, and is impressed by their national park stature.

## Actual and Wishful Levels of Mono Lake

1980-1982



Nature has been generous, blessing the Mono Lake watershed with near record runoffs in 1980 and 1982. While DWP took every drop it could, there was more runoff than the aqueduct system could handle. And, as shown by the lower, solid "actual" line on the graph, the lake level rose in 1980 and 1982, reaching 6373.7 feet at the beginning of this year—24 inches higher than a year before, and 11 inches higher than in January, 1980.

But what if DWP had adopted a "wet year/dry year" approach, limiting diversions to dry years when water was really needed? What if diversions had been halted in 1980 and 1982 when alternative supplies were readily available? Then, as shown by the upper, dotted "wishful" line on the graph, the lake would have risen to about 6378 feet by the beginning of this year, 4½ feet above its level in January, 1980. It would have flooded the Negit Island land-bridge three feet deep, and lured back the gulls. Most importantly, it would have given Mono Lake's ecosystem a margin of safety in the event of drought.

*The "wishful" graph was prepared in consultation with Peter Vorster, hydrologist.*

## Mono in the Media

Mono Lake's plight continues to attract the attention of the media. The November 8 Santa Ana Register, for example, featured a major, front page article entitled *Mono Lake's Troubled Waters*. This sensitive, balanced article, illustrated with color photographs, reached about 220,000 Orange County residents.

The 190,000 readers of the Sacramento Bee were greeted by a stunning half-page color photograph of Mono Lake on November

21. The article, *Mono Lake—Going...Going...Gone?*, concluded that "Mono could be saved without moving icebergs or diverting rivers . . . the best solution is the least complex: simple conservation measures."

Congressman Seiberling's site inspection of the proposed Mono Lake National Monument received extensive coverage in local and Central Valley papers such as the Fresno Bee.



## No Need for Diversions in '83

Not a drop need be diverted from Mono Lake's tributary streams to meet the water needs of Angelenos this year. Reservoirs and groundwater basins are filled to capacity in all of the watersheds from which Los Angeles draws its water, including the Colorado and Sacramento rivers.

A December report, for instance, projects flood control releases along the Colorado River of 700,000 to 800,000 acre-feet in January alone. If above average precipitation continues, similar amounts will be released in February and March as well. This means that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) could provide DWP with hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of additional water without jeopardizing any of its Southern California contractors.

In the past, however, DWP has chosen to take as much as it can

from Mono Lake regardless of the availability of alternative supplies. The Mono water is less expensive, and generates hydroelectric power as it flows down the aqueduct.

Apparently that policy has yet to change. In the November-December issue of *Intake*, DWP's in-house magazine, a new reservoir is extolled, not because it would enable DWP to curtail environmentally destructive diversions from Mono Lake, but because it would "save Los Angeles money by lessening the need for the DWP to buy more expensive water from the MWD."

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** When writing legislators and public officials on Mono Lake's behalf, emphasize that replacement water is readily available from the Colorado River and State Water Project this year.

## Resurrecting the Task Force Plan

Three years ago, it seemed as though a solution were at hand. An Interagency Mono Lake Task Force had just released its recommendations: curtail diversions and raise the lake.

The California Department of Water Resources convened the Interagency Task Force in December, 1978. Representatives from Water Resources, Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Mono County and DWP were charged with developing "a plan of action to preserve and protect the natural resources of the Mono Basin, considering economic and social factors." One year later, after 16 meetings, 3 public workshops and three public hearings, the Task Force issued its final report.

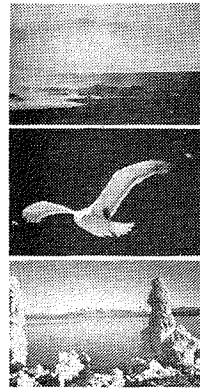
The Task Force Plan is a compromise. It would not end diversions or restore Mono Lake to pristine conditions. It would raise the lake to its 1970 elevation of 6,388 feet—high enough to safeguard gull rookeries and reduce, but not eliminate dust pollution. Its key points:

1. Los Angeles reduces water diversions on the average from 100,000 to 15,000 acre-feet per year until Mono Lake returns to an elevation of 6,388 feet. During drought conditions, however, diversions could be increased to meet demand.
2. L.A. residents reduce water consumption through installation of flush-reducing toilet dams, low-flow shower heads and similar water-conserving devices.
3. Los Angeles reclaims wastewater for use in irrigation, industry and groundwater recharge.
4. Within six years, conservation and reclamation reduce Los Angeles water consumption by more than the 85,000 acre-feet per year needed by the lake.
5. Costs are shared by the State of California, Los Angeles and the federal government; costs to L.A. residents average 54 cents per person per year, about a penny per week.

We were ecstatic, for here was a government report that we could support. Unfortunately, the Task Force could only recommend a solution. Moreover, DWP bitterly fought its findings.

"There is no scientific evidence whatsoever," DWP told the California legislature in 1980, "that the use by Los Angeles of Mono Lake water is highly detrimental to Mono Lake." The Task Force recommendations, it contended, are "unrealistic" and "unreasonable." Exercising its political muscle, DWP stifled all attempts to implement the Task Force Plan.

We emerged from the fray tattered but wiser. The Task Force Report was distorted or ignored. Facts mattered less than political power. We were defeated by the clout of a powerful utility.



### Report of Interagency Task Force on Mono Lake

December 1979



Yet we put up a better fight than expected. Thousands of Mono's friends lobbied their legislators on the lake's behalf. An amended version of the Task Force Plan reached the Assembly floor, where it received a majority of the votes cast, but fell 15 short of the two-thirds needed for passage.

We learned we could ultimately challenge DWP's power by building broad grassroots support that includes Southern Californians. Now, three years later, we are on the verge of becoming an effective political force.

As we mature politically, we need to keep the Task Force Report alive. For it is more than a way to save Mono Lake. It is a plea for the conservation and husbandry of our natural resources. It is a step on the path toward a sustainable future.

# Legislative and Legal Update

## Mono Impresses National Parks Subcommittee

"A photographer's paradise," remarked Ohio Congressman John Seiberling. "This is the most impressive place I've seen on this trip."

The influential chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks had toured Bryce, Zion and other national parks in four western states before arriving at Mono on November 19. Followed by a flock of three dozen aides, agency personnel, DWP officials and MLC'ers, Seiberling hiked to the rim on Panum Crater, wandered among the south shore's tufa and savored the view from Conway Summit. An avid photographer, he snapped countless pictures of volcanoes, tufa spires and snow-mantled peaks. The Mono Lake region, he concluded, is "beautiful, absolutely beautiful" and deserving of national park protection.

Joining Seiberling was Rep. James Santini of Nevada, who co-authored Norman Shumway's Mono Lake National Monument legislation. "Congress," Santini said, "is not going to stand around and watch Mono Lake die."

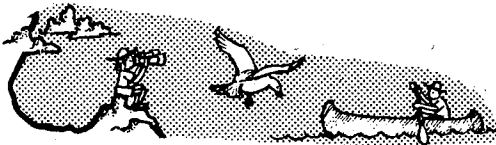
While the two Congressmen acknowledged that many hurdles must be cleared before Mono Lake could be declared a national monument—particularly objections from the Reagan administration—they felt that progress was being made.

At a hearing in Washington D.C. last May, Seiberling assailed a panel of Los Angeles and DWP officials for taking a "rigid position" that could be summed up as "L.A. to Mono Lake: Drop Dead." He was especially critical of DWP for supporting research while refusing to curtail diversions.

Six months, he found, had not changed DWP's position. Chief Aqueduct Engineer Duane L. Georgeson told Seiberling that Los Angeles depends on the Mono Basin for water and hydroelectric power, and cannot afford to reduce diversions.

This was disputed by MLC's Chairman David Gaines, who appealed for an "equitable compromise" that meets the needs of both Los Angeles and the lake. Gaines explained that current diversion rates will ultimately doom the Mono Lake ecosystem. Also pleading Mono's cause were MLC's Executive Director Ed Grosswiler and Legislative Representative David Takemoto-Weerts, as well as the Sierra Club's effective Southern California Field Representative Barbara Blake.

While noting that a national monument or other federal designation will recognize the legitimate water concerns of Los Angeles, Seiberling emphasized that diversions cannot continue at their present level. "If you could bring the people of Los Angeles up here and show them this lake," he concluded, "we could save it."



Congressman John Seiberling (D-Ohio), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, leads the way during the November 19 site inspection of the proposed Mono Lake National Monument.

## Report from Sacramento

The November elections are cause for both sadness and hopeful anticipation. The Mono Lake Committee will miss its many friends in state government who are going on to other endeavors, but we also look forward to working with new appointees and lawmakers in the months and years ahead.

A special note of gratitude goes to Huey Johnson, departing Resources Secretary, for his invaluable efforts on behalf of Mono Lake from the beginning of our campaign. We wish him the best success with the "Evergreen Caucus," an environmental alternative to the major political parties.

Early in 1983, Assemblyman Norman Waters will reintroduce the Mono Lake Research Bill. While it enjoys broad support, its chances are dimmed by the state's fiscal difficulties. We will be making every effort to impress upon lawmakers, especially new legislators, the need for funding the thorough, objective research this bill would authorize.

Over the next few months, we will be devoting considerable time to another crucial task: educating new legislators and agency appointees about the Mono Lake issue.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Please continue to write, call and visit your legislators on Mono Lake's behalf. This is particularly important if your representative is newly elected. Urge their support for the Mono Lake Research Bill, and enlist their help in finding a way to curtail water diversions and save the lake. Only through your help can we keep Mono Lake alive, both as an ecosystem and as a political/public issue. If you would like to learn more and get involved politically, please contact David Takemoto-Weerts in Sacramento at (916) 448-1045.

## Legal Update: Still Waiting

We are **still** on the edge of our seats waiting for the California Supreme Court's crucial ruling on whether the "public trust doctrine" can be invoked to limit water diversions and save Mono Lake. This lawsuit, filed against DWP by the National Audubon Society, Mono Lake Committee, Friends of the Earth and local Mono Basin residents in 1979, was heard on appeal by the state's highest court last May. We expected a ruling last fall, but the justices are

deliberating carefully on what will be a far-reaching, landmark decision.

Meanwhile, a related suit filed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council is on hold pending the state Supreme Court's ruling. This suit, filed against the Secretary of the Interior in 1979, asks the federal government to assert "reserved water rights" to "amounts of water sufficient to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation of Mono Lake and Negit Island."

## DWP Must Obtain Air Quality Permits for Diversions

The Great Basin Air Pollution Control District (APCD) hearing board ruled November 28 that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) must obtain air quality permits for its water diversions in Inyo and Mono counties.

Last February, APCD Director Charles L. Fryxell advised DWP that its water diversions were subject to permit requirements, and requested DWP to apply for "Permits to Operate." In justifying this action, the APCD maintained that "air contaminants in the form of dust and other particulate matter have been and continue to be blown off the exposed portions of Mono Lake and Owens Dry Lake, causing an intermittent but frequent air pollution problem in the Mono Basin and Owens Valley."

In June, DWP gave written notice of its refusal to apply for permits to operate its water diversion facilities, protesting that the APCD could use the permit process to restrict Los Angeles' water supply.

Meanwhile, when leases were sold in the promising Coso "Known Geothermal Resource Area" last spring, DWP was the highest bidder. In order to proceed with development, however, DWP needed a permit from the APCD. DWP was told in effect, you can have your permit after you obtain permits for your Inyo-Mono diversions.

At the hearing, DWP argued that it does not need diversion permits, since none of the diversion facilities actually emit pollutants. It also maintained that the pollution isn't much of a problem, and that there is no connection between geothermal development and its water system activities.\*

Fryxell countered that the diversion structures are stationary sources ultimately leading to airborne pollutants, and hence subject to control by the board as provided in the Clean Air Act and other legislation. He noted that the Anacondo Mining Company needed to obtain permits because winds were blowing dust off tailing piles into nearby communities.

The hearing board agreed, voting unanimously to deny DWP's appeal and affirming the APCD's action in requiring permits for water diversion facilities. DWP may appeal the decision to the California Supreme Court.

\* Average consumptive water requirements for geothermal development are estimated at 100 acre-feet/year/megawatt by the US Department of Energy, US Geological Survey and California Department of Water Resources. The Coso area, if developed by DWP to its full 650 megawatt potential, might require 65,000 acre-feet/year—more than enough to stabilize Mono Lake!

Mono has a friend in Richard Lehman, newly elected Congressman from California's 18th district, which includes the lake. During his campaign, Lehman emphasized Mono's importance, and proposed making it part of Yosemite National Park.

## Prop. 13 Postmortem

by Kevin Wolf

California Water Protection Council

On November 2, Prop. 13, the Water Conservation and Efficiency Initiative, was soundly defeated in both northern and southern California. Nevertheless, Prop. 13 did succeed in awakening many Californians to the need for water policy reform.

During the week before the election, those of us walking precincts realized that the likelihood of winning was plummeting daily. The No on 13 campaign struck with a blitzkrieg. During the last seven days, over \$500,000 was spent on full page newspaper ads, numerous TV and radio spots and evermore billboards. In northern California, the electorate was saturated with commercials that completely distorted Prop. 13's effect. For instance, one frequent commercial claimed that "Prop. 13 will increase the pressure to send more water south . . . So if you thought the Peripheral Canal was defeated in June, think again . . . Unless you Vote No on Prop. 13." We could not convince radio and TV stations to pull these fallacious ads.

We felt the effect immediately. Undecided voters repeated what they had learned from the advertisements: "I don't want that Peripheral Canal, I'm voting No . . ."

After talking to such a voter, we were able to change most from a No to Yes vote. Our best one-liner was, "Prop. 13 says that if water conservation is less expensive, then it must be implemented before a Peripheral Canal, dam or any major new water project is built in California."

On election night, it was clear we had failed to get this message across. For instance, one San Francisco newscaster commented that "It looks like the people of California voted against the Peripheral Canal in June, and they're doing it again here in November."

What will be the consequences of Prop. 13's defeat? Agribusiness, the California Chamber of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, Southern California water districts and other interests will proclaim the vote as a mandate to ship more water south. During the next session of the California legislature, we will probably see renewed efforts to authorize a Peripheral Canal, a cross-delta facility or some other means of shipping water around or through the delta. We will see a move to remove California's north coast rivers from wild and scenic status, a first step toward damming and diverting them south.

But "business as usual" water development will face vigorous opposition, thanks in part to Prop. 13. For the Water Conservation Initiative, while defeated, convinced many people of the need for water policy reform. Most of California's major newspapers endorsed Prop. 13, including the Los Angeles Times. "In a year and a half," reflected Hap Dunning, UC law professor and chair of the Prop. 13 campaign, "we have developed a solid one-third electorate for future water conservation measures."



David Gaine

# Destruction of Riparian Habitat Due to Water Development in the Mono Lake Watershed

by Scott Stine, David Gaines and Peter Vorster

*This article is condensed from a paper presented at the California Riparian Systems Conference, University of California, Davis, September 17-19, 1981. Proceedings from this important symposium are currently in press. "Riparian habitat" denotes the wildlife-rich plant communities that grow along the banks and shores of streams, ponds and lakes.*

Prior to the large-scale manipulation of stream flow in the Mono Basin, the lower reaches of Parker, Walker, Rush and Lee Vining creeks were bordered by woodland, wet meadow and marsh vegetation. The depressions now occupied by Waugh Lake and Grant Lake Reservoir supported extensive stands of marsh and wet meadow. This paper briefly describes the former extent of this wetland vegetation, and documents its destruction due to water impoundment and diversion.

Rush, Parker, Walker and Lee Vining creeks head at the 10,500 to 13,000 foot crest of the Sierra Nevada. The streams debouch from their bedrock canyons at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 8,000 feet, then flow seven to 10 miles across the floor of the Mono Basin to Mono Lake.

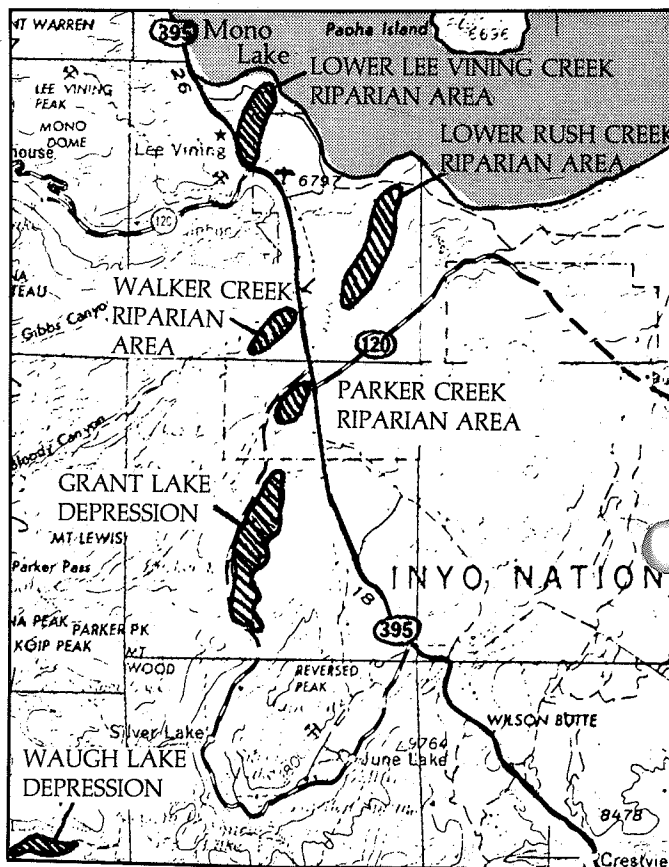
These streams, which under natural conditions account for approximately 75 percent of the surface inflow to Mono Lake, are fed primarily by snowmelt. Peak flows are usually attained in May, June and July. By September of the average year, flows in the bedrock reaches of the streams have declined significantly. Along the basin floor, however, groundwater from the loose, unconsolidated sediments continues to feed the creeks.

The streams themselves constitute the main source of this groundwater. As they cross their alluvial fans and piedmont slopes, a substantial amount of flow is absorbed by the coarse sediments. The water is then slowly returned to the streams in their lower reaches. Stream flow in these basin reaches thus remains substantial during the dry months of later summer and fall. Even during prolonged (5-10 year) periods of drought, groundwater keeps the lower creek reaches flowing.

It was along these perennially flowing, lower reaches of Rush, Walker, Parker and Lee Vining creeks, and in the Grant and Waugh lake depressions, that the most luxuriant wetland vegetation in the Mono Basin was found. Dense groves of aspen, black cottonwood, willow, jeffrey pine and probably mountain alder, interspersed with meadows and cattail marshes, formed riparian corridors that followed the streams practically to the shores of Mono Lake. Over 600 acres of this wetland mosaic laced eight to 10 miles of river course. Early maps indicate that the Grant and Waugh lake depressions supported 500 acres or more of wet meadow and marshland.

These riparian habitats had considerable esthetic, recreational and wildlife values. John Muir wrote glowingly of lower Rush Creek in 1894. In 1924 Joseph Grinnell pointed out the importance of the basin's cattail marshes to birds such as the Least Bittern. The alluvial reaches of Rush Creek are said to have supported the finest brown trout fishery in the eastern Sierra. And, until recently, the riparian areas were used extensively by picnickers, hikers and duck hunters.

While small-scale stream diversions for irrigation, mining and milling occurred in the Mono Basin as early as the 1850s, it was not until the early years of the 20th century that water development escalated to significantly impact the region's riparian vegetation. Around 1915 a dam was constructed by the Cain Irrigation District to impound water in the Grant Lake depression. This small reservoir was en-



A portion of the USGS Mariposa 1:250,000 sheet (1957), showing major riparian areas in the Mono Basin that have been destroyed due to water impoundment and diversion.

larged in 1926. The Waugh Lake depression underwent similar modification in 1925 when the Southern Sierra Power Company built a small dam across upper Rush Creek.

In 1930 Los Angeles voters approved a \$38 million bond issue to finance the extension of the City's aqueduct northward from the Owens Valley into the Mono Basin. By 1934 Los Angeles had consolidated its rights to the basin's principal streams. Six years later workers completed a network of pipelines and impoundments; this included the further enlargement of Grant Lake Reservoir. The following year, in 1941, the first diversions of water from the Mono Basin began.

During the next 30 years an average of 55,000 acre feet of Mono Basin water per year was turned southward; an average of 40,000 acre feet per year, however, continued to flow down the creeks on an irregular basis.

In 1970, with the completion of a second Owens Valley aqueduct, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power substantially in-



# The Mono Naturalist

## Snow and Ice

Autumn turned to winter on the last day of November. A wild, house-shaking storm piled a foot of snow along Mono's shores. On its heels came the poconip, a dense, frosty fog. For weeks, we never saw the sun, while the thermometer hovered below freezing.

On the eve of the solstice, a violent wind scattered the poconip. We awoke to see the eastern sky aflame, the solstice sun illumining layer upon layer of lenticular clouds. By evening, it was blizzarding.

Then the fog returned, settling on the lake like a cold, gray blanket and enclosing the tufa in frosty solitude. Every shrub and tree was suddenly adorned with icy white crystals of exquisite delicacy. The cries of geese and swans wandered out of the mist. One morning in late December, 110 Whistling Swans materialized in the white sky, and settled onto the lake ice like snowy phantoms.

Ice? On Mono Lake? Don't the salts prevent the lake from freezing?

Well, yes, yes, and usually. During extended periods of calm, cold weather, inflowing fresh water collects on top of Mono's denser salt water, and freezes into sheets. Typically, the sheets are as thin as glass, and only form near freshwater springs, as along the north shore. This year was different.

By mid January, the ice pack was several inches thick and covered approximately half of Mono Lake's surface. Ice extended from the west shore all the way to Paoha Island, and was solid enough for ice skaters and cross country skiers. After cautious exploration, we found ourselves zooming over the frozen surface among gleaming, frosted tufa. Ice crystals sparkled with rainbow colors. Frozen in the ice were countless brine shrimp, while on a small patch of open water, a lone Eared Grebe was diving for dinner.

Not even oldtimers recall so much ice. Weeks of subfreezing weather do not account for it, as it gets this cold almost every year. Rather it was the flood of water that poured into Mono Lake this fall and winter, water that DWP could not divert. During the weeks of calm, cold weather, this fresh water collected and froze into many square miles of ice, covering virtually the entire western half of the lake.



Ice-skating on Mono Lake, the Mono Craters in the background.

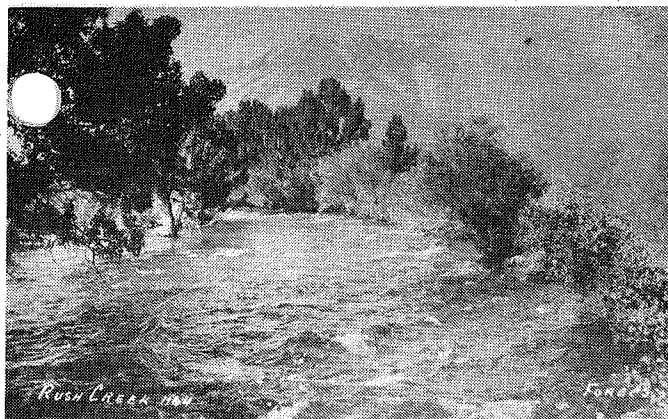


Photo courtesy of Enid Larson.

Rush Creek about 0.1 mile southwest of Highway 395, ca. 1920.



The same stretch of Rush Creek in 1981. A trout stream has become a wash.

creased its take of Mono Basin water. During the past decade nearly the entire flow of Rush, Parker, Walker, and Lee Vining creeks has been diverted southward. Effective groundwater replenishment has ceased. Except for brief periods in 1978 and 1980 the streams have remained essentially dry below the diversion dams.

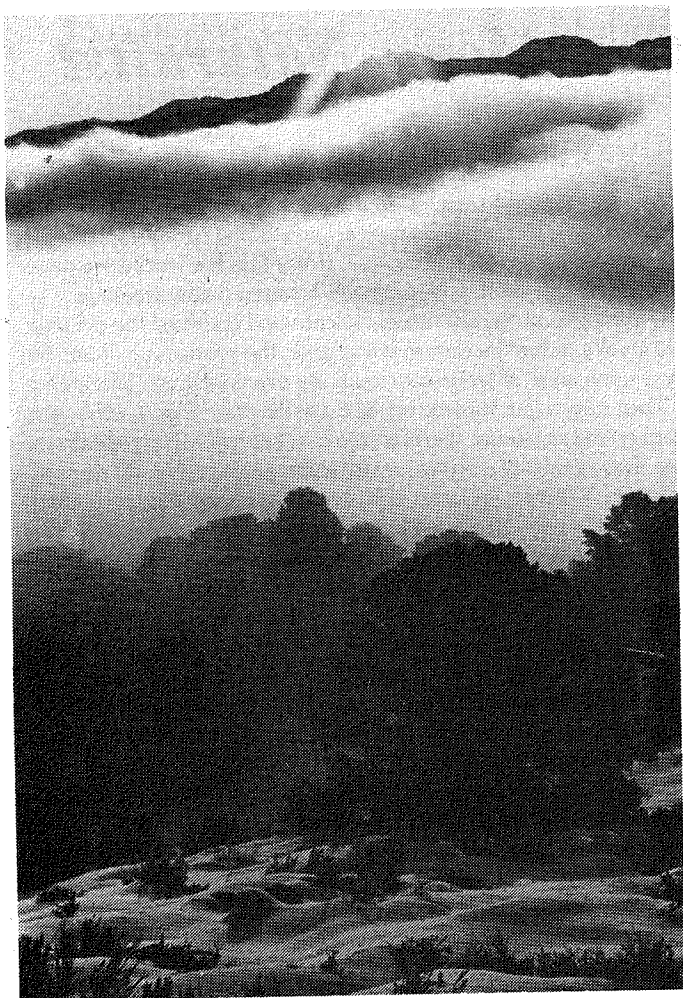
The early impoundment of water behind the Grant and Waugh Lake dams led to the immediate loss of some 350 acres of riparian habitat. Later enlargement of the Grant Lake Reservoir by DWP flooded an additional 150 acres of marshland and meadow.

The destruction of streamside wetlands occurred more gradually. By the early 1950s the riparian vegetation along Lee Vining Creek was so desiccated that fire was able to consume some 100 acres of woodland. During the early 1970s the arboreal vegetation along the lower creek reaches is said to have been brown and withered. Photographs from 1978 show clearly that little live vegetation remains along the once extensive Rush Creek wetland.

Today the marshes and wet meadows that once lined the basin stretches of the streams have vanished entirely. Most of the deciduous trees have died. The few jeffrey pines that remain are not establishing seedlings. Streambanks have been colonized by sagebrush and rabbitbrush.

Restoration of riparian habitat would require a reduction in pre-diversions and maintenance of minimum stream flows throughout the year.

Scott Stine is a graduate student and lecturer in the Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley. David Gaines is a biologist as well as MLC's chairman and editor. Peter Vorster is a consulting hydrologist with Philip Williams and Associates, San Francisco.



During the cold, calm days following winter snow storms, moist lake air cools and condenses over Mono's snow-covered shores to form dense, freezing fog called *poconip*.

Despite the cold, birds were relatively numerous. Until mid December, gulls numbered in the thousands, ducks in the tens of thousands and grebes in the hundreds of thousands. Ring-billed Gulls were as numerous as Californias, and were joined by several other species. Shovelers, Green-winged Teal and other waterfowl darkened the southeast shore. During most of November and December, an adult Bald Eagle patrolled the tufa groves. On the last day of 1982, 72 species were tallied on the Mono Lake Christmas Bird Count, an all-time high. Among the autumn's *turn of events* were an Arctic Loon, Ross' Geese, a pair of Black (Common) Scoters, Wood Ducks, a Red Phalarope, Short-eared Owls, a Nuttall's Woodpecker, flocks of Tree Sparrows, and Harris, White-throated and Swamp Sparrows.



After a day of poconip, Mono's vegetation is suddenly adorned with delicate ice crystals.

David Gaines

## Magma Movement Triggers Mono Quakes

Geologists are virtually certain that the thousands of earthquakes that shook the Mono Lake-Mammoth Lakes region in early January were triggered by the movement of molten magma deep within the earth. What they cannot tell is in what direction the blob of magma is moving, or whether a volcanic eruption is imminent. Two of the jolts registered in the magnitude 5-6 category, but caused very little damage. We're keeping our eyes on the Mono Craters!

## Yosemite-Mono Lake Birdwatching Classes

MLC Chairman and bird-freak David Gaines will be leading 3-day field classes on the birds of the Yosemite-Mono Lake region June 11-13 and June 25-27. The first course will be oriented toward beginners, the latter toward people with some birdwatching experience. There is a \$55 fee payable to the *Yosemite Natural History Association*; 2 units of college credit are available for an additional \$32. For more information or to enroll, please contact: THE YOSEMITE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 545, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CA 95389.

## Friends of the Earth:

### More Friends Needed!

Over the years, Friends of the Earth has been among the most effective national organizations battling for the environment and a sustainable future. From the beginning, FOE has fought hard to save Mono Lake, joining MLC and the National Audubon Society in our crucial "public trust" lawsuit, testifying in Sacramento and Washington D.C., and spearheading educational efforts, such as the "At Mono Lake" photographic exhibit.

*Friends of the Earth* has always adhered to the maxim, "a conservation group that isn't broke isn't doing its job." Perhaps a little too vigorously, for FOE is currently facing a financial crisis.

If you are not already a FOE member, please consider joining this hardworking organization. Or if you already belong, consider giving a subscription to a friend or local library. Your membership includes a subscription to the outstanding environmental newsmagazine *Man Apart*.

To join *Friends of the Earth*, please send your donation for \$25 (regular), \$35 (supporting), \$60 (contributing), \$100 (sponsor), \$250 (sustaining), \$1,000 (life), or \$12 (retired or student/low income) to: Friends of the Earth, 1045 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

## Projects for Volunteers

Mono Lake will not be saved by the government or any environmental organization, but by individuals volunteering their time and energy to a cause in which they deeply believe.

In 1978, when few people had heard of the lake, a handful of volunteers organized the Mono Lake Committee. Two years passed before we even paid sub-subsistence salaries. Today we are a bit more generous, but still depend primarily on volunteers.

Many of the educational and fundraising activities reported on these pages were organized by volunteers. In addition, volunteers have played crucial roles in lobbying the California legislature and Congress.

You can get involved by writing or calling any of our offices (addresses and phone numbers on inside front cover).



Plant grass roots in your community! Our Lee Vining intern, Dean Cutter, has assembled project ideas ranging from displays and slide shows to letter-writing campaigns and fundraisers. If any of the following appeal to you, Dean will gladly provide materials, guidance and support.

**MONO LAKE DISPLAYS.** We provide a set of photographs and captions which may be pasted or pinned onto a 32" by 40" poster or display area. Specify if a larger space is available. These displays are perfect for schools, libraries, museums, parks, city halls and other public places.

**INFORMATION TABLE.** Station yourself on campus, at a fair or a shopping center, and distribute Mono Lake brochures, bumper stickers and membership forms. Incorporate a display with your information table.

**SLIDE PROGRAM.** We provide an inspiring 30-minute slide show accompanied by a cassette narration and script. You advance slides while following the script. With a little practice, anyone can give an effective, professional presentation. You supply projector, tape player and a \$35 refundable deposit. These programs are ideal for schools, libraries, museums, organizations and private homes.

**BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION.** Ask businesses in your community if you may leave Mono Lake brochures at their stores for free distribution to their customers. And ask them if they are interested in selling our posters, books or T-shirts (we wholesale to retail stores). We have found that many businesses, especially those oriented toward outdoor recreation, are delighted to help us spread the word. Often it is possible to arrange an evening slide program at their stores.

**LETTERWRITING.** Encourage friends and neighbors to write legislators, public officials and newspapers on Mono Lake's behalf. We supply information on whom to write, and hints of what to say.

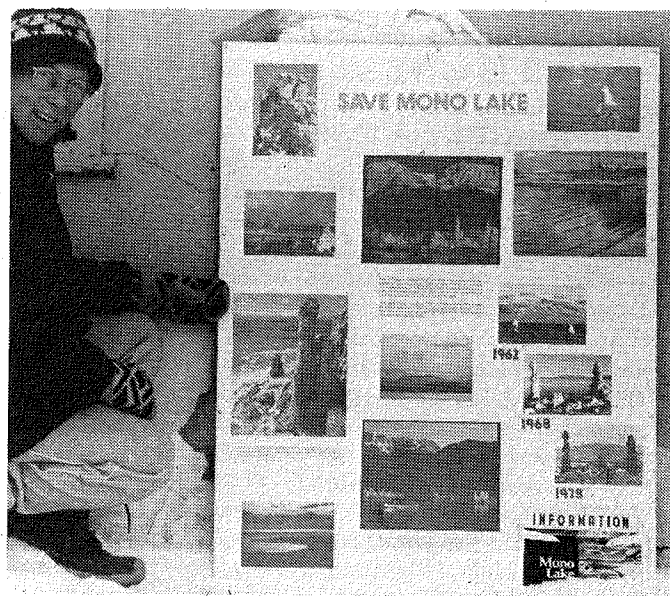
**LIBRARIES.** Find out if public and school libraries in your community have the Mono Lake Guidebook and receive the Mono Lake Newsletter. We will provide these publications to libraries and schools at cost—\$2.00 for the Guidebook, \$3.00 for a year's subscription to the Newsletter.

**FIELD TRIPS.** Organize a Mono Lake field trip from your school, organization or community. The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve leads guided tours. We can provide information on camping and accommodations, and present a slide show and update upon your arrival at the lake.

**FUNDRAISERS.** Bake sales, auctions, drawings, art shows, aluminium drives, runs and cruises are just a few of the ways volunteers have raised funds for saving Mono Lake. We provide guidance and encouragement, and work with you to assure compliance with non-profit fundraising laws.

Other ideas? Please let us know. Get in touch with Dean Cutter at our Lee Vining office, and help us save the lake!

Dean Cutter, Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386.



Mono Lake displays are ideal for schools, libraries, museums, park and other public places.

# Volunteer Fundraisers

## Phil Floyd Braves Snow, Rain To Raise Dollars for Mono

On November 3, 230 days and 2,700 miles after setting out, Phil Floyd completed his epic hike from Mexico to Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Originally, Phil planned to hike 3,300 miles, but weather conditions forced him to omit 600 miles of side trips. "I must jog my memory to remember much sun," he says, "but I think I saw it a few times, people said they had seen it, and one fine lady even described it to me!" He spent 80 days trudging through snow, 40 days slogging through rain and 27 days waiting out storms in his tent. On the other hand, he hiked one 47 mile stretch in 100° heat . . . with little water.

Of nearly 200 hikers attempting the Pacific Crest Trail last year, only eight completed the hike.

Phil's journey had a noble goal: saving Mono Lake. On his own initiative, he gathered about \$3,000 in pledges, and is actively soliciting more. All proceeds will be donated to the Mono Lake Committee.

In December, Phil joined our Lee Vining crew for dinner, and regaled us with slides and stories from his long hike. Vicariously we wandered through desert scrub, teetered on logs across swollen streams, traversed glaciers and volcanoes, and camped night after night in the endless snow.

For four mornings, Phil awoke to a ring of coyotes watching his camp. They were interested in his Irish setter, Kam, who had recently come into heat. Another time a trio of Pine Martens filched his soup. Phil also encountered mountain lions, black bears, grizzly tracks, porcupines and other wildlife.

All in all it was a rewarding trip both for Phil and the Mono Lake cause!

## Cruisin' the Bay For Mono Lake

Dear MLC'ers

Just a note on the San Francisco Bay Cruise that took place last Sunday, October 17. It was a beautiful day: clear, sunny, warm, and the Bay was flat calm. Peter Vorster did a great job of giving a history of the Bay, the tides, freshwater inflow and impact of a peripheral canal, and then went on to fill us in on Proposition 13 and the whole system of water use in the state. Lyman Fancher, an Audubon Society warden and Harbor Seal biologist, talked about seals, striped bass and fish introduced to the Delta. I pointed out birds to the crowd, which included many Auduboners and bird-watchers. We saw California Gulls and a flock of about 25 roosting White-tailed Kites, and a Parasitic Jaeger flew right off our bow.

Beautiful "gangplank" prizes were donated by Hisao Tokota (a silk screen print of California poppies), Galen Rowell (his book *High and Wild*), Solargraphics (notecards and print kits), and the Audubon Society (ice bucket and brass bird).

Mildred Bennett did a superb job of putting the whole affair together. Everyone had a good time. This is a good event, and one that we ought to repeat.

...Chris Swarth

*The Bay Cruise benefit attracted 220 monophiles, and raised \$1,200 toward saving the lake!*

## Thank You, Hikeathon Sponsors!

Phil Floyd and the Mono Lake Committee extend their gratitude to everyone who sponsored his epic trek. We are especially grateful to the following Mono County businesses:

<b>Mammoth Lakes</b>	Mammoth Lakes Laundromat
Blueberries Bakery	Mammoth Liquors
Booky Joint	Mammoth Sporting Goods
Bus Stop Cafe	Minaret Gallery
Complete Foot	Red Rooster Restaurant
Country Liquor Deli	Rick Miller's Sports and Trails
Dr. Dean Donato	Sandy's Ski and Sports
Exquisite Video Entertainment	Snow's Corral
Forstenzer and Rudder	The Ski Renter
Frank's Hardware	The Store (for Natural Foods)
Frank's Liquors	<b>Lee Vining</b>
Kittredge Sport Shop	Best Western Motel
Kittle Printing	



## Arts Drawing Successful

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of many people, the November 19 Benefit Arts Drawing at the REI Coop Store in Berkeley raised over \$3,000 for the Mono Lake cause.

Winners of the many prizes came from as far away as Maryland. The grand prize, an original tapestry by Rusty Brockman, was won by M. Maier of Albany. Lady Jill Mueller's watercolor painting went to a Yosemite resident, Mary Jo Rae Wurgler, and Stephen Johnson's haunting color photograph went to Chris Nelson of Oakland. We are deeply grateful to these artists for donating their work, and to the National Audubon Society for contributing the remainder of the prizes.

The Benefit Arts Drawing owes its success to Mildred Bennett, one of Mono Lake's best friends and supporters. After visiting the lake two years ago, Mildred became involved in the fight to save it. "I had never realized the desert sea was so full of life and beauty," she told the Times Journal and Berkeley Gazette, "I was impressed with what it stood for." She suggested a few fundraising ideas, and suddenly found herself organizing cruises and drawings!

With the Arts Drawing, Mildred coordinated a true group effort. She writes, "to all these people and organizations I extend a heart-felt thank you. I have found working on these projects most interesting and gratifying. Mono Lake is making a lot of friends, and their devotion will, indeed, save it."

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPECIAL PEOPLE. Alpine House of Kentfield, Sierra Designs and REI Coop of Berkeley displayed the tapestry, and the latter two permitted us to sell drawing tickets at a table at their stores. The Ski Hut and the Berkeley Coop carried flyers and tickets. The Golden Gate Audubon Society and Bay Area Sierra Club newsletters gave generously of their space to publicize both the drawing and the bay cruise. The following Monophiles helped publicize the drawing, sell tickets and manage lot: Keith Bennett, Becky Evans, Wilma Felzer, Tom Fisher, Michael Hoke, Owen Hughes, Ann Kadyk, Chrisman Kearns, Shirley Kelly, Richard Kilbourne, Laura Levy, Suzanne Luther-Methwin, Tad Niccolls, Diana Nolan, Marian Reeve, Barbara Rowell, Genevieve Sattler, Margie Sauer, Erwin Strohmaier, Paul Swank and Betty Warren.



## Fleishaker and Columbia Foundations Fund Lake Projects

Good news! For the first time, our educational efforts are receiving substantial support from major philanthropic foundations. This reflects the growing awareness of Mono Lake's importance, not only in itself, but also as a pivotal confrontation.

The Mortimer Fleishaker Foundation of San Francisco has awarded \$10,000 to the Mono Lake Fund of Friends of the Earth Foundation. This grant will help defray the cost of publishing a catalogue of selected photographs from the *At Mono Lake* exhibit.

A \$7,500 grant came from the Columbia Foundation of San Francisco just before Christmas. This grant, which also went to the Friends of the Earth Foundation, will be used for educational purposes on Mono Lake's behalf.



### *At Mono Lake* Exhibition Welcomes New Photographs



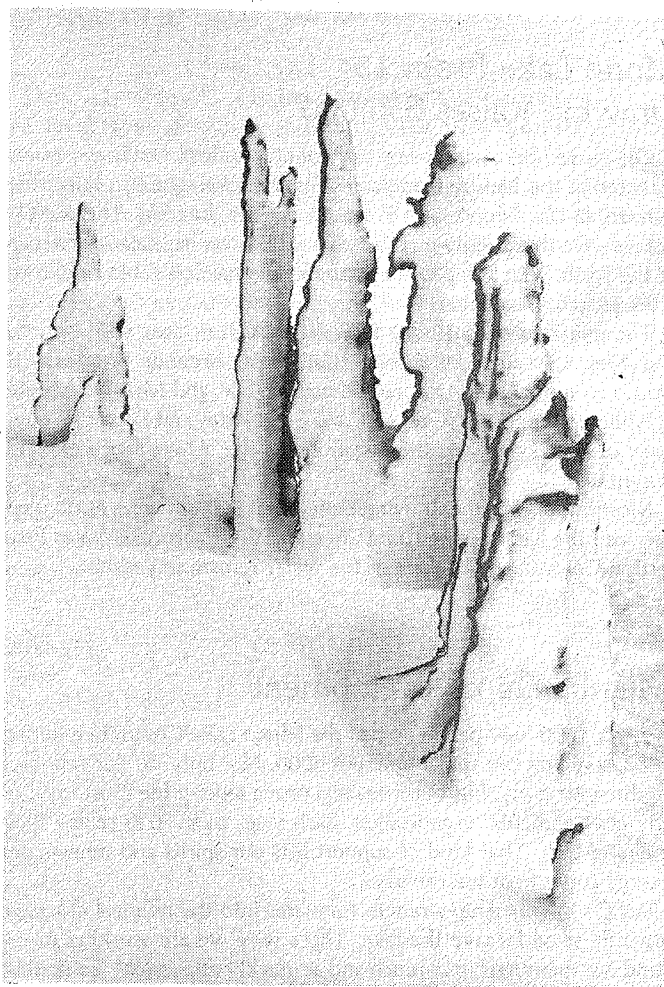
Brett Weston's winter photograph of north shore tufa from the *At Mono Lake* exhibit.

Photographers, take heed! The *At Mono Lake* Exhibition, which includes the work of Ansel Adams, Brett Weston, Phillip Hyde and many other outstanding artists, will be screening additional photographs through March 20.

Since its inception in 1979, the *At Mono Lake* exhibition has introduced millions of people to the wonder and beauty of the Mono Lake landscape. The exhibition has shown in Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento and many other cities throughout the western United States. This June, it will arrive at San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences—a homecoming, since its organizers, Stephen Johnson, Al Weber and Don Worth, are San Franciscans all.

To be considered for the exhibition, color or black-and-white prints should be mounted in 14 x 18," 16 x 20" or 22 x 28" frames, and submitted to: Stephen Johnson, c/o Friends of the Earth, 1045 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111.

## Photography Workshop



Snow-clad sand tufa by Larry Ford, instructor of June 24-25 photography workshop.

The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve is sponsoring a photographic workshop June 24-26. The instructor, Larry Ford, is a veteran photographer with the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and an extraordinary naturalist. The course will delve into photographic techniques as well as Mono Lake's natural history. There is a \$60 fee payable to the *Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association*. For more information or to enroll, please contact: MONO LAKE TUFA STATE RESERVE, P.O. BOX 99, LEE VINING, CA 93541.



## DWR Mono Lake Film Ideal For Schools, Groups

An eloquent 15-minute 16 mm film, *Ebb Tide at Mono Lake*, is available to schools and groups free of charge. Produced by the California Department of Water Resources, the film captures Mono's scenic grandeur and flocks of birds. It gives special attention to the Interagency Task Force, and concludes with a cogent plea for resource conservation by Resources Secretary Huey Johnson.

To borrow a copy of *Ebb Tide*, please write or call Rex Dean at the Department of Water Resources, Graphic Services, at: P.O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802; (916) 445-8569.

# MLC News and Activities

## Mono Lake-Prop. 13 Drawing Raises \$50,000

On November 1, a covey of Monophiles and water reformers gathered at the Nature Company's San Francisco store to select the winners in our Mono Lake-Prop. 13 benefit drawing. The 50,000 tickets were thoroughly mixed by David Brower, founder of Friends of the Earth. Mrs. Friedel Klussman, San Francisco's cable car champion, picked the winners.

The grand prize, a 10-day Hawaiian vacation, was won by Mr. and Mrs. Crowther of Bishop, California. Brenndt Bruegger of Fresno won the Leitz Armored binoculars, Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Monte of Millbrae the Snake River trip, and S.A. Sutter and Edward Toby, both of San Francisco, the vacations at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite.

Most important, the drawing netted \$50,000, which was divided between the Mono Lake Committee and the California Water Protection Council, the backers of the water reform initiative.

## Membership Development

Over 1300 new people joined the Mono Lake Committee during 1982, swelling our ranks to about 4000. Not only do our numbers continue to grow, but our members prove among the most loyal of any environmental organization. Each year, over 70% renew their memberships. That kind of support lifts our spirits and renews our energy more than we can say.

MLC's membership strength translates into the political clout we urgently need to save the lake. That's why we are working to expand our membership as much and as quickly as possible. To do this, we are augmenting our educational and volunteer programs, canvassing residents in Inyo and Mono counties, and mailing membership appeals to people who have shown an interest in environmental issues.

In December, we sent membership appeals to 100,000 outdoor-minded Californians. Returns have been pouring in, and it looks like we will attract between 1500 and 2000 new members!

Inevitably these mailings reach a few people who are already MLC members. The costs of purging lists of MLC'ers is prohibitively high. We trust you'll understand, and pass the information on to a friend.

## A Word from the Mail Desk

Due to the sheer number of memberships, renewals and address changes we receive each quarter, we occasionally make mistakes. For instance, of 400 renewals sent to our mailing list company in November, two could not be processed, probably because we erred in recording computer numbers. Unfortunately, we have no easy way of finding you again. So several of you—loyal members who have just renewed—will be badgered with still another renewal reminder.

If this happens to you, please accept our apologies. Send us your mailing label and remind us you already renewed. Thank you for your patience as we improve the mail desk routine.

Remember, you can help us minimize errors by enclosing your mailing label with your renewal or address change.

## Thank You, Drawing Prize Donors!

We are deeply appreciative to the following businesses and individuals for donating prizes to the Mono Lake Water Reform Benefit Drawing:

The Nature Company, Berkeley  
Yosemite Park and Curry Company  
Echo, the Wilderness Company, Berkeley  
Rick and Grace De Laet, San Francisco  
Zephyr River Expeditions, Sonora  
Sierra Whitewater Expeditions, Placerville  
Ansel Adams Gallery, Yosemite  
Ski Hut, Berkeley  
The North Face, Berkeley  
Dealin' Down, Palo Alto  
Sunrise Mountaineering, Fremont  
Tamarack Lodge, Mammoth Lakes  
Marmot Mountain Works, Berkeley  
Recreational Equipment, Inc., Berkeley  
Vista Motel, June Lake  
Best Western Lakeview Motel, Lee Vining  
The Mono Inn, Lee Vining  
Construction Specialty Associates, Lee Vining

## Staff Hellos

Steve Catton, a biologist with extensive experience in environmental politics, has joined our Lee Vining staff. As Information Officer, Steve will be assisting our Chairman/Editor David Gaines and Mail Clerk Sally Judy Gaines, who are now working half time. Dave and Sally are being kept busy by MLC's youngest member, their daughter Vireo, who was born during the earthquakes on January 6. Vireo weighed in at a healthy 8 lbs., 9 oz., and is flourishing.

## Electrical Handyman Needed

We need help rewiring our Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining to improve lighting and safety. If you would like to volunteer, we would be happy to reimburse you for travel expenses and to put you up while you are here. For more information, please contact Debby Jewett at our Lee Vining office.

## Fall Newsletter A Collector's Item

Did you discover the slip-up on the back page of our last newsletter? The photograph of Lady Jill Mueller's watercolor painting was upside down! Our apologies to Lady Jill.

## Can We Trade Your Name?

In order to inform new people about Mono Lake and build our membership, we are trading our mailing list with other environmental organizations. Most groups will trade on a one-to-one basis. If you do not wish your name traded, however, just let our Lee Vining office know as soon as possible.

## PRBO Birdathon Helps the Lake



The 1982 Point Reyes Bird Observatory-Mono Lake Birdathon was the most successful ever. On September 25, several hundred dedicated birders braved rain and wind to raise funds for two worthy causes. Many, including MLC Chairman David Gaines, were out and hooting hours before dawn in search of owls and other early birds. Overall, this year's birdathon generated about \$20,000 for the lake, as well as an equivalent amount for the Bird Observatory itself. Over the past three years, the PRBO Birdathon has raised about \$55,000 for the Mono Lake cause!

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory has also been supporting studies of Mono Lake's Snowy Plovers and other birds since 1977. This year, PRBO biologists will be continuing the crucial gull research started by David Winkler in 1976.

We can demonstrate our gratitude by becoming PRBO members. All donations are deductible for tax purposes. In return for your contribution, you'll receive the finest little natural history newsletter in the west.

To join PRBO, please send your contribution for \$15 (regular), \$7.50 (student or senior), \$50 (contributing), \$100 (sustaining) or \$300 (life) to: Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Let's thank them for their support for Mono Lake!

## Accolades

Our best nuptial wishes to Paul Goldstein and Dena Mosser, who asked their wedding guests to donate to Mono in lieu of a gift. Thanks to everyone who gave.

Craig Aurness, Barbara and Mel Horton, Mrs. Wesley Noble, Nick Wasser and Kurt Kassahn donated slides or photographs to our growing collection. We make frequent use of these materials in our programs and displays. Larry Ford kindly took hundreds of photographs for our Mono Lake slide program, which is currently being revised.

One of our earliest and staunchest supporters, Fresno Audubon Society, raised over \$300 at their annual Mono Lake Night by selling donated baked goods, jams, pictures, quilts and gift items. We are also grateful for generous donations from the Madrone, Ohlone and Ventura Audubon Societies, Sespe Group of the Sierra Club and the Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Rupert Cutler, senior vice president of the National Audubon Society, donated a lecture fee to the Mono Lake cause.

A special thank you to three of Mono's best friends, who contribute every month: Palm Stout, Charlotte Rieger and Harriet Stull.

Finally, some accolades we forgot last issue: to Carol Naber, Curt Ponzi and George Wise for helping us process returns from the benefit drawing (in all, 23 volunteers contributed 375 hours of their time), and to Snow's Corral, a clothing store in Mammoth Lakes, for supporting the 1982 bikeathon.

## Mono Lake Committee Financial Statement

1 June 1981 - 31 May 1982

Here, as promised in our last newsletter, is an accounting of how we spent your donations during our last fiscal year. The MLC brought in about \$250,000 in the last fiscal year ending May, 1982, with about \$100,000 from merchandise sales and the remaining \$150,000 from membership dues, donations and special fundraising events. We spent about \$9,000 more than we raised, our largest expenditures being merchandise for resale (25%) and payroll (28%). If you have questions, comments, complaints or suggestions, please let us know. We are constantly striving to augment income and reduce expenditures while increasing our effectiveness on Mono Lake's behalf.

### INCOME

Donations and Memberships	\$145,675.72	59%
Retail Sales	84,869.68	34%
Wholesale Sales	15,203.32	6%
Stock Donations	1,138.25	1%
Interest and Dividends	498.53	+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$247,385.50</b>	

### EXPENSES

Payroll	\$68,911.14	28%
Resale Merchandise Cost	62,010.07	25%
Legal and Prof. Services	21,317.94	9%
Printing and Photo	16,734.24	7%
Postage and Freight	12,421.33	5%
Utilities and Telephone	11,644.24	5%
Rent	10,176.21	4%
Supplies	7,813.34	3%
Payroll Tax	6,930.63	3%
Insurance	6,138.58	3%
Sales Tax	4,760.26	2%
Advertising, Promo, etc.	4,414.72	2%
Fundraising Costs	3,639.54	1%
Contributions	1,559.07	1%
Repairs and Maintenance	970.17	1%
Commissions	842.00	1%
Food for Volunteers	726.93	1%
Bank Charges	646.12	+
Refunds	533.62	+
Dues and Subscriptions	416.35	+
Tax and License	40.37	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$256,346.50</b>	

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$247,385.50</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$256,346.50</b>
<b>PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$8,961.00)</b>

## Letters

I must comment that I'm really disgusted to have received 10 identical mailings from MLC with tickets to the drawing. When the first one came, I sent off \$20, but since then I've been throwing them away. I resent junk mail and the waste of paper, energy, etc. Them's my feelings, and I hope you're not wasting funds on raffle mailings.

A Loyal Monophile

We share your abhorrence for junk mail, and apologize to you and all our members for the excessive mailings. There can be no question, however, that the Mono Lake-Water Reform drawing succeeded both as a fundraiser and as a means of broadening our support. Not only did we raise \$25,000 for saving the lake, we also attracted about 500 new members. Next time, we'll trim the redundant mailings.

## Of Birds and Figs and Mono Lake

*Each Christmas, Dorothy and Phil Corsentino send Mono Lake cards to their friends and relatives. This year the card included a true life parable. The Corsentinos reside in Los Angeles.*

A black mission fig tree has been growing in our backyard for many years, along with our fondness for tree-ripened figs. The birds in our neighborhood share this fondness. When the tree was young, I'd carefully watch the developing figs, running out to berate the birds, shake the tree and cover the figs with squares of paper and clothespins. It was tiring and frustrating!

One year, I noticed that if a bird started dining on a fig and I left it hanging in place, the bird came back to that fig and not to another. A truce was effected with the birds!

This year, the birds stayed in the high branches where we couldn't reach the figs, and left the fruit in the lower branches for us. As I listened to their chirping and twittering, I somehow felt their happy calls muted the clash, din and screech of our machine world. Once in a while they would pick a fig from the lower branches, as though to test the genuineness of my newly found generosity. But I smiled and said, "chirp and pick away my happy friends, there's enough for all." And there was!

The fig tree expressed its approval by continued production of large, black, sweet, beautifully shaped figs.

This summer we visited Mono Lake, as we have every year since 1947. Although it had received a brief reprieve from the heavy winter snows, it still lay silently dying, the white bones of its exposed shores gradually replacing its once brilliant blue waters. As the lake drops, the cry of gulls over the pounding surf is lessened, and so are we all.

The birds in my fig tree taught me a lesson: sharing doesn't mean doing without. It insures, instead, that the great wheel of life called reciprocity keeps revolving.

Wouldn't it be great if we Angelenos would share with the birds at Mono Lake? After all, sharing is what Christmas is all about!

## Gulliver Seagull



Gulliver Seagull is a cuddly reminder of the birds we're fighting to save. We've never seen a more adorable stuffed animal. Ideal for children of all ages—adults, too!

\$4.95 (+ \$1.00 handling; Calif. residents please add 30¢ sales tax)

## Memorial Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following memorial contributions:

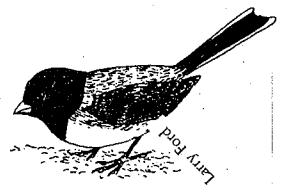
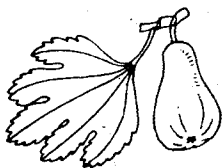
In memory of Mary Stephanie Albro, from Josephine E. Smith.

In memory of Larry Gullette, avid bird enthusiast and conservationist, from his close friends Don and Pat Steinert.

In memory of Greg Hildreth, from Sarah, Jay and Joey Miyazaki.

In memory of Dennis Schneider, from Mr. and Mrs. Harvey F. Peterson, Marie O'Steen, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Norman and Neil Veder—Mono Lake was close to his heart.

We are deeply honored to be the recipient of these memorials, which will help Mono Lake live on.



**The  
Mono Lake  
Committee**

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