

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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CARL
DENNIS
BUELL

Rush Creek Showdown
Stretching the Colorado River
Mono Lake Workshops

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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ON THE COVER: Rush Creek, Mono's largest tributary stream. For the past three years, it has been watering the lake and nurturing thousands of trout. But now DWP wants the water, and only a temporary restraining order is staying its hand and keeping the stream alive. A court battle looms ahead.

ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST: Carl Dennis Buell is a professional scientific and commercial illustrator who is donating his artistic talents to improve our publications (Studio 306, 1045 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111; (415) 989-4582).

It is impossible to care for each other more or differently than we care for the earth.

...Wendell Barry

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Mono Lake Watch



Mono Lake landscape by photography workshop instructor Larry Ford.

There's good news and bad news. In January, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power released over 6,000 acre-feet of water down Rush Creek into Mono Lake—five times the court-ordered minimum. In February, it cut the flow to only 19 cubic feet per second, hardly enough for trout to swim in.

Unusually heavy autumn snowfall forced DWP to release water in January to lower reservoir levels. But when the winter turned dry, DWP lowered sluice gates and resumed diversions. It left enough in Rush Creek to comply with the court's temporary restraining order, but not a drop more. It continues to divert every drop it legally and physically can.

At the other end of the pipe, Los Angeles residents are using water at record rates. Of the 624,000 acre-feet they projected to consume during the current runoff year (April '84 to March '85), approximately 14 percent will come from Mono Basin, 65 percent from the Owens River watershed and 17 percent from local groundwater basins. Only 4 percent will come from the Metropolitan Water District. While DWP has an annual preferential

right to 650,000 acre-feet of MWD water, Mono water is cheaper—as long as lakes and streams, birds and trout are not reckoned in the cost.

Thanks to January's transfusion, Mono Lake remains nearly as high as one year ago. Negit is still an island, and nesting gulls may return. But for how long?

That depends on weather and the outcome of the Rush Creek litigation. If it proves a dry winter, Mono Lake could drop more than 18 inches by December. Negit could become a peninsula by 1987.

Last November, a court issued a temporary restraining order forcing DWP to leave 19 cfs in Rush Creek—enough to slow but not halt Mono's decline. The Mono Lake Committee and the National Audubon Society are supporting the fight to secure higher flows in Rush and ultimately Lee Vining creeks. DWP is maneuvering to have the case summarily dismissed.

Meanwhile, oblivious to lawsuits, brine shrimp hatch and grow, gulls search for nest sites, trout leap for flies, and winter yields to another spring.

Rush Creek Suit Headed for Showdown

A March 7 pre-trial hearing in Mono County Superior Court is shaping up as a major showdown for Mono Lake's largest tributary stream, Rush Creek.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has asked Judge David Otis to lift the temporary restraining order that prevents it from drying up the stream and killing thousands of trout. Moreover, DWP has filed for a summary judgment to dismiss the case without a trial. At the March hearing, Otis is expected to decide whether to lift the restraining order or make it a preliminary injunction until a trial can be held in April.

The Rush Creek fight began last autumn, when Dick Dahlgren of Mammoth Fly Rodders discovered a thriving trout fishery between Grant Lake Dam and Mono Lake. The trout, who jumped into the stream when water spilled over Grant Lake dam, have been breeding prolifically since 1982. California Fish and Game estimates 30,000-50,000 "fat and healthy" browns and rainbows inhabit the 10 miles of food-rich stream.

DWP planned to dry up Rush Creek Nov. 1, but Dahlgren didn't give up. When all else failed, Mammoth Fly Rodders and California Trout brought suit. On Nov. 19, Mono County Superior Court issued a temporary restraining order forcing DWP to leave 19 cfs in Rush Creek until a hearing could be held on a permanent injunction.

That hearing never took place. DWP, sensing a wet winter that would force releases down Rush Creek anyway, agreed to abide by the temporary restraining order until the case went to trial.

Its latest motions, therefore, came as a surprise. On Feb. 11, DWP dumped approximately 150 pages of filings on the plaintiffs, giving them only two weeks to respond. "The filings put us under incredible pressures," declared Cal Trout Vice President Barrett McInerney. "We are undermanned, outgunned and have had virtually no time to respond to the thousands of dollars of legal work DWP has thrown at us."

McInerney is also the attorney representing Cal Trout and Mammoth Fly Rodders *pro bono*. Assisting, also *pro bono*, is Antonio Rossmann, an authority on CEQA law. National Audubon and Mono Lake Committee lawyers Bruce Dodge and Palmer Madden are presenting the public trust arguments.

DWP is arguing its diversions need not comply with California Fish and Game codes, the California Environmental Quality Act or the public trust doctrine. It claims a 1940 agreement with Fish and Game exempts it from Fish and Game Code 5937, which states "the owner of any dam . . . shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around and through the dam to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below that dam." CEQA does not apply because the Rush Creek diversions predate its passage. The public trust, it alleges, cannot be invoked because Rush Creek is not navigable.

None of these arguments is convincing. The Fish and Game agreement gave the state \$25,000 and the use of



Larry Ford

Fish and Game crew attempts to rescue trout from Rush Creek.

Los Angeles land for the Hot Creek Fish Hatchery near Mammoth Lakes, yet said nothing about dessicating creeks and destroying wild fisheries. Each year's diversions constitute a project subject to CEQA requiring an environmental impact statement. Under natural conditions, lower Rush Creek is navigable by rafters much of the year.

While the prospects look favorable, a protracted legal battle looms ahead. DWP will do everything it can to keep its hold on Mono Lake's tributary streams.

Advisory Group Yet to Meet

At the Rush Creek hearing Oct. 13, Los Angeles City Councilmen John Ferraro and Hal Bernson called for the formation of a "citizens advisory group" to consider the Rush Creek issue "as part of the overall Mono Basin problem."

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, however, did not act on the proposal. A month after the hearing, DWP's LeVal Lund told California Trout's Vice President Barrett McInerney that no one had shown any interest. In fact, State Sen. John Garamendi, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Mono County Board of Supervisors and environmental groups were awaiting word of the first meeting. Councilman Bernson wrote an apologetic letter to Garamendi and the other parties, reiterating his pledge "to sit down at the table and discuss this matter fully." He directed DWP "to take a more open and conciliatory point of view."

A meeting was set for Feb. 21, but was scuttled when DWP—without telling the council members—filed for summary judgment. In a letter to Ferraro and Bernson, McInerney criticized the filing as "unethical" in light of the upcoming advisory group session. The legal workload, he explained, rendered it impossible for Cal Trout to participate.

Talking with Los Angeles

After years of communicating through lawyers and press releases, the Mono Lake Committee initiated informal talks with the Los Angeles City Council and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power last March. The seven meetings opened lines of communication and led to collaboration on implementing the research bill, conducting the gull census and other matters.

Future talks will focus on alternatives which could contribute to the ultimate resolution of the Mono Lake controversy. In a statement of intent approved by the Mono Lake Committee and the Los Angeles Water and Power Commission, the parties agreed to full, fair, open and confidential discussions. They also pledged to keep one another informed of legislative goals and activities. Los Angeles City Council members John Ferraro and Hal Bernson sent a letter of support and endorsement of the discussions, stating, "It is our hope that out of these discussions, we may see the beginning of an amicable settlement of this complex situation."

The Mono Lake Committee is represented by Executive Director Martha Davis and board members Genny Smith and David Phillips. They are meeting with DWP's Duane Georgeson and LeVal Lund, Los Angeles Water Commissioner Walter Zelman, and Ferraro's legislative aide Bob Hedricks. Refereeing the discussions is facilitator Leroy Graymer of the UCLA Public Policy Program, assisted by Eleanor Cohen. Their expert balance has enabled the talks to progress.

State, Feds Tussle for Lakeshore

The state of California and the federal government have resumed the legal battle over ownership of approximately 15,000 acres of land exposed by the declining level of Mono Lake. Chief U.S. District Magistrate Lawrence Karlton will hear final arguments March 15.

At stake is title to lands managed by the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, including tufa groves, springs, wetlands and beaches. The reserve, situated below the 1940 water line, is surrounded by federal, city of Los Angeles and private land. It lies entirely within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

The case hinges on complex legal and perceptual questions. The federal government contends Mono Lake's decline has been gradual, imperceptible and, for legal purposes, permanent. Under the common law of reliction, this would give title to the federal government and possibly other upland owners.

The state, however, contends the recession is neither gradual nor permanent. For this reason, it believes its title to the lake extends to lands exposed by Mono's fluctuations.

Karlton's decision will probably be appealed, which could take years. During this time, the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve will cooperatively manage and protect the lake's disputed shores.

NOTE: In *Mono Lake Newsletter* 6:2 (Autumn 1983), we misreported a court ruling on the land ownership case. That ruling did not give the federal government title but only found federal law applies.

PUBLIC TRUST SUIT: Still No Trial Date

Last November, the heart of the Mono Lake public trust lawsuit was remanded from federal court to California Superior Court in Alpine County, where Judge Hillary Cook has yet to set a trial date.

It has taken six years, and a detour to the California Supreme Court, to get this far. In 1979, the Mono Lake Committee joined the National Audubon Society and Friends of the Earth in suing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for diverting Mono Lake's tributary streams and violating the public trust. DWP did everything it could to delay the litigation. Finally, in 1983, the California Supreme Court ruled that the public trust doctrine mandates a "better balance" between the needs of Los Angeles and the values of Mono Lake. It required another 19 months to settle jurisdictional questions, and get the case on track toward trial.



Trout Get National Publicity

Rush Creek's embattled trout have sparked a burst of national publicity, most of it critical of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Mono Basin diversions.

In the Feb. 4 *Sports Illustrated*, senior editor Robert H. Boyle characterized DWP as an "intimidating force . . . facing an unaccustomed challenge to its swaggering authority." The article, "Will the Flow From Rush Creek Swamp the Dreaded DWP?," paints a sympathetic portrait of a thriving trout stream threatened by a greedy utility. Quoting California Trout Vice President Barrett McInerney, it portrays the creek as "a battleground that could rewrite all the water agreements in California to the benefit of fisheries . . . and force DWP to become accountable for its actions in the Eastern Sierra."

The January issue of *California Magazine* ran another sympathetic story. Quoting Dick Dahlgren of Mammoth Fly Rodders, it called Rush Creek "picturesque in the extreme," and the fish "Walt Disney trout, they are so pretty."

Other favorable articles and editorials appeared in virtually every major California newspaper, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Los Angeles Herald Tribune* and *San Francisco Examiner*. The *L.A. Times*, citing expert legal opinion, termed the case "clear-cut on the side of the fishermen." The *Herald Examiner* was "unconvinced of L.A.'s need, if not its right, to drain the stream." The *San Francisco press* focused on the stream's value to Mono Lake.

California Wilderness Conference Oct. 25-27

Mark your calendars! The California Wilderness Coalition will hold a major California wilderness conference in Visalia, Tulare County, Oct. 25-27 at the Visalia Convention Center. We'll have more information in our summer newsletter.

Grazing Appeal on Hold

No date has been set for a hearing on the California Department of Parks and Recreation's appeal of a court ruling permitting sheep grazing in the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. The state is hopeful that a hearing can be held before the sheep return this spring.

Last September, Mono County Superior Court Judge Harry Roberts ruled sheep may be grazed in the reserve to within 50 feet of tufa formations provided woodgrowers erect fences. The state is appealing this decision, which could devastate Mono's shoreline habitats and severely affect wildlife. The state has received more than 100 letters supporting its position.

The state has a strong case. The woolgrowers never obtained a lease to use state lands, and are therefore grazing illegally. Moreover grazing is not permitted in any state park or reserve, and is incompatible with protecting and preserving natural conditions.

Researchers Scrambling for Funds

It's been nine months since Gov. Deukmejian signed a bill appropriating \$250,000 to California Fish and Game for a three-year "scientific study of the effects of water diversions on the Mono Lake ecosystem." Yet there is no indication of when or how this money will be spent. Meanwhile, ongoing, independent research is begging for funds.

Particularly threatened are gull and brine fly studies. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory cannot afford to continue gull research without additional funding. This work, begun in 1976, is crucial to understanding the impacts of changing conditions on the gulls' reproductive success.

The brine fly work is equally important. For nine years, Oregon State University graduate student David Herbst has been studying these insects on a shoestring budget. His work will not be completed without modest financial assistance.

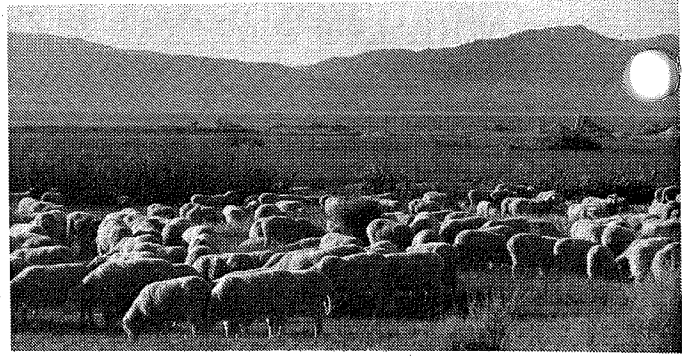
Virtually all other biological research is currently funded by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. While DWP's staff and consultants do excellent work, it is important to field independent biologists as well, and to continue ongoing studies like those of PRBO and David Herbst. It is hoped Fish and Game—or some other source—will grubstake their research this year.

Owens Dust Pelts Southland

Sticky powder that fell with rain in Riverside, San Bernardino and other Southern California communities Feb. 21 was primarily alkali dust from Owens Dry Lake. The particles formed orange, yellow and white starburst patterns on cars and other surfaces. Winds gusting to 60 mph lifted huge alkali clouds from the lake bed, and swept them over 100 miles south.

Owens Lake, situated 100 miles south of Mono, dried to alkali in 1928, 16 years after the Owens River was shunted into the Los Angeles aqueduct. Only old-timers recall the broad expanse of water that reflected Mt. Whitney and its neighboring Sierran summits, or the vast flocks of birds that fed along its shores.

Owens Lake dust threatens the health of Owens Valley residents, and fouls the pristine eastern Sierran airshed. Dust from the exposed shores of Mono Lake poses similar hazards, and will worsen if the lake continues to decline.



Livestock grazing threatens sensitive wetland habitats around Mono Lake, such as this marsh near Simon's Spring.

Scenic Area Update

Inyo National Forest has received over \$100,000 to implement the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area legislation in 1985.

A scenic area manager has been hired, and will begin work in March. Nancy Upham was previously public affairs specialist with Las Padres National Forest. While officially part of the Mono Lake Ranger District staff, Nancy will be responsible for scenic area activities. The scenic area is a separate unit of Inyo National Forest, but will be administered from the existing Lee Vining Ranger Station.

On Feb. 19, Mono Lake District Ranger Ken Denton discussed the scenic area legislation at a public meeting in Lee Vining. Local residents were concerned with language prohibiting activities on private lands that are "significantly different from or a significant expansion of" previously existing development. The Forest Service is developing guidelines to address this controversial issue.

Denton explained that recreational uses, such as snowmobiling and firewood gathering, will be allowed to continue at "current levels and locations customarily exercised." Valid mining claims and grazing permits will still be recognized. There are no valid permits, however, for grazing on lands exposed by the decline of Mono Lake.

Denton emphasized the scenic area cannot be used to challenge Los Angeles' water rights.

The Forest Service is hopeful funds will be appropriated for a visitor center. The service envisions a center large enough to accommodate groups for slide programs, exhibits and an information desk, and situated to offer panoramic views of the landscape. The Forest Service would share the center with the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, and cooperate on interpretive programs and management.

The Forest Service is negotiating with the National Academy of Sciences to initiate ecological studies, but funding needs to be secured.

The Scenic Area Advisory Board will meet Feb. 28. MLC Chairman David Gaines is one of nine members who will be considering policies, activities, management and the location of a visitor center. The advisory board will make recommendations to the California Regional Forester Zane Grey Smith, who will attend the first meeting.

Stretching Southern California's Colorado River Supply

During the battle over the peripheral canal, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California emphasized the impact the Central Arizona Project, scheduled for completion this year, would have on Southern California's water supply. According to MWD, there was only one way to avoid water famines: build the canal and route more Northern California water around the Sacramento River delta to Southern California. MWD supplies most of the urban southland with water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River.

Since the defeat of the canal, MWD has begun to change its tune. A Jan. 5 report, "Prospects of Obtaining Additional Colorado River Water," concludes MWD "has good prospects for obtaining approximately 250,000 acre-feet per year . . . on a long-term basis, in addition to its dependable diversions of about 500,000 acre-feet per year," a total supply of 750,000 acre-feet per year.

In fact MWD has good prospects of stretching its dependable supply to at least one million acre-feet per year. Among the projects that could bring this about are:

- *A trade with the huge Imperial Irrigation District of the Salton Sea.* MWD would pay to upgrade the IID's wasteful irrigation system by lining canals with concrete and building more effective control gates. In return, MWD would receive a credit for the water saved. MWD projects a yield of 250,000 acre-feet per year, whereas the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation estimates 350,000.

- *A trade with the Coachella Valley Water District south of Palm Springs.* Similar to the IID trade, this could yield about 50,000 acre-feet per year.

- *Lining 30 miles of the all American Canal between the Colorado River and the Imperial Valley.* This could yield another 87,000 acre-feet in dry years.

- *Pumping ground water that has seeped from the Imperial and Coachella canals.* Preliminary studies indicate that approximately 700,000 acre-feet could be removed after the All American Canal is lined.

- *Tapping unused agricultural entitlements.* Between 1976 and 1982, this averaged 200,000 acre-feet per year. This supply, however, is not available every year.

- *Banking surplus Colorado River water in underground basins and upstream reservoirs for withdrawal in dry years.* There are no estimates of yield, but it could be hundreds of thousands of additional acre-feet.

Considering all these prospects, MWD could end up with more Colorado River water than it had before a Supreme Court ruling reduced its entitlement from 1,200,000 to 550,000 acre-feet per year. Getting the additional water depends more on cutting through red tape than on overcoming engineering problems. Complex agreements need to be cut with regional water agencies, neighboring states, and the state and federal governments. But the outlook appears more favorable than anyone imagined a few years ago.

This is good news for Mono Lake. In all but the driest years, MWD water will probably remain available to Los Angeles. The city has a preferential right to 650,000 acre-feet per year of MWD water, yet is presently using less than 30,000 from this source.

Los Angeles and Southern California need not quench their thirst by destroying Mono Lake, San Francisco Bay or north coast rivers, if only they use existing supplies efficiently and wisely.

Poconip fog shrouds the Mono Basin as viewed from the Conway Summit overlook. A new interpretive display, installed by the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, provides concise, accurate information on the Mono Lake landscape.



Luring Gulls Back To Negit Island

Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologists, in cooperation with the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, are trying to lure California gulls back to Negit Island with decoys and dummy nests.

Gulls have not nested on Negit since 1979. In that year, coyotes crossed a land bridge to the island, preyed on eggs and chicks, and routed approximately 33,000 breeding adults.

Since that time nesting gulls have crowded onto small barren islets northeast of Negit and west of Paoha, where breeding success has suffered. In 1976-78, with 65 percent nesting on Negit, Mono's gulls fledged approximately 26,800 chicks per year. Since Negit's abandonment, they have fledged an average of only 9,400 chicks per year. In 1984, they fledged between 4,500 and 6,300 chicks. Overcrowding, heat, predation and tick infestations have all taken their toll.

The 1981 season was especially dismal. Over 95 percent of the gull chicks died before fledging, primarily of heat stress during a June heat wave.

If the gulls had been nesting on Negit Island, this might not have happened. Most of Negit's gulls nested among greasewood scrub, which shaded the chicks. According to PRBO biologists, chicks in the sun on the islets may experience temperatures 77 to 86 Fahrenheit degrees higher than chicks in the shade on Negit. Unshaded chicks may develop hyperthermia in 20-30 minutes.

Would gulls in fact have higher reproductive success among Negit's greasewood? To answer this question, it is necessary to re-establish the Negit colony and study its success over several years.

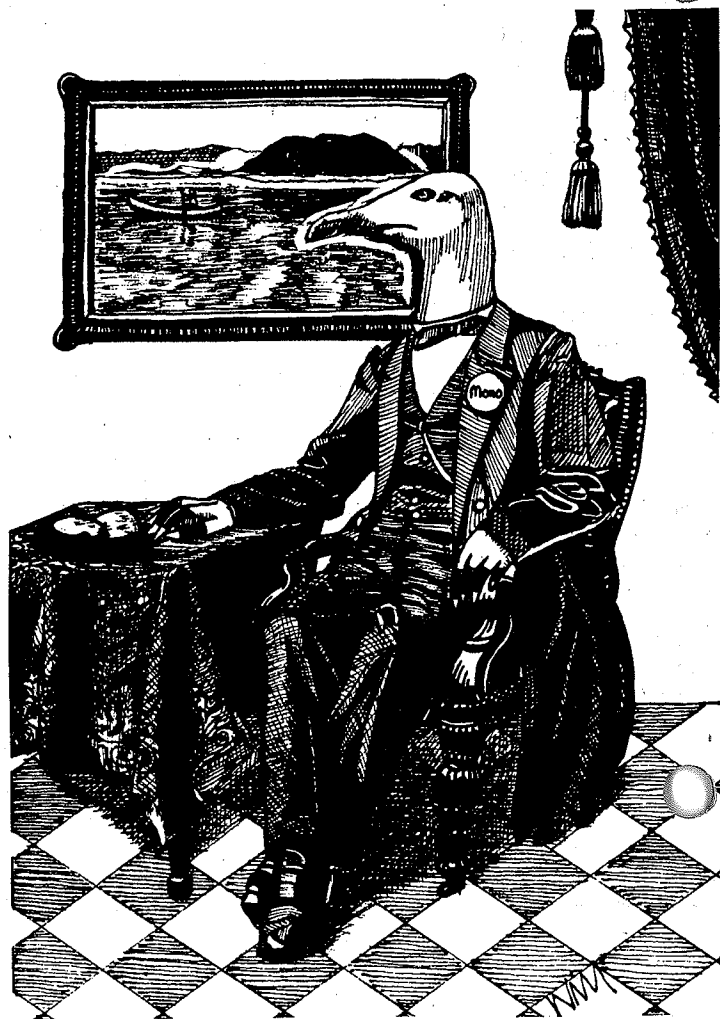
In 1983, the rise in Mono Lake flooded part of the Negit land bridge. The channel around the island is now approximately three feet deep and 100 yards wide. Why haven't gulls returned?

After the gulls' retreat, coyotes remained on the island. Rabbits, mice and other small animals had also crossed the land bridge, providing a prey base. As long as coyotes remain, gulls will not return. Last autumn, the Mono Basin National Scenic Area decided to implement the Bureau of Land Management's decision to remove the animals.

Fortunately, the coyotes may have departed on their own. On Dec. 20, the Forest Service conducted a thorough search in eight inches of snow, but could not find a single track. A visit to Paoha Island, however, revealed the presence of at least one animal.

Even if gulls find Negit coyote-free this March, they may be reluctant to return. Gulls are traditional in choice of nesting sites. They tend to return year after year to the same places where they have nested successfully, and to shun places where they had problems. If this is the case with Mono's birds, Negit may be colonized, not by survivors of the '70s, but by young pioneers who are crowded off other islets. Under natural conditions, it could be years before the first birds return.

In an effort to speed up this process, PRBO biologists



are placing decoy gulls and dummy nests on Negit Island this winter. This technique has worked with terns and puffins, but has never been tried with gulls.

Research Updates

There was insufficient space for the following two reports in our winter newsletter. Here they are, with due apologies to their authors.ed.

Snowy Plovers: Population Seems Constant

Gary Page and Lynne Stenzel

Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970

We did not conduct any formal studies on the snowy plover in 1984, but spent a few days at Mono Lake and obtained some information numbers.

The lake's rise in water level has resulted in the resubmergence of sizable portions of alkali flat where we found snowy plovers nesting in recent years. How has this affected the numbers of breeding plovers? Although we cannot answer this question for the entire lake, we can for our study area on the northeast shore. This plot was selected

because of its high concentration of breeding plovers.

On June 21, 1984, we counted 101 adult plovers in the study area. This figure is close to the average for the years with the highest number of plovers, we conclude that numbers in the study area have neither increased nor declined.

Between Navy Beach and Simon's Spring, where we found 39 plovers on an all-lake survey in 1978, we counted only seven birds this year. Thus numbers appear to have declined on the south shore of the lake.

We have no comparable figures for other areas. But as our study plot is fairly typical of the habitat occupied by 90 percent of the snowy plovers in 1978, we expect the population has remained constant.

Spadefoot Toads

Susan Fox

Environmental Field Program, Clark Kerr Hall, U.C. Santa Cruz, CA 95065

In spring, 1984, I spent nine weeks studying the Great Basin spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus intermontanus*) in temporary pools on the northeast side of Mono Lake.

Spadefoot toad tadpoles inhabit harsh environments where they must develop faster than the water in their pools evaporates. Each day they migrate to the warmest water in their pools. Presumably the warmer water results in a higher metabolism and a shorter time to metamorphosis.

The tadpoles act like great herds of sheep grazing away the algae growing in their pools. The tadpoles also cannibalize eggs laid by their adults. In one pool the tadpoles ate 11 clutches containing an average of 941 embryos each. Hence they reduced the potential population by more than 10,000 tadpoles.

I also gathered data on growth rates, cannibalism, growth inhibition by an algal-like cell, predation by beetle larvae and gulls, polymorphism, thermoregulation and breeding biology.

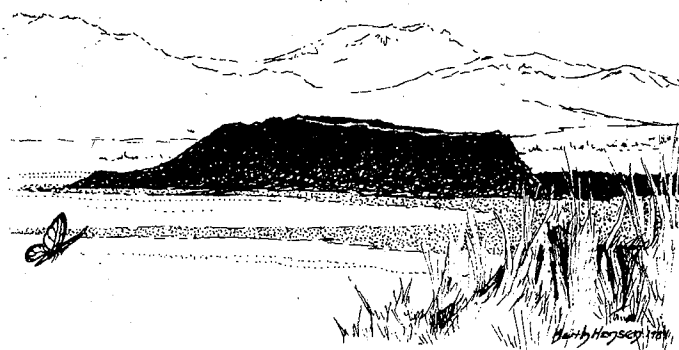
MONO LAKE NATURALIST: Inklings of Spring

It's only February, yet inklings of spring are already appearing. The sun has a warmth we dreamt about a month ago. On south-facing hillsides, it has melted the snow into evanescent creeklets. In the moist earth, tiny clumps of green are sprouting. In the warm air, insects are buzzing. We scan the skies for swallows.

Early in the month, cinnamon teal appeared at South Tufa. These handsome ducks are our earliest avian arrivals. They are followed by Say's phoebes, sage thrashers, red-winged blackbirds, American robins and mountain bluebirds.

At the same time, a familiar European exotic vanished from Lee Vining. For as long as we can remember, house sparrows were a common part of the urban birdscape. It's unsettling to have so ubiquitous a species vanish without a trace.

One warm day follows another, and we forget spring is months away. Yet the aspens are bare, the birds still silent. Ol' man winter isn't through with us yet!



BOOK REVIEWS: Vignettes From the Early Days

MAN FROM MONO, by Lily Mathieu La Braque
Nevada Academic Press, Reno, Nevada, 196 pp., 90 historical photographs, paper. \$10.95

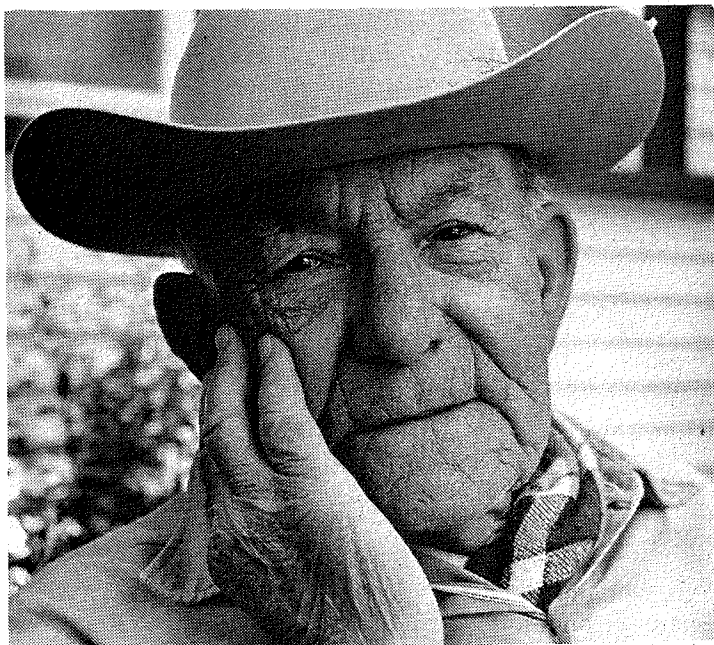
Anyone with an interest in Mono's history will love these intimate, exciting and thoroughly enjoyable books. Joys, adventures and tribulations come to life through the recollections of old-timers George LaBraque and Margaret Calhoun.

In the 1860s, the discovery of gold in the eastern Sierra and the Bodie Hills lured people of every nationality and walk of life into the Mono Basin. Not only prospectors, but stage drivers, storekeepers, woodcutters, trappers, teachers and farmers settled in the burgeoning mining district. Farmers came to Mono Lake to homestead and supply food and livestock feed to the mining towns. Among them were the LaBraque and Calhoun families.

George La Braque and Margaret Calhoun were born and raised at Mono Lake toward the end of the century. Their books—Margaret's in her own words, George's told to her daughter Lily—paint complementary portraits of those rough-tumble times.

George is a superb storyteller. Whether relating a close call on Mono's storm-blown water or the trouble his passion for gambling got him into, he holds your interest. His life is spiced with friendships and romance, heroism and endurance, luck and revenge, and the bounty and fury of inanimate nature.

PIONEERS OF THE MONO BASIN, by Margaret Calhoun
Artemisia Press, Lee Vining, 172 pp., 49 historical photographs, paper. \$6.95



George La Braque, the "Man from Mono"

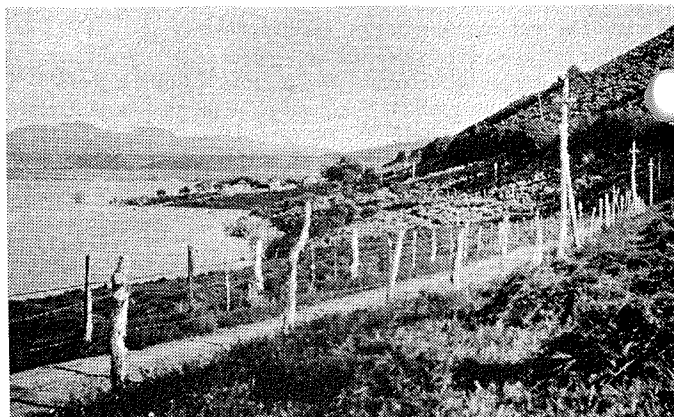
Jeff Corwin

Margaret Calhoun is equally riveting, but more intimate. Raised on a farm near Mono Lake's north shore, she describes the tough but wholesome life of the hardscrabble farmer. Unlike many local histories that focus on sensational events, Calhoun vividly conveys the everyday life of pioneer settlers in a style that is personal and moving. Her book is sprinkled with simple, charming poetry, and even includes recipes for sagebrush tea and hog's head cheese. First published in 1968 and long out of print, it is one of the best local histories ever written.

Those were the days when kids inflated hogs' bladders for use as balloons and punching bags, strips of peppered bacon were placed on the throat to draw out soreness, and wheat was raised, thrashed and ground by hand. There were wild, week-long poker games, horse thefts, shoot-outs, floods and avalanches. In winter, men braved blizzards to deliver mail and repair telephone lines. Bodie—now a ghost town—was the "big city" where settlers rode for a whole day to deliver vegetables and hay, visit the doctor or purchase goods from San Francisco.

It's amazing how late conveniences came to the area. For instance, Mono's settlers remained virtually isolated by winter storms until highway improvements and the local invention of the modern snowplow in the 1930s.

Both books give Mono's place names special meaning. Simon's Spring, Lee Vining, Deadman Summit, Paoha Island,



The west shore of Mono Lake circa 1920 before the highway was paved. From Man from Mono.

Dechambeau Ranch, Goat Ranch and many other localities become associated with the remarkable tales of people who lived and died there.

Both "Man From Mono" and "Pioneers of the Mono Basin" are available by mail from the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 119, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Please add \$2.50 shipping (California residents add 6 percent sales tax).

FIRE AND ICE: John Muir's Impressions of Mono Lake

In August 1869, John Muir first set foot in the Mono Basin. In "My First Summer in the Sierra Nevada," he describes "a country of wonderful contrasts. Hot deserts bounded by snow-laden mountains, cinders and ashes scattered on glacier-polished pavements, frost and fire working together in the making of beauty." Twenty-eight years later, in 1896, Muir wrote about Mono again. The following is excerpted from his essay, "The Passes of the High Sierra," which appeared in a now obscure book, "Picturesque California."

While not his best writing, Muir's account is of substantial historical interest. The "rich, oily windrows" of brine fly larvae disappeared in the 1950s, probably due to increasing salinity. Sage grouse and pronghorn antelope are now exceedingly scarce, and bighorn sheep have vanished entirely. Most of the "fine, dashing streams" have been diverted and drained, and the tangles of "aspens and berry bushes" have withered and died.

I found the so-called Mono Desert in a high state of natural cultivation with the wild rose, the delicate pink-flowered abronia and innumerable erigerons, gillias, phloxes, poppies and bush-compositae growing not only along stream banks, but out in the hot sand and ashes in openings among the sagebrush, and even in the craters of the highest volcanoes, cheering the gray wilderness

with their rosy bloom, and literally giving beauty for ashes.

Beyond the moraines the trail turns to the left toward Mono Lake, now in sight around the spurs of the mountains, and touches its western shore at a distance from the foot of the pass of about six miles. Skirting the lake, you make your way over low bluffs and moraine piles, and through many a tangle of snow-crinkled aspens and berry bushes, growing on the banks of fine, dashing streams that come from the snows of the summits.

Here are the favorite camping grounds of the Indians, littered with piles of pine-burrs from which the seeds have been beaten. Many of their fragile willow huts are broken and abandoned; others arch airily over family groups that are seen lying at ease, pictures of thoughtless contentment, their black shocks of hair perchance bedecked with red castileias, and their bent, bulky stomachs filled with no white man knows what.

Some of these mountain streams pouring into the lake have deep and swift currents at the fording places, and their channels are so roughly paved with boulders that crossing them at the time of high water is rather dangerous.

The lake water is as clear as the snow-streams that feed it, but intensely acrid and nauseating from the excessive quantities of salts accumulated by evaporation beneath a burning sun. Of course no fish can live in it,

but large flocks of geese, ducks and swans come from beyond the mountains at certain seasons, and gulls also in great numbers, to breed in a group of volcanic islands that rise near the center of the lake, thus making the dead, bitter sea lively and cheerful while they stay.

The eggs of the gulls used to be gathered for food by the Indians, who floated to the islands on rafts made of willows. But since a great storm on the lake a few years ago overtook them on their way back from the islands, they have not ventured from the shore. Their rafts were broken up and many were drowned. This disaster, together with certain superstitious fears concerning evil spirits supposed to dwell in the lake and rule its waves, make them content with the safer and far more important products of the shores, chief of which is the wormy larvae of a small fly that breeds in the slimy froth in the shallows.

When the worms are ripe, and the waves have collected them and driven them up on the beach in rich oily windrows, old and young make haste to the curious harvest, and gather the living grain in baskets and buckets of every description. After being washed and dried in the sun it is stored for winter. Raw or cooked, it is regarded as a fine luxury, and delicious dressing for other kinds of food.

Forbidding as this gray, ashy wilderness is to the dweller in green fields, to the red man it is a paradise full of all the good things of life. A Yosemite Indian with whom I was acquainted went over the mountains to Mono every year on a pleasure trip. When I asked what would induce him to go to so poor a country when, as a hotel servant, he enjoyed all the white man's good things in abundance, he replied that Mono had better things to eat than anything to be found in the hotel—plenty deer, plenty wild sheep, plenty antelope, plenty worm, plenty berry, plenty sagehen, plenty rabbit—drawing a picture of royal abundance that from his point of view surpassed everything else the world had to offer.

A sail on the lake develops many a fine picture—the natives along the curving shores seen against so grand a mountain background; water birds stirring the glassy surface into white dancing spangles; the islands, black, pink and gray, rising into a cloud of white wings of gulls; volcanoes dotting the hazy plain; and grandest of all and overshadowing all, the mighty barrier wall of the Sierra, heaving into the sky from the water's edge, and stretching away to north and south with its marvelous wealth of peaks, crests and deep-cutting notches keenly defined, or fading away in the soft purple distance; cumulus clouds swelling over all in huge mountain bosses of pearl, building a mountain range of cloud upon a range of rock, the one as firmly sculptured, and as grand and showy and substantial as the other.

The magnificent cluster of volcanoes to the south of the lake may easily be visited from the foot of Bloody Canyon, the distance being only about six miles. The highest of the group rises about 2,700 feet above the lake. They are all post-glacial in age, having been erupted from what was once the bottom of the south end of the lake through stratified glacial drift. During their numerous periods of activity they have scattered showers of ashes and cinders over all the adjacent plains and mountains.

Nowhere within the bounds of our wonder-filled land are the antagonistic forces of fire and ice brought more closely and contrastingly together. So striking are the volcanic phenomena, we seem to be among the very hearths and firesides of nature. Then turning to the mountains, while standing in drifting ashes, we behold huge moraines issuing from the cool jaws of the great canyons, marking the pathways of glaciers that crawled down the mountain sides laden with debris and pushed their frozen floods into the deep water of the lake in thundering icebergs, as they are now descending into the inland waters of Alaska, not a single Arctic character being wanting where now the traveler is blinded in a glare of tropical light.

John Muir with Paiutes near Mono Lake. The photograph was taken circa 1900 by anthropologist C. Hart Merriam.



Photo courtesy of Bancroft Library

Alaska Fund-raising Cruise

It's not too late to join fellow monophiles on a 12-day cruise from San Francisco to Glacier Bay, Alaska, June 14-26, and help raise funds to save Mono Lake!

Over 50 people have already reserved space on Sitmar's luxurious TSS FAIRSKY, and more space is being held for us until April. The ship sails from San Francisco, and has six ports of call. There will be ample time to get acquainted with the unique history, culture, economy and environment of each port. Shore excursions can include, at additional cost, flight-seeing over Misty Fjords or the Juneau Ice Cap. Salmon fishing trips can also be arranged.

Ever-changing vistas of water and mountains greet the voyager on the Inside Passage of southeast Alaska, and the long days of June are optimal for viewing the glorious scenery. An entire day is spent cruising Glacier Bay with a park ranger aboard to tell about past and present glacial activities.

Besides the ports of call, there are many enticements on shipboard designed to assure you a great vacation of relaxation, entertainment, great food and good company. For the energetic, a fully equipped gym is open until midnight. One has to experience this cruise to believe the diversity of activities that exists!

Fares range from \$2,235 to \$2,835 per person, double occupancy, depending on cabin location. A deposit of \$350 reserves the cabin of choice according to space available at the time of deposit. Fares are less than the regular tariff, and about 12 percent is a tax-deductible contribution to the National Audubon Society's Mono Lake Fund.

For full details and brochure, call volunteer Mildred Bennett at (415) 526-1260 or Mitzi at Sather Gate Travel at (415) 547-4444, or contact any Mono Lake Committee office. But don't wait, as there are only a few cabins left, and Sitmar will not hold them after April 10!

MLC Receives Research Grants

The Mono Lake Committee received two crucial grants for research projects. Dina Tosini, a student at UCLA's Urban Planning School, will be studying alternative water and power sources for Los Angeles which could be used to replace Mono Basin supplies. The project was made possible by a grant from the Edna Bailey Sussman Fund and the developed through the Project Assistance Fund of the CEIP Fund, Inc. and EIP/Southern California. The Conservation Endowment Fund awarded the Committee a \$2,500 grant for similar studies. We deeply appreciate the support of these organizations.

Bikeathon Set for Aug. 26-31

"I can't express how great a time I had," reports an '84 bikeathoner, "good company, better scenery and all for a great cause."

Our annual Los Angeles-to-Mono Lake bikeathon offers cyclists of all abilities an exciting, enjoyable six-day tour—and the satisfaction of helping to save Mono Lake. Even if you have never toured before, we encourage you to join us this year. Sag (support and gear) wagons carry all our gear, and we cycle at our own pace.

So keep on cyclin', and set aside the last week in August for this year's bikeathon. For more information, please contact Steve Osgood in Los Angeles at (213) 477-5754, or any Mono Lake Committee office.

Mono Lake Drawing To Raise Needed Funds

This spring, for the second time in MLC history, we are sponsoring a drawing to raise funds to save Mono Lake. Top prizes include:

- *An eight-day luxury river trip for two on the Dordogne River in France, including airfare.* You will tour south central France in style, dining on fine pate, truffles and regional wines.
- *A \$1,000 gift certificate at the Nature Company.* You will have your choice of any merchandise in the store!
- *Five nights for two at Mammoth Lakes in the High Sierra.* You will stay at the luxurious Alpine Lodge, and enjoy horseback riding, a tour of Mono Lake and lunch with writer and publisher Genny Smith. You will also have use of the Snowcreek Athletic Club and a fine meal at the Mogul restaurant.
- *A cross country skiing vacation for two in the High Sierra.* You will spend five nights at the Tamarack Lodge bordering Twin Lakes near the town of Mammoth Laks. Ski lessons, rentals and trail passes are all included.
- *Whale-watching off the Farallone Islands, a vacation at the Salishan Lodge in coastal Oregon, camping equipment and other fabulous prizes.*

The drawing is an exciting way to generate additional funds we critically need to save Mono Lake. Proceeds will help us prosecute the Rush Creek litigation, lobby in Sacramento and expand our grassroots support while continuing talks with Los Angeles officials.

You can help by entering the drawing, and encouraging your friends and neighbors to do the same. You will receive a packet of tickets and information in the mail. This is a "free" drawing—we request, but do not require, a contribution to participate. Most prizes have been donated, so virtually all the funds go toward Mono's defense.

For more tickets or information, please contact: The Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386.

Lee Stetson's "John Muir" Benefit a Success

Lee Stetson's benefit performance of his unforgettable, inspiring "Evening with John Muir: Conversation with a Tramp" played to a packed house in Berkeley Nov. 12. Proceeds will help save Mono Lake. Many thanks to Mildred Bennett for organizing the event.

Buttermilk Mountain Works Donates Day Packs

The Buttermilk Mountain Works of Bishop has generously donated children's and adults' day packs. These are the same high quality packs with Mono Lake patches featured in our catalog. They are available for \$18 (children) and \$22 (adults) in royal blue, navy blue, red, brown and silver.

Memorial Contribution

We gratefully acknowledge a contribution from Mel Harwell in memory of his brother Doug Harwell.

THANK YOUS!

Thank you to Don and Mara Melandry and Todd Berens for donating used books for resale at our visitor center, to Miss Willabelle Maloney for donating an adding machine to our Los Angeles office, and to Richard Moser for presenting a Mono Lake slide program in Ridgecrest.

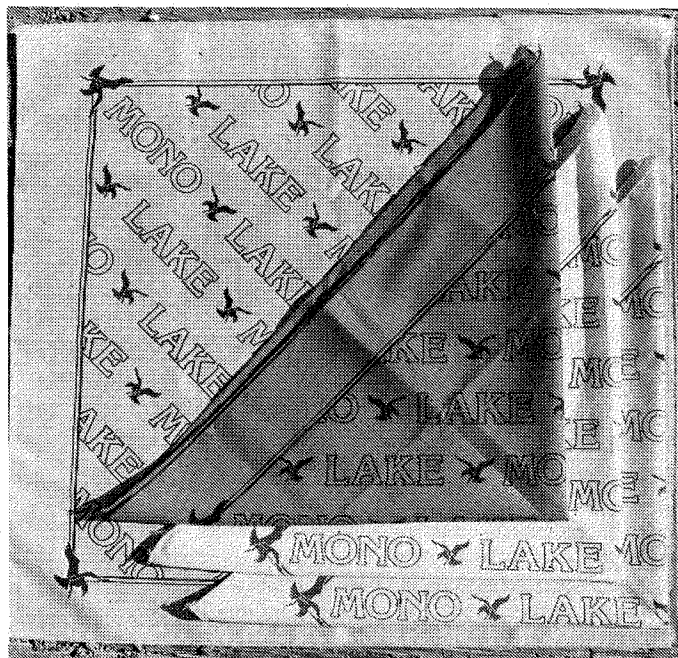
Trinkets for Spring

10K Run T-Shirts!



A few of these elegant, 100-percent-cotton T-shirts are left over from last fall's 10K run. The black-and-white "running gull" motif honors black-and-white photographer Ansel Adams, a staunch supporter of Mono Lake. These shirts are available in small, medium and large for \$8.

Bandanna Bonanza!



Slide into spring with our good-looking, practical Mono Lake bandannas. The 22-square-inch bandannas are available in lilac, pink, white, yellow, turquoise, red, blue and khaki for \$3.

To order, please send total amount plus \$2.50 for postage and handling (California residents please add 6% sales tax) to: *Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.*

Photography Workshop

Sponsored by the Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association

Master photographer Larry Ford will be teaching three weekend workshops at Bodie and four at Mono Lake during the coming year. Proceeds support the interpretive programs of the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve and the Bodie State Historical Park.

The two-day Bodie sessions are scheduled for July 11-12, Aug. 22-23 and Sept. 26-27, and cost \$60. By special arrangement, we will be able to photograph in the early morning and evening when the town is closed to visitors. The workshops are limited to six participants, so enroll early.

The Mono Lake workshops begin with a Thursday evening slide show and orientation lecture, and run through the weekend. They are scheduled for July 25-27, Aug. 16-18, Oct. 3-5 and Jan. 24-26, 1986, and cost \$50. The workshops include sunrise and sunset sessions, and many trips to photogenic areas off the beaten track.

To enroll or for more information, contact: Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, P.O. Box 99, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Please make checks payable to TAHOE SIERRA STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION.

HIGH SIERRA WORKSHOPS

Parcher's Resort

These workshops are conducted from Parcher's Resort, located at 9,280 feet off Hwy. 168 southwest of Bishop. Fees include clean, comfortable cabins and gourmet meals. Reservations must be paid one month in advance. Parcher's Resort is a generous supporter of the

Mono Lake Committee. For more information, write or call: P.O. Box 204, Ross, CA 94957, (415) 453-1521 (before May 1) or P.O. Box 1658, Bishop, CA 93514, (619) 873-4177 (after May 1).

ADVENTURES IN MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY, with Gordon Wiltsie. May 8-11. \$450.

BIRDING IN THE EASTERN SIERRA, with David Gaines. May 16-18. \$325.

THE GEOLOGY OF THE EASTERN SIERRA, with Mary Hill. June 23-29. \$650.

HIGH SIERRA WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP, with Mary Ellen Schultz. July 20-26. \$650.

WILDFLOWERS OF THE EASTERN SIERRA, with Glenn Keator. July 27-Aug. 2. \$650.

ORVIS CASTING SCHOOL, with Brant Oswald. Sept. 19-21. \$475.

INTRODUCTION TO BACKPACKING, with Allan Bard. Sept. 22-26. \$375.

FALL COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY, with Ernest Braun. Sept. 29 - Oct. 5. \$650.

OWENS VALLEY LANDSCAPES, with David Cavagnaro and Mary Ellen Schultz. Oct. 12-18. \$650.

1985 MONO LAKE WORKSHOPS

Sponsored by the Mono Lake Foundation

Would you like to explore Mono's islands? Learn to weave a Paiute basket? Tell a warbler from a vireo? Be prepared to cope with backcountry emergencies?

The non-profit Mono Lake Foundation has organized a weekend workshop series with something for every interest. Taught by knowledgeable, enthusiastic instructors, each workshop offers an exciting learning experience for novice and expert alike.

PAIUTE BASKETRY

July 13-14 Julia Parker Fee: \$70

In a flowery meadow near Mono Lake, Julia Parker, a native American basket maker from Yosemite, will start a small group of novice basket-makers on an authentic Paiute basket. Julia will provide materials (cured willow strips, redbud, bracken fern root), share her basket collection, and pass on the basketry lore she has learned from tribal elders. This workshop is limited to 10 people, so enroll early. The fee includes \$20 for materials.

MAMMOTH-MONO HISTORICAL TOUR

July 20-21 Jim Vanko Fee: \$50

Journey with living history actor and local history authority Jim Vanko back to the days of Paiutes and pioneers. We will wander from Mammoth to Bodie, exploring Indian cave-shelters, grinding sites and obsidian chipping grounds, mining camps, stamp mills, homesteads and graveyards. Jim is a superb storyteller as well as historian, and will make Mono's rough-and-rumble past come vividly to life.

SUMMER WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

July 27-28 Peggy Gray Fee: \$50

Pack up your watercolors and join renowned Sierran artist Peggy Gray for two days of painting near Mono Lake. Whether novice or expert, this workshop will improve your techniques and increase your painting enjoyment. Peggy is an outstanding instructor as well as artist, and will cover selecting your subject, preliminary sketches, design considerations, one-color wash painting, mixing colors, layered glazes and many other aspects of watercolor art.

AUTUMN WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

October 5-6 Lady Jill Mueller Fee: \$50

Fall colors highlight this watercolor workshop. Master artist Lady Jill Mueller will help us capture in watercolors the fiery brilliance of aspens and cottonwoods. Some previous painting experience is required.

Most of the workshops take place on Saturday and Sunday, and cost \$50. Space is limited, so register early. Upon receipt of registration, we will send a course outline and full information on what to bring and where to stay (camping or motels are options on most workshops). Proceeds further the Mono Lake Foundation's educational and research programs.

For more information, please contact: The Mono Lake Foundation, P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6360.



Backcountry emergencies instructor Mead Hargis demonstrating first-aid techniques.

COPING WITH BACKCOUNTRY EMERGENCIES

June 22-23 Mead Hargis Fee: \$50

Your child breaks a leg on a family backpacking trip. You are caught in a storm without adequate shelter. What do you do? How do you send for help? Mead Hargis, a Yosemite ranger with years of backcountry and emergency experience, will teach us how to cope with these and other common mountain mishaps—and to avoid them. We will practice first-aid techniques, and learn what belongs in a first-aid kit. This is a workshop no backcountry traveler should miss!

GEOLOGY OF THE MONO BASIN

July 4-7 Scott Stine Fee: \$85

Climb a volcano! Track a glacier! Soak in a hot spring! Spend four full days exploring Mono's dynamic geology with the man who knows it better than anyone else. Scott Stine is both a keen scientist and an extraordinary teacher who excels at making complex subjects exciting and understandable. This is one workshop no monophile should miss!

MONO LAKE'S ISLANDS

Aug. 9-11 Scott Stine Fee: \$100

Explore Negit and Paoha islands with Mono's premier geologist, Scott Stine. We will camp in the middle of Mono Lake on one of the youngest volcanoes in North America, cook breakfast over steam vents, and listen to campfire tales of Paiutes, homesteaders, egg-hunters, prospectors and scientists. The islands are spectacular, and we will have two full days to explore and learn about their natural and cultural features. The fee includes boat transportation.

MONO LAKE ECOLOGY

Aug. 24-25 David Herbst Fee: \$50

No fish? Then what's Mono Lake all about? In this workshop, we discover why this mysterious saline lake is one of the most life-productive on earth. We will range from tufa groves to pumice beaches, sampling lake chemistry, peering at algae, tracing the histories of brine shrimp and alkali flies, and watching birds. David Herbst has spent nine years studying Mono Lake, and excels at making ecology come alive.

DISCOVERING MONO'S INSECTS

Aug. 24-25 David Herbst Fee: \$50

Most of us are vaguely aware of the insect life thriving around us, yet know relatively little about it. David Herbst will open our eyes to the strange but marvelous lives of bugs, beetles, butterflies and other invertebrates, and the roles they play in the Mono Basin environment. We will visit sand dunes, lake shores, hot springs and many other habitats as we seek a myriad of strange, unseen creatures, and learn how they thrive in the high desert.



Eastern Sierran landscape by watercolor workshop instructor Peggy Gray.

BIRDS OF THE MONO BASIN

June 29-30 David Gaines Fee: \$50

Beginners as well as experts will enjoy this intimate introduction to Mono's birdlife. We will learn, not only to identify birds by plumage and song, but also to understand the roles they play in the Mono Basin environment. David Gaines is an expert birder, inspirational teacher, and chairman and founder of the Mono Lake Committee.

Mono Lake Foundation

A non-profit, tax-deductible organization, the Mono Lake Foundation, has been organized for three principal purposes: (1) *education and environmental interpretation* - facilitating and enhancing the public's understanding and enjoyment of the Mono Lake, (2) *scientific research* - promoting studies that further understanding and management of Mono's natural features, and (3) *environmental and cultural preservation* - protecting the geological, ecological and historical resources of the Mono Basin for scientific study and the enjoyment of future generations.

The Mono Lake Foundation will be raising money through donations, grants and seminar fees, and awarding grants to educators, scientists and non-profit organizations. The foundation is being administered by a volunteer board of directors, so virtually all of its income is going to programs

rather than overhead.

The Mono Lake Foundation was organized by four Mono County residents, who serve as its board and officers. President Meredith Ford is an author and high school teacher. Treasurer Mary Hanson is a tax consultant who has been active with many non-profit organizations. Secretary Mead Hargis is a Yosemite National Park ranger. Also on the board is David Gaines, the Mono Lake Committee's founder and chairman, and Jim Sano, Yosemite District Ranger.

Donations to the Mono Lake Foundation are tax-deductible for income tax purposes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. For more information on the foundation's purposes and activities, please contact: Meredith Ford, Mono Lake Foundation, P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541.



REGISTRATION CARD

Send to: Mono Lake Foundation Workshops, P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541

enclose \$ _____ in payment for the following workshops:

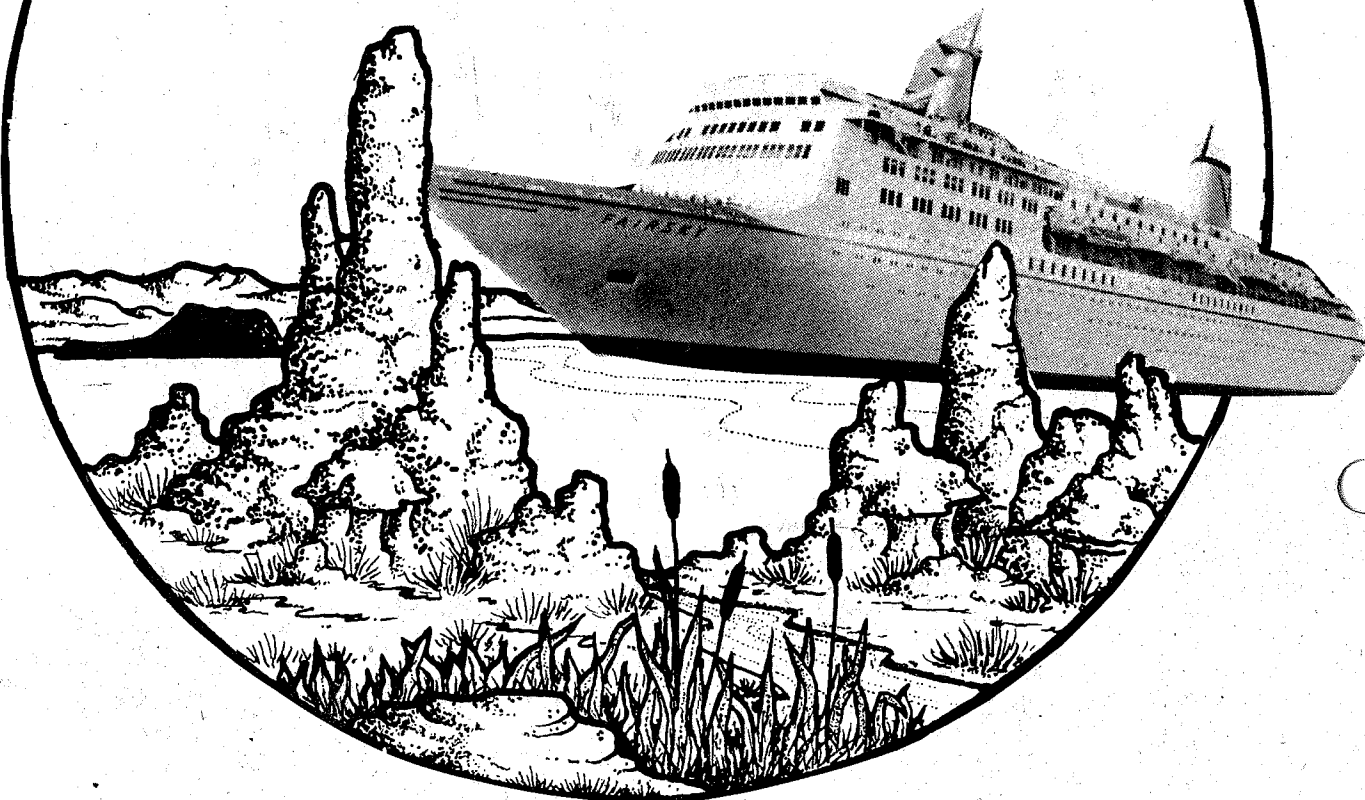
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketry | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Watercolor | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Ecology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autumn Watercolor | <input type="checkbox"/> Insects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry Emergencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds |

Please make checks payable to *The Mono Lake Foundation*. If you decide to cancel, we will refund your money if you let us know at least three weeks prior to the workshop (less \$10 processing fee). Full refunds will be made if a workshop is cancelled.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____

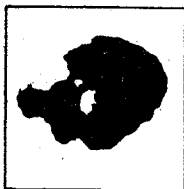
ALASKA FUND-RAISING CRUISE

It's not too late to join fellow monophiles on a 12-day cruise from San Francisco to Glacier Bay, Alaska, June 14-26, and help raise funds to save Mono Lake! But don't wait, as only a few cabins remain, and they cannot be held after April 10. For more details, see p. 12.



JOIN US!

Still not a Mono Lake Committee member? Join us, and increase our strength and effectiveness. We will keep you informed, through our quarterly newsletter and action alerts, of what's happening and how you can help. Regular membership is \$15/year (\$25 Sponsor, \$50 Supporting Member, \$100 Monophile, \$500 Monomaniac, \$8 "I Can't Afford More"). Checks should be payable to the Mono Lake Committee, and are not tax deductible.



**The
Mono Lake
Committee**

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