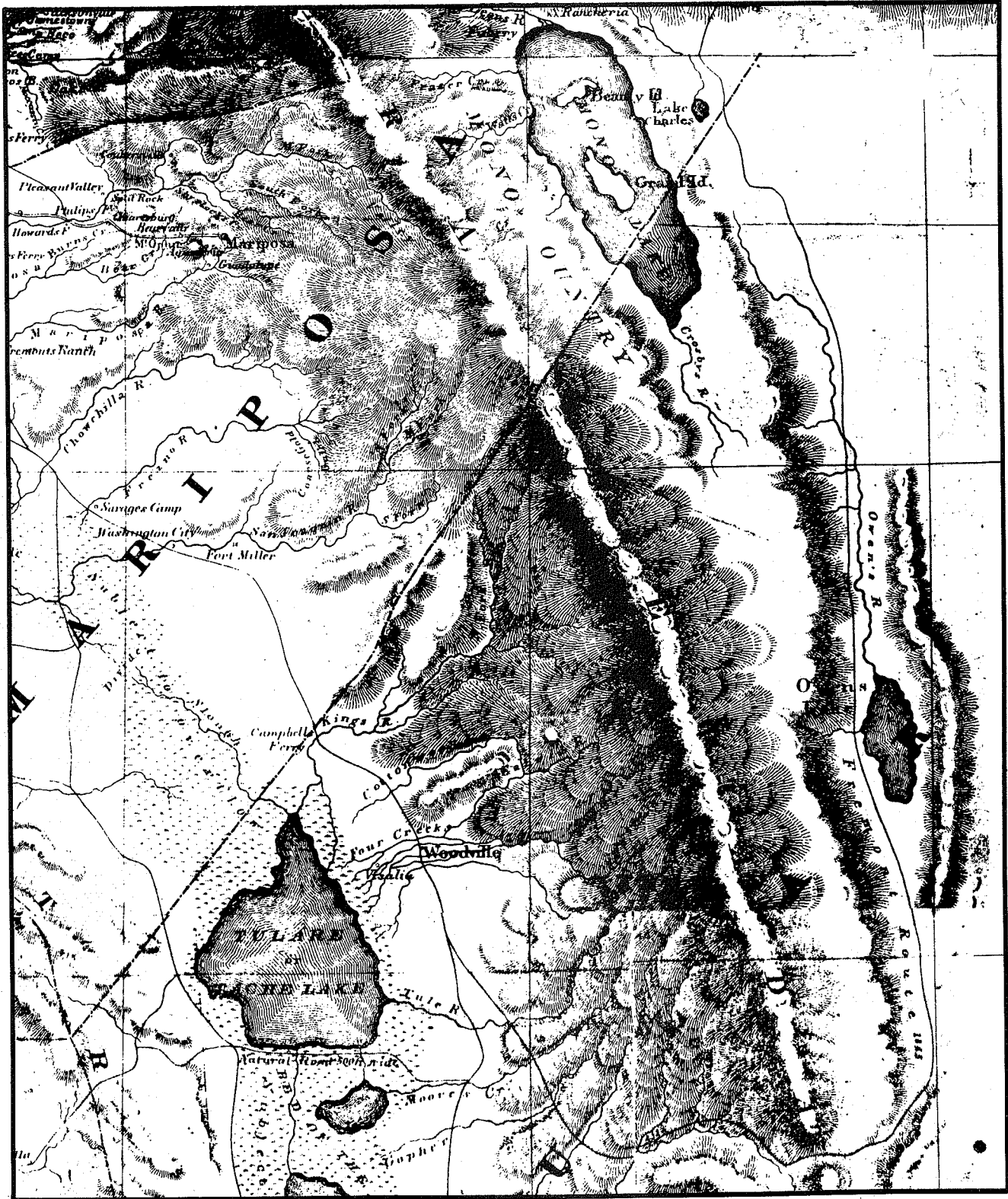


Spring 1987

Vol. 9, No. 4

MONO^{the} LAKE

NEWSLETTER



ON THE COVER

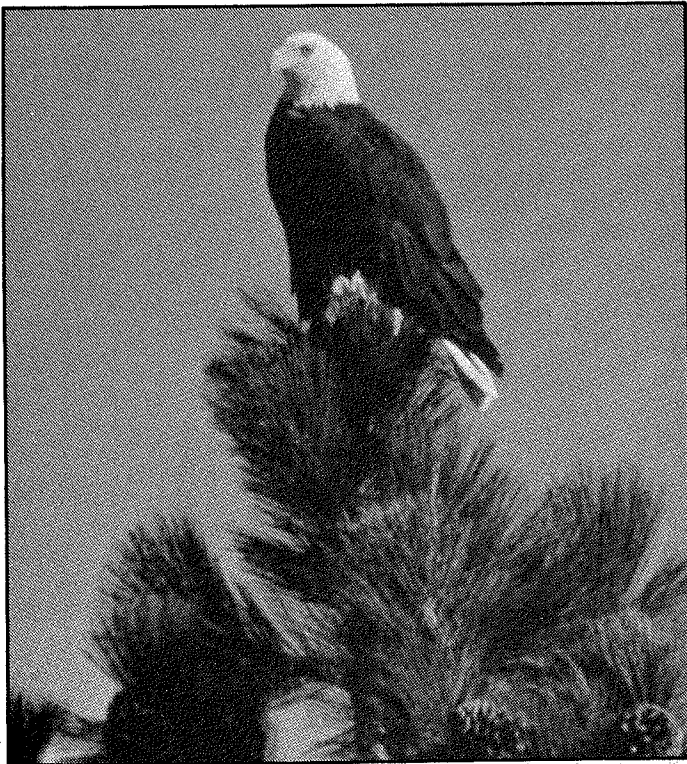
R.A. Eddy's 1854 map of California was among the first to depict Mono Lake. Only two years before, Lt. Tredwell Moore had pursued Chief Tenaya's Yosemite Indians across the Sierra to Mono's shores. Moore intended to "finish them off once and for all," but had to content himself with discovering gold and giving ephemeral names to islands and streams. Eddy relied on Moore in drafting his map, which distorts the shape of the lake, but shows its major islands and tributary streams.

Eddy's map, however, has much greater significance. Look at the size of Tulare and its unnamed sister lakes at the lower left

(near present-day Bakersfield). Look at the extent of the encircling stipled areas, which denote overflow lands and tule marshes. Look at Owens Lake at the lower right. All are gone, sacrificed to the consuming thirst of agriculture and urban areas. In little more than a century, our forebears destroyed over 95 percent of California's wetlands, and with them a wildlife wealth this continent will never see again.

Mono Lake, as Eddy's map shows, is a small remnant of California's pristine waterscape. To demand its preservation is not to ask for much.

...David Gaines



RUSH CREEK EAGLE—Our court victories on Rush and Lee Vining creeks have been a boon to more than Mono Lake. At least four endangered bald eagles—two adults and two youngsters—wintered along the rewatered streams, feasting on fish and waterfowl. This habitat is particularly important after mountain lakes freeze in December.

Don Jackson, who was volunteering in our Lee Vining office, snapped this photograph along lower Rush Creek on Christmas day. He writes, "I spotted this magnificent eagle just off the road."

We're grateful to Don for the photograph, invaluable help wiring our office telephones, exotic salad fixings and camaraderie.



Earth Suicide Prevention Club

One of our supporters, William Loran, has organized the *Earth Suicide Prevention Club*. Unlike most organizations, there are no dues or meetings. Members simply wear an attractive "Earth Suicide Prevention Club" button wherever they go. Bill hopes this will help others "recognize that our very lives are threatened by many of man's own activities." To request an *Earth Suicide Prevention Club* button, or for more information, write William Loran, P.O. Box 1207, Felton, CA 95018.

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to saving Mono Lake from the excessive diversion of water from its tributary streams. We seek a compromise that will meet the real water needs of Los Angeles and leave our children a living, healthy and beautiful lake.

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This newsletter is funded partially by a grant from the *Mono Lake Foundation*, a non-profit organization dedicated to studying and protecting the Mono Lake watershed and adjacent areas (P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541). We invite your membership and support (see back cover).

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Mono Lake Watch

Dry Year Awakening



CARL DENNIS BUELL

After eight wet years, dry weather has returned to the Mono Lake watershed. October, November and December were the driest on record, with January not far behind. Until mid-February, you could still cross the passes in hiking boots. The water content of the snow pack was less than 40 percent of the seasonal average. Unless we are drenched this spring, the runoff will be meager indeed.

In January, planes began seeding the clouds that occasionally teased the desiccated heights. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power filed a negative declaration claiming its cloud-seeding is a harmless technofix, though no one knows if it really works.

As the planes dumped their loads of silver iodide on the fickle clouds, the dry weeks stretched into months, exposing our control over nature for the chimera it is. We can stop a drought about as well as the sun from rising.

To be sure, one or two dry years will not doom Mono Lake. Nor would decades, were it not for the artificial drought imposed in all but the wettest years by DWP's diversions of the lake's tributary streams.

It's those decades of drought, in tandem with another wild card that worry me. Turn back climatic history more than a few centuries, as scientists have done using tree rings, fossil pollen and other techniques, and you find prolonged periods that were substantially drier than the mean today. We cannot count on the continuation of current climatic conditions.

The other wild card is population. In a report released at the end of last year, the Southern California Association of Governments projected that the population of coastal Southern California would grow from 12.4 million to 18 million people in the next two decades, meaning more traffic, smog and demand for water. While such massive growth may never materialize, its possibility cannot be ignored.

Years ago, when the Mono Lake Committee was in its infancy, former California Resources Secretary Huey P. Johnson called Mono Lake "an important symbol of the conflict between constant demand for increased use of resources and the growing awareness that there are limits to those resources." The spate of wet winters has helped us forget how fast we approach those limits. A touch of drought is sobering.

Today there is adequate water to meet the needs of Mono Lake as well as Los Angeles, provided we husband existing supplies and use them efficiently and wisely. Tomorrow that may not be the case. Unless we respect the carrying capacity of our planet, our insatiable thirst will not only destroy Mono Lake, San Francisco Bay, north coast rivers and the last of our wetlands. It will tip the balance of nature against our own children.

...David Gaines

Lake Could Plummet Two Feet

If dry conditions continue, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diverts all the water it can from Mono's tributary streams, the lake could plummet two vertical feet by autumn.

Between last October and the end of January, DWP diverted as much water as in the previous 12 months. In January, over 10,000 acre-feet went down the aqueduct instead of into the lake. Only court orders kept 19 cubic feet per second flowing down Rush Creek, and 10 cfs down Lee Vining Creek. These flows—a little more than one-fourth of that needed to stabilize the lake—slow down but do not arrest Mono's decline.

Despite dry conditions, California is not yet facing a crisis. Thanks to past wet years, reservoirs and ground-water basins are well above normal, and the Colorado River system still holds a surplus. But a second dry winter—like the '76-'77 drought—could deplete these supplies and lead to shortages.

For this reason, the Mono Lake Committee could countenance increased diversions in dry years such as this provided DWP reduces diversions and raises the lake when the rains return. But first Mono must be stabilized at a level that would permit DWP to tap its streams and lower its surface without losing Negit Island or endangering its ecosystem. At present, the lake is still eight feet below that level, identified as 6,388 feet by a nonpartisan, 1977 Interagency Task Force. In addition, DWP must guarantee sufficient minimum flows in Mono's tributary streams to sustain fish and riparian habitat.

As it is, two years of drought could spell the loss, once again, of Negit Island and its gull colonies.

...Jim Parker and David Gaines



Natural History Workshops

This summer the Mono Lake Committee's bird-brained founder and editor, Dave Gaines, will lead workshops on birds, wildflowers, natural history and local history. Proceeds help to save Mono Lake. For details on these and other exciting workshops, see p. 15.

All Quiet on the Legal Front—For Now

Since our last newsletter, next to nothing has happened on the legal front. Our four lawsuits challenging the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams are in limbo. The public trust suit—cornerstone of legal efforts to save Mono Lake—has now been before the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for over 21 months. Our action challenging DWP's Mono Basin water licenses has been before the state 3rd District Court of Appeals for six months. A Rush Creek trial has been deferred for approximately two years pending the completion of stream studies. The Lee Vining Creek case awaits the appointment of a new judge.

There is, however, a silver lining. While the judicial system stalls, at least 29 cubic feet per second of water continue to flow down Rush and Lee Vining creeks into Mono Lake instead of down the aqueduct to Los Angeles. While nearly four times as much will ultimately be required to save the lake, these flows are revitalizing vegetation, wildlife and trout. More water is needed, but at least our lawsuits have begun to crack the dams.

FIELD GUIDE TO THE LAWSUITS

With four complex lawsuits shuttling through state and federal courts, even we've become confused. To help, we've prepared a brief synopsis of the public trust, water license, Rush Creek and Lee Vining Creek suits. To obtain a copy, please contact any Mono Lake Committee office.

Toxics Threaten L.A. Ground Water

Water quality, water supply and the future of Mono Lake are inexorably linked. To understand this point, one need only look at the San Fernando Valley Ground Water Basin, which supplies Los Angeles with an average of 17 percent of its water, and up to 26 percent in drought years. Toxic contamination, however, has forced the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to shut down or restrict use of 20 of its 75 valley wells.

Common sense requires that the San Fernando Ground-water Basin be cleaned up and protected. Not only is it an important source of water, it also serves as an underground reservoir for storing surplus surface flows during wet years. In recent years, for example, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has used this method, called conjunctive use, to store approximately 180,000 acre-feet of water as insurance in case of drought. This gives the city a flexibility in meeting its water needs which could prove key to saving Mono Lake.

But DWP, instead of removing the contamination, reduces concentrations of toxics by blending (diluting) the contaminated well water with water from the Mono Basin and Owens Valley. Last year it turned this against Mono Lake's defenders in court. Reducing diversions from Mono's streams, DWP told a Sacramento judge, might force it to pump more water from

valley wells, leading to "trichloroethylene concentrations above state guidelines in the blend delivered to consumers."

Blending, however, does not solve the problem. When TC concentrations in valley wells reach 40 parts per billion, DWP can no longer hide the contamination behind water from the Eastern Sierra. Instead, DWP is forced to shut down the wells to keep from violating health guidelines of 5 ppb. If concentrations of TCE and other industrial solvents continue to increase, more of Los Angeles' water supply—and the people who drink it—will be put at risk.

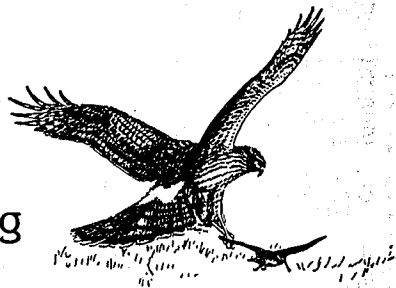
Even DWP seems to recognize the inadequacy of blending. In a recent document, it concedes that it "resorted to this method when the scope of the contamination problem in the basin was becoming apparent, and there was no long-range plan of action . . . blending can be looked on as simply a contaminant dilution scheme whereby the problem organics are transferred from the ground to the distribution supply system."

The Mono Lake Committee is helping Citizens for Safe Drinking Water push for the immediate development and implementation of a "long-range plan." "If we don't clean up the contamination at its source, the problem is only going to get worse, and no amount of aqueduct water will help," says MLC Executive Director Martha Davis. "No one will be able to use the San Fernando Valley Ground-water Basin for storage of water in wet years, for emergency use in drought years, or for daily water supply. DWP must take aggressive action to clean up the basin as soon as possible."

DWP plans to construct a pilot aeration facility, but it is years away from reversing the spread of the contamination, and continues to rely on blending. Much more substantive action is required. Angelenos need a water supply that affords a healthy future, and Mono Lake does too. Cleaning up the San Fernando Ground-water Basin will help ensure a healthy and reliable supply for Los Angeles residents, and facilitate the preservation of one of the most extraordinary lakes on earth.

...Stephen Osgood

Forest Service to Purchase Simon's Spring



Out amid the sage and sand on the far side of Mono Lake, there is an oasis of tufa and meadows called Simon's Spring. The spot is saturated with bird song, and harbors many nesting ducks and shore birds. Because it is such a lush habitat, the area has been damaged frequently by grazing sheep.

The Forest Service has been unable to fully protect Simon's Spring because much of the land, while within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, is in private ownership. Last fall, however, Congress allocated \$400,000 for the purchase of private inholdings. Most of the money will be used to purchase the Simon's Spring property, and ensure the preservation of its unique marsh and tufa-grove habitats.

Thanks go to the Trust for Public Land, Congressman Richard Lehman and his aide, Mary Lou Cooper, for their efforts to secure this precious allocation.

Down to the Letter for Mono Lake

The winter has left Mono Lake in a curious tension. The water level is still high from previous wet years, but the weather has turned exceptionally dry. Water continues to flow down Rush and Lee Vining creeks due to past legal victories, but our court cases are moving slowly. Political leaders have expressed support for finding a solution, but have yet to take decisive action.

We can get things moving again, but only if each of us takes a few minutes to write Gov. George Deukmejian and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley on behalf of Mono Lake and its living inhabitants. Mono needs our informed, passionate and insightful letters more than ever.

Writing effective letters won't take long if you follow the following brief suggestions. They apply to writing on any issue, not just Mono Lake. See the adjoining box for an exemplary epistle.

STEP 1: Write the correct address on the envelope and at the top of your letter (Gov. George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; Mayor Tom Bradley, City Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90012).

STEP 2: Date your letter.

STEP 3: Explain your concerns. Keep them specific and focused.

STEP 4: Use your own words. Personal letters are often more effective than form letters.

STEP 5: Keep your letter to one page. Handwritten letters

are fine provided they are legible.

STEP 6: Ask for a reply.

STEP 7: Don't threaten or berate, and express thanks for any positive actions.

STEP 8: Sign your letter with your name and address.

As Rep. Morris Udall once said, "My mailbox is my best 'hotline' to the people back home." Let's keep that line open. Write a letter for Mono Lake while munching your lunch today.

...Lauren Davis

Governor George Deukmejian
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 2, 1987

Dear Governor Deukmejian,

I have just returned from a visit to Mono Lake. I am moved by the natural beauty of this unique place, and appalled by the indifference of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

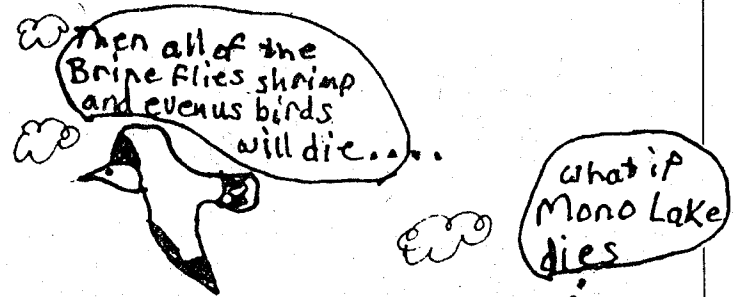
I feel strongly that the Mono Lake ecosystem, its tufa, brine shrimp, fish, birds and scenic resources, should be protected from excessive water diversions. There must be alternatives to destroying Mono Lake.

Please do all you can to resolve this problem immediately. Let me know what steps you are taking to preserve this treasured part of California, and assure our children a living, beautiful Mono Lake.

Sincerely,

Brine Q. Shrimp

Brine Q. Shrimp
100 Water St.
Los Angeles, CA 00000



Kids' Letters Impress Congressmen

Impressed by letters from 10-year-old Mika and 12-year-old Justin Yoshida, Los Angeles Congressman Henry Waxman contacted the Mono Lake Committee for more information on Mono Lake's plight. Following are excerpts from the letters:

Dear Congressman Waxman,

I represent my family, myself, and many people interested in preserving Mono Lake. The beauty of Mono Lake is almost indescribable because of its many different traits. Limestone tufas tower above people. Reflections of color in the sky and objects dance on the surface of the lake. Mono Lake's water supports a large ecosystem including a large variety of birds, brine shrimp and other creatures. A lot of damage has been done already.

The only remaining waterway that supports wild trout and that also runs into Mono Lake is Rush Creek. I have fished in this creek several times, and if this survivor of other creeks is drained it will be with my displeasure and loss, and also with loss for future generations.

Thank you for your concern.

...Justin Yoshida

Dear Congressman Waxman,

This letter concerns the preservation of Mono Lake and its animals. The Department of Water and Power have closed off all the creeks except one, Rush Creek. The Department wants to close Rush Creek too. Two years ago the streams were closed off, Mono Lake had evaporated so much the lake got too salty for most of the brine shrimp. Mono Lake is a beautiful place. If you're ever near, maybe my family could go with you to see Mono Lake. By the way, if you're ever near my house maybe you could visit us and take home some avocados.

Thank you for your kindness.

...Mika Yoshida

Attorney General Interested In Mono Lake Meetings

At a Jan. 27 meeting with environmental leaders, California Attorney General John Van de Kamp expressed interest in meeting with the Mono Lake Committee, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Mono County, the Forest Service and others to discuss Mono Lake's fate. Van de Kamp was responding to MLC Executive Director Martha Davis, who had emphasized the need for state leadership. Davis told Van de Kamp that "a common-sense solution must be developed which will both preserve Mono Lake and provide for Los Angeles' needs," and stressed tremendous public support for protecting the lake.

WATER HARDBALL: A Chat with Mono County Supervisor Andrea Lawrence

I first met Andrea Lawrence in the summer of 1976, when she visited our camp overlooking Mono Lake. We were a rag-tag band of young biologists entranced by the mystery and plight of a shrinking lake. As we talked around the campfire late into the night, the conversation inevitably turned to Andrea's accomplishments as skier and environmentalist. In 1952, she became the first person to win two gold metals for skiing in a single Olympics. Twenty years later, she led a landmark legal battle that forced private developers to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. Elected to the Mono County Board of Supervisors in 1982, Andrea has been a staunch champion of Mono Lake and local control over water.

...David Gaines

DAVE: Serving on the board of supervisors is a thankless job. What prompted you to run?

ANDREA: A mixture of things. Living in an area I absolutely love, having been sustained and nurtured by it for almost 20 years, I wanted to give something back. When I lived in Aspen, and served on the planning commission, I came to the notion that communities can control their destinies. I also strongly believe that if you don't take control, somebody is going to take it away from you.

DAVE: Environmentalism is not always popular in small counties like Mono. Yet you have twice been elected by large majorities.

ANDREA: When I was campaigning, I realized people lived in such close contact with the environment that they probably wouldn't understand talk about environmental values. So I put it in the framework of recreation. Our recreational resources are our economy. So we must be very careful and wise in our



Mono County Supervisor Andrea Lawrence

utilization of these resources, which are, in fact, our lakes, our streams, our mountains. And that means careful planning.

DAVE: You have been especially strong, and have challenged the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's hegemony over Mono's water resources.

ANDREA: We have to assume guardianship of our resources, especially water. You can do without some trees, maybe, but not without water. Moreover I'm appalled and offended that, in our democratic country, DWP could literally take us over. It's the attitude of a sovereignty ruling by "the divine right of kings"—an appalling presumption.

DAVE: What is Mono County doing to regain control over water?

ANDREA: The main thing is a strong water policy in our general plan. County general plans have some clout. I would like to see us establish minimum flows for streams, levels for lakes. But we must also gather the information that will enable us to take effective positions on vital issues, such as the proposed enlargement of DWP's Crowley Lake Reservoir.

DAVE: Crowley has us worried. By enlarging the reservoir, DWP could divert more water from Mono Lake's tributary streams. On the other hand, by storing more Owens River runoff, it could help meet the needs of L.A. and the Owens Valley while reducing Mono diversions. But DWP refuses to look at this angle. The Mono Lake Committee has secured a \$5,700 grant from the Strong Center for an independent study. I understand the county has just approved a matching grant.

ANDREA: Today, in fact, we appropriated \$5,000 for this very important study. Crowley is one of the first big issues we are going to face.

DAVE: What other water-related issues are you grappling with?

ANDREA: We need to address, not just streams and lakes, but ground water as well.

DAVE: DWP has been pumping water from beneath the Owens Valley for decades. They may someday put their straws into Mono County as well.

ANDREA: Absolutely, near Crowley Lake. Another vital issue concerns the Bureau of Land Management lands that were withdrawn by Congress in 1931 and 1933 for the "protection of the watershed supplying Los Angeles." We would like Congress to release some of these lands for the growth of our local communities, but DWP is holding us hostage. Not that Inyo or Mono counties are going to grow by any vast amount, but we do need a little land to meet our needs. We've agreed with BLM and DWP on the lands to be released, but DWP insists on language that renders the protection of its watershed the sole purpose of the remaining federal lands. Such language could undermine the public trust, federal reserved water rights and other legal grounds for protecting Mono Lake. It's absolutely unacceptable.

DAVE: We're fortunate to have someone with your perspicuity and dedication on the Mono County Board of Supervisors. You seem to have an almost spiritual relationship with the Sierra environment.

ANDREA: Place has meant more than most things in my life. The Eastern Sierra, Mono Lake, are a sustaining force. If we lose them, it will be a terrible loss. I'm not sure how we would survive as a race without these values. I'm reminded of Barba Newhall's wonderful lines from *This is the American Earth*: "Were all learning lost, all music stilled, Man, if these resources still remained in him, could again hear singing in himself and rebuild anew the habitations of his thought."

"I Tried to Kill Mono Lake"

Confessions of a Water Junkie

by Tom Stoddard



Los Angeles, from a painting by Thomas Hill, circa 1888.

I was born in the Los Angeles Basin in 1933, and grew up in Signal Hill, a small oil town surrounded by Long Beach. Every day I climbed the hill, which is only 600 feet high, but is one of the few bumps in an otherwise flat basin. To the northwest I could see the small cluster of buildings that was Los Angeles. To the south lay Long Beach, an even smaller town. Beyond, the Pacific Ocean and Santa Catalina were always visible on fogless days. To the north, behind Pasadena, rose the San Gabriel Mountains, crowned to the east by snow-capped Mount Baldy shining in the sun. Directly east, endless miles of flower farms, citrus groves and other green endeavors stretched to the hills near Fullerton and Santa Ana. It was a magnificent view—clear, pastoral and breathtaking.

My brother and I grew up swimming in the clean surf, and walking pristine beaches. Then World War II broke out. The war, together with the siren song of "progress," hurled Southern California toward four mad decades of uninterrupted development.

My father was enchanted with "progress." When Douglas Aircraft built a huge plant in Long Beach, Dad would point out how big it was, how many people worked there, what planes would be built, and how proud we should be. On weekends, he would take us to see the giant docks and shipyards being built on Terminal Island. He operated one of the giant cranes used to build ships. He was proud of the buildings, roads, machinery and construction, and of his place in the matrix. He passed this fervor on to my brother and me.

And always the cry was for water. We must ensure future supplies! Southern California must have water! Don't let our water be cut off! We were water junkies. To be against water was like being against mothers and apple pie. We voted for bonds, dams, aqueducts, reservoirs and any screwball scheme the water barons wanted. I never questioned the massive advertising campaigns; it was a simple need that had to be fulfilled. Everyone was for water. Only cranky misfits spoke against it.

Alas, the truth was not so simple. Developers, landowners, business interests and everyone else who stood to profit from a larger population and higher real estate prices were the ones who really wanted more water—not to meet present needs, either, but to promote massive future development that would enrich their pockets.

Seduced by the developer's song, we uncritically voted for every scheme to bring more water to Southern California.

We voted ourselves into air pollution, highway gridlock, fouled beaches, rambling ghettos and tacky subdivisions. Perhaps we got what we deserved, but we did not get what we were promised.

I am guilty. I was there, and voted to continue the madness. I voted to drain Mono Lake and divert the Colorado River. I started the scramble to suck the water out of the Delta and the north coast rivers.

From the top of Signal Hill, I watched the devastation spread like a giant cancer. Cheap houses replaced orange groves and flower farms. Huge, smoke-spewing factories nudged aside strawberry patches. Shopping centers replaced avocado groves. The auto became the new Holy Tabernacle, and we built 12-pump shrines at every busy intersection. Sleepy country roads became 16-laned chutes of roaring insanity. The snow-capped mountains disappeared in the brown gunk. The rivers and streams became concrete-lined sewers polluting the cesspool Pacific. The foxes, hawks and horned lizards vanished. The California condor retreated to the hills, where it is now extinct in the wild.

Today the madness goes on. Factories, houses and freeways spread into the last vestiges of open space. Oblivious to the devastation, politicians cry for still more water while the voters rub their eyes and strangle in traffic. Unknowingly, they are killing Mono Lake, the Colorado Basin, the San Francisco Bay Delta and themselves. I know—I was one of them.

LETTERS

Stop Studying and Conserve

Dear Los Angeles Department of Water and Power,

The endless studies of Mono Lake produce much information and little knowledge. A lot of time and money is being wasted to allow the continued destruction of a body of water and its surroundings, and to delay forces trying to halt the destruction. If the millions DWP has spent to defend its attack on Mono Lake had been spent instead to control the insatiable water appetites of your customers, you could have left Mono alone long ago. All your studies show is that you should stop the studying, get out of the Mono Basin entirely, and direct your resources toward conserving water, recycling it, and controlling the numbers of humans in L.A.

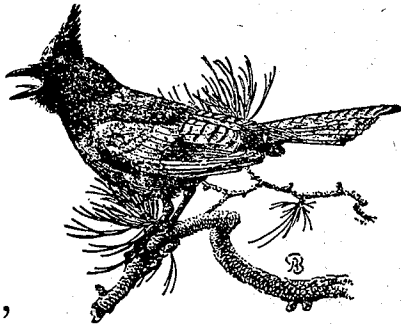
...Randy McClure

Feds Win Lake-shore Land

A federal appeals court ruled Dec. 2 that the United States and not the state of California has title to most of Mono Lake's relicted lands, which are those exposed by the shrinking of the lake. The decision gives the federal government title to all relicted lands where it is the upland owner. In effect this transfers jurisdiction for 70 percent of the lake-shore lands, including the South Tufa Grove and Navy Beach, from the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

The decision also strengthens the case for federal "reserved" water rights that conceivably could force the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to release more water into Mono Lake. Since 1979, the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council have been urging the federal government to enforce such rights to protect the lake environment, and may bring suit if the federal government does not act.

The state retains title to the 30 percent of the relicted lands that lie below private or DWP properties. This includes such important areas as the Black Point tufa grove, Mono Lake County Park, the entire west shore, the Lee Vining tufa grove and Simon's Spring. Might private landowners follow the federal government's lead, and seek title to these lands? Sierra Club attorney Laurens Silver thinks they won't have a case, because private lands fall under state rather than federal common law. For the time being, at least, the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve will continue its excellent job of protecting these heavily visited, sensitive areas.



Thank You, Yosemite Park and Curry Co.

Since our inception, the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. has been one of the Mono Lake Committee's staunchest and most generous supporters. Last year, for example, YPC President Edward C. Hardy convinced the Yosemite Association to assist our interpretive programs with a \$10,000 grant. We chatted recently with Ed about the company that operates the Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite Lodge and other park concessions.

MLC: Why is YPC interested in the environment?

HARDY: For years the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. has held the philosophy that in order for a concessionaire to be successful in a place such as Yosemite, it is essential to operate in an environmentally sound manner. Visitors who stay in our facilities are really here to see Yosemite. If the park's resources are diminished, they will go elsewhere. Not only is it intrinsically important to help protect Yosemite, but it's simply good business.

MLC: What are some of your accomplishments?

HARDY: Our first priority is to protect the natural environment around our units, but our concerns cover a broad field. Our affirmative programs range from recycling and beverage-container deposits to working for wilderness designations and removing major debris, such as plane wrecks and abandoned phone lines, from the backcountry.

MLC: Mono Lake lies outside the park. What made you decide to support it?

HARDY: We realize that the Yosemite experience includes areas around the park, such as the Merced River to our west and Mono Lake to our east. Mono's tremendous scenic and wildlife values complement a visit to Yosemite proper. Our support for the Mono Lake Committee is thus a logical component of our environmental programs.

Fund-raising: Mono Lake Can Rely on You

With each passing year, I am astounded by the growth of our efforts to protect Mono Lake. New threats arise, new legal fronts open up, new political opportunities appear—and each time the committee's hardworking staff and volunteers are there to respond, speaking on behalf of birds, tufa and brine shrimp that cannot speak for themselves.

To become more effective, we also have had to expand our budget. Legal services do not come for free, nor do office space, telephones and staff.

We are proud of our ability to stretch our budget. Yet staying ahead—politically and financially—has meant increasing the number of fund-raising events and appeals.

Probably you have noticed. Each year extraordinary volunteers like Millie Bennett, Grace de Laet, Jean Dale and Dennis Yaminsky organize tours to Alaska and Ano Nuevo, wine raffles (see back page) and other special events, raising tens of thousands of dollars. Much more is raised from you through membership renewals, our free drawing, bike-a-thon, bird-a-thon, merchandise sales and our year-end appeal.

We know that repeated requests for donations can become tiresome. But we need to raise \$350,000 this year. This may sound like a lot, but consider the resources of our opponents. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the nation's largest municipal utility, has \$2 billion at its disposal each year. If we are to succeed at convincing—or forcing—DWP to share some of its water with Mono Lake, we require the funds to press forward at every opportunity.

And look at what we have accomplished. With your support, we are winning water through the courts while building statewide political support for the lake's protection.

We know you cannot respond to every appeal and fund-raiser with a check. When you cannot help us financially, please consider passing our appeal to a friend. You can also help by writing to Gov. George Deukmejian, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and your state representatives about Mono Lake's plight.

We are deeply grateful for the many generous gifts you do make each year. Thanks to you, the committee is raising the funds needed to save Mono Lake.

...Martha Davis

Trekking Around Mono Lake

by Lauren Davis

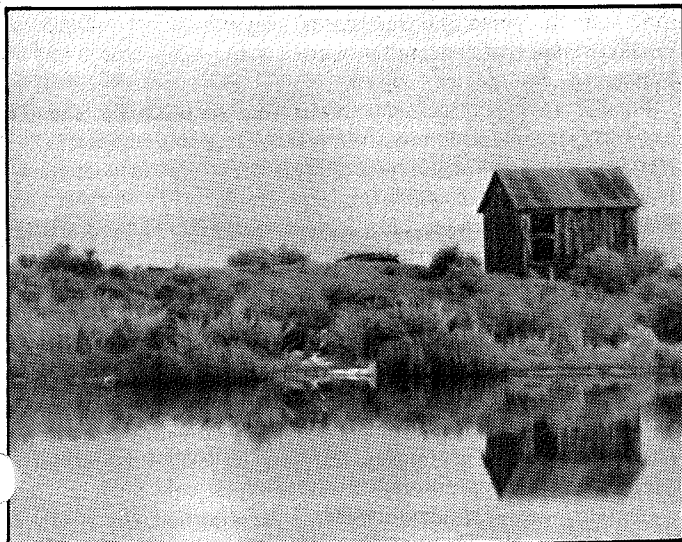
Circumambulation is a way of saying you are walking around something: a tree, a mountain or perhaps a lake. I like the word's mystical undertones. It implies a journey embarked upon as an act of faith. In a sense, this is why Nancy Morita and I circumambulated Mono Lake last May. Sure, we had fun dunking ourselves in Rush Creek, but underneath was a deep desire to understand better the Mono Basin landscape.

Day 1

We begin our walk from Mono City north of the lake. The no-see-ums soon discover our travel plans, and decide to tag along. For the next four days, unless a stiff breeze is blowing, the view will be framed by their tiny, buzzing bodies. They can hardly be said to be living up to their names, but they are living up to their reputations as being ubiquitous.

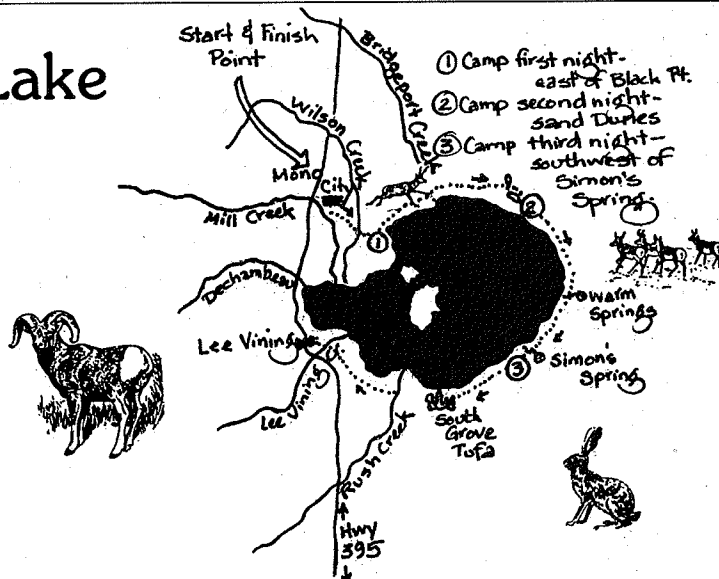
Our first stop is Dechambeau Ranch, where straight Lombardy poplars jut from the sagebrush. Although we've been told that itinerant shepherders and wild antelope are its only occupants, we approach the old buildings like young raccoons on their first raid. Banging metal and creaking boards send us skittering back into the sagebrush, but we finally surmise that the cars are long since junked, and no one is here. We eat lunch in front of the dilapidated ranch house, surrounded by the sweet smell of blossoms from an elderly fruit tree. The watery sound of the wind shaking the poplars makes the place seem lush.

We look for pronghorn antelope. Pronghorns once were numerous on Mono's grasslands, but hunting and grazing extirpated the original population long ago. The animals we hope to spot were reintroduced in 1984. All we see, however, are their hoof prints leading east toward the Dechambeau Ponds. We hoist our packs and follow.



Shack at Dechambeau Ponds, looking east.

Lauren Davis



In late afternoon, the freshwater ponds are sprinkled with birds. After the melancholy of the abandoned ranch buildings, the ponds have the feel of a rowdy summer picnic. Courting yellow-headed blackbirds gargle, blurb and rattle their tribal songs. It is a salad bar of delicious sounds. On the far shore, egrets stand with elegant sobriety, as if to counterbalance the racous blackbirds. Jack rabbits explode from bushes, startling us like popped balloons.

As the sky colors up, we continue east, hiking across a plain of black sand dotted with polished pebbles, and laced with jack-rabbit trails. We camp on the edge of the wetlands exposed by Mono Lake's receding waters.

Day 2

In the morning, as Nancy yawns, stretches and peers at the bright sunshine on the distant lake, she senses she's being watched. Turning, she sees three large animals lying in the grass to the south, chewing their cud's intently and looking her way. "They aren't sheep," she riddles, "and they aren't deer. What are they?"

I wiggle out of my cocoon, locate my dusty glasses and squint. Slowly my mind catches up. "Oh, they're antelope!" It is the sort of bumbling scene they never show in wildlife documentaries.

One of the antelope, a female, begins to walk toward us and the other two follow. "Maybe," Nancy says, "we should do something outrageous to make them more curious." We had read of wolves attracting antelope by jauntily waving their tails, or lying on their backs and kicking their legs. Before we can decide what to try, however, the antelope ruffle their brown manes, lift their tails, turn and trot toward the lake.

As the pronghorns dash toward the east, I begin to believe they really can reach speeds of 65 mph. When they pull out the stops, pronghorns, after the African cheetah, are the fastest animal in the world.

Soon the antelope are three small dots silhouetted against the sparkling surface of Mono Lake. I think of that African cheetah. She wouldn't look out of place chasing these fleet pronghorns. The scene is primordial.

As we eat breakfast, the wind grows stronger. It begins to kick clouds of alkali dust off the north and east shores, precisely the direction we want to walk. We decide to eat more granola and wait out the wind.

Since 1941, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's water diversions have been exposing the lake bottom

faster than grasses can colonize and stabilize it. On windy days, the exposed bed takes to the air. This morning I find myself huddling in the tent, muttering maledictions against urbanites who hose down their driveways instead of pushing brooms. An alkali dust storm makes one take water misuse seriously.

After a few hours, the wind subsides. We again follow antelope tracks east across the dry, desert-like relict lands. Nancy and I must separate to keep the dust we kick up from choking one another. Our boots turn white with alkali. A coyote trots ahead, turning occasionally to see if we're following. It's hard going.

Since our topo maps were printed, the lake has dropped 35 feet in places, and retreated as much as two miles. This drastic discrepancy forces us to guess where landmarks are in relation to the current shore. We are hoping to locate springs and wells that the map assures us are along a sandy jeep road that skirts Mono's northeastern expanse. We miss one well, but find a pond and an artesian spring, both too sulfuric to drink. Beside them lies a rack of sun-bleached steer bones. All that is lacking is an empty canteen half buried in the sand, and circling buzzards.

Nearby are two wells, which consist of three-inch pipes protruding from the sand. Removing their crusty coffee-can covers, we peer at reflective circles of water 10 feet below. "We could draw it up if only we'd brought a thimble and fishing line," I offer. "Oh, we never plan ahead," Nancy says with a tired grin. The two desert rats continue their trek across the burning sands.

As the sun sets, a cold wind picks up while we eat dinner by an



Coyote footprints in the dunes.

Lauren Davis

alkali pond. We decide to continue walking until we warm up or poop out. As we enter the sand dunes, the moon rises nearly full. The sand sparkles in the moonlight. To the south the dunes rise like ocean swells. While Nancy stops to rearrange layers of moleskin, I make a reconnaissance jaunt up a dune. I can see the lake glistening silver, surrounded by the dark shapes of the Mono Craters and the Sierran crest. Paoha Island is so white it seems to emit light, while Negit floats on the water like a heavy shadow. Stars seem very close, while the tiny lights of Lee Vining are far in the distance.

Despite the cold wind, we decide to camp on a dune. The view across the lake is just too enchanting.

Day 3

We wake to see a dark coyote trotting east. While we eat breakfast, Nancy caresses the cool sand with her bare toes. This early in the morning, the warmth of the sun is welcome.

We bypass Warm Springs in favor of the grasses and flowers closer to the lake. In a fresh pond, we spot a large, curious bird. Its long bill and iridescent feathers hold our attention. Later Dave tells us it was a rare white-faced ibis.

Ahead, however, lie miles of dry alkali flats. "I need something to make this trudging worthwhile," says Nancy. Near the fence line, we discover what we'd sought. Out of a broad-based tufa, an artesian fountain bubbles like the water-giving rocks of the Old Testament. It waters a small oasis of grasses, flowers, multicolored slime and droves of happy insects. Multicolored slime? Well, the water's not drinkable, but the slime it supports is stunning: emerald green, Caltrans orange, floral pink and tufa gray. This slime floats on the water, whose depth we can only guess. As we drink from our lukewarm canteens, we are soothed by the sound of running water.

The playas before us still seem endless. It's early afternoon, hot, and without enough breeze to blow the no-see-ums away. On this long, eastern march, with the sun and wind burning our noses and lips, and the no-see-ums biting our eyelids, Nancy and I envision the kind of expedition gear we should have brought. We need Groucho Marx glasses with bushy eyebrows, big noses and protruding moustaches. Add the leather side shades from glacier glasses, and we'd be protected from the bugs and elements. We'd look distinguished in the expedition photos, too.

Although we don't have Groucho Marx glasses, we are feeling a bit grouchy. Maybe lunch will help. We climb a small sand dune four feet above the pancake-flat playa. Straining to swallow crackers the consistency of sheetrock didn't make things any better.

Finally, the two grouches come to small sand islands graced with delicate tufa structures. We wander to a tiny citadel no higher than our knees. Despite our weariness, we are awestruck. Nancy drops her pack with a thud, and dances up to the tufas. I do the same, hoping that without its added pounds, I'll be graceful enough to move among the friable sculptures without harming them.

I had read and seen pictures of these sand tufas, which are formed as calcium-bearing spring water bubbles up through the carbonate-laden sands beneath Mono Lake. But face-to-face, they are far more intricate than I had thought possible. They suggest cities of the distant future or past, landscaped with pieces of bleached tumbleweeds, and peopled by swallows. I thought of the sand towns my brother and I built when we were children. Our aspiring hands could not create what we imagined, but here it is real.

At the bases of the sand tufa are tiny, hollow towers that curve

and undulate like coral. Their shapes ripple in the strong sun, recalling their underwater origins. Above these coral gardens are flying buttresses, arched gateways and sturdy columns. As we lightly crawl between the tufa, iridescent swallows whirl gently to and from their nests. Swallows and children, I conclude, have similar tastes.

As the sun descends toward the Sierra, hunger gets the better of delight. Somehow managing to stand with our packs, we walk slowly away from the magical tufa.

This eastern shore feels wild and powerful. Within its vastness are careful details: animals, sand tufa and dancing, spring-fed grasses. My eyes move from the simplicity of the horizon line to this wealth of detail in great sweeping arcs. I look up from my alkali-dusted boots to the pulsing blue of Mono Lake, the dark earth frame of the hills, the distant layers of mountains and at last the ice-white clouds that sweep the sky. My soul is at peace.

Day 4

In the morning we follow our daily coyote toward the distant tufa towers of Navy Beach. We arrive hours later, feeling the physical strain of four days of sun, dryness and wind. Conversely, our minds have been stimulated by our time away from cars, crowds and "important things to do." As we walk from Navy Beach to South Tufa, we fall into a rhythmic meditation, one foot following the other, ignoring the blisters.

Into our pedestrian stupor explode "motorized vehicles," compact imports to be exact, bumping dustily down the road. The cars bounce to a halt. A surprised voice says, "Hey, they made it!" Arms hand us cold root beers. Wouldn't you know, it's a contingent of the Mono Lake Committee in search of a visiting congressman. Instead of the congressman, they unearth us. We accept Dave's offer to take our packs, and give us a lift to Rush Creek.

The creek is earning its name, as the snow melt from a wet winter rushes toward Mono Lake. We skitter down to splash the dust off. Like John Muir, we "baptise" ourselves "in nature's flow."

We walk the long miles to Lee Vining with sore muscles but satisfied spirits. After smiles, hugs and ice cream, Debby and Jim give us a ride back to Mono City.

While loading the packs into our car, Nancy takes a look at the dashboard and says, "I'm not ready." I'm having re-entry problems myself. Although we've completed our circumambulation, the cars have made the transition to civilization too abrupt.

I turn the Subaru toward the park on Mono Lake's west shore. Walking barefoot down the boardwalk with journals in hand, we meet a bushy-tailed skunk bouncing into the willows. We call to her a soft greeting. Things are back to a scale we can handle. As the sun dips behind the Sierran crest, the sky turns from soft pink to pale blue, then dips into cerulean. I write until I can no longer see, then watch the clouds wreath the rising moon.

The owls begin to call. Although I can hear them, I can never spot them in the darkness. Their calls float out of the air, the nocturnal voice of the tufas. Over the damp grasses I hear the creak of Nancy's steps on the boardwalk. I rise stiffly and bow a deeply felt thanks to the reflective water, the plants and the creatures. Our tracks will rim Mono's shore until the next cloudburst. I hope the evening light will rim a living lake for centuries to come.



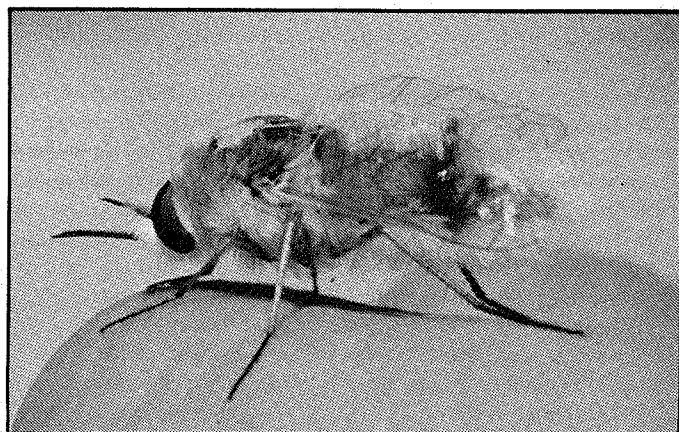
Population Biology of Bee Flies

Catherine A. Toft

Department of Zoology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616

Around Mono Lake, there are patches of rolling, semi-stabilized sand dunes rich with plants and animals, particularly insects. Especially diverse is the insect family *Bombyliidae*, the bee flies. We have found over 30 species on the north shore dunes. Since 1980, we have been studying these bee flies and their preferences for particular plants, which provide the adults with nectar and pollen.

Since 1982, we focused on two species in the same genus, *Lordotus pulcherrimus* and *L. miscellus*. They have no common names, but the Latin word *pulcherrimus* means "the most beautiful." This is apt, for this bee fly is relatively large, and has long, dense "fur." The males' fur is silver with a black stripe across the rear, and the females' is bright rusty yellow, appearing almost gold in full sunlight. A mating pair is an especially beautiful sight, with the contrasting gold and silver color of the two sexes. *L. miscellus* is more modest and much smaller. Both species have a long proboscis for feeding on nectar.



Bee Fly, *Lordotus pulcherrimus*.

We have discovered many unexpected differences between the two species, but the whole story is too long to tell here. Let me discuss one fascinating aspect: "mating systems," that is, how females and males encounter one another for mating. In both species, the females mate only once, soon after they emerge from the pupal cocoons.

In *L. Pulcherrimus*, the males gather at places called *leks* in groups of 10 to 30 individuals at 10 a.m. every day, and hover about 30 or 40 feet above the ground. They then spend the next hour or two chasing and fighting with each other. They have long, recurved spines on their wings which they use to batter one another; competing for mates is serious business. This activity is sufficiently strenuous that at noon they break off and rest for the remainder of the day. Next morning they are likely to return to the same lek. Interestingly, the lekking areas are traditional, occurring in precisely the same spot from year to year.

In *L. miscellus*, males do not gather. Instead, each male defends a single rabbit brush of the species *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*; for some reason they virtually never defend the other species, *C. viscidiflorus*. Males pick the largest bushes, and defend the top 1 percent. Perhaps the size of the bush that he can defend establishes a male's prowess, and females go to the largest rabbit brush bushes to mate. It is amusing to see a tiny fly, less than half an inch long, fiercely defending a large rabbit brush which

can be four to six feet in diameter. Males confront and chase any flying object close to their own size.

We are also discovering the complexity and fragility of the habitat surrounding Mono Lake. The dunes that support these bee flies were created by the lake's retreat long ago, and form a special habitat that is susceptible to damage by grazing and particularly off-road vehicles.

Can Brine Shrimp Adapt to Increasing Salinity?

Condensed and edited from a letter from Dr. Pierre Saint-Amand, Consultant in Earth Sciences, China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

I note that David Gaines (in Mono Lake Newsletter 7:3) cites a final examination question about the ability of Mono Lake's brine shrimp to adapt genetically to increasing salinity. Gaines says that while the "possibility is unlikely on physiological grounds, it cannot be dismissed as impossible, and is extremely difficult to test." He is right; it cannot really be done in the laboratory because all the variables cannot be duplicated, nor can the interactions between the various elements be modeled. It cannot be done at the lake without the danger of killing all the animals.

Our geochemist, Camille Gaines, however, points out that the experiment has been performed already. Owens Lake used to have brine shrimp in copious quantities. They died when the lake first dried up, and have not reappeared during subsequent refillings.

Relevant is the 1906 report by Willis T. Lee, *Geology and Water Resources of Owens Valley, California* (USGS Water Supply and Irrigation Paper No. 118). According to Lee, the larvae of Owens Lake brine flies failed to develop in the 1904 season, apparently "due to the increasing density of the water." He goes on to say that "this suggestion is strengthened by the fact that at Mono Lake these flies appeared in as great numbers as usual, and were seen by the writer literally blackening the sands at the water's edge. The water of Mono Lake is much less saline than that of Owens Lake, although it is otherwise similar." Lee mentions the previous occurrence of brine shrimp, but apparently they had disappeared before his visit.

By 1904, water diversions had caused Owens Lake to drop many feet, and more than triple in salinity. Lee gives the salinity as 60,565 parts per million in 1876 and 213,660 ppm in 1905. Apparently the brine flies have trouble at approximately 200,000 ppm; the brine shrimp appear to have vanished before that level was reached.

The level of Mono Lake has fluctuated during geologic time to a great extent. The shrimp probably can tolerate a fairly wide range of salinity, but not, I imagine, much greater than levels that have occurred naturally in the past.

Recent Scientific Publications

The following list updates the comprehensive review published in the Mono Lake Newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 2, p. 11 (autumn 1983) and the additions listed in Vol. 7, No. 3, p. 13 (winter 1985) and Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 12-13 (winter 1986). For copies of these reviews, please contact our Lee Vining office.

Bowen, Sarane T., Kenneth N. Hitchner and Gayle L. Dana. 1984. *Artemia* Speciation: Ecological Isolation. In: *Vernal Pools and Intermittent Streams: A Symposium*, U.C. Davis. Institute of Ecology Pub. 28:102-114. Examines semispecies and sibling species of brine shrimp, and discusses why offspring are not produced from interpopulation matings of sibling species.

Dana, Gayle. 1984. *Artemia* in temporary alkaline ponds near Fallon, Nev., with a comparison of its life history strategies in temporary and permanent habitats. In: *Vernal Pools and Intermittent Streams: A Symposium*, U.C. Davis Institute of Ecology Pub. 28:115-125. Discusses life cycle of brine shrimp in seasonal ponds which are characterized by extreme changes in temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen, and compares them with the very different adaptations of Mono Lake's shrimp to a more stable environment.

Dana, Gayle L. and Petra H. Lenz. 1986. Effects of increasing salinity on an *Artemia* population from Mono Lake, Calif. *Oecologia* 68:428-436. Discusses the effects of increasingly concentrated Mono Lake water on survival, growth, reproduction and hatching of brine shrimp. As the lake shrinks due to current water diversions, brine shrimp are predicted to decrease in productivity and become extinct long before the lake reaches its projected equilibrium.

Herbst, David B. 1986. Comparative studies of the population ecology and life history patterns of an alkaline salt lake insect: *Ephydra* (*Hydropyrum*) *hians* (Diptera: *Ephydriidae*). Ph.D. dissertation, Oregon State University. Compares brine fly populations at Abert Lake, Ore., with those at Mono Lake. Fly abundance decreases at dilute salinities due to competing and predatory species, and at high salinities due to lack of algal food and stress caused by high levels of dissolved solids. Mono Lake larvae exhibit higher salt tolerance than larvae from less saline Albert Lake.

Jehl, Joseph R. 1986. Biology of red-necked phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*) at the western edge of the Great Basin in fall migration. *Great Basin Nat.* 46:(2)185-197. Discusses the population dynamics, foraging and molt of migrating red-necked phalaropes at Mono Lake.

Jehl, Joseph R., and Pamela K. Yochem. 1986. Movements of eared grebes indicated by banding recoveries. *J. Field Ornithol.* 57(3):208-212. Banding returns of 41 eared grebes suggest that birds from the western Great Basin and western Canada migrate southward on the east side of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada, and stage at Mono Lake before continuing to the Salton Sea or Gulf of California for the winter.

Lenz, Petra H. 1984. Life-history of an *Artemia* population in a changing environment. *J. Plankton Research* 6(6):967-983. Discusses the possibility that Mono's decreasing lake level has caused an abrupt change in brine shrimp population dynamics. While the first generation of shrimp has declined drastically since 1979, its fertility has increased.

Storer, Robert W. and Joseph R. Jehl Jr. 1985. Molt patterns and molt migration in the black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*. *Ornis Scandinavica* 16:253-260. Discusses the compressed, intense molt of eared (black-necked) grebes at Mono Lake as an adaptation for exploiting the superabundant food source.

Winkler, David W. 1985. Factors determining a clutch size reduction in California gulls (*Larus californicus*): a multi-hypothesis approach. *Evolution* 39: 667-677. Examines differences in clutch size between gulls nesting at Great Salt Lake (usually three eggs) and Mono Lake (usually two eggs). Concludes that the relative scarcity of food in the Mono Lake area prior to egg laying (March-April) is probably responsible for the clutch size reduction.

MLC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

MLC Grows to 9,500 Members

During the last year, approximately 1,000 new members have swollen our ranks to over 9,500 strong. This is encouraging, as our political clout also grows with the size of our membership. But let's not stop now. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join, and help us top 10,000 by the end of the year.

THANK YOU, DRAWING PRIZE DONORS

This spring we will hold another of our popular and successful drawings to raise funds to save Mono Lake. You'll be hearing more about it soon. We are deeply grateful to the following businesses for donating prizes to our 1987 drawing. They deserve your patronage:

THE NATURE CO. offers an intriguing selection of books, optics and weather instruments, limited edition prints, jewelry, toys and much more—all devoted to the observation and understanding of the natural world. For further information, contact The Nature Co., P.O. Box 2310, Berkeley, CA 94702; 1-800-227-1114.

TAMARACK LODGE offers 55 kilometers of groomed ski trails through the beautiful Mammoth Lakes Basin, plus romantic mountain cabins and fine dining at the Lakefront restaurant. For further information, contact Tamarack Lodge, P.O. Box 69, Mammoth Lakes, Ca 93546; (619) 934-2442.

THE YOSEMITE PARK AND CURRY CO. provides complete visitor services in the park and has been a staunch supporter of saving Mono Lake.

Other fine prizes were donated by Friends of the River, The Vintage Court Hotel, The Donatello Restaurant, The American Conservatory Theatre (San Francisco), High Sierra Ballooning (Bishop), Best Western Lakeview Lodge and the Mono Inn (Lee Vining), The North Face and REI (Berkeley), the Local Mountain Shop, Mammoth Sporting Goods, Kittredge Sports, Wheeler & Wilson, and Anything Goes (Mammoth Lakes), Alpine West (Sacramento), Caribou Mountaineering (Chico), REI (Citrus Heights), and Adventure-16 (Los Angeles).

BIRD-A-THON: 1987

Are you ready for this year's Bird-a-thon? The point Reyes Bird Observatory and MLC are already planning for our big day with the birds. Last year's Bird-a-thon netted over \$60,000 for the two organizations. With help from our supporters, this year's event will outdo the last.

To give added incentive to bird-a-thoners, we'd like to offer prizes to the people who count the most birds or secure the highest pledges per species. We'd gratefully accept donations (tax deductible) of spotting scopes, binoculars, other birdwatching gear or camping equipment.

In addition to prize donations, we are looking for a pilot to fly dedicated birders to Mono Lake for the weekend of the event (late September). If you can help, please contact any MLC office.

Staff Goodbye and Hello

We bid fond and regretful adieu to our Southern California Coordinator, Stephen Osgood, who has been championing Mono Lake in Los Angeles for almost four years. No other MLC staffer has worked so long and hard in the city that holds Mono Lake's fate. Fortunately, Steve is not leaving the environmental fold, but will pursue his interests in international issues.

We are delighted to welcome veteran monophile Stacy Brown as our new business manager. For over seven years, Stacy has been volunteering with Sea and Sage Audubon Society on behalf of Mono Lake. She also happens to be just what we needed: an experienced, capable bookkeeper.

JOB OPENINGS

ASSISTANT INFORMATION COORDINATOR

Assists Information Coordinator in issues research, data collection, preparation of documents, organization of files and research library. Research, writing, typing and communication skills desirable. Half-time, starting at \$500-\$600/month. Send resume, reference to Lee Vining Office.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REPRESENTATIVE

\$1,000 to \$1,200/month. Write L.A. office.

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

\$1,000 to \$1,200/month. Write L.A. office.

Summer Interns Needed!

Our Lee Vining office still has openings for interns during the exciting summer season (June through August). Interns work full time staffing our information center, answering mail, leading field trips and on other projects. They are provided with housing in Lee Vining and a small, monthly stipend. For more information, contact Debby at the center.

Help Needed Making Signs, Hammer-slinging

We need volunteer help designing and constructing tasteful yet visible outdoor and indoor signs for our Mono Lake Visitor Center. Especially important is a conspicuous outdoor sign telling the public we are here to "Save Mono Lake!" If you can help, please contact our Lee Vining office (P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386).

The Lee Vining office needs help this spring with the remodeling of the research library. If you have carpentry skills and would like to spend time in the Mono Basin as spring returns, please join us for a spell.

Wish List for the Visitor Center

All donations are tax deductible through the Mono Lake Foundation. We will try to pick them up if you are unable to deliver them to Lee Vining. If you can help, please contact Jim Parker in the Lee Vining office.

- Attractive, sturdy, wooden- or Formica-topped tables or desks.
- Padded, comfortable office desk chairs.
- Metal or wooden map file which can handle 40 quadrangle maps.
- File cabinets, ideally fireproof.
- Attractive wooden bookshelves with 5-foot vertical book space.
- Theatrical, ceiling and desk lights for indoor use, and spotlights for exterior use.
- Security type, small jewelry display case.
- Free-standing metal clothes rack to display T-shirts.
- Benches for outside the center. These need to be weather resistant, sturdy and attractive.
- Copy machine in excellent working condition, preferably dry copier.
- Light table for slide viewing.
- Good-quality, self-correcting electric typewriter.

Lights, Camera, Action!

MLC has a 16mm movie camera for sale. The camera has been generously donated by Florence Sharp, and proceeds will help save the lake. The Bolex H16M comes in a sturdy case with the following equipment: hand grip, three lenses (Switar 1:14 f/25mm, Switar 1:1.8 f/16mm and YVAR 1:3.3 f/100mm), a light meter and several lens filters. Our asking price is \$375 or best offer. If interested, contact Deb Parker at our Lee Vining office.

Bike-a-thon Business Sponsors

Lee Vining and June Lake: Alpine Village Motel, Casey's Cafe, Channel Union 76, The Country Store, El Mono Motel, Grant Lake Marina, Greenleaf Springs, The Haven, Heidelberg, June Lake Chevron, June Lake General Store, June Lake Motel, June Lake Villager, Kings Inn, Lee Vining Chevron, Mono Inn, Mountaineer Hardware, Murphey's Motel, Nicely's restaurant, Silver Lake Resort, Texaco, Tiger Bar, Village Frosty Lake and Vista Motel.

Mammoth Lakes: Alpenhof Lodge, Alpine Medical Clinic, Berger's, Brian's Bicycles, Cask 'n Cleaver, Convict Lake Resort, Designs Unlimited, Hello Mammoth, Kittredge Sports, Lyons Ltd., Mammoth Lakes T-Shirt Co., 800-Mammoth Resort Reservations, Mill City Laundry, Minaret Liquor, Mogul Steak House, Neubauer-Jennison Construction, The Outfitter, Peak Productions, Pet Pantry, Pioneer Market, Swiss Chalet, Ullr Lodge, Whiskey Creek and White Stag Inn.

Bridgeport: The Creek House, Joe Lent Trading Co., Lady Bug Mines, Tackle Box, Video Village and Willow Springs Motel.

Bishop: Bill Bowles Insurance, Erick Schat's Dutch Bakery, Inyo-Mono Body Shop, Norm Bird Construction, Ruth's Hallmark Shop, and Wheeler and Wilson Boots.

Elsewhere: Cochran Drywall and Great Clean-up Caper (Apple Valley); Hudson Valve Co., Jen-Hill Cattle Co., Sundance Cattle Co. and Sundance Feedlot Inc. (Bakersfield); Golden Gate Audubon Society (Berkeley); Jungle Laboratories Corp. (Cibola, Texas); Riverside Bicycle Club (Grand Terrace); The Bicycle Outfitter (Los Altos); Production Resource (Menlo Park); Tahquitz Group-Sierra Club (Palm Springs); Scubapro (Rancho Dominguez); T.J. Frisbee Bicycles and Todd's Outdoor Supply (Ridgecrest); Guzman Farms (Santa Cruz); and Chino United Methodist Church and Wendemere Kennel (Chino).

Mono Lake Quilt Lives!

The illustrious Mono Lake Quilt will be displayed in a show entitled "Political Quilts: A Living Tradition" at the Euphrat Gallery, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino from March 3 to April 19. The quilt was sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society and stitched by local members and quilters. This will be its first showing since its raffle in November 1981. At that time it raised about \$6,700 for Mono Lake's legal defense.

Strong Center Donates Funds For Research

The Strong Center of Berkeley, Calif., has given \$7,500 to fund a study of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposal to enlarge the storage capacity of Crowley Lake Reservoir. Peter Vorster will examine and develop alternative scenarios for how an enlarged facility might be operated in a manner that would benefit Mono Lake, the Eastern Sierra environment and the city of Los Angeles.

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MONO LAKE OFFICE

P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386
David Gaines Chairman and Editor
Ilene Mandelbaum Information Coordinator
Jim Parker Assistant Information Coordinator
Debby Parker Visitor Center Manager
Sally Miller Mail Clerk
Lauren Davis Assistant Editor
Linda Brown Intern

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

1355 Westwood Blvd., Suite 6, Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 477-8229

Martha Davis Executive Director
Stacy Brown Business Manager

SACRAMENTO OFFICE

909 12th St., No. 207, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 448-1045 (message phone)

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

Building C, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94133
Kimmery Wiltshire, Administrative/Development Consultant
(415) 776-7311 (message phone)

CORPORATE COUNSEL

John Paul Hollinrake, Attorney-at-Law
145 S. Washington St., Suite F
P.O. Box 743, Sonoma, CA 95370; (209) 533-2356

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David Gaines, Lee Vining
Ed Grosswiler, Portland, Oregon
Grace de Laet, San Francisco
Susan Lynn, Reno, Nevada
David Phillips, San Francisco
Genny Smith, Mammoth Lakes
Timothy Such, San Francisco

1987 MONO LAKE WORKSHOPS

The 1987 MONO LAKE WORKSHOPS, taught by knowledgeable, enthusiastic instructors, offer exciting learning experiences for novices and experts alike. The workshops are sponsored by the non-profit Mono Lake Foundation in conjunction with Marin Discoveries. Proceeds help preserve the Mono Lake environment.

The workshops take place over weekends, and most cost \$60. Space is limited, so register early. Upon request or receipt of

registration, Marin Discoveries will send a workshop outline, itinerary and full information on what to bring and where to stay (camping or motels are options on most workshops).

To register, or for more information, please contact Marin Discoveries. Registrations by phone with VISA or MasterCard are accepted. The address and phone are:
MARIN DISCOVERIES, 11 First St., Corte Madera, CA 94925; (415) 927-0410.

QUATERNARY HISTORY OF THE MONO BASIN

July 4,5,6 Scott Stine Fee: \$90

This three-day workshop will explore the quaternary glacial, periglacial, lacustrine, tectonic and volcanic evolution of the Mono Basin. We will visit classic plug domes, establish a glacial chronology, and reconstruct the past fluctuations of Mono Lake and its Pleistocene predecessor, Lake Russell. Participants should expect to put in long days on foot over rough terrain.

MONO BASIN GEOLOGY

July 11-12 Jim Parker Fee: \$60

No area of comparable size in North America offers the exciting combination of geologic features found in the Mono Basin. We will explore active volcanoes, living glaciers, mountain-building earthquake scarps and fantastic tufa towers along the shores of a remnant Ice Age lake. This workshop will provide a fascinating introduction for the novice rockhound as well as a wealth of detail for the experienced geologist.

BIRDS OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

July 18-19 David Gaines Fee: \$60

Beginners as well as experts will enjoy this intimate introduction to Mono's bird life. We will learn to identify approximately 100 species by plumage and song, and to understand the roles they play in the Mono Basin environment.

PAIUTE BASKETRY

July 18-19 Julia Parker Fee: \$80

In a flowery meadow near Mono Lake, Julie Parker, a native American basket-maker from Yosemite, will start a small group of novice basketmakers 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. The fee includes \$20 for materials.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

July 25-26 David Gaines Fee: \$60

Wander from Mono Lake to Tioga Pass with expert naturalist and MLC founder David Gaines. We will talk about geology, climate, plants, animals and ecological relationships. The workshop includes a boat trip across Saddlebag Lake and a hike down Lundy Canyon. Participants must be able to hike six miles, part of it down a steep, rocky trail.

WILDFLOWERS OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

Aug. 1-2 David Gaines Fee: \$60

Few places on earth rival the colorful magnificence of Mono's summer wildflower bloom. We will range from Mono Lake to high above tree line, befriending over a hundred spectacular species. Naturalist and MLC founder David Gaines will teach not only how to identify flowers, but also how to understand their relationships with insects, hummingbirds, soil, climate, herbivores and other plants. This workshop includes a boat trip across Saddlebag Lake and a hike down Lundy Canyon. Participants must be able to hike six miles, part of it down a steep, rocky trail.

MAMMOTH-MONO HISTORICAL TOUR

Aug. 8-9 Jim Vanko, Lily Mathieu and David Gaines Fee: \$60

Journey with living history actor Jim Vanko, author Lily Mathieu and David Gaines back to the days of Paiutes and pioneers. We will wander from Mammoth to Mono Lake and Bodie, exploring Indian cave-shelters, grinding sites and obsidian chipping grounds, mining camps, stamp mills, homesteads and graveyards. This popular workshop brings Mono's rough-and-tumble past vividly to life.

ACROSS-THE-CREST BACKPACK

Aug. 8-9 Ginger Burley Fee: \$60

Join veteran backpacker and naturalist Ginger Burley on a one-night expedition from the Tioga Road over Mono Pass to the vicinity of Mono Lake. This is one of the most exciting hikes in the Sierra, and affords breathtaking views as it descends the steep, wild gorge of Bloody Canyon. This is a moderate, 10-mile trip, and participants must be in sound physical condition. Beginning backpackers are welcome.

MONO BASIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Aug. 22-23 Louis Kemper Fee: \$60

Under the tutelage of professional photographer Louis Kemper, we will explore the photographic possibilities of Mono Lake's bizarre yet classic landscapes: tufa towers, Navy Beach, Black Point as well as glacier-carved Sierran canyons, colorful wildflowers, mountain streams and aspen groves.

MONO BASIN WILDLIFE

Aug. 29-30 Kathy Erwin Fee: \$60

Led by wildlife biologist Kathy Erwin, we will search for bighorn sheep and their lambs in precipitous Lee Vining Canyon, track the elusive pronghorn antelope on the shores of Mono Lake, and possibly glimpse wild mustangs at their watering hole in the Pizona Hills. We may also see recently released peregrine falcons at Crowley Lake and the infamous black bears of Tuolumne Meadows. Forest Service wildlife biologist Tina Hargis will discuss current projects and research.

ACCOLADES

We are grateful to the many monophiles who volunteer to help us preserve Mono Lake. To all of you, especially those we forget to mention by name, we'd like to express our thanks.

Our Lee Vining office sends hugs of appreciation to volunteers Al Reynolds, Matt Vining, Betty Braun, Chris Christensen, Kevin Hepburn, Sam Cuenca, Jody Brown, Don Oberlin and Don Ranbeau.

A special thanks to Jean Dale and her helpers for selling our merchandise at the Venture Street Faire.

Mike Haering brought in a beautiful wide-angle photo of the lake for our use. Perry Luth helped us develop some film in a hurry.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society, West Glendale Kiwanis, Ventura Audubon Society and the Fresno Audubon Society all gave us contributions "above and beyond the call of duty." Westside Environmental Center of Los Angeles also sent us a generous donation.

Profuse thanks to: Sierra Life magazine and Mike Mantell for helping us spread the word about Mono Lake in their beautiful publication; Pasadena Audubon Society for a generous contribution in support of our legal defense activities; and Wilderness Press for donating funds toward our 1987 campaign.

Our visitor center used-book nook is in good shape, thanks to donations from James West, Ellen Wood Grijalva, and Riley and Anne Gilkey.

We also thank Scribner S. Kirk for the donation of his photography book. Matt Vining and Al Reynolds helped in the Lee Vining office this winter.

Memorial Contribution

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Newman for their contribution in memory of Harry Carstens.

SECOND

MONO LAKE FINE WINE CELLAR DRAWING



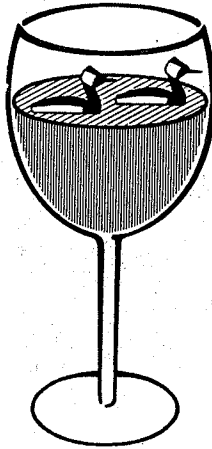
WINE CELLAR NO. 1

1970 Chateau Lafite Rothschild (2)
1970 Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou (2)
1982 Robert Mondavi Opus One (2)
1970 Chateau d'Yquem, Premier Grand Cru (1)
1975 Chateau Latour, Premier Grand Cru (2)
1974 BV Cabernet Private Reserve (1)

PLUS

1961 Chateau Talbot (1)
1968 BV Cabernet Private Reserve (1)

WINES selected by Mr. Gerald Asher, distinguished
Wine Editor of Gourmet magazine.



WINE CELLAR NO. II

1958 Louis Martini Cabernet (1)
1961 Inglenook Cabernet (1)
1962 Inglenook Cabernet (1)
1963 Buena Vista Cabernet (2)
1966 Chateau Bouscalt Cru Premier (1)

PLUS

1951 Beaulieu Cabernet (1)
1957 Louis Martini Cabernet (1)
1963 Sebastiani Cabernet (1)

WINES donated by Mr. Herbert Cerwin from his
private collection of old and rare vintages.

DRAWING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1987

Your tax-deductible donation is only \$50 per ticket.

INQUIRIES

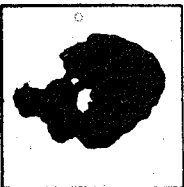
Mono Lake Fine Wine Cellar Drawing
2242 Lombard St., No. 105
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 776-7311

Your presence or contribution not required to win.



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 \$20/year (\$30 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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