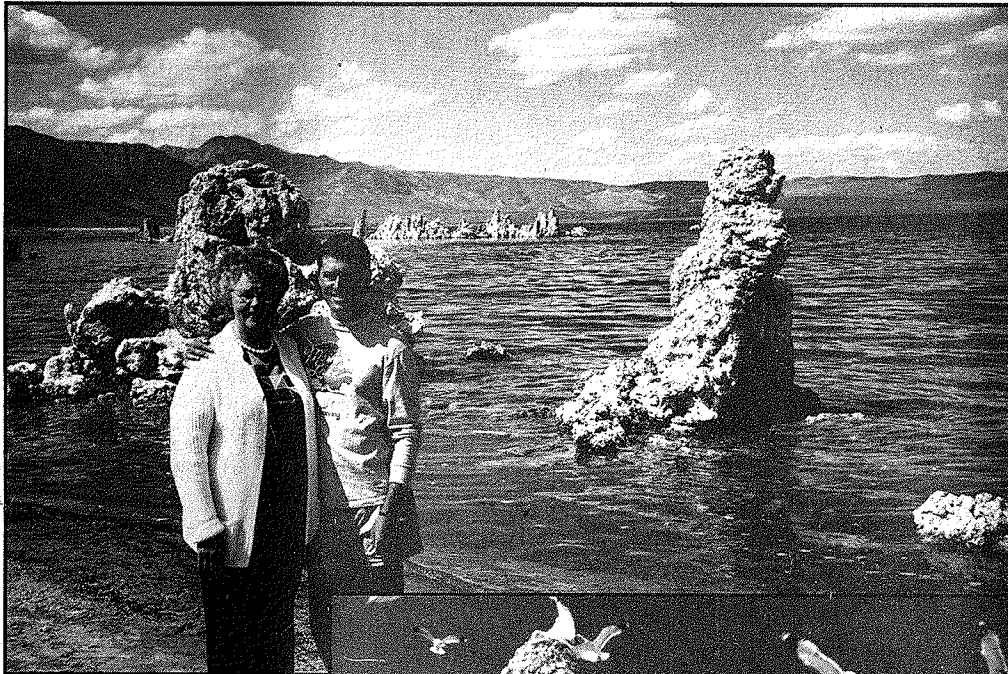


Spring 1988

Vol. 10, No. 4

MONO ^{the} LAKE

NEWSLETTER



The Oberlin Family

Don Oberlin
with his mother, Rae Oberlin



Michael Dressler

David Gaines

Memorial Issue

On The Cover

David Gaines, Mono Lake Committee founder and chairman, and Don Oberlin, Assistant Information Coordinator, were killed this winter when the car in which they were riding was struck by a pickup truck amid windblown snow on U.S. 395 near Mammoth Lakes. We're very grateful to the many people who sent in photographs and reminiscences for this memorial issue. We wish we had space to print everything we've received, as all the words and images have been comforting. Dave and Don are united with all of us in our love for Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra.

Mono Basin 1988 Spring Breeding Bird Count

Sunday, June 12, 1988 will be the date of the Mono Basin Spring Breeding Bird count. This weekend should be the greenest, songiest time to enjoy the high country spring. Everyone is invited to attend, regardless of their birding experience. The count circle includes Lundy Canyon, Lee Vining Canyon, and the County Park at Mono Lake. Birders will split into parties to ensure thorough coverage.

Please meet at 6:00 am in front of the Lee Vining Visitors' Center. Bring binoculars, water and a lunch. For more information, call (619) 647-6620. The event will be followed by a potluck dinner and compilation of birds seen.

Riparian Systems Conference

On September 22-24, 1988, University Extension at UC Davis will host the second *California Riparian Systems Conference*. This event will focus on issues surrounding the destruction of streamside lands, and on the progress being made toward learning to manage these resources since the first conference in 1981. New developments in the restoration of riparian habitats will also be discussed. For more information, please contact Dana Abell at (916) 752-3098.

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE is a non-profit citizen's 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.

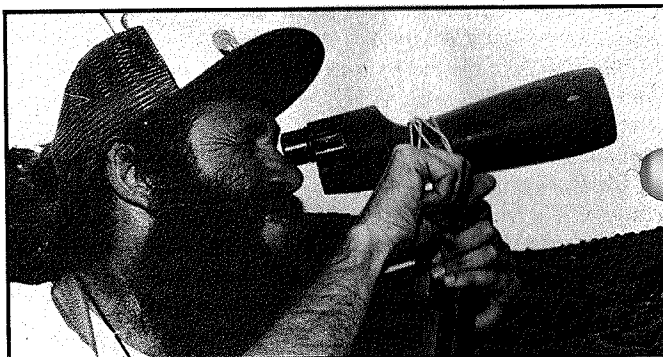
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This newsletter is partially funded by a grant from the *Mono Lake Foundation*, a non-profit organization dedicated to studying and protecting the Mono Lake watershed and adjacent areas (P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA. 93541). We invite your membership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

Laser printing and assistance donated by: THE LASER EDGE, 360 17th Street, Suite 203, Oakland, CA. 94612; (415) 835-1581.

Eastern Sierra Habitat and Recreation on the Ballot in June

California voters will have a chance to preserve and restore prime natural areas in the Eastern Sierra and throughout the state by voting for Proposition 70, the Parks and Wildlife Initiative. This proposition would set aside \$100,000 for both Mono and Inyo counties to be used for such projects as trout habitat restoration and more public access to rivers and streams. Another \$20,000 would go to both Bishop and Mammoth for improving recreational opportunities and resources. For more information on Prop. 70, please contact: Californians for Parks and Wildlife, 909 12th Street, Suite 203, Sacramento, CA. 95814.



IN THIS ISSUE

Selections from Mono Lake Watch	3
Memorials for Dave Gaines and Don Oberlin	4-6
Photo Essay	6-9
MLC Board of Directors News	10
Gaines Family Update	10
Honors for Dave and Don	11
Another Dry Year for Mono	11
Grebes Stay Late on Lake	11
Threat to Public Trust Doctrine Thwarted	12
Scenic Area Plan Needs Public Input	12
CORI Report Released in April	13
Severe Dust Storms at Mono	13
Hallett Creek Legal Case	13
Legal Update	14
Bradley's Conservation Proposal Passes City Council	14
DWP's Conservation Program Falls Short	15
USGS Studies Mono's Deep Ecology	17
MLC News and Activities	17-22
1988 Mono Lake Workshops	22-23
1988 Bike-a-thon	24

Selections from

Mono Lake Watch

by David Gaines

Dave began his on-going column, "Mono Lake Watch", in the summer newsletter of 1980. In the beginning, he wrote mostly of political developments concerning the lake. In later years, Dave drafted the "Watch" while wandering in the Basin, weaving natural history and ecophilosophy with recent news about lawsuits and scientific reports.

During the year and a half I worked with Dave on the newsletter, I was deeply impressed with the intensity with which he wrote. He would mull for days over the "Watch." I remember him curved over the keyboard in his dusty study, absent-mindedly pulling on his beard, trying to find just the right phrase or metaphor. The results were luminous, coming right from his heart.

We'll all miss Dave's flowing prose, especially in this column. I've decided to retire "Mono Lake Watch" with Dave because it was such a personal expression of who he was. Dave wanted the newsletter to be a voice for Mono's natural rhythms and the philosophical musings that are spawned by saunters along the lakeshore and streams. I hope to continue that tradition with a new column in forthcoming issues.

In working on this newsletter without him, I've been comforted by the following passages from two of Dave's more recent columns. His vision shines through these words marking the solstices, and in memory continues undimmed through the seasons to come.

Lauren Davis

The summer solstice marks the height of Mono Lake's spring: flowers in colorful bloom, islands covered with gull eggs, sagebrush brimming with bird song...

The swell of life is contagious, and we, too, delight in the land and lake's rebirth. It works in our blood. It tears us away from desks, papers and telephones, and propels us into the real world of sprouts, buds and singing birds. The office can't contain us. We move our weekly staff meeting down to the lake, where we can include desert peach blossoms, spadefoot toads, yellow-headed blackbirds and brine shrimp.

Outside my window, house wrens are singing incessantly. They can't sit still, and neither can I. Yesterday I bicycled to lower Rush Creek, where one of the tufa-nesting ospreys was fishing for trout. The day before I joined

avocets, phalaropes and winnowing snipe on Mono's north shore. Piles of papers wait impatiently while I count the clouds, take Mono's pulse and align myself with the changing seasons.

I'm a newsletter refugee. Today, instead of writing about lawsuits, I ambled to the summit of the ridge behind Lee Vining. From a small patch of tundra where horned larks nest, the world drops into water and space. Mono Lake sprawls across the landscape like a giant amoeba.

These ramblings connect my work to the land. They bring me face-to-face with what the poet Wallace Stevens called "point-blank reality." Sometimes I'm led to epiphanies, but more often to questions and insights which are not always simple or comfortable.

But, after all, that's why I'm trying to save this place: because it can teach us and put us in our place.

Looking down on Mono's cerulean waters, I think of burgeoning cities at the other end of the aqueduct. I think of civilization estranged from the earth that sustains it...I think of the fate of birds, flowers and children when the ozone layer is gone, the rains stop falling, and the bombs do.

I think of my life. I have not lived lightly on this earth, but have consumed, directly or indirectly, more than my share or need of water, topsoil, oil and other resources. I have fathered two children who also will burden this overcrowded planet.

But as long as the birds return and the flowers bloom, I will dream of a time when we value blue skies more than new automobiles, count our wealth in joy rather than possessions, and dwell in peace and balance with the earth. I am not without hope...

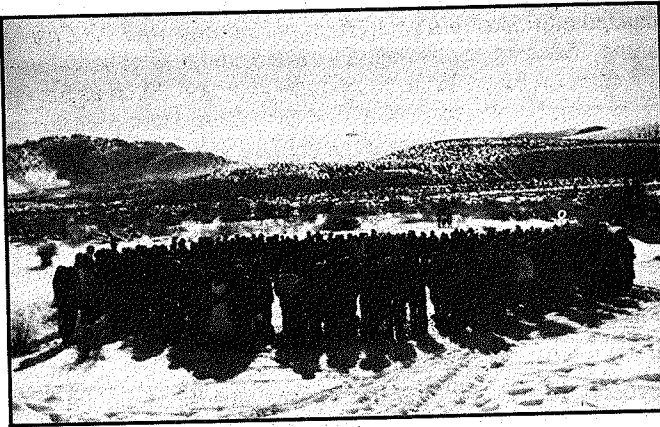
Summer 1987

I've been walking Lee Vining Creek frequently, and sometimes I think of myself as a stream, newly reborn, just beginning to grow. I can feel the icy water sing over me. I can feel the tender plants sprouting on my banks. I can feel deer, heron and bobcat leave their tracks on my shores.

We are these streams, this lake, this land, sharing, as Robinson Jeffers wrote, "the beauty of things, the terror, pain, joy, the song."...

Winter 1987

Memorial at the Lake



Richard Beebe

On January 23rd over 300 people gathered at the south shore of Mono Lake to say goodbye to Dave and Don. It was one of those rare, magical winter days when the sun shines brilliantly on the snowy beaches and the great circle of ice-clad mountains. Craggy tufa were reflected perfectly in the calm and glassy lake.

It was as if our circle of joined hands and hearts was at the hub of the great wheel of light and power that is Mono Lake. We prayed to the four directions for healing and strength, that the precious gift of knowing Dave and Don will continue to guide and inspire our lives. Father Christopher Kelley, long time friend of the Gaines family and Mono Lake, offered words of comfort then ended the service with a prayer of silence and communion with our beloved lake.

On behalf of the families of David Gaines and Don Oberlin and all of the Mono Lake Committee staff, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals, businesses, organizations and agencies, too numerous to list, who contributed so generously to the memorial gathering on January 23. Every community in the Eastern Sierra, so many people throughout California and the nation, had something special to give.

We thank all of you for coming to the memorial service. Your tremendous expression of caring and support was a moving tribute to David and Don and will always be an inspiration to us. We are blessed to have such friends.

Remembering David Gaines 1947-1988

by Genny Smith, MLC Board Member

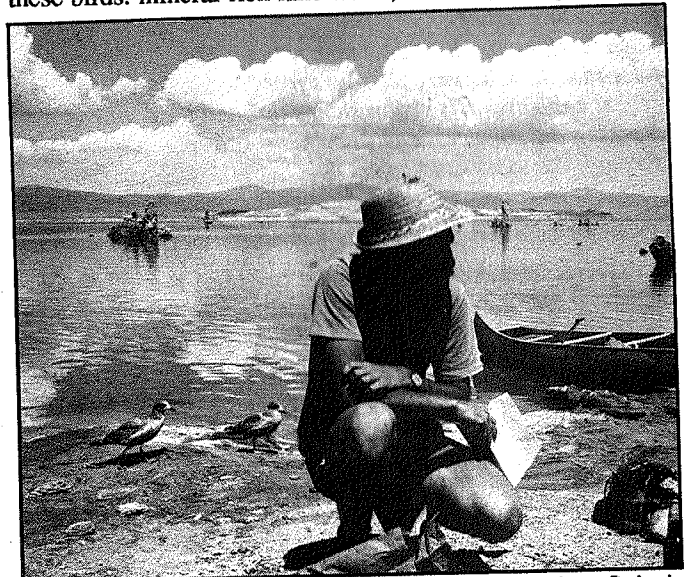
I can think of few people in this world that are irreplaceable. David is one of them. For twelve years he has been Mono Lake's most eloquent and passionate champion, devoting his life to the lake and, at times, driving himself to exhaustion. There was always too much to do.

I am convinced that had David not decided to fight for Mono Lake, no one else would have. Who else was dedicated enough, or young and foolish enough, to believe that one could win against giant DWP? It was David, in his quiet way and by example, who then inspired quite a few thousand of us to believe as he did: that Mono Lake was worth saving, that it was not a hopeless fight and that *of course we could win*.

Born in Los Angeles, David became acquainted with the eastern Sierra during family vacations. He attended UC Santa Cruz and UC Davis, where he received a master's degree in ecology. He was among the group of students who received an NSF grant in 1976 to study the Mono Lake ecosystem. I remember stopping in at their camp that summer. What enthusiasm! Bits and pieces of Mono Lake had been studied before, its geology and its limnology, but never the whole lake and all its creatures. What a marvelous idea, to gather a dozen students with many specialties, turn them loose on Mono Lake, and then put all their findings together.

Their work was a turning point in the lake's history. They provided solid evidence on the lake's importance to hundreds of thousands of birds—as a nesting site for gulls

and plovers and as a critically important food source and resting site for migrating grebes and phalaropes. They also documented the elegantly simple ecosystem that supports these birds: mineral-rich lake water, bacteria, sunlight,



One of Dave's passions was to take people out on Mono Lake in canoes. He felt that floating among Mono's tufa spires and aquatic life excited visitors as nothing else could. All summer long, the Gaines' station wagon could be spotted anywhere with a canoe on its head.

algae, brine flies, and brine shrimp. Without David's passion and eloquence, this evidence might have stayed buried in a scientific report. Instead, appalled at the sure destruction of this living lake, if the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power continued to divert its tributaries, dropping the lake a foot or two a year, and increasing its salinity, David took it upon himself to do something. Soon joining him were Sally and a handful of friends. They publicized the lake's unique wonders and impending doom; they found allies, and organized the Mono Lake Committee. The Committee has led the fight to maintain the lake through legal, legislative, educational, and political activities.

David is so closely identified with Mono Lake that you may not know he had other interests and talents. A few

years ago he began making time for them, shifting Committee responsibilities to others in order to spend time with his growing family and on other projects long deferred. Such as ornithology; he had just finished a new and greatly expanded edition of his book *Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope*. Such as publishing: his Artemisia Press already has six titles on birds, local history and geology. Such as his mandolin: he played in bands all over the eastern Sierra.

David was a rare person, gentle and soft-spoken, but a bulldog on all matters concerning Mono Lake. A man with the courage to live his convictions. David, you were right all along. We are winning. A living, magnificent lake will be your eternal monument. And we are the richer for knowing you. Peace with Earth.

Remembering Don Oberlin 1959-1988

by Jim Parker, MLC Staff

I first met Don in June of 1986. I had been working for the Mono Lake Committee for two years then, and Don came up from Orange County to join us for the summer. I remember, in particular, our first trip out to South Tufa for field-trip practice in Don's green Rambler. He drove so I could tell him about Mono Lake and our naturalist tours, or so I thought. Before we'd even left town, we were deeply involved in a conversation about the nature of existence and need to take responsibility for all our actions. It was the beginning of an exchange that continued every time we were together.

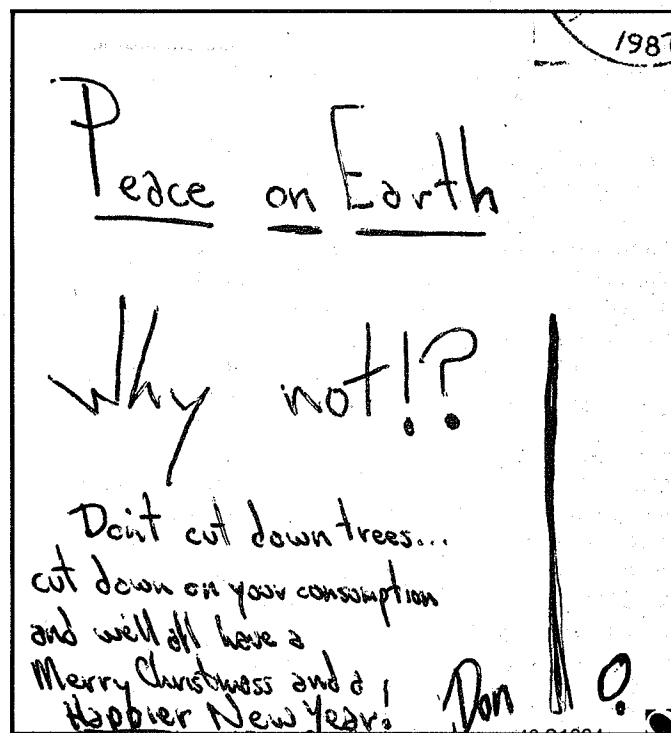
Don was a dedicated observer of life and questioned all that he saw. Nothing was taken for granted. If something looked good to him and worth doing, he wanted to know all about it. His enthusiasm was limitless. And if something looked bad to him and worthy of opposition, he still wanted to know all about it. He had such a strong yearning for the truth.

Don's high principles carried over into every aspect of his life. Just inviting Don over for dinner was a culinary challenge. He didn't consume meat, dairy products or eggs. He respected the lives of other living creatures to such an extent that he did without animal by-products such as leather belts or shoes. Recycling and making do were a way of life with him. Don often wore hand-me-down clothes to help cut down on consumption. We spent many a joyous afternoon at the county dump scrounging useful items, and salvaging scrap lumber to avoid cutting more trees.

That fall, we worked together remodeling the old Lee Vining Visitor Center. Don loved to work just as much as he loved to talk. He didn't even want to get paid for the work. It was enough to be able to help the Committee. His tirelessness was contagious. When the rest of us would tire and begin to think about knocking off for the day, Don would suggest that we still had enough light to complete more thing. Seeing our weary faces, he'd offer to finish the job himself, if we wanted to call it quits. Pretty soon everyone was slinging hammers and enjoying it.

The last day Don and I worked together was a Thursday afternoon in early January. It was his day off, but he'd come into the Visitor Center anyway. Everett and I were down on the floor sorting piles of bulk mail. Before we could explain what we were doing, Don was on his hands and knees with us, bundling stacks of envelopes. The job quickly became a friendly race to the finish and we were done in no time.

I'll always remember Don for his wide open smile. He taught us to be positive in our work and in our lives. He also taught us to respect those whom we oppose and to listen to what they have to say. I really miss being with him.



One of the many postcards Don sent to the Mono Lake Committee. This one came just before last Christmas.

Lodestar

As always, spring has taken a long time to reach us in the Eastern Sierra. With Dave and Don's passing, winter took on an extra chill this year, although the love and warmth of friends and relatives eased the grieving. But spring brings with it the welcomed sense of new beginnings. The birds and researchers are returning to the Basin. Flower bulbs and lawn furniture are popping up in the yards of Lee Vining. Swirls of gulls are seen again over the county dump.

Nature makes the transition between the chill of winter and the rebirth of spring look easy. The transition from sorrow to joy seems far more difficult. The heart finds solace in the metamorphosis of the natural world, but still must heal itself in its own time, in its own way.

One evening after the memorial gathering for Dave and Don, I couldn't seem to feel any joy for life. Nobody was around to talk to. In my melancholy I wandered down to the lake by the Old Marina. Dusk was settling on the frozen ground which was still covered with old snow and ice. A friend had told me of a pyramid-shaped tufa with a big spring of fresh water that flowed from its base. I decided to look for the spot.

I walked out across the snow following footprints. A sliver of moon lit my way until I came to a large, lone tufa emerging from the snow like an altar. As I drew near, the moon was aligned over the point of the tower. I could hear flowing water in the cold stillness. A stream emerged from the base of the tufa, visible in the faint, celestial light. The waters flowed north, through a channel of watercress, to the lake.

Looking up at the moon I heard Dave's voice in my mind saying "Let the waters flow!" It was a saying he was fond of. In this dry land, in this dry year, the sound of flowing water has been a balm to the spirit. In the chill of the winter, without the birds, the water is the voice of the land.

Cold. While the heart revels, the body complains. Regretfully, I started the long walk back across the snow. The darkness was nearly complete and soon the sound of the water faded behind me. Slowly I realized that I was wrapped in stars. Stars twinkled down from above, then blinked up from the snow crystals in flashes of color. I slid between those two universes, a speck of life in the obsidian blackness.

In a passage attributed to Chief Seattle he says, "Our dead never forget this beautiful world that gave them being. They still love its winding rivers, its great mountains and they yearn in tenderest affection over the lonely-hearted living, and often return to visit, guide and comfort them."

The sparkles of the stars were comforting. They were beyond my reach but present all the same. And so I thought of Dave. He was, and still is, our lodestar over Mono Lake, shining in our hearts whenever we remember.

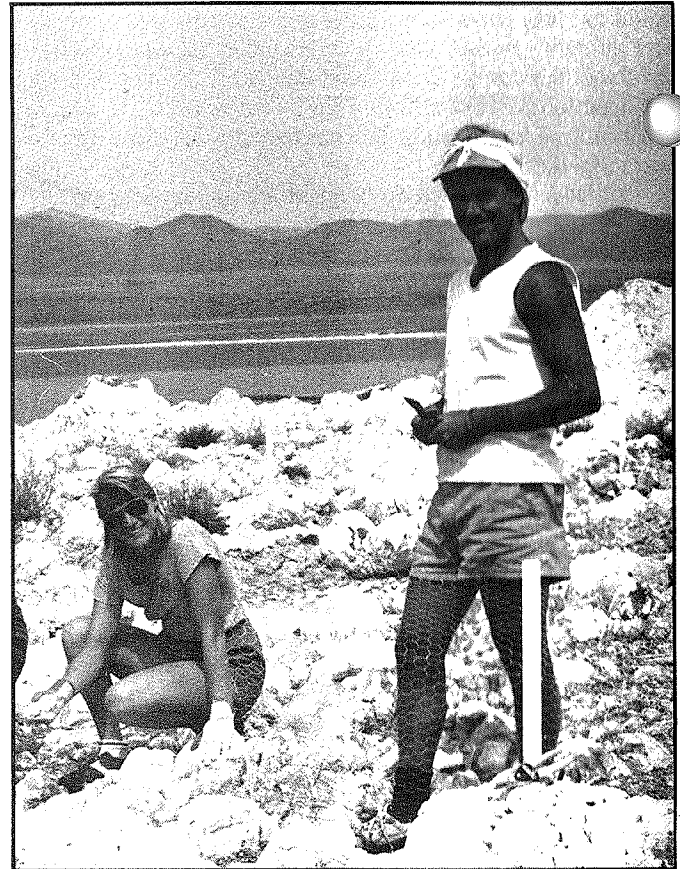
Long may the waters flow!

Lauren Davis



Nancy Morita

Dave, Vireo and Sage Gaines out for a stroll in Lee Vining, May 1986.



Emilie Strauss

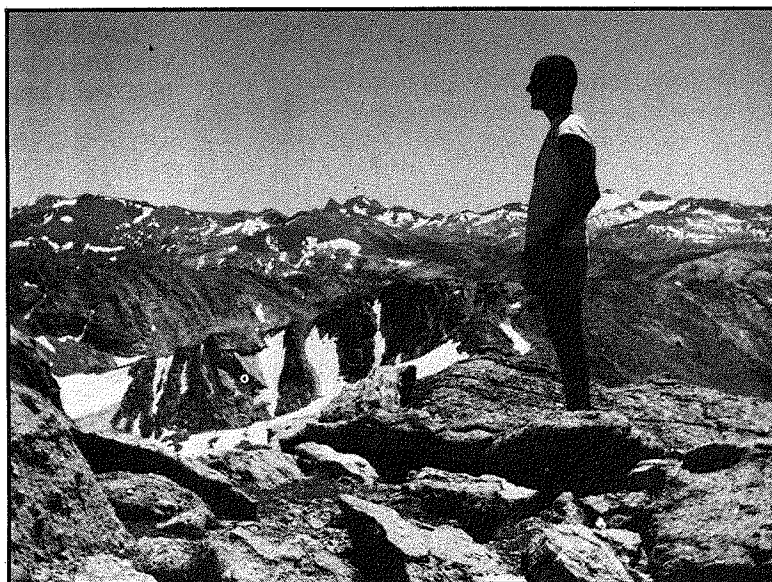
Don Oberlin and Linda Brown helping with the gull research project on one of Mono's islands, summer, 1987. His friend Stephany Borges said of Don, "He was a wonderful person. And he was very unusual. He had his convictions, but he was never pushy. He was so vital."

Don was an unforgettable character. I can see him with his shaved head, gazing now upon a woefully ignorant world from the top of Montgomery Peak. Don was a dear friend, though I hadn't seen him for sometime. We bagged many a peak together.

David Tyler



Dave dressed for a walk along the creek, or maybe he was lobbying. Hard to tell.



David Tyler

From a letter...

I once heard our time on this Earth defined as the blink of an eye between two eternities. Death is universal; it is seldom convenient and occasionally is terribly premature. It then becomes incumbent upon us to make the best possible use of the few short years we are given here.

In the case of Dave Gaines, through his determination and persistence, and motivated by an ethic that told him that his cause was unquestionably just and right, he was able to accomplish more in his short lifetime than a million others might, and to do things that our politically-involved agency would never attempt. I remember how guilty I would feel when the best I could do would be to loan Dave Winkler a boat and motor—and join the Mono Lake Committee. This guilt persists, and I remain ever grateful for the embarrassment you all have saved us by doing our job for us.

Perhaps Loren Eiseley said it best: "I see Christ in every man who dies to save a life beyond his life." I see this in Dave, too, as I look at his photograph, holding his child, which I have placed most appropriately above my 1988 Mono Lake calendar. Dave represents so much that is good, wholesome, and praiseworthy. He will live on as an

inspiration to all whose life goals are to leave the Earth a better place. Were there a million others like him!

In closing, I am reminded of another lover of the mountains, Pete Starr, who died in 1933 at the age of 30 while climbing alone in the Minarets. Following his death, his "Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Region" was published as his posthumous work.

In the preface to Starr's Guide is found Pete Starr's poem, "The Mountains' Call," which ends with the following verse:

Lure of Sierra, wild and free,
Jewels deep set in shining skies,
Defiant mountains beckon me
To glory and dream in their paradise.

The mountains that Dave and Don loved so much have called them home, and I think of them there now. And thanks to them, and to all of you, a deep set jewel that might otherwise have been lost yet continues to sparkle in shining skies, but now with a brilliance enhanced by our memories of them. Few have left a more eloquent legacy, or a more enduring one!

Phil Pister



Dave helps Grace de Laet key out a flower during a wildflower class excursion down Lundy Canyon. This hike was a long-standing tradition with Dave.

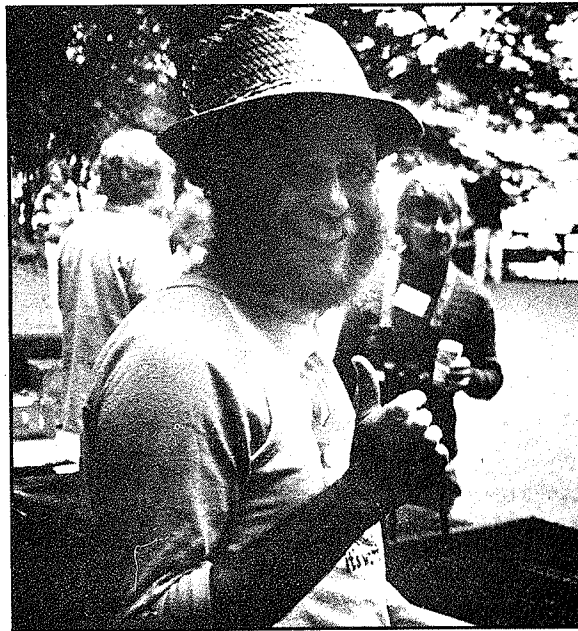
For David Gaines

My family and I piled into Mono Lake one afternoon ready to see and learn, with a couple of days free, after years of zipping through Lee Vining en-route from peaks & snowfields, and never a chance to talk directly with David. He loaned us canoes and the car, and we first floated out on the glassy blue of Mono Lake, entranced by the streaming specks of life in the water, the puffs of still cloud, the mirroring mountains, clouds, tufa, birds. We were in what felt for a moment to be truly sacred space and time.

That evening David and I—who had known of each other for years—had time to talk and then to sing. What I love best in all the world is the play between clear well-mastered vajra information, and visionary spirit, and crazy wisdom music-making. That night (it was only last September) we had it all. Masa, Kai, Gen, and I connected with David and Sally, and many other fine thinkers and singers that night! Not a moment too soon, it turns out. David, I'm grateful and honored we met. We'll pick up the song and the gamble in the big sweatlodge under the mountain.

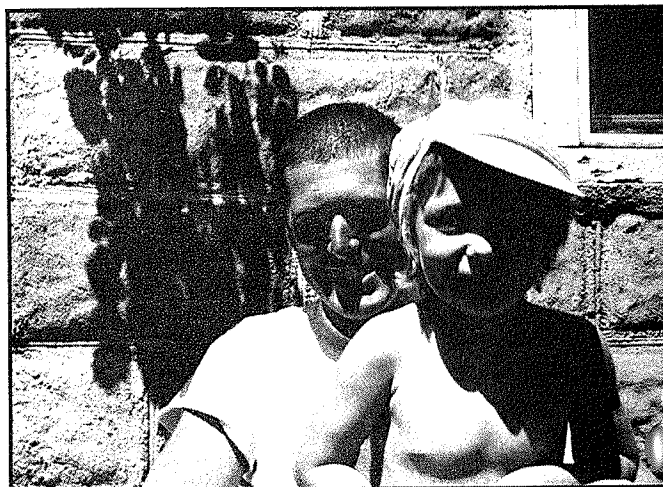
Gary Snyder

A friend of Don's, Howard Waitzkin, a professor at UC Irvine, wrote "Don was soft-spoken and sometimes understated in his views. But the passion of his convictions was always there too. He embodied the best qualities of 'youth'; his energy reminded me that he belonged to the next generation after my own. He stood as an example for all of us working for a more humane society."



Mark Ross

Dave at a fundraiser for Mono Lake on Angel Island, August, 1981. Grace de Laet wrote that this picture represents "an early era when Dave always wore his straw hat until it literally disintegrated off his head. We had over 400 people attend this event and David, as usual, spoke eloquently."



Sa Miller

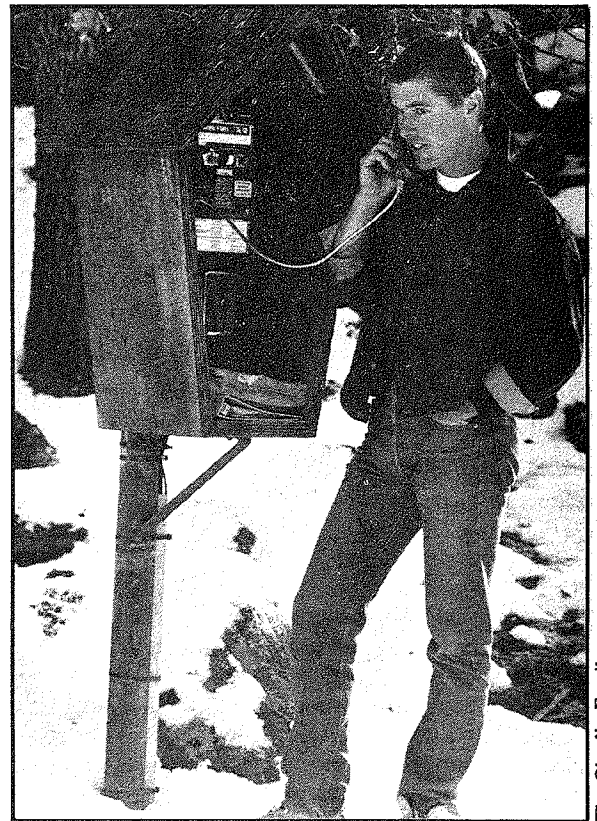
Don Oberlin and Vireo Gaines enjoying the sun in front of the intern house in Lee Vining, July 1986.



Don protesting the cutting of rainforests.

"David taught me a world view, and he taught by example. I will ever carry his child-like curiosity with me. As well as his love of nature and man. And in my own way, I will always carry with me his determination to do right."

David Winkler



The Oberlin Family

Don calling home from Yosemite, January, 1986. He was on a New Year's trip with his brother Bob.



Lauren Davis

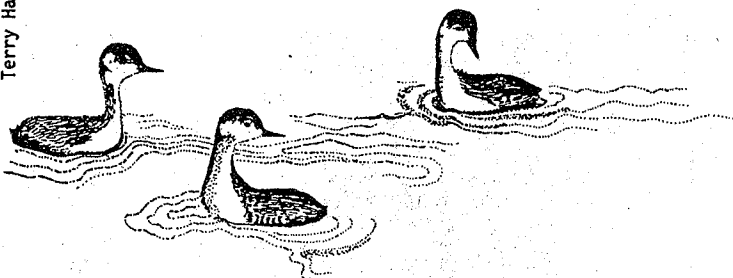
Dave running the sound system during this year's annual meeting at the County Park.



Dave feeds the fire at a picnic, Mono Lake County Park, Summer, 1983. Left to right: Sally Gaines, Debby Jewett, Dean Cutter, Dave, Paul Johnson and Sarah Jewett.

We thank everyone who sent us photos to be used in this issue of the newsletter. We also pulled many pictures from Dave's extensive files. If one of your photos appears here without a credit, please let us know. Most of the photos in the files are not labeled because Dave remembered who had given him prints. Now we often don't know the sources.

Terry Hart



Same Vision, Renewed Commitment:

MLC Board Presses On

On March 6, the Board of the Mono Lake Committee held its first meeting since the death of David Gaines. Those present recalled fondly and with deep sadness many of their experiences with David since the Committee's birth ten years ago. Several of the Board members have served from the very beginning.

Around the dining table in Helen Green's Berkeley home, the board and staff began looking forward once again to the ultimate goal—preserving Mono Lake for future generations.

Sally Gaines contributed greatly to the rejuvenation process by agreeing to serve on the Board as a member and co-chair. She was a charter member of the Board at the inception of the Committee in 1978. As co-chair with myself, Sally will share her views on our progress toward saving Mono Lake in future columns.

This column has only my signature so I can express, on behalf of the Board, our appreciation to Sally for returning to more formal responsibilities with the Committee. Her work for Mono Lake has always been considerable, but in recent years, with the coming of Vireo and Sage, has been less visible than in the past.

The Board and staff devoted much time reviewing the steps that are currently needed to bring our long years of effort to fruition. The answer is nothing new—continued hard work and dedication by volunteers, staff and Martha Davis, our vibrant executive director.

Equally vital is the steadfast support of our 12,000 members who have brought the Mono Lake issue to the environmental forefront. We have been and will continue to be successful in the political arena because of the articulate and numerous voices of our members.

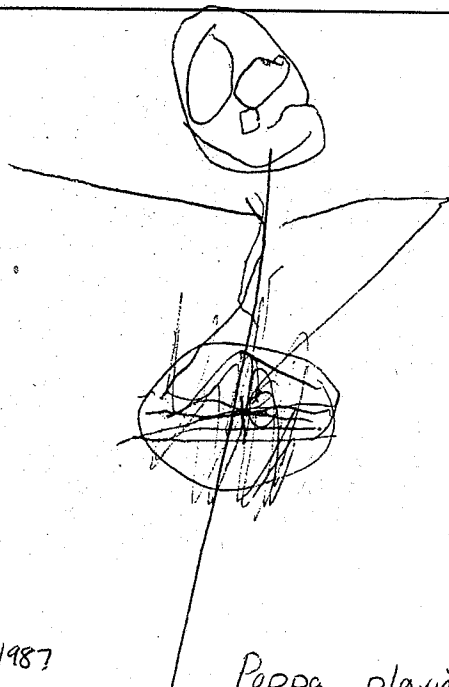
When the Board meeting adjourned, no one said it—but everyone remembered—David's favorite end-of-the-meeting comment:

"What did we do to save the Lake today?"

The remark, sometimes said in frustration, partially reflected David's preference for being outdoors rather than in a meeting. But, mostly, it expressed his yearning for a solution that would preserve this place of beauty and life.

As we remembered David's question, each of us renewed our dedication to finding the answer that will preserve Mono Lake for our children and our children's children.

Ed Grosswiler



Vireo Feb. 1987

Poppa playing Mandolin

Gaines Family Update

Above is a drawing made last year by Vireo, age four. Dave often played and sang children's songs to Sage and Vireo.

I wanted to let people know how we are doing. Obviously, there is a big gap in our lives without "Pop". I have 15 years of memories shared with Dave and many dissolved future plans. As any widow or divorcee knows, young kids are not much help in making household decisions or conversing at the dinner table.

My wrist is working at 75% capacity, and continues to improve. Vireo has made almost complete recovery from her head injuries and is laughing, singing and playing with her friends. Her facial scars do not bother her and will fade with time. Sage is a happy, rambunctious boy who's just celebrated his third birthday.

Our calendar had been marked by Dave with his schedule of summer classes. He will miss taking people out to show them birds, flowers and Mono Lake. He had accomplished a great deal as an environmentalist, author, teacher, and musician, but he had so much good work left in him. He had many projects for the future.

Dave loved the kids so much and he was able to spend so few years raising and influencing them. Tears come to me when I think of him missing Vireo's block-long walk next September on her first day of Kindergarten.

The Artemisia Press business is doing well. I am back on the Mono Lake Committee Board and handling registration of the Mono Lake Foundation Workshops.

We are comfortable in our Lee Vining home and yard and will remain here. The townspeople have offered all the help in the world, and I often take up the MLC staff and interns on their offer to "drop the kids off anytime".

We miss Pop, but are doing okay. When we go on a Sunday sagebrush hike and stop to buy the traditional ice cream bar, his spirit will be with us.

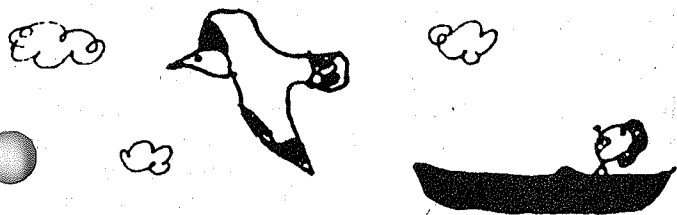
Sally Gaines

Honors For Dave and Don

Within the past months many government and private agencies have praised David Gaines and Don Oberlin for their efforts to enrich the lives of all of us. Both Dave and Don have been given glowing recognition in the Congressional Record by Congressman Lehman. Senator Garamendi has sponsored a memorial resolution in honor of David. The Planning and Conservation League has created the David Gaines Conservationist of the Year Award which was bestowed upon Tim McKay of the North Coast Environmental Center. Los Angeles Mayor Bradley and the Mono County Board of Supervisors have both eloquently expressed their respect and admiration of David's work on behalf of Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra. The Los Angeles City Council and the California Legislature recessed in his honor.

Dennis Martin, Inyo National Forest Supervisor, has indicated that the Forest Service would like to dedicate its future Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitors Center to David's memory.

We are all comforted to know that Dave's and Don's lives reached and inspired so many people.



Another Dry Year For Mono

Meteorologists and other long-time weather observers in California are fond of saying that the dry years come back to back. And although this may not always be the case, it has certainly rung true the past two seasons.

Except for a brief stormy period during the first weeks of January, we have had an almost complete lack of precipitation in the Eastern Sierra during 1988. DWP's forecast of April-September runoff into the Mono Basin read 59% of normal at the beginning of April.

With conditions dry throughout the state, it is hardly surprising that DWP is diverting all the water it can from Mono's tributary streams. Only court orders are keeping water trickling down Rush and Lee Vining creeks, but not enough to halt Mono's decline. By fall, we expect the lake to drop from 6379.2 feet to at least 6377.7 feet—18 vertical inches.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles's per capita water consumption continues to rise. Between July 1, 1986, and June 30, 1987, Angelenos consumed 705,000 acre-feet of water—85,000 acre-feet more than projected "with conservation" in DWP's Urban Water Management Plan—and 130,000 acre-feet more than the city used as recently as 1980. We'll take a look at the troubles of Los Angeles's conservation program elsewhere in this newsletter (see page 15).

Jim Parker

Grebes Extend Their Stay At Mono Lake



"One November day I trod through foot-deep snow to the lake's south shore. Wisps of icy fog veiled the tufa towers. Out of the silence rose the voices of grebes, a quiet, lilting chorus that seemed to sparkle like crystals on a frozen lake."

David Gaines, *Birds of Yosemite*, 1987

On a single day in October, Mono Lake may harbor as many as one million migrating Eared Grebes, (National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report, 1987.) The birds come to feed on the brine shrimp but by winter most of the shrimp are gone and only 100 or so grebes remain. Last December though, birders on the annual Mono Basin Christmas Bird Count were astonished to find 500,000 grebes. The birds lingered in large numbers through February. In 1982-83, hundreds of grebes also wintered in the basin, but fewer were present at a December census and they didn't remain for quite as long (American Birds 37:832-35, 1983).

Larger numbers of adult brine shrimp in December may explain this year's tardy grebe departure. Why shrimp survived into the winter is as yet unclear, but it may be due in part to the reversal of meromictic conditions in the lake. For the past five years Mono's waters have been stratified. The lighter, oxygen-rich water in the upper part of the lake has not mixed with the denser, oxygen-depleted water in the depths. This fall the layers of water began to mix, releasing nutrients to the surface where the brine shrimp live. (See article on USGS research, page 16.)

By early March, both the grebes and the adult shrimp had essentially vanished. The grebes probably moved south to their traditional winter haunts in the Salton Sea, Baja and the Gulf of California.

This event re-emphasizes the importance of Mono Lake as a staging area to migrant grebes. Grebes are notoriously weak fliers, and if their fat reserves are low they may not survive even the short treks between Mono Lake and the coast. This was evident in 1983 when thousands expired in coastal Southern California and Baja after flying through a severe Sierran storm. (American Birds, *ibid.*) Currently, a quarter to one third of the world's population of Eared Grebes migrates through Mono Lake (NAS 1987). According to the NAS report, if the Mono Lake ecosystem collapses then "the autumn migration period could potentially become the limiting season of the year for grebes."

Emilie Strauss

Mono Basin Management Plan to be Released in July

Your Comments Needed!

The long awaited Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the management of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area will be available for public review and response this July. The plan will greatly affect the future of Mono Lake and surrounding lands.

It is expected that there will be a 90-day public review period as well as workshops held this summer in Lee Vining and at locations in Northern and Southern California.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE FOREST SERVICE HEARS FROM EVERYONE concerning the adequacy of the draft plan and EIS. If you are not already on their mailing list, write: Dennis Martin, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 73 North Main Street, Bishop, CA. 93514, (619) 873-5841.

MLC Positions on Scenic Area Management

The MLC believes the MBNFSA should be managed to preserve ecological, geological, cultural and aesthetic values in a condition of natural integrity for the enjoyment of present and future generations. In response to local community concerns and input from our members, we've draft-ed the following positions on specific management issues.

We hope you can take the time to attend workshops. Be sure to send comments to the Forest Service regarding how well the draft plan reflects these positions:

1. LAKE LEVEL. The Forest Service should recognize the findings of the National Academy of Sciences study that a shrinking lake will devastate Mono's ecological and aesthetic values. It is the responsibility of the Forest Service to identify the minimum lake levels required to protect the area's threatened resources. The Forest Service should play an active role in seeking a solution that keeps the ecosystem healthy and the area "scenic." The MLC advocates a minimum elevation of 6378 ft. to maintain Negit as an island and substantially reduce alkali dust storms.

2. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE. The protection of native plants and animals and their habitats should take precedence over conflicting uses, including recreation. When necessary, native species should be re-established.

3. GRAZING. Grazing should be prohibited on the relicited lands, meadows, marshes, stream banks and other sensitive habitats; elsewhere it should be managed to improve range conditions, restore native grasses and forbs and not compete with native wildlife. If this is not possible, grazing should be phased out entirely from the Scenic Area.

4. GEOLOGICAL FEATURES. Protection of tufa, volcanoes and other geological features should take precedence over conflicting uses.

5. MINING. Current mining operations should continue, but should not be allowed to inflict conspicuous new scars on the landscape.

6. HUNTING. Legal hunting of game species should be allowed to continue in areas where public safety is not endangered; other species, especially predators, should be protected.

7. ROADS AND ORV USE. Vehicular travel should be restricted to existing, designated roads. No new roads or parking areas should be constructed around the lake, and jeep trails should not be improved.

8. CAMPING AND CAMPGROUNDS. Campgrounds should be inconspicuous and primitive.

9. TRAILS, HIKING, BACKPACKING AND SKIING. Mono Lake's undeveloped shores should be left undisturbed by trails, signs or other development. Backpackers should be allowed to camp in most of the Scenic Area, including eastern shore relicited lands.

Ilene Mandelbaum

Legislative Attack on Public Trust Thwarted

A bill aimed at severely limiting the application of the public trust doctrine in California was sidetracked in late April by conservationists. The bill, A.B.4439, sponsored by the California Chamber of Commerce and the Association of California Water Agencies, would have made it almost impossible for the public to go to court in attempts to protect fish, wildlife and recreational use of water.

The public trust doctrine is the Mono Lake Committee's strongest legal defense for the Mono Basin ecosystem. The doctrine holds that resources belong to all the state's residents. In the Mono Lake case, the public trust doctrine calls for a balancing between the water needs of the City of L.A. and the Mono Basin. The bill A.B.4439 would have applied to our current suit which is pending in the 9th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, (see pg.14.)

According to Martha Davis, MLC Executive Director, "The public trust doctrine is the only thing that stands between the Eastern Sierra and the continuing environmental harm caused by DWP water diversions." Inyo and Mono are the only counties in California that are not protected under the "County of Origin" law in the state constitution. The County of Origin protections prohibit the draining of one region of the state for the sake of development in another. This legislation was enacted in response to the controversy caused by the building of the L.A. aqueduct.

At the last minute before the legislative deadline, the sponsors of A.B.4439 requested that Assemblyman Norm Waters, D-Plymouth, carry the bill. Waters has been one of the key supporters of Mono Lake since 1978, and sponsored the state-funded CORI report, (see page 13.) He insisted that he had no intention of interfering with the Mono Lake litigation.

Under this bill, only the state Attorney General, or one party personally selected by the A.G., would be allowed to file a public trust lawsuit. Criteria for court standing includes financial qualifications, a restriction that excludes most environmental groups, such as the Mono Lake Committee. Public Trust actions could not be brought for up to 40 years following the start of water diversion. By that time, the resource that was to be protected could be completely destroyed. The bill also shifts the burden of proof from the water agency to the claimant, who then must show that diversions have caused "significant harm to public trust resources that was either unnecessary or unjustified." Additional barriers would be created that prevent past public trust decisions from being reconsidered.

The Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee of the state legislature ordered further study on the bill after it became apparent that it did not have enough support to pass. Assemblyman Waters, recognizing the controversial nature of A.B.4439, suggested that hearings should be held sometime in autumn, perhaps in Mono County.

The MLC is grateful to all our supporters for helping to block this bill, especially the Planning and Conservation League who alerted the environmental community. We will have a deeper analysis of the public trust issue in our next newsletter.

Lauren Davis

CORI Report Released

The state-sponsored report on the future of Mono Lake by the Community and Organization Research Institute (CORI) of UC Santa Barbara was released April 27. The report concluded that the Mono Lake ecosystem is in immediate danger from DWP's diversions. As soon as next year, the declining lake level is predicted to have "serious consequences for the lake and its wildlife." If DWP's water diversions are not curtailed, the Mono Lake ecosystem would collapse by 2012.

At the Sacramento press conference announcing the study, Senator John Garamendi of Walnut Grove, declared that "action must be taken immediately," if the Mono Lake ecosystem is to remain intact. He praised the recently approved water conservation program sponsored by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, (see article on page 14.) This program is expected to save 50-70% of the water needed to preserve the lake. He also noted the study co-sponsored by DWP and MLC which is currently investigating environmentally-sound replacement water supplies for the city of Los Angeles.

The report, which was sponsored by Senator Garamendi and Assemblyman Norm Waters—Plymouth, stated that Mono Lake must be maintained at 6382 feet—4 feet higher than the current elevation—in all but drought conditions. According to the study, this level "protects all key aspects of the lake and its designated national recreation area, including the major species of birds...tufa towers, the existing wetlands, and the lake ecosystem." We will have an in-depth analysis of the CORI report in our summer newsletter.

Ilene Mandelbaum and Emilie Strauss

Spring Winds Kick Up Dust

March in the Mono Basin came in like a lion and the wind just kept roaring. Many a blustery day found members of the Lee Vining staff running outside with their cameras to document Mono's spectacular, if ominous, alkali dust storms.

Air in the Mono Basin is among the cleanest in California—provided the wind isn't blowing very hard. However,

during the usually infrequent, but severe, dust storms at Mono Lake, the air quality can degrade until it is considered among the worst in the state. During this windy, dry spring season, dust storms have become a common event, often occurring several times a week.

By autumn, Mono's water level is likely to fall below 6378 feet, which will greatly increase the area of alkali playa exposed to the wind. Thomas Gill, a geochemist at the University of California at Davis, predicts that "as the lake shrinks, the number of dust storms will not increase, but their intensity will multiply five to ten times, so that emergency air standards are exceeded on one out of ten days."

Part of the dust that blows off Mono Lake consists of very small particles that are less than 10 microns in diameter. These tiny particles are considered dangerous to human health because they can easily enter the respiratory system and contain toxic elements such as arsenic and selenium.

Despite its infamous billows of alkali, Mono Lake has been placed in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) classification for a "clean air district." Congressman Rick Lehman, with the help of the Mono Lake Committee, is petitioning the EPA to re-classify the Mono Basin into either "uncertain air quality" or "likely air quality violation" status. According to Lehman, "A change in classification would, at the very least, allow the air quality problems to be monitored and could possibly provide vital evidence for maintaining the lake level." The most effective way to mitigate Mono's dust storms is to cover the exposed playas and the landbridge to Negit Island with water.

Ilene Mandelbaum and Martha Davis

Hallett Creek:

A Watershed Decision That Could Help Mono

You won't find Hallett Creek on any map of the Eastern Sierra, but a recent court decision involving the stream could eventually help put water in Mono Lake. This February, in a precedent-setting decision, the state Supreme Court ruled that the federal government, in its national forests, has the same riparian water rights under California law as do private landowners. The case was brought by the Forest Service to protect wildlife habitat on Hallett Creek in the Plumas National Forest of northeastern California.

Riparian rights involve water uses immediately adjacent to a streambed. In California, there are also "appropriative" water rights, granted through the State Water Resources Control Board, which involve transporting water out of natural watersheds to other areas. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's aqueduct system in the Eastern Sierra is dependent on appropriative rights.

According to Inyo County Counsel and Water Department Director, Greg James, unused riparian water rights "are not extinguished" by senior appropriative rights. "Now that the federal government has been given the right to apply for riparian rights which may be upstream from an ap-

propriative right holder, it raises the question to what extent the federal government will have precedence over previous users," James said.

The Hallett Creek lawsuit was backed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. The Defense Fund hopes this legal decision can be applied for the protection of instream and wildlife habitats throughout California.

It is still unclear how this ruling may be applied in the Mono Basin, however, it gives the local Forest Service a powerful legal tool. Since all of Mono's streams originate from National Forest lands and federal ownership of lands adjacent to Mono Lake has been reconfirmed by a recent state supreme court decision, the Hallett Creek decision could allow the Forest Service to claim water rights that would pre-date DWP in the Mono Basin.

Dennis Martin, Inyo National Forest Supervisor, said "I don't see any change in practices right now, but in the future it could effect the Mono Basin. I'm glad the court made the decision because it will give us more flexibility in our management."

Ilene Mandelbaum

Legal Update

Winter was a quiet season on the litigation front. No word yet from the 9th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals on the standing of our public trust case. This cornerstone of the legal efforts to save Mono Lake was accepted by the court two and a half years ago.

We also await a decision from the California 3rd District Court of Appeals on our suit challenging the legality of DWP's licenses to divert Mono Basin Water. These state-granted licenses violate Fish and Game codes requiring dam owners, especially in Mono and Inyo counties, to keep "in good condition" downstream fisheries. A decision could come anytime.

Meanwhile, Rush Creek continues to flow at 19 cubic feet per second (cfs) while we anticipate the completion of instream studies. These studies, contracted by the Department of Fish and Game to Beak Associates, will recommend the flows needed to sustain a healthy fishery. The findings are due to be released in June.

Like Rush Creek, Lee Vining Creek continues to flow thanks to a preliminary injunction handed down in October, 1987, in Mono County Superior Court. Recognizing the public trust values of the stream, the court ordered a release of between 4 and 5 cfs to keep the creek's recovering fishery alive.

The Department of Fish and Game has offered to fund an instream study on Lee Vining creek similar to the Rush Creek study and DWP has indicated its willingness to cooperate with such a project.

Ilene Mandelbaum

If you're confused by this morass of litigation, ask our Lee Vining office for a free copy of our *Field Guide to the Mono Lake Lawsuits*. It explains our four suits in concise, non-technical language.

Bradley Pushes Conservation

Last minute update: Mayor Bradley's water conservation ordinance was approved by the L.A. City Council on April 26.

Faced with a shortfall in sewage treatment capacity, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley has asked the City Council to adopt new water conservation measures to reduce sewer flows by 10%. If the Mayor achieves his goal, Los Angeles would save 70% of the water needed to insure a healthy ecosystem at Mono Lake.

Under the Mayor's program, all buildings in Los Angeles would be required to retrofit toilets and showers with water conserving hardware; all turf areas of 3 acres or more would reduce water consumption by 10%; all new commercial, industrial, and multifamily residential landscapes would use low-water-consumptive plants; and the Department of Water and Power would perform water audits of the 250 largest water and sewer users in the city. The Mayor also proposes vigorous enforcement of an existing City ordinance which requires all buildings to be retrofitted prior to the close of sale (see Mono Lake Newsletter, Winter '87 issue).

Bradley's proposal is aimed at defusing a sewage time bomb. The Los Angeles sewer system already operates, on the average, at more than 90% capacity. Last year, surges in sewage flow spilled millions of gallons of sewage into Santa Monica Bay, causing the city public embarrassment and hefty fines. At current rates of growth, even average sewer capacity will be exceeded in four years, leaving no room for new hook-ups and probably causing more spills.

Mayor Bradley, in addition to his water conservation measures, has proposed restricting sewer hookups until the city expands its sewage treatment capacity in 1992. L.A. City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, expected to be top contender for the Mayor's seat, called for an interim cap on sewage permits shortly before the Mayor released his plan. Both Bradley's and Yaroslavsky's proposals follow recent voter backlash at the impacts of uncontrolled growth.

The conservation measures introduced by the Mayor would push Los Angeles in the direction that the Mono Lake Committee has advocated for years. Many elements of the Mayor's proposal echo comments submitted by MLC and the Planning and Conservation League on L.A.'s 1985 Urban Water Management plan (see Winter 1986 newsletter).

If the conservation program is approved by the City Council and effectively implemented, Los Angeles will prove what DWP has long denied: increased water efficiency can substantially reduce the need for water from the Mono Basin. Although no politicians have yet suggested that the conserved water be used to reduce diversions from the Mono Basin, the opportunity is clear.

If you live in Los Angeles, Mayor Bradley in particular, and the City Councilmembers in general, deserve letters of thanks for their leadership on this important water issue.

Stephen Osgood

DWP Fails to Control Water Demand

Stephen Osgood

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, in the face of political pressure and Mono Lake Committee prodding, has taken more initiative to conserve water during the last two years. Nevertheless, Los Angeles has failed to rein in runaway water consumption. In spite of a \$1.8 million ad campaign in 1987, L.A.'s water demand significantly exceeded their projections for the year 2010, as it also did in 1985 and 1986.

Background

When DWP released its draft Urban Water Management Plan, late in 1985, serious criticism poured in from conservationists, such as the MLC and the Planning and Conservation League, as well as from Eastern Sierra officials. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's suggestions, however, were the ones which struck a nerve. "A relatively small portion of DWP's budget is devoted to water conservation," he pointed out. (In 1985/86 only 0.7% of DWP's operating budget was spent on conservation.) DWP was planning, over a twenty-five year period, for "only a two percent decrease in per capita consumption. The experience of other cities proves beyond any doubt that far greater reductions in water consumption can be achieved...would it make sense for the DWP to embrace a more ambitious water conservation goal?"

In response to the mayor's statements and public pressure, the plan was adopted with a resolution that doubled DWP's conservation budget and added new conservation programs, such as: seasonal water rates, advising large turf owners on proper irrigation scheduling, trial distribution of low flow showerheads, and a study on techniques to reduce residential irrigation.

DWP's Conservation Program

A second drive for water conservation began last summer. DWP launched a \$1.8 million ad campaign. Newspapers, billboards, TV and radio stations proclaimed that summer was Water Saving Season. Popular TV weather reporters encouraged viewers to conserve water during the driest year in a decade. Along with the ad campaign, DWP also initiated some new measures, including a pilot door-to-door distribution of conservation kits.

A dry year made this surge in effort advisable for DWP. Water politics made it essential. Because Eastern Sierra runoff was projected at only 55% of normal, DWP sought Inyo County's permission to pump considerably more groundwater than usual from the Owens Valley. In addition, the City was supporting state legislation to build facilities to take more water from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. Both of these goals required convincing officials to the North that Los Angeles was making an effort to conserve water. In the end, DWP did receive permission to increase pumping in the Owens Valley.

Water Consumption Still Increases

The most discouraging element of DWP's conservation campaign is that it is spending far more money this year asking people to save water than it is on proven, direct measures, such as hardware and incentives. It has not, for example, offered to install water-saving showerheads or toilet dams in customer's homes. It has not provided financial incentives for the installment of efficient plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems, or water-conserving landscaping. It has not proposed higher water rates for higher use.

The bottom line is that DWP has failed miserably to put a lid on water consumption. In 1986/87, L.A.'s water demand topped 700,000 acre feet. According to DWP's own Urban Water Management Plan, the city's annual water consumption in the year 2010 was only supposed to increase to 667,000 acre feet. Every year since LA set this goal for the next century, it has far exceeded it.

DWP has tried to place some of the blame on Mother Nature. Water officials point out that the weather has been warmer and drier than normal. However, during the '85-86 season, Los Angeles received slightly *more* rainfall than normal, but the city still consumed 9% more water than the Urban Water Management Plan projected for that year. Nor can the finger be pointed at unexpected population growth. Revised population projections by the Southern California Association of Governments for Los Angeles are only 1.4% greater than those DWP relied upon in its plan—not enough to account for skyrocketing water use.

Conclusions

Clearly, DWP's Urban Water Management Plan has failed as a tool for managing water demand. Where can DWP turn? One of its own Water and Power Commissioners, Walter Zelman, has some ideas. When his colleagues approved of the summer media blitz, Zelman dissented. "I would prefer," he argued, "to immediately investigate all possible alternatives, including much more aggressive distribution of conservation technology and education of large water users far and above what we currently do. ...That would be more widely respected and a far more effective way to use a large amount of City monies."

We couldn't agree more.

Don't let L.A. drip dry.

Don't waste water.

DWP Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

For more information on water conservation call the DWP at 213/481-5800 or 818/984-3303.

One of DWP's water conservation ads.

USGS Studies Mono's Deep Ecology

The USGS's Biochemistry of Alkaline, Hypersaline Lakes Research Group, headed by Ron Oremland, has been studying Mono Lake since 1984. The group was lured here by Mono's unique chemistry and recent "meromixis", a condition in which less-dense, oxygen-rich water in the upper part of the lake doesn't mix with the denser, oxygen-depleted water in the deeper part. The researchers have been carrying out long-term studies on Mono and have attracted international scientists to collaborate with them.

The sky lightens in the east behind Cowtrack Mountain. Mono Lake glows luminous gold as the serene chords of Pachelbel's *Canon in D* drift into the still air. Is this the beginning of the Mono Lake slide show? No, it's the beginning of a long day of research for the United States Geological Survey team from Menlo Park.

Biogeochemist Larry Miller steers the Boston Whaler toward a marker buoy near the center of the lake, while Chuck Culbertson, microbiologist, rearranges the gear. The boat is loaded with research equipment: sample bottles, pumps, hoses, light meters, motors and a portable tape player perched on the prow. Larry notices us eyeing the music system. "Hey, it's going to be a long day out here," he assures the crew.

Soon the sun breaks the horizon line sending gleaming rays in all directions. "This is it!" declares Chuck looking up from a thermos of coffee, "Time to get some light readings down under." He exchanges Pachelbel for the Grateful Dead and things really begin to roll. Larry stops the boat by the marker while Chuck readies the light meter for submersion. The meter is read at different depths to determine the amount of sunlight that penetrates Mono's waters. "We're seeing an abundant algal bloom right now. Obviously the lake water is very green but by measuring the amount of light that's reaching the lower depths, and comparing it to data from past years, we get an idea of the extent of this bloom. So far, it looks like an unusually thick crop."

We begin to feel the warmth of the low February sun. This winter day is still and mild, perfect for collecting data. Larry flips the tape over. "And now, the Dead live in '72. Great music to collect water samples by", he states. Chuck begins to lower a special collection device that Larry adapted using two inverted plastic funnels. "Conventional water samplers are too long for our work here. We're trying to pinpoint the distinct layers of water that exist in Mono Lake so I invented this sampler to let us collect only a narrow band at a time." Chuck lowers the funnels to the first depth to be sampled. "You see, Mono became what we call meromictic or stratified about 5 years ago. When all that fresh water poured into the lake during the extremely wet years, starting in '82, it just stayed on top of the colder, saltier water and hasn't mixed. We still see a distinctive layer of "fresh" water on top of the briny bottom water. The trouble is that some of the nutrients for the algae, and hence for the brine shrimp and flies, are trapped in that lower layer."

Larry fills glass sample bottles with the water pumped up from the funnels. "By analyzing these samples from different depths, we can tell if the lake has mixed at all. We've seen the upper water column slowly mixing downward over the last couple of years. Soon we may see the lake mix all the way to the bottom."

By late afternoon the sample collection is completed. We leave the peace and brightness of the lake for the cave-like interior of a motel room in town where the microscope is set up. Chuck prepares a sample of Mono's water. Beneath the scope the water comes alive with diatoms, bacteria and Chuck's recent observation, "Mickey", the micro-organism. "The Mickeys are those bright green things that look like Mickey Mouse's head. They're one-celled, and float around like tiny balloons. They are unique-looking algae or "nanoplankton" that resemble photosynthesizing bacteria in terms of where they hang out in the lake, and in fact, may well be unique to Mono Lake. The Mickeys seem to be an important food source for the brine shrimp."

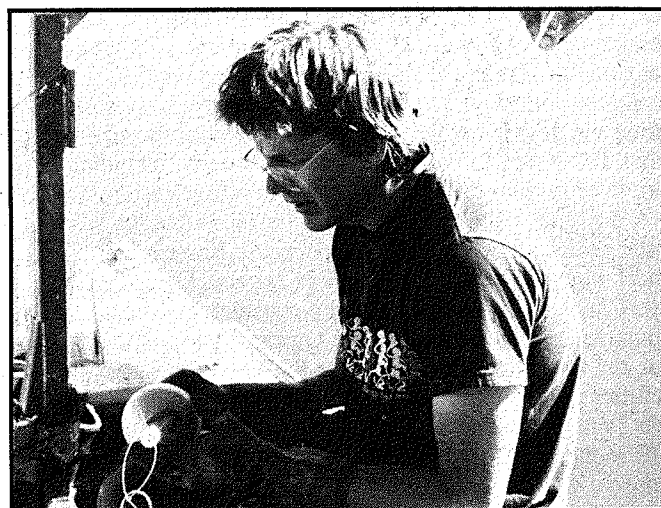
Ron Oremland, director of the USGS project and an expert in methane geochemistry, stops by to check on the research. The USGS visits the lake four to five times a year to collect data on biogeochemistry: how biological, geological and chemical processes interact. Their findings have been quite intriguing (see newsletters 8(3) and 9(3)). This year, Mono's chemocline, a zone rich in microscopic life and characterized by having little or no oxygen and almost no light penetration, has dropped down to about 65 feet below the surface.

"Nobody else that we know of is really studying Mono's ecology to the depth in the lake that we are", says Larry.

"Just goes to show what can be done with enough cassette tapes," adds Chuck.

The USGS deep ecologists will be back in May to check the state of the lake. In future issues we will accompany other field researchers as they gather data at Mono Lake.

Lauren Davis



Chuck Culbertson preparing sampler designed by Larry Miller.

MLC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Visitors Center: Home to Stay?

Thanks to all of you, we're getting closer to being able to purchase the old dancehall in Lee Vining where our headquarters are located. The Gaines and Oberlin families have indicated that contributions in memory of Dave or Don can be made to the Committee or the Mono Lake Foundation (tax-deductible). Sally Gaines has requested that these funds go toward procuring the Visitors Center.

We hope to be able to complete the purchase this year. Once we own the building, we can begin repairing, remodeling, and expanding the center. With everyone's help, the old dancehall could really blossom.

Write us a note with your dreams or ideas for the Center. We'd like to hear from you.

Our Mono Lake Celebrity

The editors and writers of the LA Times honored our Executive Director Martha Davis on January 10, 1988 in a special issue of their Sunday magazine. Martha was selected as one of Southern California's "rising stars", a group of 88 chosen as the "new leaders who will shape Southern California" and who "are certain to make a difference in the life of Los Angeles in 1988 and beyond." That's a tall order, but we know Martha's up to the task.

Staff Hellos, Good-byes and Transformations

This winter has been a time of dramatic changes for all of us in the Committee. It's been very hard to say "good-bye" to Dave and Don as staff members and dear friends. The transition has been rough, yet we've found strength in our commitment to each other and to Mono Lake.

Lauren Davis, former assistant editor, has taken on Dave's hat as Editor. The hat is rather large but she's working on growing into it. Debby Parker, our Visitor Center Manager, is leaving the Committee after six years. Deb has made the retail end of the organization a huge success. She'll be staying in the Mono Basin and is looking forward to a summer off, at last! Taking Deb's place will be Melanie Findling. Melanie has come to us from a position with Outdoors Unlimited in Berkeley. She has also worked with Sierra Designs. Melanie's been a monophile for several years and devoted considerable volunteer time to the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club in San Francisco. Jim

Parker, our infamous Malcontent, has become a full-time teacher at Lee Vining High School. We're not sure how we'll find another malcontent of such high caliber, but we're working on it.

In our L.A. office, Shelly Backlar has taken Kathleen Reddick Yager's place as Development Director. Kathleen has done an excellent job of setting up our fund-raising programs and is now moving on to devote more time to her family. Maureen O'Kicki served temporarily as Development Assistant to Shelley this winter. Stephen Osgood, our long-time Southern California Coordinator, has stayed on to help us through staff transitions. He'll be leaving to pursue his interests in sustainable international development.

We'd like to thank our consultant Kimery Wiltshire of San Francisco for helping us with fundraising over the past three years. We've recently closed our San Francisco office and fundraising is now being handled by our L.A. staff.



MLC Staff, interns and cohorts gathered at the Board Meeting in Berkeley, March 6. Back row, left to right: Stacy Brown (LA), Steve Osgood (LA), Martha Davis (LA/LV and all points between), Maureen O'Kicki (LA), Sally Miller (LV), Shelley Backlar (LA), Everett King (LV-intern). Front row: Sally Gaines (LV-boardmember and co-chair), Jim Parker (LV), Ilene Mandelbaum (LV), Lauren Davis (LV), Emilie Strauss (LV).

MLC Job Openings

LEE VINING: Assistant Editor

The assistant editor works with the editor to produce our quarterly newsletter, as well as other Committee publications, letters and papers. We need someone with good writing skills, an eye for graphics and layout, experience with word processing and desk-top publishing programs, a knowledge of Mono Lake and environmental issues, a well-exercised sense of humor, and an ability to synergize with

other staff. While the assistant editor is a half-time position, we may be able to offer a full-time position with other responsibilities. Salary range: \$450-650, depending on experience. Deadline for applications is July 15. If you're interested, please send a resume, references and samples of your writing to: Lauren Davis at the Lee Vining office. For more information, call (619) 647-6386.

LEE VINING: Interpretive Programs Director

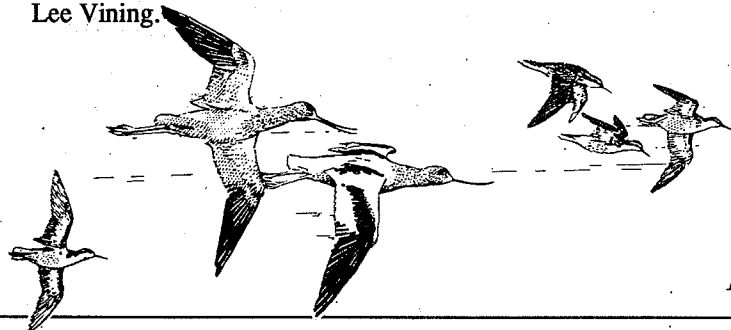
The main duties of this position consist of directing an interpretive and educational outreach program while supervising up to six interns. The IPD hires, trains, and supervises interns, coordinates the intern-led natural history tours and presentations, and acts as liaison between staff project needs and interns. The director also creates and distributes educational materials and publicity, as well as, fielding public inquiries. We need a person with strong interpretive, speaking, writing, managerial and organization skills. Good communication and conflict resolution skills, initiative and ability to work independently are important. Familiarity with IBM computers desirable. This is a full-time position, with a salary range of \$1,100 to 1,400 commensurate with experience. Vacation and health insurance benefits. Deadline for applications is July 15, beginning date as soon as possible after that. Please send resumes and references to Ilene Mandelbaum at the Lee Vining office. For more information, call (619) 647-6386.

LOS ANGELES: Development Assistant

Assists the Development Director in planning and implementing our fundraising and development programs, such as; organizing special events, producing special donor mailings, coordinating volunteers, preparing fundraising reports, monitoring fundraising calendar and maintaining donor files and lists. We need someone who is good with organizational details, written and oral communication, and is a self-starter with strong problem-solving skills. Computer training and word processing experience are necessary. This job is full-time and begins immediately. Salary range: \$12,000-14,000. Health and liberal vacation benefits. If interested, please send your resume to Shelley Backlar at the Los Angeles office. For more information, call (213) 477-8229.

Mono Lake Internships

Interns work full time staffing our Lee Vining information center, answering mail, leading field trips and on other projects. We will be needing interns for the fall (September-December) and winter (January-March). For more information, please contact Ilene Mandelbaum or Sally Miller in Lee Vining.



"At Mono Lake" Photographic Exhibition Honored

On February 7, 1988, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum honored the photographers featured in the "At Mono Lake" exhibit. The exhibit has been described as an outstanding example of landscape photography. Congressman Richard Lehman paid tribute to the artists and supporters of this photographic collection in the Congressional Record. He said, "... 'At Mono Lake' gives the lake its opportunity to 'speak' to us through the eyes and art of photography."

Mono Photos at Stanford

Mono Lake photographs will be on display at Stanford University this summer. Doris Coonrad of Woodside, a long-time friend of Mono Lake, has included several unusual photographs of the lake in her photo exhibit at the Mitchell Building, School of Earth Sciences. The public is welcome at the opening reception June 2, from 5 to 7pm. and to view the exhibit any weekday during June and July.

According to Prof. Ralph Putzker, "Doris Coonrad... is profoundly concerned with the light that discloses her world—the soft light of fog and mist, the clear light of high mountains, the ominous light of a gathering storm, the light that touches faces, the icy cold light of a Sierra winter... The images are the product of many years and many places, a result of a sensitive, perceptive and constant vision."

Mono Lake Committee Tours: Antarctica and Bhutan

Brochures for both of these trips are now available. If you wish a copy, just send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to: "Antarctica" or "Bhutan", c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA. 94708.

Bhutan: October 22-November 13, 1988. This is a trip for those who like to use their legs as well as their eyes and ears when visiting new lands. During the first eight days of our journey we will explore the countryside and small towns in the western part of the country. The next five days will be spent on trails traversing scenic territory between villages. Camping tents, equipment and services will be provided. Trip members need carry only their day-packs.

The exotic country of Bhutan was opened to tourism only twelve years ago. It is an unspoiled land whose people follow the teachings of Buddha in all aspects of daily life. In Bhutan you'll find a kaleidoscope of natural beauty—lush valleys, high meadows, cultivated fields, forests, and lofty 24,000 foot peaks. Tourists enjoy comfortable, charming quarters, good food and gracious hospitality. The colorful markets display an array of interesting food, exquisitely handcrafted fabrics, gold and silver jewelry, wood carvings, dance masks and religious paintings. After leaving Bhutan,

there will be a three-day sojourn in the fabulous city of Bangkok. An optional extension in Thailand or India can be arranged for those wishing to explore further on their own.

Travel in these far eastern countries provides a great variety of unusual experiences for the adventurer: cultural and religious events, village and farm life, markets, arts and crafts, native plant and animal species, interesting cuisine and more! Christy Tews, who has traveled extensively in Nepal, Tibet, China and Bhutan, will be our leader. The cost of \$3,055/person for double-occupancy includes all expenses and a \$300 tax-deductible donation to the Mono Lake Foundation. Airfare is additional (approx. \$1,500.)

Antarctica: January 18-February 1, 1989. This is a 15-day cruise aboard Society Expedition's ship, "World Discoverer", plus an optional three-day extension in Santiago. If you have ever dreamed of seeing "The Shining Continent" with its austere mountains, walls of blue ice, expanses of pristine snow, and wonderful wildlife on land and sea, now is the time to realize your dream. Experts will accompany us, sharing their knowledge about each region.

As a group, we have reduced cruise and airfare rates. In addition, approximately ten percent of the trip cost (including airfare) is a tax-deductible donation to help save Mono Lake. Ten cabins are being held for us until July. The all-expense cruise fee starts at \$5,000/person, double-occupancy, depending on cabin category. Airfare from the West Coast is additional (approximately \$1,400.)

Newsletter Index Available

Are you a publications packrat? If you save back issues of this newsletter, we now have a subject index available. Thanks to our intern Everett "Never-rest" King, we can look up just about anything. If you'd like a copy of the index, contact the Lee Vining office.

Wish List

Lee Vining Office: IBM compatible computer, laser printer compatible with Ventura Publishing software, small, dry-image photocopier in good working condition and a coffee maker.

Los Angeles Office: Paper cutter and a small, dry-image copier in good working condition.

The L.A. office desperately needs help with bookkeeping. We'd love someone who could give at least five to ten hours (or more) each month to assist us with bank reconciliation, deposit preparation and other tasks. If you can help, please contact Stacy.

Both offices could use volunteers who have skills in computer and photocopier maintenance and repairs.

New Book by David Gaines

In December, Dave showed everyone he could find the printer's blue-page draft of *The Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope*. He was obviously excited and pleased with the book-in-progress.

Just a few weeks after Dave's passing, a truck pulled up to the Visitor's Center to deliver his last work. With a mixture of joy and melancholy the Lee Vining staff unloaded nearly 100 boxes into the back of the Center. When we opened up a box and pulled out a book, we cheered for Dave. The Yosemite bird book is beautiful. Keith Hansen's cover painting and drawings are the perfect touch to Dave's glowing prose about the birds he loved so well. Even if you're not a serious birdwatcher, the amusing anecdotes and attentive natural history will cultivate your interest in the lives of the Sierra's winged denizens.

The Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope is available from either

BIRDS of YOSEMITE and the East Slope



the Mono Lake Committee (P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA. 93541) or Artemisia Press (P.O. Box 119, Lee Vining, CA. 93541). The cost is \$16.50 plus \$2.50 (shipping and handling). California residents add 6% plus local county tax, if any. If you do pay a county tax (see list on page 23), please indicate the county with your order.

"Among the scented sagebrush east of the crest, the voices of Green-tailed Towhees and Brewer's Sparrows dominate the avian chorus. During the late spring and early summer, the towhees sing incessantly from the tops of shrubs as well as rocks, trees, fences and power poles. As the sun plays on their plumage, one may savor the greenish iridescence of their wings and tail as well as the brilliant orange of their headgear. They are not only cheerful songsters, but slick dressers as well."

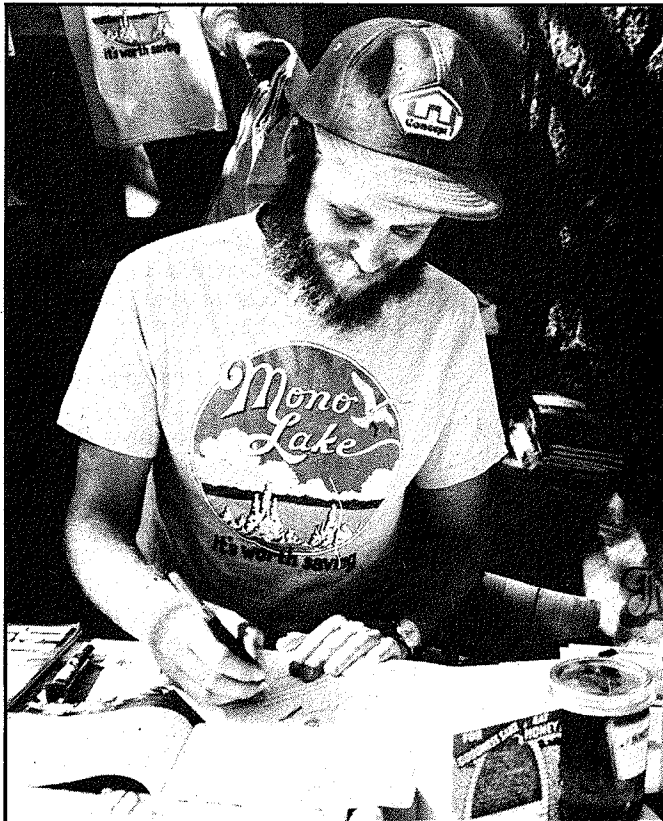
Accolades

The Los Angeles office wishes to send an enormous thank you to Linda Zinn of Los Angeles for donating an IBM computer! Ms. Zinn's generosity will help make us more efficient. We're also grateful for Matt Schneider's tremendous work in the office. Rebecca Verite, Ken Horner, Robin Ives, Elke Geiger, Bob Billings, Ellis Levinson, Maureen & Mary O'Kicki, and Robie & Bob Revel have all generously volunteered their time on behalf of Mono Lake.

The Lee Vining office sends a heart-felt thank you to Anna Martyn for the mounted Great Horned Owl. This impressive bird now stands watch on the Visitor Center front counter eyeing the visitors and those yummy-looking stuffed gulls across the room. Extra-special thanks to Bob Oberlin of Anaheim for making wooden nesting boxes for Mt. Bluebirds. We are selling the avian houses at the Visitor Center. We also appreciate the donation of used books from Zane Davis, Carolyn Crawford and Mrs. Caryl De Costa. Jon Miller has been a big help with our firewood supply. A special thanks go to Jim and Susanne Stimson for a beautiful black and white framed photograph of the lake, a gift in memory of David Gaines.

In Memory

We are grateful to Tom and Nobie Shiokari for their donation in memory of Donald W. Tubbs.



Dave Gaines autographing a Mono Lake Guidebook, ca. 1984.

Memorial Contributions in Honor of Dave and Don

We are very grateful to all of you who have made contributions in memory of David Gaines and Don Oberlin. We're overwhelmed by your support and excited about being able to purchase the Visitor Center in the near future with these funds.

David & Claire Abrahams, Donald & Caroline Adams, Craig Albright, Chalcis Allen, Harriet Allen, Altacal Audubon Society, Hazel Marie Anderholm, George & Dorothy Anderson, Ardelle Aslaksan, Barbara G. Bacon, Elna Bakker, Elizabeth & Alan Baldridge, Carl & Patricia Bayer, George Becker, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Beery, Mildred & Ed Bennett, Todd Berens, Jean Bernstein, Mrs. Albert Bettelheim, Sandra & Bruce Beyaert, Jerome & Judy Blackman, Thomas Blalock, Richard Blanchard, Alan & Marsha Blaver, Richard & Helen Bliss, John Boesel, Stephany Borges & Howard Waitzkin, Walter & Gloria Braugh-Stevenson, Jo Braunold, Russell & Ellen Breslauer, D. Brooks & Catherine Ridder White, Corey Brown, Jo Brownold & Gordon Lane, Margaret E. Bruns, Courtney Brunworth, Erica Buhrmann & Ronald Drucker, June Bur, Dick Byers, California Native Plant Society, Channel Islands Chap., Evelyn Canfield, Edward & Cary Carlson, Mrs. Dan Carol, Margaret Cary, Evelyn Case, Steve Catton, Hector & Grayce Ceschi, Jean Moore Chapman, Ken & Jan Chapman, Lucy Clark, Bill & Jean Clark, Amy Patricia Cochran, Marthe Cohen, Ferne Cohen, Ruth Cole, Betsey Collins, Betty Collins, Catherine Collins, Conservation Unlimited, Nancy Conzett, Dawn Cope, Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Corn, Paul Covel, Cathleen Cox, Robert Crabbe, Natalie Cremer, Clifford & Lucille Crickette, Afton Crooks, Mary Crowley, Vincent Custodio, Jean Dale, Sonja Dale, Louise Daniel, Marjorie Darnell, Stephen & Sharon Davies, Norma Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Alberic de Laet, Mary & Paul DeDecker, Mrs. Dekar, Lloyd Dennis, Bill DeVall, David Devine, Gerald Dickinson, Doris Diener, Sharon Divitt, Judy Douglas, Wena Dows, Henry & Mary Drablan, Elizabeth & Dennis Drake, Donald & Gracia Drury, Jean Durick, Patricia Durkee, Bernice & William Eastman Jr., Sylvia & Al Eben, Harry & Lynn Ewing, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Farbstein, Sharyn Fernandez, Betty Fernandez, Kim Fisher & Brian Day, Larry & Jane Fitzsimmons, Mary Ann Flett & Tom Lambert, M. Joanne Fountaine, Mollie Frank-Jones, John & Miriam Frankel, Cherry Franklin, Walter Fraser, Elinor Freitag, Fresno Audubon Society, Hortense & Walter Friedman, Frieda Factor Friedman, Morton & Lorraine Frishman, August & Susan Fruge, Theo Fusby, Eva Gaede, Dick & May Belle Gaines, Dr. & Mrs. Harold Gambill, Lyle Gaston & Lynne Foster, William Gastrock, Pamela Gates, Melvin & Marion Gautier, Charles Giordano, Elizabeth Girdler, E. Marie Goe, Bob & Audrey Goldman, Peter & Susan Graf, Elaine & Linda Graffy, Steve Granholm, Gen M. Graves, Helen & Paul Green, Mike & Rosemarie Green, Douglas Greenberg & Iris Priestaf, Floyd Griffin, David Groeneveld, Andy & Teresa Gunther, William Haber, Peter Hackett, Carlyn Halde, Mary Hallesy, Alex & Hollis Hantke, John Harris, Mary Hart, Gary & Janet Hass, Hastings Reserve, Cole & Priscilla Hawkins, Daniel Haydar, Marjorie Hayes, Nathaniel Hecht, Tom & Jo Ann Heindel, John & Cynthia Heinz, David Helper, John Hemler, O'Brien & Burr Heneman, Ronald & Mary Ann Henry, Claire Henze, Bill & Virginia Hilker, Robert & Deborah Hirt, Doug Holmes, Carolyn Honer, Delbert & Linda Hubbs, N. King Huber, Dorothy Hunt, Christopher Huson, Henry & Kimi Ige, Claire Isacs, Lisa Jaeger & Frank Stewart, Bob & Kerry Jellison, Vernon & Susan Johnson, Verna Johnston, Dorothy Joseph, June Lake Lions Club, Chris & Patty Jung, Jungle Labs, Joan Justice, Ann

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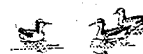
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1988 Mono Lake Workshops

Sponsored by The Mono Lake Foundation and the Mono Lake Committee

Our 1988 MONO LAKE WORKSHOPS offer exciting learning experiences taught by knowledgeable instructors. All proceeds go toward the preservation of the Mono Basin.

This year we have expanded to 14 seminars including two for families at reduced rates. Writer, teacher and naturalist Michael Ross, author of the *Mono Lake Coloring Book* and other environmental books for children, will lead a "Family Natural History Exploration of the Mono Basin" July 2-3; come enjoy the fireworks! Yosemite naturalist Bob Roney will guide a natural history-oriented "Family Backpack" July 30-August 1, which will also address taking care of yourself and your children in the wilderness.

In addition, Bob Roney will conduct a "Mono Lake Video Workshop" to help you improve your vacation videos. Bob, who is the video production specialist for Yosemite National Park, has produced several outstanding natural history films.

On July 9-10, entomologist David Herbst offers a "Mono Basin Insect Life." This new workshop is oriented to people interested in the natural world, but with little knowledge of its diverse and fascinating insect inhabitants. Sheryl Dondero, a fine beadworker in the Paiute tradition, will teach a new class in Native American beadwork on August 13-14. We are also repeating our highly acclaimed workshop on Paiute basketry.

The workshops take place on weekends, and most cost \$60. Space is limited, so register early. Upon request or receipt of registration, we will send a workshop outline, itinerary and 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: Sally Gaines, Mono Lake Workshops, P.O. Box 119, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6496 (8am-8pm any day).

MONO-BODIE PHOTO WORKSHOP

June 18-19 Louis Kemper \$60/person

Sunrise to sunset, Louis Kemper, author of *The Yosemite Photographer's Handbook*, will help you explore and photograph the Mono Basin, a photographer's paradise. You will visit glacier carved canyons, extinct volcanic cones, sand tufas and the ghost town of Bodie. As a special treat, we have arranged by permit to be guided into a building (complete with artifacts) for a late afternoon photography session. Instruction is oriented toward the novice and experienced photographer alike.

MONO BASIN NATURAL HISTORY

June 25-26 Dave Herbst \$60/person.

This popular course was formerly taught by David Gaines. His close friend and expert naturalist, Dave Herbst will take us from Mono's shores to the crest of the Sierra, visiting tufa groves, wetlands, stark sand flats, lush stream-sides, and alpine meadows. We will learn why this

mysterious saline lake is one of the most productive on earth. We will discuss geology, lake chemistry, plants, animals and ecological relationships, and come to appreciate the diverse, intricate fabric of this unspoiled natural landscape

MONO LAKE VIDEO WORKSHOP

July 2-3 Bob Roney \$60/person

Under the tutelage of master naturalist and filmmaker Bob Roney, we learn to improve vacation videos. Bob emphasizes producing quality natural history and outdoor videos. After filming around Mono Lake, we spend an evening viewing and critiquing each other's efforts. The workshop is oriented toward non-professionals.

FAMILY NATURAL HISTORY EXPLORATION OF THE MONO BASIN

July 2-3 Michael Ross \$90/family or \$50/person

Naturalist and teacher Michael Ross has an exceptional ability to kindle and channel the curiosity of children and their parents about the natural world. On this workshop, we will befriend birds, bugs and flowers, wade through a marsh, swim in Mono Lake, hike to a waterfall and, in general, use all our senses to explore Mono's myriad wonders.



Mat Kuzins

MONO BASIN QUATERNARY HISTORY

July 2,3,4 Scott Stine \$60/person

Join us in examining the Mono Basin's incredible volcanic, glacial, and lacustrine history. This drive-around and hiking trip is a rare chance to explore evidence of the evolution of the Mono Basin with Columbia University scientist Scott Stine. Participants should expect to put in long days on foot over rough terrain. Knowledge of physical geography and/or geology is essential.

MONO BASIN INSECT LIFE

July 9-10 David Herbst \$60/person

Most of us are vaguely aware of the insect life thriving around us, yet know relatively little about it. On this workshop, David Herbst opens our eyes to the strange but marvelous lives of butterflies, beetles, brine flies and other invertebrates, and the roles they play in the Mono Basin environment. We visit sand dunes, lakeshores, hot springs and many other habitats as we seek a plethora of different species, and learn how they thrive on the high desert.

BIRDS OF MONO BASIN

July 16-17 Dave Shuford \$60/person

This very popular course was formerly taught by David Gaines. David once said that Shuford had surpassed him in birding; so we felt it appropriate to ask David's close friend and master birder, Dave Shuford to teach this class. Beginners as well as experts will enjoy this intimate introduction to Mono's birdlife. We will learn to identify approximately 70 species by plumage and song, and understand their roles in the Mono Basin environment.

GEOLOGY OF THE MONO BASIN

July 16-17 Jim Parker \$60/person

No area of comparable size in North America offers the exciting combination of geologic features found in the Mono Basin. With geologist and teacher Jim Parker, we explore active volcanoes, living glaciers, earthquake scarps and tufa towers. This popular workshop provides a fascinating introduction for the novice rockhound as well as a wealth of detail for the seasoned geologist.

PAIUTE BASKETRY

July 23-24 Julia Parker \$80/person

In a flowery meadow near Mono Lake, Julia Parker, a native American basket-maker from Yosemite, starts a small group of novice basketmakers on an authentic Paiute basket. Julia provides materials (cured willow strips, redbud, bracken fern root), shares her basket collection, and passes on the basketry lore she has learned from tribal elders. The fee includes \$20 for materials.

MONO BASIN WILDLIFE SEMINAR

July 23-24 Tina Hargis \$60/person

Join Tina Hargis, Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, for a stimulating and educational weekend observing wildlife in the Mono Lake area. The seminar will focus on techniques of interpreting wildlife sign such as tracks, droppings, bedding areas, and middens. Tina will lead the group to areas with high probabilities of viewing pronghorn, bighorn sheep, mule deer, ospreys, waterfowl, and wild horses. Extensive rough road driving, sturdy vehicles recommended.

Don Oberlin at Bodie, September, 1986.

MONO BASIN WILDFLOWERS

July 30-31 Mark Bagley \$60/person

From Mono's shores to alpine meadows, few places on earth rival the colorful magnificence of Mono's summer wildflower bloom. Mark Bagley, private biological consultant and trip leader for the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society, will teach you to identify flowers; and introduce you to simple plant family characteristics and the natural history of the Mono Basin. This workshop includes a boat trip across Saddlebag Lake. We will see several rare plants that grow nowhere else. Participants must be able to hike several miles at 10,000 feet.

FAMILY NATURAL HISTORY BACKPACK

July 30-31 Bob Roney \$90/family or \$50/person

Did you ever want to take your young children backpacking but were overwhelmed by the undertaking? Join Bob Roney on a family backpack to Twenty Lakes Basin. After a boat taxi and 1-2 mile hike, you will camp in the Hoover Wilderness Area. There will be family oriented activities, nature games, and an evening nature prow. We will discuss backcountry rescue and first aid for children.

MONO-BODIE HISTORICAL TOUR

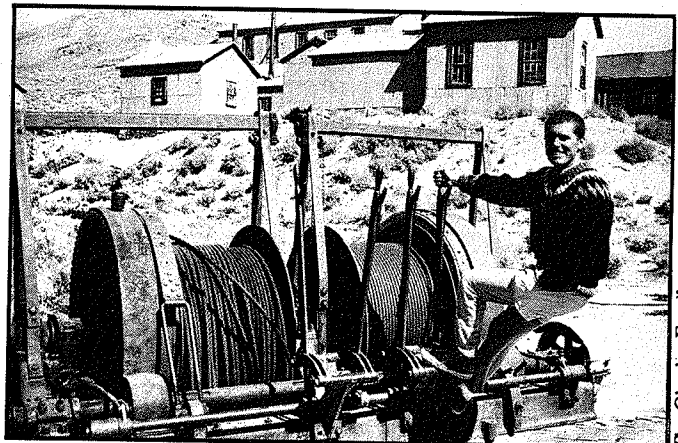
August 6-7 Jack Shipley and Lily Mathieu \$60/person

We will journey with Bodie State Park Historian, Jack Shipley and author Lily Mathieu back to the days of the Paiutes, prospectors and pioneers, bringing Mono's rough-and-tumble past vividly to life. We'll explore Indian cave-shelters, grinding sites and obsidian chipping grounds, mining camps, stamp mills, homesteads and graveyards. The workshop concludes with a tour of Bodie's Standard Stamp Mill, which is usually closed to the public.

MONO PAIUTE BEADWORK

August 13-14 Sheryl Dondero \$80/person

Enroll in our beadwork class, taught by Sheryl Dondero, a direct descendant of Minnie Mike and Carrie Bethal, known for their fine basketry and beadwork. Sheryl, a fine beadworker, will give you expert instruction and will be assisted by her family. You will complete a loom or freehand beadwork project. The fee includes \$20 for materials.



The Oberlin Family

The Mono Lake Committee is proud to present

The Raleigh Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-a-thon

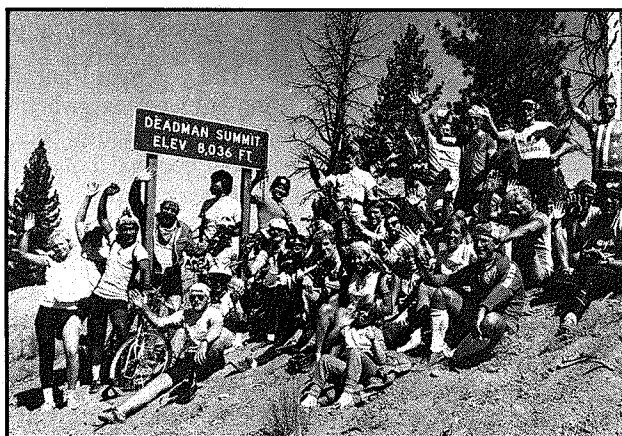
August 29 to September 3, 1988

CYCLE TO SAVE MONO LAKE

Plans are underway for the 9th Annual Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-a-thon sponsored by Raleigh Cycle Company. The Bike-a-thon is the single most visible, vital publicity event and fundraising effort on behalf of the lake.

For each of the past 8 years, up to 75 cyclists have gathered at the reflecting pools at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to collect a token amount of water, strap it to their bicycles, and ride 350 miles to return the water to its natural destination—Mono Lake.

This six-day scenic tour takes us out of the city into beautiful and challenging terrain. Cycling over the San Gabriel Mountains and through the Antelope Valley, we continue north into the Mojave Desert. We ride past the dry lake bed of once beautiful Owens Lake and continue along the eastern edge of the majestic Sierra Nevada with a view of Mt. Whitney and other dramatic peaks. After a night of celebration in Mammoth, the trek ends with a Rehydration Ceremony at Mono Lake in which the water we've carried is symbolically returned.



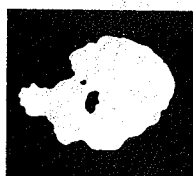
Support vehicles carry our gear and provide extra water, fruit and other high energy snacks along the course. We sleep out under the stars at campsites.

People of all ages, many of them new to bicycle touring, come together for a week to help save Mono Lake. One Bike-A-Thon participant had this to say about the ride, "It's fun, it's hard and by the time

you finish it you feel like you've actually done some kind of pilgrimage that might help."

By securing the support of sponsors, the money we raise enables the Mono Lake Committee to continue its efforts to protect the scenic, natural, recreational and scientific values of Mono Lake.

Won't you join us on this inspiring tour? If you'd like further information about participating on the ride, volunteering to drive a support vehicle, or helping in any way, call Shelly Backlar at (213) 477-8229.



**THE
MONO LAKE
COMMITTEE**

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