

Fall 1993

Volume 16, Number 2

MONO LAKE

NEWSLETTER



Inside:
**Removable
Mono Lake
Gift Catalog**

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This Issue's Cover

The boardwalk at County Park beckons the explorer down to Mono Lake shore in the cover photograph of this issue taken by Sales Manager Rick Knepp. Rick spends his copious free time prowling the shores of Mono Lake with his camera, looking for the great American photo.

The tufa in the cover photo are situated at an elevation of 6390 feet, the level at which we hope to see Mono Lake. It's hard to imagine how things will change if (when?) the lake begins to climb towards the as-yet-undecided Water Board management level. This summer we watched new shoreline undulations appear as Mono rose slightly with winter runoff. Should the Water Board decide on a level of 6390 or higher, we who visit the lake in the ninties will become historical resources, the only people to ever see the lake so low.

The fight to save Mono Lake is not over yet. Be sure to attend the public hearings on the issue around the state. Come to Sacramento and watch the administrative hearings take place. Write to the governor and your representatives, just to remind them that Mono is important as a lake, a wetland, a shorebird reserve, an ecosystem, and a spiritual home for all of us.

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The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to saving Mono Lake from excessive diversion of water from its tributary streams. We seek a solution 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, tax-exempt organization dedicated to studying and protecting the Mono Lake watershed. The Mono Lake Committee is a lobbying organization and greatly needs your direct contribution. However, if you wish to make a tax deductible contribution to the effort to save Mono Lake, please write your check to the "Mono Lake Foundation."

Mono Lake: Past and Future

by Gary Nelson

"Do you see the South Tufa parking lot over there?" I asked the three canoe passengers sitting in front of me. Sleepy heads nodded in unison.

"Look over to the right of it," I said, "and you can see a definite boundary line between light green vegetation and the dark green vegetation uphill from it."

"Oh, yeah," remarked my bow paddler.

"That line shows where the lake level stood in 1941, before the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began diverting water from four of Mono's tributary streams," I said.

"So all of these tufa towers used to be underwater?" asked the suddenly interested teenage girl in front of me.

"That's right," I said,

"tufa can only form under-
Or where freshwater seeping up from the lakebed comes in contact with the lakewater."

"So these tufa above the water aren't growing anymore?"

"No, they are basically the skeletons of springs which thrived before diversions lowered the lake level, and the water table which fed the springs. In other words, they're dead."

"Wow."

This exchange usually takes place as we glide towards the large tufa peninsula which marks the eastern boundary of the South Tufa grove. Although the lake has risen about one and a half feet since last October, this former island remains a peninsula.

The rising waters at the lake shore and a steadily growing pile of letters at the Lee Vining office of the Mono Lake Committee have made me think ever more optimistically of Mono's future. The letters, addressed to the State Water Resources Control Board, reflect a groundswell of public concern for the

health and future of Mono Lake.

From my perspective in the stern I have gained insight into Mono's past, and have hopefully gotten a glimpse of its future. Canoeing on Mono Lake, I can see tufa towers underwater. My present day view of these behemoths rising from the darkness of the lakebottom must be very much the same as earlier travelers' impressions of the now relict South Tufa grove.

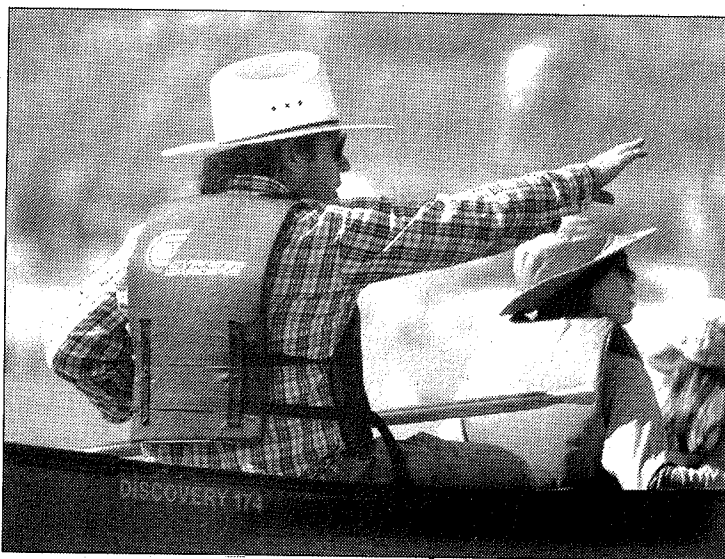


Photo by Althea Edwards

Beneath the lake, tufa are as close as rocks can get to being living organisms. The towers are covered by a light green patina of algae, speckled with dark clumps of alkali fly pupae and are literally crawling with adult flies encased in tiny bubbles of air. A plume of brine shrimp hovering at the top of the tower is a telltale sign of rising fresh water.

The intricate bulk of these towers is supported by the buoyant water; many of the larger tower structures feature overhanging terraces which would quickly collapse on dry land. While this submerged statuary doesn't leap out at you with the startling clarity of their dry-land brethren, underwater tufa towers have a hidden beauty which comes from occupying their natural place in the ecosystem. It is the difference between a living animal in its native habitat and the

same animal, stuffed and mounted, in a natural history museum diorama.

Any such diorama of historic Mono Lake would have to include quite a few stuffed ducks and other waterfowl. These birds represent one of the major wildlife components that was lost when declining lake levels caused tributary streams to incise and drain surrounding wetlands.

An 1865 article by J. Ross Browne described a Mono Lake hunting expedition

as, "nothing short of wholesale slaughter . . . 20 or 30 teal duck at a shot is nothing unusual . . . sportsmen find it a laborious job to carry home their game." Katherine Clover, who resided at Rush Creek before the diversions began, stated that "the sky used to go black with huge flocks of ducks. There were so many!" Loss of wetlands and increasing lakewater salinity are most likely reasons why major concentrations of swans, geese, ducks, and smaller aquatic fowl are no longer seen at Mono Lake.

Many wild areas have been lost forever to

development, or habitat destruction. The opportunity we now have to rebuild the Mono Basin ecosystem could rank with the past deeds of Mather and Muir in saving important natural areas of our planet for future generations.

"So what's going to happen to these tufa if the lake rises?" asked my now contemplative bow paddler.

"Well, some of them will be completely inundated. They'll be a lot harder to see, but will be protected from erosion and wave action. Some of these tufa might even become active again. Some of the tufa will be toppled by wave action, just like that one over there. Some will be partially above water."

"So if the lake rises, then the best way to see the tufa towers will be by canoe, right?"

"You got it!"

Some of the parties who have written in support of raising Mono Lake from its current level

The Mono Lake Committee • Los Angeles City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky • United States Forest Service • United States Environmental Protection Agency • Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District • Yosemite Park and Curry Company • United States Fish and Wildlife Service • California Department of Fish and Game • U.S. Representative Bill Baker • California State Senator Herschel Rosenthal • California State Assemblyman Burt Margolin • Nicely's Restaurant • Committee to Save Crowley Lake • Environmental Defense Fund • Mono County Planning Department • Natural Heritage Institute • Natural Resources Defense Council • California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region • Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund • California State Lands Commission • California Department of Parks and Recreation • Defenders of Wildlife • Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network • U.S. Congressman Richard Lehman • State Assemblyman Richard Katz • State Assemblyman Terry Friedman • Los Angeles Audubon Society • Clean Water Action • California Native Plant Society • The Wilderness Society • Three Valleys Water District • State Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin • San Francisco Bay Chapter, Sierra Club • California Trout • California State Air Resources Board • Mono County Supervisor Andrea Lawrence • League of Women Voters • Over 3000 persons writing to the Water Board •

Shaping the

One of the most important rounds in the battle to save Mono Lake -- the State Water Resources

Control Board administrative hearings -- is fast approaching.

The Mono Lake Committee's comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) have been submitted. In October the Committee will go before the Water Board to argue that, based on the DEIR's data, 6390 is the *minimum* level required to protect the lake.

At least 12 days of administrative hearings are scheduled for testimony and arguments on the DEIR. These will supplement three days of public hearings around the state (see article on page 6).

During the Board's administrative hearings DWP is expected to attack the authority of the DEIR, which they consider to be "saturated with speculation" and "based on questionable legal foundation."

In contrast, the Mono Lake Committee comments call the DEIR "thoughtful and insightful" and support the majority of the evidence gathered in the document. MLC executive Director Martha Davis commented, "the DEIR documents the point we have asserted for years, that diversions have harmed Mono Lake and its public trust resources. Our challenge is to make sure that the damage to Mono Lake is fully recognized when the DEIR is evaluated."

Three important concepts are emphasized in the Committee's comments on the DEIR.

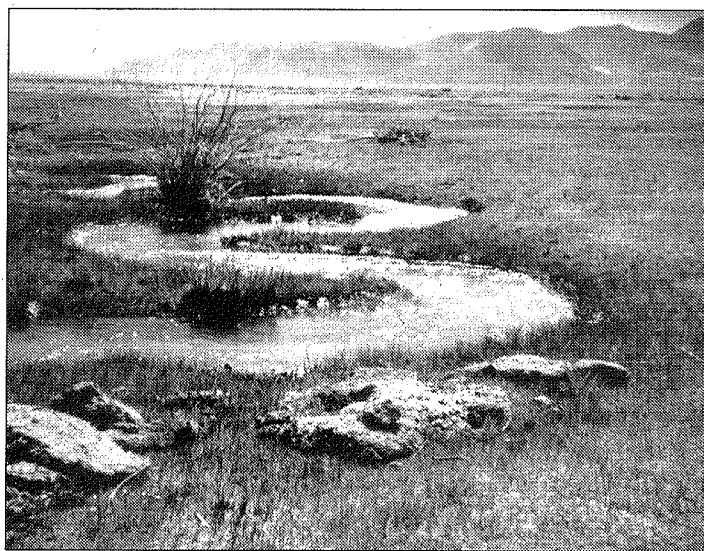
Protecting Mono Lake's Public Trust Values is feasible

The DEIR concludes that even the impacts on Los Angeles of a total halt to Mono Basin water exports can be mitigated to a "less than significant" level. The mitigations identified in the DEIR are familiar to Committee members: development of replacement water supplies using the millions of dollars the Mono Lake Committee lined up for DWP in Assembly Bill 444 (DWP has refused to apply for this money so far); and use of H.R. 429 funds to reclaim up to 120,000 acre-feet of water annually, which would replace, in part, Mono Basin Water.

"The Public Trust doctrine," the MLC argues in its comments, "prevents the state from permitting injury to a Public Trust value if that injury can feasibly be avoided...."

The DEIR should consider other laws that apply

Committee comments also point out that the amount of water the Water Board will allocate between Mono and



Water in Parker Creek after restoration: Stream flows required habitat are excluded from Public Trust balancing.

Photo by Eric Larsen

draft EIR

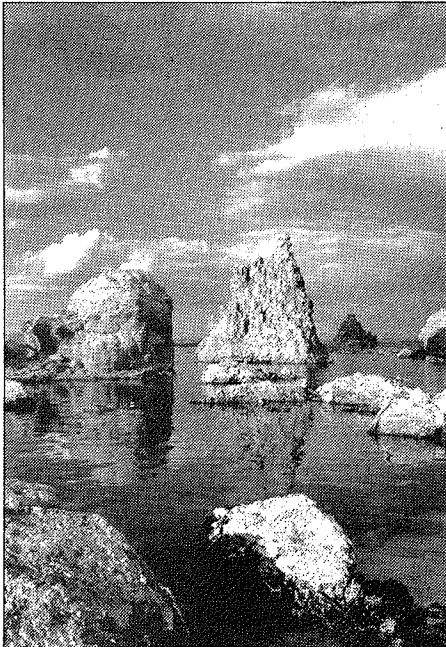


Photo by Dan Warsinger

Mono's graceful tufa towers: should DWP be thanked for revealing them?

DWP is smaller than DWP claims.

"DWP," the Committee argues, "does not have, and never did have, the right to all of the water it diverted since 1940." A court case firmly established this point in 1990. In short, "unlawfully taken water should not enter the [Water Board's] calculation at all."


Likewise, other laws which limit the amount of water potentially available to DWP should be recognized. Compliance with the Clean Air Act, for example, requires a minimum lake level of 6390 feet according to recent studies (see page 17). Additionally, the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act may have bearing on the lake's final level. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has submitted comments suggesting that lake levels below 6390 may force them to invoke the Endangered Species Act in protection of *Artemia monica*, Mono Lake's unique brine shrimp. These legal requirements exist outside the rights allocation process and are not part of the "balancing" process.

The Water Board should recreate the license-issuing process its predecessor failed to conduct

The Water Board process, the Committee argues, is designed to do what wasn't done in 1941: allocate water rights while protecting public trust resources. Therefore the Water Board should look at Mono Lake as it existed in 1941 when it counts Mono's resources; illegal damage caused since then should not entitle DWP to greater diversions. If resources have been damaged, restoration efforts should be undertaken.

Currently the DEIR identifies a lake level of 6383.5 feet as "environmentally superior." Conditions at 6383.5, however, were not compared in the DEIR to the conditions in 1941. Instead, conditions were compared to those in 1989, when Water Board process began. The Committee's comments point out that "the [reference to 1989 conditions] allows for the anomalous conclusion that the condition of the Mono Basin with Mono Lake at a level of 6383.5 is 'environmentally superior' to the condition of the Mono Basin with Mono Lake in its natural condition. It defies logic to conclude that DWP has enhanced the natural values of Mono Lake by reducing its level by fifty feet."

Come watch the Mono Lake Committee in action during the administrative hearings in Sacramento. The above points are, in broad outline, what the Committee will argue before the Water Board in October and November. The procedure will be similar to that of a courtroom, with sworn testimony, cross-examination, rebuttals, and closing arguments allowed. Contact the Committee for more information.

There are also be opportunities for public comment around the state — see page 6 for details! 

Parties who argue that Mono Lake is healthy at its current level

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power • ???

Public Hearings to be held by Water Board

In October, the State Water Board will hold public hearings on Mono Lake's future. The Mono Lake Committee needs people who care about Mono Lake to attend these hearings to tell the Water Board know how they feel!

The MLC needs you to show up and, hopefully, make a statement! A brief and simple statement is fine. The Water Board will accept verbal statements up to five minutes in length. Everyone should bring a written statement -- *even if you have already written a letter or don't wish to speak, the Water Board will accept your written testimony.*

In your statement please emphasize the following points:

1) A lake level of 6390 or higher is necessary to permanently protect and help restore Mono Lake's public trust resources such as wetlands, fisheries, recreation, and wildlife.

2) Mono Lake should be designated an outstanding National Resource Water. This designation will set maximum salinity

**Los Angeles
October 4, 1993**
UCLA

Ackerman Student Union
1-5pm, 7-9pm
MLC Hearing Coordinators
Betsy Reifsnider (818) 972-2025
Tom Soto (310) 393-3703

**Mammoth Lakes
October 5, 1993**

U.S. Forest Service Auditorium
Highway 203
3-5pm, 7-9pm
MLC Hearing Coordinators
Sally Miller (619) 647-6595
John Cain (619) 647-6595

**Sacramento
October 22, 1993**

Resources Agency Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
2-5pm, 7-9pm
MLC Hearing Coordinators
Jill Shirley (916) 481-5332
Jim Sayer (415) 929-0632


standards to help protect the lake ecosystem.

3) It is feasible to permanently protect Mono Lake. State and Federal funds totalling \$50 - 100 million are available to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to replace Mono Basin water with environmentally sound alternatives such as water reclamation and conservation.

4) A healthy Mono Lake is important to a healthy Eastern Sierra and California economy. This is especially true now, when tourism is one of the few industries thriving in the state.

Finally, please tell the Water Board why protecting Mono Lake is personally important to you as a California citizen.

Help us create a presence that will not be forgotten! By filling hearing rooms to capacity, you can make sure the Water Board sees how important Mono Lake is to the people of California.

For more information, help with your testimony, or carpooling information, contact the Mono Lake Committee hearing coordinators for your area. 

Timeline: The Water Board Process

**August 30,
1993**

Deadline for comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report. Water Board received over 3000 letters supporting higher lake levels

**October 4, 5,
& 22**

Public Hearings held by the Water Board in Los Angeles, Mammoth Lakes, and Sacramento. Be there with your written testimony!

**October -
November**

Administrative Hearings conducted by Water Board; MLC, DWP, and other parties testify. Hearings are in Sacramento and are open to the public

**Spring or
Summer 1994**

MLC expects Water Board to release a draft of their final decision. Watch for details in the MLC Newsletter

**September
1994**

Final decision regarding Mono Lake due from Water Board. Will DWP appeal the decision?

Water Board Receives Thousands of Letters

The State Water Resources Control Board received over 3,000 letters -- more than the Board received during hearings on the San Francisco Bay Delta -- from Mono Lake Committee members and supporters urging lake levels of 6390 and higher. Thank you to everyone who wrote! All letters became part of the official Board proceedings on Mono Lake.

From Honolulu to Virginia, copies of these letters poured into the Committee's Lee Vining office throughout the summer. The letters came from five-year-old children and ninety-year-old members in the form of handwritten notes, postcards, and multi-page typed letters. The letters spoke eloquently, angrily, resentfully, and hopefully of Mono Lake's future. Here are some excerpts:

"Since there are funds available to the DWP to replace water from Mono Lake, i.e. by way of reclamation and conservation, it's my opinion that it is time to put all the arguments and court battles behind us, and get on with doing what is right for the environment . . . As a minimum level, my recommendation would be to fill the lake back to the pre-diversion level of 6417 feet."

"I must write this letter to you, as the earth can not, the birds can not, the shrimp can not, all the wildlife can not, and most importantly, the future generations can not . . ."

One Los Angeles resident wrote: *" . . . we are very aware and very concerned about how steady water diversion by the LA DWP has seriously impacted Mono Lake with horrifying results. . . . We don't need or want the water here in LA if that is the price."*

"Over my seventy years of life I've watched Mono Lake being slowly destroyed and can not help but feel that the Water Board's action must be to preserve the Mono Basin . . ."

"I am marrying soon, and will start a family. I want my children to see waterfowl populations on the streamsides, and fish in the streams flowing to the lake. I want them to admire Negit Island as the greatest nesting sanctuary in the region. I do not want them to suffer from lung-damaging dust storms. It is California's natural beauty that we love."

Another L.A. writer stated: *"With shame I have watched our city deplete the water from the Sierras . . . The DWP does not speak for me when they refuse to go along with court decisions against them."*

"We do believe that the environmentally preferred alternative is a feasible alternative and that it does not preclude LADWP's mission to



Intern Juliet Landa sorts copies of letters written to the State Water board

select the minimum of 6390 foot level. Mono Lake should be saved because some day I'd like to see my family there. I have made my point to you. If not I will say my point in three words. Save Mono Lake!

From: Zohra, age: 18

meet the water needs of Los Angeles residents. Millions of dollars of both state and federal funds are available to help the LADWP with environmentally sound options such as water reclamation and conservation."

"In 1955, my parents first took me to the Mono Basin. Ever since, I have been going back on a regular basis. In fact, next week we will be visiting Mono Lake as part of our summer vacation in the High Sierras. Just as I enjoyed the area when I was a child, my children now enjoy the area."

One Mono Basin family wrote: *"As owners of a residence and property on the North West shore of Mono Lake, we are vitally interested in your study of an EIR to amend the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's licenses to divert water from the Lake. Our family has watched with dismay for the last fifty years the gradual deterioration of the natural beauty of the shore lines of Mono Lake. The excess diversion of water from Mono has not only affected the shore line fronting our own property but has also caused the exposure of alkaline*

(continued on next page)

Water Board Letters continued

flats on the Western shores near our property and from these flats the winds blow irritant dusts into the air. Over the years we have noted the deterioration of plant, animal, and bird life as well. The integrity of the natural beauty of Mono Lake certainly has been adversely affected by the excess water diversion by the City of Los Angeles."

"... I would like to point out that since the early part of this century, the City of Los Angeles, under the auspices of the Department of Water and Power, have systematically destroyed the beauty and environment of the Eastern Sierra region, all the way from the Mono Basin to the southern end of the Owens Valley. I think it is about time this abuse came to an end... I don't mean to say that the rest of us in California are entirely blameless; our Delta and San Francisco Bay have many problems as well... The State of California as a whole needs to

reevaluate the way it uses water and all of us should conserve as much as possible."



"I am a long time visitor to Mono Lake and the surrounding area. I have seen it drop year by year and watched the lake bed turn into a dust bowl. I have driven through and around the dead remains of the once-extraordinary Owens Lake and cursed the stupidity and greed of those who destroy such treasured landmarks in the desert West."



"As you consider the EIR before you, I have one last question: have each of you been to Mono Lake?" For the record, the Water Board visited Mono Lake in August and September.



Los Angeles City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky wrote: "I believe that if Mono Lake is protected at the 6390 foot level, the City of Los Angeles can avoid any adverse affects."



"My acquaintance with Mono Lake goes back to the late 1940s and early 1950s, when as a youth I found it a magical place, reflections of billowing clouds and mountains in its waters invoking thoughts of fairy castles in the sky...."



"My recommendation, given my own balancing of the values involved, would be to restore the lake to its pre-diversion level: 6417 or thereabout. Do it right, if you will."

Thanks again to everyone who wrote! If you didn't get your letter out on time, be sure to attend one of the public hearings mentioned on page 6. If you can't make the hearing, send your written testimony to the Water Board before November 30; send a carbon copy to the Governor, too (call the Committee if you need more information).

State Water Resources Control Board
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814.

California Governor Pete Wilson
Sacramento, CA 95814



Lake Level Watch:

Mono rises less than expected

by John Cain

As we waited for the lake to rise this summer, a broken measuring gauge in the lake frustrated our anticipation. During May and June it appeared that the lake was not even rising at all. Finally, DWP inspected the measuring gauge and learned that it had been jarred loose by wave action. Fortunately, a land-based bench mark was promptly used to re-survey the gauge.

When we did get the gauge fixed, it turned out that the lake had not risen as high as we expected. Despite last winter's huge snowpack, Mono Lake did not rise as much as hydrologists had predicted.

Mono rose from a low of 6373.5 feet above sea level last December to a high of 6375.2 by July. Hydrologists had predicted the lake would rise to 6376.

The less than enthusiastic response of the lake to the winter's high snowpack may be related to previous years of drought. The six years of drought which preceded this past winter may have depleted groundwater levels. If this is true, large amounts of snow melt may have percolated into the ground rather than running into the lake.

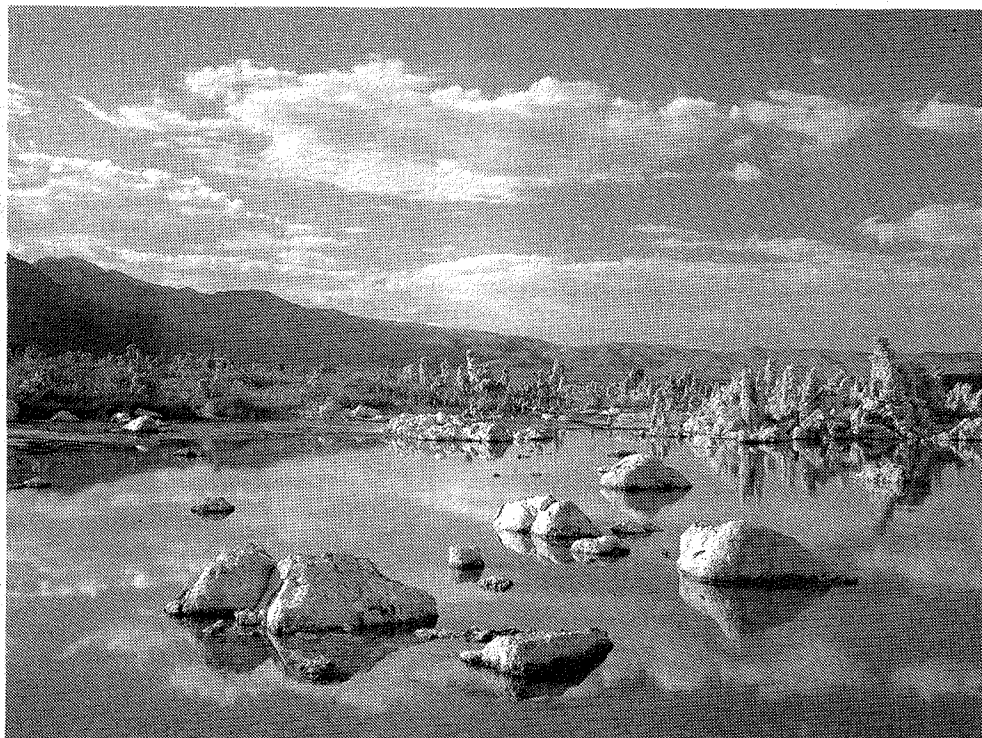
Rising lake level expectations may also have been thwarted by unusually dry

weather this summer. Normally, the Mono Basin experiences frequent thundershower activity in the summer-time. Thunderclouds bring not only rain but also reduce evaporation. This summer, however, there were no significant thunderstorms. As a result, summer evaporation was greater and rainfall was less than expected.

Nevertheless, we are enormously grateful for the water we got this year. While the landbridge to Negit Island remains exposed, a lake rise of over a foot is a good start to bringing Mono back to a healthy level.

1993-1994 MONO LAKE COMMITTEE GIFT CATALOG

MONO LAKE 1 9 9 4 C A L E N D A R



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

—
Special Discounts
for volume purchases on
the Mono Lake Calendar:

Buy 2-3, pay \$9.95 each;

4-10 \$8.95 each;

11 or more \$7.95 each.

THE 1994 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

...is a glowing tribute to the winsome beauty of the Mono Basin. Spend each month celebrating the glory of Mono Lake's four seasons in full color. The calendar features the work of some of California's leading nature photographers, such as Lewis Kemper, Jim Stimson, James Randklev, and MLC staffer Richard Knepp, with an introductory essay by acclaimed writer Terry Tempest Williams (*Look for her wonderful Refuge in our book section*). **\$10.95**



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO T-SHIRT AND SWEATSHIRT

Our hottest seller! This exclusive design created by artist Kitty Botke of Patagonia outdoor clothing comes in both ash and white. Interns Juliet Landa, in the extra-heavy sweatshirt, and Desiree Reyes, in the short sleeve tee, proudly show their affiliation with the Committee by displaying our official logo. With her back to us is intern Karen Phillips, showing the declining levels of Mono Lake due to diversions, alongside a quote from the landmark 1983 California Supreme Court Public Trust decision.

Short Sleeve: \$14.00

Colors: ash, white

Long Sleeve: \$19.00

Colors: ash, white

Sweatshirt: \$26.00

Colors: ash, white

Sizes: S-XL

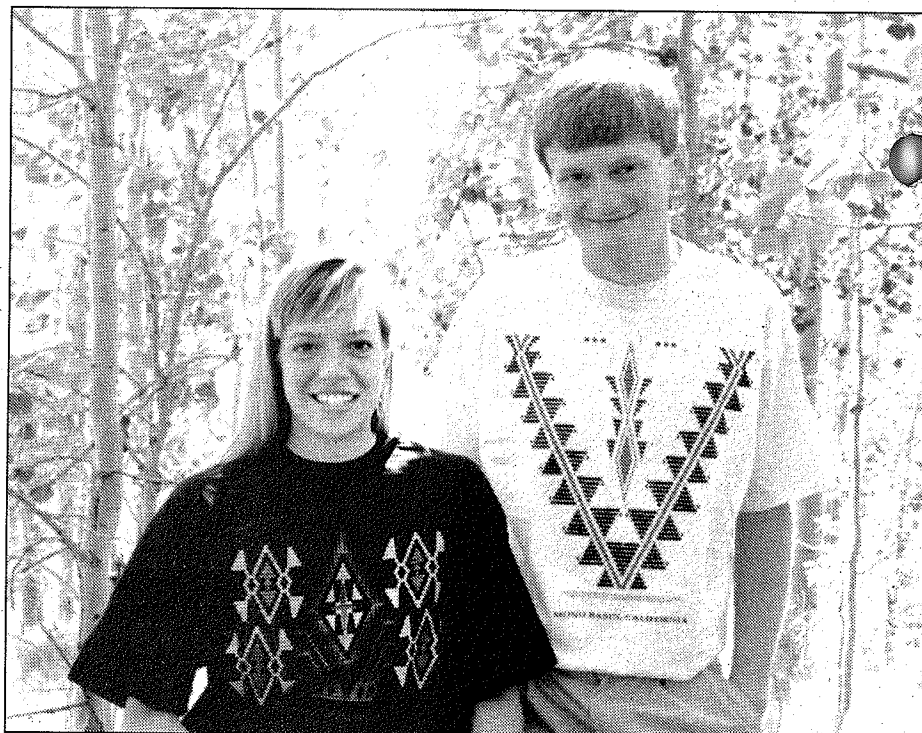
1001

(or more!)

WAYS TO SAVE MONO LAKE

The items in this Catalog represent but a few of the items carried in our newly remodeled Bookstore and Gift Shop. You may order any item you have seen in our store through our mailorder program. Simply call us at (619) 647-6595 *(to insure that we have what you want)* and your order will be shipped promptly.

to order see page 8



MONO BASIN PAIUTE T-SHIRTS

Publications Editor Geoff McQuilkin and Intern Michelle Rembs celebrate the Mono Basin's indigenous culture with these heavy tees displaying basket designs based on those created in the 1930s by native Mono Basin Paiutes. Geoff is wearing the "Diamond Basket" pattern while Michelle prefers the "V Basket" design.

V BASKET

Short sleeve: \$15.00

Colors: ash, white

Sizes: S-XL

DIAMOND BASKET

Short sleeve: \$15.00

Colors: natural, black

Sizes: S-XL

RECY

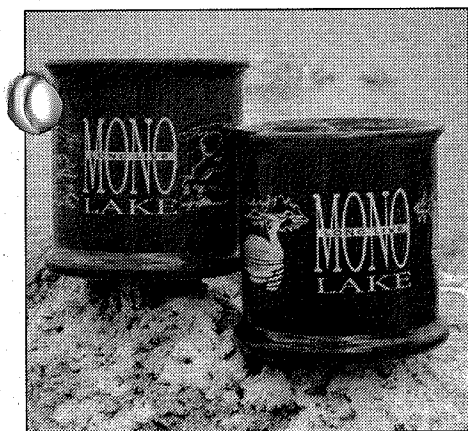
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outdoor
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with t
\$3.95
Color

TOTE

Ease t
sacred
cotton
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and sa
\$10.9
TOTE



RECYCLED PLASTIC MUGS

Made completely from recycled plastic, these spacious mugs come in two official Mono designs: eared grebes gently float on a mug of deep black, or a coyote pursues a jackrabbit across a teal green mug.

\$6.00, or 4 for **\$20.00**

Design: Coyote on teal

Design: Grebes on black



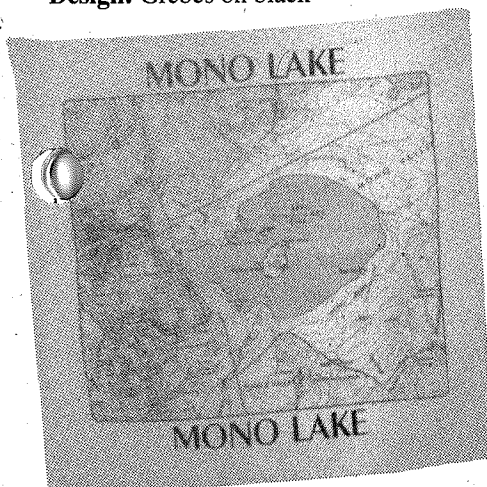
MONO LAKE HATS AND PATCHES

On his retrieving expeditions, Shannon Nelson's dog Rudy sports his Mono Lake cap. Coming in a multitude of colors, this canvas cap works well at keeping you cool. The "... it's worth saving" patch is also available on its own, fit for any backpack, coat or your favorite jeans.

\$9.95 Sunburst patch with Hat

Colors: Gray, tan, navy, red

\$3.95 Sunburst patch



TOPOGRAPHIC BANDANNA

New item! A bandanna is a must for any outdoor enthusiast, and what better way to show your support for Mono Lake than with this exclusive Topo Map bandanna.

\$3.95

Colors: red, white, navy and natural

TOTE BAGS

Ease the burden on our precious and sacred trees with these heavy duty 12 oz. cotton grocery totes. Choose from our new Committee design or our traditional "... it's worth saving", fully colored on natural canvas bag. Buy one of each and save more than \$5.00!

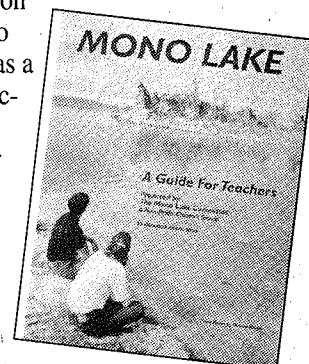
\$10.95

TOTE SET (one of each design): \$16.50

TEACHER'S PACKET

This comprehensive packet includes lesson plans on Mono Lake's simple, yet globally important ecosystem, enabling you to teach your students principles of ecology, water conservation, environmental preservation, and negotiation. Our slide presentation transferred onto video, as well as a packet of pictures and captions for bulletin board displays, are also included.

\$14.00

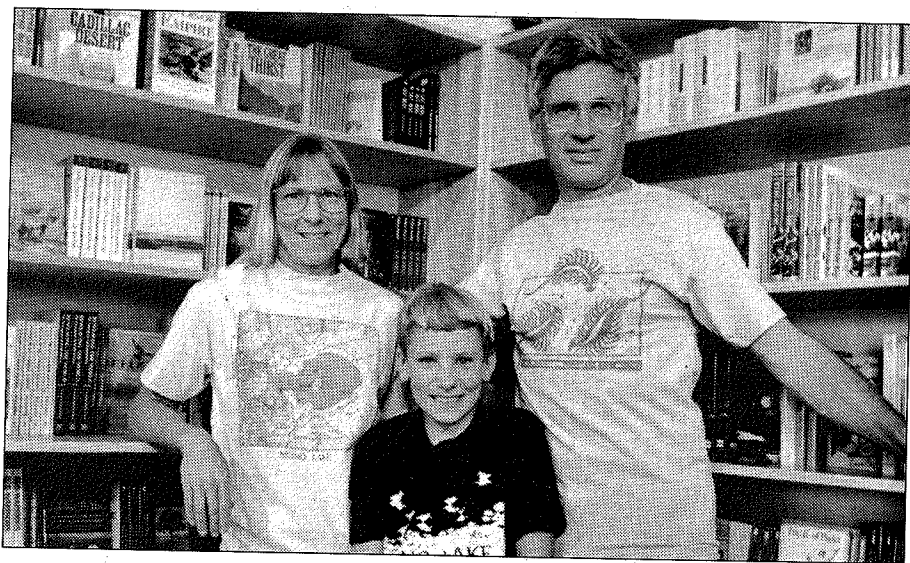


VIDEO

At long last you can take home our acclaimed slide show - on video! 130 colorful images show Mono Lake in its beautiful displays of the four seasons. This 25 minute informative presentation will provide inspiration and education, covering everything from pre-diversion conditions and the battle of engineering vs. the environment, to the present state of the lake. This comprehensive video is perfect for those interested in a brief, yet thorough overview of the controversies and natural wonders surrounding this ancient inland sea.

\$9.95





SHOREBIRDS, MONO LAKE TOPO, AND BRINE SHRIMP T-SHIRTS

Sally Gaines, her son Sage, and Super-Volunteer Larry Breed like to read in style in their Mono Lake T-Shirts. Sage's favorite is our simply designed, yet brilliantly colored, shorebirds tee. Sally has chosen our Mono Lake Topo Map tee as a way to better understand her surroundings. Larry pays respect to Mono's trillions of brine shrimp with his sturdy tee!

SHOREBIRDS

Short sleeve: \$13.00

Colors: royal, black, purple

TOPO

Short sleeve: \$13.00

Colors: ash, jade, royal, red

BRINE SHRIMP

Short sleeve: \$13.00

Colors: ash

Sizes: S-XL

WILDFLOWER AND SCOOPNECK BRINE SHRIMP T-SHIRTS

Let your wardrobe come alive with our colorful Sierra Wildflowers and elegant scoopneck Brine Shrimp shirts. Visitor Center Manager Shannon Nelson likes to wear the Wildflowers shirt on her morning walks down Mill Creek. Canoe Coordinator Stacey Simon's favorite shirt is her official *Artemia monica* (a.k.a. brine shrimp) tee. She chose the scoopneck version both for its comfort and style.

SIERRA WILDFLOWERS

Short sleeve: \$13.00

Colors: aqua, pink, heather, white

BRINE SHRIMP

Scoopneck \$14.00

Color: white

Sizes: S-XL



MONO LAKE JEWELRY FROM WILD BRYDE

Commemorate the wildlife of the Mono Basin with these silver- or gold-plated earrings, secured with hypo-allergenic hooks. When ordering, please remember to indicate your choice of gold or silver.

Design: Phalarope \$15.00 (new!)

Design: Brine Shrimp \$9.50

Design: Coyote \$12.00

State gold or silver when ordering.



NEW THIS YEAR! WILD BRYDE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS...

These beautiful keepsake ornaments, gold plated and 2 1/2" to 3" hanging height, celebrate the season with a reminder of those animals whose existence is threatened.

\$9.00 each

Polar Bear, Golden Crested Kinglet, Owl

ALCHEMISTS EARRINGS

Defined as an art which sought to transmute baser metals into gold, the symbol behind Alchemist jewelry is a "raising of one's consciousness from the mundane to the spiritual, i.e. from lead to gold." Each pattern carries its own meaning on these hypo-allergenic, easy to clean earrings.

\$12.00 each

Earth, Navajo Wedding Basket, and Petroglyph Designs



ON
TAI
Will
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from
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Sho
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aqua
Kid



MONO BASIN COYOTE DESIGN AND ONE SKY, ONE EARTH, ONE PEOPLE T-SHIRTS

Our newest additions to the collection! Vibrantly colored in a traditional Southwest design, Stacey's coyote tee celebrates Mono's high desert country. What could be more spine-tingling than a moon-lit serenade by a lone coyote? Our part-time summer intern Doug Knepp sends a positive message in the One Sky tee, designed by his mother Cindy at Darnell Design in southern Oregon. With a white backdrop and silhouetted figures dancing with joined hands, the shirt's primary colors are hues of rich blues and greens, symbolizing our connection with this beautiful living planet.

COYOTE

Short sleeve: \$14.00

Colors: white, ash

ONE SKY

Short sleeve: \$14.00

Color: white

Sizes: S-XL

ONE SKY AND SAVE THE MOUN- TAINS KID'S T-SHIRTS

Willy and Lundy Greytak, budding environmentalists (and neighbors of ours from the El Mono Motel) wear designs that let our planet's future keepers express themselves...colorfully! Both are new, and the Save the Mountains design is for kid's only!

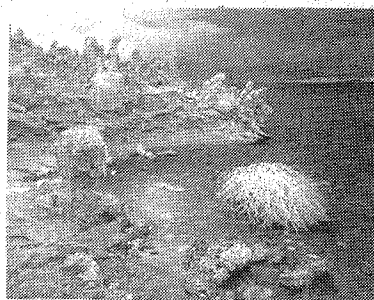
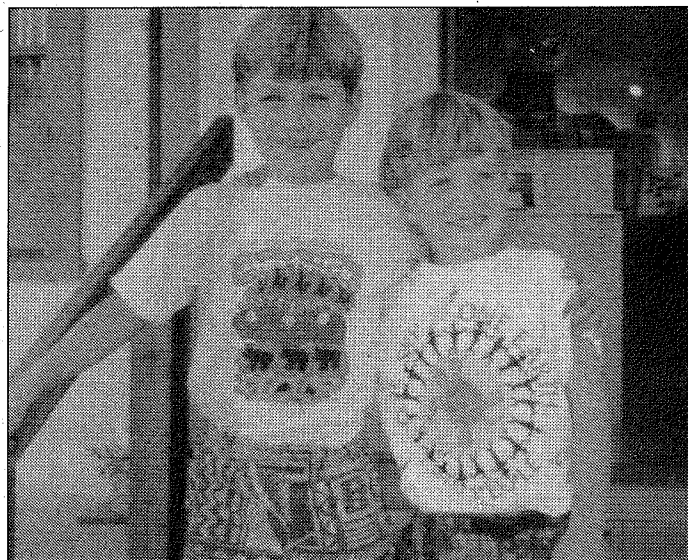
Short sleeve: \$9.00

One Sky: white only

Save the Mountains:

aqua, pink, ash

Kid's Sizes: XS, S, M



JIM STIMSON

Photograph: Shoreline Detail
Mono Lake, California

JIM STIMSON POSTER: TUMBLE- WEED, SHORELINE DETAIL

Capturing Mono Lake in its haunting beauty, Jim Stimson's exquisite black & white print has been reproduced by the nation's leading photographic lithographer on a striking 24" x 30" poster. Lose yourself in the peace and calm of Mono at every glance. Marked down- Save \$6.00 on each poster. A great gift!

\$15.00

LICENSE PLATE HOLDER

No matter what part of the country you live in, you can spread the word about Mono Lake as you drive with this durable metal license plate frame. A Committee classic!

\$4.95



BIKE BOTTLES

These 'sturdy, yet light-weight, Specialized water bottles are graced with the feathery flight of Mono's Brine Shrimp. Clear

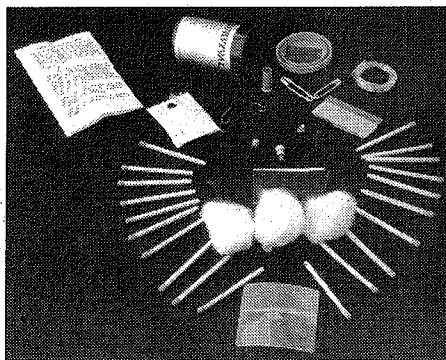
plastic outlined in blue, these squeezable bottles come in both 21 oz. and 28 oz. sizes and are encircled with the message "Long Live Mono Lake."

21 oz. \$3.95, 28 oz. \$4.95

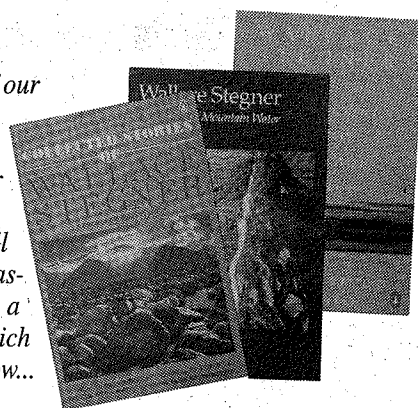
SURVIVAL KIT

Not only functional, it's a modern miracle of packaging technology. Compacted into a recycled 35 mm film container are 46 individual emergency items, including waterproof matches, fishing line, hook & sinker, safety pins, straight pins, tinder and more. A great stocking stuffer!

\$5.95



We lost one of our great literary treasures when Wallace Stegner died in early spring. He will live on in his masterful writings, a selection of which we feature below...



COLLECTED STORIES OF WALLACE STEGNER

A compilation of stories covering a literary career, this collection is moving and thought provoking. A significant account of social history in 20th Century America.

Penguin Books \$12.00

THE SOUND OF MOUNTAIN WATER

A compilation of Stegner's most vivid descriptions of the West. For Stegner it is a retrospective journey to the country in which he spent his childhood. Also a critical look at the West's near-sighted management of its resources, Stegner pleads to us that these essays be understood in "relation to a timeless condition - aridity."

University of Nebraska Press \$7.95

WHERE THE BLUEBIRD SINGS TO THE LEMONADE SPRINGS

Yet another collection of Stegner's writings on the West, here he explores the landscape which shaped his being. In inspiring essays, he laments the ironic nature of Western States which have been "prosperous at the expense of their fragile environment."

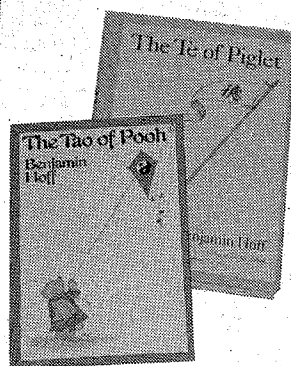
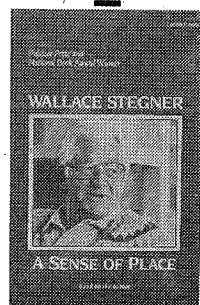
Penguin Books \$11.00

A SENSE OF PLACE (AUDIO TAPE)

Read by the author himself, this collection of some of Stegner's finest work tells of the West in the way that he saw it.

Unravelling a lifetime of experiences, these eight selections will take you from the Saskatchewan prairie, to Salt Lake City and Montana, to Stegner's final home of California.

Audio Press \$16.95



TAO OF POOH & TE OF PIGLET

Benjamin Hoff

This boxed gift set is a must for anyone who...Wonders. *The Tao of Pooh* is "...about this dumpy little bear that wanders around asking silly questions...without ever accumulating any amount of intellectual knowledge or losing his simpleminded sort of happiness." Its recently printed companion book, *The Te of Piglet*, attempts a similar journey, explaining Taoist principles through the eyes of one of our favorite Milne characters.

Dutton \$31.00

CADILLAC DESERT (NEW EDITION)

Marc Reisner

Reading like a novel, this well-researched book documents the struggle for the West's most precious resource - water. First published in 1986, this new 1993 edition has been updated and revised to incorporate the latest environmental and political developments. Virtually the bible on the glory and the folly of Western water.

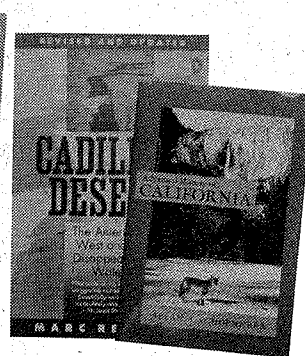
Penguin Books \$14.00

A NATURAL HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA

Allan A. Schoenher

One of our most popular books! Both readable and informative, this detailed look at the most geologically diverse state finally answers all those questions you have been asking on your travels around its natural wonders.

University of California Press \$38.00



THIS HOUSE OF SKY

Ivan Doig

In this his first novel, Ivan Doig delves into a thorough exploration of the inevitable role our nurturing and past experiences play in the process of our growth. These memoirs of a child growing up in central Montana can reach a place in all of us, no matter where we were raised.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich \$8.95

REFUGE

Terry Tempest Williams

A touching look at humankind's attempts at controlling the uncontrollable forces surrounding us. Paralleling her mother's battle against cancer with the destruction of the Bear River refuge, and the subsequent fight to rescue both, Terry Tempest Williams raises important questions as we approach the 21st Century. Look for her inspirational introductory essay in our 1994 Calendar.

Random House \$11.00

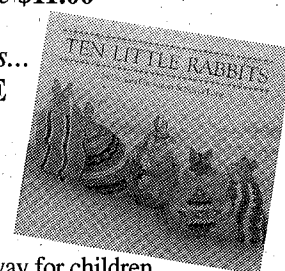
And For Kids...

TEN LITTLE RABBITS

Virginia Grossman

This soothing story is a great way for children to learn numbers! Progressing from 1 rabbit to 10, each piece describes a different aspect of Native American Culture. The conclusion provides a brief synopsis of 10 major Native American peoples.

Chronicle Books \$12.95





CROW AND WEASEL

Barry Lopez

Considered a novella-length fable, this colorful tale travels with Crow and Weasel, who have embarked on a journey further North than any of their people had ever travelled. Through what they learn in the people they meet and the situations they encounter, we all learn a little bit about different perspectives. Tom Pohrt provides the exquisite illustrations.

North Point Press \$16.95

THE TWO-LEGGED CREATURE

This Otoe story retold by Anna Lee, illustrated by Carol Bowles begins, "Once upon a time the world was ruled by creatures – animals, insects, birds, and fish of every kind – and they lived together in peace and happiness without argument and fear. With these creatures lived a two-legged one we now call 'man,' and all the other creatures showed him how to live."

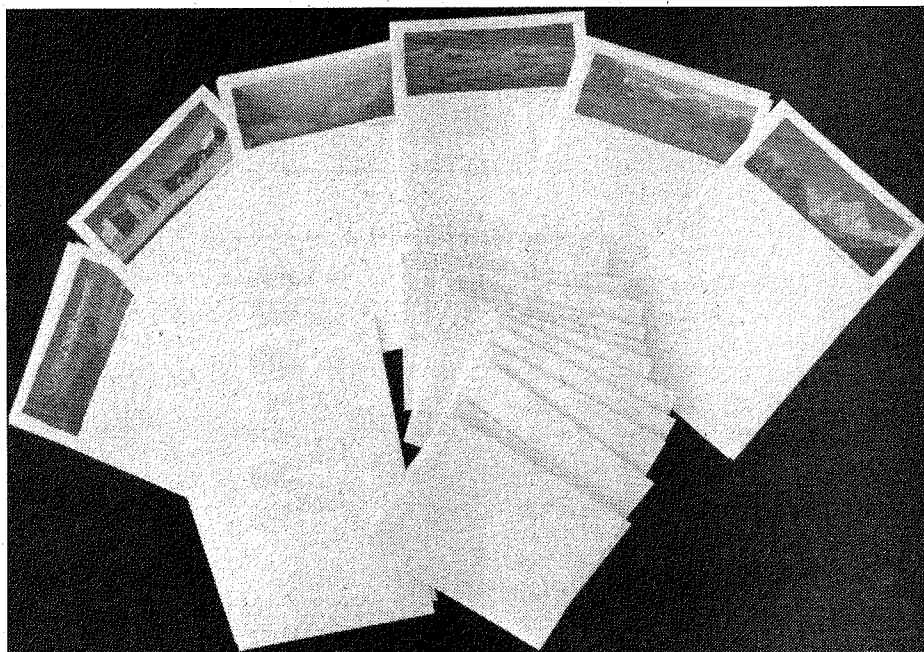
Northland Press \$14.95

BROTHER EAGLE SISTER SKY

Chief Seattle

"What befalls the earth befalls all the sons and daughters of the earth." In this touching story, Chief Seattle's timeless speech before the U.S. government during treaty negotiations over his land is retold alongside vivid and detailed artwork by Susan Jeffers. A book of wisdom, it is a gentle reminder for all of our interrelation with the earth.

Dial Books \$16.00



SIERRA STATIONERY

Choose from Mono Lake nestled in snow-covered Sierras; a quiet, iris-covered meadow of Bishop; bold faces of granite encompassing Yosemite Falls; the majestic heights of Mount Whitney; the eerie stillness of Bodie; or the grandeur of Mammoth Lake's dramatic landscape in a variety pack of Eastern Sierra stationery. Each pack contains two pages of each design, plus 12 blank sheets and 12 envelopes. Illustrated by local favorite Jim Stroup, each page is 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 on white recycled paper. You may also select packages with 12 images of just Mono Lake or just Bodie.

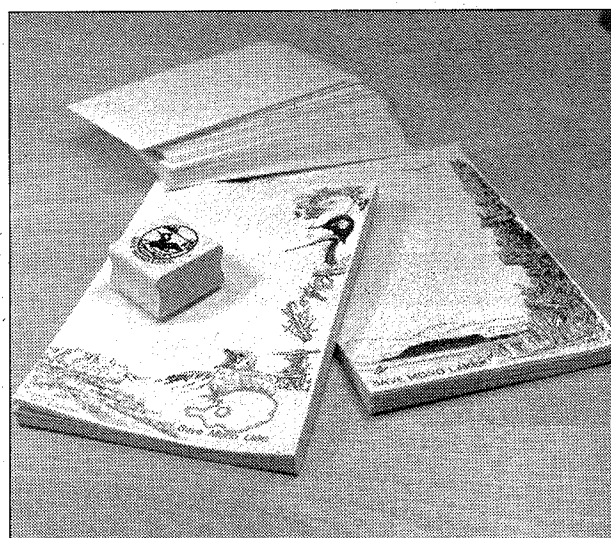
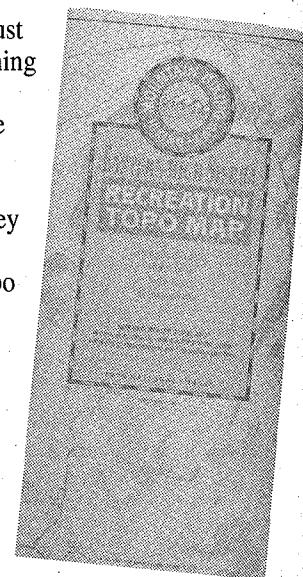
Please specify Mono Lake, Bodie, or variety pack.

\$6.95

EASTERN SIERRA RECREATION MAP

This map is a must for anyone planning to walk, ride, or drive through the region lying between Mono Lake and Crowley Lake Reservoir. This colorful topo map is the most up-to-date available. It shows paved and dirt roads, mountain bike trails, and hiking trails.

\$9.95



MONO LAKE STATIONERY & STAMP

Show your friends and legislators your support for the preservation of lakes and wetlands with Save Mono Lake stationery. Designed by Keith Hansen, you may choose from ivory or grey, both on recycled paper. Each pack features fifty 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 sheets (25 of each design), 25 matching envelopes, and a Save Mono Lake Rubber Stamp.

\$12.00

1994 MONO LAKE COMMITTEE ORDER FORM

ORDER BY:

SHIP TO:

NAME _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

COUNTY (IMPORTANT FOR SALES TAX) _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ CHECK (PAYABLE TO MONO LAKE COMMITTEE)

☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

GIFT FROM: _____

MESSAGE: _____

**For information, or to order by phone or FAX, call
(619) 647-6595 or FAX (619) 647-6595**

When ordering by phone, please have your credit card ready and your order form filled out.

Quantity	Description	Size	1st Color	2nd Color	Item Price	Total

SHIPPING RATES

Up to \$10	\$3.50
\$10-\$25	\$4.00
\$25-\$50	\$5.00
Over \$50	\$6.00

MAIL YOUR ORDER To:

Mono Lake Committee
P.O. Box 29
Lee Vining, CA 93541

SUBTOTAL _____

CA RESIDENTS ADD APPLICABLE SALES TAX _____

SHIPPING (see chart, left) _____

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐ MLC MEMBERSHIP _____

MLC DONATION _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Support the Mono Lake Committee with your membership or renewal at one of the following levels:

\$25.00 FRIEND \$35 SPONSOR \$50 SUPPORTER \$100 LAKEWATCHER

\$250 DEFENSE TRUST MEMBER \$500 MONOPHILE \$1000 MONOMANIAC \$_____ OTHER

Membership may be included with your order. All members receive the Mono Lake Committee Newsletter.



Air quality linked to lake level despite DWP

by John Cain

Two new studies indicate that the Mono Basin air quality problem will not be solved until the lake level is raised to at least 6390 feet above sea level -- 15 feet above its current level.

A computer model developed for the State Water Board's draft EIR identifies that a lake level of 6390 is necessary to comply with the Clean Air Act. A separate computer model, developed by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, also predicts that dust storms will continue to violate federal standards until the lake rises above 6390.

"We currently have a very serious air quality problem at Mono Lake. During windy periods huge areas -- 10 to 20 square miles -- of exposed lake bottom rise up into enormous dust clouds that obscure vistas of Mono Lake and threaten public health. These storms exceed federal air quality standards two and three times over," explains Martha Davis, Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee. "The new air quality studies simply confirm what we have said for years, 'Mono Lake must rise.'"

The problem at Mono Lake results from tiny particles blown off the exposed bottom of Mono Lake during periods of high winds. In scientific jargon, these tiny particles are known as PM-10, or particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter. PM-10 is a particularly troublesome type of air pollution because the tiny particles, much smaller than the width of a human hair, can be inhaled into the lungs.

PM-10 particles are considered more hazardous to human health than smog. In fact, a recent study indicates that as many as 60,000 U.S. residents per year may die from breathing PM-10 particulates at or below legally allowed levels. The legally allowed level is 150 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). PM-10 levels at Mono Lake were over 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ several times this spring.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) argues that the problem is none of the Water Board's business. DWP's comments on the draft EIR maintain that "air quality issues are

immaterial to the [Water Board] decision." Mono Basin air quality problems, DWP argues, are under the jurisdiction of the California Air Resources Board -- not the Water Board.

Ironically, DWP also urged the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to postpone publishing its conclusion that the Mono Basin is a "non-attainment" area for Federal PM-10 standards because "a decision by the EPA at this time might unduly influence [Water Board] proceedings." EPA rejected DWP's argument and

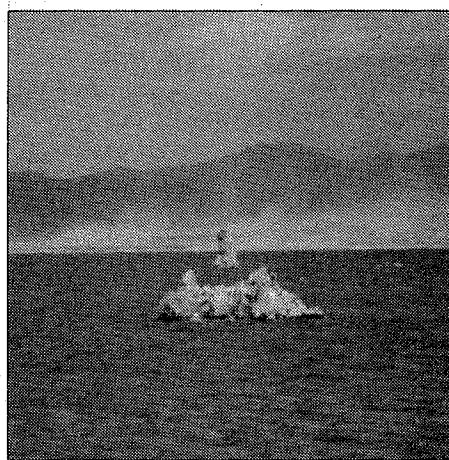


Photo by Don Jackson

is expected to publish its findings by mid-October.

Patrick Flinn, an attorney with Morrison Foerster, which represents the Committee, argues that "DWP would address the Mono Lake problem in a piecemeal fashion, asking the Board to solve only one problem and leave the rest to be solved by others." Despite DWP's protests, the draft EIR's conclusions regarding air quality indicate the Board's willingness to tackle the problem.


The Committee believes, Flinn writes, that "... compliance with the Clean Air Act is inevitable, and the Water Board's decision could obviate the need for additional years of litigation and controversy over Mono Basin air quality. If the Clean Air Act is ignored as DWP proposes, the citizens of this State will incur millions of dollars in needless costs as the California Air Resources Board, the Great Basin

Unified Air Pollution Control District, and the Environmental Protection Agency address the air pollution problem the Water Board will have left behind."

In addition to attempting to delay action on the air quality issue, DWP argues that raising the lake is not necessary to solve the problem. DWP faulted the Water Board draft EIR because it stated that raising the lake was the only feasible way to comply with the Clean Air Act. According to DWP, "various studies have been conducted to examine the ability of wind fences, water sprays, gravel spreading, revegetation, and flood irrigation to control dust emissions from Owens Lake. The applicability of such measures to Mono Lake should be considered." Owens lake bed, exposed by DWP diversions, is the largest source of PM-10 in North America.

Unfortunately for DWP, most of the mitigation schemes at Owens Lake are either unlikely to succeed or inconsistent with the Forest Service Scenic Area Management Plan for Mono Lake. The Forest Service commented to the Water Board that "... raising the level of Mono Lake is the only proven air quality mitigation that is consistent with the mandate and intent of the establishing federal legislation [for the Scenic Area]."

According to a memo from the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District to the Forest Service, the construction of wind fences would require four-foot high fences to be placed every forty feet over a huge area on the east side of Mono Lake. Spreading gravel on the exposed lake bottom would require 162,000 truck loads of gravel -- 200 loads per day for three years. What's worse is that the gravel would most likely be quarried from majestic Black Point, on Mono's north shore.

"The U.S. Forest Service, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, and the Water Board draft EIR all concur that the only feasible measure identified to comply with federal law is raising the lake," Davis points out. "DWP is simply denying the inevitable. Mono Lake must rise." 

Supporters Cycle 386 Miles for Mono Lake



1993 BIKE-A-THON CYCLISTS

Steve Acton, Nicole Barrett, Peter Bischoff, Pamela Braswell, Janet Carle, David Casseres, Daren Chase, Robert Chinn, Brent Coeur-Barron, Jack Collender, David Collender, Mark Coolidge, Jeanne Cosby, Joyce Dean, Michael Dressler, Erica Drexel, Michael Eaton, Lorna Falkenstein, Paul Falkenstein, Paul Green, Mike Green, Denny Green, Bernard Halliwell, Toni Hecht, Rich Howe, Lorraine Jarvis, Ben Jones, Ruti Kadish, David Kanner, Chris Kasten, Larry Kawalec, Emily Kenyon, Dennis King, Pat Kline, Julie Klingmann, Barbara Kniffen, Seth Laforge, Evan Laforge, Jane Lambert, Sam Lee, Carol J. Levin, Laura Lind, Michael Lyons, Susie Lyons, Shari Lyons, Tom McGillis, Jill McIntire, Bill Mendoza, Pat Monzo, Andrea Opalenik, Bret Owen, Howard Owen, Nancy Owen, Howard Pechter, Cris Pescosolido, David Rice, Ian Riedel, Robin Roberts, Glenn Robison, Steve Schmidt, James B. Shaffer, Glenn Skinner, Catherine Skinner, Frank Smith, Arthur Sorrell, Ann Springer, Nadine Stellavato, George Tredick, Tony Trotta, Susan Urquhart, David Wimpfheimer, Shelli Wineman, Denis Wright, Herbert Wright

With a cry of "Long Live Mono Lake," the annual Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-a-thon once again departed from Los Angeles.

On August 30, eighty cyclists dipped test tubes into the long reflecting pools that surround Department of Water and Power headquarters, strapped the symbols of diverted water to their bicycles, and began mile one of 386 of their journey.

Wearing T-shirts and cycling jerseys emblazoned with "Save Mono Lake" across the back, the riders pedaled through the San Gabriel Mountains, across the shimmering Mojave desert, and up Route 395 through the Eastern Sierra -- Lone Pine, Bishop, Mammoth Lakes, and finally, Mono Lake.

A bike-a-thoner's day starts at sunrise, and often earlier. An early start means less riding during the heat of the day (and more time for breakfast). After

packing up, gear is loaded onto the Ryder truck, which hauls luggage to the next campground. Riders set out for the day, finding breakfast along the way. At the same time, support and gear (SAG) drivers position themselves along the day's route.

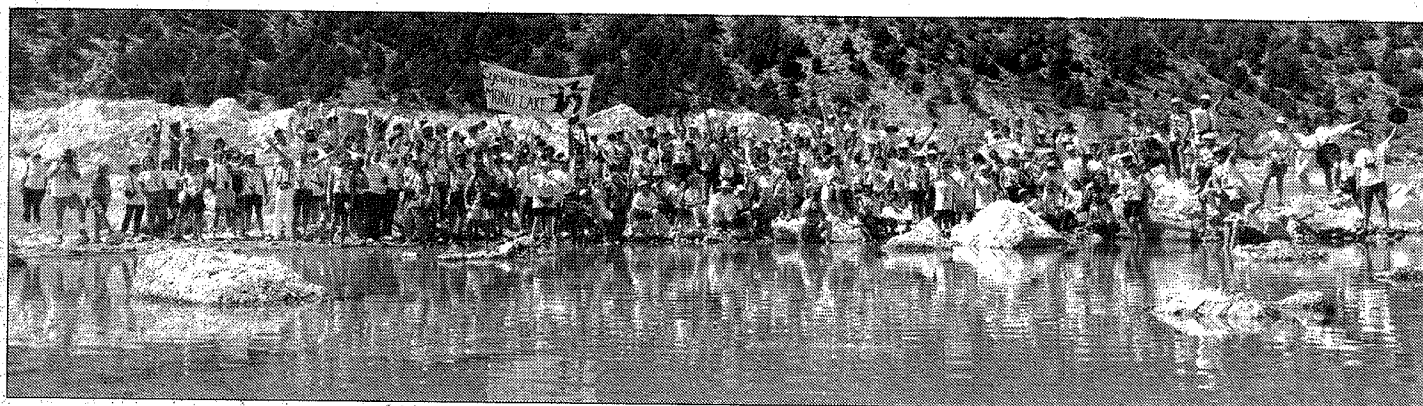
SAG stops provide water, fruit, shade, and occasionally entertainment for weary cyclists. Each day's ride ranges from 60 to 80 miles and is full of fast moving cars, gravel-strewn roads, and uphill pedaling. The sight of camp is always welcome.

For many riders, the route is full of traditions: dinner at the Two Sisters

restaurant in Inyokern, milk-shakes at the Ranch House Cafe in Olancho, chasing skunks out of camp in Lone Pine. To every-one's delight, however, other 'thon standards, such as sprinklers coming on at two in the



Photo by Don Jackson



The 1993 Rehydration Ceremony at Mono Lake: Bike-a-thon riders, bucketwalkers, and Mono Lake supporters gather to visualize a higher future for Mono.

Photo by Don

FULL TIME SAG DRIVERS

Judy Dobbs, Teri Ellis, Katie Kane, Pete Smith, Marlee Sondgeroth, Paul Thompson, Alexa Williams.

PART TIME SAG DRIVERS

Robert Chin, Helen Green, Katie Kane, Patty Kline, Tom McGillis, Jill McIntire, Holly Owen, Nancy and Mike Pinizzotto, Marlee Sondgeroth, Yuki Sorrell, Ann Springer.

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE STAFF

Stacy Brown, Martha Davis, Rick Knepp, Elaine Light, Alan Magree, Geoff McQuilkin, Gary Nelson, Shannon Nelson, Betsy Reifsnider, Kathi Richards, Tina Sanders, Stacey Simon.

1993 BIKE-A-THON SPONSORS



ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

eMond Enterprises, The Mono Lake Foundation, Redwoods River Retreat.

morning, were avoided.

New riders joined veterans, like thirteen-year participant Bill Mendoza, in a ride that is at once a fundraiser, a symbolic journey, and a personal challenge. For rider Pat Monzo, of Placerville, "riding in the Bike-a-thon is one of my goals in life. Mono Lake represents life on a personal level as well as an ecological and global level. The lake brings awareness of life and gives one an inner goal."

After six days of riding, the cyclists rolled into Lee Vining. They were met by 40 bucket-walkers, who gathered at the Committee's Information Center and Bookstore and marched to Old Marina in a show of support for Mono Lake.

At Old Marina the annual rehydration ceremony marked the culmination of the ride. Executive Director Martha Davis led the group in visualizing Mono's future: higher waters, flowing streams, and restored wildlife habitat. With this vision of a restored lake in mind, cyclists uncorked their test tubes, raised them high, and let the water pour into Mono Lake.

Following the rehydration ceremony, cyclists pedaled out to County Park, on Mono's north shore, for a picnic lunch and the Committee's annual meeting (see the story on page 20). Luggage was unloaded for the last time, family members appeared, and cyclists celebrated the success of their symbolic journey.

Committee receives award from Los Angeles

This year, just before the riders filled their test tubes in Los Angeles, the Committee received a special award in front of DWP headquarters. Los Angeles City Council members Zev Yaroslavsky and Ruth Galanter presented a plaque commemorating the Mono Lake Committee's fifteenth anniversary.

Galanter, who is chair of the powerful Commerce, Energy, and Natural Resources Committee which oversees DWP, praised the Committee for its efforts to help L.A. solve its water problems.

At the presentation, Yaroslavsky commented that "the time has come for the Department of Water and Power to acknowledge what has already been acknowledged by every federal and state agency, and by every court that has looked at the issue: Mono Lake is a unique and valuable natural resource that should be preserved for future generations."

The plaque was inscribed to the Mono Lake Committee "in celebration of your 15th anniversary, and in grateful recognition of the invaluable contributions you have made through your efforts to save and preserve one of California's most beautiful and unique natural assets."

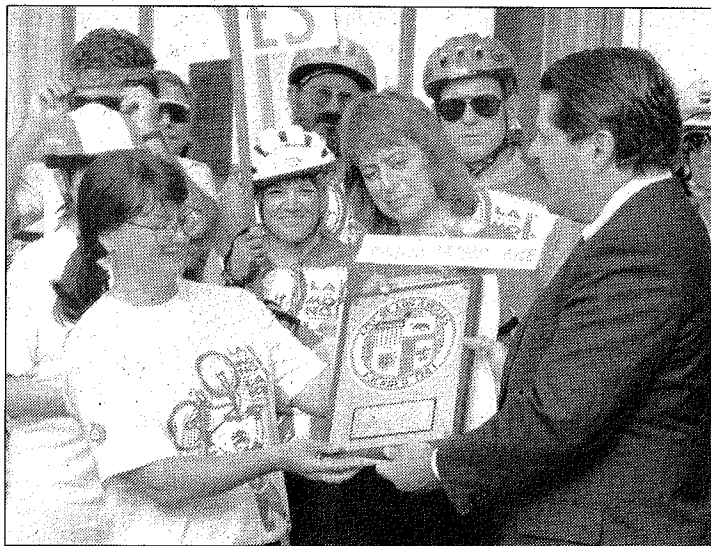


Photo by Geoff McQuilkin
Martha Davis, left, accepts a commemorative plaque from Los Angeles City Council Members Ruth Galanter, center, and Zev Yaroslavsky, right.

Mono Lake Committee Honored at Annual Meeting

The Mono Lake Committee marked its fifteenth year of existence at the Annual Meeting this year. The annual meeting follows the rehydration ceremony at Mono Lake, and is a chance for all members to meet Committee staff, join in for a group picnic, listen to music, and get an update on the Committee's progress in saving Mono Lake.

As the last issue of the newsletter mentioned, a few surprise guests showed up this year. Mono County Supervisor Andrea Lawrence presented the Committee with a unanimous resolution of the County Board honoring the Committee's dedication to protecting Mono Lake.

The resolution, which was adopted in honor of Committee founder David Gaines, recognized Committee contributions to the development of the public trust in California and urged the Committee to "continue its efforts to have Mono Lake established at a minimum level which best protects the public interest and, more important, which best protects the lake itself."

The resolution, Executive Director Martha Davis reflected, is especially meaningful because "the Mono Lake Committee has been recognized around the country for its work, but the best words of praise always come from one's home."

Committee Associate Director Ilene Mandelbaum followed the award presentation with a summary of current political happenings. The State Water Board, she pointed out, has received over three thousand letters in support of raising Mono Lake to 6390 feet or higher. The political outlook is good, Mandelbaum summarized; the public show of support for Mono will be complemented by an equally impressive list of agencies and experts who support raising the lake (see the list on page 4).



Addressing members and supporters in the audience, Mandelbaum stated that the Mono Basin draft EIR "is really a testimonial to all your efforts to force policymakers and lawmakers to take seriously your concerns about preserving a thriving Mono Lake ecosystem, restoring devastated fisheries and forests, restoring air quality, finding water alternatives for Los Angeles, and restoring the public trust at Mono Lake for our and future generations."

Committee Associate Director Betsy Reifsnider also spoke at the meeting, where she shared her personal experiences of people and the public trust. Reifsnider, who, among many things, runs the Committee's Speakers' Bureau and coordinates outreach in the Los Angeles area, commented on experiences with high school students from South Central Los Angeles, with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and with other inner city student groups who have traveled to Mono Lake.

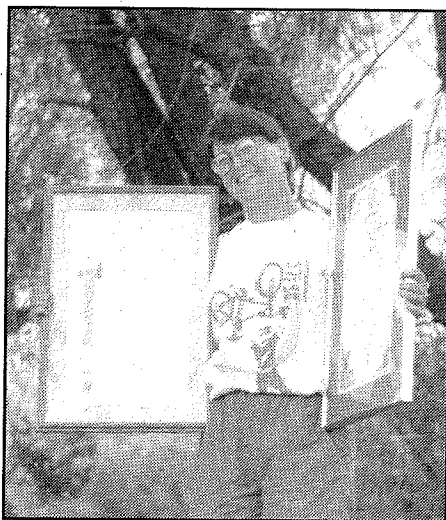
Experiencing Mono Lake is often an eye-opening event in these students' lives. "Mono Lake has Public Trust values," Reifsnider said, "which extend far beyond the Mono Basin. They are an integral part of people's lives in Los Angeles, in California, and throughout the nation."

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Martha Davis lauded for 10 years with Committee

Special presentations were made at the meeting to Mono Lake Committee Executive Director Martha Davis, who celebrates ten years with the MLC this fall. Supervisor Lawrence presented a resolution to Davis, commending her for carrying forth the work of Committee founder David Gaines in excellent form.

Ross Sargent, Chief of Staff for State Senator Patrick Johnston, also made a special presentation to Davis: certificates from the State Assembly and the State Senate resolving that "Martha Scott Davis be honored on her exemplary record of leadership as Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee, and extended sincere best wishes for every success in her future endeavor. Congratulations, Martha!"



Martha Davis holds resolutions from the State Assembly and Senate honoring her ten years of work with the Committee

New Membership Procedures

The Mono Lake Committee will soon have a new mailing address on its postage-paid membership renewal envelopes. This fall the Committee is moving mail and membership functions to the Southern California office in an effort to increase efficiency in processing funds -- allowing a greater percentage of donation dollars to go directly to saving the lake.

For years, all of the Committee's organizational bookkeeping has occurred in the Southern California office. Donations sent to the Committee have been tallied and sorted in Lee Vining. Checks have then been bundled up and mailed to Los Angeles to be deposited in the bank. The new procedure will take a step out of the process, making it faster and more efficient.

A new staff member, Sharon Mundel, will join the Development team in the Southern California office as the Committee's Mail and Membership Coordinator. Sharon will work closely with Development Director Alan Magree and

Where to reach us


• *Use the postage-paid envelope enclosed with your renewal notice. Beginning in late 1993 it will be addressed to the Southern California office, where it will be speedily processed. Please send address changes there, also.*

• *For mailorder, tourist information, and other inquiries, write to the Lee Vining office, where the Information Center and Bookstore is located. Donations, renewals, and address changes can also be processed there at the same time as your order or question.*

Development Coordinator Tina Sanders to assure that our mailing list is kept up-to-date.

Former Mail and Membership Coordinator Elaine Light has moved into a new Assistant Sales Manager position in the Lee Vining office. Keeping up with business in the newly-remodeled Information Center and Bookstore has proved to be more than any one human can handle; Sales Manager Rick Knepp is thankfully looking forward to Elaine's assistance.

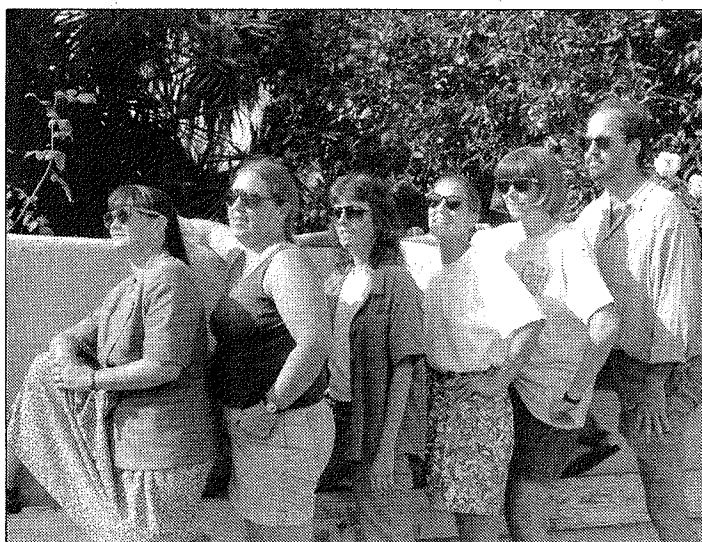
The Committee's Lee Vining address, which has been its primary mailing address for years, will continue to be active. Mailorders, tourist information, and other information services will be handled in the Information Center and Bookstore. Although the office will not be receiving the volume of mail it has in recent years, donations and renewals may still be sent to Lee Vining.

If you are unsure which office you need to contact for a specific matter, pick the one closest to you; we'll make sure you get connected with the correct person. 

The Mono Lake Committee Team



Lee Vining staff in the remodeled Information Center (left to right): front: Karen Phillips, Ilene Mandelbaum, Desiree Reyes, Juliet Landa, Sally Miller, Knepp. Back: John Cain, Geoff McQuilkin, Gary Nelson, Rick Knepp, Stacey Johnson, Elaine Light, Shannon Nelson, Michelle Rembs.



Los Angeles staff members adopt local culture (left to right): Martha Davis, Kathi Richards, Stacy Brown, Tina Sanders, Betsy Reifsnider, and Alan Magree.

MLC Staff Hellos and Goodbyes

by Martha Davis

This edition of the Mono Lake Newsletter is a transitional one. We regretfully say goodbye to Publications Editor Bob Schlichting who departed in July to become a Research Writer for the Public Information Office of the Department of Fish and Game. Bob's incisive editorials and ingenious page layouts will be missed, as will his bad jokes (the good ones, too). Bob raised the professional quality of all our publications. Thank you, Bob, for all that you have done for Mono Lake.

Our good news is that Programs Coordinator Geoffrey McQuilkin will take a step up the MLC corporate ladder to become Publications Editor, beginning with this newsletter. Geoff's talents are legend in the Committee. We are delighted that he has accepted this position.

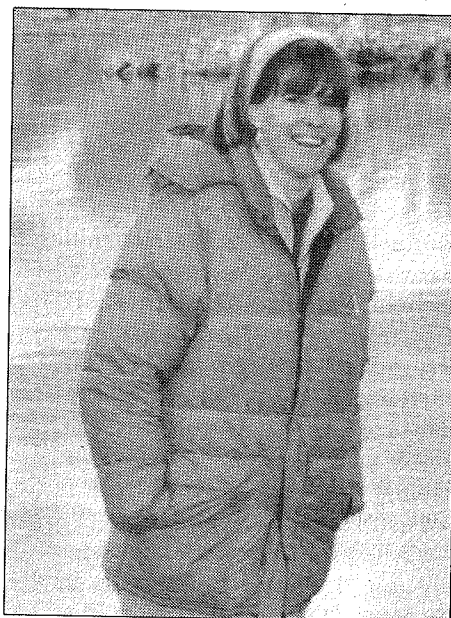
Another change in the Committee's staff is the departure of our celebrated Associate Director Betsy Reifsnider this fall. Betsy will join the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento as its Senior Water Conservation Specialist. She will be responsible for the review and approval of conservation plans for agencies which receive federal water in California, Nevada, and Oregon. Betsy

has been a one-woman tour-de-force promoting water conservation in Los Angeles, and has long been recognized as one of the most effective and respected environmental advocates in the State. Congratulations Betsy! We will miss you very much.

Our Mail and Membership Coordinator, Elaine Light, will join Geoff McQuilkin in playing the rotating job game. Elaine will apply her many talents to a new position: Assistant Sales Manager. Working with Sales Manager Rick Knepp, Elaine will coordinate the bookkeeping and merchandise record keeping of our rapidly expanding sales program.


We extend a hearty welcome to the newest member of our staff, Sharon Mundel, who will fill the position of Mail and Membership Coordinator. Sharon will work in Los Angeles, the new location of our mail program (see story page 21). Sharon just graduated from Cal State Northridge and brings a strong commitment to the protection of the environment.

Finally, a bittersweet farewell to summer interns Michelle Rembs, Karen Phillips, and Desiree Reyes. You were awesome! Thank you for your hard work and for your enthusiasm. We never would have opened the remodeled Information



Associate Director Betsy Reifsnider is departing to become Senior Water Conservation Specialist for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Center on time without your help. Please come back and visit us -- often!


We are pleased to announce that summer intern Juliet Landa has decided to stay with us for the fall season. She is joined by Mike Sanders, a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Political Science and Economics. Welcome to you both! 

Information Center open all year

Thanks to the help of many volunteers and donors, the Committee's remodeled Information Center and Bookstore celebrated its Grand Opening on June 26. Summer visitation to the store was the heaviest it has ever been, and response to the new space has been enthusiastic.


One of the newly-remodeled Information Center and Bookstore's best features has been hidden away all summer: heat! The Committee store,

open throughout the year, will now be an excellent spot to retreat from the beautiful but cold fall weather. In past winters, a stop by the center was a chilly affair, as the wood stove in the office was the only source of heat in the building.

Fall colors and winter storms in the Mono Basin are spectacular -- and the roads are less crowded. Be sure to visit if you can. The store will have some special holiday items and, of course, will provide an escape from the brisk weather. 

Call for Photos

Twenty four color images will be chosen for inclusion in the portfolio section of a new definitive book on Mono Lake by John Hart, to be published by the University of California Press in 1994. Submission is open to all photographers. The deadline is November 15, 1993; be forewarned, payment for selected images is modest.

Request guidelines via postcard to Joan Rosen, Photo Coordinator, 61 Le Street, Mill Valley, CA 94941. 

Volunteers and Donors Support MLC

In Celebration

Bob and Ginny Pratte, of La Canada, made a contribution in honor of **Marsha MacDonald** who recently celebrated a birthday in Carlsbad. **Edith and Mort Gaines** made a (somewhat belated) donation in honor of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of their friends **Grace and Mike Jacobs**.

In Memory

Berlina Kredo, of Green Valley, made a donation in memory of her father **William C. Kredo**. **Ethel and Elden Vestal**, of Napa, made a donation in memory of their long-time friends **Murray and Linette Cutter**. The Cutters spent many enjoyable vacations at Mono Lake.

Special Thanks

Carroll Evans, Jr., of Ridgecrest, has volunteered his help in improving our show projection technology. He recently delivered a box designed to temporarily elevate the projectors, and he is hard at work on a new projector stand which will fit more compactly into our slideshow room.

The spring remodel involved a lot of work and thanks go out to **Michael**

Ricciardi of Bay Commercial Lighting Supply, in San Francisco, for helping us get lighting fixtures in on time

Board member **Sally Gaines** does lots of work for Mono Lake, but especially appreciated was her afternoon appearance with **Joni Humphrey** of Davis and **Ed Wilkins** of the Bay of Fundy. The trio carpeted our new office operations area.

Larry Breed, of Palo Alto, has continued to lend his volunteer hands to the ongoing project of keeping the Committee building in Lee Vining operational. Recent projects include tool room organization and door closers.

Long-time Committee supporter **Don Jackson**, of Forestville, helped out by moving our phone system before the remodel project began; his expert teaching allowed us to move it back on our own! Nonetheless, he's been in the area taking photos for the newsletter (particularly the catalog) and providing much-needed advice on computers.

Staff volunteer **Gary Nelson**, of Mono City, continues to let us talk him into both construction and writing projects (see Gary's article in this issue). Gary willingly waded through lots of sawdust and rubble to help us rebuild our new store and offices in Lee Vining.

Betty Potts of Coarsegold, who has helped out in the past, dropped by an excellent set of wildlife slides for our library. In addition she donated a copy of the new *Jepson Manual*, which quickly sold in the store.

An anonymous friend of the Committee donated 60 issues of a special edition of *Wild Earth* on the Wildlands Project. Profits from the sale of these in the store are being split equally between the Committee and the Wildlands project.

Denny Green, of Culver City, dropped off a few issues of a new publication he is editing called *Kids Write*, which publishes the writings of elementary school children in the LA area. We hope it inspires visitors who pick up a copy in Lee Vining.

Ken Brown, of Los Angeles, recently interviewed Mono Lake Committee Staff on his KPFF call-in show "Cambridge Forum West." If you wish a station in your area to air the show, which focused on issues surrounding Mono Lake, contact Pam Burton at the Pacifica Archives, (818) 506-1077.

Special thanks to **Alicia Carman**, who works for **Patagonia**, for her layout of this year's gift catalog. Her hard work has helped us immeasurably.

Thanks to all for their contributions!

Northern Europe tour to benefit Mono Lake

Enjoy a fabulous 15 day nature adventure in Europe which will benefit Mono Lake! The trip includes 6 days in Holland, 3 days in Denmark, 2 days in Sweden, and Northern Germany as well. Proceeds from the trip benefit the Mono Lake Committee.

The expedition promises a full schedule, including bike rides, nature hikes on bird reserves, sea mammal and wildlife viewing, visits to sea mammal and bird rehabilitation centers, and museum visits -- to name a few. The trip will depend

on travel via air, ferry, first class train, canal boat, bus, hydrofoil, sailboat, zodiac boat, and bicycle. Accommodations range from country inns and canal boat "boatel" to city three- and four-star hotels and

mountain lodges. Meals are high quality regional cuisine.

Trip dates are July 1-15 1994, and the price is \$3,495 based on double occupancy (single occupancy is an additional \$460). Why not support Mono Lake by going on vacation?

For further information, please contact: **Tom Gwin**, Cal Nature Tours S.L.V. 7310 Victorville, CA 92392; or call (619) 241-2322.



Cal Nature Tours, Inc.
S.V.L. 7310, Victorville, CA 92392 619/241-2322



1993

Save Mono Lake Drawing

Last chance to enter and win!

- Tickets Enclosed -

Everybody wins by supporting Mono Lake!

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Two week Adventure Trip to Holland and Denmark

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Ansel Adams Signed Lithograph

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Plus More... More... More!

Win big for Mono Lake by entering today!

See insert for details. All entries must be received by October 31, 1993



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