

Fall

1994

MONO



LAKE

NEWSLETTER

1994-95 GIFT CATALOG ENCLOSED

15TH ANNUAL BIKE-A-THON

# Mono Lake Newsletter

Fall 1994

Volume 17, Number 2

## THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

### OFFICERS

Martha Davis ..... Executive Director  
Sally Gaines and Ed Grosswiler ..... Co-chairs  
Barbara Blake Levine ..... Treasurer  
Tom Soto ..... Secretary

### MONO LAKE INFORMATION CENTER

P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, California 93541  
Phone (619) 647-6595

Julie Clothier ..... Sales Operations Coordinator  
Richard Knepp ..... Sales Manager  
Ilene Mandelbaum ..... Associate Director  
Geoffrey McQuilkin ..... Publications Editor  
Sally Miller ..... Eastern Sierra Representative  
Gary Nelson ..... Volunteer Librarian  
Shannon Nelson ..... Information Center Manager  
Stacey Simon ..... Public Education Coordinator  
Timothy Tierney ..... Intern

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OFFICE

1207 W. Magnolia, Suite D, Burbank, California 91506  
Phone (818) 972-2025

Stacy Brown ..... Business Manager  
Martha Davis ..... Executive Director  
Sherri Kalivoda ..... Mail and Membership Coordinator  
Alan Magree ..... Development Director  
Tina Sanders ..... Development Coordinator

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Berens, Santa Ana  
Libby Ellis, Ventura  
Sally Gaines (Co-chair), Lee Vining  
Ed Grosswiler (Co-chair), Portland, Oregon  
Dian M. Grueneich, Oakland  
Barbara Blake Levine, Los Angeles  
Ed Manning, Los Angeles  
Genny Smith, Mammoth Lakes  
Tom Soto, Santa Monica

### DIRECTORS EMERITI

Grace de Laet, San Francisco  
Helen Green, Berkeley

### CORPORATE COUNSEL

John Hollinrake  
29169 Heathercliff Road, Suite 107  
Malibu, California 90265

## THE MONO LAKE FOUNDATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Banta, Lee Vining  
Bob Binnewies, New York  
Susanna Fousekis, Berkeley  
Mary Hanson, Swall Meadows  
Andrea Lawrence, Mammoth Lakes  
Dave Marquart (President), Lee Vining  
Genny Smith, Mammoth Lakes

## IN THIS ISSUE

**T**his issue's cover photo, which I took last fall, looks past yellow aspens to the peaks of the Sierra in the southern portion of the Mono Basin. Barely visible is a fresh dusting of snow over the mountains, a sign of winter that has already come to the Mono Basin this year.

The Water Board decision is only days away and MLC staff are doing a lot of expectant breath holding. See the facing article for a few of the important questions we'll be asking when the decision arrives.

The 1994 Bike-A-Thon was quite a success; look to pages 10-13 for news of the ride. Head support driver Pete Smith writes about the 'thon on pages 11 and 13, giving a flavor of the day-to-day experience of the dedicated cyclists.

This issue features a letter from Senator Tim Leslie on page 5 that reviews the battle for the first-year's funding for the AB 444 agreement and, on page 4, a report on the Committee's new Outdoor Experiences program.

Don't forget to look through the enclosed 1994-95 Gift Catalog (pull it out and share it with a friend). Mono Lake merchandise always makes great gifts.

Winter snows are almost upon us. The Farmer's Almanac calls for above normal snowfall this year. We're waiting . . .

— Geoff McQuilkin



*Bike-A-Thon riders enter the lobby of the Department of Water and Power Headquarters as a disgruntled William Mulholland, DWP's founder, looks on.*

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

The Mono Lake Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Mono Lake Committee. Written material contained in this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced for review, news reporting, educational purposes, or related non-profit uses; a copy of the publication is requested. Reproduction or quotation for other purposes may be approved upon written request. Uncredited photos and articles are by the editor. ISSN #0275-6633. Copyright ©1994, The Mono Lake Committee.

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. Donations to the Mono Lake Committee or the Mono Lake Foundation may be made using the enclosed envelope.

**Water Board decision delayed**

## **Special issue of the Mono Lake Newsletter will cover Water Board decision**

**A**s this issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter* goes to press, the State Water Resources Control Board has not yet released its decision on the future of water diversions from the Mono Basin.

A tentative release date of late September was set by the Water Board for their ruling. By the time you receive this issue of the *Newsletter*, the final decision should have been issued.


A special issue of the *Newsletter* will cover that decision once it is finalized. The special edition will contain news of the decision, reaction from the involved parties, and Committee analysis of the

decision. The issue will go to press after the Water Board announces its final ruling and the MLC staff have time to analyze it. It should reach your mailbox in November.

In the meantime, you may hear about the decision, as it is expected to get broad coverage in the press. The decision will most likely be complex; here are some important questions to ask as you read about it: what lake level is identified for Mono Lake? (The Committee is seeking 6390 feet or higher.) How long will it take the lake to rise to the target level? What "fish flows" are specified for Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and

Walker creeks? And what restoration measures are required to mitigate years of damage to the Mono Basin?

The special edition of the *Newsletter* will answer these questions and more when it arrives!

The Water Board delayed issuance of both its draft and final decisions. The final decision was originally expected by the first of September, but the Water Board announced in August that the schedule would be pushed back several weeks. The Water Board decision will modify the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's rights to divert water from Mono Lake's streams. 

## **Reduce your taxes with a year-end gift to Mono Lake**

*by Alan Magree*

**D**id you know that you can help preserve Mono Lake for future generations and save on your taxes at the same time?

There are real advantages to making a special year-end contribution to the Mono Lake Foundation for the protection of Mono Lake (at this time gifts to the Mono Lake Committee are not tax-deductible). All gifts made to the Foundation support the 501(c)(3)—i.e. tax-deductible—programs of the Mono Lake Committee, such as litigation, public education, and this newsletter.

Changes made last year in the tax laws will mean that some high-income earners may find up to 85% of their Social Security income subject to tax this year, which could push them into a higher tax bracket than expected. A special charitable gift to the Mono Lake Foundation may reduce your tax liability. By planning ahead now, you could realize

significant savings on your tax bill this coming April.

Remember to act quickly. Only gifts made by December 31st are deductible for the 1994 tax year.

You may also want to consider making a gift of appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, long-term mutual funds, or property. Gifts of appreciated assets will benefit Mono Lake and may help you handle capital gains taxes. Be sure to check with your financial advisor for any specific details.


Also, don't forget that you can make your gift to Mono Lake double in value by taking advantage of your employer's matching gift program. Just check with your company's personnel or human resources office to find out if your employer has a matching gift plan.

It's easy to double your support with a matched gift. All you need to do is follow the directions for initiating a

match and mail us the form, along with your Mono Lake Foundation gift or membership, and we'll handle the rest. All matching gifts are acknowledged in the *Mono Lake Newsletter*.

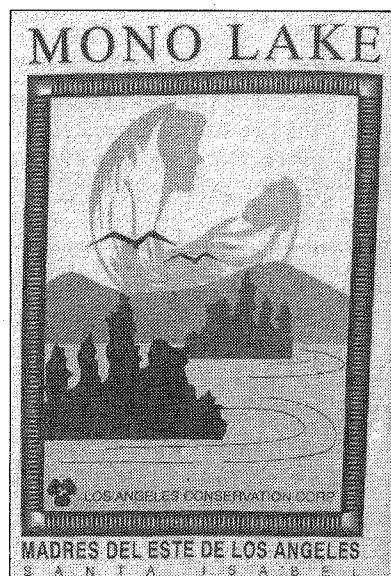
If your employer doesn't have a matching gift program, consider starting one with some of your co-workers. Such a program will help save Mono Lake—and it will benefit other worthy causes as well.

The many accomplishments of the Mono Lake Committee have been achieved through the generous, and consistent, support of Committee members. We hope you'll consider a making a special year-end gift for 1994. If you would like more information about the types of giving discussed here, please feel free to contact me at (818) 972-2025.

*Alan Magree is the Committee's Development Director. He moonlights as a Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon truck driver.* 



For the Mothers of East Los Angeles Santa Isabel (MoELASI), a community-based organization working to improve the quality of life and opportunities available to East L.A. residents, a visit to Mono Lake was more than just an educational field trip. It was reinforcement of the fact that they are taking an important lead in solving water-supply problems for both the City of Los Angeles and Mono Lake.



MoELASI designed a special T-shirt to mark their trip to Mono Lake.

MoELASI installs low flow toilets in East Los Angeles. This work, which saves millions of gallons of water each year, brings much-needed jobs and funds into the local community.

By reducing the amount of water Los Angeles needs to import from Mono Lake, MoELASI has shown that creative solutions to environmental problems can not only protect places like Mono Lake, but also create meaningful jobs in communities which need them and expand the too-often-limited horizons, and experiences, of Los Angeles' inner city residents.

# New program brings L.A. youth to Mono Lake

by Stacey Simon

This summer the Mono Lake Committee inaugurated an exciting new educational program for young people who are working to conserve water in Los Angeles.

The Committee hosted more than 50 teenagers from five community and youth groups on tours of Mono Lake as part of the new Outdoor Experiences program, designed to connect Los Angeles-based water conservation programs with the natural resource they are helping to protect.

Teenagers from the Mothers of East Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Keeping the World at Peace, the Central and West Basin Municipal Water District Planet Protectors, and Webster School each participated in three-to-five day educational programs at the lake. They learned about water diversions, Mono Lake ecology, local geology, plant life, and California history.

Los Angeles community groups have taken the lead in assisting with the implementation of water conservation programs throughout the southland, creating jobs while reducing by millions of gallons the amount of water the City of Los Angeles needs to import from places like Mono Lake.

The Mono Lake trips were a new and dramatic experience for all the participants. Most had never left Los Angeles, much less paddled a canoe across a desert lake, watched shooting stars from their beds, or hiked to the plug of an active volcanic dome. At Mono Lake they did all these things, and learned how the work they do helps to protect Mono Lake and other valuable wetland areas in California as well.

After visiting Mono Lake this summer, 14-year-old Meredith Fant wrote: "I will try to do my part in caring for our environment and saving water. I hope to go back to Mono Lake soon to learn

more about its wonderful ecosystem."

Juana Gutierrez, President of the Mothers of East Los Angeles, spent four days at Mono Lake with youth from her organization. Recognizing the impact the Mono Lake trip had on her group, Mrs. Gutierrez expressed her hope that "in time these young people will become involved in the struggle to keep these places alive."

Special thanks go out to everyone who helped make the trips possible. We would particularly like to thank the Southern California Gas Company, Sport Chalet, Mono County, Lifesong Wilderness Workshops, Bodie State Historic Park, the Webster School PTA, Suzanne and Dale Burger, the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center, and the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.

*Stacey Simon is the Committee's Public Education Coordinator. She's plans to be chilly during her first winter at Mono Lake.*

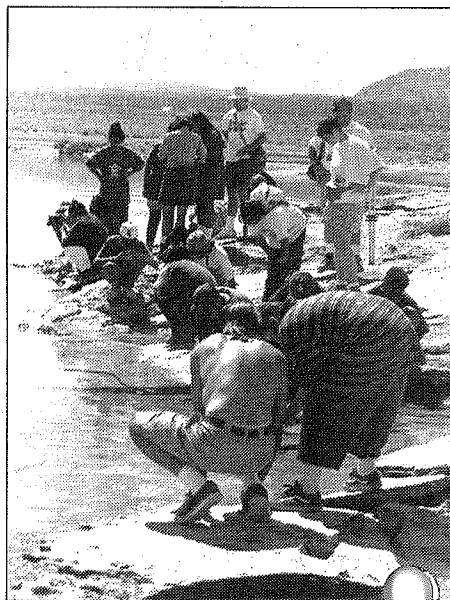


Photo by Stacey Simon  
Members of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps explore the shore of Mono Lake.



# First year's funding won for AB 444

A letter from Senator Tim Leslie

Mid-summer last year we received a phone call from Mono County Supervisor Mike Jarvis. He told us that the new State Senator representing the County, Tim Leslie (R—Roseville), wanted to meet with the Mono Lake Committee to discuss Mono Lake.

When I arrived at his office in Sacramento that fall, Senator Leslie praised the Committee's work and asked what he could do to help.

The Committee asked for Senator Leslie's assistance in securing the \$36 million in AB 444 funds the Los Angeles—Mono Lake Committee agreement was set to provide to DWP. At that time we had little idea how difficult the budget battle for these funds would ultimately prove to be. Months of hard work followed, but Senator Leslie, with the vital assistance of Assemblyman Richard Katz, won the funds, which were signed

into law by Governor Wilson in July.

The City of Los Angeles and the Mono Lake Committee owe tremendous gratitude to both Senator Leslie and Assemblyman Katz for their determined and persuasive efforts to secure the AB 444 funds. Mono Lake and Mono County are fortunate to have such strong political leaders in the California Legislature.

— Martha Davis

## Fellow Friends of Mono Lake:

On July 8, 1994, Governor Pete Wilson signed the state's 1994-95 budget, which was regarded as notable for a number of financial and political issues. But beyond the headline-grabbing features, the passage of this budget represented a significant milestone in one of the longest-running environmental battles in California history.

Tucked away in the volumes of line-items in this budget is an expenditure of \$9 million to fund a reclamation project in Los Angeles that could generate enough water to replace 35,000 acre-feet of water currently diverted from Mono Lake. This single item represents the culmination of years of tireless effort by a long list of individuals, including the Mono Lake Committee, Los Angeles Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, Mono County Supervisor Mike Jarvis, several state legislators, and countless other individuals.

In 1989, Assembly Bill 444 by Assemblymembers Phil Isenberg and Richard Katz created a funding mechanism for programs that would reduce the diversion of water from the Mono Basin. Last fall, after years of gridlock and wrangling over projects designed to achieve that goal, a deal was struck. With the assistance of MLC Board Member Ed Manning, Los Angeles Councilwoman Ruth Galanter enlisted Mayor Richard Riordan to convince the City's Department of Water and Power to join the Mono Lake Committee in supporting the East Valley Water Reclamation Project as an alternative source of water for irrigation, industrial purposes, and groundwater recharging in the Los Angeles area.

Just as support was growing for this project in Mono County and Los Angeles, the funding promised by Sacramento for such projects was becoming elusive. Repeated budget shortfalls in the years after the passage of AB 444 had forced state departments and state budget writers to look

for new funding sources, including the funds set aside for the reclamation projects that would benefit Mono Lake. As the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, I took it upon myself to ensure that the funds set aside by AB 444 would actually be available for this project.

I immediately met with key members of the Wilson administration and representatives of departments that had tapped into AB 444 funding in the past. I asked for, and received, commitments to protect the \$36 million remaining in this fund from any other than conservation projects like the East Valley Water Reclamation Project.

As another difficult budget year was approaching, I knew that the fight was far from over; during budget hearings I fought to protect funding for this project at every turn. With the help of the Wilson administration, the funding survived the budget process and was signed into law in July.

While the battle of protecting our beautiful Mono Lake is not over, a major advance has been made. The provision of these funds will go a long way toward restoring Mono Lake to a state of health and beauty. It is my hope that this project will usher in a new era of cooperation in our efforts to shape public policy.

Sincerely,

Tim Leslie  
Senator, First District

*Tim Leslie (R — Roseville)  
represents Mono County in the  
State Senate.*

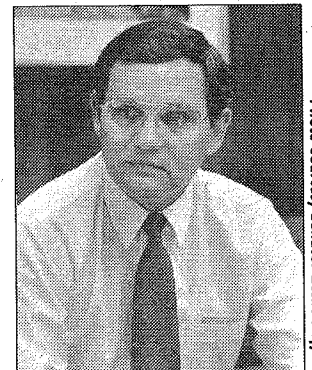


Photo courtesy Senator Leslie's office

# Where there's no snow, there's fire

by Gary Nelson

Clouds sweep up the San Joaquin Canyon, past Devil's Postpile and over the gap to leave much of their moisture on the east slope of the Sierra ...

— David Gaines, *Mono Lake Guidebook*

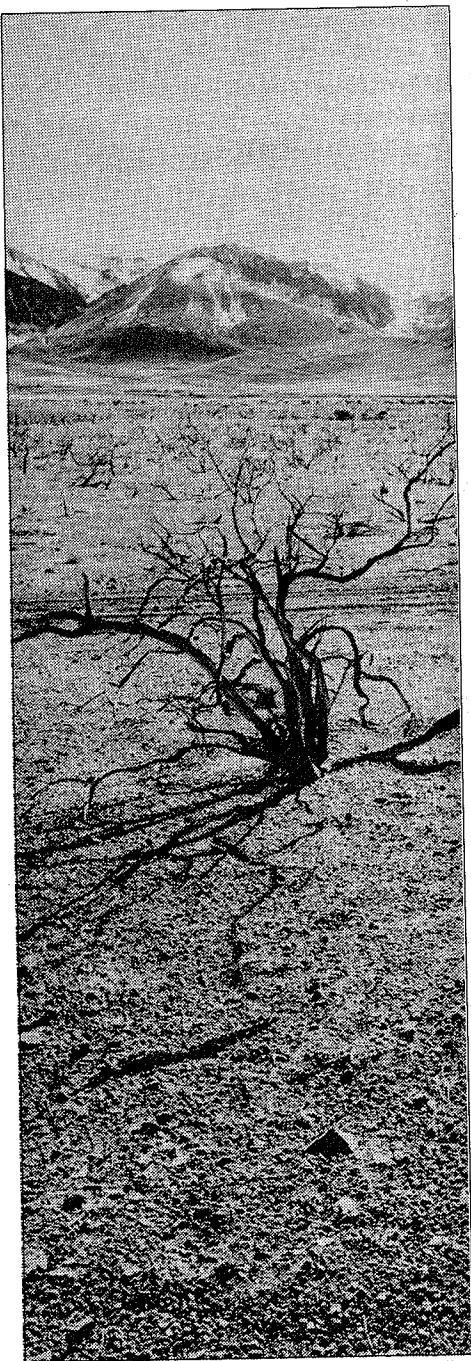


Photo by Jim Millett

**T**his summer has been the hottest and driest I have ever experienced at Mono Lake. The windows have been wide open at my house since May. Even at 7,000 feet, it's hot.

Memories of the winter of 1992-93 have evaporated, along with much of the water its snows brought. Last winter's snowpack was about half of normal, and Mono Lake is declining once again.

The juxtaposition of wet and dry years has also proven to be the formula for other natural calamities. This has been the summer of the wildfire. Smoke drifting through the Mono Basin has brought news of these conflagrations to me more surely, and often sooner, than our newspapers.

Sometimes the smoke drifts in slowly from the south. If my sense of smell was sufficiently acute I could probably detect the oily fumes of sage and yucca.


A few weeks ago, the smoke of pines, juniper, and manzanita from Yosemite flowed into the Mono Basin. Funneling through Tioga Pass, it descended into Lee Vining Canyon and out into the Basin like an aerial glacier. The smoke cascaded over the Sierra, giving sharp definition to the complexities of the wind that carried it. The lower layers curled back toward the crest in giant eddies, while the upper layers flowed over the jagged range in laminar perfection.

I wonder if winter snowstorms react to this granite barrier in similar fashion, for their whiteness hides the aerodynamic intricacies made so apparent by the smoke. Of course, if more snowstorms had made their way over the Sierra perhaps we wouldn't be seeing so much smoke now.

As I sit here on my porch writing, a huge horizontal column of smoke is being driven by high-level winds over the low saddle where Mammoth Mountain sits astride the Sierra crest. Maintaining its linear shape, the smoke enters the Mono Basin just north of the Mono Craters, erases my view of Cowtrack Mountain, and extends eastward as far as I can see.

Tonight, nearly 100 miles from the fire, residents of the western Nevada town of Hawthorne will smell smoke from trees that grew on the western slope of the Sierra. Weakened by drought, these trees became easy prey to fire. In a few moments, flames transformed their essence, perhaps their spirit, into the smoke that now follows the same path taken by storms that once nurtured them—up the middle fork of the San Joaquin River, over Minaret Summit and out into the vastness of the Great Basin.

How long will it be before snowstorms flow through gaps in the Sierra crest once again? Reading Scott Stine's account of hundred-year droughts makes me hope that the State Water Resources Control Board will give Mono Lake the benefit of the doubt in their ruling; nature will heal Mono Lake if we give it the chance. While the Board's ruling is imminent, the arrival of storms is not. I look to the west for rain or snow but all I see, so far, is smoke.

*Gary Nelson directs the Mono Lake Foundation canoe program. His lifejacket washing skills have been honed to perfection.* 

# Mono Basin Journal

**A roundup of less-political events at Mono Lake**

**by Geoffrey McQuilkin**

**T**he first winter storm of the season came to town, bringing the pungent scent of wet sage and pine, and the first rainfall since May. Clouds hung low in Lee Vining Canyon; snow dusted the tops of the peaks and moraines; and rain broke the surface of Mono Lake into innumerable spreading circles.

Out on the gull nesting grounds another summer came and went. The twenty-four hour chorus of 50,000 gulls bathed the rocks and tufa throughout the summer; now the noise, and the gulls, have gone back to the coast. The islets sit quietly

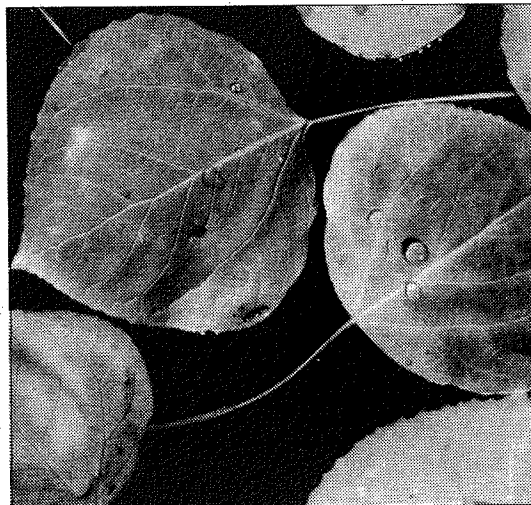



Photo by Don Jackson

waiting for winter snows.

Meteors shot overhead when a summer shower of a different sort made a visit to the Basin. Late at night, overhead trails of light descended to the horizon where Orion, not long ago banished to the daytime sky, is making his move, stepping carefully in the east as the sun rises.

By the last week in August, rumors of turning trees were floating through town. Yellowing aspens were sighted to the south and the night time temperatures, already reaching 40 degrees, told the true story: Autumn is sweeping into the Basin. 



## Lake Level Watch

# Hottest July on record accelerates summer evaporation

**by Colin J. Saunders**

**T**he Mono Basin suffered a record dry period between April, 1993, and March, 1994. This year's summer, the warmest on record, offered little respite to the trauma. "Evaporation season" is now fully underway and, as predicted, the lake level dropped as June and July temperatures consistently hit above 85 degrees and into the 90s. In addition, the spring-summer rains that provide occasional relief to the Mono Basin have been half of normal, similar to precipitation in the recent drought years.

The wet May has been quickly forgotten, and the lake dropped from its springtime peak at 6375.8 feet down to 6371.8 feet by September 8.

Peter Vorster, the Committee's consulting hydrologist, blames the heat


for increasing evaporation from the lake. After squirming through the hottest July on record, we may expect to see the lake drop to 6374.5, half a foot below the original year-end prediction and just two and a half feet above its historic low.

Although the gulls have come and gone for the year, ominous signs loom for the future if the lake continues to drop. In addition to abandoning the nesting islet of Java for the second straight year, definite signs of coyote presence were seen for the first time on the neighboring islet Twain. Twain is home to over 50% of the gulls nesting at Mono Lake. Gull researcher Christine King marks these signs with concern, noting that "we're now one step closer to confirming that we could have a serious problem on Twain."



Photo by Christine King

**Evidence of predation: A coyote track, photographed on Java islet this summer.**

Colin Saunders was a summer intern with the Mono Lake Committee. We hope to see him back for a winter internship. 



# Internships, volunteer positions available with Committee

**T**he Mono Lake Committee intern program is always seeking applicants. Internships last from three to six months and are designed to familiarize interns with the workings of a non-profit environmental group.


Committee interns assist in the Information Center, helping visitors and working in the store; assist with public education and outreach, including providing interpretive tours of Mono Lake; and assist with general office tasks. When possible, the Committee arranges for interns to attend special seminars and meetings to expand their

knowledge of the Mono Basin. Interns are often able to take on special projects, based on skills and interests.

Applicants need an ability to work independently while in a close-knit office setting, an enthusiastic and outgoing personality, and a dedication to protecting the environment. Interns work 40 hours per week and receive minimum wage; subsidized housing is available through the Committee for \$75 per month. Unfortunately, pets are not allowed at the intern house. A car is required for work-related travel, and mileage is reimbursed.

## Volunteers also sought

Both the Burbank and Lee Vining offices of the Committee are looking for volunteers who are willing to donate a few hours of time each week for general support of Committee work. Volunteers learn about Mono Lake and Western water issues while providing valuable support to Committee staff. The tasks aren't always glamorous, but the work is vital to the protection of Mono Lake.

For more information, contact Shannon Nelson at the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; or call (619) 647-6595. 

# Nature cruise will support Mono Lake

by Mildred Bennett

**A** voyage in the Sea of Cortez and to Baja California aboard the 70-passenger MV Seabird, from March 25-April 3, will be sponsored by the Mono Lake Committee.

The itinerary includes stops at islands in the Sea of Cortez, rounding the tip of Baja to Cabo San Lucas, and ending in Magdalena Bay, a prime breeding

ground for the California grey whale.

The trip will visit mangrove habitat, home to myriad bird species including blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, pelicans, and frigatebirds. It will be a time for up-close whale-watching, snorkeling, swimming, and going ashore to discover many wildflowers and birds. Special Expeditions is the

tour operator, and their highly qualified naturalists will accompany the group.

Other areas explored on the ten-day trip include San Pedro Martir; Isla Santa Catalina, home to giant cacti, verdins, ladder-backed woodpeckers, and Costa's humming-

birds; Gorda Banks sea mount, a gathering place for whales and dolphins; Cabo San Lucas; and La Paz, where a visit to the Museum of Anthropology is planned.

The cruise cost starts at \$2,850 per person and includes all taxes and shore activities. Special Expeditions will provide a ten percent commission to the Mono Lake Committee. Early reservations are recommended to ensure a place on this popular trip.

For a brochure, write the Mono Lake Committee, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, California 94708. You can also call (510) 526-1260 for information; leave a message with your name, address, and phone number if no one is available.


*Mildred Bennett, Mono Lake's volunteer extraordinaire, has organized unique sight-seeing expeditions for many years. Her exciting trips raise needed funds for the Mono Lake Committee.* 



Photo courtesy of Mildred Bennett

The trip focuses on wildlife and outdoor activities. Here, travelers encounter a California grey whale in the waters near Bahia Magdalena.

# THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

## Gift Catalog 1994-1995

# Mono Lake

1 9 9 5 C A L E N D A R



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

### 1995 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

The 1995 *Mono Lake Calendar* features beautiful, full-color photographs by some of America's leading nature photographers: David Muench, James Randklev, Larry Ulrich, Jim Stimson, and more! The 1995 *Calendar* salutes the wildness and beauty found throughout the entire Mono Basin

and celebrates, with an essay by noted photographer Galen Rowell, this area of snow-covered peaks and flower-covered valleys, harsh deserts and inland seas. Perfect for home, office, and gift-giving.

*Quantity discounts noted at right.*

*13 1/4" x 9 3/4": \$10.95*

*Rigid chipboard mailers: \$1.00*

### SPECIAL CALENDAR DISCOUNTS

*Buy 2-5, pay \$9.95 each;*

*6-10, \$8.95 each;*

*11 or more, \$7.95 each.*



The Mono Lake Committee has been selling books, T-shirts, and other merchandise since its founding in 1978. Throughout the years, the goal of the sales program

**ALL PROFITS  
FROM EVERY SALE  
SUPPORT THE  
FIGHT TO SAVE  
MONO LAKE**

has always been the same: to raise money for the Committee's efforts to protect Mono Lake while providing informative, quality products to members and supporters.

**FRIENDS OF MONO LAKE:**

Since its inception in 1978, the Mono Lake Committee has offered members and visitors alike the opportunity to support the Committee through the purchase of shirts, books, and gifts at our bookstore in the heart of Lee Vining. This Gift Catalog continues the tradition.

Our catalog expands to twelve pages this year, mostly because we have added so many exciting items to our shelves over the past year. You'll find half a dozen T-shirt designs, a lapel pin, many books, an affordable limited-edition print, milk bottles, two styles of embroidered hats, and a bunch of stocking stuffer ideas ... all new to the store and the catalog. Most of your old favorites are back as well, including what we humbly feel is the best *Mono Lake Calendar* ever.

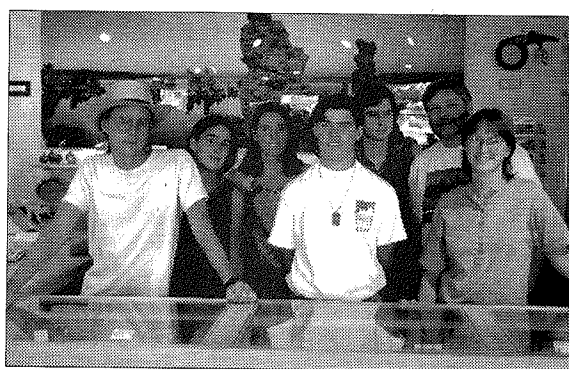
And it doesn't stop there. If you've visited the Information Center and Bookstore, you know that what's in the catalog doesn't scratch the surface of

what we have to offer. Our book section alone offers nearly 1,000 titles, leading David Brower to call us during a recent visit "the finest environmentally-oriented bookstore in Northern California."

Here's the good news: If it's on our shelves, you can order it by phone! Just give us a call, describe what you'd like, and if we've got it, *you've got it!* Remember that new *Music of Yosemite* CD Dad liked so much? Or maybe your best friend was admiring the beautiful nesting bowl set by Mono Basin ceramicist Jack Trefry you picked up on your last visit? They're just a phone call away!

A final note: I'd like to thank you on behalf of the Committee's staff for choosing to put your shopping dollars work on the lake's behalf. It really does matter!

— Rick Knepp, MLC Sales Manager



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 GIFT CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER





### WILD BRYDE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Beautiful keepsakes, these gold-plated ornaments celebrate the season with some of our our favorite furred and feathered friends. 2 1/2" - 3" in size (slightly larger than shown here).

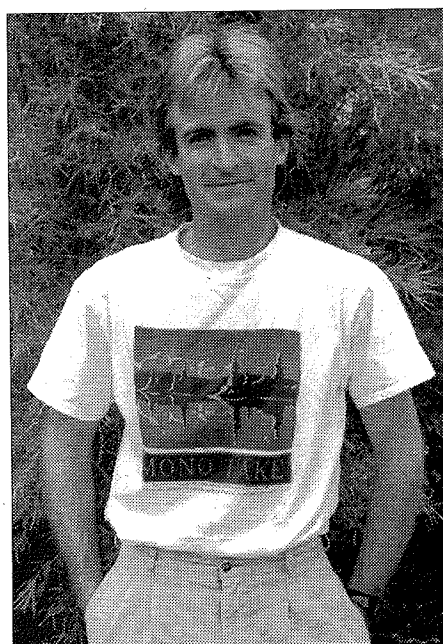
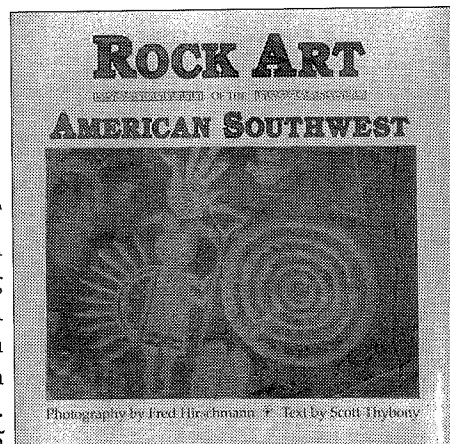
*Kinglet, Polar bear: each \$9.00*



### ROCK ART OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

Photographer Fred Hirschmann has assembled this exquisite collection of images of "talking rocks" and their beautiful surroundings. A number of the petroglyphs are located in the Eastern Sierra. Supplemented with essays by Scott Thybony.

*Hardcover, 128 pages: \$29.95*



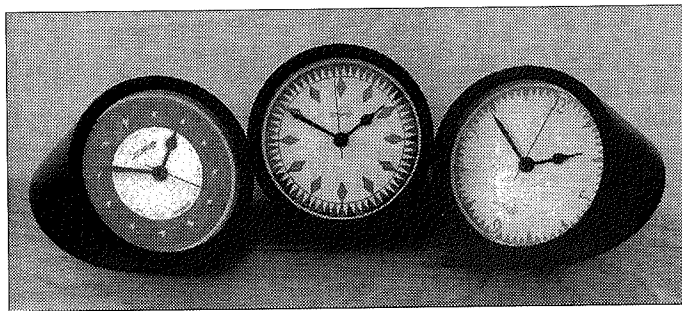
### NIGHT TUFA T-SHIRT

This shirt was our best seller this past summer and the model, member Tom

Berto, is also the designer! Stylized gray and black tufa and the Sierra against a starry night sky of deepening blue are reflected in the lake's waters.

*Shirt color: White*

*Short sleeve: \$16.00; long sleeve \$21.00*

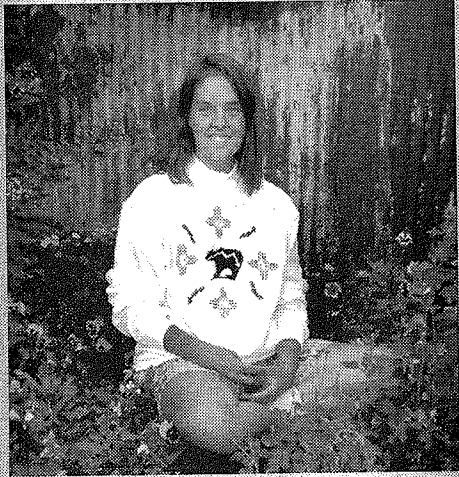


### ZIRO BUREAU CLOCKS

These designer clocks feature a 3 1/2" face with beautiful pastel watercolor templates, reproduced on high-quality textured paper stock, and set into a cylindrical black base cut so the clock face sits at the perfect viewing angle for bureau, desk, or bedstand. Specify style.

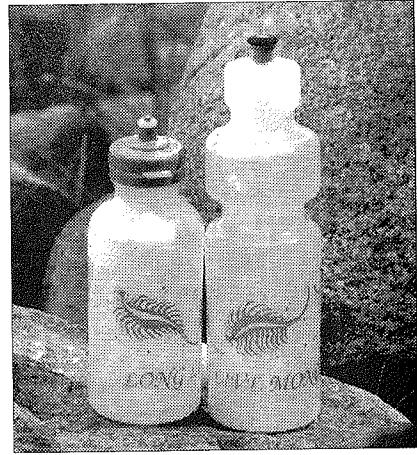
*Stars: white stars against a blue field; Diamonds: green diamonds inside a ring of earthtone triangles; or Triangles: earthtone triangles. \$29.00*

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 GIFT CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER



**BEAR MOCK-TURTLE SHIRT**

Sales Operations Coordinator Julie Clothier in a shirt almost as colorful as the flower beds she tends with such loving care at our Lee Vining bookstore. A stylized design inspired by Native American rock art, on a heavyweight, preshrunk shirt.  
*Colors: Select from stonewashed lapis purple or khaki. Long sleeve, mock-turtleneck: \$26.00 (M-XL only)*

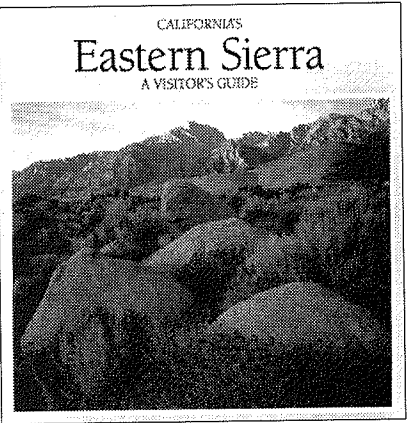


**BRINE SHRIMP BIKE BOTTLES**

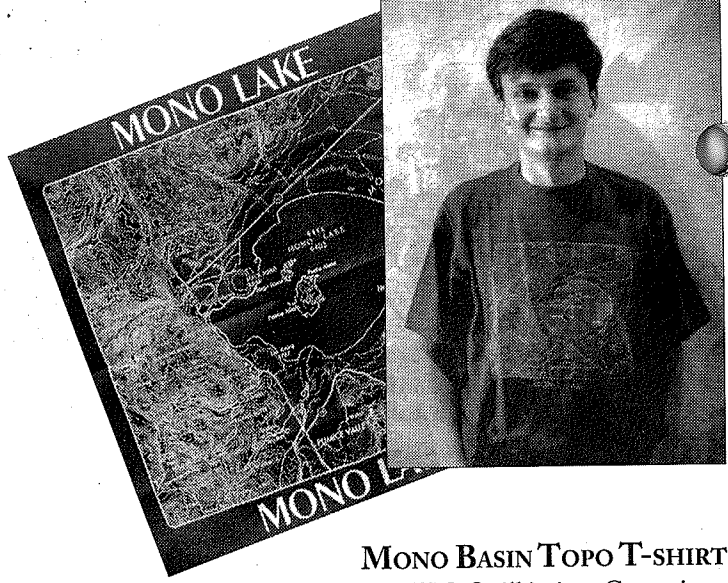
Mono's own *Artemia monica* (in a lovely powder blue!) swim across these squeezable bottles. Great for bikes, hikes, tikes with trikes, and spill-free drinks while auto-touring.  
*Small (21 oz.): \$3.95; Large (28 oz.): \$4.95*

**CALIFORNIA'S  
 EASTERN SIERRA:  
 A VISITOR'S GUIDE**

Featuring over 100 scenic and historic destinations, Sue Irwin's definitive guide describes the landmarks and natural wonders of the Eastern Sierra, including Mount Whitney, Mammoth, Devils Postpile, Mono



Lake, Bodie, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. Color photographs from the West's most talented landscape photographers grace nearly every page, representing the finest collection of color images ever assembled on the Eastern Sierra.  
*Softcover, 144 pages, 148 color plates: \$16.95*



**MONO BASIN TOPO T-SHIRT**

Publications Editor Geoff McQuilkin in a Committee classic. Featuring a topographic map of the Mono Basin, it's hard to lose yourself wearing this design.  
*Shirt colors: Select from ash gray, red, royal blue, or jade. Short sleeve: \$14.00*

**TOPO BANDANNA**

The ever-popular topo design is also available on a 24" x 24" bandanna! Choose from red, navy, natural, white, forest green, or teal: \$3.95

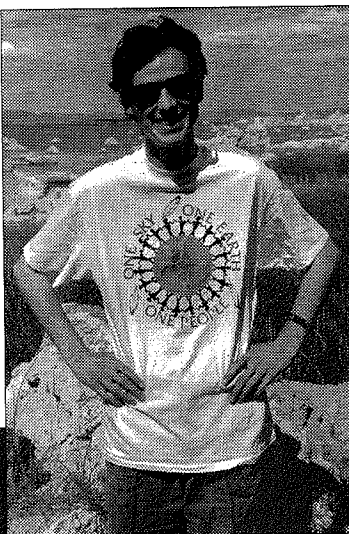
MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 GIFT CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER



### ONE SKY, ONE EARTH, ONE PEOPLE T-SHIRT

Summer intern Colin Saunders looks cool in this stylized graphic design that celebrates the connectedness of all things.

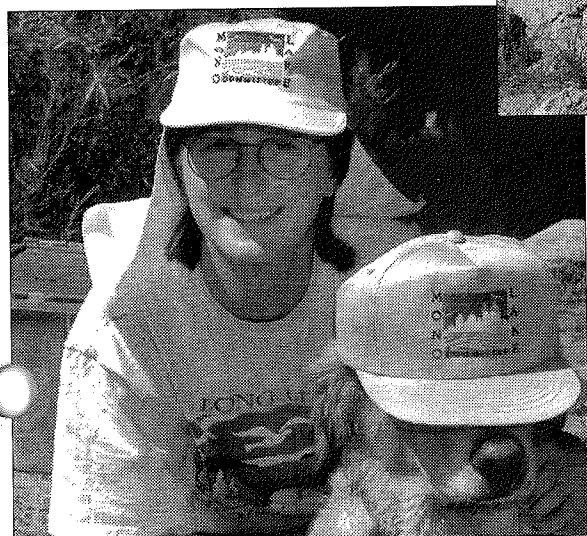
*Shirt color: White.  
Short sleeve: \$15.00*



### DESERT WOLF T-SHIRT

The colorful pastels found in contemporary South-west art splash across this high-quality shirt (worn by Public Education Coordinator Stacey Simon) carrying the message, "In the silence of the wild, we find the home we lost in the city," and information on how we can help save our endangered deserts.

*Shirt colors: Select from white or ash gray.  
Short Sleeve: \$15.00*



### EMBROIDERED HATS

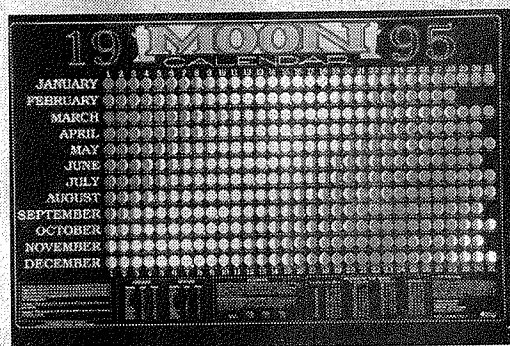
Information Center Manager Shannon Nelson and her friend Rudy (Shannon's the one with glasses) show off our brand new designs. Shannon wears the legionnaire hat, with its ear and neck shades—great for hiking; Rudy sports the baseball cap.

*Legionnaire hat: Select from white or khaki; \$14.00  
Baseball cap: Select from royal blue, red, or gray; \$10.00*

### BIRD CALLS

Another great stocking stuffer! A call for any number of backyard birds, easily operated by the most fumble-fingered members of our staff. Optional is an identification book of species you just may find nearby as you chirp, trill, and caw your way to becoming a better birder.

*Bird call with Klutz Press guide: \$9.95; bird call only: \$5.50*



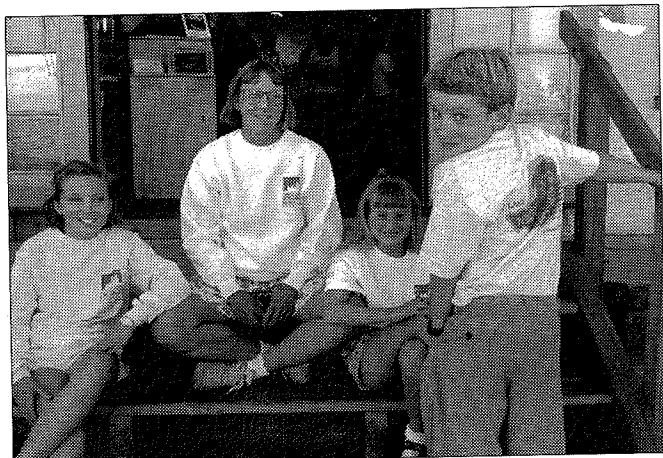
### 1995 MOON CALENDAR CARDS & POSTERS

The phases of the moon, organized by month, for the new year. An essential for photographers, amateur astronomers, and people of taste, this attractive chart is perfect for the desktop or Christmas stocking!

*10 1/4" x 6 1/2" card: \$2.00  
20 1/2" x 32 1/2" poster: \$11.00*

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 GIFT CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER

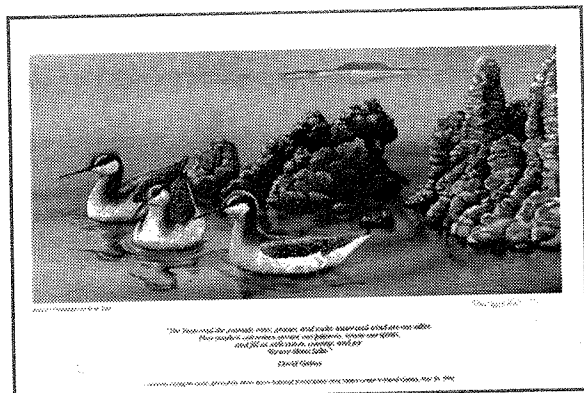




### MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO T-SHIRT

The Gaines clan (Sally, Vireo, and Sage) and friend Anna Scofield relax in this Patagonia-designed favorite. The Committee's logo is up front, and on the back, a tri-color graphic of a shrinking Mono Lake.

*Colors: Select from white or heather gray.  
Short sleeve: \$14.00; long sleeve: \$20.00;  
heavy duty sweatshirt: \$26.00*



### LIMITED-EDITION COMMEMORATIVE PRINT

Issued in honor of Mono Lake Committee founder David Gaines at the dedication of the National Forest Service Scenic Area Visitor Center to his memory in 1992. This beautiful lithograph depicting phalaropes on the shores of the lake is individually signed and numbered by the artist, Sherrie Russell Maline, and comes with a certificate of authenticity. Issued in a limited edition of 500. Proceeds benefit interpretation and environmental restoration in the Mono Basin.  
*Now only \$25.00 (previously \$49)*



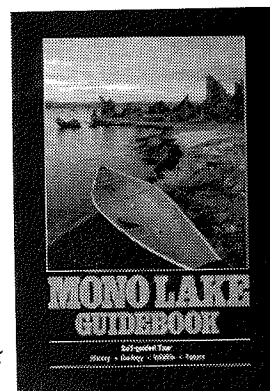
### LAPEL PINS

New for 1994-95 ... the Committee's tri-color logo as a 3/4" x 7/8" pin with a military clutch. A must for collectors and Monophiles ... and an excellent stocking stuffer! **\$2.95**

### MONO LAKE GUIDEBOOK

The Committee classic. Dozens of charts, graphs, and black-and-white photographs illustrate this handy and informative look at the lake's natural and political history by Committee founder David Gaines. Fourth edition, revised 1989.

*Softcover, 104 pages,  
illustrated: \$8.95*



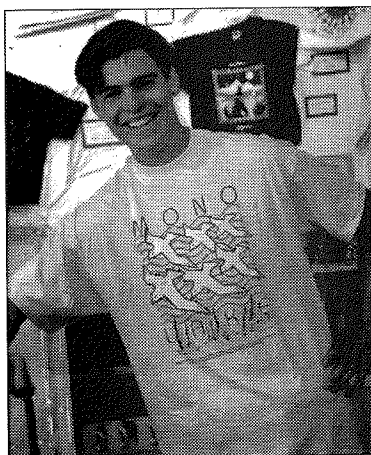
### RECYCLED PLASTIC MUGS

A new Carl Dennis Buell design adds to the selection of these favorites: It features a pair of red-tail hawks—one in flight and one resting on tufa—on a jet-black mug of one-hundred percent recycled plastic. Mix or match with two other designs: a rabbit and coyote on a teal mug, and a pair of eared grebes on your choice of black or teal mug.

**\$6.00 each; 4 or more: \$5.00 each**



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 GIFT CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER



### MONO MODERN T-SHIRT

Summer intern Doug Knepp, whose Oregon family at Darnell Design came to the Committee's aid with the design, wears this Escher-esque shirt featuring patterns of gulls and waves before a grove of tufa, with a message encouraging your friends to support the Committee's efforts.

*Shirt colors: Select from natural (off-white) or ash gray.*

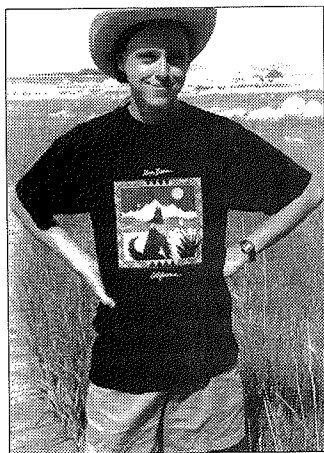
*Short sleeve: \$15.00*

### SALE! MILK BOTTLES

From Broguiere's milk-so-fresh-the-cows-don't-know-its-missing Dairy, these bottles (in circulation in Southern California in late 1993-early 1994) feature the Broguiere's cow on one side and the Committee logo on the other.

These collectables may be worth twice the price by the time you get 'em! Complete with plastic cap.

*\$4.00 each; 3 or more: \$3.00 each*



### HOWLING COYOTE T-SHIRT

Colorful graphics celebrate the trickster of Indian mythology—and the Mono Basin's most famous canine. Summer intern Tim Tierney looks good in black, a color offered for the first time this year, along with the familiar ash gray and white styles.

*Shirt colors: Select from white, heather gray, or black.*

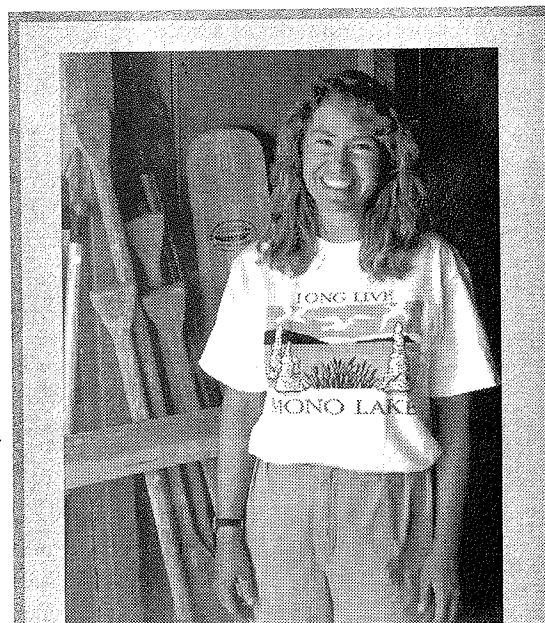
*Short sleeve: \$15.00*



### MONO LAKE LICENSE PLATE HOLDER

Spread the word about the lake wherever you travel with this heavy duty frame ... even if you don't have the coolest plate in your state. (Thanks to Ernie and Pat Peigne, who do!)

*\$4.95*



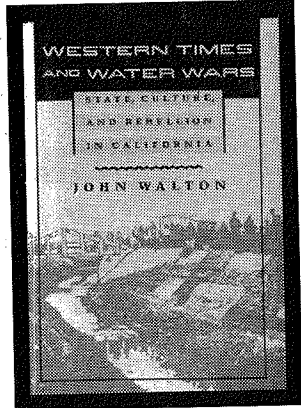
### LONG LIVE MONO LAKE T-SHIRT

Canoe guide and local teacher Karyn Helfrich sports a design featuring the gulls and tufa she explores on the lake during summer weekends. Thanks to Ed and crew at Designs Unlimited for the donation of their creative talents on this new shirt.

*Shirt colors: Select from ash or white.*

*Short Sleeve: \$14.00*

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 GIFT CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER



### WESTERN TIMES AND WATER WARS

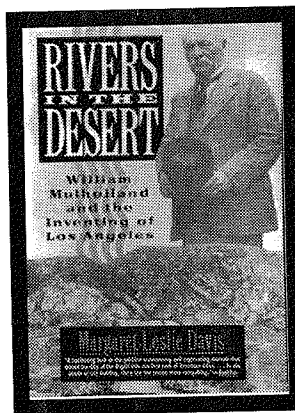
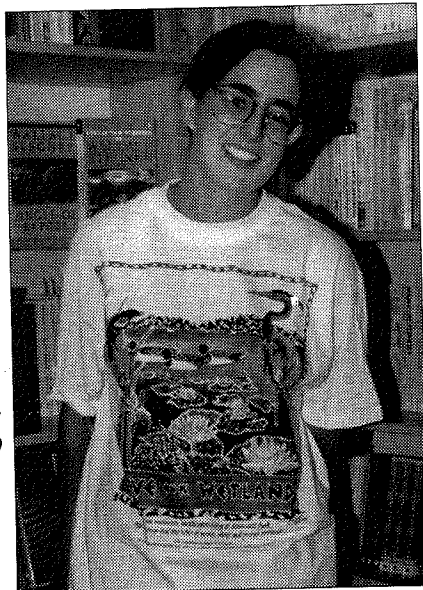
John Walton chronicles more than a hundred years of tumultuous events in the history of California's Owens Valley. From the pioneer conquest of the native inhabitants to the infamous destruction of the valley's agrarian economy by water-hungry Los Angeles, this legendary setting is a microcosm of the development of the American West.

*Hardcover, 378 pages, 32 photographs: \$30.00*

### SAVE THE WETLANDS T-SHIRT

Summer intern Ellen Croome sports this colorful reminder of a once-bountiful habitat along the Mono Lake's pre-diversion shores, with a small text detailing ways we can preserve the rapidly-disappearing wetlands in this country.

*Shirt color: White  
Short sleeve: \$15.00*

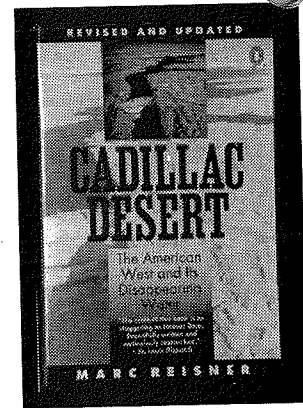


### RIVERS IN THE DESERT

This epic American story recounts how William Mulholland's vision, daring, and engineering genius transformed a sparsely populated desert town into modern Los Angeles. He

masterminded construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, then the Western Hemisphere's longest, only to fall from grace when the dam he built to safeguard his beloved city's water supply mysteriously collapsed, killing at least five hundred people. Margaret Leslie Davis tells the story of the birth and development of southern California.

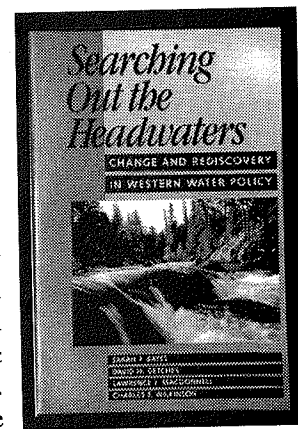
*Softcover, 303 pages, 30 photographs: \$13.00*



### CADILLAC DESERT

The story of the American West is the story of a relentless quest for a precious resource: water. It is a tale of rivers diverted and dammed, of political corruption and intrigue, of billion-dollar battles over water rights, of ecological and economic disaster. Based on more than ten years of research, Marc Reisner brings us a stunning expose and a dramatic, intriguing history of the creation of an Eden—one that may be only a mirage. New edition.

*Softcover, 582 pages, 30 photographs: \$14.95*



### SEARCHING OUT THE HEADWATERS

Western water is governed by one of the most outmoded collections of rules found anywhere in American public policy. Written by Sarah F. Bates, assistant director of the

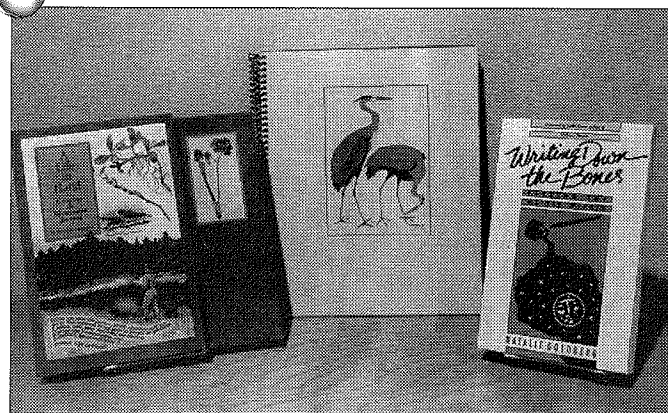
Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Colorado School of Law, this book provides an important framework for understanding the waters of the West and the people whose lives and livelihoods depend on them.

An excellent and thorough examination of the context and history of western water issues.

*Softcover, 242 pages: \$17.95*

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER

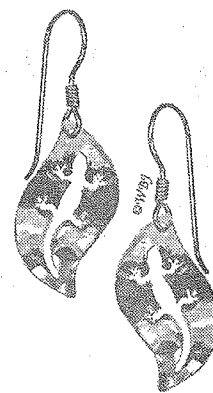




## WRITING DOWN THE BONES

Natalie Goldberg's popular, touching, and humorous primer on not just putting what's inside on paper, but finding out what is inside. For writers, writer wanna-bes, journalers, and anyone interested in getting in touch with themselves; a must-read.

Softcover: \$10.00



## A LIFE IN HAND

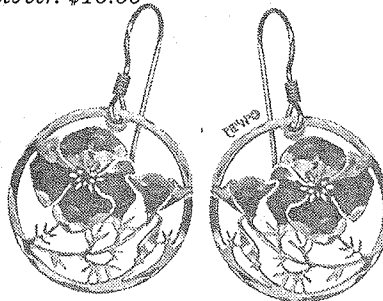
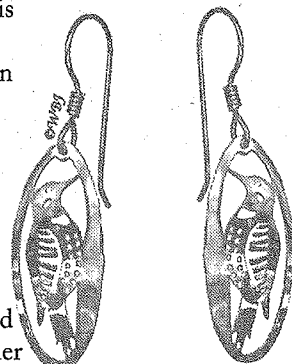
For new or experienced journalers, this set combines a blank journal with "an illustrated handbook for discovering in the world through writing and drawing." By Hannah Hinchman.

Softcover, 144 pages (blank book: 150 pages), illustrated: \$19.95

## CRANE CREEK SKETCH BOOK

Graceful great blue herons hold court the cover of this 9" x 11" book filled with high-quality, 100% post-consumer recycled, acid-free sketch paper.

Hardcover, 60 sheets: \$17.95



## WILD BRYDE EARRINGS

Three new designs from an old friend! Shown at actual size.

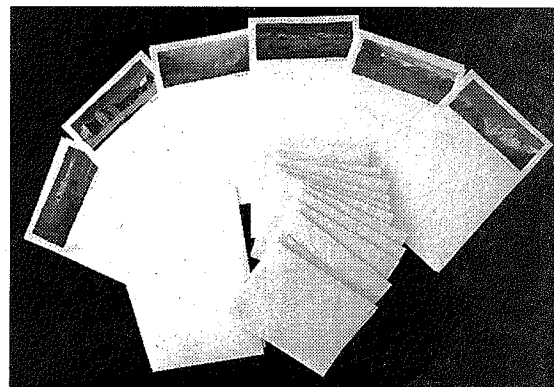
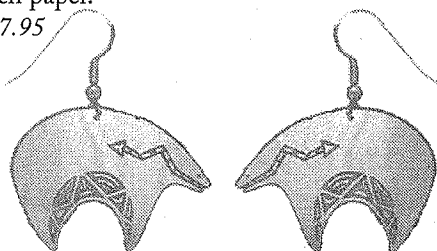
Select from gold or silver.

Flicker: \$16.00; Poppy: \$18.00; Lizard on leaf: \$11.00

## ALCHEMISTS' EARRINGS

Designs inspired by Native American rock art. Approximately 3/8"; shown enlarged here.

Bear, nickel with copper trim; Navajo wedding basket, nickel with copper trim: each \$12.00



## EASTERN SIERRA PHOTO STATIONERY

A favorite from seasons past, Jim Stroup's striking images illustrate this 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" writing paper. Each pack includes 12 illustrated sheets, 12 blank sheets, and 12 envelopes.

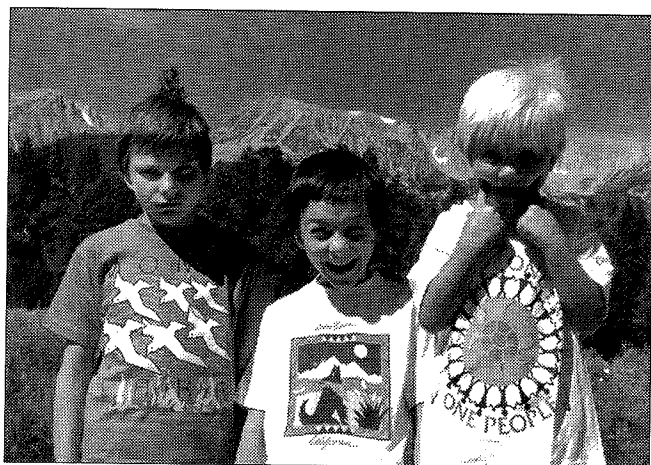
Select from Mono Lake, Bodie, Yosemite, or an assortment pack (includes two each of Bodie, Mono Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Bishop, and Yosemite): \$6.95

## TWIG PENCILS

More stuff for the stocking. These pencils are created from actual twigs of softwood trees. \$2.00



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER



### KIDS' T-SHIRTS

Nick and Ryan Carle and Bodie Tureson "just being kids" in three of our best-selling adult shirts, downsized for the younger generation. Celebrate the Mono Basin with your favorite youngster!

*Mono Modern shirt color: Red*

*Howling Coyote shirt colors: Select from white or ash*

*One Sky, One Earth, One People shirt color: White*

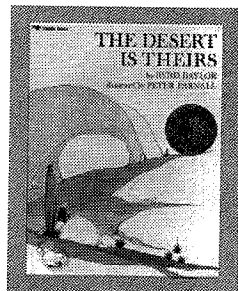
*All three designs available in kids' sizes small (6/8), medium (10/12), or large (14/16): \$10.00*



### JUST A DREAM

When it comes to the environment, young Walter is not an enlightened individual. He's a litterbug who thinks his friend's birthday present, a tree, is the most ridiculous gift he's ever seen. One night, Walter wishes he could visit the future—and when he returns to the present he is changed. From a Caldecott award-winning author.

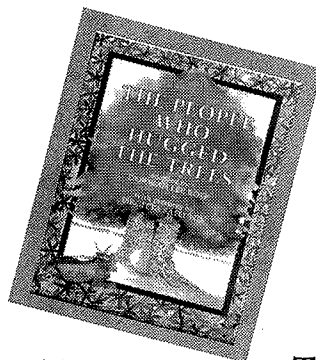
*Hardcover, 45 pages, illustrated: \$17.95*



### THE DESERT IS THEIRS

You may think of the desert as a harsh, dry place where no one would ever want to live—but think again. The desert people know. So do the animals. Both love the land and share the feeling of being brothers in the desert, of being desert creatures together.

*Softcover, 28 pages, illustrated: \$4.95*



### THE PEOPLE WHO HUGGED THE TREES

Based on a classic folk tale of India, this book retells for children the story of the first Chipko ("Hug-the-Tree") people. Exquisitely illustrated with watercolors of rural Rajasthan, the author brings to life the story of an entire community's inspiration to protect their environment.

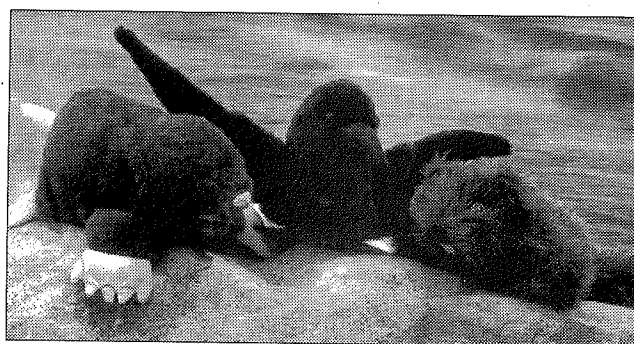
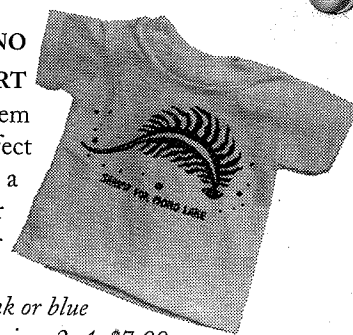
*Hardcover, 30 pages, illustrated: \$13.95*

### SHRIMP FOR MONO T-SHIRT

We believe you've got to get 'em while their young! The perfect way for your newborn (or a friend's!) to state the case for Mono Lake. A great shower gift as well!

*Shirt colors: Select from pink or blue*

*Infant sizes 2, 4: \$7.00*



### RAVEN, BEAVER, & MOLE PUPPETS

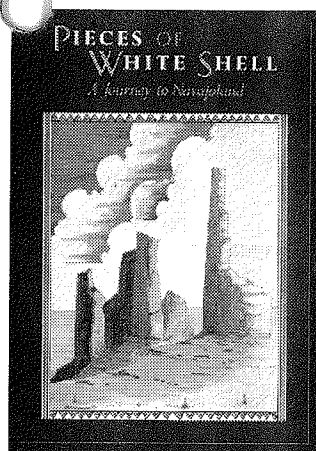
These furry (and feathered) friends from Folkmanis attract as much attention from parents as from kids! All known to frequent the Mono Basin, they each come with a card listing interesting information about each critter.

*Surface washable in cold water.*

*Mole: \$18.00; Raven: \$20.00;*

*Beaver: \$18.00*

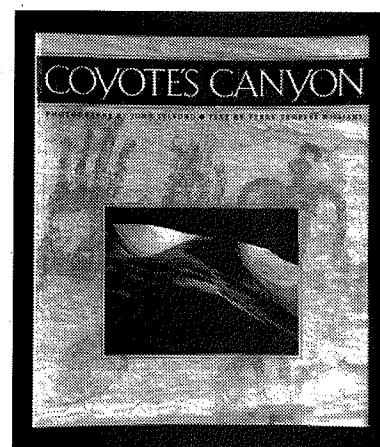
MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER



## PIECES OF WHITE SHELL

This unusual book is an introduction to Navajo culture by an expert storyteller. Steeped in the lore of the Navajo reservation, where she worked as a teacher, Williams came to see Navajo legend and ritual as touchstones for evaluating her own experience. She presents them here as a means for all people to locate their own history, traditions, and sense of how to live well.

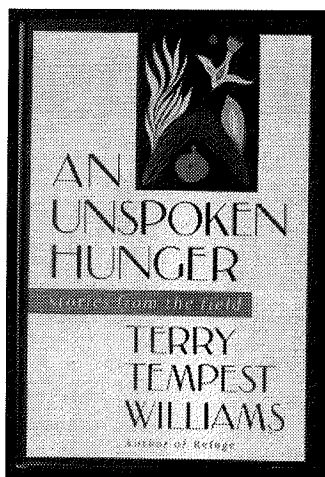
*Softcover, 162 pages: \$10.95*



## COYOTE'S CANYON

This collaboration between writer Williams and photographer John Telford is an intimate meditation on one of the earth's most extraordinary landscapes: Utah's canyonlands. The spectacular photographs are combined with enchanting stories celebrating the legend and ritual surrounding this sacred place, creating a compelling new mythology for desert lovers.

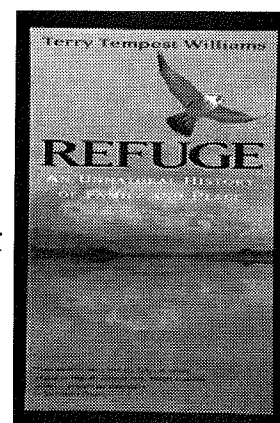
*Softcover, 96 pages, 60 color plates: \$17.95*



## AN UNSPOKEN HUNGER

This work brings together the passion of personal experience and the presence of political commitment with a series of detailed and beautifully rendered portraits illuminating the strength that helped to form Georgia O'Keeffe, Rachel Carson, Edward Abbey, and others who lived their lives outside the expectations of normalcy and orthodoxy. Williams explores our unspoken hunger, our desire for a life of greater intention.

*Hardcover, 144 pages: \$19.50*



## REFUGE

Interweaving a tale of personal tragedy, her mother's battle against cancer, with one of ecological devastation, the threatened destruction of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Williams transforms a record of loss into a document of renewal and spiritual grace.

*Softcover, 290 pages: \$11.00*

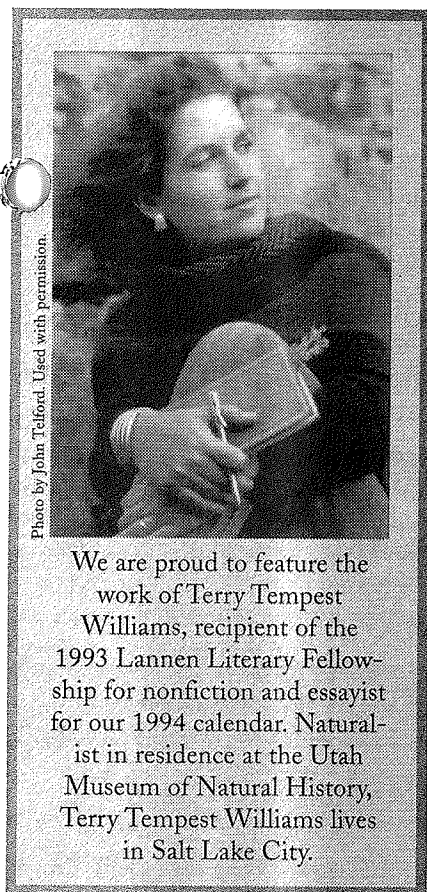


Photo by John Telford. Used with permission.

We are proud to feature the work of Terry Tempest Williams, recipient of the 1993 Lannen Literary Fellowship for nonfiction and essayist for our 1994 calendar. Naturalist in residence at the Utah Museum of Natural History, Terry Tempest Williams lives in Salt Lake City.

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE 1994 - 1995 CATALOG • CALL (619) 647-6595 TO ORDER

## SHIP TO

GIFT MESSAGE

## COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD



Help us evaluate this new Mono Lake Committee fundraising idea

# Mono Lake license plate survey

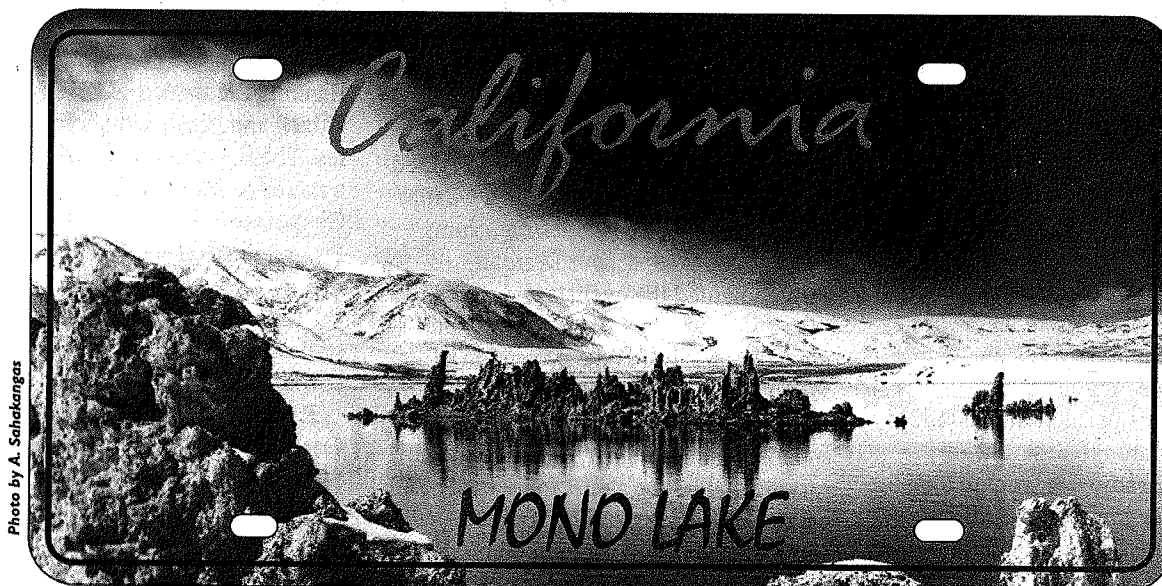


Photo by A. Sahakian

(conceptual design only)

## What in the world is a Mono Lake License Plate?

A Mono Lake license plate would be an official license plate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles for automobiles registered in California. The plate would be distinguished by a "full-color graphic scene" depicting Mono Lake (see concept design above). *The Mono Lake Committee would benefit financially through the sale of these special plates.*

## How does the Mono Lake Committee benefit?

*The Mono Lake Committee would get a portion of the fees collected from the sale of these plates.* In addition, MLC would be **guaranteed** half of the annual renewal fee. Most of this fee would be a tax-deductible charity donation. Further, these special license plates would show other motorists — throughout California and wherever you drive — your desire to **Help Save Mono Lake.**

## How much would these Mono Lake License Plates cost?

Initially, the plates would cost approximately 30 to 60 dollars. Renewal fees would be approximately one-half of the initial cost. Personalized plates would also be available for a slightly higher fee.

## What can I do to make Mono Lake License Plates a reality?

You can help put Mono Lake license plates on your automobile by filling out and returning the informational survey below.

**Before we can proceed, we need to show that at least 5,000 people are interested in this program.** We need members like you to show their enthusiasm by returning the survey below.

This is no small task, as you may imagine. If there is sufficient interest, we will proceed. Please help us by returning the survey today.

**Help Save Mono Lake** and put Mono Lake License Plates in California's future.

***This is the second printing of this fundraising survey. Results will appear in the winter issue of the Newsletter.***

## Here is my Mono Lake License Plate survey!

1. Besides myself, I know \_\_\_\_ others interested in purchasing a Mono Lake license plate.
2. I think I could help sell \_\_\_\_ more license plates to friends, relatives, and business associates.
3. I would be willing to pay \$30 \$40 \$50 \$60 in \_\_\_\_ additional fees for a Mono Lake License Plate.
4. \_\_\_\_ This is a great idea—what can I do to help?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Mark Coolidge, Motor Vehicle License Systems  
26841 Oak Hollow Road, Laguna Hills, CA 92653-7510  
714/367-0400 or fax: 714/367-0505



# Bike-A-Thon draws enthusiastic riders and broad political support

The 15th annual Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon kicked off with a VIP-studded press conference in front of the Department of Water and Power (DWP) headquarters in Los Angeles and concluded with the traditional Rehydration Ceremony and Annual Meeting at Mono Lake six days later.

Between these two events the hard work of the Bike-A-Thon took place as dedicated cyclists pedaled the 350 miles to Mono Lake through desert heat, against strong headwinds, and up 8,000 feet of elevation gain. Each cyclist carried on their bicycle a small vial of water dipped from the reflecting pools in front of the DWP building. At the ride's concluding Rehydration Ceremony on the shore of Mono Lake, the water is returned to the lake in a show of support for raising the lake's level in the future.

The Bike-A-Thon, which ran from August 29 to September 3, is the Committee's largest fundraising event and one of the major ways in which Mono Lake supporters show their allegiance to the lake each year. Over 90 riders participated this year. For more on the ride, see the article by Pete Smith on the facing page.

## L.A. Mayor supports ride

L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan was one of the many political dignitaries who joined with the Committee to provide a wealth of support for the concept of returning water to the lake. Mayor Riordan complemented the cyclists and urged the crowd gathered in front of DWP's building to work towards the protection of Mono Lake. "Let us all do our part, whether it be pedaling to Mono Lake, supporting a bike rider, or actively conserving water," he said. "Individually, we can make a difference. Together, we can meet our water needs and preserve this great natural beauty: Mono Lake."

The press conference also featured speeches from Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency Jim Strock, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, and Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, and the support of L.A. Environmental Affairs Commissioner Ed Begley, Jr., all of whom dipped water from the reflecting pools and sent them off with bikers for the lake.

Joining the city leaders—and also filling vials of water—were two high-level DWP officials: Dennis Tito, President of

the DWP Commission (DWP's Board of Directors); and DWP's new general manager, William McCarley. Their presence was a significant indication of the credibility the MLC has built in Los Angeles and the momentum behind the protection of Mono Lake.

Swelling the ranks of Mono Lake supporters

flanking the lectern were a number of citizen and youth groups from Los Angeles. These groups, some of which have traveled to Mono Lake with the Committee's new Outdoor Experiences Program (see article, page 4) are doing the work of creating a water-conserving future for Los Angeles through the installation of low-flow toilets and other conservation work.

Representatives from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, The First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Keeping the World at Peace, The Mountains Education Program, Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles, The Mothers of East L. A., The Manzanar Committee, and the Department of Children's Services showed their support for reducing DWP's diversions from the Mono B. Mayor Riordan praised their involvement in civic life, saying "I applaud all the supporters here today, particularly the children. They show that the future leadership of the city of Los Angeles will be in the hands of people who care."

## Annual Meeting celebrates first year of AB 444 funding

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Mono Lake Committee, which follows the arrival of the Bike-A-Thoners at Mono Lake and the Rehydration Ceremony, honored the three people who made the funding happen for the AB 444 agreement (see article, page 5): Secretary Strock, State Senator Tim Leslie, and Mono County Supervisor Mike Jarvis.

The meeting also featured a talk by Morrison & Foerster attorney Patrick Flynn, who, with attorney Bruce Dodge, represents the MLC in the legal proceedings to protect the lake. Flynn reviewed the Water Board situation and answered questions about their not-yet-released decision. Tunes followed from the H Desert Band as cyclists, supporters, and staff celebrated the completion of another successful Bike-A-Thon.



Mayor of Los Angeles Richard Riordan, second rider from left, and L.A. Environmental Affairs Commissioner Ed Begley, Jr., fourth from left, head out with the 1994 Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon.

# On the road with the Bike-A-Thon

by Pete Smith

**W**ell hello everyone. Pete Smith here. I've been asked to put a few words on paper about the recent Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon.

Who the heck is Pete Smith? I'm the volunteer loosely in charge of SAG, or support and gear, stops (water, snack, & shade stops). Been doing it for about seven years now. Let's start at the beginning.

In case you haven't been reading this newsletter in the past, the Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon is the Committee's largest fundraiser. Cyclists from all over the country, and world, gather the week before Labor Day for a most unusual ride. Each rider comes with monetary support from friends and family, and that's what enables the Mono Lake Committee to defend our beloved lake.

Day one, starting at the headquarters of the Department of Water & Power in downtown Los Angeles, close to 100 cyclists listen to speeches by Martha Davis, the Mayor, and City Council Members. Then, as cameras click and videos video, they scoop up a vial of water from the reflecting pool and tape it to their bicycles. Off to Mono Lake they head.

Wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the war cry "Save Mono Lake" they thread their way through L.A. traffic, closely paralleling the infamous L.A. Aqueduct. Myself and several other volunteers position ourselves every ten to fifteen miles to provide much needed replenishment.

This year, day one (65 miles) was fairly uneventful. The temperature was down from previous years and everyone seemed to make it to the pool in Palmdale without incident.

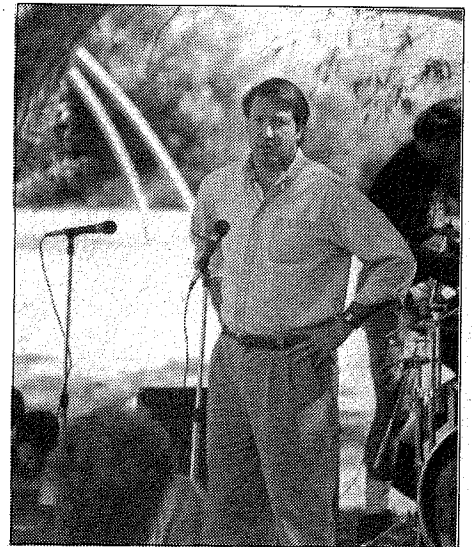
The second day (89 miles) cuts directly through the Mojave Desert. Whew! I had the first stop at 27 miles out. (There were numerous breakfast stops before me). To try and beat the first cyclist came through at about 6:30 in the morning. While

everyone tanked up on water, fruit, and PowerBars, I asked a few why they were doing the ride. Answers ranged from concern for the lake, the birds, and the ecosystem in general, to the good ol' "for the fun of it." 100 degrees, 89 miles; dedication is what I call it.

After a cold shower via hose in Inyokern it's off to The Two Sisters Restaurant for dinner and yodeling.

Day three (69 miles) goes from Inyokern to Lone Pine. Fairly flat, but some elevation gain throughout. This year we were lucky to have the owners of the Coso Junction Gas Station welcome us with open arms. Wonderful shade trees, grass, and the general store right within reach. Hey, they're not stupid. Cold water and PowerBars go only so far. Pepsi and Snickers sales augmented their till that day.

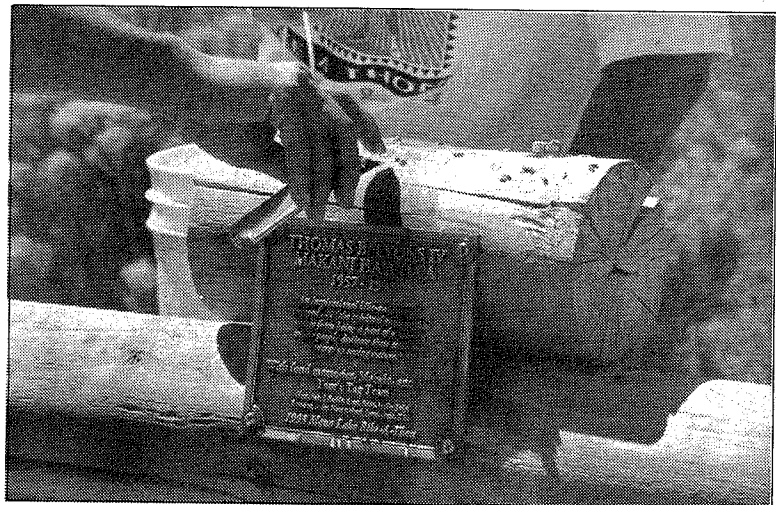
I have no idea who, but at my SAG stop on day three someone dropped a page of their travel notes. It sums up the rigors of the ride. "Really good time," "a



*Jim Strock, Secretary of the California EPA, addressed the Annual Meeting crowd.*

third of a tube of Bengay per day," "freight trains saluting, listening to nothing but the sound of my panting and the whirl of my wheels." It goes on to explain saddle sores from a woman's perspective, but you get the picture ...

Day 4, Lone Pine to Bishop (63 miles). I had the delight to be stationed at Manzanar. The W.W.II Japanese-American internment camp. It gave riders a chance to view how cruel we can be to one another as well as our planet. It is now a National Monument. Ranger ➤



*Bike-A-Thon cyclists remembered rider Tom Lyons, who died in 1992, by pouring a portion of the water they carried from Los Angeles onto the bench that honors his memory. Located at Old Marina with the help of Janet Carle, the bench offers a panoramic view of Mono Lake. It was constructed last fall by Holly Owen and Brian Pence and dedicated by Tom's friends and family.*

# Thanks to the 1994 Bike-A-Thon cyclists and sponsors ...

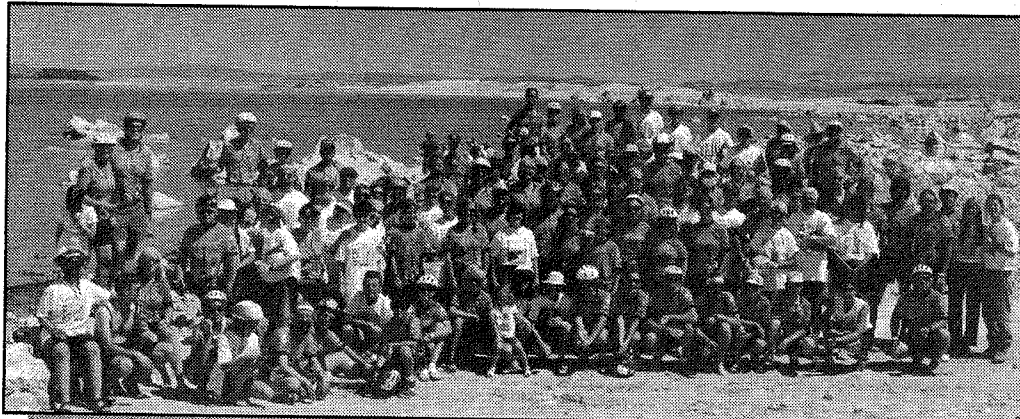


Photo by Pete Smith

The 1994 Bike-A-Thon cyclists at Mono Lake. This photo by SAG-master Pete Smith is available as a full-color panoramic print, approximately 7" x 16" in size, for \$25 each including postage (California residents please add sales tax of 7%). Pete writes that "the meager profits will help future SAGs." Order by October 28 from: Viewfinders, P.O. Box 913, Lemon Grove, CA 91946 or call (619) 463-7292.



**JVC**  
JVC COMPANY OF AMERICA  
DIVISION OF US JVC CORP.

**patagonia**

**PowerBar**  
ATHLETIC ENERGY FOOD  
Fuel for Optimum Performance

**MVLS**  
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE SYSTEMS

**The Gas Company**

**BACKROADS**  
**Teva**  
THE SPORT SANDAL.

**GTE**

Redwoods  
River  
Resort

**RYDER**

**MRS. GOOCH'S**

**Dole**

**HALO**

**Sport Snax**  
ENERGY BAR

**Sparkletts**



As Hopkins spent time with us explaining the history, and listening to ours.

A big treat on day 4 was the elk at stop number 3, and the massive flock of snow geese overhead. The riders seem to appreciate mother nature, both animal and mineral. For soon after they veer off the route and soak their tired bones at Keogh Hot Springs. Dinner (and then breakfast) await them at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, along with some soul-empowering prayers for their efforts and the ride yet to come (not to mention an impromptu bat catching contest).

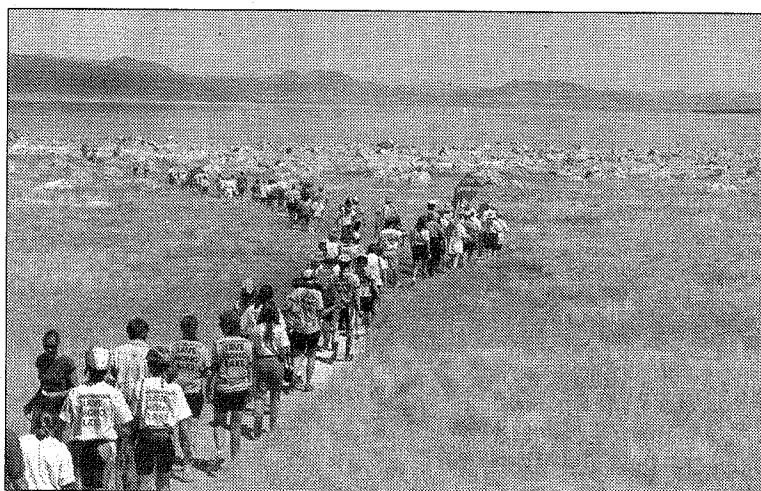
Day five (52 miles). Up old Sherwin Grade. Climbing about 2500 feet in 10 miles. Here comes Brent Coeur-Barron having done all his training in the 16 miles before the climb. Then our third generation, 10-year-old rider Logan Green climbs onto his 20 inch bicycle and heads off. Everyone made it. Don't ask me how. Sure would like to read what my journal writer put in her notes that day.

At camp that night everyone shares the best and worst. The headwinds; how great the SAGs are (thanks); continuing on after a bad case of roadrash; "what the heck did we just eat???" but overall the camaraderie and accomplishment reign supreme.

Last day is day six (45 miles). What a celebration! More riders join the group in Mammoth. Close to 100 now. Even most of the Committee staff tag along.

Donning tight bicycle shorts and the whole nine yards. Finally the riders see The Lake. The cause of all the effort. Everyone gathers in Lee Vining, then pedals down to the old marina en masse. What a sight to see. There they are greeted by friends and family and what used to be called the bucket walkers.

The mood turns reflective. Many pause to pour a drop or two on a small monument to long time Bike-A-Thoner Tom Lyons, then off to the shoreline. After Martha says a few words they in unison pour the vials of water into The Lake, where it was originally destined. Hugs,



kisses, and high fives are everywhere.

Back in the saddle for another three miles to County Park. There more speeches, praise, thanks. More hugs, kisses, and high fives, and not a few tears as we all say goodbye till next year.

So that's the Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon in a nutshell. Sound like fun? It was. How about next year you peddle along, or be a SAG driver? We could use you—and the Lake needs you.

*Pete Smith is a perpetual Bike-A-Thon volunteer. His SAG stops have created many a happy cyclist.* 🚲

## The Cyclists

Carl Anderson, Sing Yee Anderson, Scott Barth, Grant Beckler, Pete Bischoff, Pamela Braswell, Linda Campbell, Janet Carle, David Casseres, Rebecca Chamlee, Brent Coeur-Barron, Dave Collender, Jack Collender, Mark Coolidge, Jeannie Cosby, Tim Decker, Michael Dressler, Erica Drexel, Diana Dulen, Rick Eaton, Mike Eaton, Ford Edgerton, Lynne Edgerton, Dana Edwards, Lorna Falkenstein, Paul Falkenstein, Carolyn Ferrell, Jason Georges, Hamidah Glasgow, Michael Green, Gerald Green, Denny Green, Paul Green, Diane Harlan, Paul Heller, Dennis Houle, Rich Howe, Leanne Jarvis, Mike Jessen, Ruti Kadish, Larry Kawalec, Emily Kenyon,

Mhaatama Khalsa, Dennis King, Patty Kline, Julie Klingman, Barbara Kniffen, Allison Lancaster, Sam Leffler, Carol Levine, Laura Lind, Cynthia Livingston, Tom McGillis, Jill McIntire, Bill Mendoza, Pat Monzo, Suzanne Morse, Doug Much, Andrea Opalenik, Holly Owen, David Rice, Ian Riedel, Krehe Ritter, Barbara Rivines, Donald Rivines, Robin Roberts, Charlie Sager, Eric Saibel, Jim Sayer, Steve Schmidt, Cat Skinner, Glenn Skinner, Frank Smith, Arthur Sorrell, Ann Springer, Jack Springer, Bob Stenz, Pat Sullivan, David Thorley, George Tredick, Tony Trotta, Clyde Underwood, Susan Urquhart, Jennifer Van Dorn, Kerry Van Dorn, David Wimpheimer, Shelli Wineman, Dennis Wright, Herb Wright, Lynn Yamamoto, and Randy Zigler.

## The support team

### Head SAG drivers:

Pete and Cherie Smith

### Full time support (SAG) drivers:

Joan Humphrey, Irving Fatt, Marina Kolupanova, David Wollman, Sarah Masser, Cristin Pescosolido, Stacey Simon

### Part time SAG drivers:

Helen Green, Jane Krogsrud, Lorna Falkenstein, Alexa Williams, Ista Glasgow, Holly Owen, Jack Springer, Ann Springer, Katy Taylor

**Special thanks to:** Michael Dressler for helping to organize activities along the route • Julie Klingman and Herb Wright for getting Tina to Hess Park on time via bicycle! • St. Timothy's Church • Brent Coeur-Barron for this year's pre-start meeting location • Alexa Williams for enabling staff to ride on day 6.

# Staff migrations

by Jennifer Naquin and Geoffrey McQuilkin

Joining the Committee clan is **Libby Ellis**, our new Board of Directors member. Libby is the Director of Environmental Programs at Patagonia where she oversees grantmaking, directs the company's participation in environmental issues, and coordinates grassroots support and training.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin and former backcountry ranger in Grand Canyon National Park, Libby brings strong skills in effective management, organizational development, and sales to the Committee. She may also teach us a thing or two about rock climbing; her fellow workers at Patagonia testify that her skills are dazzling.

Libby will be married this fall to her longtime climbing partner and friend Stuart Ruckman. Welcome, and good luck!

We bid a very fond farewell to our bookkeeper of nearly 3 years, **Kathi Richards**, who will be relocating to Marin County in order to spend more time with her mother. Kathi came to us from the Living History Center (Renaissance Pleasure Faire). With her meticulous bookkeeping skills and strong work ethic, Kathi has been a motivational tour-de-force in our L.A. office. No one else will ever make staff meetings move along quite as efficiently.

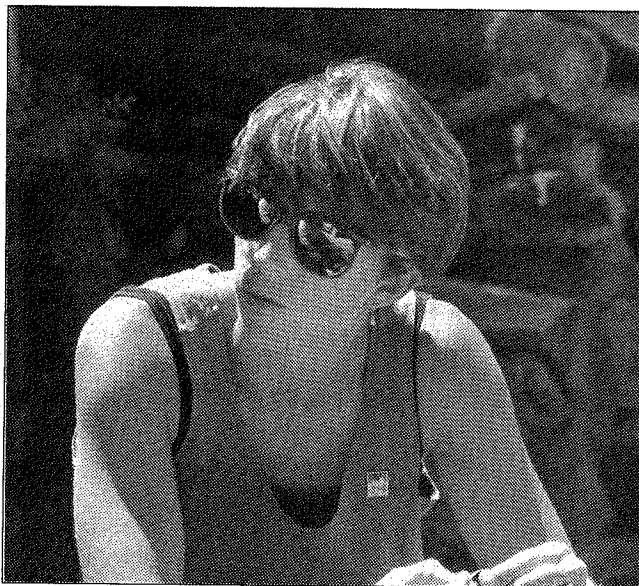
Overlooked in our summer issue was **Karyn Helfrich**, who did a superb job of coordinating our canoe tours this summer. Karyn expanded our canoe tour program to include Fridays in addition to the

usual weekend offerings. She will be missed when she relocates to Bishop this fall to begin her new job as a high school English and French teacher.

We wish the best of luck to all of our hard-working summer interns.

**Jenny Naquin** will be returning to Flagstaff, Arizona, to take the GRE, apply to grad schools, and save money for a climbing trip to Europe in the spring. **Ellen Croome** will be taking her newly discovered climbing muscles back to Cambridge University, where she will finish her studies in geography. **Colin Saunders** has studied diligently for the GRE all summer and is prepared to ace it when he returns to Humboldt State University to complete his degree in biology. **Doug Knepp's** youthful spontaneity will be greatly missed by staff and visitors alike when he returns to Eagle Point High School in Medford, Oregon, to begin his junior year.

Also departing are the summer Canoe Guides. **Mark Lake** is returning to school at UC Santa Cruz to finish up his degree in American Studies. **Dan Stauffer** plans to spend some time relaxing in Mexico while **David Baroffio** will be teaching at an out-

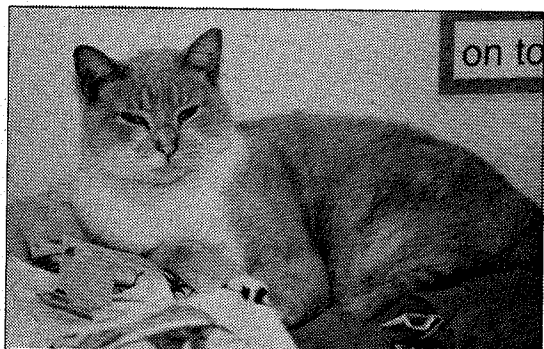


*Libby Ellis was elected to the Mono Lake Committee Board of Directors this summer. Employed at Patagonia, Libby brings expertise in development, environmental affairs, sales, and rock climbing.*

door education school. **Laurie Trefry** will have calmer weekends here in the Mono Basin, and **Matt Banta** heads back to high school in Lee Vining.

We are delighted to have intern **Tim "tourman" Tierney** staying on as a fall intern. Tim's entertaining personality is further complemented by his hummin' and strummin' on the acoustic guitar, sure to warm up many a cool fall evening.

*Jenny Naquin was a summer intern with the Committee. She introduced us all to the language of rock climbing.*



*Photo by Rick Knepp*

An unfortunate goodbye goes out to the Committee's store mascot, visitor greeter, and official mouser, who disappeared in early August. Aldo, named after conservationist Aldo Leopold, had become a fixture in the store and a friend of staff and Mono Lake visitors. If you might have news of his whereabouts, please contact Shannon Nelson at (619) 647-6595.

Aldo took up residence under the Information Center and Bookstore in early 1993 after his owners moved out of state, leaving him behind. Lured into the building with the promise of wet food, Aldo ultimately made a home in the back storeroom of the building. As pictured, he was particularly fond of turning new T-shirts into sale T-shirts by sleeping—and shedding—on them.

# Volunteers, donors lend support

## In Memoriam

**Kennard Seyller** was remembered by **Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Dorman**, of Fresno, with a gift to the Committee.

**Doris Dryer** was remembered by Monophile **Mark Coolidge**, of Laguna Hills; **Dan Mayo**, of Merced; **Susi Baker**, of Northridge; **John Phillips**, from Riverside; and **Marylynn Yates**, of Riverside.

**James Wilson**, a resident of Bishop, made a gift toward the preservation of Mono Lake in memory of **Lee Wilson**.

**Tom Lyons**, an enthusiastic Bike-A-Thon rider, was remembered with a donation to the Committee by **Tony Kilroy** of San Francisco.

**Catherine Hobbs**, a Westminster resident, remembered her brother **Jack Pelose** and her niece **Sanda J. Pelose**; Catherine and her brother lived in Lee Vining from 1930 to 1942.

## Special gifts

**Mr. G. Denny Mallory** gave a talk to the Bay Area Bird Photographers. He kindly endorsed his honorarium to the Mono Lake Committee.

At the request of **Ms. Raquel Newman**, the Committee received a grant from the Jewish Community Endowment Fund.

The vivacious and charismatic **Stuart Rankin Boone** from **Energy Productions** donated a 486 computer for MLC use.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks go out to the many volunteers and in-kind donors who have assisted the Committee.

**Alexa Williams**, of Hollywood, runs a silkscreening business and kindly donated the printing of both Bike-A-Thon and summer activity posters.

**Carroll Evans**, of Ridgecrest, has gone well beyond the call of duty in helping us improve our slideshow room. Carroll, and his brothers **Larry Evans**

**Ken Evans**, braved the attic to install cable and new speakers in the room. And, just recently, Carroll delivered

a handsome slide projector stand which will put the best light on the show.

**Jimmy Bemis** created a helpful computer program to track Bike-A-Thon riders, sponsors, and donors.

**Staci and Alex Turcott** of **Your Personal Mailbox**, in Burbank, have consistently gone "above and beyond" in meeting our shipping needs.

Labor attorney **Susan Kemp**, of Vacaville, has been generous with her time and expertise in guiding us through an update of our personnel policy.

**Ken Lane**, an Oakland resident, surprised us by dropping off a fine drafting table for our use.

The new concessionaire in Yosemite National Park, **Yosemite Concession Services**, has shown their support for Mono Lake with a generous donation in support of the Committee's summer interpretive program.

**The Blow-Up Lab**, in San Francisco, kindly provided an extra panoramic print of the 1993 Bike-A-Thon for use in the Information Center.

**Alan Taylor**, of Lee Vining, **Carolyn Callahan**, who lives in Oakland, and **Sarah Taylor**, from Lone Pine, helped with the Wine Cellar Drawing in May.

**Maria Soler Costa** translated several MLC brochures into Spanish, allowing us to explain Mono Lake's plight to a wider audience.

Thanks to all for the support!

## Congratulations

**Robyn Mukai**, of San Gabriel, went to Sacramento to present her paper on Mono Lake at the State History Day Competition.


Congratulations to MLC Board member **Dian Grueneich** who adopted a daughter, **Kayla Tai Shan**, this summer.

Best wishes to former interns **Helen Constantine** and **Rick Shull** who recently were married overlooking Mono Lake.

The Marin Conservation League presented the **Ted Wellman Water Conservation Award** to MLC Executive Director **Martha Davis**, in recognition of

the work done to encourage conservation and reclamation of water in Los Angeles.

## Apologies

Apologies to **Sherri Kalivoda**, the Committee's new Mail and Membership Coordinator. Her name was misspelled remarkably in the last issue. Left out completely was **Karyn Helfrich**; she has coordinated the Foundation canoe program throughout the summer. 

## Matched Gifts

**Sun Micro Systems** will be matching donations made by the following employees in support of the 1994 Bike-A-Thon:

**Evan Adams**, from San Leandro  
**Steve Barton**, from Santa Cruz  
**Jeff Bonwick**, of San Jose  
**David Borders**, of San Jose  
**B. Callaghan**, of Mountain View  
**Karl Danz**, a Los Altos resident  
**Roderick Evans**,  
 from Mountain View  
**Helaine R. Fehling**,  
 of Redwood City  
**Robert and Diane Gingell**, from  
 Sunnyvale  
**Thomas Kessler**, of San Jose  
**Joseph E. Kowalski III**, a  
 Pleasanton resident  
**Tadd Ottman**, from Fremont  
**Judith Payne**, of Half Moon Bay  
**Wendy Phillips**, of San Francisco  
**Ronald Rose**, a San Jose resident  
**William Shannon**, of Los Altos  
**Glenn Skinner**, of Palo Alto  
**Carl F. Smith**, from Alameda  
 and **Michael S. Walker**, from  
 Mountain View

*Your employer may have a matching gift program also; check with your company's human resources office. If so, your gifts to the Mono Lake Foundation will go even further.*

**F  
R  
E  
E**

**D  
R  
A  
W  
I  
N  
G**

1 9 9 4  
**SAVE MONO LAKE  
FREE DRAWING**

*ENTER BY OCTOBER 31 AND WIN BIG FOR MONO LAKE*

**Tickets enclosed in this Newsletter!**

*Grand Prize*

**TREKKING ADVENTURE FOR TWO  
ACROSS THE GRAND CANYON**

Four days and three nights hiking and camping  
in the Grand Canyon! *Donated by Cal Nature Tours*

*You could also win:*

**SIGNED ANSEL ADAMS LITHOGRAPH  
A STAY AT THE AHWAHNEE HOTEL  
REI CAMPING PACKAGE  
AND OTHER GREAT PRIZES**

For the official rules and a complete list of prizes, write or call the Mono Lake Committee, 1207 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, California 91506 (818) 972-2025



**MONO LAKE  
COMMITTEE**  
Highway 395 & Third Street  
Post Office Box 29  
Lee Vining, CA 93541

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Mono Lake Committee

**Postmaster: Forwarding and Return Postage  
Guaranteed — Address Correction Requested**



Printed on recycled paper