

Winter-Spring

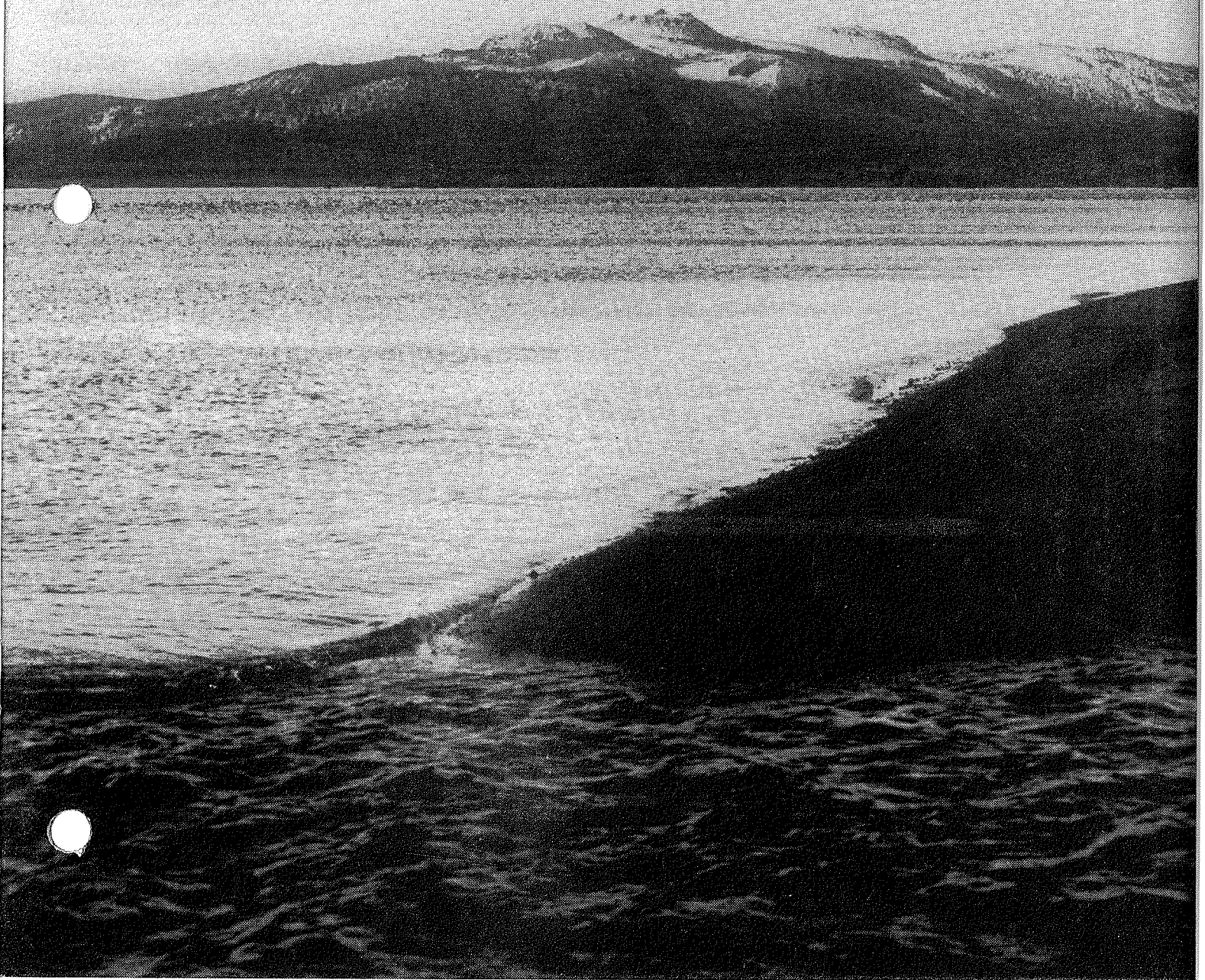
1995

MONO



LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R



Mono Lake Newsletter

Winter-Spring 1995

Volume 17, Number 3-4

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

Martha Davis Executive Director
Sally Gaines and Ed Manning 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
Michelle Cox, Timothy Tierney Interns

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
Sophie Lam Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Grace de Laet, San Francisco
Helen Green, Berkeley
Genny Smith, Mammoth Lakes

SPECIAL EVENTS CONSULTANT

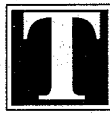
Jill Richards, Santa Monica

THE MONO LAKE FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Banta, Lee Vining
Robert Binnewies, Bear Mountain, New York
Susana Fousekis, Berkeley
Mary Hanson, Bishop
Andrea Lawrence, Mammoth Lakes
Hank Levine, Mammoth Lakes
Dave Marquart (President), Lee Vining

IN THIS ISSUE



This issue's cover captures Lee Vining Creek flowing into Mono Lake, with the Mono Craters in the distance. In a barely discernible line, hundreds of eared grebes dot the lake's surface.

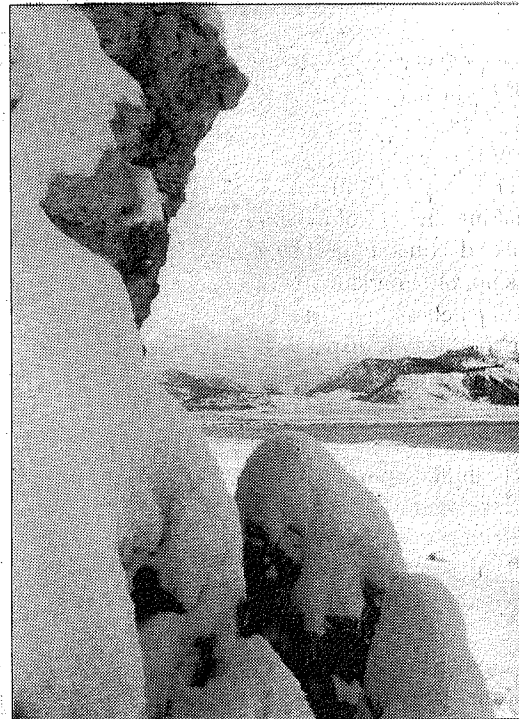
The regular winter and spring editions of the Newsletter are combined in this issue, allowing us to advance the newsletter schedule by a month to provide more timely information to readers. Look for your next issue in June.

Restoration is the work of the day at the Mono Lake Committee. Articles on pages 6-9 discuss what's currently being done (as usual, many aspects are unclear and the situation is developing rapidly). See page 5 for a recap of the Water Board decision and the timeline of restoration planning.

Also featured in this issue is the Committee's Outdoor Experiences program, discussed on page 3. Take a look back at the events of 1994 on pages 18-19, and then turn your thoughts to the coming summer with the list of Mono Lake Foundation Field Classes on pages 12-13.

The 1994-95 winter has been a wet one in the Mono Basin, and we're all celebrating the prospect of a significant rise in the lake level this spring. Grab your skis and come enjoy the snow while it lasts!

— Geoff McQuilkin



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 the editor. ISSN #0275-6633. Copyright ©1995, 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.

New geography

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

Rushing and cold, Lee Vining Creek flows by on a crisp winter morning. Clouds break overhead, pogonip clears from the lake, and an icy crust of snow crunches underfoot.

I walked along the creek and watched it flow to Mono Lake. Six months ago I had walked the same path, and not much was different now (save the icy features of the season). But I found that, in that time, my way of understanding the creek had entirely changed. The world of politics and litigation, of rules and future expectations, had turned. The Water Board decision had forced me to revise the way in which I'd always viewed the creek—and Mono Lake, and the Mono Basin. Now, rather than enjoying a pleasant day near a lake headed to oblivion, I realized I was making the best of a damaged creek and lake destined to get better.

A breeze starts up, blowing down canyon. In a warm patch of sun, a stack of thawed cottonwood leaves dispatches a few members to the wind. They flutter scratchily across the icy snow and into the creek.

It's surprising to think that my recent memories of the lake, and its streams, are of it at low ebb. Within a few years I'll be a historical resource, someone who can remember the days when the bright white landbridge snaked through Mono Lake, delivering coyotes to its islands; the days when plumes of dust obscured the Bodie hills; the days when salinities matched summer high temperatures and waterfowl numbered fewer than 10,000.

It's a strange new world with the quiet, but ever-present, threat of Mono Lake's death virtually gone (although a healthy lake is not yet in hand). The failing health of Mono Lake has overshadowed everything since the Committee's founding. We've all fought for Mono Lake in that shadow, risking the pain of losing and watching the ecosystem die.


The temptation to avoid that risk—to ignore the situation—was strong. Terry Tempest Williams once wrote: "If I choose not to become attached to nouns—a person, a place, a thing—then ... my heart cannot be broken because I never risked giving it away." We, the staff and members of the Mono Lake Committee and all friends of Mono Lake, gave our hearts to Mono Lake and now, almost unbelievably, we've dodged the pain of loss and saved something we love. It's the kind of thing that takes a while to believe.

As the pale leaves stream by on silver water, searching passages through the ice, I began to think about Wallace Stegner, one of the great voices of the West. He once called public lands like the Mono Basin "the geography of hope." It was an optimistic pronouncement. Years later, not long before his death, he wrote of the suffering of the Western lands, termed his earlier pronouncement the product of a "reckless moment," and withdrew the statement. He had, perhaps, had his heart broken too many times in the land he loved.

I think he'd offer the term back to us

for, at least, the Mono Basin. The difficulties of the West are huge, but here in one place, on one issue, the future holds more promise than pain. We've switched from working in the shadow of the lake's decline to the light of its recovery. We'll be able to watch the lake rise and, with work and time, we can partially restore the historic resources of Mono Lake and its tributaries. The geography of the Mono Basin has become a source of hope for a better future.

Quietly, Lee Vining Creek drifts into Mono Lake, the leftover leaves of autumn riding the currents like boats, heading toward Paoha on rippled water. The fresh creek water slowly mixes with Mono Lake and, imperceptibly, the lake rises.

In 1978, when the Committee was formed, Mono Lake was a landscape of despair. Now, in our own little corner of the West, many thousands people have come together to recover the geography of hope. Hope for Mono Lake's recovery. Hope for streams healthier than anyone my age has ever seen them. Hope for the recovery of waterfowl populations. For here, at Mono Lake, we all helped change the future. 



Outdoor Experiences program gears up for second year

Armed with tents, sleeping bags, mess kits, and limitless curiosity about the environment, over 100 inner-city youth are preparing to leave Los Angeles this summer for a week of camping, canoeing, and adventure at Mono Lake.

The Mono Lake Committee's Outdoor Experiences program and its sponsors and supporters are making it possible for the Mothers of East Los Angeles, Concerned Citizens of South Central, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, First AME Church, and others to help youth in their own communities broaden their views of the world and share in the beauty and magic of Mono Lake.

The program is an exciting partnership between community groups in Los Angeles and the environment. Arturo Rodriguez, who has brought his Los Angeles Conservation Corps crew to the lake for three years running, says that visiting Mono Lake has "had a profound impact on the young people at the Corps, leading some to continue their education

in the environmental field."

Elsa Lopez from the Mothers of East Los Angeles Santa Isabel, a group which visited Mono Lake for the first time last year, has become an advisor to the Outdoor Experiences program and plans to bring more youth, and spend more time



at the lake, this year. "We need to take advantage of this opportunity" she says. "There is a lot to learn at Mono Lake."

A newly formed Outdoor Experiences advisory board is actively involved in helping the program gain support and funding. Joining Elsa Lopez on the board are Earl Plummer, with the Southern California Gas

Company (one of the program's first sponsors); Mike Moynahan, former Conservation Director at the Metropolitan Water District; and Georgia Rutherford with CTSI Corporation.

Reactions to the program are overwhelmingly positive. When asked if he would like to play with his pocket electronic game, Rodrigo, a fourth grader who came to the lake last year responded: "No way Jose, nature's cooler!" Older participants ask how they can contribute to the lake's protection, and marvel at the intricacies of the lake's unique ecosystem and wildlife. In the end, the program aims to connect Los Angeles youth to Mono Lake today, so they can contribute to the lake's protection tomorrow.

The Outdoor Experiences program is in need of camping equipment including: 15 synthetic sleeping bags; 15 foam sleeping pads; 2 Coleman-type two-burner cook stoves; 2 large (5-6 person) tents; and 3 large tarps. Please contact Stacey at (619) 647-6595 if you can help.

Computer donations needed

The Committee has always relied on donated equipment to keep operations going. From telephone wiring to carpet, donations have kept office expenses down. In terms of computer equipment, however, the time has come to upgrade from the donations of the 1980s.

Not that we haven't appreciated those computers—and put them to good use. But in the era of affordable home multimedia machines, the Committee's Executive Director still spends her day staring into a green monochrome screen. Microsoft Windows? Not a chance.

The older machines cause continuous compatibility problems and, every few weeks, they eat a file or two.

Sharing documents between machines, for example, is difficult. Upgrading—and standardizing—software is impossible. (We're currently using 4 different types of DOS to keep things going.)

And then there's always the prospect of physical failure of the equipment right around the corner. The dutiful policy staff fires up the 286 computer every morning—sometimes trying four times before the hard drive cooperates.

Please help us with the donation of your outmoded 386, retired 486, or division-deficient Pentium. Macintoshes of the LC line and later are great too!

Here are the most pressing needs:

- A 386 or better Windows-capable computer for our Executive Director to use on restoration work, negotiations with DWP, and budget wrangling. A monitor would be great, too.
- Two 386 or better Windows-capable computers for our policy staff to use on restoration work. A sizable hard drive is a plus. We even have the monitors already!

Water Board decision stands unappealed

— restoration plans to be made in 1995 —

October 28, 1994, was cool and clear in the Mono Basin. Mono Lake's tributary streams slowly tumbled toward the lake through the fading colors of late-autumn foliage. Sunset came quietly, and the Basin turned dark. Two hundred miles away, in the offices of the State Water Resources Control Board, the final day for appeals of their decision on the fate of Mono Lake had passed—and the file remained empty.

In fact, an appeal would have come as a surprise. At a public press conference the month before, the Mono Lake Committee and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) had announced a no-appeal agreement, worked out just days before the Water Board decision. The quiet close of the appeals period pointed to the strength of that agreement.

What does this mean?

Today, and every day, the Water Board order is in full force at Mono Lake. The easy part of the order is this: no diversions of water by DWP will be allowed when the lake is below the 6,377 foot

mark (the current level is 6,375 feet); as the lake rises to an average of 6,392 feet, limited diversions will be allowed.

The more complicated part of the order, however, is this: DWP is responsible for developing plans for the restoration of damaged streams and waterfowl habitat. It is clear restoration will occur, but important questions remain: what type, with what goals, and where? The Committee is working hard to answer these questions with the overall health of the Mono Basin in mind (see articles on the next four pages).

What planning deadlines did the Board set?

The Water Board laid out a clear schedule for the restoration planning. A draft "scope of work" document was due on February 1 of this year. A draft of the final plans must be made available by August 1 for comment. A final proposal is due before the Water Board by November 30. Concerned parties again have an opportunity to comment; those comments are due by December 31. Water Board review and approval is expected in


early 1996. Actual work, as outlined in the plans, will get underway in 1996.

Who's involved now?

Although the restoration planning process is DWP's responsibility, it ultimately involves all the groups that were part of the Water Board hearings.

The Mono Lake Committee will be the lead representative of the environmental community. California Trout and the National Audubon Society also will be providing restoration input.

State and Federal agencies are keeping a watchful eye on the planning. The California Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Lands Commission, and the U.S. Forest Service will all be involved in the restoration planning and work.

And the Water Board itself will continue to play the key role. It will facilitate the restoration planning process throughout 1995. It will pass final judgment on DWP's restoration proposal. And in the end, it will be responsible for assuring that, on future October 28ths, healthy creeks flow into a higher lake. 

Mark your calendar!

Annual Meeting will celebrate Mono's rising future

The 1995 MLC Annual Meeting will be the spot to gather to applaud Mono Lake's rising future. In light of the recent Water Board decision ordering that Mono rise sixteen feet, the time to celebrate is here. The Labor Day meeting has always honored Mono Lake, but this year's event promises to be the biggest ever.

The Annual Meeting will be the first chance for Mono Lake enthusiasts to

gather at the lake and envision the higher waters of the future. The day starts with the arrival of the Bike-A-Thon riders—this year, they'll be victory riders—and the annual rehydration ceremony at the Old Marina. Then we move to County Park for picnic lunches, live music, and a report delivered by Committee staff. You'll get a chance to review the events leading up to the Water Board decision—and a sampling

of the work still at hand to restore Mono's tributaries and waterfowl habitat.

Last year's event featured special morning activities—a birdwalk and a creek tour—and you can be sure there will be even more offered this summer.

If you haven't made the trip before, this is the time to do it. If you're a regular, bring a few friends along. Watch for more details in the summer issue of this newsletter!

Mono Basin restoration: work in progress

Is there anything left to do at Mono Lake in the post-Water Board era? With a minimum lake level assured by the Water Board decision—and a clear plan laid for achieving it—it would seem that the flurry of environmental policy work that has surrounded the lake should be dying down.

Yet planning the Water Board-ordered restoration of the lake's damaged tributary streams and now-depleted waterfowl habitat is requiring extensive work from the Mono Lake Committee, the Department of Water and Power (DWP), and state and federal agencies. As much as ever, Mono Lake's future is intertwined with a host of technical, procedural, and legal questions.

Restoration Technical Committee disbanded; interim stream restoration agreed upon

Prior to the Water Board decision, limited restoration work was proceeding under court order on the four tributaries of

Mono Lake tapped by DWP. That process came to an end last fall when DWP dropped funding for the administrative body in charge of work, the court-created Restoration Technical Committee (RTC).

Interpretations of the RTC's mandate differed, with the Mono Lake Committee arguing that the RTC was meant to continue its work until the Water Board adopted a final creek restoration plan sometime in 1996. DWP countered that the RTC's time was up with the Water Board's autumn vote, although the Board only had ordered that a restoration plan be developed. Either way, it was clear that without the RTC, no restoration work would occur in 1995.

Court dates were set, but last-minute negotiations between DWP and the Committee created a mutually agreeable solution: a program of interim stream restoration will go forward under the direction of the three court-appointed scientist members of the RTC. The program—which will include the completion of partially finished RTC studies, the rewatering of two historical channels on Rush Creek, tree planting on Lee Vining Creek, and other projects recommended by the scientists—will be in effect until the Water Board approves a specific stream restoration plan in early 1996.

Draft scope of work released

The interim stream restoration program is only one piece of a much larger puzzle: how to accomplish the broad program of restoration ordered by the Water Board. The first official pieces were put together by DWP with the release of a draft "scope of work" document in January.

The general goal sought by such "scoping" documents is to assess the planning process of a project as well as the information base, legal mandates, and breadth of issues to be covered. Although the Committee took issue with


the thoroughness and approach of DWP's document on some points, the scoping document officially kicked off the year-long restoration planning process.

A meeting of all interested parties, scheduled for mid-February, will follow up on comments offered to the draft. More importantly, the February meeting will cement the details of a cooperative planning process that has been under negotiation since the day of the Water Board's vote last September 28.

Cooperative planning process agreed upon—almost

Rather than develop in-house plans for aqueduct management and restoration of stream and waterfowl habitat, DWP has largely agreed to a more open process utilizing independent scientists, Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs), external input, and facilitation by the Water Board.

The result of numerous rounds of negotiation between Committee Executive Director Martha Davis and DWP General Manager William McCarley, the proposed planning process should allow fuller participation by the Committee and other concerned parties than originally anticipated under the Water Board order. It is hoped that the result will be a restoration plan agreeable to all sides, which can be delivered to the Water Board for approval, thus avoiding a lengthy—and costly—round of arguments and appeals before the Board and the courts.

Nonetheless, actual on-the-ground work still seems a long way off, with an agreement barely in hand for the process of accomplishing the *planning* of the ordered Mono Basin restoration. But interim stream restoration will show some results this coming summer. And the cooperative approach assures there will be plenty of work for everyone as the process moves forward. 

Special issue of the Mono Lake Newsletter still available

Wondering about the Water Board's decision? Looking to update your collection? Copies of the special issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter* (which mailed to all Committee members last fall) are still available. Be sure you have one for all the details of the Water Board decision or information on replacement water supplies for Los Angeles. Call us at (619) 647-6595 if you need a copy or two.



STREAMS

RESTORING MONO LAKE'S TRIBUTARIES

Background

In 1941, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) tapped four of Mono Lake's five major tributaries: Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks. DWP constructed small dams several miles upstream from the lake on each of the latter three creeks, using them to divert water into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Grant Dam was constructed seven miles upstream from the lake on Rush Creek, creating Grant Lake reservoir.

Over the years, dramatically reduced creek flows below the diversion dams caused several types of impact. Whole forests of riparian—streamside—vegetation withered and died. Wild trout populations were destroyed. Walker and Parker creeks filled in with dirt and virtually disappeared from sight.

A second set of damages occurred on Rush and Lee Vining creeks during particularly wet years in the 1960s and 1980s. When snowmelt exceed the capacity of the aqueduct, DWP released sudden large flows of water down the two creeks. With only dead vegetation to hold the streambanks in place, major portions of the creeks "blew out" and channel structure was obliterated. In other places, swift water moved and redeposited mounds of stockpiled quarry gravel, plugging entire channels. On both streams, an irreversible phenomenon called incision occurred as the flood waters cut down through streambed material to reach the lowered level of Mono Lake.

In the mid to late 1980s, lawsuits brought by the Mono Lake Committee,

National Audubon Society, California Trout, and others led to court orders mandating minimum flows for each of the creeks. The court created the Restoration Technical Committee (RTC) to direct creek restoration work until the Water Board finalized its own studies.

The Water Board order

Drawing on the extensive body of knowledge gathered by the RTC and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Water Board ordered numerous measures to "restore, preserve and protect the streams and fisheries in the four streams," among them:

- Instream fishery habitat restoration;
- Rewatering of historical channels in Rush and Lee Vining creeks;
- Riparian vegetation restoration;
- Flood flow contingency measures;
- Fish passage and sediment bypass at Walker and Parker diversion structures, sediment bypass at Lee Vining diversion;
- A spawning gravel replacement program;
- A livestock grazing exclusion in riparian corridors;
- Limitation of vehicular access to stream courses;
- Stream restoration monitoring.

Planning Process

Interim restoration will be conducted while the final stream restoration plan is developed. The Mono Lake Committee and DWP have agreed that interim restoration will be directed by the three court-appointed scientist members of the RTC. They are expected to carry forward unfinished work of the RTC (see page 6).

Long-term restoration is in the planning phase. One proposal is for the three scientists to develop a stream restoration

plan in consultation with a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprising the Mono Lake Committee, DWP, DFG, California Trout, and other interested parties. The Water Board expects a completed plan in November 1995; once approved, actual work will begin.

Mono Lake Committee Goals

The Committee has identified the following list of goals for stream restoration, based on the Water Board decision and the policies adopted by the RTC in implementing the court-ordered stream restoration program:

- Restoration of historical processes and conditions beneficial to the stream ecosystems;
- Restoration of riparian, wetland, and meadow acreage and species diversity;
- Restoration of fishery habitat complexity;
- Restoration of biological diversity;
- Restoration of the wild brown trout fisheries.

A top priority in Rush Creek will be to rewater historical channels in portions of the floodplain that were abandoned when the present day channel incised its new course. This should raise the groundwater table, help to restore much of the former acreage of riparian forest, and provide the historically more-complex habitat that was beneficial to trout.

A top priority for Lee Vining Creek will be to accelerate the recovery of the once-extensive streamside forest.

Priorities for Walker and Parker Creeks will be to remove the dams and rewater distributary channel systems, thereby providing fish passage, sediment bypass, and recharge of springs in the Rush Creek bottomlands.



WATERFOWL HABITAT

RESTORING ONE OF MONO LAKE'S LOST RESOURCES

Background

Prior to water diversions by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) and into the early 1960s, Mono Lake and Mono Basin streams hosted up to one million waterfowl (ducks and geese). While accounts of actual numbers of birds varied, there is no dispute that the estimated 10,000 waterfowl that visit the lake today are but remnants of once-abundant populations.

The most numerous species at Mono Lake was the northern shoveler. Freshwater-loving species such as green-winged teals and mallards frequented the extensive marshes within the riparian ecosystems, particularly on lower Rush Creek. Other species came to Mono Lake in abundance, including canvasbacks, redheads, northern pintails, American widgeons, and Canada geese. As the level of Mono Lake declined in the 1960s, ruddy ducks were more commonly observed.

Waterfowl preferred sites on and adjacent to Mono Lake where fresh water was concentrated. The decline in waterfowl numbers closely paralleled the decline of several freshwater habitat types.

Primary habitat existed on the lake at the mouths of the streams and where there was significant inflow from springs. A thick layer of fresh water floated on the denser saline water of the lake, producing a phenomenon called hypopycnal stratification (see *Newsletter*, summer 1994, pg. 20). The hypopycnal layer provided vital drinking and bathing water for the migrants. Water diversions by DWP, which began in 1941, reduced stream and spring flows,

and, as a result, areas of hypopycnal layering greatly diminished.

Also important as habitat were lake-fringing freshwater marshes (fed by the numerous springs around Mono Lake) and brackish lagoons, which were on the lake's northeast shore and were sheltered from winds. As Mono Lake and the water table fell due to diversions, this habitat drained and disappeared.

Finally, the salinity of the lake itself was an important factor influencing waterfowl abundance. As diversions increased the lake's salinity, overall biological productivity in the lake declined, reducing the availability of food for waterfowl.

The Water Board Order

Last autumn's Water Board decision affirmed that major degradation of waterfowl habitat and loss of waterfowl populations has occurred at Mono Lake due to DWP's diversions. The Board recognized that its chosen lake level of 6,392 feet above sea level would not restore waterfowl habitat to prediversion conditions (that would require levels of 6,405 or higher). Yet they concluded that the chosen lake level "would allow for restoration of some of the lost waterfowl habitat" and added that "additional waterfowl habitat could be restored through other restoration measures . . ."

In particular, the Board found that "the record is insufficient to specify at this time the waterfowl habitat restoration measures which should be undertaken. The record is sufficient, however, to require that . . . LADWP consider various waterfowl habitat restoration measures identified in the draft EIR and the hearing record."

The Board ordered DWP to prepare a

waterfowl habitat restoration plan with a "focus on restoration measures in lake-fringing wetland areas." In addition to describing restoration potentials and projects, the plan must describe how restored wetland habitat will be managed on an ongoing basis.

Planning Process

Planning for waterfowl habitat restoration has barely begun. A process similar to that proposed for stream restoration (utilizing technical experts as decision makers) is under discussion by DWP, the Committee, and other parties, but firm details have yet to be developed.

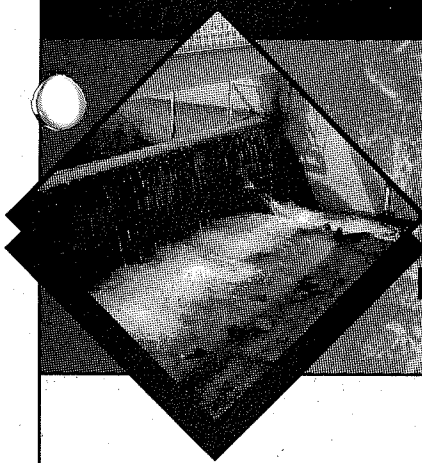
No large body of information exists relating to waterfowl habitat restoration in the Mono Basin. Basic information gathering will be crucial as the planning process moves toward completion.

Mono Lake Committee Goals

The Mono Lake Committee supports the Water Board's objective of restoring habitat favorable for the return of waterfowl, and believes that, with proper planning, measures taken to restore wetland and riparian ecosystems will benefit not only waterfowl but also shorebirds and other wetland-dependent avian and terrestrial species.

The following general principles will help to guide the Committee's work:

- Support measures that will facilitate the natural recovery of waterfowl habitat;
- Focus work on the restoration, where feasible, of habitat which actually existed prior to diversions and which waterfowl favored. Examples include the partial restoration of hypopycnal conditions and the bottomlands habitat of Rush Creek.



WATER MANAGEMENT

PLANNING AQUEDUCT AND GRANT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

Background

Historically, the Los Angeles Aqueduct has been managed to optimize efficiency in exporting water to Los Angeles. Reservoir storage and aqueduct flow have been determined by the needs of the City. The system of dams and reservoirs built in the Mono Basin for this purpose must now be adapted to meet new management criteria set by the Water Board.

The Department of Water and Power (DWP) operates four significant dams on one reservoir in the Mono Basin. Diversion dams on Lee Vining, Walker, and Parker creeks all put water into the aqueduct. This water flows into Grant Lake reservoir, which is formed by a dam built across Rush Creek, the largest of the four streams. The reservoir historically has stored water in preparation for export into the Upper Owens River, and ultimately to Los Angeles.

Aqueduct operations at each diversion structure and at Grant Dam have direct effects on streamflow and lake level. Past operations created extreme conditions downstream: the total diversion of water dried the streams, or occasional sudden releases of high volumes of water flooded them. Court decisions in the mid-to-late 1980s moderated dam operations by requiring minimum flow releases into each stream from the upstream dams.

Other issues are connected to aqueduct management as well. Water on its way from Grant Lake to Los Angeles affects the Upper Owens River, which is used as part of the aqueduct system. Over the years, the Upper Owens River

has widened to accommodate the artificially high flows, which affected the river's trout fisheries. Additionally, Grant Lake reservoir is used for boating and fishing; a marina and campground are located on the site.

The Water Board order

The Water Board set minimum stream flows for all four diverted Mono Basin streams in its 1994 order. This water must be allowed to flow through each diversion facility. Besides these flows, which are designed to sustain fisheries, the Board ordered that additional water be released down the creeks to raise Mono Lake to 6,392 feet above sea level.

To control the flows, the Board specified "ramping rate" guidelines to avoid sudden increases—or drops—in streamflow. However, the Board did not offer further specifics on how water should be sent down the streams, specifics which will affect the day-to-day and season-to-season operations of Grant Lake, and the aqueduct feeding it. Rather, as with restoration, the Water Board ordered DWP to develop a management plan.

The plan's goal, in DWP's words, is to document how "to operate Grant Lake reservoir and the diversion facilities in the Mono Basin in a way to efficiently distribute the waters of the Mono Basin. The plan will include [the Water Board's] instream flow requirements, water required for Mono Lake level maintenance, desired storage levels in Grant Lake reservoir, and the export pattern of water to the upper Owens River." The plan will be coordinated with the needs of stream and wetland restoration programs.

Planning Process

DWP is charged with development of the plan. A collaborative approach is expected, by which expert hydrologists representing DWP and the Committee will confer on the plan's details. Computer modeling will be used to analyze the ways in which various management strategies will affect creek flows and water export under a variety of hydrologic conditions.

When completed, the plan will be delivered to the Water Board for approval in late 1995.

Mono Lake Committee Goals

- The plan should give DWP specific criteria for delivery of Mono Basin water (e.g. location, timing, and amount) to be used for fisheries, public trust protection, and export;
- The plan should be specific enough so that DWP can carry it out without constantly having to return to the Water Board for guidance;
- The Committee would like specific elements of the plan to address: peak runoff limits while riparian vegetation reestablishes; diversion of water for export from each stream in proportion to its size; reservoir-caused temperature increases in Rush Creek water; minimum Grant Lake levels for recreation; timing water export to achieve optimal benefits on Upper Owens River resources; and the timing of spring flushing flows;
- As an alternative to building the fish and sediment bypass facilities ordered by the Water Board, the plan should consider removing the dams on Parker and Walker creeks and reopening distributary channels downstream.

Mono Basin Journal

A roundup of less-political events at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin


Images of winter on Lee Vining Creek. Red willow branches waver above layers of white snow on dry yellow grasses at the bank of the slow, dark water. Ripples travel upstream; clouds roll in, cresting Mount Dana and plunging into the Mono Basin; snowflakes lodge between Jeffrey pine needles. Grasses, sagebrush, and campgrounds all disappear under the snow.

Where the stream is well-shaded, thick ice forms. Willow branches turn silver, tenuous ice bridges build themselves, and frozen streamers of water drop from overhanging banks.

Summertime South Tufa is gone; winter South Tufa is here. No gulls circle overhead, and few people



travel the trails. Small tufa towers lie hidden under snow, waiting like icebergs to crash into the next pair of skis that passes by. As I rounded a corner one calm day, two startled ducks appeared to paddle away on the sky until ripples broke the illusion.

A coyote haunts town late at night, early morning tracks revealing a circuitous path of investigation. One night, I watched as she walked through a fresh 20-inch snowfall by carefully following the trail of bootprints I had made earlier. Another time, I startled her in the neon glow of Nicely's restaurant; she sprinted from the blues and reds of advertising, off into the darkness. 



Lake Level Watch

Mono Basin receives heavy winter snows

Frequently, phone calls come into the Committee asking about the predicted lake level for the year. It's a basic question, but it often takes some explaining. Because the lake level rises every winter, peaks (depending on how wet the year is) in spring or early summer, and plummets in late summer, it's hard to answer the question easily.

Last year, for example, the lake peaked at 6,375.8 feet above sea level in June (unusually late in the spring because May was very wet and cool), but then proceeded to fall over a foot to a low of 6,374.4 by late November, the victim of a dry year.


Now it is on the rise again, with the abundant January precipitation giving

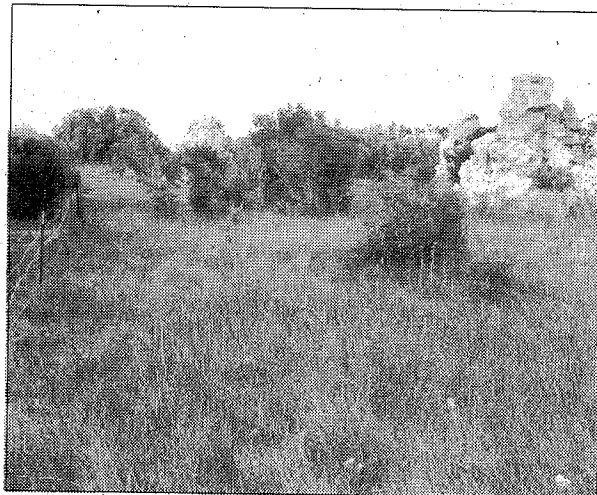
the lake an extra boost. The heavy rains that flooded parts of California brought deep snow to the Sierra and slushy rain to Lee Vining and Mono Lake. The rain melted over a foot of snow which was on the ground, and everything flowed into Mono Lake. Currently, the lake stands at 6,475.1 feet—and true spring runoff hasn't yet begun.

In fact, a remote sensing station on the Rush Creek drainage was reporting so much snow that hydrologists were certain something had thrown it out of calibration. When a crew arrived to field check the information in late January, the sensor proved to be correct in reporting over 44 inches of water content in the 130 inch snowpack. That's twelve more

inches of water than the average April 1 accumulation!

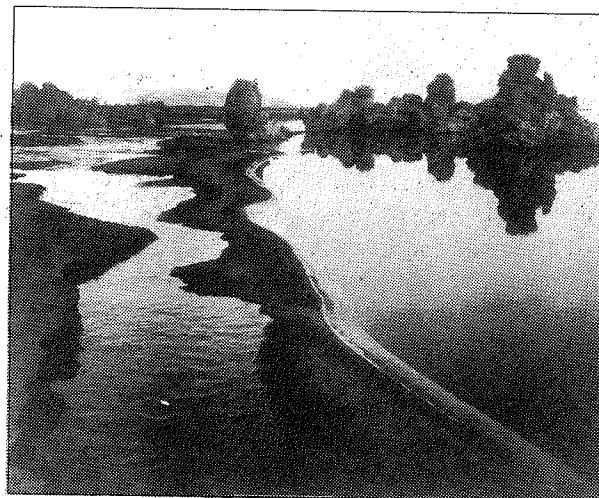
The Department of Water and Power released forecasts on February 1 predicting spring runoff at 150% of normal for Rush Creek and 128% of normal for Lee Vining Creek. MLC consulting hydrologist Peter Vorster gives the lake "a fair chance" of reaching a 1995 high of 6,377 feet. But he expects the lake to drop down below 6,377 feet by year's end if February and March are dry months.

Only time will reveal the precise numbers. February and March precipitation are important, but the above-average snowpack already on the ground ass that a good water year is on the way. 



1994: Lake level 6,375 feet

Photo by Jim Stimson



1961: Lake level 6,395 feet

Photo by Brett Weston

Benchmarks

Since the Mono Lake Committee's beginnings, photos such as the ones on this page have been used to make Mono Lake's plight clear. But now, thanks to the Water Board, we can expect to see a rise in Mono Lake and more water in its tributaries over the coming years. In future issues of this newsletter, this space will document that rise.

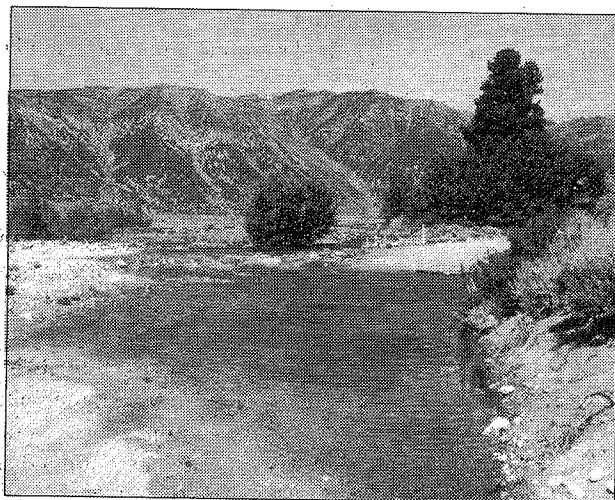
A number of baseline photos are being taken this winter. Some are close to the

lake, and future comparisons will reveal lake level changes on the order of a few feet. Others are more panoramic, demonstrating the long path to achieving the 6,392 foot level ordered by the Water Board (remember, it's estimated that, with average annual precipitation, the lake won't hit 6,392 until the year 2014).

The benchmarks page will complement the regular "lake level watch" column by providing a graphic indication

of how far the lake has risen—and how far it has to go. Photos of creek recovery and waterfowl habitat restoration will be featured here as well.

You can be part of the benchmarks column! Submissions of comparative photos (with dates carefully noted) are always welcome. And if you are a regular Mono Lake visitor, consider monitoring changes at the lake with a benchmarks scrapbook of your own. 🐾



1993: vegetation at Lee Vining Creek

Photo by Ilene Mandelbaum

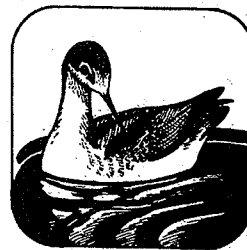


1946: vegetation at Lee Vining Creek

photo courtesy of Wallace Woods



1995 Mono Lake Foundation Summer Field Classes



BIRDS OF THE MONO BASIN

Dave Shuford; June 3-4

\$80 per person (\$65 for MLC members)

Dave Shuford of Point Reyes Bird Observatory is a master birder and patient instructor. Beginners, as well as experts, will enjoy this intimate introduction to Mono's bird life. We will learn to identify approximately 70 species by plumage and song, and to understand their roles in our environment.

A STREAMSIDE LOOK AT RESTORATION

Ilene Mandelbaum; Saturday, June 10

\$40 per person (\$35 for MLC members)

Take a hike with MLC's Associate Director along Lee Vining and Rush creeks to see the recent revitalizing work on streams that were dry for 50 years. Learn about future plans to benefit these historically lush and diverse ecosystems. Ilene knows about cubic feet per second, revegetation, and spawning gravels as well as how to enjoy the scenery.

GEOLOGY OF THE MONO BASIN

Tim Tierney; Saturday, June 11 or Sunday, June 17

\$40 per person (\$35 for MLC members)

Few places offer more varied geology than the Mono Basin. This arena, where volcanoes and glaciers have battled to reshape the land, is itself a product of the tectonic forces which reshape the face of the continent. By car and foot we'll explore this landscape as well as the ancient sea known as Mono Lake. Tim is a geologist and the author of the Committee's forthcoming Field Guide Series title *Geology of the Mono Basin*.

MONO BASIN WILDFLOWERS

Ann Howald; July 8-9

\$80 per person (\$65 for MLC members)

The wet winter of 1995 promises to bring forth a gorgeous display of Mono Basin wildflowers, from fuzzy desert lupines to delicate streamside orchids and alpine columbines. Join Ann, plant ecologist with the Department of Fish and Game, in an exploration of botanical wonders while learning to identify common wildflowers, shrubs, and trees of this area.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Don Jackson; July 15-16

\$80 per person (\$65 for MLC members)

Come to the Mono Basin to photograph the flora, fauna, and scenic wonders with a confirmed Monophile. Don was selected as the "1993 Photographer of the Year" by Outdoor California, a wildlife magazine. In relaxed, interactive, and non-competitive classroom and field sessions, we'll explore the artistic and technical aspects of creating wonderful photographs. This class is designed for intermediate to advanced students using adjustable cameras (all formats). Private sessions available Monday by arrangement.

FALL BIRD MIGRATION OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

Dave Shuford; August 19-20

\$80 per person (\$65 for MLC members)

The east slope of the Sierra Nevada is a major migration route for birds traveling from northern nesting areas to warm southern habitats. This is the time of year to see the greatest diversity of landbirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds in the Mono Basin and on Crowley Reservoir. Your instructor is well acquainted with the birds and where to find them.

Mono Lake

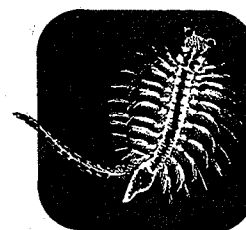
WEEKEND CANOE TOURS

One-hour tours every Saturday and Sunday at 8 A.M., 9:30 A.M., and 11 A.M.

June 17 through September 3

Adults \$15, kids \$6 (Sorry, no kids under 4)

Join your expert guides for natural history from a unique perspective: the lake itself. Starting at Navy Beach (near South Tufa), you will canoe among tufa spires along Mono's shoreline and learn about this ancient, life-productive lake. Special group tours can be arranged. All participants must wear the life jackets provided and obey safety rules. Please arrive 20 minutes before departure time. *Reservations are strongly recommended for these popular tours: call (619) 647-6595 (9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily) and ask for canoe reservations.*



LISTENING TO CREEKS: WET FEET HYDROLOGY

Eric Larsen; Sunday, July 16

\$80 per person (\$65 for MLC members)

If one listens to and looks closely at a stream, inherent patterns reveal themselves. Spend a day with Eric, a hydrologist involved with the restoration of Mono Lake's tributaries. Use your eyes, ears, hands, and feet to discover such things as the similarities between the structure of a leaf and the meandering shape of a creek. This course will also introduce students to a few of the age-old ways of understanding the nature of creeks and their reconstruction.

MONO-BODIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Clinton Smith; July 28-30

\$200 per person (\$165 for MLC members)

The group will spend the first afternoon exploring the ghost town of Bodie, remaining until after sunset. Participants will be allowed inside buildings normally closed to the public. The final two days will be spent experiencing and photographing tufa groves, aspen-lined canyons, volcanoes, and other unique features of the Mono Basin. A canoe tour is included. Clinton's classes are not photo tours; rather, they are geared to stimulate thinking and sensitivity. This class is loosely structured and open to all levels of expertise. A fully adjustable camera is suggested.

MONO BASIN FALL PHOTOGRAPHY

Jim Stimson; October 6-8 (meets at 2 P.M. Friday)

\$110 per person (\$90 for MLC members)

We will explore various locations along the lake, as well as photograph the autumn colors in nearby canyons. Discussions will cover composition and exposure techniques in the Eastern Sierra's diverse lighting conditions. Other topics include the Zone System, visualization, filtering, and developing a personal vision. The workshop is for all levels of enthusiastic color or black and white photographers with a fully adjustable camera.

REGISTRATION

Come join our field trips exploring creekbeds and tufa towers, ghost towns and wildflowers, seabirds and sagebrush. Travel by car and foot through one of the world's most paradoxical landscapes.

The summer field classes operate under permit from the Inyo National Forest. All proceeds are used to support the Mono Lake Foundation's work.

Classes are limited to fifteen people. Participants must sign a liability release form. The elevation of Lee Vining is 6,700 feet; check with your doctor if you have a medical condition exacerbated by high altitude.

We accept VISA, MasterCard, or personal checks payable to the Mono Lake Foundation. If a class receives fewer than six participants, we cancel the class two weeks in advance; you will receive a full refund. If you cancel three weeks before the class starting date, we will refund your payment (less a \$10 processing fee). No refunds after that date, but tuition can be applied to another 1995 class. Gift certificates are available.

REGISTER BY TELEPHONE

Call the Mono Lake Committee at (619) 647-6595 (9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily) and ask for the field trip desk.

REGISTER BY MAIL

Include the following information and mail to: Mono Lake Foundation, P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, California 93541.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Credit Card number _____

(or check to Mono Lake Foundation)

Name of class(es) and number of participants: _____

Fundraising report

by Alan Magree

Thank you members! We are deeply grateful for your generous support in 1994. Per dollar spent, the income raised in 1994 was the highest in the Committee's recent history. We learned many valuable lessons from our mistakes in 1993—in particular, our troubles with the former list maintenance company—and made significant changes to improve service to our members.

Throughout 1993 and during the first quarter of 1994, the MLC internalized and streamlined most of our fundraising programs. The results are now showing with reduced overhead, lowered production costs, and increased efficiency—substantially boosting the net returns on every fundraising dollar we spend. Through a comprehensive reworking of the fundraising department, careful selection of vendors, and increased participation from staff, we reduced costs dramatically in 1994—at least 20%. Happily, we have also been able to offer a higher level of personal care and attention to our members.

We are proud that, in 1994, we cut our resource use by sending out fewer fundraising appeals than previous years. Yet our net income for 1994 rose approximately \$120,000 from that of 1993.

The past year brought many successes to the Committee (see pages 18–19), and 1995 poses many new challenges. As we shift our focus to the restoration of Mono's damaged ecosystem, we look forward to serving you even better.

Alan Magree is the Committee's Development Director.

Winners announced in 1994 Free Drawing

The 1994 Free Drawing wrapped up last fall with the selection of twenty lucky prizewinners.

Each year, the Free Drawing offers Committee members a chance to make a donation for their favorite lake while, perhaps, winning a new jacket, outdoor adventure, or other great prize.

The Mono Lake Committee also attracts new members through the Free Drawing. Over 1,200 people joined up though the promotion, which offers a year's membership when the tickets are returned with the suggested contribution.

Prizes donated by a wide range of supportive businesses excite members and non-members alike to test their luck: over 35,000 entries made their way to the Committee before the October deadline.

Thanks go out to everyone who entered the drawing; your donations are an important source of support for the Committee's work on behalf of Mono Lake. And, of course, congratulations to the 1994 winners!

The winners

Katherine Morrison, of Clovis, won the Grand Prize: a four-day trekking adventure in the Grand Canyon, courtesy of **Cal Nature Tours, Inc.**

Marione Luke, who lives in Wilmington, took the June Lake ski weekend donated by **June Mountain Ski Resort**, the **June Lake Villager Motel**, and the **Sierra Inn**.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Smith, residents of Larkspur, are the happy winners of the REI Camping package, donated by the **REI** stores in Northridge, San Dimas, Carson, and Santa Ana.

Gretchen Hazen, of San Leandro, won the Mono Lake weekend donated by **Elliot Aviation**, the **Mono Inn**, and **Murphy's Motel**.

Ten Mono Lake supporters won warm

jackets donated by **Patagonia**. They are: **Gordon Alper**, of Mammoth Lakes; **Colleen Bathe**, of Death Valley; **Rick Clark**, of Carmel; **Cynthia Furman**, of Ben Lomond; **Robert Goldfeder**, of Fresno; **Michael Hill**, of San Francisco; **Ronald and Sylvia Hochede**, from San Francisco; **Benn Martin**, of Sierra Madre; **Gabriel Ross**, from North San Juan; and **Miriam Smith**, a resident of Pasadena.

Phil Hirschler, who lives in Lompoc, won the getaway weekend donated by the **Redwoods River Resort**.


The autographed Ansel Adams lithograph, donated by the **Ansel Adams Gallery**, was won by **Ronald and Sylvia Hochede** of San Francisco.

Jerry and Susan Gordon of Riverside won a two-night stay on the South Yuba River, compliments of the **South Yuba River Citizens League**.

Harper Burns, a Palo Alto resident, won a weekend stay at the scenic Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite Valley, donated by **Yosemite Concession Services Corporation**.

Mrs. E. Covey of Oakland won a Mammoth Lakes getaway, including two nights of lodging and meals, donated by the **Alpine Lodge**, the **Tamarack Lodge**, and **O'Kelly and Dunn**.

And **W. Langlie** of Laguna Beach won a two-day rafting adventure for two on the South Fork of the American River, donated by **Friends of the River**.

Alan Magree, the MLC's Development Director, summed up the 1994 drawing: "Events like the Free Drawing are crucial to maintaining a strong membership base for the Mono Lake Committee. By using prizes donated by supportive companies, we can successfully raise funds for the lake and attract new members. And while not everyone could win this time around, there'll be another chance in 1995...." 

1994 Mono Lake Defense Trust members

The Mono Lake Defense Trust was established to assure that, wherever the battle for Mono Lake might lead, financial resources would always be available. Members of the Trust made individual gifts of \$250 or more in 1994. We'd like to thank the Defense Trust Members for their exceptional commitment to the fight for Mono's protection—and the work for the lake's restoration.

Corporate Contributions

Patagonia; \$6,000
Yosemite Concession
Services; \$2,000
Southern California Gas
Company; \$1,000
GTE; \$500

Foundation Grants

The Rex Foundation; \$10,000
American Foundation; \$750
Donald A. Honer, Carolyn Honer
Foundation; \$500

Defense Trust Members

Michael Aaronson
Kate Abbe
Dorothy Adamson
The Akaloa Family
Beverly C. Allan
Carl, Sen Yee, and Eric Andersonn
Ryan Andrews
Dorothy Babington
John D. Barney
Cameron and Katie Barrows
Kathleen Barry
Donald Baylis
Charles P. Berolzheimier
Bob Binnewies
Jerome and Judy Blackman
Fred Blomshield
Alberta Bodes
Andrew and Deborah Bogen
George Bowles
Warren S. Bray
Horace Brooks
Stephen Buckhout
Walter F. Buhl
Dale R. Burger
Clifford Burke
Jay Byers
Cabrillo Section of the Angeles
Chapter of Sierra Club
Robert Carr
David Casseres
Joan K. Chitica
CIS, Inc.
Mary Ann Cobb
Mary A. Coffeen
uth Pierson Cole
Jim Compton
Conejo Valley Audubon Society
John and Kathy Copeland

Thomas M. Cover
Virginia R. Cox
Bryant and Judith Danner
Carol Davis
Dick and Ginny Davis
Donald W. Davis
Steve Davis
John S. de Beers
Rick and Grace De Laet
Frank Delfino
David B. Devine
Cliff Drowley
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society
Mike Eaton
Hans Ernst
Carolyn Ferrell
Raymond Forrest
Jim and Susan Fousekis
Dennis and Rosemary Frieborn
August and Susan Fruge
General Consulting
Richard and Marcia Grand
Dennis Green
Gerald Green
Michael Green
Paul Green
Alvin Greenberg
Ruth Greenberg
Robert Greenman
Robert J. Greensfelder
Donald M. Gregory
Ed Grosswiler
Dian M. Grueneich
Patricia Gunther
K. Walter Haake
Peter H. Hackett
John Haley
J. B. Hall
Patti Hallowes
Mary Hanson
Barbara Harooutunian
Cole and Priscilla Hawkins
Burr Heneman
Robert and Phyllis Henigson
Don Henley
David Hepler
Renee Hirsch
Bea M. Hollfelder
Doris B. Hughes
J. B. Bostick Co.
Edward A. Jenkins
Carolyn Johnson
Marilyn Johnson

Vern and Mary Lou Judy
James R. Kaskin
T. J. Kent
Sylvia T. Kershaw
Mhaatma Khalsa
Orson, Dennis, and Eldora King
Edward Kinney
Lawrence E. Kinsella
Patty Kline
Stephen M. Knapp
Hod and Willa Kosman
Leslie Lamport
E. N. Langbauer
Rudolph H. Light
Frances Lindquist
Martin and Esther Litton
J. S. Livermore
Kenow and Pauline Lou
Jim Loughlin
Barbara Louis
Thomas and Holly Love
T. B. Lyons
Palmer Madden
Hildy Manley
Brooks Martin
Wilma Martin
John and Linda McCulloch
Tom McGillis
J. S. McIlhenny
H. D. McKay
John D. McLean
Bill Mendoza
John Milne
Edith Helen Monsees
Barbara V. Morse
Suzanne Morse
Virginia Mudd
Aditya Mukerji
Hallam G. Murray
Randy Neverka
Ruth Niswander
Mark A. Nokes
Harold L. Oshry
Dorothee Paterson
W. D. Payton
Eric and Lynn Penniman
Tom Peters
Lawrence Petz
Mary Pipersky
Paul W. Pratt
Michael Pretes
Rod Pritchette
Gloria M. Raffo

Charles Reed
Ann Reimers
Arlene H. Reveal
Darryl Richman
Gerard Ridisin
Alston H. Rigter
Bernice E. Riney
Kathleen Roberts
C. David Robinson
Catherine Rose
Claude Rosenberg
John Rosston
Eric Saibel
Richard H. Salz
Harley E. Schear
Joyce Schnobrich
David and Sarah Schoen
Jean Forsyth Schulz
Milus Scruggs
Thomas D. Shea
Mitsuko Shimizu
Blaine and Marian Shull
Rocco and Marion Siciliano
Edwin Simon
Morgan and Esther Sinclair
Eric V. Siu
Genny Smith
Leverett Smith
Mariana Smith
Robert K. Soost
Jon Soule
Jack and Jill Stark
Bob Stenz
Bill Strawbridge
Dwight V. Strong
Patricia Sullivan
Sutherland and Antrobus
Otis D. Swisher
Jan Tarble
Fred T. Tirrell
Teddy Traylor
George Tredick
Meg Wallhagen
Murray B. Warner
John S. Warriner
Norman Waters
Peter Watkins
John D. Weeden
W. J. Werback
Richard Wiebe
William Wildman
Claudia P. Wilds
Zel Realty, Inc.

Remembering nighthawks

by Brian Flaig

Late last August, I was reminded of my experience as a summer intern with the Mono Lake Committee. Walking alone across a meadow in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada, I recalled a night spent sitting on a bluff on the north side of Mono Lake, radio tracking coyotes. My memory was triggered in a way that has become common. By birds.

Expectations were high as I crossed the meadow. Earlier in the day a friend and I had seen a pair of sandhill cranes calmly feeding near a barn just up the road. While driving to the grocery store, we had pulled off onto the gravel shoulder and watched as the cranes stepped delicately through the tall dry grass, bending their long gray necks to pick at seeds. Of course, driving into town we hadn't expected to see any interesting birds so we hadn't brought binoculars. I think Murphy wrote a special law about that for birdwatching. Luckily, the cranes had been close enough to the road to be seen without binoculars.

During this evening on the meadow, I was still full of optimism, anticipating more sandhill cranes. I watched as robins ran in crisscross patterns through the grass. Dozens, too many to count, could make the pasture look like a computerized checkers game, with the birds moving over invisible squares from corner to corner. Dipping their heads, they would run with the energy of a frightened rabbit, their backs parallel to the ground and their breasts brushing the grass. Then, without warning, a robin would stop, stand up straight, and wait. With a quick poke and a few tugs, the bird would soon be eating up a fat worm spaghetti style. And with the meal over, the satisfied bird might give its beak a

quick cleaning, straighten out a few wing feathers, and then be off running again.

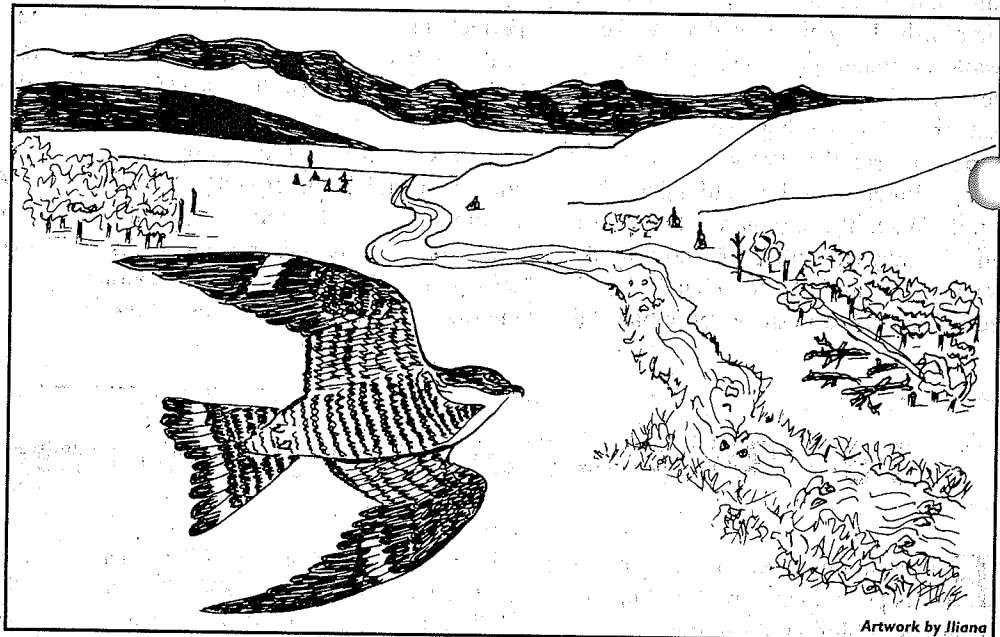
As much as I like observing animal behavior, and as much as I like birds, watching these robins feed in the meadow got boring. Even the juveniles, with their speckled breasts not yet fully orange, were efficient hunters, and they had already outgrown the clumsy mistakes that can make watching young birds entertaining. I was eager to see something different.

A pickup truck rolled down the road

tall Douglas firs gazing upon an undramatic sunset.

Far off over the trees, I could see dark objects darting across the skyline. Bats, I thought. Fuzzy little mammals. I was running out of time to see any more birds. The shadowy figures got closer, drifting toward the meadow. Now I could make out two separate fliers. Then three. They moved too quickly for me to focus binoculars on them so I sat down and waited.

When they were right over me, I could



along the meadow with its muffler rattling out shotgun blasts. I sympathized with the plight of the driver. More than once, I have used a roll of duct tape and a strong wire coat hanger to reattach my muffler and tailpipe, trying to get that extra mile out of it. But here in the fading daylight, faulty exhaust systems and birdwatching didn't mix. Most of the robins took to the air, disappearing into the pine trees. I stood alone among the

see the outline of their longish pointed wings and the bold white patches out toward the ends. Nighthawks. The three birds swirled in crazy figure eights, weaving in and out of each other's loops. Stopping in mid-air, they would drop like stones to catch a moth, and then pull up and begin another long sweeping turn.

Seeing the nighthawks reminded me of the first time I saw one. As a Committee intern I had been radio tracking

Notes with a scientist near Black Point to make a little extra money. (Summer interns with the Committee never make enough money and are always searching for new and interesting ways to supplement their meager salaries.) The air was calm with a cold chill beginning to fall. A small squadron of night fliers swooped overhead. I watched as they picked moths out of the air one after another, effortlessly maneuvering their sleek bodies above the sagebrush. That night, as darkness came, I could hear the nighthawks collecting the bugs that were following my flashlight as I read the numbers off the radio transmitter.

Watching nighthawks years later over this meadow on the opposite side of the Sierran crest from Mono Lake, I began to think of how much they reminded me of other birds. They are immediately like swallows in their pattern of cutting on the wind. They make elegant turns with such precision that they leave you surprised when they break away to change direction or dive into quick spirals. When the nighthawks fall to lose altitude, they can pull their wings up like city pigeons dropping for a handful of seed. Their size and shape resembles the

kestrel's, and I watched as one of the nighthawks hovered with a similar wing beat, only to drop and turn into a new pattern above the tree tops.

The long narrow wings of the nighthawk also reminded me of the California gulls at Mono Lake. I thought about the way the gulls cup the ends of their curled wings over the wind currents, gliding easily over the surface of the water. Like the nighthawk's, the gull's wings make me think of human hands, their black tips like fingers holding the air. It was part jealousy and part respect that kept me watching the nighthawks. I thought of da Vinci in his little Italian studio, designing flying machines on paper. I would want my wings sculpted from the same pattern as the nighthawk, so that I could feel the wind and shape it into perfect curls.

Like that of gulls, the nighthawks' arrival in the Mono Basin indicates a change of season. A gull flying down the eastern slope calls out for spring, squawking at having arrived in March before the final snow fall. They establish nests out on the islands, raising chicks through the hot summer, leaving before the first cold evenings have turned the

aspen golden. They head west over the Sierra Nevada in awkward V-formations toward coastal beaches.

The nighthawks arrive only a month or so after the gulls, flying north just as the desert peach, and summer, comes into bloom. They spend the long days nested on shaded patches of sagebrush meadow, hunting for insects through the afternoon and evening. They depart without announcement early in the fall, drifting through the twilight toward southern hills and valleys, leaving behind the promise of shorter days to come.

My thoughts drifted back across the mountains as the last bit of daylight gave way to a darkening sky. The first stars were visible and I found my way back to the road. Nothing spectacular, I thought, with the meadow falling into shadows. Maybe an owl would call from the tall dark trees, and I could carry that voice, along with these familiar thoughts, far into the night.

Brian Flaig was an intern with the Mono Lake Committee in 1992. He now lives in Berkeley. S

Top Bike-A-Thon fundraisers receive awards

Every summer, Mono Lake enthusiasts pedal their way from Los Angeles to Mono Lake in the annual Bike-A-Thon as a way of showing their support for the lake—and raising much-needed funds for the Mono Lake Committee.

Donated prizes inspire a friendly competition among cyclists to raise the largest amount of money. The 1994 Bike-A-Thon's top fundraisers spent plenty of time on foot gathering sponsors before jumping on their bikes for a week-long ride. They are:

Mark Coolidge, of Laguna Hills,

who raised over \$4,000 and received a custom bicycle donated by **Riedel Cycles**.

Paul Green, of Berkeley, was the second place fundraiser and received a **JVC Compact Component System**.

Glenn Skinner, from Palo Alto, came in a close third and will enjoy a cycling weekend getaway for two with **Backroads Bicycle Tours**.

All the Bike-A-Thon riders deserve thanks for their fundraising work. In 1994, Bike-A-Thoners and members contributed in excess of \$85,000 for the protection and restoration of Mono Lake!

And, for all you Bike-A-Thon riders

and sponsors out there, wait no more: 1995 will bring the much-anticipated **Victory Ride!** Following the same route and procedure as the regular 'thon, the Victory Ride will celebrate last fall's Water Board decision (see page 5). The traditional Rehydration Ceremony and Annual Meeting will be a chance for members, supporters, and friends to get together and celebrate the lake's rising future. And, of course, the Victory Ride will raise needed funds for the restoration of Mono Lake's streams and wetlands. We hope to see you there!



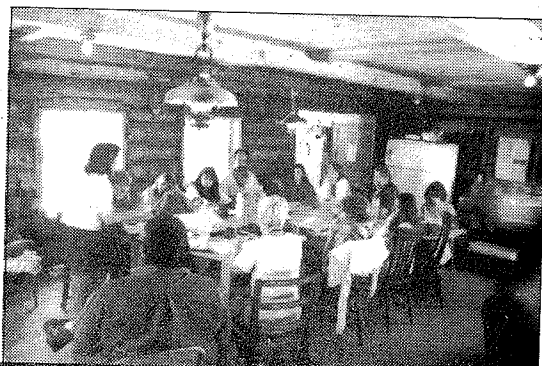
◀ The California State Water Resources Control Board voted on Mono Lake's future on September 28. They required the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to let Mono Lake rise to 6,392 feet above sea level—and to restore damaged streams and waterfowl habitat.

➤ Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan addressed the community groups and crowds gathered to send off the 1994 Bike-A-Thon riders. "Together," he said, "we can meet our water needs and preserve this great natural beauty: Mono Lake."

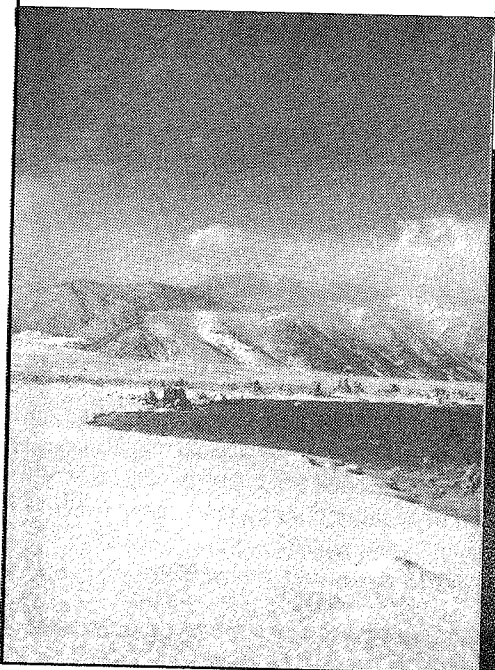
The Mayor and City Councilwoman Ruth Galanter played critical roles in negotiating an agreement on AB444, providing the city with millions of dollars to replace their Mono Lake water supply with reclaimed water.



◀ Winter storms brought lots of snow to the Mono Basin at the end of 1994 (and first part of 1995). Above-average runoff is forecast for 1995, promising that the lake level will rise.



▲ The Mono Lake Committee staff and Board of Directors held a summer retreat to begin planning the future of the Committee. Restoration of waterfowl habitat and Mono Lake's tributary streams is a priority.

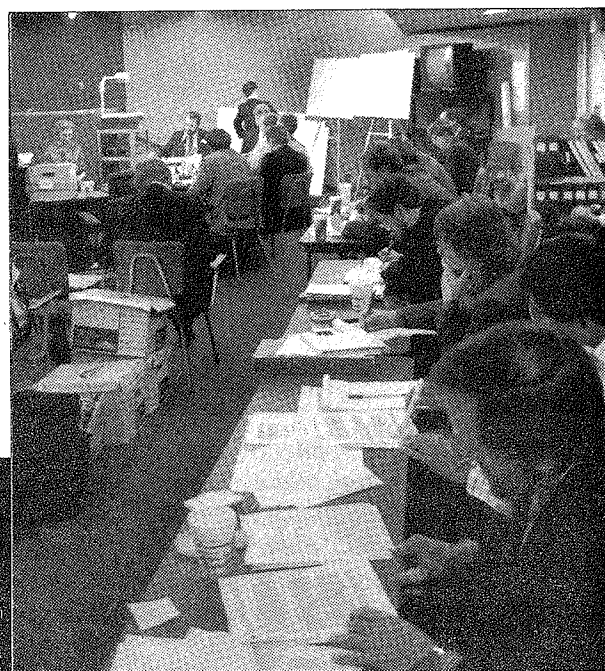


▼ Negotiations between Department of Water and Power General Manager Bill McCarley, DWP Commission President Dennis Tito, and MLC Executive Director Martha Davis led to an agreement that neither party would appeal the Water Board decision. The deal was announced at a press conference immediately before the Water Board voted.

1994 IN REVIEW



► Evidentiary hearings held by the Water Board began in 1993 and continued through January of 1994, totalling more than 44 days of testimony. They produced volumes of important information on the lake, its tributary streams, aqueduct operations, waterfowl, and restoration.



From snowline to waterline

by Gary Nelson

One of my favorite times to go canoeing at Mono Lake is on a crisp winter day. Conditions need to be just right. Mono's salty waters are below freezing, so there shouldn't be the slightest hint of wind. Even a momentary immersion would be dangerously unpleasant. But if it's too still, the pogonip will be so thick that you'll need a compass to navigate.

Recently, between storms, a perfect day presented itself. I quickly dug out a canoe and headed down to the lake. Dragging the canoe through snow drifts like some recalcitrant bobsled, I saw the tracks of deer and rabbits connecting the springs that dot the shoreline.


Soon I was afloat. Even though my bow made quite a racket as it broke

through freshwater ice, I was pleased to have finally succeeded in leaving the snow behind for the first time in weeks. The entire landscape—from waterline to Sierra crest—was completely white.

Mother Nature, seemingly interpreting the Water Board decision as a good faith effort, has blessed the basin with heavy snowfall. The Sierra slopes have that rounded, swollen look. Looking at the huge snowpack, I begin to eagerly anticipate increased streamflows, recharged springs, and a higher lake level.

The realization sinks in that this is my first cruise upon Mono Lake in its new, "saved" state. I begin to ponder necessary changes to my canoe tour interpretive talk. I've gone on for years about how the level of the lake is dependent on

"precipitation, evaporation, and litigation." Guess it's time to replace the last factor in this equation with "cooperation." Maybe I won't have to expound so much on water politics now. This could give me more time to point out birds or talk about the tufa towers as they slowly return to their true realm beneath the briny waters. This ought to be a great summer to just enjoy Mono Lake.

Gary Nelson is preparing for his seventh year of canoe tours. Chipping ice from in front of the canoe shed door keeps him in shape through the winter. 

Bookstore browsings

by Rick Knepp

It's been a good winter in the Mono Basin. Frequent snow storms have offered the infrequent visitor unequaled beauty and the solitude to explore this land of many faces with only wind songs, the occasional cry of a coyote, and the whisper of one's own progress serving as counterpoint to the silence.

The bounty of a heavy winter also holds the promise of a particularly colorful spring. Already "desert rats" have been passing through, on their way towards Death Valley, Anza Borrego, and the recently protected Mojave searching out the sun and splashy displays of desert wildflowers. Soon, here near the shores of the lake, the pungent spice of greening sage will break through winter's white overcoat. Desert peach, lupine, and prickly poppy will usher in the unpredictability of a basin equinox. And the basin's streams will sing as they carry


the lifeblood of the lake's future to its (hopefully!) expanding shoreline. There is no bad time to be here; this is one of the finest.

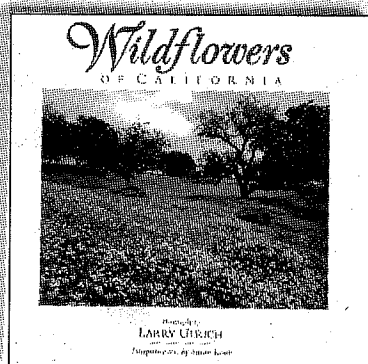
Our Information Center and Bookstore is also decked out in the colors of the season, and with the lighter crowds of springtime, browsing is at its best.

The beautiful Desert Wildflower T-shirt is back in stock, along with all of our less-seasonal favorites. A bountiful selection of titles on deserts, wildflowers, spring, and exploring and experiencing all of the above, line the bookshelves. Included is a beautiful—and affordable—new coffee table book: *California Wildflowers*, featuring the exquisite color photographs of Larry Ulrich, three of whose images grace our 1995 calendar. (Soon, we expect the arrival of the 1996 edition ... where does the time go?)

The favorable State Water Resources Control Board decision has precipitated a search for new merchandise—and the phasing out of a few old favorites, including the "Save Mono Lake" license plate holder, a small quantity of which are still available. These will likely become collectibles in the near future, especially for the dedicated Monophile.

You'll find some of these items pictured on the opposite page—and listed on the accompanying order form. A reminder, though, that *anything* that's available in our store can be purchased by mail or phone. Simply use the form or, better yet, call us at (619) 647-6595; we'll make certain that we can provide exactly what you need.

Rick Knepp is Sales Manager for the Committee. He keeps the staff supplied with photographic knowledge. 

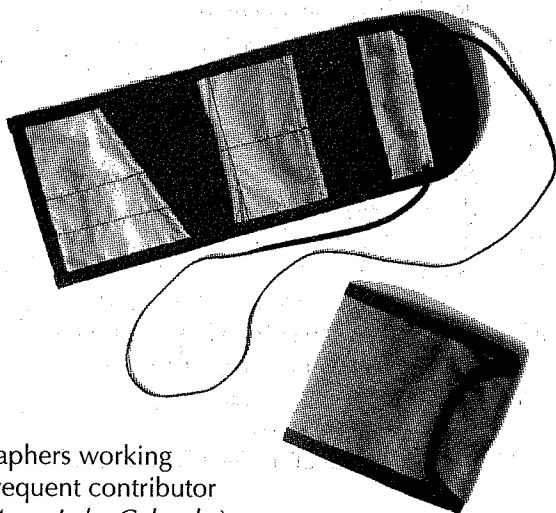


Wildflowers of California ▲

For the next several months, our fair state will be in bloom from redwood rain forest to desert, from valleys filled with poppies and daisies to the rainbow of blossoms found in the mountain meadows of the High Sierra. This seemingly infinite variety of size and color is celebrated in *Wildflowers of California*, a coffee table book from the camera of Larry Ulrich, one of the most distinguished landscape and wilderness

photographers working (and a frequent contributor to the *Mono Lake Calendar*). The text is by Susan Lamb. Ulrich "explores the astonishing spectrum of native flora in bloom across the Golden State." Share his exploration in this exquisitely unique and personal photographic journal.

Companion Press; 136 pages; 137 color plates; 9 1/2 x 10 inches; \$18.95



◀ Travel Wallet

The tote of choice for the Committee staff! Soon to become your most indispensable companion, this travel wallet will keep you organized for a walk downtown or globetrotting adventure. Handsewn of rugged cordura nylon by local craftswoman Sita Loveridge. 6 x 7 inches. Royal blue, deep purple, or black; \$18.00

Sierra Wildflowers T-Shirt ►

Spring intern Michelle Cox in a design long a favorite in our Gift Shop and catalog, featuring an earth palette of colors showing the wildflowers of the Range of Light in bloom.

White shirt; sizes S-XXL; \$15.00



Use our **postage-paid envelope** to send in your order!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County (for sales tax) _____

Daytime phone _____

SHIPPING RATES

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

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Check (to Mono Lake Committee)

Signature _____ Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

\$3.00 charge for additional mailing addresses

Quantity	Item	Price	Total
	Sierra Wildflower T-shirt size:	\$15.00	
	Travel wallet color:	\$18.00	
	Wildflowers of California	\$18.95	
	Save Mono Lake License Plate Holder	\$4.95	
	Shipping (see left):		
	Subtotal:		
	CA residents add applicable sales tax:		
	Total		

Phone orders: (619) 647-6595

Fax orders: (619) 647-6377

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

Special gifts support Mono Lake

In Memoriam

James Mitchell, a longtime supporter of Mono Lake and the Sierra, passed away recently. An avid birder, he met David Gaines in the early days of the Mono Lake Committee and joined up immediately. James spent many a day enjoying Mono Lake and the Tuolumne Meadows area with his wife, Dee, who resides in Orinda. Donations in his memory have arrived from:

Pam Anderson, of Walnut Creek; **Debbie Anzillotti**; **Maria P. Armstrong**, from Walnut Creek; **Gertrude Beggs**, of Walnut Creek; **Greg Beretta**; **Joy and Roy Benjamin**, Danville residents; **Rosalie and George Block**, of Moraga;

Barbara Creech, of Walnut Creek; **Vida and Dick Dawson**, from Walnut Creek; **Melba Deidrick**, of Walnut Creek; **Katherine R. Delucchi**, from Oakland; **Mrs. Matthew Denardo Jr.**, of Moraga; **Mary and Jim Drennan**, residents of Moraga; **Mary and Alfred Engstrom**, of Oakland; **Vera Holman**, from San Francisco; **Ilene and John Holmgren**, from Orinda; **Lotte Kendall**, of Orinda; **Florence A. Kinghorn**, of Moraga; **Michelle Kramer and Paul Schleissner**, of Los Angeles; **Gary, Kathy, and Kevin Major**, who live in Colleyville, Texas; **Doris Nattinger**, of Martinez; **Bill Radford**; **Paul Richey**; **Elaine and Paul Schmidt**, of Moraga;

Donna and Malcolm Shepley, of Moraga; **Thurle, Alice, and James Thomas**, from Orinda; **Victor and Holly Traverso**, of Pioneer; **Helen and Louis Trescony**, from Orinda; **Winnie Tsou**, of Walnut Creek; **Betty Ann and Frank Williams**, of Orinda; **Judith A. Wolcott**, of Martinez; and **Jennifer Wong**.

Many Bike-A-Thon participants made donations in memory of Mr. Ray Morley Jr., a longtime friend of fellow cyclist Steve Schmidt. Donations came from: **Ivars Blukis**, of Los Altos; **C. Denise Brudersen**, from Menlo Park; **Lia Bruno**, of Menlo Park; **Harper Burns**, of Palo Alto; **Carol Cooper**, of Mountain View; **Kathy Craig**, of Los Altos;

Staff migrations

by Martha Davis

Genny Smith, a longtime Monomaniac and MLC Board member, has been with the Committee through almost all the court victories, setbacks, and successes. She is leaving the Board this winter, creating a spot that will be hard to fill.

Genny joined the Board in 1981, bringing with her an extensive knowledge of the Eastern Sierra, strong concern for Mono Lake, and some well-needed tips on publishing books and newsletters. She devoted many long hours to the Mono Lake Public Policy discussions with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, seeking creative replacement water options for Los Angeles and funding for those projects. Last year's decision by L.A.'s leadership to accept the Mono Lake decision is a wonderful tribute to the effectiveness of Genny's work.

Long ago, David Gaines dedicated the *Mono Lake Guidebook* to Genny Smith, calling her one of the earth's "inspiring housekeepers and human beings." While Genny's wry sense of humor and voice

of common sense will be greatly missed in our Board discussions, she has agreed to join Grace de Laet and Helen Green as Emeriti Board Members, promising to lend us a special hand in the years to come.

Replacing Genny on the MLC Board will be **Patrick Flinn**. Currently a partner with Morrison and Foerster, Patrick has been a key player on Mono Lake's legal team since 1986. Patrick has long been a source of excellent advice for the Mono Lake Committee. We welcome Patrick to the Board and look forward to his assistance in guiding the Committee through the uncharted terrain beyond the lawsuits.


Development Coordinator **Tina Sanders** is departing to pursue her interests in teaching. Tina joined the staff two years ago just as the Bike-A-Thon kicked off, giving her a true trial by ordeal. She coordinated the Committee's fundraising events, from the Bike-A-Thon to the Wine Cellar Drawing. Her organization, thoroughness, and good spirits will be missed.

Sophie Lam joins the Committee crew as our new bookkeeper. Sophie,

who came to the U.S. from Uganda, brings good cheer and a classy accent to the office. Sophie will be working to assure our accounting and reporting systems are up-to-date and running smoothly.

John Hollinrake, the Corporate Counsel to the Mono Lake Committee for many years, recently resigned due to the fact that he's relocating to Micronesia. John gave generously of his time and expertise over the years, and we will miss his sage advice and good humor. His pro bono consultation helped us navigate many complex and confusing situations.

Fall intern **Jon Zinner** has returned to the Southern California area to obtain his teaching credential. **Michelle Cox** takes his place, joining the Committee for a winter internship. In addition to working hard on revising the educational exhibits in the Information Center and Bookstore, she plans to become an expert telemark skier by the winter's end.

Martha Davis is the Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee. 

a Dondick, a Redwood City resident; **Linda Farwell**, of Menlo Park; **Robert Fischer** and **Nancy Federspiel**, Menlo Park residents; **Bob and Rhodan Glen**, who live in Ridgecrest; **Dave Glen** and **Kathy Esslinger**, from Palo Alto; **Gareth K. Hansen**, of Menlo Park; **Mike and Diane Harding**, of Menlo Park; **Fred Herring**, of Redwood City; **John Hughes**, of Portola Valley; **John Langbein**, from Redwood City; **Brendan Leary** and **Jean Swanson**, Palo Alto residents; **Lyndell Paul**, of Malibu; **Elizabeth K. Raymond**, of Berkeley; **Charlotte Richard**, from Foster; **Harry W. Rodda**, of Palo Alto; **Carol J. Roth**, of Lafayette; **Kathy Schmidt**, of Palo Alto; **Andy Strawn**, a Palo Alto resident; **Pat Williams**, of Menlo Park; and **Luvonne Youngquest**, of Turbock.

Doris Dryer, the mother of Bike-A-Thon cyclist **Cat Skinner**, was remembered by: **Marilyn Bock**, of Escondido; **William Chin**, of Redondo Beach; **John**, from Colorado Springs, Colorado; **Steve P. Kaplan**, of Los Angeles; **Elanor Lippman**, of Riverside; **Larry and Barbara Reade**, residents of Cheektowaga, New York; **Hartland Schmidt**, from Riverside; **Paul Van Dyke**, of Los Angeles; and **David Westwood**, from Orem, Utah.

G. A. McCallum was remembered by **Phyllis McCallum Koch**.

Naturalist **Carl Sharsmith**, the legendary mountain sage of Tuolumne Meadows, has been remembered by **Catherine M. Rose** of Santa Barbara.

James Cox has been remembered by his wife **Virginia Cox**.

Edith and Mortimer Gaines remembered their cousin **Nate Davidow** with a kind donation.

Dr. W. Harvey Moore has been remembered by **Charlotte Cooper**.

Lee Eckhardt has been remembered by **Karen and David Backer**.

Jan Arlyn Weisenborn has been remembered by **Billie Jean and Richard Wiebe**.

On what would have been his 93rd birthday, **Einar Nilsson** was remembered by his wife **Annie Nilsson**.

Charles Stone has been remembered by his son and daughter-in-law, **William and Florence Stone**.

Wallace Dunham Fuqua has been remembered by his wife **Evelyn Fuqua**.

Elisabeth Working has been remembered by **Nancy and Ronald Smith**.

Lourene Fitzsimmons made a donation in memory of **Margaret Ann McPherson**.

Howard Rink has been remembered by his wife **Ruth Rink**.

Suzanne Flint Everts was joined by **Ann Sherman-Flint** in making a donation in memory of **Mary Cushing**.

Johanna Opalenik has been remembered by **Ursula Reitter**.

Special Gifts

A surprise arrived in the mail one fall day in the form of a generous \$10,000 contribution from **The Rex Foundation**, based in Marin County. Thank you!

Jim Morris, of the Environmental T-Shirt Company, has donated a portion of his profits to the Committee "to help you in your efforts to protect the environment."

Indira Clark, of Waterford, made a donation in honor of her 81-year-old mother "who taught me the meaning of stewardship."

Elliott and Nobuko McClure were married on October 14, 1994; **The Conejo Valley Audubon Society** made a donation as a wedding gift.

Thanks go to photographer **Kennan Ward**, who is discontinuing his sunrise poster of Mono Lake; he donated the remaining stock to the Committee.

Michael Ole Nielsen and friend **Elvira** donated their time to translate MLC information into German.

The Strong Foundation recently provided the Committee with a \$1,500 grant to renovate the education exhibits in the Lee Vining Bookstore. They will be updated to reflect the lake's current status and the work being done on restoration.

Congratulations

Sally Miller, the MLC's Eastern Sierra Representative, was recently appointed to the Mono County Planning Commission. With her boundless energy and expertise, we know she'll serve the county well. 🐾

Matched Gifts

Brian and Donna Anderson, of Trabuco Canyon, made a donation which will be matched by **McMaster-Carr Supply Company**.

Jean Bulpitt, of Culver City, made a donation which will be matched by her employer, **Payden and Rygel**.

Michael L. Grandcolas, of Santa Monica, made a donation which will be matched by **Citibank**.

John and Dawna Saunders, of Fallbrook, made a donation which John's employer **Becton Dickinson** will match.

Richard and Barbara Vandervoort, of Hinsdale, Illinois, made a donation to be matched by Richard's employer **CPC International**.

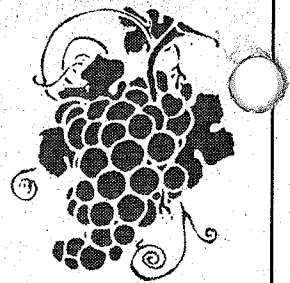
BankAmerica Foundation will be matching the donations of three employees: **Michele L. and William G. Sooy**, of Laguna Niguel; **Traude and Michael Buckland**, of Berkeley; and **Arthur W. Feidler III**, of Kentfield.

IBM will be matching donations made by three employees: **Edgar E. McCanless**, of Campbell; **H. R. McCanless**, of Laguna Hills; and **Doris A. Stoessel**, of Los Altos.

Sun Microsystems Foundation, Inc., will be matching the following employees' donations: **Harlan and Josephine McGhan**, of San Jose; **Laurence Cable**, of Mountain View; **Rodman E. King**, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and **Glenn C. Skinner**, of Palo Alto.

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

The Mono Lake Committee's 10th Annual WINE CELLAR DRAWING FUNDRAISER



Win one or more fabulous wine cellar prizes, valued at up to \$500! Tickets are available for \$50

All proceeds benefit the Mono Lake Committee



Drawing to be held at Rosenblum Cellars in Alameda, California, on Saturday, May 13, 1995



A dinner will honor Bruce Dodge, partner at Morrison & Foerster and lead attorney for Mono Lake, as the 1995 winner of the Defender of the Trust Award

*Dinner reservations are available for \$50 per person
Space is limited; event will begin at 6:00 p.m.*



For tickets or reservations, call (818) 972-2025

*To insure excellent odds, only 250 tickets will be sold per cellar
You need not be present to win*



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

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mono Lake Committee



Printed on recycled paper