

Fall

1999

MONO



LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R

Mono Lake Catalog

# Mono Lake Newsletter

Fall 1999

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California gulls look out over Mono Lake in this issue's cover photo, taken this year by Arya Degenhardt. It has been a wonderful summer filled with lots of projects. Expanded field studies looked at the gulls this summer and you can read about it on page 8.

In fact, there's lots to review in this issue! Page 3 comments on the CalFed process currently underway, page 4 reviews the status of "improvements" at South Tufa, page 6 discusses the role of large woody debris in restoration, and page 9 reviews a current restoration issue. Then learn more about the Living Lakes partnership on page 10 and enjoy a series of reflective and thoughtful articles on Mono Lake and the Mono Basin in the pages that follow. Then keep reading on for even more news and reports—and the Mono Lake Fall Catalog—in the second half of the Newsletter.

It's autumn here in the Mono Basin, and thoughts are turning to winter quiet. It's a wonderful time to visit; be sure to stop by and visit when you're here.

— Arya Degenhardt and Geoff McQuilkin



*This restoration crew made up of Forest Service, Tufa State Reserve, and Mono Lake Committee volunteers planted trees along Lee Vining creek this summer. 173 pine seedlings were planted in the spring and watered throughout the summer.*

## **Mono Lake Committee Mission**

The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

Mono Lake is a part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and a member of the international Living Lakes partnership. Learn more at [www.livinglakes.org](http://www.livinglakes.org).

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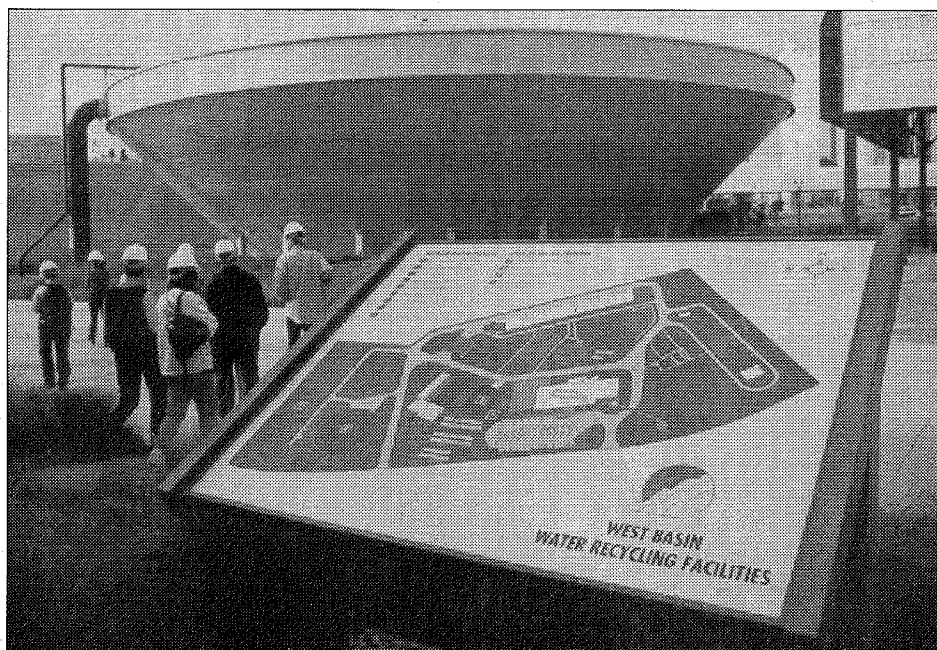
# Mono Lake's lessons lost: No room for conservation success in CalFed Bay-Delta planning

By Geoffrey McQuilkin

**T**oday, the waters of Mono Lake lap at a shoreline that has been dry since 1971. The lake's remarkable rise over the past few years is due in no small part to another event that takes us back to the 1970s: water conservation in Los Angeles. Now if only the planning for the rest of the state's water resources could be so successful.

Los Angeles today is using water at the same rate it did in the early 1970s, despite having increased its size by one million people. How is this accomplished? Through individual conservation efforts, such as careful water use in the home; through community-distributed appropriate technology, such as ultra-low flush toilets and low-flow showerheads; and through large scale engineered solutions, such as the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (DWP) West Basin water recycling facility, which, at full capacity, will be able to turn 100 million gallons of wastewater into a clean supply for industrial and irrigation use. Today the facility is converting 17.5 million gallons per day.

Mono Lake benefits from every one of these conservation measures. In fact, thanks to 20 years of work by the Mono Lake Committee, much of this water conservation is taking place *because* of Mono Lake. Water saved through DWP's participation in water recycling is credited to Mono Lake. When Mono Lake reaches its Water Board-ordered management level, Los Angeles will have saved money designated for the protection of Mono Lake to create a drought-proof water supply for Los Angeles that replaces over 200% of the water returned



*Water reclamation and recycling have provided solutions to Los Angeles' water problem.*

to the lake.

The model is so simple, you wonder where in California it will be applied next. Water saved equals water for environmental protection. But if the current Bay-Delta planning process continues down the track it is on, we will all be wondering that for a long time to come.

The Bay-Delta, or CalFed, planning process is supposed to make 30-year plans for the management and protection of the Bay Delta ecosystem and the water that supplies the needs of 22 million people in the State. All types of water users—agricultural users, urban water agencies, environmental groups—have been working with state, federal, and local agencies to craft a solution. Complex models have been designed to support the process and reams of data have been gathered.

But for all this work, the underlying assumptions about the demand for water over the next 30 years does not take into account the nearly 800,000 acre-feet of water per year conserved in Southern California during the last decade—almost equivalent to the amount set aside by Congress to protect the Bay-Delta. This raises two concerns. First, by overstating the base-year demand, the projected water needs for 2020 are overstated as well, leading to a crisis scenario that appears to support the need for more investment in dams when—in reality—such expensive facilities are not likely to be needed. Second, the incorrect numbers skew the analysis of who should pay for these costly new facilities, suggesting that the public needs to pay for the development

*continued on page 21*



# To pave or not to pave

by Bartshe Miller

**S**outh Tufa is now a very different place than it was at the beginning of this summer. The US Forest Service (USFS) has already finished much of this season's planned work (see Summer 1999 *Newsletter*). The work that remains, and is subject to change, is the further expansion and paving of the parking lot, new road construction and paving, and striping of all of the above.

## What has changed

Cold mix pavement (similar to highway blacktop) extends from the parking lot kiosk and fee hut to just below the 6392' lake level. A wooden, removable boardwalk will cover the remaining distance to the shoreline. Bordering the paved trail on both sides are treated wooden ties, which were set flush with the trail. The trail width is approximately eight feet. Additionally, a cold mix trail and cement curb borders the north and west end of the parking lot.

The new trail makes the lakeshore and bathroom facilities easily accessible for handicapped individuals, and it may link to future shade structures and picnic sites along the edge of the parking lot.

In early August, much to the surprise of all parties involved, Forest Service engineers began expanding the South Tufa parking area. Construction was halted before the entire expansion was completed. The enlarged area represents approximately a  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  increase in parking lot size. Both the State Reserve and Mono Lake Committee understood that the final decision about the parking lot expansion was to be made this September. Expansion work went ahead despite the fact that the Forest Service was still seeking input from South Tufa visitors on whether or not they wanted



*The new paved trail at the South Tufa Area.*

the parking lot to be expanded.

## More to come

A significant portion of the USFS planned "upgrades" have yet to be implemented and are up for review and final decision at the time of press. The issues of further parking lot expansion, new road construction, paving and striping will be decided before the end of October 1999. Some of the proposed parking lot expansion may involve the destruction of state-protected sand tufa. Also under consideration is the placement and size of developed shade/picnic structures.

Committee member comments are

playing a role in these decisions. The USFS has received dozens of letters from members and others commenting on the South Tufa project as it develops. The USFS is also asking for input from visitors at the South Tufa kiosk. For a current update on the South Tufa project please visit our website at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org).

## The big decision

By mid October the USFS will decide whether or not to proceed with plans to further enlarge and pave the parking lot as well as whether or not to build a new entrance road to the parking area. In public input gathered by both the USFS and the Mono Lake Committee the majority opinion has been "no pavement, no parking lot expansion." The Committee believes that paving the parking lot, building a new entrance road, and paving that road will all significantly diminish the remote and "undeveloped" atmosphere of South Tufa.

Traffic monitoring by Committee staff this past Labor Day weekend revealed that a larger parking lot is not really necessary. The long term maintenance cost and inconvenience of not paving, enlarging, or building a new road is slight compared to the unique experience that can be offered to the visitor if dirt roads and parking lots are maintained as they are. Everywhere we go there are massive, paved parking lots. Cars define the way we live, and large paved parking lots are usually necessary and inescapable, but do we really want to travel all the way to Mono Lake to see another one?

*Bartshe Miller is the Committee's Education Director. He takes pride in his computer desktop policy of seasonal photos and icon minimalism.*



## Mono Lake Kutzadika<sup>a</sup> Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association

**T**here has been a significant development for the Kutzadika<sup>a</sup> Indian Community here in Lee Vining. With nonprofit status under a federal Administration of Native Americans (ANA) grant, the Mono Lake Indians are working hard to gain federal recognition as an official tribe. Though the tribe has been working since the 1930s to get federal recognition, the awarding of the ANA grant has provided guidance, funds, and hope for the Kutzadika<sup>a</sup> community.

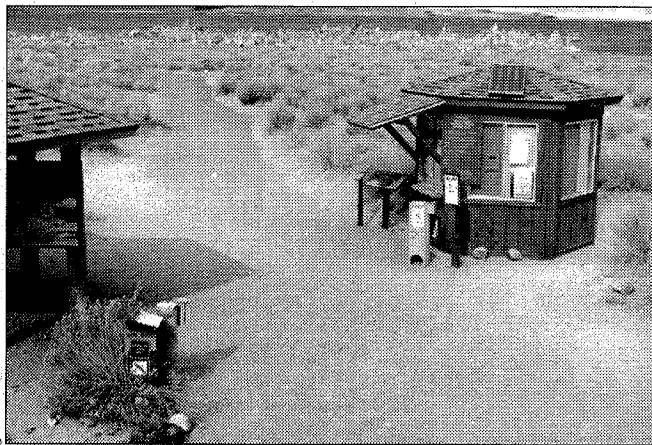
Project director Rich Blaver and Secretary and Bookkeeper Adrienne Dondero are coordinating the efforts to develop legal governing documents, compile an official ethnohistory and geneological record, research and identify lands for acquisition, develop a cultural resource protection handbook, publish a tribal newsletter, and prepare the petition to the government for official recognition. "And this is just the beginning!" says Rich.

If successful, the Kutzadika<sup>a</sup> Indians will gain educational and medical benefits, help with land acquisition and housing, and most importantly, a renewed sense of community solidarity, knowledge of their heritage, and a cohesive representation here in the Mono Basin.



Members of the Mono Lake Kutzadika<sup>a</sup> Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association outside their newly refurbished headquarters in Lee Vining.

## South Tufa Benchmarks



July 1998: The kiosk and the unpaved trail down to the lake at the South Tufa Area.

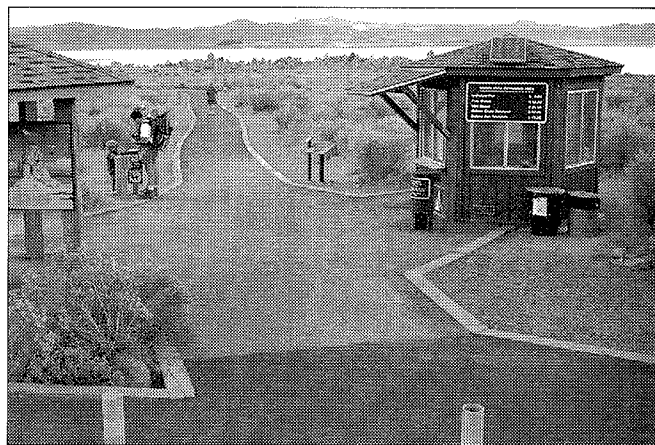


Photo by Bartshe Miller

September 1999: With a portion of the planned upgrades completed, the kiosk and paved trail at South Tufa as it is today.

# Large woody debris

by Heidi Hopkins

If you happen to notice a helicopter hovering over a Mono Basin stream this fall, it likely will be the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) placing Jeffrey pine root wads into Rush and Lee Vining creeks. DWP is adding "large woody debris" to the streams as part of its Mono Basin stream restoration work.

Scientists who drafted the initial restoration plans emphasized the importance of placing the large pieces of wood in the streams to "jumpstart" natural dynamics. During the diversion period prior to the 1994 Water Board order, the streams lost riparian forests, the natural source of large wood. Today, the streams are clogged in some sections with small woody debris—remnants of desiccated willow—but there's little large wood, and the forests that can provide it will take another 20 years to grow.

Termed "large woody debris" (LWD) in restoration lingo, hunks of wood in the stream help create habitat complexity.

As soon as they are placed, they immediately create cover for fish and a substrate for invertebrates—all those bugs fish love to eat (see sidebar). In addition, trunks and rootwads deflect flows in complex ways, boosting the dynamics of scour and deposition.

"Woody debris may have been an important factor on these streams in creating the kind of channel and vegetation diversity that characterizes the Mono Basin streams," said Dr. William Trush, the scientist in charge of monitoring Mono Basin stream recovery. "Debris jams create backwater and inundate the bank areas, depositing sediment and affecting the riparian vegetation. They also might be an important factor in redirecting water into multiple channels."

Ideally, adding LWD involves placing logs, stumps, and rootwads along stream sections deficient of pools, meanders, undercut banks, and large boulders. LWD should be allowed to move with stream flow and lodge wherever it might. Once

placed, the rootwads will give the streams something to work against during the years while the riparian forests recuperate.

According to scientists, the time required for the rootwads placed this year to increase habitat complexity will vary. "It depends on the magnitude and duration of flows sufficient to move bedload," said Trush.

In his two years' work so far on the streams, work that DWP voluntarily initiated prior to the Water Board decision, Trush is beginning to see that channel roughness is as important as channel slope as a determining factor in how the streams respond to different flows. "I had thought that slope was a key determining factor, but I'm beginning to see that it's roughness. The roughness provided by debris affects slope."

Getting the wood into the stream is a one-time action to be taken this year. If DWP finds other opportunities to add large woody debris—such as material



An example of large woody debris naturally lodged in Lee Vining creek.


made available during the upcoming Caltrans highway-widening projects—more might be added in the future.

As with all restoration, you have to strike a balance between the ideal and the practical. The ideal large woody debris would be a 20-foot trunk with rootwad attached. The rootwads being placed this year were left over from Caltrans highway work a number of years ago and stored at Cain Ranch. Their trunks were long ago taken to fuel local wood stoves. The reality is people in the area need fuelwood, so it's hard to come by a trunk of any size.

According to Trush, the recovering streams are filled with small woody debris, as dead willow stems and sagebrush along the banks fall into the water. "Collectively, these small woody debris jams function something like big logs. And, as a practical matter, they might be what the stream has to work with until the streams develop their forests."

DWP's efforts on the streams are part of a long-term restoration plan approved by the State Water Resources Control Board late last year. Restoration actions in the plan are designed to reinstate natural processes and habitat conditions, as opposed to specific former landscapes. The most important action is providing the streams with variable flows that simulate the streams' natural fluctuations, including periodic flooding. These flows also will raise the level of Mono Lake, which will fluctuate during future wet and dry cycles around an average level of 6392 feet.

The LWD being placed in the streams in 1999 is only a fraction of the wood the streams will eventually carry when restored. Because natural large wood—large trees undercut in floods or toppling over in old age—will take some decades to grow and then fall, our children and our grandchildren will be the beneficiaries of today's restoration.

*Heidi Hopkins is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director. She loves fall hiking in the Sierra.* 



*On Lee Vining Creek woody debris plays a key role in stream habitat.*

### ***From an angler's point of view***

**A**ccording to local angler and outdoor news writer Marty Strelneck, woody structure makes the best places for fish to hide both in the stream and the undercut banks, whether from anglers or from the fierce dives of local osprey and kingfishers. In particular, tangled root wads and logs with pools scoured beneath them are the ideal place to find *wild* fish, the ones canny enough to know how to survive. Marty estimates that the large majority of fish you catch from these areas will

be wild, not planted, trout.

Logs that have been in the water for a long time become host for numerous aquatic insects, another benefit for the sly fish that hide there during the day and emerge at dawn and dusk.

Of course, the woody structure that provides these angling benefits also presents the greatest hazard to lures and flies. "Bring along a good supply of lures and flies if you want to fish woody debris," advises Marty, pointing out with a smile that tackle shops—and the local economy—benefit from large woody debris too.



# Gull research 1999

by Heidi Hopkins

Gull research on Mono's islands was stepped up in the 1999 field season in an attempt to learn more about what the gulls are feeding on and how the chicks are responding. While numerous diet samples remain to be examined this fall by students of Cornell University, preliminary results indicate that gulls are taking lots of alkali flies (rather than brine shrimp) and that chick production continues to be low.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) and Dr. David Winkler of Cornell University collaborated in designing the expanded 1999 field research. PRBO's gull nesting monitoring continued as it has in the past, with paying volunteers helping count nests and band surviving chicks. New this year was field work carried out by two Cornell University students. The new research was aimed at answering focused questions about gull foraging behavior and the relationship between fly-dominated and shrimp-dominated diet for chick growth and survival.

While the final stage of the field work—the mortality count—remained to be done at the time this Newsletter went to press, it is clear that gull productivity was down again in 1999 as it had been in 1998. A number of factors could be involved, such as the El Niño/La Niña fluctuations in the weather patterns. The gull study will help answer if and how this is connected with the current meromictic state of the lake (in which the lake does not completely mix on an annual basis) and the resulting modification of brine shrimp life cycles and alkali fly distribution.

Information derived from Cornell-directed feeding studies can also help develop a more accurate picture of how Mono Lake's chemical mechanisms interact with the lake ecology in the large scale. Cornell undergraduates Nat Taylor and Justin Hite spent two months on the islands making detailed observations of a specific nesting plot, in which all gulls were individually identified, noting:

- frequency of feedings and by which parent



Gull "chick-ity" chick to be weighed and banded

- general type of food brought back
- amount of time parents spent away
- growth measurements on chicks

In the process, they collected regurgitated food samples with pertinent data about the specific chick these came from. These samples will be analyzed this fall.

Off the islands, Nat and Justin conducted foraging observations at specific sites around the shores of Mono Lake, loosely coordinated with baseline alkali fly monitoring by Dr. David Herbst of the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory. The foraging observations included such detailed information as numbers of "pecks" per minute and data on the arrival and departure of birds. The researchers also collected samples of the general food composition in the lake at the time of the foraging observations. These samples also will be analyzed this fall.

*Heidi Hopkins generously shared her house, car, and good taste in music with researchers Nat and Justin during their time off of the islands this summer.*




The 1999 gull research crew from left to right: Dave "Shuf" Shuford, Trisha Wilson, Dave Caleri, Justin Hite, seminar participant Larry Nelson, Nat Taylor, and David "Wink" Winkler at the field station on Kratakoa.

A detailed map of Mono Lake, California, showing shoreline changes and various features. The map is oriented vertically with the lake at the top. Key features include:

- Shoreline:** Two lines represent the shoreline in 1940 and 1991, showing a significant reduction in lake area over time.
- County Rd.:** A road runs horizontally across the upper middle of the lake.
- THE FORD:** A point on the western shore marked with an 'X'.
- INDIAN DITCH:** A dashed line representing a ditch on the western shore, with an arrow pointing to it.
- THE NARROWS:** A constriction in the lake's width, marked with a horizontal line.
- Gravel Quarries:** Two areas labeled "GRAVEL QUARRY" on the western shore, one above and one below The Narrows.
- Reaches:** The lake is divided into sections labeled 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D from bottom to top.
- Ditches:** Several ditches are shown: "A-DITCH" (dashed line, bottom), "B-DITCH" (dashed line, middle), "C-DITCH" (dashed line, bottom left), and "DITCH" (dashed line, middle left).
- Dams:** "GRANT DAM (NEW)" and "GRANT DAM (OLD)" are shown at the bottom of the map.
- Scale:** A scale bar indicates 0 to 2400 FEET (APPROX.).
- Compass:** A north arrow points towards the top right.
- Labels:** "MONO LAKE" at the top, "SHORELINE, 1991" and "SHORELINE, 1940" near the top, "COUNTY RD." below the shoreline, "PANU DOME" on the right, "FUMICE VALLEY" on the right, and "REACH 3" on the right.

Continued use of the return ditch to put flows down Rush Creek was a compromise reached in the Water Board proceedings on Mono Basin restoration. The Mono Lake Committee along with others, such as the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and California Trout, sought to have DWP retrofit the Grant Lake dam to provide a direct outlet into Rush Creek. Instead—in part because of the multimillion-dollar cost of the retrofit—the Water Board ordered DWP to upgrade the return ditch to carry greater year-round flows (up to the 380 cfs capacity of the existing facilities) and ordered the stream monitoring team to evaluate the need for a Grant Lake outlet that would reliably provide flows needed for restoration of Rush Creek. The evaluation would be made at the end of eight to ten years of monitoring.

All parties agreed this summer that conducting a pre-project habitat assessment was a critical first step towards implementing the Water Board order vis-à-vis the return ditch upgrades. DWP and DFG are now working out their agreement on what specific habitat qualities should be documented in the assessment. The Committee sees its role as being the “squeaky wheel” in the process, making sure that this matter doesn’t get buried on any one person’s desk. Things are moving slowly, but they’re moving.

*Heidi Hopkins is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director. By the look of the pile of wood outside of her house she isn't taking any chances with firewood this winter.* 

**E**ven once seismic upgrades are completed, the upgraded Rush Creek return ditch capacity will still be inadequate to provide required Stream Restoration Flows (SRFs) in 40% of the years. As a result, the Water Board ordered that “Rush Creek augmentation” occur. In these years, up to 150 cfs will be diverted from Lee Vining Creek into Rush Creek. The timing of this procedure can be tricky, since the diversions must wait seven days after Lee Vining Creek peaks so

The monitoring team will evaluate whether the combination of Grant Lake reservoir spill plus flows diverted from Lee Vining Creek is a reliable means of providing the mandated SRFs for Rush Creek. They also will evaluate the effects on Lee Vining Creek and the need for construction of a new Grant Lake Reservoir outlet.

# The Living Lakes project

By Udo Gattenlöhner

Up to now, the protection of lakes on an international level has almost exclusively been left to national and governmental initiatives. The overall intent of the Living Lakes International Lake Network is to prepare the ground for an ongoing and sustainable international dialogue that will exchange know-how, technologies (e.g. water conservation systems or solar cell technology for boat engines), and experiences between environmental, lake-based NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) that are effectively moving Agenda 21 objectives from paper to practice.

On June 11 1998, the Global Nature Fund, in cooperation with the Mono Lake Committee, organized an international press conference in Los Angeles to introduce the "Living Lakes" project to the public. Our project will be presented next year in Hanover at Expo2000 in the both "Thematic Area" and in the "House of World Wide Projects".

The international Lake Network consists of seven NGOs from four

European and three non-European countries in co-operation with authorities (especially communities), businesses, local population and media on both regional and national levels.

The initial members of the Lake Network are: Mono Lake (USA); Lake Constance (Germany, Switzerland, Austria); St. Lucia Lake (South Africa); and Lake Biwa (Japan).

More recently Spain's La Nava Lake, Nestos Lakes in Greece, and Lake Baikal in Russia were admitted into the partnership. Additional Lakes will be integrated into the project up to the year 2000.

The Living Lakes Network supports activities and campaigns including competent government authorities and local businesses in the process. Annual "Living Lakes" meetings will be held, thereby promoting the exchange of experiences and mutual help and assistance, if necessary. The Internet will be used extensively to exchange information as well. The Living Lakes Website ([www.livinglakes.org](http://www.livinglakes.org)) has information available for the public and

press about all member lakes.

The members of the project meet regularly, exchange information, formulate statements, and coordinate single activities and agree on further steps for common work. Our major objectives are to provide financial support of international conservation programs and the exchange of information for conservationists all over the world.

On the occasion of the Second International Living Lakes Conference with the topic "Nature Conservation and Tourism" held at St. Lucia (South Africa), the First World Lake Day was proclaimed on November 15, 1998 to emphasize the global ecological importance of lakes and put forward a program for the preservation and saving of threatened lakes. We look forward with enthusiasm to announcing the Second World Lake Day at our upcoming meeting at Mono Lake this fall!

*Udo Gattenlöhner is the Living Lakes project director for the Global Nature Fund. He's traveling from Germany to make his first visit to Mono Lake this October.*

## Why Living Lakes?

All Mono Lake Committee members will agree that Mono Lake adds important natural values to the Living Lakes project. But, some might ask, what does the Living Lakes project add to Mono Lake?

First, Living Lakes puts an international spotlight on both Mono Lake's scenic and ecological values and the twenty-plus year effort to protect the lake with a sustainable management plan. Without such recognition, Mono's protection could easily fade away given time and drought.

Second, Living Lakes gives Mono advocates a chance to expand our family worldwide. The Committee has

a growing international membership contingent, thanks in part to exposure through Living Lakes. In fact, we now have new members joining the Committee from Austria and Japan through the Mono Lake Website. These supporters have never been to the lake—Mono's history and the Committee's programs are persuasive enough.

Third, Living Lakes brings the opportunity for increased grant funding for projects at Mono Lake. Over the past year, a Living Lakes grant has enabled two part time staff to work full time on the Mono Lake and Living Lakes websites. And Living

Lakes has covered expenses for Committee representatives to attend Living Lakes conferences.

And finally, Living Lakes provides the strength in numbers that will help assure Mono's continuing protection in the future. The more people understand that water conservation and recycling in Los Angeles are directly linked to Mono Lake's health, the harder it will be to challenge that model of protection. Should threats to the lake arise, we can be sure that an international voice of opposition will be added to ours here at home in the United States.



# Community of place

by Andrea Lawrence

**We all react, consciously and unconsciously, to the places where we live and work, in ways we scarcely notice or that are only now becoming known to us. Ever accelerating changes in most people's day-to-day circumstances are helping us and prodding us, sometimes forcing us, to learn that our ordinary surroundings, built and natural alike, have an immediate and a continuing effect on the way we feel and act, and on our health and intelligence.**

—Tony Hiss, *The Experience of Place*

**T**ony Hiss' words speak to the growing awareness of place in our lives, of how integral the natural world and the environment is to our long-term well-being, and to sustainable communities.

For me, the Mono Lake story amply, and wonderfully, illustrates many of the principles and potentials for sustainable communities, assuring our deep sense of place. Many of us who live here watched as the lake lowered, dust storms increased, and streams dried up. One felt a sense of diminishment—of the land, of our spirit, and our place. Now with the lake rising, and the battle to save Mono Lake won, there is a sense and feeling of abundance and well being.

With revitalization of the streams has come a revitalization of the community. Both economically as well as in the greater sense of community. People came together to build a stream walk along Lee Vining Creek, and a community garden, and an old school house got moved from the outskirts of the town into the town park for use as a museum.

The entrepreneurial spirit as well has been revitalized! New businesses have been built and new business people are purchasing motels and restaurants. Not all of this rests easy with everyone and the struggle is to maintain the type of



*CURES participant and newest Committee Board Member, Andrea Lawrence.*

growth that recognizes, and respects, the significance of the restoration of Mono Lake's ecosystem.

Tourism, the County's and the Eastern Sierra's economic engine, has shown large increases. The Mono Lake decision must be credited for a substantial portion of it. Mono Lake is the most frequently visited destination in the Eastern Sierra with over 100,000 visitors.

The importance of the Basin's environment and ecosystem is further illustrated in its recognition by local, state, national, and international organizations. The Public Trust decision in 1983, which said that the public trust values must be protected, is one of the most important aspects of the Mono Lake Committee's success. It sets the standard by which future water resource decisions will and must be made, balancing the human needs with the needs of the natural systems. The 1990 designation of Mono Lake as a member of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird

Reserve Network and its membership in the Living Lakes organization says that we are connecting to a larger community of place.

The attention that has been focused on Mono Lake and the Mono Basin has furthered other actions in Eastern Sierra. One example is the Coalition for Unified Recreation in the Eastern Sierra, or CURES. Comprised of private businesses, chambers of commerce, the environmental community, and federal, state, and local government, the group cumulatively represents the major recreation providers in Eastern Sierra. The Mono Lake Committee is among their membership. CURES has come together "in an effort to preserve the natural, cultural, and economic resources, and enrich the experiences of visitors and residents." CURES created the Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway along 240 miles of Highway 395. There are 34 interpretive stops with kiosks which showcase the unique cultural and natural history of the region while acquainting visitors with community. These are efforts which further the vision of CURES: "A sustainable environment is the cornerstone of recreation and tourism, which are the foundations of the area's healthy economy."

The Mono Basin, Lee Vining, the Eastern Sierra: this community of place we call home and share with our visitors is richer, and indeed more abundant because of the efforts to identify and preserve the unique characteristics of our land and our culture. Our experience of place informs us, and indeed does "force us to learn that our ordinary surroundings, built and natural alike, have an immediate and continuing effect on the way we feel and act" ... and most certainly, "on our health and intelligence."

*Andrea Lawrence is a Committee Board Member. She is the proud owner of a personalized "Champion Mono Lake" bumper sticker.* 🐾

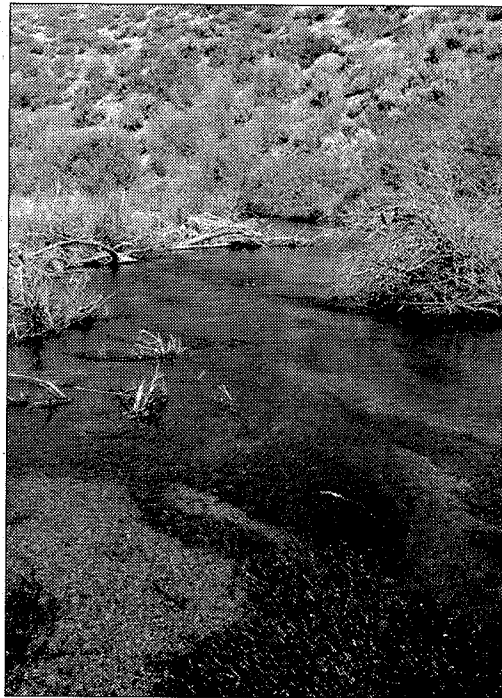
# Cords that bind

by Lisa Cutting

*Editor's Note: Rush Creek was first dewatered in 1941 as a result of diversions to the City of Los Angeles. In the 1960s when excess runoff was sent down the stream in large quantities, riparian vegetation, weakened from years of insufficient water, could not hold the original banks. A single straight channel was formed, replacing natural meanders, and closing off many of the side channels. Reopening some of these historic channels is one of the many stream restoration activities that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is currently involved with. Channel 10 is a reopened channel on Rush Creek that began carrying water again in October 1995.*

As an intern, one of my responsibilities this summer has been to help monitor water table fluctuations in one specific area of Rush Creek. This involves recording piezometer measurements from established sites located near the confluence of Rush Creek and Channel 10. This information is important to track because as flows either increase or decrease the water table is affected—which in turn affects vegetation growth and other habitat variables. Initially, I was collecting data two times a week which allowed my personal connection with Channel 10 to begin.

As a fly-fisherperson, I was especially interested in the restoration activities related to Rush Creek. Prior to the diversions, Rush had been one of the premier wild trout fisheries in California with brown trout averaging up to two pounds. Incorporated into the 1994 State Water Resource Control Board were the criteria that would be used to determine when the restoration work would be considered "complete." It was decided that the current fishery must be restored



*The winding curves of Rush Creek Channel 10 where one can often see great blue herons fishing.*

back to the pre-1941 condition, which would include trout populations that mimicked pre-diversion populations in both size and numbers. I was thrilled to be able to be involved with such a program!

When I first saw Channel 10, I was amazed by what I saw. If I had not known that Channel 10 was a restored channel, it would not have been apparent to me. Healthy vegetation lined the banks, at times making access difficult. The channel was a combination of pools, riffles, and runs. Submerged logs also contributed to the aquatic habitat complexity, and I knew from experience that if there were trout, that's where they would be. So, I made a mental note to bring my rod next trip.

When I returned and began fly-fishing (catch and release of course) the area near the logs answered all of my questions. Yes, trout were already starting to

inhabit Channel 10. And although their average size was only about eight inches, they were in Channel 10 and they were wild! The process had begun and, amazingly, all of this within four years of "just adding water!"

Of course I have made subsequent trips to Channel 10—both related to work and otherwise. Increasingly, I have found myself connecting to the channel in ways that transcend fly-fishing, and that has begun to teach me much about this fragile ecosystem, and about myself. In fact, most times recently, I don't even bring my rod but instead just walk the channel observing. It is during these times that I am rewarded: trout, deer, ducks, herons, and of course, the gulls. I have come to realize that while habitat protection may begin with a specific species, we as stewards must remember that the health of the entire ecosystem is one of a delicate balance between all of its inhabitants. Restoration ecology teaches us this lesson, and I feel honored to be a witness to this stream's restorative rebirth.

***"The river has come back  
to fit between the banks.  
To stick your hands into  
the river is to feel the  
cords that bind the earth  
together in one piece."***

***— Barry Lopez***

*Lisa Cutting was an intern at the Committee this summer. This fall she is off to Davis to begin her masters work in Geography, specifically in community based environmental protection with an emphasis on watersheds.*

# When coyotes howl back

by Bartshe Miller

Another exciting year with the Outdoor Experiences (OE) program has come to an end. Our last group of the season, Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP), departed in mid-August with wide smiles and fresh anticipation of next year's return. Nine groups participated in the 1999 Outdoor Experiences Program. In addition to two AADAP groups, this summer's line-up included: Sage Ridge School from Reno, Hillview Middle School from Pittsburg (CA), Mothers of East Los Angeles Santa Isabel (MELASI), two separate groups from the Korean Youth and Community Center's Gang Awareness Program (KYCC-GAP), Executive Partners in Environmental Resource Training (EXPERT), and a local Mono County Healthy Start group.

Many of the groups that come to Mono Lake are involved in water conservation programs sponsored by the Department of Water and Power in

Los Angeles. Many also bring young people who have little opportunity to camp, hike, and explore beautiful places beyond city limits.

One of the season's highlights was the traditional night hike. On the evening of their arrival, each group travels out to the Jeffrey pine forest south of Mono Lake to walk through the woods without flashlights. This "night prowling" involves getting acquainted with the night environment and discovering that the most dangerous animals in the forest are in fact humans. With each group, every year, the evening's activities culminate with a coyote howl to see if we can get the coyotes to respond. The kids love to howl and release nervous energy even though we all believe there is a slim chance that any coyotes will respond to our pathetic attempts at a pack of half-howling, half-yelling humans. Yet, miraculously they did respond—almost every time. Betsy Forsyth and Santiago

Escruceria, OE Coordinators and leaders extraordinaire, both found new skills in coyote communication. If their vocal cords can hold out, maybe next year they can get the owls to hoot back as well.

*Bartshe Miller is the Committee's Education Director, and resident expert in coyote calling.*

## Defender of the Trust Award to be given to Zev Yaroslavsky

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky was one of the first leaders within the City of Los Angeles to advocate Mono Lake's preservation. Serving on the Los Angeles City Council from 1975-1993, he also played a critical role in helping secure Federal and State funds for retrofitting low-flow toilets, water recycling, and other conservation programs to replace the water being used now to restore Mono Lake and Mono Basin streams and wetlands.

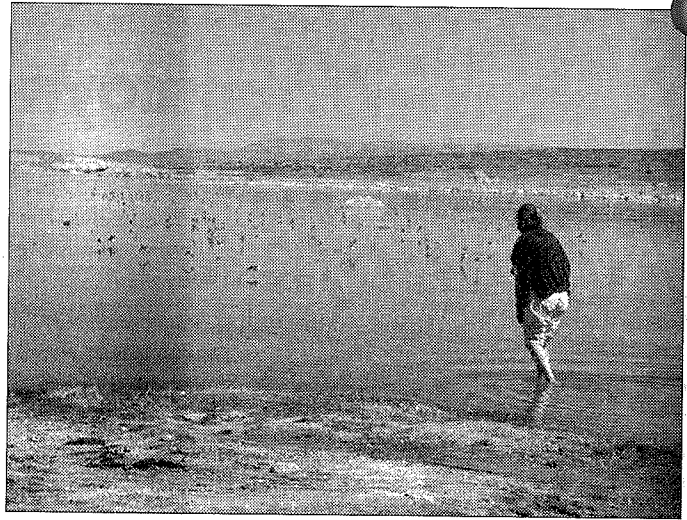
As both a Supervisor and City Councilman, Zev Yaroslavsky has become a leader in Los Angeles on environmental matters. He has helped steer the County toward projects that protect public health and restore the Los Angeles watershed. From his experience with Mono Lake, he has seen that protecting the environment can be smart public policy, not only for natural areas but for communities seeking economic development and a better quality of life.

Since 1993 the Committee has honored individuals who make extraordinary personal efforts to champion Mono Lake with the Defender of the Trust Award.

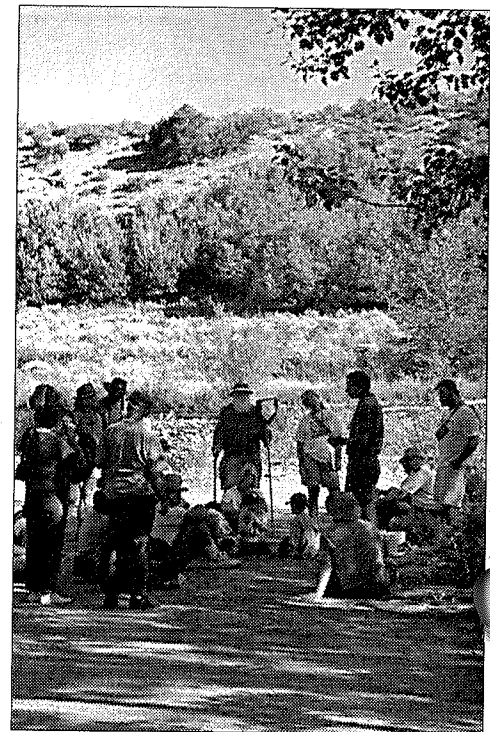
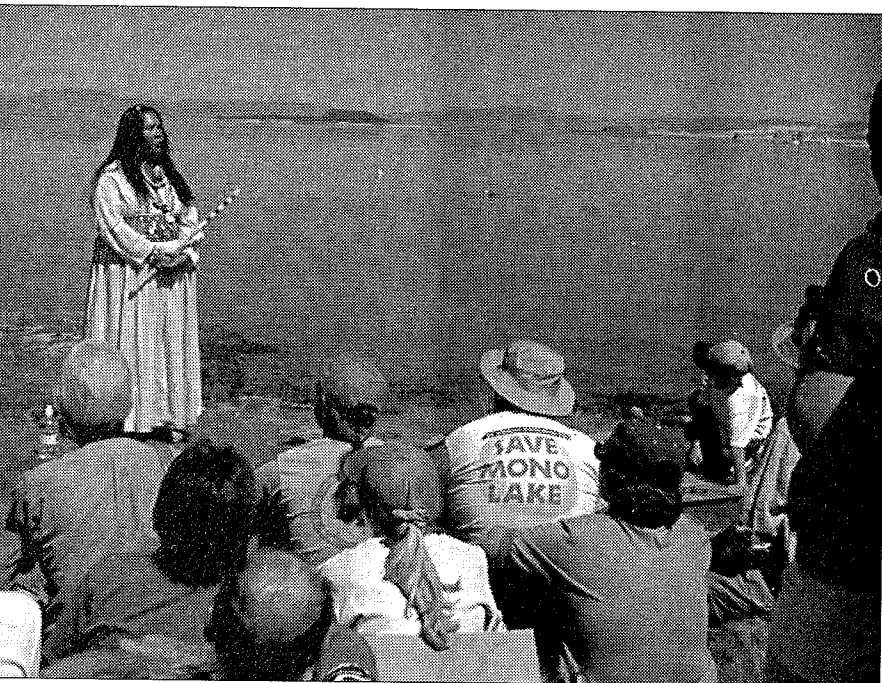
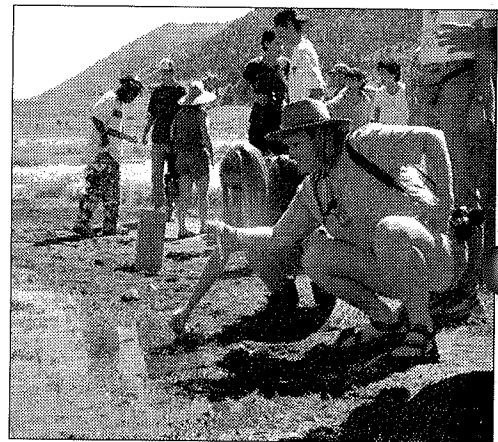


OE Coordinator Betsy Forsyth with kids from the Mono County Healthy Start Group on a hike up to Parker Lake.





**Memories of  
summer  
at  
Mono Lake  
1999**



# Ten year anniversary

by Kay Ogden

**"Sometimes a man hits upon a place to which he mysteriously feels that he belongs. Here is the home he sought, and he will settle amid scenes that he has never seen before, among men he has never known, as though they were familiar to him from his birth. Here at last he finds rest."**

**—W. Somerset Maugham**

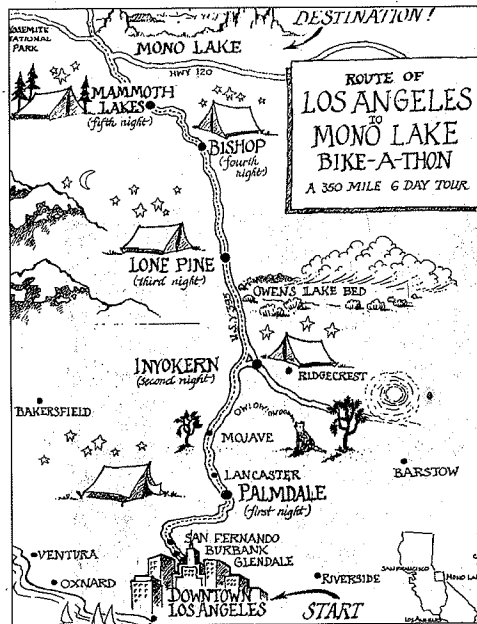
It's one of those days—the sky is blue, the lake is bluer, and a slight breeze is blowing across the landscape. There's something in the air, is fall approaching already? This will be my fourth slide from summer into fall, and I love to feel the changes. Perhaps it's a reminder of the first time I came to Mono Lake ten years ago over Labor Day weekend, 1989.

I had seen the photos and heard of Mono's story, so I decided to ride in the Tenth Annual Bike-A-Thon. I'd heard the drill—strap a small bottle of water onto my bike and ride from Los Angeles to Mono Lake, up the middle of the desert at the end of summer. But I was completely taken aback when I was handed a small glass vial with a cork stopper! I was supposed to get this precious cargo back up to Mono without losing any water? I must have my water for the Rehydration Ceremony that I had heard so much about which was 5 1/2 days from now and 350 miles away.

On my descent into the basin I heard, and then saw, water flowing down Rush Creek. And a few minutes later, my first sight of Mono Lake. I was struck by the intensity of the blue of the lake and the white of the bathtub rings. I was immediately captivated by her beauty, and have been ever since.

It was six years later during the 1995 Victory Ride that I knew I needed to be near the lake to help in the restoration efforts—the lake's or my own?

I started out as an intern, then worked as Events Coordinator, and am now the Marketing Director. Yes—the Mono Lake



The map of the Bike-A-Thon route from Los Angeles to Mono Lake.

Committee has a Marketing Director! My job is to spread the word about the Committee and about Mono Lake to all kinds of people—some who don't want to hear, some who listen but don't care, and others who didn't know but do hear.

So this must be easy, this job! Tell everyone of Mono's story and get them to come and see not only the destruction that was done by nearly 50 years of water diversions but to also see the restoration work that is vital to the area's recovery. But the job isn't as easy as it seems, because exposing the splendor of this very special place to more people with the hope that they will become members of the Committee isn't neces-

sarily the answer to Mono's future. Where will they go? What amenities must there be for those who come? Paved trails? Shaded picnic areas? Marinas and boat rentals? Excursions to Negit and Pahoa in glass bottom boats? Hotels in the Scenic Area?

Or, as David Gaines said when he was referring to the concept of spiritual tourism (see Summer 1999 Newsletter), shouldn't we "encourage an attitude of reverence for what, after all, is one of America's grandest natural treasures?" Can we help promote and educate about the benefits of spiritual tourism versus industrial or vehicular recreation? In my work I have found that finding the balance of sharing Mono and all her glory without destroying that which we love so much has become a greater and greater issue. As the population of California increases, as tourism increases, as the demand for greater economic return increases, as pressure from development in Mammoth Lakes increases, so will the responsibility of those who love and care about Mono Lake increase.

As I feel the crisp air of Mono brush across my face, I start to cry. Tears of love, tears of joy, and tears of sadness. I'm leaving this magnificent place, but only for a year.

So please... watch carefully, walk softly, and sit by the lakeshore in silence and solitude for me once in awhile.

Ciao ... kayo

Kay Ogden is the Committee's Marketing Director. She will be spending the year 2000 cycling around the world!

## Lakewatch

# The Mono Basin feels worldwide weather patterns

by Greg Reis



Since last winter's snowpack was about average, the melting snow didn't cause Mono Lake to rise very much this year. Mono Lake's surface elevation topped out in early July at 6385.1 feet above sea level, and as of September 9 had dropped to 6384.6. This is only 3 inches higher than last September—the smallest yearly rise since 1993–94.

Under the Water Board's 1998 Restoration Order, a normal year type, like this


year, triggers a requirement that Rush Creek be provided a stream restoration flow of 380 cubic feet per second (cfs) for 5 days, then 300 cfs for 7 days. Unfortunately, Rush Creek's peak flow ended up being 200 cfs less than the Water Board's requirement. Because there is no direct outlet from Grant Reservoir into Rush Creek, stream restoration flows depend upon having adequate capacity in the Rush Creek return ditch and in wetter years spills

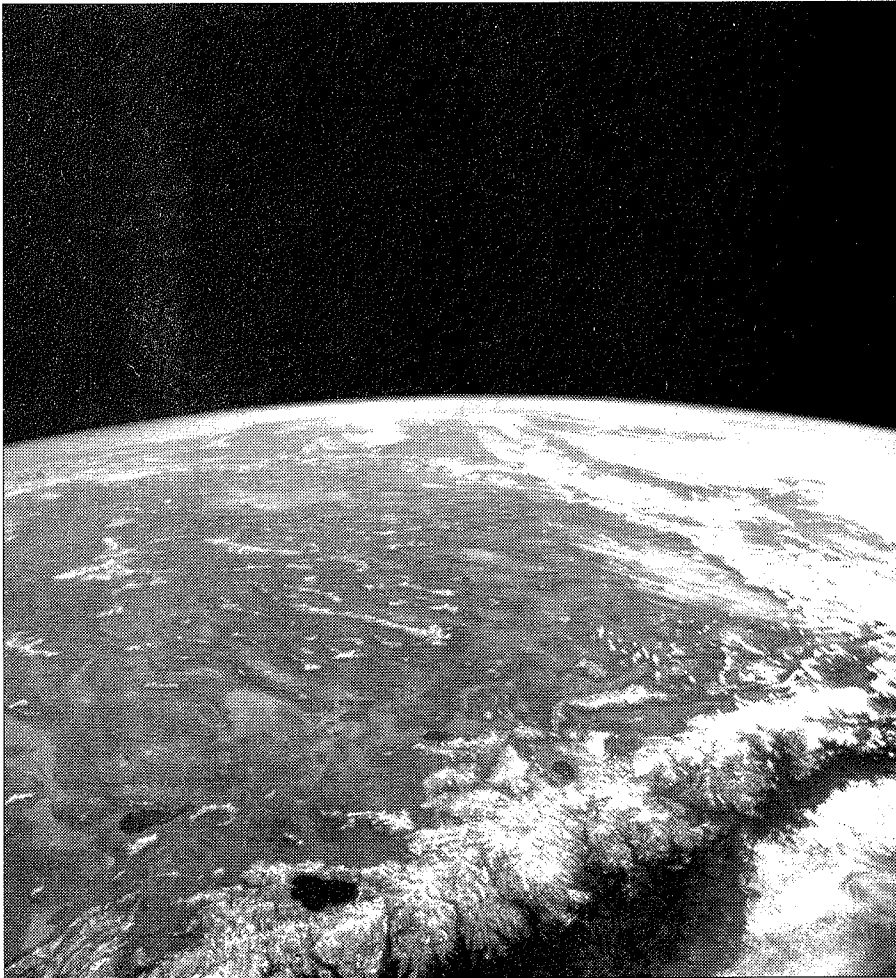
from Grant Reservoir. (See the article on page 9 for more on the return ditch.)

It was a cool and windy summer. It was also dry, with few thunderstorms—at least until August. On August 6, the morning dawned on a dusting of snow on peaks above 11,000 feet. Again on August 10, violent thunderstorms brought rain and hail to the lower elevations and turned many of the higher peaks white with snow. Mt. Dana received a couple inches of snow, and Tioga Pass Road closed for about an hour due to icy conditions. So much hail fell in Bridgeport that a snowplow ran through town several times.

This weather is typical for a strong La Niña summer. On August 11 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center predicted that La Niña conditions would continue through the coming winter. Unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific characterize La Niña, which should give rise to winter weather similar to what was experienced last year.

It is amazing to realize how much we now understand about global weather patterns. Just like bird migrations connect the rest of the western hemisphere with Mono Lake, our relatively thin atmosphere connects the rest of the world to Mono Lake's weather. Everything is interconnected. And promoting sustainable development in lake areas through the Living Lakes partnership is the Mono Lake Committee's contribution to worldwide conservation efforts. These efforts in other areas ultimately will benefit Mono Lake by helping to protect the functioning of the entire planet.

*Greg Reis is the Committee's Information Specialist. He has turned in his canoe paddles for the season to work on the Digital Archive and the Mono Lake and Living Lakes Websites.* 



This space shuttle photo shows how thin and fragile the atmosphere is that connects the Living Lakes to each other. Can you spot Mono Lake?

**HELP US PROTECT AND RESTORE MONO LAKE!**

The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to:



# Mono Basin Journal


A roundup of less political events at Mono Lake  
by Geoffrey McQuilkin

**D**uring Restoration Days, a cleanup project team chanced across mysterious constructions on the old lakebed. Like the walls of a sand castle, rings of moist sand were built up, protecting burrows in the ground. None were larger than a fingernail, and we crouched and wondered who lived there, and then moved on.


Now, with a orange leaf here, a yellow cluster of leaves there, autumn is edging into the Mono Basin again. Up by the Lee Vining Over tank, one branchlet of leaves stands out in relief against the green backdrop of its neighbors. Soon to be lost among the yellow foliage



of full groves of aspen, the leaves capture, for today, that brief moment where summer resigns into fall.

Out on the granite moraines, across the flats, among the deep green junipers and dusty sagebrush, the season's change is hardly as significant, another brief event in multi-thousand year time span. A boulder shifts, then sits as hundreds of autumn leaves and summer days and winter storms blow by. On the boulder, a raven perches. A deer leaps. Snow falls. Sun shines. A thousand years pass. In the intervening time are the events of our lives; brief, transient, and so full of meaning. 



 Committee Information Specialist Greg Reis measuring a cottonwood down on Rush Creek Channel 10 during the summer of 1998.

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Greg re-measuring the same cottonwood during the summer of 1999.

# Contributing to conservation efforts in the Central Valley and Delta

**M**ono Lake's protection can be attributed in large part to two things: the development of significant legal doctrines supporting resource protection, and the tireless work of a large group of staff, volunteers, and members.

Those legal doctrines—and a surprising number of Mono people—are now playing a vital role in the efforts to preserve and rehabilitate river and estuarine environments in the San Francisco Bay-Delta-River watershed. Most notable is the San Joaquin River, the watershed that starts high in the Sierra, adjacent to Mono's own Rush Creek drainage.

The Mono public trust legal decision (the "Audubon" case) provides the legal underpinning (through the "Racaneli" decision) for the ongoing efforts to insure that the water users who rely on the Central Valley rivers and Delta for their supply contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Bay-Delta Estuary. The CalTrout court decision that ordered the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) to release enough water below its dams to keep fish in good condition is today being used to ensure sufficient flows in Putah Creek, a tributary to the Delta that runs through the city of Davis. That decision is also plays an important role in the legal cases to restore the San Joaquin River.

11 years ago, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a lawsuit in an attempt to get enough water released from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin to restore what was once the biggest and southern-most run of spring run Chinook salmon in the country. The lawsuit (NRDC v. Patterson) relies on the precedent in the CalTrout decision that established that Fish and Game Codes require dam owners to release enough flow to keep fish in good condition.



*Hydrologist Peter Vorster and biologist Tina Swanson from The Bay Institute examining small fish on a normally dry stretch of the San Joaquin rewatered this summer.*

In addition to the doctrines, Mono Lake people are playing critical roles. Elden Vestal was the district biologist in the Mono Basin when DWP started the Mono diversions in the 1940s; his notes were very helpful 50 years later. After the Mono Basin, Elden became the district biologist over in Fresno responsible for the San Joaquin. He tried unsuccessfully to have water remain in the San Joaquin in the 1950s. (Elden tried to do the same with Rush Creek when DWP started drying it up, and was told by superiors to drop the issue. At least he got the pleasure of seeing water returned to Mono streams; alas he died last year and will not get to see the San Joaquin restored.)

Critical to today's effort to restore the San Joaquin River below Friant dam near Fresno is Peter Vorster, consulting hydrologist for the MLC since 1979. Through his work with The Bay Institute (TBI), a San Rafael based non-profit that focuses on the restoration and rehabilitation of the San Francisco Bay-Delta-River watershed, Peter helps provide technical assistance, including complex hydrologic

modeling, to the coalition of groups led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

This past summer, Peter drew on his years of Mono Lake work when he took charge of scheduling releases from the Bureau of Reclamation's Friant Dam as part of a pilot project to restore riparian vegetation to a reach of the San Joaquin River that normally is dry. Says Peter, "I can understand from my Mono experience the push and pull that dam operators have in trying to satisfy competing interests. This was the first time in the more than 50-year life span of Friant dam that water was released for environmental purposes. Hopefully a new mind-set can be established, just as it has at DWP, that water for the

environment is not a waste."

Peter is not the only Mono person who is part of the San Joaquin effort—and in many cases The Bay Institute family. Former MLC executive director Martha Davis is a board member of TBI along with UC Davis law professor Hap Dunning, who was instrumental in helping to formulate the other great Mono legal legacy, the public trust doctrine. Grant Davis, who along with Peter and Stephen Johnson conceived and produced the first Mono Lake Calendar back in 1985, is TBI's executive director. Also working actively on the San Joaquin is former Committee science associate John Cain, who is now a restoration planner at the Natural Heritage Institute.

And that's just the beginning. Numerous Committee members and past staffers are at work on environmental restoration and protection projects throughout California as consultants, scientists, and community leaders. Congratulations to you all!

For more information on TBI see their web site at [www.bay.org](http://www.bay.org).

# Policy Notes

## **USFS identifies "desired conditions" for DeChambeau Ranch area**

This July, the United States Forest Service (USFS) released a draft Desired Conditions Analysis for the DeChambeau Ranch complex on Mono's north shore. The document identifies specific resource management goals for the historic ranch and artificial freshwater ponds. It also identifies a set of potential projects the USFS could undertake, such as installing pipes to distribute water, periodically draining and burning the ponds, or controlling noxious weeds.

Overall, the USFS has outlined a careful approach to managing the DeChambeau complex. The Committee is most concerned with efficient use of water. The USFS goal is that "a minimum amount of water is utilized as efficiently as possible with a minimum percolation loss." The Ranch and two of the artificial ponds in the area are dependent on water diverted from Mill Creek. Maintaining DeChambeau's resources through efficient use of water is our key concern with DeChambeau—as it is with all other aspects of our work at Mono Lake.

Three of the projects that the USFS expects to complete in the near future are:

- installing a pipe connecting DeChambeau Ponds to County Ponds
- installing a pipe around the ranch compound to bring water efficiently past the ranch during the days when the ranch is not being irrigated, and
- sealing the easternmost County Pond with bentonite.

The DeChambeau Ranch was acquired by the USFS in 1992. The property includes historic buildings, which the USFS has maintained in a state of "arrested decay," and several recently restored artificial ponds that are maintained by an artesian well. Downslope from the ranch, the USFS also manages County Ponds, natural depressions that in former times

received and held irrigation runoff.

Funding for the projects come from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation as well as the L.A. Department of Water and Power (the Water Board's 1998 restoration order called for DWP to pay up to \$250,000 for improvements to surface water diversion and distribution facilities to improve waterfowl habitat in the County Ponds area).

## **Owens Lake**

On Wednesday, August 18, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, California Air Resources Board, local tribal governments, and local municipal governments stood out on the Owens dry lakebed to witness the signing of the Owens Lake Dust Control Plan by the Environmental Protection Agency. It has taken almost 20 years to come up with this dust control plan which will give DWP until the year 2006 to control the worst particulate pollution problem in the nation.

Dust emission points on the lakebed will be covered by a combination of water, gravel, and vegetation. An initial ten square miles will be flooded as vegetation takes too long to grow. By 2002 an additional 3.5 square miles will be covered, and three more square miles in 2003. Vegetation will be used on some sections of the lake as it uses less water than flooding. A new plan will be developed in 2003, but DWP has already agreed to keep treating two square miles a year until federal health standards are met.

Where DWP plans to come up with the water remains unresolved. Flooding will use about 25,000 acre-feet of water every year, which is enough to serve 50,000 households, and the entire project may take 40,000 acre-feet every year to keep the dust down.

In a letter to the editor of the Los Angeles Times, Michael Prather of the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society in Lone Pine wrote:

"...not only was a dust health hazard


created but a valuable wildlife resource was nearly destroyed. Even today Owens Lake is more than merely a 'barren lake bed.'

A string of small wetlands lines its margins where thousands of shorebirds feast on brine flies during their migration between the arctic and Central and South America.

Please remember that Owens Lake is not dead and that dust is not the only issue. The people of California lost a public trust resource (wildlife) when the lake was dried; through the "dust cure" of shallow flooding it is hoped that some of this precious resource will return. Californians will rely on the state Lands Commission and the Department of Fish and Game as well as vigilant citizens to ensure that the birds as well as the dust will soon settle on Owens Lake."

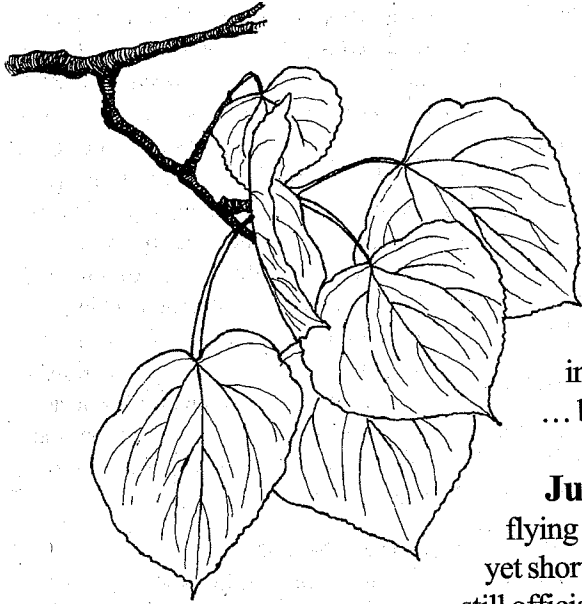
## **H.R. 623 update**

The House Subcommittee on Energy and Power heard testimony in July on H.R. 623. This is the bill, introduced by Congressman Knollenberg (R, MI), to repeal all national efficiency standards for plumbing products—the law that requires all new construction to install low-flow toilets and showerheads. The hearing and the media coverage were stacked to favor the bill, but Congressman Milirakis, a Republican from Florida, and Congressman Dingell (D, MI), the ranking Democrat for the Commerce Committee, made it clear they would strongly oppose any further consideration of the bill. If the bill is to move through Congress, it must next be heard at the full Commerce Committee level. While we hope this will not happen, it can occur anytime in 1999 or 2000.

Please let Hon. Thomas Bliley, Chairman, House Commerce Committee, Washington, D.C. 20515 or [www.house.gov/commerce](http://www.house.gov/commerce) know that you want to keep the standards as they are to limit wasted water now and in the future. Send a copy to Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D, CA), Commerce Committee, Washington, D.C. 20515. 

# Naturalist Notes

A Mono Basin chronicle



**End of May:** Western tanagers, rufous hummingbirds, black headed grosbeaks ... what a year for Western wallflowers (*Erysimum capitatum*) ... cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) regeneration on Lee Vining Creek is underway with many as tall as two feet high ... swallowtail butterflies along desert and mountain trails ... a calliope hummingbird ... MacGillivray's warbler ... dusky flycatcher ... bats swooping overhead in the glory of insect hatches in the evenings ... a Franklin's gull seen mingling with the California gulls ... brine shrimp in bloom and flies too ... Tioga Pass opens on May 28.

**June:** Two northern mockingbirds down by the lake ... an osprey seen flying low out to its nest on the tufa with a large fish in its talons ... vigorous yet short lived snow storms for two days early in the month remind us that it is still officially spring ... a green heron and a snowy egret on the north shore are

good signs of regenerating wetlands ... a badger seen roaming and digging among the sagebrush out by the Jeffrey pine forest ... snowy plovers skidder about ... a black tern flying above the lake ... a gray catbird calling on top of a willow thicket up Lee Vining creek.

**July:** A rose-breasted grosbeak in Lundy Canyon had people scrambling to go find it ... first immature gulls seen on the canoe tours ... the osprey are successful in raising young and one is seen picking up a snake near Navy Beach and carrying it out to the nest ... great horned owls heard hooting in the evenings down at South Tufa ... a gopher snake blocking the road coiled and struck when nudged to safety ... on a windy day down at Navy Beach long-billed curlews, black-bellied plovers, and a black-necked stilt nesting with chicks.

**August:** 136 swallows catching the first rays of sun on a power-line here in town ... cormorants seen flying past Navy Beach ... snow squalls tumbling over peaks early in the month but the cold does not last long ... the Lee Vining Creek trail is in full bloom with lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*), evening primrose (*Oenothera hookeri* and *Camissonia boothii*), and prickly poppy (*Argemone munita*), while the desert peach (*Prunus andersonii*), buffalo berry (*Shepherdia argentea*), and dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) are fruiting ... on the weekly morning birdwalk the group saw Townsend's warblers, a downy woodpecker, eared grebes, Wilson's phalaropes ... rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) and sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) are in bloom and we're all itchy and sneezy ... a great blue heron sitting on a tower at South Tufa spotted on a canoe tour ... and a highlight of the month, and possibly the year, 113 black terns in transition plumage flying low over the lake catching alkalai flies.



## Mono Lake's Lesson Lost

continued from page 2


of more water for the environment and other purposes when—in reality—this water is available through existing conservation and water efficiency programs.

While there is a direct connection between water conservation in Los Angeles and water used for the restoration of the Mono Basin, there is not such a credit system set up for CalFed conservation and the Bay-Delta. Even worse, if the water isn't being used in Southern California, it is not even receiving credit from CalFed for benefiting the low-status water contracts being filled with water in the San Joaquin Valley—contracts which were written long ago on a vastly over-allocated water supply system. This system of re-allocating "surplus" water from Los Angeles to other users south of the Delta pumps provides little incentive for water conservation in the San Joaquin Valley and virtually no benefit to the State's environment.

Los Angeles community groups, for example, have contributed greatly to Mono Lake's protections by executing one of the city's most successful water conservation programs, the distribution of ultra-low flow toilets. But by the CalFed model, these groups—and their counterparts throughout the state—can do nothing for the betterment of the California environment with their work in conservation. Under CalFed, the water communities may save just gets delivered to another water contractor in the Central Valley. Wouldn't it be better to link public investments in conservation, water recycling, and watershed management to more water for the Delta ecosystem?

CalFed can be the comprehensive planning process this state needs to address water resource management, but we shouldn't expect benefits to the environment to result until the process itself take conservation seriously. Wouldn't we all be willing to do a little more if we knew that conservation was

directly connected with environmental protection? Through letters and public participation, it is up to each of us to insist that CalFed credit conserved water back to the places most Californians want to see protected: the Bay Delta, our great Sierra rivers, and magical Mono Lake.

*Geoff McQuilkin is the Committee's Assistant Executive Director. In his spare time he's buying a house at Mono Lake with his wife Sarah. He thanks Martha Davis and Richard Atwater for key information for this article.* 

*With a round of public hearings just concluded, there will continue to be opportunities to comment and influence CalFed. Please send your comments to Frances Spivy-Weber (frances@monolake.org) who serves on the Bay-Delta Advisory Committee and watch the Website for updates about the water bond and a possible supplementary EIR/EIS.*



Community groups celebrate effective water conservation programs at the Doo Dah Parade in Pasadena in 1998.

Photo by Herley Jim Bowling

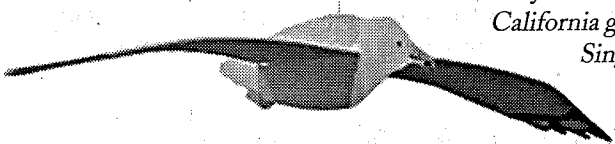
# MONO LAKE CATALOG

## CALIFORNIA GULL MOBILES

Designed by Skyflight, these bird mobiles are hand painted and silk screened in true-to-life colors on high quality museum board. The mobiles and single birds come attractively packaged with a fact sheet about the California gull as well as its relationship to Mono Lake! Each five bird mobile is fully assembled, hung by 6lb test monofilament line, carefully-balanced and attached to stainless steel rods. Perfect for the home or office, this graceful mobile will remind you of the birds at Mono Lake for years to come. Each gull measures 3 2/3" x 8 3/4".

*California gull mobile with five gulls: \$28.50 (Item #2836)*

*Single hanging California gull: \$5.25 (Item #2826)*

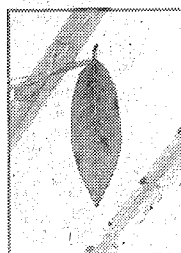
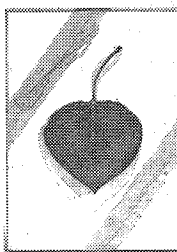
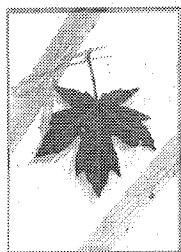
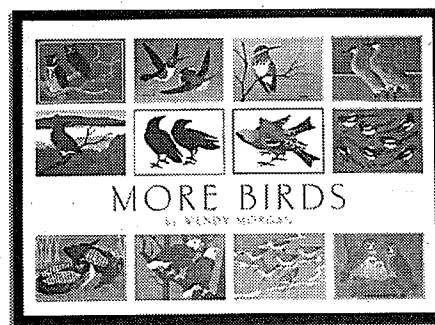


## MORE BIRDS!

Owls, hummingbirds, cranes, ravens, magpies, sanderlings, and more birds! 12 notecards, each with a different image and species information on its reverse. Cards and envelopes measure 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" and are printed on acid free paper.

Each set comes in a velcro closure box.

*More Birds, box of 12 notecards: \$13.95 (Item #3407)*



## LEAF CARDS

A collection of eight notecards and envelopes by Sally Owens. Each set contains four different images: black oak, maple, bay laurel, and aspen leaf. Each leaf is a reproduction of an original watercolor.

Sally Owens lives and works in Yosemite National Park. She writes,

"I was born in Japan, and have long admired the graceful simplicity in oriental art and design. I grew up in California, where the natural landscape is tremendously varied and inspiring."

The card sets are beautifully wrapped in raffia and handmade paper, with an inspiring quote on it's reverse. They make a beautiful and special gift by themselves. Also available in an individually matted prints.

*Set of 8 leaf notecards with envelopes, 100% recycled paper with soy-based inks, measure 7x5: \$14.95 (Item #3006)*

*Matted leaf print, measures 9" x 12", specify either aspen or oak: \$12.50 (Item #1529)*

*Matted leaf print, measures 9" x 12", specify either bay laurel or maple: \$12.50 (Item #1528)*

## SOAP BOXES

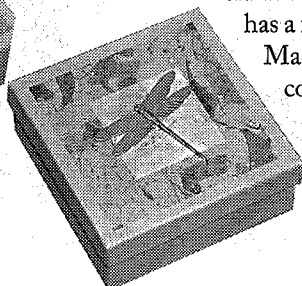
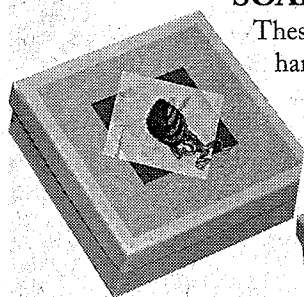
These boxes of soap are so beautiful, you will not want to use them, but please do! Each box is decorated with hand-torn, natural fiber, and recycled papers detailed with a brass dragonfly or frog.

The soaps come in either four lemon verbena bars or a round exfoliation bar. The lemon verbena has a citrus scent and astringent properties. The exfoliation bar is made from sea algae, and has a floral scent. They both smell very lovely!

Made in France, these biodegradable soaps are vegetable based, made of palm and coconut oil, enriched with shea butter, and not tested on animals.

*Frog pendant soap box, in lemon verbena or exfoliation bar: \$13.95 (Item #2737)*

*Dragonfly pendant soap box, in lemon verbena or exfoliation bar: \$13.95 (Item #2736)*



# MONO LAKE CATALOG



## HUMMINGBIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

A signed and numbered limited edition lithograph by illustrator and artist Keith Hansen. Printed on 110 pound, pH neutral, archival quality stock. This edition is limited to 750 pieces. This limited edition lithograph depicts the 15 species of hummingbirds that nest in the United States and Canada. Framed images come double matted, with a green hued undermat and a white overmat. The frame is fashioned of wood, in the same greenish hummingbird hues as the undermat, and has UV protective glass.

Each image comes with a hummingbird identification

chart, a postcard-size image of the lithograph, and a certificate of authenticity. *Unframed, unmatted lithograph, shipped with a slip cover in a cardboard and chip-board protective covering, measures 20" x 20": \$95.00 (Item #1526)*

*Framed and matted lithographs, dust sealed with hangers and wire attached, measures 1/2" x 21 7/8": \$275.00 (Item #1527)*



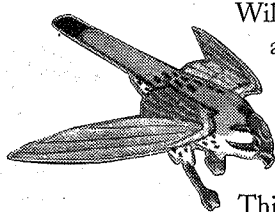
## HUMMINGBIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA T-SHIRT

Love the lithograph so much you want to wear it? Get our T-shirt! This natural cotton T-shirt is as comfortable as it is beautiful. Printed on a 6oz organic unbleached cotton with water based inks for a long lasting and colorful wear. Perfect for any bird enthusiast.

Short sleeve, S (1530), M (1531), L (1532), XL (1533): \$19.00



## CLOISONNE PINS AND ZIPPER PULLS



William Spear is the leading artist in wildlife enamel pins and zipper pulls. Our black and white images cannot possibly capture the detail and depth of color in these pins.

Layers of enamel are brushed on by hand, and each piece is fired individually at temperatures exceeding 1500 degrees Fahrenheit. Each comes in a matchbook giftbox with a sheet of factual species information.

These pins are perfect for your cap, lapel, favorite vest, back pack, or jacket.

Think ahead this is a great holiday season gift!

There are so many pins to choose from, we wish we could show them all! Have a favorite pin you so not see here? Call us and ask! Each design is available in pin or zipper pull., please specify.

*Kestrel, measures 1 1/2" x 3/4": \$13.50 (Item #2974)*

*Nuthatch, measures 1 1/8" x 1/2": \$9.50 (Item #2982)*

*Ladybug, measures 1/2" x 1/4": \$4.50 (Item #2976)*

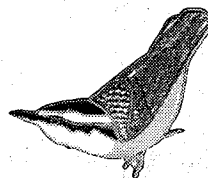
*Magpie, measures 1 1/2" x 1": \$10.50 (Item #2979)*

*Blackbird, measures 1" x 1 1/4": \$9.50 (Item #2988)*

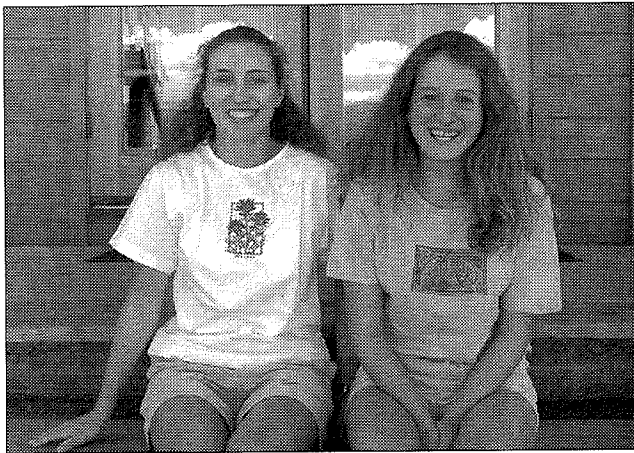
*Dragonfly, measures 1 1/2" x 1": \$12.00 (Item #2964)*

*Wren, measures 1 1/2" x 1": \$10.50 (Item #2993)*

*Brine Shrimp, measures 1 1/2" x 1 1/8": \$6.95 (Item #2956)*



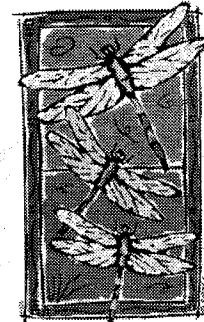
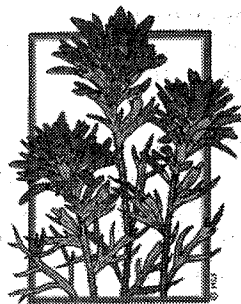
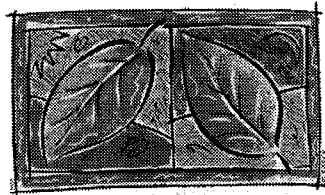
# Mono Lake Catalog



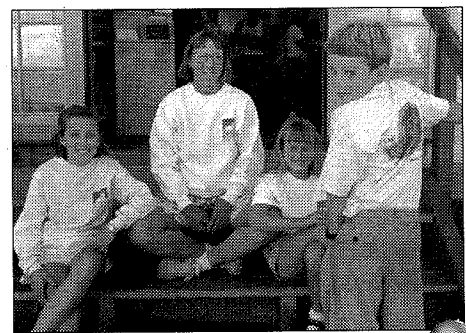
## NATURE DESIGNS T-SHIRTS

Vireo and Anna (just like old times—see photo at right) took a quick breather from the counter to model our nature designs t-shirts. This women's short sleeve T-shirt is 100% cotton and has a slightly boxy shape, with a softly scooped neck. It is the perfect length for tucking in or leaving loose. Try one, you'll want 'em all. Our staff loves them. Each design is printed with water based ink, which, unlike plastic based ink, colors the fabric leaving it soft and comfortable to wear. Choose from the dragonfly design in blue on azure, the tan and green leaves design on sand, or the red Indian paintbrush design on a white shirt.

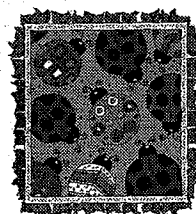
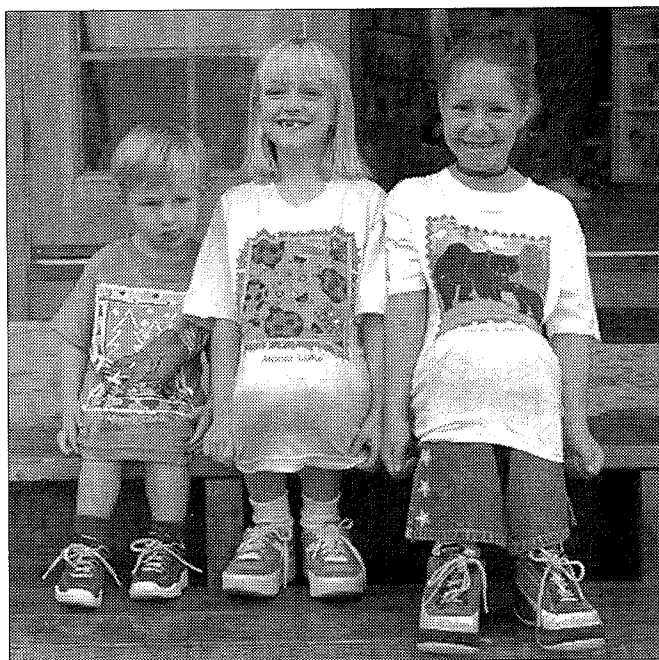
Dragonfly design, azure shirt, sizes S (3761), M (3762), L (3763), XL (3764): \$19.00  
 Leaves design, sand colored shirt, sizes S (3757), M (3758), L (3759), XL (3760): \$19.00  
 Indian paintbrush design, white shirt, sizes S (3627), M (3628), L (3629), XL (3630): \$19.00



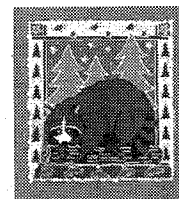
Mono Lake



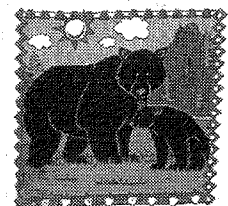
Five years ago Vireo, Sally, and Sage G... with Anna Scofield modeled shirts for the 1994 Catalog on the Committee doorstep.



Mono Lake



Mono Lake



Mono Lake

## KIDS' SHIRTS

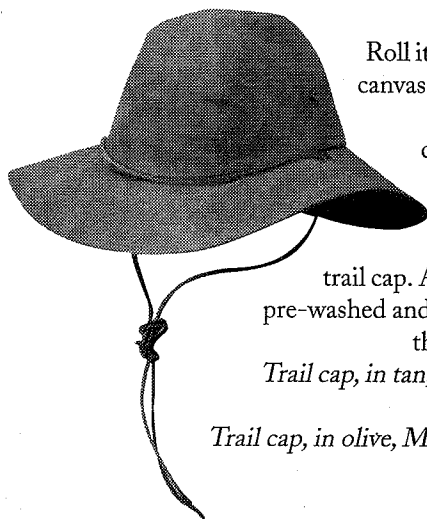
New this season! Colorful cotton shirts with irresistible raccoons, ladybugs, or black bears! Kids love these bright colors and animal designs, and they look adorable in them.

Bear, white shirt, sizes 2/4 (3748), 6/8 (3749), 10/12 (3750): \$10.95  
 Ladybugs, yellow shirt, sizes 2/4 (3754), 6/8 (3755), 10/12 (3756): \$10.95

Raccoon, green shirt, sizes 2/4 (3751), 6/8 (3752), 10/12 (3753): \$10.95



# Mono LAKE CATALOG

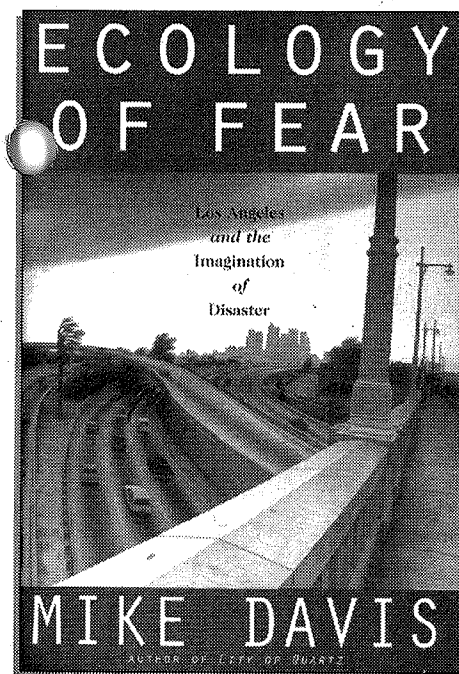


## TRAIL CAP

Roll it! Tuck it! Wear it! This washed-cotton canvas cap has a leather neck strap, and side snaps for that Aussie look. It is comfy, durable, and good looking. When she's not helping people on the counter Retail Assistant Echo is most likely out birding in our comfortable new trail cap. Available in olive or tan, these caps are pre-washed and preshrunk with two seams in the top that make it fit nicely on any size head.

Trail cap, in tan, size M (3703), L (3704), XL (3705): \$25.00

Trail cap, in olive, M (3708), L (3709), XL (3710): \$25.00

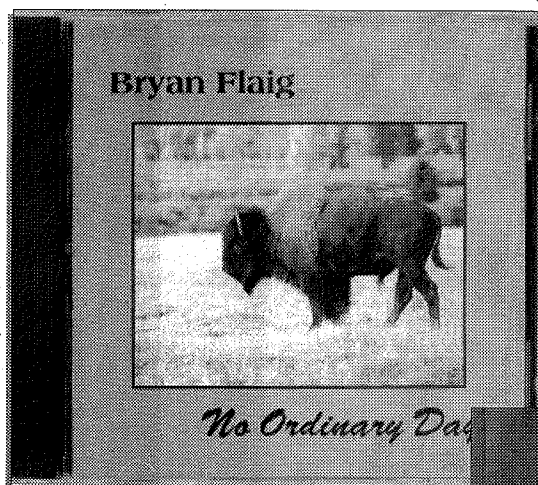


## ECOLOGY OF FEAR

By Mike Davis, the author of *City of Quartz*, this fascinating interpretation of American metropolis unravels the secret political history of disaster, both real and imaginary, in Southern California. Davis exposes the complicity between social injustice and perceptions of natural disorder.

Hardcover, Metropolitan Books, 482 pages : \$27.50 (Item #484)

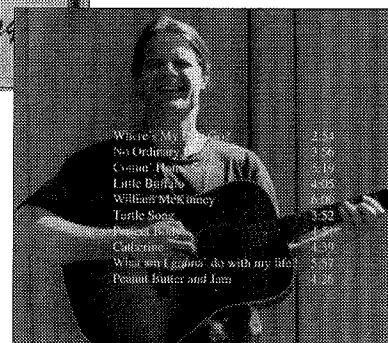
Softcover : \$14.00 (Item #1544)



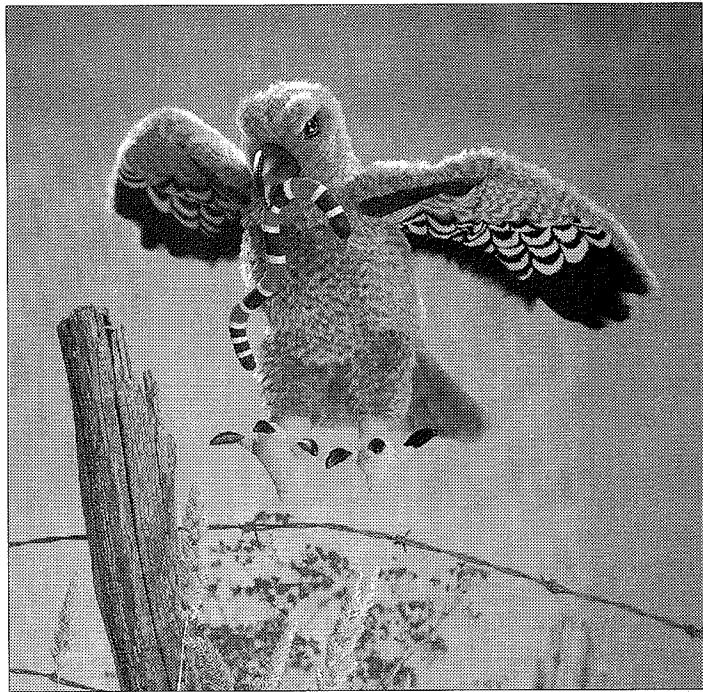
## NO ORDINARY DAY BY BRYAN FLAIG AND THE HOWLING DOG CHOIR

Bryan Flaig was an intern at the Committee in 1991 working on stream restoration for Lee Vining Creek. *No Ordinary Day* is his first CD. It contains ten original country-folk songs featuring guitar, mandolin, harmonica, and spirited vocals. "I mostly think of myself as a storyteller, trying to paint images with words and music. My time in the Eastern Sierra taught me to evoke a sense of place in the stories I tell. I hope that comes through in these songs."

*No Ordinary Day* CD, Bryan Flaig, 50 minutes: \$15.98 (Item #2124)



# Mono Lake Catalog



## PUPPETS BY FOLKMANIS

You don't have to be a kid or a teacher to play with these puppets. We provide the puppet, and you provide the imagination! Each puppet comes with a facts of interest card, as well as a story or song to accompany each animal. The fabric and craftsmanship are fantastic. The finger puppets make great little stocking stuffers.

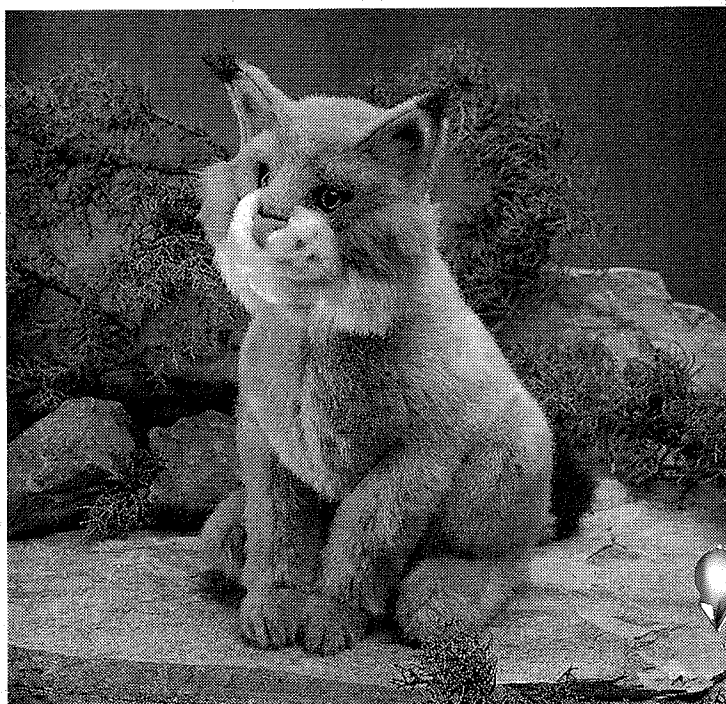
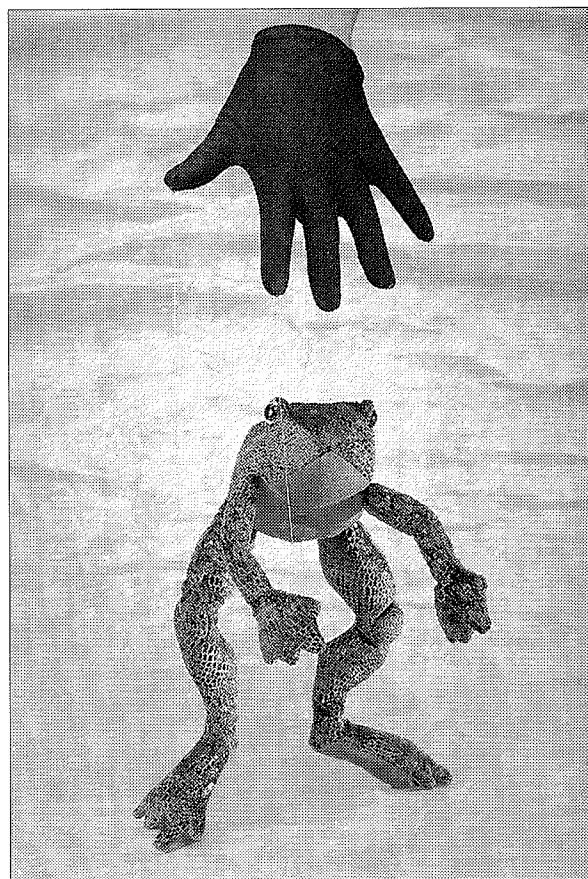
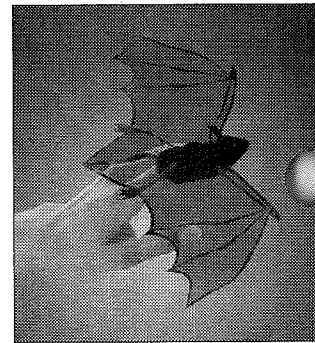
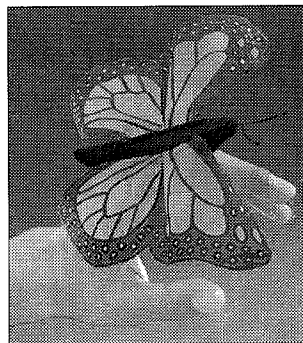
*Bobcat puppet, 15" tall : \$30.00 (Item #3768)*

*Frog marionette, 14" tall not including strings: \$18.00 (Item #3767)*

*Hawk puppet, with removeable king snake, 19" wingspan: \$28.00 (Item #2511)*

*Monarch fingerpuppet, 6" wingspan: \$3.75 (Item #2500)*

*Bat fingerpuppet, 10" wingspan: \$4.00 (Item #2499)*

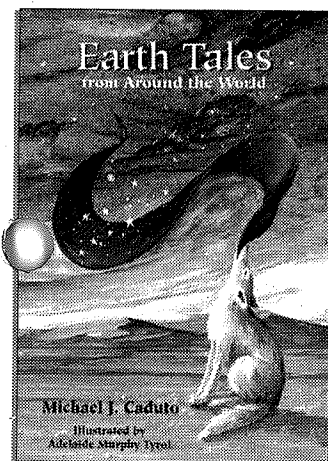
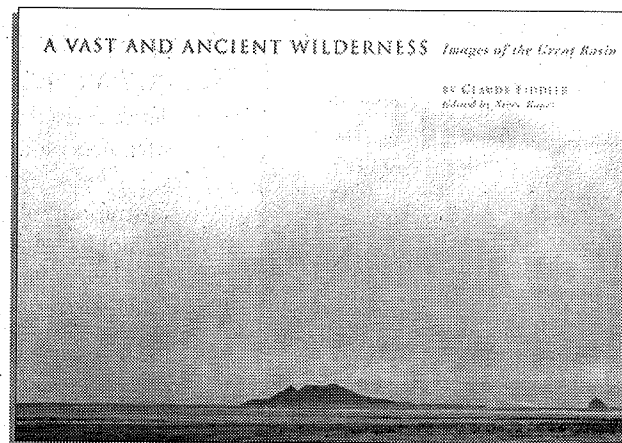


# Mono Lake Catalog

## A VAST AND ANCIENT WILDERNESS: IMAGES OF THE GREAT BASIN

With full page photographs by Claude Fiddler, foreward by John Hart, afterward by Michael Cohen, and edited by Steve Roper, this book does the beauty and mystery of the Great Basin justice. "Here for the first time is a study of the full breadth of the region, taking you deep into the heart of a lost national treasure." Stories and anecdotes by the photographer, authors and early inhabitants of the area accompany the photographs. This is a unique and beautiful coffee table book with inspiring photos of Mono Lake as well as other beautiful areas of the Great Basin.

Hardcover, Chronicle Books, 120 pages: \$45.00 (Item #133)



## EARTH TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

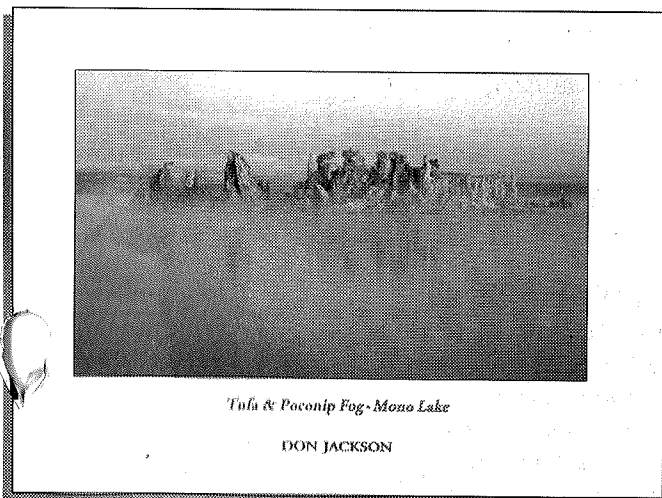
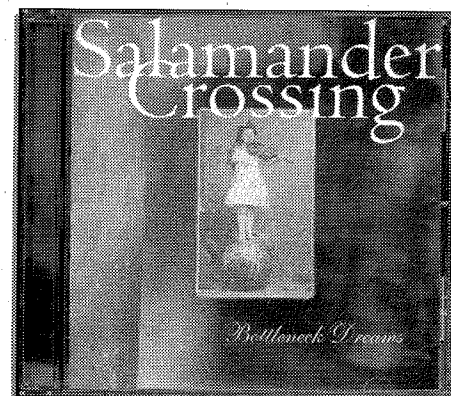
Author Michael J. Caduto, an internationally known storyteller, ecologist, and educator, tells tales from over 40 countries around the world. Tales are organized by themes such as earth, animals, and stewardship. Perfect for teachers and parents, this book also includes suggestions for lessons inspired by the stories.

Softcover, Fulcrum Publishing, 192 pages: \$17.95 (Item #476)

## SALAMANDER CROSSING

This CD has been a best seller in the store all summer! Blending original songs with gorgeous vocal harmonies and bluegrass instrumentation, Salamander Crossing has developed one of the most unique sounds in acoustic music. On *Bottleneck Dreams*, their latest album, vocalist and fiddler Rani Arbo's beautiful voice is accompanied by touches of Hammond organ, accordion, electric and steel guitars with their stringband instrumentation.

Salamander Crossing CD, *Bottleneck Dreams*, 50 minutes: \$16.97 (Item #2006)

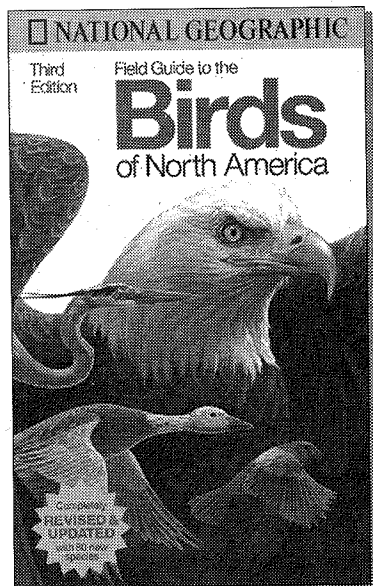


## MONO LAKE POSTER BY DON JACKSON

Don Jackson's Mono Lake Tufa & Poconip Fog poster is new this season and features beautifully soft, mystical pink and blue hues of an early winter sunrise. Don has been an avid Mono Lake Committee supporter, explorer, photographer, and workshop instructor for the past 15 years. We are proud to offer Don's first poster.

Poster measures 24" x 32" heavyweight acid free archival recycled paper: \$16.95 (Item #2471)

# Mono Lake Catalog

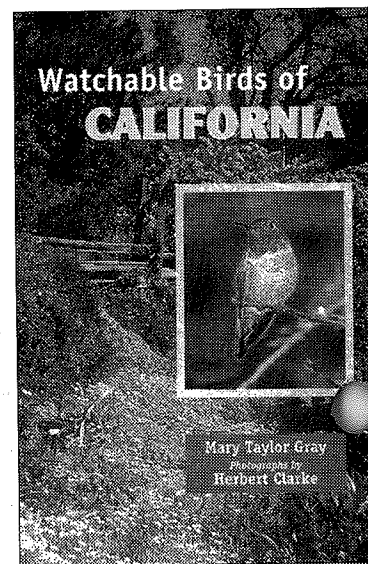


## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, THIRD EDITION

Completely revised and updated, this most up-to-date bird guide on the market features more than 800 North American birds, including 80 new species. This edition is lavishly illustrated with specially commissioned full color illustrations, plus range maps and detailed descriptions.

If you do not have this edition yet, you will want to order it now!

*National Geographic Field Guide, National Geographic Press, softcover 480 Pages: \$21.95 (Item #1490)*



## WATCHABLE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

This book takes you bird by bird, guiding you to some of the best spots to go birding! Also included are natural history notes, and eye catching footnotes to help you better identify each species. This is a great book for people just getting into birding! Authored by Mary Taylor Gray with photographs by Herbert Clarke.

*Softcover, 264 pages: \$18.00 (Item #1361)*



## BIRDS OF THE MONO BASIN CHECKLIST

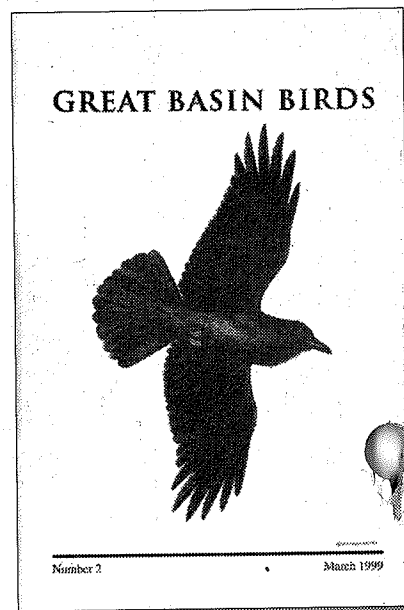
This listing of birds and their seasonal abundance is essential for birders of all levels! Based on David Gaines' *Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope* and observations by experts in our area, this pamphlet lists over 325 species of known Mono Basin birds. If you see something unusual, let us know and we'll post it with our latest bird sightings on our website at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org).

*Checklist, 8 sided folded pamphlet, 11 x 4: \$1.00 (Item #277)*

## GREAT BASIN BIRDS

Put out this year by the Great Basin Bird Observatory, this book is full of reviews, status, monitoring, censusing, and research! This book is a must for anyone interested in current bird research and unusual sightings in this area! Reading this publication is an excellent way to prepare you for your next bird seminar or census in the Great Basin.

*Softcover, Great Basin Bird Observatory, 76 pages: \$5.00 (Item #603)*



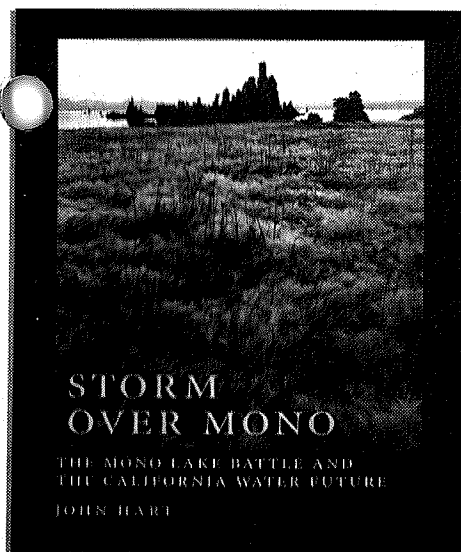
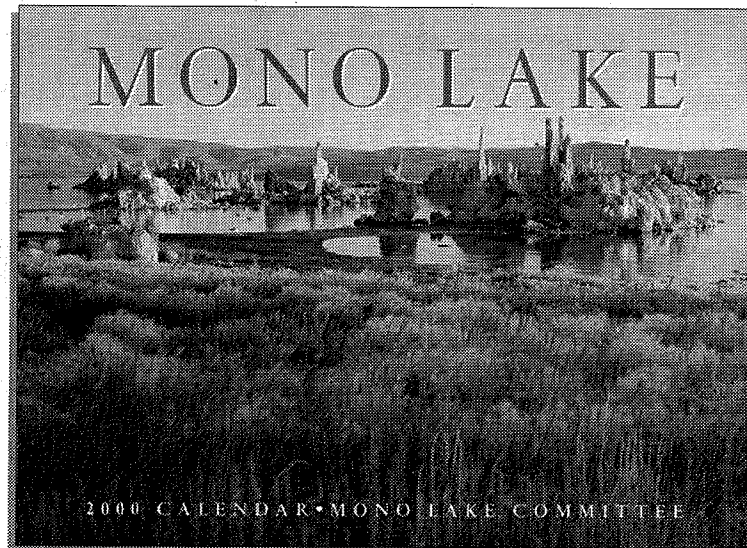


# MONO LAKE CATALOG

## MONO LAKE 2000 CALENDAR

Ready for the millennium? Our 2000 calendar has beautiful color insets in addition to 12 large monthly photographs! We are very proud of the striking way this calendar's new design has turned out. Artists featured include Fred Hirschmann, Jim Stimson, and Galen Rowell.

Send us your holiday mailing list and we'll help you out! Supply us with the names and addresses and we'll mail your calendars with a special gift card. Add \$5.00 per list.  
2000 Mono Lake Calendar, measures 13 1/4" x 9 1/4":  
\$10.95 (Item #3005)



## STORM OVER MONO: THE MONO LAKE BATTLE AND THE CALIFORNIA WATER FUTURE

Winner of the Commonwealth Silver Medal! Author John Hart has produced a thoroughly researched, well balanced, and readable work that covers the history of the Mono Lake controversy and its role in California's water future. Includes profiles of prominent figures and a section of striking color photos.

UC Press, 253 pages plus photos and maps

Softcover: \$29.95 (Item #1169)

Hardcover: \$50.00 (Item #1168)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

### SHIPPING RATES

Up to \$25	\$5.00
\$26 - \$50	\$6.00
\$51 - \$100	\$9.00
Over \$100	\$12.00
Over \$200	Free!

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (760) 647-6595 Fax: (760) 647-6377

Quan	Item #	Item	Size	Color	Price	Total

Shipping: use rates at left

**Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_

CA residents—add 7.25% sales tax to subtotal

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

California law requires us to charge sales tax on shipping

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

## Staff Migrations



*1999 Summer Staff. Top row from left to right: Santiago Escruceria, Greg Reis, Geoff McQuilkin, Anna Scofield, Michael Ambrose, and Bartshe Miller. Second row: Shannon and Gary Nelson, Kristen Drake, Ramona Robbins Clark, and Kay Ogden. Third row: Betsy Forsyth, Laura Silver, Echo Hall, Lisa Cutting, and Heidi Hopkins. Bottom row: Laura Walker, Arya Degenhardt, Wendy Stanford, Kathi Richards, and Anna Christensen. Working too hard to make the photo: Vireo Gaines, and Sharon Foley. Down in LA: Frances Spivy-Weber, Shelly Backlar, and Herley Jim Bowling.*

With fall comes the migration of seasonal staff back to school, new jobs, and new adventures. We are already missing the hard work and dedication of this year's crew. We could not have done it without you, and we hope you'll come back to visit soon!

**Vireo Gaines** and **Anna Scofield** have gone back to school after many fun afternoons together helping visitors and members on the counter. **Michael Ambrose** returned to Patagonia in Reno, so he isn't too far away for winter visits. **Sharon Foley** has gone back to school in Connecticut with fond memories of burritos and the Mono Basin. **Wendy Stanford** has headed up to Washington for the fall, so she isn't too far to come visit. **Laura Silver** is off to school at the University of Minnesota where we're sure she'll be checking our Website at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org) often. **Lisa Cutting**

is off to school in Davis where she will be getting her masters in Geography.

OE coordinators **Santiago Escruceria** and **Betsy Forsyth** must not have gotten enough of the outdoors as they are both off to places all around California doing more outdoor education.

Retail assistant **Echo Hall** will be around this fall helping on the counter as well as giving tours to school groups when they come to visit the basin. Intern **Kristen Drake** will be here through the fall working on the Living Lakes International Conference. After the conference she will be helping with the Digital Archive project.

**Greg Reis** is switching gears as the canoe season ends and the website season begins. He will be working on the Mono Lake and Living Lakes websites as well as on the Digital Archive project.

Thank you all for a wonderful summer! 🐦

## Bequests are Welcome!

**M**ono Lake Committee members have been generous to us for over twenty years. After the 1994 State Water Resources Control Board decision, most members recognized we had won a temporary opportunity to restore Mono Lake and the Mono Basin ecosystem, but the decision could be overturned if California's need for water in the future exceeded its supply.

Some of these members have made out their wills to help ensure Mono Lake's long-term protection. We thank you, and we hope you will let us know what you consider special about Mono Lake and the Mono Basin.

Last year we heard from Dr. Kenneth Millican from Oakland, a retired dentist, who came often over forty or fifty years to the Eastern Sierra. He and his wife loved Yosemite's lakes and Eastside's desert wildflowers. Dr. Millican also loved to troutfish near Bishop. Mono Lake was one of their favorite stops on these trips. But, he decided to put us into his will, he said, because "you fought long and hard to get Los Angeles to leave at least a few drops of water in the Mono Basin."

Thank you, Dr. Millican!

If you need information about how to leave a bequest to the Mono Lake Committee, please contact Anna Christensen, Membership Coordinator [anna@monolake.org](mailto:anna@monolake.org), P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

# Member Corner: News from the membership desk

by Anna Christensen

## Matched gifts

**C**harles Schwab Corporation Foundation matched the gift of **Denis McQuirk** of Oakland. **Microsoft** generously matched the donation from **Thomas McMahon** of San Jose.

**PG&E** matched gifts from **Tracey Walker** of Dublin and **David Gassman** of Oakland.

**Times Mirror Foundation** matched a donation from **Jeanne Karpenko** of Glendale. **Transamerica Foundation** matched a gift from **Llyn Hartley** of Burbank. **GC Companies** generously doubled the donation from **Paul Clayton** of Los Angeles. **Uniphase Corporation** matched the gift of **Suzanne Lau** from Cupertino. **Anchor Brewing** matched a donation from **Gordon MacDermott** of San Rafael.

Finally, **Sun Microsystems Foundation** matched gifts from **David Arana** of Fremont, **Glenn Skinner** of Palo Alto and **Zona Walcott** of Campbell. Many thanks!

## From the emailbag

**E**ducation is alive at Mono! Check out what **San Dimas High School** has done at Mono Lake with their "Mono Lake Living Lab" curriculum. Their site is [www.bonita.k12.ca.us/schools/sandimas/teachers/MONO](http://www.bonita.k12.ca.us/schools/sandimas/teachers/MONO). Complete with a Power Point presentation, museum display, video, book review 'form Over Mono and a quicktime VR of the lake, this site sets quite an example! We're proud to have these students' work linked to our website.

## In Celebration

**D**ave "Bug" Herbst, wife **Katherine** and daughter **Anna** just celebrated the newest addition to their family with the birth of **Jordan**. Congratulations and best wishes!

In honor of **Rick Kattleman's** birthday, **Harry and Doris Kattlemann** of Sonora sent a donation.

A donation was made to the Outdoor Experiences program by **Bob, Linda, Anya and Naomi Walker** in honor of **Stacey Simon's** graduation from law school.

**Dale and Willene Wendt** of Sonora made a donation to celebrate the recent marriage of **Mr. and Mrs. Don Erway**.

## In Memory

**B**oard Member **David Kanner** of Redwood City sent a donation in memory of **Brent Couer-Barron's father**. Brent is our Corporate Counsel.

**Robert Vestal** of Boise, Idaho sent a donation in memory of **Elden Vestal**.

Guy Cheu was remembered by **Robert and May Woo** of San Clemente and **Jesse and Ruby Lew** of Laguna Hills.

**Kathleen and Jim Clarke** of Modesto donated in memory of **Kendall Sparkman**.

**Deanna Schiel** of San Carlos sent a donation in memory of **John Quinn**.

**Phyllis Hansen** of Carpinteria recently joined the Mono Lake Committee in memory of her late husband who was a long time Mono Lake enthusiast.

## A Round of applause

**C**ole and **Priscilla Hawkins** of Davis answered our plea for recycling assistance by stopping in to take our white paper. We can always use more help so let us know if you are going to be in the neighborhood.

Thank you to **Peter Todebush** of Hayward for donating a Pentium computer. This welcome addition allows us to provide internet access from our bookstore for visitors from all over the world.

**Ray Sieker** of Mammoth Lakes helped Paula and Jack Flower out at the Royal Pines Resort in Mammoth Lakes when they were in a crunch. In exchange for his good work Royal Pines generously donated in his name!

**John Brennan** of Prunedale lent a very helpful hand by photographing key points around the basin for us.

**Tim Snyder** of Island Phone lent us a cell phone to help the gull researchers keep in contact while out on the islets.

Thank you **Patagonia** for your dedicated support!

And for thinking of us all at lunch time ... thank you **Randy and Susan DesBaillets!**



*Anna Christensen is the Committee's new Membership Coordinator. She is excited to be here this fall and has already gone to extraordinary heights to see the leaves turning colors.*



# Music for Mono

Join us at a concert with violinist David Abel and pianist Julie Steinberg  
to benefit the Mono Lake Committee and the Water Resources Center Archives.

*Sunday, November 7, 1999  
3:00 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church  
2727 College Avenue  
Berkeley, California*

For more information contact (510) 642-2666 or (818) 716-8488.



MONO LAKE

COMMITTEE

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