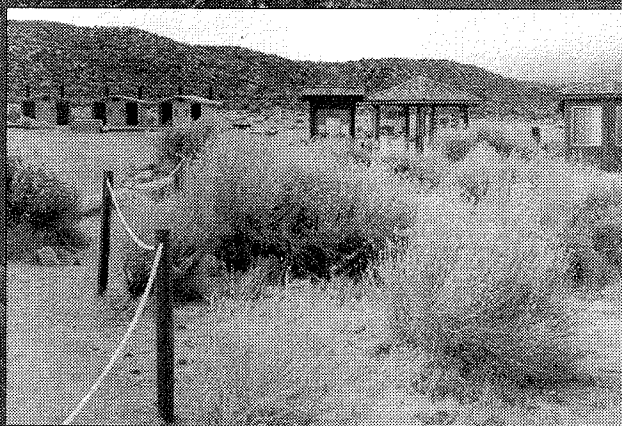
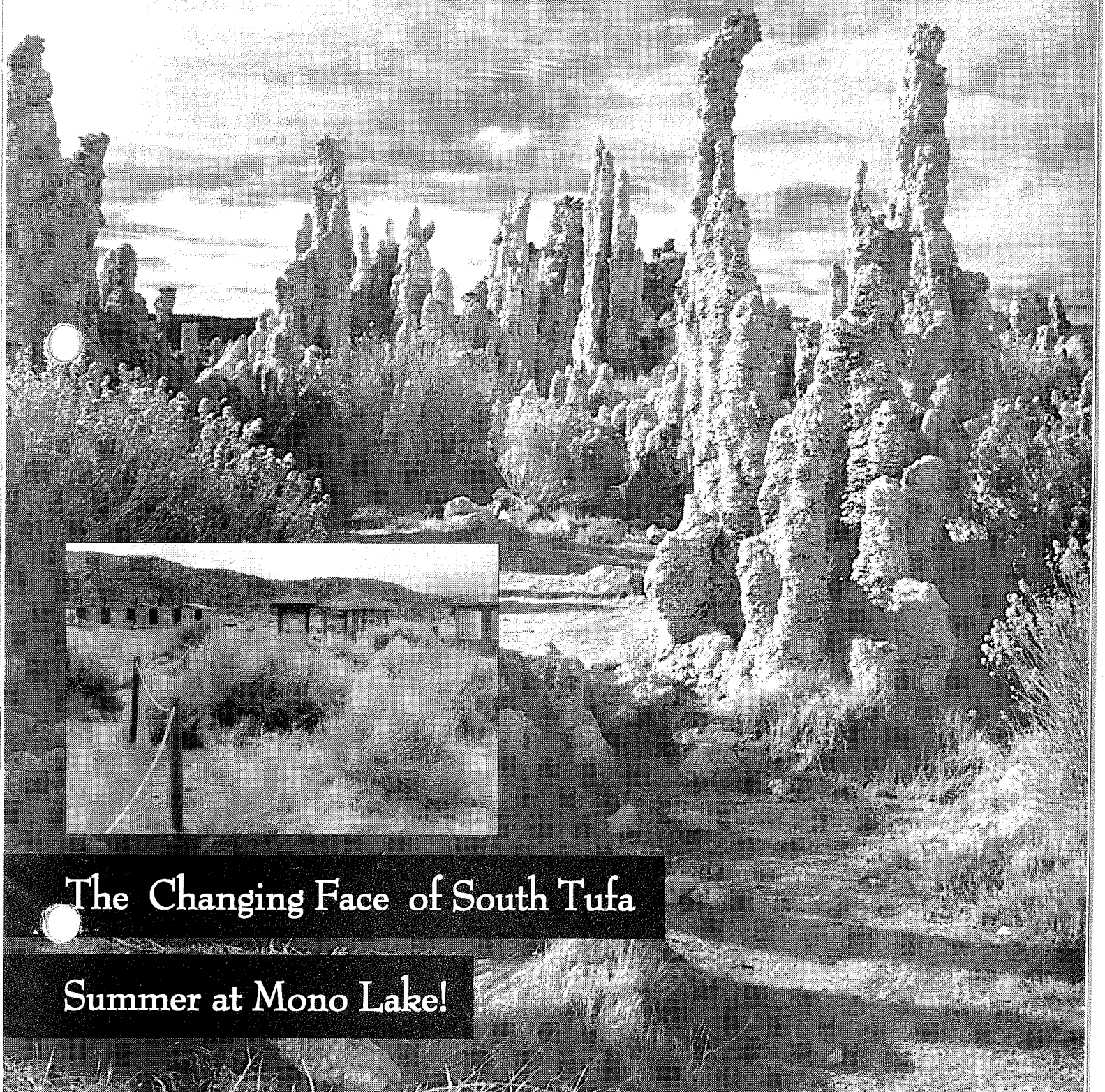


Summer

1999

MONO LAKE

NEWSLETTER



The Changing Face of South Tufa

Summer at Mono Lake!

Mono Lake Newsletter

Summer 1999
Volume 22, Number 1



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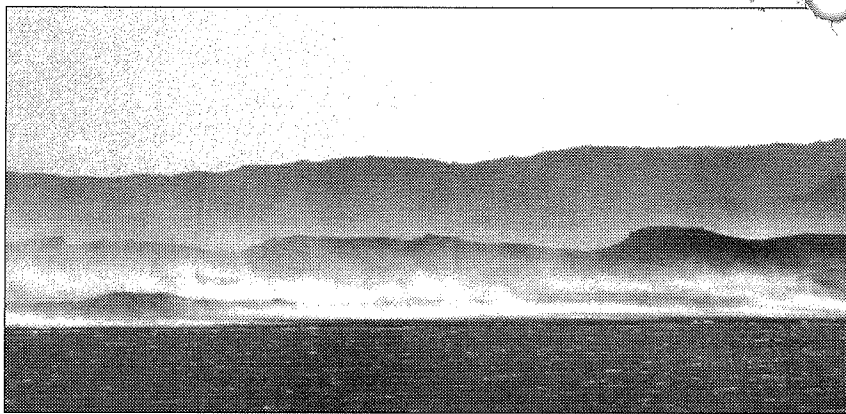
This issue's cover photos feature the trail that winds through South Tufa down along the shore of Mono Lake. To some, South Tufa is a new discovery, to others it is an old favorite, and for just about anyone who has the chance to visit, it is an eye-opening place of awe and wonder.

Summer brings a full masthead of staff and a busy schedule to the Committee. On the policy front, we'll be working actively to make sure the plans for modifying South Tufa (see page 4) are appropriate. Your comments are needed! Meanwhile, restoration scientists will be out in the field and statewide water issues (see page 11) will continue to receive attention. Plenty of education activities are underway as usual (see Seminars on pages 26-29).

Many people plan to visit the lake in the summer, and we have all the information and maps needed right here, starting on page 16. Can't find what you're looking for? Take a look at www.monolake.org for even more news, background, and information.

We're also planning a Living Lakes restoration conference for this fall (page 9 and www.livinglakes.org), and some of our staff have recently been in Germany (thanks to a grant) for a conference at the Bodensee. In fact, parts of this newsletter were assembled via email from around the world, so we hope you enjoy this issue's international flare. See you down at the lake!

—Geoff McQuilkin and Arya Degenhardt



Dust storms on Paoha Island make for a dramatic view of the lake from the US Forest Service Visitor Center patio on this windy day in April.

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.

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DWP-hosted meeting ushers in new era of communication

by Heidi Hopkins

A collegial, communicative atmosphere pervaded the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) restoration meeting this April. DWP voluntarily convened the meeting to discuss Mono Basin stream restoration, monitoring activities, and forecasted runoff and operations.

According to Peter Kavounas, DWP's Mono Basin restoration manager, the agency decided to offer two meetings annually to improve communication. "It's an opportunity for all of us to bring issues to light before they become problems."

The Committee, state and federal agencies, DWP, and restoration consultants spent a day and a half discussing the nuts and bolts of Mono Basin restoration. That the meeting ended early both days was testament to the progress made in opening up communication between formerly opposing parties and building a promising working relationship.

All of the consultants that DWP has hired to implement the restoration activities were present at the meeting. These include: hydrologic engineer Michael Ramey and fisheries resource expert Dr. Dudley Reiser who together will design sediment bypass facilities, wildlife biologist Don Paul and senior ecologist Dr. David Chapin who will monitor waterfowl and waterfowl habitat, and river ecologist Dr. William Trush and aquatic ecologist Dr. Chris Hunter who have been working for the past two years on stream monitoring.

What follows is a recap of a portion of the meetings.

Stream channels

DWP voluntarily initiated monitoring on the streams two years ago, in advance of the Water Board's final order on restoration. The scientist in charge of monitoring, Dr. William Trush, described the mapping he has completed so far and what mapping and other work is scheduled for 1999.

Trush called progress on Channel 10 "superb." Channel 10 is a large meander bend in Rush Creek's bottomlands that had been plugged by debris during the stream's period of degradation. Channel 10 was re-opened in 1995. Water tables in the area have rebounded, and the channel now offers numerous deep pools.

Fish monitoring

Dr. Chris Hunter explained the various methods of fish sampling and counting that were used in the last two years to monitor fish populations. Methods include day and nighttime snorkeling as well as electrofishing. Dr. Hunter also recommended adding a controlled creek census to the monitoring program, where a selected set of anglers fish according to prescribed protocols for a period of years.

As part of the fish monitoring program, reaches that were surveyed for fish were also systematically mapped to assess the physical habitat.

Based on his observations of Lee Vining Creek, Dr. Hunter is recommending that the stream be considered for Lahontan cutthroat trout. The cold, fast-moving stream provides good conditions for this species of fish—and less than optimal conditions for brown trout. Lahontan cutthroat are considered a threatened species, but can be fished in certain circumstances. The concept of introducing fishable Lahontan cutthroats in Lee Vining Creek was brought up for discussion, but more analysis would be needed before any decision could be made on this proposal.

Sediment bypass

The Water Board's 1998 restoration order called for DWP to design sediment bypass systems for the diversion structures on Walker, Parker, and Lee Vining creeks, behind which sediment is trapped.

In 1999, the consultants will develop conceptual analyses and designs for a wide range of bypass alternatives.

The feasibility of fish passage and rewatering the distributaries on Walker and Parker creeks will also be evaluated as part of the project.

Forecast and operations

Gene Coufel, the Bishop-based engineer who oversees DWP's Mono Basin aqueduct operations, explained how stream restoration flows were met in 1998 and what is anticipated in 1999 based on the April 1 runoff forecast. (See article on page 12 for runoff forecast details.)

Real-time data

DWP currently is working on putting real-time hydrologic data on its website. The data site is expected to be completed in a matter of months. Once it's up and running, anyone with Internet access can find out what the flows are in Lee Vining and other creeks, what the snowpack is at certain locations, what the temperature is at Cain Ranch, and other data collected by DWP. Ultimately, the site will include historical hydrological information dating back to when DWP first installed instruments in the Mono Basin in the 1930s.

Ongoing communication

One of the products of the meeting was the concept of a "list server" to enable efficient communication among those working on, or interested in, restoration. Through this kind of electronic "bulletin board," consultants could more readily learn about existing information and track day-to-day developments in the Mono Basin, while the Committee and others could track the scientists' progress and provide timely input.

The open, congenial exchange of ideas at the meeting bodes well for the future of restoration at Mono Lake.

Heidi Hopkins is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director. She's willing to argue that snow and May don't go together. ☞

New projects scheduled for South Tufa: member comment sought

by Heidi Hopkins

South Tufa is Mono Lake's most famous site, and as visitors have become more aware of Mono Lake, the look and feel of South Tufa has changed. Where once a person could camp alone all summer adjacent to the lake, waking on a daily basis to the glories of sunrise over tufa, now a kiosk, interpretive displays, roughly developed trails, and bathrooms offer visitor support—and camping is no longer allowed. Still, the essential experience remains. The visitor still leaves the pavement at Highway 120 and bumps along a desert road, and at that moment the Mono Basin still speaks to the driver, urging a slower pace and greater attention to the natural world.

Now the US Forest Service (USFS) is moving ahead with a long-delayed "upgrade" project that will pave the road, expand the parking lot, build shaded picnic structures, improve accessibility to the site for wheelchairs, and more. Implementation is already underway this summer, and will continue through next summer. The Committee is carefully reviewing these changes and

the impact they will have on the visitor's experience of Mono Lake. We oppose parts of the project, support others, and encourage all members and supporters to write in with comments.

The installation of permanent toilets last fall at South Tufa abruptly drew attention to the USFS project, which has been in the conceptual stage for five years. (Most startling, while the original plan called for four toilets, six ultimately were installed.) In recent months, the Committee has spent numerous hours with USFS and Tufa State Reserve staff reviewing the project, pinning down specifics, and looking at alternatives.

The project's goal is to enhance the visitor experience at South Tufa, including making the site fully accessible. There are, of course, different ideas about what counts as enhancement, and ultimately the question is this: when do the upgrades themselves begin to work against that very goal?

At its core, the project proposal embodies the ironic contradictions the Committee has always faced in its work for Mono Lake. If few people know about

the lake, will enough people care to save it? If many people know and love Mono Lake, will their presence and activities destroy the very values we have fought so hard to protect?

Where the Committee stands

The Committee supports making South Tufa accessible down to the lake in an environmentally sound manner that is appropriate for the experience at Mono Lake. Touching Mono's water is an experience that every visitor should have. But seeing Mono Lake as a wild place, off the beaten path, is also an experience we think all visitors should have, and paving the road and parking lot will take away from that experience. It is our position that developments at South Tufa should have only one goal: enhancing the contact the visitor has with Mono Lake, including the wild, remote character of the area. We do not support a paved road or parking lot, as they do not move us toward that goal.

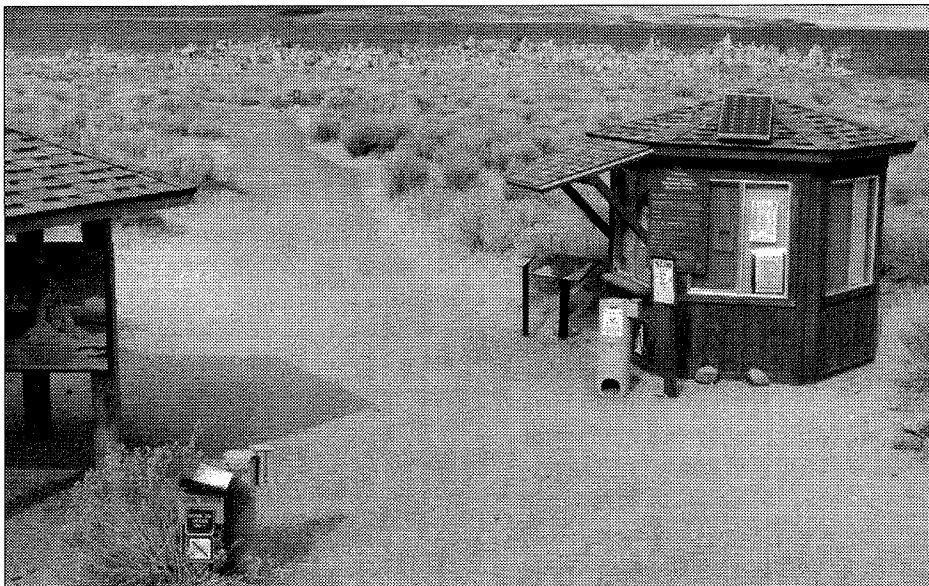
Seeking comments

We want to hear your thoughts on the South Tufa project, and so does the Forest Service. Please write, email, or phone the Committee at the address on page 2. We'd also like to see copies of letters you send to the USFS, which can be directed to:

Roger Porter, Scenic Area Manager
P.O. Box 429
Lee Vining, CA 93541
email: rporter/r5_inyo@fs.fed.us

Project background

The basis of the project is the 1989 Scenic Area Comprehensive Management Plan, which called for the rehabilitation of the South Tufa area to accommodate increased visitor use and improved interpretive facilities. In 1993—right at the height of the Water Board proceeding that would ultimately protect the lake—



The South Tufa trailhead as it stands today.

The USFS completed the Environmental Assessment for the project and issued a project plan. Now, five years later, we are beginning to see changes on the ground. (The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve works with the USFS at the site but does not hold title to the land or its facilities.)

Funding for the project comes from a capital improvement grant secured by the USFS. The first of the planned upgrades (the permanent toilets) went in last fall. Upgrades planned for this summer include paving South Tufa's main trail to the lake, installing curbs and sidewalks in the parking area, and adding two new shaded picnic structures. The balance of the project is scheduled for 2000, including realigning a major portion of the access road into the area and paving both the new road and an expanded (more than twice the size) parking lot.

Why change?

Why are the changes proposed at all? Here are the reasons given for the project's various components:

- The entire interpretive area, including bathrooms and the main trail down to the lake, should be accessible to every visitor.
- Maintenance of the dirt access road costs more than maintenance of a paved one.
- Some visitors and tour buses will not use dirt roads.
- Painting stripes in a parking lot maximizes parking efficiency and can only be done if the parking lot is paved (or "hardened").
- The current configuration of the parking lot is awkward for buses to turn around in.
- A single, well-developed trail down to the lake will encourage visitors to stay on the main trail, minimizing off-trail damage.

Problems with the project

- A part of the Mono Lake experience will be lost when the visitor no longer bumps down a dirt road to South Tufa, it is able to careen into the lot on a engineered, paved road. Is the experience of Mono Lake really enhanced?
- There are already two Mono Lake

South Tufa project timeline

Upgrades installed:

- Permanent toilets.

Upgrades for June:

- Eight-foot-wide asphalt trail down to the lake with a possible six-foot-wide auxiliary spur to separate location;
- Two picnic tables on cement pads with wood-slat shade protection (south side and roof) accessible by sidewalk;
- Cement curbs and sidewalks along two sides of the parking lot making toilets and picnic tables accessible.

Upgrades planned for the next year:

- A new, regulation-width, paved road into the parking area (the old road will be obliterated);
- Paved parking lot with striping and two-way circulation, more than double the size of the existing lot.

sites (County Park and Old Marina) where road access is fully paved. Is a third really needed?

- There will be significant visual change associated with the new structures that are proposed and the enlarged parking lot with striping, curbs, and walkways. Do amenities and easy bus parking make up for the detracting?

• The current lot is large enough to hold the current number of visitors on all but a few weekends during the summer. Problems do arise when RVs and buses park in the vegetation along the entrance road instead of using the overflow parking lot. Are the parking problems significant enough to justify the visual and environmental impact of more than doubling the size of the current lot?

• In 1993 the project plan projected a steady increase in visitors over time, and the project was designed to meet a projected 20-year need. Recent years have shown actual visitation to be increasing at only 50% the projected rate.


• Since the project was planned, the USFS has instituted its Recreational Fee Demonstration Program and now charges fees at South Tufa. The impact of this program on visitation at South Tufa has not been analyzed. Will the fees decrease visitor use of the site?

• Since the project was planned, the Water Board has required Mono Lake to be maintained at a level of 6392 feet. The

USFS plan assumes a maintenance level of 6384 feet. As a result, the actual size of South Tufa will be smaller than projected in the plan. What does this mean for carrying capacity at the site? Might not the new parking lot dwarf the site while providing parking for more visitors than could appropriately use the site? Will a higher lake draw visitors away from South Tufa to other sites?

Looking for an appropriate project

Most of all, the Committee, Tufa State Reserve, and USFS want to see the best job done at South Tufa to meet real visitor needs while protecting the area's resources. The debate over the project centers on how to best accomplish this. We believe it is important to have visitors at South Tufa, and equally important to manage visitor impacts. And we think that Mono Lake, and South Tufa, are unique enough to deserve unique treatment, not a cookie-cutter approach to visitor management.

Given the time that has elapsed and the huge change in the status of Mono Lake's protection since this project was first conceived the Committee believes that every element of the project should be reviewed and components modified appropriately. The USFS staff at Mono Lake has been willing to pore over details of the project with us, and we hope that open communication will continue in order to ensure collaboration. 

Spiritual recreation

Comments submitted by David Gaines on Scenic Area management

Editor's Note: In 1986, when debate over how to manage the then-new Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area was underway, David Gaines wrote down his thoughts on appropriate recreation at Mono Lake. As cofounder of the Mono Lake Committee, his ideas helped shape management strategies that are still in place today. But policies change, and as issues like the development of South Tufa arise, it is worth revisiting the ideas that shaped the Scenic Area in its founding years.

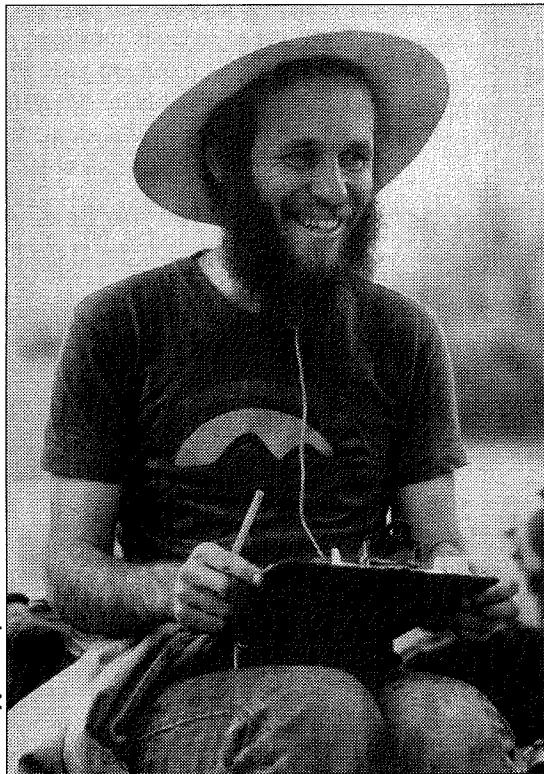
At the public workshop, we generally viewed visitors as a problem: how can we accommodate tourist hordes without degrading the Scenic Area's pristine qualities? This is a vital concern, and I don't mean to slight it. But a positive view of the visitor is also essential. We need to envision the experience we would like the visitor to have, and facilitate that experience through appropriate design and management.

Gray Brechin writes, "Mono endows its friends with awareness, for we have all had to learn from it. Mono has taught us to see the world anew, to accept and perceive beauties we had been unaware of, and to ask questions whose answers may be far from simple or comfortable. On the solitude of its beaches, we have learned to listen and to watch and to live quietly with ourselves."

We cannot force visitors to get out of their cars and have the sort of experience Gray describes. But we can encourage it and afford the opportunity even at the visitor center site.

I call this experience, for lack of anything better, spiritual recreation. It's what John Muir had in mind when he said, "Climb the mountains and get their

Photo by Jim Stroup



Committee cofounder David Gaines.

good tidings ... cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

That's what Mono can teach us: to listen, to watch, to live quietly, to see the world anew "while cares drop off like autumn leaves."

How can we encourage spiritual recreation?

We can start at the visitor center, for there the majority of visitors will begin their exploration. The center itself could be a portal leading from the sterile, asphalt environment of the parking lot to the living, dynamic environment of Mono Basin. It could be an invitation to learn and discover.

Here are more thoughts on facilitating spiritual recreation:

1) The visitor center, interpretive displays and naturalist walks should

stress, not *what* to see, but *how* to see.

2) Visitors should be lured away from their cars.

3) The pristine, natural qualities of the Scenic Area must be preserved and enhanced.

4) Man-made noise, buildings, power lines, fences, signs, livestock, etc. must be eliminated, minimized or rendered unobtrusive.


In contrast with spiritual recreation is what I call "industrial recreation": ORVs, snowmobiling, boating, hunting and other activities that require hardware. I don't wish to demean these activities, for they have their place and give people pleasure. But the emphasis in a "scenic" area should be on spiritual recreation rather than on activities that can be pursued in other, less unique settings.

The Scenic Area should also avoid the kind of "industrial tourism" that colors the visitor's experience in places like Yosemite.

I'm thinking of commercial businesses, restaurants, sightseeing buses and their ilk. I'm thinking of paved roads and parking lots to "main attractions." I'm thinking of paved trails lined with metal signs, like the path to Vernal Falls.

We should challenge the visitor, at least a little, and not render everything too easy and comfortable. We don't need to pave a road because someone complains about the dust.

I don't mean to sound elitist. We should encourage people to come here, but not to race around to "see the sights", or to test their ORV's, or even hunt or fish.

Rather, we should encourage an attitude of reverence for what, after all, one of America's grandest natural treasures. 

Hope for Mono

by Shelly Backlar

It was Restoration Day weekend, the Committee's 20th Anniversary Celebration. We had some time before heading down to paint signs for the Rehydration Ceremony so the boys and I made our way to the boardwalk at County Park. Jeremy and Joey, ages eight and three, raced across the grass, clamoring their way toward the wooden path. Wild iris grew out of the tall grass, a sight I hadn't remembered seeing here before.

We began our adventure by reading the plaques along the trail. "Mono Lake once reached this point," I told the boys. I continued to read the signs as we walked and admired the glorious wildflowers and listened to the sounds of birds from the marsh. The boys sped ahead, fighting about who would reach the end first. I followed slowly, drinking in the sights, sounds, and smells of the area, and marveling at the resilience of nature.

We quickly reached the end of the line. A section of the boardwalk had separated from the path and the boys were eager to jump to the small, wooden island. My warnings did little to discourage their enthusiasm, and soon Jeremy's foot sank deep into the mud. He began to cry. The tranquil moment vanished.

Assuring him not to worry, that we'd all go back and change into shorts and sandals, we started the trek back. As we reached the landmarks documenting the lake's descent, I read the plaques again. Joey asked me, "That's sad, isn't it Mommy? Doesn't that make you sad?"

We lingered there a moment and I thought about Joey's questions. I wasn't feeling sad. The lake's rising waters inspired me. Explaining this to the boys, I asked them to imagine what the lake will look like as the water pushes forward.

Much calmer now, Jeremy asked, "What about Owens Lake, Mom?" His question surprised me. The Department of Water

and Power had made an agreement concerning Owens a few months prior, but I didn't expect him to make the connection.

"Well, even though a little more water will reach Owens Lake, it will never be the same," I answered.

He looked out at Mono Lake, and then back at me. "At least there is hope

for Mono," he replied. Tears welled in my eyes as I took in his words. "You're right, Honey. At least there is hope for Mono."

Shelly Backlar is the Committee's Development Director. She works down in Los Angeles and loves to come up to the lake with her family. 🐾



Photo by Julie Klingmann

Joey, Jeremy, and Shelly Backlar walking down the County Park boardwalk during Restoration Days last summer.

Music for Mono Lake

Talking with David Abel and Julie Steinberg

Editor's note: In preparing for the upcoming music concert to benefit Mono Lake, Shelly Backlar, the Committee's Development Director has had the opportunity to find out more about this unique couple's musical talents as well as their connection to Mono Lake.

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with violinist David Abel and pianist Julie Steinberg about their upcoming Mono Lake benefit concert. While I was a bit nervous about striking up a conversation with such accomplished musicians, I quickly realized there was no warrant to my apprehension. Our talk was delightful; like reconnecting with dear friends. It is remarkable how Mono Lake can unite people. Now, let me introduce you to David Abel and Julie Steinberg.

David and Julie are Mono Lake Committee members with strong connections to the Mono Basin. David began backpacking in the Eastern Sierra in the 1950s. The couple frequently camped in the basin throughout the 1980s and now owns a cabin near Twin Lakes in Bridgeport. "I remember a time when Mono Lake came up to Highway 395," said Abel. "Over the years I've watched the lake shrink."

When asked what prompted them to come forward to help Mono Lake, David answered, "We've wanted to do something for Mono Lake for a long time now. I have been friends with Heidi Hopkins [the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director] for many years. When I found out she was working with the Committee, I approached her with the idea of having a benefit concert. We're happy that the Committee and the Water Resources Center Archives are enthusiastic about collaborating with us to make this concert possible."

I asked David and Julie if there were any special Mono Lake experiences they would like to share with other members,



Violinist David Abel and pianist Julie Steinberg.

and they immediately spoke in unison, "Our canoe trip on Mono Lake!" Julie elaborated, "We took a Mono Lake Committee guided canoe trip and were fortunate enough to see the ospreys. The experience was truly magical."

Because touring takes them all over the world, David and Julie are pleased to note an increasing awareness of Mono Lake throughout Europe, with Mono Lake being a popular destination for those wanting to experience "the West." Julie stated, "Recently while flying Lufthansa, we saw an impressive five minute travel segment about Mono Lake."

"It's somewhat ironic," David continued, "that there is this incredible awareness of Mono Lake's importance throughout Europe, while so many Californians do not understand Mono Lake's connection to water issues."

Musical background

David Abel and Julie Steinberg frequently appear in duo recitals, and together they have recorded two sonata programs on Wilson Audio. Joined by percussionist, William Winant, they

established the Abel-Steinberg-Winant Trio, which is dedicated to the performance of music from the Americas and the Pacific Rim. The Trio has received critical acclaim throughout the United States for their fine performances and unique programming, and for their recording of Lou Harrison's music on New Albion Records.

Equally impressive are their solo careers. David Abel's musical activities range from chamber music to solo recitals, orchestra appearances and teaching violin and chamber music. Julie Steinberg is an active performer both as a soloist and chamber musician. Both David and Julie are currently teaching at Mills College in Oakland.

The Mono Lake Committee and the Water Resources Center Archives at the University of California, Berkeley, are delighted to announce that David Abel and Julie Steinberg have generously volunteered to play a benefit concert for Mono Lake. Proceeds from this fund-raising event will be split between the two organizations. The Archives will use their portion to make the Mono Lake collection of documents and photos, which was donated by the Mono Lake Committee in 1997, more accessible to the public.

The duo will perform on Sunday afternoon, November 7, 1999, at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. Tickets for the concert will go on sale in September. Please contact Shelly Backlar at (818) 716-8488 (shelly@monolake.org) or Kathy Dieden (510) 642-2666 (kdieden@library.berkeley.edu) for more information. 🐾

Mono Lake Benefit Concert

classical music performed by

David Abel and Julie Steinberg

Sunday November 7, 1999
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Berkeley

International conference at Mono Lake

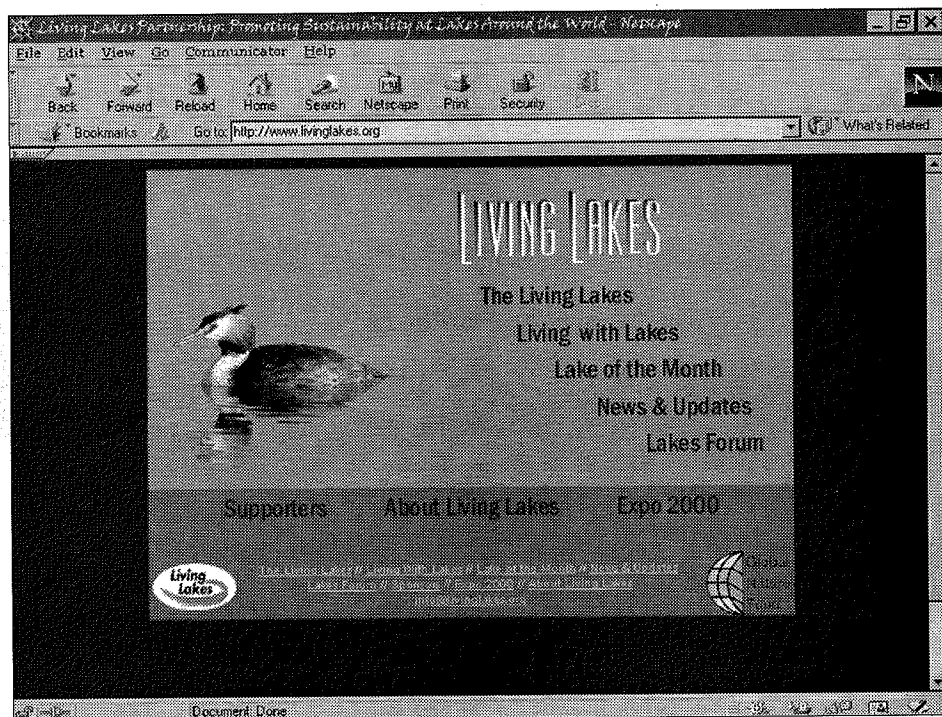
by Frances Spivy-Weber

Mono Lake will be in the international spotlight October, 1-4, 1999. Representatives of lake protection organizations, journalists, scientists, and business leaders from Europe, Japan, Russia, South America, South Africa, and the United States will be coming to Lee Vining to discuss streams and wetland restoration and the connection between restoration and water conservation.

The conference will be hosted by Living Lakes, an international network of lake protection groups that promote collaboration among organizations that carry out projects benefiting lakes, wildlife, and people. The Committee is a founding member of the network.

Living Lakes, formed in 1998, was an idea conceived by the Global Nature Fund, which is based in Germany. Jim Strock, former head of CalEPA and currently on the Board of the Global Nature Fund, recommended Mono Lake as a worthy partner in this new venture. In addition to the Mono Lake Committee, founding partners are organizations that work to protect Lake Constance, which is bordered by Austria, Germany, and Switzerland; South Africa's Lake St. Lucia; Lake Biwa in Japan; the Nestos Lakes in Greece; and La Nava wetlands in Spain. During 1999, the Living Lakes organizers hope to add groups that work at Lake Baikal in Russia, in Brazil's Pantanal, and at Mar Chiquita, which is Mono Lake's sister lake in Argentina. Living Lakes plans to have up to twenty organizations in its network within the next few years.

The success of the project to date lies in the strong financial support from mostly European sponsors. Unilever International is the global partner. Other sponsors include DaimlerChrysler, German Lufthansa, and the German National Foundation for Environment. EXPO 2000, which will be held next year in Hanover, Germany, has selected Living Lakes as a global project for its exhibition and is also a



The Living Lakes Website (www.livinglakes.org) as seen on the Internet.

sponsor of Living Lakes partnership.

The Mono Lake Committee has taken the lead within Living Lakes to assemble its Website (www.livinglakes.org), which is becoming the central means through which groups communicate with each other and work together on common projects. The Website allows the Living Lakes partners to showcase their diversity, but also to discuss common interests, including environmentally sensitive tourism and recreation, and restoration of degraded wetlands, streams, and lakes.

Living Lakes Conferences are also being held around the world to enable the partners to get to know each other and to forge a strong base for future collaboration. The first conference was held in 1998 at Lake St. Lucia in South Africa to discuss ecotourism. The second conference at Lake Constance (Bodensee) in Germany this May focused on recreation. In October, approximately forty people from throughout the world

will join Californians and other specialists from the United States to discuss the latest findings in restoration science. In 2000, the partners will go to Japan to see how Lake Biwa's waters are protected from nearby heavy industry and to discuss the role of education in protection of lakes and water quality.

If you want to keep up with the plans for October meeting in Lee Vining or to learn more about the other conferences, visit the Living Lakes Website (www.livinglakes.org) or the Mono Lake Website (www.monolake.org). If you want to visit the Living Lakes, consider participating in the Mono Lake Committee's 1999 Free Drawing, where Lufthansa, one of Living Lakes sponsors, is giving away two business class tickets that can be used in travel worldwide.

Frances Spivy-Weber is the Committee's Executive Director. She's bringing her international connections to Mono Lake.

Spring ahead, look back

by Gary Nelson

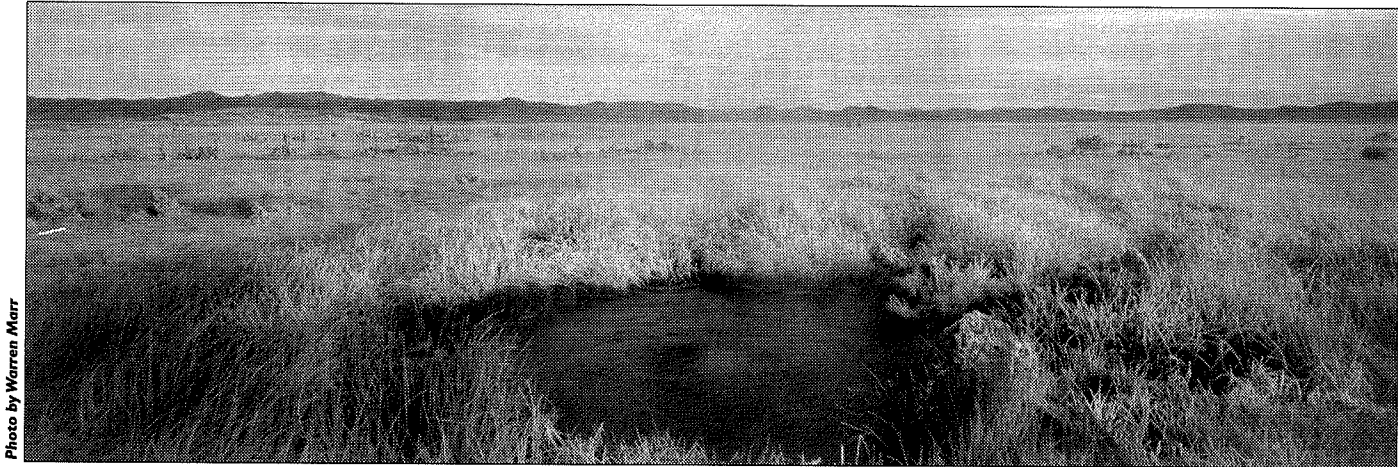


Photo by Warren Marr

Warren Marr's photograph of the infamous warm spring is part of the photography exhibit on display at the Committee this summer.

During the winter of 1997-98 many Mono Basin locals wished (as we shoveled our driveways for the fourth time in a 24-hour period) that it would only snow above the 8500-foot level. This would provide ample snowpack (and resulting spring runoff) while making life more convenient for us year-round residents.

This past winter we got our wish. Most storms deluged the west side of the Sierra but hung up on the crest, dumping snow on the headwaters of Mono Basin creeks while sending only occasional flurries down to the floor of the basin. I had to shovel my driveway just twice all winter, since we received almost as much precipitation from rainfall as from snow. The rainfall could not soak into the frozen ground and quickly ran off into the creeks, and down into Mono Lake. As a result the lake rose almost a foot over the winter. While spring-like conditions currently prevail at lower elevations, the Sierra is still white with a normal snowpack, holding the promise of ample spring runoff.

A few days ago I saw firsthand just how much the lake has risen while looking at Warren Marr's excellent photographic exhibit at the Committee Information Center. I was struck by a

1989 photograph of a bubbling hot spring, surrounded by grass and tufa towers, sitting about 100 feet inland from the shoreline. Earlier that day I had paddled into this spring from the lake.

Sometime during the winter, Mono's rising waters reclaimed the spring, and its considerable freshwater inflow. Next to the spring lies the old interpretive trail, now submerged and looking more like a canal. This hot spring, a longtime feature of Mono Lake walking tours, has surrendered to the aqueous realm and will now be a canoe tour attraction.

For generations of Mono Lake Committee staff, this hot spring had been a sure "crowd pleaser" on South Tufa walking tours. The most legendary of these excursions took place about eight years ago, and was led by my friend Shannon. Her enthusiastic group of visitors had shown great interest in the lake and its denizens. Shannon was eagerly anticipating introducing them to the spring as the climax of the tour. Upon arrival at the hot spring they discovered that a couple had ignored the "NO SWIMMING OR BATHING" sign and were amorously thrashing about in the bubbling waters. Before they could leave, one of the visitors compounded Shannon's mortification,

remarking, "Well, you did say it was mating season!" Needless to say, she never heard the end of this. A poster was soon created advertising Shannon's "Tot de Voyeur."

As one of the "old-timers" here, I suppose that I've attained the status of Tufa Nostalgist. Many of these strange formations are inextricably linked to the people I've shared them with. Thinking of this hot spring now brings on conflicting emotions. Shannon will be leaving after the summer to return to Oklahoma.

While tufa have risen and fallen, Shannon has been the one constant during my time at the Committee; a voice of reason amidst clamor, always understanding, tolerant of "spontaneous canoe guide behavior," and a very caring person. She has ever been a friend to those in need, and "Mono Mother" to generations of interns.

The geologic features of the South Tufa area do not carry official place names, as do the peaks of the Sierra. But within the map of my memories, this place where the water of life bubbles into the lake will always be Shannon's Spring.

Gary Nelson is the Committee's Canoe Tour Supervisor. When he's not paddling on the lake you can often find him cooking up some of the best Kung Pao chicken in the basin! 🍗

Policy Notes

Owens Lake dust control to begin fall, 1999

In 1998, David Freeman, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, reached an agreement with Ellen Hardebeck, Director of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, to implement dust control measures at Owens Lake, beginning in the fall of 1999. Los Angeles bought most of the water rights in the Owens Valley early this century and began water diversions that dried up the lake by the late 1920s. Plans for controlling dust have been proposed over the years, but David Freeman was the first DWP General Manager to make solving the problem a priority.

Los Angeles will use three techniques to control the dust, which averages 300,000 tons each year. They will flood parts of the lakebed, plant native vegetation in some sections, and cover portions of the lake with gravel. All together ten square miles of the approximately 100 square mile dry lakebed will be covered by 2001, with an additional 3.5 square miles added in 2002, 3 square miles in 2003, and 2 square miles each year thereafter until the area achieves the federal air pollution standard. The plan will be re-evaluated in 2003 to assess how well the plan is working.

The Great Basin District has applied to EPA for a 5-year extension of the Clean Air Act, which currently requires compliance with particle emission standards by 2001. It is likely that EPA will grant the extension.

DWP estimates that 40,000 acre-feet of water will be needed annually to keep the dust problem under control. They will use mostly surface water, but some of the water may be pumped from local underground sources. The Eastern Sierra Audubon in Bishop is concerned that groundwater pumping could result in subsidence or negative impacts to

wetlands and springs that surround the lake and to shorebirds and waterfowl that use the lake each year. DWP is interested in pumping groundwater because the water is non-potable and would allow the dust control project to start more quickly.

Currently DWP, as part of its plan to restore the lower Owens River, is designing a pump station that will allow water to flow down the river and, when it reaches the lake, be pumped to the aqueduct. The restoration program is scheduled to begin in 2001, two years early. The station will be used to pump water out onto the dusty lakebed as well.

CalFed update

A CalFed Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement will be released June 25, and hearings will start August 4 and continue through September 24, a 90-day period. Hearings will be held in Chico, Sacramento, Oakland, Antioch, Stockton, Fresno, Pasadena, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Monterey. The goal is to have a final report in the spring of 2000. For an up-to-date schedule, see <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

The mission of the CalFed Bay-Delta Program is to develop a comprehensive plan to restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta and at the same time improve water quality and the reliable delivery of water to 22 million Californians that use the system.

The first DEIR/EIS was made public in the spring of 1998. In comments on the next DEIR/EIS, the Committee will urge the state and federal government to focus on actions that can be taken or at least started within the next seven years, with an emphasis on water conservation, water recycling, watershed and groundwater management, and water quality improvements. We think it is essential that the Department of Water Resources

improve its ability to forecast real water needs, taking into account urban and agriculture users' ability to use water more efficiently.

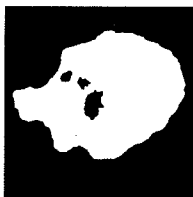
Frances Spivy-Weber, the Mono Lake Committee's Executive Director, serves on the Bay-Delta Advisory Council and works with the Environmental Water Caucus.

HR623 update

The Western States Water Council, an organization of state water agencies in the West, adopted a strong resolution in support of national water efficiency standards. This is a important blow to HR623, the new federal Knollenberg bill to reduce water efficiency standards for low-flow toilets and showerheads. Five Californian Congressmen (Calvert, Cox, Doolittle, Herger, and Rohrabacher) support the bill.

In the 1997-98 Congressional session, Congressman Knollenberg (R, MI) introduced a bill that would repeal water efficiency standards that were established in the 1992 Energy Policy and Conservation Act. While this bill was greeted by humorists with many articles and cartoons showing Uncle Sam in the bathroom, those concerned about water conservation were alarmed. The water industry and environmentalists are counting on people using much less water over the next decades as 5 gallon toilets are replaced with the federally mandated 1.6 gallon versions. When the session ended, the bill died without having been heard in subcommittee, but in 1999 it was reintroduced as HR623.

Unfortunately, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power changed leadership in the new Congress, and Representative Barton (R, TX) is the new chair, and a sponsor of HR623. There will probably be a hearing this year, but with Western States leaders opposing the bill, its chance of moving very far is low. ☞



Lakewatch

An interpretive discussion of the past five runoff years

by Greg Reis

When does evaporation exceed inflow? Somebody asked me that question yesterday, and the answer is that it depends—it happens at a different time every year, and sometimes more than once. The charts shown here, however, are a better answer.

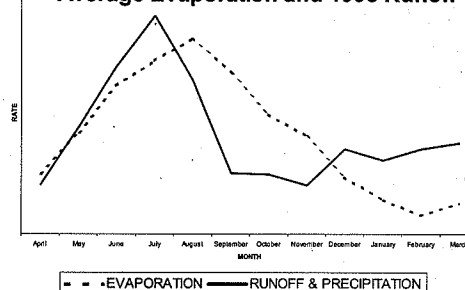
To fully appreciate the charts, a few things must be explained. A runoff year is April 1 of the named year to March 31 of the following year, starting and ending when the snowpack in the mountains is usually at a maximum. When runoff plus direct precipitation into the lake exceeds evaporation, the lake rises, and when runoff plus precipitation is lower than evaporation, the lake falls.

The chart below shows a different line for each of the last 5 runoff years. If we start on the lowest line—at the beginning of the 1994 runoff year—Mono Lake's April 1 level was 6375.5 feet above sea level. Runoff and evaporation were both relatively low at this time of

year, but they were equal—the line is flat. 1994 was a dry year, so snowmelt runoff came early and didn't last long, and Mono Lake's level peaked around June 1, the second time in the runoff year that evaporation and runoff were equal. After June 1, evaporation exceeded runoff, and the lake level dropped until November 1, when evaporation decreased to a point where it equaled runoff for the third time.

1995 was an extremely wet year, and between January and September Mono Lake rose 3.4 vertical feet. Mono Lake rose roughly 2 feet in each of the following years, finally bringing us to April 1, 1999, at a lake level of 6384.8. Note that within these rises, however, there is a similar pattern that all years share: a flat line or slow rise in early spring; a relatively fast rise in late spring and early summer; a decreasing or flat line in late summer and fall; and a fast rise in winter (a result of low evaporation

Average Evaporation and 1995 Runoff



and high precipitation). This seasonal pattern is explained by a cyclical evaporation curve interacting with the cyclical runoff curve as shown in the chart above.

During the years of large DWP water diversions, runoff into the lake was much less and there was a much longer period when evaporation exceeded runoff. As result the lake reached its annual high stand in early spring and declined 2 or more feet by the end of the year.

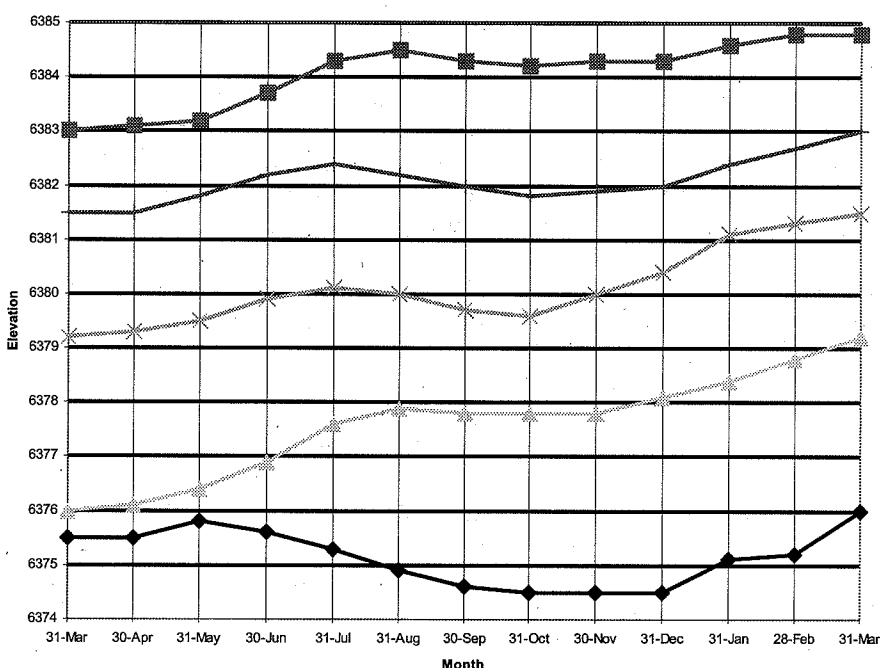
What will the chart at the left look like in the 1999-2000 runoff year? DWP forecasts that this past winter's snowpack combined with median precipitation in the upcoming months will result in 94% of average runoff in the 1999-2000 runoff year. The predicted runoff and precipitation will cause the lake to peak near the end of July around 6385.5 and end up at an April 1, 2000 level of 6384.8. That is the same level as it was this past April 1—which would be the first time there is not a net rise since the 1992 runoff year.

The phenomenal 12 foot lake rise we have witnessed since January 1993 will slow down even when we have average or wetter than average years

because the greater lake surface area at higher lake levels means the total volume of evaporation is greater and requires more runoff to maintain the same level.

Greg Reis is the Committee's Website and Canoe Coordinator. He may soon speak German.

Mono Lake Level 1994-1999



Mono Basin Journal

A roundup of less political events at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin


Even though a snowstorm is currently obscuring Negit Island, it is clear that the warmer months have returned. Earlier than last year, as it turns out, which feels like a luxury after the past few above-average winters of extended cold and snow. Around town, daffodils are pushing up, occasionally contending with snowfall. Soon the summer thunderstorms will rule the weather patterns over the lake.

Deer are following their migration paths back to the mountains, browsing for new green grasses along the way. Not long ago, six wove slow paths between the bushes, sampling the plants, eying the snowy clouds all hanging on the mountain peaks. A curious noise gathered their attention, making a moment of quiet focus. Then they all bounded off, hopping over sagebrush so that they

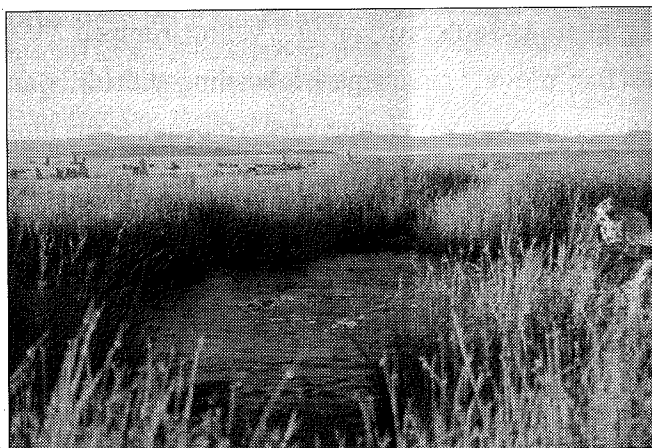


Photo by Michael Dressler

were momentarily visible, then hidden, then visible again, then gone into the Mono Basin's open spaces.

Down at the lake, all kinds of things are happening as the water rises onto dry ground. Out at County Park, one of Mono's more unique phenomena has been visible for a while—if you spread the willows apart and take a close look. Near the boardwalk, the lakewater has been moving up the freshwater course of DeChambeau Creek. Where the two waters meet, loose tufa encrustations have been building around the willow roots and stalks, odd billowing formations visible just below the freshwater surface of the stream. They formed quickly and will grow only briefly, for soon a rising lake will put them even further underwater, remnant reminders of past days when the lake was far too low. 

Benchmarks



A warm spring down by the lakeshore in 1990. Lake level 6375.2 feet above sea level.



Today, with the lake level at 6384.8 feet, 9.4 feet higher. Can you still see the bubbling spring? See the article on page 10 for more details.

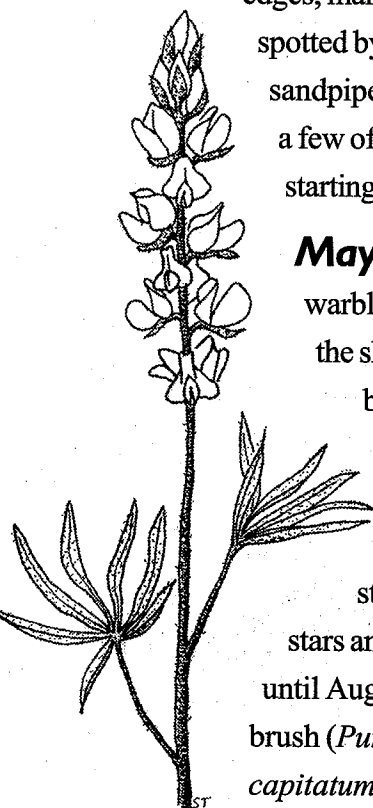
Naturalist Notes

A Mono Basin chronicle



Carl Dennis Buell

April: The buzz of spring is dampened by neither wind nor stormy weather ... a male evening grosbeak in full breeding plumage visits the barely-budding apple tree in the Committee garden ... violet-green swallows are back in force ... joined by tree swallows and bank swallows ... out at north shore ponds cinnamon teals, green-winged teals, and a lone gadwall ... a prairie falcon, loggerhead shrike, black phoebe, lesser yellowlegs, and some short-billed dowitchers distinguished from their longer-billed relatives by their call ... an early sighting of yellow-headed blackbirds ... a northern mockingbird in town for a visit ... two slate-colored dark-eyed juncos and a varied thrush near June Lake ... 21 turkey vultures soaring lazily over the bluffs ... cattle are a force to be reckoned with both on highway 167 and out in the sage-scrub on the north shore ... American avocets, black-bellied plovers, least and western sandpipers, and snowy plovers are busy along the shoreline ... the winter wren still lingering could be the latest record for Mono County ... no-see-ums are making their presence known ... the rising lake has created a pumice berm that has isolated long brackish lagoons full of algae and alkalai fly larvae ... California gulls patter their feet along lagoon edges, making their meals rise to the surface ... a hooded-oriole and three hooded mergansers spotted by travelers passing through ... a peregrine falcon on a snag on the north shore, a solitary sandpiper, a bald eagle perched atop a tufa on the south shore, and a flock of 70 cormorants were a few of the highlights from the shorebird count on April 24 ... trees, shrubs, and flowers are just starting to leaf along the creek trail.



May: Warmer weather brings the sounds, smell, and colors of spring ... yellow-rumped warblers catch your eye no matter how fast they move ... county park is bustling with birds, and the short walk down to the waters' edge may leave you wondering what happened to the little bridge through the thicket where the soras used to hide ... double-crested cormorants stick out next to the California gulls off shore ... mountain bluebirds are quite a treat to the eye as well ... horned larks line meadows and fill the air with their beautiful song if you slow down long enough to listen ... a visit from a black-headed grosbeak ... sunsets are starting to look and feel like summer, and it is just warm enough to stay outside to watch the stars and planets appear ... Mars is bright at dusk, 54 million miles away, and the closest it will be until August of 2001 ... April showers have brought the desert peach (*Prunus andersonii*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), mule ears (*Wyethia mollis*), Western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*), and lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*) to bloom ... and one can't help but to wonder when we'll hear the exciting sound of the Lee Vining creek at peak flow here in town.

High Sierra Fall Century

Saturday September 18, 1999

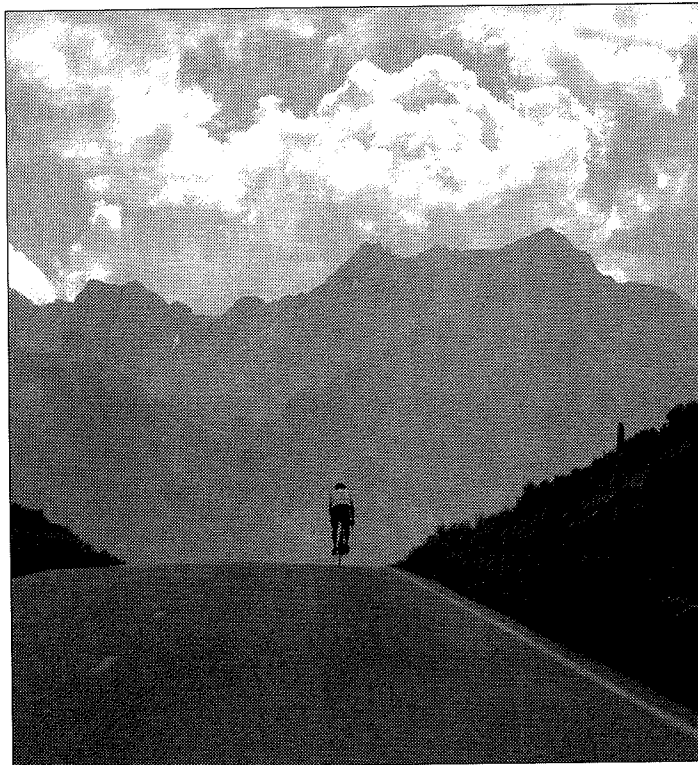
Have you started training yet? If not, there's still plenty of time to get in shape to cycle the High Sierra Fall Century on September 18! The 100 mile course takes you along the spectacular east side of the High Sierra and into the quiet beauty of the Mono Basin with awesome views of Mono Lake and the White Mountains. Our route offers 100 miles of beautiful riding with no stoplights and just one stop sign! If this is more than you want to take on, short course options of 30 and 45 miles also will be offered.

There are numerous lodging and camping options in Mammoth Lakes, Lee Vining, and June Lake—give us a call, or send an email and we'll give you a list of numbers to call.

We welcome two new presenting sponsors to this year's event—Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and The Mono Inn at Mono Lake. Numerous local, regional and national sponsors have signed up to help again, and to all we say 'thank you'!

Century riders may start between 7:30 and 9:00AM, and short course riders between 9:30 and 10:30AM. The course will close at 6:30PM, and any riders remaining on the course will be sagged in to the finish at Whitmore Pool.

Entry fee includes five fully stocked rest areas, roving SAG support, and a gourmet lunch at mile 55 by the Mono Inn. An event T-shirt is included for all pre-registered riders. Enjoy gourmet sandwiches, green salad, pasta, pomodoro and red potatoes before you start the second part of your ride.



Course Descriptions

The century begins at the Whitmore ball fields, just east of U.S. Hwy. 395 on the Benton Crossing Road south of Mammoth Lakes. After following Hwy. 395 north over Deadman Summit and into the Mono Basin, the course continues east on Hwy. 120. This section of the ride is on a very lightly traveled road through a cool Jeffrey Pine forest, over Sagehen Summit, and down into Adobe Valley.

After the downhill into Adobe Valley, enjoy a well-earned lunch break, followed by several miles of rolling hills across Adobe Valley. As you turn right onto Benton Crossing Road, be sure to stop and fill your water bottles for the climb over Wildrose and Watterson Summits—these are the hardest climbs of the day. From Watterson Summit, you'll descend past Crowley Lake, then traverse a few more rolling hills to the finish at Whitmore Pool.

The short course starts at Whitmore ball fields between 9:30 and 10:30AM, and heads east on Benton Crossing Road in the opposite direction of the full century course. After a rolling ride across the Owens River and past Crowley Lake, there is a climb to the rest stop at Watterson Summit. Beginning riders can use this as the turnaround, and return to the start/finish for a total of 30 miles.

More experienced riders have the option of continuing on down the back side of Watterson Summit another three miles, then climbing to Wildrose Summit. Turn around at Wildrose Summit (no services here), and climb back up to the Watterson Summit rest area. Continue on into Long Valley and back to the finish at Whitmore Pool for a total distance of 45 miles.

Ready to ride!

For registration and ride information call the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore at (760) 647-6595, check out www.monolake.org/events/century, or contact Kay Ogden (kay@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595. 🐾

**NO HELMET • NO WAIVER
NO RIDE • NO EXCEPTIONS**

HIGH SIERRA



FALL CENTURY

Summer at Mono Lake!

South Tufa walks

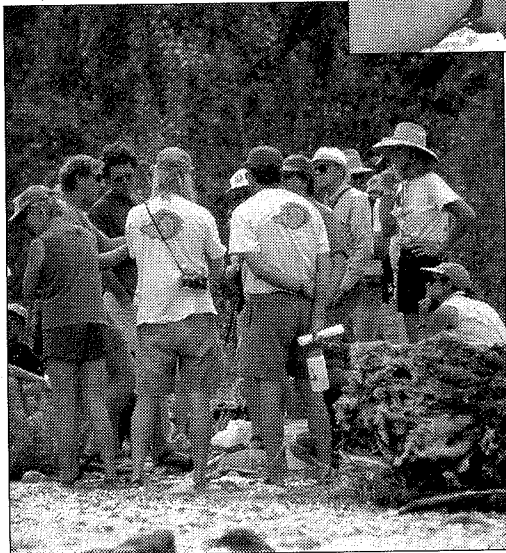
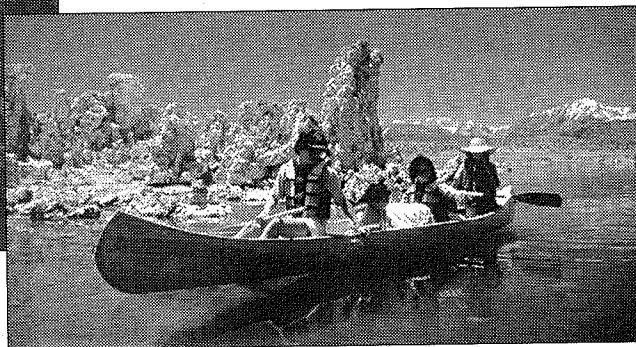
Join a naturalist on a walking tour at the South Tufa area to learn about the ecology, geology, and natural and human history of the Mono Basin. Conducted three times daily throughout the summer, these walking tours are an excellent introduction to Mono Lake. Walks last about an hour and meet at the South Tufa parking lot at 10:00, 1:00, and 6:00.

No charge for the walk, but a \$2 fee is required to enter South Tufa.



Canoe tours

Glide through groves of tufa spires, dip your paddle into swarms of brine shrimp, and float alongside diving birds. As we tour along Mono Lake's south shore, your expert guide will explain the natural history of this ancient, biologically rich lake. Tours depart every Saturday and Sunday morning at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM, and last for about one hour. \$17 for adults, \$7 for children. Reservations are required; call (760) 647-6595.



Lee Vining Creek hikes

Come take a hike with us down the cool riparian corridor along Lee Vining Creek! Learn about birds, trees, flowers, fish, Native American history, and current restoration work on this leisurely walk down the Lee Vining Creek Trail. Led by Mono Lake Committee naturalists, this walk is an excellent opportunity to see both healthy creek habitat as well as an area where restoration is actively in progress.

Lee Vining Creek Walks are free, and leave from the Mono Lake Committee Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 9AM through Labor Day Weekend. People of all ages and hiking abilities are welcome. The moderate, two-mile hike takes about an hour and a half, and ends at the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center overlooking Mono Lake. No reservations are necessary.

Panum Crater

Take a walk on a young volcano! Formed only 640 years ago, Panum Crater offers lots of interesting terrain to explore on your own. Guided tours, led by the Forest Service, are also available. Get details and directions at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore.

Stargazing

The Mono Basin has one of the clearest, darkest skies around, so don't miss an opportunity to join State Reserve Rangers Dave and Janet Carle for an evening of stargazing and astronomical lore down at South Tufa. Get details on dates and times at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore.

Bird Watching

Join a local bird expert from the State Reserve on an early morning birding walk. With over 100 species of birds coming to the Mono Basin, you can't go wrong! Get details on birdwatch walk times and where to meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore.

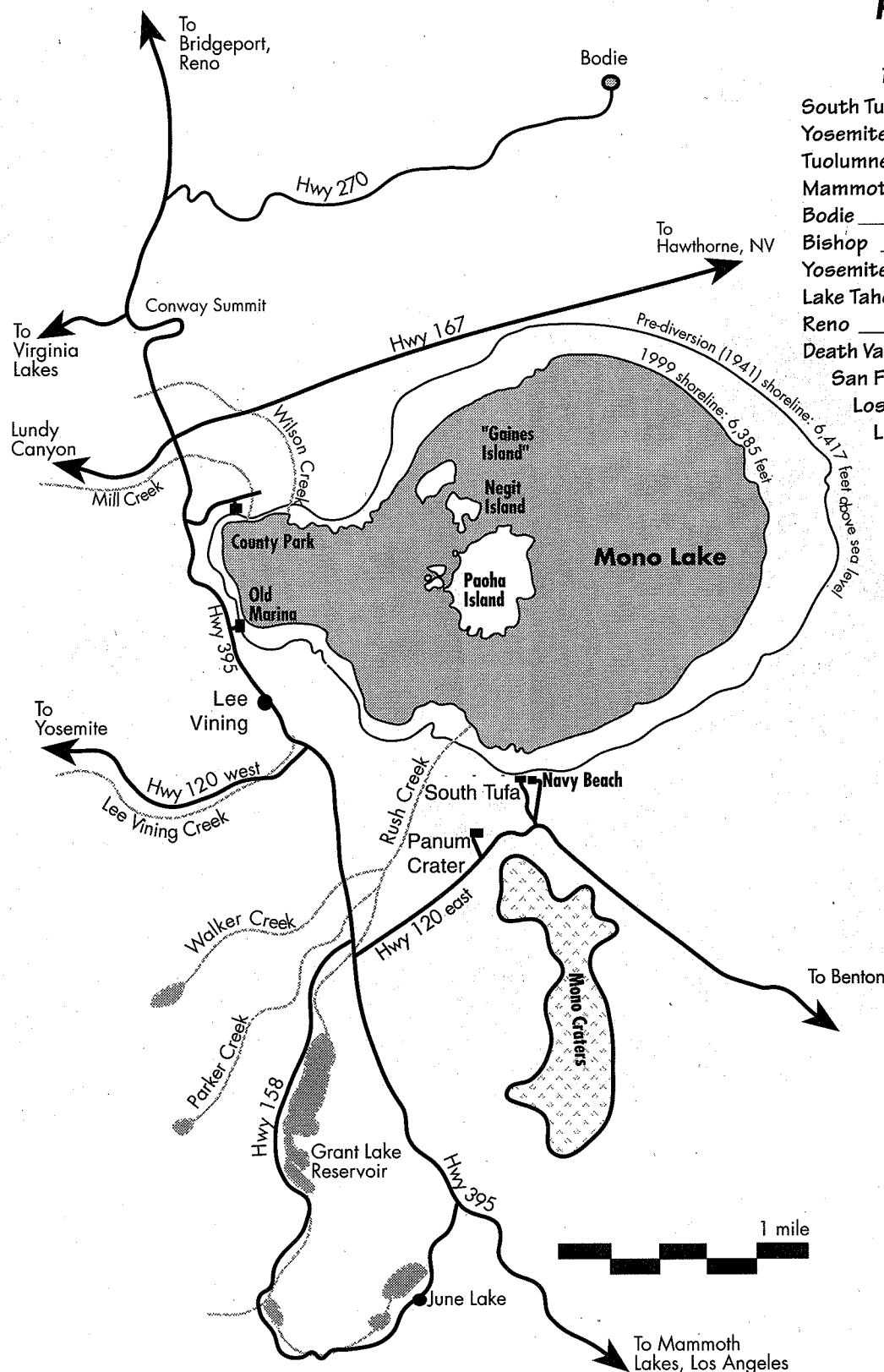
Help us protect and restore Mono Lake!

Summer at Mono Lake!

How far is it?

Distance in miles
from Lee Vining to:

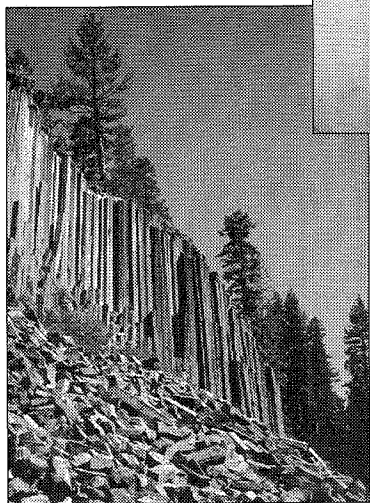
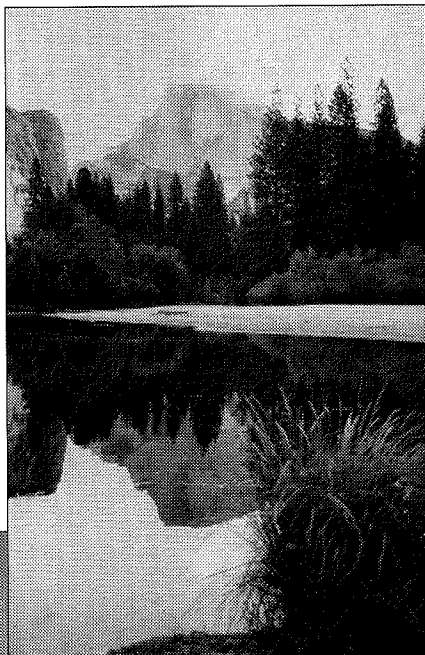
South Tufa	11 miles
Yosemite Park entrance	13
Tuolumne Meadows	21
Mammoth Lakes	27
Bodie	32
Bishop	66
Yosemite Valley	77
Lake Tahoe	110
Reno	140
Death Valley	177
San Francisco (via 120)	250
Los Angeles	303
Las Vegas	340



Summer at Mono Lake!

Yosemite

Ever popular, Yosemite is one of the crown jewels of the National Park system. A two hour drive from Lee Vining to the valley offers the chance to see towering waterfalls, sheer cliffs, and many famous landmarks. But be sure to visit the rest of the park as well; only a 30 minute drive from Mono Lake in the summer-time is Tuolumne Meadows, which offers an excellent sampling of High Sierra wildflowers and hiking. A seven-day pass to the park is \$20 per car.

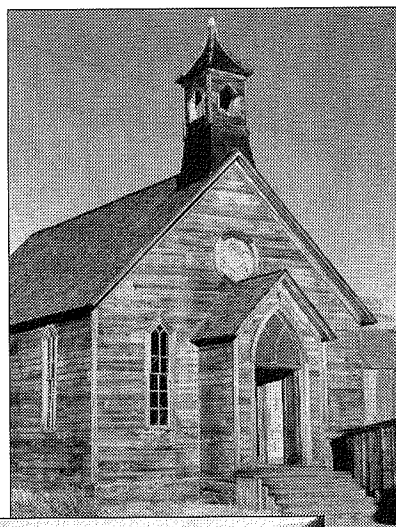


Devil's Postpile

Located beyond the town of Mammoth Lakes, Devil's Postpile is an unusual geologic formation of columnar basalt. The surrounding area offers spectacular scenery, and the hike to nearby 101-foot Rainbow Falls makes for a nice afternoon in the mountains.

Bodie State Historic Park

The ghost town of Bodie, located 32 miles from Lee Vining, offers a unique glimpse into California's past. Today it is preserved in a state of "arrested decay" so you can roam the streets looking through windows into preserved homes and businesses. The park is open 8am to 7PM during the summer (museum closes earlier) \$2 admission per person. For more information on ranger tours call the park at (760) 647-6445.



Hiking Fishing Exploring

Find a trail and head off in search of wildflowers, lakes, and solitude. Numerous trails are available for day and overnight

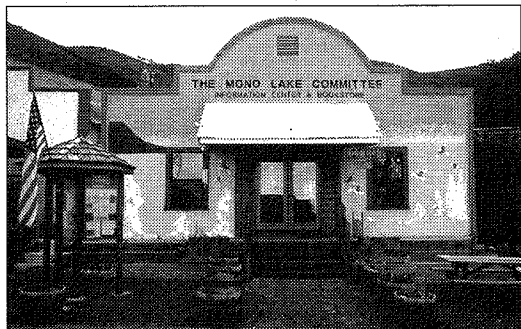
hiking in the Sierra. Or take a walk in the desert along the lakeshore!

Just south of Lee Vining the Highway 158 loop winds past the town of June Lake and through a glacier-carved canyon with views of towering peaks and quiet lakes. Popular for fishing and camping, the loop makes for a nice afternoon drive as well.

Or try your luck at fishing along Lee Vining, Rush, or Mill creeks, or at Ellery, Saddlebag, or Lundy lakes. Lee Vining stores provide bait, tackle, and information on local regulations and where the fish are biting!

Stop by the Mono Lake Committee Information Center for maps and advice.

Summer at Mono Lake!



Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce

Find out everything you need to know about lodging, dining, and other local services in Lee Vining. Motel rate-sheets, brochures, and more are available. The Chamber is housed in the Committee Information Center and Bookstore, and is available on the Internet at www.leevining.com.

Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore

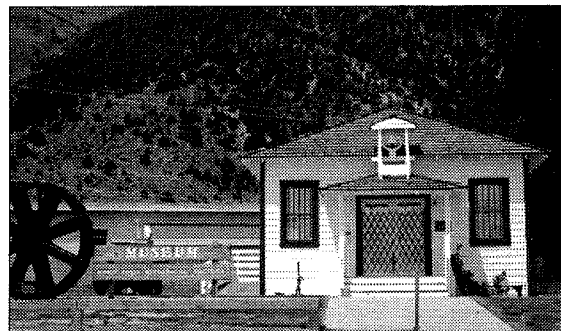
For information on everything that's happening in the Mono Basin, stop by the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore in the heart of Lee Vining. Our staff can provide you with activity schedules, lodging information, suggested hikes, and even a map or two. Don't miss the educational exhibits and

free slide show which discuss the natural and political history—and future—of Mono Lake. We've got an excellent selection of regional books, maps, T-shirts, and other merchandise for every traveler and monophile. You can even check your email and join the Committee right here in the hub of it all! Located in the middle of Lee Vining, next to Nicely's Restaurant, the Center is open daily from 9AM to 10PM for the summer (9–5 the rest of the year).

Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center

The Forest Service Visitor Center, just north of town, features an excellent view of Mono Lake, educational exhibits, an art gallery, and selections from the "At Mono Lake" photo exhibit. Patio presentations by rangers occur during the day, and a dramatic Mono Lake film shows regularly on the motion-picture-sized screen in the theater. Additional special programs may be scheduled, so check one of the schedules posted throughout town. Visit them on the Internet at

www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo/vvc/mono/index.htm.



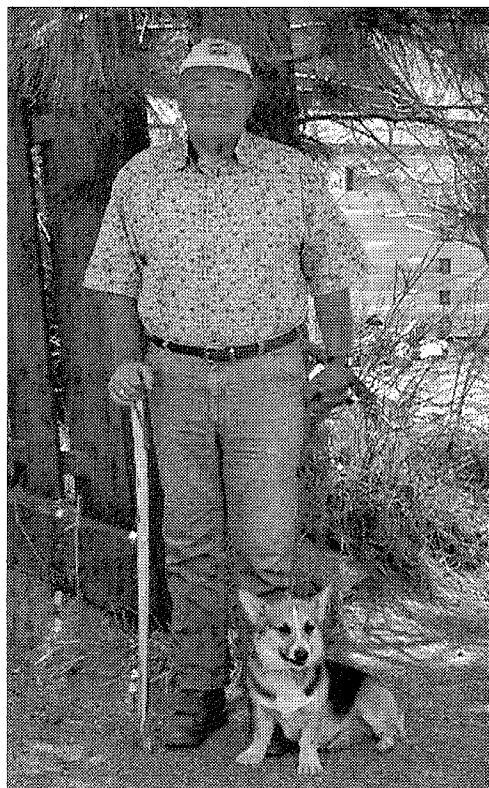
Mono Basin Historical Society Museum

Located in Lee Vining at Guss Hess Park, the Historical Society Museum houses a fascinating collection of materials from the Mono Basin's past. See Native American artifacts, gold mining implements, and even the old Bodie bar, all kept within the former Mono Lake schoolhouse. For more information contact the museum at (760) 647-6461.

Resources in the area

- Mono Lake Committee Information Center
(760) 647-6595 www.monolake.org
- Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce
(760) 647-6629 www.leevining.com
- U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center
(760) 647-3044 www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo/vvc/mono/index.htm
- Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve
(760) 647-6331
- Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center
(760) 924-5500; recorded info: (760) 934-1094
- Devil's Postpile (760) 934-2289
- Inyo National Forest Wilderness Permits (888) 374-3773
- Yosemite
Information by phone (209) 372-0200
Campground Reservations (800) 436-7275
Hotel and Motel Reservations (209) 252-4848
Wilderness Permit reservations (209) 372-0740
- White Mountain Ranger District (Bishop)
(760) 873-2500
- Lone Pine Interagency Visitor Center (760) 876-4252
- Death Valley Reservations (760) 786-2345
- Bridgeport Ranger Station—Toiyabe Forest (760) 932-7070
- California Road Conditions (800) 427-7623

MAIL ORDER



WALKING STICKS

These walking sticks are hand carved and hand sanded from local aspen and cottonwood that has fallen to the ground. They are gathered by local artist and explorer Tom Strathman. Tom has been hiking in the Sierra for over 30 years, so he has these hiking sticks down to a science! Each stick comes with a lifetime guarantee. If one breaks, simply return it for a new one.

"Each day my canine friends and I walk the base of the Sierra in search of potential walking sticks. We return to our home, which overlooks Mono Lake, and begin the process of carving and sanding each stick."

Put a stick in your hand and travel a little farther down the road each day. Each stick is individual and unique, and has a colorful nylon strap for comfort.

Stick lengths range from 30-44 inches.

Child's stick, 30-36" please specify approximate desired length: \$9.95 (Item #2876)

Adult stick, 36-44" please specify approximate desired length: \$12.00 (Item #2875)

NEW SUPPLEX BASEBALL CAPS!

This quick drying fabric is perfect for lake goers or water sport lovers. The Committee logo is embroidered on this six-panel cap. Nylon toggle adjustment.

Available in ivory, navy, and black.

Supplex baseball cap in ivory (Item #3713), navy (Item #3714), or black (Item #3712), one size fits most: \$12.00

HIKER SPECIAL!

Let us help you get on the trail! This packet includes a Committee cap of your choice, a walking stick, a brine shrimp water bottle, and an Inyo Forest map. A \$33.00 value for only \$28.00! (adult sizes only)

Hiker special, cap, walking stick, water bottle, and map: \$28.00

WASHED-DENIM BASEBALL CAPS

100% cotton ball caps sporting the Committee logo embroidered on the front. One size fits most.

Metal clasp slide adjustment on a washed cotton strap.

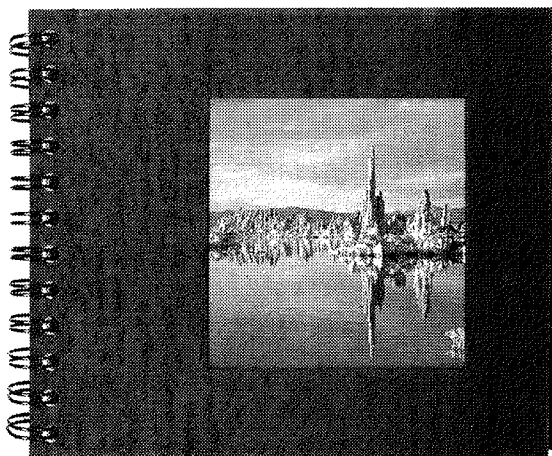
Denim baseball cap, in khaki with forest bill (Item #3715), or khaki with navy bill (Item #3716): \$11.95



MONO LAKE JOURNAL

This 7¼ x 6¼ wire bound journal has heavy weight recycled and acid free blank pages. Each Journal has a photograph of Mono Lake by our staff photographers under its sturdy cover. Journal covers come in black, forest, slate, and rust. Pages are perfect for mounting photos, sketching, or taking copious field notes. Give the gift of Mono Lake. Front cover photograph may vary depending upon artists and availability.

Mono Lake Journal, in black, forest, slate, or rust: \$15.95 (Item# 2685)



MAIL ORDER

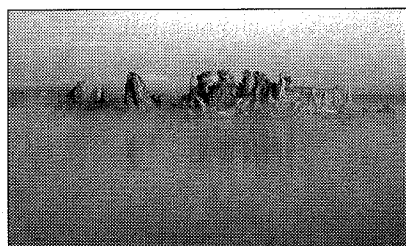
NEW MONO LAKE POSTER BY WARREN MARR

Many of you know the impressive photographic mural in our Information Center and Bookstore. The artist, Warren Marr, has just published the image as a poster! He also currently has an exhibit of his Mono Lake images in the Committee Store.

Tufa and Moon Poster, by Warren Marr, 19 1/2" x 36": \$25.00 (Item #2342)



Tufa & Moon, Mono Lake
Warren Marr



Tufa & Poconip Fog, Mono Lake
DON JACKSON

NEW MONO LAKE POSTER BY DON JACKSON

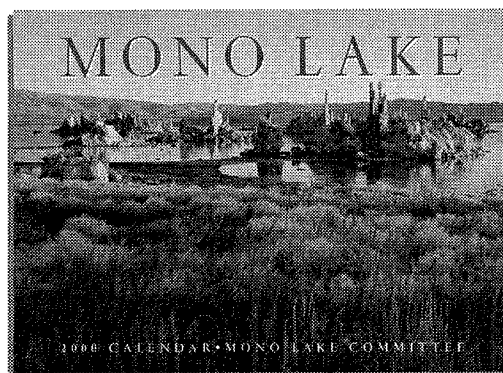
Just released! Don Jackson's Tufa & Poconip Fog, Mono Lake poster is new this season and features beautifully soft, mystical pink and blue hues of an early winter sunrise. Don has been an avid Mono Lake Committee supporter, explorer, photographer, and workshop instructor for the past 15 years. We are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

Poster measures 24" x 32" heavyweight acid free archival recycled paper: \$20.00 (Item #2471)

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 year's calendar new design has turned out. Artists featured include Fred Hirschmann, Jim Stimson, and Galen Rowell.

2000 Calendar, measures 13 1/4" x 9 1/4": \$10.95 (Item #3005)



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

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State _____

Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

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☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

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\$26 - \$50	\$6.00
\$51 - \$100	\$9.00
Over \$101	\$12.00

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Quan	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

Restoration Days 1999



Restoration Days are a new tradition here at Mono Lake. Here's your opportunity to see friends and explore the magic of Mono Lake and the surrounding area. If you come for one event or stay for the entire weekend, you're sure to have a lot of fun! See you in the field ...

**Join us for Restoration Days this summer
September 3-6, 1999**



Friday, September 3

• 5:00-7:00PM Garden Reception

Restoration Days start off with a reception at the Mono Lake Committee garden. Stop by to meet up with friends, watch the new Mono Lake slide show, and meet our newest Board member, Andrea Lawrence.

• 6:00PM Guided South Tufa Walk

The most famous tufa grove at Mono Lake, South Tufa, receives thousands of visitors from all over the world every year. Sunset provides a wonderful experience as the light of evening illuminates the tufa towers, the birds welcome nightfall, and the shadows of the desert grow long. Join a Mono Lake Committee naturalist for an in-depth look at this wonderful place and a general introduction to Mono Lake's fascinating ecosystem. Tours are 1½ hours long and meet at the South Tufa kiosk in the parking area. South Tufa is a federal fee area; adults are charged a \$2 fee, which is good for a week and also works at the USFS Visitor Center. Children under 12 are free.



Saturday, September

• 7:00AM Bird Watching in the Mono Basin

Come join the phalaropes, avocets, grebes, pintails, and many more birds during this exciting exploration with an experienced Mono Basin ornithologist. Part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, Mono Lake is one of the premier birding spots in California. Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore. Approximately 1½ hours.

• 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM Mono Lake Canoe Tours

Dip your paddle into clouds of brine shrimp and experience Mono's fascinating ecosystem from a unique and unforgettable vantage point. Tours leave from Navy Beach and explore South Tufa from the water for about an hour. The fee is \$17 for adult and \$7 for children ages 4-12. Sorry, no children under 4 or pets. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Committee at (760) 647-6595. Meet at Navy Beach 20 minutes prior to your reserved time.

• 9:00AM Lee Vining Creek Walk

Join a Committee naturalist for a walk along Lee Vining Creek and learn about this vital Great Basin habitat, its past, and its future. This walk explores one of the best examples of what was lost due to diversions and discusses restoration goals. Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore.

September 3-6

Saturday continued

• 10:30AM A walk on the wild side

This is not your average wildflower walk. Join Jean Dillingham, Mono Basin flower finder, for a hike up Lundy Canyon to find end of the season wildflowers. Perfect for wildflower lovers, this moderate hike will explore many natural wonders. Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore.

• 1:00PM Sign Painting

Don't miss the tradition of painting your own sign for the Rehydration Ceremony. Everyone meet at Old Marina.

• 1:30PM Rehydration Ceremony

With the lake rising, we celebrate by sharing Mono stories and marking where we think the shoreline will be next year. Come prepared to swim to find last year's mark! Lucy Parker, a descendant of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kuzedika'a, and Pomo peoples, will highlight the ceremony by offering a blessing for the lake. Meet at Old Marina to participate in this inspiring ceremony.

• 3:00PM Annual Meeting & Picnic

Bring your picnic, blanket, or chair and relax while getting the yearly update on what's been happening at Mono Lake. Hear Committee Board Members, Executive Director Frances Spivy-Weber, and staff share stories about the rising waters of Mono and changes in the Mono Basin.

• 4:30PM Native American Culture & Basketry

Join Lucy Parker at the Information Center and Bookstore as she demonstrates basketmaking in the tradition of the regional Paiute. Lucy learned traditional handiwork from her mother, a master basket weaver, and will pass on some of her knowledge in this special workshop.

• 6:00PM South Tufa Tour

Once again, here is an opportunity to join a Mono Lake Committee naturalist for an in-depth look at this wonderful place during the best time of the day. Tours are 1½ hours long and meet at South Tufa.

• 6:00PM Mono Basin Birds

As many of you know, Mono Lake is an important stopover for millions of migratory birds each year. Join longtime Committee friend and supporter David Wimpfheimer as he shares his extensive knowledge about birds that live in and visit this area. Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore.

Sunday September 5

• 7:00AM Birdwatching in the Mono Basin

Here's a chance to test what you learned from yesterday's workshop. Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore. Approximately 1¼ hours.

• 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM Mono Lake Canoe Tours

The incredible Committee canoe tours are again offered, so if you haven't made it onto the lake yet, here's another chance. Tours leave from Navy Beach and explore South Tufa from the water for about an hour. The fee is \$17 for adult and \$7 for children ages 4-12. Sorry, no children under 4 or pets. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (760) 647-6595. Meet at Navy Beach 20 minutes prior to your reserved time.

• 9:00AM Restoration Work

Now that the restoration plans are final, this year's work will help the Committee fulfill its commitment to DWP to help the scientists with much-needed volunteer work. The science team in charge of the restoration plans is still putting their heads together to finalize this summer's work, so our exact tasks have not been determined yet. Come ready to get going on the ground floor of the new restoration plans! Be prepared for hot sun and bring water, sunscreen, a hat, and sturdy shoes. Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore. You'll be in the field for approximately 3 hours.

• 1:00PM Aqueduct Tour

led by the Department of Water and Power

This tour was so popular last year we've had calls asking us to offer it again! Learn about the Los Angeles Aqueduct by visiting Lee Vining diversion dam and other Mono Basin facilities. The tour will be led by DWP officials and will show how water is moved and stored on the way to Los Angeles. Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore.

• 3:30PM Is Lee Vining Creek healthy? Is Mono Lake?

Back again by popular demand is biologist Dave Herbst's exploration of the life in Lee Vining Creek. Dr. Herbst will focus on bioassessment of stream health, demonstrating how invertebrate and vegetation analysis can reveal much about a stream ecosystem. Dave will also lead those are interested to the lakeshore to talk about the current mereomixis state of the lake. This tour takes about 2 hours and meets on the west side of the County Road crossing of Lee Vining Creek. Dave is a long time Mono Basin researcher and a fascinating speaker—don't miss this thought-provoking event!

Restoration Days 1999

Sunday continued

• 6:00PM Volcano Tour at Panum Crater

Join us as we explore the youngest of the Mono Craters! Merely 640 years old, Panum's abundance of pumice and obsidian—plus its spectacular views of the Mono Basin—make this a pure delight! This 1½ hour walk begins at the Panum Crater parking lot and ventures to the top of Panum's rocky plug dome. Meet at the Panum Crater parking lot.

• 6:00PM South Tufa Walk

How were the tufa towers formed? Here's one more chance to learn more about this magnificent area. Tours are 1½ hours long and meet at the South Tufa area.

• 8:00PM Star Talk

Janet Carle, a Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve ranger, will present a star talk at Mono Lake's South Tufa area. Bring a blanket to lie down on while Janet reads the stories of the stars. Meet at the South Tufa parking area.

Monday, September 6

• 7:00AM Bird Watching Expedition

Here's one last chance to see that snowy plover, black-necked stilt, or juvenile California gull! Meet at the Information Center and Bookstore. Approximately 1½ hours.

• 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM Mono Lake Canoe Tours

It's almost the last chance until next year to float among the tufa towers and brine shrimp. Treat yourself to this very special way of experiencing Mono Lake before the paddles and canoes are put away for the season. The fee is \$17 for adult and \$7 for children ages 4–12. Sorry, no children under 4 or pets. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (760) 647-6595. Meet at Navy Beach 20 minutes prior to your reserved time.



Planning for the weekend

The Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore will be your headquarters for the weekend. The kiosk in front of the Committee will have a schedule of events posted, and will be a place to leave notes for friends.

The Weather

Visiting Mono Lake at the end of summer is usually very pleasant. Most of the mosquitoes are gone, the rabbitbrush is blooming, and grebes cover the lake. The days tend to be warm, but temperatures rarely exceed 85 degrees. At night, temperatures drop into the 40s. Thunderstorms are always a possibility.

What to Wear

The days are warm, so shorts and T-shirts usually suffice. The intense sun makes hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, and water bottles necessary. It's worth packing a rain jacket too, especially if you'll be out hiking. Bring warm clothing and hats to ensure evening activities are enjoyable.

Appropriate footwear can also make your trip more enjoyable. For most events, sandals and tennis shoes should be fine, but it's worth bringing some lightweight hiking boots as well. If you are going on a canoe tour, extensive walks at the lake, or helping with restoration work, bring shoes you won't mind getting wet.

Accommodations and Camping

This will be a very busy weekend for Lee Vining, so please make your hotel reservations as early as possible. If you want to camp, we've arranged camping at County Park on Saturday night (only) and other options are available either in or just outside of town. Sorry, no camping at the High School this year due to rebuilding.

Final Notes

The Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore will be open from 9:00AM to 10:00PM throughout the weekend, and staff will be available to assist you.

If you want to go on a canoe tour, please make your reservation as early as possible by calling (760) 647-6595. Information and updates will be posted on the kiosk in front of the Committee Information Center and Bookstore. Please try to carpool whenever possible, as parking in some locations is limited—plus, it's the right thing to do.

Now ... have fun!

September 3-6

Schedule of Events



Friday

5:00PM

Garden Reception

6:00PM

South Tufa Tour



Saturday

7:00AM

Early Morning
Bird Watching

8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM
Canoe Tours

9:00AM

Lee Vining Creek Tour

10:30AM

Wildflower Walk

1:00PM

Sign Painting

1:30PM

Rehydration Ceremony

3:00PM

Annual Meeting

4:30PM

Native American
Culture & Basketry

6:00pm

South Tufa Tour
Mono Basin Birds



Sunday

7:00AM

Early Morning
Bird Watching

8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM
Canoe Tours

9:00AM-12:00M

Restoration Work

1:00PM

Aqueduct Tour led by
DWP

3:00PM

Are Lee Vining Creek and
Mono Lake healthy?

6:00PM

Volcano Tour
South Tufa Tour

8:00PM

Star Talk

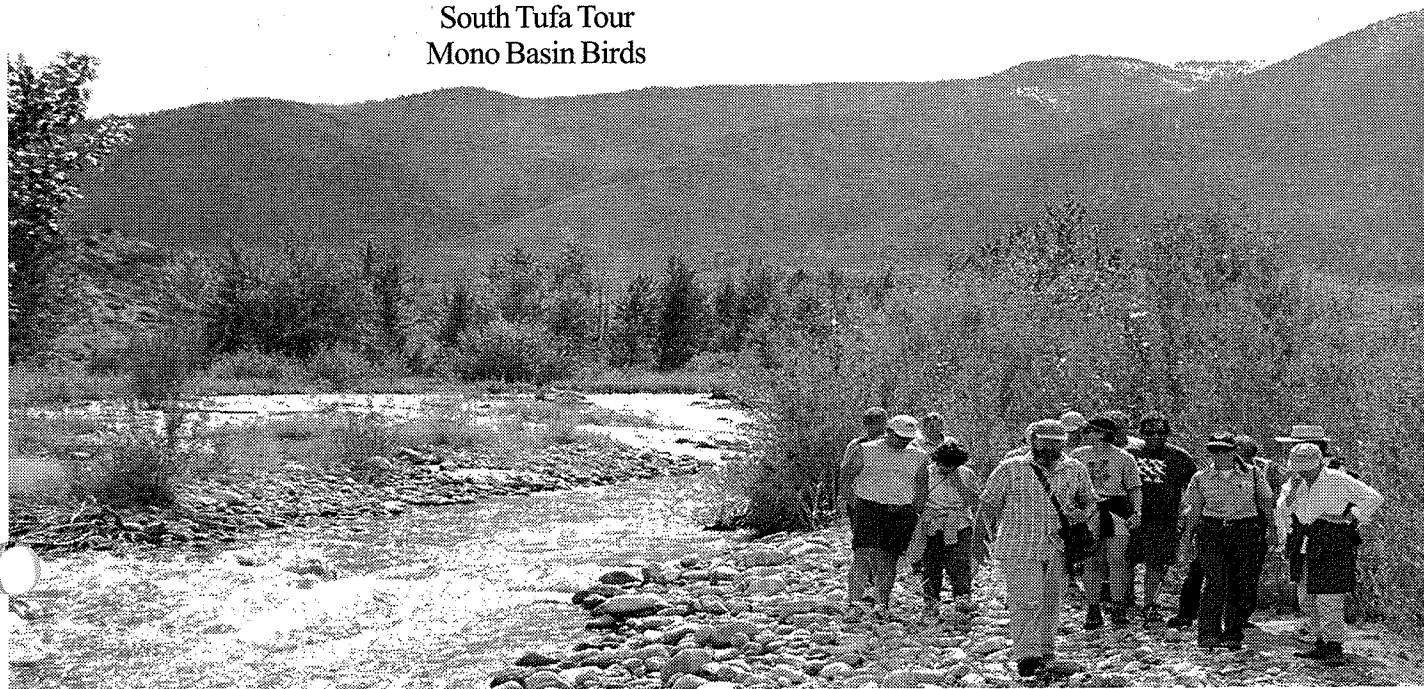


Monday

7:00AM

Early Morning
Bird Watching

8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM
Canoe Tours



1999 Field Seminars

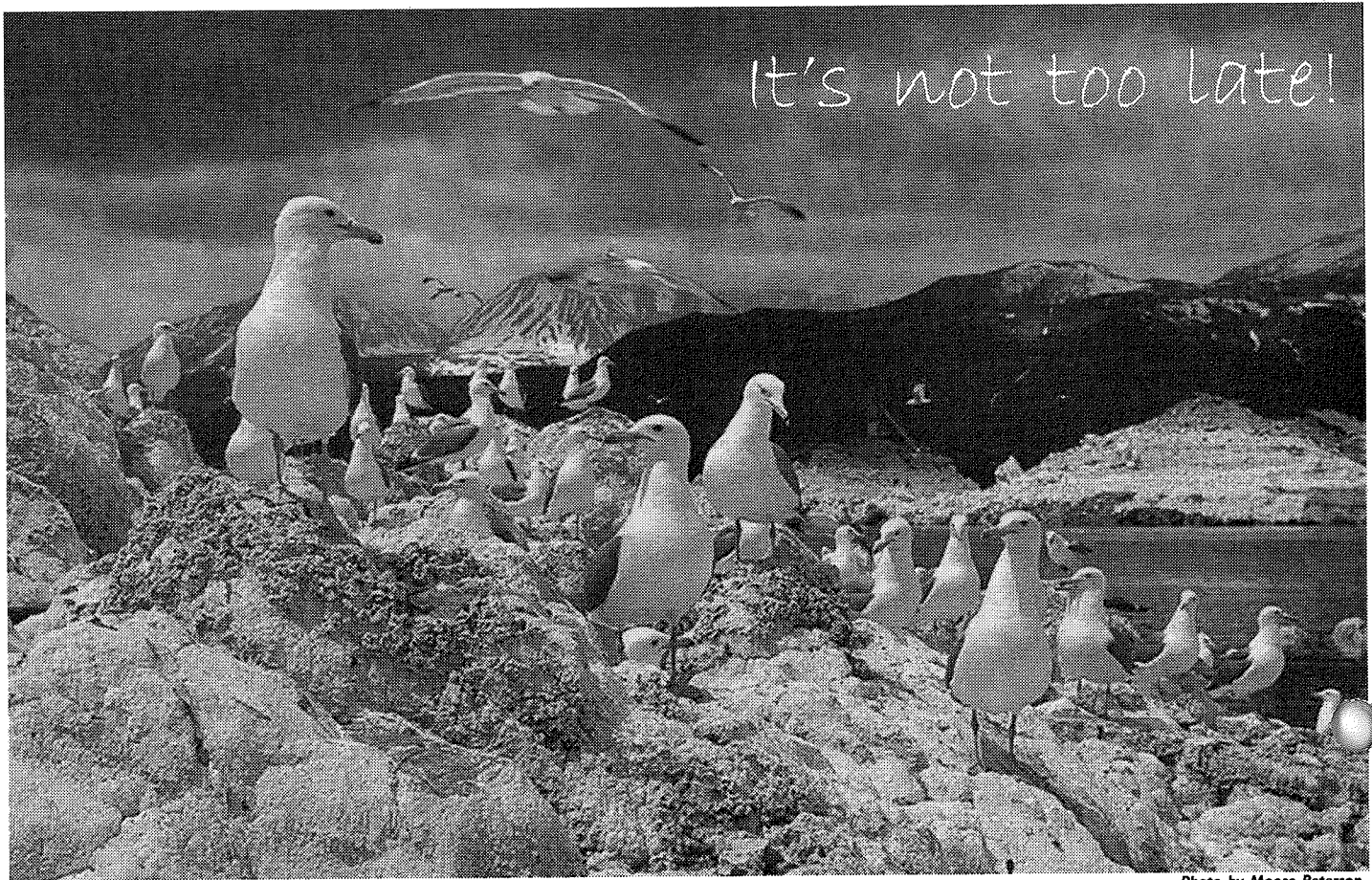


Photo by Moose Peterson

Birds of the East Slope

David Lukas, June 12-13

\$90 per person/ \$75 for members

In spring, the east slope of the Sierra Nevada becomes home to a fascinating mix of birds. Desert birds, waterbirds, and forest birds are all present. Over the course of two days, this field seminar will focus on local breeding birds in a wide range of habitats. Learn the finer points of identifying these species by sight and song. Well-known for his enthusiasm and knowledge, David Lukas has led over a hundred bird watching and natural history programs for The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, and other groups. His book *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin* will be released in May 1999.

Call 760-647-6595 for registration and information. Ask for the seminar desk.

Biological Monitoring and the Health of Mono Basin Waters

David Herbst, June 26-27

\$90 per person/ \$75 for members

How do we know if environmental restoration is working? What are the options and appropriate measures of the health of an aquatic habitat? How have Mono Lake and its streams changed, and what can we expect for the future? These are some of the questions that this seminar focused on the ecology of waters in the Mono Basin will explore. Dr. David Herbst has conducted research on aquatic habitats in the Mono Basin for over 20 years and applied a variety of approaches to evaluating the impacts of stream diversion and the progression of environmental change. In both the lake and streams, participants will use aquatic insects and other invertebrates as tools for interpreting the health and recovery of altered aquatic ecosystems. This seminar will be hands-on, learning how to sample, sort, identify, and evaluate aquatic life forms while wading across streams and along the shallows of Mono Lake.

1999 Field Seminars

California Gull Research: Chick Banding

Dave Shuford/Point Reyes Bird Observatory

July 2-5

\$120 per person per day; overnight; meals included

In 1998 the gull research results indicated the fourth lowest fledgling rates since monitoring began in 1983. Join a research team directed by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Cornell University in collecting data on the gull colony. Gain hands-on experience in field survey techniques while investigating whether the lake's changing chemistry—due to a rapidly rising lake—is affecting gull reproductive success. This rare adventure of visiting Mono Lake's spectacular Negit Islets and observing at close quarters the second largest California gull rookery in North America is for the stout of body and heart.

Mono Lake Photography: Scenic and Wildlife Wonders

Moose Peterson, July 9-11

\$195 per person/ \$170 for members

Discover and photograph the wildlife wonders of the Mono Basin with renowned wildlife photographer Moose Peterson. This seminar begins Friday night with a slide show presented by the instructor, and the next two days are spent in the field capturing sunrises, shorebirds, waterfowl, sunsets, and other wonders. Journeys are made to Mono's shore, Lee Vining Canyon, and other locations as time permits.

Native American Basketry

Lucy Parker, July 16-18

\$135 per person/ \$115 for members

\$50 materials fee (group campsite in Jeffrey pine forest included and optional)

Learn to weave baskets in the tradition of the regional Paiute. Past course projects have included coiled baskets of seasoned willow and Pomo-style baskets used for gathering nuts and berries. Lucy Parker is a descendent of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika'a, and Pomo peoples. She learned traditional handiwork from her mother, a master basket weaver, and will pass on some of her knowledge in this special three-day camping seminar. You do not have to camp to participate, but the evenings will be spent around the campfire with traditional songs and stories.

Prehistoric Peoples and Their Environments

Wally Woolfenden, July 24-25

\$90 per person/ \$75 for members

This field seminar is designed for anyone with an interest in anthropology and the natural sciences who wants to learn more about prehistoric people and the Mono Basin environments in which they made their home. The class will explore geological and archaeological sites throughout the Mono Basin and talk about the evidence and methods used by scientists to reconstruct past environments and the ways that people adapted to them. Dr. Wally Woolfenden has lived and worked on both sides of the Sierra Nevada as an archaeologist and paleoecologist for the Forest Service since 1977. He has recently studied vegetation and climate history from pollen deposited in the sediments of Owens Lake and Glass Creek Meadow.

The Story Behind the Land: Geology of the Mono Basin

Tim Tierney, July 31-Aug 1

\$90 per person/ \$75 for members

Perhaps nowhere else in California is the geology more varied than in the Mono Basin. Both glaciers and volcanoes have left their mark here. Explore weird mineral towers, volcanoes, and glacial remains. The first day will be spent exploring the area by car and foot. Day two will focus on exploring a few special points of interest. A close inspection of nearby hot springs may also be included. Tim is a geologist and author of the Committee's field guide *Geology of the Mono Basin*.

High Country Wildflowers

Mark Bagley, August 14-15

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

The Sierra promises a fantastic wildflower show! The headwaters of Lee Vining Creek, near Tioga Pass and Saddlebag Lake, feature some of the best and most accessible locations for studying the magnificent flower displays of the High Sierra. After reviewing the basics of plant structure, the workshop will journey through sub-alpine forests, across meadows and fell fields, along cascading creeks, and around jewel-like lakes identifying up to 150 species of flowers, trees, and shrubs. Mark Bagley, a consulting biologist in the Eastern Sierra, will lead this field seminar's easily paced 2-4 mile hikes at the 10,000 foot elevation, making many stops to look at the flowers.

Call 760-647-6595 for registration and information. Ask for the seminar desk.

1999 Field Seminars

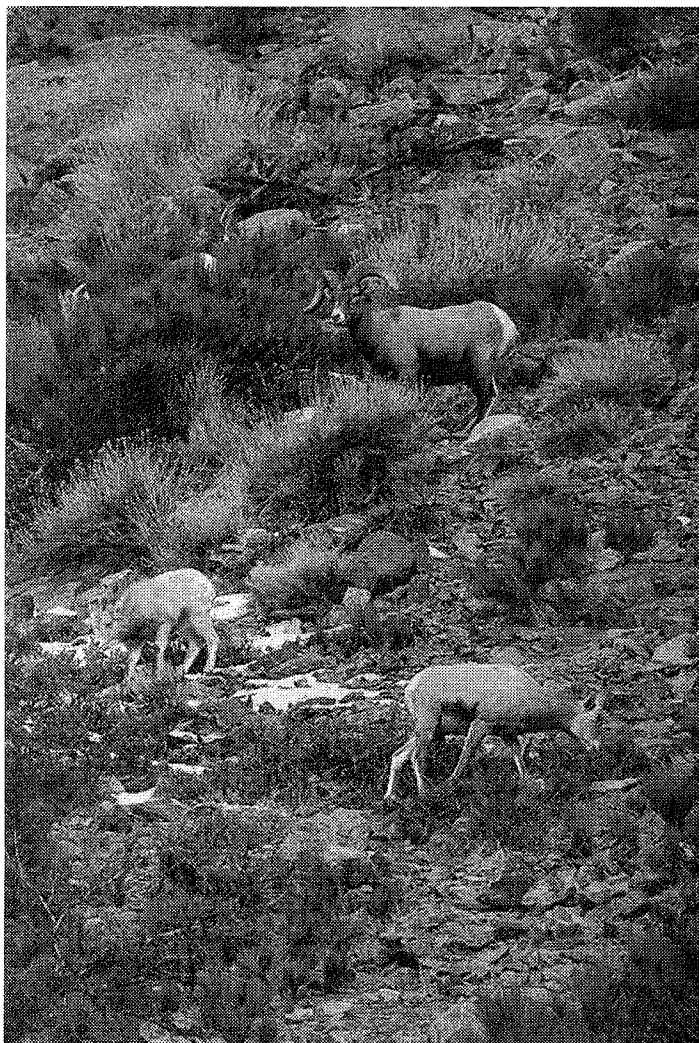


Photo by Moose Peterson

Fall Bird Migration

Dave Shuford, August 28-29

\$90 per person/ \$75 for members

The east slope of the Sierra Nevada is a major migration route for birds traveling from northern nesting areas to warm southern habitats. As a result, early autumn is the time of year to see the greatest diversity of landbirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds in the Mono Basin and on Crowley Reservoir. Dave Shuford has been a staff biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory for twenty years. He has conducted numerous surveys and research projects in the Mono Basin and beyond, and is well acquainted with where to find birds in the Eastern Sierra.

Surviving on the Edge: Sierra Bighorn Sheep in the Mono Basin

John Wehausen, September 4-5

\$90 per person/ \$75 for members

Controversy surrounds the fate of the Sierra bighorn, one of the most endangered mammals in North America. This field seminar will involve discussions of the biology and conservation of these animals with a high probability of viewing them. John Wehausen is a research associate at White Mountain Research Station in Bishop. He has been investigating various aspects of the Sierra bighorn and working for their conservation since 1974, and in the late 1970s he initiated the restoration program that brought bighorn back to the Mono Basin. This seminar involves moderate hiking at the 10,000-foot elevation and above.

Paoha Island Kayak

Stuart Wilkinson and MLC Staff, September 11

\$60 per person/ \$50 for members

Wind and weather permitting, visit Paoha Island for a picnic lunch! Join Stuart Wilkinson and a Mono Lake Committee staff member for a guided naturalist expedition to Paoha Island. Your leaders are well-versed in Mono Lake geology, ecology, history, and politics, and this natural history kayak tour will cover a wide variety of topics relating to this unique high desert lake. Plan on four to five hours for the tour. Some kayak experience is recommended for this trip to Paoha Island. Kayaks and safety equipment are provided.

Mono Basin Fall Photography

Richard Knepp, October 8-10

\$150 per person/ \$125 for members

The Mono Basin in autumn is one of the greatest photographic experiences in the country. Spectacular foliage and skies combine with exceptional light, presenting ample subject matter for photographers in both color and black and white. Join accomplished photographer Richard Knepp to explore varied shoreline locations at sunrise and sunset, and fall color in nearby canyons. Subjects for discussion include composition, exposure techniques, filtration, basic theory of the Zone System, and developing a personal vision. Photographers of all levels are welcome; a fully adjustable camera of any size or format is suggested.

Call 760-647-6595 for registration and information. Ask for the seminar desk.

1999 Field Seminars

New research in 1999: Gull response to a rising lake

Join researchers this summer on Mono Lake's islands to investigate whether the rising lake's changing chemistry is affecting gull reproductive success.

California gull research played an important role in securing protection for Mono Lake. Today, it is a critical tool for assessing ecosystem health. In 1999, focused research questions will guide the gull work: How does the foraging behavior of gulls feeding on shrimp and flies compare? What are the consequences of a fly-dominated and shrimp-dominated diet for chick growth survival? Is there anything about the dispersion of shrimp and flies that would affect their quality as prey? Paying volunteers are needed to help make this research continue!

Join a research team directed by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, collect data on the gull colony, and gain hands-on experience in field survey techniques. You'll enjoy the rare adventure of visiting Mono Lake's spectacular Negit Islets, and observe at close quarters the second largest California gull rookery in North America.

Sign up to help for one to five days in late May or early July. You'll camp on Krakatoa Islet, inside the movie set volcano from the 1950s Hollywood classic *Fair Wind to Java*. You can expect very rugged field conditions, variable weather, outstanding views of Mono Lake, and the hue and din of 40,000 nesting gulls. You bring your gear, curiosity, and energy, and we provide training, hearty meals, fresh water, and boat transportation.

∞ Registration information ∞

Call the Mono Lake Committee at 760-647-6595 to register and ask for the seminar desk. A more complete seminar description is available upon request. Sorry, we cannot accept registration by mail.

Registration information

Seminars are limited to fifteen people except where noted. If a seminar receives less than six participants, the seminar will be cancelled two weeks in advance and full refunds will be given. If you cancel three weeks prior to the seminar start date, we will refund your payment (less a \$10 processing fee). No refunds after that date, but tuition can be applied to another class in 1999. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover or personal checks payable to the Mono Lake Committee. Participants must sign a liability release form. All seminars operate under permit from the Inyo National Forest.

Discounts

Mono Lake Committee members receive discounted seminar prices where noted. If you are not a current member of the Mono Lake Committee, you may receive the discount by joining when you register.

Staff Migrations

We find quite a lot of hustle and bustle here in the office as we prepare for the summer season. In the same breath that we bid farewell to staff members we find ourselves welcoming some new faces and some returning friends.

With great regret, we wish Membership Coordinator Rebecca Dobert farewell this summer. Rebecca has spent three years with the Committee and has taken the membership program to a new level of excellence. Only the most important plans could take her away from Mono Lake—and convince us to let her leave. So we congratulate her on her marriage to Sam Jackson, commend her commitment to helping her family through tough times, and sadly send her off to New York with tufa posters, Committee T-shirts, and years of Mono Lake memories that we will all hold dear.

Also departing—but only for a few months—is Web Graphics Specialist Mike Klapp. After a winter of hard, and excellent, work on the Mono Lake and Living Lakes websites, Mike will be roaming the backcountry of Utah this summer, leading special wilderness education programs. Happily, he'll be back in the fall to head up an exciting new community science grant program.

New to the Mono Lake Committee Board of Directors is Mammoth Lakes resident Andrea Lawrence. A 16-year member of the Mono County Board of Supervisors and a member of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District since 1984, Andrea has been a lifelong advocate of Mono Lake. Andrea founded Friends of Mammoth and co-founded the Sierra Nevada Alliance. The Mono Lake Committee Board is strength-

ened by Andrea's strong environmental commitment and a deep knowledge of the county. We can't help but mention that she is also a two-time Olympic gold medal winner in Slalom and Giant Slalom.

Former intern Anna Christensen has just graduated from Scripps College in Claremont and we are excited to welcome her home to the Mono Basin as the Committee's new Membership Coordinator. With her energy and enthusiasm for Mono Lake, we know she'll be making sure members' donations and records are handled smoothly, efficiently, and with a good dose of friendly humor. Anna has a major in Biology and a minor in Economics and will immediately become our staff expert on botany.

Santiago Escruceria and Betsy Forsyth are sure to be hard to find this summer as they will be out in the field with the Outdoor Experiences program. Santiago has just graduated in Anthropology with a minor in Environmental Studies from Sonoma State University. He brings with him lots of experience in environmental education as well as an interest in canoeing, gardening, and birding. Betsy Forsyth is back in the Mono Basin after volunteering for the Forest Service earlier this winter. She is coming right up after interning with the Boojum Institute in Idyllwild doing outdoor education. Betsy loves to travel, so we're lucky she's decided to stick around here for the summer.

Echo Hall is our new Retail Assistant. She graduated from University of Texas at San Antonio in 1997 with a BA in Anthropology. She has experience in the basin because she worked last summer and fall for the Forest Service down at South Tufa. Echo knows a lot about this area, and can often be found down by

the lake birding in the morning.

And last but not least, five brave souls join us as interns this summer! Wendy Stanford is migrating back to the Committee just in time for potluck season. She graduated from Scripps College this past December with a degree in biology after doing her thesis work on correlations between weight and mortality in the young of the California gull colony at Mono Lake.

Lisa Cutting will be joining us in-between studying Environmental Analysis and Design at UC Irvine and working on her masters in Community Development and Environmental Planning at UC Davis. Don't be surprised if you find her out on the creeks this summer as she is interested both stream restoration and monitoring as well fly-fishing.

Kristen Drake is returning to the Committee after volunteering for the Peace Corps in Niger where she worked on everything from introducing sustainable methods in farming practices to environmental education with children. We're excited to have her back after her worldly travels.

Sharon Foley is coming to join us from Waterbury CT. She is a junior at Southern Connecticut State University where she is majoring in Outdoor Recreation and Elementary Education. She loves to be outside and is always up for a game of soccer.

Laura Silver visited Mono Lake for the first time last summer, though she has known about Mono Lake for some time now. She is into botany and Native American History so the Mono Basin should give her plenty to think about before she attends the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota in the fall.



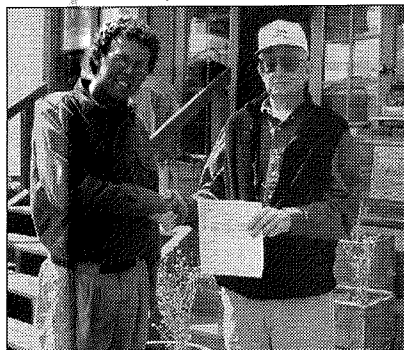
Member Corner: News from the membership desk

by Rebecca Dobert

In Memory

Karen Aitchison of San Francisco sent a donation in memory of hydrologist Peter Vorster's mother. On a happy note, **Peter** and wife **Janice** recently celebrated the arrival of the newest member of the Vorster family, **Olivia Rose**. Good health!

We would like to acknowledge the passing of **Glenn Thompson** of Bishop. Glen was a strong supporter of the Committee's Outdoor Experiences program, and helped secure a donation from Southern California Edison (SCE) this fall. The contribution will help continue the gift of allowing Los Angeles youth to experience a world beyond the inner city.



Glenn Thompson presenting the SCE donation for the Outdoor Experiences program to Education Director Bartshe Miller at the Lee Vining office last fall.

Planning for the future

Our condolences to the family of **Shirley Hicklin** of Carmel who recently passed away. Her memory will live on here at Mono Lake through the work she helps fund by including the Mono Lake Committee in her estate planning.

Matched gifts

Our matching gifts program seems to have become very popular! With thanks...

The **Cisco Foundation** matched the gifts of **Daniel G. Wing**. The **Washington Mutual Foundation** sent a check matching the donation of **Valerie White**. **Sempre Energy** matched **Stanton F. Kahan's** of Glendale, and the **Charles Schwab Corporation Foundation** doubled **Steven White's**, of Moss Beach. The **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation** gave to match **Edmund J. Miller's** of Ann Arbor, MI generosity. **IBM** pitched in and wowed us with a donation matching those of **Larry Breed** of Palo Alto, **Alfred Gigliotti** of Cockeysville, MD, **DA Stoessel**, **Lawrence Myers** of Potomac, MD, and **Maria Magana** of San Jose! Thank you all!

And last but not least, more hard work on behalf of Committee board member **Jane Rogers** resulted in the San Francisco Foundation matching her dollar for dollar. Way to go!

Helping hands

We would like to send our thanks to the **Comstock Feed Company** in Reno, Nevada for donating plant seeds to help make our native shrub garden even more beautiful!

Monitors needed!

We are actively looking for new color monitors for some of the computers in the office. Do you have one that you're not using, or know of someone who has access to one? Please let us know.

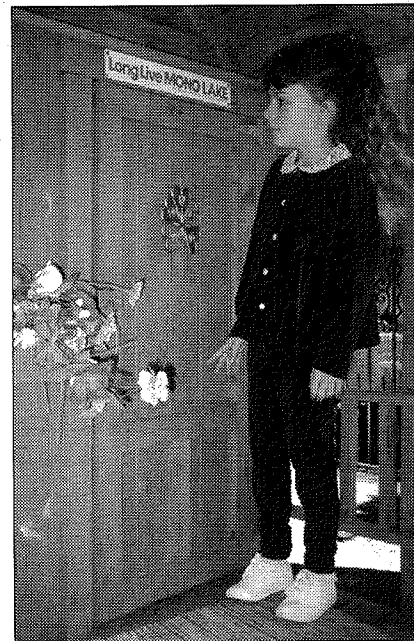
From the mailbox

Irene Kendall sent this short, but to the point letter.

"I am an old lady...but I have very happy memories of camping on your side of the mountains. I don't ever expect to see Mono Lake again, but I'd like my check to help take care of it."

Sincerely,
Irene Kendall

And to prove that the Mono Lake Committee is for all ages, we are pleased to announce that Miss Jane Rose Riley-Andrews has joined the Guardians of the Lake program at age 7!



Jane Rose Riley-Andrews at her playhouse door.

Rebecca is the Committee's newly married Membership Coordinator. She's making sure we're all in good hands by training the next generation of membership staffers.

RESTORATION DAYS!

A celebration
of the Mono Basin
September 3-6
Lee Vining, California

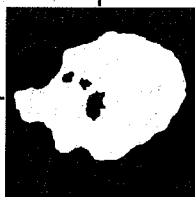


HIGH SIERRA



FALL CENTURY

SEPTEMBER 18



Sunday, November 7
Berkeley, California



Living Lakes International Conference:
Stream and Lake Restoration
October 1-4, Lee Vining, California

Music for Mono

Classical music concert with
David Abel and Julie Steinberg



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