

MONO LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R

Fall 2002



How many times have you wished you could have a photograph of what you've just seen through a pair of binoculars? Just thinking about it brings up mental-image memories of hawks soaring, craters on the full moon, thousands of grebes splashing, a lizard breathing, a bird catching prey, a family of bighorn sheep, a hummingbird feeding ... the list goes on. And then there are the quiet moments. This issue's cover captures one of those quiet moments—Wilson's Phalaropes caught in the simple, and beautiful, act of feeding at Mono Lake. Knowing about their long, non-stop migration to South America, the way they completely molt their feathers and double their weight in three weeks, and the fact that it's the females that have the colorful plumage, and the males that stick back to incubate the eggs and raise the young, all makes the photo more beautiful. And then, just knowing that Mono Lake is under the watchful eye of 15,000 Mono Lake Committee members who care enough to protect this lake, for all the little moments like this, makes it all the more amazing still.

Fall is full of these quieter moments ... ripples on the lake's surface, the first frost, the brilliant color changes of leaves before they drop for winter.

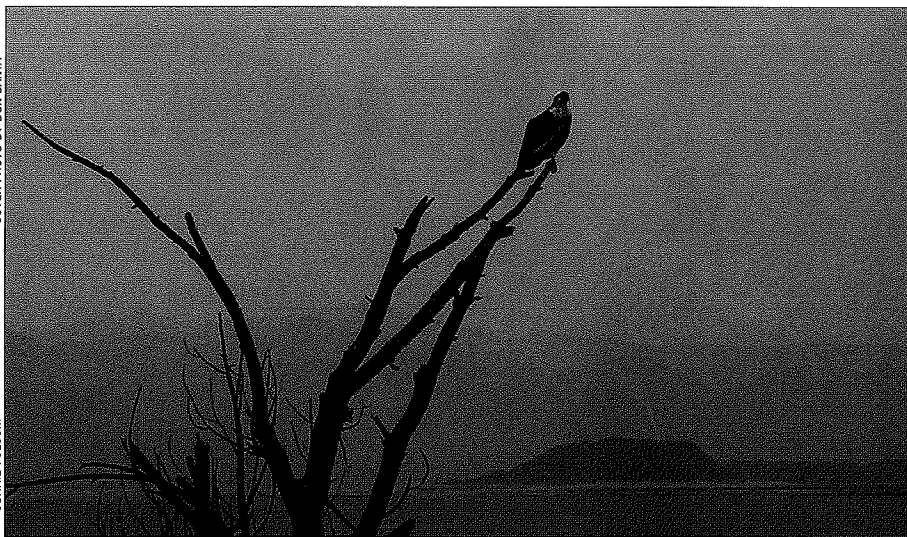
But here in the Committee offices things are not so quiet—we've got tons going on. So sit back in one of your quieter moments and enjoy. We've got updates on the Caltrans highway project on page 4, a recap of the first annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua on page 6, updates on Water Board-ordered restoration on page 8, and an article on wetlands on page 12. Make sure you don't miss the fun books and gift items in the Fall Catalog on pages 17–23 too.

And if you're in search of some quieter moments, come on up for a visit, it is an amazing time of year.

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director

COVER PHOTO BY DON BANTA

CORRIE FOLSOM



An Osprey, on a favorite perch, with Negit Island and the Bodie Hills through summer's smoky haze in the distance.

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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MONO LAKE
NEW SLETTER
Fall 2002 ~ Volume XXV, Number 3

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The New Wave in Water Conservation

"Gee Whiz" Gismos Increase the Promise of Water Conservation

by Frances Spivy-Weber

Low-flow toilets and showerheads in the home, drip irrigation for lawns, and high efficiency washing machines are standard fare for stretching water supplies. In Los Angeles, which has grown 35% since 1970, these devices have helped keep the growth in water use to only 7%. But the Los Angeles area expects to grow from 16 to 21 million people by 2020 and to 28 million by 2040. Overall, California expects to add 24 million people by 2040, nearly half of them in LA, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties.

Los Angeles' conservation success must be duplicated statewide, but for the City itself to meet its future needs and protect Mono Lake, more water savings are essential. Now there are some new devices on the market that each of us can use or promote that will increase water use efficiency and meet the real water needs of people and the environment.

WaterSaverPlus X-ray Machine

You may not think of it when you're looking at X-ray pictures, but X-ray machines use a surprising 700,000 gallons of water per year to process film. The machines are normally connected to a water outlet with water flowing through all day, and all night. But that need not be the case in the future—because a new equally efficient, and water-saving, model has been developed. Hospitals, clinics, and veterinarians can install the machine that recycles water and uses only 16,000 gallons per year.

ET Controller

No, this is not an extra-terrestrial being, but rather a lawn-watering device that does a much smarter job of knowing how much water needs to be applied to keep your plants healthy and not over-watered. ET stands for evapo-transpiration, a combination of water evaporating and plant tissues transpiring (losing) water to the air, which directly affects how much you need to water. Most people with automatic sprinklers or drip systems will set their controls for summer and then forget to make any changes during the rest of the year. The result is over-watering during much of the year. Now there is a new generation of controllers that change the water application cycle for each season. One device gets its

signal from weather satellites and can make adjustments daily. With this device, if cloudy weather is forecast, the controller will water less or not at all. Other controllers have water budget or seasonal adjust features that can be coupled with a rain shut-off device to achieve significant savings. And, guess what? In addition to saving water, energy, and money, users will probably see their plants thrive with less water, and they may see fewer cracks in their pavement or walkways—all common outcomes of over-watering. Estimated savings are 13,500 gallons per year per location.

Pressurized Water Broom

It is maddening to see someone cleaning their driveway with a hose, but there are circumstances when a broom is just not enough. So, now, particularly for commercial establishments, industrial plants, and institutions like schools and government offices, there is a pressurized water broom that does just as its name implies. The broom can clean a large surface using just enough water to get the job done. When the water broom replaces the hose, great savings result.

Dual Flush Toilets

For those who complain that low-flow toilets have to be flushed twice, have we got a deal for you! The newest rage in toilets is to have one that provides two flush options, one for liquid and one for solids. These are available for both

commercial users and homeowners. The amount of water saved depends on how much water the toilet it replaces used, but the estimated additional savings over current low-flow 1.6 gallon toilets is 2,250 gallons per year.

Waterfree Urinals

Parks and any public, high-traffic facility will do well to install waterfree urinals. The outcome is reduced water, sewer, and maintenance costs. Another big selling point is eliminating unpleasant odor. You may be skeptical, but the odor associated with public bathrooms comes from the chemical interaction of water and urine. Urine alone does not have a strong smell. Average water savings per urinal is 30–50 gallons per day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WATERMISER WATERBROOM, LLOYD LUTHINGER

The pressurized water broom has an estimated water savings of 50,000 gallons of water per year over hosing down walkways.

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Details of the Highway Project at Mono Lake Coming to Light

New Alternative Avoids Sensitive Areas

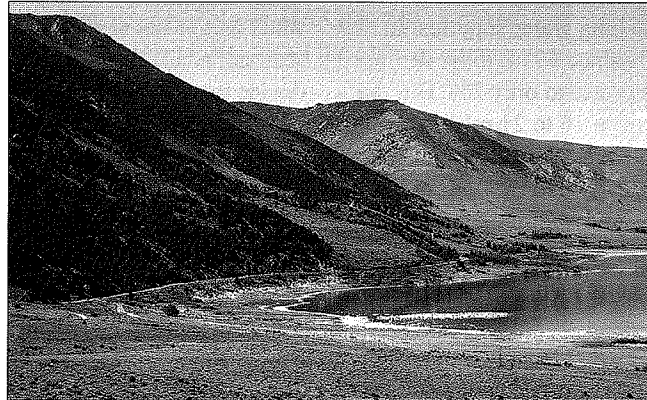
from the Mono Lake Committee Policy Staff

Thanks to over 2,500 letters from Mono Lake Committee members to Governor Davis, the Mono Lake Committee Context Sensitive Solutions White Paper, and a lot of hard work, positive progress is being made on Caltrans' Mono Lake Widening Project. Submittal of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for review by the Federal Highway Administration has been delayed until October. The alternatives within that DEIR have also been modified and a new alternative has been added that may address many of the concerns of the Mono Lake Committee and the various resource agencies responsible for protection of Mono Lake and its associated resources.

For the past two years the Mono Lake Committee has been attending meetings and influencing Caltrans' Mono Lake Widening Project. This project is planned to widen the shoulders of 2.9 miles of Highway 395 along the west shoreline of Mono Lake. The Mono Lake Committee is now cautiously optimistic that a solution can be reached that protects the scenic and

environmental resources at Mono Lake while largely achieving the transportation goals of the project.

The recent progress is also due to a visit by Jeff Morales, Director of Caltrans, and Art Baggett, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. Mr. Morales and Mr. Baggett visited the project site in July and spoke at a meeting of the Project Development Team (PDT), of which the Committee is a member. Their message: the Mono Lake Widening Project has merit, the membership of the PDT includes the appropriate stakeholders, the PDT must work together and achieve consensus for



The Mono Lake Widening Project area as seen from the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center.

the project to move forward, and some design work may have to be done earlier than Caltrans typically does to alleviate concerns within the group.

Since the July visit, the PDT has met twice. The outcome of these meetings has been a greater understanding of the individual components of the project and the specific impacts resulting from them as well as the addition of a new alternative

to the DEIR.

Project Components Detailed

These recent meetings have delved deep into the details of the project, illuminating its component pieces. Impacts from Caltrans' plan come from rockfall solutions and design speed increases as well as shoulder widening. Identifying these individual project components and their impacts allows resource managers and concerned members of the public, like the Mono Lake Committee, to prioritize the goals of the project. It also allows interested parties to determine what they wish to achieve while limiting the impacts to scenic and environmental resources in the Mono Basin.

Resource agencies and other members of the PDT now know that an increase in design speed requires a shift in the alignment of the roadway towards Mono Lake. The solution for rock fall problems preferred by Caltrans includes a seven foot rock catchment area that will move the alignment of the roadway towards the lake. Additionally, universal eight foot shoulders will also move the roadway eastward. Taken together these individual project components will move

Governor Receives Thousands of Letters from Mono Lake Supporters

Mono Lake supporters made a big difference in the outcome of the highway widening project by sharing their opinions on the issue with Governor Davis. Over 2,500 letters, faxes, and emails went to the governor this summer, many sharing eloquent personal thoughts, histories, and feelings.

Mono Lake Committee staff truly works for the tens of thousands of Mono Lake supporters throughout the state and country. Their effectiveness is a direct measure of the strength of public support for Mono Lake's continuing protection. Thank you to all the letter writers for speaking up on Mono's behalf!

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portions of the paved roadway almost 20 feet, requiring retaining walls up to 20 feet high and/or extensive fill slopes that extend into the State Reserve to the future level of the lake.

DEIR Alternatives Changed

The alternatives outlined in the DEIR now offer a greater range of possibilities for the Mono Lake Widening Project. Caltrans is now proposing the following three alternatives:

- The no project alternative;
- An alternative that describes a design speed increase to 60 mph, allows for a seven-foot rock catchment area, and increases shoulder width to eight feet throughout the project area;
- And a third "variable width" alternative that widens the roadway only where impacts and disturbance

at sensitive locations can be avoided. These sensitive locations are limited to 20% of the project area and would keep the existing four foot shoulder.

The Committee has been calling for a variable shoulder width alternative all along and is pleased to see it in the DEIR. Under discussion is the addition of a fourth alternative that would round out the range of project options. The fourth alternative would describe a 55 mph design speed, no rock fall catchment area, and eight foot shoulders throughout.

What are the Next Steps?

Caltrans will be completing the Draft EIR in the next month or so, and will call another PDT meeting at that time to discuss, as much as the law allows, the document and the special areas of concern within it. The DEIR will then be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for its review and approval prior to being released to the

public in early 2003. The subsequent comment period will be a critical time for your voice to be heard on this project!

In the meantime, the Mono Lake Committee continues to seek solutions that achieve project goals to the greatest extent possible while protecting the scenic and environmental resources at Mono Lake. Committee staff are meeting with Caltrans staff to discuss possible solutions.

All of this adds up to substantial movement from where things were just a few short months ago and gives the Mono Lake Committee cause for hope. Much of this change can be attributed to the efforts of Committee members. Thank you!

Information about the current status of the project is at www.monolake.org. Or contact Craig Roecker (craig@monolake.org) or Lisa Cutting (lisa@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595 for more information. ❖

L A Times Articles Raise Statewide Interest in the Mono Lake Widening Project

Two recent pieces in the *Los Angeles Times* have brought the concerns about the Mono Lake Widening Project to statewide scrutiny.

In July, an editorial questioned the need for an "overgrown" Mono Lake Widening Project. The editorial asked, "If there's not an urgent safety problem and motorists wouldn't gain much in terms of safe speed, what's the point?" The article noted the important environmental resources at Mono Lake, "With jagged Sierra peaks on one side and sweeping high chaparral on the other, this stretch of US 395 is one of the most beautiful drives in the state. It cuts through the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, created to protect the area's natural resources." At its close the editorial opined that "The notion of any overgrown project should be rejected. Then Caltrans can get back to doing the small job that the people of Mono County asked for in 1992."

In August, the paper ran a news article that went into greater detail about the project and its current status—describing the controversy and the progress that has been made.

This second article noted the concerns of the public and the resource agencies, "the Mono Lake Committee ... flood[ed] Gov. Gray Davis' office last month with more than 2,000 pleas to scale back the venture. Local officials with the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks and the Regional Water Quality Control Board piled on too, favoring no development at all if a more sensitive alternative weren't forthcoming."

The article also described the current status of the project. "The California Department of Transportation widening project is now being more closely evaluated and may be scaled down from its original blueprint. And all sides say they are cooperating to come up with a plan that improves safety while protecting the precious resource."

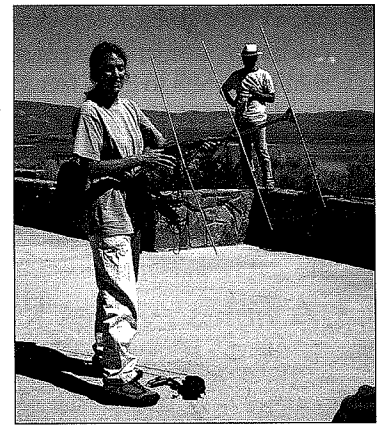
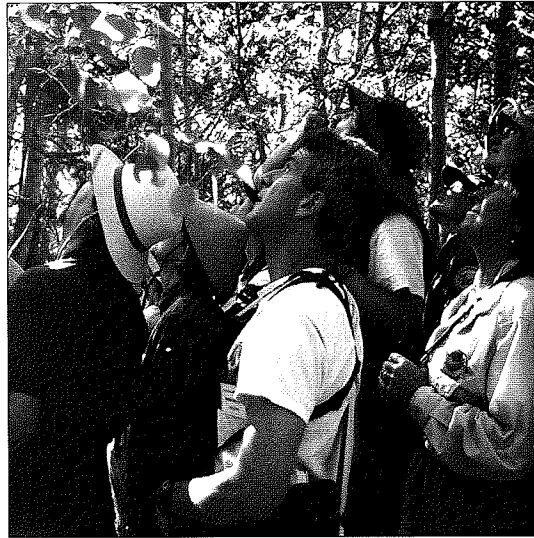
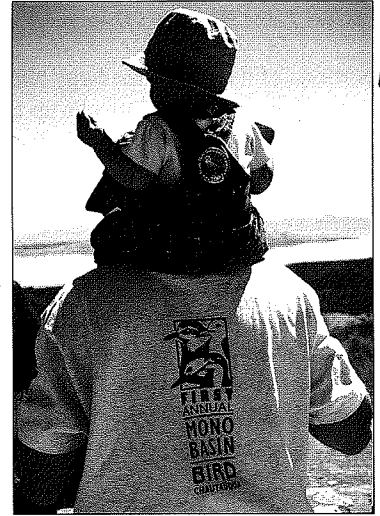
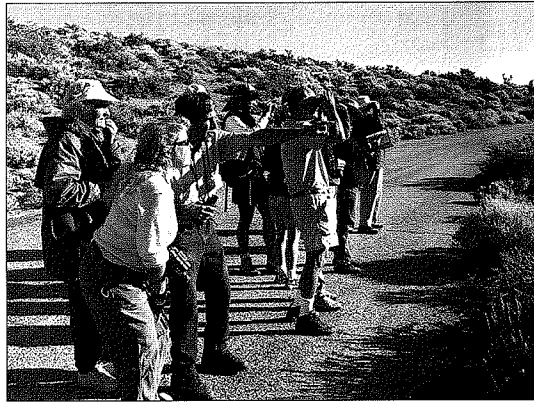
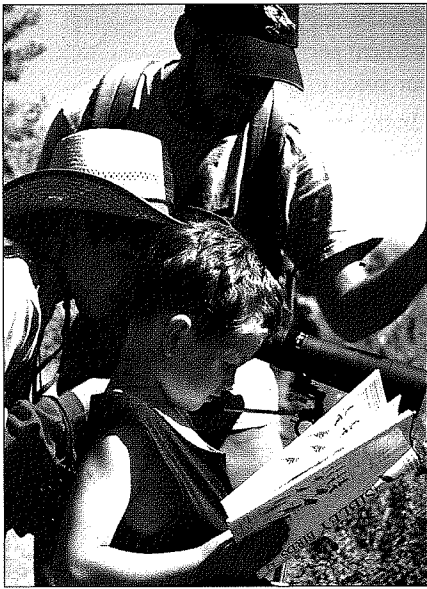
As Mono Lake Committee Co-Executive Director Geoff McQuilkin observed, "Caltrans is coming to see ... how much higher the bar is to do a project here. The number of citizens of California, and the number of agencies that have an investment in protecting the lake and seeing it restored, is not something they initially realized."

The Caltrans perspective was also

shared. Officials said, "They have worked closely with local constituents and just want to make the roadway safer." Caltrans project manager Tim Shultz was quoted, "All the opposition caught us off guard. People are coming out saying, 'We don't like your draft EIR' before they've even seen it. Usually people wait, see it, and then say it's garbage."

The article concluded with two quotes that sum up where things stand. McQuilkin said, "We've been able to get everyone talking about the project at the level of detail where we can ... consider different options. It feels like a partnership." Shultz noted, "We may put forward an alternative that doesn't 100% meet our need and purpose but may substantially meet it. It may say, O.K., a lot of people don't want this. It could be ugly; we don't know if we can mitigate it, so let's not even try."

These articles have raised awareness about this project throughout California. To read them in their entirety, visit the *L A Times* website at www.latimes.com, and go to the archives—unfortunately, there is a small charge.



GEOFF MCQUILKIN AND ARYA DEGENHARDT

Bird Enthusiasts Migrate Through the Mono Basin

by Lisa Cutting

The birds know the route well. Each species has its own arrival and departure dates deeply engrained in their behavioral patterns, and their arrival in the Mono Basin is regular and predictable. It's something birders all look forward to each year. And now there's another birding phenomenon that will happen with the same regularity and

anticipation—the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua.

The first annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua was held June 21–23, 2002 and from all accounts it was a huge success. Although the planning partners—California State Parks, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Mono Lake Committee, Point Reyes Bird

Observatory, and US Forest Service—had never organized such an event, a lot of hard work and attention to detail seemed to be the key to success. The end result was a fun, educational weekend that received rave reviews!

A Diverse Program

It was the breadth of the workshops, field trips, and special events that was instrumental in attracting birders of all ability levels. Beginning birders, expert “life listers” looking for a particular species, and long-time friends of Mono Lake all enthusiastically took in the weekend's activities. And the subject matter was as diverse as the birds. The idea was to celebrate the birds of the Mono Basin while educating others on

What is a Chautauqua?

Just what is a chautauqua and why have one at Mono Lake? A chautauqua is an institution that began in the late 19th century to provide higher education opportunities in rural areas through the combination of lectures, concerts, and public events. Since Mono Lake is one of the most intensively studied natural areas in California, rich in historical importance, and has a phenomenal diversity of birds, it makes for a perfect setting to revitalize the chautauqua!

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the importance of Mono Lake to birds—particularly, migratory birds.

People traveled from all over the state to listen to Dr. David Winkler of Cornell University emotionally summarize his research history on California Gulls at Mono Lake—including some humorous stories of the early years with David and Sally Gaines. Jon Dunn presented an in-depth analysis of the warblers of the Eastern Sierra detailing the differences in species and their migratory patterns. And Sacha Heath of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory representing the new generation of dedicated researchers here in the Basin—captivated the audience as she outlined the Eastern Sierra Riparian Songbird Conservation Project. And that's just a sampling of what was offered. Check out www.monolake.org/events/chautauqua to view the entire program.

More Than Just Birds

But the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua was about much more than just birds—there was something for everyone. Mono County schools participated in the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua Youth Art Contest with children in grades K–12 submitting their artistic renderings of the birds of Mono Lake. The welcome reception Friday evening had representatives from all the organizing partners, and attendees received updates

on Mono Lake issues while enjoying the ambiance of Mono Lake. And in keeping with the true spirit of a chautauqua, the festival concluded with a picnic at County Park. Members from the Kutzadika^a Indian Community graciously sold lunch for all as participants sat on the lawn listening to live bluegrass music played by the Hot Buttered Rum String Band.

Make Your Plans Now For Next Year's Chautauqua

Planning for the second annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is already in the works. Conveniently scheduled in conjunction with the summer solstice on June 20–22, 2003, this event is well on its way to becoming another Mono Lake tradition. Next year's event will also have special activities to celebrate the Mono Lake Committee's 25th Anniversary. Just as birds have internal mechanisms that trigger their migratory patterns, hopefully this will work for the bird lovers of the Mono Basin. As next year's spring days lengthen into summer—hopefully you too will think of Mono Lake and plan your trip to join us for the second annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. The birds will be here...will you? ♦

Lisa Cutting is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director. Birding is now competing with fly fishing and hiking at the top of her list of favorite recreational pursuits.

Participants Sing Praise for Chautauqua

"The best part of the Chautauqua was the spirit."



"Thanks to everyone for an excellent experience. We'll be back!"



"I hope this event becomes a tradition. I'll certainly return and will tell all my friends about it. Oh, and you couldn't have chosen a nicer place to have it."



"Extremely well done. Hugely successful idea."



"The best part about the Chautauqua was that it happened!"



"Great opportunity to meet diverse birders of all levels."



"Hope to see the Chautauqua again next year."



"It was great to see so many people get together to enjoy birds and the Mono Basin."



Bird photographer and Chautauqua workshop presenter Marie Read down at the shoreline on the morning bird photography field session.

Save the Date!

the second annual

Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

June 20–22, 2003

Mono Basin Restoration Notes

by Lisa Cutting

In 1998 the State Water Resources Control Board approved the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (DWP) work plan for complying with and ultimately achieving restoration goals. The Mono Lake Committee was involved in designing the work plan and continues to be involved to make sure the work meets the objectives of the plan.

The Water Board restoration order requires that DWP submit a report annually to all the parties. Included in this report are monitoring results and any recommendations for changes to the restoration program. Changing the restoration plan is an arduous process that doesn't happen easily.

But, as the scientists proceed with restoration activities and learn more about restoration—both what works and what doesn't—sometimes changes to the plan are considered. In technical terms this is called adaptive management. Adaptive management is a process that allows for changes to be made to existing management plans based on new information resulting from monitoring.

Following are some of the more recent developments with the restoration program, including two potential changes to the restoration work plan.

Rush Creek Return Ditch Rehabilitation

Although the Committee reported in the Fall 2001 *Newsletter* that long awaited high restoration flows would course down Rush Creek below Grant Lake Reservoir in the spring, the high flows did not come. DWP had suggested late last year that high test flows would be delivered spring of 2002. However, construction delays prevented these from occurring and Rush Creek only received approximately 160 cubic feet per second (cfs) of its mandated peak flow—which for a dry year like this one is 250cfs. Despite the delay, DWP remains on schedule to complete work this fall and

to send peak restoration flows through the ditch in spring 2003.

The Committee remains vigilant on this issue for good reason. The capacity of the Rush Creek return ditch is instrumental in providing the high seasonal flows needed to generate natural stream building processes. And it is these processes that will ultimately restore Rush Creek.

Rush Creek Channel Openings

As this newsletter goes to print, DWP is beginning work on lower Rush Creek to open a channel that had previously been closed off to flows. This channel is only one of several identified by the Water Board for reopening. Removing the cobble and debris plug that currently exists will allow water to flow again in the spring runoff period.

Opening plugged channel entrances in the stream bottomlands—formerly lush wooded wetlands with multiple channels—is a key element in the restoration order. Entrances to these channels were plugged during the years of diversions and resulting degradation. When occasional releases of water flooded the dry streams, channels were straightened and debris was deposited in the mouth of some of the side channels. Although these channels are currently cut off from water, they remain intact.

Prescribed Burn Program

DWP recently requested that the Water Board eliminate their obligation to conduct the prescribed burn program. In the Water Board approved restoration plan, burns were identified as an important way to improve waterfowl habitat by maintaining open water sites and restoring marsh and seasonal wet meadows.

California Department of Parks and Recreation has conducted two lake-fringing burns, neither of which has shown much benefit for waterfowl. DWP's request is linked to both the lack of waterfowl benefit exhibited by the State's burns and problems associated

with actually performing the burns—primarily regulatory constraints and fire containment issues.

The Committee believes there could be value in conducting a third burn despite the logistical challenges. But the Committee also recognizes that to date, waterfowl are not using the burned areas, in part because burns are not creating the open water habitat as was expected. State Parks has suggested the parties meet to discuss alternative waterfowl strategies that would replace the burns. The Committee is open to these discussions with the understanding that some strategy for improving waterfowl at Mono Lake must be identified. Prescribed burns may or may not be a part of that strategy—it's too soon to tell.

Waterfowl Monitoring Protocol

DWP is also requesting permission from the Water Board to alter the protocol it uses to monitor waterfowl at the lake. Under the current plan, DWP is performing two aerial and several boat surveys each year. The proposal is to switch exclusively to aerial surveys.

The Committee's primary concern is this: will the seven years of data already collected still be useable? Commonly, a change in data collection methods means that the previous data is not comparable to the new data and the analysis of trends must start over. The Committee is working hard with scientific consultants to determine whether under the proposed change, the existing data would be lost—and whether an index can be developed that will allow correlation between the past and future data.

DWP's annual waterfowl monitoring program is an important part of the Water Board order because of the irreplaceable habitat lost when Rush and Lee Vining creeks were dewatered and the lake level dropped 45 vertical feet. Shoreline lagoons and creek deltas were permanently damaged and birds were no

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West Shore Property Up For Sale

Signs Mark Historic Opportunity for Forest Service

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

Purchase vs trade —what's the difference?

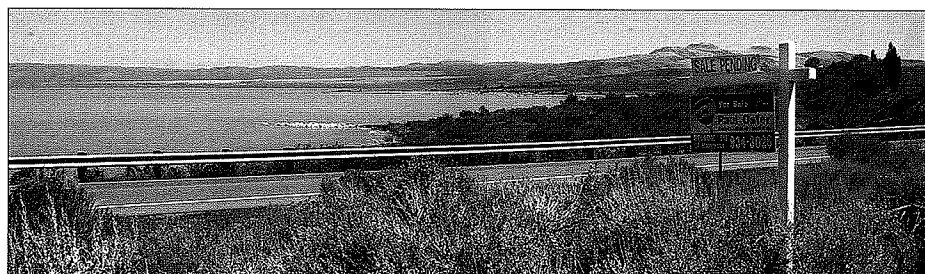
Land trade, land acquisition, land purchase—what's the difference anyway?

Federal and state agencies often acquire land, but the methods of doing so are a bit more complicated than the average Mono Lake enthusiast experiences when buying a home.

The simple option is a cash purchase from a willing seller. Most of Conway Ranch, for example, in the northwestern corner of the Mono Basin was purchased by Mono County, using grants and other monies to buy the land from the owner and protect it as open space.

But often, lack of cash or a desire to not increase net public land ownership leads to a situation where a land trade is employed. Land trades are much more common than purchases in the Mono Basin and are essentially deals that swap agency and private lands. In a land trade, an agency like the Forest Service takes ownership of one parcel of land and transfers ownership of an equally valued federal parcel at a separate location. In practice, such trades have allowed the Forest Service to make land available adjacent to the town of Mammoth Lakes for schools and other projects, thus concentrating urban development. At the same time, the Forest Service obtains important, environmentally sensitive lands for protection and overall benefit for the general public.

"The Forest Service," explains Rick Murray, Lands Assistant for the Inyo National Forest, "strives for 'value-for-value' exchanges of properties that are determined to be in the best interest of the public."



Mono Lake visitors noticing the "For Sale" signs near the western edge of the lake this summer may have wondered who was selling what. But few realized the hard work put in by Forest Service staff to pursue a land acquisition opportunity unmatched in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area's 18 years of existence.

The Scenic Area covers both public and private property in a management sharing arrangement that has worked remarkably well. With future development pressures in mind, however, the Forest Service is always looking to work with landowners who are interested in trading their land to the agency. This property is such an opportunity.

The real estate signs mark a 120-acre parcel of land that has been owned by the locally famous Cunningham family since early in the last century. The largely undeveloped property includes steep mountain slopes, a small stream that flows through a deep ravine, a small home, and extensive frontage on Highway 395.

Almost three years ago, the Forest Service approached Bill Cunningham to express its interest in involving the property in a land trade should he wish to sell it. The interest was there, and much discussion followed, but working on the terms of a deal fair to all sides has dragged on to the present day. "We really want to see things work out here," says Cunningham, "but we can't wait forever for the Forest Service."

In June, talks stalled due to difficulty reaching a fair value for the property—not surprising given the lack of comparable properties for sale and the limited number of local appraisers certified to work on

federal land trades. By July deadlines were at hand and it looked as if a deal would not be possible; the sale signs went up, and preparations were made to put the property on the open market. Luckily, last minute efforts from Forest Service staff brought in the expertise of the American Land Conservancy, salvaging the talks.

Now, the challenge is to finish working through the complex Forest Service process. Inyo National Forest Supervisor Jeff Bailey has long designated private parcels within the Scenic Area as the top priority for land acquisition—from willing sellers—in the forest, so the deal is getting the attention it needs. The Cunningham family has indicated willingness to accept less than full market value for the property, due to their interest in protecting the land. Land trade experts at the American Land Conservancy are working through the complex details of the deal with both sides. And the Mono Lake Committee is helping to facilitate the trade.

The complication, however, still lies in establishing a fair market value for the property. No large parcels of land have been sold next to Mono Lake in decades, and appraisers are often unfamiliar with the unique private land market in Mono County. Already, the negotiations have gone through two sets of appraisers without establishing a value.

If federal and private appraisers can agree, then the trade will move to completion. It's no small hurdle, but given the time and effort focused on the acquisition, it's one that looks surmountable. ♦

State of the Lake Report Inspires Audiences

Third Annual Presentation Focuses on Birds of the Mono Basin

by Craig Roecker

Mono County covers approximately 330,000 square miles, and with so much going on in the area—who can keep track of it all? Local understanding of the protection and restoration of Mono Lake is essential, so the Committee developed the State of the Lake report. Local officials don't always have time to keep up to date on how the lake recovery is going, the progress of restoration, and the Lee Vining economy. So, the State of the Lake brings the highlights of the year's happenings and findings to the local agencies and policy makers to keep them in the loop.

The State of the Lake report uses the Sierra Business Council idea that healthy communities and environmental health depend upon three kinds of wealth—environmental wealth, social wealth, and economic wealth.

Each year the report details the status of popular measures of lake health such as lake level, precipitation predictions, the Negit landbridge, water diversions, and air quality. Additionally, the 2002 report focuses on a popular resident of the Mono Basin—birds. Birds are not just an indicator of the natural health of the region, they can also be used as an indicator of both social and economic health.

Annual Measures of Mono Lake's Health:

- The lake level fell one foot between April 1, 2001–April 1, 2002, to 6382.6 feet above sea level.
- The Negit landbridge is still submerged, but is becoming more exposed as the lake level falls. The lake would have to fall another five feet for it to be fully exposed again.
- The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is allowed to divert 16,000 acre feet of water from Mono Lake's tributary streams this year. If the lake drops below 6,380 feet, the allowed diversion will be reduced to 4,500 acre feet annually.
- PM10 air quality violations continue to occur at Mono Lake and the severity of the storms is great. Particulate concentration during the largest violation last year measured 4,482 μm^3 , while the standard is 150 μm^3 .

Birds and Birding as Measures of Basin Health:

- Over half of the 600 bird species indigenous to North America are found at Mono Lake. While we don't know the exact number of birds that visit Mono, there are over two million grebes, gulls, and phalaropes alone.
- California Gull reproductive success greatly improved in 2001. The fledging rate was 1.19 chicks per nest, the fifth highest in 19 years of monitoring.
- Negit Island is being recolonized. Last year 271 pairs of gulls were found on Negit, 100 were found the year before, and only 14 in 1999. That's almost a 1000%

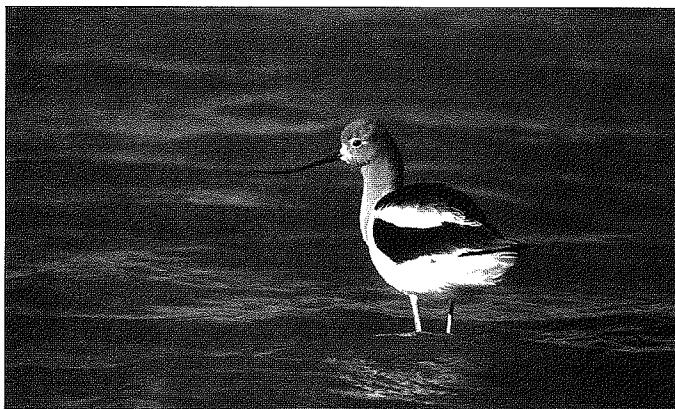
increase over three years!

- Interest in birds is flourishing. More birding walks and seminars are being offered and the demand continues to increase. This year the first annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua was held at Mono Lake and brought approximately 200 avid birders to the basin in June.
- Bird research has been ongoing at Mono Lake for the past 20 years. In addition to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) gull research, there is also the PRBO Eastern Sierra Riparian Songbird Conservation Project that is now in its fourth year. This study has found 130 species of songbirds in the Mono Basin.
- Birds bring economic benefit to the community too. Birding has grown rapidly over the past 20 years. Approximately 50,000 birders come to Mono Lake annually, spending over three quarters of a million dollars in the local economy.

This year's presentation has been very well received. Audiences have been amazed to learn just how important birds are at Mono Lake and have been especially wowed by the wonderful slides that are part of the show. Many of the bird photos are courtesy of Tom and Jo Heindel who donated 34 excellent slides of birds common to the Mono Basin. There have even been contests among the audience members for who can identify the most birds.

So far this year the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Mono County Collaborative Planning Team, Mono County Board of Supervisors, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and Mammoth Lakes Town Council have all seen the presentation, and seven more local groups are signed up. ♦

Craig Roecker is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Coordinator. He's already having a blast this soccer season with both of his kids on the same team.



The American Avocet is one bird species that depends on Mono Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM AND JO HEINDEL

The Forgotten Season

Winter Photography in the Mono Basin



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD KNEPP

January 17-19, 2003

\$195 per person/ \$175 for Mono Lake Committee members

Limited to 15 participants

There is a visual quiet that compliments the silence marking this season in a most remarkable place. A lifting morning poconip fog, tufa towers jacketed in snow and reflected in the mirror of the lake's surface, ice sculpting crystalline filigree along creek and lake banks. Come share in the wonder that provides a very different photographic opportunity.

This photography field seminar will be based in Lee Vining on the weekend of a full moon. Explore various locations along the lake, and photograph the serenity and beauty that is the Mono Basin in winter.

Though primarily a field seminar, there will be discussions covering composition and methods of proper exposure under the diverse variety of lighting conditions encountered during winter in the Eastern Sierra, the Zone System for color and black and white, visualization, filtration, and developing a personal vision. The workshop is for the enthusiastic color and/or black and white photographer with a working knowledge of his or her camera.

Instructor Rick Knepp is a former Mono Lake Committee staff member and long-time photographer whose autumn workshops have sold out four years running. Rick has studied with master printers John Sexton and Jim Stimson, teaches photography and darkroom techniques, and directs and assists at workshops around the Pacific Southwest. Rick is a veteran of Mono winters and his experience will allow you to take advantage of the many winter photographic opportunities.

Come prepared for the cold winter landscapes. This seminar will take place regardless of weather or road conditions. Be prepared for the possibility of driving in snow, or the additional drive time that may be required when Sierra passes are either closed for the winter or closed temporarily due to snow.

Cost is for tuition only. Participants must arrange their own accommodation. There will be no refunds due to weather.

For registration or more information on the second annual winter photography seminar, contact Education Director Bartshé Miller (bartshe@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595.

Wetlands in the Desert

by Greg Reis

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Committee Information Specialist Greg Reis for the National Wetlands Newsletter. It shares a historical perspective on wetland restoration, a fundamental element of the Water Board order to restore habitat at Mono Lake.

Before European Americans traveled east from what is now Yosemite National Park and arrived at the Mono Basin in 1852, its wetlands were a spectacular wildlife oasis in the otherwise arid eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, where the mountains meet the Great Basin desert. Three major creeks flowed into the basin through glacier-carved canyons, past young volcanoes, and into the salty, alkaline terminal Mono Lake, an immense inland sea teeming with alkali flies and endemic brine shrimp. Historical accounts tell of the skies darkened by flocks of up to a million ducks flying overhead. California Gulls nested on protected islands in the lake, and millions of Eared Grebes

and thousands of Wilson's Phalaropes feasted on the lake's abundant brine shrimp and alkali flies. Great Basin spadefoot toads and other terrestrial inhabitants depended on the lake-fringing habitats for survival. Cottonwood bottomlands lined the streams and lakeside deltas, creating one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems of the Great Basin, 6,400 feet above sea level.

Background

In 1941 the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began diverting Mono Lake's two largest streams—Rush and Lee Vining—redirecting them into the LA Aqueduct to feed the water needs of a growing city 350 miles away. Over the ensuing 45 years, the basin was deprived of most of its life-giving water below the diversion dams. Riparian forests, meadows, and wetlands withered. Periodic floods washed away channel complexity in the absence of soil-holding roots. Where streams entered Mono Lake, occasional floods incised into the deltas, leaving the former floodplain more than 30 feet

above the active channel (in the case of Rush Creek), thus severing the dynamic connection between channel and floodplain.

Mono Lake itself suffered as well. Evaporation from the lake surface continued while most of the inflow was diverted to Los Angeles. Lake-fringing wetlands, lagoons, and ponds dried up as the lake receded more than a mile in some places. Wetland waterfowl habitat dried up, leaving behind alkali dust that fed toxic dust storms on windy days. The lake's islands, refuge for the world's second largest rookery of California Gulls, became exposed to predators as the lake level dropped and converted the islands to mainland. Between 1941 and 1982, the million-year-old lake lost half its volume, doubled in salinity and dropped 45 vertical feet—far below any historic fluctuations.

The Community Acts

The Mono Lake Committee was formed in 1978 to save the lake. The Committee is a non-profit citizen's group dedicated to protecting and



restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem. The Committee, along with the National Audubon Society and CalTrout, successfully argued two lawsuits that ultimately were combined into one proceeding before the State Water Resources Control Board, the agency that allocates water in California. In 1994, the Water Board issued Decision 1631, which amended Los Angeles' water right licenses and set minimum flows for the streams, set limits on water exports, and ordered the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to restore streams and waterfowl habitats.

On another front, the Committee also lobbied to enact state and federal legislation to set aside and protect the lands around the lake as the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, created in 1981, and the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, created in 1984. The importance of the site as a stopping point for migrating Wilson's Phalaropes justified its international designation as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network in 1991. The Mono Lake Committee also set up a concerted public education campaign combined with promoting sustainable solutions to Los Angeles' water problems. Ultimately both state and federal levels of government provided funding to help Los Angeles replace lost water supplies with water conservation and water recycling. Thanks to these programs, the city of Los Angeles now has among the lowest per capita water use in the state, and despite a 35% population increase since the 1970, the city has only increased its water consumption by 7%.

Basin Restoration

The State Water Resources Control Board's restrictions on water exports and its minimum stream flows are designed to protect and restore the lake and the streams feeding it, but the restoration level planned for is a compromise: once the lake reaches the ordered stabilization level of 20 feet higher within the next two decades, it will have gained back less than half of its post-diversion 45-foot drop. While many resources and values will be restored by this compromise, some resources such as wetland waterfowl habitats will not. Studies indicate that waterfowl habitat

would come back at 6,405 feet above sea level, another 13 feet higher than the compromise level of 6392 feet above sea level. The Water Board acknowledged this permanent loss of waterfowl in its balancing of the Public Trust. Still, restoration of this amount represents an awesome step toward the ecological recovery of the basin.

The required stream and waterfowl habitat restoration plans were approved in 1998. The plans adopt the overall philosophy of adaptive management, which takes the results from monitoring activities and changes the restoration actions, if necessary, to conform to what is expected to be most beneficial. Thus, changing conditions and new information can be incorporated into the overall strategy at any time.

Most of the energy that has been put into restoration has been expended along the streams, especially the cottonwood bottomlands that historically extended up the streams from their lakeshore deltas. These areas, among the most biologically diverse environments in the Great Basin, have been degraded by water diversions almost everywhere they exist. Among the long list of dessicated terminal lakes—Owens, Mono, Walker, Carson, Humboldt, Pyramid, Winnemucca—the Mono Basin is the one place where the opportunity now exists to restore this type of habitat.

Alas, the bottomlands can't be brought back easily. The incision of the channels into the floodplain is probably the most irreversible damage, and although a higher lake level will help begin the aggradation process, the streams will need the time—and the energy from water releases—to begin carving new floodplains. The biggest question is what magnitude, timing, and duration of flow during the spring snowmelt period is necessary to restore the natural stream processes. The timing question is especially poignant for Rush Creek. After 10 years of freedom from grazing and 20 years of at least minimal flows, the creek's bottomlands still contain almost no female cottonwood trees. The cottonwood regeneration is also hampered by upstream reservoirs, which delay the peak flow considerably past the time that the cottonwoods are

adapted to releasing seeds.

Bring Back the Waterfowl

While Mono Lake will never again host a million migrating ducks and geese, lake restoration will perhaps encourage hundreds of thousands to occasionally darken the sky and fill the air with their wing beats. Several habitats at Mono Lake that before the diversions supported at least several hundred thousand ducks and geese during the fall migration recently only supported about 10,000 birds—a 98 to 99 percent loss, according to historic records. While habitat losses elsewhere on the Pacific Flyway contributed to declines in migratory bird numbers, the huge local habitat loss in the Mono Basin swamped this background effect. Populations are increasing—last year 20,000 birds were counted.

The most important pre-diversion waterfowl habitats were lake areas near the shore where fresh water entered the lake. The mouths of creeks and certain spring areas, when protected from winds, can form hypopycnal stratification—when fresh water floats in a thin layer on top of the salt water—which allows waterfowl to be in a freshwater environment with abundant saltwater food resources such as brine shrimp just inches below.

On windy days, ducks were historically observed taking shelter in ponds and lagoons near the shore. These areas were also lost with the lake's decline. One project, established jointly by Ducks Unlimited, Mono Lake Committee, U.S. Forest Service, and California Department of Transportation, has enhanced several duck-hunting ponds constructed around 1920. Bentonite was used to seal them from leaking, and artesian hot water was piped in to keep them ice-free in winter.

A pilot controlled-burn program was also implemented, with two burns taking place so far in the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. So far the goal of creating more open water habitat in this manner has not been achieved due to the vigorous regrowth of vegetation after the burns.

As the waterfowl habitat restoration program advances, however, it is

Continued on page 24

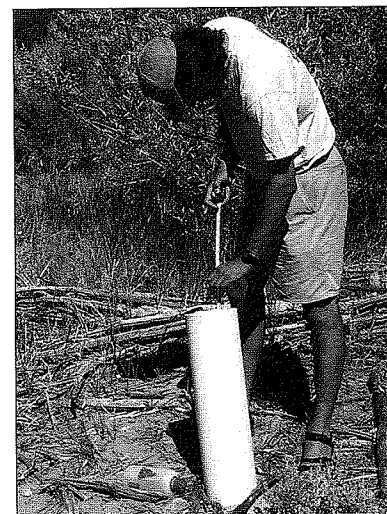
Multi-year Groundwater Trends in the Bottomlands?

by Greg Reis

As predicted, the 2001–2002 runoff year was on the dry side. The fourth drier-than-average year in a row provided few opportunities to monitor anything new, hydrologically, along Mono's creeks, however there is one trend that may show up. The scientists monitoring the stream recovery are increasingly wondering about groundwater interactions with streamflow, and if there are multi-year trends in the level of the water table in the bottomlands.

The Mono Lake Committee has been monitoring piezometers (plastic wells in which the depth from the land surface to the groundwater can be measured) in the Rush and Lee Vining Creek bottomlands since 1995. This dataset has shown some interesting trends over the years, but usually in response to flood events. Last year, however, by mid-October, all the piezometers along Lee Vining Creek went dry for the first time. This year, it will be interesting to see if they go dry even earlier. The factors controlling when they go dry are complex, involving both streamflow and the amount of time elapsed since the last flood event. Since Rush Creek's

flow is regulated more, time related trends may show up better there. If that multi-year trend exists, it would lend even more importance to getting high flows past the dams and reservoirs and into the bottomlands in order to restore the groundwater conditions there. ♦



Greg Reis measuring the groundwater level in a piezometer on Rush Creek.

ARVA DEGENHARDT

Lakewatch

International Groups Watch Mono Lake

by Greg Reis

In May, the Mono Lake Committee was invited to join the Lake Watch 25 network, a group of 25 lakes around the world that the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) is monitoring and including in an annual report. The purpose of the network is to review the development of the water quality and the ecological condition of 25 important lakes. The selected lakes represent the spectrum of the

world's lakes: reservoirs and natural lakes, shallow and deep lakes, polluted and non-polluted lakes, lakes getting better and lakes getting worse, and lakes with a wide geographical distribution.

The selected lakes are: Chivero, Tanganyika, Aral, Bhoj Wetland, Caspian Sea, Kinneret, Taihu, Toba, Tonle Sap, Taupo, Balaton, Maggiore, Ohrid, Orta, Champlain, Michigan, Tahoe, Titicaca, Tucerui, Peipsi, Victoria, Chapala, Mono, Bodensee, Laguna de Bay, Baikal, and Biwa. The last eight are also partners in the Living Lakes International Partnership.

Over the last year, if ILEC had been watching Mono Lake, what would they have seen? Between October 2001 and

July 2002, Mono Lake's level was surprisingly stable. It varied no more than two tenths of a foot during that time. But during the last two weeks in July 2002 it began dropping quickly. It fell 0.1 feet per week through August, bringing it down to 6382.2 as of September 1st, the lowest it has been since the wet El Niño winter of 1997–98. This is three feet lower than its 1999 highstand, which was a result of that previous wet winter.

This late summer drop in lake level is to be expected, and will continue until winter storms again roll off the Pacific Ocean into the Sierra Nevada, dumping rain and snow in the Mono Basin. The world will be watching. ♦



The old (left) and the new (right) lake level gauges. Lake level: 6382'.

ARVA DEGENHARDT

6417'

Prediversion lake level, 1941

6392'

Future lake level (average)

6382'

Current lake level

6372'

Historic low, 1982

Mono Basin Journal

A Roundup of Quiet Happenings at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin



Geoff McQuilkin

A walk along the lakeshore always holds surprises. Some days it's what lies caught in the bleached wrack line of fly pupae, shrimp, and sticks washed ashore in some windstorm gone by. Some days it's the birds that fly overhead, perhaps unexpected or unusual. Recently, the surprise was the work of an industrious avian nester who had picked a safe—at least for the summer—nest spot in the dried branches of a willow twenty feet offshore. Since the Water Board decision, the rising lake had inundated the tree, and the robin chose to build just a few feet off the lake's surface. A tidy nest, four powder blue eggs, a salt lake, and a bird thinking, as birds might say, outside the tree.

Smoke has quietly infiltrated the basin for most of the summer, though it has certainly created a great volume of discussion. First it came from the big fire to the north, then from the fire to the

south, then the north, then the Sequoia fire to the south. Some days, seeing across the lake is a challenge. Then a west wind blows our way, the clouds billow, shadows of rain sweep across the horizon, and the lake sparkles blue under 50-mile views.

The past two summers have hosted a grand, if inadvertent, traffic experiment in Lee Vining. To accommodate road construction to the south, the regular four lanes of traffic through town have been narrowed to two—one each direction—through half of town. The result, as observed out the door of the office: drivers slow down, let pedestrians cross, and generally drive as if they are in a town, not on the highway. Which, of course, they are. ❖

Geoff McQuilkin is the Mono Lake Committee's Co-Executive Director. He's dabbling in adventures with daycare.



Benchmarks



A tufa grove on the shoreline at County Park. Lake level: 6392'. Photo taken around 1965. This is the once and future shoreline of Mono Lake, as 6392 feet above sea level is the State Water Board-mandated average lake level.



Cornie Folsom

Today, the same tufa grove on the future shoreline at County Park with the new removable boardwalk traversing marshlands. Lake level: 6382'.

Mono Basin Clearinghouse Updates

The Mono Basin Clearinghouse, on the web at www.monobasinresearch.org, has become a tremendously valuable source of scientific information on the Mono Basin. If you haven't checked it out lately, please do! Here are highlights of the recent additions:

- Pacific Flyway Waterfowl Investigations, Mono Lake, 1948, by W. Dombrowski. The quintessential report on pre-lake-decline waterfowl numbers.
- Aquatic Habitat Characteristics and Trout Demography In Selected Sections of Five Eastern Sierra Streams, by Donald W. Sada, May 6, 2000. Previously unpublished, from one of the largest Sierran trout datasets ever compiled.
- Research profile: Dr. Jill Mateo from Cornell University has provided a great writeup and photos of her research on Belding's Ground Squirrels.
- Research profile: Tom Hahn from UC Davis was kind enough to summarize the three projects he is involved with in studying birds at Tioga Pass: Long term study of the biology of Mountain White-crowned Sparrows, Biology of Cassin's Finches, and Comparative Reproductive Biology of Cardueline Finches.

These are only the most recent additions. There is also information on the Mono Lake Microbial Observatory, the Eastern Sierra Riparian Songbird Conservation Project, Alkali Fly Research, California Gull research, Meromixis, and Air Quality. Links to documents on other websites include the National Research Council Report on Mono Lake: The Mono Basin Ecosystem: Effects of Changing Lake Level (1987).

New reports are added each each month. If you would like to be added to the updates email list, please send an email requesting to be added to greg@monolake.org.

Restoration Notes from page 8

longer able to use these areas.

The Water Board order mandates specific actions for restoring waterfowl habitat at Mono Lake. The waterfowl monitoring reveals how the birds are responding to the rising lake level and how their habitat is changing. Because waterfowl monitoring is expected to continue until 2014, the year set by the Water Board to assess the progress of restoration at Mono Lake, it's important that these changes to the plan are thoughtfully analyzed and evaluated.

Lee Vining Creek Sediment Bypass

Sediment positively influences the biological productivity of a stream. In a natural stream system, sediment is carried downstream in high water flow events and is eventually

More Tamarisk Found on Restoration Work Day

On September 1, 2002, eight volunteers participated in a Restoration Work Day to help find, remove, and mark tamarisk along lower Rush Creek. Tamarisk, also called Salt Cedar, is an invasive tree native to the Middle East that dries up watercourses and out-competes native vegetation in the desert southwest.

Lower Rush Creek has been targeted for tamarisk removal over the last two years, but the volunteers managed to find a couple of remaining pockets of tamarisk trees. The larger trees were flagged to be removed with the weed wrench before they bloom next year. The crew also found two plants blooming and removed the seeds and blossoms.

The volunteers returned to Lee Vining hot and dusty and were treated to pizza for their hard work. To round out the Restoration Work Day, participants attended local author Dave Carle's book signing for *Burning Questions: America's Fight with Nature's Fire* in the Committee's Information Center and Bookstore. Wrapping up the afternoon was the State of the Lake presentation in the slide show room. (See page 10 for more on State of the Lake.)

Due to the popularity and success of the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua, the Committee is no longer holding Restoration Days on Labor Day weekend. However, Restoration Work Days will occur each year as needed. See the Mono Lake Calendar of Events at www.monolake.org/main/calendar.htm for upcoming work days. If you would like to celebrate National River Cleanup Week and help pull the remaining tamarisk on lower Rush Creek, mark your calendars for Saturday May 17, 2003!

Restoration Work Day

May 17, 2003

Come lend a hand!

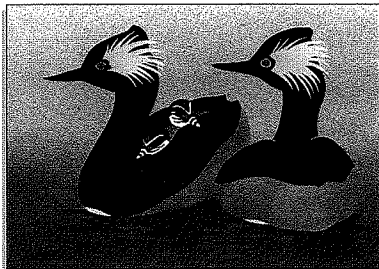
Call (760) 647-6595.

deposited. Natural processes depend on this sediment in many ways—fish need gravels for spawning; aquatic insects use sediment for habitat; and stream vegetation use it as a substrate to begin growing. A diversion dam currently prohibits the passage of most coarse sediment on Lee Vining Creek.

In the spring of 2002 DWP released a report outlining several alternatives for ensuring that sediment is passed down Lee Vining Creek. The DWP report focused on sluicing, which would simply use naturally occurring high flows to push the sediment through. The Lee Vining Creek diversion dam would need to be retrofitted so the sediment could pass through or around the dam. Committee scientists and staff are currently evaluating all of the proposed options. ❖

THE FALL CATALOG

from the Mono Lake Committee Bookstore



EARED GREBE NOTES

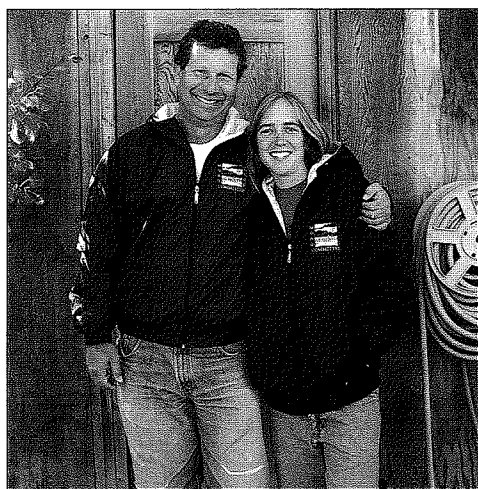
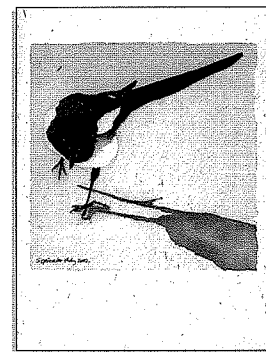
Wendy Morgan's newest notecard design is here—the Eared Grebe! This reproduction from an original watercolor is stunningly beautiful. Each card is printed on 100% recycled, 100% post-consumer, acid-free paper. The reverse of each card lists genus and species information. Let your grebe letters migrate through the mail in support of Mono Lake!

Eared Grebe Note Cards, note and envelope measure 4½" x 6¼": \$1.95 each (#2450)

MAGPIE NOTES

The whimsical artwork of September Vhay comes alive in this reproduction of an original watercolor entitled Deer Run Magpie. Each note is printed on 100% recycled, 100% post consumer acid-free paper. The reverse of the card lists genus and species information. This card is so playful that you might be tempted to frame it!

Magpie Note Card, note and envelope measure 4½" x 6¼": \$1.95 each (#2450)



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE JACKET

Outdoor Experiences leaders Santiago Escruceria and Betsy Forsyth keep warm with their Mono Lake Committee jackets. This hooded jacket has a nylon shell with pockets, and is lined with sweatshirt material to keep you warm and cozy this winter. Jackets are available in blue or black with tan embroidery on the left chest of the jacket. Quantities are limited.

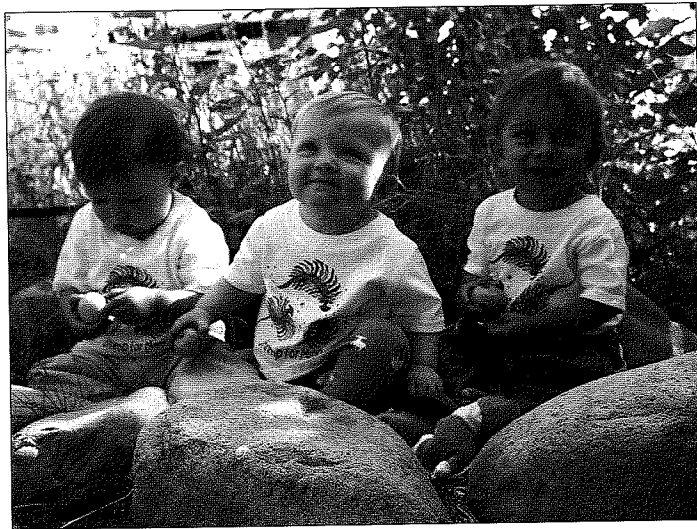
Mono Lake Committee Jacket, available in large, extra-large, and XXL only : \$39.95 (#5234).

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRTS

Summer interns Peter Lang and Lauren Russell model the front and back of our classic Mono Lake Committee shirt. This Patagonia-designed shirt has the Committee's logo on the upper left front, and a tri-color graphic of Mono's fluctuating lake levels on the back. The landmark 1983 California Supreme Court Public Trust Decision is quoted next to the lake on the back.

Mono Lake Committee Logo Long Sleeve T-shirt, in Ash, pre-shrunk cotton Hanes® Beefy-T®: \$21.00 S(#3517) M(#3518) L(#3519) XL(#3520)





SHRIMP FOR MONO INFANT SHIRTS!

Local 1-year olds Caelen, Sabine, and Guy all show their support for Mono Lake with this 100% cotton brine shrimp shirt! Colorful brine shrimp swim on this white shirt with *Shrimp for Mono* at the bottom in red.

Shrimp for Mono Infant Shirts, Short sleeve, preshrunk cotton Hanes® Playwear™: \$8.00

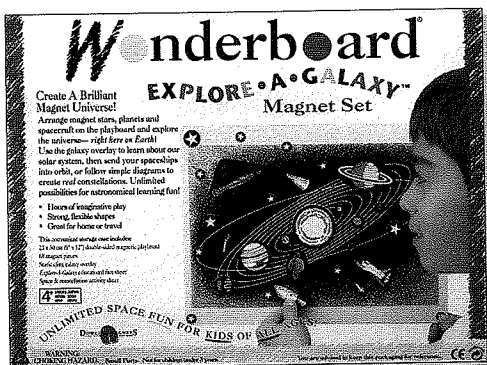
6 months (#3740) 12 months (#3741) 18 months (#3742)



THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES 1000 PIECE PUZZLE

This puzzle is just as beautiful as it is difficult. The entire family will have fun piecing together this puzzle while identifying butterfly species. This is also a great item to hang in any classroom! This puzzle, printed and assembled in the USA, is not suitable for children under the age of three.

The World's Most Beautiful Butterflies 1000 Piece Puzzle, completed puzzle measures 24" x 30": \$16.95 (#1568)



WONDERBOARD EXPLORE A GALAXY MAGNET SET

Let your children have fun with this magnetic galaxy overlay as they learn about our solar system, send space ships into orbit, and plot real constellations! These strong flexible shapes will promote hours of imaginative play. Comes with a travel board for the car. Not suitable for children under the age of three.

Wonderboard Explore a Galaxy Magnet Set, board measures 9 1/4" x 12 1/4": \$12.50 (#2208)

WONDERBOARD BUILD A BUG MAGNET SET

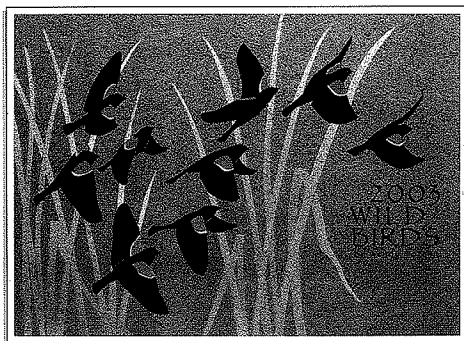
Create amazing insects with colorful magnets on this at-home or in-car magnetic set! Create your own wacky bugs with these strong and flexible shapes for unlimited combinations and endless design fun. Not suitable for children under the age of three.

Wonderboard Build a Bug Magnet Set, board measures 9 1/4" x 12 1/4": \$12.50 (#2473)



Call (760) 647-6595 to order

❧ The Fall Catalog ❧



2003 WILD BIRDS CALENDAR

BY WENDY MORGAN

This calendar is a must for any bird fan! Eared Grebes, Wilson's Phalaropes, and 12 other wild birds adorn this beautiful calendar by Committee supporter Wendy Morgan.

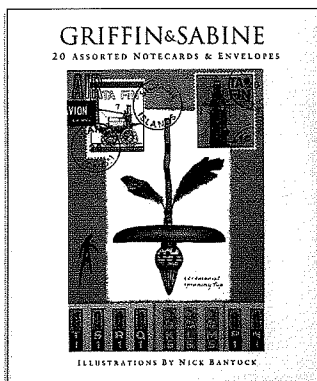
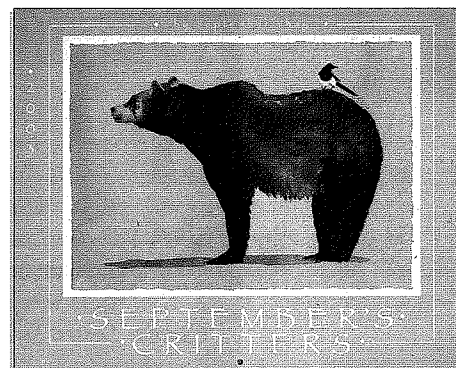
2003 Wild Birds Calendar, Printed in the USA on 100% recycled, acid-free paper, measures 9" x 12": \$13.95 (#2164)

2003 SEPTEMBER'S CRITTERS CALENDAR

BY SEPTEMBER VHAY

Mark each month with magpies, bears, foxes, raccoons, deer, coyote, and other animals with this whimsical calendar. Is it time to put a calendar in the kid's room, or is it time to find room in your home for the kid in you?

2003 September's Critters Calendar, Printed in the USA on 100% recycled, acid-free paper, measures 9" x 12": \$13.95 (#3416)



GRIFFIN & SABINE: 20 ASSORTED NOTECARDS AND ENVELOPES

ILLUSTRATED BY NICK BANTOCK

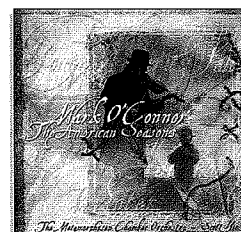
This notecard package contains twenty high quality blank greeting cards with envelopes (five images, four cards of each) featuring the work of illustrator Nick Bantock, as seen in his books *Griffin & Sabine*, *Sabine's Notebook*, and *The Golden Mean*.

Griffin & Sabine: 20 Assorted Notecards and Envelopes, Chronicle Books, cards and envelopes measure 5" x 6": \$13.95 (#0016)

MARK O'CONNOR: THE AMERICAN SEASONS CD

Seasons of an American life as told by a violin and orchestra. "Wholly listenable, buoyed by jazzy rhythms and by O'Connor's unstoppable melodic gift." —The New York Times

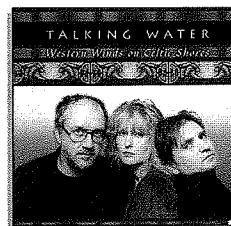
Mark O'Connor: The American Seasons, Sony Music Entertainment, 2001: \$22.98 (#2029)



TALKING WATER: WESTERN WINDS ON CELTIC SHORES CD

This Austrian group, featuring Kerstin Blodig, has a Celtic charm that will relax even your most tense days.

Talking Water: Western Winds on Celtic Shores, Slow Motion Records, 2000: \$16.95 (#2015)

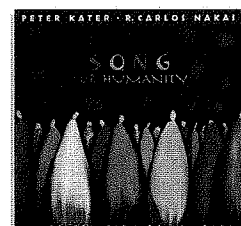


SONG FOR HUMANITY CD

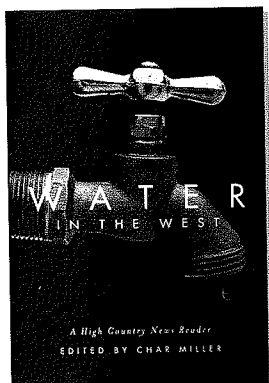
BY PETER KATER AND R. CARLOS NAKAI

This album is a ceremony and celebration, bringing together eleven favorite performances in piano and flute. *Song for Humanity* is a masterful collaboration between Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai and German born pianist Peter Kater.

Song For Humanity: Silver Wave Records, 2002: \$17.98 (#5263)



Call (760) 647-6595 to order



WATER IN THE WEST: A HIGH COUNTRY NEWS READER

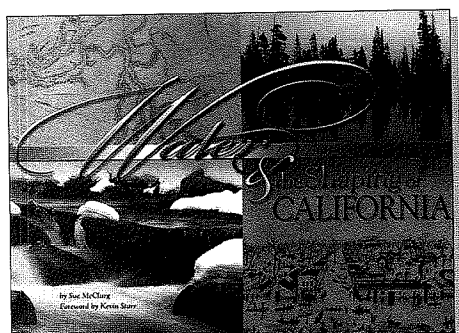
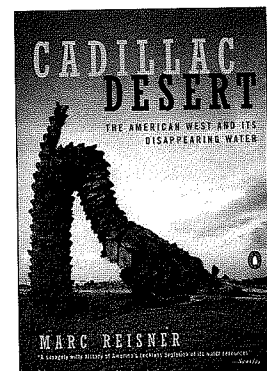
This book offers a lovely primer on the region's most precious and scarce resource. It collects the best reporting on the subject, drawn from the pages of *High Country News*, the newspaper that sets the standard for coverage of environmental issues in the west. These stories bring a refreshing focus and clarity to this complex and contentious environmental issue.

Water in the West, Softcover, Oregon State University Press, 352 pages, measures 9" x 6": \$29.95 (#1748)

CADILLAC DESERT THE AMERICAN WEST AND ITS DISAPPEARING WATER BY MARC REISNER

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

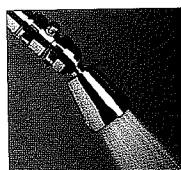
Cadillac Desert, Softcover, Penguin Books, 518 pages, measures 5½" x 8½": \$17.00 (#310)



WATER & THE SHAPING OF CALIFORNIA BY SUE MCCLURG

This is a beautiful pictorial and prose account of the importance of California's water. This book is laced with some of the best quotes and literary works of all time on the topic of water, bringing home the undeniable fact that we need to make a strong commitment to preserve and protect our resources.

Water and the Shaping of California, Softcover, Published by the Water Education Foundation and Heyday Books, 168 pages, measures 8½" x 12": \$35.00 (#1780)



SHOWER SAVER: HIGH VELOCITY-TURBULENT FLOW SHOWER HEAD

This water-saving showerhead increases the velocity of the water to give you a refreshing and invigorating shower. It will save you money on water and energy bills, and uses only 2.5 gallons per minute at 80 pounds per square inch. Installation information and five-year warranty included.

Shower Saver: High Velocity-Turbulent Flow Shower Head, Whedon Products, measures 1" x 3½": \$10.95 (#2907)



STANDARD SUPER SPRAY FAUCET AERATOR

This Whedon Products Spray Faucet Aerator is the swivel, spray and stream faucet tool that you will come to love. It complies with Federal Energy Standard of 2.5 gallons per minute. Makes rinsing dishes a quick and easy task. Complete installation and five-year warranty information included.

Standard Super Spray Faucet Aerator, Whedon Products, measures 2" x 1¼": \$5.95 (#2910)



DELUXE SUPER SPRAY FAUCET AERATOR

This Whedon Products Spray Faucet Aerator has the same benefits as the Standard Super Spray Faucet Aerator above, but it also has a lever control that cuts flow to a trickle for saving water between rinsing dishes! Complete installation and five-year warranty information included.

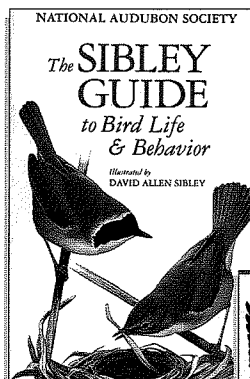
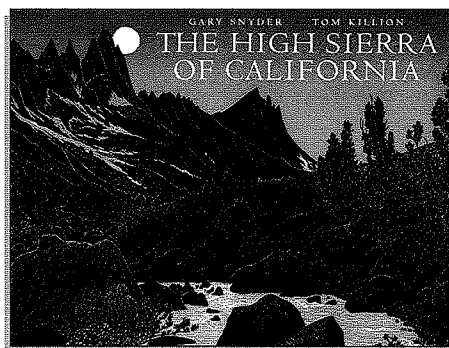
Deluxe Super Spray Faucet Aerator, Whedon Products, measures 2½" x 1¼": \$7.95 (#2909)

Call (760) 647-6595 to order

THE HIGH SIERRA OF CALIFORNIA: POEMS AND JOURNALS BY GARY SNYDER, WOODCUTS AND ESSAYS BY TOM KILLION

With excerpts from the writings of John Muir, the spirit of the Sierra Nevada is captured by the words of Gary Snyder and the woodcuts of Tom Killion in a unique and amazing way. Pick up this book and get lost in the beauty and magic of the the High Sierra.

The High Sierra of California, Hardcover, Published by Heyday Books and The Yosemite Association, 128 pages: \$50.00 (#5242)



**THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRD BEHAVIOR
BY THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID ALLEN SIBLEY**

Designed to enhance and enrich the birding experience and study of North American birds, this book combines more than 795 full-color illustrations with authoritative text by 48 birders and biologists. Among the subjects covered are: molts and plumages, habits, food and foraging, courtship, rearing of young, migration, accidental and introduced species, anatomy, nests and eggs, flight patterns and more.

The Sibley Guide to Bird Behavior, Hardcover, Published by Alfred A. Knopf, 588 pages, measures 6¼" x 10": \$45.00 (#3440)

Also available:

The Sibley Guide to Birds: Written and Illustrated by David Allen Sibley, Softcover, Published by Alfred A. Knopf, 588 pages, measures 9¾" x 6½": \$35.00 (#1814)



THE JEPSON DESERT MANUAL

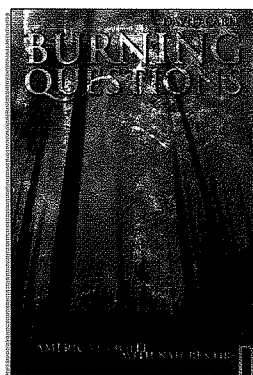
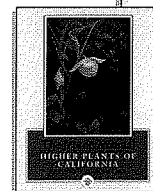
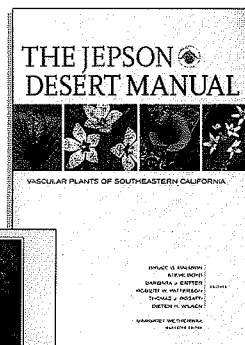
VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

This newest Jepson Manual is the first comprehensive field guide to focus exclusively on native and naturalized vascular plants of California's southeastern deserts. This revised and newly illustrated manual is so clearly written and well organized that is great for amateur and professional botanists alike.

The Jepson Desert Manual: Vascular Plants of the Southeastern California, Softcover, University of California Press, 624 pages, measures 7" x 10": \$35.00 (#5202)

Also Available:

The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California, Hardcover, University of California Press, 1,400 pages, measures 11" x 8½": \$80.00 (#700)



**BURNING QUESTIONS: AMERICA'S FIGHT WITH NATURE'S FIRE
BY DAVID CARLE**

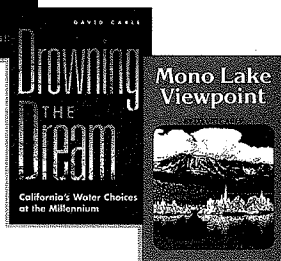
This book explores 100 years of controversy over prescribed burning and fire suppression, using the voices of early advocates and today's proponents to examine the strategy of controlled burning. David Carle was a California State Park ranger for 27 years, and a participant in the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve prescribed burn program. Bruce Babbitt cites Carle's work as "An important and timely work of wildland fire history. The voices in this book warn us about past mistakes that we must not repeat."

Burning Questions: America's Fight With Nature's Fire, Praeger Publishers, 298 pages, measures 9½" x 6½", Hardcover, \$26.95 (#5209)

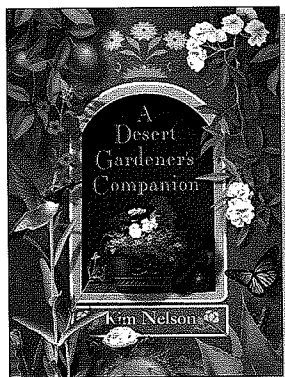
Also available by David Carle:

Drowning the Dream: California's Water Choices at the Millennium, Hardcover, Praeger Press, 235 pages, measures 9½" x 6½": \$50.00 (#1943)

Mono Lake Viewpoint, Softcover, Artemisia Press, 128 pages, measures 9" x 6": \$5.95 (#811)



❧ The Fall Catalog ❧



A DESERT GARDENER'S COMPANION

By KIM NELSON

With the help of this book you can turn any ordinary backyard into the yard of your dreams! The year-round guide will help you to create a bountiful landscape ideal for Southwestern living.

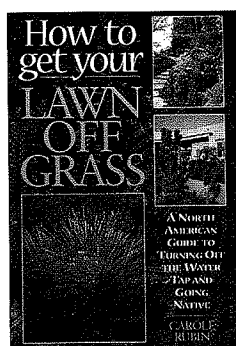
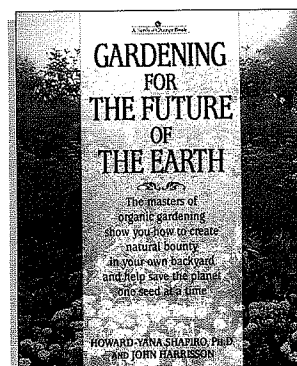
A Desert Gardener's Companion, Softcover, Rio Nuevo Publishers, 328 pages, measures 6½" x 9": \$19.95 (#5097)

GARDENING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EARTH

By HOWARD-YANO SHAPIRO, PhD, AND JOHN HARRISON

Illustrated with color photographs that bring techniques to life, this is both a practical garden companion and essential reading for anyone interested in preserving the resources of our planet.

Gardening for the Future of the Earth, Softcover, Bantam Books, 229 pages, measures 7½" x 9": \$19.95 (#5304)



HOW TO GET YOUR LAWN OFF GRASS: A NORTH AMERICAN GUIDE TO TURNING OFF THE WATER TAP AND GOING NATIVE

By CAROL RUBIN

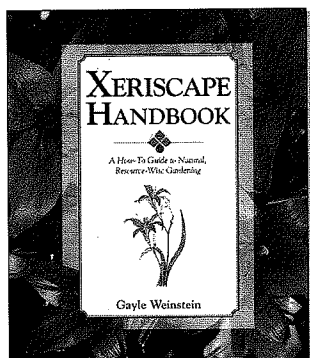
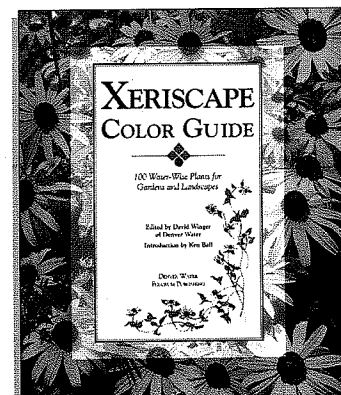
This wonderful book will invite and inspire you to replant your yard and garden with gorgeous native ground cover, flowers, shrubs, and grasses that will need no chemicals, mowing or extra water. This book is bound to waken every gardener to the reality of twenty-first century gardening literature.

How to Get Your Lawn Off Grass, Softcover, Harbour Publishing, 174 pages, measures 8½" x 5¾": \$9.95 (#5296)

XERISCAPE COLOR GUIDE: 100 WATER-WISE PLANTS FOR GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES

More than 100 water-wise plants are profiled in this easy-to-read and vividly illustrated book. This book will help gardeners and landscapers design colorful, practical, and water-conscious environments to create colorful and useful living environments.

Xeriscape Color Guide: 100 Water-Wise Plants for Gardens and Landscapes, Softcover, Denver Water and Fulcrum Publishing, 62 pages, measures 9" x 10¼": \$15.95 (#5293)



XERISCAPE HANDBOOK: A HOW-TO GUIDE TO NATURAL, RESOURCE-WISE GARDENING

By GAYLE WEINSTEIN

This book will inspire and help any beginning gardener plan and create a beautiful yard and garden full of low-maintenance plants with efficient irrigation and water-wise natural environments.

Xeriscape Handbook: A How-To Guide to Natural Resource-Wise Gardening, Softcover, Fulcrum Publishing, 142 pages, measures 8½" x 10": \$24.95 (#5294)

Call (760) 647-6595 to order



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Pre-Rinse Commercial Kitchen Spray Valves

Restaurant kitchens usually rinse dishes, pots, and pans before putting them into the dishwasher, and it is not uncommon for a kitchen's faucet to run constantly. The California Public Utilities Commission has bought 16,900 pre-rinse kitchen sprayers, which the California Urban Water Conservation Council will see are installed by December 2003. Each sprayer will save 75,000 gallons per year.

Cooling Tower Conductivity Controller

When you walk into an air-conditioned building, it is quite likely the building uses a single-pass water-

based cooling system to lower the temperature and then absorb the heat from the building and the people in it. Now buildings can replace these water hogs with a system that uses some evaporation to release heat, leaving the remaining water cool and ready to be reused. Estimated water savings average 800,000 gallons annually.

What You Can Do

1. You can do your part by installing water-efficient devices in your home. Visit www.cuwcc.org and take a trip through their H2OUSE for tips.
2. Show this newsletter article to businesses and institutions in your community. Contact the local water

district to learn about water conservation incentives. For example, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (www.mwdh2o.com) offers incentives to its 26 member agencies for all of the devices described above.

3. On November 5, you can vote for Proposition 50, the Clean Water and Coastal Protection Bond of 2002, which will provide millions of dollars to expand these programs and more throughout the state. ❖

Fran Spivy-Weber is the Committee's Executive Director of Policy. She is not spending nearly enough time in her Lee Vining home as she spends most of her time travelling around the state promoting water conservation.

Wetlands from page 13

becoming clear that no matter how much money is spent on these few small repairs, only a higher lake level will significantly fix these broken habitats.

Future Views

The greatest value of the Mono Basin is not in its individual parts, but is its diverse whole. The dry sagebrush habitat adjacent to the lush riparian areas along the creeks provide much richer habitat value than either by itself. The wooded bottomlands adjacent to the freshwater/saltwater mixing zones adjacent to the open saltwater lake forms a habitat complex unequaled elsewhere. Likewise, migratory birds remind us of the even larger picture of habitat complexes. The inland Great Basin portion of the Pacific Flyway contains very diverse lakes and wetlands that meet diverse needs of birds. Habitat loss at one affects the numbers of birds that the entire flyway can support—and thus affects the numbers of birds arriving at the next lake. Restoring Mono Lake is only one link in the chain.

What will the Mono Basin look like in the future? Assuming all the models are correct, Mono Lake will have reached its higher stabilization level in 10–20 years. This level is

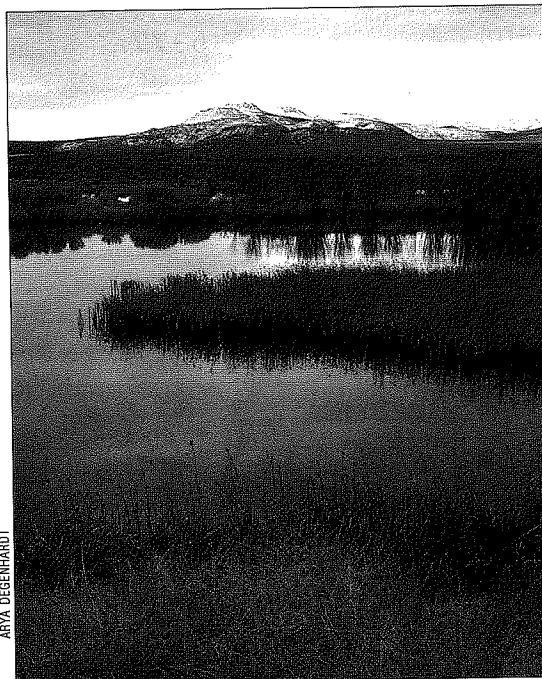
expected to protect the lake and minimize toxic dust storms. Reaching this level will allow water exports to roughly double in order to prevent the lake from rising higher, reducing the flows in the streams as well.

In 20 years, the creeks will have been in a final restoration flow regime for about 10 years. The riparian forests will be 20 years older, with mature cottonwood trees beginning to fall into

the channels, adding complexity, and slowing down and backing up water. The creatures that depend on these habitats presumably will have healthy populations, taking advantage of the natural process that will be in full swing. It won't be pristine, but nevertheless, what a victory, after 70 years of degradation.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of Mono Lake is that it is better to prevent damage than to rely on restoration. Restoration in the basin has been hard fought and expensive and at the end of the day the ecosystems will not fully recover their former vibrancy. Nonetheless, restoration and water conservation hold promise that many of the Mono Basin's damaged resources may recover, and that the Lake and Basin will continue to offer a diverse and complex oasis within the Great Basin, for both people and wildlife. ❖

Greg Reis is the Committee's Information Specialist. He is looking forward to having his new greenhouse to help warm up his home over the winter.



ARYA DEGENHARDT

Only in Lee Vining

Where you'll catch the action if you slow down on your way through town.

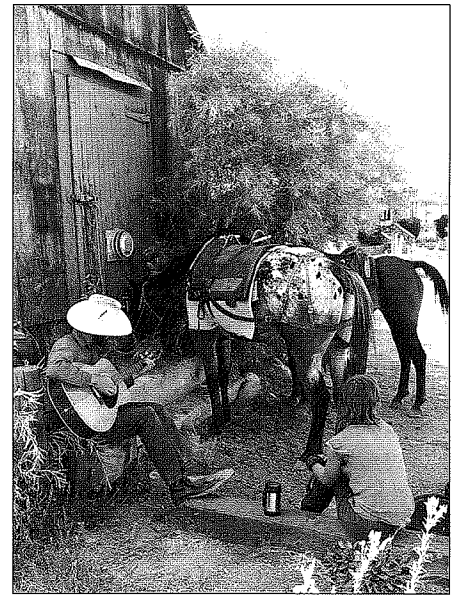


Dancing in the Streets

When you live in the desert you quickly learn that rain does not make for gloomy days—in fact, it's a cause for celebration. So when thunderclouds rolled into town on July 18th, after weeks of hot weather and smoky skies, locals took to the streets. Light rain quickly turned to a downpour, and the gutters became creeks as the deluge flooded the streets. Visitors gaped in amazement as waves of water created by parked car tires reached close to door handles—prohibiting them from getting in. And like desert wildflowers waiting for spring rain, children suddenly produced rain jackets and boots perfect for the occasion. Drivers-by slowed to watch as adults and children alike danced around in the sometimes knee-high puddles in true desert style ... wearing shorts!

Tunes for the Road

Sounds typically heard from the Mono Lake Committee offices in summer include the chatter of confused tourists, the growl of diesel engines, and the occasional horn honk—so when the pull of a deep bass note floated in the office window the other day it had staff out front in a flash. What we found was a gathering of musical families, complete with a guitar, keyboard, and stand-up bass, stretching their legs and exercising their musical abilities at the picnic table out front. They played and sang a few songs in front of the impromptu audience before heading on their way to the Strawberry Music Festival for Labor Day Weekend. Later that weekend they were spotted singing *a cappella* on a raft on Birch Lake at Camp Mather.



Hitching Post

As both a gateway town and a visitor's destination in and of itself, Lee Vining gets to see a little bit of just about everything passing through. Just the other day we thought we had seen it all when two horses with riders and their dogs literally trotted into town. After scoping the town they chose the Committee's ice house office building as the most suitable hitching post, and set up camp for the afternoon. While the horses chomped on willow shoots, the riders played music and sang for passersby. Looking out the window at them made you wonder if the ice house hadn't been used as a hitching post back in the infamous days of Leroy Vining and Bodie's boom.



Staff Migrations

Despite all efforts to slow down and enjoy the warm days of summer, it always flies by—and this year has been no exception. It seems like just yesterday that the staff meeting could barely fit the slideshow room, and now we're in the midst of farewells.

On the permanent staff front, we bid a sad farewell to Office Director **Jeff "Dar" Darlington**. After two years of shipping us into shape Dar migrated back to the west side of the Sierra to become the Executive Director of the Placer County Land Trust. Dar built a strong office operation for the Committee, worked closely with the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce, and set a standard of organization and commitment for all the staff to live up to. Thank you, Dar, for the time you shared with us.

Luckily, he helped us hire the new Office Director **Kief Hillsbery**. A confirmed Monophile, Kief has lived in the Mono Basin for three years, authoring two novels before joining the Committee team. Welcome!

We had a great group of interns this summer. **Moss Templeton, Corrie Folsom, Peter Lang, Erika Obedzinsky, Lauren Russell, and Cameron Wagner** all held down the fort on the front counter with accurate information and a sense of humor. They also led the naturalist tours at sunset down at South Tufa every night as well as the weekly bird walks at County Park. And as if that wasn't enough, each of them helped in their own way with individual projects. **Moss** got the Bird of the Month program up on the web and out into the store. **Corrie** helped design and paint the kiosk information panels and took much needed photos for the *Newsletter*. **Peter** got the document scanner up and running to get important documents like the Mono Lake EIR completely available on the web. **Lauren** researched and helped design a new display on Mono Lake life cycles for the information kiosk, and worked on responding to information requests with **Cameron**, who also put together a guide to water policy issues and assisted in recruiting new members. **Erika** researched policy issues and helped organize the Photopoint Project, and happily, she is staying on through the fall. Evidence of all their hard



Adventurous interns on a tour of the Mono Rock Pumice Mine. From left to right, Education Director Bartshe Miller, Canoe Coordinator Lori Bowermaster, Interns Erika Obedzinsky, Corrie Folsom, Lauren Russell, Office Director Kief Hillsbery, and Interns Peter Lang and Cameron Wagner (Moss Templeton had already flown back to school).

work is all around, and their work is much appreciated!

Store Assistant **Anna Scofield** helped countless visitors on the front counter again this summer. Her helpful nature as well as her amazing gift wrapping skills are already missed—good luck back at school! Luckily, **Ryan Carle, Tobin Nidever, and Vireo Gaines** all stepped in to help out on the counter at the end of the season. Their local knowledge of the area has been invaluable.

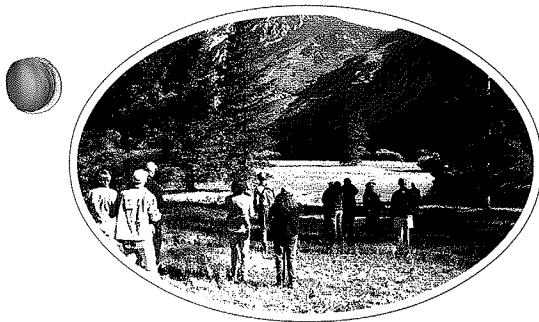
It was a record summer for the canoe program. Led by official canoe babe **Lori Bowermaster**, this year the fleet only had one tour cancellation—not to mention many great days of tours out on the lake! Best of luck this fall Lori, and we know we'll see you back (packing) around the Sierra in the future!

Many thanks to all of the seasonal staff members for a great summer. Make sure to migrate through again soon! ❖

What's Happening With Restoration Days and the Mono Lake Committee Annual Meeting?

You may be wondering why there was no Restoration Days celebration over Labor Day weekend. 2002 marks the first year the Mono Lake Committee has not held a major Labor Day weekend event since 1979. From the days of bucket walks to the rehydration ceremonies, the yearly celebration of Mono Lake is an essential tradition. With so much enthusiasm for birds and birding in the area, we've decided to hold Restoration Work Days for specific projects throughout the year, and to focus on a new tradition: the annual Mono

Basin Bird Chautauqua. The first annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua was quite successful (see pages 6–7) with a great turnout and much enthusiasm. In celebration of the Committee's 25th Anniversary in 2003 the Annual Meeting and Rehydration Ceremony will take place during the Chautauqua weekend, June 20–22. So, come on out for a great weekend of birding events, and keep your eyes out for Restoration Work Days throughout the year—the next one is Saturday May 17, 2003.



From the Mailbag

News from Members and Friends

by Brett Pyle

The world is a crazy place, but then again, it always has been. One of the joys of living in the Mono Basin is being able to easily find a place of stillness amid the rush of daily life. There are sunrises along the shore, each seemingly the first, where the silence is broken only by the splash of a landing gull, the ripples extending beyond their importance, and disappearing in the mirror-still vastness of the lake. When you visit, it is that mirror-stillness that I hope you take with you in your heart. And as you sit in traffic, spilt coffee on your pants, late for work, remember ... all these things are just the splashes of gulls....

Special Thanks

A special thanks to **Brain Cashore** and **Karen Allen** of Swall Meadows for donating a canoe for use on canoe tours. **Steve Anderson** made a generous donation of computer equipment for use in the store and offices. **Tom and Jo Heindel** of Big Pine donated 34 wonderful bird slides for use in the State of the Lake presentation and for to the Committee slide archive. Teacher **Louise Fernquest** and her students at **Keys School** in Palo Alto graciously donated the proceeds of their annual bake sale to help restore Mono Lake. And a very special thanks to **Moose Peterson** for donating 27 framed photographs and the proceeds from their sale for our summer slideshow-room exhibit.

In Celebration

Tony and Patricia Hughes made a donation in honor of the marriage of **Joe Cotter** and **Christine Way Cotter** of Quincy, Mass. Best wishes for your life together in the future!

In Memory

Donations were made in memory of **Mrs. Els Schneider**, who passed away shortly before her 100th birthday, by her daughter **Annette Lehman** of Los Angeles, **Ruth and Leonard Chernoff** of Pasadena, and **Bernice Goldstein** of Los Angeles. **John and Dymphna Pruyn** of El Cerrito, and **David Winkler** of Ithaca, NY made donations in memory of **Paul Green**. **Mary Elliott James** of Cambria made a donation in memory of **Bruce Tingle** of San Luis Obispo. **Helen Ronning** of Mill Valley sent a donation in memory of **Benjamin Upham** of Mill Valley. Donations were received in memory of **Mrs. Viola Hoes** of Lakeport from the **Deny Family** of Guerneville, the **Charles Hoes Family** of Zamora, **Bill and Nancy Hogberg** of Napa, **Mrs. Donald E. Schlosser** of Zamora, **Joseph and Rush Wilson** of Lawrenceville, and **Marie Wright** of Lucerne. ❖

Brett Pyle is the Committee's Membership Coordinator. He is enjoying all the splashes that his daughter Sabine brings to his life.

Raffle benefits Mono Lake

Many thanks to local **Round Dance Indian Art Gallery** owners **Steve** and **Cindy Kinerson** of Mono City who organized a fundraising raffle benefitting the Mono Lake Committee. The lucky winner, **Shaylynn Dondero** of Lee Vining received a beautiful pendleton blanket from their gallery, located in Mammoth Lakes.



Local business owner Steve Kinerson with the winning benefit raffle ticket.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

Since 1984 the Mono Lake Committee has published the Mono Lake Calendar. Each year accomplished and professional photographers submit images for the calendar, and it is their dedication that has made the calendar a success.

The upcoming 2003 Calendar marks the 25th Anniversary year for the Mono Lake Committee, and the calendar has a special 25th Anniversary essay, beautifully accompanied by both historical and scenic images. **Stephen Ingram's** image of Negit Island was used, but unfortunately his credit got lost in the printing shuffle. We are sincerely sorry about this oversight, as we strive to maintain the high quality of the calendar and honor the dedicated photographers who submit images.

If you are interested in seeing Stephen Ingram's work please check out his website at <http://www.ingramphoto.com>.



This November 5th

Vote YES on Prop 50

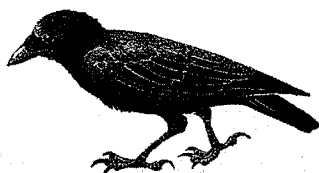
The Clean Water and Coastal Protection Bond of 2002

The proposed \$3.44 billion bond will fund projects that stretch California's water resources to meet the needs of people and the environment in the decades ahead, thereby benefitting Mono Lake and its future protection.

CALL (760) 647-6595 OR VISIT WWW.MONOLAKE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

The Second Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

June 20-22, 2003



MONO LAKE

COMMITTEE

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Your Membership Expire Date is 01/02
If so, thanks!*

