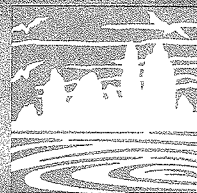


# MONO LAKE



W S L E T T E R

Summer 2002

**M**ay's full moon was no brighter than any other, really. But it sure felt that way—mostly because for the first time in months it was warm enough to sit outside long enough to really enjoy it. On a short night walk to a nearby cascade there was no need for a flashlight as moonlight filtered through pungent Jeffrey pines to light the way. Water tumbling over granite boulders glowed and gurgled—the creek swollen with recent snowmelt. Negotiating rocks and logs, I perched in the middle of the creek with water rushing on all sides—yes, summer is on its way. And while full moon hikes may not be for you, there are endless sights, sounds, and smells to experience in the Mono Basin—something for just about everyone.

In this edition we've got a map with handy visitor information on pages 14–15 for those of you who will be in the Basin this summer. And if you're traveling Highway 395, or just keeping up on the Caltrans highway widening issue, we've got excerpts from our White Paper on Context Sensitive Solutions on page 5. Check out the exciting update on Walker Lake on pages 10–11. It's not too late to sign up for one of the Field Seminars, so take a look on pages 18–23 for details. I recommend starting right here with the dust monitoring article on page 3, as it has been a while since we've had a thorough article on this critical component of the Mono Lake issue.

If you're visiting Mono Lake for the first time, welcome! And if you're visiting for the umpteenth time, then welcome back! Don't forget to stop in the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore to say hello when you're here. We always love to meet the folks who help keep the water running down the creeks, the waves lapping at the lakeshore, and the amazing spots to explore alive and healthy.

Have a great summer!

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



COVER PHOTO BY MOOSE PETERSON

MOOSE PETERSON

*A Sage Grouse performing his springtime mating ritual. This local treasure is quite impressive to behold at leks hidden in the sagebrush sea around the Mono Basin. See this and other wildlife photographs in the exhibit entitled Wonders of Eastside Wildlife by Moose Peterson at the Mono Lake Committee Gallery in Lee Vining this summer.*

### Mono Lake Committee Mission

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



### Mono Lake Office Information Center & Bookstore

Highway 395 at Third Street  
Post Office Box 29  
Lee Vining, CA 93541  
(760) 647-6595

info@monolake.org  
www.monolake.org  
www.monobasinresearch.org

### Los Angeles Office

322 Culver Boulevard  
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293  
Phone (310) 316-0041 Fax (310) 316-8509

### Staff

Executive Director, Policy ..... Frances Spivy-Weber  
Executive Director, Operations .... Geoffrey McQuilkin  
Eastern Sierra Policy Director ..... Lisa Cutting  
Regional Outreach Coordinator ..... Craig Roecker  
Education Director ..... Bartshé Miller  
Assistant Education Director ..... Santiago Escruceria  
Outdoor Experiences Coordinator ..... Betsy Forsyth  
Communications Director ..... Arya Degenhardt  
Information Specialist ..... Greg Reis  
Office Director ..... Jeff Darlington  
Retail Operations Manager .... Ramona Robbins Clark  
Bookstore Manager ..... Laura Walker  
Membership Coordinator ..... Brett Pyle  
Events Coordinator ..... Shannon Nelson  
Controller ..... Donnette Huselton  
Development Director ..... Shelly Backlar  
Canoe Tour Supervisor ..... Gary Nelson  
Canoe Tour Coordinator ..... Lori Bowermaster  
Interns ..... Moss Templeton, Corrie Folsom,  
Peter Lang, Erika Obedzinski, Lauren Russell,  
Cameron Wagner

### Board of Directors

Sally Gaines, Mammoth Lakes, Co-Chair  
Ed Manning, Davis, Co-Chair  
Tom Soto, Santa Monica, Secretary  
David Kanner, Redwood City, Treasurer  
Richard Atwater, La Cañada  
Mary Chambers, Pasadena  
Martha Davis, Riverside  
Ryan Hiete, Los Angeles  
Amy Holm, Los Angeles  
Andrea Lawrence, Mammoth Lakes  
David Marquart, Lee Vining  
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr., San Francisco

### Directors Emeriti

Grace de Laet • Helen Green • Mary Hanson  
Genny Smith • Ed Grosswiler  
Brent Coeur-Barron, Corporate Counsel

Founded by David Gaines in 1978

## MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2002 ~ Volume XXV, Number 1

The Mono Lake Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Mono Lake Committee. Written material contained in this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced for review, reporting, educational purposes, or related non-profit uses; a copy of the publication is requested. Reproduction or quotation for other purposes may be approved upon written request.  
ISSN #0275-6633. Copyright © 2002 Mono Lake Committee.

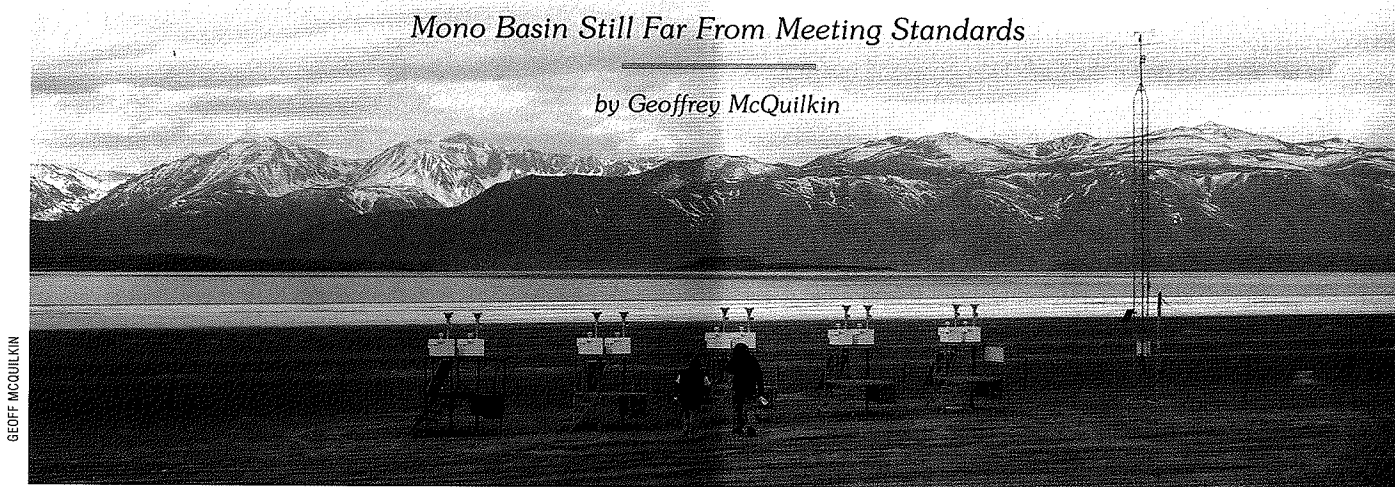


# Measuring Mono's Dust

*Tag Team Machines Capture Continuous Data*

*Mono Basin Still Far From Meeting Standards*

*by Geoffrey McQuilkin*



Geoff McQuilkin

It's a cool spring day, and we're climbing up a twenty-foot sand dune just north of Mono Lake's blue-green waters. As we ascend, a curious silhouette appears on the horizon: 10 white boxes uniformly spaced on platforms with pie-plate capped funnels thrust into the air. These are the Mono Lake dust monitoring stations of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day they suck air through engineered pathways, past Teflon filters, to measure how much health-damaging dust is rising off the dry bed of Mono Lake.

The view of the Sierra is spectacular, but this is clearly not a spot to set up camp. Calculated to be the site of maximum dust storm impact, it doesn't take long to note the pockmarked glass covering the solar panels or the sand thickly drifted into platform crevices four feet off the ground. Equipment rated for a seven-year life lasts a year out here. That's the point, though: use this wind-blasted spot to find out whether the Mono Basin has achieved compliance with the Clean Air Act. So far, the answer is no.

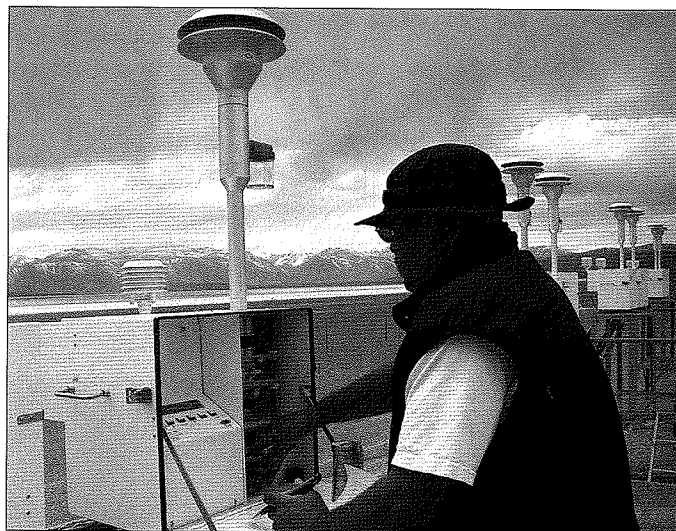
The problem began as Mono Lake's level fell, the result of water diversions to Los Angeles starting back in 1941. Nine square miles of that exposed lakebed became alkali playa that offers salts and minerals to the winds. Storms of dust sweep across the lakebed, traveling up to 100 miles before settling.

The minute dust particles, including toxics like selenium and arsenic, can be drawn deep into the lungs—and being less than a tenth the width of a human hair in size, they tend not to come back out. That leads to health problems, especially for those with heart and lung diseases. Clean air regulations limit concentrations of these particles, and since the dust problem resulted from water diversions, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) is responsible. At Owens Lake the troubles are even larger and DWP is currently investing hundreds of millions of dollars to control the situation with flooding, gravel, and saltgrass.

Here at Mono Lake, the solution is a little simpler: raise the lake to cover the areas that generate the worst dust storms. Complex models predict that the federal air quality standard will be met when the lake reaches 6,392 feet, the management level set by the State Water Resources Control Board. Today, though, we're nine feet from the management lake level and the dust storms rage on.

Fourteen violations of the standards have been recorded since January 2000 (only one is allowed annually). Mono Lake violations leave the air quality violations of other places, well, in the dust. In six of those events, dust concentrations exceeded 1,000 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) and on November 29, 2000, a massive storm hit 10,000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Compare that to the federal standard of 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , or a bad smog day in San

*Continued on page 4*



Geoff McQuilkin

*Technicians collect dust samples weekly from remote, solar-powered equipment. The data are critical to understanding air quality trends.*

Bernardino of between 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and 300  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , and you start to understand the scope of the problem.

I walked up to a monitor that was apparently running, given the hum coming from inside. After one of these solar-powered devices runs for a 24-hour period, it shuts down and the next one starts up, right on down the line. That gives the instrument technician a week to get back to the site, collect each of the exposed filters, fix problems, install fresh filters, and start the cycle again. The filters are sealed for transport to Bishop, where they are weighed in a special, environmentally controlled clean room to determine their dust content. How well do the monitors work? "Nothing is designed for long life in the abuse we get here," offers technician Gabriel Ibarra, "but given that, they work great." This year, redundant monitors will be installed to assure statistical accuracy.

As the lake level has drifted downward over the past four years, the air quality model has predictably showed a downward trend in air quality improvement. Such are the cycles of nature, however, and wet years ahead will move the lake upward and air quality toward attainment. Once the basin meets the standards for three years in a row, the area comes into attainment.

As I inspect the weather instruments atop a 10-meter tower, I learn that 2002 holds the dubious distinction of being the first year that a violation was measured in Lee Vining. Usually the dust moves northward, but on February 28 everything went west and it looked like fog had descended into town. The measurement from the town equipment came in at 220  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

Still, the plan for solving the air quality problem is in place, thanks to the Water Board decision of 1994. Like Mono Lake dust, the question of when we'll get there is up in the air. In the meantime, the weekly treks to pull the filters and gather data will continue. That means Ibarra will be putting a lot more miles on his truck. "It's a great job," he says, wiping dust from a digital screen. "I get to enjoy this view of Mono Lake almost every week of the year." ❖

## PM-10 Violations in the Mono Basin since 1991

Site	Date	PM-10 Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Lee Vining	28-Feb-02	222
Simis	12-Apr-92	493
Simis	02-Dec-92	225
Simis	11-May-93	981
Simis	12-May-93	658
Simis	31-Aug-96	158
Warm Springs	08-May-91	389
Warm Springs	02-Dec-92	265
Mono Shore	08-Apr-00	690
Mono Shore	04-May-00	1,063
Mono Shore	06-May-00	490
Mono Shore	09-May-00	3,059
Mono Shore	10-May-00	1,513
Mono Shore	07-Jun-00	1,642
Mono Shore	08-Jun-00	241
Mono Shore	09-Oct-00	387
Mono Shore	29-Nov-00	10,466
Mono Shore	02-Jun-01	414
Mono Shore	27-Jun-01	150
Mono Shore	25-Sep-01	4,482
Mono Shore	28-Feb-02	195
Mono Shore	10-Mar-02	396

DATA COURTESY OF THE GREAT BASIN UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

The most recent progress report from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District is available on the Mono Basin Clearinghouse at [www.monobasinresearch.org](http://www.monobasinresearch.org).

Geoff McQuilkin is the Committee's Co-Executive Director. He and his wife Sarah expanded their garden to grow fresh veggies to mush-up for their daughter Caelen.



April 9, 2002 dust storm on the north shore of Mono Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GABRIEL IBARRA



# Putting Caltrans' Context Sensitive Solutions Policy on the Ground

## *White Paper Details Mono Lake Requirements*

*from the Mono Lake Committee Policy Staff*

Caltrans' plans for 2.9 miles of Highway 395 along the west shore of Mono Lake remain unchanged. The current plan includes uniformly widening and straightening the road, utilizing retaining walls up to 40 feet high and creating fill slopes that will cover wetlands and reach to the edge of the lake. However, as reported in the last issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter*, a new agency-wide policy called "Context Sensitive Solutions" offers the possibility of designing an appropriate, acceptable project—if Caltrans puts the policy to work.

The goal of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) is to "plan, design, construct, maintain, and operate [the California] transportation system" and to "integrate and balance community, aesthetic, historic, and environmental values with safety, maintenance, and performance goals" into transportation projects.

A new Mono Lake Committee White Paper details the many important values that must be respected at Mono Lake, discusses how to be sensitive to them, and offers solutions specific to this highway project. Overall, a viable Mono Lake highway project must clearly shift from the current uniform, cookie-cutter approach to one that targets safety concerns at specific spots.

Highlights from the 18-page White Paper follow; visit [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org) to access the entire document.

### **Context**

- The proposed highway project, located between Old Marina and The Mono Inn at Mono Lake on the west shore, falls entirely within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, is adjacent to the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, and is part of a

state Scenic Highway corridor.

- Mono Lake is rising to the Water Board-ordered management level. Any highway work must consider where the lake and wetlands will be in the future and avoid impacts to these spots.
- Through this section of highway there is little room for expansion between the steep mountain slopes, the future shoreline of Mono Lake, and wetlands that will migrate and grow with the rising lake and rising groundwater levels.
- The state is responsible for protecting Mono Lake and its public trust resources.
- Wildlife corridors used by deer and other animals cross the highway.
- The highway is in many of the scenic views of Mono Lake.
- Mono Lake's water quality is protected by law from degradation.
- A quarter of a million people from all over the world visit Mono Lake each year because of its scenic beauty and ecological richness, and local businesses rely upon these visitors and the lake for their livelihoods.

### **Sensitive**

- The rich, multi-faceted environmental, social, and economic context that exists at Mono Lake requires extra care and consideration.
- Responsible agencies from the US Forest Service (USFS) to California State Parks to Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board offer useful standards for a proper project. The USFS, for example, defines where and how to measure scenic impacts within the Scenic Area.

### **Solutions**

Innovative solutions are needed to design a project that incorporates the Context Sensitive Solutions policy. Solving specifically identified problems—rather than uniformly redesigning the entire road—is the key to success.

Examples of solutions that are sensitive to the context of this project include:

- maintaining (not increasing, as proposed) the existing design speed of the highway to ensure that motorists have adequate time to respond to hazards in the roadway (including deer crossing and rock fall)
- adding signage that alerts motorists about the existence of bicyclists along the roadway
- considering a separate bike lane, possibly on the Southern California Edison easement west of the roadway
- revegetation, slope netting, small catch walls or other approaches along rock fall areas to prevent rocks from falling onto the highway, and
- adding a second scenic vista point at Cemetery Road in addition to the existing Old Marina visitor area.

Targeted solutions like these will address the safety goals of the project while minimizing the destructive consequences of large retaining walls and fill slopes, minimizing visual impacts, and avoiding impacts to deer and other wildlife.

The Mono Lake Committee expects that the White Paper will help Caltrans create new alternatives in the draft Environmental Impact Report that represent true context sensitive solutions. ❖

# Mono Lake ... It's For the Birds

**C**urious what bird research is taking place here at Mono Lake? Not sure where to go for great birding? Well, this map highlights all that and more. With over 300 bird species that either breed here or migrate through, birds play a significant role in restoration, research, and recreation in the Mono Basin. Here's a brief update to get you started. Visit [www.monolake.org/birdcounts/](http://www.monolake.org/birdcounts/) and [www.monobasinresearch.org](http://www.monobasinresearch.org) for more.

## Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore

With over 300 species of birds visiting the Mono Basin—where do you begin? Stop by the Committee to find the *Mono Basin Bird Checklist*, the *Eastern Sierra Birding Trail Map*, field guides, a recent sightings board, a listing of Mono Basin Field Seminars, and knowledgeable staff to help you experience birds in the Mono Basin to the fullest. To find out what's going on with birds in the Basin online see [www.monolake.org/birdcounts](http://www.monolake.org/birdcounts).

## Important Bird Area (IBA)

The American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society officially designated the Mono Basin as a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2001. Important Bird Areas are just what the name implies—areas that are important to birds. The IBA program systematically identifies critical habitat areas and educates others as to their importance. The designation encourages land managers to continue practices that promote healthy bird habitat while it imposes no regulations, restrictions, or costs.

## Summer Birding Walks

Free Birding Walks led by Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve and Mono Lake Committee staff take place Friday and Sunday mornings throughout the summer. Last year the State Reserve upgraded the boardwalk leading down to Mono Lake through wetland grasses and groves of tufa with a new platform at the water's edge that is ideal for birding. Wrens, warblers, woodpeckers, and water birds can be seen in this rich variety of habitats. Meet at the County Park parking lot at 8AM. Birders of all levels are welcome.

## Shorebird Counts

Experienced volunteers are needed each August to help with the Annual Shorebird Count. Volunteers simultaneously walk a section of shoreline and count shorebirds to track their response to the rising lake level and resulting changes in the shoreline. Contact Bartshe Miller ([bartshe@monolake.org](mailto:bartshe@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595 at the Mono Lake Committee to help out!

## Tree Swallow Reproductive Success and Breeding Phenology Study

Lee Vining Canyon is part of a network of research sites spanning the Western Hemisphere—from Alaska to Southern Patagonia in Argentina. The "Golondrinas de las Americas" (Swallows of the Americas) Project seeks to understand how latitude and associated seasonal patterns in temperature and insect abundance affect life-history strategies, including clutch size, the duration of breeding seasons, migration, and dispersal. The network includes sites that focus on each of the nine species in the *Tachycineta* genus. The Lee Vining site is particularly interesting because the Tree Swallow and the Violet-Green Swallow breed side by side. High altitude makes for interesting comparisons to sites at higher latitudes because, for many organisms, increasing altitude mimics the effects of increasing latitude—for example, shorter seasons and colder temperatures.

## Eastern Sierra Riparian Songbird Conservation Project

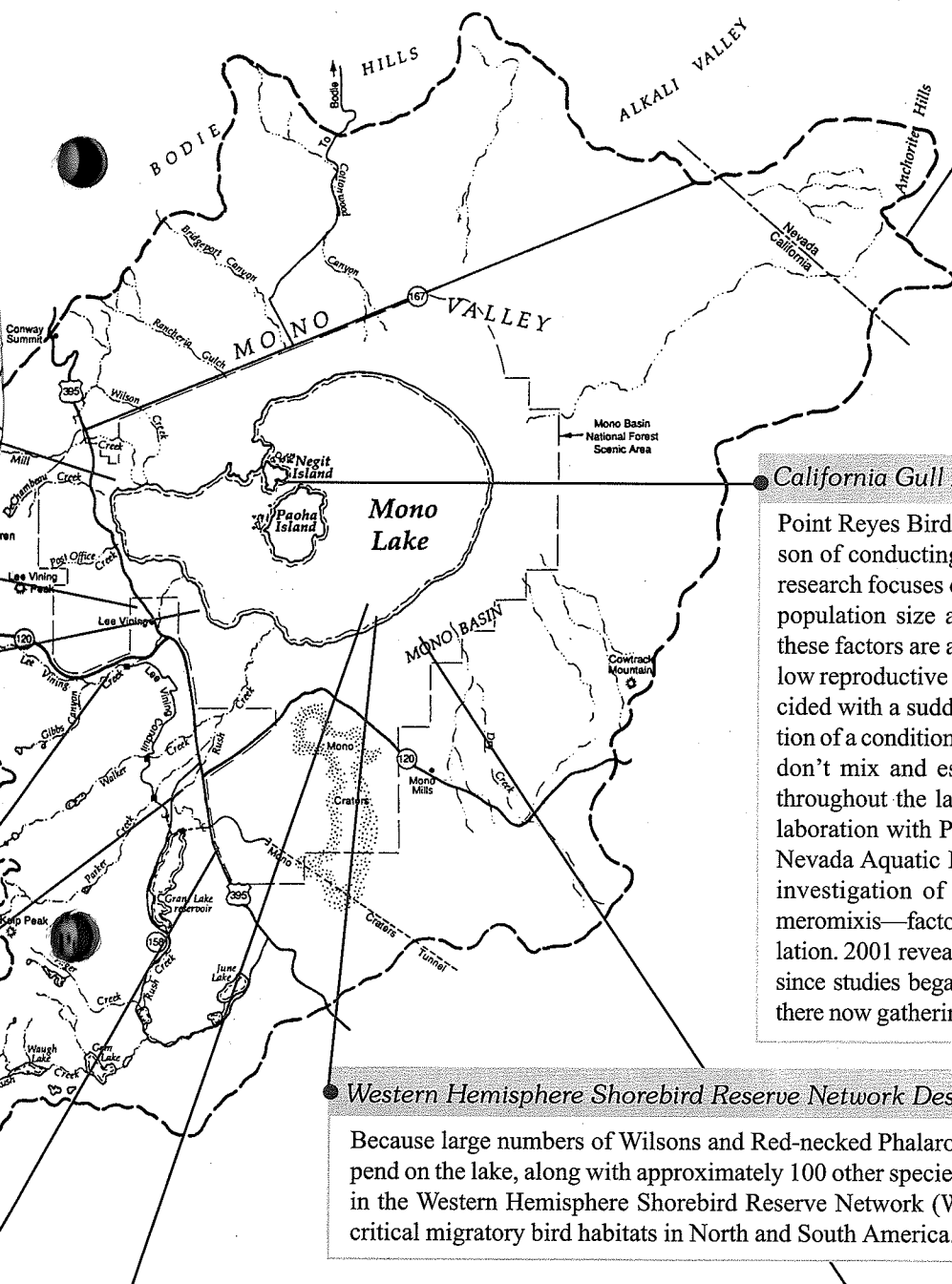
This year marks the fifth field season of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory's (PRBO) Eastern Sierra Riparian Songbird Conservation Project. The crew of 13 is studying songbird use of riparian habitats along the Eastern Sierra, with sites from the Lower Owens River to Sonora Pass. Mono Basin streams are a major focus of the study. Biologists are monitoring songbirds with a variety of methods including mist-netting, nest searching, and habitat assessments. The participation of several agencies, non-profits, and private groups make this project a highly collaborative effort, assuring that the information gathered will inform local and statewide management and restoration efforts. Visitors to the Mono Basin are welcome to attend mist-netting demonstrations to get a first hand glimpse of the birds that share our creeks and to be a part of this ongoing project. Inquire at the Mono Lake Committee to participate.

## The Eastern Sierra Birding Trail Map

The new Eastern Sierra Birding Trail Map highlights over 40 great birding spots along Hwy 395 from Olancha to Bridgeport including four great spots in the Mono Basin. In addition to identifying bird sites, the map tells you how to get there, what birds you can expect to see, the best time of year to view birds in that location, and the facilities that are available at the site. Pick up a copy of this free map at visitor centers and chambers of commerce throughout the Eastern Sierra this summer.







### • Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

The Mono Basin is now home to an annual bird festival—the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. This year it was held on June 21–23 with unique workshops and seminars. Mark your calendars now for next year's festival on June 20–22, 2003. And check out [www.monolake.org/events/chautauqua](http://www.monolake.org/events/chautauqua) on the web to review this year's program and plan to join us next year!

### • California Gull Research

Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) is entering its 20th season of conducting California Gull research at Mono Lake. The research focuses on measuring the year-to-year variation in gull population size and reproductive success—investigating how these factors are affected by changes in lake level. Dramatically low reproductive success among the gulls in the late 1990s coincided with a sudden jump in lake level and the resulting formation of a condition known as meromixis—where lake water strata don't mix and essential nutrients are not equally distributed throughout the lake. This prompted Cornell biologists, in collaboration with PRBO, the Mono Lake Committee, and Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, to launch an aggressive investigation of how prey availability—affected greatly by meromixis—factors into the health of Mono's breeding gull population. 2001 revealed the fourth-highest reproductive success rates since studies began in 1983. As for the 2002 season, they're out there now gathering data so we'll just have to wait and see.

### • Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Designation

Because large numbers of Wilsons and Red-necked Phalaropes, Snowy Plovers, and other shorebirds depend on the lake, along with approximately 100 other species of birds, Mono Lake was designated as a site in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) in 1991. WHSRN is a collection of critical migratory bird habitats in North and South America.

### • Waterfowl Census

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (DWP) ongoing restoration work in the Mono Basin includes conducting yearly waterfowl censuses in order to track habitat improvements. Last year's surveys concluded that the numbers of migrating waterfowl were higher than in previous years—approximately 20,000 birds representing 15 species. The overwhelming majority of waterfowl were seen along the shoreline of Mono Lake near the Wilson delta area. The south shore, between Navy Beach and Simon's Spring, attracted few ducks because the lake fringing ponds had mostly dried up by early autumn, the result of a dropping lake level. DWP includes comparative waterfowl censusing on Bridgeport Reservoir and Crowley Lake Reservoir. Last year, biologists determined that the total number of ducks was lowest at Mono Lake of the three sites. On the other hand, the number of Ruddy Ducks was 4–10 times higher than at Bridgeport or Crowley. DWP's waterfowl surveys are conducted between July and late November.

### • Eared Grebe Surveys

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and Simon Fraser University have been studying the breeding biology of the Eared Grebe in British Columbia for the last 12 years. Sean Boyd of CWS developed a cost-effective protocol to estimate total grebe abundance that involves flying east-west transects at about 1200 feet, taking vertical photos every 10 seconds. These photo surveys have been conducted at Mono Lake every October since 1996 and the number of visible Eared Grebes has varied from 0.8 to 1.6 million birds. Data from radio-marked birds suggests that the birds spend about 15–20% of their time foraging under water so total abundance on Mono Lake has varied between 1–2 million birds. Scientists estimate that Mono Lake and Great Salt Lake together support more than 90% of all North American grebes in the fall.

# North Mono Basin Settlement Process

*Technical Review Team Steps In To Help*

*by Lisa Cutting*

A newly created technical review team is assisting the ongoing collaborative settlement talks about water in the North Mono Basin. The talks are often hindered by disputes over information, and the technical team is doing great work finding answers.

In order to reach consensus on certain technical issues—such as available seasonal run-off amounts and hydrological gains and losses—the settlement parties agreed to form a subset group, the technical review team. This team consists of experts: hydrologists, biologists, and resource managers. The team was initially tasked with helping the US Forest Service review its draft Watershed Analysis report of the North Mono Basin. Since then, the team has continued to meet, further honing information. Using each party's settlement proposal, the team has identified common ground, sticking points, and additional studies needed.

The technical review team has recently taken the initiative to propose different water budget scenarios for the parties to consider. Real progress can be credited to this group's involvement. With the policy folks taking a break from meetings, the technical experts can more easily pitch creative solutions. And the parties can begin to evaluate proposals for real merit rather than political positioning.

The last issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter* reported on the North Mono Basin settlement process and the challenges the settlement parties face balancing competing needs for use of Mill Creek water. Interests include restoring and maintaining natural systems, generating hydropower, irrigating meadows for grazing, restoring waterfowl ponds, and fish rearing. In that article, the complexity of the issue was graphically depicted by a map that laid out the plumbing of the North Basin—the reservoir and powerhouse, creeks, aqueducts, ditches, raceways, and pipelines that carry Mill Creek water. (See [www.monolake.org/newsletter](http://www.monolake.org/newsletter) for the complete article.)

Each party—Mono County, Southern California Edison, US Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, CalTrout/American Rivers, People for Mono Basin Preservation, and Mono Lake Committee—represents diverse interests and goals. The Mono Lake Committee believes that implementing water transport efficiencies and seeking creative solutions can go a long way in satisfying most of the parties' needs. ♦

*Lisa Cutting is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director. She's begun training her water-loving golden retriever puppy proper fly-fishing etiquette.*

## The Mono Basin Photopoint Project: Getting Involved is as Easy as Point, Shoot, and Click

With summer's arrival in the Mono Basin and just about everyone toting a camera, it seems like a good time for an update on the Mono Basin Photopoint Project.

The Photopoint Project began at Restoration Days 2000. It is a multi-year photography project that will artistically document the process of restoration and the effects on the changing landscape. It will visually supplement the scientific data currently being collected and will be a powerful tool for communicating to others both the importance of restoration and the successes so far here at Mono Lake.

Although it may sound complicated, the project itself is simple. Participants chose a specific site in the Mono Basin that is recovering, and photograph it each year. These photos are then collected and organized by the Committee and posted at [www.monolake.org/photopoint](http://www.monolake.org/photopoint) for everyone to see.

To date, five participants have photographed their sites

and another 15 have signed up to participate. While participants have been busy photographing, we've been busy too with several project enhancements.

- Webmaster Greg Reis has upgraded [www.monolake.org/photopoint](http://www.monolake.org/photopoint) to include a map of the sites and participant biographies.
- Restoration expert Heidi Hopkins has recently completed an overhaul of the restoration section of the Web at [www.monolake.org/restoration](http://www.monolake.org/restoration).
- Outreach Coordinator Craig Roecker presented the project to the Mono County Arts Council to spread the word on the project throughout the county.

There is still time to become involved and several restoration sites need to be photographed. For more information, please contact Lisa Cutting ([lisa@monolake.org](mailto:lisa@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595.



# Establishing Water Conservation Certification

## *A New Criteria For Statewide Water Benefits*

by Frances Spivy-Weber

Over one million low-flow toilets have been installed in Los Angeles. Any day now water agencies in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's service area will reach the two million mark on low-flow toilets. These achievements coupled with new conservation technology such as satellite-directed systems for landscape watering, low water use X-ray machines, water-saving brooms for outdoor cleaning, and water-efficient washing machines for home and commercial laundries are making water conservation a major contributor to meeting California's water needs in the future. But not everyone, even among large agencies, is pursuing conservation, and that must change.

The development of these new technologies and impressive successes in Los Angeles, for example, has occurred in part because many water agencies throughout the state signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1992 with environmental groups, including the Mono Lake Committee, volunteering to develop programs to test new technologies and make those that are cost effective available to their customers. Now this voluntary program is poised to grow significantly larger when the CALFED Bay-Delta Program mandate to create a certification plan for agencies interested in receiving CALFED benefits (state and federal grants and loans and possibly water from new investments) is implemented. (The CALFED Bay-Delta Program combines the efforts of federal and state agencies with regional water agencies, environmentalists, farmers, and

business interests to develop and fund projects and programs to restore the San Francisco Bay and San Joaquin/Sacramento Delta.) By the end of 2002, there will be a plan and recommended legislation, and with luck by the end of 2004 there will be a statewide certification program up and running.

The Mono Lake Committee and other environmental and water agency members of the California Urban Water Conservation Council have served as advisors to CALFED on a draft plan that focuses on water agencies with over 20,000 hook-ups. The plan will wind its way through extensive public outreach this summer; go to the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee and CALFED Policy Group (federal and state agencies) this fall; then move to the legislature and governor in 2003; and finally travel through a regulation-writing process by the agency that is designated to implement the certification program. Whew!

If you are interested in knowing more about what is happening—up to the minute—and if you want to make sure that your own water agency is doing everything they can to ensure a successful program, do not hesitate to contact Fran ([frances@monolake.org](mailto:frances@monolake.org)) at (310) 316-0041. The draft plan and the schedule for public outreach will be posted at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org). ♦

*Fran Spivy-Weber is the Committee's Co-Executive Director of Policy. She is enjoying spending time in her second home at the north end of the Los Angeles Aqueduct in Lee Vining.*

## Spring Cleaning

*This spring volunteers Delinda Briggs, Paul McFarland, and Justin Hite along with Committee staff (at right) Greg Reis, Santiago Escruceria, Geoff McQuilkin, and Arya Degenhardt cleared everything from plastic bags to car tires and batteries from the Lee Vining Creek Trail. Volunteers are always needed to help keep the Creek Trail clean, so let us know if you would like to lend a hand!*



ARYA DEGENHARDT

# Walker Lake Summit

*National Attention Focuses on Dying Lake*

by Gary Nelson

**O**n April 2-3, 2002 the national environmental spotlight focused on Hawthorne, Nevada and nearby Walker Lake. A conference sponsored by U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-Nevada) brought together representatives of national environmental groups, state and federal agencies, and concerned citizens to find ways to save Walker's dying fishery.

Just over 40 miles northeast of Mono Lake, Walker Lake is a remnant of Pleistocene Lake Lahontan and, like Mono, is a Great Basin terminal lake (having no outlet) which receives almost all of its inflow from streams originating on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. Unlike Mono, Walker Lake is very young (geologically speaking) and has accumulated relatively low amounts of salts and minerals. In fact Walker Lake is one of only six freshwater terminal lakes in the world. Its coldwater habitat supports a fishery of Tui chub and Lahontan cutthroat trout. Birds such as Great Blue Herons, White Pelicans, and Common Loons count on Walker Lake as an important food stop in the arid Great Basin during their worldwide migrations.

## **The Walker Lake Story**

Upstream diversions for agriculture, beginning in the late 19th century, have caused Walker Lake to drop over 130 vertical feet and lose around two thirds of its volume. Just as at Mono Lake, when the volume of a terminal lake drops, the salinity increases. By 1994 Walker Lake had increased in salinity to a level which prevented Tui chub from



*Walker Lake near Hawthorne, Nevada.*

reproducing and was inches away from losing its fishery altogether. Although subsequent wet winters gave the lake a temporary reprieve, recent dry winters have once again put the Walker Lake fishery on the edge of destruction.

In 1992 a group of concerned Mineral County citizens founded the Walker Lake Working Group (WLWG) with the goal of obtaining sufficient inflow for Walker Lake to maintain the fishery at a healthy level. The WLWG, working in conjunction with the Mineral County District Attorney's office and the Western Environmental Law Institute, has explored several legal avenues to save Walker Lake, including the first Public Trust lawsuit filed in the state of Nevada and a current suit against the Environmental Protection Agency seeking minimum water quality standards for the lake. This EPA suit is scheduled to have its preliminary hearing in late May.

Despite a decade's hard work there are still no guaranteed flows from the Walker River into Walker Lake, and only a trickle reaches the lake today. The Nevada state government has consistently taken the side of the upstream users and ignored its responsibilities to

Walker Lake. The plight of Walker Lake would be much grimmer without the steadfast support of Senator Reid. The son of a hardrock miner, Harry Reid grew up in the tiny town of Searchlight, Nevada in a small cabin without indoor plumbing. From these humble beginnings he rose through the state and federal legislatures to his current post of majority

whip of the U.S. Senate.

## **A National Conference**

At Senator Reid's invitation, representatives from environmental groups including the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, The Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited, and the Mono Lake Committee converged on the Walker Basin.

On April 2 participants toured the Walker Basin in vans making several stops including:

- The outlet for Topaz Lake—an off-river storage reservoir on the west fork of the Walker River.
- The Hoyo Canyon diversion near Wellington—an informative discussion took place regarding possible local water conservation measures and reliance on canal and ditch water delivery systems, with their inherent losses through seepage and evaporation.
- The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area and Hatchery—with major waterfowl habitat and the hatchery which provides fish for

*Continued on page 11*



planting in Walker Lake.

- The Weber Reservoir where in 1935 the Bureau of Indian Affairs constructed the Weber dam to provide water for the Walker River Paiute tribe's agricultural efforts. Tribal members explained that in spite of having the most senior water right on the Walker River, their geographic position downstream of the major agricultural areas often precludes their receiving sufficient water.

Later that evening a banquet was held at the El Capitan Casino in Hawthorne, featuring speeches by Senator Reid and Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. The Keynote Address was given by Mono Lake Committee Co-Executive Director Geoff McQuilkin who passed on practical lessons learned



*Mono Lake Committee Co-Executive Director Geoffrey McQuilkin giving the Keynote Address at the Walker Lake Symposium with Senator Reid looking on.*

by the Committee throughout its efforts to save and restore Mono Lake.

A panel discussion began the following day that covered the key topics which follow.

### **Current Status of the Lake**

Representatives from the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service painted a fairly bleak picture for Walker's fishery. Without inflow from the Walker River the fishery could die off within the next two to three years. The state of Nevada may decide not to restock Lahontan cutthroat trout in 2003 if its traditional acclimatization program (placing trout

in a solution of Walker Lake water and freshwater prior to stocking) fails and fish mortality rises.

### **What's Being Done**

John Singlaub of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) described efforts to complete the EIS required for BLM to purchase water-rights from willing sellers for transfer to Walker Lake. Betsy Rieke of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation showed how alternative dispute resolution offered the best way for stakeholders to come to a solution. Lisa Moore from Senator Reid's staff highlighted provisions in this year's farm bill that provide money for alternative crops such as rye grass which use much less water than the Walker Basin's primary crop—alfalfa.

### **Local Considerations**

Representatives from the Walker River Paiute tribe eloquently explained their role as original owners of Walker Lake and discussed how its fishery sustained the tribe throughout its early history. Settlers pushed the Paiutes 30 miles upstream from the lake to their current reservation site near Schurz, Nevada, causing them to turn to ranching for sustenance.

Although the tribal leaders recognize the cultural and recreational importance of Walker Lake's fishery, they also must heed the demand of tribal members for agricultural water. Lou Thompson, Chairman of the Walker Lake Working Group and Mineral County resident, explained that Walker Lake's fishery was by far the main attraction for tourism, which accounts for up to 40% of the county's economy.

### **National Perspectives**

As representatives from several environmental groups spoke, common themes began to emerge: Walker Lake is an irreplaceable national treasure, native fish and millions of birds from around the world depend on it for food and habitat. However, this is a very complex issue for which there is no single solution. Instead, all stakeholders must begin serious good-faith negotiations. Perhaps Elveda Martinez, Walker River Paiute Tribe member, said it best:

## **Mono Lake's Protection Used as a Model**

**A**s the keynote dinner speaker at the conference, Committee Co-Executive Director Geoff McQuilkin shared experiences and offered advice from the fight to save Mono Lake. Here are a few excerpts; The entire speech is available on the Mono Lake website at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org).

"Like Walker Lake, Mono Lake's native wildlife was severely impacted and faced destruction. Like Walker Lake, birds that depend on the lake during lengthy migratory journeys were threatened. Like Walker Lake, a recreation-based economy that depended on the lake was stressed. Like Walker Lake, the argument was made that it was too late, too complicated, too expensive, too unrealistic to do anything about the problem. And, as is possible at Walker Lake, a coalition of groups pushed back, found answers, and forged a new life for a rare, unusual, ecologically critical inland sea."

"Only one thing makes problems go away: real, workable, effective solutions. The Mono Lake Committee never said: Mono Lake is a special place that must be protected and Los Angeles must figure out how to get by with less water."

"In fact, the Committee always said: Mono Lake is a special place that must be protected and Los Angeles can do it at minimal cost through conservation and water reclamation programs. The conservation programs include deploying low flush toilets citywide and implementing best management practices. Reclamation involves tertiary treatment of waste water to replace fresh Sierra water for industrial

*Continued on page 24*

*Continued on page 24*

## Streamwatch

# Uneventful Spring Stream Flows; Monitoring and Restoration Continue

by Greg Reis

Spring is one of the most exciting times of year for the Mono Basin creeks. Plants and trees begin growing, snowmelt engorges the channels, and nesting birds return to the riparian canopy. Following are reports on some of the aspects of stream restoration.

### Stream Flows

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power predicts runoff to be 81.7% of average for the 2002 runoff year. This "dry-normal" runoff year will result in little change in lake level as well as low stream flows. Thanks to a stormy spring, this is an improvement from the April 1 forecast of only 75% of average runoff.

### Restoration Work

The Rush Creek return ditch won't be ready for higher flows until 2003, limiting this year's peak flow to 160

cubic feet per second (cfs). This is 90 cfs short of the Water Board-ordered stream restoration flow of 250 cfs for this year. In the fall, a barren portion of Rush Creek's floodplain that was filled with gravel in a 1967 flood will be lowered to a level that will allow the creek to actively flood there again. Also, the entrance to "Channel 8" in the bottomlands will be lowered to allow easier access to high flows. Tamarisk removal and a pilot planting of pines along Rush Creek occurred in May.

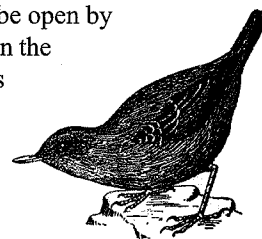
### Monitoring

Stream monitoring efforts will continue. Specific activities include fish population surveying, channel morphology monitoring, and processing of vegetation data collected last year. The fish monitoring has shown as-yet-unexplained high mortality of 2-3-year-

old fish. The Mono Lake Committee will continue to monitor groundwater levels for the 8th season in a row. See [www.monolake.org/restoration/](http://www.monolake.org/restoration/) for more details.

### Lee Vining Creek Trail Update

The plan for reconstruction of the Lee Vining Creek trailhead, which was temporarily rerouted during highway construction, is to have the trail switchback down the slope near the north end of the retaining wall. Caltrans has agreed to construct the trail if the Forest Service maintains it. After additional public comment the change order will go to the contractor, and the trail should be open by September, when the highway work is scheduled to be finished. ♦



## Lakewatch

# Dry Years a Mixed Bag

by Greg Reis

6417

6392

6383

6372

6382

6382.8

6382.8

6382.8

Conventional wisdom says that dry years are bad and wet years are good. With natural systems, however, there is no "good" or "bad," just a range of natural variation.

Sustainable water use should fit into this range of natural variation without stressing ecosystems or endangering water supplies in dry years.

Unfortunately, when we remove a significant amount of water from rivers, lakes, and streams,

we make normal years into dry years, and the frequency and severity of dry years are often pushed beyond the range of natural variation. In the case of Mono Lake, it is recovering from an artificial 50-year severe drought, and therefore naturally dry years significantly slow its recovery. The lake level drops, dust storms get worse, and the partial landbridge between Negit and the mainland grows disconcertingly larger. The lake level dropped one foot since this time last year to 6382.8 feet above sea level, and it will probably drop slightly this year too.

Dry years aren't entirely bad, however. Endangered bighorn sheep benefit from a light snowpack and abundant winter forage. In its current meromictic

state (see Winter 1997 Newsletter), Mono Lake increases in productivity. In fact, if current trends continue, scientist Bob Jellison predicts meromixis will break down in the fall of 2004 (and will be stinkier than the last time due to higher levels of ammonium). And perhaps most importantly of all, water users are reminded that our water supplies fluctuate and plans must be made for inevitable dry years. I hope that if we work to sustainably manage our water resources, someday the response to an announcement of a dry year will be, "No problem!" ♦

Greg Reis is the Committee's Information Specialist. In April he rode his bicycle from Lee Vining to a restoration meeting in Sacramento.



# Mono Basin Journal

A Roundup of Quiet Happenings at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin



**T**oday, snowflakes drift down among the white and pink blooms of the office apple tree. Yesterday sparrows were passing by, pausing with nesting material in their mouths, certainly—we all said optimistically—a sign that the warm weather was here to stay. Yep, it's another typical late spring in Lee Vining. The fruit trees—and anything that blooms—always run the gauntlet between ice, wind, and snow on the one side and the limited time until the fall freeze on the other. Overall, apples do well on this tricky course, native plants excel, and home gardens demand human supervision to survive.

Birds brave the vagaries of spring as well. Vultures came back to the basin this year with a rather dramatic performance over Lee Vining creek, dozens of

them circling tightly and riding the late afternoon air currents. They were followed by the loud calls of a grackle in the trees behind the Committee building.

In the warmer days ahead we'll be observing not only birds but also people who are hoping to *be* observed. Who are these attention getters? Devoted fans of the Lee Vining Webcam, that piece of the Internet that gives you a view of town every few minutes. They come from places domestic and foreign to stand on the sidewalk in view of the camera and wave for the friends and family back home—making, at the same time, a bit of a show in front of the windows of the store.

The temperatures will rise and fall but the winds blow either way and they kicked in well before the warm weather.

In late February they dragged bits and pieces of the lakebed into town, creating a bit of history by causing the first air quality violation measured in Lee Vining. It's rare for the wind to blow strongly toward the Sierra, but the night was unusual across the board with temperatures falling over ten degrees in a few minutes and with humidity sky high. The dust seemed like fog—but how could it be foggy with so much wind? It looked a bit like snow. In the end, it was a reminder of why it takes real water in the lake to solve Mono's woes. ♦

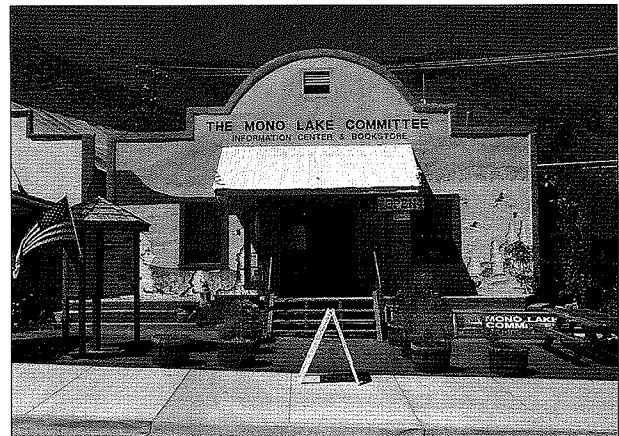
*Geoff is the Committee's Co-Executive Director of Operations. He enjoys walking around with his daughter Caelen on his shoulders.*



## Benchmarks

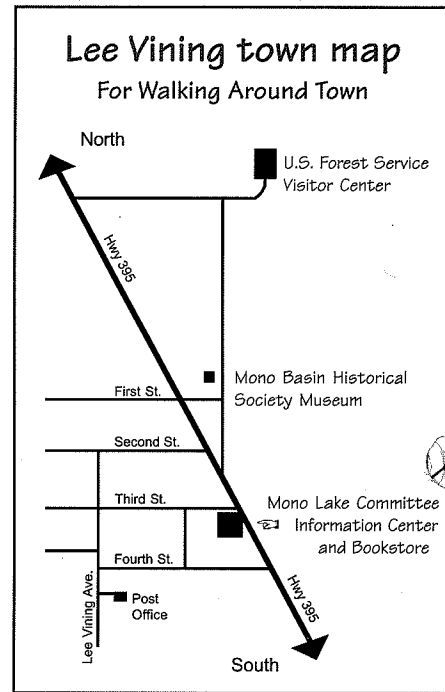
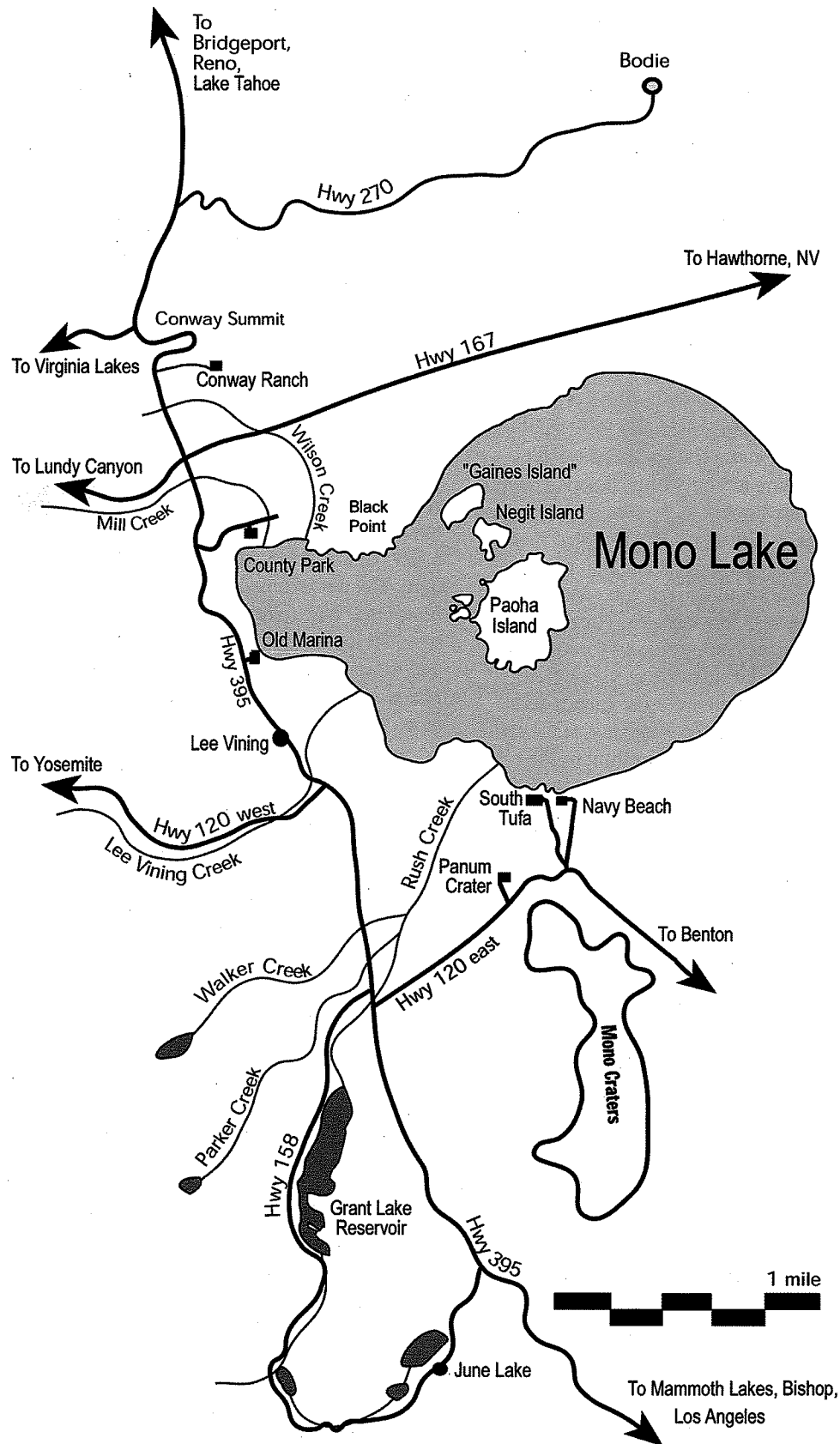


Ever wonder what Lee Vining looks like in the winter? Here is the Mono Lake Committee building under a fresh coating of snow.



It's pretty different from Lee Vining in the summer! Here is the Mono Lake Committee building with summer flowers blooming.

# Mono Lake and Vicinity Map



## How far is it?

Distance From Lee Vining To:

South Tufa .....	11mi	18km
Yosemite Park entrance .....	13	21
Tuolumne Meadows .....	21	34
Mammoth Lakes .....	27	44
Bodie .....	32	52
Bishop .....	66	106
Yosemite Valley .....	77	124
Lake Tahoe .....	110	177
Reno .....	140	225
Death Valley .....	177	285
San Francisco (via 120) .....	250	402
Los Angeles .....	303	488
Las Vegas .....	340	547

# Things to do in the Mono Basin

## Activities

Hiking, photography, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, bird-watching, biking, fishing, and exploring are all great activities in the Mono Basin. Not sure where to start? Just stop by the Mono Lake Committee and our knowledgeable staff can help!

- **South Tufa Tours** take place three times a day during the summer. Join a naturalist on a walking tour at the South Tufa area to learn about the ecology, geology, and natural and human history of the Mono Basin. The walking tours are an excellent introduction to Mono Lake. The walk is approximately 1 mile long on easy terrain and lasts about an hour. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot at 10:00AM, 1:00PM, and 6:00PM daily during the summer months. There is no charge for the walk, but a \$3 per person fee is required to enter the South Tufa area. No reservations are necessary.

- **Canoe Tours** depart every Saturday and Sunday morning during the summer months at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00AM, and last for about one hour. \$17 for adults, \$7 for children. Reservations are required; call (760) 647-6595.

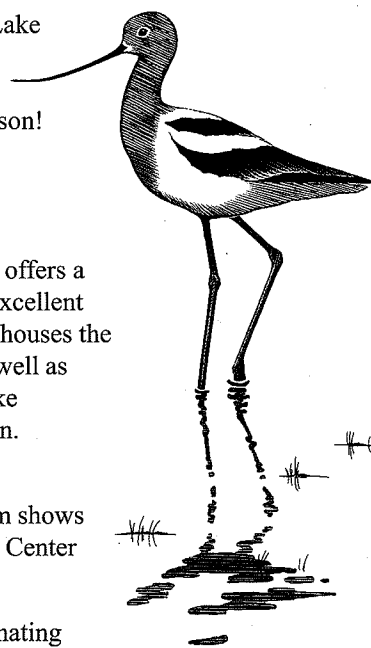
- **Birding walks** take place Fridays and Sundays at 8:00AM throughout the summer. Meet at the Mono Lake County Park with binoculars (not required!), a bird book, hat, and sunscreen. Tours last 1½–2 hours and are open to all levels of birders. Committee staff can also suggest good birding areas around the basin so come in, check out our recent sightings board, and learn about good spots to go during any season!

## Visitor Centers

- **The Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore**, located in the heart of Lee Vining, offers a free video, educational exhibits, a photography exhibit, and activity schedules. The bookstore offers an excellent selection of regional books, maps, T-shirts, posters, local crafts, and specialty gifts. The Committee also houses the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce with information on lodging, dining, and recreation opportunities as well as weather and road conditions. Come on by and we'll help you make the most of your visit! The Mono Lake Committee is open from 9AM–10PM daily during the summer, or call (760) 647-6595 for more information.

- **The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center**, located just north of town, features an excellent view of Mono Lake, interpretive displays, and natural history trails. A dramatic Mono Lake film shows regularly in the theater, and during the summer rangers give patio presentations daily. Contact the Visitor Center at (760) 647-3044 for hours of operation and special programs.

- **The Mono Basin Historical Society Museum**, located in Lee Vining at Gus Hess Park, houses a fascinating collection of materials from the Mono Basin's past. See Native American artifacts, gold mining implements, and even the legendary upside-down house! Contact the museum at (760) 647-6461 for hours of operation.



## Travel Resources

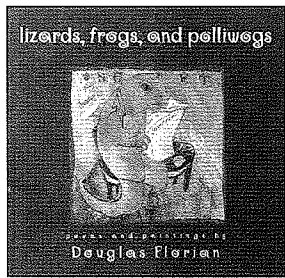
- Mono Lake Committee Information Center  
(760) 647-6595 [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)
- Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce  
(760) 647-6629 [www.leevining.com](http://www.leevining.com)
- U.S. Forest Service Scenic Area Visitor Center  
(760) 647-3044 [www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo/vvc/mono](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo/vvc/mono)
- Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve  
(760) 647-6331 [www.cal-parks.ca.gov](http://www.cal-parks.ca.gov)
- Bodie State Historic Park (760) 647-6445
- Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center (760) 924-5500
- June Lake Chamber of Commerce (760) 648-7584
- Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce (760) 932-7500
- Inyo National Forest 24-hour Wilderness Permits/ Info  
(760) 873-2408 [www.r5.pswfs.gov/inyo/index.htm](http://www.r5.pswfs.gov/inyo/index.htm)

- Yosemite National Park [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)  
Information by phone (209) 372-0200  
Campground Reservations (800) 436-7275  
Hotel and Motel Reservations (559) 252-4848  
Wilderness Permit Reservations (209) 372-0740
- Devil's Postpile (760) 934-2289
- White Mountain Ranger District–Bishop (760) 873-2500
- Lone Pine Interagency Visitor Center (760) 876-6222
- Death Valley Reservations (760) 786-2345
- Bridgeport Ranger Station–Toiyabe National Forest  
(760) 932-7070
- California Road Conditions (800) 427-7623
- for more internet links in the Eastern Sierra see  
[www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)



# A Summer Selection

from the Mono Lake Committee Bookstore

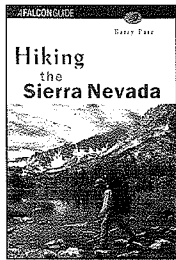


## LIZARDS, FROGS, AND POLLIWOGS

### POEMS AND PAINTINGS BY DOUGLAS FLORIAN

This is a totally outrageous collection of 21 reptile and amphibian poems. From transparent glass frogs to ravenous rattlesnakes, this is a spectacle of slithery fun you won't want to miss!

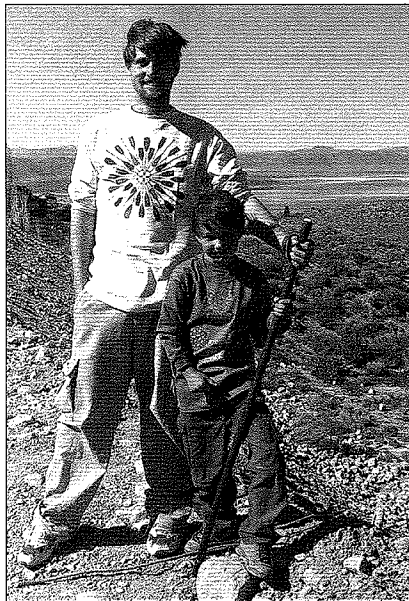
*Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs, Harcourt Press, hard cover, 47 pages, 10" x 10": \$16.00 (#1954)*



## HIKING THE SIERRA NEVADA A FALCON GUIDE

This four-season guide features 96 of the best hikes in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Author Barry Parr provides you with information on the most spectacular roadless areas in the Sierra Nevada. Hikes in this guide are within easy driving distance of major

urban areas. With detailed hike descriptions, maps and elevation profiles, this book prepares you for the trail! *Hiking The Sierra Nevada, Falcon Press, soft cover, 357 pages, 6" x 9": \$15.95 (#1513)*



## CHESTNUT HIKING STAFF

Gull Researcher Justin and his friend from next door, Shane, tested out our new hiking staff for us. Hiking with a staff reduces knee, hip and back pressure, helps you to maintain a rhythm on the trail and offers more balance across streams or unstable surfaces. These staffs come with an unconditional guarantee! Mono Lake is hand carved on each staff.

*Chestnut Hiking Staff, with leather hand strap, measures approximately 51": \$24.00 (#3980)*

## PERCUSSION FROG

These frogs are hand carved and crafted in the tradition of ancient Vietnamese percussion instruments. Each frog is carved from a non-endangered forests, and comes with a dowel to sound the instrument. To make your frog croak, stroke from the base of the spine and hear this frog come to life!

*Percussion Frog, with decorative gift box and instructions, approximately 3" x 4": \$12.95 (#1550)*



## IN SEARCH OF NATURE

This is a lively and playful introduction to the writings of Edward O. Wilson, professor and curator in entomology at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. This rare collection of seminal writings is imaginatively illustrated by noted artist Laura Southworth.

*In Search of Nature, Island Press, soft cover, 214 pages, 8" x 5", \$12.95 (#669)*



## TURTLES FOR MONO LAKE KIDS T-SHIRT!

Six turtles circle in celebration on this green T-shirt printed with water-based inks. This ten-color design is very vibrant and playful. Available in kids sizes only.

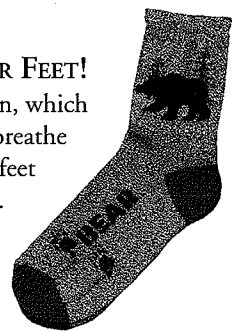
*Turtles for Mono Lake Kids T-shirt, green shirt with Mono Lake sleeve print, kids sizes S(#3669) M(#3670) L(#3671): \$15.00*



## FOR BEAR FEET!

These ankle socks are made with a high-bulk, ring spun yarn, which has characteristics of both cotton and wool to help your feet breathe and wick away perspiration. They are sure to keep your feet cushioned in any heavy hiking boot.

*Bear Feet Socks, adult size 9-11 only, 75% acrylic, 25% stretch nylon: \$7.95 (#3737)*

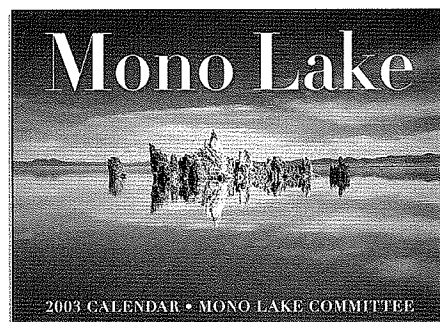


## ❁ Summer Selection ❁

### 2003 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

The 2003 Mono Lake Calendar is full of striking color images of Mono Lake and the Mono Basin. From volcanoes to tufa towers, and snow capped peaks to rushing creeks, this 12-month calendar captures the magic of this vast and ancient inland sea. Each monthly image is accompanied by inset images of wildlife, wildflowers, and panoramic views. The 2003 Mono Lake Calendar is a great way to bring the awe-inspiring beauty of the seasons at Mono Lake to your home or office all year long. Printed in the USA on recycled paper.

*2003 Mono Lake Calendar, measures 13" by 9": \$10.95 (#3800)*



### PADDLE MONO LAKE T-SHIRT

Get dressed to paddle in this 100% unbleached cotton long-sleeve shirt printed with water-based inks! What better way to show your favorite pastime than with this gorgeous seven-color design on a natural colored t-shirt with "Paddle Mono Lake" printed on the sleeve. Available in adult sizes only.

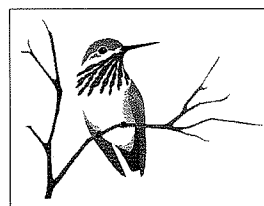
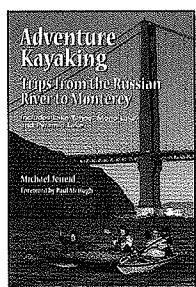
*Paddle Mono Lake T-shirt, long-sleeve only, S(#1530) M(#1531) L(#1532) XL(#1533): \$27.00*

**2002 CALENDAR SALE**  
**ONLY \$4.00 EACH!**  
(#2146)

### ADVENTURE KAYAKING

Author Michael Jeneid has handpicked the most scenic and enjoyable kayaking areas for beginners and experts alike. With this fact-filled book you can find hidden kayak spots and experience water and wildlife while kayaking! This book holds 24 day-trips, overnight trips, easy paddles, and adventures for advanced and intermediate kayakers.

*Adventure Kayaking, Wilderness Press, soft cover, 193 pages, 9" x 6": \$14.95 (#142)*



### CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD WINE GLASS

Enjoy artist Wendy Morgan's subtle and beautiful Calliope Hummingbird while drinking any beverage out of this etched wine glass.

*Wine Glass, measures 7" x 2": \$5.95 each (#3926)*



Order by phone: (760) 647-6595, fax: (760) 647-6377, or email: [bookstore@monolake.org](mailto:bookstore@monolake.org)

### MONO LAKE COMMITTEE MAIL ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Check (to Mono Lake Committee)

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

☐ Discover

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### SHIPPING & HANDLING

Up to \$25	\$5.00
\$26 - \$50	\$7.00
\$51 - \$150	\$9.00
Over \$150	Free!

Quan	Item #	Item	Size	Color	Price	Total

Shipping & Handling: use rates at left

**Subtotal**

CA residents-add 7.25% sales tax to subtotal

**Total**

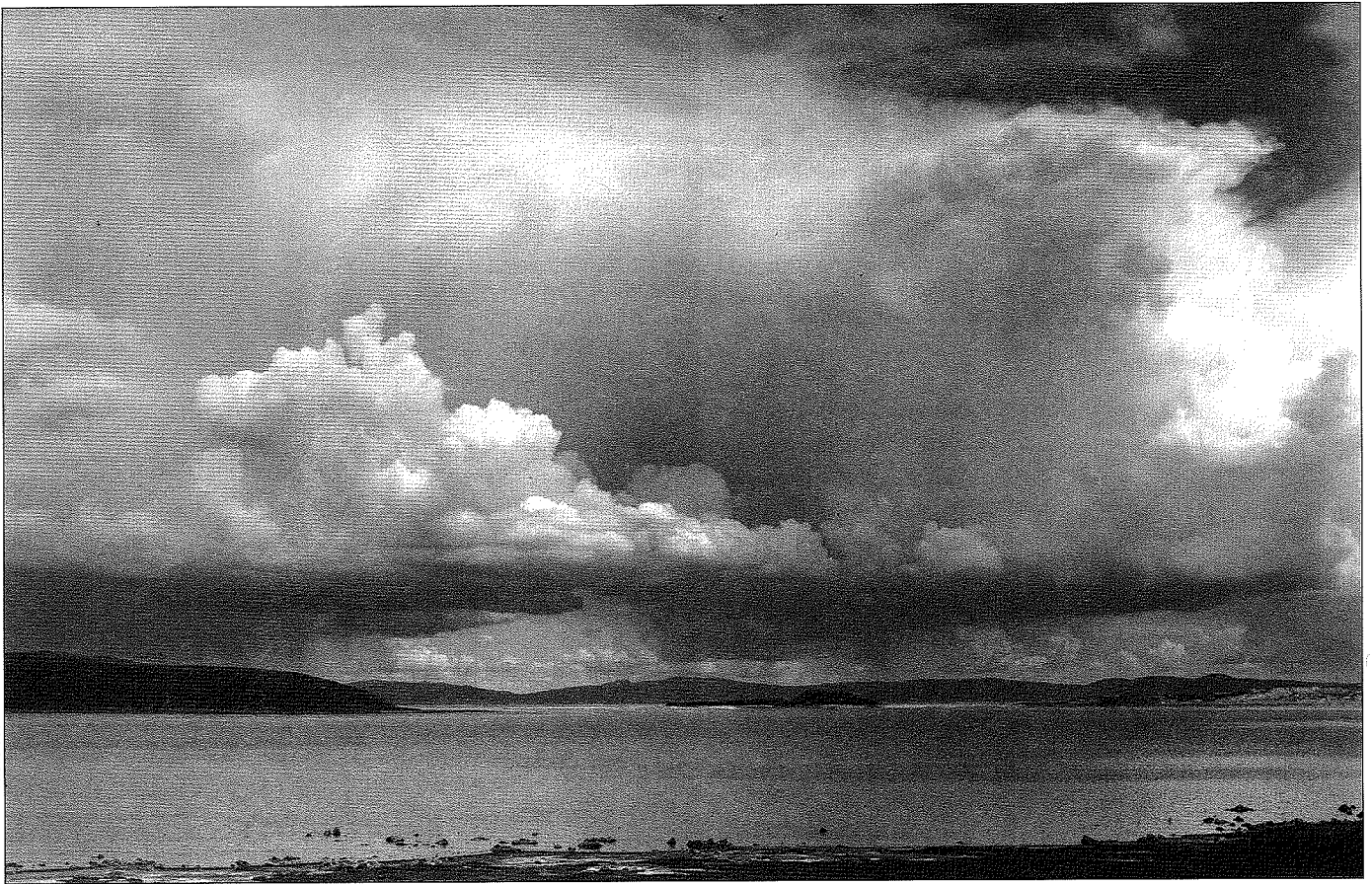
California law requires us to charge sales tax on sales and shipping and handling for deliveries in California.

International Shipping Rates by weight.

Phone: (760) 647-6595

Fax: (760) 647-6377

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



## Field Seminars 2002

### California Gull Research: Gull Response to a Rising Lake

May 24-28

Justin Hite/ Point Reyes Bird Observatory

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

Join a research team directed by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Cornell University in collecting data on the gull colony. Gain hands-on experience in field survey techniques while investigating whether the lake's changing chemistry—due to Mono's recent lake level increase—is affecting gull reproductive success. Your help is needed in continuing this important research. The rare adventure of visiting Mono Lake's spectacular Negit Islets and observing at close quarters the second largest California gull rookery in North America is for the stout of body and heart. Please contact the Field Seminar Desk for more information on this unique Mono adventure.

### Birds of the Eastern Sierra

June 1-2

David Lukas

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

This field seminar will focus on the identification and ecology of birds in the Mono Basin. We will visit a wide variety of habitats, including desert scrub, marshes, riparian forests, and mountain slopes, in search of breeding and migrating birds. With nearly 300 species having been observed in the Mono Basin, this course will interest both beginning and more advanced birdwatchers. We will intensively explore a number of sites, mixing short leisurely walks with periods of observation and discussion, taking time to learn about birds by watching them closely. Walks will be chosen for their accessibility, but participants should be prepared for and capable of wandering off-trail in pursuit of special sightings. David Lukas has led over one hundred birdwatching and natural history programs for the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Elderhostel, and other groups. He is the author of two books, *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin*, and *Wild Birds of California*, and he is currently hard at work on two more!

Call (760) 647-6595 to Register



## Mono Lake, Molecules, and Mostly Plants

June 29-30

Margareta Sequin

\$100 per person/ \$85 for members



This workshop is a gentle, easy-going introduction to plant, water, and soil chemistry. During our morning walks to different habitats around Mono Lake we will smell the sweet and pungent odors of plants, admire the many colors, and learn about amazing plant defenses. We will explore how water and soil composition affect plant growth and selection, and how plants use available nutrients to miraculously construct the many substances that are vital to plant life—and to life in general. In the hot afternoons we will go inside and review the field trip topics and gently learn about the wondrous world of plant chemistry (no previous chemistry knowledge required!). This will be illustrated by many pictures and by hands-on (harmless!) experiments. Margareta Sequin is an organic chemist, with emphasis on natural products, and teaches at San Francisco State University. She is also a docent and board member at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley, as she has a great interest in California native plants.

## California Gull Research: Chick Banding

July 1-4

Justin Hite/Point Reyes Bird Observatory

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

This seminar will focus on the actual banding of gull chicks at the Mono Lake rookery. Join a research team directed by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Cornell University in collecting data on the gull colony. Gain hands-on experience in field survey techniques while investigating whether the lake's changing chemistry—due to Mono's recent lake level increase—is affecting gull reproductive success. Your help is needed in continuing this important research. The rare adventure of visiting Mono Lake's spectacular Negit Islets and observing at close quarters the second largest California gull rookery in North America is for the stout of body and heart. Please contact the Field Seminar Desk for more information on this unique Mono adventure.

## Paiute Coiled Miniature Basketry

August 2-4

Lucy Parker

\$135 per person/ \$115 for members (primitive group campsite included)

\$60 materials fee

Crafting miniature baskets became common after Native American contact with European-Americans. These baskets were traditionally made for selling and giving as gifts. The Paiute utilized only a few materials, and willow was the only foundation used. Students will use split willow shoots with the bark removed for sewing strands with willow rod for the foundation—the start will consist of a clock spring coil. California Red Bud, historically traded from the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, will be used for a design. Most Paiute groups to the south and east used only non-interlocking stitching with their basketry technology because of the influence of the Washo and Miwok Peoples.

Lucy Parker is a descendent of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika'a, and Kayasha Pomo Peoples. She learned traditional handiwork from her mother, a master basket weaver, and will pass on some of her knowledge in this special three-day/two-night camping seminar. You do not have to camp to participate, but the evenings will be spent around the campfire with traditional songs and stories. This seminar is designed for those who either wish to learn a new basket material technique or are beginning basketweavers.



## Introduction to High Country Plants and Habitats

August 3-4

Ann Howald

\$105 per person/ \$90 for members

This class will explore the mosaic of habitats that make up the Eastern Sierra high country—lush flower-filled meadows fed by meandering streams, sagebrush-covered slopes, forests of hemlock, lodgepole and whitebark pines, subalpine lakes bordered by willows, and flowery rock gardens. We'll focus on sight identification of common trees, shrubs and wildflowers, but won't neglect any birds, bugs or critters that come to check us out. With any luck, we'll be zoomed by hummingbirds defending their patches of paintbrush and columbine, and we'll see noisy Clark's Nutcrackers collecting and storing whitebark pine seed. Our walks will be around the 10,000-foot elevation level with a modest pace over moderate terrain. Ann is a biology teacher at Santa Rosa Junior College who has taught plant classes in the eastern Sierra for many years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD KNEPP

## Identifying High Country Wildflowers

August 16-18

Mark Bagley

\$105 per person/ \$90 for members

At the headwaters of Lee Vining Creek there's a rich summer display of wildflowers, shrubs and trees along cascading creeks, jewel-like lakes, green meadows, and rocky granite slopes. There, amid the towering peaks of the Sierra at the source of Mono Lake's water, learn how to identify this great diversity of plants using Norman Weeden's *A Sierra Nevada Flora*. This is the most complete field guide to Sierra plants and provides identification keys and plant descriptions that minimize the use of special terminology. This weekend's seminar will begin Friday evening with an optional, brief introductory lecture on the basics of plant identification. We will spend Saturday and Sunday in the field on easily paced 1-2 mile walks at high elevations (generally above 10,000 feet). Mark is a consulting botanist in the Eastern Sierra and Mojave Desert who has been leading field seminars in the Mono Basin since 1988. He is well known among past seminar participants for his easy-going pace and engaging teaching style in the field.



CARL DENNIS BUELL

## Winging into Fall

August 22-23

David Lukas

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

This field seminar will focus on the identification and ecology of both resident and fall migratory birds. We will visit a wide variety of habitats, including marshes, riparian forests, and mountain slopes, in search of migrating birds. This course is appropriate for beginning and more advanced birdwatchers. During the class we will intensively explore a number of sites, mixing short leisurely walks with periods of observation and discussion, taking time to learn about birds by watching them closely. The natural history and ecology of the bird's habitat will also be discussed. Generally walks will be chosen for their accessibility, but participants should be prepared and capable of wandering off-trail in pursuit of special sightings. David Lukas has led over one hundred birdwatching and natural history programs for the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Elderhostel, and other groups. He is the author of two books, *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin*, and *Wild Birds of California*. He is hard at work on an upcoming field guide on birds of the Sierra Nevada.

Call (760) 647-6595 to Register



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTY WHITE

## Fall Bird Migration

August 24-25

Dave Shuford

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

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

## South Shore Kayak

September 7

Stuart Wilkinson and Mono Lake Committee Staff

\$75 per person/ \$65 for members

Early fall is an ideal time to kayak Mono Lake! Join Stuart Wilkinson and a Mono Lake Committee staff member for a guided naturalist expedition along Mono's south shore. Your leaders are well versed in Mono Lake geology, ecology, history, and politics. This natural history kayak tour will cover a wide variety of topics relating to this unusual Great Basin lake. Plan

on four to five hours for the tour. Expect to see underwater tufa towers, birds, and lake bottom springs. Some kayak experience is helpful, but not necessary. Kayaks and safety equipment are provided. This seminar is offered for the 7th year in a row, and is highly rated by past participants.

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

September 7-8

John Wehausen and Karl Chang

\$150 per person/ \$130 for members

Controversy surrounds the fate of the Sierra bighorn, one of the most endangered mammals in North America. (The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Sierra Bighorn Sheep as Federally Endangered in 1999.) This field seminar will involve discussions of the biology and conservation of these animals with attempts to view them. John Wehausen is a research scientist at White Mountain Research Station in Bishop. He has been investigating various aspects of the Sierra bighorn and working for their conservation since 1974. In the late 1970s he initiated the restoration program that brought bighorn back to the Mono



Basin. This seminar involves strenuous hiking at the 10,000-foot elevation and above. There is a good chance of seeing Sierra bighorn sheep in the wild during this seminar, but no guarantee. This field seminar is being offered in cooperation with the Yosemite Association.

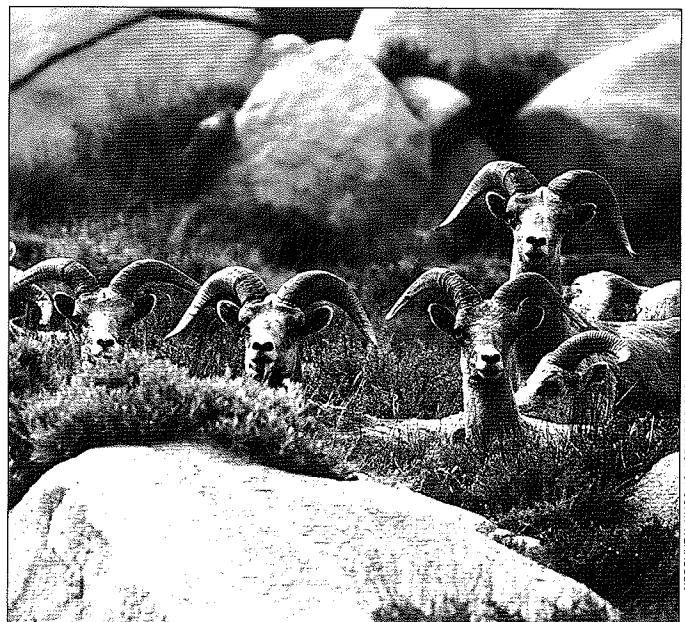


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN WEHAUSEN

Call (760) 647-6595 to Register



## Drawing Mono at Equinox

September 21-22

Moira Donohoe

\$105 per person/ \$90 for members

Deepen and preserve your Mono Lake experience in a unique portfolio of your own drawings in this new weekend workshop. There will be instructor demonstrations, material discussion, and non-threatening and constructive group/individual critiques. Using the simple materials of charcoal, ink, brush, pencil, and pastel on paper, record your impressions of strange and mysterious Mono. We will spend most of each day in the field drawing. Moira will cover basic drawing techniques while encouraging individual style. Moira is a professional artist, art instructor, and long-time resident-artist of the Yosemite area. She holds a degree in Fine Art from Northern Arizona University and a Masters Degree in Painting & Drawing from CSU Fresno. She has shown her work professionally since 1983. This seminar is appropriate for the beginner, intermediate, or advanced artists who want to further their skill with an experienced area artist.

## The Story Behind the Land: Geology of the Mono Basin

September 28-29

Tim Tierney

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

The Mono Basin is a geological showcase, featuring young volcanoes, glaciated landscapes, stark mountains, and weird mineral towers, all set about ancient and saline Mono Lake. Explore this land with geologist Tim Tierney (UC Santa Barbara instructor and author of the Committee's field guide *Geology of the Mono Basin*) and learn how to recognize the geology, know the reasons behind why things have happened, and what the future may hold. The first day of the seminar will be spent gaining an overview of the area via car and short walks. The second day will focus on thoroughly exploring a few select areas with extended hikes. Cool fall weather and brilliant colors will highlight the geologic wonders of this popular field seminar. Tim is an excellent teacher and interpreter of the "hard" languages.



JEFF DARLINGTON

Call (760) 647-6595 to Register

## Mono Basin Fall Photography

October 4-6

Richard Knepp

\$195 per person/ \$175 for members

Autumn in the Mono Basin is one of the greatest photographic experiences in the country. Spectacular foliage and skies combine with exceptional light, presenting ample subject matter for photographers in both color and black and white. Join accomplished photographer Richard Knepp to explore varied shoreline locations at sunrise and sunset, and fall color in nearby canyons. Beyond his photographic expertise, Rick is intimately familiar with the Eastern Sierra and Mono Lake locale. Subjects for discussion include composition, exposure techniques, filtration, basic theory of the Zone System, and developing a personal vision. Photographers of all levels are welcome; a fully adjustable camera of any size or format is suggested. This photographic seminar is offered for the 7th year in a row, and is highly rated by past participants.

## Reading the Aspen Groves: Arborglyphs and Aspen Natural History

October 12-13

Richard Potashin

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

Known for their breathtaking fall color displays and distinctive quaking, aspens border the high meadows of the Glass Mountains and the Mono Basin. A century of sheep grazing brought many Basque sheepherders into these meadows. With their leisure time they left numerous carvings—or arborglyphs—on the aspens. Join us for an enchanting journey into the aspen groves to explore this historic, organic art form and the natural history of the trees themselves. We'll learn about the numerous wildlife, insects and birds that are drawn to the groves. During our leisurely walks we'll discuss the history of sheep grazing in the Mono Basin, the Basque culture, the cultural significance of the carvings and efforts to document them. Richard Potashin, aka Alkali Aspenowza, is a long-time Eastern Sierra resident and past Mono Lake Committee intern and canoe guide who has been discovering and documenting aspen carvings for the past five years. He's involved with numerous interpretive activities throughout the Eastern Sierra.

## Registration Information

Call the Mono Lake Committee at (760) 647-6595 and ask for the seminar desk to register. More extensive seminar descriptions are available upon request or online at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org). Sorry, we cannot accept registration by mail or email.

### • Registration •

Seminars are limited to fifteen people except where noted. If a seminar receives less than six participants, the seminar will be cancelled two weeks in advance, and full refunds will be given. If you cancel three weeks prior to the seminar start date, we will refund your payment (less a \$10 processing fee). No refunds after that date, but tuition can be applied to another class in 2001. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover or personal checks payable to the Mono Lake Committee. Participants must sign a liability release form. All seminars operate under permit from the Inyo National Forest.

### • Discounts •

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

### • Yosemite Association partnership •

For more information on Yosemite Field Seminars contact the Yosemite Association at: PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318  
Phone: (209) 379-2321 Fax: (209) 379-2486

*Walker Lake Symposium – from page 11*

“Everybody isn’t going to get what he or she wants. But everybody needs to come to the table. We don’t want to see the lake go. We don’t want to see the fishery go.”

The fate of Walker Lake seems inextricably linked to two figures: the Sierra headwaters of the Walker Basin received 75% of normal snowpack last winter; and 140% of normal flow in the Walker River is needed to satisfy all yearly appropriations for agriculture. Since the former figure is beyond human control it is time for all concerned parties to begin figuring how to adjust the latter figure by most efficiently using available water for agriculture and thus ensuring the continued health of Walker Lake’s fishery. ♦

*Gary Nelson is the Committee’s Canoe Tour Supervisor. He has already pulled out his trusty wind-testing hat to prepare for the summer canoe season.*

*Mono Lake’s Protection Used As A Model – from page 11*

uses and groundwater recharge. With reclamation, LA has the ability to reuse water in the urban system, helping drought-proof it as well.”

“What the Mono Lake Committee learned is that ideas are cheap, but good ideas are only slightly more expensive. A good idea for a solution just didn’t go that far on its own. Telling the city how to run their water business was not enough; we had to show it would work, get the money, see the conservation programs put into place, and help celebrate the results.”

“At Mono, Los Angeles had to learn to live within bounds. It can have some Mono Lake water but not all the water. The thing to remember is that even with all the water, the city would still have had to learn to live within limits. Now it is doing so with a vibrant, recovering ecosystem at the other end of its aqueduct. It could have had to do the same thing with a toxic saline sump at the top of the aqueduct.”

“Overallocated watersheds have to deal with the problem sooner or later. At Mono Lake we did it sooner, and today we have a vibrant, recovering Mono Lake to show for it.”



*Mono Lake, summer.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANE CALHOUN



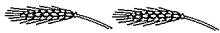


# Only in Lee Vining

*Where spring can turn to summer overnight*

## Lee Vining Cleanup Day

We don't exactly have county trash service or street cleaning out here in Lee Vining. And while sharing dumpsters and borrowing pickups for trips to the landfill works just fine most of the time, the town needs an annual cleanup. So, once a year the Lee Vining Fire Department sponsors Town Cleanup Day. Kids make posters to advertise the event, adults bring rakes and shovels, and local construction crews bring loaders for the big stuff. Sound like a pain in the back? No way! It is one of the funnest days here in town—and by day's end, the streets are nearly spotless, and the kids get to ride around town to celebrate in the fire truck.



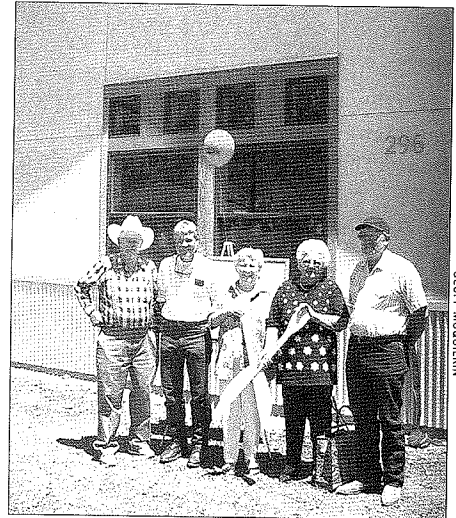
## Spring Sprinklers

It's another Monday morning in small town America—responsible siblings walking younger brothers and sisters to school, roving packs of kids on bikes race to beat the bell, and the sun is just starting to melt the frost on the baseball field outside the local high school. But here in Lee Vining, we often have a twist on this pleasing scene ... icicles. Spring is tough for sprinkling here, because you never really know when you're going to get a hot day that will dry the grass to hay, or a cold night that will create frozen sprinkler-water sculptures on the bleachers. But the local baseball players don't really mind—they're pretty used to it. Best of luck in the season!



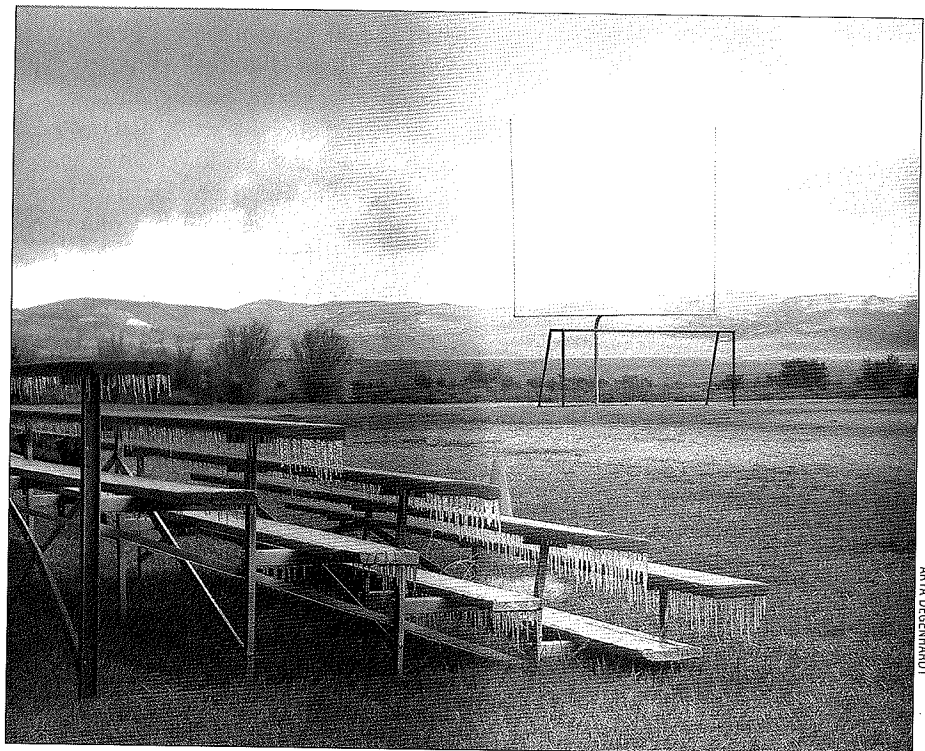
## Tioga Pass Spring Opening Celebration

The much-anticipated opening of Tioga Pass changes the feel of Lee Vining each year—bringing a flood of visitors and a busy buzz to the air. This year the celebration was partnered with something that will change the feel of Lee Vining for a long time to come. May 17th was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Lee Vining Community Center. More than 200 people were on hand to watch Floyd "Griff" Griffin and Bea Lambert share the honor—officially marking the long-awaited opening of the community center. After the speeches and fond reminiscing, everyone enjoyed great food and great company. Thanks to all that contributed!



Geoff McQuilkin

*Don Banta, Stuart Scofield, Bea Lambert, Lily Mathieu, and Floyd "Griff" Griffin with the scissors for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lee Vining Community Center.*



Anya DeGennaro



# Staff Migrations

**S**econd only to the roar of spring outside is the buzz of summer here in the office. The summer crew is gearing up with new faces and returning friends ready to help in the bookstore, lead interpretive programs and canoe tours, and help staff with protection, restoration, and education projects of all shapes and sizes.

First we bid farewell to Winter Intern and Membership Assistant **Nathan Bomer**. Nathan, who was always excited to be in the Mono Basin, isn't going too far this time. He has perched himself up at Tioga Pass for the summer. Thanks for all of your hard work Nathan!

If you've been in the store in the last three summers, chances are you've met **Anna Scofield**. Luckily she's returning to her post in the bookstore as Retail Assistant with her boundless positive energy and helpful spirit again this summer!

We've got two returnees to the education department this summer. **Betsy Forsyth** is returning for a second summer as Outdoor Experiences Coordinator. Back from Minnesota, Texas, and beyond, she's bringing even more outdoor education experience with her this year! And **Lori Bowermaster** just couldn't get enough of the canoe tours last summer so she is returning to be the Canoe Coordinator this year. Congratulations on graduating Lori, and welcome back!

And moving into the much-improved two-house set-up ... the interns! Returning as intern extraordinaire is **Moss Templeton**. Moss will be focusing on

birds this summer—leading the Friday County Park Bird Walks throughout the summer.

And a warm welcome to the Naturalist Interns: **Corrie Folsom**, **Peter Lang**, **Erika Obedzinski**, **Lauren Russell**, and **Cameron Wagner**. Corrie graduated from Boston University, Peter and Lauren are out here all the way from Carleton College in Minnesota. Cameron is here from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Erika recently graduated from New College of California and joins us from San Geronimo.

Interns are essential for keeping the Mono Lake Committee running during the busy summer months. We look forward to a great summer with all of you!

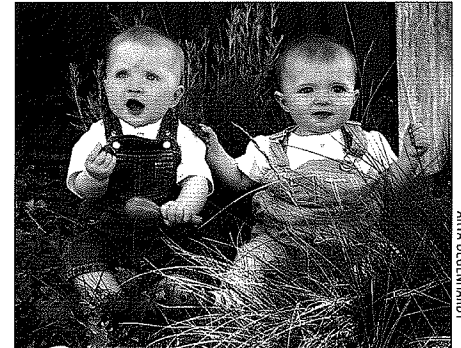
We're also lucky to have former Intern and Outdoor Experiences Coordinator **Kristen Patterson** back in the Basin. Kristen is working on her Master's thesis at University of Madison, Wisconsin and is focusing her work on developing a curriculum for the Outdoor Experiences Program.

We have news from the permanent staff as well. Eastern Sierra Policy Director **Heidi Hopkins** has retired. We already miss her big picture thinking, focused and effective work, and (usually) subtle reminders to keep meetings moving along. Heidi developed policies and activities that engage the Committee in long-term Mono Lake protection, particularly active involvement with stream and waterfowl habitat restoration. Heidi's love for the peaks, pastel colors,

and wildlife of the Eastern Sierra came through in her work every day. We're pleased that she'll still be living here and is willing to be roped into a special project every now and then.

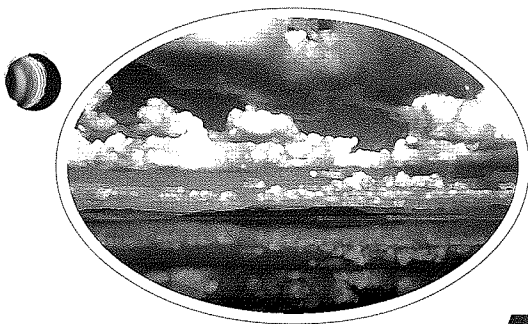
Taking on the duty of Eastern Sierra Policy Director is **Lisa Cutting**, who has been on the policy staff for two years. Lisa's long-standing history with the Mono Basin as well as her enthusiasm for stream restoration and her inspiring work ethic are all assets. She's already dived into water allocation issues, highway construction problems, and the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua with equal enthusiasm. We expect great things to come.

We've had quite a few inquiries about the Mono Lake Committee babies **Caelen Grimke McQuilkin** and **Sabine Brielle Pyle**, and since a picture is worth a thousand words.... ❖



Sabine Pyle (left) and Caelen McQuilkin (right) sitting in the Committee garden.





# From the Mailbag

News from Members and Friends

by Brett Pyle

"Read not the Times, read the Eternities."—Henry David Thoreau

**A**nother season is passing here at Mono Lake as Spring begins to edge its way into Summer. The first greening of the aspens is a wonderful sight accompanied by the pink blush of the desert peach and the inevitable allergy attacks that come at this time of year. The snowmelt roaring creeks will soon settle down to a more leisurely flow and we will find ourselves in the hot dry days of summer in the high desert. Amidst all of this, Mono Lake sits and slowly turns to its summer shade of blue. As blue as a three-year-old's blueberry snow cone dropped in the sand, bluer than Ol' Blue Eyes singing, "In The Wee Small Hours."

One of our members, John G. Dillon, recently wrote, "I first saw Mono Lake in 1946. It struck me (and still does) as being gracefully out of place." I couldn't agree more. This lake seems to create its own world surrounded by the desert in the shadow of the snowy Sierra. There is something wild and magical and eternal here. And so each day I take Thoreau's advice and in lieu of the morning paper I enjoy some time with the lake.

## Special Thanks

A special thanks to Pete Bischoff who donated a new canoe portage cart. Come out this summer and go on one of our weekend canoe tours. It's a great way to experience the tufa formations and the lake—plus you'll get to see the new cart in action! Also, thanks to long-time member Tom Montgomery of Conn Creek Winery who donated a wonderful bottle of wine along with his in-store renewal.

## Friends in Fresno

A very special thank you to the Sierra Club—Tehipite Chapter, Fresno Audubon Society, and the California Native Plant Society—Sequoia Chapter (CNPS) for once again sending us the proceeds from their annual Mono Lake benefit auction. They have held this auction annually for the past seven years and the proceeds have exceeded \$1,000 each year. We appreciate not only the donations but all of the hard work involved in putting on the auction each year. CNPS is hosting this year's auction to be held November 19 at the Unitarian Church in Fresno. For details contact Marion Orvis at (559) 226-0145 or [mforvet@earthlink.net](mailto:mforvet@earthlink.net).

## In Memory

Velma Murray of Chula Vista made a generous donation in memory of her mother and father Byron and Flossie

Hoff. Frank and Janice Delfino of Castro Valley sent a gift in memory of Paul Green. The Walker Lake Land Company made a donation in memory of Dick Chenoweth.

## Matching Gifts

Adobe Systems matched a gift from Lawrence White of Sunnyvale. Bank of America matched a generous gift from Maggie Soffa-Jackson of Brea. IBM matched gifts from Kenneth Howell of San Jose, Maria Magana of San Jose, Doris Stoessel of Los Altos, Barbara Bacon of El Cerrito, Larry Breed of Palo Alto, and Gwen Lennon of Morgan Hill. Microsoft matched a gift from Richard Bready of Kirkland, WA. Charles Schwab matched 2 for 1, donations from Steven Lanum of San Francisco, Susan K. Mills of Bakersfield, Denis R. McGuirk of Oakland, and Steven E. White of Moss Beach. PG&E matched donations from Joan C. Bacci of Guerneville, David F. Gassman of Oakland, Richard H. Moss of San Francisco, and Guillermo Rodriguez of San Francisco. Washington Mutual matched gifts from Michael C. Darlington of Auburn and Valerie White of Santa Clarita. ♦

Brett "Pops" Pyle is the Committee's Membership Coordinator. He takes his daily doses of Ol' Blue Eyes which he shares with daughter Sabine (Wee Blue Eyes).

## What's So Special About Mono Lake?

**W**e asked this question on our recent renewal notices and have received many wonderful responses from members. Here is a small sampling:

"My father introduced me to Highway 395 at an early age and I've been coming back regularly for 60 years. Now my son and his sons are learning to love Mono Lake and Great Basin habitats too."—Elizabeth A. Hook

"The 'No-See-Ums'. The day after a walk by the lake the back of my neck, at the hairline, was a mass of itchy bumps. Lasted too many days!"—Mrs. Vivian Pace

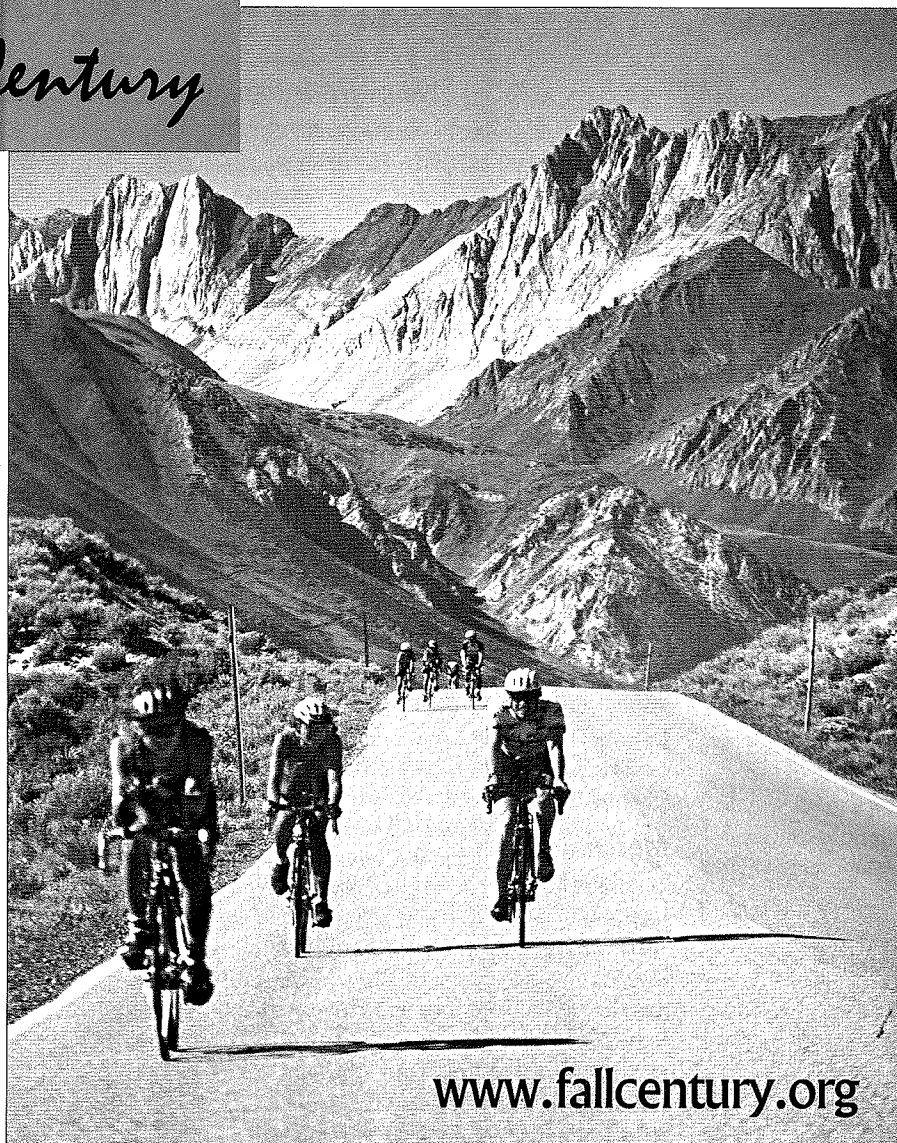
"My wife and I drove to Lee Vining on December 31, 1986, stayed as the sole guests in the blacked-out Gateway Lodge, got up at dawn on New Year's Morning 1987 to go to the south shore and take photographs. Very cold but great light. Then came a horizontal snowstorm keeping us inside for 24 hours. A fine way to start the New Year."—John Dale Smith

# High Sierra Fall Century

S  
e  
p  
t  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r  
  
1  
4  
  
2  
0  
0  
2

A Ride  
With  
A Purpose

In memory  
of  
Paul Green



[www.fallcentury.org](http://www.fallcentury.org)



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

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

Postmaster: Address Service Requested

*Sample*

0  
Mr. Thaddeus Barngrove  
P. O. Box 451  
Lee Vining, CA 93541-0451

