

**O**n the cover is Mono Lake Committee founder David Gaines. He is sitting next to Benchmark Tufa—one of two towers first photographed in 1962 when only their tops stuck out of the water. Photos of the towers became a dramatic measuring stick for the effects of the falling lake level. Today we wait with anticipation as they measure the lake's rise.

Although I never met David Gaines, I feel a certain kinship through the tradition of working on the newsletter. I like to think that he began the first one on his typewriter in 1978 with a sense of urgency and the hope that the message inside would capture people's attention. In the 25 years of the Mono Lake Committee the newsletter responsibilities have passed through many hands—making it one of the many threads holding the Mono Lake story together. Through these 25 years it has chronicled the scientific studies, the political strategies, the natural history observations, the emotional human connections, the difficult times, and the victories. And always with a message of hope for a healthy Mono Lake. The tradition continues on as we watch the lake rise, the threats change, the streams recover, the education program grow, the Mono Lake model for water conservation spread, and the people who have loved this place for so long return with their children to find that the lake is still alive. All this time, and still a message of hope for the future. That is what I see in these pages, and hope you do too.

So in the first steps of the Mono Lake Committee's 25th Anniversary I suggest you start right here on page 3 with Geoff McQuilkin's article on the 25 years. And then go for a taste of the past and future of the education program on page 6. Get caught up on policy with Caltrans on page 11, statewide water news on pages 9 and 10, and the Lee Vining Creek Trail on page 13. Make sure you don't miss the exciting news in Lakewatch on page 14. And I know that some of you will be flipping straight to the field seminars on page 19 ... but whatever you do, don't pass by the touching tribute to Mary Hanson by Gary Nelson on page 12.

And so, as David wrote in that first issue, "may this fine lake continue to live on."

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



*Mono Lake and the Mono Basin under a fresh blanket of snow.*

### Mono Lake Committee Mission

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



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Founded by David Gaines in 1978

## MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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# The Persistence of People

*Celebrating the Mono Lake Committee's  
25th Anniversary*

*by Geoffrey McQuilkin*

**M**ono Lake's rising waters have built a berm of bleached pumice sand along the north shore, and not long ago I walked along this symbol of Mono's returning health. Clouds spread out southward, and a chilly breeze drove gray-green waves in against the shore, filling the air with the low roar of the lake.

A thin layer of water spread far and wide behind the berm and persistence was the order of the day. Each patch of ground required a test, for a misstep promised the possibility of thigh-high muck with quicksand effects. There were shoes, I knew, that never returned from walks like these. A quarter-inch of height in the packed sand spelled the difference between successful passage and wet feet, and so a precipitous dance ensued.

As I hopped along the shore the water sparkled and a warm glow lit the snowy peaks of the Sierra crest. The sun was falling westward, and its light was making its way under the blanket of clouds overhead. Slowly it spread toward me, changing from yellow to orange to pink. Reflections blazed in the thin pools of water. The underside of the clouds captured the light, the entire sky blazed bright, and the lake shone like a sheet of molten silver.

Geologist Israel Russell saw such scenes 120 years ago. He recorded in his journal "there rests upon the desert plain what appears to be a wide sheet of burnished metal, so even and brilliant is its surface." But Mono Lake, stunningly beautiful though it is, is important for far more than scenery. A century later, Grey Brechin told newspaper readers "it is an awesome place where the grand processions make you acutely aware of being alive on the planet." Mono Lake Committee founder David Gaines said



much about how Mono reminds us of our ties to the natural world—and what it offers in return. "If nature can heal an injured land, it can heal our blighted souls as well," he wrote. "That's why saving Mono Lake is a matter of saving, and healing, ourselves."

This is the Mono Lake Committee's 25th anniversary year, and there's much to celebrate. This special place, so unusual with its salty waters and feathery brine shrimp, so important for millions of migratory birds, so rooted in the imaginations and emotions of so many people, is on the road to recovery after decades of excessive water diversions. Like dodging wet feet at Mono's shore, the protection of Mono Lake has been a precipitous act, successful through unending persistence.

Looking back now, 25 years may seem like a solid history of carefully laid plans—

precise orchestration of public opinion, political, educational, scientific, and legal strategies, all toward one protection goal. It is hardly so. What 25 years of history do show with certainty is that the clarity and urgency of Mono Lake's need drew the people to the effort that could make a difference—the people who cared enough to make all those strategies bear fruit.

It all started with some undergraduate students conducting an ecological survey, huddled around a campfire at night wondering what might be done to save Mono Lake from destruction. It became a crusade of volunteers who worked long hours dirt cheap, spent nights and weekends on the protection campaign, and woke up in the morning after dreaming of press strategies. It became an adventure featuring everything from legal wrangling over the public trust, to the early days freezing in the visitor center, to charting water conservation plans for a reluctant Los Angeles, to day upon day of Water Board testimony. Through it all, the reward—a protected Mono Lake—

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*Mono Lake Committee Storefront in 1979.*



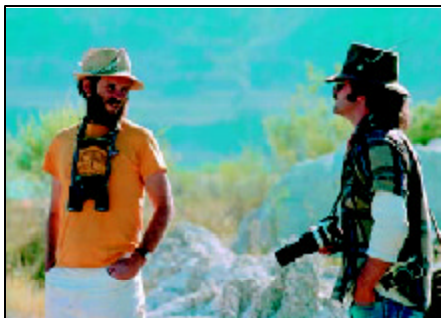
*Mono in the 80s with falling waters and exposed tufa towers.*

inspired each person to action.

And how did these scientists, these policy builders, these supporting members become involved? If I've learned one thing after a decade at the Committee, it's that each and every one of them has a remarkable, personal, meaningful story to tell that usually involves fate, coincidence, and Mono Lake.

One such story of happenstance is my own. Back in 1979 Mono Lake was barely on people's minds, for the Mono Lake Committee was but one year old. And it was not on my mind—a fourth grader more concerned with friends, school, and new landmark inventions like digital watches.

Every effort must start somewhere, and unavoidably people are won over by individual actions. In my case, the one person was Steve Kuhna, a "Southern California Representative" for the



*David Gaines, left, on a birding field trip.*

Committee. He happened to be a science teacher at my school, and he also happened to present the Mono Lake slideshow for assembly one warm Friday afternoon.



*Dust monitoring on the east shore.*

The details of that day no longer matter greatly, but what happened does, for it happened over and over and over again. I became one of the thousands intrigued by Mono's beauty, captivated by its natural history, concerned at the fundamental injustice of the natural world dying for the urban world to live. Over time, my path continued to cross with the Committee's and here I am today, adding my own piece to the Committee's future.

That's just one person of the years-long roster. Who else is on it? Here's but

a sampling: the attorneys in well-appointed offices who found the ways to pursue legal protection. The interns who sat at the Conway Summit overlook, alerting visitors to Mono's plight. The researchers slogging through the mud to discover what Mono really needed for protection. The birders, dropping by with one more sighting—one more reason for protection. The Bike-A-Thon riders sweating through the desert to return water to the lake. The volunteers stuffing envelopes. The elected officials, making changes in the lawbooks to protect Mono's unique landscape and ecosystem. The staff paying the bills and keeping operations rolling. The Los Angelinos willing to conserve water for Mono's sake. The believers who wrote checks, dropped off old computers, and lent their expertise. And of course there's David and Sally Gaines, moving to remote Lee Vining to dedicate themselves day after day to the cause they believed in.

This quarter-century-old organization is bigger than any one person alone, yet every one of us plays an important role in continuing the protection—and now restoration and education—effort. The commitment is richly rewarding, for as our world changes around us we value more than ever the natural places that connect us to the bigger sagas of life: the migration of a million and a half Eared Grebes, the landscape that reveals tens of thousands of years of history in its moraines and ancient shorelines, the lake that has persisted through over a million years of time.

It is no new wisdom to point out that we are all the caretakers of Mono Lake, but a 25 year anniversary is a good spot

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*Bike-A-Thoners loading up their vials.*



*Geomorphologist Scott Stine listens to hydrologist Peter Vorster at the Mono Lake hearings.*

to stop and remember the parallel: today we—supporters, members, and staff—are also caretakers of the Mono Lake Committee, for it is an organization that began before many of us and will endure beyond each of us.

The Mono Lake Committee, we can be sure, has many more anniversaries ahead because it is more than an institution, more than an office or visitor center, more than a collection of scientific knowledge and legal doctrines, more than one major victory. At the Committee's core is a timeless goal that will take countless more people to achieve, for the Committee is a

distillation of that desire in all of us to live in the natural world without harming it, to pursue a sustainable future in which lakes and streams and cities and brine shrimp and people and phalaropes all have an opportunity to thrive.

Back at the lake, up over the Sierra crest, the sun kept on setting, the winter storm kept rolling in, and I kept jumping from spot to mushy spot. Tendrils of snow drifted down the steep Eastern Sierra slopes, and the topmost peaks began to disappear into the white snow-cloud haze. When summer turns that



*The crowd at the Water Board's vote to protect the lake.*



*Today, naturalist-led tours help educate the decisionmakers of tomorrow.*

snow to water, most of it will end up in Mono Lake. 25 years ago it didn't work that way. Walking by the rising lake with the roar of the waves in my ears and the smell of salt on the air, the lesson is all the more clear: Working together, great things have happened at Mono Lake; working together, great things are yet to come. ❖

*Geoffrey McQuilkin is Co-Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee. He first visited Mono Lake with high school friends, volunteered on the Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon, worked as an intern, and now has spent eleven years with the Committee.*



# Ten Years Later

## *An Education Program Grows Up With the Trees*

*by Bartshé Miller*



*Los Angeles Conservation Corps members on Lee Vining Creek, 1994.*

groups in Los Angeles distributing water-saving low-flow toilets for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP). The Mono Lake Committee helped promote the new program since it was an effective way to conserve water for both the City and Mono Lake.

Notable among community groups involved in the program was Mothers of East Los Angeles Santa Isabel (MELASI). Collaborating with the Mono Lake Committee, Juana Gutierrez, then President of MELASI decided to travel to Mono Lake with local youth from her organization to see for themselves the environmental benefit of their efforts. Mono Lake Committee staff led them on educational walks through the tufa groves, hiked with them along tributary streams, and camped with them beneath a multitude of stars. They had a great time and returned to the city with new enthusiasm for water conservation.

This was also the year that the Mono Lake Committee funded a weeklong pilot project to bring the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) to Mono Lake to help with stream restoration work on Lee Vining Creek—parts of which are located on City of Los Angeles property. During their work on the creeks the Mono Lake Committee provided education programs for the team of nine LACC youth. Between

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**T**he Mono Lake Committee's outdoor education program is entering its 10th year, and like one of the many young Jeffrey Pines planted along Lee Vining Creek as part of restoration efforts in the Mono Basin, the program now has some well-established roots.

Called Outdoor Experiences, or OE for short, this outdoor education program developed from the work of community



*Los Angeles Conservation Corps Clean & Green on Lee Vining Creek in 2002. This group was sponsored by Youth In Wilderness, a joint project of the Sierra Club and Sierra Club Foundation.*

MELASI, LACC, the Committee, and four other groups during the summer of 1994, a shoestring outdoor education program grew from some great ideas.

### **Slow, Steady Growth**

The following year, in 1995, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power became a partner in the newly founded Outdoor Experiences Program. As a partner, DWP agreed to lease a house to the Mono Lake Committee for use with the OE program. Today the house still serves as a base camp for OE, and is located on the DWP-owned Cain Ranch property, a few miles southwest of Mono Lake.

After nine years of incremental growth the program has reached over 2,000 young people, the majority of them from Los Angeles. Among those are approximately 1,400 that have either planted or watered a tree along Lee Vining or Rush creeks. Most of these trees are young Jeffrey pines, trees that once towered over the lower reaches of these creeks before water diversions decimated their lush riparian systems. And there's more: Lee Vining elementary school students have helped plant or water trees along Lee Vining creek for years, and hundreds of other students from around California helped during school trips to the Eastern Sierra. The restoration of Mono Lake's tributary creeks has become a statewide, hands-on effort primarily through the OE program.

Participating in restoration projects is just one element of OE. The program also focuses on earth science, ecology, and human history. Night hikes in the Jeffrey pine forest, trips to Bodie State Historic Park, and walks among Mono Lake's tufa towers are among the variety of interactive and educational opportunities available to school and community groups. Within a typical 5-day program a group will explore Mono Basin canyons, canoe on Mono Lake, write poetry, climb a peak, and investigate local flora, fauna, and water diversion structures. The OE program stresses learning through science, and interactive, muscle-powered activities. The program highlights the value of healthy watersheds that benefit both people and the natural environment.

### **The Faces of 2002**

OE participants represent the culturally diverse neighborhoods of Los Angeles and California. Participants' ages typically range between 12 and 19. Within Southern California the participating school and community groups reside in East Los Angeles, Reseda, Carson, Watts, San Pedro, Central Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, and San Fernando to name a few.

Looking northward, other groups have originated from Oakland, Butte County, Mono County, and Lake Tahoe. Schools from Los Angeles that have participated include Crenshaw High School, Dorsey H.S., Monroe H.S., Multnomah Elementary School, and Roosevelt High School. Recent community groups include Mothers of East Los Angeles Santa Isabel, Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Los Angeles Conservation Corps Clean & Green, and NATHA (Neighbors Acting Together Helping All). These groups are from neighborhoods whose community groups and schools don't always have the resources to afford a trip to the Eastern Sierra. Fortunately, other OE sponsors have helped out. Recent grants from the Arntz Family Foundation, and Sierra Club Foundation's Youth In Wilderness Project have helped bring more



*Assistant Education Director Santiago Escruceria, right, shows participants how to water the saplings on Lee Vining Creek.*

student and peer groups into the program.

### **Solutions to Success**

This past year the Outdoor Experiences Program hosted 16 groups—totaling 320 youth and young adults and about 35 teachers and adult chaperones. Compare this to nearly ten years ago when the program numbers were under 150 with roughly six participating groups. OE has nearly tripled in size since 1995, the program's first year at the Cain Ranch house. Because it's not possible to increase the capacity at the present Cain Ranch site, the Committee has stretched the program season into May and October. Last year was the largest and longest operating season ever, and already dates for 2003 are almost all reserved.

As program participation increased so did staffing needs. The Education Director is no longer in the field all summer with OE groups. Today the OE staff consists of the Assistant Education Director and an Outdoor Experiences Coordinator. They both spend a busy summer in the field leading hikes and

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### ***Growing Up With the Trees – from page 7***

activities, canoeing, camping, and cooking with the groups. Between days in the field they arrange schedules and trash pick-ups, order equipment, buy supplies, and attend to the needs of the Cain Ranch site. For OE to be successful, it also requires outreach and coordination at the other end of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. These tasks used to involve the Education Director making frequent winter trips back and forth between Lee Vining and Southern California. Today, Herley Jim Bowling, the OE Program Educator in Los Angeles, travels citywide to give pre-trip orientations and school visits.

More participating schools and students in the OE program challenge it to meet the multi-disciplinary, core curriculum requirements for different grades. Kristen Patterson, M.S. Candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies has begun researching and writing a new, formal Mono Basin outdoor education curriculum as part of her study program. Kristen is a former resident of California, OE Coordinator and Committee Intern. Halfway into next summer the OE program will begin experimenting with new field programs that will be tied to the developing curriculum. By the end of 2004, the OE program will have a new, well-researched curriculum in place.



*Outdoor Experiences Coordinator Betsy Forsyth exploring the Mono Lake ecosystem with OE participants.*

The Mono Lake Committee is currently envisioning plans for a modest, sustainable outdoor education center that will meet the program needs of students, educators, and community groups for years to come. The formal planning process has yet to begin, and there are still many details, ideas, collaborations, and

financing hurdles to consider before any plans can be realized. If you are interested in hearing more about this exciting possibility, please contact Education Director Bartshé Miller ([bartshe@monolake.org](mailto:bartshe@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595. We will have more details on this exciting possibility to share with you in future newsletter articles.

### ***Growing Relationships***

Like the Jeffrey pines along Lee Vining Creek, the OE program has developed slowly over the years. Creek restoration, education programs, and pine trees need time to mature and reach their potential. At Mono Lake they are all interconnected, and have become mutually beneficial to one another. Someday the pines may become tremendous in size, the students grandparents, and the creeks robust and complex systems. This is not the end result of our efforts, but a measure of the depth and quality of

our roots, how far we have come in our relationships with water, land, and human needs. ❖

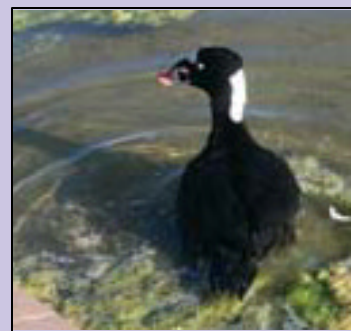
*Bartshé Miller is the Committee's Education Director. He got married last October, and he still drinks just as much coffee as he ever did.*

## **Where Did All the Eared Grebes Go?**

If you came to Mono Lake last fall expecting to see the annual staging of 1.5 to 2 million Eared Grebes you might have been a little disappointed. Few of these migrants remained at the lake long enough to show off their impressive numbers. While no one did a formal, lake-wide count on these birds, it's possible that a dramatic decline in brine shrimp population due to the end of meromixis was the culprit (see *Lakewatch*, page 14). Faced with little food to sustain them through October and into November, the Eared Grebes may have quickly moved on to their final winter destinations at the Salton Sea and Gulf of California.

One of the many highlights of the fall's sightings was the capture and release of a male, adult Surf Scoter (see photo). This scoter was one of many that were sighted throughout the Eastern Sierra in October, far from its usual winter range along the California coast. This particular bird was picked

up along the road in the June Lake Loop, cared for overnight, and found to be energetic and seaworthy the next day. It was released at County Pond where it happily went about its migratory business of foraging and preening. Other unusual fall sightings include a small influx of Swamp Sparrows, a Burrowing Owl on Paoha Island, and some November sightings of shorebirds like American Avocets, Least Sandpipers, and a Dunlin! For the latest bird sightings, where, when, and by whom check out the Mono Lake Committee's bird sightings page at [www.monolake.org/birds](http://www.monolake.org/birds).



*The rescued Surf Scoter upon release.*

*Surf Scoter upon being released.*

# Less Colorado River Water for California

## *What Does It Mean For Los Angeles and Mono Lake?*

*by Frances Spivy-Weber and Geoffrey McQuilkin*

**O**n January 1, California suddenly had a whole lot less water. The Department of Interior cut back California's share of Colorado River water by 800,000 acre-feet after the state failed to meet a Colorado River use plan deadline, though ultimately the cutback simply returns the state back to the rations it was always supposed to live with.

The reduction primarily affects the urban Southern California water supply, adding to the challenge of meeting the water needs of Los Angeles and other Southern California communities. The good news, however, is that Los Angeles and Southern California are far better able to deal with this challenge than they would have been ten years ago.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) serves its customers water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct (Owens River and Mono Basin streams), California and Colorado River Aqueducts (supplied by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California), and groundwater. The Mono Lake Committee has worked hard to see that there is funding from both the state and federal government for water conservation and recycling to replace the water being left at Mono Lake thanks to the 1994 Water Board order. This approach of having a diverse portfolio of options to stretch water supplies has been adopted throughout the region, making it possible now for the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to assure its member agencies, including DWP, that

the loss of Colorado River supplies will not create a crisis in the short term.

What Los Angeles will do in the long term is still unclear. Over the last ten years, half of the water DWP provided its customers was from the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Now, however, in addition to restoring Mono Lake, DWP is dedicating aqueduct water to Owens Lake for dust control efforts. DWP has turned to the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to supplement its supplies, a practice that is also common during droughts. In 2000/01, 51% of LA's water came from MWD. The reduction in MWD's water supply, therefore, is an important consideration for Los Angeles as it plans to meet its future needs.

Could part of DWP's plan be revisiting the State Water Board decision and taking more water from the Mono Basin? Any change to Mono diversions would require revision of the 1994 State Water Board order on Mono—a significant action, but one that can be requested at any time. In the bigger political picture, making a move on Mono's water is a tall order. The win-win conservation solutions forged at Mono Lake are a statewide model. And most importantly, the commitment of Mono Lake Committee members who know that constant protection requires continuing vigilance means that the Committee today has a strong and influential voice in water politics on behalf of our favorite lake. ❖

## Will the State Play a Shell Game With Proposition 50?

**I**n November 2002 voters of California approved a bond for \$3.44 billion to meet a wide range of water needs and to protect coastal watersheds and wetlands. The Mono Lake Committee was especially enthusiastic about the bond because it funds the Bay-Delta Authority program (see page 10), long-needed safe drinking water projects, and regional water management at a time when there is limited state and federal financial support.

The bond was an initiative, and it will need state legislation in 2003 to give further definition to how the monies will be

spent. Given the tremendous shortfall in the State budget, many people whose projects are not covered in the bond, will be working hard this spring to see if they can influence the legislature to stretch or outright change the intent of the bond. The Mono Lake Committee will be working with others to make sure that when we lift the "shell" under which we expect to find funds for conservation, recycling, and other bond-funded projects, the dollars will actually be there. Watch the Mono Lake Committee Website at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org) for details.

# New Water Policy “Kid” On the Block

*Welcoming the California Bay-Delta Authority*

*by Frances Spivy-Weber*

**T**he California Bay-Delta Authority was born in fall, 2002 when the California legislature passed, and the governor signed, a law setting up a structure to implement the 30-year program to restore fisheries in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, enhance the levee system in the Delta, and improve the State Water Project’s delivery of high quality water to 22 million urban and agricultural water users throughout California. This program is important to the Mono Lake Committee because its success will help protect Mono Lake from the threat of increased water diversions in the future. Success can also reinforce the idea that there is enough water for the California environment and economy, if everyone works together to use water more efficiently.

Formerly known as CalFed, the Authority is more than a name change. While the California Bay-Delta Authority will, like CalFed, hold state and federal agencies accountable to the 30-year plan laid out in the Record of Decision (signed August 28, 2000), as the Authority, the program will become real—able to act as an agency and execute its own contracts—but real with a difference. The Authority is pledged to think regionally, a strong theme in many parts of California water policy these days. The Authority will use science both to plan investments in water projects and to evaluate how well the public is being served by those investments. The Authority’s power will lie not in control of agency or stakeholder actions, but in use of its very public oversight of work plans and budgets and its multi-agency, multi-stakeholder constituencies to let the legislature, the media, and local interests of all stripes know how well the state is doing to meet the water needs of California now and in the future.

With the passage of Proposition 50 last November, the Authority will have oversight over much of the funding that State government will spend on water projects in the next several years.

The Authority has fourteen voting members from California: six state officials (Secretaries of Resources, Cal-EPA, Department of Food and Agriculture and Directors of the Departments of Water Resources, Fish and Game, and Health Services); one member of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (on which Mono Lake Committee Board member Martha Davis and I both sit); five regional public members appointed by the Governor with Senate concurrence; and two at-large public members appointed by the Senate President pro tem and the Speaker of the Assembly. The five regions are Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, San Francisco Bay, Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. There are four non-voting ex officio state members: Chair and Vice Chair of Senate Agriculture and Water Committee and Chair and Vice Chair of Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Six federal officials (Secretary of Interior, Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, CA/NV Operations Manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Sacramento District Engineer of the Corps of Engineers) are also eligible to vote in the Authority.

In the closing hours of the 2002 Congress, Senator Feinstein got a two-sentence bill passed. The first sentence authorizes the Secretary of Interior and other federal agencies to participate in the Bay-Delta Program through fiscal year 2005. (Thank you Mono Lake

Committee members for signing letters in September to Senator Feinstein. She heard you ... sort of.) However, the flawed second sentence allows the Federal agencies to pick and choose the Authority projects they would fund—a recipe for confusion in a collaborative process. Many environmental groups, including the Mono Lake Committee, were able to keep the bill from a vote in the House. Undoubtedly new 2003 legislation will reinforce the importance of being sure early expenditures are focused on making the current water system work better before expanding it or creating something new.

People will be the key to making the Authority work, and as this *Newsletter* goes to press, the Mono Lake Committee is working with others to find and support the right people to serve on the Authority. The Mono Lake Committee is looking for leaders who understand the importance of having water for people *and* the environment, people who will find solutions that meet the real water needs of California without transferring problems to other areas. The Committee wants Authority appointees who can motivate federal and state agencies, the legislature, Congress, and the public to look for innovative ways to stretch water supplies so there is more than enough water to meet the needs of the future. ❖

*Fran is the Committee’s Co-Executive Director. She and her husband Michael have gotten a crash refresher course in shoveling snow this winter.*

# Public Release of Caltrans Draft EIR Looming

*Public Comment Will Be Needed*

*by Craig Roecker*

**C**altrans is currently finalizing the Draft EIR (DEIR) on the Mono Lake Widening Project planned for 2.9 miles of US 395 along the west shoreline of Mono Lake. Once completed, the DEIR will be submitted to the Federal Highways Administration for their review. It will then be released to the public for comment. Estimates from Caltrans are that the DEIR will be released sometime in March at the earliest. Comments from Mono Lake Committee members on the DEIR will be critical at that time.

As reported in the Fall 2002 *Newsletter*, the DEIR now includes a new option that reflects approaches the Committee and others have been advocating for the past few years.

Currently there are two alternatives included in the DEIR. The first describes the entire project that Caltrans has proposed. It includes a shift in road alignment to address rockfall issues, an alignment shift for design speed increase, and an alignment shift to allow for uniform eight foot shoulders. It depicts the maximum environmental and scenic disturbance resulting from the project.

The second alternative was added this summer in response to concerns raised by agencies, the Mono Lake Committee, and thousands of letters from Mono Lake supporters over potential impacts to environmental and scenic resources. It describes a project that seeks to minimize environmental and scenic disturbance while increasing safety along this stretch of highway. This alternative does not include the road alignment shift for rockfall or the alignment shift for design speed increase. It addresses safety concerns such as rockfall through alternative measures such as slope netting in critical spots. Shoulders will be widened to eight feet only where doing so will not cause impact to important resources.

## **Public Input To Be Critical**

The Mono Lake Committee is cautiously optimistic that this new alternative will be one that appropriately balances safety goals with environmental and scenic protection. If so, this alternative should be chosen by Caltrans as the preferred alternative.

Support for a resource-sensitive approach will be critical. Comment on the merits—and problems—of the alternatives is one way to demonstrate that support. When the DEIR is released in March, supporters of sound highway planning will be able to support the resource-sensitive alternative by commenting on the adequacy of the DEIR and the alternatives it describes (see sidebar for how to comment effectively on the DEIR).

The Mono Lake Committee will need help in achieving the goal of a transportation project that balances transportation goals with environmental and scenic protection at Mono Lake. Mono Lake Committee members will be alerted by mail when the DEIR is released. For faster notification members should contact the Committee to make sure we have your email on file (see below). The Committee will also provide updates on the exact release date, how you can get a copy of the report, and what to look for online at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org).

## **Join the Email Alert List**

If you would like to be contacted promptly by email when the DEIR comes out, join our email alert list and you'll hear quickly as events unfold. We do not share email addresses with others. To join, contact Craig Roecker ([craig@monolake.org](mailto:craig@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595. ❖

*Craig Roecker is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Coordinator. Digging his car out of the snow has become part of his morning routine.*

## Prepare to Comment Effectively on the Mono Lake Widening Project DEIR

**T**he California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was created in 1970 and is the "foundation of environmental law and policy in California." It is the law that requires Caltrans to assess the environmental impacts of highway projects and implement feasible alternatives or mitigation measures in order to avoid or reduce the impacts of projects on the environment. Key to the success of CEQA has been the requirement of public participation in the environmental assessment process.

The most significant opportunity for public involvement in the environmental assessment process is the public comment period following the release of the environmental document. These documents can take many forms, but in the case of the Mono Lake Widening Project, it comes as a Draft Environmental Impact Report. The comment period for a DEIR that is released through the State Clearinghouse is typically a minimum of 45 days from its release. In turn, the "lead agency" (in this case, Caltrans) must respond in the Final Environmental Impact Report to "significant environmental issues" raised in those comments.

So how can you ensure that your comments are effective? Well, Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc., the authority on CEQA and author of the EIR that reviewed the DWP Mono Basin water diversions, suggests that "people should focus on the sufficiency of the document regarding the identification of environmental impacts and methods to avoid or mitigate those impacts." What this

*Continued on page 18*

# Like A Shadow Passing A Friend Departs

by Gary Nelson

*Editor's Note: Former Mono Lake Foundation Board member Mary Hanson recently passed away after a long illness. One facet of her seminal role in financial management for the Mono Lake Committee is remembered here.*

**A**n elusive character named Alkali Flat introduced me to the briny pleasures of canoeing on Mono Lake. Around mid-summer 1989 Alkali's friend and canoeing cohort the Playa Princess decided she needed some time off after having done canoe tours every Saturday and Sunday morning since June. Alkali decided he needed to find someone to fill in for Playa.

Thus I found myself bouncing down a dirt road in Alkali's legendary Toyota pickup towards the lakeshore. The canoe tied down atop the formerly orange Toyota was undoubtedly worth more than the truck itself. This was a vehicle ravaged by countless searches for desert petroglyphs. It was seemingly held together by hundreds of bumper stickers extolling the virtues of eccentric establishments found only in the cultural rain shadow of the Eastern Sierra and Western Nevada.

Amazingly, Alkali told me that I would get paid for this by the Mono Lake Foundation. He handed me a faded time card that looked as if it had come from the office of an abandoned mine. After dutifully filling out my time card with over two months of canoe tour dates I asked Alkali what I should do with it. He told me to put it in the bag and he would take it to Mary. Our "accounting" procedures consisted of putting the cash and checks collected as our canoe tour fees into a paper bag and taking it to Mary Hanson.

In retrospect, assigning financial duties to Alkali and I was analogous to entrusting chimpanzees to program a computer. Luckily we had Mary Hanson, who always sorted out our monetary messes with good-natured competence. Mary was an accountant and tax expert who served as a board member and treasurer of the Mono Lake Foundation, an organization established to help the Mono Lake Committee navigate the tricky tax laws affecting non-profit groups.

Throughout the battle to save Mono Lake, the Mono Lake Committee was engaged in lobbying the state legislature for laws to protect the lake and its fragile ecosystem. The amount of lobbying activity precluded the Committee by law from accepting tax-deductible donations.

In a letter to Frances Spivy-Weber in June 1998, Mary Hanson explained the role of the Foundation: "We did not fight in court, but we were there in the background to accept the donations for which donors needed tax deductions—every time you sent out a begging letter, I, as Treasurer, got to endorse and deposit a lot of checks!" The Foundation then gave grants to the Committee for projects and costs not associated with lobbying such as workshops, the *Mono Lake Newsletter*, intern salaries, seminars, canoe tours, and school programs.

When I finally met Mary, I immediately recognized her as one of the volunteers who worked at the Cast-off, a thrift store in Mammoth, operated by the hospital auxiliary. I soon found out Mary also donated her services as financial wizard for the hospital auxiliary itself, the Mammoth Friends of the Library, and many other non-profit organizations.

Sally Gaines describes Mary as "someone who did the behind-the-scenes stuff that kept everything together for the Mono Lake Foundation. Her work for charitable organizations in Mammoth really helped keep the town together"

Several years ago Mary came down to Navy Beach to go for a canoe tour on what was supposed to be a slow day. The unexpected arrival of a dozen or so customers caught Alkali and me by surprise. Mary immediately helped us outfit the newcomers,

took command of a canoe, and served as canoe guide for the rest of the morning.

That is how I will remember Mary—as someone who was always willing to help. Hidden behind her unassuming manner was a commitment to thinking globally and acting locally. Her talents and hard work made it possible for financially challenged environmentalists to write, speak, and paddle in defense of Mono Lake. The canoe tours and summer weekend seminars, which were the foundation for the Mono Lake Committee's growing outdoor education program, would never have survived financial reality without Mary.

The spot where Mary launched her canoe on that day long ago is now several feet underwater. Brine shrimp twirl above rejuvenated by increasing freshwater inflow.

In her own quiet way, Mary did a lot to bring this about. ❖

*Gary Nelson is the Committee's Canoe Tour Supervisor. He's begun modifying his bachelor-pad approach to home decorating.*



# Caltrans Shores Up the Lee Vining Creek Trail

by Lisa Cutting

Despite the transportation sector's accolades praising the Mono Basin's new and improved stretch of Highway 395—locally referred to as the Rush Creek Project—significant problems remained as winter arrived. Portions of the Lee Vining Creek Trail adjacent to the project were eroded and damaged as a result of the project's new stormwater runoff system. Additionally, the uppermost section of the trail has suffered some serious impacts, specifically the damage to aesthetic qualities that once existed.

The northernmost section of the project area (south section of Lee Vining) is right smack where the Lee Vining Creek Trail takes off down the slope east of the highway. The first set of winter storms tested both the capacity and effectiveness of the stormwater runoff system—and it failed, unfortunately at the expense of the Lee Vining Creek Trail. Water pulsed down the hillside and channeled into the trail. The force of the water was sufficient to cut deep ruts even undermining certain sections of the trail itself.

During construction of the Rush Creek Project, Caltrans repeatedly assured the Committee that the trail would be good as new when everything was complete. And although construction always means change, the retaining wall and associated boulder field have dramatically altered the experience for those who use the trail. It's no longer a meandering trail with shrubs, trees, and other plants leading down to the creek. It has become a barren, boulder lined

path. Even though the retaining wall is there to stay, improvements can, and should, be made.

And to Caltrans credit it is making those improvements. After much discussion with Caltrans highlighting these two issues, positive movement is finally happening. Caltrans is currently operating under an emergency contract to remedy the erosion problem by dispersing the water more evenly down the slope. Next on their list will be to work with the Committee and other interested members of the community in developing and implementing a revegetation plan.

So, despite the symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony signaling the completion of the Rush Creek Project several months ago, the Mono Lake Committee won't close the books on

this project until these last two issues are addressed. Thankfully, the Mono County Local Transportation Commission agrees and is providing oversight to ensure Caltrans performs and the Lee Vining Creek Trail is restored. For more information contact Lisa Cutting ([lisa@monolake.org](mailto:lisa@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595. ❖

*Note: The Lee Vining Creek Trail connects the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center with the south end of Lee Vining. It was constructed in 1993 by the joint efforts of the community of Lee Vining, the US Forest Service, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The Mono Lake Committee has led interpretive tours on the trail since 1995.*



*The entrance to the Lee Vining Creek Trail from town, fall 2002.*

# Is Meromixis Over? Stratification Since 1995 Expected to Break Down Soon

by Greg Reis

We knew something was up when Education Director Bartshé Miller returned from a September canoe tour.

"The lake is really green" he said, "you can't see the yellow end of a paddle in the water, and there are hardly any brine shrimp!"

I immediately contacted Bob Jellison, a UCSB researcher. Jellison said that he hadn't seen such a bloom the week before, but he was going to be out sampling on the lake the next day and would let us know what he found.

Why is everyone excited over an algae bloom? Well, Mono Lake has been in a state of meromixis since 1995. Meromixis occurs when a large inflow of fresh water stratifies the lake into a fresher upper layer and a denser, saltier lower layer. Due to the strong density gradient, the lake doesn't mix in the winter like it usually does, causing nutrients that fall into the lower layer to be trapped there. Prior to 1995, this condition was last observed in the lake from 1982–1988. When the lake turned over in the fall of 1988, algae bloomed and the basin smelled like ammonium. In the Winter 1989 *Newsletter*, Jellison wrote:

"The abrupt mixing of previously isolated bottom water has created interesting conditions. Ammonium, which had accumulated deep in the lake, has been mixed upward leading to much higher than usual surface concentrations of this nutrient. Oxygen concentrations were reduced to near zero throughout the lake, as a combination of chemical and biological processes consumed the available oxygen. The brine shrimp populations abruptly declined and algae have increased to above-normal concentrations for this time of year."

Since meromixis returned in 1995, Jellison has produced a model of meromixis in Mono Lake that he has been constantly improving. In 2000 only 1/3 of the lake area and 15% of the lake volume was below the chemocline (the boundary between the upper and lower layer), and primary productivity was back at 1994 levels. 25% of the freshening of the lower layer is believed to be due to freshwater spring inputs from the bottom of the lake. In June 2001 the model showed Mono Lake was likely to be meromictic for less than 10 years.

This year, what Jellison found in the lake made him think that it would turn over, if not this fall, then certainly next year. Only 10% of the lake volume is

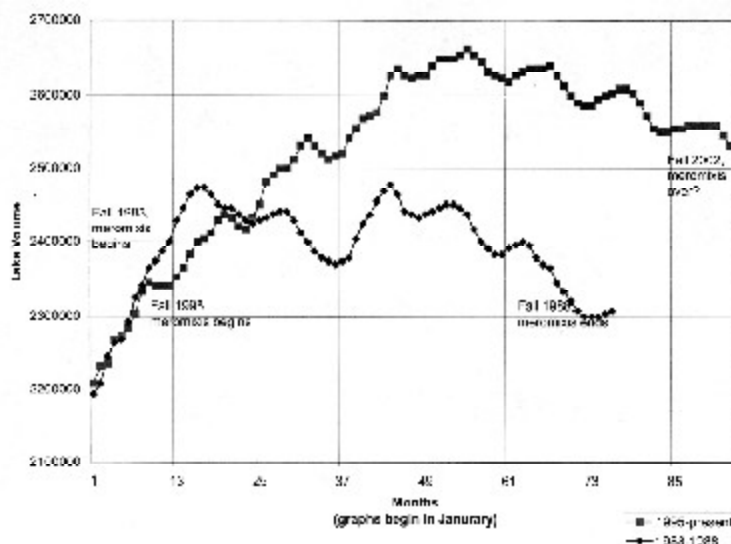


Chart: Episodes of Meromixis in Mono Lake Compared.

below the chemocline. The Secchi depths, a measure of transparency and algal abundance, were unusually low for September, and only this low in September one other year: 1988, the last time meromixis ended.

What causes meromixis to break down and the lake to turn over is evaporative concentration of the upper layer. When that layer gets close enough in salinity to the lower layer, then the two layers can mix. In early November, a storm that dropped nine inches of water in the form of snow at Gem Pass and four inches of water in the form of rain in Lee Vining caused Mono Lake to rise about 0.2 feet. This reduced the evaporative concentration of the upper layer, possibly delaying the end of meromixis until next year.

"Even if it does not completely mix this year," Jellison says, "we can expect next year to have very high levels of primary productivity as nutrient concentrations increase throughout the water column due to the entrainment of nutrient-rich monimolimnetic water."

This is exciting for several reasons. The main reason, of course, is that Mono Lake will return to its normal mixing regime—monomixis (mixing once a year). Another reason is that Mono Lake is about four feet higher now than it was the last time it was monomictic. The last time it was this high, and monomictic, was in 1974—two years before the comprehensive 1976 ecological study of the lake's ecosystem. The lake will have never been studied as intensively as now during monomixis and at this low salinity. This is exciting because it offers ample opportunities to learn new things about the lake's ecosystem. ❖

*Greg is the Committee's Information Specialist. He has celebrated 13 solstices with adventures around the Mono Basin.*

6417'

Prediversion lake level, 1941

6392'

Future lake level (average)

6382'

Current lake level

6372'

Historic low, 1982

# Mono Basin Journal

A Roundup of Quiet Happenings at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin



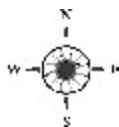
Wind ushers the seasons into the Mono Basin. For winter, wind whips away the peaceful red and gold autumn colors, announcing the arrival of cold temperatures, snow, and short days. During these seasonal transitions an odd assortment of items are whisked away—fences, sheds, and shingles being the most conventional. One year the bleachers at the baseball field went missing and were later found blown down the hillside toward the creek.

This fall, the wind enacted a surreal show. Out in the flats south of town gusts carried the odd raindrop horizontally as dark clouds enveloped the Sierra crest. As the clouds obscured the last thin rays of sunlight a steady wind set in and a spectacle of tumbleweeds began. Looking as if they were migrating with a purpose, hundreds of tumbleweeds bounced, rolled, and jittered eastward. Some smacked into fences, some exploded beneath car wheels, but most just kept rolling right

on by, intent, it seemed, on reaching Nevada before nightfall.

The wind affects native inhabitants as well. At the lakeshore waves curl into the pumice sand and the wind whistles down the wave-built berms looking for dust to take airborne. Alkali flies are no candidate for taking on such forces directly; their best strategy is to hide in the lee of a tufa or a shrub. But on the north shore no such protection is available. Wondering where they might be, I scooped up a handful of grey pumice stones and found the answer as dozens of flies struggled free. For here they had descended among the fingertip-sized rocks, small creatures hiding in the small spaces, a hidden wealth of life on a shoreline that, to the casual eye, might be seen as desolate and lifeless. ❖

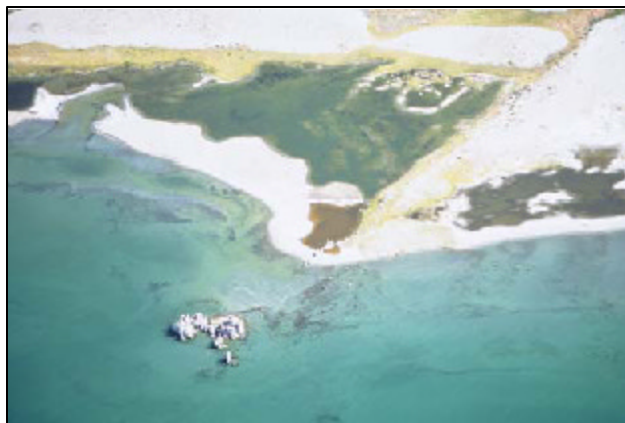
*Geoff is the Committee's Co-Executive Director. He's enjoying doing telemark turns in knee deep powder already this year!*



## Benchmarks



An aerial view of Castle Tufa on the south shore of Mono Lake, September 1980. Lake level: 6374.1 feet above sea level.



Castle Tufa, from a different angle, August 2000. Lake level: 6384.3, 10.2 feet higher.

# Chautauqua Draws Flurry of Attention From Mono County

by Lisa Cutting

**T**he crispness in the air and absence of bird chatter save for the occasional raucous raven are sure signs that we're deeply into winter. Memories of last year's First Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua linger still and continue to spark conversations up and down the Eastern Sierra. In fact, the Chautauqua has created quite a stir of enthusiasm throughout Mono County.

In the past few months, the Committee has made formal presentations to three local Chambers of Commerce—Lee Vining, June Lake, and Bridgeport—and the Mono County Tourism Commission. These presentations included general information about the Chautauqua, the birds of the Mono Basin, and the importance of recreational birding. When you factor in that birding is also good for local economies, it's easy to see why everyone was immediately sold on the concept. And since a picture is worth a thousand words, slides of the festival succeeded in conveying the true spirit of the Chautauqua to everyone. In all cases the audiences were enthusiastic and impressed with the success of the First Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua.

But the Chautauqua organizing partners—California State Parks, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, US Forest Service, and Mono Lake Committee—haven't just been reminiscing about the success of this past June and sharing that with others. We're already hard at work developing the program for the Second Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua—June 20–22, 2003. It's too soon to provide specific details but be assured it will be another great event! ♦

*Lisa Cutting is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director. Her golden retriever Abbey loves making doggy snow angels.*

## THE SECOND ANNUAL Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua June 20–22, 2003

Registration begins April 15, 2003 at  
[www.birdchautauqua.org](http://www.birdchautauqua.org)

Get ready for a second year of evening presentations, seminars, field trips, music, and great birding during the Second Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua.

The Mono Basin is known worldwide for its immense populations of migratory and nesting birds. Mono Lake is a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site and was recently designated a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA) by both the American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society.

The 2003 festival features a live musical performance by Malcolm Dalglish, a hammer dulcimer, spoons, bones, and chin music virtuoso who presents programs of original folk choir and dulcimer music, stories, mime, rhyme, rhythm, and song.

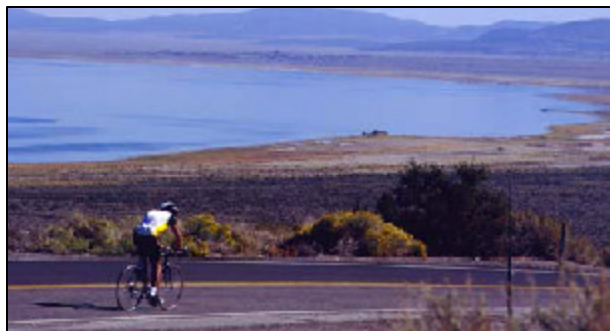
Events fill quickly! Registration requests will be filled in the order received. If you do not have internet access, contact Lisa Cutting ([lisa@monolake.org](mailto:lisa@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595 for alternate registration options.



*Wilson's Phalaropes at Mono Lake.*

# High Sierra Fall Century 2002

by Shannon Nelson



## Platinum Level Century Sponsors



Los Angeles Department  
of Water and Power

## Century Sponsors

Access Business and Shipping Center

Alpen Sierra Coffee

Barkley Meats

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Eastern Sierra Cycling Service

Erick Schat's Bakery

Friends of the Inyo

Lions Club

Rotary International

Sierra Hospitality Group

Whiskey Creek & Mammoth Brewing Company

U-Haul

Vons

Over 900 cyclists turned out for the 2002 High Sierra Fall Century on a perfect fall day in the Eastern Sierra. It was wonderful to see lots of familiar faces out there ... the Ride to Remember cyclists are still going strong and our staff is always thrilled to see lots of old Bike-A-Thon jerseys on the course!

The cyclists were treated to lots of good food, sunshine, and friendly faces at the rest stops. The Wildrose Lounge continues to be the most popular rest stop—complete with Sinatra music and Gatorade cocktails (shaken, not stirred).

This year the ride was dedicated to Paul Green, Mono Lake Committee member since 1979, Mono Lake Bike-A-Thoner, birder, all around nice person, and a wonderful family man. Many of Paul's family and friends rode in his memory this year. Paul's spirit and determination shined through in his grandson as he worked hard to make it to the top of a very long, hard climb up Watterson summit. Mono Lake held a special place in Paul's heart, and he will always be remembered for his dedication to this place that he loved so dearly.

This ride would not be a success without the work of our sponsors and volunteers. A big thank you to the wonderful volunteers who staffed the rest stops, helped organize all the rest stop food, filled lots of jugs with water, moved lots of jugs of water, cleaned lots of empty water jugs, loaded tables and chairs, unloaded tables and chairs, registered cyclists, patrolled the course, and pitched in for many other less than glamorous tasks. Your enthusiasm was contagious! ❖

*Shannon Nelson is the Committee's Events Coordinator. She has been teaching her daughter Sabine, who loves monkeys, all about jungle animals.*



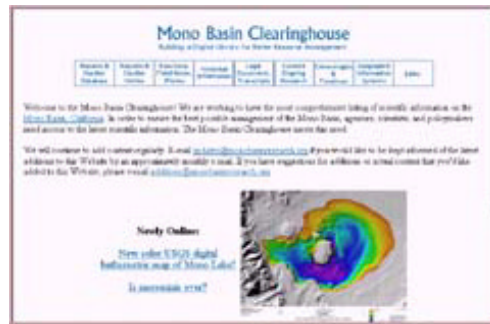
*The Green Family, many of whom rode in the Century, celebrated Paul's memory at the post-ride party.*

## What's New In the Mono Basin Clearinghouse?

**F**all and winter are good for updating much of the raw data that you can find on the Mono Basin Clearinghouse at [www.monobasinresearch.org](http://www.monobasinresearch.org). Tioga Pass opening and closing dates, lake level charts, and the Real Time Data Explanations Page for the winter stream flows all are updated. Also updated are piezometer readings for the year, which are starting to show some very interesting dry year trends.

There are a few new additions as well:

- **Los Angeles Aqueduct Reports**—DWP emails the Northern District Daily Report to the Committee every weekday. After 11AM Tues–Fri you can usually find that day's report, complete with creek flows, reservoir levels, and weather conditions posted online.
- **New Research**—both the Lee Vining Canyon Wind Study by Craig B. Clements, and Mono Lake Snowy Plover Survey by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory are now listed.



- **Links**—USGS has produced a beautiful color bathymetric map of Mono Lake based on the 1986–87 Pelagos survey.
- **Notes on meromixis at Mono Lake**—from September 2002 by Bob Jellison (see *Lakewatch*, page 14 for details).
- **Shorebird Count Results**—an Excel file now shows the fall counts for each year side by side.
- **A View of Mono Lake, California**, from the Scanavino Ranch—image and recollections provided by Joe Scanavino, who grew up at the Goat Ranch in the 1940s and 50s. It is interesting to note that the pinyon-juniper trees now visible from the ranch are not shown in this 1936 painting.



## Lee Vining High School Students Lend A Hand

**A** special thanks to River Gates and her Lee Vining High School Natural Resources Management class for helping read the Lee Vining Creek piezometers this past fall. The students also did trail work on the Lee Vining Creek Trail with Jodie Aas' 5th and 6th grade class and Keith Dawley, Inyo National Forest Trail Supervisor. The water bars they installed on the trail, along with one put in by Larry Ford of the Forest Service, helped keep erosion damage from a major November rainstorm to a minimum.

**Pictured from left to right:** Ian Roberts, Miguel Garcia, Margarita Ortiz, and Mitch Pinizotto. Classmates too busy working: Lundy Schneider, Carson Roberts, Ryan Auginbaugh, Mireya Gonzales, and Juan Carlos Gonzales.

### *Effective DEIR Comment – Sidebar from page 11*

means is that the public should note whether Caltrans, in this case, correctly identified the potential environmental impacts resulting from the project, whether it adequately determined the level of that impact, and whether it identified specific steps it will take to avoid or correct the impact. Caltrans is required to respond to comments of this nature.

In addition, Jones & Stokes recommends that comments be “diligent and focused” and should include an explanation of the basis for the comments. Comments should be supported, whenever possible, by substantial evidence. And comments are “most helpful when they disclose additional possible impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures.”

Committee staff will be analyzing the DEIR thoroughly upon its release. A team of experts will be assembled to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the document and will offer their unique perspective on the impact of this proposed project on the environmental and scenic resources in the area. The Committee will share these insights with all interested parties in hopes of educating the public and agencies about the project and its impacts and how these have been addressed in the DEIR.

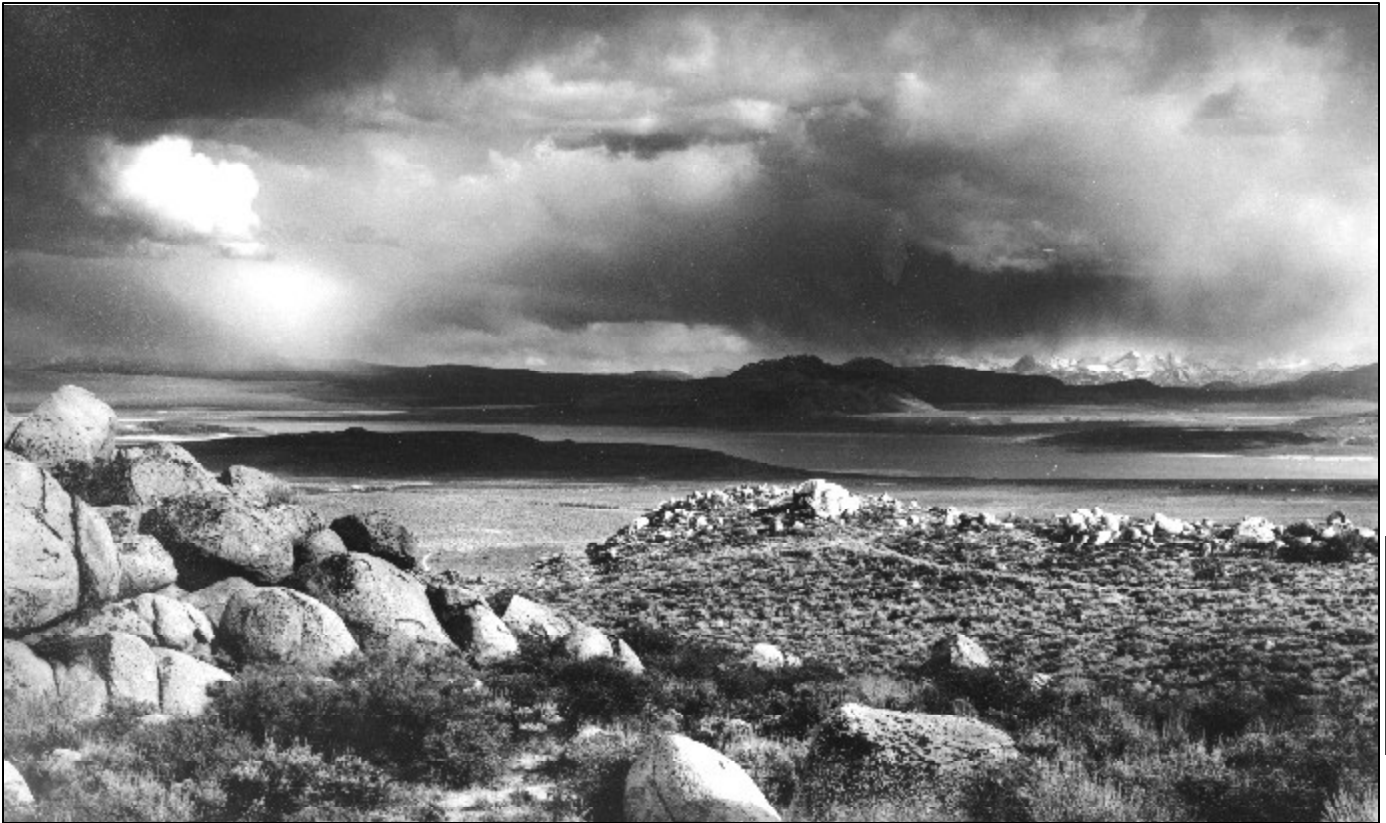
If you would like more information about the Mono Lake Widening Project or the Draft EIR contact Craig Roecker ([craig@monolake.org](mailto:craig@monolake.org)) or Lisa Cutting ([lisa@monolake.org](mailto:lisa@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595.

*All quotations taken from Ronald E. Bass, Albert I. Herson, and Kenneth M. Bogdan. CEQA Deskbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 1999, Solano Press, Point Arena, California.*

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## 2003 Field Seminars

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### Birds of the Eastern Sierra

May 24–25

David Lukas

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

This field seminar will focus on the identification and ecology of birds in the Mono Basin. The class will visit a wide variety of habitats, including desert scrub, marshes, riparian forests, and mountain slopes, in search of breeding and migrating birds. With over 300 species having been observed in the Mono Basin, this course will be of great interest to both beginning and more advanced birdwatchers. The class will intensively explore a number of sites, mixing short leisurely walks with periods of observation and natural history discussion, taking time to learn about birds by watching them closely. 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, Yosemite Association, 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.

### Introduction to Flyfishing

June 6–8

Doug Virtue

\$225 per person/ \$200 for members

Rod, reel, and tackle provided for the weekend

Limited to 6 participants

Flyfishing is a subtle and aesthetic way to deepen your appreciation of aquatic landscapes, but it's sometimes fraught with complexity and expense. If you've wanted to learn but found the tackle too costly or the standard courses too intimidating, this seminar offers a simple alternative. This seminar is limited to six participants so everyone gets personal attention. With all tackle provided, you'll learn how to cast, locate feeding fish, and select the right fly. The seminar begins Friday evening with a slide show, and continues on Saturday and Sunday with a combination of casting instruction, classroom study, and on-the-water fishing in the lakes near Tioga Pass and on Hot Creek. An optional Sunday afternoon/evening post-seminar fishing treat is offered to those who don't have to get home Sunday night. Instructor Doug Virtue has been flyfishing since 1975. He has a wealth of experience from operating a remote lodge in Alaska's Iliamna Lake to catching oceanic yellowtail in Baja California. He emphasizes a holistic, appreciative approach to fishing that's perfect for the waters of the Eastern Sierra.

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Call (760) 647-6595 to Register

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## California Gull Research: Chick Banding

July 2-5

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 to collect data on the California Gull rookery at Mono Lake. Gain hands-on experience in field survey techniques while observing how the lake's changing chemistry affects 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. No previous research experience required. Fees underwrite the research program.



## Miniature Paiute Burden Basketry

July 11-13

Lucy Parker and Julia Parker

\$175 per person/ \$160 for members

Primitive group campsite included

\$60 materials fee

Crafting miniature baskets became common after Native American contact with European-Americans. Burden baskets were originally made for rough usage and could carry loads such as acorns, pine nuts, and wood. The Paiute utilized only a few materials and willow was the only foundation used. During this three-day seminar students will construct a miniature burden basket using a twining technique, one used traditionally in the most northern part of California. Students will work with split willow and California Red Bud to construct their miniature baskets. You are encouraged (but not required) to camp with the group, and evenings will be spent around the campfire with traditional songs and stories. **This seminar is designed for weavers of all levels, beginning through advanced.**

Lucy Parker is a descendent of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika<sup>a</sup>, 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. Julia Parker is Lucy's mother and has dedicated her life to learning and teaching basketry as well as continuing the traditions of her people. Julia is one of the famous basket weavers of California and is the only weaver still practicing who was taught by women that wove in the early 20th century.

## Poetry from Imagination and Basin

July 19-20

Yedda Morrison

\$95 per person/ \$80 for members

In this seminar participants will explore the breathtaking Mono Basin as writers. Through generative writing exercises, constructive feedback, group discussions, and readings, participants will explore their own creativity in the context of the history, ecology, and mythology of the Mono Basin. Whether you are new to poetry or a writer looking for inspiration, Mono Basin's rich complexity offers the opportunity to deepen one's understanding of the Eastern Sierra, the act of writing, and ultimately, oneself. This seminar will be held at various locations around Mono Lake and will include leisurely poetry walks to areas chosen for their beauty and ability to inspire. Yedda

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Call (760) 647-6595 to Register

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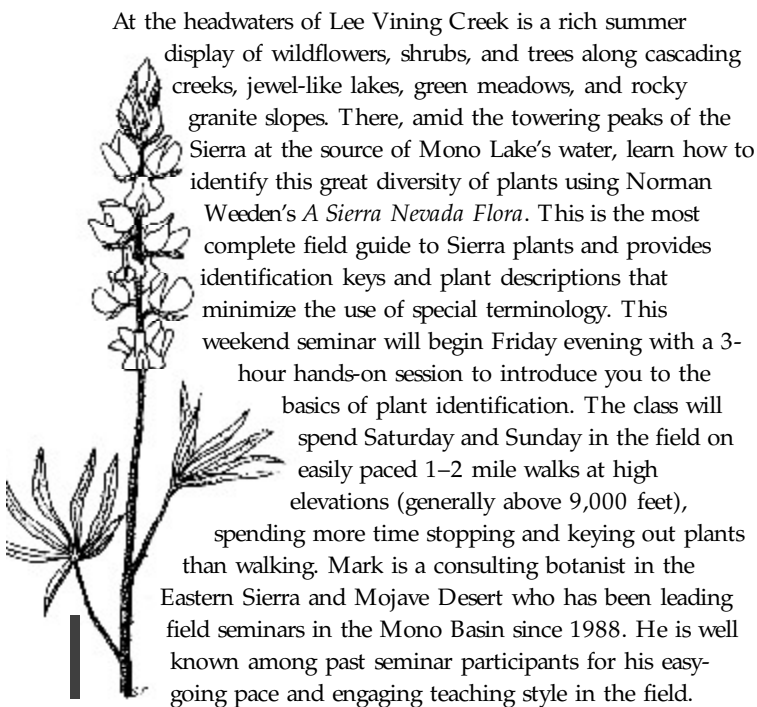
Morrison holds an MFA in Poetry from San Francisco State University. She lives in the Bay Area where she teaches poetry and publishes the internationally distributed literary journal *Tripwire*. *Crop*, a book of Yedda's poems, will be available from Kelsey Street Press in April 2003. Yedda has been exploring the Eastern Sierra for the last ten years.

## Identifying High Country Wildflowers

August 1-3

Mark Bagley

\$110 per person/ \$95 for members



At the headwaters of Lee Vining Creek is 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 seminar will begin Friday evening with a 3-hour hands-on session to introduce you to the basics of plant identification. The class will spend Saturday and Sunday in the field on easily paced 1-2 mile walks at high elevations (generally above 9,000 feet), spending more time stopping and keying out plants than walking. 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.



student will construct a miniature winnowing basket using a twining technique. Students will work with split willow and California Red Bud to construct their miniature baskets. You are encouraged (but not required) to camp with the group, and evenings will be spent around the campfire with traditional songs and stories. **This seminar is designed for weavers of all levels, beginning through advanced.**

Lucy Parker is a descendent of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika<sup>a</sup>, 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. Julia Parker is Lucy's mother and has dedicated her life to learning and teaching basketry as well as continuing the traditions of her people. Julia is one of the famous basket weavers of California and is the only weaver still practicing taught by women who wove in the early 20th century.

## Miwok Winnowing Basketry

Aug 8-10

Lucy Parker and Julia Parker

\$175 per person/ \$160 for members (primitive group campsite included)  
\$60 materials fee

Crafting miniature baskets became common after Native American contact with European-Americans. Winnowing baskets were used to separate leaves, skins, and hulls from foodstuff. These baskets are constructed in the same manner as seed beaters. A technique of twining will be used. The Paiute utilized only a few materials and willow was the only foundation. Each

## Introduction to High Country Plants and Habitats

August 15-17

Ann Howald

\$110 per person/ \$95 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. The class will

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, the group will be zoomed by hummingbirds defending their patches of paintbrush and columbine and see noisy Clark's Nutcrackers collecting and storing whitebark pine seed. This weekend seminar will begin Friday evening with an introductory slideshow session to familiarize you to the basics of plant identification. Walks will be around the 10,000-foot elevation level with a modest pace over moderate terrain. Ann is a consulting botanist and biology teacher at Santa Rosa Junior College who has taught plant classes in the Eastern Sierra for many years. Ann is a highly regarded, thorough, and dedicated instructor with many repeat seminar participants.

## Winging into Autumn

August 21-22

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. The class 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.

## Fall Bird Migration

August 23-24

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 the most popular field seminars so register early for this one!

## South Shore Kayak

September 6

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 8th year in a row, and is highly rated by past participants. Space is limited in this popular seminar so register early!



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Call (760) 647-6595 to Register

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

September 6–7

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. There is a very good chance of seeing Sierra bighorn sheep in the wild during this seminar, but no guarantee. In the words of one past participant, "this is a high sierra salon experience if there ever was one." A portion of the proceeds from this seminar will benefit the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation. **This seminar involves strenuous hiking at the 10,000-foot elevation and above.**



## Drawing Mono

September 13–14

Moira Donohoe

\$105 per person/ \$90 for members

If you enjoy drawing within a magnificent setting, then this seminar offers the opportunity to deepen and preserve your Mono Lake experience while expanding your artistic talent. During this two-day seminar the class will spend most of each day in the field drawing. Moira will cover basic drawing techniques while encouraging individual style. There be 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. 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 27–28

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, and has been a popular seminar leader among geology sleuths and laymen alike.

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

October 4–5

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 shepherders into these meadows. With their leisure time they left numerous carvings—or arborglyphs—on the aspens. Come along on an enchanting journey into the aspen groves to explore this historic, organic art form and the natural history of the trees themselves. The class will learn about the numerous wildlife, insects, and birds that are drawn to the groves. During leisurely walks the class will discuss the history of the sheep grazing in the Mono Basin, the Basque culture, the cultural significance of the carvings and efforts to document them. Richard Potashin, a.k.a. 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.

## Mono Basin Fall Photography

October 10–12

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 9th year in a row, and is highly rated by past participants.

## Field Seminar Registration Information

### • Registration •

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).

We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover or personal checks payable to the Mono Lake Committee. Sorry, we cannot accept registration by mail or email.

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 2003.

Participants must sign a liability release form. All seminars operate under permit from the Inyo National Forest.

The Committee works with instructors and field leaders that have received high ratings from past seminar participants. We emphasize a spirit of learning and camaraderie in magnificent outdoor setting for a reasonable cost.

The Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars benefit research and education in the Mono Basin.

### • Discounts •

Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars are open to everyone, but Mono Lake Committee members get advance notice and class discounts. If you are not a current member of the Mono Lake Committee, you may receive the discount by joining when you register.

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Call (760) 647-6595 to Register

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# 2002 Free Drawing Winners

The Mono Lake Committee 2002 Free Drawing was a great success thanks to our generous prize donors and Mono Lake supporters who sent in their tickets. Here are the winners!

## Top Prizes:

- 2 Round Trip Airline Tickets donated by a friend of the Committee: Chad Culp of San Jose
- Ansel Adams Lithograph courtesy of the Mono Inn at Mono Lake and the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite: Mary Gerbic of Santa Cruz
- Deluxe Camping Package from Wilson's Eastside Sports: Marian Totheroh of Santa Paula
- Trek Road Bike from Footloose Sports of Mammoth Lakes and Trek Bicycles: Bob Adler of West Hills

## Additional Prizes:

- Mammoth Getaway from the Royal Pines Resort in Mammoth and the Mono Inn at Mono Lake: Cheryl Davis of Coulterville
- Storytelling Chair donated by the Clark Contemporary Gallery of Mammoth Lakes: John Shea of Lafayette
- California Trout Prints from California Trout: Robert Weisenmiller of Berkeley
- Mono Basin Weekend from Nicely's Restaurant, the Mono Inn, and the Mono Lake Committee: Richard Roether of Pasadena
- A Visit to Yosemite from Yosemite Concession Services: Dorothy Houston of Los Angeles
- Rainbow Tarns Bed & Breakfast Weekend from Rainbow Tarns at Crowley Lake: Isabel Auerbach of San Francisco
- Water Conservation Packs from Whedon Products: Robert Garland of Pacific Grove and Joseph Kennedy of Bakersfield
- Patagonia Jackets Set from Patagonia: Cono & Maria Deleon of Costa Mesa
- Whitewater Adventure from Friends of the River: Harriett Bobo of San Leandro
- Mammoth Lift and Lodging Package from Mammoth Mountain California: Frances Johnston of Seal Beach
- Mammoth Mountain Season Ski Pass from Mammoth Mountain California: June Blaine, Beverly Hills
- Snow Wave Framed Print by photographer Brad Dawber of the Mammoth Gallery: Katherine Cleary of Los Angeles
- Yosemite Association Seminar from the Yosemite Association: Beck and Joyce Young of New Castle
- Sierra Adventure from the Sierra Mountain Center of Bishop: Joseph Kennedy of Bakersfield
- Trefry Pottery Set from artist Jack Trefry: Jerri-Ann Meyer of Mountain View
- Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars: Terry Dale of Los Angeles and David Gustavson of Los Altos
- Mono Lake Libraries: Charlotte Devorak of Calistoga and Jay Howell and Sandra Scowen of Moss Beach
- Mono Lake Adventure Packs: Marvin Laurence of San Jose, Armin and Ruth Ramel of Portola Valley, and Janet Landles of Shasta
- Mono Lake Gift Packs: Terry Coddington of Berkeley, Robert Billingsley of Manhattan Beach and Donald Webber of Sherman Oaks. ❖



Brad Dawber  
Mammoth Gallery

Whedon  
Products

Trefry Pottery



Sabine Pyle and Caelen McQuilkin review the Free Drawing Tickets.

# Staff Migrations

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

**T**he migrations of birds and mammals have already completed, moving critters to their warm wintering grounds, but here in the office staff migrations are still underway.

We bid farewell to **Ramona Robbins Clark**, our trusted Retail Operations Manager of nearly 5 years. Many of you who have come into the store in recent years will remember Ramona—for her welcoming demeanor, her enthusiasm for the Mono Basin, and her love of retail. Ramona's done an excellent job for the Committee and we're happy that as she moves on to new endeavors she and her husband Paul will continue to live in the area!

Also departing is Office Director **Kief Hillsbery**. Kief coordinated staff and store schedules and office operations for half the year but found his interests in writing—he's an acclaimed author—and other areas drawing him toward different pursuits. We wish him well!

Luckily, **Brett Pyle**, our Membership

Coordinator of nearly three years, has stepped up to the Retail Manager challenge, so you'll be seeing more of him out on the front counter. With his organizational skills, interest in environmentally sound products, and knowledge of Committee members, Brett is ready to build on the store's already excellent reputation.

So, who, you must be thinking, will fill the Membership Coordinator position? We're happy to welcome intern **Erika Obedzinski** to full time life at the membership desk. Erika moved to Lee Vining from San Geronimo and has been testing out life in a small town since May. She is looking forward to getting to know the Committee members more closely, so make sure to introduce yourselves when you call!

And during all of this migrating **Stephanie Roecker** cheerfully stepped in for a few months as Sales Associate to help out on the front counter. Stephanie's knowledge of the area along with her

retail experience have been invaluable both to visitors traveling through and to staff working in the back offices.

After a full spring, summer, and fall of OE Groups, Outdoor Experiences Coordinator **Betsy Forsyth** has migrated to Guatemala for the winter. Her experience with all age groups, the Spanish language, and the Mono Basin were a wonderful addition to the 2002 Outdoor Experiences program.

We're also lucky to have **Douglas Dunaway** of Bishop as our Winter Intern. Douglas jumped right into the position, helping out with store shifts, mail orders, web projects, and organizing the library.

And a special thanks to Summer Intern **Peter Lang** for coming back to the Committee on his holiday break from school in Minnesota! Peter helped scan materials to put up on the Mono Basin Clearinghouse and got a chance to enjoy the snowy Mono Basin too! ❖

## Seeking An Office Director

**J**oin a successful, committed group of staff in Lee Vining as the Mono Lake Committee celebrates its 25th anniversary and Mono Lake's rising future while tackling the challenges of the future!

The Mono Lake Committee is looking for an energetic, motivated, team-oriented individual to serve as Office Director.

The Office Director works closely with the Executive Directors and is responsible for supervision, coordination of programs, and the smooth operation of our Lee Vining office and staff. The Office Director oversees special projects and is involved in all aspects of the Committee's work to protect and restore Mono Lake, and educate the public about Mono Lake and our

natural resources. This is a wonderful opportunity to support Mono Lake in your career, working with a dedicated group of people in a great office!

Specific responsibilities include: supervising 3 full time staff, seasonal staff, and the Intern program (up to 12 employees); communication, coordination, teamwork, and community outreach; office administration, scheduling and personnel management; and assisting the Executive Directors with diverse programs, planning, and management.

A full job description is available online at [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org). To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and



references to Geoff McQuilkin, Mono Lake Committee, PO Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541, [geoff@monolake.org](mailto:geoff@monolake.org), or fax (760) 647-6377. For more information, call Geoff at (760) 647-6595.



# From the Mailbag

*News from Members and Friends*

*by Brett Pyle*

**W**inter has settled in the Mono Basin at last with a blanket of snow covering the sagebrush. Winter is our quiet time. Most travelers pass through the basin without stopping, wanting to spend as little time as possible on the icy roads, wary of approaching storms. For those of us that live here, it is a time to snowshoe and ski to quiet places where the deep snow muffles any sounds. When the snow is deep we rejoice knowing that the spring runoff will also be big and the lake will rise.

For me, this winter is a time of change as I move to a new position as Retail Manager. Erika will take over the membership desk and I know I leave that job in good hands. I look forward to meeting more of you in the store, so please say hello when you stop by for a visit!

## **Special Thanks**

A special thanks to the **California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter**, for hosting this year's silent auction to benefit the Mono Lake Committee. They, along with the **Fresno Audubon Society** and the **Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter**, put in a lot of work to host this special event for us each year. A big thanks also to **Marion Orvis** for all of her hard work and dedication to make this event a success year after year.

## **In Memory**

Memorial donations were made in honor of **Werner Vorster** of Van Nuys

by **Paul and Katherine Page, Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Sheldon, Rudy and Grete Wolf, The Bay Institute** of San Francisco, and the **Natural Resources Defense Council**. Werner's family has done much over the decades to protect Mono Lake, particularly through the expert hydrological work of her son Peter Vorster.

The **Nikolai Family** of Granada Hills made a generous donation in memory of **Sam Brooker**, also of Grenada Hills. A gift was made in remembrance of **Paul Green** from his children and their families.

## **More Mono Basin Babies**

**Jordyn Lynne Harper** was born to Anna Strathman and Jim Harper on November 1, 2002. **Benjamin Walker Trefry** was born to Stacey Simon and Jack Trefry on November 23, 2002. Proud grandmother **Eileen Simon** of San Ramon made a donation in Benjamin's honor. We would like to welcome these two beautiful new babies to the growing Mono Basin Family. ❖

*Brett Pyle is the new Retail Manager, or Retail Kahuna. Erika Obedzinski takes over as Membership Coordinator, or Membership Poobah.*

## **In Memory of Rick de Laet**

**M**ono Lake lost a true friend when Alberic (Rick) de Laet of Sausalito passed away last November. He is survived by his spouse and Committee Board Member Emeritus Grace de Laet. Rick was a leader in many fundraising events and always wanted to be sure that the fundraising efforts they spearheaded would actually make money for Mono Lake. In addition to the fine wine cellar drawings, (Rick was instrumental in securing wines) the de Laets conducted fundraising sailing trips to Angel Island, organized a bus tour in the early 80s from the Bay Area

to Mono and then again in 2000, and even held an auction to raise funds for Mono Lake. Both have been instrumental in spreading the word about Mono's plight and bringing others into the fold. Rick will truly be missed.

We received many donations in memory of Rick de Laet. Memorial gifts were received from Roland and Jacqueline Barakett, Bernard Berry, Neil and Mimi Burton, Dorothy Candiotti, Lorelee Durkee, Gerald and Royanne Florence, Edie and Mort Gaines, Michael and Grace Gaines-Jacobs, Peggy A. Hall, Rex and Janet Hardy,

Marjorie W. Hyman, Dr. Hilliard J. Katz, Mr. and Mrs. Hod Kosman, Shirley and Carl Krueger, Barbara Leaf, Marlene and Fred Levinson, Eleanor and Warren Lintz, Joan Lundstrom and Walt Wilson, Gloria Maciel, Wallace and Lucille Marinko, Herb McGrew, Richard Miller, Elve and Michael L. Peck, Leon Roegiers, Helen M. Schilbe, Helen P. Slattey, Brenda and Walter Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Tench, Robert and Judy Van Austen, Beverly and Jim Weager, Betty and John Wood, and Daphne Zeuli.