

MONO LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R

Fall 2013



[Stream Agreement Achieved](#)

[What's Next for Restoration?](#)

[Free Drawing](#)

[Fall Catalog](#)

I wish you could have been here in the Mono Basin on September 30. Yes, you, who just flipped to this page—maybe you're the longest-running member of the Mono Lake Committee, or the scientist who studied songbirds here, the wackiest intern, the mother of the wackiest intern, the most dedicated lawyer, the water drinker from Los Angeles, the kid who tried an alkali fly at South Tufa, the fifth-generation Mono Basin family member, the Highway 395 truck driver, the Chautauqua bird calling contest winner, or the international visitor who accidentally got stuck here for the night and fell in love with Mono Lake—we celebrated a big success, a big success for all of us.

In this issue of the *Newsletter* you'll get the details of the brand new Stream Restoration Agreement and why it is worth celebrating. I also hope you'll get some of the feeling we had that day—out there under the beautiful fall sky marking an occasion many, many years in the making.

We celebrated the agreement with thoughtful words from partners in the negotiations, a field trip into the Grant Dam spillway, a joint tree-planting on the bank of Rush Creek, and a toast to the future of restoration. We honored the legacy of scientific research, cooperative solutions, progress in water awareness, and the untold numbers of people who have played their part in getting to this unprecedented time and place. We celebrated the combined effort to balance the water needs of people in Los Angeles, with the water needs of the birds, brine shrimp, caddis flies, and trout in the Mono Basin.

The good news is that you didn't miss the only chance to celebrate. The trees we planted were not the first, and they will not be the last. It is important to honor the progress made, and acknowledge the work left to do. The Mono Lake Committee is not going anywhere—not only is there a lot more work to be done, but we're just getting to the really good parts of restoration.

I hope that this issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter* brings you joy as well as resolve to keep pushing this effort forward. Together, we are the people protecting Mono Lake for future generations.

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



At the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore seven Los Angeles Department of Water & Power staff members (white name tags) stood under the perfect message for celebrating the new Stream Restoration Agreement on September 30.

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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Stream Restoration Agreement achieved!

Groundbreaking agreement gives Los Angeles Aqueduct new purpose: healing streams

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

The Mono Lake Committee has completed an innovative Stream Restoration Agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) that promises a healthy future for 19 miles of Rush, Lee Vining, Parker and Walker creeks and certainty about the restoration of their fisheries, streamside forests, birds, and wildlife.

After three years of collaborative discussion, negotiation, and principled advocacy, the Committee is thrilled to have arrived at an agreement that just weeks before seemed out of reach.

valuable and rare bottomlands forest and channel habitat will be restored. Walker and Parker creek flows will benefit trout all the way to the lake's edge. Lee Vining Creek flows will be optimized for fish and habitat.

Under the Agreement, collaborative operational planning will assure reliable Mono Basin operations to achieve both restoration and water export. Costs will be shared and compliance will be simplified. Additionally, scientific monitoring and adaptive management, directed by independent scientists, will assure that recovery is achieved.

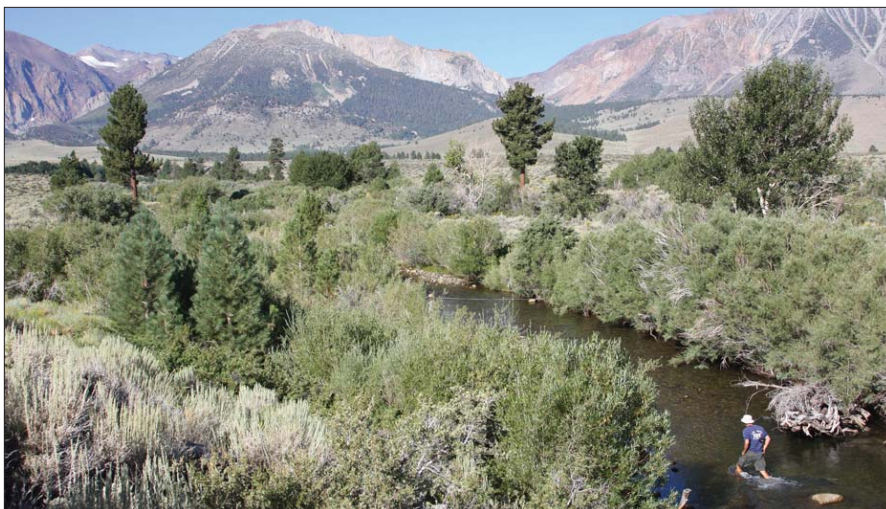
providing that water.

The Agreement was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board just before their September 30 deadline. After review, the State Water Board will issue new legal water rights licenses to DWP containing, we hope, all the new streamflow requirements and associated provisions. State Water Board action could happen as soon as the end of the year (see page 9).

The Agreement is the culmination of three years of intensive work by Committee staff, experts, and legal team in collaborative discussions and negotiations with DWP, CalTrout, and DFW. This major achievement owes thanks to many dedicated Mono Lake Committee members, friends, and supporters.

A new, exciting phase in stream restoration lies ahead. The Committee is already laying plans for speedy implementation of the Agreement with the goal of successful restoration of Mono Lake's tributary streams.

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The Agreement will significantly advance restoration on Mono Lake's tributaries—Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks.

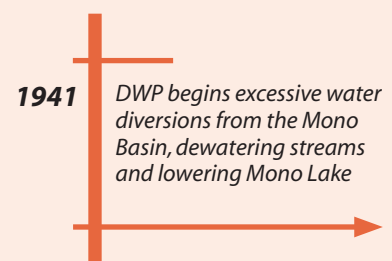
The Agreement, negotiated jointly with California Trout and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), implements a comprehensive plan for streamflow delivery, monitoring, and adaptive management built on extensive scientific stream studies over the past 15 years. In short, the Agreement will make the most of the water allocated to the creeks and lake under Los Angeles' Mono Basin water licenses.

Natural streamflow patterns will be mimicked to rebuild the health of the streams and fisheries. Rush Creek's

A key element of the Agreement is DWP's commitment to invest an estimated \$15 million to modernize antiquated aqueduct infrastructure at Grant Lake Reservoir Dam by building a new Grant Outlet structure. This will give DWP the capacity to actually deliver the required streamflows to Rush Creek. The new outlet will physically and symbolically show that the Los Angeles Aqueduct can achieve two goals: to deliver water to the people of LA and to protect and restore Mono Lake and the Mono Basin streams

How did we get here?

Reaching the Stream Restoration Agreement is the culmination of years of intensive, State Water Board-mandated work. Follow this timeline for the details:



Highlights of the Stream Restoration Agreement

The Agreement fully implements the Stream Ecosystem Flows (SEFs) presented in the mandated 2010 Synthesis Report. In 1998 the State Water Board ordered intensive study by designated Stream Scientists that resulted in the development of specific day-by-day, stream-by-stream flow regimes. The SEFs mimic natural runoff patterns and activate the natural processes that will restore the streams. The implementation of SEFs is the single most important action necessary for stream restoration, and the Committee expects a significant leap forward in the streams' recovery.

DWP will modify Grant Dam by constructing an outlet that reliably delivers flows to Rush Creek. Peak flows as outlined in the Synthesis Report are currently impossible to deliver due to the aqueduct's World War II-era infrastructure, more specifically due to the lack of an adequate outlet facility. DWP will complete outlet construction and begin operation within four years of State Water Board approval. In order to offset the cost of the Grant Outlet, DWP will be allowed to export an additional 12,000 acre-feet of water from the Mono Basin if timely construction progress is achieved.



The Agreement incorporates stream monitoring tasks consistent with the 2010 Synthesis Report.

This one-time allowance will defray approximately half of the cost of the outlet without changing the timeframe in which Mono Lake reaches its mandated management level.

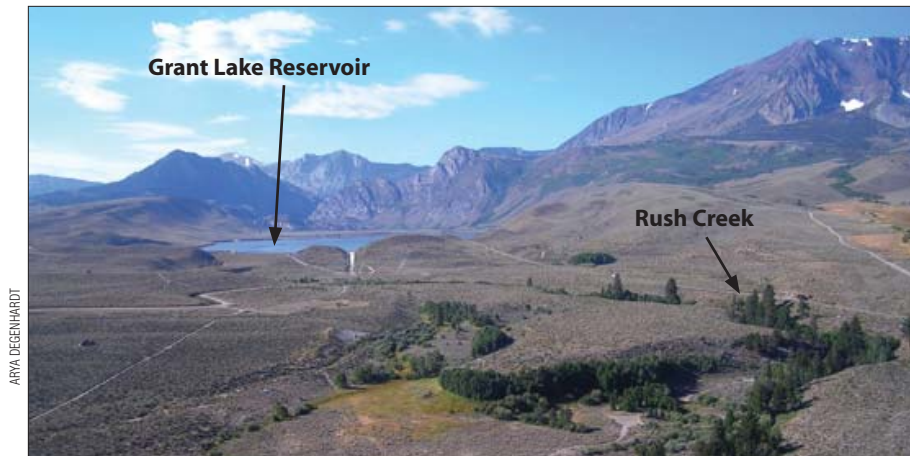
The Agreement lays out how the fishery, stream, waterfowl, and Mono Lake monitoring work required by the State Water Board will proceed in coming years. Stream monitoring tasks, consistent with the 2010 Synthesis Report, are specified and thus initiate a new phase of stream monitoring. Mono Lake limnology monitoring, a source of dispute in

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DWP Director of Water Operations Marty Adams sketched conceptual Grant Outlet plans in the Grant Lake Reservoir spillway during the September 30 Agreement celebration event.

1967, 1969	DWP releases flood flows into dry creeks, causing large-scale erosion and wiping out stream channel structure
1978	March: Mono Lake Committee founded
1982	January: Mono Lake's historic low: 6372 feet
1983	California Supreme Court rules that Mono Lake's public trust values must be protected Wet winter snowmelt exceeds aqueduct capacity, spills water and fish into Rush Creek, litigation based on Fish & Game codes begins
1994	Landmark State Water Board decision 1631 issued: ecologically sound management level for Mono Lake established; restoration of damaged stream and waterfowl habitat ordered; restoration plan development begins
1995–1997	Stream and waterfowl habitat restoration plans prepared
1998	State Water Board issues Orders 98-05 and 98-07 specifying stream restoration measures and launching a 10+ year independent scientific study to determine final restoration flows for all four diverted creeks
1999–2009	Stream Scientists carry out study of restoration progress on Mono Lake's tributaries, as mandated by the State Water Board in Orders 98-05 and 98-07; Committee continuously involved; twice-yearly restoration meetings held with all parties during this time



ARYA DEGENHARDT

The Agreement includes plans for DWP to modify Grant Dam by constructing an outlet to reliably deliver flows to Rush Creek.

recent years (see Summer 2012 *Mono Lake Newsletter*), will continue and is assigned to the expert scientists who have run the program for decades.

The Agreement provides for adaptive management in order to apply the knowledge learned through scientific monitoring for better stream recovery. Flexibility is provided to adjust the timing, duration, and magnitude of the Stream Ecosystem Flows to maximize their ecological benefit. Limitations assure that adjustments will not violate established minimum flows or reduce water exports to Los Angeles.

The Agreement requests deferral of the scheduled State Water Board hearing on DWP's water licenses from 2014 to 2020. This will allow the Grant Outlet to be constructed and SEFs to be implemented without getting caught up in new legal proceedings.

The Agreement creates a new oversight team to reliably manage annual budgeting and contracting. The team is made up of DWP, the Mono Lake Committee, DFW, and CalTrout. DWP will fund a comprehensive list of monitoring tasks—and several previously-ordered restoration actions—at specified levels and the team will assure efficient implementation.

A collaborative approach is specified in the settlement for multi-year and annual Mono Basin aqueduct operations planning. This assures that expertise

from all parties is used to develop the most successful plans possible. Operating the aqueduct to achieve both stream restoration and water export goals will take careful planning and coordination and the Mono Lake Committee will play an active role.

Translating numbers into nature

Leaf through the pages of the Stream Restoration Agreement and you can't help but notice page after page of tables full of streamflow specifications—creek by creek, numbers for spring snowmelt floods, for winter baseflows, for spring seeding, for every type of wet and dry year the Mono Basin experiences.

These streamflow tables are at the heart of the scientific plan for stream restoration and central to the Agreement. But how do these numbers actually connect to stream restoration on the ground?

The scientists who developed them followed a methodical process. The starting point was to identify the natural stream processes that, once put into motion, will restore healthy stream habitat and conditions for trout. Flooding, floodplain seeding, channel shaping, pool scouring, gravel movement, groundwater recharge, and temperature maintenance are all good examples.

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2010

Spring: Stream Scientists produce the final "Synthesis of Instream Flow Recommendations"—the Synthesis Report

July: DWP informs State Water Board that it considers many Synthesis Report provisions to be infeasible

Fall: State Water Board approves DWP, Mono Lake Committee, CalTrout, Department of Fish & Wildlife to work through a collaborative process to resolve disputes about the feasibility of the Synthesis Report recommendations

2011

January: Collaborative Aqueduct Modernization & Management Plan (CAMMP) meetings begin among Committee, DWP, CalTrout, DFW

CAMMP meetings every two weeks in Bishop, Los Angeles, Sacramento; daily conference calls; countless emails; data analysis and modeling; all to chart a path to feasibly implement the Synthesis Report

2012

Summer: DWP files for two extensions to allow more time for CAMMP process

December: DWP files a final Feasibility Report with State Water Board, continuing to dispute many Synthesis Report recommendations and triggering a public comment period

2013

January: Parties agree to continue discussions; DWP Feasibility Report comments put on hold

June: State Water Board orders parties to either finalize agreement or file comments on DWP Feasibility Report by September 30

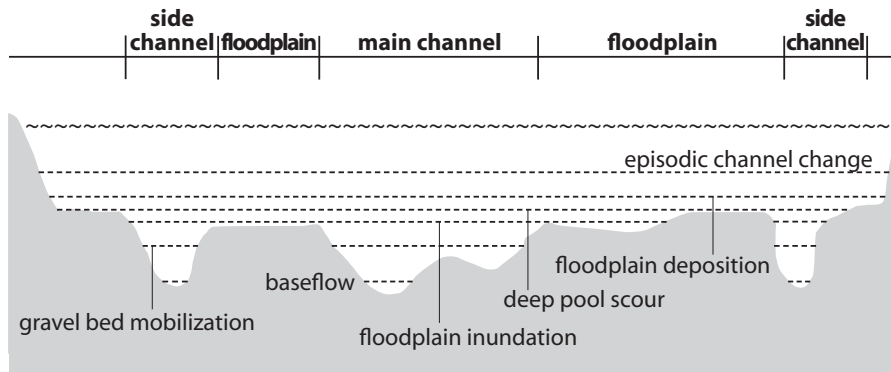


Figure 1: This simplified creek cross section illustrates how higher flows raise the height of the creek and activate different natural processes.

The scientists then determined the volume and timing of water needed in the streams to activate the processes. Larger volumes with greater energy—typically associated with the springtime melt of the Sierra snowpack—are necessary to activate some of the critical channel shaping processes. Figure 1 shows a simplified creek cross section, illustrating how higher flows raise the height of the creek and activate different natural processes.

For example, for a streamside cottonwood-willow forest to thrive, springtime floods that spill over stream banks are needed; these floods deposit sediment and allow seeds to germinate across the floodplain. Actual physical measurements of water depths—or stage heights—in the channels of Rush Creek were taken in multiple locations, field observations were made, and as a result, floodplain deposition events could be directly correlated to specific streamflows.

As another example, to scour the deep pools favored by trout, the rate of flow needs to be high enough to have the energy necessary to move cobbles and even boulders. Field studies located representative cobbles in the stream, marked them, and tracked their movement. This allowed correlation between pool scouring and specific streamflow amounts.

Lower flow studies were also important. How much trout habitat is available at lower flows typical in fall and winter? What are the stress points

for fish? What are the water temperature impacts of different flows, given that upstream reservoirs can raise water temperatures? On this point, temperature models were created, and for Rush Creek the scientists came to interesting conclusions, including that Walker and Parker creeks provide critical cool water into lower Rush Creek, especially in drier years. This supported the “flow-through” requirements for these smaller tributaries, meaning that 100% of their water will pass through the diversion dams.

In the end, the streamflow requirements are made up of many components throughout the year. Would the streams benefit from high pool-scouring flows all year round? Definitely not, but a couple of weeks in the springtime are ideal. Would fish benefit from low baseflow conditions year round? Definitely not, but low flow in the winter months beneficially reduces stress on fish.

The flow requirements set in the 1990s were made up of just six different flow components during the year. The new SEFs contain up to 14 components, each specified and shaped to activate the natural processes that will restore the creek for which they were designed. This is a huge step forward in Mono Basin stream restoration—you could even call these flows “handcrafted.”

Once these critical flow amounts were determined, the shape of the annual Stream Ecosystem Flow plan, or

2013

August 21: Staff and attorneys from parties reach agreement that will fully implement Synthesis Report

August 22–26: Committee, CalTrout, and DFW officially approve agreement

August 27: DWP Board of Commissioners votes to approve agreement

September 27: Final, complete, legally signed Stream Restoration Agreement submitted to State Water Board

September 30: Celebration at Grant Dam & aspen tree planting at Rush Creek

November 15: Per Agreement, parties to provide State Water Board with draft amendment to DWP’s water license reflecting the terms of the Agreement

November/December: DWP to initiate geotechnical studies for Grant Outlet construction

November/December: Initial organization to begin for Monitoring Administration Team (MAT) to manage future stream, lake, and waterfowl scientific monitoring

2014

January: (projected) State Water Board issues new water license to DWP

Spring: MAT to take over contracting and administration for all required scientific monitoring

Spring: Work to begin on comprehensive, multi-year Mono Basin Operating Plan for the Los Angeles Aqueduct

Winter: Complete Mono Basin Operating Plan due to State Water Board

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hydrograph, came together (see Figure 2). Natural Eastern Sierra streamflows were a good point of reference, but these SEFs were determined specifically for the Mono Basin's creeks. Different hydrographs were created for wetter and drier year types, reflecting the variable amounts of water provided by nature. Figure 2 shows how a wet year peak SEF will activate critical restoration processes that create physical changes in the Rush Creek bottomlands necessary for restoration of desired conditions.

A better future ahead

Seventy-five years ago, the Los Angeles Aqueduct was under rapid construction in the Mono Basin. Hundreds of people were at work, tunneling under the Mono Craters, constructing Grant Dam, and burying steel pipe to capture the flow of Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks.

They accomplished great feats of engineering, and the purpose of the endeavor was crystal clear. "The general plan of operation," wrote H. A. Van Norman, the Chief Engineer and General Manager of DWP at the time, "will be to divert the entire flow of the various streams ... throughout the entire year."

Mono Lake supporters know that the Committee's 35-year history has, in many ways, been dedicated to changing that simple statement of purpose. Our goal, working together as tens of thousands of concerned citizens: A new plan of operation that recognizes the great ecological, public, wildlife, scenic, and economic values of Mono Lake and its tributary streams equally with the water needs of Los Angeles. We've had successes, the latest being the Stream Restoration Agreement.

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- 2015** Spring: DWP to submit engineering and design for Grant Outlet for State Water Board approval
 - 2016** DWP to secure all necessary permits, begin construction on Grant Outlet
 - 2018** Spring: Grant Outlet "hole in the dam" completed and operational to deliver full stream restoration flows
- Due to the Stream Restoration Agreement, future generations will see accelerated healing taking place along the Mono Basin's streams....

Benefits of the new streamflows

A comparison of Rush Creek flows under the current and new streamflow rules

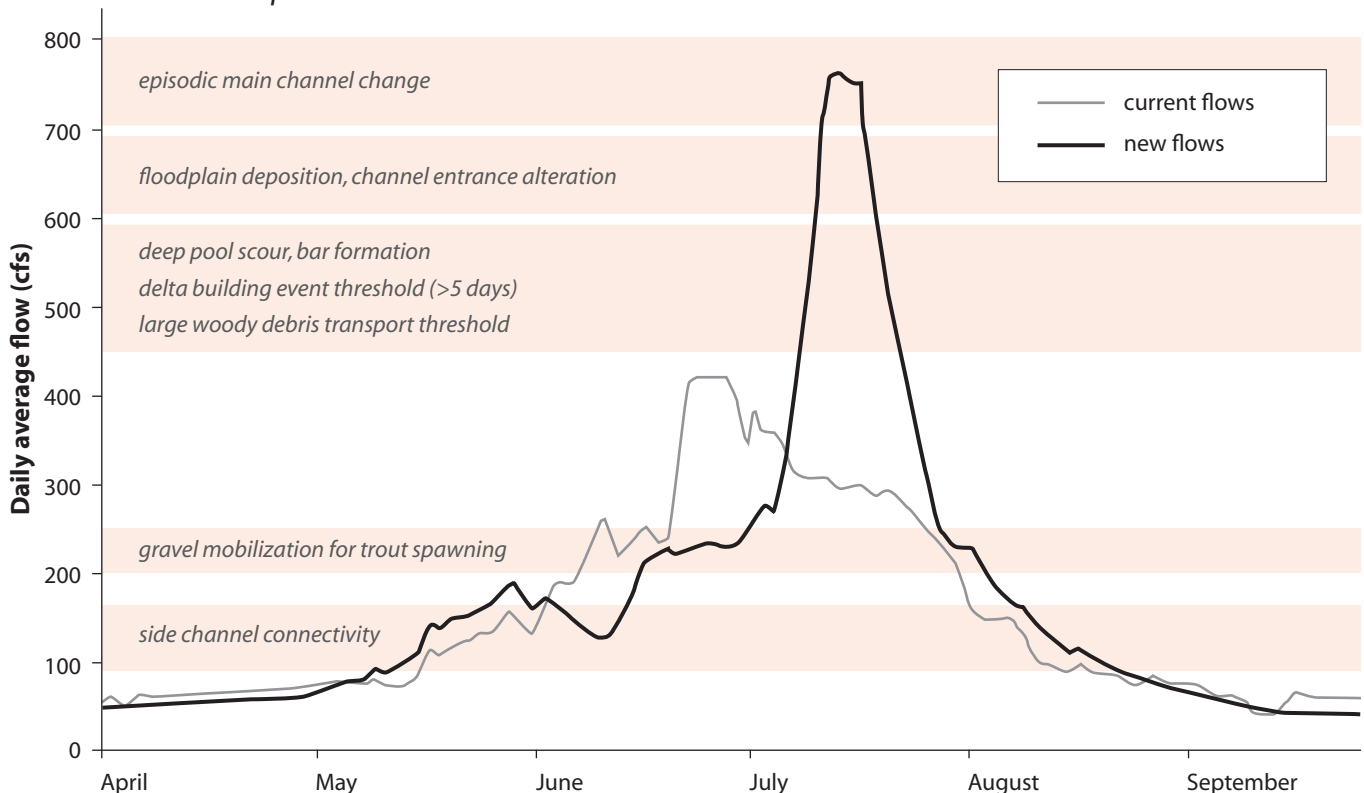


Figure 2: A comparison of wet year streamflows required in the Rush Creek bottomlands. Currently, the highest flow that can be reliably achieved is approximately 400 cubic feet per second. With the new Agreement, much higher streamflows will be reliably delivered.

One of the most notable things about the Stream Restoration Agreement is that it makes the aqueduct's new, dual purpose a physical reality. The new Grant Outlet will show in concrete and control valves that the aqueduct can be overhauled—reconstructed—to serve both the goals of water supply for Los Angeles and, at the same time, the protection and restoration of Mono Lake and its tributary streams.

It's also a significant and welcome change for DWP. This September, 75 years after Van Norman penned his simple statement of purpose, the present day General Manager Ron Nichols stood atop Grant Dam, endorsed the Agreement, and reflected on the construction era of the 1930s: "Environmental issues weren't considered much, if at all," he acknowledged. "We've come a long way. We have further to go, but the

controversies, I believe, are narrowing."

In the long run, this is the kind of change and accomplishment that makes all the negotiation, politics, detailed analysis, modeling, long phone calls, unending meetings, overnight document edits, and persistent hard work of recent years worthwhile. It's what the Mono Lake Committee is here to accomplish.

It's what the Agreement parties have agreed to make happen. And it shows that we—Mono Lake supporters, Rush Creek enthusiasts, anglers, birders, Los Angeles residents, government agencies, and many others—can wisely shape the future to be better and healthier than the past. ♦



Agreement celebration participants strolled down the Grant Lake Reservoir spillway, where the new outlet will be constructed to reliably deliver flows to Rush Creek.

Why streams, why now?

Protecting Mono Lake has always meant more than just putting water into the lake. It's about protecting brine shrimp and migratory birds, restoring lost habitats, bringing back ecological health, and recognizing the interwoven tapestry of stream and lake resources that make this place remarkable.

Mono Lake's political history and the 1994 State Water Board decision demonstrate this interwoven approach. The Committee was founded in 1978 and in 1983 won the landmark Mono Lake Public Trust decision from the California Supreme Court. Yet in the 1980s it was litigation over fish protection that first produced small yet continuous flows of water back into the lake. Then in the 1990s, protection of Mono Lake's public trust resources resulted in the establishment of a management lake level that guaranteed substantial water for the streams in the process.

When the State Water Board issued its landmark decision in 1994, it had fish, streams, birds and waterfowl, and the lake at the core of its decision making. When restoration requirements were set, the State Water Board recognized that it could select a scientifically sound mandate for Mono Lake—6392 feet above sea level—but also recognized that it lacked enough information to definitively say what flow patterns should be required for the streams.

Instead, the State Water Board set stream restoration goals: return fish populations to good condition, and achieve restoration and recovery of functional and self-sustaining stream systems.

Then the State Water Board launched a multi-year scientific endeavor to determine which streamflows would achieve these goals. This stream restoration study has been at the top of the State Water Board's priority list for over a decade.

In 2010, the study bore fruit when the independent scientists produced the "Synthesis of Instream Flow Recommendations," providing comprehensive flow prescriptions and restoration measures for all four damaged creeks.

Now, with the scientific report in and the restoration plan written, the Mono Lake Committee, DWP, CalTrout, and DFW have completed the final step by agreeing on how to implement the science-based plan.

So why streams, why now? In short, because the State Water Board said so. And in the bigger picture, because the lake and streams are forever entwined, and the streams were overdue to receive a restoration flow mandate—their equivalent of the mandated Mono Lake level. With that now resolved, both the lake and the streams have bright days ahead.

The Agreement is signed ... what's next?

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

August 27, 2013 simultaneously marked the end of one era and the beginning of another in the history of stream restoration in the Mono Basin. On the top floor of its downtown Los Angeles building, the DWP Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Stream Restoration Agreement—the final stamp of approval needed among partners California Trout, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Mono Lake Committee.

Finalization of the Agreement marked the end of intensive negotiations that have dominated the last three years of work by the Mono Lake Committee policy team. But Mono Lake history has taught us an enduring lesson: eternal vigilance.

With the Agreement complete, we now turn to implementation. There's a lot to do, including significant new mandated duties for the Committee. Just as in the past, we have critical work ahead to turn the words of the Agreement into a series of on-the-ground, science-based restoration actions.

2014 will be a busy year

The Agreement lays out an ambitious roadmap to achieve the long-awaited restoration of Mono Lake's tributary streams. Like all journeys, there's a lot of work needed to reach the destination.

The Committee is already enthusiastically at work on the key next steps with the goal of arriving at the day when the streams feature trophy trout, lush streamside forests, and abundant wildlife.

- The California State Water Resources Control Board is currently reviewing the Agreement. Only when the State Water Board issues a new water license to DWP will it take effect—something we project could happen this winter. To provide the State Water Board with as many specifics to work with as possible, attorneys and staff from the Committee and the other parties are at work translating the Agreement into proposed license term language, a meticulous project that should be completed by mid-November.

- Independent scientific monitoring: The new Monitoring Administration Team mechanism for administering stream, lake, and waterfowl monitoring has to be created. This winter the parties will get financial management, timelines, duties, and contracts ready so that effective monitoring can take place starting next spring. This is a critical program, and the Committee has an Agreement-mandated oversight role to play.

- Aqueduct operations plan: By the end of 2014 a new multi-year Mono Basin Operations Plan will be completed covering all aqueduct facilities in the Mono Basin and their operation. The Committee's experts will work closely with DWP to be sure that the State Water Board's interlinked stream, lake, reservoir, and export rules are all part of the plan.

- Grant Outlet: The Agreement sets a four-year



Mono Lake Committee Executive Director Geoff McQuilkin, DWP General Manager Ron Nichols, and members of the Agreement parties planted an aspen tree at Rush Creek together on September 30.

schedule for construction of the outlet, and work is already underway—DWP geotechnical studies are scheduled to take place before the snow falls. DWP has a series of deadlines in 2014 and 2015 regarding design and construction plans, environmental analysis, and permitting. The outlet should be constructed and operational by spring 2018, and the Committee will be tracking progress closely and assisting DWP where helpful.

- Adaptive management: An important Agreement element is the provision that the Stream Scientists may make modifications, within set limits, to the annual streamflows based on their expertise and on new information that comes in via the monitoring program. Discussion of these adaptive management adjustments to flows will involve the Committee and other Agreement parties, both in a planned manner and also in response to rapidly emerging situations such as unusual runoff conditions.

Stay vigilant with us

Visit the creeks when you are next in the Mono Basin and stop by the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore to hear the latest status reports. Our website will have updates as implementation proceeds, and you can expect future *Mono Lake Newsletters* to provide all the details as we put the Stream Restoration Agreement into action. ♦

Volunteers slow the spread of invasive plants along Mill Creek

by Max Henkels

White sweet clover sounds like a harmless, even friendly, plant. Along lower Mill Creek, however, it is not as innocent as its name may suggest. White sweet clover is an invasive species originally from Europe that can produce over 350,000 seeds per plant, each of which can remain viable for over 80 years. This incredible productivity has allowed the plant to rapidly spread along Mill Creek in recent years. The sweet clover scourge is particularly visible from the crossing at Cemetery Road—a dense thicket lines the banks upstream and downstream of the road, dominating riparian habitat and pushing out native plants.

In June, Project Specialist Erik Lyon and I scouted Mill Creek below Highway 395 in order to map and inventory invasive species locations and plan removal efforts for the summer. Exploring this stretch of the Mono Basin watershed we discovered that despite its density in the lower reach of Mill Creek, sweet clover has spread less than half a mile upstream from the Cemetery Road culvert.

Since sweet clover seeds can disperse through streamflow, the most effective method of control is to start at the top of the infestation and work downstream to prevent the spread of the plant upstream and to limit seed dispersal closer to Mono Lake.

The key to controlling sweet clover is removing the second-year plants, which reduces the amount of seed in the riparian zone. If this process is repeated for several years, it will eventually reduce the amount of seed and allow the



This year volunteers removed 1,500 pounds of white sweet clover from the banks of Mill Creek.

native plants to recolonize the banks. The timing of these efforts to reduce the seed bank of non-native invasives is especially critical as we anticipate increased streamflows on Mill Creek in the future.

Armed with clippers, trash bags, and an endless supply of enthusiasm, volunteers made huge progress in the campaign to control the spread of sweet clover on Mill Creek this year. Invasive removal outings included a free lunch and a presentation by a local naturalist. These field trips were a great success—more than doubling the number of volunteers and hours worked from last year. This allowed us to remove a record amount of sweet clover from Mill Creek—over 1,500 pounds!

Hearing from local naturalists made the events fun and educational; thanks to gull researcher Kristie Nelson, botanist Ann Howald, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve Interpretive Specialist Dave Marquart, and Mono Lake Volunteer Rich Foye.

The Mill Creek restoration program is made possible by a generous conservation grant from our friends at the outdoor clothing company Patagonia. We would like to give Patagonia, the naturalist leaders, and our volunteers huge thanks for a great season of restoration. For those who missed out, don't worry—there is more to do next year! If you are interested in helping out next summer, please contact Project Specialist Emma Oschrein (emma.oschrein@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595. ❖

Max Henkels was a Mono Lake Intern in 2012 and 2013. He is now teaching English in Murcia, Spain.



At Mill Creek, volunteers stuff invasive white sweet clover into bags before the plants go to seed.

The Mono Basin and beyond

Creating connections through Outdoor Experiences

by Elina Rios

A Temple City Girl Scout voices nervousness about walking down a volcanic ash trail in a Jeffrey pine forest alone in the dark. And yet, moments later, that is exactly what she and all of her fellow troop members do. One by one, taking steps along a darkened trail without a flashlight, they walk alone until they hear a low whistle from one of the Outdoor Experiences instructors indicating that their solo walk is done.



OE participants canoe on Mono Lake as part of their week-long trip.

The solo walk is one of the many activities and challenging opportunities that the Mono Basin Outdoor Experiences program (OE) provides. For 20 years the OE program has been bringing students to the Mono Basin from Los Angeles to teach them about ecology and water conservation issues—all while striving to take them one more safe step out of their comfort zone. By asking students to challenge themselves and be open to new experiences, OE staff help them create a better connection with nature while they're learning more about themselves.

Challenges come in many different packages. Some students have never hiked, let alone climbed to the top of a 13,000-foot peak. Walking beyond their doubts and perceived limits, they inevitably reach the mountain top. When they marvel at the landscape

before them, they take it all in, including the fact that they did it—they *made it to the top*.

And then there's the participant who is afraid of water. Unsure of Mono Lake's depth or what's below the surface, she decides to get into the canoe anyway. As she learns more about Mono Lake's history and geology she calms and breathes more easily. At the end of the canoe tour she's gliding her fingers along the surface of the water and staring at the trillions of brine shrimp that seem to dance together, a smile on her face.

The student who does not like bugs suddenly sees a hummingbird moth land on a flower by the trail. He and his friends watch it carefully, noticing how beautiful it is and how gracefully it moves.

The night walk is a turning point for many students. They walk together into the Jeffrey pine forest and learn about how their eyes can adjust to the dark. They are then asked to walk back to the starting point on their own using the skills they learned to help them find their way.

The challenges don't stop there. For some, sitting down together family-style for meals is something completely foreign and unusual. Being disconnected from technology is another challenge. However, by the end of their week, every single participant has a story to tell and a fear he or she has conquered. Many are grateful for their experience and leave knowing that their time in the Mono Basin and away from the city has helped them grow.

For the OE crew, making sure the groups that visit have an unforgettable experience is a top priority. By setting up a safe and positive environment where students are supported and encouraged to meet challenges, the Outdoor Experiences program can plant a multipurpose seed; new-found confidence and a new appreciation for nature, the Mono Basin and beyond. ❖

Elina Rios is the Committee's Lead Outdoor Experiences Instructor. After work, she likes to take over the kitchen and experiment with new recipes.



Hiking high up a challenging peak, as a group from Casa Esperanza did in June, is a key part of the OE curriculum.

Policy notes

by Lisa Cutting, Elin Ljung, and Geoffrey McQuilkin

Lee Vining Test Plot Project underway

In August, Caltrans put the Lee Vining Test Plot Project into place on several small rockfall slopes along Highway 395 near Old Marina. The test plots are part of the Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project (see Spring & Summer 2013 *Newsletter*), which will improve safety by reducing rockfall incidents along the highway. Since successful revegetation of rockfall slopes is crucial, the Mono Lake Committee worked with Caltrans to develop the test plots, which will help identify appropriate plant density, diversity, viability, and soil health components for application across the entire project. —EL

Lahontan Water Board visits Mono Basin

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board was in the Mono Basin in June for a meeting and seized the opportunity to learn about the latest updates on stream restoration out in the field. Since the Lahontan Water Board regulates water quality in the Eastern Sierra, the group

started the day with an update from Caltrans on the Lee Vining Rockfall Project. Although construction for that project is not due to occur until 2015, the Board has a regulatory interest in construction practices and measures to control impacts to water quality, so getting the update was helpful.

Mono Lake Committee and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) staff then led the group to Rush Creek and Grant Lake Reservoir to see the status of restoration first-hand and to discuss the options for meeting future flow requirements for Rush Creek restoration. Of particular interest to the Board were the infrastructure improvements necessary to deliver the recommended flows for Rush Creek. At the time of the tour, the Mono Basin Stream Restoration Agreement (see page 3) had not been reached, and the Board was interested in the status of settlement discussions and the pending process with the State Water Board. —LC

June Mountain to reopen

June Mountain is set to open this December after being closed for the 2012–2013 season. Last winter the June

Lake Chamber of Commerce organized a series of events and festivals to lessen the financial impact on local businesses losing revenue due to the ski area's closure. Despite those efforts, some businesses did close and others reported about half the usual business without the ski area open. In April, locals welcomed news from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area CEO Rusty Gregory that June Mountain would reopen for winter 2013–2014. Opening day is set for December 13. —EL

Mammoth Community Water District

In July, the Mammoth Community Water District reached a settlement agreement with DWP, resolving several years of contention and litigation over local water rights. DWP had challenged the District's diversions from Mammoth Creek for current and future supply to the town of Mammoth Lakes. The settlement secures Mammoth's water rights from challenge for the next century in exchange for the District funding \$5.8 million in local water conservation initiatives to assure that downstream supply to DWP is not diminished by the growth of the town. —GM

One of many Owens dust issues settled

DWP has agreed to settlement terms with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District to resolve some of the many outstanding air quality issues in the Owens Lake area. Settlement components include a \$10 million DWP payment to Great Basin to implement a dust control project at Keeler Dunes, an area that generates significant dust; an agreement by both agencies that future dust control measures will seek to control air pollution using less water; and the creation of a Cultural Resource Task



Committee staff get an overview of one of Caltrans' test plots along Highway 395.

Continued on page 13

Force to ensure that cultural resources are properly identified and protected throughout these ongoing efforts.

While it's a relatively small achievement in the grand scheme of Owens dust issues, and several other lawsuits are still being pursued, this settlement demonstrates that mutually beneficial solutions are possible between the two agencies. Both sides hope that this settlement structure can be a model for moving forward on the remaining outstanding disagreements. —LC

Remembering Lillian Kawasaki

This past summer we were saddened to hear of longtime Mono-phile Lillian Kawasaki's passing. In her many roles, including serving as the first head of Los Angeles' Environmental Affairs Department, she worked tirelessly to promote improved water management in Los Angeles, advocating that water savings from local conservation and recycled water programs be dedicated



ELIN LUNG

Digital 395 crews routing fiber optic cable under Rush Creek in late July. As of press time, many Eastern Sierra communities have been hooked up to the new internet service, with Lee Vining's connection just weeks away.

to the protection of Mono Lake. She was instrumental in establishing the Manzanar National Historic Site, which commemorates the unjust internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II. Committee Board

Member Martha Davis describes Lillian as “a force of nature, always standing up for what was right and always pushing all of us to be better stewards of California’s precious water resources.”—GM ♦

New mayor appoints new DWP Commission

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

In May, Los Angeles residents elected Eric Garcetti to be the new mayor of the nation's second-largest city. Garcetti comes to the office with a long history of involvement in Los Angeles affairs, including serving for a decade on the City Council, and strong commitment to environmental sustainability. To pick one example, Garcetti authored the significant city water conservation ordinance that requires all new construction to include low-use water fixtures.

Mayor Garcetti is responsible for appointing numerous individuals to city leadership positions, and high on the list of interest for Mono Lake enthusiasts are the appointments to the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Board of Commissioners, which governs DWP. Garcetti's

selections show his desire for transparency, sustainability, and sound business practices. The appointees are: political consultant Jill Banks Barad, foundation director Michael Fleming, attorney William Funderburk, Jr., former Congressman Mel Levine, and Christina Noonan, the only Commissioner appointed by the prior mayor to continue on. The City Council confirmed the appointments unanimously in September.

Barad has a public relations firm that works on LA-area political campaigns. Fleming is the executive director of the David Bohnett Foundation, a Beverly Hills-based non-profit organization working to improve society through social activism, and also teaches public policy courses at UCLA. In addition to practicing law, Funderburk has served on a national board dealing with

stormwater management. Levine served as a member of the California Assembly from 1977 to 1982 and as a Congressman from 1983 until 1993.

The Committee looks forward to working with all of the new Commissioners, especially on water issues that involve Mono Lake, the Eastern Sierra, and the ongoing implementation of the Stream Restoration Agreement (see page 3).

Garcetti's appointees replaced Eric Holoman, Richard Moss, Jonathan Parfrey, and Thomas Sayles, all of whom were appointed by former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Former commissioner Parfrey, known for his commitment to conservation, now leads Climate Resolve, a non-profit group working on climate change prevention and adaptation in Southern California.

Streamwatch

Stream Restoration Agreement to reduce streamflow violations

by Greg Reis

Since peak flows on Mono Lake's tributary streams aren't required in a dry year, no peak flows were included in DWP's 2013 operations plan when it was released in May. However, on June 3, the Committee reminded DWP of the provision in Order 98-05 for a 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) peak flow on Rush Creek and a 75 cfs peak flow on Lee Vining Creek for five days every second consecutive dry year. This provision ensures that those creeks never have two years in a row without a peak flow.

The highest priority restoration action is to have streamflows mimic the natural conditions to which the streams are adapted, and under those conditions there would be a (much larger) peak flow every year.

Three days after the reminder,

DWP began increasing the flows. Unfortunately, the peak flows it delivered were short of the required 5-day release. Lee Vining Creek was above 75 cfs for only 3.8 days and Rush Creek was above 100 cfs for 3.7 days.

Also in May, DWP submitted its 2012 compliance report to the California State Water Resources Control Board. The Committee reviewed the document closely, finding 128 violations of minimum streamflows on Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks. The standout violation was on Walker Creek where DWP water diversion operations caused streamflow to fall up to 35% below the ordered minimum for a continuous month in duration. In total, Walker Creek suffered 43 days of flow violations, a full 58% of the days on which DWP

conducted diversions.

Since DWP did not report these violations, the Committee requested that the State Water Board investigate, consider possible fines, halt the most problematic diversion at Walker Creek, and require improved reporting.

The good news is that the Stream Restoration Agreement (see page 3) includes new planning and communication provisions that reduce the likelihood of such problems in the future. The Agreement also provides for flow-through conditions on Walker and Parker creeks, eliminating future repeats of the 2012 violations.

There will always be a need for the Committee to continue to watchdog DWP's operations and encourage compliance, but the new Agreement is a big step in the right direction. ❖

Lakewatch

Coyotes reach Old Marina gull nesting area

by Greg Reis

From April 1 to August 1, Mono Lake dropped only $\frac{2}{3}$ of the 1 foot that it dropped last year, primarily because of about two inches more rain this year. Except for rainy days, evaporation was likely higher than average. June had a record 4 days in the 90s, and July had a record high minimum temperature combined with 8 days in the 90s. On average, July has only 3.7 days in the 90s.

Mono Lake has reached its lowest level since 2004. That year, coyotes preyed on over 500 California Gull nests on Old Marina Islet—the island just off the shoreline from the Old Marina lake

access point on the west shore. This year, on the last day of July, a Mono Lake Volunteer spotted a coyote raiding the Old Marina Islet gull nests—luckily it was late enough in the season that many gulls had already fledged. This spring, one of the Paoha Islets, Piglet, was accessed by coyotes swimming about 20 feet from Paoha Island.

Coyote predation ended in the main gull nesting areas in 1996, when Mono Lake rose above 6380 feet above sea level. In early October the lake was at early 1997 levels, and stood at 6380.6 feet. It could drop an additional half-foot by winter, and without a significant rise next year, could put the main gull nesting islets in



The Old Marina California Gull nesting area as seen from the Old Marina pathway.

range of coyotes. A wet winter would be a very welcome end to the dropping lake levels of the last two dry years. ❖

Greg Reis is the Committee's Information & Restoration Specialist. He carried his two-year-old son to the top of Mt. Dana in August, and found one patch of snow left to play in.

6417'

Prediversion lake level, 1941

6392'

Management lake level

6380.6'

Current lake level

6372'

Historic low, 1982

Mono Basin Journal

A roundup of quiet happenings at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin



Geoff McQuilkin

It takes a special, not entirely welcome, phenomenon to highlight the vast airflow patterns that move across the Mono Basin. Smoke does the job, and this season we had lots of it. Rising from large fires on the western slopes of the Sierra, the smoke would catch a ride on air currents that push up and over the tallest peaks to arrive in the Mono Basin. Sometimes there would be delicate smoke swirls high in the sky; other times a great wall of smoke would plunge into the Mono Basin and obscure views near and far. Often the tug-of-war between murky smoke descending the glacier-carved canyons from Yosemite could be observed as crystal clear air from the Mono Basin pushed back; the wall of smoke would slosh back and forth in the canyons for hours or days, until one achieved victory.

Back on the ground, the full glory of autumn is now upon us. Blazing aspen groves of photogenic yellow and orange can be found tucked here and there, even down along the

edge of the lake, leaves dancing and quaking in the wind.

With Mono Lake's streams on everyone's minds, colorful trees currently maximize the visibility of these twisting wildlife corridors as they descend from mountains to the sagebrush plains to the shores of Mono Lake. All along their wending way, glowing leaves of aspens, willows, and cottonwoods highlight the streamside forests. From a vantage point miles away they glow brightly, stretched out across the landscape, ducking in and out of the sun as cold clouds swell over the granite peaks and curtains of early season snow brush by. Soon the leaves will fade, but restoration of the streams will leap ahead, promising even bigger shows of color in years to come. ❖

Geoff McQuilkin is the Committee's Executive Director. He recently climbed Williams Butte with a birthday party's worth of kids, which involved sagebrush jumping contests.

Benchmarks



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Longtime Mono Basin residents remember being able to walk to this freshwater spring, locally known as the "Black Hole," when it was right at the edge of Mono Lake. Date of photo unknown.



BRUCE TIERNAN

Two generations of Mono Lake Interns, Bryce Tiernan and his mother Katie Quinlan, found the Black Hole spring this past August, 14 feet under Mono Lake and 400 feet from shore.



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION CENTER & BOOKSTORE

Fall Catalog

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MONO LAKE BASEBALL SHIRTS

This staff favorite looks great on Emma, Terry, and Erik. These super-soft cotton/ rayon/polyester retro baseball shirts display the classic “Mono Lake: it’s worth saving” image on the front. The loose-fitting unisex version has a dark grey body with navy three-quarter sleeves and collar. The more fitted women’s shirt has green three-quarter sleeves and a white body.

Unisex Mono Lake baseball shirt, navy/grey, S–L: \$26.00, XL–XXL: \$28.00

Women’s Mono Lake baseball shirt, green/ white, S–XL: \$26.00

RACER-BACK MONO LAKE TANK

Project Specialists Julia and Emma model these stylish tanks that are great on their own for warm weather or layered under sweaters during colder months. The classic “Mono Lake: it’s worth saving” blue and white design pops on the gold tank, and has an especially vintage feel with its top-stitched raw edges. Sizes run small on these soft cotton/rayon/polyester tanks.

Racer-back Mono Lake tank, S–XL: \$25.00



BACKYARD BIRDS



RAVEN



PIKA



CHICKADEES

HOLIDAY CARD SETS

BY CHARLEY HARPER, SEPTEMBER VHEY, AND WENDY MORGAN
Charley Harper’s design of a backyard birds clinging to a stocking filled with seeds is perfect for holiday greetings; the inside of each card says “Happy Holidays.” September Vhey’s watercolor painting of a raven prancing among hanging gold ornaments is a playful way to greet those on your holiday card list. Wendy Morgan’s cards

feature either a cheerful pika holding a bundle of gathered holiday grasses in its mouth or two chickadees sitting on branches, with a holiday red background. The inside of the raven, pika, and chickadee cards reads “May you have a Happy Holiday and a Joyous New Year!”

Backyard birds holiday notecards, 12 cards and 13 envelopes, 7½”x 5¼”: \$12.00

Holiday card set, 10 cards with envelopes, 4½”x 6¼”, please specify raven, pika, or chickadees: \$13.50

order at www.monolake.org/store or (760) 647-6595



GREAT BLUE HERON SHIRT

Julia, Bryce, and Emma sport this new shirt that has footprints on the front and an elegant

Great Blue Heron on the back. This shirt comes in a unisex (olive green) and a women's cut (dark turquoise); both styles are made from super-soft 100% organic cotton. The right sleeve says "Leave only tracks at Mono Lake."

Great Blue Heron shirt, please specify unisex (green) or women's (blue), S-XL: \$22.00, XXL: \$23.00



GREAT BLUE HERON SHIRT BACK



MONO LAKE TRUCKER HAT

We spotted Birding Intern Ryan at the water fountain in this popular hat. The Mono Lake Committee logo adorns this Econscious® trucker hat, which is made from 70% organic cotton and 30% recycled polyester. It looks great on men and women alike, is adjustable, and will keep your head cool and shaded for those long birding expeditions at Mono Lake!

Mono Lake trucker hat, please specify navy blue or sage green, one size: \$20.00



MONO LAKE BUCKET HAT

Outdoor Education Center staff Santiago and Elina shelter from the sun in this durable Mono Lake bucket hat.

Complete with straps to keep it from flying away, this hat is packable, functional, and has the Mono Lake Committee logo on the front. What more do you need?

Mono Lake bucket hat, please specify tan or dark green, S/M or L/XL: \$25.00



MONO LAKE PATCH

This locally-made Mono Lake patch shows a deep orange sky, a California Gull, tufa towers and of course, Mono Lake! It makes a great stocking stuffer for anyone who loves Mono Lake and wants a souvenir to attach to a pack, vest, or hat.

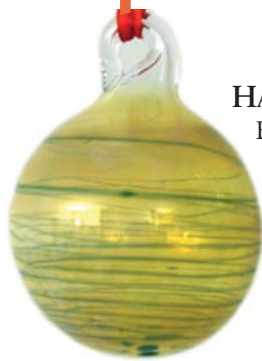
Mono Lake patch, 3¾"x 2": \$6.00

Fall Catalog



ASPEN LEAF ORNAMENT

Artist Jean Butterfield captures the beauty of autumn by electroplating real aspen leaves in 18-karat gold and rhodium silver. The leaves vary slightly in size, but are approximately 3" long and are strung with either a silver or burgundy ribbon for hanging. Add a little sparkle to your home this winter!
Aspen leaf ornament, please specify silver or gold: \$16.00



HAND-BLOWN GLASS ORNAMENT

Each of these hand-blown glass ornaments has an individual design indicative of the Nepali artist who created it. Ornaments measure 3" in diameter and come in a sage-green box topped with a silver Mono Lake Committee logo.

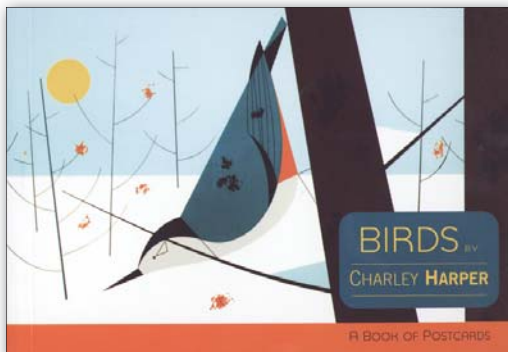
Hand-blown glass ornament: \$14.00



BRINE SHRIMP ORNAMENT

A traditional-yet-unique holiday hit, these brine shrimp ornaments by Wild Bryde are a great tribute to the *Artemia monica* of Mono Lake. These ornaments are just over 3" long and come packaged in a custom blue envelope to make a wonderful holiday gift.

Brine shrimp ornament, please specify silver or gold: \$10.00



BIRDS BY CHARLEY HARPER: A BOOK OF POSTCARDS

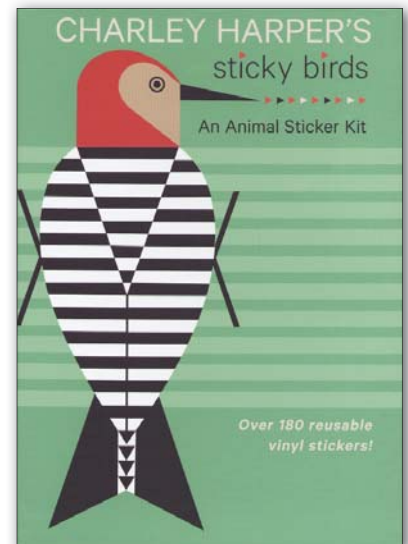
Why have one Charley Harper bird illustration when you can have 30? Harper's graphic illustrations of birds are the feature of this postcard book—one bird per postcard. Now you can send cheery bird greetings to all your friends and family!

Birds by Charley Harper: A book of postcards, 30 tear-out cards, 7"x 4 3/4": \$10.95

CHARLEY HARPER'S STICKY BIRDS

Bring art and nature into playtime with reusable vinyl stickers featuring Charley Harper's animal illustrations. The kit comes with 180 durable stickers, one double-sided board for arranging stickers, and one booklet illustrating 12 birds with information about each one.

Charley Harper's sticky birds, 183-piece kit: \$19.95



NEW!

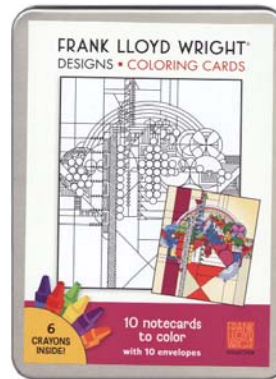
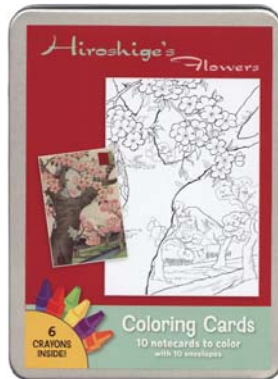
LARGE LONG LIVE MONO LAKE MUG

Everybody loves a giant mug that you can really wrap your hands around for sipping hot tea on a cold winter's evening. Emblazoned with a gull flying over tufa towers and the words "Long Live Mono Lake" in teal, this large white ceramic mug is perfect for just those times.

Large Long Live Mono Lake mug, 15-oz.: \$10.00

order at www.monolake.org/store or (760) 647-6595

Visit
MONOLAKE.ORG/STORE
to see all
products
in color!



ARTIST COLORING CARDS

COLLECTIONS FROM CHARLEY HARPER, HIROSHIGE, AND FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

These postcards, featuring modern art pieces, will have adults and children alike reaching for crayons to color in between the lines (and outside the lines, if you're a rebel). Each set comes with 10 notecards, matching envelopes, and six crayons, all tucked neatly in a tin box.

Artist coloring cards, 10 cards and envelopes with 6 crayons, please specify Harper, Hiroshige, or Wright, 7½"x 5½": \$12.95

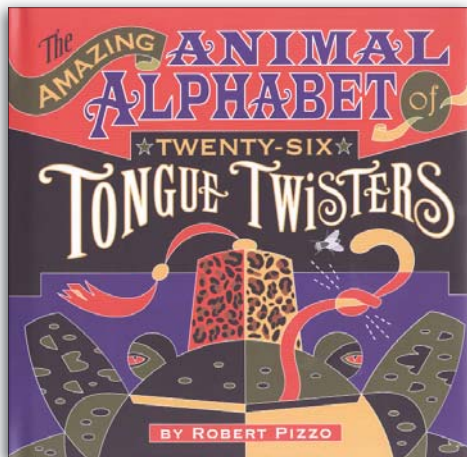
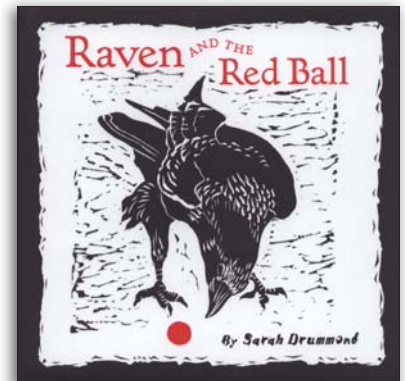
RAVEN AND THE RED BALL

BY SARAH DRUMMOND

Watch as a raven and a dog frolic and bounce with a red ball across each wordless page. The 16 black-and-white playful images are artistic, yet beautifully simple.

Author and illustrator Sarah Drummond shows her knack for natural history interpretation in this children's book, suitable for all ages.

Raven and the Red Ball, hardcover, Pomegranate Kids, 28 pages, 6"x 6": \$9.95



THE AMAZING ANIMAL ALPHABET OF TWENTY-SIX TONGUE TWISTERS

BY ROBERT PIZZO

Do crabby crab cabbies really cruise in cool classic checker cabs? Maybe penguins do play ping-pong with pretty polka-dotted paddles. Either way, you will find fun in this high-energy, colorful children's book. Each page features a letter of the alphabet, an animal character, and witty tongue-twisted alliteration.

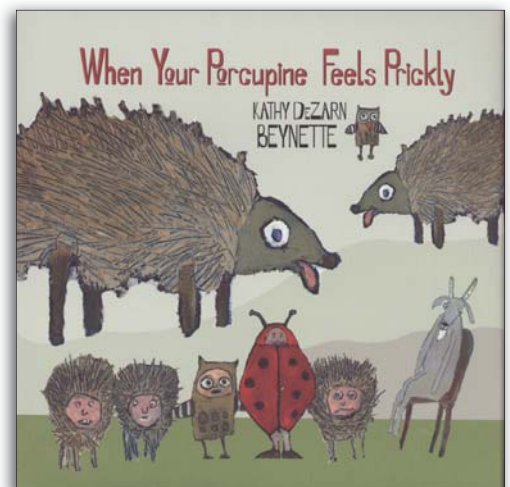
The Amazing Animal Alphabet of Twenty-Six Tongue Twisters, hardcover, Pomegranate Kids, 32 pages, 8½"x 8½": \$17.95

WHEN YOUR PORCUPINE FEELS PRICKLY

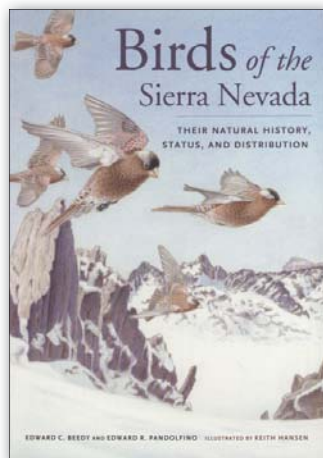
BY KATHY DEZARN BEYNETTE

Filled with fairly sound and lyrical advice about what to do with your pets in different circumstances, *When Your Porcupine Feels Prickly* is a goofy trip that will have you giggling about a hippo's sweater and a hitchhiking cockroach! Twenty-two illustrations each accompany a short poem.

When Your Porcupine Feels Prickly, hardcover, Pomegranate Kids, 48 pages, 7"x 7": \$14.95



order at www.monolake.org/store or (760) 647-6595



BIRDS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA: THEIR NATURAL HISTORY, STATUS, AND DISTRIBUTION

BY EDWARD C. BEEDY AND EDWARD R. PANDOLFINO, ILLUSTRATED BY KEITH HANSEN

This much-anticipated book was the bestseller by far in the Information Center & Bookstore during the 2013 Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. Well written and thoroughly illustrated, new and advanced birders alike will be as delighted as we are to experience this book.

Birds of the Sierra Nevada, paperback, University of California Press, 430 pages, 10"x 7": \$39.95

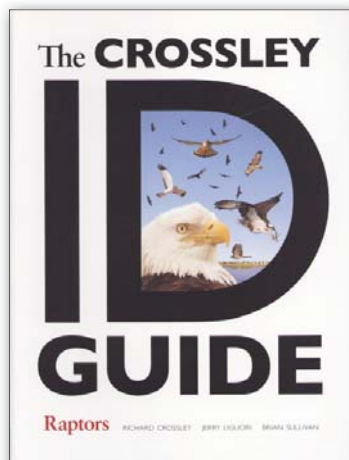
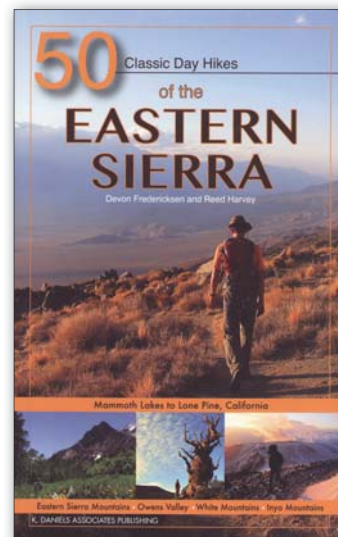
50 CLASSIC DAY HIKES OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

BY DEVON FREDERICKSEN AND REED HARVEY

This new Eastern Sierra hiking guide is published locally in Bishop and features full-color photos on high-quality paper.

The book is organized by region, and has local and important information about each hike along with a topo map and photos. Thoroughly researched and inspiring to browse, this is a dependable book to add to your collection.

50 Classic Day Hikes of the Eastern Sierra, paperback, K. Daniels Associates Publishing, 344 pages, 8½"x 5¼": \$28.00



THE CROSSLEY ID GUIDE: RAPTORS

BY RICHARD CROSSLEY

What is that in the sky? Crossley's guide has photos of each raptor in every possible flight position you may see. With helpful information for differentiating similar-looking raptors (like Peregrine vs. Prairie falcons) and quizzes you can take to see how you are developing, this is a necessary field guide.

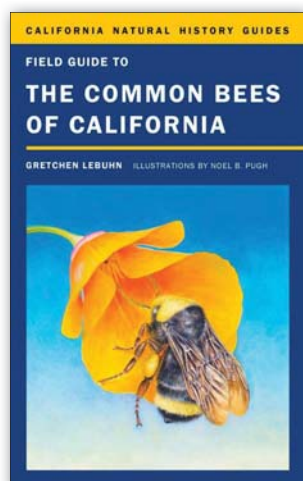
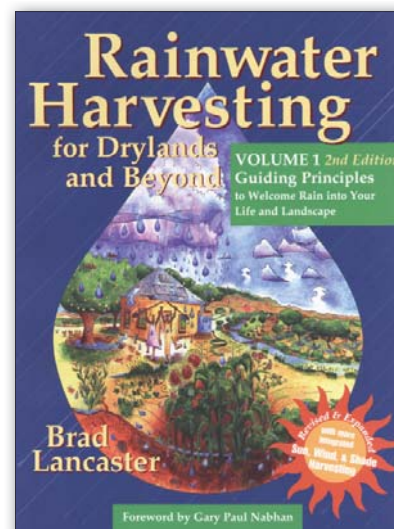
The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors, paperback, Princeton University Press, 286 pages, 10"x 7½": \$29.95

RAINWATER HARVESTING FOR DRYLANDS AND BEYOND

BY BRAD LANCASTER

Brad Lancaster's guide to taking advantage of the rain, sun, wind, and shade at your home is perhaps the most inspiring work of its kind. This book is a step-by-step guide to decreasing your consumption of water, electricity, and gas in an affordable way that simply makes sense. After hearing Brad speak at a conference

earlier this year, we immediately ordered this new edition! *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, paperback, Chelsea Green Publishing, 281 pages, 11"x 8½": \$29.95*



FIELD GUIDE TO THE COMMON BEES OF CALIFORNIA

BY GRETCHEN LEBUHN,

ILLUSTRATED BY NOEL BADGES PUGH

This easy-to-use guidebook to native and honey bees in California and the Western United States not only helps with identification of common bees, but also discusses the importance bees play in our everyday lives. As declining bee populations have been the focus of recent studies, this field guide is timely and important.

Field Guide to the Common Bees of California, paperback, University of California Press, 192 pages, 7"x 4½": \$21.95

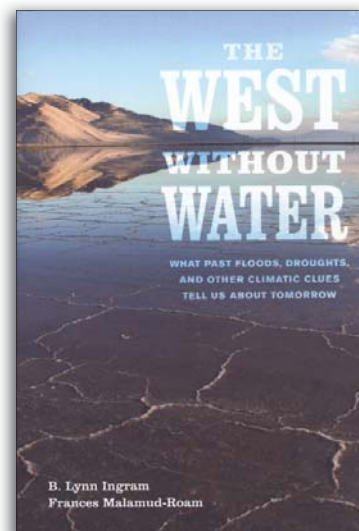
order at www.monolake.org/store or (760) 647-6595

THE WEST WITHOUT WATER

BY B. LYNN INGRAM AND FRANCES MALAMUD-ROAM

The West Without Water explores what “normal” climate in the Western United States looks like, and what the future holds for the region. Touching on subjects of climate and paleoclimate research, the authors go in-depth but present the issues in a very approachable way.

The West Without Water, hardcover, University of California Press, 289 pages, 9"x 6½": \$29.95

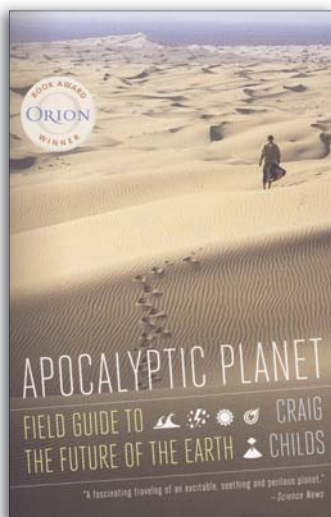


APOCALYPTIC PLANET

BY CRAIG CHILDS

Craig Childs asks readers to explore the extremes of our planet—from the driest desert to the drowned land bridge of the Bering Sea—as a foreshadowing of the future. In true Childs style, one feels the texture and heat from a desert rock and smells a grassy field as if exploring these places alongside him. Of course, the author does not leave you without solutions to the problems earth is facing, making this an inspirational book to pass along to friends and family.

Apocalyptic Planet, paperback, Vintage Books, 343 pages, 8"x 5": \$16.95

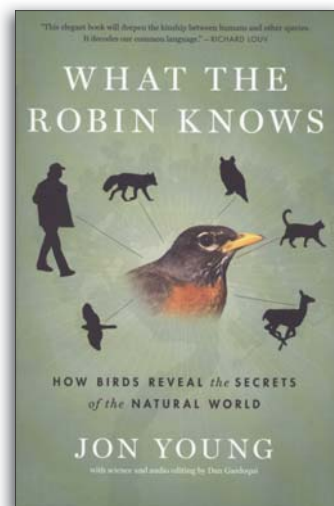


WHAT THE ROBIN KNOWS

BY JON YOUNG

Another book written by a Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua presenter, *What the Robin Knows* gives insight into the world of songbirds. Young teaches us to tune in to different songbird calls to determine what is going on in the environment around us. Young has spent decades in the field, and combines this experience with ancient native teachings and current research for an intriguing book you won't be able to put down.

What the Robin Knows, paperback, Mariner, 241 pages, 8"x 5¼": \$14.95

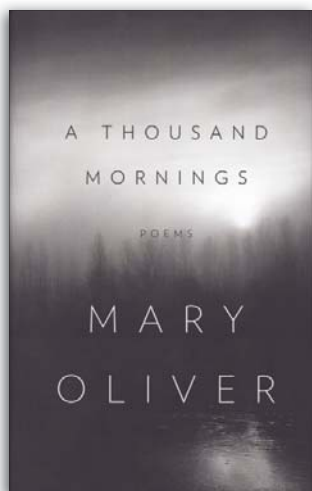


A THOUSAND MORNINGS

BY MARY OLIVER

Mary Oliver's most recent collection of poetry correctly reflects her chosen title, as the book takes a tone of just awakening to experience nature's quirks afresh. Her astute observations will resonate with anyone who has ever sat at a window and gazed out in wonder.

A Thousand Mornings, paperback, The Penguin Press, 76 pages, 8½"x 5": \$16.00



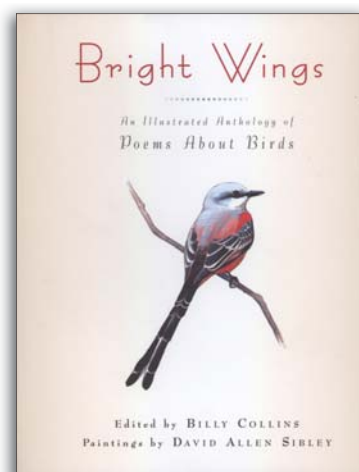
BRIGHT WINGS

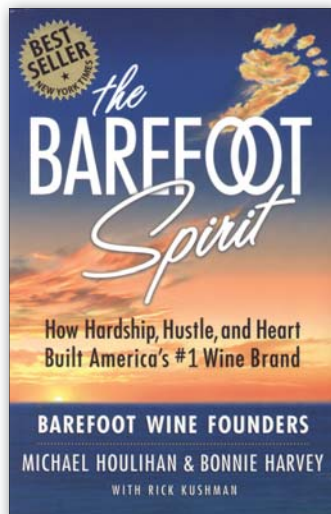
EDITED BY BILLY COLLINS,

PAINTINGS BY DAVID ALLEN SIBLEY

Former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins matches classic and contemporary poems about birds with David Sibley's detailed avian illustrations. Each poet, including Emily Dickinson, William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens, and Thomas Hardy provides his or her unique take on the nature of birds, which makes this book a perfect gift for both birders and poets!

Bright Wings, paperback, Columbia University Press, 265 pages, 7½"x 5½": \$16.95





THE BAREFOOT SPIRIT

BY MICHAEL HOULIHAN & BONNIE HARVEY

With two months on the New York Times' bestseller list, *The Barefoot Spirit* tells Michael and Bonnie's story of Barefoot Winery's humble beginnings and occasional great luck to their overwhelmingly hard-earned success. Their unique marketing plan (which includes sponsoring events at Mono Lake!) and in-depth view of the wine industry is a great read.

The Barefoot Spirit, paperback, Evolve Publishing, 275 pages, 8½"x 5½": \$9.99

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Badger products are certified 100% natural and 87% organic, so you can feel good about what you put on your skin, and baby's skin too. The broad spectrum SPF 30 sunscreen comes in either an aloe vera scent or the chamomile-calendula scent for babies. The Badger cocoa butter lip balm comes in three scents: cocoa, pomegranate, or mint.

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These reusable snack bags from Chico Bag are a perfect replacement for single-use, plastic snack bags. A set of three bags—one green, one blue, and one plum—features a fold-over closure for smaller snack items, but can also expand for full-sized sandwiches.

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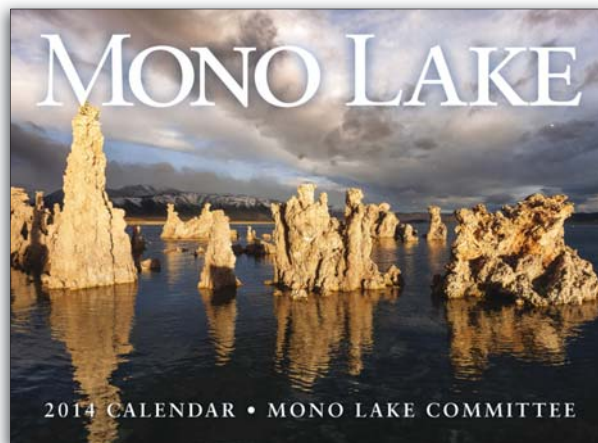


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2014 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

The 2014 *Mono Lake Calendar* features images of tufa, Mono Lake's shoreline, sunsets, fall colors, and beautiful winter scenes. Month grids have inset images of wildlife and scenic photos too. Bring Mono Lake into your home 365 days of the year, and consider our bulk discounts and holiday shipping options below for gifts this season.

Printed in the USA on recycled paper.
2014 *Mono Lake Calendar*, 13"x 9½": \$11.95

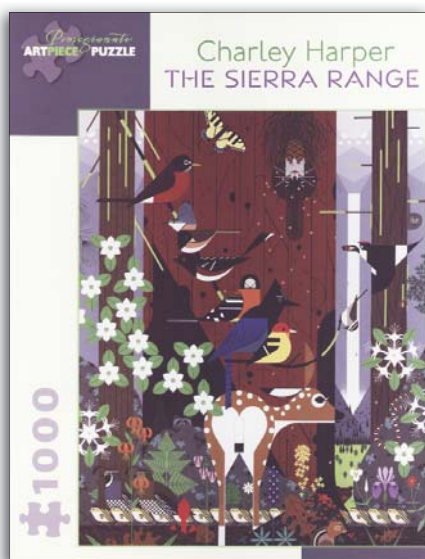


2014 CALENDAR

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Oh the delight of a challenging puzzle! Charley Harper's graphic art adorns this 1,000-piece puzzle, which includes a plethora of Sierra Nevada creatures. Flora and fauna go about a typical day: a Great Grey Owl peers from behind a tree, a chickadee perches upside-down on a branch, meanwhile a red snowplant works its way out of the undergrowth. Perfect for a winter evening by the fire. *The Sierra Range jigsaw puzzle, 1,000 pieces, box is 13"x 10": \$18.95*

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Shopping spree at Wilson's Eastside Sports and a Juniper Ridge spa gift pack

Caldera Kayaks guided kayak tour of Mono Lake with a meal at the Whoa Nellie Deli

iPad mini

Framed quaking aspen photograph from Dan Suzio



Framed black-and-white Mono Lake photograph from Dan Zimmermann

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

A whitewater rafting trip for two down the American River



Membership and T-shirt from Friends of the Inyo

Two poetry broadside prints designed by Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival artist Jim Cokas

Napa Valley vineyard tour and wine tasting

Patagonia goods: men's and women's Nano Puff Hoodies and a Great Divider gear chest

REI Trail 25 backpack



Edison Theater season pass and a copy of *Tracks of Passion*

Locally-handmade ceramic aspen bowls from Sallee Burns

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

Mono Lake Committee field seminar for two
\$250 Mono Lake Committee shopping spree
Mono Lake Committee guided canoe tour for four
Mono Lake Committee logo T-shirt, hat, water bottle, *Mono Lake Story* DVD, and 2014 calendar

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area season pass

Mammoth

Sierra Star Golf Club season pass

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY

Yosemite Conservancy field seminar, lodging and dinner at the Wawona Hotel

Relaxing and exciting vacations!



Golden Gate HOTEL

A stay at the Edelweiss Lodge, dinner at Giovanni's Pizzeria, and a movie at Minaret Cinemas.

Lodging at Death Valley National Park's Furnace Creek Resort, a Lowepro camera backpack, and a copy of *Death Valley Photographer's Guide* by Dan Suzio.

A full-day boat rental on Silver Lake, and meals at Silver Lake Resort and the Eagle's Landing Restaurant at the Double Eagle Resort.

A weekend at Rainbow Tarns Bed & Breakfast, a meal at Giovanni's Pizzeria, and a movie at Minaret Cinemas.

A sailing trip on San Francisco Bay with a stay at the Golden Gate Hotel and a day at the Aquarium of the Bay.

A guided fly fishing trip with Rob McGillicuddy with a set of hand-tied flies, lunch from Stella's Bakery, a movie at Minaret Cinemas, and a stay at Convict Lake Resort.



Lake Tahoe escape at Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley.

A stay at the Historic Inn at Benton Hot Springs.

Giovanni's

FURNACE CREEK RESORT
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



A Chautauqua for birds and verse

by Bartshé Miller

For the 12th year in a row people converged on the Mono Basin in pursuit of birds, science, exploration, art, and camaraderie. The first Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua drew about 100 people; the 2013 Chautauqua brought at least 300 participants. This year's festival included memorable field trips, the breath of poetry, conservation science, foot-stomping music, and a fond farewell to a longtime Chautauqua leader and friend.

Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra provide a dazzling backdrop for the Chautauqua, and a covey of field trips ventures up and down the Highway 395 corridor from Bridgeport Reservoir to Crowley Lake Reservoir during the three-day festival. This year leaders and presenters spotted over 140 species of birds including a couple of exceptional rarities: Ken Etzel found a Scott's Oriole singing along Parker Creek and Peter Metropulos spotted a Purple Martin perched on a wire with swallows near Bridgeport.

Among the highlights was an evening poetry reading by poet Tom Crawford; the convergence of three of our favorite Chautauqua artists—Jack Laws, Ane Carla Rovetta,

*Why won't they run the story
just once, that there's a proven
correlation between birdwatching
and peaceful co-existence?*

—Tom Crawford
from *The Names of Birds*

and Lisa Walraven; memorable presentations by Jon Young; and the co-authors and illustrator of the new *Birds of the Sierra Nevada* book: Ted Beedy, Ed Pandolfino, and Keith Hansen. We investigated the real impact of wind energy on birds, and became better acquainted with Black-backed Woodpeckers and fire ecology.

We also took the time to say goodbye to an old Chautauqua friend, Rich Stallcup. Rich passed away last December and had been a faithful and enthusiastic field trip leader for most of the event's lifetime. Many in the Chautauqua tribe knew him and the Chautauqua represented part of what he dedicated his life to—connecting people to the beauty, complexity, and poetry that lies just outside the door.

Proceeds from the Chautauqua benefit scientific research. The Mono Basin's research legacy has helped us to understand, appreciate, and conserve this remarkable landscape along with its multitude of avian denizens. We thank the hard-working Chautauqua partners, the presenters, and the loyal participants. ❖

POEM EXCERPT USED WITH PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR, TOMCRAWFORD.COM
TOM CRAWFORD'S EVENTS WERE SUPPORTED BY POETS & WRITERS, INC. THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION.

2013 Defender of the Trust Joseph L. Sax

by Arya Degenhardt

The Mono Lake Committee has a celebrated tradition of honoring individuals who champion Mono Lake and advocate for the public trust with the Defender of the Trust Award. The California Supreme Court wrote one of the more succinct and elegant definitions of the public trust doctrine in its landmark 1983 Mono Lake decision: "The public trust is an affirmation of the duty of the state to protect the people's common heritage of streams, lakes, marshlands and tidelands...."

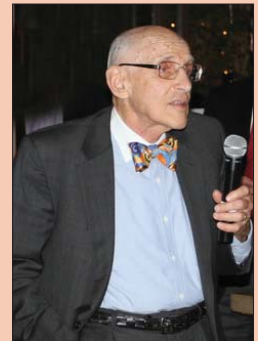
In 1970, Professor Joseph L. Sax wrote the article, "The Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resource Law: Effective Judicial Intervention" in the *Michigan Law Review*. It ignited discussions about the public trust that eventually inspired the people working to save Mono Lake—specifically on *National Audubon Society v. Superior Court*, which established that the public trust applies to Los Angeles' water rights and requires the protection of Mono Lake.

On April 30, 2013 the Committee honored Sax at

the Defender of the Trust award ceremony in Sacramento. The event brought together many old friends and cohorts, and was a fitting celebration of Sax's contributions to Mono Lake. Additionally, it was a great way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this landmark legal decision that continues to be relevant at Mono Lake and beyond.

Special thanks go to event sponsors and organizers Morrison & Foerster; Richard Roos-Collins, California Trout attorney with the Water & Power Law Group; and Peter Vorster, consulting hydrologist for the Mono Lake Committee.

The next Defender of the Trust Award will be given during the Defense Trust Weekend at Mono Lake September 26–28, 2014. For more information on this event or to participate please contact Ellen King (ellen@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595.



Joseph L. Sax, 2013
Defender of the Trust.

Staff migrations

by Rosanne Catron

The mountaintops are capped with snow, and in Lee Vining the smell of woodsmoke is in the air. As the chilly weather arrives, Mono Lake Committee seasonal staff members migrate far and wide.

We are excited to announce two milestones in the Gaines family. **Sally's** daughter and Committee Board Member, **Vireo**, along with her husband **Jeff**, welcomed baby **Everett Wendell Schiller** on July 18. On September 7, Sally's son **Sage** married **Rhianna Hanover** aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Congratulations to the entire family!



Everett Wendell Schiller, born to Vireo and Jeff on July 18, 2013.

This year our skilled summer staff worked in the Information Center & Bookstore; answered questions for thousands of people in person, on the phone, and via email; connected with over 3,400 visitors through educational talks and canoe and walking tours; signed up new and renewing members; and took on special projects in the office and in the field. Thank you to our seasonal staff for all of their hard work.

After two summers interning at the Committee, **Erik Lyon** returned for a third season, this time as Project Specialist. He was a crucial addition, providing IT support, helping to coordinate the Tioga Pass Run, and working on an educational display in the Information Center & Bookstore. Thank you Erik, and we'll miss you.

Two talented Outdoor Experiences Instructors taught hundreds of youth about water conservation and the source of their drinking water. Lead Instructor **Elina Rios'** passion for education and unflappable nature were invaluable additions to the season. Returning Outdoor Experiences Instructor **Jessica François** brought her flexible personality, interpretive abilities, and knowledge of all things Mono Lake to the program.

If you visited this summer, you probably talked to one of the Information Center & Bookstore Assistants. **Alex Kalita** was always helpful with a smile on her face and information in hand, even on the most hectic days. **Tina Weedman's** knowledge of the local area and friendly approach helped keep the store running smoothly all summer long.

Canoe Coordinator **Julia Frankenbach** brought her superb organizational skills to a busy canoe season with over 950 canoe tour participants. We are excited that Julia will be here through the winter as a Project Specialist. Birding Intern **Ryan Price** led weekly bird walks at County Park and helped with California Gull research on Mono Lake's islands.

Intern **Julie Curtis** took on a variety of projects with her can-do attitude, including writing Mono-logue posts and maintaining the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Intern **Edie Harris** coordinated a series of lectures with local researchers and conducted stream monitoring. We were happy to have Intern **Max Henkels** return for his second summer at the Committee. Max brought his enthusiastic nature to our summer restoration program, helping to coordinate the removal of more than 1,500 pounds of invasive plants.

Intern **Emma Oschrin** helped keep people connected with Mono Lake via social media, and did a fantastic job leading tours at the lakeshore. We're lucky to have Emma stay on through the winter as a Project Specialist. Intern **Bryce Tiernan** lent his graphic design skills to designing the Tioga Pass Run T-shirt and the restoration volunteer T-shirt.

It's never too early to think about next summer! We post new jobs at monolake.org/jobs and begin accepting applications on January 1, 2014. ♦

Rosanne Catron is the Committee's Office Director. She and her husband are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their baby!



The 2013 Mono Lake Committee staff. Top row, left to right: Erik Lyon, Bartshé Miller, Geoff McQuilkin, Ellen King, Max Henkels, Santiago Escruceria. Middle row: Edie Harris, Elin Ljung, Julia Frankenbach, Emma Oschrin, Ryan Price. Bottom row: Jessica Ashley, Caelen McQuilkin, Ellery McQuilkin, Julie Curtis, Arya Degenhardt, Rosanne Catron.



From the mailbag

News from members and friends

by Ellen King

Thank you to all of you who sent in contributions in honor or in memory of your friends and loved ones. We appreciate these gifts that help us carry on the work that will keep Mono Lake a special place for many generations.

In honor

Todd & Carolyn Pickton of Denver, CO made a donation in honor of **Shailer Pickton** “on Father’s Day.” **Susie & Monte Weddle** of San Diego gave a gift in honor of **Barbara Tassey**: “Her father (a Belcher) homesteaded a piece of property on the east side of Mono Lake sometime around 1938. She would spend every summer up here with her dad on the homestead and loved it. As an adult she bought a cabin at Twin Lakes (Bridgeport) and continued to love the area for the rest of her life.” We received a gift in honor of **Steven Schafer & Janet Duerr**, “sent by their friends in appreciation of their leadership on the California trip.” **Lis Cohen & Jon Saari, Elaine Hairston, and Sarah Miller-Davenport** sent donations in honor of the wedding of **Catherine Williams & Winston Seiler**.

In memory

Kathleen Cooke of Santa Rosa gave a gift in memory of former Tioga Pass ranger **Ferdinand Castillo**. **Leota “Sis” Curtis** of Orinda sent a contribution in memory of **Jane Stephens**. **Bruce Dodge** of Kentfield sent a gift to recognize the late **Ken Downey**, “who served Los Angeles [as a city attorney] with ability, integrity, and good humor.” **Arnold Felsenfeld** of Sherman Oaks made a donation in memory of his wife, **Sophia Felsenfeld**, “a Dutch woman who loved Mono Lake and walks at South Tufa.” **Beatrice Heggie** of Orinda sent a gift in memory of **Robert Heggie**. **Scott & Claudia Hein** of Concord made a donation in memory of **Rich Stallcup**. **Jan Hewitt** of Fairfield sent a contribution “in memory of my friend **Andrea Mead**



Committee staff with our new bear-proof bin—thank you, Paulette!

Lawrence.” **Janis Kawamura** of San Mateo made a donation in memory of her parents, **Howard & Sue Imada**. **John Louth & Nancy Upham** of Bishop gave a gift in memory of **Janet Upham**—“She dearly loved this lake!” **Fred Lucas** of Woodland Hills sent a contribution in memory of his mother, **Alice Lucas**. **Aron Thomas** of San Francisco made a donation in memory of **William Whipple**.

We love bears

Thank you to **Paulette Willie** of Fairbanks, AK, who made it possible for us to purchase a bear-proof trash and recycling bin to install in front of the bookstore. Bears have been active in Lee Vining this fall, so we’re very happy to have the bin.

Jordan Herbst

We were relieved to hear of local teenager **Jordan Herbst**’s recent recovery from a near-fatal case of

hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a respiratory disease transmitted through contact with rodent droppings. Jordan underwent treatment in Bishop, Reno, and ultimately at UC Davis Children’s Hospital, where he recovered after extensive care.

Jordan’s father, **David Herbst**, a research biologist with the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, was part of the 1976 research group that conducted the first ecological study of Mono Lake.

Jordan is continuing to recover at home in Bishop. He missed two weeks of his freshman year at Bishop Union High School, but he plans to join the swim team and snowboard team when he completes physical therapy. We are so thankful that you made it through, Jordan! ❖

Ellen King is the Committee’s Membership Coordinator. Her favorite animal is a hedgehog.



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