

Mono Basin Tree Identification



Aspens and Jeffrey pines

Nora Livingston

September 3, 2022 • Nora Livingston

\$145 per person / \$130 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 8 participants

From cottonwoods and willows along creeks to gnarled windswept pines high in the mountains, the Mono Basin and adjacent mountains provide a wonderful gradient to look at trees and tree-like shrubs in their respective plant communities. While the diversity may not be as impressive as the East Coast, there are plenty of trees to learn about and celebrate here in the Eastern Sierra. This one-day seminar will delve into the diversity of trees in the Mono Basin and their identifying traits. We will examine, observe, and even smell the trees to help ingrain the knowledge into our senses.

Nora Livingston is the Mono Lake Committee's Lead Naturalist Guide. She was lucky to study dendrology (the study of trees) in the Appalachian Mountains where there are well over 100 tree species in a small geographic area.

ITINERARY

Saturday, September 3 at 9:00am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After brief introductions, we will spend the day tracking down as many of the Mono Basin tree species as possible and learning how to identify them. This class will return to Lee Vining around 4:00pm.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

This seminar's activity level: *moderate*. We will be walking up to two miles at a leisurely pace, much of which will be over uneven terrain, off trail, and will include stepping up and over obstacles. This type of walking requires good balance, some agility, and stamina. We will be gaining altitude steadily throughout the day.

WEATHER & ALTITUDE

Temperatures in early fall can be hot and dry, comfortably warm, or downright chilly, with possible windy, rainy, and snowy conditions. Average temperatures in September in Lee Vining are 76°F (max) and 45°F (min).

This seminar will take place at elevations ranging from about 6,000 to 10,000 feet above sea level. It is a good idea to acclimate at the elevation of Lee Vining for at least 24 hours prior to the start of the seminar. Those with a history of heart, ear, or respiratory problems should consult their doctors before attending. Anyone restricted to lower elevations should not enroll. *Note: If you have residual respiratory effects from having Covid-19, activities at altitude may be particularly difficult for you.

Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is intense at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

MEALS

Please bring a bag/picnic lunch, snacks for the day, and plenty of drinking water.

TO BRING

- face mask (N95 or KN95 recommended)
- notebook and pen/pencil
- camera (optional)
- appropriate field clothing: hat, sunglasses, warm layers, rain gear
- day pack including plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
- packed lunch and snacks

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- Constantine, Helen. *Plant Communities of the Mono Basin*, Mono Lake Committee Field Guide Series, Kutsavi Press, 1995.
- Lanner, Ronald M. *Conifers of California*, Cachuma Press, 2013.
- Paruk, Jim. *Sierra Nevada Tree Identifier*, Yosemite Conservancy, 2014.

COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022

All participants and instructors must be fully vaccinated and boosted. Proof of vaccination will be required after you register for a seminar.

Please minimize your exposure to Covid in the time leading up to your seminar. We recommend obtaining a negative PCR test result within 72 hours prior to your seminar starting.* If your PCR test comes back positive for Covid, you must cancel your registration and stay home. If you begin to feel sick in the days leading up to your seminar, you must cancel your registration and stay home. You will receive a full refund in either case.

*Depending on the regional Covid situation we may need to *require* a negative PCR test result within 72 hours prior to your seminar starting.

During the seminars masks will be required indoors and in carpools/Mono Lake Committee van in accordance with Mono County requirements (N95 or KN95 masks offer the best protection). If Mono County has lifted the mask requirement, masks will not be required indoors and in vehicles during the seminars. (You may wear a mask at any time if you wish to.)

If you begin to feel ill with Covid symptoms at any time during the seminar, you must immediately notify the instructor or staff member accompanying the group and leave the seminar.

Please keep in mind that conditions may change at any time and we may have to change our procedures in order to provide the opportunity for everyone involved with the Field Seminars to safely participate. Depending on the Covid situation in the weeks leading up to your seminar, we may have to plan to hold the seminar completely outdoors. Mask requirements may change. There's a chance we may have to cancel seminars altogether. We will communicate with you about any of these changes, and you can always get in touch with us if you have questions or need more clarification about specific circumstances, by emailing fieldseminars@monolake.org or by calling (760) 647-6595.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • monolake.org/seminars