

# Mono Basin Tree Identification



*Aspens and Jeffrey pines*

*Nora Livingston*

## **September 2, 2023 • 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 2 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.

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**

- 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.



**Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars**

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