

Brush and Bloom



July 11–13, 2025 • AnnaLisa Mayer

\$280 per person/ \$265 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 12 participants

Field illustration is a powerful tool to develop understanding and relationship within an ecosystem and encourages us to slow down and pay attention—the very first step in developing a natural history practice. In this seminar, we will embark on a journey of discovery amid the wildflowers of the Eastern Sierra, honing our ability to read a landscape through its flora and practicing plant identification through artistic expression.

Over the course of the weekend, we will have ample opportunity to utilize botanical illustration techniques to learn more about the flowers we encounter, cultivate playfulness and curiosity in the cataloguing of our findings, and even experiment with ethical harvesting to incorporate foraged materials into our sketchbooks. No prior experience with plant identification or illustration is necessary to attend.

AnnaLisa Mayer is a naturalist passionate about bridging the connection between people and place. Having worked in diverse ecosystems across the country, AnnaLisa found herself returning repeatedly to the Eastern Sierra over the past decade. She now splits her time between Bishop and Yosemite, where she works as a Wilderness Education Ranger.

ITINERARY

Friday, July 11 at 7:00pm: Meet in the gallery at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining (51365 Highway 395). After introductions, we will go over plant

identification basics and familiarize ourselves with the tools we will have access to over the weekend.

Saturday, July 12 at 8:30am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore. We will spend the first half of the day traveling between sites within the Mono Basin to practice plant identification, returning to Lee Vining for lunch at 12:30pm. At 2:00pm, we will head to a nearby canyon to escape the afternoon heat and sit more intimately with our sketchbooks. We will end the day back in town by 6:00pm.

Sunday, July 13 at 8:00am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore; we will carpool to two or more sites. The focus on this day will be maximizing field time and getting to know higher elevation wildflowers and may include more walking between sites. There will be plenty of time to focus on documenting species in the afternoon, and we will have the opportunity to share our work with one another. We will return to town by 4:30pm.

Note: *The wildflower season in the Mono Basin and beyond is incredible yet varies greatly in timing and duration year to year. Due to this, exact locations will be determined based on where the wildflowers are most abundant at the time of the seminar. Possible locations include Lee Vining Canyon, Lundy Canyon, Rattlesnake Gulch, and the Tioga Pass area.*

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

This seminar's activity level: *easy*. We will be walking from cars to sites in the field, no more than half a mile from the cars. Participants will need to carry all their supplies from the cars to field locations and back. Some of the locations may be in the sun.

WEATHER & ALTITUDE

Temperatures in summer will be hot during the day and drop to chilly at night, with possible windy conditions and afternoon thunderstorms. Average temperatures in July in Lee Vining are 85°F (max) and 54°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 a hat.

MEALS

We will have a 1.5-hour lunch break in Lee Vining on Saturday. For Sunday, please bring a lunch already packed in the morning. For both days, please bring water and snacks.

TO BRING

- a journal/sketchbook (multi-media preferred but not required)
- your choice of portable art supplies (pens, pencil, watercolor, etc.)
- field appropriate clothing: cool and warm layers, raincoat, hat, sunglasses
- sun and insect protection
- portable chair or mat for sitting on
- daypack
- plenty of water and snacks



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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

