

Typically, summer is a season defined by warm weather and long days. Here in Lee Vining, summer is also defined by a marked increase in visitors. While the loss of the calm quiet of winter might be bittersweet, locals can definitely relate to the excitement that summer brings.

One of my personal favorite phenomena happens this time each year. When Tioga Pass opens the amount of traffic in town increases significantly, and the locals can get lost in the crowd. But even with (and maybe even because of) this increased buzz in town, locals make an extra effort in the summer to wave to each other and smile. It's almost as if that's how we keep the web of this community tight during the influx of new folks passing through. And don't get me wrong—we love the change and depend on visitors to be able to stay here year-round ourselves. But try this simple test: slow down as you drive through town and wave, or smile at someone as you walk down the street. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised to see the friendly response, and you'll get a glimpse of the true warmth of Lee Vining.

You'll feel that same warmth at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore, which also serves as the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce. Want to know a good place to go birding? Looking for a nice day hike? We can help you. We also have lots of information on Mono Lake—such as what has happened here in the past, and what is going on today.

In the same spirit we offer you the *Mono Lake Newsletter*. In this issue we've worked hard to address two of the frequently asked questions we get in the summer: Is Mono Lake Restored? Have the Creeks Recovered? Find the answers starting right here on page 3. We've also taken time to acknowledge that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the State Water Resources Board Order to save Mono Lake, so make sure to check out page 9. In the pages that follow you'll also find updates on our hot policy issues as well as the usual handful of goodies inspired by Mono Lake.

Have a wonderful summer, and we hope to see you in town or out and about around Mono Lake!

—Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director



COVER PHOTO BY VIC SMITH  
SPHINX MOTH PHOTO BY KELLY MILLER

*A white-lined sphinx moth caught in the act of extracting nectar from a larkspur flower. These moths, which can sometimes be mistaken for small hummingbirds, are often seen feeding at dusk in the Mono Basin. If you watch closely you can see their long proboscis, which can be over twice as long as their body, extend carefully into the flower.*

### 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.



### Mono Lake Office Information Center and Bookstore

Highway 395 at Third Street  
Post Office Box 29  
Lee Vining, California 93541  
(760) 647-6595

[info@monolake.org](mailto:info@monolake.org)  
[www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)  
[www.monobasinresearch.org](http://www.monobasinresearch.org)

### Los Angeles Office

322 Culver Blvd.  
Pala Del Rey, California 90293  
Phone (310) 316-0041

### Staff

Executive Director, Policy ..... Frances Spivy-Weber  
Executive Director, Operations ... Geoffrey McQuilkin  
Eastern Sierra Policy Director ..... Lisa Cutting  
Eastern Sierra Policy Coordinator .... Jen Nissenbaum  
Education Director ..... Bartshé Miller  
Assistant Education Director ..... Santiago Escruceria  
Communications Director ..... Arya Degenhardt  
Information Specialist ..... Greg Reis  
Office Manager ..... Craig Pyle  
Staff Assistant ..... Douglas Dunaway  
Retail Operations Manager ..... Brett Pyle  
Bookstore Manager ..... Laura Walker  
Membership Coordinator ..... Erika Obedzinski  
Controller ..... Donnette Huselton  
Canoe Tour Supervisor ..... Gary Nelson  
Canoe Coordinators ..... Cliff Rocha, Ariel Rowan  
Outdoor Experiences Coordinator ..... Kristie Reddick  
Retail Assistants ..... Heidi Hall, Anna Scofield  
Birding Intern ..... Alison Young  
Interns ..... Erin Brandt, Ryan Carle,  
Reagan Heater, Elin Ljung, Kim Rollins

### Board of Directors

Sally Gaines, Mammoth Lakes, Co-chair  
Ed Manning, Davis, Co-chair  
Tom Soto, Santa Monica, Secretary  
David Kanner, Redwood City, Treasurer  
Richard Atwater, La Cañada  
Martha Davis, Riverside  
Ryan Hiete, Los Angeles  
Amy Holm, Los Angeles  
Andrea Lawrence, Mammoth Lakes  
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr., San Francisco  
Doug Virtue, San Pedro

### Directors Emeriti

Helen Green • Ed Grosswiler  
Grace de Laet • Genny Smith  
Brent Coeur-Barron, Corporate Counsel

Founded by David Gaines in 1978

**MONO LAKE**  
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2004 ~ Volume XXVI, Number 1

The *Mono Lake Newsletter* is a quarterly publication of the Mono Lake Committee. Written material contained in this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced for review, reporting, educational purposes, or related non-profit uses; a copy of the publication is requested. Reproduction or quotation for other purposes may be approved upon written request.  
ISSN #0275-6633. Copyright © 2004 Mono Lake Committee.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.