Music & Ecology in the Mono Basin

June 24–26, 2016
Cole & Priscilla Hawkins

$180 per person/ $165 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 15 participants

For 12 years Cole and Priscilla Hawkins led the Mono Lake Music & Ecology Camp for teenagers. Now they will share their knowledge and love of music and ecology with adults in a weekend seminar format.

Join us on a nature and music adventure in the Mono Basin where we will seek the strands connecting the grandeur of the Sierra Nevada and Mono Lake with the music of Ludwig Van Beethoven. Music of Jean Sibelius, Finnish National Composer, will provide inspiration as we view and discuss the mountains, streams, and aspen groves. A Saturday dinner catered by local chef Linda Dore will be served at our solar powered home on the north shore of Mono Lake followed by a brief cello performance.

Cole Hawkins (ecology and natural history) earned a Master’s in Biology at Fresno State and a PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M and currently teaches college biology. Cole looks forward to sharing his knowledge and love of this area with all. Cole is at his best in the Mono Basin: “My favorite place in the whole world.”

Priscilla Hawkins (cello) received a Bachelor of Music from the University of Michigan, holds a California Teaching Credential, and has taught cello and chamber music for 40 years. Priscilla’s cello teachers include Arlene Seaman, Jeff Solow, and Ron Leonard. Priscilla has many years of orchestra experience and is now experimenting with alternative musical styles.

ITINERARY
This is a tentative schedule and may change depending on presence of snow, wildflowers, and wildlife.

Friday, June 24, 7:00pm: Meet in the gallery at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After introductions, there will be a slide show and music. We will go over specific plans for the weekend.
Saturday, June 25, 7:30am: Meet outside the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore. We will carpool up Lee Vining Canyon, making a few stops, looking at the geological conditions, vegetation, and wildlife. Our final stop will be at Bennetville (approximately a ½-mile hike with 200 feet elevation gain) where we will discuss high country ecology and its relation to the rest of the Mono Basin as we eat lunch on the trail, returning to Lee Vining around 12:30pm.

1:00–3:00pm: Break time, leisure time, nap time....

3:30pm: Meet at the Hawkins’ house, east on Highway 167, (allow 20 minutes for a leisurely drive from Lee Vining). The 360° views of Mono Lake, the Sierra Nevada, White Mountains, Bodie Hills, and surrounding sky are spectacular. After a brief introduction to the plant community and area around the house, and perhaps a taste of local Buffalo Berry (the Buffalo Berry is interesting in the basin as it requires a fair amount of moisture, yet it grows in our high desert—find out how), we will learn about and listen to music of Jean Sibelius and Ludwig Van Beethoven.

6:00pm: Dinner at our house will be prepared by local chef Linda Dore, followed by a brief solo cello performance by Priscilla. If you have instruments you would like to bring, please contact Priscilla. (For dinner there will be both meat and vegetarian options available—please let us know if you have food allergies or dietary restrictions.)

Sunday, June 26, 9:00am: Meet on the deck at Mono Lake Committee, and we will walk along part of the Lee Vining Creek Trail discussing streamside ecology in the Mono Basin, and viewing spring wildflowers. Our hike will end by 1:00pm, which is also the conclusion of the seminar.

Altitude and Dehydration Cautions: Although this seminar will not require strenuous hiking, participants should be in reasonably good physical shape. Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Also, the sun is rather fierce at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

TO BRING
__ camera
__ binoculars (optional)
__ appropriate field clothing: hat, sunglasses, warm layers, rain gear
__ day pack including plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
__ sunglasses
__ lip balm (it is very dry)
__ packed lunch for Saturday

RECOMMENDED MUSIC & BOOKS
In preparing for this workshop you may be interested in the following:
Music:
• Symphony No. 6, “Storm” and “Shepherds Theme” by L.V. Beethoven
• Symphony No. 9, Movement 4 by L.V. Beethoven
• Symphony No. 2, Movement 4 by Jean Sibelius
• Finlandia by Jean Sibelius
• Romance for cello and piano by Jean Sibelius, opus 78, No. 2

Books:
• *Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph* by Jan Swafford
• *Sibelius* by Andrew Barnett
• *Sibelius Orchestral Works: An Owner’s Manual* by David Hurwitz
• *The Mountains of California* by John Muir
• *Wildflowers of the Eastern Sierra & Adjoining Mojave Desert & Great Basin* by Laird R. Blackwell
• *Sierra East* by Genny Smith