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*Cover photo.* Essential landforms of the Mojave Desert. The colorful eye is a spring in the Soda Lake Playa, a remnant of the Pleistocene Lake Mojave, interfingering with alluvial fans from the Soda Mountains (foreground) and a pediment surface (background). This pediment is occupied by some crystalline bedrock outcrops and a series of lava flows on which abundant aeolian dust has been deposited and covered by stone pavements. These deposits form unique terrestrial archives of past environmental dynamics. Photo: Michael Dietze. (See the article by Dietze et al., pages 7–19, in this issue.)