

Defender of the Trust Awards 2005

by Frances Spivy-Weber

Each year the Mono Lake Committee Board of Directors gives its highest annual award—the Defender of the Trust Award—to individuals who have made extraordinary efforts to champion Mono Lake.

In 2005, the Board selected two recipients: former mayor of Los Angeles Richard Riordan, and former Mono County Supervisor Andrea Lawrence.

Richard Riordan

Mayor Riordan was elected the 39th mayor of Los Angeles in June 1993, arriving in the office at an important time for the Mono Lake Committee. The very next year, he, the City Council, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) Commission had to make a decision whether or not to appeal the State Water Resources Control Board's decision that ordered DWP to re-water Mono Basin streams and wetlands for fish and wildlife and raise the lake level to an ecologically sound level. Fortunately for Mono Lake, the City's decision was to accept the Water Board order.

Today Richard can be found working hard as California's Secretary for Education, advising Governor Schwarzenegger on education policy.

Andrea Mead Lawrence

Andrea Mead Lawrence moved to Mammoth Lakes in 1968, and from the outset she has been dedicated to finding the path between protecting the Eastern Sierra environment and protecting the communities of people who live and work in the region.

Andrea, a three-time Olympic skier,

became the first woman in the world to win two gold medals in one Winter Olympics during the Oslo Games in 1952. Once she settled into her new home town of Mammoth, Andrea founded the Friends of Mammoth, a citizen advocacy

group. Their successful legal action prompted the landmark California Supreme Court ruling which held that the California Environmental Quality Act must apply to all private development within the state. Andrea served 16 years on the Mono County Board of Supervisors, and throughout her service to the people and environment of Mono County she has been a wise friend of Mono Lake and the Mono

Basin. Andrea currently heads a new organization, the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers (ALIMAR), and continues to serve on the Mono Lake Committee Board of Directors.

Thank you, Richard Riordan. Thank you, Andrea. Your dedication to Mono Lake is inspiring, and we couldn't have made it this far without you!

Over the years countless numbers of people have contributed to the effort to save and protect Mono Lake. Every person's contribution counts! One great way to show your support for Mono Lake is by becoming a member of the Mono Lake Committee—contact Douglas Dunaway (douglas@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595.

For more information on the Mono Lake Committee's Defender of the Trust Awards, visit www.monolake.org/committee/defender/index.html. ❖



In 1994 Mayor Riordan proudly joined Monophiles both on his bicycle and also at DWP headquarters in Los Angeles, the staging area for the Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon.



Andrea Mead Lawrence, currently on the Mono Lake Committee Board of Directors and head of the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers.