

Staff Migrations

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

I sat in staff meeting this morning and quickly became aware that our large circle of chairs is no longer packed with summer's seasonal staff. We're back down to the bare bones, and with the chilly mornings we're starting to wonder when Tioga Pass will close and quiet the town for the winter.

But before we get that far ahead of ourselves we've got some farewells to address. Yet again we were honored to have a highly competent and dedicated seasonal crew, and while we're excited for their next moves we'll be missing them as well.

Our ever-patient, and extremely dedicated Retail Assistant **Anna Scofield** has fixed her truck and headed back to her third year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Anna began her career at the Mono Lake Committee at age seven when she and friend Vireo Gaines would sit on the front steps of the Bookstore in "grown-up clothes" and answer questions. Many years later we're still benefiting from Anna's friendly and helpful nature, and secretly hoping that she'll come back to help out on the front counter for the rest of her life. But in case that doesn't happen, we wish Anna the very best and we know we'll at least see her now and then at Mono Lake, most likely splashing in spring rainstorm puddles.



The 2005 Mono Lake Committee Intern crew.

After receiving—and accepting—a marriage proposal from her longtime boyfriend while conducting her last canoe tour of the season, Naturalist Intern **Allison Jones** is headed home to Illinois. Naturalist Intern **Jonna McKone** is going back to Maine, and will no doubt be stopping to investigate climbing spots along the way. Birding Intern **Nick Neely** went out with a bang before heading back to Brown University, masterminding an exciting new education exhibit: a hands-on naturalist table for the Information Center.

You just might spot Canoe Coordinator **Mike Mace** in Illinois in his red sports car with its "Kayak Mono Lake" bumper sticker. Outdoor Experiences Coordinator **Maggie**

Witt is headed off from a summer of amazing experiences she won't soon forget to the San Francisco offices of the EPA where she's started a two-year internship keeping an eye out for the environment. Thank you, congratulations, and best wishes to all our wonderful seasonal staff.



The 2005 Mono Lake Volunteer class with Committee and agency staff.

We also send out a big thank you to the **Mono Lake Volunteers** who augmented the work of the Mono Lake Committee, US Forest Service Scenic Area Visitor Center, and the Tufa State Reserve staff this summer. The volunteers staffed visitor centers and led programs around the Mono Basin, and their work has been extremely beneficial! We hope to see them again next year, and welcome new volunteers as well. We also send a grateful thanks to local chef Linda Dore for donating her catering expertise to the farewell dinner.

And last but certainly not least, we must single out two very special volunteers who went far above and beyond their original commitment to the volunteer program and became mainstays here at the Committee. **George and Nancy Appel** not only gave the front gardens and public spaces of the store and offices the love and attention they desperately needed, but they also put in many hours helping do just about everything we could think of around the office. We feel so lucky that you found us, and we hope to see you for years to come. ❖



Volunteers extraordinaire Nancy and George Appel.