

Foundation Grants are a Welcome Bonus

The Mono Lake Committee is extremely fortunate in its sources of funding. Committee members are the most important support for staff and core programs. The Committee has a diversity of funding sources including a business, the Information Center and Bookstore in Lee Vining, weekend seminars, and canoe tours in the summer. But whenever the Committee gets a foundation grant—large or small—it is thrilling, because it often means money to do something extra special.

The Committee is grateful to the following foundations and agencies for the funding they provided in 2004 for a wide range of Mono Lake Committee activities:

- Anonymous, \$500,000 for establishing an endowment for the Committee's policy and education work in Southern California.
- State of California CALFED Water Quality Program, \$250,000, most of which will be used by others in 2004 and 2005 to develop a plan for allocating state funds to water quality projects in Southern California. Poor water quality will limit water supplies in the future, and implementing projects and programs now to reduce this limitation will enhance the Mono Lake Committee's water conservation and recycling campaign to protect and restore Mono Lake and the Mono Basin ecosystem.
- Preserving Wild California, a program of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, \$52,000 for exploring new ways to increase the Committee's and the region's capacity to protect the natural resources of the region. One outstanding outcome is a new volunteer program; another is an Eastern Sierra Environmental Roundtable that bring organizations together regularly to share both issue and operations information.
- Arntz Family Foundation, \$10,000 to help the Committee's Outdoor Experiences Program reach out to inner city youth in Northern California.
- Richard Grand Foundation, \$10,000 for California Gull research and Mono Basin restoration.
- Entertainment Industry Foundation, \$12,000 to develop programs with Los Angeles area nature centers to give inner city youth who participate in Outdoor Experiences a way to continue learning about nature and the environment.
- West and Central Basins Water District, \$5,400 for strengthening the partnership between Outdoor Experiences and Los Angeles County nature centers.
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, \$3,000 for more media coverage of water conservation opportunities in Southern California.
- Scott Evans Foundation, \$1,000 for the Committee's new volunteer program. ❖

Staff Migrations

by Geoff McQuilkin

Sneaking out just before the early snow fell, many of the seasonal staff stuck around last fall to keep the store running smoothly and to finish-up important projects. With Tioga Pass closed and traffic slowing down significantly, it's the time of year when, if you stop in the store, the staff will most likely run up to meet you with excitement and tell you you're the first person to come in all day.

Canoe Coordinator Aariel Rowan had a great second summer leading canoe programs. We're pretty sure she's missing the glassy waters and quiet Mono Lake mornings, but she's moved on to a great job with the US Geological Survey over in the Bay Area, and they're lucky to have her.

Outdoor Experiences Coordinator Kristie Reddick finished up a great season with the OE Program, and she's now got the Eastern Sierra bug ... pun intended. Kristie is working with Mono Lake research group member and all around bug guru Dave Herbst down at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory just a stones throw from here.

Birding Intern Alison Young has migrated south for the winter—to Baja! She'll be investigating lots of birds down

there, where her hands won't be frozen to her binoculars! Check out some of Alison's bird profiles online at www.monolake.org/birdcounts/.

Intern Erin Brandt worked on the revision of the Creek Trail Guide (look for the updated version soon!) right up until the day she took off for warmer stomping grounds. Erin is in Grand Canyon country doing what she loves—sharing special places with people as an interpretive guide.

Intern Kim Rollins, whose name you may recognize from multiple articles in the recent issues of the *Newsletter*, was cranking out articles up until her departure for Baja and beyond. Kim's thorough research and efficient writing were extremely helpful this summer and fall.

Our sincere thanks go out to all of the seasonal staff from the summer of 2004. We were constantly impressed by your enthusiasm and the high caliber of your work—we'll miss you!

And with wide arms, and lots of projects to be done, we welcome back Douglas Dunaway as Staff Assistant. Douglas' strong work ethic and commitment to a job well done are more than welcome around the office and with the Committee staff. ❖