

Staff migrations

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

While seasonal staff migrate during the year, two Mono Lake friends deserve recognition for the long-term work they are doing on Mono Lake's behalf.

Herley Jim Bowling leads education programs about Mono Lake and water with schools and community groups in Los Angeles. He also helps groups prepare for adventures to Mono Lake through the Outdoor Experiences program. Herley Jim has been doing this for years with great success as the Committee's Los Angeles Education Coordinator—thank you Herley Jim!

Betsy Reifsnider was the Committee's Associate Director in the 1990s, moved on to run Friends of the River for many years, and is now doing independent policy work in Sacramento. Mono Lake has always been close to her heart and we're happy to welcome her back as our Sacramento Policy Associate. Betsy will be providing an on-the-ground presence in Sacramento, making sure Mono Lake is never far from the minds of policy makers.



The 2006 summer staff from top to bottom, left to right: Arya Degenhardt, Bartshé Miller, Geoff McQuilkin, Lisa Cutting, Megan Stoddard, Brett Pyle, Greg Reis, Alayne Meeks, Erika Obedzinski, Emi Kiyon, Clare Cragan, Elin Ljung, JJ Jenkins, Molly Hucklebridge, Elicia Whittlesey, Ryan Carle, Jessi Barber, Rachel Neff, Becca Hammargren, and Kirsten Watson. Herley Jim Bowling, Santiago Escruceria, Donnette Huselton, and Laura Walker not pictured.

We bid farewell to Canoe Coordinator **JJ Jenkins** who is on her way to New Orleans. Naturalist Intern **Jessi Barber** is headed back to Oberlin College for her second year. Lee Vining local **Ryan Carle** is going back to finish up his final year at UC Santa Cruz. **Emi Kiyon** is heading back to UC Santa Barbara to finish up her Masters in Environmental Science and Management. **Rachel Neff** is heading off to a school internship at Lake Tahoe. **Elicia Whittlesey** is returning to Pomona College for her senior year. The Committee staff and members sincerely thank you all and wish you the best of luck.

We're also proud to announce that **Frances Spivy-Weber** is the recipient of the **Sierra Nevada Alliance's 2006 Tissiack Award**. This award goes to "a Sierra leader who is most impressive in their actions and inspires admiration by other Sierra conservationists.

Who persevered and succeeded in many campaigns and efforts—and wears the bloom of youth with their passion and commitment to the Sierra." ❖

Interns hard at work for Mono Lake

by Erika Obedzinski

Along with providing visitor information on the busy front counter, leading naturalist walks and canoe tours, and supporting the Committee's core policy and education work in the busy season, Interns complete focused, individual projects. Following is a list of highlights from the summer 2006 Naturalist Intern projects.

Jessi Barber spent a lot of time out in the field monitoring Mill Creek. Mill Creek represents the most significant restoration opportunity in the Mono Basin today, and getting baseline data by measuring streamflows is a key step in this ongoing work.

Ryan Carle made good use of his knowledge of native plants and was inspired by invasive plant removal along the creeks. He worked to remove large areas of plants that out-compete the native flora essential to riparian restoration.

Becca Hammargren provided support for the Membership program. She opened and processed donations, put together new member packets and thank you letters, and helped keep things running smoothly at the Membership desk. Luckily

Becca will be staying on this fall to continue helping out!

Emi Kiyon used her knowledge of GIS mapping to compile detailed maps outlining invasive species in critical restoration areas around the Mono Basin. She acquired and worked with many map layers to create an accurate map that will be useful for invasive plant removal in the future.

Rachel Neff used her graphics background to work with staff on the revision of the education wall in the Information Center & Bookstore, as well as to create a logo and flash movie for the Eastern Sierra Watershed Program.

Elicia Whittlesey conducted a survey of Lee Vining businesses after the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua to get a sense of the event's impacts on the local economy. She also helped Friends of the Inyo map Off-Highway Vehicle roads in the Inyo National Forest.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in being a summer intern at the Mono Lake Committee, please contact Erika Obedzinski (erika@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595.