

Staff Migrations

Despite all efforts to slow down and enjoy the warm days of summer, it always flies by—and this year has been no exception. It seems like just yesterday that the staff meeting could barely fit the slideshow room, and now we're in the midst of farewells.

On the permanent staff front, we bid a sad farewell to Office Director **Jeff “Dar”Darlington**. After two years of shipping us into shape Dar migrated back to the west side of the Sierra to become the Executive Director of the Placer County Land Trust. Dar built a strong office operation for the Committee, worked closely with the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce, and set a standard of organization and commitment for all the staff to live up to. Thank you, Dar, for the time you shared with us.

Luckily, he helped us hire the new Office Director **Kief Hillsbery**. A confirmed Monophile, Kief has lived in the Mono Basin for three years, authoring two novels before joining the Committee team. Welcome!

We had a great group of interns this summer. **Moss Templeton**, **Corrie Folsom**, **Peter Lang**, **Erika Obedzinsky**, **Lauren Russell**, and **Cameron Wagner** all held down the fort on the front counter with accurate information and a sense of humor. They also led the naturalist tours at sunset down at South Tufa every night as well as the weekly bird walks at County Park. And as if that wasn't enough, each of them helped in their own way with individual projects. **Moss** got the Bird of the Month program up on the web and out into the store. **Corrie** helped design and paint the kiosk information panels and took much needed photos for the *Newsletter*. **Peter** got the document scanner up and running to get important documents like the Mono Lake EIR completely available on the web. **Lauren** researched and helped design a new display on Mono Lake life cycles for the information kiosk, and worked on responding to information requests with **Cameron**, who also put together a guide to water policy issues and assisted in recruiting new members. **Erika** researched policy issues and helped organize the Photopoint Project, and happily, she is staying on through the fall. Evidence of all their hard



Adventurous interns on a tour of the Mono Rock Pumice Mine. From left to right, Education Director Bartshe Miller, Canoe Coordinator Lori Bowermaster, Interns Erika Obedzinsky, Corrie Folsom, Lauren Russell, Office Director Kief Hillsbery, and Interns Peter Lang and Cameron Wagner (Moss Templeton had already flown back to school).

work is all around, and their work is much appreciated!

Store Assistant **Anna Scofield** helped countless visitors on the front counter again this summer. Her helpful nature as well as her amazing gift wrapping skills are already missed—good luck back at school! Luckily, **Ryan Carle**, **Tobin Nidever**, and **Vireo Gaines** all stepped in to help out on the counter at the end of the season. Their local knowledge of the area has been invaluable.

It was a record summer for the canoe program. Led by official canoe babe **Lori Bowermaster**, this year the fleet only had one tour cancellation—not to mention many great days of tours out on the lake! Best of luck this fall Lori, and we know we'll see you back (packing) around the Sierra in the future!

Many thanks to all of the seasonal staff members for a great summer. Make sure to migrate through again soon! ❖

What's Happening With Restoration Days and the Mono Lake Committee Annual Meeting?

You may be wondering why there was no Restoration Days celebration over Labor Day weekend. 2002 marks the first year the Mono Lake Committee has not held a major Labor Day weekend event since 1979. From the days of bucket walks to the rehydration ceremonies, the yearly celebration of Mono Lake is an essential tradition. With so much enthusiasm for birds and birding in the area, we've decided to hold Restoration Work Days for specific projects throughout the year, and to focus on a new tradition: the annual Mono

Basin Bird Chautauqua. The first annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua was quite successful (see pages 6–7) with a great turnout and much enthusiasm. In celebration of the Committee's 25th Anniversary in 2003 the Annual Meeting and Rehydration Ceremony will take place during the Chautauqua weekend, June 20–22. So, come on out for a great weekend of birding events, and keep your eyes out for Restoration Work Days throughout the year—the next one is Saturday May 17, 2003.