



From the mailbag

News from members and friends

by Douglas Dunaway

“So come visit Mono. The old lake needs new friends, and will not begrudge some more human footprints along its shores, provided we walk lightly.” —David Gaines

Some days after I have finished work, I feel like my eyes are crossed. The reason: numbers. They are the cornerstone of the Membership Coordinator job. There are 15,000 generous members continually donating monies to advocate for Mono Lake’s continued protection. Even when I stop thinking about numbers it’s hard to get away from them. I just read the October 2005 count for the Eared Grebes—936,617 birds on the lake. Research tells me that there can be over 20,000 brine shrimp in one cubic yard of Mono Lake’s saline waters. A small number of coyotes impacted 33,000 breeding gulls on Negit Island. Sometimes numbers are good, other times not so good. Lake levels drop, particulates in the air increase with the winds. Mono Lake’s history is full of fluctuating numbers, but today things are different.

If you walk the entire shore of Mono Lake, you will cover over 211,200 feet. Here’s where the math gets interesting. If you took all of our 15,000 members and lined them along Mono Lake’s shoreline, each member would be protecting 14 feet. Now, *that* would be an impressive sight. Even more impressive would be if the shoreline was lined with advocates with linked arms like a suit of armor. That’s a number to strive for. Mono Lake will always be under some kind of pressure ... development, recreation, litigation, restoration ... the Committee needs to remain strong, and with your continued support, it’s not impossible to imagine all of the members with arms linked, protecting one of our most treasured places on earth.

In memory

Mrs. Margret E. Lohfeld of Los Angeles gave a gift in memory of her brother, **Martin Engel**. Mrs. Carol Mathews of Walnut Creek renewed her membership in loving memory of **Robert Mathews**. Mrs. R Warren Cleary of Laguna Beach renewed her membership in memory of **Mr. R. Warren Cleary**. Mary L. Bryan of Red Bluff sent a gift in memory of **Ray Fiock**. Louise & Jay Bollman of Tacoma, WA sent a donation in memory of their dear uncle and aunt, **Harlan & Anna Marie Pratt**. A gift was received from **Duncan M. Simmons** in memory of **Mr. William D. Simmons & Mrs. E. Simmons** of Berkeley. A donation in memory of **Henry Miller** was given by **Albert & Lilli Miller** of Sherman Oaks. **Corinne Nydegger** of San Francisco sent a gift in memory of **Irving Rosow**. A donation in memory of **Liz Jackson** was sent by **Cynthia Barrick Lewis** of Pasadena. A contribution was made in memory of **The Morse Family** by **Pamela Branch** of Stockton. **John Callen** of Rancho Santa Margarita sent gifts in memory of **Thomas N. Callen**. **Doris Caldwell**

of Modesto sent a gift in memory of **Warren Hughes**—a long time Mono Lake advocate who loved collecting rocks and following the wildflowers.

David & Mortimer Gaines

Edith Gaines of Los Angeles sent a gift in memory of her son, **David Gaines**. **Mr. Leverett Smith** of El Cerrito sent a gift in memory of **Mortimer Gaines**. **Jeffrey & Jean Weiss** of Berkeley gave a gift in memory of **David Gaines**. **Emilie A. Strauss** of Berkeley sent a gift in memory of **Mortimer Gaines**.

Special gifts

Christine Ryland of Meadow Vista gave a gift in honor of her children—**Kelsey & Jory Ryland, and Brittney, Kelsey & Chuck McKeever**. And a birthday gift was given in honor of **Laura Jean Moore** by her mother, **Barbara Moore** of San Diego.

Going the extra mile

An extra special thank you goes out to **Kelly Ogle**, a Committee member who set out on April 19th, 2005 to hike the Appalachian Trail—all 2,174.9 miles of it, as a fundraising event for three of

his favorite charities, one of which is the Mono Lake Committee.

Kelly started in Georgia and ended his hike in Maine. Reaching his personal limits of endurance, he had to call it quits, just shy of his goal. “Well, the hike is over, and it was a long and hard trudge, full of moments of beauty and brilliance, the joys of meeting lots of truly wonderful folks, and LOTS of rain. My Appalachian Trail hike ended on a cold and dreary October 16, in Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania after six months, five hurricanes, one evacuation, one broken collar bone, 1,874 miles, and as I said, lots of rain. With only 300 miles left to go, I stopped walking.”

Kelly kept us informed during his hike with inspirational postcards full of his thoughts and experiences. The Mono Lake Committee will receive \$1,332—a wonderful gift from a dedicated Mono Lake advocate. To read more about his adventure, go to our website at www.monolake.org/committee/ogle.htm. If you feel inspired by Kelly’s trek, you can make donations in his honor. For more information contact Douglas (douglas@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595. ❖