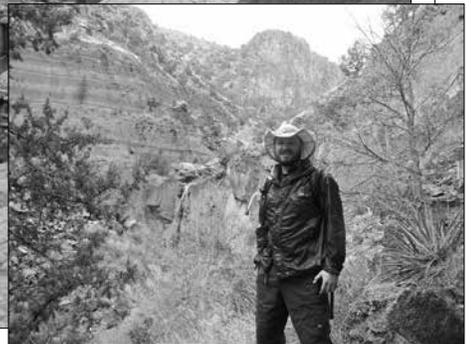




# NEWS FROM TREK COUN-

Thoreau, New Mexico

April 2006



In mid-march, Jamie Moore and a group of students from St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton, FL joined the Gulch on a Trek from Chaco to Bandelier. Starting at Ah-shi-sle-pah Wash (above), the group explored Chaco Canyon, including a hike through the South Gap (top right). Heading west to Bandelier, via the Jemez, the group explored the multitude of ruins and the waterfalls in Frijoles Canyon (bottom right), leading down to the Rio Grande.

## 80th Year of Tradition & Evolution

From Jeff Zemsky, Executive Director

Sometime at the end of March, spring finished off what was already a warm, dry, and weakened winter in New Mexico. For Trekkers, the mild winter confirmed that the nine months following August only serve as intermission and some advantageous planning time for each summer anyway. This of course is particularly true in the Gulch office, where the many developments in preparation for the summer have made for a very hot winter.

Our news begins with a bitter sweet farewell to Seth Battis as the Gulch's assistant director. Many of you have known him as the voice on the other end of the phone and the traveler on your doorstep. For three years Seth has coordinated the Gulch's increasingly complex and successful enrollment process.

Behind the scenes, Seth has done much to shape and secure the Gulch's administrative workings in the past three years, in particular catapulting our record-keeping into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with online rosters and a centralized database for all alumni, family, and friends of the Foundation.

After taking yet another group out on the road this summer – for the first time it will be the Mountain Desert Challenge – Seth will pursue new horizons at the Harvard Graduate School of Education this fall. I am sure the surprises and rewards will be many for him in Cambridge, but knowing Seth I suspect seeing a sunrise from the peak of Mt. Taylor with the MDC group will still top his 2006 list. It has been fun to work with Seth these past three years and I will miss his can-  
(continues on page 7)

## Three New Trustees Join The Board

Scott Pierce

I was a Trekker in '77 and '78 and on staff in '84 and '86. I live in Houston, Texas where I am employed as an oil & gas insurance broker. I married the former Stephanie Tanner in 1990 (we honeymooned at the Gulch that Summer – lucky lady). We have three kids: Dyer 13, (TT '05), Walt 11 and Charlie 7.

I cherish the Gulch. There is no place I'd rather be. I'm honored and humbled and thrilled to be on the Board and once again more a part of this unique and wonderful place. (Trustee profiles continue on page 3)



The Cottonwood Gulch Foundation sponsors educational wilderness expeditions and outdoor programs in the American Southwest that promote personal growth, scientific, historic, and cultural discovery as well as a knowledgeable environmental ethic among all those who participate.

#### Board of Trustees

Jameson French, Chairman  
 Marjorie Kittle, Treasurer  
 Molly Madden, Secretary  
 Michele Davidson  
 Martin Heinrich  
 Tom Henio  
 Lynn Overgaard  
 Jack Oviatt  
 Scott Pierce III  
 Deborah Seligman  
 Wenda Trevathan

#### Administration

Jeff Zemsky, Executive Director  
 Seth Battis, Assistant Director

#### To Contact the Foundation:

(800) 2-Go-Trek  
[www.cottonwoodgulch.org](http://www.cottonwoodgulch.org)  
[info@cottonwoodgulch.org](mailto:info@cottonwoodgulch.org)

#### From May to September:

HC 62, Box 2200  
 Thoreau, New Mexico 87323  
 (505) 862-7503 (phone/fax)

#### From September to May:

P.O. Box 3915  
 Albuquerque, NM 87190  
 (505) 248-0563 (phone)  
 (505) 248-3319 (fax)

As you make your summer plans please seriously consider joining us for the Gulch's 80th Reunion Celebration and Rendezvous August 11-12th at Base Camp. We can almost guarantee that you will re-connect with a friend you haven't seen for years; that campfire songs and games will bring back powerful memories of your Gulch summers; and that base camp itself – our unique 540-acre nature preserve – will inspire you.

On top of the fun and social activities, the 80th will give the Trustees and the Executive Director a chance to update all alumni on our long range planning process--from the reinstated archaeology program to the restoration of the riparian habitat along Sawyer Creek and the options for physical plant improvements in the future.

We really hope to see you there.

In news from the Board front, we welcomed three new trustees this year. As you can see in their profiles to the right, each of these board members is already well versed in the Trek's traditions and spirit. Wenda, Scott and Marjorie also each bring important skills and geographical diversity to our table, in particular adding Texas and the Pacific

Northwest to our now very national Board of Directors. Marjorie, with her many years of NGO finance experience, has recently agreed to be the new Treasurer. Wenda's welcome return to the Board after several years is very timely with our renewed archaeology program and the Trek Institutes. Scott's business acumen and development enthusiasm are timely additions to the long range planning process.

I am sorry to report that after 5 years on our board, Henry Berman decided earlier this year that he would have to resign as a trustee, but has promised we can ask him back in the not too distant future. To say the Foundation would not be where it is today without Henry is a literal understatement. From brochure re-design to fund-raising letters, to award recognitions and to donor relations Henry has been there with his creative mind, quick wit and personal generosity. My job as Chair these last three years would have been far more difficult without Henry's solid advice and willingness to always ask the toughest

*Jameson's French*

## Base Camp Nuts & Bolts

### Where Some of Your Donations Go

Many of you are familiar with the goings-on of summer at the Gulch – expeditions prepping for the road, wilderness loops, silversmithing in the Native Arts Workshop, archaeology on the mesa, forest restoration up Rice Park Road and Rendezvous bringing us all together. These days, during what used to be the Gulch “off season”, more and more has been happening at Base Camp, from school groups to maintenance, renovations and improvements of the facilities.

This spring, as the weather warms, we will be addressing a wide variety of needs:

Around base camp, we are planning to re-gravel some of our well-traveled roads, addressing some serious erosion concerns and looking towards better soil conservation. We also have several sections of fencing that will be repaired along our property line and internally.

We will be working on renovating the Photo Lab (see page 5), rebuilding the stairs along the path from the Mess Hall down to the Cottonwoods. And our challenge

course, in the trees between Sawyer Creek and Cabin IV will be recertified for use this spring and summer. In addition we will be installing additional photo-voltaic capacity at Base Camp.

We are working on restoring the Cottonwoods area by the springhouse and re-building a secure, permanent bridge across Sawyer Creek to the campfire circle (using a twinned Ponderosa tree that we had to take down last winter). We are working to exterminate an invasion of Russian Knapweed coming up Sawyer Creek from Rt. 612.

In the Mess Hall, we will be repairing and replacing several major appliances. Our trusty range has become more shiftless in its middle age and needs to be re-pressurized to match the high performance of the two convection ovens donated to us last summer. One of our freezers – a key player in preparing group food for the road – has hit the end of the line and will be replaced, and we will be shopping for some other kitchen

(continues on page 7)

# The Red Rocks Society

## Join a Growing Number of Alumni

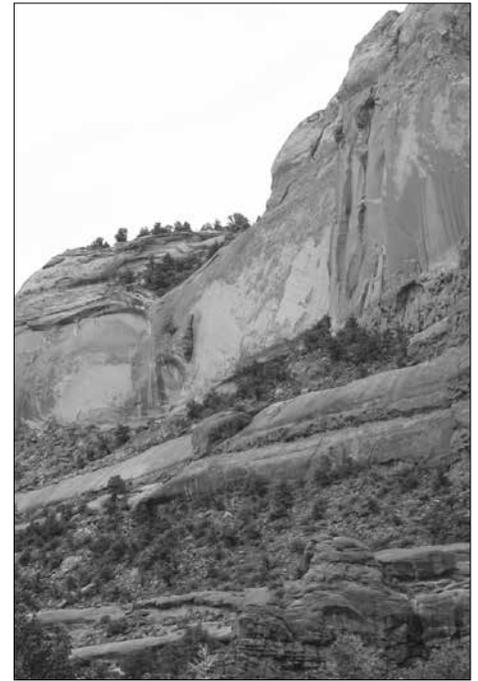
### Who Have Included the Foundation in Their Estates

The red rocks of New Mexico have always elicited a special feeling in those familiar with Cottonwood Gulch. Whether it was the first glimpse from the window of the Santa Fe Super Chief indicating your imminent arrival in Gallup or listening to a distant freight train echo over the rocks as you gazed out from the old Andrews Ranch campsite, the red rocks provide an ever changing yet stable backdrop to Prairie Trek country. The Red Rocks Society has been formed to recognize those individuals who choose to contribute in a manner reflective of the rocks themselves: solid, durable and worthy of respect.

Some members of the Cottonwood Gulch community may choose to make deferred gifts as part of their estate planning process.

These gifts can take many forms including direct bequests, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance or life annuity trusts. The long-term financial security of the Foundation will be built on these planned giving opportunities and donors will be honored by the Foundation as members of the Red Rocks Society.

We invite you to join the Red Rocks Society and, together with other members of the expeditions and friends of the Foundation, ensure the long-term survival of Cottonwood Gulch. If you have already included Cottonwood Gulch in your estate, but have not yet informed the Foundation, we encourage you do so — so that we can properly thank you and add you to the Red



## Three New Trustees Join The Board

(continued from page 1)

Wenda Trevathan

As a teen-ager growing up in North Carolina I had some idea of what the Southwest was like from annual visits to my mother's family in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, but spending eight summer weeks in that dusty, but beautiful part of the country was far from appealing to me at first. My mother had grown up on Mesa Verde, (her father was chief ranger and then superintendent of the National Park) and her brother had been a Trekker for two summers in the 1930s, so my mother's hope was that I would learn to love that part of the country as she did. Indeed, her hopes were more than fulfilled as I not only had a wonderful first summer when I was 15 (in 1962), but I continued as a TTer for two more summers, followed by several years on the TT staff, for a total of 11 summers. In fact, I've never really left the Southwest since that first summer.

I decided when I was 15 that my goal in life was to be an anthropologist and, thanks to the Gulch, I maintained that goal through a college major and graduate degrees, earning my PhD in anthropology from the University of Colorado in 1980. Although my first professional position after earning my degree was in North Carolina, I eagerly sought jobs in the Southwest, finally landing one at New Mexico State University where

I am currently a professor. I was thrilled to be able to return to the Gulch as a member of the board of trustees for a few years in the 1990s and am equally delighted to be back on the board now. This time my goal is to re-incorporate archaeology into the program in a responsible and professional way so that current and future Trekkers can have the same opportunity to be "hooked" on anthropology that I had more than 40 years ago. Although I have no children of my own, I have had the pleasure of seeing nieces and nephews join the expeditions and my husband, Gregg Henry, and I have a five-year old grandson that we hope will be in the Outfit in five years. I look forward to seeing the Cottonwood Gulch programs evolve in response to changing environmental and demographic challenges, but I also hope that it will preserve the wonderful but intangible spirit that so many of us have felt over the past 80 years.

Marjorie Kittle

I am honored to be a new board member and the treasurer. Any skills I bring to the board were acquired as an almost-direct result of my years as a Trekker and a staff person. I most enjoyed just being outside, poking around, looking at stuff, climbing the odd mountain now and then, and feeling like I belonged in a group. As a staff

person, I tried to create the same sense of possibility, openness and independence (within structure) that I had enjoyed. It became clear to me that others were far better naturalists, musicians, teachers, artists, and hikers than I. But at the same time, I realized that I could play a role in supporting their interests. This led to my decision to pursue a graduate degree in non-profit management. Since finishing that program in 1996, I have worked as Finance Director for two different non-profits in Seattle. (I grew up in Tucson, so the rain is a nice change.) While I love the mission of my workplace, I care most about the Gulch. I hope that I can contribute to the fiscal stability that will allow future Trekkers to have transformative experiences in the desert Southwest.

And for those who like data, you'll want to know that my grandfather, Jack Kittle, joined Mr. Howie on a Trek in 1930. Seventy years later, he still showed off the belt buckle a silversmith made for him that summer. Thanks to some amazing record-keeping, my family got a letter from former director Monty Billings in 1978, and my brother joined the Little Outfit in 1979. I was on the TT in 1983, and Group 3 in 1984. I worked as the Assistant to the Director (more commonly known as "pump boy") in 1988, then cooked and group-led from 1989-92 and again in 1994 and 1995. At some point, I was Group Leader

# Thank You to Our Hosts and Recruiters!

Seth and Jeff have traveled the length and breadth of the United States to meet with new Trekkers and their families since October. We are just the most visible part of a nation-wide network of alumni and friends that makes our recruiting possible. Cottonwood Gulch relies on this network — each person on this list played a major role in our recruiting efforts and made it possible for the expeditions and institutes to happen this year. We are deeply grateful to them for their time, energy and infectious enthusiasm. Truly, the nature of the Gulch and our expeditions is deeply influenced by the care, involvement and outreach of our alumni and friends and their families.

## Information Session Hosts

The following families organized and hosted a Cottonwood Gulch information session in their homes or at their schools. They invited their friends, colleagues and students to come and learn more about the Gulch and our expeditions and institutes. Many of these families also shared their homes with Seth and Jeff in their travels.

Colette, Dick and Owen Atkins, Somers, NY  
 Carolyn, Rand, Jonathan and Margaret Barthel, Mendon, MA  
 Peter Drescher and Kyle Cushman, Marshfield, VT  
 Karen Gamache and Freeport Middle & High Schools, Freeport, ME  
 Anne, Andrew and Natalie Hogeland, Williamstown, MA  
 Mary Hubbard, Jobie, Will and Davis Carlisle, Manhattan, KS  
 Margaret Kirk and Ken and Ben Finkel, Philadelphia, PA  
 Lucy Kluckhohn Jones, Los Angeles, CA  
 Eytan Krasilovsky, Santa Fe, NM  
 Millie, Mike and Dan LaFontaine, Concord, NH  
 Patty Lein and the Morriss Center High School, East Hampton, NY  
 Brenda Lord and the Alexander Dawson School, Lafayette, CO  
 Nate, Brenda and Bryant Lord, Longmont CO  
 Jim and Susan Merrell, Sag Harbor, NY  
 Peter, Charlotte, Shannon and Robby Merrell, Somerville, MA  
 Nate Mylin, Anne Scheele and the Orchard School, Indianapolis, IN  
 Buck O'Herin and Lisa Newcomb, Montville, ME  
 Judy Ottman, Camden Regional High School, Camden, ME  
 Matt and Anne Rohn and Charlotte Melin, Northfield, MN  
 Alan and Isaac Rojer and Ellen Relkin, Maplewood, NJ  
 Faith Sauerwald, Los Angeles, CA  
 Adam Schraft, the Headlands Institute and the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA  
 Mary and Mark Stevenson, Portland, OR  
 Mike Sullivan, Valaida Wise and the Henson Valley Montessori School, Temple Hills, MD  
 David Welch and Albuquerque Academy, Albuquerque, NM

## Camp Fair Representatives

Each of these people represented the Gulch at one or more camp fairs this winter, sharing their knowledge of the Gulch with families who would otherwise have no contact with the Foundation and our expeditions.

Betsy Elkinton, Washington, DC  
 Taylor Mendelsohn, Weston, MA  
 Shannon Merrell, Somers, MA

## Recruiters

Each of these families shared their passion for and knowledge of the Gulch with other families – and at least one Trekker is joining the expeditions this summer because of each family's outreach and encouragement.

Richard Ach, Prescott, AZ  
 Colette, Dick and Owen Atkins, Somers, NY  
 Lynda Daniel, YES College Prep, Houston, TX  
 Ellen Davidson and Aviva Hamavid, Brookline, MA  
 Melissa Donner, Flagstaff, AZ  
 Peter Drescher, Marshfield, VT  
 Holly, Bill and Connor Dunn, Ridgefield, CT  
 Ellen Ebersole, Arroyo Seco, NM  
 Margaret Kirk and Ken and Ben Finkel, Philadelphia, PA  
 Safa Hamze, Albuquerque, NM  
 Toby Herbst, Santa Fe, NM  
 Tom and Mercy Hyde, Burlington, VT  
 Michael Jordan, Phoenix, AZ  
 Darold Joseph, Second Mesa, AZ  
 Jon Krant, Williamstown, MA  
 Jeff, Karen and Connor Lawrence, Santa Fe, NM  
 Rick and Molly Madden, Belen, NM  
 John Mayer, Santa Monica, CA  
 Bill Milius, Grand Junction, CO  
 Florence Mini, Philadelphia, PA  
 Margaret Rhodes and Emily Palena, Brookline, MA  
 Susan Smythe, Swarthmore, PA  
 Susan Stogel, Greenwich, CT  
 Deborah Swartz, Tucson, AZ  
 Thierry Wilbrandt, Indianapolis, IN

## Friendly Faces, Hosts and Helpers

The following people helped out in a great variety of ways — from feeding or sheltering us on our travels to sharing information about the Gulch with their students and colleagues.

John and Faye Bevelhimer, Indianapolis, IN  
 Ben Donner, Boston, MA  
 Chris Elkinton, Amherst, MA  
 Jameson French, Portsmouth, NH  
 Emma and Steve Hamilton, Sag Harbor, NY  
 Clara Hardy, Carleton College, Northfield, MN  
 Scott Lewis, Williams College, Williamstown, MA  
 Barbara, Mike and Molly McGrath, San Francisco, CA  
 Austin and Theo Troy and Sheryl Glubok, Burlington, VT

# Summer '06 Base Camp Calendar

- June 27 Outfit Session 1, Wild Country Trek Session 1 and QMs and CAs arrive
- June 29 Prairie Trek, Turquoise Trail and Mountain Desert Challenge arrive
- July 9 First Rendezvous, hosted by Prairie Trek
- July 10 Outfit Session 1 departs and Session 2 arrives, Wild Country Trek Session 1 departs and Session 2 arrives, Trek Institutes in Ecology and Archaeology arrive
- July 22 Second Rendezvous, hosted by Trek Institutes and Base Camp Staff
- July 23 Outfit Session 2 departs, Wild Country Session 2 departs and Session 3 arrives, Trek Institutes in Ecology and Archaeology depart
- August 2 Third Rendezvous, hosted by the Turquoise Trail
- August 4 Wild Country Trek Session 3, Prairie Trek and Turquoise Trail depart
- August 5 Family Trek arrives
- August 9 The Littlest Outfit and Birding at Base Camp arrive
- August 10 Mountain Desert Challenge departs
- August 11 Family Trek departs, Early arrivals for the 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion and Rendezvous
  - 5:30 pm Dinner served at the Mess Hall
  - 8:00 pm Campfire
- August 12, 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion and Rendezvous
  - 8:30 am Breakfast
  - 12:00 pm Rendezvous! Lunch served at the Mess Hall
  - 1:00-3:00 pm Kindred Interest Sessions, including tours of Sawyer Creek restoration and monitoring, Archaeological sites and Base Camp improvements, Long Range Planning Walk-through, and other sessions in art, ecology, archaeology, music, geology, ornithology and more!
  - 5:30 pm Dinner served at the Mess Hall
  - 7:30 pm Campfire at the Campfire Circle
  - 9:00 pm Square Dance behind the Mess Hall
  - 10:00 pm Back Porch Sing
  - 10:30 pm DSB, G'night!
- August 13 Departure Day
  - 8:30 am Breakfast served at the Mess Hall

## 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion Update

On August 12, alumni and friends of the Gulch will gather at Base Camp to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first expedition. We are looking forward to a good turn-out, with alums already on the roster from across the United States – we currently have 16 states and South Africa represented! We're planning a low-key celebration, with plenty of opportunity for alums and friends of the Gulch to explore base camp, hang out with old friends on the front porch, sing Trek songs in the hogan, and generally enjoy all those parts of being at Base Camp that make it such a memorable and wonderful Rendezvous!

place. Those joining us will also have the opportunity to take guided tours of both current and planned improvements and changes at Base Camp, as well as an introduction to the board of trustee's long range plan for the Foundation.

For more information and a registration form, head to our web site at the address below. We look forward to seeing you at

## Historic Cabin, New Needs

Originally a homesteader's cabin on the property before base camp was purchased by Cottonwood Gulch, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" has been through a multitude of transformations. First used by the Gulch as a combination kitchen and mess hall, the cabin evolved into a meeting place. In the 1980s, it became first a temporary and then a permanent black and white darkroom, powered by a solar panel mounted on the hill above. This spring, the cabin will evolve again, becoming a workspace for both the photography and audio work done by Trekkers, and a workspace for visiting scholars in all disciplines.

The photography program has long been a treasured feature of the expeditions, documenting every expedition back to 1926. Today, our photographic archives are one of our prized possessions and photography is integrated into many of the other disciplines at base camp as well. As we have embraced digital photography, it has become an even more effective means of documenting our work in ecology, archaeology and native arts. At the end of each summer, the Trekkers and staff in each group collect literally thousands



Board members (current and emeritus) met to consider a draft of plans for Base Camp improvements at the end of last summer.

of photographs from the groups for their logs. However, we are moving away from black and white photography and the ecological burden that it places on our delicate riparian ecosystem along the banks of Sawyer Creek.

In keeping with Hillis Howie's philosophy of experimenting with new and exciting techniques and resources in the context of

improving the expeditions, the cabin at base camp is slated for several changes. With improved solar power capacity in the Photo Lab, we will be able to support digital projects more fully – projects that are already a vital and exciting part of the Gulch experience, preserving the fun, learning and excitement for future generations of Trekkers.

# Seth Battis Hands Off Baton To Amy Kohout

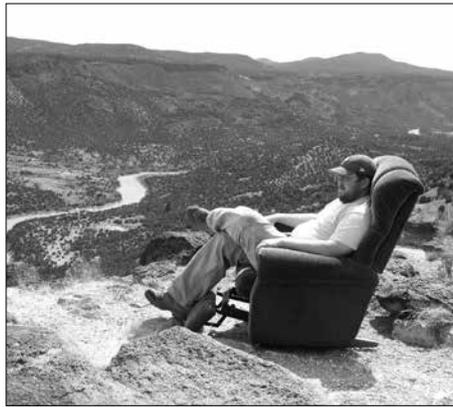
From Seth Battis

As I approach my tenth summer as a staff instructor at the Gulch, it will be perhaps the seventh or eighth “last summer” at the Gulch that I’ve had. It’s not easy to leave the Gulch and the expeditions behind – they are an incredibly fulfilling, rewarding, educational and fun experience that is hard to find in the “real world” out beyond the KP area. I think of the evening, now almost ten years ago, when Jeff and I were both working with the group that is now the MDC. We had just made a grueling drive up on to Johnson Mesa in the Sangre de Cristos, powered through late evening dinner and KP, and were now sitting in front of our Baker tent, facing the sunset. Jeff turned to me and said “I can’t believe that we actually get paid to do this.” In many ways, that has been the story of my experience working at the Gulch – phenomenal opportunities with rich rewards, and we still get to call it a “job”.

Three years ago, when I first started working full-time as the Assistant Director of the Foundation, it was a natural transition from my role as a classroom teacher. The Gulch has been a wonderful learning environment for me to explore the potential of experiential and outdoor education, and to try my hand at administering a robust and vigorous educational program staffed by committed, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and – above all – resilient and resourceful instructors. Working in this position at the Gulch has helped me to clarify my own personal goals – indeed, to develop a passion formed while on the Trek.

I came to the Gulch deeply committed to an inclusive and experiential educational process – a process very much like the experience of the expeditions, with the possible exception of foot blisters and sunburn. I have found – not entirely to my surprise – that I am ready and eager to pursue a formal education in school administration with this same commitment in mind. Again, this has turned out to be a natural transition, and one for which the Gulch has both prepared me well and laid out a wealth of resources upon which I can and do draw.

At the end of this summer, I will be leaving Albuquerque and the Gulch to pursue a master’s degree in school leadership and development at Harvard. While it has been a difficult decision to leave the Gulch, a place



that has always felt like a warm and comforting home – even when my actual home was actually cold, snowy and somewhat damp – it is a decision that I could only have come to with the thoughtful, caring and insightful support of the Gulch community, and especially of Jeff Zemsky, our executive director and my officemate for the past three years – three very fun and educational years. Thank you, Jeff for your support and friendship.

This has been a much easier decision knowing that Amy Kohout will be coming on full-time as the new Assistant Director. Amy will continue the work that I have done on recruiting and enrollment with a great deal of assistance from a vast, energetic and wonderful alumni network. I know that families will enjoy working with Amy during the winter as much as the TT has enjoyed her in the summer – she brings a different, more ebullient, style to the process than anything to which I might aspire. In addition, Amy brings a wealth of experience in outdoor leadership and non-profit management to the position that spells great promise for future alumni involvement in the Gulch and holds exciting promise for program development at the Gulch.

In all honesty, I doubt that anyone ever really has a “last summer” at the Gulch: I see so many alums returning, not just to relive their childhood wonder, but to pass on some of what they have learned, both at the Gulch and in pursuing the passions that started to form for them while they were on the Trek. I am looking forward to leading the Mountain Desert Challenge this summer – although it will be a bitter-sweet change from the Prairie Trek, the group which I have identified (and with which I have been identified) for the last few years. It is an exciting new challenge to



From Amy Kohout

“This is my office.” Seth shared this bit of insight with a student from a Gulch school group last spring, a look of utter contentment on his face (you know the one), his arms outstretched, but not quite extending far enough to include the whole of the view from our lunch stop in the Gailuros. I’ve been carrying that image with me, and it has traveled quite a distance, as I currently call Lao PDR, Southeast Asia my home.

Before I get ahead of myself, I should tell you my “Gulch story.” I wish I could tell you that I was a Trekker long ago, but my parents never let me go to sleep away camp. I found the Gulch on the internet in the spring of 2004, and after several conversations with Jeff Zemsky about environmental history, Yale rugby and my relationship with food (I like to eat it), I was on my way to Thoreau to cook for the Turquoise Trail expedition. I felt welcome immediately, and I quickly set about learning the details of KP, the inner workings of the horse’n’goggle and how to “split” when playing mudgie (I still can’t do it).

I fell in love with the Gulch that summer, and not just because of all the fun I had. I love the Gulch because it is honest about the many ways people and nature interact. It doesn’t shy away from asking the hard questions, it encourages curiosity, demands responsibility from all members of its expeditions and creates a magical space for exploration of everything from Sawyer Creek to sopapilla preparation.

In 2005, I spent about 4 months helping out in the Albuquerque office, getting a sense of the glamour of off-season Gulch life and

(Amy continues on next page)

## New Assistant Director in Fall 2006

trying not to drive Seth completely crazy, and then returned as the TT cook again for the summer. I really appreciate that the Gulch staff community is comprised of folks who show up each summer excited to keep learning. I'm sillier than I was when I showed up at base camp in 2004, and I'm pretty sure I'm a better cook now too.

After my first Gulch summer, I worked as an environmental organizer on campaigns dealing with issues ranging from youth voting in southern New Mexico to corporate social responsibility to the Endangered Species Act. I currently have a year-long post in Vientiane, Lao PDR (Laos) at IUCN – The World Conservation Union, working with the Lao government to encourage the equitable and sustainable use of Lao's natural resources.

I've learned quite a bit about how many kinds of environmentally-minded organizations function in the last few years, and I'm looking forward to applying these lessons and skills to my new roles and responsibilities at the Gulch. I am excited about this opportunity to work with Jeff to manage an organization that I love and implement a mission I truly believe in. (I'm also pretty psyched to become an Albuquerquean.)

I'm really looking forward to delving into the recruiting process, as I value the grassroots approach the Gulch takes in the work we do. I think it reflects the personal connections we've all developed with this place over time – and highlights what makes the Gulch so unique. Also, as a relative newcomer to the Gulch community, I see recruiting as an opportunity to get to meet more of you and hear your Gulch stories. I'd like to see even more alumni involvement in Gulch activities in the future.

Well, Seth, your comment about what it means to work for the Gulch has stuck with me this year, and I guess that means that the backcountry of the Southwest will be my office soon. Thanks for taking such good care of it. I know I have a lot to learn (the lyrics to "Running To Stand Still", how to use power tools, etc.) and I am honored to have the opportunity to work alongside

## Getting Ready for Summer

(continued from page 1)  
dor, creativity, and friendship in our office.

It will be exciting, though, to see Amy Kohout return to the Gulch this fall, this time as Assistant Director this fall. Amy brings a broad experience in non-profit administration to the Gulch in addition to shepherd stove skills honed while cooking for the TT the past two summers. I remember interviewing Amy when she was still a senior at Yale responding to an internship posting. Despite her NOLS background and her experience leading wilderness orientation trips, we talked instead of how a land-use perspective was transforming the traditional history of the West and of TT alumna Jenny Price's work in the field. As you get to know her over the next year, I am sure you will find Amy's excitement, energy, and intelligence as engaging as the TT and the rest of us have found these past two years.

Seeing Seth depart and Amy arrive underscores the breadth and the quality of people who are attracted to the Gulch. Collectively, this summer's staff has lived and worked in Belize, France, Costa Rica, and New Zealand. They have rock climbed in gyms and faces across the country, have coached a science team to a sweep at the Navajo Nation science fair, and were called back to audition for The Blue Man Group. Over a third of the nearly 30 full time instructors are current or former classroom teachers and six have completed or are finishing master's degrees. Another 5 are currently full-time environmental educators at outdoor schools around the country. All of them are enthusiastic teachers, avid learners, and life-long adventurers.

Spending time with these folks is always a good time and often a learning experience. Come on out to Base Camp for the 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion and you will see for yourselves – with this kind of diversity and talent on our staff, it is no wonder that 80 years finds the Gulch as vibrant and current as ever.

## Base Camp Nuts & Bolts

(continued from page 2)  
tools, including a commercial-grade mixer and cuisinart for turning out even more lunch-time cookies.

With the opening of Base Camp in mid-May, we will be tending to any pipes that may have sprung leaks over the winter and repairing the solar heating panel and pump for the showers. Major maintenance will be performed on our swimming pool, resurfacing the entire pool before staff training. Also down by the pool, we have a variety of shower upgrades planned, ranging from a filter to prevent our outflow from polluting Sawyer Creek to upgrades in the stalls to ease cleaning and enhance privacy. In addition, the Mess Hall septic tank requires maintenance and, well, emptying.

These projects account for most – but not all – of the \$47,000 the Board set aside for special annual improvements at Base Camp this year. Depending on your perspective, this is either a vast amount of money for the Gulch to be spending (it is), or a pittance to be paying for this much work (also true). This money comes entirely from your annual fund donations through expenditures authorized by the Board of Trustees at their meeting this past fall. This is part of our long range planning process – and a vital part of what it takes to keep on trekking at Base Camp. We are very pleased to be in a position both to have and to spend this money – it reflects well both on the health of the program and the generosity of our alumni and friends that





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“An evening-colored sunset,  
that’s the time I like the best...”

