Public Land Management and Yosemite in 1897
ew YA board member Keith Alley and I hiked yesterday to a point in Yosemite Valley from which we could see five different waterfalls at once. The spring conditions were remarkable, with brilliant blue skies, a brisk breeze slinging violet green swallows over our heads, and the constant roar of water. As it has for years, Yosemite keeps renewing itself and the spirits of those of us lucky enough to spend time here.

Speaking of renewal, our plans to complete the remodel of the Visitor Center lobby and bookstore were put on hold due to a delay in the approval process in Washington, DC. Because we had completely dismantled our old bookstore, we were forced to “renew” the old space before the Easter vacation rush with fixtures that we quickly assembled from a variety of sources. We will operate in the old space until this fall, when the remodel project is now expected to get underway.

The YA bookstore will enjoy a major upgrade, with custom-built fixtures, a new point-of-sale computer system to expedite transactions, better lighting, and added display space. Raising funds to help pay for these improvements is the goal of our annual campaign this year. You can help us with the move to the new facility by making a donation in the envelope that is included in this journal. Our members will be hearing more about the project throughout the year, and information is available at www.yosemite.org/newyabookstore.

I wanted to extend special thanks to our friends at The Ansel Adams Gallery for hosting YA’s special donors reception on March 26, the night before our Spring Forum (see page 20). It was great to see over 400 of you at the forum, and we encourage everyone to start making plans for our Annual Fall Meeting on September 18 in Wawona, where our guest speaker will be Royal Robbins. More information about the Fall Meeting will appear in the next issue of Yosemite.

We’re pleased to announce that the generosity of our members (who donated to our 80-for-80 campaign last year) has allowed us to re-establish the YA Student Intern program after a several-year hiatus. We will be bringing four university students to the park for the summer season, during which they will have the opportunity to learn about Yosemite while supplementing the National Park Service interpretive program in Wawona and the Mariposa Grove. Thanks for making it possible for us to bring back this important program!

The membership staff has noticed that many of you have upgraded your membership to a higher level this year. These upgrades are enormously helpful to us in accomplishing our work. Not only will your becoming a member at the Supporting, Contributing, Sustaining, Patron, or Benefactor level benefit Yosemite, but you also can take advantage of a number of new premiums, including special events for the highest levels, this year. See the back cover of this journal for gift descriptions.

Finally, I’d like to congratulate Pat Wight, YA’s Director of Sales and Marketing, who celebrated 20 years of service to our organization in April. Pat has been a dedicated and productive employee for over two decades now, and has worked full time for the association longer than any other staff person. I encourage members to let Pat know how much she is appreciated, and with everyone else in the organization I applaud her for her hard work over the years.

Sending spring greetings and thanks for your continuing support,

Steven P. Medley, President
An interesting event in Yosemite history was the meeting of Capt. Alex Rodgers, Acting Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, and Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Director of the US Geological Survey, in Yosemite in September, 1897, to review the status and needs of the national park. Their discussions and the problems they addressed provide insight into the unsettled and slowly developing state of management policy for our nation’s public lands at the time.

Yosemite National Park was established in 1890, during a period when there was growing national concern about the welfare and future of forests and the rapid rate of sale of federal forested lands. The 1891 Forest Reserve Act allowed the president to reserve forested lands by executive order. Presidents Harrison and Cleveland set aside nearly 17.5 million acres, including the vast Sierra National Forest in 1893. About the same time, there were several proposals to reduce the size of Yosemite to accommodate private lands and development.

In 1894 paleontologist Charles D. Walcott replaced John Wesley Powell as director of the US Geological Survey (USGS) – the agency created to consolidate several federal scientific surveys of western lands. Director Walcott noted that the first forest reservations were relatively uncontroversial, “since no real protection was afforded to areas reserved, and the cutting of timber and destruction by fires went on within their limits as elsewhere.” Mindful of this problem, President Cleveland was unwilling to set more land aside until protection was provided. Eastern scientists promoted a study to develop a policy for national forests. The Secretary of the Interior asked the National Academy of Science to conduct such a study in 1896.

The draft of the National Forest Commission’s report that reached Cleveland recommended thirteen new forest reserves as laid out by the young commission secretary, Gifford Pinchot. Cleveland’s subsequent reservation of twenty-one million acres was met with a storm of western opposition because there was no provision in law for any use to be made of them until regulations were established. In response, Congress set out to nullify
Cleveland’s proclamation. With the intercession of several congressmen, the cooperation of new President McKinley, and the political savvy of USGS director Walcott, a compromise was written into the Forest Management Act of June 4, 1897.

The act suspended Cleveland’s proclamation for one year in every state but California (which supported the reserves), and provided for the use of the forests and for their management. The act also funded examination and survey of the reserves by the USGS. That agency under Walcott mapped the forests in many reserves and produced long reports on their forest resources.

Wanting a forester’s evaluation, Walcott arranged for Pinchot to be hired by the Secretary of the Interior as an agent to examine the forests. Pinchot visited Yosemite and the Sierra, as well as many other forests, in 1897. He examined fire, grazing, trespassing, mining, and logging on each forest, and his report recommended policies for the management of these activities on reserved forest lands. The next year Pinchot was named forester in charge of the Department of Interior’s Forestry Division, from which he began to build the base, both political and scientific, for the establishment of the Forest Service in 1905.

Decisions about federal lands tended to favor the public rather than private interest as the government began a slow change toward more active regulation of the economic practices of the nation. Differences between forest reserves and parks were being defined as were management policies and practices for such reservations. As historian Char Miller has observed, “The question whether preservation and conservation were incompatible had not yet been resolved.”

It was the USGS forest study in 1897 that brought Charles Walcott through Yosemite. On the way he visited Yellowstone and a number of the forests whose reservations had been suspended by the Forest Management Act. Walcott conducted his trip from San Francisco through Yosemite as follows:

Sept. 7, 1897, by train from San Francisco to Raymond.

Sept. 8, by stage to Wawona and park headquarters at Camp A. E. Wood, where he met Capt. Alex Rodgers along with W. L. Ashe and J. R. Price, commissioners of the California Department of Highways.

Sept. 9, rode to the Mariposa Grove with Rodgers and Lt. Harry C. Benson.

Sept. 10, rode to Glacier Point with Capt. Rodgers and other troops with a packer to camp.

Sept. 11, drove down the Glacier Point Road to Yosemite Valley with Rodgers and camped near the Sentinel Hotel.

Sept. 12, rode up the Yosemite Falls Trail and took the Tioga Road to Tenaya Lake, camping at Murphy’s cabin.

Sept. 13, rode to Tuolumne Meadows and camped two miles above Tuolumne on the Mt. Conness trail, from which he and field geologist F. B. Weeks ascended Conness and returned to camp.


Sept. 15, caught the Carson & Colorado Railroad at Benton for Big Pine, where he wrote his report to the Secretary of the Interior before riding into the Inyo Range to continue paleontological research begun in 1894.

Rodgers later wrote the Secretary, explaining that there had not been time enough to show Walcott much of the park. But they had been able to discuss “its most urgent needs.” Topics included forest fires, illegal water diversions, trespass by sheep, road development, and patrol trails with telephone lines for communication. Each issue came up graphically during Walcott’s trip, and Walcott reported back to the Secretary on them all, as did Rodgers.

There had been numerous fires in the dry year of 1897. Several additional fires were set in the park even as Walcott took the stage to Wawona. The separate fires joined and spread until they could be stopped only by “a heavy rain,” and some fine timber was “practically destroyed.” Rodgers suspected a “civilian who had been ejected from the park for trespass and who has not been allowed to continue his work as a guide.” Other locals suspected the same man, and Rodgers requested a detective to investigate. Rodgers had stayed back from investigating the fire himself to meet Walcott.

As it happened, Walcott had brought with him a copy of a new congressional act “to prevent fires on the public domain,” providing for the arrest and imprisonment of those setting forest fires. Rodgers ordered copies of the fire regulations on linen to be posted around the park, and the Secretary directed Forest Inspector George Langenberg from Tulare to Yosemite to investigate. In November, Rodgers regretfully reported that Forest Inspector Langenberg had been unable to find evidence enough for a conviction, partly because local recognition of him handicapped his gathering of information. The arson reinforced Rodgers’ belief that such fires were “ample answer to the arguments of those who believe in preserving the forests by frequent fires.” The new law gave Rodgers the ability to enforce fire suppression.

In true Yosemite fashion, many things happened at once while Walcott was in the park. When he arrived, Lt.
Harry Benson was investigating the taking of water from forks of Big Creek by the Madera Flume and Trading Co. for their logging operations. Water was of special interest to Walcott, whose USGS was responsible for gauging streams to determine water supplies. That program had begun with John Wesley Powell’s interest in developing arid lands for small farmers. Protecting forests to protect public water supplies was a natural outgrowth of that program.

Most of Big Creek flowed in the Sierra Forest Reserve, but the creek emptied into the South Fork of the Merced River just above Camp A. E. Wood. Benson worried that the company would divert all of Big Creek out of the Merced drainage, cutting off the water supply to Camp A. E. Wood, the California Fish Commission hatchery there, and other users in Fish Camp. Capt. Rodgers did not know the law in the case, but Walcott explained that the diversions were “unlawful” without the Secretary’s consent.

A flurry of telegrams to Washington seemed to resolve the matter. Benson informed the company that all diversion operations from the east fork of Big Creek must cease until the Secretary acted on the company’s application for the ditch and diversion. Rodgers complained in his report of Nov. 20, 1897 that further diversions would severely affect all those dependent on Big Creek water the next season as well as all the fish in the stream. The Sierra Forest Supervisor, who also worked for the Secretary, seemed unaware of the problem. The issue subsided for a time when the Madera Flume and Trading Co. was forced to shut down in 1898, a victim of depression. Company properties and facilities were taken over the next year by the newly-incorporated Madera Sugar Pine Co.

These water diversions were symptomatic of the fact that neither park nor forest resources had much protection when they were set aside. The simple presence of the cavalry was the greatest protection for Yosemite, although the cavalry had no legal authority to arrest (except for fires) until 1905. The forest reserves had little staff and no guidelines or authority to manage millions of acres under their charge.

As a first step toward defining management policies on forest reserves, Congress tried to identify acceptable uses of the tracts. A series of acts slowly clarified rights-of-way for public rather than commercial purposes on or across the public lands, first for reservoirs, then canals, tramways and roads, hydroelectric facilities, and telegraph and telephone lines. At the same time, pressures on politicians and managers grew to ensure public rather than commercial uses. In 1897 that distinction seemed the only way to control overall use of public lands for the benefit of people and resources.

Grazing by sheep was a third issue addressed by Walcott and Rodgers. From Yosemite Valley, Walcott had gone to Tuolumne Meadows and then to Mt. Conness. At Young Lakes, Walcott saw sheepherders with their flocks, which he reported to Capt. Rodgers the next day. Rodgers sent troops to find the sheep. Soldiers stopped the herder by shooting toward him, and took the herder and sheep to Soda Springs. “I thought of leaving a couple of men there to watch and see if any other herders came during the night to drive them off,” wrote Rodgers, but did not do so, as the only way of driving out, so far as we

Sheep grazing in the vicinity of Tuolumne Meadows were prime targets for the park’s cavalry administration.
knew, would take them right by our camp. In the morning, the sheep were gone, and we followed the trail to the park line, not far from Tioga. It was a little disappointing at first; but I was quite pleased at the end, as it saved us an all day drive and showed us a way out on the Tioga side where we had always supposed the country to be impassable. . . . I was quite grateful to those who drove them for saving us the trouble and for showing us how the sheep get into the Conness country, which has always been a puzzle to us.17

Despite these intruding herds, Rodgers felt that his troops had managed to clear the park’s north end of sheep, making it very difficult for them to encroach more than an occasional half mile. Knowing that the National Forest Commission was looking into grazing permits for forests in the Northwest, Walcott, after seeing a herd of sheep in Yosemite, stated that, “I am strongly in favor of continuing the exclusion of both cattle and sheep from the limits of the park.”18

While Rodgers and Walcott denied access to sheep, they agreed that improved public roads would help administration of the park. Rodgers thought the government should buy and maintain all the private roads in the park, including the Tioga Road. “Many farmers in the hot and unhealthy San Joaquin Valley” come to the mountains after harvest even though it is an expensive trip for them, he said. “Free roads, well kept, and plenty of good grazing would enable many of them to seek health and pleasure in the Yosemite National Park who are now unable to do so.” “The cool climate and the excellent and abundant water,” Rodgers felt, “would attract many campers, who would take an interest in the park and would derive much benefit from it.” Free public roads would be in the public interest, while grazing by campers rather than commercial sheepherders would also be acceptable because it would build park support. In Rodgers’ mind, access by public roads was an important part of park protection and preservation. Those same roads would make movement of troops and supplies more effective.19

Rodgers and Walcott were not alone in their interest in the Tioga Road. California Department of Highway commissioners W. L. Ashe and J. R. Price arrived in Yosemite in time to meet Rodgers and Walcott in Wawona. Their purpose was to examine Yosemite Valley roads and to survey a road from Tioga Pass to Mono Lake. Rodgers helped Price examine the Bloody Canyon route below Mono Pass. Then they went to look at a Tioga route, “but, as that route [over the top of Mount Warren on the Lundy trail] was sure to be entirely outside the park, and as I had a good deal to do, I left them.” Ashe and Price saw the Tioga Road as an important link in the system of state highways to serve Californians by making Yosemite Valley and the high Sierra “more attractive and accessible.” After looking at several routes, the commissioners recommended the Lee Vining Creek route and requested an appropriation for $30,000 to construct a road there. The road was completed in 1909.20
In addition to roads generally for public use, Rodgers and Walcott proposed improvements in trail and telephone communication primarily for administrative use to “greatly add to the thoroughness of the patrol and care of the park.” Walcott thought better communication might compensate for a cavalry force “too small under existing conditions to patrol the park thoroughly.” Rodgers’ proposal shows how the cavalry hoped to patrol Yosemite:

A trail running all around the park a short distance inside the boundary line is essential to the work of patrolling the park. Many of the streams along the route of this proposed trail are impassable until late in July and should be bridged, the bridges being strong and adapted to the safe passage of saddle and pack animals. A telephone line with at least six principal stations ought to follow the route of the trail.

When the main trail around the park is completed other trails running from and toward the centre of the park should be constructed to render more easy the patrolling of the entire park.

Rodgers sent the proposal to Walcott and the Secretary. In his report, Walcott repeated the proposal, suggesting that 225 to 250 miles of trails would be required. A $13,500 estimate for a communication system made up of a single line on poles and trees with eight field telephone stations did not include supervision of the construction or the cost of station construction. It was obvious that such a line would be subject to falling trees, snow, and landslides. “When a knowledge is gained of the exact locality in which the line will be most subject to destruction in winter,” wrote estimator H. M. Wilson, “considerable expense will be incurred in repairing and fortifying those portions of the line.” The trail was never built as proposed, nor was the phone line.

Perhaps the most ominous issue in 1897 received little attention: the problem private lands presented to park integrity. Lt. Benson had assembled all the information he could about private lands on a park map published with Rodgers’ 1897 annual report and sent to Walcott. The map showed a concentration of holdings on the west side of the park; mining claims in the Minarets, at Tioga, and other locations were not included. Many of the lands had been claimed under the Timber and Stone Act (1878) before the park was established. It was the potential for logging those lands that presented the greatest threat to the park.

When Bay Area capitalists consolidated many of the private inholdings and when the Yosemite Valley Railroad was completed in 1907, that potential for logging became a reality. Walcott made no recommendations on the issue. Benson’s map was the first demonstration of the extent of the problem, and it contributed to the reduction of the park by 500 square miles to eliminate most of those private lands from Yosemite in 1905. Rodgers took the position that all private lands in the park should be purchased by the government. He was far ahead of his time, however, and such purchases did not begin in Yosemite until 1930.

Still, the issues of 1897 and the efforts of Rodgers and Walcott to resolve them played a role in the development of policies for managing public lands designated as parks.
and forests. Rodgers stated his problems in Yosemite clearly in his 1897 annual report:

The Yosemite National park has now been in existence for nearly seven years. . . . No money has been appropriated for its maintenance; no penalty has been imposed for violation of the law and of the regulations prescribed under the law. In order to carry out the intent of the act, money must be expended and violators of the law must be punished.24

Though Rodgers and Walcott gained few immediate results, their discussions of problems in 1897 contributed to the foundations of the national park and national forest systems we have now.

NOTES
5. Miller, p. 137.
10. Letters Received, p. 187, Chief Clerk Edward H. Dawson to Rodgers, Sept. 17, 1897, telegram.
11. Letters Sent, p. 238, Rodgers to Secretary of the Interior, Nov. 2, 1897. Gene Rose, Sierra Centennial (Clovis, CA: Sierra National Forest, 1993), p. 11, points out that Langenberg was a relative of General Land Office Commissioner Binger Hermann and was charged in 1898 with renting out stock range in the forest for his own benefit.
13. Earlier in the summer of 1897, fire suppression had also been written into the Forest Management Act of June 4, 1897.
14. United States Geological Survey, p. 78, notes that the USGS stream measurement activities were formally recognized in 1894 legislation.
17. Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7004 (Charles D. Walcott Collection), Box 3, Folder 5, Capt. Alex Rodgers to Charles Walcott.
20. Letters Received, p. 185, W. L. Ashe to Alex Rodgers, Sept. 1, 1897; Smithsonian Institution, Rodgers to Walcott, Sept. 24, 1897; Keith Trexler, The Tioga Road, A History 1883-1961 (Yosemite, CA: Yosemite Association, 1980), p. 17; California, State Engineer, Report . . . November 30, 1908, to November 30, 1910 (Sacramento: SPO, 1911), pp. 90-92, though the opening in 1909 was temporary, complicated by serious construction and maintenance problems. In 1897 the State managed Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove, while the Secretary of the Interior and the General Land Office were responsible for Yosemite National Park encircling Yosemite Valley.
22. Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7004 (Charles D. Walcott Collection), H. M. Wilson to Charles Walcott, Dec. 9, 1897, copy courtesy of Ellis Yochelson.

Jim Snyder is historian for Yosemite National Park. Dr. Ellis Yochelson is scientist emeritus with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History and biographer of Charles Walcott.
Name: Kathy Langley
Title: Chief Concierge, The Ahwahnee
Hometown: Cedar Grove, New Jersey
Education: University of Houston School of Hotel/Restaurant Management
Years worked in Yosemite: 22
What do you do in Yosemite? You mean besides work???
What was your first job in the park? Wine steward
Why did you want to work in Yosemite? I came to be with friends I had worked with in the Rockies. They were doing the Yosemite in summer/Colorado in winter thing, so I figured I’d come out for the summer. That was 1982!
What is your favorite place in Yosemite? Sierra Point
What do you enjoy most about your job? Sharing Yosemite with first-time visitors.
What is your favorite Yosemite book? Yosemite’s Innkeepers by Shirley Sargent. I find the history of hospitality in Yosemite to be fascinating!
What is your favorite non-Yosemite book? A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson
What is your favorite movie? Annie Hall
What do you do when you're not being a concierge? I love to cook so I entertain at home. When I fully recover from knee surgery, I hope to be back running and hiking.
What is your favorite Yosemite book? Yosemite’s Innkeepers by Shirley Sargent. I find the history of hospitality in Yosemite to be fascinating!
What do you think YA’s most important role is? Giving people the Yosemite experience in a small group atmosphere. The outdoor adventures you offer are a great way to learn, and as a result, to appreciate Yosemite.
What would you tell a visitor to do if they had only one day in Yosemite? John Muir said it all, “Sit by the river and cry!”
Who is the most famous person you’ve helped at the Ahwahnee? There have been many celebrities that I’ve helped, but the most memorable ones were the ones who were the most down-to-earth. Those would be director James L. Brooks (TV - Taxi, The Simpsons, films - As Good as it Gets, Big, Broadcast News) and actor Dennis Franz (Hill Street Blues, NYPD Blue).
A cuddly looking squirrel scurries over, or a bird head-bobs its way under your picnic table. You have a spare crust of bread, and you feel like sharing. It’s an almost natural instinct.

But while your intent might be valiant, feeding that wild animal can set off a chain reaction of deadly consequences for them, if not for you.

That’s why Yosemite park officials want people to stop feeding panhandling animals and find a better way to commune with the squirrels, birds, deer, and other creatures that live at the park. They have launched a public information campaign to get the message across.

People long have felt the need to feed Yosemite’s abundant animal population, and officials aren’t sure it’s any worse today than it has been in the past, park officials say. But the results are never good, at least for the animals. In some cases, animals that rely on humans for food lose the ability to find their own meals.

“We see this with squirrels and raccoons,” said Tori Seher, a park wildlife biologist. “They’re fed all summer; winter comes, and they’re not used to foraging for natural food, and they starve to death.”

Some meet a quicker demise. Many animals heading toward the more heavily populated parts of the park end up as roadkill. Or they become meals for bigger predators.

Seher said the park has a large population of “really fat, slow squirrels” that attract predators such as rattlesnakes. The snakes like to hang out near some cottages in the vicinity of the Ahwahnee Hotel and wait for the squirrels to emerge from their holes.

“When they come out, they pick them off one by one,” Seher said.

Feeding lower-end food-chain inhabitants such as squirrels also can bring bigger problems to areas of the park where people tend to congregate.

For example, park officials believe raccoons panhandling for food near Curry Village last year attracted a pair of mountain lions that had to be euthanized after displaying threatening behavior.

Coyotes also are notorious food beggars. One coyote, Seher said, likes to wander into the middle of the road and “purposely stop traffic.” The coyote then will run to the side of the road, near a car or truck window, and wait for people to throw it some food.

Changing people’s attitudes about feeding animals won’t be easy, Seher said. That’s one reason why the park hasn’t embarked on a major campaign before now.

“We’ve all grown up feeding the ducks at the local pond or feeding the birds in the back yard, and that’s OK,” she said. “So this is going to be difficult.”

“We need to figure out why people feed wildlife. Some are doing it to help the animals. Some are doing it only to get that good picture of the animal when it comes close.”

Feeding animals in the park is illegal. Visitors can be cited and fined $250 and, in fact, a warning sign stating as much was flashing last week in Yosemite Valley.

Some park visitors don’t have a problem with enforcement of animal-feeding rules.

“The animals need to forage; otherwise, they’ll just sit around here,” said Dorothy Larsen of Portland, Ore. “They are wild. Let’s just watch them and not get too close.”

Although fining people is an option that has been stepped up this spring, park officials say they would rather educate than punish.
“They only see the immediate moment,” Schweizer said. “But when you give a squirrel some of your muffin, the ripple effect that goes from that one action changes the wildlife behavior — and in this park, quite often, for the negative.

“And it’s not just for the animal but what preys on that animal. Everything is connected. Everything affects everything else.”

Schweizer said she understands why people feel compelled to share their food with the animals. “A lot of people feel a real connection by feeding,” she said. “There’s an emotional connection to wildlife, because they’re cute and cuddly. And because we have relationships where food is nurturing, possibly people feel they’re caring for the animals (by feeding them) or creating a good connection. But you can be connected and take better care of them by not feeding them.”

Francis P. Garland is a columnist for the Stockton Record (where this article originally appeared) and that newspaper’s Mother Lode Bureau Chief. We extend thanks to Mr. Garland and the Stockton Record for granting us permission to reprint.

Deb Schweizer, a park ranger and spokeswoman, said the park hasn’t yet finalized its education campaign, but it could involve flyers, signs and information that rangers could provide during fireside chats or talks at visitor centers.

Schweizer said park officials are collecting anti-feeding materials from other national parks, where such efforts are already under way.

“We want to let people know this is a concern and why it’s a concern,” she said. “We’ve had information out there before, but maybe not in a concentrated form. This year, we want to try more of a concerted effort to make the reasons clear.”

“We don’t want to exclude people from having a wildlife experience, because it’s one reason why people come to national parks. But there’s a way they can do it that’s good for wildlife and good for them.”

Schweizer said photographing or even simply viewing wildlife from a distance, which allows the animal to remain “wild,” can be rewarding for visitors.

“A lot of people want to see a bear when they come to the park,” she said. “What’s a better experience than coming to the meadow and seeing a bear foraging?”

Watching a bear scrounge for table scraps in a campground or at a picnic table just doesn’t have that same “magic,” Schweizer said.

The difficulty in convincing people to keep their food to themselves is that they can’t see the impact such behavior has down the line.
The highlight of 2003 for the Yosemite Association was our celebration of our 80th anniversary. As the nation's first cooperating association and fundraising organization in a national park, YA is proud of its history of educational work and service within Yosemite. To commemorate the milestone, we unveiled a new 80th anniversary logo, and sponsored a number of special anniversary events throughout the year.

On August 4, we marked our birthday with a ceremony attended by park dignitaries and visitors in front of the Yosemite Museum. In recognition of our long-standing ties with the museum, YA presented the NPS with several gifts for the museum and research library collections, including rare stereoviews and books and a Native American basket.

Following addresses by Park Superintendent Mike Tollefson, Yosemite Fund President Bob Hansen, and representatives for the Association of Partners for Public Lands, Senator Barbara Boxer, and Congressman George Radanovich, the event wrapped up with the sharing of two large birthday cakes prepared by chefs at The Ahwahnee.

Notably, over 800 YA members made donations totaling more than $94,000 in response to our campaign to raise $80,000 in our 80th anniversary year. These generous gifts will allow us to continue our educational work at Yosemite into the next 80 years and beyond.

Other anniversary events included a presentation on Sierra Nevada buffalo soldiers by ranger Shelton Johnson at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum on August 17, and a special reception and dinner for member/donors of $1,000 or more at the home of Kevin Kelly (COO of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite) on the Ahwahnee Meadow on October 4.

Several YA programs met with great success during the year. We added 3,555 new members (our total membership grew to about 10,000), and our two member events proved very popular. Nearly 500 members attended our Spring Forum, and 300 members joined us for our 28th annual “Members Meeting” in Tuolumne Meadows.

Our member/volunteers proved invaluable at the park once again. Over 150 people participated in either the month-long volunteer program or the cooperative work weeks, and their collective work aggregated more than 12,300 donated hours of service.

New publications included Yosemite Once Removed with photographs by Claude Fiddler, and essays by Steve Roper, Nancy Fiddler, John Hart, Anne Macquarie, and Doug Robinson, and Yosemite Meditations, a small gift book offering a collection of Yosemite photographs by Michael Frye matched with quotations about nature, the environment, and the national parks. Several 80th anniversary logo products also were developed.

Our financial results were positive for a second consecutive year and allowed us to contribute $409,084 to the National Park Service in Yosemite for a variety of programs and projects including information assistance, the bear awareness effort, museum volunteers, wilderness education, and the Yosemite Search and Rescue Fund.

All in all, our 80th year was a very gratifying one. With the help of our members, friends, and partners, we were able to celebrate 80 years of providing educational materials, programs, and services that promote stewardship and enhance the visitor experience, while continuing our financial support of the important work of the NPS in Yosemite.

We extend thanks to everyone who not only helped us accomplish what we did, but also made the process so enjoyable and rewarding.

Steven P. Medley
President
BOARD AND STAFF

YA’s volunteer board of trustees contributed hundreds of hours of time and donated generously to our organization in 2003. We appreciated the fine service and dedication of the entire board that consisted of Christy Holloway, chair, Gerald Haslam, vice-chair, Barbara Boucke, treasurer, Gerald Barton, Tom Bowman, Suzanne Corkins, Phil Frank, Kimi Hill, Malcolm Margolin, Kathy Orr, Lennie Roberts, Tom Shephard, Gina Tan, Phyllis Weber, Jeani Ferrari, Kevin Kelly, and Ellie Nishkian.

In the annual board election (that was held without balloting because there were no nominations by petition), incumbent Malcolm Margolin of Berkeley was elected to a new three-year term. Keith Alley, Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of California at Merced, was elected to replace Kathy Orr, who left the board after twelve years of distinguished service.

Dr. Alley is responsible for the development and support of research opportunities, initiatives, and partnerships at the new UC campus. In his dual position as dean of graduate studies, he will oversee graduate degree programs and all issues related to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. An outdoor-lover, mountaineer, and cyclist, Alley most recently worked as Senior Associate Vice President for Research at The Ohio State University.

Alley also will be representing UC Merced in matters regarding the university’s Sierra Nevada Research Institute, now being created in Yosemite. He is committed to increasing access for diverse students from the San Joaquin Valley region to both education and the natural treasures of Yosemite. He lives with his wife Jill in Merced.

Kathy Orr was actively involved in Yosemite over the course of her tenure as YA board member. She originally worked as a volunteer for the association, helping with membership recruitment, staffing of the museum and visitor center, and more. She later became a Volunteer-in-the-Park (VIP) for the National Park Service, spending many months each year contributing her time and knowledge in assistance to park visitors. Despite leaving the board, she continues as a valuable and highly regarded VIP.

The YA board recently passed a resolution thanking Ms. Orr for her years of service to the organization and Yosemite. The impact of her absence from board meetings has been diminished considerably, however, by the fact that we still see her regularly in the park.

On the staff level, there were several key changes in 2003. Long-term employees Connie Nielson and Anne Steed both left YA to pursue other opportunities. Connie came to work in our office in August 1992, and quickly became a key member of the membership department. She was primarily responsible for the development of YA’s volunteer program. Anne concluded fifteen years of service with YA in September. She first worked as an assistant in the field seminar program, next as administrative assistant, and finally as membership coordinator.

Both Connie and Anne were extremely popular with our members and known for their warmth and excellent customer service. The voices at our end of the “member information line,” Connie and Anne also were responsible for making our member events (such as the annual meeting and the spring forum) so successful and well-run. The departure of both these fine employees has been keenly felt, and we extend them many thanks for their contributions to YA, and best wishes for the future.

Hired to take over as new membership coordinator

YOSEMITE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2003

JANUARY

- New Park Superintendent Mike Tollefson assumed his position as head of the National Park Service administration in Yosemite on January 5.

FEBRUARY

- Camp 4, the famed climbers’ campground in Yosemite Valley, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 21. It was deemed significant because the camp played a pivotal role in the development of sport rock climbing at a time when technique and skill were passed on by word-of-mouth—before the deluge of guidebooks and manuals.

- Two giant sequoias that put down roots long before the United States became a country fell in the Mariposa Grove. Soil or root failure caused the collapse of at least one of the trees, which may have toppled the second sequoia as it fell.
was Christine (Chrissy) Knight. She most recently worked for DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite as an interpretive guide, augmenting her lifelong connection to the park. Chrissy’s primary duty will be supervising our volunteer programs (both month-long and work trips), calling on her previous experience as an on-site manager for a residential volunteer program in Hawaii. We are pleased to have her as part of our staff.

SALES AND PUBLICATIONS
For the second straight year, our overall sales grew. With in-park receipts increasing by 7.6% from last year’s figure, overall sales were up about 1%. That percentage would have been higher if our wholesale business hadn’t seen a decline occasioned by the loss of a number of long-standing accounts.

While concessioners at the park continue to purchase our titles in large quantities, independent bookstores in California (and elsewhere) are closing their doors at an alarming rate. As the retail book business is consolidated in fewer and larger companies, YA is working to develop new relationships to ensure that our educational materials reach as large an audience as possible.

In the park, the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center set the pace for us with a sales increase of 12.3%, and total sales of $584,179. Other meaningful growth occurred at the YA-volunteer-only-run Happy Isles Nature Center (+37%), the Wawona Information Station (+23%), the Tuolumne Wilderness Center (+20%), the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center (+18%), and the Museum Shop (+7%). Though its gross sales weren’t sizable, the Mariposa Grove Museum had an increase of 168.5%.

Early in the year, a project to remodel the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center lobby and bookstore was approved and funded. Architect Arch Horst of Black River Associates was hired to develop plans for the remodel. In anticipation of the initiation of work on the project, the lobby and store were dismantled in early November, and the operation relocated temporarily to the Wilderness Center. When the project failed to gain needed approval from the Department of the Interior and Congress, work was delayed until 2004. It is expected that the remodel will go forward in the fall of 2004 and be completed by spring, 2005.

During 2003, YA published Yosemite Once Removed—Portraits of the Backcountry (a full-color coffee table book with photographs by Claude Fiddler, and essays by Steve Roper, Nancy Fiddler, John Hart, Anne Macquarie, and Doug Robinson), and Yosemite Meditations, a small gift book offering a collection of Yosemite photographs by Michael Frye matched with quotations about nature, the environment, and the national parks.

Major financial support for Yosemite Once Removed was received from the William J. Shupper Family Foundation. YA also was pleased to receive a grant from James McClatchy and the McClatchy Company for publication of a history of the Tioga Road area written by Gene Rose.

Non-book products developed during the year include an enamel, cloisonné-style pin to commemorate YA’s 80th anniversary, and a YA member t-shirt, fleece vest, and water bottle emblazoned with our 80th anniversary logo. The new logo was created by Michael Osborne Design of San Francisco. A poster entitled “Sierra Nevada Buffalo Soldiers,” reproducing a historic photo of a black cavalry detachment on its way to Yosemite, also was undertaken.

Our two most profitable publications during 2003 were The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park and Two Bear Cubs. Other strong-selling titles included Map and Guide to Yosemite Valley, The Wild Muir, Yosemite

APRIL
- Yosemite park historian Jim Snyder was presented the Department of the Interior’s Superior Service Award.

MAY
- The Bush administration proposal identifying several hundred National Park Service jobs on the West Coast for potential takeover in the following year by private companies received a negative reception in Yosemite. The administration said it would further study the “competitive sourcing” proposal.

JULY
- Representative George Radanovich introduced a bill in Congress to authorize new camp-sites and more parking in Yosemite Valley, in a move that would circumven key elements of park plans already in place. Directing a barb at the Sierra Club, the bill required the removal of the historic LeConte Memorial Lodge. Controversy and debate about the lodge continued all year.

AUGUST
- The Yosemite Association, the first cooperating organization in

YA’s electronic newsletter proved popular again this year, and our mailing list grew to include over 15,000 e-mail addresses. Our web site, www.yosemite.org, continued to have excellent visitation figures.

MEMBERSHIP

YA welcomed 3,555 new members to its roster in 2003, marking an unprecedented year of growth. We ended the year with just shy of 10,000 total members. Membership benefits also continued to evolve: DNC Parks & Resorts in Yosemite generously renewed their Park Partner lodging discount benefit, incorporating single-use discount coupons for that purpose; nine other properties in and around Yosemite National Park also offered YA members a lodging discount.

After five years with the same dues structure, we incorporated a modest dues increase to position the association to enhance financial support of our programs and services. We also updated the special thank-you gifts we offered for those who joined or upgraded their memberships to the Supporting or higher levels.

YA enjoyed a busy year of members’ and public events as we celebrated our 80th anniversary. We unveiled our new logo and announced an ambitious annual fundraising goal to nearly 500 members attending the Spring Forum in March. Under the banner of a mild spring day, attendees enjoyed a wide variety of auditorium programs and a score of naturalist-led interpretive walks.

Three hundred members attended our 28th Annual Members’ Meeting in Tuolumne Meadows in September, enjoying a unique keynote address by Yosemite Once Removed photographer Claude Fiddler, and essayists Steve Roper, Nancy Fiddler, John Hart, Anne Macquarie, and Doug Robinson.

Seventy-five member volunteers contributed over 9,500 hours of service in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, providing information assistance to thousands of park visitors, and directly recruiting 665 new members in the process. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the Happy Isles Nature Center, Camp 6 Yurt information station, Museum Gallery, and Parsons Lodge were all kept open for visitors to enjoy during the summer. Volunteers assisted the NPS directly by covering shifts at the Valley Visitor Center information desk and the Public Information Office phone line; they also provided information outreach at Glacier Point and Olmsted Point. In its nineteenth year, this volunteer program - which has steadily expanded its scope of service - supported a record thirteen service locations.

Seventy-six hardy members helped restore Yosemite for future generations by volunteering on six “work week” trips. In its sixteenth year, the program (a cooperative effort of the National Park Service, Yosemite Institute, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, and YA) made possible the contribution of nearly 2,800 hours of manual labor for rare plant surveys, exotic species eradication, revegetation, removing and reducing backcountry fire rings, fence repair, oak seedling monitoring, and much more.

Members donated nearly $94,000 to YA in honor of our 80th anniversary to help maintain and expand our important services and programs. DNC hosted and underwrote an elegant outdoor dinner at the home of host Kevin Kelly, COO of DNC, catered by chefs at The Ahwahnee, to recognize donors and members who contributed $1,000 or more to our anniversary campaign. About fifteen qualifying individuals attended, enjoying

the national park system, celebrated its 80th anniversary on August 4.

- Yosemite’s famous Jeffrey pine on Sentinel Dome, whose poetic beauty and unique, wind-swept formation made it one of the most photographed trees in the world, fell to the ground. The tree died during the drought of 1976-77.
- U.S. Magistrate at Yosemite National Park since 1994, Hollis Best died from cancer. He was 77.
- Eighteen Yosemite bears were fitted with new radio collar devices that scientists created to alert park rangers whenever the animals lumber into popular parking areas or camping spots. Officials hope the devices will condition the bears to keep away from areas frequented by humans.

SEPTEMBER

- A new survey of glaciers in the Sierra Nevada showed that the thick slabs of ice that have frosted many of the state’s high peaks (including Lyell, Maclure, and Dana glaciers in Yosemite) for the last thousand years are dramatically shrinking and, in some cases, disappearing altogether.
an intimate evening and a fine meal with park community members in a superlative setting.

We were deeply grateful for the vital support we received from our members through their gifts of time, talent, dues, and donations in 2003. We also benefited from contributions by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, the Amador County Wine Grape Growers Association and affiliated wineries, Merrill Lynch, and the Butterfly Creek Winery in support of the year’s members’ and anniversary events.

Finally, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), the outdoor equipment cooperative based in Seattle, made a generous $18,000 gift to YA that resulted from a REI stewardship t-shirt that featured an image of Yosemite. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each shirt was donated to our organization.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

The 2003 Yosemite Outdoor Adventure catalog, featuring seventy courses in natural and cultural history, drawing, painting and writing, photography and film, day-hiking, and backpacking, was illustrated by cartoonist Phil Frank. The array of offerings was one of our most varied yet.

For example, photographer Robert Szabo showed how Carleton Watkins made his stunning images in his demonstration of wet plate collodion photography. NPS ranger Kate McCurdy returned for Bear Patrol II, and her hardy group worked diligently to help collect field data on bears and remove non-native fruit. Artist Lian Zhen instructed a class on Chinese painting techniques, and DNC interpreter Julie Miller led her class to the top of Mammoth, Rugged and Johnson Peaks.

Despite a decline in enrollments in 2003 to 485 total participants, the Yosemite Outdoor Adventure program continued to fulfill the organization’s core mission of providing quality, in-depth educational programs. One significant negative factor was that during peak enrollment season (November of 2002 to March of 2003) there was a particularly unstable political and economic climate, and potential participants were reluctant to commit to travel in advance.

Two casualties of the low response were the Third Annual Yosemite Winter Literary Conference and the Yosemite Children’s Literature Conference. Not surprisingly, given the drop in participation, the program finished with revenues 26% below budget and operated at a deficit.

OSTRANDER SKI HUT

At the request of the National Park Service, YA again oversaw the winter operation of the hut. Used by wilderness skiers and snowshoers, the facility on the banks of Ostrander Lake received over 1,000 visitor nights of use. Primary hutkeepers for the season were Howard Weamer, George Durkee, and Kelsey Ripple.

WILDERNESS CENTER

The Wilderness Center, with offices in both Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, continued as a cooperative effort with the National Park Service. Besides serving as a resource for wilderness travelers, the center offered wilderness permit reservations (a partnership between YA and the NPS) and bear canister rentals (with the further cooperation of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite). YA received a number of generous donations for the purchase of replacement bear canisters during the year.

ART ACTIVITY CENTER

The Art Activity Center, co-sponsored by YA, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, and the NPS, operated for its twenty-second season. Visiting artists provided free classes in drawing, sketching, painting, and other media from April through October.

NOVEMBER

• In a nationwide survey, National Park Service employees roundly complained about conditions in their agency. Nearly seven out of ten employees who were asked said the Park Service is now on the “wrong track,” and nearly eight in ten said morale had declined in recent years.
• Work began on the removal of the Cascades Diversion Dam on the Merced River next to the junction of Highway 140 and Big Oak Flat Road on the far west end of Yosemite Valley. Part of an 85-year-old power generation system that is no longer used, the dam would be gone in five months.

DECEMBER

• A rockfall hit at Curry Village in the early hours of December 26, injuring four persons and damaging several buildings. Rangers move about 100 Yosemite visitors to safer quarters.

Annual report illustrations by Phil Frank from The Junior Ranger Handbook.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For Year Ending December 31, 2003

ASSETS
Cash and Cash equivalents $647,730
Accounts receivable 67,836
Prepaid Expenses 17,927
Inventory 686,010
Property and equipment 61,387

TOTAL ASSETS $1,480,890

LIABILITIES
Trade Accounts payable $27,970
Other accrued liabilities 43,069
Deferred Revenues 32,597
Loan Payable 4,629
Royalties payable 30,806

TOTAL LIABILITIES $139,071

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted:
Undesignated 841,542
Temporarily restricted 200,277
Contingency reserve 300,000

TOTAL NET ASSETS $1,341,819

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $1,480,890

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES, 2003

REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT
Contributions $136,009
Auxiliary Activities
Publication sales 1,729,708
Seminars 86,307
Memberships 483,904
Investment Income 1,564
Other Income 6,539
Wilderness Programs 210,031
Restrictions satisfied by payments 170,145

TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT $2,824,207

EXPENSES
Cost of Sales:
Publication costs 1,422,174
Auxiliary activities:
Seminars 106,515
Wilderness Center 190,765
Supporting services:
Management and general 328,442
Membership 335,921
Aid to National Park Service 336,166

2,737,983

CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS
$86,224

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS
Contributions 138,418
Auxiliary Activities 29,632
Designated Programs
Net assets released from restrictions
Restrictions satisfied by payments (170,145)

INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (2,095)

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS 84,129

NET ASSETS, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR 1,257,690

NET ASSETS, AT END OF YEAR $1,341,819

2003 Total Aid to NPS: $409,084

Includes all reportable items from operations.
Spring Forum—What a Celebration!

At this year’s Spring Forum, held March 27, 2004, members were treated to Yosemite at the peak of its splendor. One could hear the roar of Yosemite Falls, even over the 450 members enjoying the day in the Valley Visitor Center courtyard. The day was enhanced with auditorium programs which included park updates with Superintendent Mike Tollefson; a Chiura Obata presentation with Timothy Anglin Burgard; wonderful slides and stories dispelling Yosemite myths; the first woman ranger naturalist Enid Michael’s contributions to Yosemite; and a sneak preview of the new Sterling Johnson film featuring climber Ron Kauk. Many also attended the twenty-five interpretive walks led by naturalists, learning more about trail work, cultural and natural history, oaks, photography, writing, plants, and Yosemite’s Native Americans. This year, we were also fortunate to offer a volunteer service project and a tour of the Cascade Dam Removal project area.

At the end of the day, attendees mixed and mingled with authors, presenters, and walk leaders at our wine and cheese reception. And just as Sentinel Rock was being illuminated by the alpenglow, we said good-bye to another beautiful day in Yosemite with our kind and generous friends. Many thanks to the National Park Service, The Ansel Adams Gallery, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, and local naturalists for their vital assistance with another successful Spring Forum.

![Forum participants listen to an NPS Ranger discuss Yosemite’s Mounted Patrol program.](photo-by-peter-geis)

Won’t you join us at an upcoming members’ event?

Our next gathering will be the 29th Annual Fall Meeting, which will be held in Wawona on Saturday, September 18, 2004. Our featured speaker will be the legendary mountaineer Royal Robbins. Registration materials for the Annual Fall Meeting will be mailed to all members in July 2004. The next Spring Forum will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005. Registration materials for the Spring Forum will be mailed in January 2005.

Local Volunteers Needed

Attention all locals from the Groveland, Wawona, Fresno, Fish Camp, North Fork and Oakhurst areas! We need your help to help Yosemite! If you have some free time this summer, make a difference and volunteer at the Big Oak Flat entrance station, in Wawona, or at our airport store in Fresno. For more information, please call Chrissy at 209-379-2317 or email cknight@yosemite.org.

2004 Month-long Volunteer Program & Work Week Update

Hot off the presses! There are openings in Wawona for our month-long volunteer program, and only a few slots left for the Weed Warriors Cooperative Work Week trip on June 20-26. If you are interested in helping us help Yosemite, please call Chrissy at 209-379-2317 or email cknight@yosemite.org. You can also refer to your Winter 2004 issue of Yosemite for more information.

YA Benefits from Your Online Shopping

Help the Yosemite Association when you shop online. Access your favorite merchants, like Barnes & Noble and Lands End, through www.yosemite.greatergood.com and 5% or more of your purchase will go directly to YA at no extra cost to you.
At its recent convention the Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) recognized the Yosemite Association for excellence in service. APPL’s Media and Partnership Awards are an annual competition for non-profits that support public lands across the United States. In the 2004 awards, the Yosemite Association won first prize for its Outdoor Adventures and Cooperative Work Weeks programs, and honorable mention awards for its publication *A Trip To the Yosemite* and its 80th Anniversary Commemorative Project.

APPL presented Yosemite Outdoor Adventures top prize for on-site educational programs noting the great variety of offerings for diverse groups that include courses in Spanish and Junior Ranger activities. Since 1971, the Yosemite Association has been offering quality, educational courses through its Outdoor Adventure Program. Taught by park rangers, experienced naturalists, and field scientists, the classes focus on enhancing park interpretation and the National Park Service ideal of stewardship. Through the program, participants can experience Yosemite in-depth in a variety of subject areas: hiking, backpacking, photography, art, natural history, and writing.

Are You a Steward?

“Stewardship” is such a strange word for such an important value, commitment, and opportunity. Stewardship means something different to everyone…what does stewardship mean to you? More importantly, how are you a steward? Here are some ideas of stewardship from the YA staff:

• Financial Support
• Vote with dollars—choose where you spend your money
• Stay informed about current issues
• Pick up trash on trails
• Report unsafe trail conditions
• Volunteer
• Help lost visitors
• Play tour guide for friends and other park visitors
• Become a YA member!

We would love to hear how you define stewardship, and what you do to show it! Please send your ideas to cknight@yosemite.org or call (209) 379-2317.

Yosemite Artist Chris Jorgensen Featured at Yosemite Museum

Opening on June 15, 2004, the Yosemite Museum will feature the works of the artist Chris Jorgensen (b. 1860, d. 1935), a noted California landscape painter.

Jorgensen was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1860 and immigrated to San Francisco. He studied art at the San Francisco School of Design, and later married one of his students, Angela Ghirardelli, the daughter of a prominent San Francisco family.

Jorgensen built a studio in Yosemite in 1900 where he spent twenty seasons painting his views of Yosemite. During this time he also built and operated studios and residences in the Oakland Hills, Carmel, and Pebble Beach.

Following the artist’s death in 1935, the Yosemite Museum received a bequest from his estate of over 100 paintings. The exhibit is made possible by several grants from the Yosemite Fund, which covered the cost of conservation of both the watercolors and selected oil paintings. The grant also covers the costs for framing and mounting the exhibit.

The exhibit is staffed by volunteer docents who are provided by the Yosemite Association. Without their assistance, this exhibit could not be made available to the public.

The exhibit will be open daily from June 15 through September 30, 2004, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., and is expected to be seen by about 150,000 visitors.
Many Thanks

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to The Ansel Adams Gallery for hosting a special evening reception at their Yosemite Village store on March 26. This reception, honoring members who have donated $250 or more to YA in the last year, featured Kimi Kodani Hill (Obata family historian) and Timothy Anglin Burgard (curator of American Art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco) discussing Chiura Obata’s Yosemite artwork. Attendees also enjoyed delicious hors d’oeuvres and wine as they mingled with YA board, staff, and park officials in the convivial atmosphere of the Gallery. Our thanks to The Ansel Adams Gallery for a lovely evening!

Volunteers Bring Yosemite to Fresno

We would like to thank the wonderful set of volunteers that enable us to operate our Fresno Yosemite Store year-round at the Fresno airport. Without their support, we would have to close this facility. If you are in the area, or are flying to or from Fresno, be sure to stop by and thank these fine people for their many volunteer hours! Our thanks go to:

- David G. Barber,
- Medsie Bowlin,
- Mildred J. Byrd,
- Richard D. Conness,
- Judy Dechow,
- Ted Hoseman,
- John Manassesian,
- Maureen McCarthy,
- William McLeod,
- Cheryl Nelson,
- Laurie Redell,
- Lenore Stork,
- Rebecca Thompson,
- and Marlies Zehender.

And Lest We Forget...

We are deeply grateful to three individuals who help make this quarterly members’ journal possible: Robin Weiss, of Robin Weiss Graphic Design, Gayle Takakjian-Gilbert of Dumont Printing, and Clint Phelps of Professional Print & Mail, Inc. In addition to their tireless efforts with this publication, they also help YA with many other projects throughout the year, responding cheerfully to our short deadlines, presenting innovative solutions to our challenges, and delivering the highest quality materials and service. Thank you!
**ASSOCIATION DATES**

**May**
- Valley Visitor Center Information and Bookstore services have returned to their original location for the summer; remodeling project will resume this fall.
- **May 9:** OA: Women of Yosemite: A Mother’s Day Celebration
- **May 10 – 16:** YAC: Free art lessons with Carole Buss
- **May 13 – 16:** OA: Yosemite by Camera, Car, and Bicycle

**May 14 – 16:** OA: Hetch Hetchy Wildflower Explorations
**May 15 – 16:** OA: Yosemite’s Forests: Historic Conditions and a Century of Change
**May 16:** OA: Inside Yosemite: Wilderness Issues in the Park
**May 17 – 23:** YAC: Free drawing/pastel/colored pencil art lessons with Frank Poulsen
**May 21:** Mariposa Grove Museum and Bookstore opens for the season
**May 21 – 23:** OA: Botanical Illuminations
**May 22:** OA: Music in Yosemite with the Recycled String Band
**May 22:** OA: Strolling with a Storyteller
**May 24 – 30:** YAC: Free watercolor art lessons with Thor Ericson
**May 28:** Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore and Visitor Center opens for the season (tentative)
**May 28 – 30:** OA: Art in the Ancient Forest
**May 29:** OA: Hetch Hetchy History Walk
**May 29 – 30:** OA: Bird Encounters in Yosemite Valley

**June 3 – 6:** OA: Peregrines, Eagles, and Owls
**June 5:** OA: Hidden Hideaways of Yosemite Valley
**June 5:** OA: Making the Music: California Indian Style
**June 5 – 6:** OA: Springtime Wildflower Hikes in Yosemite Valley
**June 7 – 13:** YAC: Free acrylic art lessons with Bob Chapla

**June 11:** Tuolumne Wilderness Center opens for the season (tentative)
**June 12:** OA: Get Lost with a Ranger
**June 12:** OA: Traditional Uses of Native Plants
**June 12 – 13:** OA: Wild Soundsscapes
**June 14 – 20:** YAC: Free watercolor art lessons with Tom Fong
**June 15:** Exhibit of Chris Jorgenson paintings opens for the summer at Yosemite Museum Gallery
**June 18 – 22:** OA: North Rim Backpack
**June 19:** OA: The Photography of Time
**June 19 – 20:** OA: Flintknapping: Stone Arrowheads and Spearpoints
**June 20:** OA: Father’s Day Photo Walk
**June 20:** OA: Yosemite Valley’s Lesser-Known History

**June 21:** OA: Surveying the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias
**June 21 – 27:** YAC: Free watercolor art lessons with David Deyell
**June 26:** OA: A Walk Among Giants: The Merced and Tuolumne Groves of Giant Sequoias
**June 28 – July 4:** YAC: Free art lessons with Susan Trimingham

**July 2:** OA: Yosemite en Español
**July 3:** OA: Investigating the Wildflowers of Tuolumne Meadows
**July 4:** OA: Summer Birding in Tuolumne Meadows
**July 5 – 11:** YAC: Free black ink/watercolor art lessons with Carolyn Fitz
**July 9:** OA: Yosemite en Español
**July 10:** OA: Yoga & Creative Writing in Yosemite
**July 10:** OA: Yosemite Valley Rim Wildflower Walk
**July 11:** OA: Wildflowers of Forests & Meadows
**July 11:** OA: Fire Ecology of Yosemite Valley

**July 11 – 17:** Glacier Pt. Rare & Endangered Species and Wawona Weeds Work Week
**July 12:** OA: Junior Ranger Adventure
**July 12 – 17:** OA: Women Writing the Wild III: Beginning Backpack
**July 12 – 18:** YAC: Free art lessons with Roberta Rogers
**July 15 – 18:** OA: Lyell Canyon Beginning Backpack
**July 16 – 17:** OA: Creeks, Springs, & Ponds of Tuolumne
**July 16 – 18:** OA: Introduction to Sierra Fly Fishing
**July 17:** OA: Ancient Volcanoes and Scenic Cascades

**July 17 – 18:** OA: Nature’s Chemistry Lab at Tuolumne
**July 18:** OA: Go Climb a Peak
**July 18:** OA: Meadows, Forests, & Wildflowers Along Tioga Road
**July 18 – 22:** OA: Starry Skies over Yosemite
**July 19:** OA: Mono Lake Canoe Trip
**July 19 – 23:** OA: Alpine Flora Basecamp
**July 19 – 25:** YAC: Free art lessons with Janice Powell-Shed
**July 23 – 25:** OA: Backpacking the Pohono Trail
**July 24 – 25:** OA: Yosemite: The Explorations of the Original Surveyors

**July 25 – 31:** Tuolumne Front Country Restoration Work Week
**July 26:** OA: Junior Ranger Adventure
**July 26 – Aug 1:** YAC: Free sketching/drawing lessons with Jim Murray
**July 29 – Aug 1:** OA: Mono Pass Beginning Backpack
**July 29 – Aug 1:** OA: Introduction to Backpacking & Wilderness Ethics for Teenage Girls
**July 30 – Aug 1:** OA: Photographing High Country Habitats

**July 31:** OA: Yosemite’s “Southern Belle:” Wawona History Walk

For an expanded events calendar, visit: www.yosemite.org/member/calendar.htm.
SALE!

Maps of the National Parks of the Pacific States and Far West—TrailSmart CD-ROM
by National Geographic Maps/Trails Illustrated.

This comprehensive CD-ROM includes every topographic map you’ll need for 14 national parks, preserves, and recreation areas. Each map is a guide with trail, trailhead, campsite, hiking, safety, and trip-planning information. Areas covered include North Cascades, Olympic, Mount Ranier, Crater Lake, Redwood, Yosemite, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Channel Islands, Haleakala, Hawaii Volcanoes, and more.

The 28 complete National Geographic Trails Illustrated maps allow you to select the exact area you want to print, and creates a sharp, trail-ready map in color or black-and-white. Grid wizard adds latitude/longitude or UTM grids and other navigational aids to printouts. You’ll be able to zoom through different USGS map series that show increasing levels of detail, add your own custom text, symbols, and routes to the map, and select the exact area you need and print a custom, photo-quality map on any ink-jet, laser printer, or plotter.

Other features include the ability to draw a freehand route and have the software display its distance, generate an elevation profile, and prepare it for uploading to a GPS. 3-D shading toggles on and off. The package includes one CD-ROM, compatible with Windows 95 and later, that is GPS ready. Copyright 1999, National Geographic. Normal price $49.95; special sale price $29.95 (no member discount allowed)

Passport to Your National Parks
by Eastern National.

This passport book is a guide to the national treasures in America. Using special interpretive stamps and park cancellations, the passport book is filled out as you travel from park to park. The book divides the country into nine geographic travel regions for easy reference. It contains maps, park information, and a listing of all national parks for each region.

The passport has places for you to collect the series of stamps which are issued each year, and where you can cancel your book when you visit a national park. Whenever you visit a national park, be sure to get your passport canceled with the ink markings that record the name of the park and the date of your visit. They are free of charge.

Interpretive stamps are sold as a set of ten each year and offered at most national parks. The book is 104 pages, 3.5 inches x 6 inches, full color, and wire-o bound. Copyright 1998 by Eastern National. $7.95; member price $6.76

2004 Passport To Your National Parks Stamp Set
by Eastern National Parks & Monuments.

This colorful sheet features stamps that fit into your Passport To Your National Parks book. It includes one national and nine regional stamps on one sheet.

The featured parks and historic sites are Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Fort Larned National Historic Site, Fort Union National Monument, Colorado National Monument, Chiricahua National Monument and Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. The national stamp is for Navajo National Monument.

One sheet of 10 stamps, 8.5 x 11 inches, printed in full color, and packaged in a plastic bag. Copyright 2004, Eastern National. $3.95; member price $3.36
Yosemite Meditations

The Yosemite Association has released this new gift book that’s a beautifully-illustrated collection of quotations about nature, the environment, and the national parks, guaranteed to inspire and uplift readers.

The stunning color Yosemite photographs gracing the book’s pages were taken by Michael Frye, a renowned photographer who resides in the park. A diverse group of notables, ranging from Frank Lloyd Wright to John Muir and from Albert Einstein to Henry David Thoreau, provides the included wisdom and inspirational thoughts.

Specifically designed to be used out of doors, this is a work that can be enjoyed alone in a high country meadow, or shared with friends and family on a camping or backpacking trip. The convenient size is ideal for putting into a pack or tote bag, making it easy to carry and appreciate in almost any setting. The book is 96 pages long, illustrated in full color, 4.75 x 6 inches in size, and hardbound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2003, Yosemite Association. $9.95; member price $8.46.

Yosemite & The Story of Yosemite DVDs

by Readers Digest.

This two DVD set features three full hours of full-color programming. Disc 1 (Yosemite) features El Capitan, Half Dome, the High Sierra, the John Muir Trail, Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Tuolumne Meadows, Tioga Pass, the Mariposa Grove, Wildlife, Backcountry, and Summer & Winter Activities.

Disc 2 (The Story of Yosemite) features Explore the Spectacular Valley, Experience Yosemite’s Magnificent Waterfalls, Walk in the Footsteps of John Muir, Trek the Backcountry, and Rock Climb El Capitan. Bonus features include recreation, pop culture, music, and park extras.

The two DVDs are packaged in a sturdy plastic case and have a running time of 3 hours. Copyright 2003, Questar, Inc. $19.95; member price $16.96.

Pajaro Field Bag

This waist pack features seven pockets for everything you’ll need when you’re hiking or enjoying time in the outdoors. The main pocket is sized to accommodate field guides, travel books, or binoculars. There are smaller pockets (including one with a zipper) for note pads and maps, and specialized pockets for pencils, pens, and sunglasses. Best of all, a secret pocket sealed with Velcro keeps keys, credit cards, and other valuables safe.

It’s the best such pack we’ve found.

Made in the U.S.A. of durable Cordura in navy blue, forest green, or black by Pajaro. (please specify color) $29.95; member price $25.46.

To see an expanded list of the Yosemite-related books, maps, and products we offer for sale, visit the full-featured, secure Yosemite Store on the internet at: http://yosemitestore.com
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION, SPRING 2004

Yosemite Valley Jigsaw Puzzle
from a cartoon map by Jo Mora.

A favorite gift of many Yosemite lovers is this 500-piece jigsaw puzzle made using the cartoon-style map of Yosemite Valley painted by Jo Mora in 1931. Not only does it feature many humorous elements, it pictures many features in Yosemite Valley that are no longer to be found. They include the Old Village, the petting zoo at the Yosemite Museum, the Firefall, the bear feeding platform, and the Glacier Point Hotel.

For those who remember when the campgrounds had numbers instead of names, those designations are included, too. Probably the best feature of the puzzle, however, is that it’s not impossible to complete! Its multiple colors and lots of characters make it relatively easy to find and match pieces. The puzzle is a gift that can be enjoyed over and over, and it’s a great bit of Yosemite nostalgia. $12.95; member price $11.01

Snug As a Bug
written by Michael Elsohn Ross and illustrated by Sylvia Long.

Award-winning artist Sylvia Long has teamed up with author and naturalist (and YA author and instructor) Michael Elsohn Ross to create a truly enchanting bedtime book. From goodnight stories to goodnight kisses, the simple, cozy text celebrates the special bedtime rituals that are so beloved by both parent and child. With its colorful butterflies, cozy caterpillars and dreamy ladybugs—all in their cutest pajamas—this is a book that readers will want to snuggle up with again and again.

Michael Elsohn Ross is an author and naturalist with over 35 children’s books to his credit. He lives in a Yosemite National Park Administrative Site with his wife and son. Sylvia Long is the illustrator of several books for children including the best sellers Ten Little Rabbits and Alejandro’s Gift.

The book is 20 pages long, 8.5 x 8.375 inches, illustrated in full color, and clothbound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2004, Chronicle Books. $13.95; member price $11.86

NEW! Yosemite Association 80th Anniversary Logo Vest
by Chuck Roast.

This great new Polartec® vest is embroidered with the Yosemite Association 80th anniversary logo. Manufactured for us by Chuck Roast of New Hampshire, the Cascade-style vest is one of the most versatile items of clothing for the outdoors, and a great piece for all seasons.

The vest is made of Polartec® 200 from Malden Mills in a full zip unisex style with front hand-warmer pockets. It’s navy blue in color with an embroidered logo that’s 2.5 by 3.5 inches, a charcoal gray collar, a hemmed bottom, and a silver zipper. Available in S, M, L, XL, and XXL sizes. $49.95; member price $42.46. Be sure to specify size.

SummitMark Yosemite Pins and Zipper Pulls
by Geo-Situ.

These unique metal products are designed to represent the summits of some of Yosemite’s well-known features (El Capitan and Half Dome) and the actual U.S Geological Survey bench mark on Glacier Point, and feature their names and geographic information. They are artfully rendered in brushed pewter—beautifully cast and finely detailed.

Information provided includes elevation and map coordinates taken from the official United States data source on domestic geographic names, the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).

The markers are one inch in diameter and come in two forms: pins with removable backings, and zipper pulls with attaching clasps. They are manufactured in the United States by Geo-Situ. $9.00 each; member price $7.65 each (please specify El Capitan, Half Dome, or Glacier Point, and zipper pull or pin).
New Colors and Logo Now Available!

Yosemite Association Water Bottle
by Nalgene
This highly functional wide-mouth Nalgene bottle made of super-tough, lexan polycarbonate is now available with the Yosemite Association’s new 80th Anniversary Logo in three colors: meadow green, violet, and glacier blue, with white caps.

The bottles are virtually leak-proof, won’t conduct heat or cold, and don’t affect the taste of water or other liquids. You’ll never lose their easy-to-open, attached, screw tops. Besides the YA logo, the bottles feature permanent gradation marks to make measuring powdered foods and drinks easy.

A bottle weighs 5.3 ounces including attached cap; from Nalgene. $9.95; member price $8.46

Yosemite Association Logo T-Shirt
These great new t-shirts feature the colorful Yosemite Association 80th anniversary logo. Screen printed in four colors, the Hanes Beefy-T brand shirts are 100% cotton and available in three different colors: natural, green, and blue. Here’s a perfect way to show your support of our work and look good at the same time! Please indicate your color preference and size (S, M, L, XL, or XXL). $16; member price $13.60

Yosemite Black Bear Stuffed Animal
This soft and fuzzy stuffed black bear (actually dark brown with a lighter muzzle) comes fitted with a yellow ear tag—just like those used by National Park Service rangers to research and track the bears in Yosemite.

The yellow ear tag is a replica of those actually used in Yosemite, and securely affixed. Washable with warm water and mild soap, the cuddly bear is a great gift for children and bear lovers alike. Available in two sizes: large (14 inches from tail to snout) and small (10.5 inches). Large bear, $15.95; member price $13.56; small bear, $10.95; member price $9.31

Yosemite Association Water Bottle
by Nalgene
Here’s a beautiful enamel pin commemorating Yosemite’s unparalleled wilderness. It’s circular in shape with a high country scene rendered in blues, grays, and greens. A real treasure for collectors. Approximately 1 inch in diameter. $4.00; member price $3.40

Yosemite Association Logo T-Shirt
These great new t-shirts feature the colorful Yosemite Association 80th anniversary logo. Screen printed in four colors, the Hanes Beefy-T brand shirts are 100% cotton and available in three different colors: natural, green, and blue. Here’s a perfect way to show your support of our work and look good at the same time! Please indicate your color preference and size (S, M, L, XL, or XXL). $16; member price $13.60

Order Form
Credit card orders call: (209) 379-2648 Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm
We Accept VISA, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover

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Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318
NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS
Welcome and welcome back to our new and rejoining members! You’ve connected with some 10,000 like-minded individuals, families, and businesses helping the association make Yosemite an even better place.

Benefactor Members:
Karen Wilson

Sustaining Members:
Georgie Redwell, Gregory R. Edward, Denis Rice, Ursula Van der Meer, Marcene VanDierendonck

Contributing Members:

Supporting Members:

Joint/Family Members:

Individual Members:

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Sachiko Aida, Michal Maniquap, Allan Mason, Akira Murayama, Isao Yoshida

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We extend our gratitude to our donors who have recently made gifts to the association. Special gifts that mark a loved one’s birth, marriage, or pass-

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$1,000 or more
Working Assets
MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED AT A HIGHER LEVEL
Special thanks go to the following members. By recently upgrading your membership level, you’ve enhanced our ability to provide key educational and other programs in Yosemite.

Benefactor Members:
- Donald & Susan Fuhrer
- Patron Members:
  - Donna Leaman & Wayne Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mead, Marian Miller, Marianne James McKinney, Frederick McNulty, Mr. & Mrs. John H. Pfautz, Nancy & Larry Pollard, Ann & Rick Pompfrey, Caren & Jim Quay, Robert Quinan, Patricia Quyle, James M. Raveret & Donna Trickey, Mark Reedy, Carol Reynolds, Michael Ring, Shawn Rourke, Lorene Sakamoto, Shirley & Rick Sandbothe, Sheila Scally, Donald L. Schaafsma, S. Schrey & Michelle Raymond, Larry & Sue Sebastian, Cheryl Sibthorp, Bobbie Jo Silcott, Scott Simmons, Thomas Skelly, Marie B. Smith, Charles & Cynthia Smith, Jerel & Jane Steckling, Mike & Nancy Thomas, Jan Thomson, Julie Tilton, Dwight Traugher, Cynthia Ulman, Irma VanRiesen, Craig & Shaun Waite, Jana Walker, C. Wampole & C. Mealy-Wampole, Patricia Wasson, Verle Waters, Susanne Weil, Marie Weng, Gregory West, Cecile Y. West, Cameroon Wolfe, Bernard & Virginia Zeifang

Supporting Members:
Join the Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association initiates and supports interpretive, educational, research, scientific, and environmental programs in Yosemite National Park, in cooperation with the National Park Service. Authorized by Congress, the Association provides services and direct financial support in order to promote park stewardship and enrich the visitor experience.

Besides publishing and selling books, maps, and other materials, YA operates an outdoor adventure program, the Art Activity Center, the bear canister rental program, and the Wilderness Permit Reservation system. Revenues generated by these activities fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite.

You can help us be successful by becoming a member. Individuals, families, and businesses throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association with their dues and participation in our programs.

Won’t you join us in our efforts to make Yosemite an even better place?

MOVING?

If you are moving or have recently moved, don’t forget to notify us. You are a valued member of the Association, and we’d like to keep in touch with you.

MEMBER BENEFITS

As a member of the Yosemite Association, you will enjoy the following benefits and much more:
- Yosemite, the quarterly Association journal;
- 15% discount on all books, products, and tuition for Outdoor Adventures offered by the Association;
- Discounts on lodging rates at properties in and around the park;
- 10% discount at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Valley (some restrictions apply);
- Opportunity to attend member events and to volunteer in the park;
- Know that your support is helping us make a difference in Yosemite National Park.

When you join at one of the following levels, you will receive a special membership gift:

Supporting: Spirit of Yosemite, the video version of the award-winning park orientation film

Contributing: The Yosemite by John Muir, with photographs and anecdotes by Galen Rowell

Sustaining: Yosemite Once Removed—Portraits of the Backcountry, a book of photos by Claude Fiddler paired with essays about Yosemite’s wilderness, plus an invitation to a special gathering during the year

Patron: “Aspen Leaves and Half Dome,” a matted 11” x 14” color photograph by Howard Weamer, plus invitations to special gatherings throughout the year

Benefactor: “El Capitan,” a matted 8” x 10” Ansel Adams Special Edition Photograph, plus invitations to special gatherings throughout the year, including an elegant evening reception at the Ahwahnee Meadow

Please enroll me in the Yosemite Association as a …

☐ $35 Individual Member
☐ $40 Joint/Family Member
☐ $60 Supporting Member
☐ $125 Contributing Member
☐ $250 Sustaining Member
☐ $500 Patron Member
☐ $1,000 Benefactor Member
☐ $50 International Member

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