

**2005 OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
CATALOG ENCLOSED!**

Yosemite

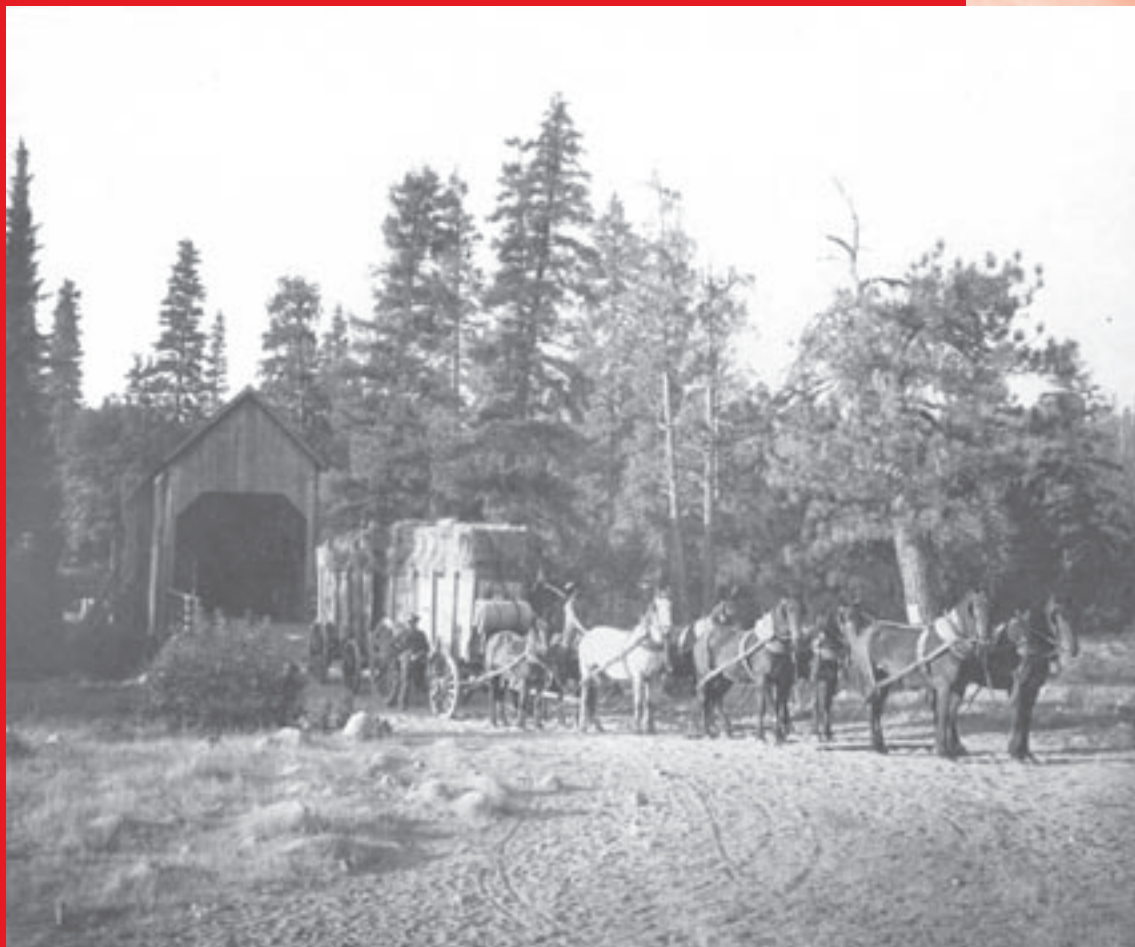
A JOURNAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

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Restoring a Bridge to the Past



A Message from the President

Have you seen the new Yosemite Association web cam that was installed recently below Sentinel Dome? The camera looks straight across at Half Dome and beyond to the Tuolumne high country. Views during the mid-October storms were really spectacular. Thanks to Vance Kozik and his associates at StarDot Technologies for donating the web cam and related equipment to our organization.

I almost forgot. The address for the new "Sentinel Cam" is <http://www.yosemite.org/vryos/sentinelcam.htm>.

While viewing live images of Yosemite over your computer may be entertaining, there's nothing better than experiencing the park in person. Make your next park visit a special one by participating in a Yosemite Outdoor Adventure course sponsored by YA. In this journal we've included the 2005 catalog that's full of educational, stimulating, and (in some cases) challenging opportunities to better know your park. Members receive a 15% discount off course fees, and you can sign up online at www.yosemitestore.com.

In this column I regularly brag about the amazing work done by YA volunteers every year in the park. We're not the only ones who have noticed what a great job our volunteers are doing and how much they contribute to Yosemite. In August, long-term volunteer Virginia Ferguson was named winner of the thirteenth annual Yosemite Fund Award for her efforts as an "unsung hero." She is certainly deserving of this recognition, and when she accepted the award, Virginia noted that she was sharing the honor with the hundreds of other YA volunteers. See page 19 for more.

Speaking of volunteers, the Yosemite Association board of trustees comprises a dedicated group of talented individuals from all over California. They devote many hours of their personal time to guiding our organization, helping us raise funds, and working with the National Park Service. On page 16, board chair Christy Holloway has contributed an article discussing the nature and strength of the key partnerships in Yosemite. Hers is an insightful and important perspective.

We're still crowing about the fact that we were able to re-instate our Student Intern Program during 2004 (in cooperation with the NPS and UC Merced), with the participation of four young people this summer. Mario Dominguez, Jeovani Ortega, Aubrie Piland, and Ramona Sedillo (all future students at UC Merced) assisted the NPS at Wawona and the Mariposa Grove with interpretive and information services. They did a great job and hope to return to work in Yosemite in the future.

YA also helped fund the new NPS program entitled "Experience Your Yosemite," which brings residents of gateway and other communities near the park for a full-day program about the status of projects and programs in Yosemite. It's been a very effective educational tool. And on November 1st we began the remodel project for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center lobby and YA store. It should be a great improvement that will benefit millions of visitors.

The organization has accomplished a lot this year, and you, our members, have been remarkably supportive and integral to our success. Later this fall, we'll be sending you a request for donations to our annual fund, and we hope you'll respond as positively as you have in the past. We've already made good progress towards our goal of \$100,000 for the year with gifts of over \$56,000 from 530 members received to date.

Yes, it's been a terrific year for the Yosemite Association, and we look forward to finishing it off with a flourish. With a membership made up of so many generous, Yosemite-loving people, that shouldn't be too hard to accomplish. Wishing you a rewarding holiday season with friends and family.



Steven P. Medley, President



Cover: Wawona Covered Bridge and Hay Wagon.
PHOTO COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY.

RESTORING A BRIDGE TO THE PAST

Dozen of times each day during the summer season at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (PYHC) a heavy, horse-drawn wagon hauling visitors can be heard rumbling across the covered bridge over the South Fork of the Merced River.

Wawona residents have long been accustomed to the sights and sounds of the Yosemite stage, as they have shared the road with it for over 125 years. But the familiar reverberation of the wagon crossing the bridge wasn't heard for two summers earlier this century. The covered span was declared unsafe for use by the stage and for other heavy loads after a flood in 2002. Concerns about the structural integrity of the bridge limited its service to pedestrians and one head of livestock at a time.

To respond to the problem, Yosemite's Heritage Structural Team, made up of members of the National Park Service (NPS) maintenance division, was called in. It became that team's challenge to bring the Wawona Covered Bridge (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) up to the engineering standards of the twenty-first century while retaining the authenticity that has given this bridge – one of only twelve covered bridges in California and only two in the national park system – its historical notoriety.

BRIDGE HISTORY

The earliest means of crossing of the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona was a large log about six feet in

diameter used as part of the Mann Brothers' trail. This toll trail was suitable only for livestock and pack animals, not vehicles.

The current bridge was originally constructed as an open-air structure by Galen Clark around 1868, who charged a toll (\$1 for each saddle horse or mule and loaded pack animal, 25¢ for each loose horse or mule, 10¢ for cattle, and 2¢ for sheep or swine) for the privilege of crossing.

Within a few years the bridge was sold to a group of investors headed by the Washburn brothers, New Englanders who covered the bridge (to emulate the ones back home) ten years later using lumber cut at their own sawmill near the crossing. Stagecoaches, wagons, and horses used the bridge for decades, and in 1900 a "Locomotive" driven by Oliver Lippincott was the first documented automobile to cross the river here. The bridge supported ever-increasing automobile traffic until 1937, when the road was altered.

Both the covered bridge and the Wawona Hotel are recognized on the National Register because of the role they played in the development of transportation and recreation in the Yosemite region.

EARLIER BRIDGE REPAIRS

The recent rehabilitation was not the first time the bridge had required maintenance; it was modified and repaired as needed over the years. Following the flood

The 1955 reconstruction project.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG STRUBLE.

Preservation specialists test fit bridge brace into transverse beam during the 2002-2003 repairs.

of 1955 that caused major damage, park engineers inspected the bridge and declared it “mortally wounded.” They concluded that the bridge probably couldn’t support its own weight, and recommended (with the support of NPS Director Conrad Wirth) that the old bridge be destroyed and replaced. But heavy lobbying by Yosemite’s Superintendent John Preston resulted in the decision to rehabilitate, rather than remove, the structure because of its historic significance.

Using an “ingenious” system of cables and pulleys, the bridge was pulled to the north bank of the river. After the bridge’s original design was carefully assessed and recorded, the structure was rebuilt and pulled back to its original position on the river. Not all parts of the original span could be saved. In fact, fourteen bundles of dynamite were detonated inside the bridge to remove the old shingles, which were replaced with similar hand-crafted ones. New materials were carefully manufactured to match the originals, including the square nails holding it together.

According to Craig Struble, NPS project manager for the 2002 restoration, the effort to save the bridge in 1957 showed great foresight. “It’s amazing,” Struble said, “that so much care was taken in the restoration of the bridge during an era when the preservation ethic was much less developed than it is today.”

At the same time a decision was made to move sev-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF LAHR.

Scaffolding shrouds the bridge.

eral historical structures from around the park to the north side of the bridge to create the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. The PYHC was opened in 1962 and dedicated in 1964, the year of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Yosemite Grant.

RECENT REPAIRS

In 2002, the Heritage Structural Team had to determine the best approach for making the bridge safe again. Accordingly, it developed an engineering report that included historical documentation and balanced the engineering and material needs of the structure with historic preservation ethics.

The structural integrity of the wooden timbers was evaluated using a method called resistance drilling. Tiny holes (with a diameter between 1.5 and 3 mm) were made using a drilling needle that didn’t “damage the historic fabric.” The drilling resistance of the wood, measured and plotted using computer software, was used to identify pockets of wood decay. This helped conservators determine the level of intervention that was most appropriate: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction. Because of earlier repairs and the bridge’s condition, restoration was chosen as the appropriate treatment.

The process of restoring the bridge required seven months of design and planning and five months of res-

toration work, split between 2002 and 2003. To re-establish structural integrity, all seven transverse floor beams and many of the truss web members had to be replaced. Since these structural members supported the bridge's span, the entire bridge was shored to support its sixty-ton weight.

Strengthening improvements included the addition of metal gussets, resized timbers, and metal straps to preserve the structure in the event of high winds, earthquakes, and heavy snow. A new fire suppression system also was installed.

The art and science of maintaining historic structures requires specialized skills and craftsmanship. To ensure an adequate corps of qualified personnel, the NPS developed a two-year program known by its acronym, PAST (Preservation and Skills Training). The Wawona Covered Bridge project was the focus of thirty PAST members, who traveled across the United States to join the Yosemite team. They trained using historic tools and methods as they helped to maintain the historic authenticity of the bridge.

Traditional tools were used to prepare the wood and other materials employed in the bridge reconstruction. Replication of the hand-hewed timbers required cutting each beam with traditional broad axes, a "lost art" typical of nineteenth-century construction. One by one the timbers were removed, and new hand-crafted timbers were fabricated and placed.

To preserve the area's natural resources, a high line was strung between the banks to move the one-ton beams into place. This eliminated the need for heavy equipment and promoted preservation of the river's ecosystem.

The project was not without obstacles and unexpected delays. While late autumn and early winter seemed the perfect time to undertake the work and avoid the bustling summer crowds visiting the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, that didn't prove to be the case. During December of 2002, storms brought the South Fork of the Merced to flood level, and the river washed away all the scaffolding that was supporting

the bridge during its reconstruction. The preservationists had no choice but to wait for months until the water level receded to replace the scaffolding.

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

People value national parks as places of great natural beauty where the natural resources have been protected. As the restoration of the Wawona Covered Bridge illustrates, the national park system also preserves cultural and historical landmarks that are a part of our American heritage.

Perhaps ranger Jack Fry summarized it best when in a 1957 *Yosemite Nature Notes* article, he commented on that year's effort to save the bridge: "Children who are familiar with six-lane highways, high speed automobiles, complex 'cloverleaves' and mighty steel bridges can see, touch and walk through the covered bridge that grandmother rode through on her way to Yosemite Valley. Another link with Yosemite's colorful and wonderful past has been saved."

As the Yosemite stage rumbles over the river once again, it is reassuring to know that the old bridge, retrofitted to meet current safety standards, will remain a link connecting a piece of the past with future generations of Yosemite visitors.

Jeff Lahr is a seasonal ranger in Yosemite who has spent his last thirteen summers working and living in Wawona. He also guides hiking groups to the High Sierra Camps during the summer months.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG STRUBLE

The bridge at completion of the most recent restoration.

A TALE OF TWO VALLEYS

BY N. KING HUBER

Yosemite National Park is home to two exceptional valleys: Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy (figure 1).

Yosemite Valley is renowned for its spectacular waterfalls and bold granite icons such as Half Dome and El Capitan and is a magnet for visitors from around the world. Hetch Hetchy Valley, although less well known and now the site of a reservoir for San Francisco's water supply, is also quite remarkable. Indeed, John Muir, emphasizing the similarities between the two valleys, wrote, "Nature is not so poor as to possess only one of anything."¹

The first comparison of the two valleys was presented at a meeting of the California Academy of Natural Sciences in the fall of 1867 by Josiah Whitney, State Geologist and Director of the Geological Survey of California. Hetch Hetchy was characterized as "almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite," and Whitney introduced a report by Charles Hoffmann, a member of his staff, who had explored Hetch Hetchy the previous summer. Hoffmann noted, "the scenery resembles very much that of the Yosemite, although the bluffs are not as high, nor do they extend as far."

He described one waterfall (Tueeulala Falls) as having a sheer drop of 1,000 feet, and a second one (Wapama Falls) as a series of cascades dropping 1,700 feet.

Hoffmann remarked that a singular feature of this valley is the total absence of talus at the base of the bluffs, excepting at one place in front of the falls. Another remarkable rock [Kolana Rock], corresponding with Cathedral Rock in Yosemite Valley, stands on the south side of the valley; its height is 2,270 feet above the valley. These early observations² have relevance to the discussion of the two valleys presented here.

The fundamental similarities that caught Muir's eye were that both Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite are broad but steep-walled valleys incised into the surrounding uplands, and that both have relatively flat floors traversed by meandering streams. Both valleys occupy similar positions on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, with Yosemite's floor at about 4,000-foot elevation and Hetch Hetchy's slightly lower. Nevertheless, as noted by Hoffmann, Hetch Hetchy's valley walls, while impressive, are not as high as Yosemite's for the full length of the valley.

Although Hetch Hetchy Valley is nearly 4,000 feet deep near its head, downstream near its lower end the sheer cliff near Wapama Falls rises only about 1,600 feet from the valley floor (now submerged by the reservoir) to the upland plateau on the north. Kolana Rock, across the Tuolumne River on the south side of the valley, however, stands more than 2,000 feet above the valley floor,



FIGURE 1. The "Two Valleys" of Yosemite National Park: Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy. Looking eastward toward the Sierra crest, Yosemite Valley is just right of center. It extends directly up from near base of figure, passing between Cathedral Rocks on the right beyond Bridalveil Fall (shown against dark shadow), and bold El Capitan on the left, and on to the valley head at the base of Half Dome. Tenaya Canyon can be seen entering Yosemite Valley from the left below the face of Half Dome. Hetch Hetchy Valley extends from its reservoir (3rd one from lower-left corner) diagonally up to the right. Topographic features are diagrammatic and exaggerated in this stylized graphic by Heinrich Berann (NPS poster, 1988).

a smaller version of Yosemite Valley's 2,700-foot Cathedral Rocks. Hetch Hetchy's valley floor narrows upstream where its cliffs give way to the steep slopes of the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River, whereas Yosemite Valley's floor remains broad to its head near Half Dome.

In addition to these noted differences, it is even more significant that the walls of the two valleys are very different in appearance. Hetch Hetchy's walls are comparatively smooth and regular, while Yosemite's are jagged and irregular, with many pinnacles, spires, and deep re-entrants. These differences are graphically displayed by comparison of topographic maps of the two valleys (figure 2).

Hetch Hetchy Valley has relatively smoothly-curved elevation contours for most of its length; the only major indentation is where Tiltill and Rancheria Creeks breach the northern wall to enter the valley. In contrast, Yosemite Valley's contours emphasize the countless indentations and numerous pinnacles and spires jutting from the main walls.

Although we now know that both valleys owe their gross forms to glacial activity, Yosemite Valley's present morphology seems anomalous in that respect. The pinnacles and spires that punctuate its landscape, such as Lost Arrow, Sentinel Rock, and Cathedral Spires, could not have survived the erosive action of a glacier that filled the valley to the brim, as we know once occurred. How can we explain the presence of these striking features of Yosemite Valley, and thus the significant differences between the two valleys?

The answer to this question lies in the different glacial histories of the two valleys. Both histories had similar beginnings when the broad general shape of both valleys probably developed from glacial excavation during the Sherwin glaciation, a glacial epoch that ended nearly one million years ago. Sherwin-age glaciers filled each valley to its present rim, and locally beyond, with the Tuolumne Glacier probably extending downstream a dozen miles below Hetch Hetchy to the Cherry Creek junction, and the Yosemite glacier as far as El Portal, some 10 miles downstream from Yosemite Valley proper.

The Sherwin was the most extensive, and evidently the longest-lived, glaciation documented in the Sierra Nevada. Later Sierran glaciations were of lesser areal

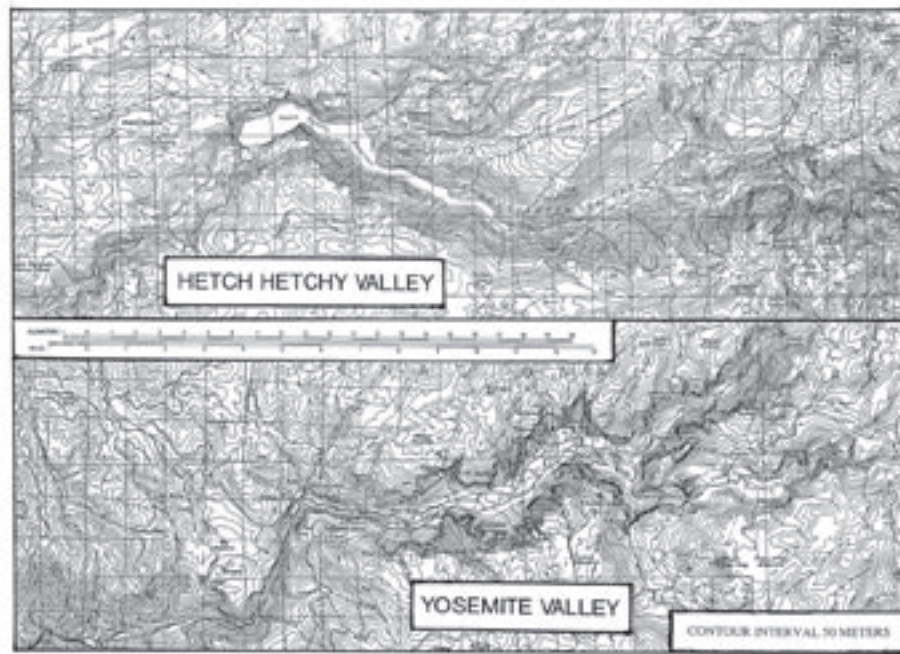


FIGURE 2. Topographic maps of the “Two Valleys.” Note the comparatively smooth contours along the walls of Hetch Hetchy Valley as contrasted with the irregular, jagged ones in Yosemite Valley.³

extent and apparently briefer than the Sherwin, and here is where the glacial history of the two valleys diverges.

Following the Sherwin, each major glaciation including the last one—the Tioga which peaked about 20,000 years ago—produced glaciers that completely filled Hetch Hetchy Valley (figure 3). Moraines of Tioga age bounding Harden Lake, located on the south side of the canyon above the upper end of Hetch Hetchy Valley, indicate that the glacier was 3,700 feet thick there. Farther down, near the lower end of the Hetch Hetchy Valley, the glacier was 2,800 feet thick, with the north wall of the valley buried under ice delivered by tributary ice tongues flowing from the north down Rancheria-Tiltill and Falls Creeks to supplement the ice flowing down the main trunk of the Tuolumne River.

Thus, with each glaciation, including the latest Tioga, Hetch Hetchy's valley walls were being scraped clean and debris was being removed. Recall Hoffmann's early observation regarding the lack of significant talus in Hetch Hetchy Valley. There has been insufficient time since the Tioga glaciation for weathering and erosion to release significant amounts of talus from the “smoothed” valley walls or carve out pinnacles and spires from those walls.

In contrast, ice has probably not completely filled Yosemite Valley since the Sherwin glaciation about one million years ago (figure 3). The last glacier to enter Yosemite Valley, the Tioga, advanced only as far as Bridalveil Meadow. The extent of the somewhat earlier Tahoe glacier in the valley is uncertain, but evidence elsewhere in the Sierra suggests that it probably did not extend greatly beyond the Tioga. The fact that glaciers subsequent to the Sherwin failed to fill the valley to its

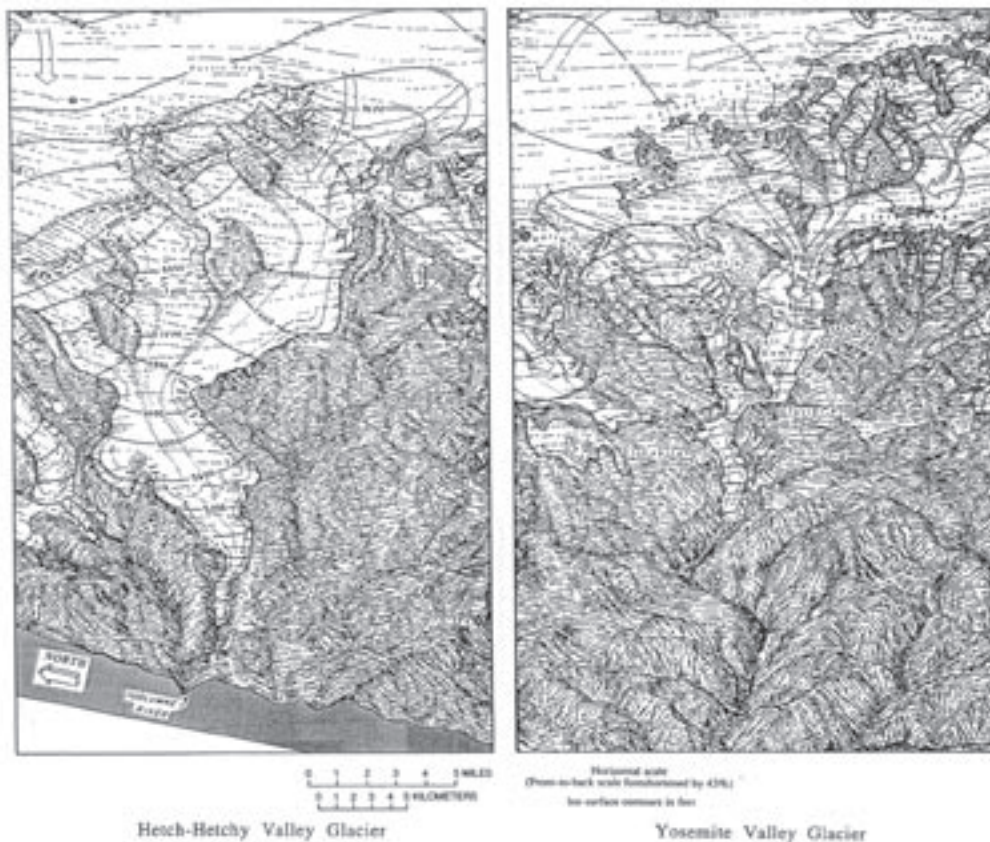


FIGURE 3. Comparison of Tioga-age glaciers in Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite Valleys. In left diagram, Hetch Hetchy Valley lies beneath glacial ice from about the 6400-foot to 7200-foot ice-surface elevation contours. In right diagram, glacial ice in Yosemite Valley reaches only as far as Bridalveil Meadow. Note that the ice tongue down Yosemite Creek (middle left) stops short of valley rim.⁴

rim has important consequences for the scenery.

From its terminus at Bridalveil Meadow, the ice surface of the Tioga Glacier would have sloped upward toward the east end of Yosemite Valley, with the ice reaching a thickness of perhaps about 1,000 feet at Columbia Rock west of Yosemite Falls, 1,500 feet at Washington Column, and 2,000 feet in Tenaya Canyon below Basket Dome. Thus the Tioga and similar Tahoe glaciers could do very little to further modify or smooth the upper walls of Yosemite Valley.

Above the ice surface of those glaciers, the valley walls have had a million years to be affected by the weather; joints have widened, rock has fractured and crumbled, and waterfalls and cascades have eroded alcoves and ravines. Thus, the pinnacles and spires that seem so anomalous for a glacial valley have had about a million years to form above the level of later glaciers, and so remain to amaze us today.

Meanwhile, back in Tenaya Canyon, the Tioga ice was closer to its source and thicker, rasping higher up on the valley walls and thereby smoothing them and removing irregularities so that no pinnacles or spires are found there.

Having ascribed the different geomorphic aspects of the two valleys to their different glacial histories, the next question is why those histories differ so. It was noted that the Tioga glaciation was much less extensive than the Sherwin glaciation that profoundly modified both valleys. The greater extent of the Tioga glacier in Hetch Hetchy, however, can be attributed to the fact that

the drainage basin, or snowfall-catchment area, of the Tuolumne River system above Hetch Hetchy is more than three times as extensive as that of the Merced River above Yosemite Valley (figure 4).

As a result, the much larger icefield feeding the Tuolumne glacier was able to provide the volume of ice necessary to fill Hetch Hetchy Valley even though the Tioga glaciation was regionally less extensive than the Sherwin. This ice was delivered to Hetch Hetchy Valley, both down the main trunk of the Tuolumne River, and by tributaries entering the valley from the north that were fed from the northeastern part of the Tuolumne icefield.

This tremendous influx of ice is what helped “clean out” Hetch Hetchy Valley. The smaller Merced River icefield was unable to provide sufficient ice to fill Yosemite Valley during the Tioga glaciation, even though supplemented by ice from the Tuolumne glacier that flowed southwest over several low passes in the Cathedral Range (figure 3), and over one from Tuolumne Meadows into Tenaya Canyon.

Having noted the significant differences between the two valleys, and having attempted to explain the why and wherefore of those differences, our tale cannot end without considering some of their consequences, especially with respect to Yosemite Valley itself. The Tioga-age glacier did little to further modify Yosemite Valley other than to remove fractured rock from the lower valley walls that had weathered and loosened since the previous glaciation. It also removed talus from the base

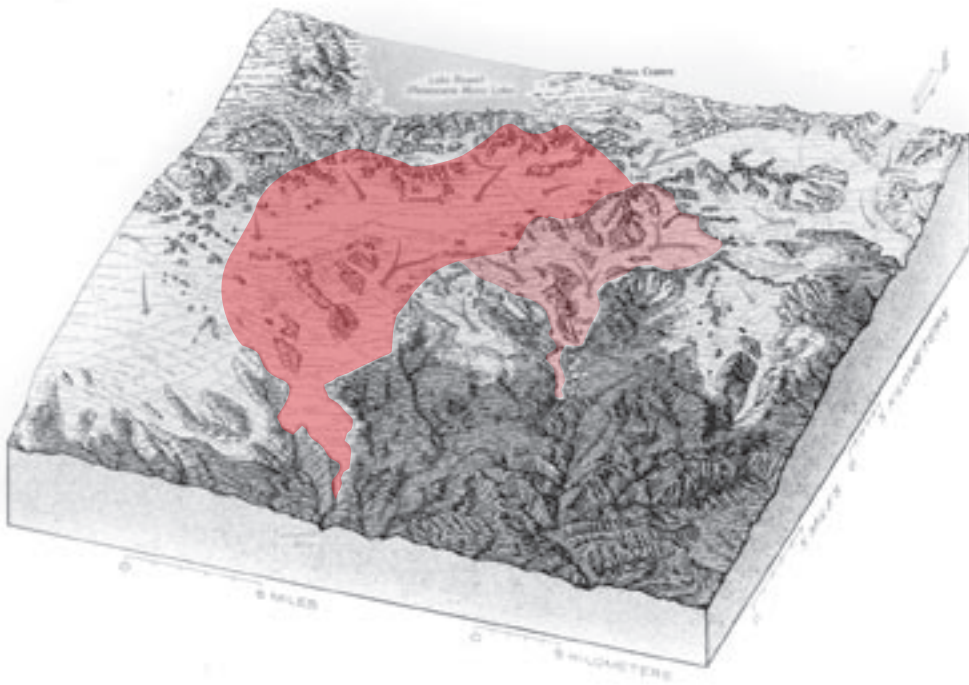


FIGURE 4. Extent of Tioga-age glaciers in Yosemite National Park. Light color tone indicates areal extent of icefield feeding into Yosemite Valley. Darker color tone indicates the much larger extent of the icefield feeding into Hetch Hetchy Valley. Note that the small glacier in Yosemite Creek (uncolored in center of figure) did not reach the rim of Yosemite Valley and thus did not contribute any additional ice to that valley.⁵

of cliffs east of Bridalveil Meadow; all of the talus now there has accumulated in the last 15,000 years or so, after the Tioga Glacier departed. For the past million years or so the rock walls of the valley that remained above the ice-level of the smaller post-Sherwin glaciers have weathered, joints have been enlarged, and rock has loosened and fallen to form the irregularly sculptured surface that we see today.

This geologic history provides the setting for frequent rockfalls. Every significant historical rockfall in Yosemite Valley has originated in vulnerable fractured rock derived from above the level scoured by the Tioga Glacier. Some rockfalls have been quite large, but most are relatively small and gradually build up cones of debris below the more active sites. Thus the size of a debris cone can reflect the volume or the frequency of individual rock falls, or, most likely, a combination of

both volume and frequency.

Less talus in Hetch Hetchy indicates less rockfall there, while in Yosemite Valley the opposite is true. The shattered rock high up on the east side of Middle Brother provides material for a debris cone, at one of the most historically active rockfall sites in the valley. Both the 1996 “Happy Isles” and the 1998-9 “Curry Village” rockfalls added material to pre-existing debris cones that marked the sites of multiple, earlier events. Given the setting, such rockfalls will clearly play a major part in the dynamic processes that continue to shape Yosemite Valley.

N. King Huber is Geologist Emeritus with the U. S. Geological Survey.

NOTES

1. John Muir, “Studies in the Sierra—Origin of Yosemite Valleys,” *Overland Monthly*, June 1874, p. 496.
2. C. F. Hoffmann, “Notes on Hetch-Hetchy Valley,” *California Academy of Natural Sciences, Proceedings*, v. III, 1863-1867, p. 368-370 [1868].
3. Figure derived from: U. S. Geological Survey 1:100,000-scale Topographic map of Yosemite Valley, California, 1976.
4. Figure derived from: Alpha, T. R., Wahrhaftig, Clyde, and Huber, N. K., 1987, *Oblique map showing maximum extent of 20,000-year-old (Tioga) glaciers, Yosemite National Park,*

Central Sierra Nevada, California: U. S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Series Map 1-1885.

5. Figure derived from: Huber, N. K., 1987, *The Geologic Story of Yosemite National Park:* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1595 (reprinted by Yosemite Association, 1989), Figure 67.

General note: *At the small scale of the maps shown here, it is not possible to clearly show all the place names mentioned. Other maps are readily available for those not as familiar with Yosemite geography.*

CELEBRATING WILDERNESS IN 2004

BY RODERICK FRAZIER NASH

Wilderness preservation is an American invention—a unique contribution of our nation to world civilization. As we mark the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act (September 3, 1964), Americans should renew their pride in and commitment to the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is one of the best ideas our country ever had.

One place to start the celebration is with the recognition that wilderness is the basic component of American culture. From its raw materials we built a civilization. With the idea of wilderness we sought to give that civilization identity and meaning. Our early environmental history is inextricably tied to wild country. Hate it or love it, if you want to understand American history there is no escaping the need to come to terms with our wilderness past. From this perspective, designated Wilderness Areas are historical documents; destroying them is comparable to tearing pages from our books and laws. We cannot teach our children what is special about our history on freeways or in shopping malls. As a professional historian I deeply believe that the present owes the future a chance to know its wilderness past. Protecting the remnants of wild country left today is an action that defines our nation. Take away wilderness and you diminish the opportunity to be American.

Of course our nation changed its initial wilderness environment. Early on we eliminated a lot of wild places along with the wild people who were there before us. But in this process of pioneering we also changed ourselves. In time Americans began to understand that the conquest of the wilderness could go too far for our own good. Now, many think, it is time to conquer a civilization notorious for its excesses. Unrestrained growth can be ironic; bigger is not better if the support systems are compromised. Wilderness is an anchor to windward in the seas of increasingly frightening environmental change.

The intellectual revolution that changed our attitude toward wilderness from a liability to an asset is one of the most profound in environmental history. In the beginning of the American experience wilderness was “howling”: feared and hated by European colonists who longed to bring order and security to uncontrolled nature. Their religious heritage taught them that God cursed wild places; the civilizing process was a blessing. Only gradually and incompletely did these old conquer-and-dominate biases give way first to wilderness appreciation and then to preservation.

Romanticism, with its delight in awesome scenery and noble savages, underlay changing attitudes. So did the concept that wilderness was the source of a unique American art, character and culture. The Adirondacks and the Grand Canyon were the American equivalent of the Acropolis and Buckingham Palace. By the 1850s Henry David Thoreau could celebrate the physical and intellectual vigor of the wild as a necessary counterpoint to an effete and stale civilization. He called for people and landscapes that were “half cultivated.” He realized that saving some wilderness from development would help keep the New World new.

Granted, few paused to read Thoreau’s essays at the height of westward expansion, but a half century brought significant physical and intellectual changes in the United States. Discontent with urban environments, and the perception that the frontier was vanishing, brought new popularity to wilderness. National parks (notably Yellowstone, the world’s first in 1872, and Yosemite, 1890) began a policy of protecting unmodified public land for its scientific, scenic and recreational values. John Muir organized the Sierra Club to defend the parks in 1892 and rallied the nation around the idea that wilderness was a valuable component of a diverse and strong civilization. In the early 20th century Theodore Roosevelt’s conservation movement included concern for protection of big wild country in which pioneer skills, such as hunting and camping, had meaning. By the 1920s the United States Forest Service was giving administrative recognition to large roadless areas of the national forests. Simultaneously, the growing science of ecology called importance to wildernesses as reservoirs of basic biological and physical processes. Understandably, Aldo Leopold, a forest ecologist, led the way in calling for wilderness preservation and defining an ethical, not merely an economic, relationship to land.

What was new about the Wilderness Act of 1964 was the way it gave specific, systematic and secure protection to wilderness qualities and the wilderness experience. The law spoke about the importance of securing “an enduring resource of wilderness” for the American people. The language itself was revolutionary. Traditionally Americans reserved the term “resource” or “natural resource” for hard-core economic stuff like lumber, oil, soil, minerals and hydropower. In describing wilderness as a “resource,” Howard Zahniser, who wrote most of the Act, and Congress enlarged the definition of that term to



Vogelsang Lake looking toward Tuolumne Meadows and Mt. Conness.

include space, beauty, solitude, silence, and biodiversity. They created a framework for understanding wilderness protection as just as legitimate a use of the public lands as the extractive industries.

As a professor I sometimes used a literary metaphor to explain the evolution of American wilderness policy. Think about individual national parks and forests as books. In time they were “shelved” in libraries such as the National Park System and the National Wilderness Preservation System. Rangers, who might be thought of as “librarians,” provided protective and custodial services. By the 21st century the task of collecting and cataloging was largely over. Most of the wilderness we will ever have is identified and at least nominally protected. The challenge now, to continue the metaphor, is to improve our ability to read the books we have reserved. We need to become more environmentally literate. This task calls for a new generation of educators and interpreters who will help people realize full value of the preserved wilderness resource. Scientists are important, but so are poets, theologians, historians and philosophers. With their help we may realize the highest potential of our preserved wilderness: using it for instruction and inspiration in how to live responsibly and sustainably on this planet.

In 1964 the American public understood the Wilderness Act to be anthropocentric. Wilderness was protected as a scenic outdoor playground. Recreation and the economic gains that came from tourism justified the policy of preservation, and they served the cause well. But, as the Endangered Species Act of 1972 suggested, there were higher horizons for wilderness valuation. New philosophies called environmental ethics or ecocentrism gained credibility. If, as the ecologists claimed, nature was a community to which people belonged, didn't we have a responsibility to recognize the intrinsic value of its other non-human members and of natural processes? Wasn't it plausible to assume that nature had rights humans ought to respect?

Wilderness figured importantly in this new ecocen-

tric philosophy because it was uncontrolled environment. We didn't make it, we don't own it, and our use of it is not in the old utilitarian style. Indeed, designated wilderness could be understood as not *for* people at all. As the Act states, humans are “visitors” who do not remain.

Wilderness, then, was someone else's home. It was an environment in which to learn that we are members and not masters of the community of life. An environmental ethic, rules establishing fair play in nature, is the logical next step. Why not do for other species what we have tried to do for oppressed minorities within our species?

Restraint is at the core of the new valuation of wilderness as a moral resource. When we protect wilderness we deliberately withhold our power to change the landscape. We put limits on the civilizing process. Because we have not conquered and do not dominate wild nature, we demonstrate understanding of the basic ethical concept of sharing and fair play. In this case it's the rest of life on the planet that's involved! Thoreau realized that “wilderness is a civilization other than our own.” Respecting it by restraining our impact is the key to effective global environmentalism. The kind of ecocentrism wilderness teaches is not *against* humans at all; it transcends them and recognizes that their best interest is ultimately that of the larger whole.

The Wilderness System, then, is still a place to recreate, but it is also evidence of our capacity for badly-needed self-restraint in our relationship to nature. Wildernesses are places to learn gratitude, humility and dependency; to put our species' needs and wants into balance with those of the rest of the natural world. Even if we never visited them, Wilderness Areas have value as a symbol of unselfishness. Wilderness preservation is a gesture of planetary modesty by the most dangerous animal on Earth! On its 40th anniversary, let's celebrate the Wilderness Act as the dawn of a kinder, gentler and more sustainable relationship with our planet. Can anything really be more important?

Roderick Nash is Professor Emeritus of History and Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is the author of Wilderness and the American Mind and The Rights of Nature: A History of Environmental Ethics.

Keith S. Walklet, *The Ahwahnee: Yosemite's Grand Hotel*. Yosemite National Park: DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc. and the Yosemite Association, 2004.

When I first went to work in Yosemite in 1981 I eschewed *The Ahwahnee*. After all, I was there to teach environmental education for the Yosemite Institute. I wanted to absorb the great natural beauty and cultural history of the immense granite gorge and its surrounding high country. At the time the venerable hotel (in my mind) was a throwback to another era, one I did not fully understand or appreciate. Then an Elderhostel group gave me a copy of Shirley Sargent's 1977 book, *The Ahwahnee: Yosemite's Classic Hotel*, and my appreciation for the marvelous architectural pile grew. This new book, whose author Keith Walklet initially shared an outlook, interest, and trajectory similar to mine, is an update of Shirley's work. The final product would make Shirley proud.

As national parks go, Yosemite was slow to develop a world-class hotel for a world-class destination. Yellowstone, Glacier, and the Grand Canyon all boasted elegant resorts long before Don Tresidder and the Yosemite Park and Curry Company hired Los Angeles architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood to design a hotel fitting of the spectacular natural setting and the well-to-do travelers the nascent National Park Service hoped to attract to the park. The location is propitious for several reasons. It is situated at the base of the Royal Arches, with views of Half Dome, Glacier Point, and Yosemite Falls. It is removed from the other public camps and the government administration center. It also replaced a longtime sprawling stable that was rendered obsolete with the advent of the automobile. It was designed in rustic splendor to harmonize with the natural environment, as well as the other buildings being erected throughout the park at that time.

The cornerstone was laid on August 1, 1926. (You can still see it if you look carefully and promise not to trample the vegetation; for the exact location, you'll have to read the book.) Walklet nicely details the design and construction, which was not without its drama. The

hotel opened to its first guests on July 14, 1927.

Over the years the hotel hosted the famous and the obscure, and always had its doors open to park visitors who came to gaze upon its polished floors, soaring ceilings, Native American and Middle Eastern artwork, and overall rustic elegance. The dining room is where Ansel Adams presided over the Bracebridge dinner, a somewhat elitist event that continues every Christmas. Actor Robert Redford once worked at *The Ahwahnee* before embarking on a movie career that included the film,

"Yosemite—The Fate of Heaven."

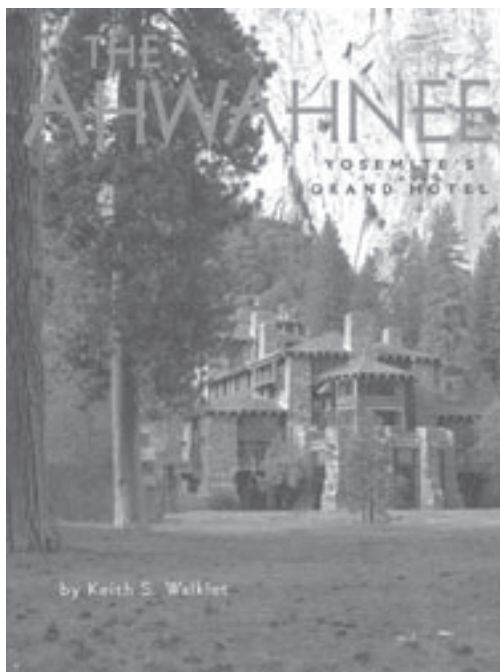
The hotel received a dramatic makeover in 1982-83 in anticipation of the Queen of England's visit, an event that is nicely documented here.

One of my favorite stories is how the U.S. Navy occupied the hotel during World War II as a hospital for recovering sailors from the Pacific theater. It's a marvelous example of the accessibility, flexibility, and graceful hospitality that characterizes the fine old establishment.

The book is itself a beautiful work of art. The color photographs are rich and finely detailed. There are ample full and double-page spreads, as well as smaller, detailed images suitable for careful study and

appreciation. The layout is artfully arranged, although the print could be a tad larger (or my eyes sharper!). As one opens the well-made book, the end papers display Robert Boardman Howard's painted mural. Historical photos include the hotel's construction, always an interesting subject. Along with the obligatory shots of the rich and famous who stayed in *The Ahwahnee* over the years, there are several pictures of workmen building the hotel, chefs preparing meals, and a craftsman repairing the slate covered roof.

Just as the National Park Service and its concessionaire, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, are proud of their grand hotel, the author and the Yosemite Association can take equal pride in producing this fine volume that is a credit to its subject and its history.



PARK PROFILE

BRAD ANDERHOLM



Editor's Note: Brad Anderholm recently replaced Kevin Kelly as Chief Operating Officer of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, the park's main concessioner. He will be serving on YA's board of trustees in an ex officio capacity.

Name: Bradley Carl Anderholm

Title: Chief Operating Officer (COO), Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc. (DNC)

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia; I grew up in the Midwest—Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree from Gustavus-Adolphus College (St. Peter, Minnesota), and Associate of Occupational Studies from The Culinary Institute of America (Hyde Park, New York)

Years worked in Yosemite: 2

What do you do in Yosemite? I oversee DNC's \$115 million in annual concession revenues.

What was your first job in the park? Vice President of Operations for DNC for 15 months.

Why did you want to work in Yosemite? It's great to work in a place where everyone is on vacation, looking to have a good time and experience.

What is your favorite place in Yosemite? My house on the Ahwahnee Meadow looking out at Half Dome, and having meals on the front porch with guests walking by in envy of my lifestyle.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Day-to-day interaction with guests and associates, and working on the thousand little things that make up taking care of them.

What is your favorite Yosemite book? *The Yosemite* by John Muir, with photographs by Galen Rowell.

What is your favorite non-Yosemite book? *The One-Minute Manager* by Ken Blanchard.

What is your favorite movie? "Caddyshack" – The humor it exudes can make me laugh on even the most difficult of days, and it teaches us not to take life too seriously.

What do you do when you're not being a COO? Enjoy the use of the amenities within Yosemite. It will take years to even begin to experience all that Yosemite has to offer.

What vision do you have for DNC under your leadership? Ensuring that every visitor/guest receives a smile, and that we do everything so they will enjoy their visit and cannot wait to get back to Yosemite with their friends and family.

What do you think YA's most important role is? Education of the park visitor while enhancing their stay, and continuing the legacy of the history of Yosemite.

What is your favorite dish at The Ahwahnee? Rack of lamb.



REMEMBERING JANE GYER

BY STEVEN P. MEDLEY

One of the best and most generous friends of Yosemite and the Yosemite Association died in June, but her wonderful art and spirit remain. Jane Gyer, whose scratchboard, watercolor, and other park-related compositions are so pleasing and familiar to her many admirers, spent nearly fifty years living and working in the area. Her artistic and humanitarian contributions over that time, particularly to YA, were substantial.

Jane Gyer first became known to most YA members in 1973 with the publication of *Discovering Sierra Trees*, the award-winning book for which she provided the stunning black-and-white illustrations. Besides the elegant scratchboard studies of all the Sierran tree species, she prepared intimately detailed drawings of foliage, cones, and flowers, as well as vignettes of trees in their natural habitats.

The simple guide proved to be a sensation. Park visitors and others purchased the book as much for its artful renderings of magnificent trees as for the included natural history accounts. Tens of thousands of copies of *Discovering Sierra Trees* have sold since its release more than thirty years ago. Its quality was recognized by the National Park Service, which presented the volume its highest honor, the “Director’s Award,” in 1973–74, and it remains in print to this day as one of YA’s most reliable sellers.

Among the other projects that Jane Gyer undertook with the Yosemite Association were the *Sierra Wildlife Coloring Book* (a favorite of Crayola-wielding children), a series of frameable prints reproduced from *Discovering Sierra Trees*, a splendid scratchboard rendition of Half Dome used as a premium print for donors to the early Yosemite Fund, and most recently, the charming line draw-



ings to illustrate an account of a circa-1900 stagecoach journey to the park, published as *A Trip to the Yosemite*.

But beyond her painting and other work (which is first-rate and will stand the test of time), Jane Gyer cemented her place in people’s hearts and memories with her warm and loving personality. Many artists let commercial concerns affect their careers and become distanced from those around them. Jane Gyer used her art to develop and strengthen her relationships with her friends and her community, no matter the economics. She was universally kind and giving.

Adequately paying tribute to Jane Gyer is difficult without mentioning her husband Jack. The two began working together at an Oakhurst newspaper in the 1950s, later married, and were inseparable partners. Jack Gyer worked for the Yosemite Natural History Association (YA’s precursor) in the late 1960s, and then took a job with the National Park Service as curator of the Yosemite Museum during the next decade.

Jack and Jane Gyer were devoted to one another, and Jack served as her business manager, confidant, and biggest fan. He encouraged her, supported her, cajoled her, and worshipped her. Together, they loved life and worked to make the world a better place. Generosity defined them.

Examples of the Gyers’ largesse are numerous. Though Jane was paid only modestly for her *Discovering Sierra Trees* illustrations, she regularly allowed others to reprint the drawings, free of charge, for various causes. Her immediately-recognizable tree art graces innumerable posters, brochures, ads, web pages, and more.

Requests for similar uses continue to be made even after her death. In Oakhurst, Jack and Jane were responsible for an eye-catching, block-long, full-color mural on a concrete wall along Road 426. A group of students and other artists helped Jane paint the elaborate fresco that she designed and executed without compensation.

At the Yosemite Association, the Gyers were special friends. Every year we could look forward to receiving a holiday can of sugar cookies and a lively visit. Further, their standard response to our appeals for donations of art for auctions, raffles, and other fundraisers was “yes.” Jane would paint, Jack would frame and deliver. It was a temptation to ask the Gyers to participate in whatever project was ongoing because you knew they would agree.

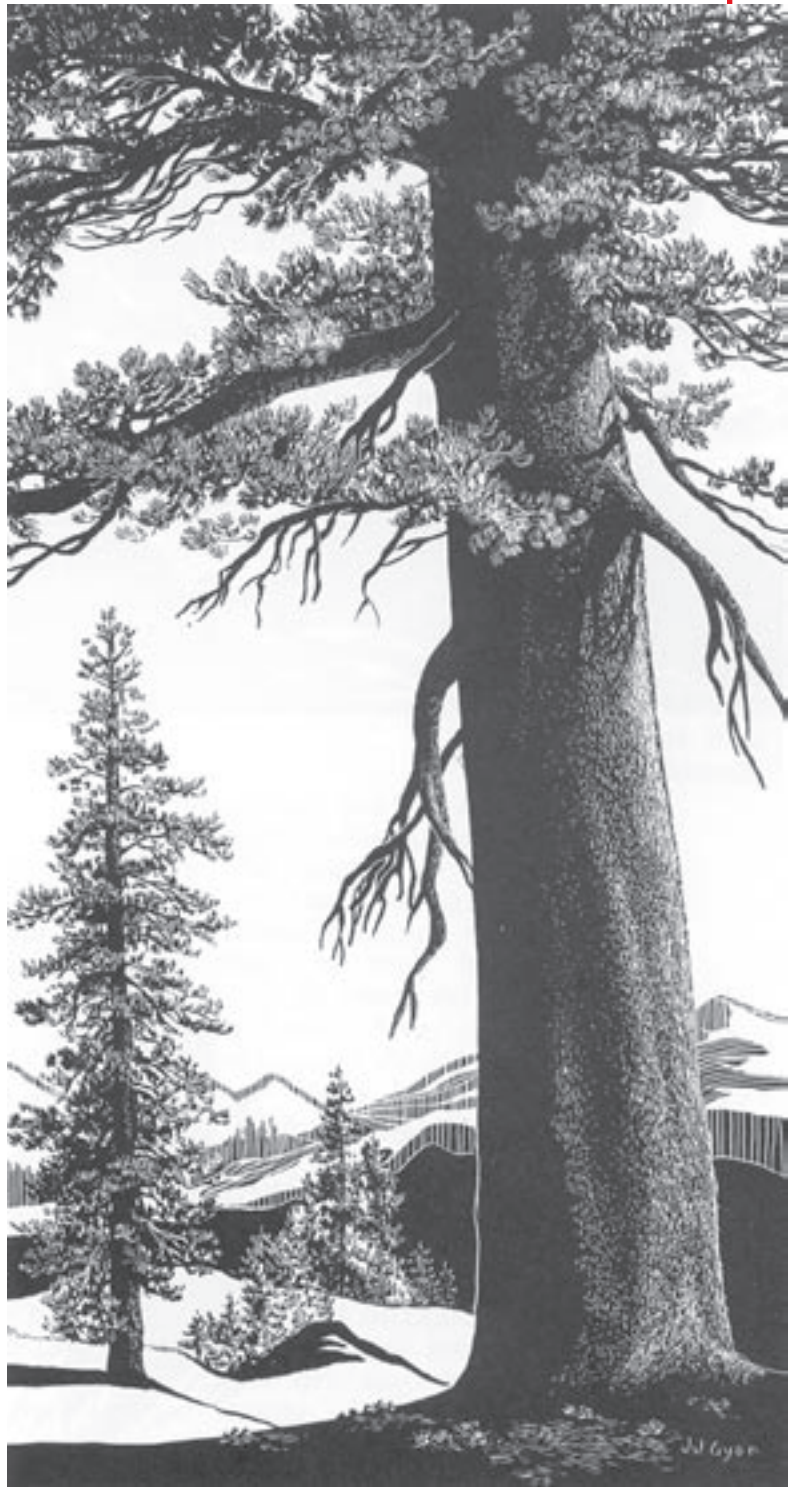
Jane Gyer was as beloved in the Oakhurst areas as she was in Yosemite. Following her death, the Vision Academy of the Arts, a local organization in which she was active, established the Jane Gyer Fund. The fund will be administered to assist aspiring artists in the

development of their talent. Donations can be sent to the Jane Gyer Fund, Vision Academy of the Arts, P.O. Box 1272, Oakhurst, CA 93644.



The art of Jane Gyer was experienced and appreciated by millions of visitors to Yosemite over the years, and continues to be. Her illustrations,

color prints, posters, and scratchboards created a powerful legacy grounded in the park landscape. Today, Jack Gyer carries on his work to expose Jane’s remarkable images to as wide an audience as possible. Already considered by many art critics and lovers to be the finest female contemporary painter of Yosemite, Jane Gyer, with her joyful personality and prodigious talent, made an indelible mark in the park and in the hearts of untold many.



MEMBERS PAGES

The Board Perspective: Interdependence in Yosemite

By Christy Holloway
Chair of the Yosemite Association Board

The Yosemite Association (YA), with the assistance of its members, is an important partner in the special support system that exists for Yosemite National Park. Our organization has been connecting visitors to the park through educational programs, services, and published materials for eighty-one years. While we don't do it alone, we do have a distinctive niche that gives us an everyday presence providing on-the-ground education and information services to improve and expand the visitor experience.

The news constantly reminds us of the difficult budgetary situation faced by our national parks. Fortunately, Yosemite has long benefited from the aid supplied by

YA and its other park partners. Each organization has its own service identity in the park and adds value in its own way. The National Park Service (NPS) and the partners recognize that our roles are of increasing importance in challenging times.

Over the past three years representatives of the Yosemite Fund, the Yosemite Institute, Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, the National Park Service, and YA have met quarterly as a working group to improve our communication and cooperation and to leverage our core strengths to better serve the park. I am pleased to report this effort is fostering collaboration, the exchange of ideas, and a much better understanding of each of our roles in the park. This is a big plus for Yosemite, and our Superintendent Mike Tollefson's open style of leadership has been crucial to its success.

OUR PARTNERS:

Let's face it, the guys who run the place are the National Park Service. The current NPS leadership has increased communication between all parties and given support and respect to its partners in a way that gives us permission to thrive.

The Yosemite Fund's niche is raising funds to support a broad range of capital projects, including trail projects, educational displays, scientific data gathering, and historic preservation, all done in collaboration with the NPS. The Fund is just completing a capital campaign to

improve and expand the visitor experience at Yosemite Falls. This handsome project is near completion and will be dedicated in spring 2005.

The Yosemite Institute focuses on education for school children, bringing kids (including inner city youth) from a broad range of social and economic backgrounds to the park for programs designed to complement their school curriculum and instill a sense of wonder and stewardship. They bring more than 10,000 students to the park each year for their programs.

Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Yosemite makes life in the park more pleasant for everyone. Since their arrival eleven years ago, they have generously offered resources to help each of us better serve the park. Their continued emphasis on collaboration, resource conservation, healthy menu choices, employee training, first class hospitality, and first-rate facilities has raised the bar in Yosemite.

The success of each of Yosemite's partners is key to the future of the park. Our partnership meetings have proved that in the park our interdependence is our strength.



Operation Dates Set for Ostrander Ski Hut

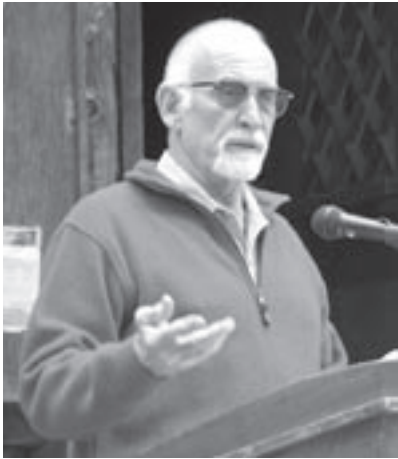
The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, operated by the Yosemite Association on behalf of the National Park Service, will open for the 2004-05 season on December 21, 2004. It will remain open until April 3, 2005. The facility is staffed during the winter and made available to the public to encourage ski touring and snowshoeing in the park. Space in the hut is limited to 25 people per night, and a fee of \$20 per person per night is charged. Reservations are required, especially for weekend dates. Because reservation requests often exceed the available beds on weekends, the association allocates those reservations using a lottery. That lottery is scheduled for November 18, 2004. Users may call (209) 379-2646 after December 1 or (209) 372-0740 after January 4, 2005 to reserve any remaining openings. If you are interested in entering the Ostrander lottery, please contact the association office at (209) 379-2646 for an application and information.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY.

What a Members' Meeting in Wawona!

Our 29th Annual Members' Meeting, held on September 18, 2004 in Wawona, proved to be a wonderful day in Yosemite. Overcast skies and cooler weather provided the perfect backdrop for a memorable fall event. Nearly 300 members had the opportunity to join morning interpretive walks that focused on local history, birds, native peoples, and to shake a leg to some old-time melodies in the Wawona Hotel. A living history program with demonstrations and free stage rides was held in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.



Guest Speaker Royal Robbins delighted YA members with wry and witty tales of his youth.

After a scrumptious picnic lunch, Superintendent Mike Tollefson, along with other park and YA dignitaries, took the stage to address important park concerns. Then members were treated to keynote speaker Royal Robbins, who recounted some of his many adventures in Yosemite.

In the late afternoon, Royal Robbins and authors Keith Walket and Ron Kauk signed their books and mingled with the attendees during the wine and

cheese reception. Throughout the day, attendees purchased raffle tickets to win a night for two at The Ahwahnee, an Ansel Adams Special Edition print, a handmade necklace, or one of the more than sixty other fabulous gifts that were generously donated to YA for this important fundraiser. As the day's shadows lengthened, the real fun began, when the tickets were drawn for all the prizes, and a surprise live auction was conducted by Auctioneer/YA President Steve Medley.

As the light faded and people started to drift slowly into the beauty of the Wawona night, smiles and laughter still filled the air in anticipation of the night's barn dance and art and poetry program.

We thank the National Park Service, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Yosemite Institute, and many other friends for their vital assistance with this event, making this Members' Meeting another of many splendid Yosemite memories for all who attended. We also thank our incredibly generous raffle prize donors: Gerald and Janet Barton; Nicole Brocchini; Warren Cederborg; Connie Clark; Arnold and Carole Compolongo/Scope Enterprises; DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite; Dumont Printing; Will Dunningway and Wayne Pierce; Fred Fisher and Joe Lattuada/Naturals from the Earth; Michael Frye Photography; Garcia Machine; Patti Garrity/Patti's Plum Puddings; Jeff Grandy Photography; Gerald Haslam; Malcolm Margolin; John McClary; Mono Lake Committee; Lennie and Mike Roberts; Dean Shenk; Tom and Irene Shephard; Barbara Steinberg-Orlowski; Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite; The Ansel Adams Gallery; and Keith Walket/ QuietWorks Photography.



Wet plate photographers Will Dunningway and Wayne Pierce demonstrated tin type photography for YA members as part of the Members' Meeting weekend living history program at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Spend \$100 Online and YA Receives Up To \$15!

What's the catch? There is none! GreaterGood.com has gathered together scores of merchants who want to support nonprofit causes such as the Yosemite Association; those merchants will donate up to 15% of your purchase back to YA. You pay exactly the same price you'd pay if you shopped with the merchant directly, but if you shop through the Yosemite Association's GreaterGood.com site, up to 15% of each purchase will go back to your favorite cause—YA!

More than 140 online retailers participate in this program, including many recognizable names such as: Avon, Barnes&Noble.com, Gateway, Hickory Farms, JC Penney, Lands' End, L.L. Bean, Nordstrom, Priceline.com, REI, Target, Tom's of Maine, and Yankee Candle. Access the complete list of participating companies at www.yosemite.greatergood.com and please remember to "Start at Greater Good When You Shop Online!"

GreaterGood.com
Shop where it matters.

Member Info Line 209/379-2317

If you're planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our phone line a call between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We don't make reservations, but we can give appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice.

2004 Member Volunteers Donate Record Number of Hours

We honor the 2004 volunteers for donating a new record of over 13,000 hours of service this year in Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, and Yosemite Valley. These dedicated month-long volunteers and Cooperative Work Week participants spent anywhere from one week to five months supporting valuable park services.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER SCHNEIDER.

Valley volunteer Alexandra Cole enrolls new members at the membership booth on the mall in Yosemite Village.

In the twentieth year of the month-long program, scores of volunteers kept Camp 6 Information Station, Parsons Lodge, Happy Isles Nature Center, and the Yosemite Museum Gallery open for the enjoyment of thousands of visitors. They also recruited new members at booths in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, introduced the “Spirit of Yosemite” orientation film at the Valley Visitor Center, welcomed the Outdoor Adventure participants in Tuolumne Meadows, coached countless campers in proper food storage to protect Yosemite’s bears, and assisted staff at the Wawona Information Station and the Mariposa Grove Museum. We salute these wonderful members for their amazing efforts on behalf of YA and the park’s visitors, with special thanks to Valley Volunteer Coordinator, Virginia “Mother Duck” Ferguson, and Tuolumne Meadows Volunteer Coordinator, Mike Bonham.

Will the following volunteers please take a bow:

June Bailey, Jennifer Baker, Louise Bierig, Mike & Jan Bigelow, RoxAnne Borean, Helen Brohm, Mike & Mary Burchmore, Kristin & Thomas Byde, Gary Cava & Ranger Moody, Steve Chavez & Dana Gary, Gary Childs, Leonard Choate, Alexandra Cole, Richard Conness, Lou Davis, Bonnie Doran, Jim Duff, Joanne Durocher, Marion & Bill Eggers, Donna Engleman, Sharon Fee, Vireo Gaines, Paul & Karen Gierlach, Hank & Linda Gilliam, Marston & Judith Girard, Sue & Jack Hansen, Ann Hardeman, Carol Harris, Patricia Hauk, Barbara Hill, Doug Hitchingham, Ted Hoesman, Suzanne Howell-Gleason, MaryJane & Vern Johnson, Loren & Janet Johnson, Judy Johnson, Jerry & Susan Kaplan, Everett & Anne-Marie Kaukonen, Chuck & Mille Krueger, Joanne Landers, Chris & Jeff Lashmet, Gaye Lawson (talented song writer—see side bar), Phillip Lopate, Joe Loyacano, Joanne Mandel, Jim & Laurie May, John McClary, Ken & Patsy McKay, Lou & Carole Meylan, Dorothy Nakama, Harriet Novakovich, Susie & Borden Ornelaz, Gary & Lois Orr, Cynthia Packard, Jennifer & Warren Patten, LaVerne & Fred Polkinghorn, Joyce Rasmussen, Julie Rice, Bea Sandy, Heather Schneider, Julie Schuller, Richard Schuman, Dawn Sherertz, Jason Stein, George & Mary Sutliff, Pete Van Kuran, Jo Wamser, Barry Warmerdam, Mary Wells, Julice Winter, and Pat Zuccaro.

The dedicated Cooperative Work Week participants worked alongside NPS employees, providing manual labor on ecological restoration projects throughout the park. By surveying rare plants, weeding exotic species, re-vegetating areas around trails, reducing fire rings in the backcountry, and repairing fences, these volunteers are working to rehabilitate Yosemite’s natural areas. The

work weeks (a cooperative effort of the National Park Service, Yosemite National Institutes, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, and YA for the seventeenth year) continue to preserve Yosemite for future generations. We honor this year’s program participants:

Kathy Aguilar, Renee Austin & Doug Dybdahl, Sydney Bluestone, Ray Borean, Donald Burns, Bill Currie, Thomas DeForest, Tracy Deitschman, Tony DeMaio, Dennis Dettmer, Jean Dillingham, Candance & Chris Elder, Marshall Fisher, Belinda Gilbert, Lisa, Will & James Greenway, Gerry & Janice Haslam, Don Hedgepeth, Eric Huffman, Richard James, Judy Johnson, Eric Juline, Mona Knight, Ann Knopf, Betty Mae Locke, David Margiott & Kathy Montgomery, Kate Mawdsley, Jerry & Diane McMahon, Jillian Metz, Hiroyuki Minamino & Kyoko Adachi, Russell Morimoto, Marianne Mueller, John Mullen, Lloyd & Susan Murray, Jerry Nuding, Ralph Occhipinti, Carey Olson, Cindy Pavlicek, Teresa Peterson, James Raveret & Donna Tetangco, Richard Rice, Jean Roche, Richard Rudloff, Douglas Ryder, Joan Sanderson, Nicholas Seitz, Sue Shallow, Barbara Shimkus, Alison Sterley, Brian Stern, Verle Waters, Rosemarie Wright, Marty Acree (NPS), Michael Bilodeau (YNI), Joanna Cooke (YNI), Victor Goldman (NPS), Amy Gordon (YNI), Vicky Hartman (NPS), and Noreen Trombley (NPS).



PHOTO COURTESY OF JERRY NUDING.

Work trip volunteers restore a riparian area of the Merced River.

“OH, YOSEMITE DEAR”

Lyrics by Gaye Lawson, August 2004
Month-Long Valley Volunteer
(Sung to the tune of “Home on the Range”)

Refrain:

Oh, Yosemite Dear
We answer the questions with cheer
Why the hike is so far
And where is my car
Why are the falls dry this year

1. The Yurt is the place
With plenty of space
For the people to ask what to do
Where can I see
A bear on a tree
And be back in Seattle by two
2. The O-Show is fun
As we count one by one
The heads of Yosemite fans
And some say our “schpiels”
Have gained such appeal
The audience gives us applause
3. The gallery and booth
To tell you the truth
Can bring weightiness to my eyes
We want them to sign
For our YA so fine
But most of them just walk on by
4. Happy Isles has its joys
And its animal toys
And our salesmanship’s really swank
The cash register rings
As the sales totals sing
Our quest is to balance the bank
5. At each 5 o’clock
The Duck gathers her flock
To speak of events of the day
We’re offered imbibing
And plenty of jibing
Everyone has something to say

Does camping for a month in Yosemite sound like pure bliss? Do you love helping people? Want to feel real Sierra Nevada dirt under your fingernails? Try volunteering next summer in Yosemite! Contact Chrissy at (209) 379-2317, or check out our website at www.yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html for more information about volunteering during the 2005 season.

YA Volunteer Coordinator Virginia Ferguson Honored

Yosemite Association volunteer coordinator and life member Virginia Ferguson was recently honored as the thirteenth annual Yosemite Fund Award winner. Virginia was nominated for this award in recognition of her ten years of service as a YA volunteer. YF Award Chairperson Fran Wolfe and YF President Bob Hansen presented Virginia with \$2,500 and a beautifully engraved slate plaque at a BBQ event hosted by the Yosemite Fund on August 4, 2004 in Yosemite Valley.

“My love affair with Yosemite started when I was six years old,” said Virginia. “I used to write pages and pages about Yosemite. One of my teachers encouraged me to join the Yosemite Natural History Association. I was a member from six to twelve years old; about then was when I discovered boys.”

When Virginia returned to Yosemite for a visit after many years, she rejoined the Yosemite Association and applied to volunteer the next summer in the valley. Virginia’s love of the experience was so great that in the year 2000, when she was diagnosed with cancer, she chose the shortest, most radical treatment available so that she could return to volunteer in Yosemite the following summer.

Virginia, who this year retired from her position as a school librarian at the Selwyn House (a prestigious private school for boys in Montreal, Quebec), travels 2,700 miles to Yosemite to spend May through September assisting in the coordination and training of the growing number of YA month-long volunteers in Yosemite Valley. For these five months, Virginia lives in a tent in the Lower Pines Campground with other volunteers, supplying her own food and camping equipment. Early in her volunteer career, Virginia earned the nickname



YA Volunteer and Life Member Virginia Ferguson.

of “Mother Duck” for her inimitable style of mentoring new volunteers in a duty station, and then leading them as a group to the next station for more orientation.

When asked why she does it, Virginia said, “Yosemite is a little slice of heaven that has been given to me, and I am just trying to give back.”

Past winners of the Yosemite Fund award include Albert Gordon, Carl Stephens, Jay Johnson, Shirley Sargent, Jack Phinney, Fred Bertetta, Derrick Vocelka, Gene Rose, Jim Snyder, Arvin Abbott, Jan van Wagendonk, and Linda Eade. The Yosemite Fund, a non-profit organization that raises capital funding for large projects in Yosemite, created its annual award to recognize individuals whose work enhances Yosemite as a national treasure. Six community members and four Yosemite Fund members review nominations each fall and recommend a recipient.

The YA board of trustees, staff, and the valley volunteer “ducklings” salute you, Virginia. Congratulations, and thank you so much for all you do!



ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:
OA = Outdoor Adventure
YAC = Yosemite Art Center

NOV.

Nov: Fall 2004 issue of the members' journal *Yosemite* and 2005 Outdoor Adventure Catalog to be mailed this month.

Nov: Valley Visitor Center Information and Bookstore services temporarily relocated to Wilderness Education Center building (next to post office) during VC renovation.

Nov: "Experience Your America" photo exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery
Nov 22 – 27: YAC: Free art lessons with Robert Dvorak

Nov 25 – 26: YA Administrative Office closed for Thanksgiving

DEC.

Dec: Valley Visitor Center Information and Bookstore services temporarily relocated to Wilderness Education Center building (next to post office) during VC renovation.

Dec: "Experience Your America" photo exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery
Dec 20: last day to place orders for Christmas delivery (expedited shipping charges will apply)

Dec 23–24: YA Administrative Office closed for Christmas holiday

Dec 31: YA Administrative Office closed for New Year's holiday

JAN. 2005

Jan: Valley Visitor Center Information and Bookstore services temporarily relocated to Wilderness Education Center building (next to post office) during VC renovation.

Jan 2: Museum Store last day of operation for the season
Jan 15–17: OA: Winter Ecology

Jan 17: YA Administrative Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

Jan 27–30: OA: Winter Landscape Photography in Yosemite

FEB.

Feb: Valley Visitor Center Information and Bookstore services temporarily relocated to Wilderness Education Center building (next to post office) during VC renovation.

Feb: Winter 2005 issue of the members' journal *Yosemite* to be mailed this month
Feb 5: OA: A Writer's Winter Walk in Yosemite

Feb 21: YA Administrative Office closed for President's Day holiday

Feb 25: OA: The Day After The Full Moon Snowshoe

Feb 25–May 1: Yosemite Renaissance XX exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery

MARCH

Mar: Valley Visitor Center Information and Bookstore services temporarily relocated to Wilderness Education Center building (next to post office) during VC renovation.

Mar 12–13: OA: Journal Binding and Design Magic, Session 1
Mar 12–13: OA: The Winter World of Yosemite

Mar 18: Museum Store reopens for the season

Mar 19: Members' Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

Mar 20: OA: Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist

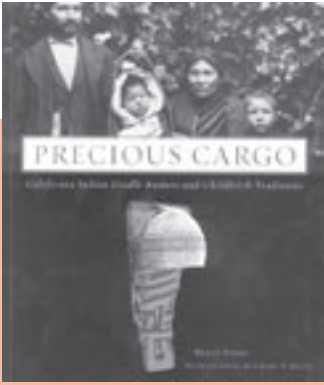
Mar 20: OA: Discovering Spring Wildflowers at Hite Cove

SUMMER
2005

September 10, 2005: 30th Annual Members' Meeting, Tuolumne Meadows

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

YOSEMITE CATALOG



Precious Cargo—California Indian Cradle Baskets and Childbirth Traditions

by Brian Bibby with an essay by Craig D. Bates.

Long before the invention of the baby buggy, Native Americans had designed and utilized a light, wearable vessel to carry their infants and young children. Born out of necessity, these baby baskets allowed mothers to use both hands while foraging for food or doing other work, provided security and comfort to the baby, and were objects of stunning art as well.

This is a unique and alluring history of the baby basket in Native Californian cultures. It includes dozens of black-and-white photographs as well as color photographs of thirty-two cradle baskets that were recently commissioned by the Marin Museum of the American Indian to be included in an exhibition that will travel to galleries and museums throughout California.

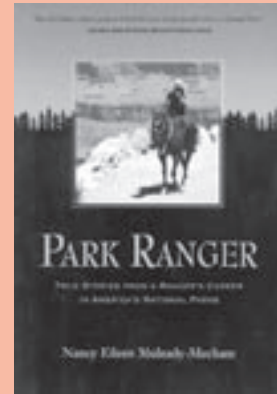
Author Brian Bibby provides a historical and cultural background for the Native Californian cradle basket, including interviews with living basketmakers who maintain the tradition. *Precious Cargo* also includes information on other Native American childbirth traditions, covering topics from fertility through pregnancy and birth. The volume is 148 pages, 8 by 9.5 inches, illustrated in color and black and white, and paperback. Copyright 2004, Heyday Books. \$22.50; **member price \$19.13**

Park Ranger—True Stories from a Ranger's Career in America's National Parks

by Nancy Eileen Muleady-Mecham.

What park rangers really have to deal with on any given day and how training, stamina and attitude make all the difference. This book could almost be a reference manual, training tool and recruitment handbook for anyone interested in wearing a Smoky Bear hat.

The author writes about her fascinating real-life adventures as a modern-day professional national park ranger. You won't believe what is going on behind the scenes of your peaceful visit to your favorite park. Includes a glossary of terms used in the book. The author has lived and worked in parks ranging from USS Arizona in Hawaii to the Florida Everglades, with most of her career at Grand Canyon. The book is 244 pages long, 5.5 by 8 inches, illustrated with color plates, and paperback. Copyright 2004, Vishnu Temple Press. \$14.95; **member price \$12.71**



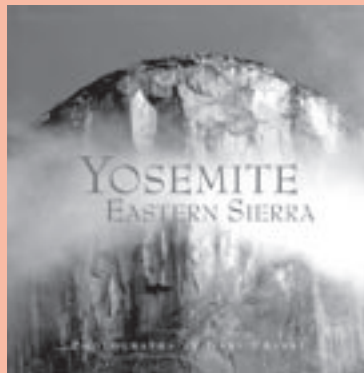
Yosemite & the Eastern Sierra

with photographs by Gary Crabbe, edited by Peter Beren.

This gift-style book features the vivid photography of Gary Crabbe, a renowned outdoor photographer. His subjects range from Yosemite Valley and its famed high country to the eastern side of the Range of Light.

Accompanying text captures the voices of America's greatest nature writers. This consummate marriage of written word and breathtaking imagery is the perfect gift for anyone who has marveled at the unparalleled complexity and beauty of Yosemite and the glorious gallery of the eastern Sierra's natural wonders.

The book is 160 pages, 6.25 by 6.75 inches, illustrated in full color with over 100 photos, and casebound with a dust jacket. Published by Welcome Books. \$16.95; **member price \$14.41**



Obata's Yosemite Notecards

from woodblock prints by Chiura Obata.

These beautiful and colorful new notecards feature the remarkable art of Chiura Obata from woodblock prints of Yosemite made in 1930. The boxed set includes ten different images taken from the award-winning book entitled *Obata's Yosemite*.

Included are El Capitan, Upper Lyell Fork Near Lyell Glacier, Lake Basin in the High Sierra, Sundown at Tioga Peak, Evening Glow at Yosemite Falls, Evening Moon, Before Thunderstorm, Evening Glow at Lyell Fork, Last Twilight at Unknown Lake, and Death's Grave Pass and Tenaya Peak.

A full-color image is printed on the front of each card, and their backs provide information about the woodblock prints along with Obata's captions for them. Ten 5-by-7-inch cards are packaged with quality white envelopes in a sturdy box. \$11.95; **member price \$10.16**



To see more great gift ideas and an expanded list of the products we offer for sale, visit the full-featured, secure **Yosemite Store** on the internet at: <http://yosemitestore.com>

See book review on page 12



The Ahwahnee—Yosemite's Grand Hotel

by Keith S. Walklet.

It has been called the finest hotel in the national park system. Surrounded by three-thousand-foot granite cliffs and forests of immense pines in the heart of California's Yosemite Valley, The Ahwahnee was built to attract visitors of wealth and means at a time when American society was developing a love affair with the automobile.

The monumental hotel of stone, timber, concrete, and steel remains a remarkable achievement, a rare convergence of art and vision, combining the talents of public servants, architects, engineers, designers, and craftsmen.

This is the dramatic story of this remarkable hotel, designated as a national historic monument, detailed from conception to completion to contemporary times in a carefully researched narrative by author/photographer Keith S. Walklet. Illustrating

the volume are some 50 historic photographs and over 70 new color images. The book is 64 pages long, 9 by 12 inches, and case bound with dust jacket. \$19.95; **member price \$16.96**

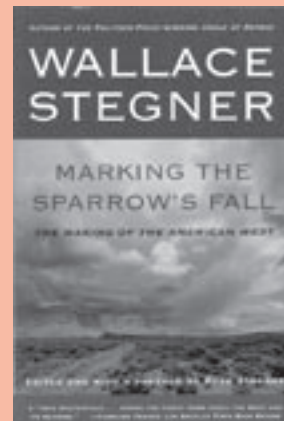
Marking the Sparrow's Fall—The Making of the American West

by Wallace Stegner, edited and with a preface by Page Stegner.

In this, the first collection published since Wallace Stegner's death in 1993, his son Page has annotated and edited fifteen essays that have never before been published in books, a little-known novella, and Wallace Stegner's most powerful and well-known essays on the American West, which held sway in Stegner's vivid prose.

"It is a country to breed mystical people, egocentric people, perhaps poetic people. But not humble ones. . . . Puny you may feel there, and vulnerable, but not unnoticed. This is a land to mark the sparrow's fall."—from *Wolf Willow*.

Each magical piece of writing collected here reveals the stylistic grace, humorous outlook, and intellectual rigor that earned Stegner his enormous readership and fame. This is as complete and comprehensive a statement as we are ever likely to have about what it means to be a westerner, about what it means to know ourselves as part of the natural world and competent to belong to it. The volume is 360 pages long, 5.5 by 8 inches, and paperback. Copyright 1998, Henry Holt. \$15; **member price \$12.75**



Wilderness Act 40th Anniversary T-Shirt

from a wood block by Chiura Obata.

This year Americans everywhere are celebrating forty years of Designated Wilderness in the United States—a true American legacy. In honor of this anniversary, the Yosemite Association has developed a special 40th anniversary t-shirt to call attention to and celebrate this milestone.

The back of the mocha brown, garment-washed tee features a full-color reproduction from a wood block print by Chiura Obata entitled "Clouds, Upper Lyell Trail" and dated 1930. The type above and below the image reads: "Sierra Nevada Wilderness—Celebrating Forty Years of Protection." The front of the shirt is printed in brown and green with the national Wilderness Act 40th Anniversary logo that reads: "Celebrating America's Wilderness, 1964-2004."

The 100% cotton, pre-shrunk, garment-washed t-shirt by Anvil is mocha brown in color and comes in both short-sleeved and long-sleeved versions. Please specify size S-XXL and sleeve type. Short-sleeved tee is \$16; **member price \$13.60**. Long-sleeved tee is \$20; **member price \$17**



Last day to place orders for Christmas is Dec. 20 (expedited shipping charges will apply)



Yosemite National Park 60 Piece Memory Card Game

by Impact.

This educational game is a fun way to learn more about Yosemite National Park. Players match full-color photos of various park landmarks and wildlife.

To play the game, lay out all 60 memory cards face down. Turn over two cards at a time. If cards don't match, return them face down, and it's the next player's turn. If the cards do match, keep the matching pairs and continue until player can no longer match. The player with the most matches wins!

For ages 3 and over. Includes poster with photos of and information about all the landmarks and wildlife species. There are 60 cards, and each card is 3 by 3 inches. The cards and poster are packaged in a sturdy box. \$10.95; **member price \$9.31**

Birds of America's National Parks—100 Piece Memory Card Game

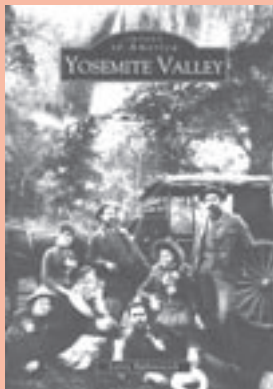
by Impact.

Knowing how to identify birds by sight is a key to becoming familiar with different species. This beautiful collection of photos provides an enjoyable and educational experience that will benefit birders of all ages. Players match full-color photos of various national park bird species.



The game is played as described under the *Yosemite National Park Memory Card Game*. The player with the most matches wins! For ages 3 and over. Includes poster with photos of and information about all the included birds. There are 100 cards, and each card is 3 by 3 inches.

The cards and poster are packaged in a sturdy box. \$12; **member price \$10.20**



Yosemite Valley - Images of America

by Leroy Radanovich.

Yosemite interpreter, photographer, and historian Leroy Radanovich has gathered amazing photographs of Yosemite Valley in this volume, using images from park venues as well as private collections. The assembled images tell both the human and natural stories of this remarkable place, now visited by 3.5 million people annually.

The "Images of America" series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. The photos in the book cover the development of Yosemite Valley from its discovery to the 1930s. The volume is 128 pages long, 6.5 by 9.25 inches, illustrated in black and white, and paperback. Copyright 2004, Arcadia Publishing. \$19.99; **member price \$16.99**

River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West

by Rebecca Solnit.

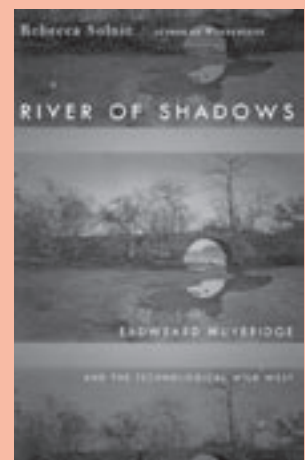
The world as we know it today began in California in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and a man named Eadweard Muybridge had a lot to do with it. This striking assertion is at the heart of Rebecca Solnit's new book, which weaves together biography, history, and fascinating insights into art, technology, landscape, and photography to create a boldly original portrait of America on the threshold of modernity.

In this taut, compelling narrative, Muybridge becomes a lens for a larger story about the transformation of time and space in the nineteenth century by railroads, telegraphy, photography, and other factors that accelerated and industrialized everyday life. The author shows how the peculiar freedoms and opportunities of post-Civil War California led directly to the two industries—Hollywood and Silicon Valley—that have most powerfully defined contemporary life.

The book features many Muybridge photographs that have never been published before, and significantly revises and expands what has been known about this extraordinary, eccentric man.

It is 306 pages, 6 by 9 inches, illustrated in black and white, and case bound with a dust jacket.

Copyright 2003, Viking Press. \$25.95; **member price \$22.06**



Yosemite National Park 2005 Calendar

by Tide-Mark Press.

This annual photographic wall calendar is as beautiful as ever for 2005! It features a variety of subjects, from lofty granite domes to snow-laden forests, and from sparkling waterfalls to granitic alpine expanses.

Work is included by such renowned photographers as Keith S. Walklet, Dennis Flaherty, Tom and Sylvia Algire, and Douglas Steakley. From icons in Yosemite Valley to high country landscapes and peaks, their images capture the spirit of awe John Muir felt so strongly when he made the park his home. Each month is laid out with thumbnails of the previous and following months, and is annotated with important dates and phases of the moon. The 14 by 11 inch calendar unfolds to 14 inches by 22 inches and is printed in full color. \$12.95; **member price \$11.01**



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 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**

Bear Awareness T-Shirt

by the Yosemite Association.

These striking t-shirts are designed with a message to protect Yosemite black bears, and revenues from sales benefit Yosemite's "Keep Bears Wild" program. The stone-washed shirts are printed with the "Yosemite Wild Bear Project" logo on their fronts, and carry a full-color wood-block illustration of a black bear on their backs.



Developed from a poster with the same image, the print reads "A Wild Bear is a Beautiful Sight to See." The pre-shrunk, 100% cotton, garment-washed shirts, manufactured by Anvil, are available in three muted colors: green, tan, and gray. Please indicate your color preference and size (Adult S-XXL; Child S(6-8), M(10-12)). Sizes run slightly large. \$16; **member price \$13.60**

Yosemite Christmas Greetings Cards

from the Yosemite Museum collection.

For the holidays, these reproductions of a historic Christmas greeting card from the Yosemite Museum are just the ticket. Originally appearing on a postcard, the full-color image of El Capitan framed by poinsettia flowers has been reproduced on a sturdy note card of recycled paper. The striking image reads "Christmas Greetings," and there is no message on the inside of the card.



This set of notecards is a great way to remember your friends and Yosemite during the holiday season. 8 cards with envelopes; 5 inches x 7 inches; copyright 1998, Yosemite Association. \$7.50; **member price \$6.38**

Order Form

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NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS

Welcome and welcome back to our new and rejoining members! You've connected with more than 10,500 like-minded individuals, families, and businesses helping the association make Yosemite an even better place.

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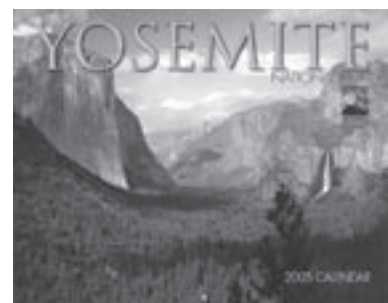
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