

# A Trip to the Summit



# Greetings from Yosemite

I was recently honored by the Board of Trustees to serve as the Yosemite Association's next Chief Executive Officer. As we begin this new era in the association, we hope you will continue to support and participate in our efforts to build on YA's rich heritage. As always, our primary goal is to promote stewardship in Yosemite National Park.

For my initial journal article, I would like to introduce myself. Like you, my family has a keen passion for our National Park System and particularly Yosemite. I, my wife Ingelise and our three children—Nielsen, Maren and Andersen—have visited more than 140 units of the National Park system sites during the past decade.

My earliest exposure to the National Parks came through my father. An exceptional geologist, he taught me about the Rocky Mountains and its natural splendors. Both of my parents helped me appreciate the natural landscape. Their inspiration led me to spend many days rambling in the Rocky Mountains and evenings around a campfire talking about the magic of the landscape.

In Yosemite, I have been fortunate over the past twenty years to visit the park in all seasons. I have feasted with good friends on winter evenings at Ostrander hut; taught my children to ski at Badger Pass; spent summer evenings around the campfire at White Wolf; skated with my family at Curry Village in the shadow of Glacier Point; and swam in the cold waters of Glen Aulin. I have also immersed myself in the great literature surrounding Yosemite.

On a professional level, I have led a dynamic nonprofit water association in Northern California for the past eight years. There, I worked with a very progressive Board of Directors, talented staff and many consultants to develop and implement resource plans for waterways across the northern half of the state. These programs have positively shaped the landscape for farms, fish, birds and rural communities alike.



LAUREL REMATORE

I am very excited to be leading YA as we seek new and innovative ways to promote stewardship of Yosemite and its grandeur. We will continue to focus on YA's tradition of enriching the Yosemite experience through the books, maps, and other interpretive products that we publish and sell throughout the park and the world; junior ranger programs, outdoor seminars, art center, cooperative student interns and other high quality educational programs that help connect people to the park; the wilderness programs and ski hut that help people explore the park in all seasons; and a strong volunteer program to continually improve the park. We will also explore and develop innovative new partnerships to advance the YA mission. In a nutshell, we will continue to build partnerships with the National Park Service and our other park partners to help support and enrich the Yosemite experience.

I look forward to serving you and YA during this exciting time. Please join me, the Board of Trustees, staff and our valuable park partners to help ensure that Yosemite remains the crown jewel of the National Park System.

Yours truly,

David Guy

## Cover:

*The Lester family became the first party to traverse the Tioga Road in an automobile. Shown at the Wawona Tunnel Tree in 1915 aboard their 1914 Mitchell Touring Car are, from clockwise: driver Fred Lester, June Van Dorsten Lester, Mrs. Hughes, Sarah Lester, Katherine Lester, Cora Allyn, Sylvia Hughes Lester, Nathan Lester III, Nathan Lester Jr.*

PHOTO COURTESY RON OLMSTEAD



# A TRIP TO THE SUMMIT

## THE FIRST CAR TRIP OVER THE TIOGA ROAD

**A**s the 1914 Mitchell auto inched its way along the road to Tuolumne Meadows on the afternoon of July 8, 1915, the Lester family took in the flora and fauna and tried not to fuss over the roughness of the crude road.

The owner of the car, the Lester matriarch Sarah, was 68 years old. Now a widow, she had purchased her first automobile to replace her horses and buggy. Her sons were all married and had moved away from home. They were no longer available to care for the horses or to hitch up the buggy when she needed to go to town.

While fueling their car in Yosemite Valley the previous day, the Lesters had heard a rumor that the Tioga Road would open to autos for the first time on July 8. Around their campfire that night, the family had decided to venture over the newly cleared road to Tuolumne Meadows. They figured the 60-70 mile drive would take about eight hours.

Two of Sarah Lester's four sons had come along on this trip. The eldest, Nathan Jr., was traveling with his wife Sylvia, his mother-in-law Mrs. Hughes, and two children, Kate and Larry. Sarah's younger son, Fred, was with his bride of six months, June Von Dorsten Lester. June was a

few weeks pregnant. She was likely unaware of her condition, otherwise the family probably would not have decided to venture over the new road. Cora Allyn, a visiting cousin of Sarah's, was also along for the ride.

June had experienced the marvels of Yosemite National Park twice before. Her first visit to this mountain country was as a fifteen-year-old in 1908. She and her family had spent the month of July traveling in a horse-drawn Studebaker Spring wagon from their home in the Almaden district of South San Jose to Wawona and Yosemite Valley. They had traveled across the San Joaquin Valley and up through Mariposa to reach the Chowchilla Mountain Road by horse and wagon. At the base of Chowchilla Mountain, they camped two nights at Conway's Cold Springs Ranch to rest the horses before making the final pull up to Wawona.

During the trip, they even met Yosemite pioneer Galen Clark in front of his home near the old Valley village. The family liked the camping trip so much they repeated it two years later.

What had taken nine days by two-horse wagon in 1908 and 1910 took the Lester family just two days in 1915, traveling in a 38-horsepower horseless carriage. Though

*The Tioga Road originally crossed the Tuolumne River here at Soda Springs. The only section of the original auto bridge that remains is the northeast foundation support, which is inscribed "1915." The bridge has since been converted to equestrian and pedestrian use.*

RON OLMSTEAD



the trip was relatively brisk—they had left San Jose early on the morning of July 5, and were in Yosemite setting up camp by nightfall of July 6—it must have been an uncomfortable ride. With seats for only seven people, the Mitchell was crowded with a total of nine passengers. The car's stiff springs made the ride extra bouncy.

Before hearing about the opening of the Tioga Road, the family had taken a typical sightseeing route, spending the day at Glacier Point, Wawona, and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. The one photo that survives of the Lesters' 1914 Mitchell and its nine passengers was taken at the Wawona Tunnel Tree. The owners of the Wawona Hotel had hired a photographer to film all who passed that way, in hopes of luring more tourists to the area.



RON OLMSTEAD (2)

*The Tioga Road began as the "Great Sierra Wagon Road," a mining route cleared in 1883.*

#### **AN EASTERN ENTRANCE**

The road the Lesters were traveling was the latest achievement of Stephen T. Mather, the National Park System's first superintendent. A strong promoter of Yosemite, Mather hoped to make the park appealing to future automobile visitors. He allowed autos into Yosemite Valley starting in 1915, along with the sale of gasoline in the Village. 1915 was also the year of the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. This meant that many motoring tourists would be venturing west that year. An eastern entrance, he thought, would be just the thing to attract more visitors to the park.

To make the Tioga Road a reality, Mather sought to revive the "Great Sierra Wagon Road" from Bennettville through White Wolf and on to Crocker's Station. Built in 1883 by a mining company, at a cost of \$61,100, or about \$1,100 per mile, the road had an inauspicious start. Shortly after its completion, the mining operation collapsed, with no record of any silver being extracted. One of the principal owners of the mining company purchased the western side of the road out of bankruptcy and held it for the next 28 years.

Mather was able to convince a friend in Chicago, as well as members of the Sierra Club, to contribute to the \$15,500 needed to buy the dilapidated route. However, about half the needed funds ultimately came out of Mather's own pocket. Mather then reached an agreement with the Tuolumne County Engineering Department to survey the route.

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**With seats for only seven people, the car was crowded with a total of nine passengers. Stiff springs made the ride extra bouncy.**

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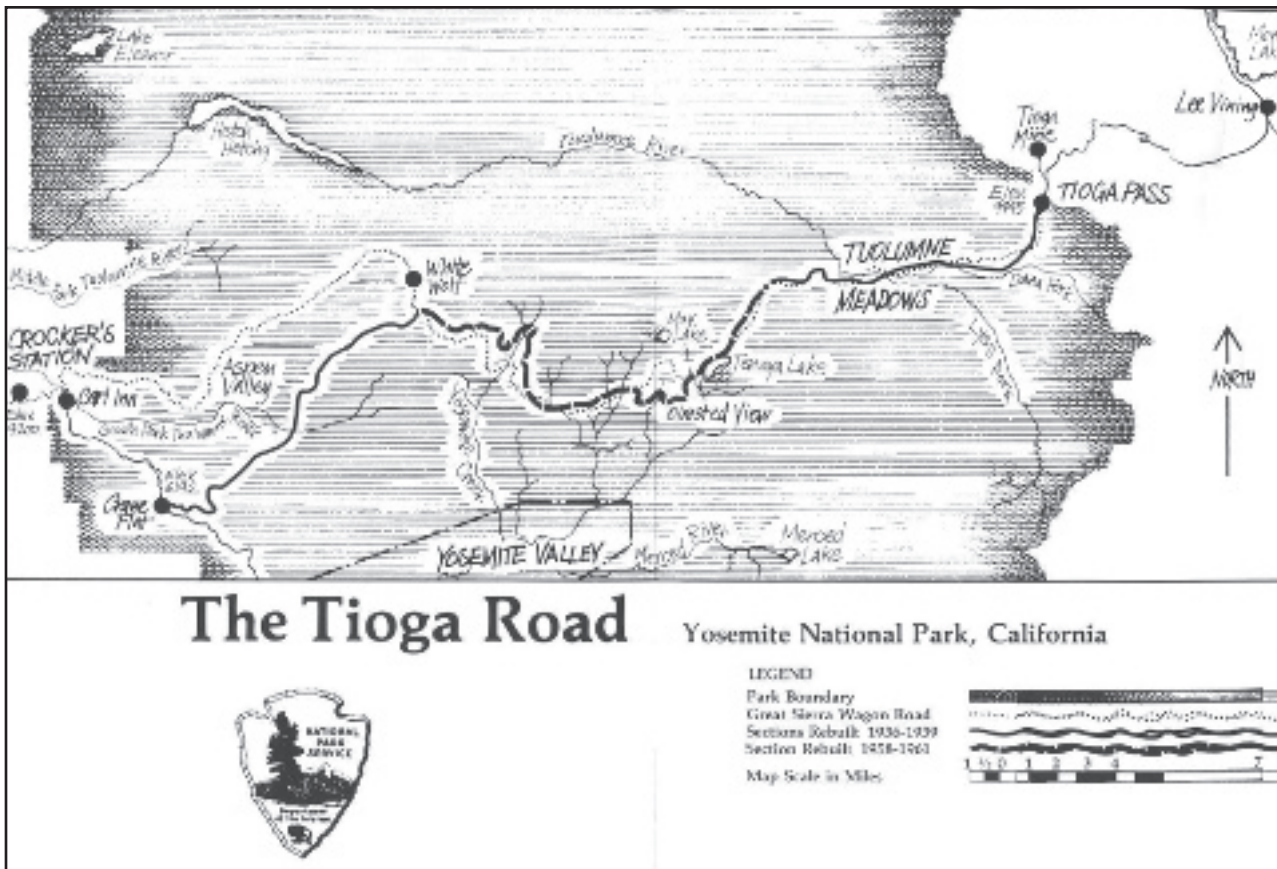
For most of its existence, the old mining road had not been maintained. Only the resident army tending Yosemite, sightseeing tourists on horseback, and Sierra Club members going to Tuolumne Meadows to hike and climb used the road as a trail to the backcountry.



*The old Tioga Road looking east from Soda Springs, with Lembert Dome in the background.*

With the financial help of the recently formed California Auto Club of Southern California, Mather arranged to have the long-disused road cleared. A crew went to work in 1915 as soon as the snowmelt allowed. They cleared boulders, trees, landslides and other obstructions, and went about filling in creeks with gravel to create shallow crossing fords. Ten days after the Lesters had passed that way, Mather opened the new east-west route by smashing a bottle of Pacific Ocean water over a rock at the summit, allowing the water to flow both east and west. A more complete story of the route is told in Keith A. Trexler's book, *The Tioga Road, A History, 1883-1961*





Historic routes of the Tioga Road, from *The Tioga Road: A History, 1883-1961*, 1961, Yosemite Natural History Association and the National Park Service.

(1980, YNHA and NPS; out of print) and *Yosemite's Tioga Country: A History and Appreciation* by Gene Rose (2006, Yosemite Association).

### ADVENTURE OVER THE PASS

When the Lester family heard of the road's opening, they were preparing for the trip home. The idea of going over Tioga Pass and returning home by way of Lake Tahoe was too tempting to resist. They had no idea they might be the first car to traverse this newly opened route from west to east.

After lunch on July 8, the Lesters started the drive up the original Coulterville Road from near Cascade Falls. They then traveled through Big Meadow, crossing over to the Big Oak Flat Road, up Long Valley, and on to White Wolf.

The car's fuel tank held 20-25 gallons, and the auxiliary tank under the cowling held an additional 5-7 gallons. At ten miles per gallon, and with between 25 and 32 gallons, they had a range of about 250 to 320 miles. With a little luck and an extra five-gallon can of gas, they could make a 300-mile stretch without refueling.

Having stopped at White Wolf, they continued on through a forest of lodgepole pines, past meadows of early summer wildflowers, and some of the most spectacular views in the world. Then terror struck. They heard the unmistakable sound of stone striking sheet

metal. Fred stopped immediately and discovered oil dripping from the oil pan. He quickly plugged the hole with a rag and wrapped baling wire around the engine block to clamp the cloth stopper in place. Amazingly, the wounded vehicle made it all the way home with this improvised repair.

Soon they passed spectacular Lake Tenaya. As described in Trexler's booklet, this section of road required 100 charges of black powder to blast past the foot of the granite dome. This was the last section of the original mining road to be completed in the summer of 1883.

The Lesters pressed on, reaching Tuolumne Meadows before dark, deciding to camp by the River and retrace their path west in the morning. Nathan was struck by what is now believed to have been altitude sickness and developed a case of continuous shakes. The family gathered enough wood to keep a fire ablaze all night and huddled together to keep him warm. Years later, June recalled that dinner consisted of Campbell's tomato soup, dried fruit and corn bread, with ample water for tea or coffee.

The next morning, they loaded up the car and went to the river for a final look. They found two road construction workers busy filling the river with gravel to create a ford with the help of mules and Fresno scrapers. The Lesters had to wait less than half an hour before they were able to attempt a crossing. The crew stood by with their

animals and equipment until the car made it across, ready to pull the family to safety if the car bogged down. The workers informed the Lesters that they and their car were the first to cross the river. June wrote in her memoirs, “*the first car to cross the T. River July 9, 1915.*”

The travelers stopped near the summit to visit with the proprietor of what is today the Tioga Pass Resort. It was then called Gardiske’s Camp after Al Gardiske, a hunter, trapper, fisherman and entrepreneur who built the first cabin there in 1914.

Family oral history relays the Lesters’ amazement upon reaching the top of the grade with its view of the great crevasse and treacherous road down Lee Vining Canyon. Not wishing to retrace their route west, down they went. Kate recalled, when interviewed at age 90 (she was five years old in 1915), that her father Nathan “got over his attack as soon as we reached the lower elevation at Lee Vining.”

As the family started north, departing Lee Vining, they encountered Conway Summit Grade. On this narrow section they came upon an area covered with diamondback rattlesnakes. The travelers all feared for their safety as snakes struck the car left and right. For those few minutes they all thought the car would be disabled. There was no way they could have stopped to fix a punctured tire or repair the car, and their fate was uncertain. Fortunately, they pulled through unscathed. When the new Conway Summit Road was built in 1961, road workers killed 40 rattlesnakes in one day, near the turnoff to Rattlesnake Gulch Road, according to Margaret Calhoun’s book *Pioneers of Mono Basin*. Apparently a colony of snakes still lives there. Locals claim this is the only place where snakes are commonly seen in the area.

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Later in life, Fred Lester regaled family members with many stories of the 1915 trip. One anecdote concerned the rabbits on the road leading north toward Bridgeport. They were so plentiful and unafraid of cars that the poor little creatures were being flattened in great numbers. Fred would go on to say, “If you travel Highway 395 today you never see a rabbit.”

That evening, the family stopped at the grade leading to Lake Tahoe just before dark to fix dinner. Figuring no one would be traveling at night, they set up camp along



LYNDA LESTER

*The original license plates from the 1914 Mitchell Touring Car the Lesters drove to Yosemite. They are held by Lee Lester, a grandson of Sarah Lester.*

the roadside. In the middle of the night they awoke to a great thundering noise. Jumping to their feet, they found a large herd of horses bearing down upon them. Fred recalled waving blankets frantically to ward off the horses, and barely avoiding being trampled. Wranglers were herding the stock west, traveling by night as was customary.

The next day they reached Lake Tahoe, where Nathan and Sylvia had honeymooned eight years earlier, and from there made the two-day trip over Donner Summit and back home to San Jose.

Not only was the Lester family the first to cross the Tuolumne River by auto, they were most likely the first to drive from Yosemite Valley to Lee Vining over the Tioga Pass. They would be the first of many drivers in the years to come. During the 1915 season alone, 190 cars entered the park from the east over Tioga Pass. The following year, 578 westbound autos checked in at the east entrance. Today, of course, the Tioga Road is one of the most beloved and picturesque drives in the park, a highlight for many thousands of visitors to Yosemite each year.

***Ron Olmstead is the great-grandson of Sarah Lester and the grandson of Fred and June Lester. Growing up with family stories of travel and camping in the Sierra Nevada, he has developed an enduring fascination with California history. He now lives in Hollister with his wife, Jo.***

**For more reading: *Yosemite’s Tioga Country: A History and Appreciation* by Gene Rose is available from YA at [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org) or 209-379-2648.**

# YOSEMITE'S BLACK OAKS

Oaks are a defining element of the California landscape. Found throughout the state, oaks occupy habitats from the coast to the Sierra Nevada and from the Oregon border to Mexico. Oscillations between glacial and non-glacial periods in the past have given oaks a unique evolutionary history in our state. Combined with California's myriad topographic and climatic barriers, this background has led to the evolution of nine tree-sized oak species in the state.

One of the most distinctive oak species growing in Yosemite National Park is the California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). Albert Kellogg, an early pioneer botanist, first named this species "California black oak" for its dark bark. Our black oak looks very similar to other oaks found in the Midwest, East, and South. California black oak has palm-sized dark green leaves that turn yellow-orange in fall, when they are shed by the tree. The large size and broad shape of a black oak's leaves are among its most distinctive features. Most other California oaks have leaves that are evergreen, small, thick and adapted to warmer and drier regions of the state.

Within Yosemite, California black oak is found in the western regions of the park, generally between elevations of 2,000 feet and 6,500 feet. The species is a dominant or subdominant member of vegetation communities on approximately 41,300 acres, or roughly 5.5 percent, of the park's area. Black oak is usually a subdominant canopy species when mixed with conifers such as ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Douglas-fir, and white fir, and broadleaf species such as canyon live oak and black cottonwood. However, it does form some pure stands within Yosemite Valley, Pate Valley and around Wawona.

Oaks are unique in producing acorns, small, oblong, hard fruits composed largely of fats and some protein. Native Americans relied heavily on acorns for food, especially through winter. The acorns of black oaks were considered the tastiest of all the oaks of California. An individual oak can produce hundreds or even thousands of acorns each year.

Most oaks flower in the spring and produce ripe acorns the following autumn. However, a few oaks, including black oaks, require two years for their acorns to mature; flowers successfully pollinated in one spring will not mature until the fall of the following year.

When black oaks first begin to leaf out in spring, they not only produce female flowers but also male flowers in structures called catkins. Wind blows the pollen from one tree to receptive female flowers on other trees. If pollination is successful, acorns will result.

In some years, oaks produce an abundance of acorns, while in other years they might be nearly barren. The phenomenon of widely variable acorn production from year to year is called masting. Many flowering and cone-producing plants also mast. The size of an acorn crop can be partially explained by weather conditions during the time of pollination. A warm, dry spring when flowers are mature tends to favor high rates of successful pollination, followed by large acorn crops. In contrast, if the spring is wet and cool, pollination will not be as successful, leading to a smaller acorn crop. Oak ecologists have long speculated about why oaks evolved to mast. One of the leading theories is called predator satiation. The idea is that if an oak produced the same number of acorns each year, acorn predators—deer, mice, birds, insects—would maintain their populations at a size that could take advantage of the entire crop each year. However, if the acorn crop varied from year to year, acorn predator populations would only be large enough to consume the entire crop in low yield years. In high acorn yield years, there would be acorns left over to sprout and produce new trees.

The Miwoks of Yosemite relied heavily on black oak acorns as a major part of their diet. They and other California Indians often used fire to alter and then maintain conditions favorable to certain species. Through oral histories and direct evidence by early Yosemite explorers, archeologists have documented that the Miwok of the Valley manipulated the environment to favor the black oak. Early Yosemite resident Galen Clark observed that "The Valley had been exclusively under the care and

management of the Indians, probably for many centuries. [The Indians would] annually start fires in the dry season of the year and let them spread over the whole Valley to kill the young trees just sprouted and keep the forest groves open and clear ... and to have clear grounds for hunting and gathering acorns." The fires would kill shrubs and conifer seedlings around mature

*California black oaks and Yosemite Falls.*



BILL KUHN





BILL KUHN

*Immature black oak acorns in spring.*

black oak trees, aiding in the persistence of the oaks while ensuring the regrowth of grasses used for basket weaving.

Today's groves of black oaks are likely the results of centuries of management by Native Americans, as well as over a century of management by Euro-Americans. The pure black oak stands of the Valley may be artificial creations. Virtually everywhere else in the park, black oaks are mixed with the more abundant conifers such as ponderosa pine and incense cedar. This may explain why these pure stands appear to be slowly declining; as adults die off, they are not being replaced by younger trees. However, many other factors could help to explain why we have pure stands of mature black oaks in the Valley. These include changes in Valley hydrology, climate change, and changes in the nature and abundance of wildlife.

The declining stands of black oak within Yosemite Valley are located around the developed areas and adjacent to the larger meadows, particularly around Yosemite Village, the Ahwahnee Hotel, and El Capitan Meadow. Although august in appearance, these stands are composed of older individuals that are decaying and dying, with no seedlings or saplings around them.

In some ways, the ecology and status of pure black oak stands in Yosemite Valley mirrors the situation of oaks across California. A number of oak species don't appear to be producing enough new trees to maintain existing populations; however, statewide, black oaks are not apparently one of the species that suffers from this problem.

Since black oaks in Yosemite Valley are a significant biological and aesthetic resource for wildlife, visitors, and Native Americans, the Yosemite Fund granted support for a scientific study to assess their status and population trends within Yosemite Valley. The project examines the population structure of these trees throughout the Valley, studies changes in their distribution in the Valley over time using historical aerial photos, reviews

Native American use and manipulation of black oaks in Yosemite, and analyzes how past land use, fire, hydrological changes, and other factors may be influencing the future of this species. When the project is completed this year, a final report and manuscripts will detail the study's results. The final report will include recommendations to maintain black oak stands in Yosemite Valley, if this is deemed feasible.

Preliminary results indicate that the structure of black oak populations varies greatly throughout the Valley. Whereas the pure, declining stands of black oak around the Valley are heavily skewed toward older adults, other populations have individuals from many size classes.

There are several possible explanations for why we see demographically skewed populations in some places but not others. Mammalian browsing could be one factor. Oaks are a preferred food source for deer. If deer densities are high, excessive browsing could keep oak seedling and sapling densities low. Since deer are protected within the park, their densities are likely much greater now than when Native Americans inhabited the land. Conifers, on the other hand, are not a preferred food source of browsing animals, and we see many small, younger conifers, especially where the canopy is open and allows sufficient light to reach the forest floor. Changes in the hydrology of the Valley also may have affected the ability of black oaks to produce new seedlings from acorns in some areas. For example, the removal of a rock dam downstream of El Capitan Meadow may have made the land around some oak stands drier. Lack of fire, traditionally used by the Miwok, may partially explain why we see such variation in black oak demographics throughout the Valley. Oaks are adapted to recover from fire, as is evident in areas in the western part of the park that have burned in the last twenty years. Oaks may live for hundreds of years, surviving multiple fires by resprouting from the trunk base.

Whatever the reasons for the variation in black oak stand demographics and health that we see throughout the Valley, the distribution and abundance of this species in the Valley is unlikely to change much in the short term. The presence of black oak may shift slightly in the Valley in decades to come, but this tree is unlikely to disappear. This singularly distinctive element of our park will remain here for present and future generations of visitors, Native Americans and wildlife to enjoy.

*Bill Kuhn is a Landscape Ecologist with the Division of Resources Management and Science in Yosemite National Park.*



# A NATURALIST'S TALE

Every year it is the same. One low branch begins the season of fall, its leaves turning a bright red. Any native Californian will know—should know—that the bright red of this tree is not typical of the browns, oranges and yellows characteristic of autumn here. The tree is a sugar maple, one of two brought from Massachusetts; it grows near the Yosemite Valley Chapel.

That branch, reaching low in the southeast corner of the tree, is the first to change color. Every year. That tree is one of the first in the Valley to change. Every year. In part, it stood out to me because I grew up on the East Coast, where displays of fall color have no match. Over the years, this sugar maple has come to symbolize more than just the waning sun and colder nights. It is a link to another world, another environment. And it reminds me that I am a naturalist.

Five years ago, I told my father about a personal goal: to be a recognized naturalist in my community. It was one of those goal-setting phone conversations we have from time to time. In my mind, this goal would be achieved at some point after I had left Yosemite, while living in a small town in rural California, or maybe Oregon. I envisioned working part-time at a nature center while home-schooling my kids. Arriving at my goal did not happen as I'd imagined. Instead of another place being the source of my naturalist knowledge, I became a naturalist in Yosemite.

It only dawned on me when I began considering my imminent departure from the Valley. My husband Chris and I are moving to Dresden, Germany, a city known for the bombings to which it was subjected during WWII. What would it be like, living an urban life so different from the rural life I lead now? Would there be high, reaching rock walls? Migrating birds? Would there even be trees? It seems silly, I realize, but I asked myself those questions. As I did, I saw the depths of my relationship to Yosemite and how this valley has shaped me. Somewhere in the processing was a recognition of how far I've come in this place. As a person. As a teacher. As a naturalist. Last year, I was asked to co-lead a YA seminar. I had already led a seminar on my own, but this offer stood out. I would lead this one with Pete Devine, my mentor. It was perhaps the greatest honor a naturalist, or anyone, could have. To be "seen" by your mentor, to be called upon as a force of your own. I am just starting to know what that is like. And now I am leaving, right at what only seems the beginning.

*The fiery fall foliage of a sugar maple stands out in California forests.*

This article is not a resumé of my "achievements" in Yosemite nor an apprentice-surpasses-master tale. Instead, it is about what it has taken me to know a place and how I will bring that learning with me when I leave. This is what it means to be a naturalist.



## *It takes time.*

How silly and obvious that sounds. When I first came to Yosemite, at age twenty-three, I never would have admitted that time had such power. Now, leaving at age thirty-one, time is everything. It is what it takes to know people, to know the land, to see the changes in both. There are a few things that I have seen only through time. The milkweed in Cook's Meadow were not as abundant this year as they usually are. Is the meadow drying out? The giant sequoias in the Valley are browning. Are conditions at this elevation not favorable for their growth? All of this is old-fashioned knowledge—learned in the field, over many seasons, through oral teachings and my own observations.



MICHELLE HANSEN



### ***It takes aimlessness.***

Working for the Yosemite Institute, I walked a lot of ground in this Valley. I've seen log jams along the river, tucked away from the trails where the great blue herons hide. Horsetail fields so high there could be a remnant dinosaur lurking among the bristles. Walking without direction allows any detail to become the destination—it brings one's attention to the smaller parts that make up the whole.

### ***It takes distance.***

A few years ago, I took a trip to New Zealand. I realized while traveling that Yosemite was my home, and questioned why I would ever want to leave it and go someplace else. There is so much still to learn about and see right here in the Sierra. Didn't Galen Rowell say that of all the places he'd ever been, the Sierra was his favorite?

A few months ago, I went back to my home town in New Jersey. I had lived there for seventeen years; thirteen more had passed since I had been back. The first thing I noticed was the lack of trees; a bad storm a few years ago brought down most of the big oaks and maples that were older than many of the houses. As a kid, I knew the environment intimately from playing in our backyard.

Comparisons made possible by distance brings light to what we know, never saw before or can newly appreciate.

### ***It takes wondering and making stuff up.***

As a naturalist, I don't know names. *Quercus* and *Equisetum* are the only Latin words in regular use in my vocabulary. Instead, I am an asker of questions. Why don't the live oak leaves at the top of the tree have spines like the lower ones do? Or, what advantage do the "scales" on incense cedars give compared to the needles on pines? I will notice details that others miss, ask questions that get everyone looking closer.

I can't just ask questions, though. I playfully call this fantasizing, hypothesizing, pondering the why and how of the world "making stuff up." Putting two pieces of information together through this guessing game gives a different sense of ownership or awareness. Think about the lost spring at Black's Spring—there are two of them! But only one is visible to hikers, with a short jaunt off the trail. Where is the second, indicated on a map but nowhere to be seen? Could the wetlands, which formed when Northside Drive was built, have covered up the second spring? There is a distinct spot just south of the trail where the second spring should be, that is always green with life. Or there is the bend in the road I take home every day, at Devil's Elbow, below El Capitan. I saw the rocks blocking the natural flow of the river. No one had told me that the long run-out rock fall, as retired park historian Jim Snyder called it, is the main cause of the sharp bend in the river where summertime swimmers abound. Maybe you've figured this out, too.

I am moving to Germany soon; in fact, I may already be there as you read this. I am faced with how to reconcile the end of my developing status as a Yosemite naturalist. How can I leave when I am just getting started? Many friends have said that the process will not end, that I can continue to learn about Yosemite from afar, and that I will use the knowledge that I gained here any other place that I go. No doubt what they say is true. So I will embrace the distance. But time and aimlessness and making stuff up exist only through first-hand experiences. There is no consolation for losing the walks in the field.

As with my trip to New Zealand, it takes going to Germany to come back to my home in Yosemite. Leaving shows me the impact of my time here. What have I gained, beyond the "facts"? The knowledge that nothing beats walking the landscape. The awareness that time isn't of the essence, it *is* the essence; that all things come to light and meaning through it. Time enables the aimlessness, the making up stuff and the distance.

What would have happened had I really left Yosemite five years ago, when I left for the "first" time? (When was your "first" time to leave? We all have at least one.) Maybe I would have missed it, the people and the place. Maybe I would have gone on to learn the same lessons someplace else. But I stayed. And Yosemite is, in a way, the birthplace of who I am. In the literal sense, Chris and I may one day return to the walled Valley in the Range of Light. In the figurative sense, every place I go, everywhere I walk, I will see through the lens of what I have learned here. Because of Yosemite, I call myself a naturalist.

I am thinking back to the sugar maple, turning red as the seasons change. In Germany, what will become my new maple tree? What will I see that will connect me to my time in Yosemite? We will arrive in the middle of winter. So I think the first signs of spring will speak to me the most and bring my attention to the changes of the urban natural world, rather than fall here in the Sierra. I will let go of the maple, after one last pilgrimage. And I will be open to whatever my new home offers me. But who knows? Maybe Dresden has a sugar maple, too.

*Joanna Cooke lived for seven and a half years in Yosemite Valley working for the Yosemite Institute, the National Park Service and the Yosemite Association. She recently learned that outside Dresden there are 1,000 foot cliffs and the best hiking in Germany. She hasn't seen a sugar maple yet.*



H. VANNOY DAVIS © CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

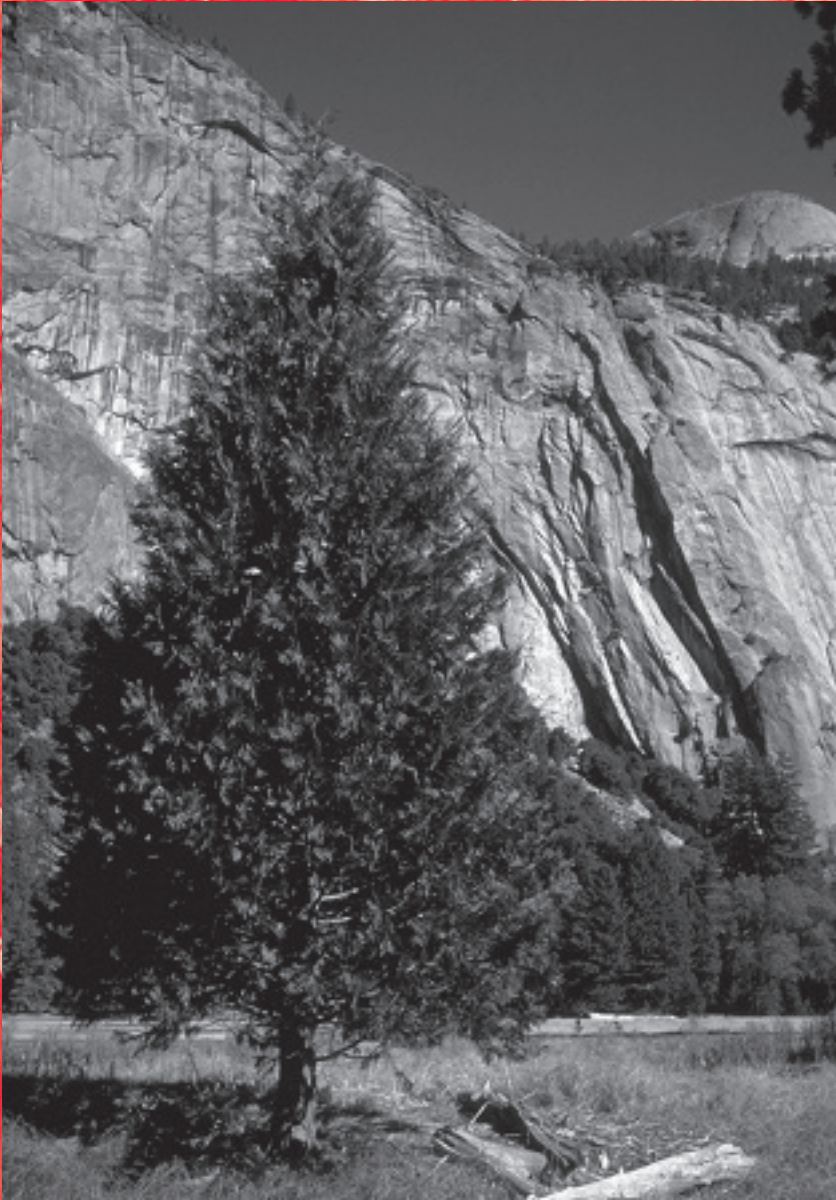


CHARLES WEBBER © CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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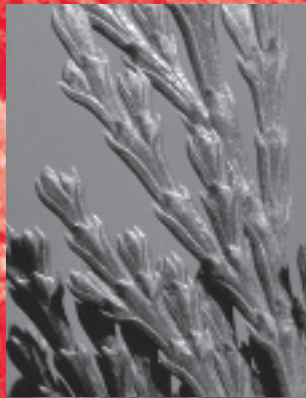
NEVA SNELLO © CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



ALBERT BEKKER © CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



CHARLES WEBBER © CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



*Clockwise, from upper left: great blue heron, canyon live oak, purple milkweed, horsetail, incense cedar scales and tree*



# HETCH HETCHY HISTORY

## SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION UNVEILS PERMANENT HISTORY EXHIBITS FOR VISITORS

The first of six permanent, state-of-the-art exhibits for visitors at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir was unveiled on May 7, 2007. The exhibits highlight the Hetch Hetchy Water and Power System, as well as the many wonderful recreational opportunities in the Hetch Hetchy watershed.

Featured in the exhibits are the 68-mile-long Hetch Hetchy Railroad; trails and waterfalls in the Hetch Hetchy watershed; water quality and the measures taken to protect it; the building of O'Shaughnessy Dam; and the clean renewable hydropower produced by this project. One display features a large-format map of Yosemite National Park and a northwest trails map of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir recently published by National Geographic Maps in partnership with the Yosemite Association.

More than 50,000 people visit the northwestern portion of Yosemite National Park, which encompasses the 459-square-mile Hetch Hetchy watershed. This pristine watershed has 287 miles of trails, including a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail, that offer visitors a less populated experience than other parts of the park.

These exhibits were created by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) in partnership with Yosemite National Park. Made of porcelain enamel and Corten steel, the exhibit panels are designed to blend into the surrounding natural beauty of the park and withstand the harsh weather conditions of the Sierra Nevada.





# PARK PROFILE

HARRY RAMIREZ



LAUREL REMATORE

**Name:** Harry Ramirez

**Job Title:** Backcountry Ranger

**Hometown:** Calexico, California

**Education:** Currently a biological science major at UC Merced; will graduate in May 2008

**Total number of years working in Yosemite:**  
Two seasons

**Describe your first visit to Yosemite.** Through campus recreation at UC Merced I visited Yosemite for the first time in August 2005. On the first day I found myself pulling bull thistle from Sentinel Meadow and marveling at the scenic views the Valley floor had to offer. I thought Yosemite was a very large and unfamiliar place where I could easily get lost. I remember hiking up the famous John Muir Trail (not knowing it was the JMT) and thinking, "I'm really out of shape."

**What was your first job in Yosemite?** During the summer of 2006, I was a YA cooperative student intern in Wawona. I developed and led weekly ecology programs in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, created and conducted a weekly natural history program on mountain lions, and provided informational resources to park visitors.

**What do you do now?** I have arguably the neatest job in the park. I work in the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center issuing wilderness permits; when I'm not doing that, I'm patrolling Yosemite's wilderness. I protect the park.

**What do you enjoy most about your current job?** I like talking to people before they enter the wilderness about wilderness ethics. I really appreciate my NPS and YA coworkers, too.

**How did your cooperative student intern experience prepare you for your current job?** It helped me become familiar with the park and the wonderful people who work here. I also learned many valuable skills and now feel that a park service career is within my reach.

**What do you think is the most important thing we (the Yosemite community) can do to encourage today's culturally diverse population to become stewards of this place?** Get people here. Once people see the park, Yosemite very discreetly speaks for itself.

**What is your favorite place in Yosemite?** I love the northern part of the park because it's very quiet and rugged.

**What is your favorite Yosemite book?** *Hiking Yosemite* by Suzanne Swedo.

**What is your favorite non-Yosemite book?** *The Dark Tower* series by Stephen King. *The Dark Tower* books have a western horror and fantasy touch to them, which I enjoy.

**Who is your favorite historical figure?** Abraham Lincoln, because in 1864 he signed the bill presented by Congress that placed Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove under the protection of the state of California.

**What do you think YA's most important role is?** Education! If the public is informed of the resources available and how conservation is central to the park idea, America's national parks will remain at the fingertips of all visitors for generations to come. America's great idea must be conserved.

**What else do you want to tell our readers that I haven't asked?** Yosemite belongs to us all, yet we know that it must remain a wilderness. The untrammeled nature of Yosemite is what makes it so special.

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**“Meet Yosemite!”** our experiment in walk-in interpretive programming, is off to a good start. Using the Yosemite Art and Education Center near the Village Store as a base, YA is offering reasonably-priced programs four days a week to reach more visitors and earn income to support our education programs. Pete Devine is conducting most of the programs, which include a popular birdwalk and a junior ranger program. One all-day walk examines the details of natural ‘catastrophes’ like Mono Winds, earthquakes, fires, rockfalls, floods and even evidence from a recent volcanic eruption. Another all-day program is a spin-off of the new book *“Off the Wall: Death in Yosemite”* to study the places where people have met untimely ends.

Pete says, “We saw all three species of swifts on one morning’s birdwalk, and I’ve had terrific fun getting kids sworn in as junior rangers. I’m excited about using what we call ‘disasters’ as a way to look at both history and natural history, and want to use the unfortunate history of fatal accidents in the park to prevent future problems for people who come to enjoy this beautiful place.”

In his thirtieth year of teaching for YA, author and naturalist Michael Ross is headlining “Meet Yosemite!” programs in Tuolumne Meadows this summer. His programs on geology, botany, birds and one just for kids and families are meeting valuable interpretive needs in the high country at this time of year.

We plan to continue Yosemite Valley programs into the fall, too, so check the park newspaper, *Yosemite Today*, for YA offerings when you’re in the park.



COURTESY PETE DEVINE

*Learning geology with Pete Devine.*

**Interns** will be winding down their summers soon to return to school at UC Merced after a full season here. We’re very pleased to have worked with NPS to house, train and provide scholarships to nine interns this year. They’ve worked with Interpretation, Wilderness and Wildlife to care for resources and inform the public.

Some of them will continue their Yosemite connections during the academic year by working at the Yosemite desk in the campus recreation center. We are very pleased to have three prior interns return with seasonal NPS jobs this summer: Harry Ramirez, Carla Saldana and Janet Melgoza. This is just the kind of outcome we are hoping will build a diverse constituency for places like Yosemite. If you’d like to contribute to this effort, we could use your financial support to sustain and expand this program. Please contact Pete or Laurel at the YA office to learn more about how you can encourage the next generation to become caretakers of Yosemite.

*Our UC Merced interns arrive in the park.*



KATHY DIMONT



**Custom Adventures** continue to grow in popularity for families and other groups who want a naturalist to accompany them on the trail for the day. Consider arranging this educational experience through YA for your next outing in the park. Here's what a recent client had to say about their day afield with naturalist LothLorien Stewart:

*Hello! I can't thank you enough for setting us up to have Lothy for the day on Sunday. She was AWESOME! We hated to say goodbye to her at the end of the day. We thoroughly enjoyed Glacier Point and especially the hike up Vernal Fall. I don't know if we would have toughed it out without her encouragement. She was very friendly, and she fit right in with our senses of humor...ha ha ha! She knew so much information and felt free to share it with us throughout the day. We all agreed that it was money well spent! Please know that Lothy is an amazing "employee" of yours!*

—C. MERRIWEATHER PARTY, MAY 2007

**Outdoor Adventures** continue with late summer and fall field seminars to deepen your education and experience of the park. There are five courses scheduled for the Tuolumne Meadows area, on either side of the September 8 Members' Meeting. We are pleased to have the author of the monumental *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite*, Steve Botti, leading courses on both Friday and Sunday. Fall also promises outstanding art and photography courses with masters of today such as Andie Thrams, Chris van Winkle, Ken Rockwell, Keith Walklet, Dave Wyman, and Lucy Parker's unique Indian basketry course. YA's Pete Devine and NPS geologist Greg Stock are leading an elite excursion to measure the shrinking Maclure Glacier in September. And Ranger Dick Ewart will lead another fall exploration of the elements in "Ice, Wind and Fire." Your higher education awaits!

### Yosemite Art and Education Center

If you're in Yosemite Valley this season, please come by the Yosemite Art and Education Center at the lower end of the pedestrian mall in Yosemite Village. Here you'll find art supplies and free public art classes six days a week, taught by a different artist each week. You can find a list of artists on our website at [www.yosemite.org/visitor/AAC.html](http://www.yosemite.org/visitor/AAC.html). At the YAEC you can also learn more about our Outdoor Adventures and sign up for an interpretive program on the spot. We'll be conducting a new series of fee-based naturalist hikes this summer, in both the Valley and Tuolumne Meadows. These provide hikes in a different avenue for visitors both new to Yosemite and familiar with the essentials to connect to the charms of their park. You'll find more details in the park's newspaper, *Yosemite Today*.



CHRISTY HOLLOWAY

A group of good friends on a custom adventure.

### YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION PARTNERS WITH LEAVE NO TRACE



To support the National Park Service in promoting sensitive use of Yosemite's popular wilderness and frontcountry, we've joined with the nonprofit Leave No Trace, Inc. to help spread the word about the practices and philosophy of traveling gently on the land. Look in our bookstores for literature that addresses LNT issues.

#### The seven principles of LNT are:

- Plan ahead and prepare;
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces;
- Properly dispose of waste;
- Leave what you find;
- Minimize fire impacts;
- Respect wildlife;
- Be considerate of other visitors.

# MEMBERS PAGES

## Jack Laws to Headline 32nd Annual Members' Meeting

Naturalist, educator and artist John (Jack) Muir Laws delights in exploring the natural world and sharing this love with others. He promises to do just that at YA's 32nd Annual Fall Members' Meeting on Saturday, September 8, 2007. Laws will be the featured speaker at our afternoon gathering outside Tuolumne Lodge, and will sign books at the reception immediately following the meeting.

Laws has worked as an environmental educator for over 25 years in California, Wyoming and Alaska. He is trained as a wildlife biologist and is a research associate of the California Academy of Sciences. His illustrations capture the feeling of the living plant or animal, while also including details critical for identification. He teaches classes on natural history, conservation biology, scientific illustration and field sketching. His newly-released book, *The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, is a guide to more than 1,700 species of plants and animals, beautifully illustrated with 2,710 original watercolor paintings. An accomplished author, Laws has also

published *Sierra Birds: a Hiker's Guide*, and is a regular contributor to *Bay Nature* magazine.

Park superintendent Mike Tollefson, Board Chair Christy Holloway and YA Chief Executive Officer David Guy will address the Saturday afternoon assemblage as well. We will offer a variety of interpretive walks on Saturday and Sunday morning, an optional buffet lunch on Saturday, book signings with authors Jack Laws, Susan Snyder (*Past Tents—The Way We Camped*), and Steve Botti (*An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*), and our popular fundraising raffle.

You can round out your members' meeting experience by taking an Outdoor Adventure conveniently scheduled on Friday or Sunday of that weekend for a modest additional fee. Enroll in Pete Devine's "North Dome Day Hike" or Steve Botti's "Tuolumne Meadows Botany Stroll" on Friday, and Michael Ross' "Autumn Birding in Yosemite" or Steve Botti's "Budd Lake Botanists Hike"



on Sunday for unforgettable all-day outings with talented naturalists. Proceeds from the Outdoor Adventure program directly benefit Yosemite, and YA members receive a 15% tuition discount. For more information or to register for an Outdoor Adventure, please call 209-379-2321 or visit [yosemite.org/seminars](http://yosemite.org/seminars).

Information about the members' meeting and Tuolumne Lodge tent cabin lottery was mailed to all members in late June. Competition for on-site lodging is fierce, but many other lodging and camping options exist; there is room for everyone at this gathering. Call the membership department at 209-379-2317 for more information. We hope you'll join us in Tuolumne!

## Upgrade Today—Be Part of Something Special

Member dues and donations provide vital support for YA's education and stewardship programs in Yosemite. We invite you to help broaden our reach by upgrading your membership or making an additional gift to YA today. With your support, we can expand our cooperative student intern program, develop more innovative field seminars, promote artistic expression, launch important publications, and involve more talented members in our nationally-recognized volunteer programs that give back to the park. To show our appreciation, you will be invited to special gatherings that celebrate this new level of support.

Benefactor, Patron and Sustaining members, as well as those who have given \$250 or more to YA in the last year, are invited to attend a special evening reception on Friday, September 7, 2007 at Parsons Lodge. Meet our members' meeting speakers Jack Laws and Superintendent Tollefson, along with YA board and staff, as you enjoy wine, appetizers and a sublime alpine sunset.

Benefactor members, as well as those who have given \$1,000 or more to YA in the last year, are invited to an elegant fall outdoor dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow on October 6, 2007. This convivial gathering is hosted by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite to honor YA's most generous supporters. This weekend will include a guided viewing of the park's Chiura Obata exhibit with guest curator (and Obata's granddaughter) Kimi Kodani Hill.

Separate invitations will be mailed to those who qualify for these exclusive events. If you would like to attend either, there is still time to make a donation or upgrade your membership! Please call the membership department at 209-379-2317 for more information.





## YA Board Election of Candidates

Several members of YA's board of trustees have reached their term limits or are not seeking reelection in 2008. The Association's bylaws state that candidates for the office of elected trustee will be selected by a nominating committee which is appointed from the membership of the Association by the Chairperson, with the concurrence of the board. Giving consideration to the knowledge and experience most needed to guide the Association's strategic direction, the nominating committee prepares a list of candidates for each seat on the board. The nominating committee presents its candidates to the members at the annual meeting, which will be held on September 8, 2007.

The members may, by petition, nominate additional candidates that are different from those selected by the nominating committee. Petitions nominating candidates must be on the forms available from the Association office. The petitions must be signed by 4% of the members, whose signatures may be collected throughout the year. To be valid, these petitions must be filed with the board Chairperson or the CEO by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the annual meeting, or by the close of the annual meeting, whichever time is later. Upon request, the Association will mail nominating materials to the membership on behalf of the petitioner and at the petitioner's expense.

If in a given year there are only as many candidates as there are openings, the board generally votes to approve the slate without incurring the expense of an election mailing to the membership. Please contact the YA office if you have any questions about this process.

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## New Discount at Sequoia High Sierra Camp

Here is a special offer for Yosemite Association members! The Sequoia High Sierra Camp invites you to enjoy a special 20% off discounted rate for the 2007 season.

Located in the secluded backcountry of Giant Sequoia National Monument, the camp features thirty-six spacious canvas bungalows with deluxe guest comforts such as daily maid service, steaming hot showers, plush-top beds with triple-sheeted linens, and three gourmet meals prepared fresh daily by an on-site executive chef.



BILL BECHER

For recreation, enjoy a picnic lunch on a multitude of scenic day hikes on Sequoia National Forest land. Excellent fly fishing abounds in numerous nearby creeks and mountain lakes. Bring your binoculars and cameras to view the spectacular wildlife and panoramic vistas.



Advance phone reservations are necessary and may be made toll-free at 866-654-2877. You must state that you are a Yosemite Association member when making your reservations to receive the 20% discount.

This discount offer is valid through October 7, 2007 (or the seasonal closure of the camp, if earlier). You can learn more about this "oasis in the wilderness" by visiting the camp's website at [www.sequoiahighsierracamp.com](http://www.sequoiahighsierracamp.com).

## Volunteer in Yosemite Valley

Did you miss the chance to volunteer with YA this summer? Want to give something back, but don't have an entire week or month to spare?

Here's a solution: join the weekly Drop-in Program of the Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY). HaPY volunteers work alongside Resources Management and Science staff to remove invasive plants and assist with other habitat restoration projects in Yosemite Valley.

This four-hour program allows volunteers of all ages to experience restoration efforts in Yosemite firsthand. If you're in the Valley and have some time to assist, drop on in. All ages are welcome, though children under the age of sixteen require a chaperone.

### HaPY Drop-in Program Details:

**Where:** Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

**When:** 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Saturdays:** August 4 & 18, September 15, October 6 & 20

**Wednesdays:** August 8 & 22, September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24

Groups larger than ten must pre-register. All volunteers must wear long pants and closed-toe boots. Long sleeves, water, snacks, and sunblock are strongly recommended.

For more information and registration, please call:

Resources Management and Science,  
Vegetation and Ecological Restoration  
Volunteer coordinators at 209-379-1304  
or email [Veronica\\_Johnson@nps.gov](mailto:Veronica_Johnson@nps.gov).

### MEMBER INFO LINE

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. Call us at 202-379-2317.

## Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series' 16th Season Underway

The Yosemite Association is proud to help support the Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series, underway now at Tuolumne Meadows. We invite you to stop in and experience these educational, inspirational and entertaining offerings. All programs, unless otherwise noted, begin at 2:00 p.m. and last approximately one hour. Allow 30 minutes of walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either the Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Admission is free.

### Saturday, August 4

*The Standing Trees in Tenaya Lake: Their 1,000-Year Story*

Slide presentation by Edmund Andrews, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey

*An Evening of Stories*

7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Performance by writer/storyteller Gioia Timpanelli

### Sunday, August 5

*The Rustic Style in Tuolumne Meadows: Architecture and Landscape Design*  
Slide presentation by Timothy Babalis, NPS Landscape Historian

*Nature Stories and Place: Bringing Natural History, Old Texts, and Stories Together*

3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Workshop with writer/storyteller Gioia Timpanelli

### Saturday, August 11

*Meltdown: The Rise and Recent Fall of Sierra Nevada Glaciers*

Slide presentation by Greg Stock, Park Geologist

### Sunday, August 12

*Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*  
2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Talk and discussion with Bill McKibben, author

### Saturday and Sunday, August 18 and 19

*11th Annual Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival*

Poets Dorianne Laux, David Mas Masumoto, and Kay Ryan  
Musician Shira Kammen, violin and vielle

### Saturday, August 25

*Time Travelers, Shape Shifters, and Innovators: The Origin and Evolution of the California Flora*

Slide presentation by Erik Westerlund, Ranger Naturalist

### Sunday, August 26

*Shaping a Vision for the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River*  
Slides, talk, and discussion with Kristina Rylands, NPS Tuolumne Planning Project Manager

The Summer Series is supported by the National Park Service, Yosemite Association, Lorelee Tucker Hiramoto Memorial Fund, Friends of Parsons Lodge, Institute for Law and Systems Research, and Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation and the Hearst Foundation.



## Oops! Pardon our Mistake!

In June we mailed a batch of renewal reminders to various members, only to discover after it was sent that a printing glitch added an extra name to some people's reminder forms. If you are one of the unlucky recipients of an extra name you don't recognize on your renewal reminder, please be assured that our database is correct and just the printout is in error. We apologize for any concern or inconvenience this problem caused you. We are working hard to address the issue. In the meantime, if you want to renew your membership using the faulty renewal form, simply cross off the extra name and return it as usual. Questions or concerns? Please call the Membership Department at 209-379-2317 and we'll be glad to help.

## May We Share Your Address With Other Nonprofits?

Occasionally we have the opportunity to trade our mailing list with other nonprofit organizations, to increase our respective membership rosters and enhance our ability to support our parks or institutions. List trades are invaluable to nonprofits because they introduce us to new potential members while helping us minimize our operational costs.

Although we have rarely capitalized on such opportunities, we would like to be able to do so when we know the other organizations to be reputable and to have something of value to offer to our members. If you would prefer *not* to have us share your name and address, please notify the Membership department by calling us at 209-379-2317, by sending an e-mail to [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org), or by mailing a note to us at P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. All "do not share" requests will be acknowledged and honored in perpetuity. Note that telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are not released or traded for any reason.





# ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:

OA = Outdoor Adventure

YAEC = Yosemite Art & Education Center free courses

AUG.

**Daily:** Yosemite Museum exhibit: “Chiura Obata: Art of Yosemite 1927–1950”

**Early August:** Summer 2007 issue of quarterly members’ journal *Yosemite* to be sent

**Aug 3-5:** OA #29: Half Dome Overnight with Pete Devine

**Aug 6-11:** YAEC: David A. Deyell, Fun with Watercolor

**Aug 9-12:** OA #23: Tuolumne Meadows en Plein Air with Chuck Waldman

**August 12-18:** Wilderness Restoration Work Week (Sunrise High Sierra Camp)

**Aug 13-18:** YAEC: Frank Paulsen, Drawing with Colored Pencils/Pastels

**Aug 19-24:** OA #30: Advanced Backpack to the Cathedral Range with Dick Ewart

**Aug 20-25:** YAEC: Milton Bullard, Sketching Yosemite

**Aug 27-Sep 1:** YAEC: Pam Pederson, Travel Sketching

SEPT.

**Daily:** Yosemite Museum exhibit: “Chiura Obata: Art of Yosemite 1927–1950”

**Sep 3:** YA Administrative Office closed for Labor Day holiday

**Sep 3-8:** YAEC: Osamu Saito, Watercolor by Osamu

**Sep 7:** OA #33: North Dome Day Hike with Pete Devine

**Sep 7:** OA #34: Tuolumne Meadows Botany Stroll with Steve Botti

**Sep 7:** Donor reception at Parsons Lodge

**Sep 8:** 32nd Annual Members’ Meeting with naturalist/illustrator Jack Laws, Tuolumne Lodge

**Sep 9:** OA #35: Autumn Birding in Tuolumne with Michael Ross

**Sep 9:** OA #36: Budd Lake Botanists Hike with Steve Botti

**Sep 10-15:** YAEC: Marcy Wheeler, Acrylics—Impressive and Expressive Yosemite

**Sep 14-16:** OA #37: Ice, Wind, and Fire with Dick Ewart

**Sep 14-16:** Winter Ready Work Weekend (White Wolf)

**Mid-Sep:** tentative seasonal closing date for Happy Isles Nature Center

**Sep 16-22:** Yosemite Valley Fall Restoration Work Week (Yosemite Valley)

**Sep 17-21:** OA #24: Quick Sketching in Watercolor with Chris van Winkle

**Sep 17-22:** YAEC: Richard D. Keyes, Travel Vignettes with Pen and Ink

**Sep 20-23:** OA #41: Maclure Glacier Survey with Pete Devine and Greg Stock

**Sep 24-29:** YAEC: Pat Hunter, Watercolor

**Sep 29-30:** OA #39: Miwok-Paiute Seedbeater Basketry with Lucy Parker

**Late Sep:** tentative seasonal closing date for Tuolumne Visitor Center

OCT.

**Daily through Oct 21:** Yosemite Museum exhibit: “Chiura Obata: Art of Yosemite 1927–1950”

**Early Oct:** tentative seasonal closing date for Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio

**Oct 1-6:** YAEC: Kirah Van Sickle, Acrylics—Yosemite Diamond

**Oct 6:** Donor Dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow, hosted by DNC

**Oct 8-13:** YAEC: Andie Thrams, The Illuminated Field Journal

**Mid-Oct:** tentative seasonal closing date for Mariposa Grove Museum and Big Oak Flat Information Station

**Oct 15-20:** YAEC: Mariko Lofink, Waterfalls and Streams – Watercolor

**Oct 19-21:** OA #25: Forest Illuminations with Andie Thrams

**Oct 21:** last day to view Yosemite Museum exhibit: “Chiura Obata: Art of Yosemite 1927 – 1950”

**Oct 22-24:** OA #26: Autumn Light Photography with Dave Wyman and Ken Rockwell

**Oct 22-27:** YAEC: Sonja Hamilton, Autumn Color Watercolor

NOV.

**Early Nov:** Fall 2007 issue of quarterly members’ journal *Yosemite* to be sent

**Nov 8-11:** OA #27: Focusing on Nature: Autumn Photography in Yosemite with Keith Walklet

**Mid-Nov:** Ostrander Ski Hut lottery applications due

**Nov 22-23:** YA Administrative Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

DEC.

**Dec 8:** OA #38: Woodpeckers: the Quest for Eleven with Pete Devine

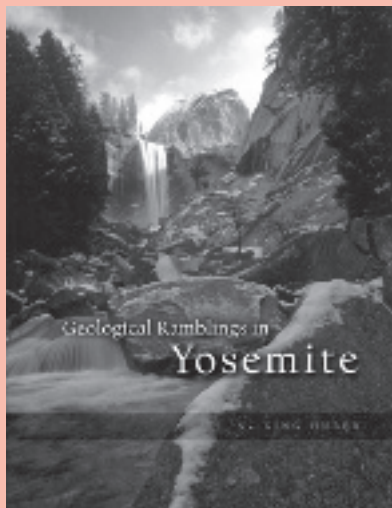
**Mid-Dec:** Ostrander Ski Hut opens for the winter

**Dec 24-25:** YA Administrative Office closed for Christmas

For an expanded events calendar, visit [yosemite.org/member/calendar.htm](http://yosemite.org/member/calendar.htm)

To register for an Outdoor Adventure or to book a custom adventure, call 209-379-2321 or visit [yosemite.org/seminars](http://yosemite.org/seminars). Proceeds from all YA programs help support Yosemite!

## BOOKS



### **Geological Ramblings in Yosemite**

by *N. King Huber*

*Geological Ramblings in Yosemite* is a collection of essays by N. King Huber, a Geologist Emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey who amassed extensive field experience in Yosemite National Park. Writing for a non-technical audience interested in geology and including 90 black and white photos, diagrams and maps, Huber tells the dramatic story of how the park (with particular emphasis on Yosemite Valley) has been shaped by volcanoes, glaciers, streams, erosion and rock slides. His essays pay tribute to early geologists as well as the evolution of our understanding of the geological forces at work in the park. He discusses how these scientific pioneers reached their conclusions and how modern geologists come to theirs. \$16.95 **Member Price \$14.41**

### **New Guardians for the Golden Gate: How America Got a Great National Park**

by *Amy Meyer*

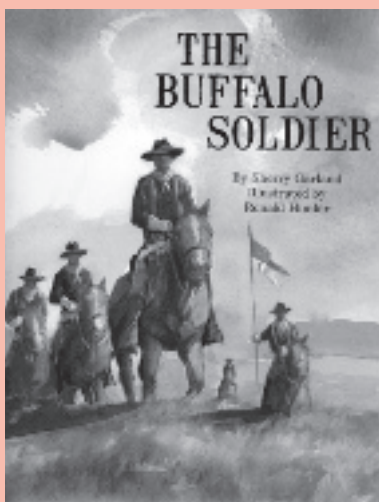
National parks are a distinctively American idea. But it takes people to make them happen. This unique, insider's account tells how Bay Area activists forged bipartisan local and national support for an unprecedented campaign to create a great new national park. In 1970, beginning with the former Army lands originally reserved to protect San Francisco Bay, the grassroots People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area succeeded in preserving the spectacular land that frames the Golden Gate. In a story spanning more than thirty eventful years, Amy Meyer tells how dedicated citizens, including visionary conservationist Edgar Wayburn, master politician Phillip Burton

and a battalion of lesser-known but key allies made our democratic system work for the common good.

A bold vision, dedicated citizens, and a variety of old and new conservation strategies saved these dramatic and historic lands for the American people. Pictures by noted California photographers capture the park's grandeur and new activities. Hardcover \$24.95 **Member Price \$21.21**



**NEW GUARDIANS  
FOR THE GOLDEN GATE**  
HOW AMERICA GOT A GREAT NATIONAL PARK  
AMY MEYER with photographs by JAMES HUNTER



### **The Buffalo Soldier**

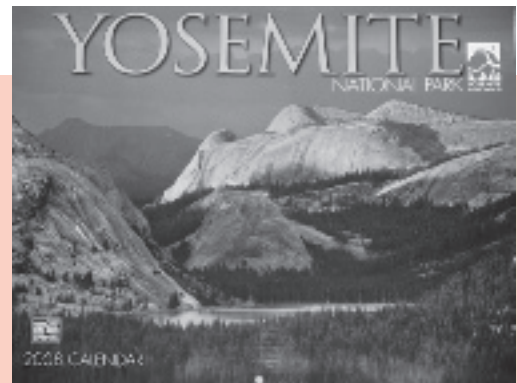
by *Sherry Garland*

Using the perspective of a fictional recruit, Garland recounts the history of the two African American cavalry regiments that served the U.S. from 1866 through 1953. Nicknamed "buffalo soldiers" by the Cheyenne Indians for their curly hair and bravery, the men protected settlers on the western frontier, marched up San Juan Hill in 1898, and continued to serve in separate regiments until the military was integrated at the end of the Korean War. Garland's mythical enlistee sees the regiment as a means to earn a steady income, obtain an education, and gain respect, despite adversity on and off the battlefield. Himler's vibrant illustrations capture the broad vistas of western landscapes, the excitement of horseback pursuit, and the hardships of the work, while conveying respect for the loyal soldiers who endured it all. An author's note provides more information about these soldiers and their contribu-

tions, making this an excellent introduction to a sometimes-overlooked part of American history. —Kay Weisman, American Library Association. Reading level: Ages 9–12. Hardcover \$15.95 **Member Price \$13.56**



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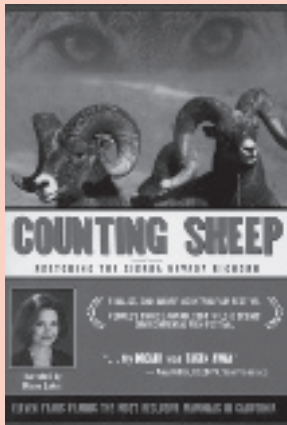


## GIFTS

### 2008 Yosemite National Park Calendar

John Muir lived in the Yosemite Valley from 1868 to 1873 and wrote, "Nowhere will you see the majestic operations of nature more clearly revealed beside the frailest, most gentle and peaceful things." The Yosemite calendar shares the spirit of awe Muir felt so clearly more than 130 years ago. Featuring full-color photographs of Yosemite National Park in all seasons.

\$13.95 **Member Price \$11.86**



### Counting Sheep: Restoring the Sierra Nevada Bighorn DVD

What happens when a protected predator threatens an endangered species? High in California's Sierra Nevada, the last few native bighorn sheep are fighting for survival. Threats from mountain lions have forced wildlife officials to take extraordinary measures to protect the bighorn. Two remarkable men stand between the bighorn and extinction. An oboe-playing mountain man turned consummate scientist has an unlikely ally: a mountain lion tracker of skill and instinct, a modern day frontiersman. This stunning film, eleven years in the making, features the world's only footage of Sierra bighorn sheep. *Counting Sheep* was a People's Choice Award Winner at the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival in 2004.

\$24.95 **Member Price \$21.21**

### Tuolumne Meadows and Wawona Logo T-Shirts

These colorful shirts sport the new logos developed by Michael Osborne Design for YA's park identity program. The stone-washed shirts are printed on the left chest with 'Experience Your Yosemite,' and carry a full-color logo (about 9 inches across) on their backs. The Tuolumne Meadows adult-sized shirts are garment-dyed in Chrome, while the Wawona adult-sized shirts are dyed Goldenrod. All shirts are available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, and XX-Large. The shirt sizes run slightly large. These pre-shrunk, 100% cotton, garment-washed t-shirts are manufactured by Anvil.

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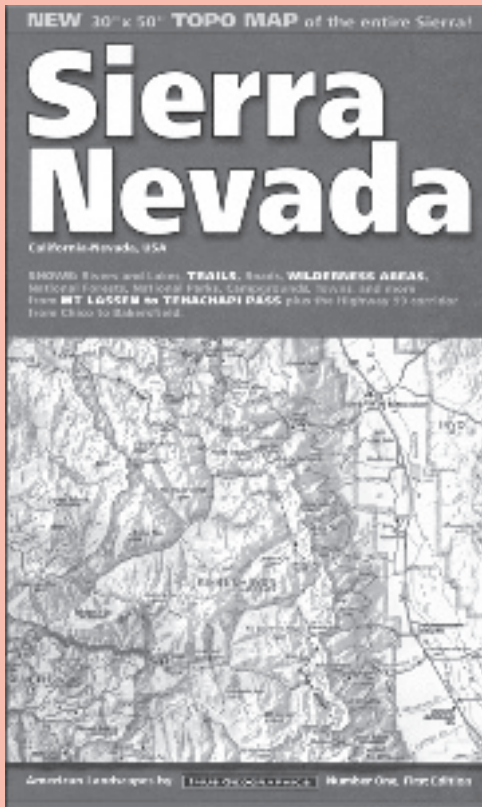
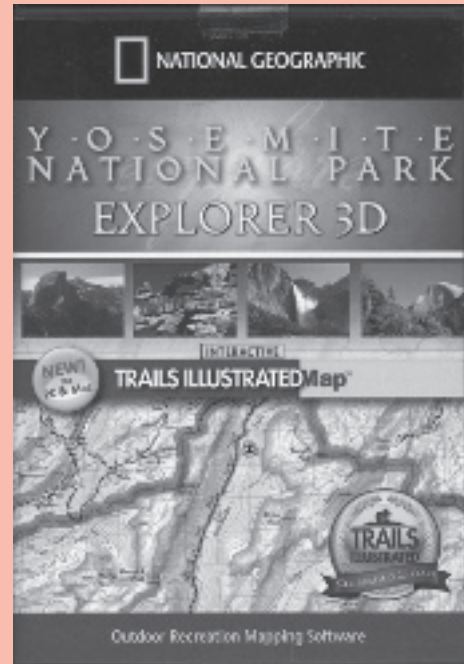


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## MAPS

### Yosemite National Park Explorer 3D Interactive Trails Illustrated Map CD ROM

Trails Illustrated's latest maps are available digitally with added features to help you create the exact map you need. Automatically highlight a selected trail on the map to see the elevation profile, get GPS waypoints, view the trail in 3D, or draw your own route off the beaten path. View the maps in 3D—either fly along a trail or get a 360-degree view of any point on the map. A resizable split screen enables you to view the maps in 3D and 2D simultaneously. Enhance your GPS device by transferring waypoints and routes between the software and your handheld GPS unit. Customize the maps with digital photos, notes, and symbols, add latitude/longitude or UTM grids, center on the area you want, and print on your home printer in color or grayscale. \$14.95 **Member Price \$12.71**



### Sierra Nevada Map and Poster

From Lassen Volcanic National Park through the High Sierra to Tehachapi Pass, this map displays the entire Sierra Nevada range in one continuous sweep of mountain landscape. Includes Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Sequoia National Park, thirty-two wilderness areas, Mount Whitney, Lake Tahoe, Gold Country, Mammoth Lakes, rivers, snowfields, roads, trails, campgrounds, towns and localities. Rolled posters are printed on heavyweight paper.

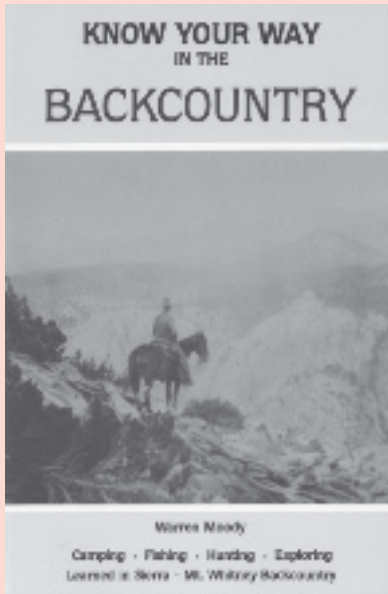
Folded Map \$9.95 **Member Price \$8.46;**

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**Know Your Way in the Backcountry**

*by Warren Moody*

This book is filled with practical know-how about everything from filling and tying a pack to tracking a mountain lion. Warren Moody has spent his life learning to respect the ways of the backcountry, and he shares his experiences in lively, entertaining stories that any outdoor enthusiast will enjoy. Moody first learned mountain ways from the frontiersmen who settled the American West. His early days in cattle ranching and fighting forest fires side-by-side with neighbors are a part of America's heritage. Paperback \$7.95 **Special Sale Price \$4.00** (member discount does not apply)

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ENROLLMENTS AND GIFTS PROCESSED BETWEEN APRIL 3 THROUGH JUNE 26, 2007

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## You Can Help Yosemite in So Many Ways

Your dues and donations make possible vital educational programs and services in Yosemite. Did you know there are even more ways you can make a real difference? We invite you to consider these other giving mechanisms. For more information, visit our website at [yosemite.org/helpus/donations.html](http://yosemite.org/helpus/donations.html) or call the Member Information phone line at 209-379-2317.

### • Double Your Contribution

Enclose your employer's matching gift form with your member dues or donations, and we'll take care of the rest.

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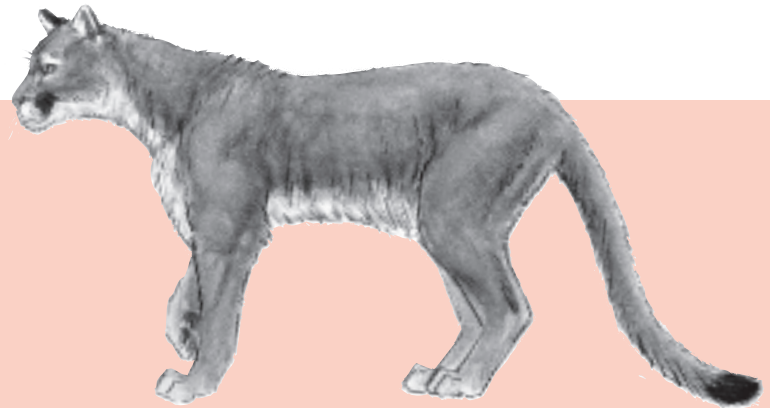
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The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals over 70½ years old to transfer all or a portion of an IRA to YA and not have that money count as income for the year of the donation.

### • Shop and Learn with YA

Shop at YA stores and our Internet store, or take an Outdoor Adventure. Proceeds from all YA programs and services benefit Yosemite!



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## 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 Yosemite Art 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 also receive:**

**Supporting:** *The Ahwahnee—Yosemite's Grand Hotel* by Keith S. Walklet, the carefully researched story of this remarkable hotel.

**Contributing:** *Obata's Yosemite*, featuring 85 full-color reproductions of Chiura Obata's sumi ink paintings, watercolors, and woodblock prints along with illuminating essays.

**Sustaining:** *Yosemite—Art of an American Icon* edited by Amy Scott, a companion to the landmark exhibit, plus invitations to special gatherings during the year.

**Patron:** *Kolbrenner's Yosemite*, featuring stunning photography by Ansel Adams' student Bob Kolbrenner, plus invitations to special gatherings during the year.

**Benefactor:** "Half Dome from Glacier Point," a matted 8" x 10" Ansel Adams Special Edition Photograph, plus invitations to special gatherings during the year, including an elegant fall dinner at the Ahwahnee Meadow.

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E-mail can be sent to: [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org) Website: <http://yosemite.org>

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