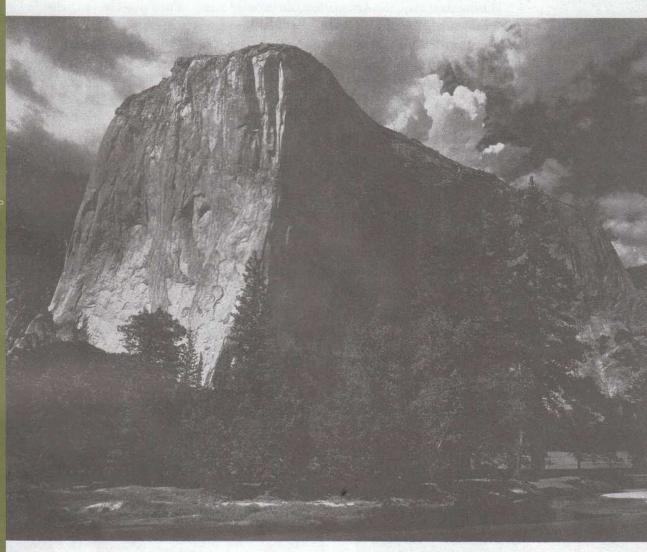


# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

VOLUME XXXVI - NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1957



EL CAPITAN, YOSEMITE VALLEY

—Ansel Adams

# A Message from Yosemite

With summer in full swing, there are many exciting opportunities to enjoy and seek a deeper connection to Yosemite National Park and the natural world. Gas prices and the foreign exchange rate are providing new incentives for people to travel closer to home these days. We encourage you to take this time to rediscover Yosemite National Park. Remember that Amtrak service to Merced, as well as the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS), provide affordable and environmentally-friendly service to the park.

As you enter the park this summer, you will notice a new *Yosemite Guide* developed by the park's partners in concert with the National Park Service. In addition to a redesigned map, the new guide provides visitors with fresh and valuable information about the park. More detailed information can be obtained in advance by visiting the Association website to purchase our visitors kit or to plan your visit in more detail (see www.yosemitestore.com or www.yosemite.org and click on "store").

During your visit, the Association can provide many valuable services to help connect you to Yosemite. Our outdoor classroom offers numerous venues to explore the park, including custom trips to see and learn about a specific part of the park as well as naturalist-led walks and seminars on a wide variety of topics. There are opportunities to volunteer for a week in the park and to restore trails and meadows, or to spend part of a Friday volunteering for the NPS as a habitat protector. You can also experience the Yosemite backcountry overnight by obtaining a permit through our wilderness reservation system.

For those with children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews, the new Junior Ranger Center at the Happy Isles Nature Center is the hub for activities for all ages. The Center's programs include walks for families and kids led by naturalists and the *Junior Ranger* and *Little Cub Handbooks* that children can complete and present to a park ranger to receive a Junior Ranger Badge.

Those who cannot visit Yosmite this summer can still stay connected to the park through the various publications and products offered on our website, www.yosemite.org.

To help build on your commitment to Yosemite, the Association Board of Trustees has recently adopted a new mission statement that captures the energy and vibrancy that the Association and its members bring to Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada:

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to *learn about*, *enjoy and experience* Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. We celebrate the majesty and grandeur of this region through our visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, membership activities and community programs. Our many programs and services help people of all ages and backgrounds gain an enduring and inspirational connection to the park. This deeper connection builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks—for generations to come.

We hope that you will join us in telling our story to your friends and colleagues as you encourage them to experience Yosemite this summer and fall.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Gathering on September 6, 2008, at Wawona. Have a great summer!

Cover: The park's first regular publication, Yosemite Nature Notes, featured stories on local ecology and cultural history as well as images by Ansel Adams.

David Guy, Chief Executive Officer

# THE NATURE OF YOSEMITE

t was 1920, and Yosemite National Park had just begun a novel program to teach visitors about Yosemite's natural wonders. Called the Yosemite Nature Guide Service, it was organized by Ansel Hall, the park's first naturalist, and zoologist and paleontologist Harold Bryant. The service's offerings included nature walks, lectures and exhibits at the park's brand-new museum.

To spread the word among visitors about these and other natural happenings at Yosemite, the Park Service began publishing a circular called *Yosemite Nature Notes* in 1922. Superintendent W.B. Lewis writes in an early issue that "this is the official publication of the Educational Department of Yosemite National Park. Its purpose is to supply dependable information on the natural history and scientific features of Yosemite National Park." The publication would become a venerable part of the park's interpretive programs.

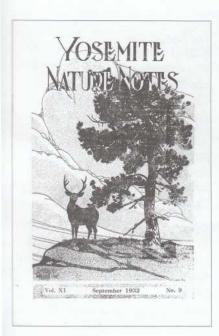
The premier issue of July 10, 1922, was a modest affair. Composed on a typewriter and mimeographed, its short news briefs noted the presence of a water ouzel nest on Tenaya Creek "about forty yards beyond the Iron Spring," a description of the nine-foot cross section of giant sequoia trunk that was attracting crowds at the museum and the fact that Mr. and Mrs. S. Mitchell of Visalia had donated "an exceedingly fine collection of old Indian baskets" to the museum.

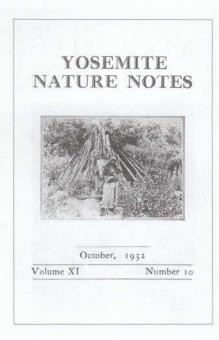
The Yosemite Natural History Association took over the publication of *Nature Notes* with the January 1925 issue. With more funding and resources to devote to production, the Association was able to produce *Nature Notes* on a real printing press, and add high quality photos and illustrations.

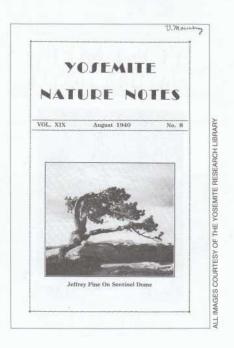
Coverage leaned heavily toward birds, recent museum acquisitions and natural history curiosities or ephemeral events. For example, the October 1932 issue showcases the plants and animals found atop the granite of Half Dome.

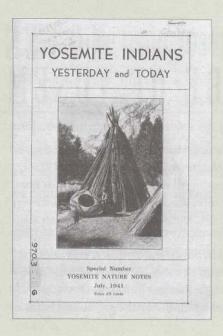
Most of the articles in *Nature Notes* were written by park staff, and the list of contributors includes the names of many notable rangers. In the April 1930 issue, ranger naturalist Clifford C. Presnall wrote "Yosemite's Sky Roof" about the excellent stargazing opportunities in the park. As early as September 1932, legendary ranger naturalist Carl Sharsmith, who eventually became a Yosemite icon himself, was penning contributions of his own. The issue highlighting Half Dome ecology also includes "Nature Garden: a New Feature of Yosemite Museum" by Enid Michael, the park's first female ranger naturalist. Michael, a frequent *Nature Notes* contributor, would go on to compose the largest body of Yosemite writings by a single author.

Even so, the publication did not neglect the park's human history. In May of 1936, explorer and early





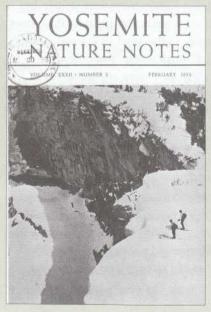


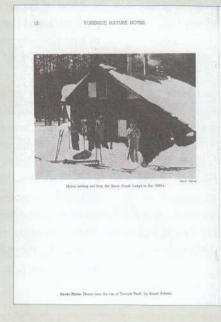


# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

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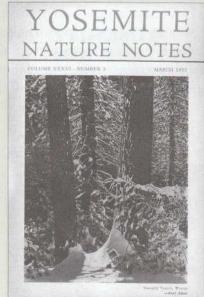




Yosemite Nature Notes THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE YORKMITE NATURALIST CIVISION AND

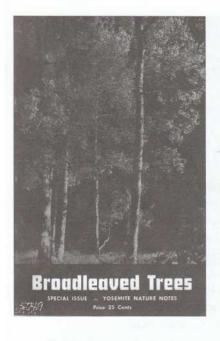
# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

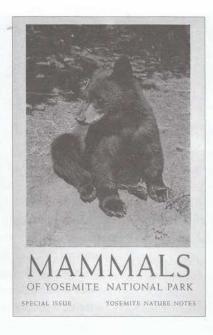




### The Evolution of Yosemite Nature Notes

Begun in 1922, the publication reflects 40 years of shifts in artistic styles, scientific discoveries and changes in the park. From mimeographed sheets composed on a typewriter, the publication matured into a showcase for artists such as Ansel Adams and Yosemite writers such as Mary Curry Tresidder. Though publication ceased in 1961, the magazine remains a storehouse of lore and literature for anyone interested in the natural and human history of Yosemite National Park.







member of the Sierra Club Theodore Solomons wrote an article on "The Muir of the Nineties." Yosemite historian and author Shirley Sargent wrote "The Coulterville Road" for the September 1951 issue. Even Mary Curry Tresidder, an author and daughter of the park's concessioner, contributed; her "Story of the Snow Creek Lodge" appears in February 1953. A December 1959 story also discusses the contents of Galen Clark's library.

Over the years, 43 single-subject issues were published. Most covered general nature topics such as bears, geology, fishes, and birds. More specific themes included Devils Postpile (once managed as part of Yosemite National Park), early Yosemite Valley settler James Hutchings, and the Tioga Road. Park Superintendent Carl Russell noted in the March 1949 issue that special issues "are printed in quantity in order that certain especially interesting chapters of the Yosemite story may be available to park visitors in a handy, inexpensive form." For example, the July 1941 special issue was "Yosemite Indians Yesterday and Today," by Elizabeth H. Godfrey. Almost seventy years later, after revisions by Jim Snyder and Craig Bates, this issue is still sold by YA for just \$2.95.

For aficionados of nature photography, the covers and graphics of *Nature Notes* are of particular interest. Beginning with the August 1948 issue, the photographs of Ansel Adams are regularly featured on the cover. The March 1948 issue noted that "Mr. Adams, through Virginia [his wife], has given gracious permission to use his photos on previous occasions, and has agreed to help us with more prints." In January 1952, the lead item was "Ansel Adams Presents New Cover." Adams, the story notes, has "made a gift of the new cover format appearing for the first time on this issue. It is designed to give the widest latitude in the use of the Adams photographs, thus greatly enhancing their unique quality." Other issues

feature Adams' photographs inside as well, some of which do not appear to have been published anywhere else. The association between Adams and *Nature Notes* continued for ten years, with the final Ansel Adams photograph appearing on the January 1958 cover.

Yosemite Nature Notes ceased publication in 1961 after 40 years, 493 issues and nearly 5,000 pages. The final issue noted that "The passing of Yosemite [Nature Notes] marks the end of an era. Yosemite was the last, and first, of its kind, outlasting similar publications produced in other National Parks." YHNA later stated that "a lack of subscribers and donor interest and rising costs killed the project."

But the curtain on this publication was destined to rise again. In 1986, the park's cooperating association, now known as the Yosemite Association, began producing *Yosemite*, the publication you hold in your hands today. The format and length of the articles has changed, as has the size, frequency and quality of the publication. But the intent of sharing the always fascinating and enriching natural and human history of this great park continues.

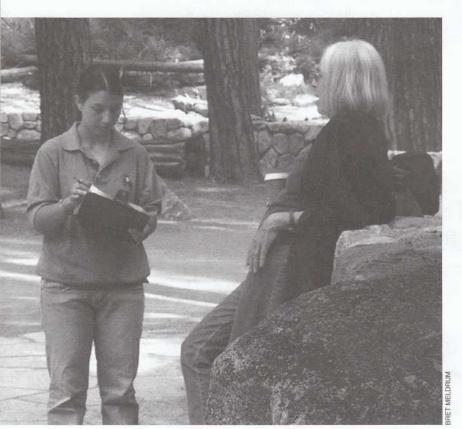
Archived issues of Yosemite Nature Notes are available online at http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite\_nature\_notes/

A native of Fresno, Steve Harrison vacationed in Yosemite often while growing up. Upon graduating from college, he obtained a seasonal job with the National Park Service in 1974. He recently retired after 30 years of service with the NPS. He and his wife Donna make their home in Western North Carolina but still try to visit Yosemite at least once each year.

# PROTECTING THE PARK WITH SOCIAL SCIENCES

nderstanding the natural and cultural contexts of parks has long been an important aspect of managing the National Park System. The agency's governing legislation protects these resources and thus continues to play a critical part in the designation and management of park units. Providing a high quality visitor experience has always been a core component of that same legislation.

Recently, however, increasing numbers of park visitors have been affecting the quality of both natural and cultural resources. Land managers are now using social science methods to associate visitor characteristics and behavior with resource conditions. These findings can help the Park Service manage visitor use before unacceptable impacts to resources occur. In a park like Yosemite with complex visitation patterns, the social sciences offer ways to understand visitor impacts and develop appropriate protections for resources.



A visitor being interviewed by a researcher seeking to better understand visitors' perceptions of transportation systems within the park.

#### THE MORPHING PLAYING FIELD

The User Capacity Symposium held in Yosemite Valley from February 6–8, 2008, examined how visitor use affects management and planning decisions for protected areas both in the United States and around the globe. The event brought academics, land managers and the public together to discuss user capacity management approaches. The sheer number of examples and issues discussed at the event underlined how important this issue is for high and low use locations alike. The event offered a chance to hear from those who have been wrestling with these issues for many years.

The next step in refining the principles of user and visitor capacity took place at the International Symposium for Society and Resource Management in Burlington, Vermont, from June 10–14. Yosemite National Park planner Jim Bacon facilitated the session, which was attended by researchers from all over the world. This event continued the dialogue with land managers and researchers, and produced a better understanding of the complex decisions surrounding protected area management in relation to visitor use.

The national parks, like other federally protected lands, offer a variety of visitor experiences and social resources that can and should be maintained. According to the 1916 National Park Service Organic Act, quality visitor experiences should be fostered while providing for natural and cultural resource conservation. Solitude is a great example of a social resource that numerous visitors seek when they venture into the Yosemite's designated Wilderness. With excessive visitor use, a valued resource such as a sense of solitude can diminish or even disappear.

### APPLYING THE CONCEPTS

While social science and visitor use management has long played an integral role in managing our national parks, park-based subject matter experts are relatively new on the scene. Until recently, much of the social science research in national parks was provided by external university-based researchers and the agency's Washington, D.C.-based visitor use survey program. Now, however, the Park Service's national Social Science Program is being expanded into individual parks wherever possible. Over the past few years, that movement has grown to include internal Yosemite National Park staff with expertise in the social sciences.



Visitor groups watching climbers from El Capitan Meadow. A 2007 study focused on where visitors entered and exited the meadow, length of stay and whether they arrived on a shuttle, in a private vehicle, by bicycle or on foot.

At the same time, Yosemite continues to expand its collaboration with academics, contractors and interdisciplinary teams. Institutions such as Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, Arizona State University and the University of Idaho are working with the park in several current studies to help ensure research quality and applicability.

Developing these studies requires extensive insight into visitor attitudes and values. With the appropriate data, managers can address many issues surrounding park management. For instance, a series of complementary studies conducted during the 2007 summer season addressed the influence of transportation on key attractions in Yosemite Valley. A series of workshops are now identifying how these data can help minimize traffic and pedestrian congestion.

One Yosemite project that has already benefited from visitor use data is the new design for the historic Tunnel View overlook. The park collected data on how long visitors stayed at the overlook, the types of vehicles they arrived in and the number of vehicles and people present at one time. By comparing this information to the existing site infrastructure, planners could identify the designs which would minimize conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians and allocate parking spaces for oversized vehicles.

During the 2008 peak visitation season, the park is conducting similar types of studies to better understand use conditions. The trailheads under study include those along the Tioga Road corridor, in the Mariposa Grove and on the historic Half Dome cables.

# Ways to understand visitor use patterns in parks

- · documenting and modeling pedestrians
- · modeling transportation modes and systems
- understanding visitor demographics, trip and visit characteristics
- evaluating visitor services and facilities, expenditures and opinions about selected issues via surveys
- quantifying resource impacts under a variety of use levels
- understanding visitor perceptions of crowding, wait times and various levels of service

Visitor use is a major consideration for managers at Yosemite National Park. The social sciences allow park managers to inform planning decisions with critical visitor use data. Other areas where social science studies are applied include restoration efforts, interpretation information, safety, adaptive management frameworks and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance processes. In short, just about every park project could benefit from a better understanding of visitor use, attitudes and values. Having a social sciences focus in addition to examining traditional cultural and natural resources values is just another example of the park's commitment to protecting park resources for future generations.

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

NPS Social Science Program http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/

DOI Adaptive Management Framework Technical Guide http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/AdaptiveManagement/ TechGuide.pdf

Bret Meldrum is the first Branch Chief of Yosemite National Park's Branch of Visitor Use and Social Sciences in the Division of Resources Management and Science. bret\_meldrum@nps.gov, (209) 379-1216

# THE CABIN

he day is hot and bright, just like Independence
Day should be. I walk along the path, my beatup black Converse crunching against the gravel.
I breathe in the fresh, piney scent unique to Wawona, a
little community just inside Yosemite's south entrance.
The distinctive scent mingles with the clean, pungent fragrance of bear clover.

I walk past the dusty stables and wave at the familiar guides, who are gearing up to take a group of visitors on a trail ride. I pass the worn brown sign reading "Pioneer Yosemite History Center" in scratchy white lettering, and walk towards the group of historic cabins a few yards beyond. I pass the cavalry office and Degnan's Bakery, and turn in towards a two-story wooden cabin with a large front porch and a steep shingled roof. I walk across the porch, reaching into my pocket for the key, and wrestle with the lock before shoving open the heavy wooden door.

Inside it's cool and dim, a relief from the oppressive heat outside. The cabin smells comfortingly of old wood. The room has dusty wood planks for a floor, and a faded braided rug in the middle of the room. Two beds stand against adjacent walls, each made of rough pine timbers and covered with ancient-looking quilts. A dusty rocking chair sits against one wall under one of the room's two windows, which are paned with brittle glass and covered with yellowing lace curtains. In one corner is a bookshelf with an antique "McGuffy's Reader" sitting open, displaying cracked pages and faded letters.

I slip off my Converse and slide them under the bed. As I adjust my bonnet and apron, I slide into another world. It's time to become Maude Hodgdon.

Maude's family was one of the first to settle in what would become Yosemite National Park. Today, more than a century later, that cabin comes to life only once a year, when the History Center is brimming with volunteers

Kelsey Lahr portrays early Yosemite settler Maude Hodgdon at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center's Hodgdon Cabin.



who portray the inhabitants of the historic cabins during the annual Fourth of July celebration. Each year I spend a day as Maude Hodgdon, leading visitors through the cabin, sharing our nation's historic preservation movement, and showing them a way of life long gone everywhere except the History Center.

Decades ago, each building was open every day during the summer. Visitors learned about Yosemite's pioneer history by interacting with actors portraying the cabins' historic inhabitants. But for the past several years, Fourth of July has been the only day when all of the cabins are filled with Living History volunteers.

I hurry into the next room to unlock the back door. I struggle with the sliding bolt, but when the door finally lurches open, sunlight illuminates the room with gold, and turns the dust in the air to sparkles. This room is the kitchen. A firewood box and a rough wooden table with two crude benches are pushed against one wall. Against the opposite wall is a second, smaller table strewn with old cooking utensils like an apple-corer and a flour sifter. This table was used for making meals. Hanging from the ceiling is a bunch of dried herbs used to flavor food. In a corner sits an ancient wood-burning stove. This was the family's pride and joy. Its smooth iron surface, now rusted and dirty, was to them a thing of luxury. In another corner is a set of shelves, filled with pitchers, pails and candle molds.

The first group of visitors drifts in. I smile, and beckon them to come on in. "Welcome to the Hodgdon cabin. I'm Maude Hodgdon. Feel free to have a look around, and let me know if you have any questions." Whether adults or children, they nearly always have questions. Most of the questions involve the stairs attached to the outside of the cabin, which lead up to the room that once belonged

to the four Hodgdon children. I tell them it's roped off because my baby sister is napping up there. The truth is I've never seen it. No one's peeked in for twenty years because it's not safe to walk up there anymore.

My favorite visitors are the little kids. They ask me what I eat, where I go to school and where our water comes from. To answer that last question, I grab a pail from the shelf in the kitchen and we all troop to the pump a few hundred feet away. The sandy ground feels hot and good on my bare feet, and the icy water from the pump splashes everywhere, soaking the hem of my dress and sending the kids into gales of laughter.

Visitors come and go all morning long, and though I repeat the same things and answer the same questions again and again, I never tire of it. A family comes in with a little girl who doesn't understand about play acting or living history. I hear her say in a loud whisper, "Mommy, does she really live here?" I smile and leave it to her mother to explain. But I don't forget that little girl as the day passes. And later that evening, as I lock up the cabin for another year, I remember her question: "Mommy, does she really live here?"

"Only for today," I murmur, slipping into my Converse.

Kelsey Lahr is a student at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, and is currently working as an interpretive ranger in Wawona. She has been involved with the Pioneer Yosemite History Center for the past fifteen years.

The History Center will come alive again on September 6, 2008 for the Association's Annual Fall Gathering. See page 22 for event details.



# YOSEMITE CATALOG

### **GREETINGS FROM YOSEMITE!**

Please allow me to introduce myself: my name is Todd King, and as of April 26 I have been privileged to assume the role of Retail Director for the Yosemite Association. Having been born and raised in the Yosemite gateway community of Mariposa, it is a true honor for me to be part of an association whose mission of supporting Yosemite National Park comes first and foremost.

Under an agreement with the National Park Service and as designated by Congress, the nonprofit Yosemite Association operates all bookstores in Yosemite National Park. Part of the Association's mission is to provide a range of products to help connect people to the park and educate visitors on stewardship. The publication and sale of books and other educational products has been a vital component to the Association's success for many years, accounting for almost sixty percent of Association revenues. All proceeds from sales directly benefit the park through cash contributions and other services. By providing and selling these focused products, we are able to give back to Yosemite twofold.

For the past several months, I have been working closely with Association board member Arnita Proffitt to develop new and exciting plans for our Retail Department. We will implement these ideas this year to generate even more park support. Our strategy is to improve your store experience, expand our retail offerings and give existing customers and members reasons to return and shop again and again. We also hope to reach new patrons who may be unfamiliar with our stores and quality products.

If you've visited the park recently, you may have noticed some of the improvements already underway. At our most popular outlet, the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Bookstore, we have expanded the counter into the lobby. The change has made shopping in the bookstore much more enjoyable and no longer an elbowto-elbow experience! An air conditioning system has also been installed in the Visitor Center lobby and bookstore. While visiting Happy Isles Nature Center, you may have noticed that it is now the Junior Ranger Center for Yosemite National Park. Here, we offer quality products for our youngest patrons. Back in the Village, the Yosemite Art and Education Center has new signage, making it easier for visitors to locate.

We are particularly excited about our new offerings for children. These young ones represent the future of Yosemite and we are committed to helping them form a lifelong connection with the park at an early age. Some of these new products include a Yosemite Junior Ranger Sash, the "Story Board" (see page 13 of this journal for details), and a plush version of Yosemite's native marmot. We have also extended our line of knowledge cards and other wildlife-oriented products to engage young minds.

Another exciting aspect of the retail department and the Association as a whole is the development of our new website. It will include a newly expanded and user-friendly web store featuring the majority of our wonderful products. We hope to have this operational very soon, so keep checking www.yosemite.org.

We take great pride in being a *local* publisher and bookseller. We are proud to offer books about Yosemite as well as the larger Sierra Nevada. A few of our recent titles include *Mountaineering In The Sierra Nevada* by Clarence King (part of the four volume High Sierra Classics Series); *Luminous Mountains* by Tim Palmer; *Yosemite's Tioga Country* by Gene Rose; and *The Yosemite Grant*, *1864-1906* by Hank Johnston. All are wonderful titles to add to your collection of Yosemite and Sierra Nevada books.

Without your help and patronage, the Yosemite Association would not be able to support the park the way we do. I encourage you to fuel your passion for Yosemite *and* directly support the park by purchasing our quality products. I look forward to serving you and the Yosemite Association in the future.

Best,

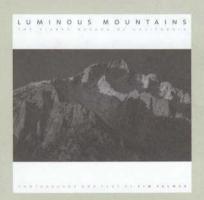
Todd King

#### **Luminous Mountains**

by Tim Palmer

An extraordinary mountain range, the Sierra Nevada rises high over California. In *Luminous Mountains*, award-winning author and photographer Tim Palmer captures the dazzling variety and enchantment of this revered and exquisite place. His images reveal the essence of the Sierra in a way that has never been done before, from its northern limit to its southernmost slope, from its rolling foothills in the west to its dramatic faultline at desert's edge.

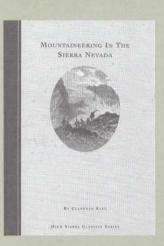
With 135 stunning photographs and engaging text, Palmer guides us through the stormy white depths of winter and into ancient green forests suffused with life. With knowledge gleaned from decades of experience, he writes of the intricate workings of nature and the conflicts inherent in the booming growth of the nation's most populous state. In all months of the year he shows



us unmatched images of wonder—from icons of scenery such as Devils Postpile, Lake Tahoe, Mount Whitney and Yosemite's El Capitan, to remote and secret enclaves amid the peaks and canyons. Born of an intimate relationship with nature, *Luminous Mountains* is a spirited journey of discovery up the peaks and down the rivers of the great Sierra Nevada. \$19.95; member price \$16.96

### Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada

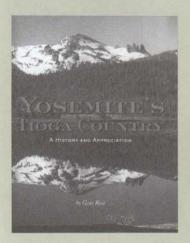
by Clarence King
A reprint of the 1872 edition
of Clarence King's classic
work, this book is part of
the four-book High Sierra
Classics Series. The other
three titles are available at
our web store:
www.yosemite.org or
209-379-2648.



Excerpt from the introduction by James M. Shebl:

"...Mountaineering is the first real literature of the Sierra, and as a book of familiar travels in unfamiliar places in America it brooks no equal. In introducing the reader to the lofty scientific view of Mount Tyndall as seen by a mountain climber, King blends his own technique with the keen and witty social perception of Bret Harte and succeeds in merging the sublime and ridiculous with exquisite tact and grace. This 'debonair classic of Western belles-lettres,' as Thurman Wilkins describes it, has remained in print for much of its one hundred and twenty-off years, and it still finds favor with the critics..."

\$9.95; member price \$8.46



### Yosemite's Tioga Country

by Gene Rose

The Tioga Road, the famed Sierra route that transects the high country of Yosemite National Park, is a remarkable scenic byway through one of the most spectacular sections of California. Travelers on the Tioga Road experience deep forests, sparkling alpine lakes, dazzling domes, ephemeral waterfalls, towering peaks and mountain meadows. Besides spectacular beauty, the Tioga Road is also rich in the human stories of prehistoric Native Americans up through the modern national park visitor. This book is the history of the highway that leads through the Yosemite Tioga region, and offers a new way to appreciate one of the world's most magnificent mountain settings.

The volume also includes:

- Over one hundred never-before-published historic photographs
- Early maps of the Tioga region
- Portraits of key historic figures
- · A reprint of The Tioga Road: A History by Keith Trexler
- · A comprehensive overview of post-contact history
- A mile-by-mile description of the Tioga Road and its highlights

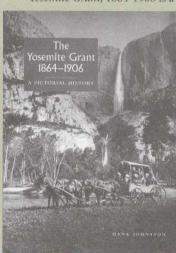
\$24.95; member price \$21.21

### BOOKS

### The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1906

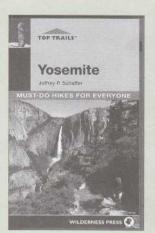
by Hank Johnston

This is the engaging story of the early development of Yosemite Valley, profusely illustrated with 215 historic photographs and seven informative maps. Details of early hotels, roads and pioneer residents are included, along with an account of the steps that led to the establishment of the Yosemite Grant and, later, Yosemite National Park. Among the volume's photographs are significant images that have not been widely seen as well as many that have not been previously published. The matchless collection of images alone makes the book an invaluable and unique resource. The author's thorough research has resulted in a fresh look at Yosemite history that is free of earlier misconceptions. It is also full of new discoveries about the first non-native people attracted to the Valley, and their efforts to settle and explore it. The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1906 is a revealing portrait



of Yosemite in its years as America's first scenic preserve. It is sure to appeal to historians, photography buffs and Yosemite lovers alike. \$20.00; member price \$17.00

### HIKING BOOKS



### Top Trails Yosemite

by Jeffrey P. Schaffer

With its towering granite cliffs, leaping waterfalls and lush meadows, Yosemite National Park offers an overwhelming number of outdoor adventures. *Top Trails Yosemite* describes the best the park has to offer in 45 "must-do" hikes, including those to the base of Yosemite Falls, the top of Half Dome and across remote wilderness high in the Sierra Nevada. The trails range from short, paved routes such as the path to spectacular Glacier Point to a multi-day

trek through the High Sierra camps. Whether you're looking for a scenic half-mile stroll, a full day adventure or a challenging backpacking trip, you'll find it here.

Each hike includes:

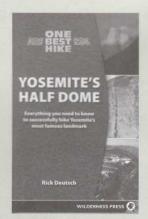
- · Clear and concise directions to the trailhead
- A detailed two-color route map and elevation profile
- "Don't get lost" milestones
- Expert trail commentary

\$16.95; member price \$14.41

### One Best Hike: Yosemite's Half Dome

by Rick Deutsch

Do you have what it takes to hike Half Dome? The hike to the top of this famous landmark is one of America's epic day hikes. Starting in Yosemite Valley you'll ascend nearly one vertical mile past two impressive waterfalls, through fragrant pine, fir and cedar forest, then 425 feet up sheer granite on the famed steel cables to the summit. At the top, you'll enjoy some of the grandest views of your



life. If you do it right, you'll be back down in the Valley later that evening celebrating your accomplishment. While tremendously rewarding, this hike is also one of the park's most strenuous. Not sure you have what it takes to make the fifteen-plus-mile trek? This step-by-step guidebook will tell you exactly how to hit the trail with confidence. Here you'll find:

- Detailed, specific advice on the proper physical conditioning
- · A trail-tested list of what to wear and bring on the hike
- 16 key Points of Interest (POIs) along the trail
- Tips on how to secure hard-to-get accommodations in the valley

With its can-do approach, nuts-and-bolts advice and practical tips, this book will leave you wondering why you've waited so long to embark on such a grand hiking adventure. \$12.95; member price \$11.01



### Sash for Junior Ranger **Badges with Compass**

Collect and display your Junior Ranger badges with pride! Add the badges to the web sash and wear or hang in your room. Easy-to-use compass instructions included. Velcro back closure on sash, \$11.99; member price \$10.19





### Plush Yellow-Bellied Marmot

This twelve-inch-long Yellow-Bellied Marmot is sure to bring a smile to your young wildlife enthusiast. These stuffed animals have realistically adorable faces, highly detailed designs and are made of quality fabric. \$12.00; member price \$10.20

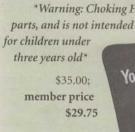


Exclusive handcrafted story board featuring Animals of Yosemite

The Yosemite Story Board offers your little one a stage as pretty as the park itself. But the Story Board really comes to life with imagination. The beautifully handcrafted characters and landscapes have stitched Velcro strips for easy movement and rearrangement. The Story Board enhances vocabulary development by encouraging self-expression, role playing and interaction. Help your child create a new Yosemite adventure today!

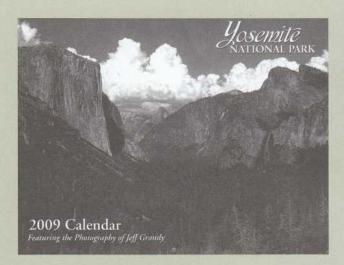
> Set includes removable Black Bear, Coyote, Gray Squirrel, Great Gray Owl, Half Dome, Hollow Log, Raccoon, Rainbow Trout, Ranger, Rattlesnake and Sequoia Tree.

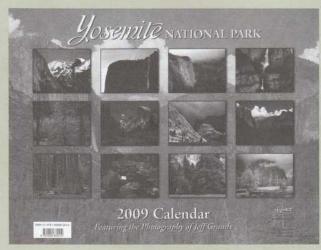






### GIFT





### Yosemite National Park 2009 Calendar

John Muir lived in 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 thing." Photographer Jeff Grandy conveys that same sense of awe in full-color images featuring Yosemite National Park in all seasons. \$8.99; member price \$7.64

## **Order Form**

For credit card orders call **209-379-2648** Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. We Accept VISA, Mastercard, American Express and Discover

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PERCY WHATLEY



Name: Percy Whatley

Job Title: Executive Chef, The Ahwahnee, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

Hometown: Las Cruces, NM

**Education:** Associate of Science, Business Management, College of the Redwoods; Associate of Occupational Studies, Culinary Arts, The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park

Total number of years working in Yosemite: 15 accumulated

What first brought you to Yosemite? The economy in my hometown made it very difficult to find decent work. A friend was applying here in 1989 and I thought it would be a good idea to do so as well. I fell into food and beverage at the Curry Village Hamburger Stand and loved the pace of running around serving the visitors of the park.

What do you do in your job? Supervise the overall operation of The Ahwahnee kitchen. Spearhead special initiatives that pertain to sustainable food practices, equipment capital expenditures, kitchen construction projects and any VIP arrivals. Write menus according to seasonal availability.

What do you enjoy most about your job? There are days that we feed around 1,200 people. There is a certain time when the chaos can feel very coordinated and choreographed. I want to say that it is like a very powerful engine: it is loud and makes a lot of noise, but it certainly can produce some horsepower!

What is your favorite place in Yosemite? The area between Tuolumne Meadows and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, where the river meanders over the granite. I love to lay on the rocks by the river and look up into the sky and watch the clouds go by. It is the most peaceful place I know.

What is your favorite Yosemite book? Keith Walklet's *The Ahwahnee: Yosemite's Grand Hotel.* I love the detail in the book about the hotel from its conception to its

opening day. It is a gem of a property with rich history. I believe I have a part in keeping the hotel at its best for future generations.

Who is your favorite historical figure? Auguste Escoffier, one of the first celebrity chefs. He categorized, in detail, recipes and techniques still used in modern kitchens today.

What do you think is YA's most important role? To keep interpretive programs and information available to the visitors of Yosemite National Park. We must maintain the integrity of the park without losing the knowledge it can give to the youth around the world.

What do you do in your job to promote sustainable agriculture and green business practices? My job involves implementing DNC's Environmental Management System, called GreenPath, along with choosing vendors that can provide fresh, local products. Examples include Panorama Grass-Fed Meats, Niman Ranch Pork, Lamb and Beef, Sonoma County Poultry's Liberty Ducks, and artisanal California cheeses from makers such as Cowgirl Creamery, Bravo Farms and Point Reyes. We buy seasonal produce from an organic farm called T&D Willey in Madera. Our beautiful eggs and heirloom tomatoes come from a small Mariposa farmer named Brenda Ostrom, who also drops off vegetables and eggs to local residents' doorsteps on a weekly basis.

If you could invite three people to dinner, who would you invite, and where would you go to eat? They are all chefs: Thomas Keller (The French Laundry), Roland Henin (DNC Corporate Chef and my mentor) and Ferran Adrià (El Bulli). We would eat at Yuet Lee in San Francisco's Chinatown—the best Cantonese in the city by far. Picture all these fine dining chefs in a little cramped dining room with Formica tables and chrome chairs. It would be centered around conversation about food while eating good food. No pretenses.

What else do you want to tell our readers? Life in Yosemite has given me my wife and family. It has offered me a job in the most beautiful place on earth and the challenges I need to grow and mature in my career. I cannot imagine life without this park and all the things that it has to offer. I love being on a park trail destined for nowhere, then returning to my meadowside home, looking out to Half Dome and thinking to myself, whew! Life is rough!

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### **Outdoor Adventures**

I'm so pleased that YA's incredible field seminars provide you with a way to genuinely **grasp Yosemite**. The late summer and fall programs this year are a terrific means to connect with our marvelous park.

In the next few weeks and months, there are more Outdoor Adventures in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Valley, Wawona and elsewhere; the season is still rich with learning options. Two different kinds of Half Dome trips are coming up in August: guidebook author Suzanne Swedo is leading three one-day hikes over Labor Day weekend, and author Michael Ross and eminent botanist Steve Botti are conducting programs both before and after the Fall Gathering in Wawona. As the weather cools and days shorten, our field institute features courses in the African-American and Latino histories of Yosemite, the Parker family's Miwok-Paiute basketry, a wonderful art course with Andie Thrams, Dick Ewart's famed "Ice, Wind and Fire" program, and two fall photography sessions with some of the best camera artists to work in the park. All details for our courses can be found on our website under the "Seminars" button.

And don't forget that I love arranging **Custom Adventures** for people seeking something special for colleagues, family or friends. Call (209) 379-2321 for more information.

# 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 addressing 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.

### **Yosemite Art and Education Center**

We are delighted to offer **free art classes** to Yosemite visitors well into fall. Our NPS/DNC/YA facility, open through October, has free programs six days a week. The full schedule of each week's visiting artists can be found on the YA website. We've invited both new and familiar pastel, charcoal and watercolor specialists and more to share their perspectives on art in the park. In conjunction with The Ansel Adams Gallery, we also have special "Wednesday Night Art in the Village" receptions with the artists every Wednesday evening. If you haven't been to our building in Yosemite Village, this would be a terrific time to come by and take a free class, pick up art supplies or bring your family for one of our **Naturalist Walks** (come birding with me!). The YAEC is located at the lower end of Yosemite Village, downhill from the Village Store.







Pete Devine (lower left) guides an Outdoor Adventure class up the cables of Half Dome. At lower right, new YA board member Kathy Fairbanks focuses intently on her ascent of the Half Dome cables.

# YOSEMITE DRAWS STUDENTS TO UC MERCED SUMMER PROGRAMS

any college students gravitate to jobs and opportunities that take them to the great outdoors for the summer. The University of California, Merced, offers two programs that give students the chance to spend the summer in one of the greatest outdoor destinations in the world, Yosemite National Park.

UC Merced's Yosemite Leadership Program (YLP) and the National Science Foundation-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (REU) are already underway. The students will be in the park through mid-August.

"UC Merced's physical proximity to Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks has helped us develop working relationships and programs that are unique to our campus and extremely beneficial to students and researchers," said Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies Samuel J. Traina.

Ten students from YLP will be interns this summer, with most of them living in Yosemite Association housing at Wawona and working at the Wawona Field Station operated by the UC Merced Sierra Nevada Research Institute. There, they will work with park rangers and scientists in resources management, wilderness and public education in positions that include leading guided walks, giving campfire programs, assisting the bear team, assisting archeologists, helping with restoration projects and working with the wilderness search and rescue team.

A returning advanced intern from last year, Alvaro Luna, will expand on his "Yosemite en Español" interpretation program and will add an interpretation program in French. Other students participating are Orion Agnew, Jeannette Barron, Marie Armstrong, Zander Kurnizki, Chris Hubach, Gesha Uminskiy, Raj





Bolla, Money Hothi, Yesi Medina and Renee Smith. Three former YLP interns, Janet Melgoza, Carla Saldana and P.J. Solomon have returned to Yosemite this summer as paid seasonal rangers for the National Park Service.

The YLP internship is a partnership among UC Merced, the National Park Service, the Yosemite Association, the Yosemite Fund and Delaware North Companies. The program has also received generous support from the Toyota Foundation, the Doherty Family Fund and Morgan Stanley. It is overseen by Branch Chief for Education Kathy Dimont of Yosemite National Park.

Two additional UC Merced students, Sunny Grunloh (formerly a YLP intern) and Dannique Aalbu, will participate in the REU program funded by the National Science Foundation. Grunloh and Aalbu, along with six other REU students recruited in a highly selective process from universities all over the United States, will be paired with science mentors (UC Merced professors and park scientists) to conduct independent research projects in the park. The REU program is led by professor Benoit Dayrat of the UC Merced School of Natural Sciences.

"From 160 applications, we were able to select only eight students, so you can imagine those participating all have outstanding academic records and motivation," said Dayrat. "REU is a lifetime unique chance for the students who are participating."

The YLP and REU students will participate together in a new, for-credit, summer seminar called "Science Fridays," led by the Wawona Field Station director, Eric Berlow, and Dayrat. Science Fridays will focus on the process of scientific inquiry, the role of science in natural resource management and the communication of science to the public. Weekly lectures and discussions during the seminar will expose students to current scientific research being conducted in Yosemite and throughout the Sierra Nevada, give them the tools to think critically about how scientific information is acquired and expose them to the technological tools that allow scientists to answer large scale questions about critical issues such as climate change. A credentialed English teacher will work with the students to improve their writing and public speaking skills.

The 2008 Sierra Nevada Research Institute Scientific Visualization Fellow (Lauren Benson, UC Santa Cruz) will be in residence at the field station working on a visual display to communicate scientific research to the public. She will also work with students on visual forms of science communication.

The 2008 Sierra Nevada Research Institute Graduate Research Fellow (Sarah Martin, UC Merced) will also be in residence this summer and will work on her dissertation, which examines the impacts of fire control practices on watershed-scale hydrologic processes.

Ana Nelson Shaw is a Public Information Representative at UC Merced.



# In Memory of Mary Anna Weiss Vocelka 1947 – 2008



Mary Vocelka, a longtime resident of the Sierra, passed away June 1, 2008. Mary was born on December 11, 1947, to Eugene and B. Weiss in Burlington, Wisconsin. As a young child, often wearing her favorite red cowboy hat and boots, Mary would travel west with her parents. She became quite enchanted with the landscapes she found there. She moved west herself in 1967, when she took a summer job at Wawona in Yosemite National Park. Although she held many jobs, she was best known for her work as the Research Librarian for the National Park Service (1976-1988), the school librarian at Yosemite Elementary School and as a Yosemite Association employee (1990-1993). She is mentioned in hundreds of publications for her diligent research. Even after she left the library, it wasn't unusual for her to receive an envelope full of clippings with a note that read "I thought you'd find this interesting, Mary." She met the

love of her life, Derrick Vocelka, in Yosemite and they married on June 10, 1968. They had a daughter, Sarah, and lived in the park for 30 years.

A natural artist, autodidact and bibliophile, her interests ranged from Lewis and Clark and the Western Expansion to John Muir, Vietnam and Wisconsin natural history. With the mind of a researcher, a feel for language and an empathetic heart, she read innumerable biographies that often led to more extensive reading on anything she might find interesting. She was always on the lookout for outstanding children's literature, and hosted a children's book club in Yosemite for many years. Mary passed on this love of books to her daughter and grandchildren. Although she read mostly non-fiction, she took great pleasure in the fact that she could experience Harry Potter and *The Golden Compass* with her grandsons. They would have long phone discussions about the books and lament the details omitted from the movies.

Mary and Derrick moved to Bishop, California in 1998 after a short stay in Auburn, where she worked at Odyssey Books of Grass Valley. In Bishop she quickly became involved in the Audubon Society, the Native Plant Society and the Manzanar Historical Site. She worked at the Bishop Nursery where she perfected her green thumb.

A consummate letter writer, Mary corresponded with her many friends in beautifully handwritten pages full of news, observances and good wishes. She spoiled her grandchildren with little love notes sent out of the blue. An attentive listener, Mary was always interested in the lives of her friends. She was quietly elegant, and full of grace and kindness.

She loved Cathedral Peak in Tuolumne Meadows, oak trees and acorns, alpenglow, walks along the river with friends and soup lunches at The Ahwahnee Hotel. She was an amazing cook and wonderful baker. She kept a beautiful home lined with books, and found joy in making gifts for her friends.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Derrick of Bishop; and daughter Sarah, adored son-in-law Mitch Hendrickson and beloved grandsons Caspar Vik and Duncan Muir of Grass Valley. She was preceded in death by her father in 1957 and mother in 2001.

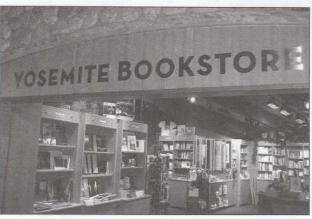
Memorial services have been held. Mary's family suggests that contributions be made to The Yosemite Fund or the Manzanar Historical Site in her memory.

# The Yosemite Association Mission

The Yosemite Association (Association) is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. We celebrate the majesty and grandeur of this region through our visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, membership activities and community programs. Our many programs and services help people of all ages and backgrounds gain an enduring and inspirational connection to the park. This deeper connection builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks—for generations to come.









### THE ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO:

- Join and participate with a passionate and active membership that supports and frequently visits Yosemite, as well as receive the quarterly Journal Yosemite, invitations to special gatherings in the park and throughout California, an e-news update, discounts on books and other products and a range of other member benefits offering opportunities to visit and learn about the park.
- Build personal and public libraries of our awardwinning books, maps, DVDs, posters, Native American handcrafts and other publications that we hope will educate, celebrate and inspire the public to conserve Yosemite for future generations, as well as encourage talented scholars, writers, artists and storytellers to share their passion for the park.
- Gain a deeper understanding of Yosemite's natural, cultural and historic story through our Outdoor Classroom. Our experiential education programs are led by park experts and accomplished naturalists and include special and unique half-day, full-day, and multi-day outings, custom trips, field seminars, naturalist walks and various family and Junior Ranger programs.
- Visit our sales and information facilities throughout the Yosemite region to purchase and enjoy books, maps and educational products about Yosemite and the natural world. Our website (www.yosemite.org) also provides valuable information for people interested in Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, including a "Virtual Yosemite."

- Engage your artistic creativity through free hands-on artistic experiences and activities at the Yosemite Art and Education Center.
- Join our volunteer corps and assist the National Park Service (NPS) in exciting and rewarding restoration work on meadows and trails, providing visitor information and assistance with events throughout the park.
- \*\* Help the Association inspire and train the **next generation** of stewards through providing college internships, Junior Ranger and other programs to ethnically, culturally and geographically diverse populations.
- \*\* Experience the Yosemite backcountry in all seasons, including the wilderness reservation and safety program, the bear canister program to "Keep Bears Wild" and the Ostrander Ski Hut for winter sports.

The first National Park Service Director Stephen Mather saw the importance of and need for private, nonprofit, organizations to assist with the educational and interpretive mission of the NPS. As a result, the Association was the nation's first cooperating association authorized by Congress in 1923 to partner with the NPS. Today, the Association continues to provide these services, as well as both direct and in-kind financial support to the NPS, to promote park stewardship and enrich the visitor experience.

# MEMBERS PAGES

# Virtual Visit to California's "Fourteeners" at 33rd Annual Fall Gathering

Mount Whitney, Mount Shasta, Mount Williamson and the loftiest peaks of the High Sierra—California's "fourteeners," or mountains over 14,000 feet-have long teased the imaginations and challenged the fortitude of mountaineers. Photographer David Stark Wilson and climber and historian Steve Roper combined their talents to create the forthcoming Yosemite Association-Heyday Books title Above All: Mount Whitney and California's Highest Peaks. Wilson will share his experiences as the featured speaker at this year's Annual Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 6, 2008.

STACIA CROWIN

Photographer David Stark Wilson

Wilson, born in Berkeley, California, is an award-winning building designer and has been a photographer since the age of seventeen. An avid mountaineer, he began photographing mountain landscapes at an early age.

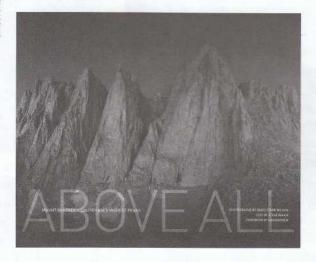
Author Steve Roper states in his *Above All* introduction, "We mountaineers who lust after the highest peaks in a state, or a nation, or a continent can hardly explain such endeavors." Nonetheless, the admi-

ration he and Wilson carry for these grand mountains, and for those who have attempted to climb them, shines through. Though Above All is scheduled for general release this November, we are arranging for advance copies to be available just for Fall Gathering attendees to purchase at this event. Be the first to own an autographed copy of this spectacular tribute to nature's grandeur!

Our meeting will be set in the picturesque Pioneer Yosemite History Center, where Park Superintendent Mike
Tollefson, Board Chair Christy Holloway and YA Chief Executive Officer David
Guy will address attendees as well.
Throughout the weekend we will offer short interpretive walks, a living history demonstration, an authentic barn dance, an optional buffet lunch on Saturday, book signings and our popular fundraising raffle and auction. We'll also be drawing the winner for the Bracebridge Dinner Package raffle.

You can extend your weekend and expand your knowledge of all things Yosemite by taking one of the conveniently scheduled Outdoor Adventure courses on Friday or Sunday of that weekend for a modest additional fee. Enroll in Michael Ross' "The Rim Walk" or Steve Botti's "Wawona Meadow Botany Stroll" on Friday, and "Autumn Birding in Wawona" with Michael Ross or the "Mariposa Grove Botanists Hike" led by Steve Botti on Sunday; all of these events offer extraordinary opportunities to deepen your connection to this remarkable park with talented, personable naturalists.

Information about the Fall Gathering and Wawona Hotel lodging lottery was mailed to all members in early July. Call the Membership department at 209-379-2317 or e-mail us at info@yosemite.org for more information. Won't you join us "above all" in Wawona this year?



### 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 209-379-2317.

### Upgrade Today and Help Us Help Yosemite Even More!

Member dues and donations help make possible the Association's many education and stewardship programs in Yosemite National Park. We invite you to help broaden our reach by upgrading your membership level or making an additional gift to YA today. Your support will make a difference by enabling us to provide innovative outdoor education offerings, expanded volunteer service programs, publish important books and maps, offer free art classes and much more. To show our appreciation for your generosity, we will invite you to special gatherings to celebrate your new level of support.

Mount Lyell (\$2,500), El Capitan (\$1,000), Clouds Rest (\$500) and Half Dome (\$250) members, as well as those who have donated \$250 or more to YA in the last year, are invited to attend a special evening reception on Friday, September 5, 2008, preceding our 33rd Annual Fall Gathering. Speaker David Stark Wilson, Superintendent Mike Tollefson, YA board and staff will be on hand to socialize with you as you enjoy wine generously donated by Redwood Creek and delicious appetizers at the gracious Wawona Hotel.

Mount Lyell and El Capitan members and those who have donated \$1,000 or more to YA in the last year are invited to an elegant outdoor dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow on Saturday, October 4, 2008. Hosted by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, the park's concessionaire, this event is designed to honor the Association's most generous supporters.

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.

### Bracebridge Dinner Raffle Tickets Still Available!

Enter to win two seats at the December 15, 2008 Bracebridge Dinner and a one-night stay at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, and you'll help us help Yosemite even more! Tickets are on sale now for \$10 each. All proceeds help fund the Association's vital educational programs and services in Yosemite National Park. Order your tickets by mail using the envelope enclosed with this journal, or call the Membership department at (209) 379-2317.

The winner will be drawn at our 33rd Annual Fall Gathering in Wawona on Saturday, September 6, 2008. You need not be present to win. We thank DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite for generously donating this raffle prize package which is valued at \$951.

Celebrated annually since 1927, the Bracebridge Dinner transforms The Ahwahnee into a seventeenth-century English manor for a feast of food, song and mirth. The inspiration for this yuletide ceremony was Washington Irving's Sketch Book, which described Squire Bracebridge and English Christmas traditions of that period. Don't miss this extraordinary Yosemite holiday tradition!



### **Congratulations Dumont Printing**

This June, YA partner Dumont Printing became the first Fresno-area printer to receive the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody Certification. To obtain this certification, Dumont made a commitment to sustainable practices and meets stringent guidelines for tracking and obtaining applicable products from FSC-certified forests. The FSC maintains principles, criteria and standards that address economic, social and environmental concerns for guiding forest management toward sustainable outcomes.

Dumont Printing is at the forefront of using evolving printing technologies and recognizes the need for responsible environmental practices in the industry. The Yosemite Association is proud to work so closely with Dumont to produce many of our printed materials, including our quarterly journal *Yosemite*.

### New Bridges on Highway 140 at Ferguson Rockslide

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger led a ribbon-cutting event for two new bridges across the Merced River near Yosemite on June 27, 2008.

The massive Ferguson rockslide of April 2006 left Highway 140 inaccessible near the park. Bypass bridges were built to allow vehicles to skirt the slide. However, these bridges could only accommodate vehicles up to twenty-eight feet in length, excluding full-sized tour buses, construction vehicles and large RVs. This posed a tremendous economic burden to the park and Mariposa County. The closure also made winter drives to the park more difficult for large vehicles. A low-elevation approach through the Merced River Canyon made Highway 140 a favored route for winter drivers hoping to avoid the snow along Crane Flat (Highway 120) or Chinquapin (Highway 41).

Cal Trans began construction on new interim bridges in May and finished in plenty of time for the arrival of Independence Day holiday weekend visitors. The new bridges were built at an angle and allow vehicles up to forty-five feet long to cross the river and enter the park. Cal Trans has begun the compliance process to implement a more permanent solution to the Highway 140 Ferguson rockslide.



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger prepares to cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the new bridges. He is flanked by Mariposa County supervisors, National Park Service Deputy Superintendent Kevin Cann and Cal Trans Director Will Kempton.

## Spotlight on Volunteers: Mary and Mike Burchmore

Summer hits Yosemite Valley early. Crowds flood into the Valley with the spectacular waterfalls each May, and visitation levels remain high through September. During these warm months, Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Association rely heavily on volunteers to improve the visitor experience and promote stewardship for the park.

This June, eighteen volunteers took up residence in Lower Pines Campground and spent the month in trailers and tents, smiling through the mosquitoes and wildfire smoke in the name of service. Among them were Bakersfield, California residents Mary and Mike Burchmore.

Mike and Mary made their first trip to Yosemite with their two sons Michael and Brian in 1973. Living in Clovis at the time, the family preferred the calm of Wawona to the bustle of the Valley, and visited frequently until Mike's career with the railroad transferred them to Apple Valley.

After settling in Bakersfield in the early 80s, Mary studied with her sons at Cal State Bakersfield and then taught kindergarten for several years. Now retired with grandchildren in the Bay Area and Idaho, the Burchmores are hard to keep up with. They split their time between Bakersfield, Sun Valley and Hawaii, and often add an international trip to their calendar each year.

With such busy schedules, Mary and Mike spend an amazing amount of time volunteering for organizations like the Kern County Museum and the Sun Valley Jazz Festival in addition to the Yosemite Association. Mike and Mary have just completed their fifth season as Visitor Information Volunteers in Yosemite Valley. Before their first summer, friends and family questioned their decision to spend a month camping and assisting visitors in the park, but their love of Yosemite and helping people keeps them coming back. Having traveled extensively, the Burchmores are quite familiar with visitor needs while they're in the park and are happy to be a friendly source of information. "We've taken for years," Mike says "now it's time to give back." Mary adds, "It's been



On behalf of our visitors, Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Association thank the Burchmores and all of our volunteers for their efforts to make the park a more welcoming place during the busy summer months. For more information about volunteering with YA, call 209-379-2317 or visit our website, www.yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html.

### **New Lodging Discount Benefits**

The Heritage Hotel Group, consisting of the Best Western Sonora Oaks Hotel and Conference Center, Inns of California Sonora and the Best Western John Muir Inn of Martinez, California, now offers YA members a 15 percent discount. These conveniently-located facilities make great base camps for your Yosemite or John Muir National Historic Site visits. Learn more or make your reservations today at BWSonoraOaks.com (866-856-2797), InnsofCaliforniaSonora.com (866-857-2786), or BWMartinez.com (866-909-1181).

A Bed of Roses Bed and Breakfast in Oakhurst, and Sugar Pine at Yosemite cabin rental in Fish Camp are now offering YA members a 10 percent discount. Conveniently located off Highway 41 near the south entrance of Yosemite National Park, these facilities could be perfect for your Fall Gathering weekend stay! Learn more about these lodging partners at Abedofrosesbandb.com, Sugarpineatyosemite.com, or by calling 559-642-6975.

We thank the Heritage Hotel Group, A Bed of Roses B&B, Sugar Pine at Yosemite, and all our lodging, merchandise and activity discount partners for adding tremendous value to Association membership. For a description of your other member benefits, please refer to your 2008 Membership Benefits booklet, go online to yosemite.org/member/benefits.htm, or call our Membership department at 209-379-2317 for assistance.





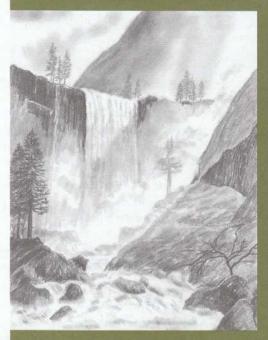
Stay at A Bed of Roses B&B (top) or the Sugar Pine at Yosemite cabin (bottom) and save 10% as a YA member.



The John Muir Inn in Martinez, California, now offers YA members a 15% lodging discount.



The Best Western Sonora Oaks Hotel and Conference Center welcomes YA members with a 15% lodging discount.

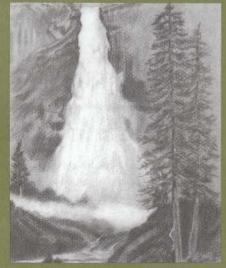


# Wednesday Night Art in the Village

Explore Yosemite through the Eyes of an Artist

Presented by the Yosemite Association and The Ansel Adams Gallery

Join us each Wednesday through Labor
Day from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the
Yosemite Art and Education Center and
The Ansel Adams Gallery as we celebrate
art in Yosemite while enjoying local fine
wines and snacks in Yosemite Village!



Drawings by YAEC artist Frank Poulsen

# Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series Shines in 17th Season

The Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series kicked off its 17th season on July 19 and will provide an array of inspiring lectures, workshops, and entertainment through Saturday, August 30, 2008. The Yosemite Association is proud to join the National Park Service, Loralee Tucker Hiramoto Memorial Fund, Friends of Parsons Lodge, Institute for Law and Systems Research, and Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant from the James Irvine Foundation to support this series of cultural events.

Please take advantage of this year's offering if you're visiting Tuolumne Meadows this summer. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise, and last approximately one hour. Allow thirty minutes of walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Admission is free. Join us!

### Saturday, August 2

Oolation! Singers

A performance of nature-inspired music by young singers led by hammer dulcimer player Malcom Daglish and singers Naomi Daglish, Joshua Kartes and Georgia Rose Armstrong Park

Practice and Process: Prints and Writings in the Mountains 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Slide presentation by Tom Killion, artist, and a talk and reading by Gary Snyder, writer/poet, from *Mountains* and Rivers Without End

### Sunday, August 3

Practice and Process: Prints and Writings in the Mountains 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Discussion of the woodcut process by Tom Killion, artist, and talk and reading by writer/poet Gary Snyder—poems of place from his fifty years of work and writing

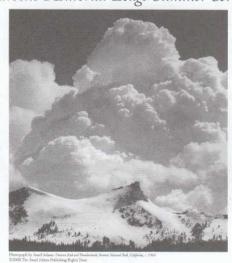
#### Saturday, August 10

Rock Glaciers as Refugia during Changing Climates: Pika, Plants, and Water Slide presentation by Connie Millar, Senior Scientist, USFS

### Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17

12th Annual Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival Poets David Hinton, Li-Young Lee, and Jay Leeming Musician Shira Kammen, violin and vielle

# Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series



### Saturday, August 23

Ansel Adams in the Sierra Nevada Slide presentation by Michael Adams, M.D., son of Virginia and Ansel Adams

### Sunday, August 24

Good Summer Rain: Songs and Stories of Place 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Concert and writing workshop by award-winning singer/ songwriter Erica Wheeler

### Saturday, August 30

Mono Lake's Tributaries: An Eventful past, A Promising Future Slide presentation by Greg Reis, Information Specialist, Mono Lake Committee

# 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 send-

ing an e-mail to 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. **Early Aug:** Summer 2008 issue of quarterly members' iournal *Yosemite* sent out

Aug 1-2: OA #36 Stars over the High Country – Rick Combs

**Au 1-3:** OA #37 The Nature of Writing Children's Books – Michael Ross

Aug 1-3: OA #40 Photographing High Country Habitats – Howard Weamer

Aug 2: OA #41 Yosemite's First People – Ben Cunningham-Summerfield Aug 2-5: OA #38 Young Lakes and Marvelous Mt. Conness – Suzanne Swedo

August 2-9: Tuolumne High Sierra Camp Restoration Work Week

Aug 4-9: YAEC Drawing with Colors with Frank Poulsen

Aug 7-10: OA #39 Half Dome the Easy Way – Suzanne Swedo

Aug 7-10: OA #42 Tuolumne Meadows en Plein Air – Chuck Waldman Aug 10-16: Tuolumne Restoration Work Week, Tuolumne Meadows

Aug 11-16: YAEC Fun with Watercolor with David Deyell

Aug 16: OA #43 Half Dome in a Day 2 – Pete Devine

Aug 16-22: OA #44 Advanced Backpack to the North Park – Dick Ewart

Aug 18-23: YAEC Drawing Yosemite in Pastel with Travis Wheeler Aug 21-24: OA #45
Tuolumne Elite Summits
– Pete Devine

Aug 25-30: YAEC Travel Sketching with Pam Pederson

**Aug 30:** OA #46 Into the Gaylor Basin – Suzanne Swedo

Aug 30: OA #47 Birding Tuolumne Meadows – Michael Ross

Aug 31: OA #48 Clouds Rest Dayhike – Suzanne Swedo

**Sep 1:** YA Administrative Office closed for Labor Day holiday

Sep 1: OA #49 Tenaya Peak Climb – Suzanne Swedo

Sep 1-6: YAEC Watercolor by Osamu with Osamu Saito

**Sep 5:** OA #50 The Rim Walk – Michael Ross

Sep 5: OA #51 Wawona Meadow Botany Stroll – Steve Botti **Sep 5:** Evening Reception for Donors of \$250 or more, Wawona

**Sep 6:** 33rd Annual Fall Gathering, Wawona

Sep 7: OA #52 Autumn Birding in Wawona – Michael Ross

**Sep 7:** OA #53 Mariposa Grove Botanists Hike – Steve Botti

**Sep 8-13:** YAEC Impressive and Expressive Yosemite with Marcy Wheeler

Sep 12-14: OA #56 Ice, Wind and Fire – Dick Ewart

**Sep 14:** OA #54 Buffalo Soldiers on Patrol (morning) – Shelton Johnson

Sep 14: OA #55 Latinos in the Landscape (afternoon) – Betsy Rivera

Sep 14-20: Valley Fall Restoration Work Week, Yosemite Valley

**Sep 15-20:** YAEC Pen & Ink with Color with Elizabeth Paganelli

Sep 17-21: OA #58 Lyell Glacier Survey – Pete Devine and Greg Stock

Sep 22-27: YAEC Autumn Colors of Yosemite with Mariko Lofink

**Sep 26-28:** OA #59 Miwok-Paiute Burden Basketry – Lucy Parker

Sep 29-Oct 4: YAEC Acrylic-Yosemite Diamond with Kirah Van Sickle

Oct 4: Dinner for Donors of \$1,000 or more, Yosemite Valley

Oct 5-11: Leader's Choice Work Week

Oct 6-11: YAEC Paint Nature's Colors with Artistic License with Alice Leggett Oct 13-18: YAEC Plein Air Painting in Watercolor with Jean Bradshaw

Oct 17-19: OA #60 Forest Illuminations – Andie Thrams Oct 20-22: OA #61 Autumn Light Photography – Dave Wyman and Ken Rockwell

Oct 20-25: YAEC Autumn Color Watercolor with Sonja Hamilton Oct 27: Last day to view "Granite Frontiers: A Century of Yosemite Climbing" at Yosemite Museum Gallery

Oct 27-Nov 1: YAEC Plein Air Pastel with Barbara Beaudreau

**Early Nov:** Fall 2008 issue of quarterly members' journal *Yosemite* sent out

Nov 3-8: YAEC Free art classes with Miles Hermann

Nov 13-16: OA #62 Focusing on Nature: Autumn Photography in Yosemite – Keith Walklet Nov 27-28: YA Administrative Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

**Dec 5:** YA Member Reception at Hidden Villa, Los Altos Hills, CA **Dec 6:** OA #63 Woodpeckers: the Quest for Eleven – Pete Devine **Dec 24-25:** YA Administrative Office closed for Christmas holiday

For an expanded events calendar, visit 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. Proceeds from all YA programs help support Yosemite!

# NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

ENROLLMENTS AND GIFTS PROCESSED BETWEEN MARCH 25, 2008 TO JUNE 24, 2008

### NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS

Welcome to our new and rejoining members! You've connected with nearly 11,000 likeminded individuals, families and businesses, helping the Association make Yosemite an even better place.

### El Capitan Members

Joan & George Parker, Mary Kate & Bob Reny

### Clouds Rest Members

JoAnn Armijo

### Half Dome Members

Gabriella Casares, Todd Deppe, Ed Jeffries, Stephanie Lane, David McGinness, Jonne Nelson, David Stapleton, Jeff Straub, Alison Wollitzer

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We thank the following members who, by recently upgrading their membership level, have enhanced our ability to provide key educational and other programs in Yosemite,

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### Clouds Rest Members

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### Joint/Family Members

Lucye & Donald Christiansen, Cheryl L. Dupre, Kenneth Gosting

## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the donors who have recently responded to our 2008 goal to raise \$160,000 to help us deliver the many educational programs and services that promote stewardship of Yosemite National Park. Our success depends on you!

### \$250 or more Walter St. Goar

### \$100 to \$249

Karen Brown, Tom Chapman, Bill & Marion Eggers, GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program, Richard Griffith, Virginia Hammerness, IBM International Foundation, Robert Johnson, Duane & Ann Kalar, Sam Michelson, Gabrielle S. & Ken J. Moeller, Frank Pajerski, Ron Plue, Ritchie Post, Mrs. Irving Rector, Donna Rogers, Laverne Schnare, Thea Shirley, Ken & Pat Stackhouse, Lea Tilley

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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.

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