Yose/Nite

Everything Photographic J.T. Boysen and his Yosemite Studio

A Message from Yosemite

Mornings and evenings are crisp and the daylight shorter. Fall brings with it the annual clearing out, tucking in and readying for the cozy time of winter. That's especially true this year in Yosemite, where big changes are coming to the Park Service landscape.

Come January, Park Superintendent Mike Tollefson will become the new president of our partner the Yosemite Fund, and Chief of Interpretation Chris Stein will be entering his third full month as superintendent of St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. We may even see a new Deputy Superintendent in the park, as

Kevin Cann is running in a hotly contested race for Mariposa County Supervisor. They have all been passionate supporters of YA and will remain so, while new faces will bring fresh ideas and perspectives. We wish them our very best and thank them for all they have done for the park and the Association. We like to say that you never actually leave Yosemite, because the landscape marks us all in an indelible way.



Thanks to you, our members, one remarkable thing does not change. YA will be here to welcome new visitors and old friends and ensure that everyone has a chance to connect to this extraordinary place.

Just for fun, let's take an imaginary family trip through the park on a fall weekend. You pick up the new, easy to use *Yosemite Guide* at the entrance station to help plan your time. The kids decide they want to go to Happy Isles to take a Junior Ranger program and hike. Mom sees a watercolor class at YA's Art and Education Center that catches her fancy, and Dad wants to go to the Visitor's Center to check out the new interpretive displays and browse in the YA bookstore. You park the car as soon as possible and jump on the quiet, hybrid shuttle bus. Dad and the kids check out the exhibits at the Visitor Center and then head off to Happy Isles, *Junior Ranger Handbooks* in hand, while Mom joins the art class.

Over the next day or so you will walk in Cook's Meadow, meet other families from around the world, hike the Yosemite Falls trail and watch climbers scale the dizzying granite heights of El Capitan. At every turn in your stay you will be aided by helpful YA volunteers and staff who, along with National Park Service and Delaware North employees, will offer timely information, interpretive guidance, specialized hikes and classes to expand and enhance your visit. If you let them, they'll even plant the seeds for your next park adventure.

You'll return home with good memories, lots of photos and a shopping bag or two of items from our bookstores to deepen and share the experience. And in the back of your mind, you are already planning a snowshoe and photography outing for this winter.

YA and its park partners work together to make your park experience as rich and meaningful as possible. Your support for the Yosemite Association's broad variety of programs and services add a warm and personal touch to everyone's visit. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity. It creates the opportunity for each visitor to feel a special connection to Yosemite and our national parks.

Thank you and hope to see you soon in Yosemite.

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Christy Holloway Yosemite Association Board Chair

Cover: As a young man, Yosemite photographer J.T. Boysen took this self-portrait with Galen Clark at the base of the Grizzly Giant.

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EVERYTHING PHOTOGRAPHIC

izzying cliffs, roaring waterfalls and unparalleled rock formations make Yosemite National Park one of the most photographed places on earth today. But at the dawn of the twentieth century, when tourists were still making their way into the Valley via horse and stagecoach, photography and vacation snapshots were still a luxurious rarity.

Into this void stepped Yosemite entrepreneur and photographer Julius Theodore Boysen. Along with his wife Mabel, Boysen ran a successful photography business in Yosemite Valley for over 40 years. They offered thousands of tourists the chance to record their visits with a portrait by park landmarks, and sold many more postcards of Yosemite's wonders, spreading the park's fame around the world.

Boysen is not one of Yosemite's best remembered photographers, nor was he particularly prolific. Even so, he left behind a legacy of unique Yosemite images chronicling life in the park during a time of rapid social and technological change. His historic photographs include images of the Stanley Steamer automobile that entered the park in July 1900, the 1909 visit of President Taft and a 1906 series of Galen Clark in Mariposa Grove.

J.T. Boysen, as he is often known, was born in San Francisco on December 18, 1868. His father, Julius Boysen, was a German immigrant who arrived in San Francisco in 1855. As a "hatter," the elder Boysen's business must have thrived in stylish nineteenth-century San Francisco.

Julius married a Swedish woman named Engla Rosenlof on November 20, 1859, in San Francisco. They had three children before she died from tuberculosis in 1865. Burdened with the care of three young children and a business, he quickly found another wife. Julia Lind, also from Sweden, was in her twenties when they married in 1866 or 1867. The birth of Julius T. Boysen soon followed. But the boy lost his mother in 1880, when he was just eleven years old.

J.T. Boysen (left), at the entrance to his first tent studio in Yosemite Valley with his brother Edward (middle) and their father, Julius.





A prominent sign attracted visitors entering the Old Village to Boysen's studio. The former Sentinel Hotel can be seen in the distance next to Sentinel Bridge.

By the time J.T. Boysen turned 21, he had moved to the Sierra Nevada foothills. He lived with, and probably worked for, Joseph Rydberg, an indirect relative who owned a ranch in Cooperstown about 20 miles west of Sonora. There he spent about six years working on ranches and farms in Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties.

Boysen then left the foothills and moved to Yosemite. Little did he imagine that it would be the beginning of a 43-year association with Yosemite, from 1898 to 1943.

Young and strong, Boysen performed trail work for the first few years. But in 1895, he tried to follow in his father's entrepreneurial footsteps, asking the Yosemite Commissioners for a permit to operate Snow's abandoned hotel near the base of Nevada Fall. The commission turned his request down. Undaunted, Boysen applied for "a curio and souvenir shop and photo privileges of groups with a 4 by 5 camera" on May 8, 1897. This time, he was successful. In 1898, Boysen opened a tent studio on the site of Gustavus Fagersteen's former photography studio, located in what is now called the Old Village.

The Boysen Studio was considered a "general photographic business" by the National Park Service. The permits allowed dealings in "everything photographic," including processing film, selling cameras, film, photographs, postcards and "Yosemite paintings in water or oil colors." He took portraits of tourists at sites around the Valley and sold visitors prints and postcards of waterfalls and other landmarks. Boysen rounded out his offerings with fine candies and even Indian baskets, but the latter were removed from his permit in 1915.

When J. T. Boysen became interested in photography or how he learned to process film is unknown. Whatever his motivations, his photography business proved successful. Good luck and good timing also played a role. In 1900, just as Boysen was starting his business, Kodak unveiled its Brownie camera. Simple to use and affordable at just a dollar, the Brownie brought photography to the masses for the first time.

The Brownie's popularity created business opportunities for Boysen and many others in the nascent field of photography. At this time, Boysen wisely made his studio an Eastman Kodak agency. He could not only sell Kodak film and cameras to Yosemite visitors, but also develop and print their photos while they were still vacationing in the park.

Also in 1900, Boysen moved his business from a tent to a wooden building. The shift was part of a state policy to rid Yosemite of temporary structures. The studio he constructed was modest, just 16 x 34 feet.

By 1913, Boysen could proudly report to Park Superintendent Major Littebrant that he was "the first to introduce developing and printing for amateurs; the first to carry a line of Photographic Supplies for sale and the first to introduce the photographing of people reflected at Mirror Lake and also on horseback at trails, free of charge, to buy or not, at their option, after seeing the proofs at the studio." If that was not enough, his was "the only studio kept open during the winter."

As these statements suggest, Boysen's was not the only photographic studio in the Valley. His competitors included photographers Arthur C. Pillsbury, D. J. Foley, and Harry C. Best. And while Boysen was generally cooperative in his dealings with park managers and the other concessionaires, the presence of so many studios inevitably caused tensions. For example, each day all of the studios would set up cameras around Mirror Lake to photograph visitors. In 1916, A. C. Pillsbury proposed the studios alternate their days at the lake instead. First tried during the 1915 season, the arrangement frustrated Boysen. "Many mornings, for some reason, either or both of my competitors failed to be there," he wrote in a letter to the park. When the park supervisor instructed the studios to continue the alternating-day plan, Boysen complained in a second letter. "I abhor these controversies, and have no intention to be arbitrary, and am seeking no special privilages [sic], but endeavoring to defend my business interests."

Photography would provide Boysen a career as well as a family. In 1899, Mabel Sweetland, a native of the San Joaquin Valley hamlet of Lemoore, was working as a teacher in San Francisco. She happened to visit Yosemite Valley that summer with two of her students. She met J.T. when she took her film to be processed at Boysen's Studio. After a brief romance, the pair were married in Lemoore on February 11, 1900. On November 6, 1900, their only child, Ellen, was born in Lemoore.

Mrs. Boysen became a true partner in the photography business. Among other work around the studio, she was a "saleslady and colorist" who hand-tinted photographs that the studio framed and sold. Mabel Boysen had an unusually close relationship with many Native Americans who lived in the Valley. In a 1934 interview, she recalled that she "would have been very lonely when I came here if it had not been for the Indians. They were good to me and there were often several of them sitting around the rooms of my house."

In addition to selling baskets until 1915, the Boysens amassed a substantial personal collection, part of which is now in the Yosemite Museum collection. Mabel Boysen was also a judge in the basket competition at some of the Indian Field Days held in the Valley from 1916 to 1930.

The Boysens' unusually close association with Native Americans would lead to some of J. T. Boysen's most significant images. He took a number of portraits of Yosemite's native people, including a 1901 photo of Paiute Indian Suzie McGowan carrying her daughter Sadie in a beaded cradleboard.

Despite his professional success, Boysen suffered from serious health problems that affected his work. As early as 1919, Mabel Boysen and her father contacted a former employee about buying the studio. And in June 1920, 51-year-old Boysen himself wrote to Superintendent Lewis stating his "desire to dispose of the photographic business in Yosemite known as the Boysen Studio." Nothing came of this, because in September 1920, J.T. applied again for his annual permit, asking that it "be made in favor of Mrs. and Mr. J. T. Boysen instead of J. T. Boysen" because his "sickness, last summer, compelled her assuming the management exclusively and in every sense she is an equal partner."

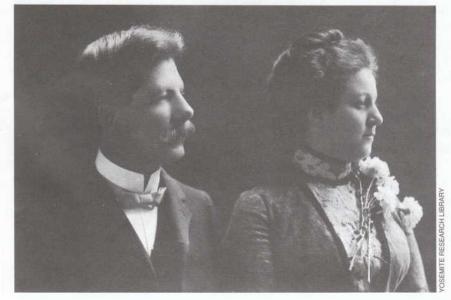
In 1924, the Park Service began moving businesses like Boysen's Studio to the north side of the Valley to the present location of Yosemite Village. By that December, the Park Service had a plan and elevation for Boysen's so-

> called New Village studio designed by Herbert Maier. The building, wrote Park Superintendent W.B. Lewis, would be "a frame structure with shake roof, sided with bark, and with stone foundation."

> After some construction delays due to his health, Boysen moved into the structure in the spring of 1926. The "new" Boysen Studio still exists just west of the Post Office; it is now the NPS Wilderness Center where visitors can obtain permits for backcountry camping, climbing and other activities.

But health issues continued to plague Boysen. In 1934, the Boysens wrote to the NPS Director asking that their contract be changed to

Julius T. and Mabel Boysen, almost certainly taken on the occasion of their wedding in Lemoore in 1900.





This image of Suzie McGowan and her daughter Sadie near Yosemite Falls was one of several photos Boysen took documenting the lives of Native Americans in the park.

state that in the event of either of their deaths, the business would revert not to the government but the remaining partner instead. The letter states that "Mr. Boysen has had a complete nervous break-down, and the possibility of a paralytic stroke is imminent. After the forced move to the New Village Mrs. Boysen's personal capital was put into the business, in the effort to hold it together. The result of the above facts is that now, at the age of fifty eight, this business is Mrs. Boysen's only means of livelihood."

The nation was now in the throes of the Great Depression, which was bad news for businesses connected to tourism such as Boysen's Studio. In 1934, the park superintendent wrote to the NPS Director stating that "the photographic business seems to be growing progressively worse. There appears to be a diminution in the percentage of people who are having their developing work done in the Park—the outlook is altogether discouraging." He asked the Director to defer the franchise payment for the Boysens as the NPS had already done for Mr. Foley.

When the Boysens wrote to request the renewal of their concession in 1934, they asked that their married daughter, Ellen, be included on the contract, stating that "Mrs. St. Clair has lived here most of her life and has managed the business for the past five years."

After so many years in poor health, J.T. finally became an invalid about 1934. In March of 1939, Mabel Boysen took him to a sanitarium in Sacramento, where he died on May 29 at the age of 70. Following a Masonic funeral on June 1, his remains were buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Mariposa.

Acting NPS Director Arthur Demaray wrote to Mabel Boysen offering "the deepest sympathies" of the National Park Service. "Although Mr. Boysen was not well the last few years of his life and he could not do the things he wanted, his pictures and the things he did in the early days of the park will long be remembered. The way you carried on for him should always be a consolation to you."

Mabel Boysen operated the business and continued to live in Yosemite Valley until her sudden death from a heart attack on May 10, 1943. Her funeral was conducted in Mariposa by the Order of the Eastern Star on May 13. She was buried beside her husband. Superintendent and Mrs. Frank Kittredge led a group of at least seventeen people from Yosemite Valley who attended the funeral.

In August, Ellen sold the family business including the "buildings, personal property, equipment, inventories of merchandise for resale, inventories of supplies, and operating rights of and to the photographic studio and personal living quarters of the business" to the Yosemite Park and Curry Company for \$7,000. The company continued to run the business as the Boysen Studio until 1947, when the NPS recommended renaming it to avoid misleading the public. The name change marked the end of a familiar Valley landmark and an institution that helped record a bygone era in Yosemite history.

A native of Fresno, Steve Harrison vacationed in Yosemite often while growing up. He recently retired after 30 years with the National Park Service. He and his wife Donna now make their home in western North Carolina but try to visit Yosemite at least once a year.

MAKE A DEEPER CONNECTION TO YOSEMITE

E ach visitor to Yosemite faces a rich range of choices during their park stay. Where to go, what to see and how to get there rise to the top of the list, but one glance at the *Yosemite Guide* illuminates a host of other ways to experience the park—coffee with a ranger as you plan your day, a guided hike or snowshoe with an experienced naturalist, a journey through time at the Yosemite Museum, a free class painting *en plein air* in the shadow of El Capitan or a trip to Ostrander Ski Hut in winter. These experiences have made for count-

less rewarding memories, photos and stories to tell your friends when you return home. They cultivate your connection to this magical place.

We at the Yosemite Association pride ourselves on providing opportunities to create connections to the park. These connections in turn inspire a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of both Yosemite and our National Parks. Working with many partners in the park, the Association engages visitors and helps them learn about, enjoy and experience the wonder of the park.

Clockwise from upper left: Exploring Yosemite hand in hand on a YA outing.

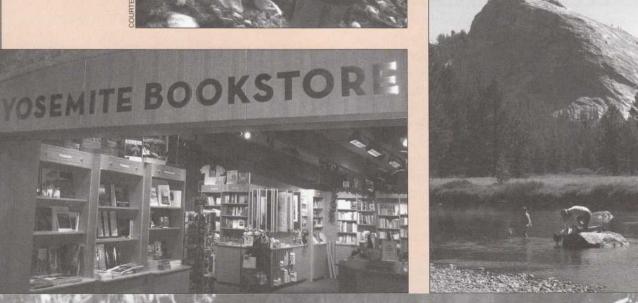
Volunteers hard at work near Tuolumne Lodge.

A new generation discovers the Tuolumne River.

The Valley Visitor Center Bookstore, one of nine stores we operate in the park.







WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US TO HELP VISITORS:

Gain a deeper understanding of Yosemite's natural, cultural and historic story through our **Outdoor Classroom** educational experiences;

Explore their creativity through free hands-on artistic activities at the **Yosemite Art and Education Center**;

Restore meadows and trails and enhance the visitor experience as members of our **Volunteer Corps**;

Become the **next generation** of stewards by participating in college internships, Junior Ranger and other programs geared to ethnically, culturally and geographically diverse populations;

Enjoy the Yosemite **backcountry** in all seasons with the wilderness reservation and safety program, bear canister rentals to **Keep Bears Wild** and the **Ostrander Ski Hut**;

Obtain high quality, locally published books, maps and educational products about Yosemite and the natural world at our **bookstores and information facilities** as well as through our **website** (www.yosemite. org), which offers access to a "Virtual Yosemite."

Beyond the park's boundaries, the Association broadens connections in personal and public libraries by publishing award-winning **books, maps, DVDs, posters and other materials** that we hope will educate and inspire the public to conserve Yosemite for future generations. At the same time, we hope to encourage talented scholars, writers, artists and storytellers to share their passion for the park.

As fall emerges in Yosemite National Park, the Association's vibrant programs are once again helping people gain an enduring attachment to the park. Without the support of more than 11,000 passionate members and active donors the Yosemite Association could not build these connections. As the nation's economic climate changes, the strong relationships we have with our supporters will ensure that visitors continue to connect with Yosemite through our many programs. We hope that you will join our fall campaign and stretch your support so we can help a new, broader base of people fall in love with Yosemite.



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BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL WITH YOUR YEAR-END GIFT

ach year, the Yosemite Association relies on your donations to make a difference in Yosemite. Programs like our Outdoor Classroom, Volunteers and Yosemite-focused publications create vital stewardship to protect Yosemite National Park, but they would not be possible without your support. Make a commitment to provide opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada by contributing to our fall campaign. You can use the enclosed envelope or make a donation online at www.yosemite.org/helpus/donations. html. This donation will not renew your membership, but it will help the Association build a deeper connection to Yosemite for generations to come. Thanks for your support!

INVESTIGATING THE EL CAPITAN ROCK AVALANCHE

t 2:25 on the morning of March 26, 1872, one of the largest earthquakes recorded in California history struck along the Owens Valley fault near the town of Lone Pine just east of the Sierra Nevada. The earthquake leveled most buildings in Lone Pine and surrounding settlements, and killed 23 people. Although seismographs weren't yet available, the earthquake is estimated to have been about a magnitude 7.5. Shock waves from the tembler radiated out across the Sierra Nevada.

On that fateful morning, John Muir was sleeping in a cabin near Black's Hotel on the south side of Yosemite Valley, near present-day Swinging Bridge. The earthquake shook the naturalist out of bed. Realizing what was happening, Muir bolted outside, feeling "both glad and frightened" and shouting "A noble earthquake!" He recalled the experience in his 1912 book *The Yosemite*:

I feared that the sheer-fronted Sentinel Rock, towering above my cabin, would be shaken down... The Eagle Rock on the south wall, about half a mile up the Valley, gave way and I saw it falling in thousands of the great boulders I had so long been studying... pouring to the Valley floor... After the ground began to calm I ran across the meadow to the river to see in what direction it was flowing and was glad to find that down the valley was still down.

The earthquake and rockfall profoundly affected Muir, causing him to view earthquakes as the primary mechanism of rock debris, or talus, formation in Yosemite Valley. Noting the huge volumes of talus in Yosemite Valley, he went on to write:

Judging by its effects, this earthquake was gentle as compared with the one that gave rise to the grand talus system of the Range and did so much for the cañon scenery.

The rockfall witnessed by Muir originated from an area above the present location of the Yosemite Chapel, from a point known as Eagle Rock. The rockfall was about 47,000 cubic yards in size, enough to cover a football field nearly three stories high. The rock itself weighed roughly 108,000 tons, making it one of the larger rockfalls in recorded Yosemite history. However, the debris from the Eagle Rock rockfall actually came to rest upon a pre-existing, and much more extensive, boulder deposit. Located just east of the Chapel near Sentinel Bridge, this deposit is the result of what geologists call a rock avalanche, an especially large rockfall or rockslide that extends far beyond the cliff where it originated. Most Yosemite Valley rockfall debris accumulates at the base of the cliffs, forming a wedge-shaped deposit of talus. Occasionally, however, debris from a rock avalanche will extend out much farther across the valley floor.

Geologist Gerald Wieczorek of the U.S. Geological Survey and colleagues have identified at least five rock avalanche deposits in Yosemite Valley. The largest of these occurred in Tenava Canyon, at the site of present-day Mirror Lake. Sometime in the past, a rock formation on the north wall of the canyon just east of and probably similar in size to Washington Column collapsed into Tenaya Canyon. The rock debris piled up against the south canyon wall to a depth of over 100 feet. There was so much rubble that it dammed Tenaya Creek, forming a large lake that once extended over a mile upstream of the dam. The lake has since been mostly filled in with sediment carried by Tenaya Creek, but what remains is known today as Mirror Lake. Other rock avalanche deposits in the Valley can be seen near Tenava Bridge and at the walk-in campground below Royal Arches.

Of them all, perhaps the most interesting and spectacular is the El Capitan rock avalanche deposit, located beneath the southeast face of its namesake. Francois Matthes, a pioneering Yosemite geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in the early 1900s, described the El Capitan Meadow deposit in 1930:

... the most remarkable body of earthquake débris is that which lies in front of El Capitan—not the talus of blocks that slopes steeply from the cliff to the valley floor, but the much vaster hummocky mass, partly obscured by a growth of trees and brush, that sprawls nearly half a mile out into the valley. There can be no doubt that it is the product in the main of one colossal avalanche that came down from the whole height of the cliff face—probably the most spectacular rock avalanche that has fallen in the Yosemite Valley since the glacial epoch... the quantity of débris that fell in this stupendous earthquake avalanche is so great... that its removal doubtless altered appreciably the contour and appearance of El Capitan.

In 2006, a new digital topographic map of Yosemite Valley was made using a technique called Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). In this technique, a laser mounted on a small airplane emits pulses of light, and a sensor on the plane records the reflected light. The time it takes for the light to return indicates the distance from the plane to the ground, and Global Positioning System (GPS) is used to precisely mark the plane's position from above. LiDAR mapping also allows mapmakers to filter vegetation out of the final image, providing a high-resolution image of bare ground surface.

Was the same earthquake that triggered the El Capitan rock avalanche also responsible for the park's other rock avalanches? The answer has important implications for park safety.

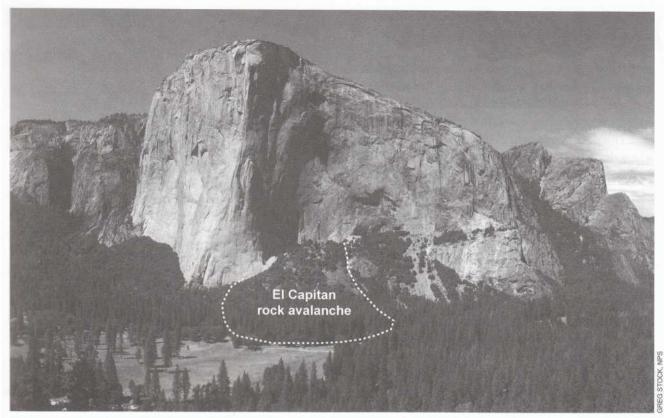
The El Capitan rock avalanche can be seen clearly in the Yosemite Valley LiDAR map, which has a resolution of about one foot. The deposit is shaped roughly like a huge tongue stretching nearly 2,200 feet beyond the base of El Capitan, about twice the length of the adjacent talus slope. It extends so far onto the Valley floor that it forces the Merced River (and now also Northside Drive) to take a sharp detour to the south at a site called Devil's Elbow. The rock deposit is about 1,400 feet wide and at least 60 feet thick in places. The piled rubble slopes downward from the base of El Capitan to the Valley floor, and then climbs upward nearly 20 feet toward the leading edge of the deposit near El Capitan Meadow. This backsloping morphology is common in rock avalanches, which quickly travel outward from the base of the cliff. The El Capitan rock avalanche deposit includes large angular boulders up to about 2,500 cubic yards in size, weighing about 5,700 tons. The entire deposit occupies a volume of about 3.75 million cubic yards, or roughly 8 million tons. For perspective, that is equivalent to a cube of granite about 155 yards on a side, as long as one and one half football fields.

When did the El Capitan rock avalanche occur? It's easy to place a few basic time constraints. We know it must have occurred after the last glacier retreated from Yosemite Valley about 18,000 years ago, but before the "discovery" of Yosemite Valley by white people in 1851. But rock avalanche deposits have traditionally proved challenging to date with standard geological methods. Most techniques provide ages for the rocks themselves, which works well if your intent is to determine when Yosemite's granites cooled from magma, but isn't very helpful if you want to know when a granite boulder came to rest at a particular place. However, a relatively new technique called cosmogenic exposure dating provides a possible solution. The technique is based on the principle that cosmic rays from space are constantly bombarding Earth's surface. Exposure to the rays generates certain chemical isotopes in the rock (isotopes are variants of elements with a different number of neutrons in the nucleus of the atom). The longer a rock has been exposed, the more of these isotopes it will accumulate. Rock avalanche deposits are excellent candidates for this type of dating, for they are composed of rocks that were almost instanteously exposed during the avalanche. Measuring the amount of the isotope beryllium-10 in the El Capitan rockfall boulders should indicate roughly how long these rocks have been lying on the floor of Yosemite Valley.

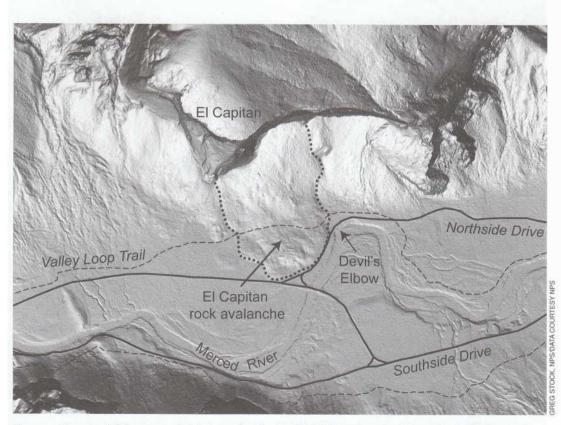
Earlier this year, we chipped small slabs of rock from the tops of five boulders on the El Capitan rock avalanche and sent them to a laboratory at Purdue University in Indiana that specializes in cosmogenic exposure dating. Four of the five boulder samples returned ages of between 3,400 and 3,700 years, strongly suggesting that the El Capitan Meadow rock avalanche occurred about 3,600 years ago. A fifth boulder returned a much greater age of about 20,000 years. This last sample likely appears older because we sampled rock that was part of the cliff face before the rock avalanche occurred.

We now know fairly precisely when the El Capitan rock avalanche occurred. But what triggered it? Were Muir and Matthes correct in asserting that an earthquake triggered the great rock avalanche deposits in Yosemite Valley? As it happens, the 3,600-year age for the El Capitan rock avalanche coincides nicely with estimates for a pre-1872 rupture of the Owens Valley fault. Jeffrey Lee of Central Washington University and colleagues have dug trenches across the fault to study the subsurface sedimentary layers. Dating the offset sediment layers, they reported in 2001, allowed them to constrain the pre-1872 rupture to between 3,300 and 3,800 years ago-right in the neighborhood of the cosmogenic exposure boulder dates. The dramatic events of March 26, 1872, which made such an impact on John Muir, clearly demonstrated that Owens Valley fault earthquakes are capable of triggering tremendous rockfalls in Yosemite Valley. The most logical conclusion is that an earlier earthquake from the same fault triggered the El Capitan rock avalanche.

But one outstanding question about the El Capitan rock avalanche has not yet been answered: Where exactly on the vast southeast face of El Capitan did the rock avalanche originate? Given that the rockfall dislocated so much of the rock face, it is surprising that the southeast face lacks an obvious scar. The avalanche material originally could have been a broad slab extending over much of the southeast face. However, the vast majority of rocks in the deposit are composed of Taft Granite, which, according to existing geologic maps, appears mainly in the summit area of El Capitan. Diorite, a darkcolored rock that forms the shape of North America on



The southeast face of El Capitan, showing the location of the El Capitan rock avalanche (white dotted line).



Topographic map of El Capitan and vicinity produced with LiDAR (laser scanning) data. The dotted line marks the area of the El Capitan rock avalanche, which extended far into Yosemite Valley and diverted the river at the Devil's Elbow.

the southeast face, is virtually absent from the avalanche rocks. Yet the vast southeast face has never been mapped in detail.

To help answer this question, we are now collaborating with National Park Service Climbing Ranger Jesse McGahey and other climbers to map the rock types along several major climbing routes that go up the southeast face. This data should help us determine more precisely where the massive El Capitan rock avalanche originated.

It is now time to start investigating the other rock avalanches in Yosemite Valley. Was the same earthquake that triggered the El Capitan rock avalanche also responsible for these? The answer has important implications for park safety. And if that isn't reason enough to care about these fascinating deposits, consider Muir's concluding remarks on these immense shards of former mountain cliff faces:

If for a moment you are inclined to regard these taluses as mere draggled, chaotic dumps, climb to the top of one of them, and run down without any haggling, puttering hesitation, boldly jumping from boulder to boulder with even speed. You will then find your feet playing a tune, and quickly discover the music and poetry of these magnificent rock piles—a fine lesson.

The largest boulder in the El Capitan rockfall weighs some 5,700 tons.

Greg Stock, Ph.D., is the Park Geologist. He works in the Division of Resources Management and Science, and is investigating the October 2008 rockslide that occurred above Curry Village.

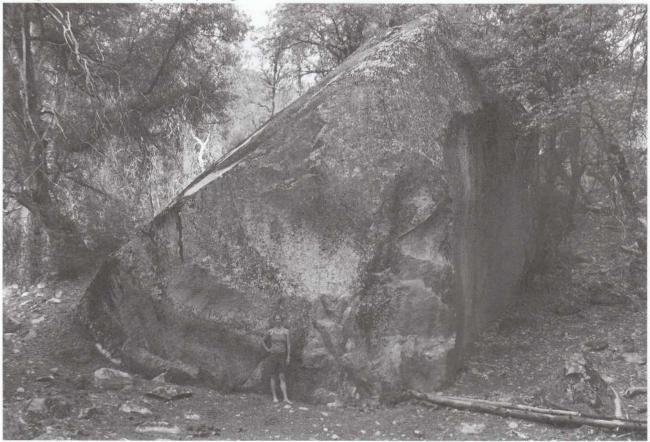
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FINDING GEORGE

n May 18, 1903, at the Presidio of San Francisco, after three years of continuous service with Troop K, Ninth Cavalry, Private George Metcalf of Frankfort, Kentucky, was discharged from the U.S. Army.

What kind of day was it that shone on Pvt. Metcalf on his last official hours as a soldier? Did a fog roll in, obscuring not only Fort Point but also the thoughts of a man who found himself illuminated by a final sunrise? No more bugles sounding duty. He was now free to decide for himself all that he would do on the following day. There must have been a sense of release, but also a little giddiness, and fear, accompanying that freedom.

There were probably no parades in his honor, no confetti was flung from the rooftops, throngs of admirers did not speak his name, for he was just another soldier, his duty done, about to move on in life to a new adventure. History would soon forget him, and he would become just another name on a government ledger.

On the muster rolls written for his troop, the following notation was made:

Discharged at Presidio of S. F. Cal., May 18, 1903 per expiration of term of service. Discharge and Final Statements given. Due soldier for clothing not drawn in kind Three dollars and Sixteen cents (\$3.16) For deposits Ninety Dollars (\$90.00). Character "Excellent".

Those few words do little to encompass the range of feelings that must have been like heavy seas rolling through George Metcalf on that day. How would you have felt after three years in the Ninth Cavalry? For those years your life would have been under the control of superiors. They would have determined when you awakened in the morning, where you slept at night, what you did during the day and how you might die tomorrow.

You were in the Army. You were a soldier. You followed orders. God was a first sergeant who didn't particularly like you. Heaven was a place you went to when you could manage to sleep. Your family was Troop K. These men were your brothers. You would die for them, and they would die for you. This was not out of love, but out of necessity. It was the nature of survival.

Now after three years of taking orders, in a moment as thin as the paper you signed, you were on your own, no longer part of that unit, that family. You were abruptly an ex-soldier, you were alone with only a few choices.

Which did you make, George Metcalf? Did you imagine yourself working a ranch in Montana, riding horses, or mules, when you wanted to? Were you hoping to get back home, back to Frankfort, Kentucky? Was there someone there waiting for you? What was her name? Or did you just want to be home, to not move elsewhere, but be there fully again?

Were these the thoughts that swept through you on May 18, 1903? There was no way you could ever imagine that just about the only thing that would remain of you on that day would be a brief list of final dispensation. "Character, Excellent."

Certainly there is more written somewhere in the universe about Pvt. Metcalf, but until the summer of 2001, it was about all that I knew of him. He was simply one of hundreds of buffalo soldiers who served in Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in 1899, 1903 and 1904. For each of these men perhaps a similar day would dawn, or perhaps they would die, still soldiers, somewhere alone or with a comrade close by.

Whatever their final moments may have been, and wherever they breathed their last, they all passed away slowly into this forgotten story. However scattered they may be now, this history binds them together in death as surely as that hard military discipline bound them together in life.

People whose history has been forgotten suffer a different kind of death. Not only are they physically absent, their legacy is also elsewhere. In another essay I referred to this place as the "one hundred year hole." The hole is that void where lives collect in documents and reports. Nothing organic remains; no bones, no tissue; you're just a shadow cast onto faded correspondence stored in boxes and vaults. A hole by any other name.

Most of these soldiers are in that hole. Their destiny was to fall, or be lowered, without much ceremony into that hole. It's dark in that hole, and crowded, so dark that there's not even a memory of light.

Down there in all of that is, or rather was, George Metcalf. He probably would have remained there forever, at least for me, had it not been for Larry Montgomery, a seasonal ranger here in Yosemite Valley.

Last year, as I was sitting in my office going over Ninth Cavalry muster rolls, which are lists of soldiers in particular troops and commentary about their status, Larry happened to stop by. Larry's from Kentucky. You can hear Kentucky when he speaks. It's not just in his words; it's how they're packaged, his sentences move in a way that's Kentucky. George Metcalf was from Frankfort, Kentucky, so I wondered if his speech sang in a similar way: "Hey,



A portrait of Private George Metcalf sent to the author by his descendant, Derrick Graham.

Larry." I said. "There's a soldier here from Kentucky. Why don't you take a look?"

I handed over the muster rolls and Larry read what was written and exclaimed, "George Metcalf! The Metcalfs? I know the Metcalfs from Frankfort. They've lived there for over 100 years!"

I thought he was joking. He wasn't.

All of last summer I walked around Yosemite Valley presenting my living history program, aware that I had found the relatives of one of Yosemite's buffalo soldiers, or perhaps closer to the truth, one of those relatives, through the agency of Larry Montgomery, had found me. Do we discover history, or does history discover us?

Sure, Private Metcalf never served here in the Sierra Nevada, but he was a soldier with Troop K which ventured to Yosemite barely one month before he was discharged from the Ninth Cavalry. Because in those days it took the U.S. Army nearly two weeks to travel from San Francisco to Yosemite, and it was logical for George Metcalf to finish his time in the military at the Presidio. George Metcalf remains part of that story. Like the rest of Troop K, he was a veteran of the Philippine-American War garrisoned at the Presidio of San Francisco. Like many of his peers, he was from the South. They had served together, sharing hardships and the deaths of fellow soldiers. The memory of George Metcalf certainly journeyed through the high country of Yosemite though the man did not. I had found George, or had been found by George. George Metcalf has claimed me just as surely as I have claimed him. My research turned into a lifeline tossed into a dark hole, someone tugged at the other end, and now he's slowly being pulled free. What must that feel like to be forgotten for nearly a hundred years, and then to suddenly have people saying your name, wondering about you again, as if you'd never been forgotten?

Of course, for the Metcalfs, George was always a part of family history. A few days ago I spoke to Derrick Graham, the great-grandnephew of George Metcalf. Mr. Graham is a schoolteacher in Frankfort, Kentucky. He told me that George never married, and that he was the only brother of four sisters, but all I could think of in that moment was that I was on the telephone with a relative of Pvt. George Metcalf.

In those few minutes, this history was no longer superintendent reports, patrol reports, muster rolls, letters, or miscellaneous correspondence. It had become a conversation about someone real, someone who had sisters, someone who was remembered by people who were alive. Somewhere there was a heart beating, and a breath taken. There was blood flowing. There were tears.

George was alive for me while I was talking to Derrick Graham, alive in a way that he had not been in over three years of research. At what point does something far away awaken inside you? When does the temperature of a story shift from zero to hot? Now it was personal. Now it was the way he walked, the way he spoke, how he held a cigar. Did he smoke? Now it was the dreams he had, those forgotten dreams. It was a whole different thing. I had found George. George had found me.

For years I had been reaching my hands out into darkness, and when I least expected it, someone had clasped them, held them. I was no longer solely in this time, and George was no longer a creature of that time. A bridge had been built beneath us, and we had crossed somehow, and met amazed in the middle of that span.

What do you say? What do you ask? You feel close, but you're a stranger. You ask simple questions; you wait, listen and hope to hear something you hadn't thought of before. A phone call. Time slows. A voice. Talking about the dead. The living. What's in between? You are.

Now the history no longer sleeps in yellowed documents, but shines in the eyes of George Metcalf. They look out into this world through his living cousins, nephews and nieces. He was never forgotten in those households. What is it all made from, those nails, the glue and bolts that keep a story together? It can all fall apart elsewhere, but in every family memories can be kept like heirlooms, without shelf or cabinet, there behind the eyes.

Yet, I have only found a part of George. The totality of a life can't be captured in a photograph. He stares out from a fragment of a time and a place. He can't be restored completely without the restoration of the world that he knew. But before the arrival of this gift, this portrait that has bound us both in something living, there was little to hold.

One day soon, perhaps, I shall look up from my desk, and there before me will be Derrick Graham, a stranger who is not a stranger, a man from Kentucky with a story to tell. He may not use words, because not all stories are put down on paper. There is a language in the way he stands on that day, in the manner of his speech. The contours of his face speak about a history he has never lived. He will extend his hand, and I will take it, and then, finally, I will have come as close as I can in this world to finding George.

It won't be the end, though, because history never has an ending; it just goes on like a river. What nourishes you can also sweep you away. A blessing can fall silently as prayer.

Who now prays for George Metcalf, or the thousands who left the Old South to find something, or run from something that had no name? In what places today still dwell those ambitious, yet fearful shadows that eventually found refuge in the Old Army? One by one they drifted into that system like leaves to a stormy sky and were reborn as privates, corporals and sergeants. They became cavalrymen or infantrymen. They were given a new purpose. New goals and objectives were laid before them and their opinion was not asked. They rode, they marched, they drilled, they fought, they slept and they died.

Each of those men has a story to tell. Some of those

stories weave together Yosemite, Sequoia and the Presidio of San Francisco into one narrative. The Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada are just a few of those stories. All through the South, countless other George Metcalfs wait to speak. All they need is someone willing to listen.

When I peer into the muster rolls that house all the names, all the lives in this story of wilderness protectors and national parks, I glimpse in that black and white space at least 400 other shadows that once were living men. They still wait to be found. Most are like George Metcalf in that they were from the South, but some hail from other places, northern cities like Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago; or western cities like Kansas City, Denver and San Francisco. What are their stories? Who prayed for them? Who prays for them now? Are flowers still strewn over their graves, or do they lie forgotten in the shade of trees?

Once upon a time the Ninth Cavalry rode in Yosemite and Sequoia. These mountains heard their laughter, their cries. The shadows remember them. The shadows speak.

This is the beginning.

Shelton Johnson has worked as a ranger for the National Park Service since 1987 and in Yosemite for the last 15 years. During the summer months he performs as Sgt. Elizy Boman of the Ninth Cavalry as part of Yosemite Theatre. He has written a novel about a Yosemite buffalo soldier which will be published by Sierra Club Books in 2009.

African-American cavalrymen, called "buffalo soldiers" by Native Americans for the texture of their hair, patrolled Yosemite during the turn of the century.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

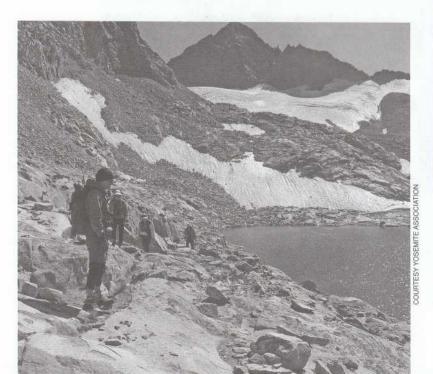
Grasp Yosemite

YA Outdoor Adventures participants enjoyed some incredible learning experiences this past season, including:

- walking on the Lyell Glacier with the park geologist
- painting the sunset light glowing from the domes in Tuolumne Meadows
- gaining the immense view from the summit of Tenaya Peak
- discovering the contributions of Latinos and Chinese to Yosemite
- · observing a peregrine falcon nest with a park biologist
- spending quality family time in our high country campground on excursions enriched by knowledgeable trip leaders

More great learning opportunities are coming your way this winter. The field institute catalog included in this issue of the journal covers Outdoor Adventure seminars from January through March. Because our snowshoeing courses were so popular last year, we'll be holding one every Saturday this winter starting in January. Other adventures this season will include unique moonlight snowshoe treks, full day trips out to the rim of Yosemite Valley and winter natural history explorations led by superb instructors. This winter, we are pleased to add the delightful outdoorswoman Kendra Kurihara to our strong field faculty. Also new this year are a two-night naturalist outing to Ostrander Hut and a pursuit of the elusive "Firefall effect" for photographers.

The winter courses are all listed on our website, where you can find more details and register. We've reserved lodging to go with all courses, and free park entry and camping are included with all classes.



Custom Adventures

So far this year our naturalists have led more specially tailored programs for people than ever before. Individuals, couples, families, conference groups, universities and travel companies have all benefited from having their own expert escort on the trail. If you've ever thought about doing this with family or friends, we hope you'll give us a call a few weeks in advance at (209) 379-2321 to make arrangements.

Explore China With Us

A small group of Yosemite enthusiasts assembles in Hangzhou on May 5 for a two-week exploration of our two sister World Heritage Site parks in the mountains of China. Remarkable landscapes, exotic wildlife including pandas, astonishing waterfalls and interesting visitor management challenges will be some of the experiences we will encounter on this unique trip to Huangshan (Yellow Mountain) and Jiuzhaigou national parks. If you're interested, the details are on our website at www. yosemite.org/seminars.

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

Departing Maclure Glacier.



January-March 2009

Discover Winter in Yosemite! These four pages contain most of the information you need to join us for an adventurous outdoor learning program in the first part of the year. You'll want to go to our website, www.yosemite.org/seminars, to see more details on each course and instructor. Taking a course in the quiet winter months is an excellent way to grow your connection to Yosemite. As Mr. Muir put it "...the winds will blow their freshness into you, and the storms their energy..."

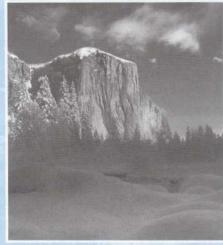
Register on our website, <u>www.yosemite.org</u>, by calling us at (209) 379-2321, or by mailing or faxing us the form on the fourth page of this insert.

Tuition is 15% less if you're a YA member. It covers instruction, the park entrance fee, and camping. Meals, lodging, and equipment are not included unless specifically noted.

Stay in a campground for free if you're in a course, but we'll also send you reservation information for the rooms we have set aside during each course, available at extra cost.

Weather is what makes the Sierra in winter so dynamic! We prepare and want you to be prepared for anything, from rain and snow to warm sun. Links on our website will get you more information, and you can phone the continually updated NPS road and weather recording at (209)372-0200.

Physical demands vary among courses and with snow and weather



conditions. Look at each course description on the website regarding daily mileage, gradient, elevation and likely snow cover conditions. **You must be in good physical condition for these mountain programs;** the instructors have the right to deny your participation if they feel you're not healthy enough or are otherwise unprepared for the course.

Cancellation is something we hope won't apply to your participation, but there are three things you should know. A 90% refund is given if you cancel at least 30 days before the course. Within 30 days of the program, without exception, **we cannot issue refunds for any reason**. (You may be able to apply your tuition to another course in 2009, though.) If YA cancels a course, we will refund your full tuition, but aren't responsible for other travel or lodging plans you've made.

Liability forms must be signed by all participants before attending a course.

As with everything the Yosemite Association does, our field institute program is devoted to the National Park Service mission of preserving resources and providing for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of today's

The catalog for the remainder of 2009 will be mailed out in the winter *Yosemite* journal—and posted at www.yosemite.org in January. citizens such that the beauty we value today will remain unimpaired for future generations. Through educational courses that are professional, safe, fun, and Leave No Trace on the Sierra, we want our participants to become more informed, active park stewards. **Yosemite has something to tell you.**

THE LANDSCAPE IMAGES ARE COURTESY OF DELAWARE NORTH COMPANIES PARKS & RESORTS AT YOSEMITE



FIELD SEMINARS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

YOSEMITE OUTDOOR

Start 2009 with something interesting... You'll find many more details on our website, www.yosemite.org/seminars.

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JANUARY

Moonlight Snowshoe 1 Saturday January 10 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: moderate

Yosemite naturalist **Karen Amstutz** is your guide for this snowshoe trip into the bright night of winter. Natural history, astronomy, and an unusual physical adventure will start your new year with an evening of discoveries.

Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist 1

Saturday January 17 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: moderate

You'll be informed and delighted in your explorations of the winter habits of park wildlife and trees, and with the fascinating background of Sierra weather and snowpack. Get deep into the season on snowshoes.

Winter Natural History at Ostrander Hut

Tuesday January 20 – Thursday January 22 \$270, or \$230 for YA members From Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: challenging

Backpack on snowshoes (or your backcountry skis) for two nights in the cozy shelter of Yosemite's winter backcountry cabin. From our location in a remote glacial cirque, we'll venture out to observe the full diurnal cycle of winter natural history with **Pete Devine**.

Winter Landscape Photography

Thursday evening January 22–Sunday January 25 \$335, or \$285 for YA members Yosemite Valley Hiking: easy

Pro photographer **John Senser** has extensive experience in the techniques that capture Yosemite in its most spectacular season. Film and digital formats, and all levels of experience are welcome for these days of low-angled light and clouds on snowy cliffs.

Dewey Point Snowshoe Trek

Saturday January 24

#5

\$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: somewhat difficult

Yosemite naturalist **Kendra Kurihara** is your guide for this snowshoe trip from Badger Pass to a dramatic spot on the rim of Yosemite Valley. Winter natural history, rich photographic subjects, a physical adventure, and great company will fill your day. Discovering Winter World 1 Saturday January 31 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: moderate

Ranger **Dick Ewart** is THE naturalist for the Badger area, and will lead a day of exploration of winter adaptations of Sierra life, the mechanics of snow crystals and the snowpack, and following animal tracks for clues to the season's happenings.

#6

#8

FEBRUARY

Moonlight Snowshoe 2 Saturday February 7 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: moderate

Interpretive naturalist **Emily Jacobs** explores the mysteries of winter, the night and the moon on this afternoon/evening excursion. It is a rare experience to be in a silent landscape, both dark and brightly lit, to learn about this unique time and place.

For the Love of Winter

Saturday February 14 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: moderate

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the romance of a snowshoe exploration of the winter wonders of Badger Pass with **Kendra Kurihara**. Bring your loved ones on a trek to learn about staying warm and cozy in winter and why this is, indeed a day of love and life for many creatures.

Photographing the "Firefall"

Friday February 20-Saturday February 21 \$164, or \$140 for YA members Yosemite Valley Hiking: easy

The elusive moment of colorful sunset light on a Yosemite waterfall has been captured many times by photographer **John Senser**. He'll prepare you and position you for the camera pursuit of a remarkable natural occurrence. Having two evenings to seek this ephemeral phenomenon provides photographers with increased chances to observe something marvelous.

Ski or snowshoe out to stay at Ostrander Hut for a full experience of winter discovery. Call (209) 372-0740 for information and reservations.

#4

ADVENTURES

Peregoy Snow Suvey

Saturday February 28 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: somewhat difficult

#10

Join park rangers Mark Fincher and Chuck Carter to assist them with the official snowpack measurements near Badger Pass. They share the history, equipment, management issues and tales of the trail to give you a new understanding of this important but little known practice. We'll provide snowshoes so you can help quantify the winter's snowfall and predict spring runoff.

MARCH

Moonlight Snowshoe 3 Saturday March 7 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: moderate

The waxing moon illuminates a black and white planet and the silence emphasizes the sustained grip of winter at this elevation. Kendra Kurihara escorts you through this frosty world.

Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist 2 Saturday March 14 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: moderate

Award-winning interpreter Emily Jacobs is your guide to this adventure in winter natural history. Wildlife, trees, snowpack and weather are some of what you'll encounter in our snowy forests and meadows. Bring a camera to take home a different kind of California environment

Equinox at the Edge

Saturday March 21 \$82, or \$70 for YA members Badger Pass (snowshoes provided) Hiking: somewhat challenging

Winter cedes to spring this weekend and we'll make a journey to the rim of Yosemite Valley to observe the changes. Our world adjusts with a transition from horizontal to vertical geography mirroring the shift in seasons. Milder weather, photographic opportunities and good company will go with this full day of discovery at Dewey Point.

ADVENTURES WITH YA'S SPRING FORUM

These Outdoor Adventure courses have been scheduled on either side of the Yosemite Association Spring Forum for members, which is on Saturday March 28. Non-members are welcome. Each of these courses is \$75, or \$64 for members of the Yosemite Association. The Friday course will start at 9:00 and end by 4:00. The Sunday courses will start at 9:00 and end by 2:00. Our website has more course details: www.yosemite.org/seminars.

#14

On Friday, March 27

A Hard Road in Gold Mountain

Ranger Yenyen Chan celebrates the heritage of Chinese-Americans in Yosemite with a walk on the old Wawona Road, which was built by Chinese laborers. Discover some unknown contributors to park history on a spring day afield. Moderate.

On Sunday, March 29

Flowers after the Fire

Witness the explosion of color and diversity in the part of our lower canyons which burned last summer. Enthusiastic expert Michael Ross will cover identification, natural history, and photographic opportunities on a delightful spring day. Moderate.

Discovering the Winter World.

Ranger Dick Ewart gives you a taste of the fading winter at 7000' on this snowshoe exploration at Badger Pass. Trees, tracks and travel over the snowpack highlight the turn of the seasons. Moderate.

Learn more about our instructors by looking at their biographies on our website, www.yosemite.org/seminars.

YA would be glad to design a Custom Adventure for your family or group event. Call us at (209) 379-2321 for more information.

#15

#16

#12

#13

Outdoor Adventures

ENROLLMENT FORM • 2009 YOSEMITE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Name		
Additional Name		
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Daytime Phone ()	Evening Phone ()	
FAX #: () e-ma	il address:	

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES:

Accommodations

O I want to camp with the group in YA reserved shared sites.

- I will reserve and pay for my own private campsite by calling 1-877-444-6777.
- I want to rent a room—please send me the reservation request form.
- I will make other accommodation arrangements.

Cancellation Policy

O I have read the cancellation policy and understand that to receive a refund, I must cancel at least 30 days before a course and pay a 10% fee per enrollment.

Membership

Class Roster

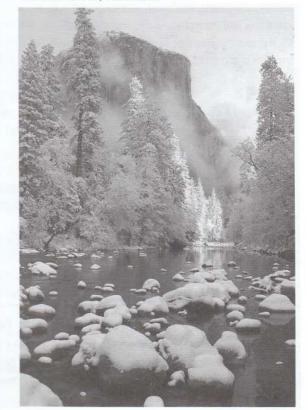
We typically provide a class roster to participants to encourage carpooling, equipment sharing, and networking.

 \bigcirc No, please do not give out my contact information to others in my class.

WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES?

YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS	
OIndividual \$35	
○Family/Supporting \$60	
OContributing \$135	
⊖Half Dome \$250	
⊖Clouds Rest \$500	
⊖El Capitan \$1000	
⊖Mt. Lyell \$2500	
OInternational \$50	

Enter membership total below



FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH ADVENTURE:

Qty.	Class No.	Class Name	Date	Course Fee
Yosen P.O. Bo	nite Association	fax: 209/379-2486 phone: 209/379-2321	Total Course Fees: Membership or Renewal Fee:	\$
	al, California 95318	e-mail: info@yosemite.org website: www.yosemite.org	GRAND TOTAL:	\$
PAYME	NT:			
🔿 Ch	eck enclosed. Checks s	hould be payable to the Yosemite Association.		
Or	, charge my credit card.	We accept:		
O Vis	sa 🔿 MasterCard	O American Express O Discover		
Ca	rd Number:		Exp. Date:	
Si	gnature:		or sign up online! WWW.YO	SEMITE.ORG

SUPERINTENDENT TOLLEFSON TO LEAD YOSEMITE FUND

Il good things must come to an end, and that was certainly the case on August 22, when Yosemite National Park Superintendent Mike Tollefson announced his retirement from the National Park Service after 36 years of service. Though he will leave the NPS at the end of the year, Mike will remain a part of the Yosemite family when he takes over as President of the Yosemite Fund in January 2009.

"It has been a pleasure and a highlight of my life to be superintendent of Yosemite National Park and to work with all of the dedicated employees and partners pulling together to make Yosemite a unique and special place that so many love," he said. "I am proud of all that we have accomplished together. Yosemite is a better place for the visitor and the resource is more protected."

Tollefson has been the superintendent of Yosemite National Park since December 2002. His long career with the NPS has included serving as superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California, Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. He also has been in policy leadership positions in the National Park Service's Pacific Northwest regional office.

As Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, Tollefson has guided a major construction program to repair old infrastructure, improve visitor services and increase resource protection. Under his tenure, the shuttle bus fleet has been replaced with hybrid electric buses and sister park relationships have been established with parks in both Chile and China.

The Yosemite Association is extremely excited to work with Mike in his new role



at the Fund. Departing Yosemite Fund President Bob Hansen notes that "Mike is the perfect choice to lead The Yosemite Fund and work with the National Park Service, donors and many others to improve the park in the years ahead." We couldn't agree more.

While announcing his new position, Mike said, "I am excited to help those who care about Yosemite to preserve and protect the park's future. My overarching goal will be to build on The Yosemite Fund's successes of the last twenty years. I feel uniquely positioned to continue to support Yosemite's special projects and initiatives through private funding and resources."

Congratulations Mike!

FIRE MENACES YOSEMITE COMMUNITIES

Fire is a natural part of life here in the Sierra Nevada. Just as they need rain, wind, sun and snow to thrive, the flora and fauna in this mountainous landscape require the heat of a burn to maintain a healthy ecosystem. But for many of us at the Yosemite Association and throughout Mariposa County, the flames came too close for comfort this summer.

On the afternoon of July 25, a spark from target shooting ignited the Telegraph Fire in the community of Midpines outside of the Yosemite gateway town of Mariposa. The blaze spread fast. By July 27, thousands of residents had been evacuated and fire crews were working hard to contain the spread. Several times over the next few days, crews closed a section of Highway 140 for safety, and power in El Portal and Yosemite Valley was intermittent at best.

But thanks to the over 4,000 firefighters who fought to rein in the blaze, the Telegraph Fire was fully contained by August 6. It burned 34,091 acres, destroyed 30 residences and caused 38 minor injuries. In the meantime, life for most of us has returned to normal. We're all grateful for the efforts of all those involved in containing the fire, restoring power and keeping our communities safe: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Mariposa County Fire and Sheriff Departments, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and especially the men and women of the crews who came to our aid.

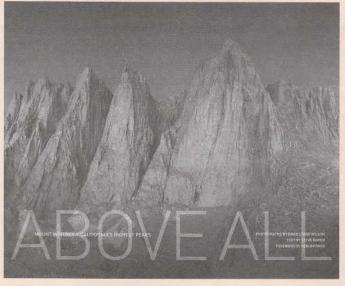
YOSEMITE CATALOG

NEW YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

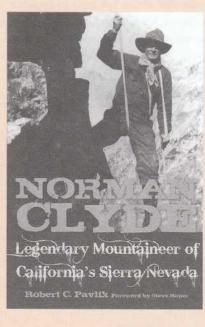
2008 YA Fall Gathering Featured Book

Above All

by David Stark Wilson and Steve Roper California's "Fourteeners"—Mount Whitney, Mount Shasta and the loftiest peaks of the High Sierra have long teased the imaginations and challenged the fortitude of mountaineers. Photographer and mountaineer David Stark Wilson captures the treacherous beauty of these summits and the surrounding panorama, evoking emotions ranging from excitement and allure to a quieter sense of peace, respect and awe. Steve Roper, a well known climber and historian, provides accompanying text. Together Wilson and Roper weave together an unforgettable tapestry of



windswept splendor, historical data, personal anecdote, climbing mythology and the natural history of California's highest peaks. \$35.00 member price \$29.75



Norman Clyde

by Robert C. Pavlik

This riveting account of one of the most notable personalities of the climbing world reconstructs the life of legendary mountaineer Norman Clyde (1885-1972). He wrote his name into history by making more than 130 first ascents throughout western North America. Many believe he knew the High Sierra better than anyone, including John Muir.

Part of Clyde's mystique stems from several high-profile mountain rescues and recoveries that he conducted and where he is credited with saving a number of lives. Those who had the good fortune to meet him—often with a 90-pound pack on his back that included an anvil for boot repair, fishing rods, cooking pots and books in Greek and Latin—never forgot the experience.

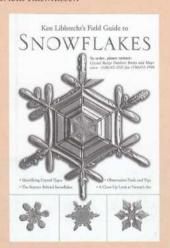
Biographer Robert C. Pavlik uses Clyde's own words, along with

recollections of his family, friends, fellow climbers and acquaintances, to capture the experiences of a remarkable man and a bygone time "between the pioneers and the rock climbers." \$14.95 member price \$12.71

HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Field Guide to Snowflakes The Snowflake:Winter's Secret Beauty by Ken Libbrecht, photography by Patricia Rasmussen

Physicist Libbrecht and photographer Rasmussen both grew up in snowy climes, but it took a scientific and aesthetic focus to deepen their appreciation for snow's hidden beauty. They now share these revelations in a felicitous union of word and image. Libbrecht decodes the exquisite architecture of individual snowflakes, explaining how these "miniature ice masterpieces" are literally conjured out of thin air. Water vapor condensing into ice, he explains, takes on shapes dictated by the geometry of water molecules. If the physics of snow crystals is fascinating, so too is Libbrecht's history of the science of snowflakes, which features Rene Descartes, Johannes Kepler, Vermont farmer Wilson Bentley who pioneered a method for photographing







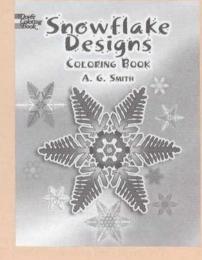
individual snowflakes, and physicist Ukichiro Nakaya who figured out how to grow them.

> Field Guide to Snowflakes \$12.95 member price \$11.01 Available after Nov. 15

The Snowflake: Winter's Secret Beauty \$20.00 member price \$17.00

Snowflake Designs Coloring Book by A.G. Smith

The unique patterns of snowflakes are limitless—and so is the artist's imagination when markers, crayons, paints or glitter are applied to the delicate beauties in this book. Here are 30 illustrations of nature's most dazzling creations as individual flakes and scattered in storms. Softcover \$3.95 **member price \$3.36**



Sierra Club Yosemite Holiday Note Cards

The Sierra Club presents twenty 5" x 7" winter holiday cards in a decorative box including five cards of four different Yosemite winter scenes. A portion of the proceeds from this product supports Sierra Club efforts to preserve and protect the planet. These cards are printed in the USA with soy-based inks on recycled paper. \$15.00 member price \$12.75



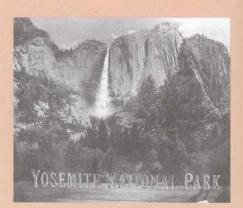
HOLIDAY GIFTS

Yosemite National Park Puzzles

These 500-piece puzzles are a great gift for young and old alike. The *Yosemite's Wildlife* and *El Capitan/Bridalveil Fall* puzzles are presented in a panorama style with a finished size of 12" x 36". The finished size of the *Yosemite Falls* puzzle is 18" x 24". All puzzles come with a free reference poster.

\$10.99 each member price \$9.34 each





Yosemite National Park picture book Printed with soy inks, this book provides stunning pictures of Yosemite's grandest features large and small. Featuring flowers, animals, granite monoliths, GPS coordinates of famous features and minimal narrative, this 46-page overview of many Yosemite highlights is the perfect stocking stuffer. \$7.99 member price \$6.79

Order Form

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	225.00 & up = 15.95 13.55
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YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION, FALL 2008



Name: Niki Stephanie Nicholas

Job Title: Chief of Resources Management and Science for Yosemite National Park.

Hometown: Norris, Tennessee.

Education: B.A. Northwestern University (Biology); M.S. University of Tennessee (Ecology); Ph.D. Virginia Tech (Forestry)

Total number of years working in Yosemite: Almost five years.

What first brought you to Yosemite? I came to Yosemite and the National Park Service from Tennessee. I had always wanted to work for the Park Service and when I saw the job announcement, I knew it was a position worth a career change, relocation and general change in way of life.

What do you do in your job? As Chief of Resources Management and Sciences, I am responsible for all programs, budgets and personnel in natural and cultural resources. This includes wildlife management, ecology, botany, vegetation management, history, historical architecture and landscapes, physical sciences, Geographic Information Systems, anthropology, archeology and social sciences.

What is your favorite place in Yosemite? It is difficult to pick just one place. Every day when I go to work I pass by El Capitan. I keep a journal at my office of the different ways the morning sky lights the rock. It is a delightful way to start work.

What is your favorite Yosemite book? When I first got to Yosemite I was not familiar with many of the names, places, and traditions of the park. I thumbed through Steve Medley's *Complete Guidebook to Yosemite* at least weekly. Currently I find John Muir Laws' *Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada* incredibly easy to throw in my backpack in case I see something I can't identify. When think-

PARK PROFILE

NIKI STEPHANIE NICHOLAS

ing about potential restoration projects and research projects, I like to look at *Yosemite in Time* by Klett, Solnit and Wolfe.

What is your favorite non-Yosemite book? I have given away many copies of *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* by Isabella L. Bird. As the middle-aged Miss Bird traveled alone through the American West by horseback during 1873-74, she wrote a series of letters to her sister back in England. She observed and documented a rapidly changing frontier without romantic jargon or generalization. Her letters are a sort of diary from someone who was truly open to new experiences.

Who is your favorite historical figure? Eleanor Roosevelt was active in social work and politics throughout her life. After her husband's election, she helped to shape the numerous social programs of the New Deal. She forged unique territory as a First Lady; she traveled the country independently of the president, visited coal miners and factory workers, wrote newspaper columns and opinion pieces, visited soldiers overseas during World War II and advocated for the poor. After Franklin Roosevelt's death, she continued to lecture and write about racial equality, women's rights and world peace. Mrs. Roosevelt used every day to try to make a difference and I find her life story very inspiring.

What do you think is YA's most important role? The Yosemite Association provides a wide range of critical support functions for Yosemite National Park. YA's volunteers are essential for a number of park resource management and interpretation activities. I think the YA-Heyday publication partnership will continue the tradition of excellent Yosemite books. And the art opportunities that YA offers to visitors are part of what makes the Yosemite experience so special.

What do you consider your greatest success in the park to date? Over the past four years we have more than doubled the number of highly qualified resource managers and scientists in the park. The park has provided excellent new work spaces for Resources Management and Science staff as well as our USGS and Sierra Nevada Research Institute partners. These facility improvements help us attract the best and the brightest and provide better meeting places for researchers from across the country.



MEMBERS PAGES

Members Welcome Autumn in Wawona

Members were treated to a perfect blue sky day for our 33rd Annual Fall Gathering held September 6 in Wawona. Over 250 members joined YA staff, volunteers and the National Park Service to reconnect with our park via interpretive walks and programs ranging from bird watching to rediscovering your senses through the sights and sounds of nature.

Following an outdoor buffet on the lawn of the historic Wawona Hotel, members joined YA and NPS staff for the annual meeting which commenced that afternoon at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Many members relaxed amid the ponderosa while hearing addresses from Yosemite Superintendent Mike Tollefson, Yosemite Association Board Chair Christy Holloway and Chief Executive Officer David Guy. The Association also said a fond farewell to Laurel Rematore, our outgoing Membership and Development Director of seven years. The meeting closed with a presentation from this year's keynote speaker, David Stark Wilson, the photographer of the stunning new YA/Heyday book Above All: Mount Whitney and California's Highest Peaks.

Members enjoyed a wine and cheese reception immediately following the meeting in the Gray Barn, where the raffle and silent auction were on display. The raffle and auction were a great success this year, bringing in a combined total of \$6,310 to support education and



stewardship in Yosemite. David Stark Wilson was also available to autograph copies of *Above All* along with Stephen Botti, author of *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*. After the meeting, members gathered to enjoy roasted marshmallows and campfire yarns spun by ranger Mike Powers. The evening closed with an old fashioned barn dance and music provided by the Wawona Philharmonic.

We would like to thank our many friends and volunteers for making this year's Fall Gathering a great success. The following individuals gave interpretive programs and support throughout the weekend: National Park Service rangers Megan Gilles, Kristine Huchinson, John Jackson, Jeff Lahr, Sharon Perry, Mike Powers, Marea Ortiz and Sarah Wagstaff; author Stephen Botti; soundscape recordist Dan Dugan; UC Merced intern Raj Bolla; and retired ranger Fred Fisher. Thank you to the volunteers at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center who brought history to life: Laura Avedisian, Bruce Champion, Linda Champion, Jim Michael, Sue Michael, Julie Schuller and Eden

Sanders. Many thanks to Calvin Liu and Ed Whittle for audio/visual support during the meeting and throughout the day, and to DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite staff members Janis Kunz, Kerri Strong and Maria Ruiz as well as the staff at the Wawona Hotel. Thanks also to rangers Alex Earring, John Jackson and Dean Shenk and Yosemite Association volunteers Fred Fisher and Joe Lattuada. MaryJane and Vern Johnson, Denise Matsuoka and Julie Schuller for their invaluable help throughout the event. Finally we would like to thank the Redwood Creek Winery and the American Park Network and all of our auction and raffle prize donors: The Ansel Adams Gallery, Nicole Brocchini, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Nené Casares, Arnold & Carol Compolongo/ Scope Enterprises, Jean Clark, Suzanne Corkins, Dumont Printing, Naturals from the Earth/Fred Fisher and Joe Lattuada, Michael Frye Photography, Jeff Grandy Photography, Patti Garrity, David and Ingelise Guy, Gerry Haslam, Heyday Books, Neumiller & Beardslee, Garcia Machine, Sunday Marzano, Mono Lake Committee, Ken Olivier, Redwood Creek Winery, Dean Shenk, Dawn Sherertz, and the Yosemite Museum.

Mark your calendars for next year's Fall Gathering, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2009 in Tuolumne Meadows. Invitation letters will be mailed in July 2009.

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**.

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, 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.

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Welcome to Wawona Evening Reception -

As the sun set over Wawona Meadow on September 5, golden light shone through the curtain of hops growing over the balconies of the Wawona Hotel, illuminating a lively reception of Yosemitephiles. To kick off the annual Fall Gathering, Yosemite Association donors gathered in the aptly named Sun Room to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine generously provided by Redwood Creek. Members mingled with one another and Yosemite Superintendent Mike Tollefson, the Association CEO David Guy and our special guests David Stark Wilson, photographer of Above All, who signed copies of his book, and Stephen Botti, author of An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park. We would like to thank Don Fuhrer, Redwood Creek Wines and DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

for supporting this event and creating a wonderful evening shared with friends.

The Yosemite Association hosts special receptions before events like the Fall Gathering and Spring Forum for our donors who contribute \$250 or more each year. We look forward to these opportunities to personally thank our members for their generosity. In addition, those who contribute \$1,000 or more are invited to dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow at the home of DNC COO Dan Jensen. We invite you to upgrade your membership or make a gift to YA so that you too can attend these special gatherings. You can make a gift at www.yosemite.org/helpus/donations. html, enclose your gift in the envelope included with this journal or call us at (209) 379-2317.

YA in the Bay Area

On Friday, December 5, at 5:30 pm, the Yosemite Association will welcome Bay Area members and friends to a special reception at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills featuring Heyday Publisher Malcolm Margolin and author Gerald Haslam. Call 209-379-2317 for more information. We hope to meet you there.

King of the Canisters



UC Merced intern Chris Hubach on his bear canister throne this summer in Wawona.

Every group of backpackers headed for an overnight stay in the Yosemite wilderness carries a bear canister to keep their granola and other rations safe from animals. The canister rental program is one of many park services supported by YA funds and interns.

Park visitors made particularly good use of the program this past Fourth of July weekend. Afterward, wilderness ranger Joan McCandless had 34 canisters to clean out at Wawona alone. As the Fourth was the last three day weekend of the season, McCandless told her two YA/NPS wilderness interns they were unlikely to beat her record. But she failed to factor in their determination. In the following weeks, intern Chris Hubach saved incoming canisters until he had 52 to clean in a single day-likely setting a park record. Says McCandless, "While I thought they might be motivated by a little healthy competition, I now feel like the Tom Sawyer of Wawona and Chris feels like the king."

Hats Off to Our Event Donors

Throughout the year, we at the Yosemite Association treat our members to a variety of events. We welcome the opportunity to share our love of the park members and mingle with our members, but we couldn't do it without the contributions of some very special partners.

A toast to **Redwood Creek**, which generously provided wine for our events again this year. We always enjoy sharing these award-winning wines with you, and thank Redwood Creek for making our donor receptions, Spring Forum, Fall Gathering and Autumn Feast a little more fun.

To find out more about Redwood



Creek and how these single-varietal wines "embody the adventurous spirit of California," visit them online at www. redwoodcreek.com.

This summer, the Association partnered with The Ansel Adams Gallery to host Art in the Village Wednesday nights between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Visitors were treated to wine from Redwood Creek (thanks again!) and cheese from Clover Stornetta Farms. **Clover Stornetta Farms** is a locally owned and operated dairy processing

plant in Northern California. Their cows graze on the pastures of family



farms in Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino Counties. We thank them for supporting Yosemite's Art in the Village and encourage you to learn more about the farms at http://cloverstornetta.com.

And the Winner is...

Congratulations to Kelly Kersten, lucky winner of the 2008 Bracebridge Dinner raffle. Kelly's name was drawn from a pool of over 700 tickets at the Fall Gathering in Wawona on September 6. She and her guest will enjoy the revelry of the 2008 Bracebridge Dinner at the Ahwahnee Hotel and a one-night stay at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls compliments of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite. Our thanks go to DNC and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets in support of education and stewardship in Yosemite. Have fun, Kelly!

We Did It! YA Volunteers Help Yosemite Thrive

It's no secret: Yosemite is bustling all summer long. Every day, thousands of visitors gaze in wonder at the grandeur of the granite domes and waterfalls. Inevitably, each of them is overwhelmed with questions at one time or another. Fortunately, the Yosemite Association's Visitor Information Volunteers are there to provide some answers and a friendly smile as these questions come to light. This year, 91 volunteers staffed inter-



Karen Gierlach assists visitors at the Tuolumne Meadows Information Booth.

pretive facilities and introduced park visitors to the Association's efforts to support education and stewardship in the park. These indispensable visitor advisors also spent a month (or two or five!) living and working in the park. Thank you for all you did to help the park this year in Yosemite Valley,

Tuolumne Meadows and Wawona. We miss you already! Linda Angle, June Bailey, RoxAnne Borean, RJ Bragg & Paula McNerney, Jim & Helen Brohm, Mary & Mike Burchmore, Tom & Kris Byde, Gladys & Gordon Callander, Gary Childs, Cheryl Cleeves, Alexandra Cole, Beverly & Bob Combs, Samuel Devore, John & Maureen Eaton, Bill & Marion Eggers, Donna Engleman, Alice Ensley, Jim Gibson, Paul & Karen Gierlach, Nancy Gilmore, Judith Girard, Amanda Goldstein, Anne Gomes, Jack & Sue Hansen, Ann Hardeman, Carol Harris, Debbie Henz, Doug Hitchingham, Ted Hoesman, Kathy Hopkins, Loretta Hunker, Peggy Jester, MaryJane & Vern Johnson, Adrienne Kalmick, Kathleen Keller, Sanders & Pat Lamont, Chris & Jeff Lashmet, Wiliam Love, Joanne Mandel, Laurie & Jim May, John McCaffrey, John McClary, Bob McConnell, Jill Metz, Lou & Carole Meylan, Russ Mills, Harriet Novakovich, Ken Olivier, Johanna Olson, John Orlowski, Nancy Ornee, Warren & Jennifer Patten, Kent Pettey, Joyce Rasmussen, Phillip Rocha, Charles Ryan, George Sakelarios, Roger & Kathleen Schneider, Julie Schuller, Richard

Malcolm Margolin Honored With Leadership Award



YA and Heyday Books publisher Malcolm Margolin was honored with the San Francisco Foundation's annual Helen Crocker Russell Award for com-

munity leadership at a ceremony held at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco on September 23.

As a former YA board member, Malcolm has served as an advisor on many Association publications and has been instrumental in establishing YA's new partnership with Heyday Books. He is a revered colleague and friend to many people in the worlds of books, publishing, nature conservation, California Indian communities and academia. For his staff at Heyday, and certainly for all of us, he is a delight and daily inspiration. The Helen Crocker Russell Award recognizes individuals and organizations whose leadership has made a significant impact in their particular Bay Area communities. The program for the evening noted that Malcolm "has brought enlightenment to generations of our state's young people and due deference to California's indigenous people. We honor him for bringing voice, visibility, and value to multicultural, multilingual communities."

Previous recipients of the award have included Alice Waters, Eva Paterson, Ruth Asawa and Belva Davis. Fellow recipients this year are Van Jones, cofounder of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights; writer, educator and organizer Elizabeth Martinez; and the Asian Women's Shelter. Congratulations, Malcolm! Schuman, Nancy Sexton, Dawn Sherertz, Charles & Susan Speyerer, Mary & George Sutliff, Lynn Taylor, Jackie Wagoner, Jo Wamser, Jan Webster, Ron Williams, Julice Winter, Brad Wojcik and Pat Zuccaro.

Volunteers continued on page 29

Bon Voyage, Laurel!

Laurel Rematore joined YA as a member in 1998, and quickly took an active role in the organization as a volunteer with the Cooperative Work Weeks program. A few more Work Weeks and Spring Forums and she was hooked. She left her Bay Area condo for the wilds of Mariposa County and a position in our offices in El Portal. Over the next seven and a half years, Laurel wore many hats at the Yosemite Association. As Membership and Development Director she mailed countless letters, planned and attended hundreds of events, labeled each light switch with care and grew the Association from 8,500 members to an assemblage of nearly 11,000, many of whom she knew personally. This September, Laurel left Yosemite to become Executive Director of the Mesa Verde Museum Association for Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, Laurel, we'll miss your wit, creativity and of course your feathered purple cap in the park. Congratulations on your next big adventure!



YA bids a fond farewell to longtime Membership and Development Director Laurel Rematore (right) at the Fall Gathering. At the podium are Chief Executive Officer David Guy (left) and Board Chair Christy Holloway (center).

Ostrander Ski Hut Trips: Another Benefit for Yosemite Association Members!

While most visitors know Yosemite National Park as a great summer and fall hiking destination, winter holds rich rewards for those willing to venture into the park's wilderness during snowier months. The Yosemite Association maintains a rustic ski hut that sits at an elevation of 8,500 feet on the shore of one of Yosemite's most beautiful alpine lakes. The hut was built in 1941 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and was specifically intended for winter use. Its beams are made of lodegepole pines from the Yosemite area and the two-foot-thick rock walls are made of granite cut from nearby blocks of glacial moraine.

While the Ostrander Hut provides a comfortable way to experience Yosemite's backcountry during the winter, the accommodations are best described as rustic and the trip should be attempted only by those in good physical condition. The ten-mile ski and snowshoe trail to the hut is well-marked and maintained, but should not be underestimated. Facilities at the hut include a wood stove, beds with mattresses, outhouse toilets, communal cookware and treatable water drawn from a hole cut in the ice on Ostrander Lake. Visitors must provide their own sleeping bags, toiletries, food, water purification equipment, eating utensils and other gear and clothing appropriate to cold and wet conditions.

Due to the hut's popularity, reservations are awarded based on a random lottery system. The lottery takes place in mid-November. Holiday and weekend dates are the first to fill. Any dates not filled in the lottery are available by phone through the Yosemite Association's Ostrander and Wilderness reservation line. In early October we will mail Ostrander information and lottery request forms to our visitors and members. If you are interested in experiencing the beauty of Ostrander and would like to be added to our mailing list, please



send your name, address and phone number to Ostrander@yosemite.org, or call (209) 372-0740.

Yosemite Association members enjoy nightly discounts at the Ostrander Ski Hut. Please spread the word to fellow skiing enthusiasts, and encourage others to support Ostrander Ski Hut and Yosemite National Park by becoming a member of the Yosemite Association. To become a member or renew a membership, please visit our website at www.yosemite.org.

Volunteers (cont.)

For 21 years, YA member volunteers have participated in the Cooperative Work Weeks program to help preserve and restore natural resources in the park. 2008 was no exception, as 53 YA members joined forces with Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, the National Park Service and the Yosemite Institute to complete five week-long restoration projects. The work involved removing non-native species, planting and restoring high-impact areas throughout the park. On behalf of all the Cooperative Work Weeks partners, YA thanks the 2008 crew: Carol Allen, Richard & Jane Baxter, Sheree Birch, Sydney Bluestone, Linda Brodman, Joan Carter, Michelle Conrotto, Anthony DeMaio, Elizabeth DeRooy, Jean Dillingham, Christopher & Candace Elder, Marshall & Judith Fisher, Catherine Foote, Belinda Gilbert, Erik Grotenhius, Gerry & Jan Haslam, Chris Heritage, Jill Hill, John Holloway & Elaine Reed, Larry Jansen, Judy Johnson, Robert Johnson, Eric Juline,

Christina Kisiel, Mona Knight, Amber Lawrence, Jim& Betty Mae Locke, David Margiott & Kathy Montgomery, Katherine Mawdsley, Clem & Marina Michel, John Mullen, Claudia Newbold, Ron Nichols, Skye Nickell, Jerry Nuding, Ralph Occhipinti, Theresa Peterson, Tom Rail, Jim Rail, Terri Rooney, Joan Sanderson, Suzanne Schroeder, German Silverio, Patricia Spada, Alison Sterley and Donald Trowbridge.

In addition to the five traditional Work Weeks, Association volunteers aided DNC by restoring historic landscaping at Tuolumne Lodge. For two weeks this summer and a weekend this fall, 26 YA volunteers joined DNC staff to rejuvenate the area surrounding this historic Sierra camp. We can't wait to see how their efforts pay off next spring. Thanks are due to Ricardo Azucena, RJ Bragg & Paula McNerney, Joan Carter, Don Christensen, Jean Dillingham, David Eichorn & Jeanette Larsen, Christopher Franchuk, Jeanne Furukawa, Kathy Giraud, Jan & Gerry Haslam, Jim Horstman, Robert Johnson, Russ Morimoto, Jim Nielsen, Ron Nichols, Jerry Nuding, Dick Rudloff, Christopher Schofield, Suzanne Schroeder, Susan Swanson, James Wallis, Ron & Mary Ann Webster and Michele Whizin.



Yosemite Association volunteer Michelle Conrotto hard at work in a forest near Wawona.



ASSOCIATION DATES

DEC. JANUARY

FEB.

MARCH

APRIL

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 Dec 6: C Reception at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills, CA Eleven – I

Dec 6: OA #63 Woodpeckers: the Quest for Eleven – Pete Devine

Dec 19: Ostrander Ski Hut Opens for the season **Dec 24-25:** YA Administrative Office closed for Christmas holiday

Jan: Invitation to Spring Forum (Mar. 28) and Member Benefits Coupons to be mailed this month.

Jan 1: YA Administrative Office closed for New Year's holiday Jan 10: OA #1 Moonlight Snowshoe 1 – Karen Amstutz Jan 17: OA #2 Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist 1

Jan 19: YA Administrative Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday **Jan 20-22:** OA #3 Winter Natural History at Ostrander Hut – Pete Devine

Jan 22-25: OA #4 Winter Landscape Photography – John Senser Kurihara Jan 31: OA #6 Discovering the Winter World 1 – Dick

Jan 24: OA #5 Dewey Point

Snowshoe Trek - Kendra

Ewart

Early Feb: Winter 2009 issue of quarterly members' journal *Yosemite* sent out

Feb 7: OA #7 Moonlight Snowshoe 2 – Emily Jacobs

Mar 7: OA #11 Moonlight Snowshoe 3 – Kendra Kurihara

Mar 14: OA #12 Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist 2 – Emily Jacobs

Fridays – Mondays all month: Yosemite Renaissance XXIIII Exhibit, Yosemite Museum Gallery Feb 16: YA Administrative Office closed for Presidents Day holiday

Mar 21: OA #13 Equinox at

Mar 27: OA #14 A Hard

Road on Gold Mountain -

Date TBD: Ostrander Ski

Hut closes for the season

the Edge

Yenyen Chan

Feb 14: OA #8 For the Love

of Winter - Kendra Kurihara

Feb 20-21: OA #9 Photographing the "Firefall" – John Senser

Mar 28: Members' Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

Mar 29: OA #15 Flowers after the Fire – Michael Ross

Mar 29: OA #16 Discovering the Winter World 2 – Dick Ewart

Feb 28: OA #10 Peregoy

Snow Survey - Mark

Fincher, Chuck Carter

Apr 3-4: Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainer Course – Pete Devine

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!

YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION, FALL 2008

NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

ENROLLMENTS AND GIFTS PROCESSED FROM JUNE 25, 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 22, 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.

Clouds Rest Member Mark Rosen

Half Dome Members

Ron & Joan Breuch, Sally DeAngelo, Jill & David Engelstad, Henry & Anne Greiner, Gregory & Roberta Isaeff, Jon A. Johnsen & Doris Lopez, Susanna McBee, Linda McHarry, Jon Mukri, Connie Nielson

Contributing Members

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