

Yosemite

A JOURNAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Summer 2003 Volume 65 Number 3

The Yosemite Association Celebrates 80 Years



A Message from the President

AS OF AUGUST 4, THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION IS OFFICIALLY 80 YEARS OLD! Compared to some institutions, that's just getting going, but in the context of Yosemite history it's pretty impressive. Consider that Yosemite National Park has been in existence only 113 years, and the National Park Service began just 87 years ago. Our association has played an important role in the park for a truly significant time (in Yosemite years)!

I have served as president of the organization for over 18 years now, and it's an honor and a treat for me to celebrate YA's milestone anniversary with you. In researching and writing the history of the association (see the article at the center of this issue), I came to appreciate the park's impressive educational tradition that was forged by talented men and women with amazing intellect and foresight. I hope that YA continues to meet the standards for curiosity, service, and creativity that our founders set for us.

As we did in the spring, in this issue of *Yosemite* we are including an envelope, which we encourage you to use to send us an 80th anniversary gift. We are well on our way to raising \$80,000 in our eightieth year, thanks to the 125 or so donations we've already received from members (see the list of contributors at the back of this journal). We have some exciting plans and projects in the works, and your gifts will allow us to see them through.

We hope you enjoy reading the profile of new Yosemite Superintendent Mike Tollefson that's contained herein. He is a strong supporter of education generally and the Yosemite Association specifically. We also have included an article by photographer Robert Szabo about his efforts to duplicate the nineteenth century photographic techniques of Carleton Watkins. Szabo's adventures with "wet plates," darkroom tents, and 65-pound cameras are both educational and entertaining.

We invite you to participate in the Yosemite Children's Literature Conference that is scheduled for October 31 through November 1 at Tenaya Lodge. Among the first-rate authors slated to appear are Francisco Alarcón, Diane Matcheck, Daniel San Souci, Ashley Wolff, Michael Ross, and more. Besides readings and workshops, there will be naturalist walks and other guaranteed-to-please activities.

During July, we at the "world headquarters" of the Yosemite Association received a real scare when a fire started in the dry grass within just a few feet of our office. Because the temperature was over 100 degrees and there were fairly strong up-canyon winds, the blaze went from small to frightening in just a few minutes. Armed with a single garden hose and two small fire extinguishers, we managed to hold the fire at bay until the local firefighters arrived to get it contained.

Almost simultaneously, a second fire was ignited about a mile down the road from our office, and it quickly got out of hand. The "Woodlot Fire," as it came to be known, eventually covered about 400 acres, required over 1,000 firefighters, and took about four days to control. Park officials suspect that both fires were started by an arsonist, and we count our blessings that no structures were involved and that no one was seriously injured.

So it's happy birthday to us – but particularly to the now nearly 10,000 members like you who allow us to contribute what we do in Yosemite. As the first non-profit support group in a national park anywhere in the world, we look forward to serving as a model for associations around the globe for years to come.

Sincerely,



Steven P. Medley

Cover:
Participants in
the YNHA-
sponsored
Yosemite Field
School enjoy a
lecture in the
world's best out-
door classroom.



PARK PROFILE

SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL TOLLEFSON



Name: Michael Tollefson

Title: Park Superintendent

Hometown: Seattle

Education: Degree in Marketing and Finance from the University of Washington

Years worked in Yosemite: Since January 4, 2003

What was your first job in the national park service?

I worked as a seasonal ranger at the North Cascades on boat patrol in Ross Lake. They gave me the boat keys and a gun and set me loose. It was an exciting summer; I spent most of the summer helping visitors and cleaning outhouses.

Why did you become a park ranger? I wanted to be involved in the national parks for a variety of reasons. I believe in the value of the parks and wanted to make a difference. Working for a corporation just doesn't have the same feel as supporting the mission of the National Park Service.

What is your favorite place in Yosemite? In my short time here, I've experienced many wonderful places. I've skied several wonderful trails, hiked up Lyell Canyon, and recently enjoyed the Yosemite Creek Trail from Tioga Road. I have much left to explore. I anticipate ending up with many favorite places.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Being able to make a difference for the future. I like knowing that I am working to improve the park for both the resource and the visitor.

What do you hope to accomplish in Yosemite during your tenure as Superintendent? Primarily, I will be working to complete the myriad of projects cued up over the next three years, which is the beginning of the implementation of the Valley Plan. My next priorities will be to focus on the most important projects for the park, and continuing to look for new ways to provide operational support for visitor experience and resource protection. One other issue I'll be focusing on is strengthening the relationship between the park and its gateway communities.

What is your favorite book? I probably haven't read it yet. The next two books on my list are McNamara's climbing guide and *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*.

What is your favorite movie? I don't have one.

What do you do when you're not being a Superintendent? I enjoy hiking, bike riding, and skiing. I like being outdoors.

What advice would you have for someone who wants to get into this field? Just do it. Complete a college degree and get involved any way you can.

What do you think YA's most important role is? The role of a cooperating association should be to produce and provide great educational materials and programs, and ensuring that these programs fill the entire spectrum of accessibility, from producing a complete flora to affordable children's books. The association also needs to be successful fiscally so that it can support education and research in the park.

What are your initial impressions about Yosemite? It's been fabulous. The experience has exceeded every expectation I had. I'm happy to be a part of such a wonderful team of people, from both the park service and its partners.

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF TIME:

BY ROBERT J. SZABO

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CARLETON WATKINS

In Washington, DC, almost 140 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation granting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California so that "the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation." Many people don't realize that Congress was stirred to create this Yosemite Grant by the many vivid and very impressive images of the natural wonders of Yosemite Valley taken by the photographic pioneer Carleton Watkins.

There were other artists and photographers struck by the stunning beauty of Yosemite who made illustrations, engravings, and paintings of the place beginning in the 1850s. In 1859, the photographer Charles Leander Weed traveled to Yosemite from San Francisco and took the first photographs of Yosemite Valley using the wet plate collodion process that had been introduced to America by Englishman Frederick Scott Archer in 1851.

Carleton Watkins, who was originally from New York, visited the valley for the first time in 1861. To better cap-

ture the amazing Yosemite landscape, Watkins personally commissioned the building of the first mammoth plate camera and had it hauled into the Yosemite wilderness, enabling him to capture the expansive vistas on 18 x 22 inch negatives. These negatives afforded what were then the largest prints ever seen of Yosemite Valley (there were no enlargers). Watkins also made many stereo views, which were widely distributed and which helped Americans living far away from Yosemite get a glimpse of its unique grandeur.

My introduction to the work of Carleton Watkins came at The National Gallery when it exhibited the traveling photographic show entitled *Art of Perception*. It consisted of more than ninety Watkins prints, many made from huge glass negatives created in the 1860s. The negatives were made using the "mammoth plates" described above and the wet plate collodion process. The show also included many stereo views, a very popular form of photography in the nineteenth century that pre-

From left, wet plate photographers Wayne Pierce, Robert Szabo, and William Dunningway, wearing nineteenth century clothing, stand in front of the Grizzly Giant. Photograph by Robert Szabo. Ranger Dean Shenk assisted by removing the lens cap for the exposure.



dated today's ViewMaster technology. Both formats use a viewing stereoscope that produces a three-dimensional image.

I made repeated visits to stare at the photographs at The National Gallery. I was amazed by Watkins' artistic compositions, and could scarcely believe the quality of the work he did so long ago under what were surely very primitive conditions. Something about the combination of Watkins' flawless workmanship and the amazing beauty of his compositions inspired me in an unexpected way.

Being familiar with wet plate photography, I knew the limits of modern film in comparison to the grainless detail produced by the collodion process. These photographs created in me a desire to pour collodion onto glass plates to capture Yosemite Valley once again the way that Watkins did 140 years ago, and to make prints in a way that I knew modern film could not duplicate.

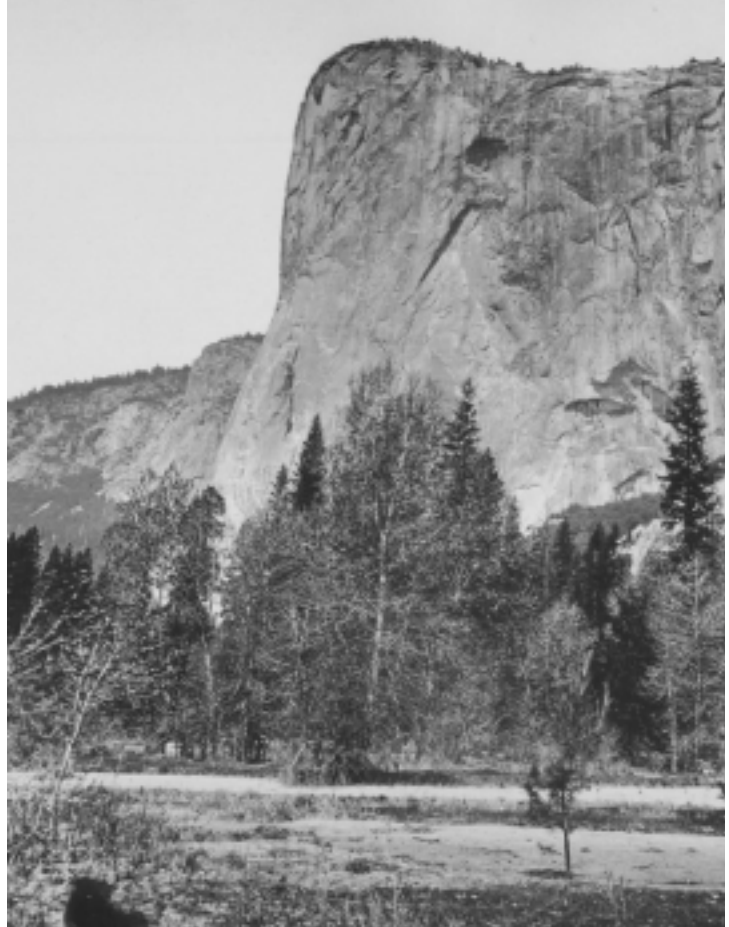
So, I began my photographic journey west. I would attempt to reproduce the processes used and find the locations selected by Carleton Watkins in Yosemite when he visited in the late 1800s. I didn't pack my gear on pack animals. Watkins used as many as twelve mules on one of his trips. I used airlines, rental cars, and my minivan.

My first trip to Yosemite happened in May of 2002. Combining my dreams with a business trip, I flew to California and rented a van. My equipment, fifteen boxes in all, was sent ahead via UPS. It included an 1870s 5 x 8 camera, two slotted wooden boxes holding forty 5 x 8 inch glass plates, a stereo camera, a tripod, camping equipment, a customized backpack, chemicals, and a dismantled specially designed portable darkroom. Upon arriving, I built a makeshift cardboard darkroom in the back of the van.

With the help of Ranger Dean Shenk of the National Park Service, who has a keen interest in the history of Yosemite and an in-depth knowledge of the valley, I was able to locate sites probably used by Watkins and other early photographers to take their panoramic photos.

I quickly learned how difficult the Watkins style of photography can be. The wet plate process is called "wet plate" for a reason: to work properly the glass plate must stay wet throughout the process. So darkroom and camera cannot be separated by any more than a few minutes walking distance. After a week of traveling around the park attempting to take images and develop them in the darkroom in the back of my van, I had just about mastered the technique when it was time for me to return East.

I would pick out a view I wanted to photograph and park the van as close as I could. If I was trying to duplicate a Watkins image, I first had to determine if the current view would allow me to take a similar picture. If I decided I could get a satisfactory image and the scene



El Capitan from across the Merced River. Print from an 8 x 10 inch collodion negative by Robert Szabo.

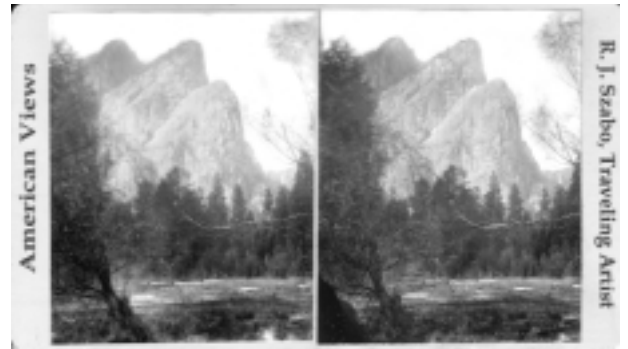
The Yosemite Valley from Valley View. Print from a 5 x 8 inch collodion negative by Robert Szabo.

looked good, I would then go to work. The camera, tripod, and dark cloth would come out of the van, the equipment would be set up in the most advantageous spot, and the lens would be focused.

I then would go back to the van darkroom and clean and sensitize a piece of glass. The glass plate would be taken to the camera, exposed, removed from the camera, and taken back to the darkroom for developing. Even with my darkroom readily available in the back of my van, to produce just one acceptable image was quite a lengthy process. For Watkins in 1861, every photograph



Profile Cliff 2002. Print from a 5 x 8 inch collodion negative by Robert Szabo.



A stereoview of The Three Brothers showing traditional nineteenth century mounting and printing techniques. Printed from a collodion negative by Robert Szabo.

required the unloading of the mules and the resetting up of the tent darkroom and the camera!

My initial trip to Yosemite was a kind of an awakening for me. I simply fell in love with the place and knew I would have to return. In May of 2003, I did so. This time I took with me a larger mammoth plate camera, capable of taking 18 x 22 inch negatives just like those that Watkins made. Because there was no way I could mail this huge camera along with the box holding fifteen 18 x 22 inch glass plates, I took unpaid leave from my job, packed my minivan, and drove cross-country to Yosemite from Virginia.

On my second visit, Ranger Shenk put me in contact with Barbara Beroza, Curator of Collections at the Yosemite Museum. Ms. Beroza displayed several works from the museum by Carleton Watkins that I previously had seen only in books. She also brought out an authentic Watkins mammoth plate negative, which as far as I know, is the only remaining specimen in existence, the rest having been destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

I had my mammoth plate camera custom built especially for the Yosemite trip by Ray Morgenweck, owner of Star Camera Company in Egg Harbor, New Jersey. Weighing in at about 65 pounds, it was new to me, so I did have much to learn about its use. The first few plates I made weren't much to look at by my standards, but before I left the park I did manage to get a few that pleased me.

I successfully photographed Cathedral Rock, Yosemite Falls, Washington Column, and North Dome, but at each site I had to work on my knees in my undersized field darkroom because I couldn't stand up in it while holding the huge plates. I tried to replicate Watkins' pyramid-shaped darkroom, approximating its size and building it based on views of the original tent shown in his photos, but future work with mammoth plates will require a larger darkroom.



Robert Szabo demonstrating the wet plate process for Barbara Beroza and others from the Yosemite Museum. Photograph by William Danniway.

Actually traveling to Yosemite with my wet plate equipment and taking photographs of timeless scenes seemed like a fantasy fulfilled for me. I gained a deeper appreciation for the difficulty Watkins faced in photographing in the field, and I contemplated the greatness of his work and the beauty of Yosemite as I drove back to Virginia. I realized that my dream of following in Watkins' footsteps may not be complete. Maybe it's just getting started.

The photography of Carleton Watkins was instrumental in providing citizens of the United States with the immeasurable natural wealth contained within our national parks, but few are aware of this legacy. I think he was a master who should be remembered. This is a quote from the Massachusetts *Springfield Republican*, of April 19, 1872 and often reprinted on the back of Watkins' "carte de visite" cards:

"So it is with Watkins in his pictures of California scenery. He makes a close artistic study of the attitudes of Nature, and the various lights of the day, and gives himself, his instruments, and his chemicals, the advantage thereof, with the result as perfect little pictures in combination and form and effect, as painter ever gathered through his artistic perception and his ingenious grouping of the gems of nature."



Robert Szabo posing with custom made 18 x 22 inch mammoth wet plate camera at Jorgenson's Studio in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Photograph by Steve Lawson.

Robert Szabo, a photographer for over 30 years, lives in Northern Virginia. For the past five years, he has been immersed in learning and practicing the almost forgotten wet plate collodion photographic process. He has a strong interest in the history of photography, and dreams of more photo trips to Yosemite. For additional examples of his work and information about his photography, visit his website at www.robertszabo.com.

The Wet Plate Collodion Process

Essentially required the making of one's own film before an image could be struck. The "film" could be metal (tin types) or glass. Only glass could provide a negative to be used for printmaking. Cameras were built in varying sizes, and glass plates were cut to fit them. Preparing the plates entailed thorough cleansing until spotless. Collodion, a sticky solution, was poured onto a plate to form a thin layer that evenly coated it, with all excess removed.

In a darkroom where the only light used came through a red glass filter, the plate was then immersed in a bath of silver nitrate for several minutes. This made the plate light sensitive, and upon removal from the bath it was put into a lightproof plate holder that was then placed

onto the back of the camera. The focusing of the camera lens was set beforehand. The plate holder had a removable panel called a dark slide, which was removed after the plate holder was on the camera.

The cap on the camera lens acted as the shutter, and when it was removed the plate was exposed to light and an image was cast. The exposure time for wet plate landscape photography was generally around twenty seconds to one minute, depending on the intensity and color of the light on the subject.

After the plate was exposed to natural daylight, the lens cap was put back on, the dark slide reinserted, the plate holder removed from the camera, and the plate taken back to the darkroom to be processed. The plate was developed

in an iron sulfate developer and fixed in sodium thiosulfate. After thorough rinsing in clean water, it was allowed to dry. Finally, a coating of varnish was applied, which sealed and protected the image.

Making prints from negatives was done with a special printing frame that placed the negative in contact with photosensitive paper. Due to the blue light sensitivity of the process, most of the landscape pictures taken with the wet plate process seem to have a cloudless sky. In properly exposing the whole image on the plate, the sky was overexposed leaving it to appear blank on the print. Many wet plate images that feature clouds were created from a second exposure using a separate negative picturing just clouds.

ROOSEVELT REDUX

The item in the last issue of Yosemite about Theodore Roosevelt's historic visit to Yosemite with John Muir proved very popular with our members. In reviewing previously-published Roosevelt material in the Yosemite Nature Notes, we discovered several noteworthy anecdotes about the occasion that are reprinted below as colorful supplements to the earlier article.

ELABORATE PREPARATIONS FOR NAUGHT

It may be of interest to note that the State Yosemite Park Commission had made elaborate preparations to entertain the President by a sumptuous repast at Wawona and Yosemite where all the politicians who flocked there to join the President's party had expected to meet him. The President did not attend either dinner but spent the nights at the Wawona Big Trees and at Bridalveil with John Muir instead, to the great disappointment of those who had made the preparations.

Another rather amusing incident which misfired was a plan to entertain the President by having a searchlight play colored lights on Yosemite Falls at night. The searchlight was sent to Glacier Point for the purpose but no transformer or means of getting the searchlight to work could be found even if at that great distance the effect would have been appreciable.

It is a good thing that this project was never put into effect because, if the President had learned of it, we would have had a classic example of his colorful language expressing condemnation of such attempts to improve on nature.

From a letter by William E. Colby dated September 9, 1954, published in *Yosemite Nature Notes*, Vol. 40 No. 5, 1961.

A FEW ROOSEVELT STORIES

Many are the stories told by those who met or traveled with President Roosevelt on this history-making trip. For example, as the President and his companions were about to pitch camp near a cool spring in the Mariposa Grove not far from the Sunset Tree, Roosevelt called for his "waah bag"---a small bag containing his personal effects. No one could find it! Apparently it had been left at Wawona by mistake. "I want my waah bag!" exclaimed the President in no uncertain terms.

So veteran stage driver Sam Owens jumped into a buckboard and galloped his horse as fast as he could to Wawona, picked up the bag, and brought it to the President post haste. Sam Owens, who had the distinction

of being able to smoke a pipe and chew tobacco at the same time, later drawled: "And he didn't even look into it when he got it!"

Charles Leidig recalled Roosevelt dressed in Norfolk coat, baggy breeches, leather puttees, and topped with a large sombrero, and Muir as usual in business suit complete with vest and heavy watch chain and wearing an old felt hat. Those who knew Muir have commented on his habit of wearing ordinary street clothes and an old felt hat when he made trips into the mountains.

Mr. Clay Gooding of San Francisco was with Muir on one of the first Sierra Club jaunts. Gooding said Muir scoffed at those hikers who had to have special clothes for going into the mountains. Leidig recalled that Muir and Roosevelt had long talks on the flowers, birds, and animals of the park, and that Muir occasionally plucked a flower for the President's coat, sometimes to the discomfiture of Roosevelt.

The distinguished group rode down the long trail to Yosemite Valley and west toward the Old Village where elaborate preparations had been made to honor the President with a big banquet at the Sentinel Hotel. [Ed.: As noted above, the President's party did not stop for the ceremony, and instead rode to Bridalveil Meadow to spend the night. Roosevelt had indicated in advance he did not want to attend such events, but his wishes were ignored.]

John Degan said there was \$400 worth of fireworks to shoot off for the occasion! Mrs. Degan remembered how John painted a green sign reading "Welcome" which was erected over the Stoneman Bridge. In doing so he got a drop of paint in his eye that bothered him the rest of his life!

The final day of the trip, President Roosevelt was reluctant to leave his newly made friends. He expressed great consideration and appreciation for the guides who had accompanied him, and advised them to take their time about breaking camp, urging them to stay in camp and rest up after their strenuous 3-day trip in the high country.

There were the usual farewells as the President rode off in a stage for the return trip to Wawona and Raymond. As the party disappeared, Archie Leonard made a dive for the President's camp bed. "I'm going to take a nap right where the President slept," he said, as he pulled up the covers.

Excerpted from "We Will Pitch Camp at Bridalveil!" by Ralph H. Anderson, *Yosemite Nature Notes*, Vol. 30 No. 5, May 1951.



THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION: 80 YEARS OF SUPPORT FOR YOSEMITE

RIGHT: *The new Yosemite Museum in 1926. The Yosemite Museum Association was created in 1923 to raise funds to construct the museum.*

BELOW: *The Glacier Point Lookout was the first building to be erected by the Yosemite Museum Association. Completed in 1925, it was considered an “outpost” of the main museum.*



THE ORIGINS OF THE YOSEMITE MUSEUM, the park education program, and the organization now known as the Yosemite

Association are closely linked.

In his 1920 annual report, National Park Service Director Stephen T. Mather called for “the early establishment of adequate museums in every one of our parks” for exhibiting regional flora, fauna, and minerals. Accordingly, Yosemite’s first “official” naturalist, Ansel Hall, began converting the former Jorgensen Studio in Yosemite Valley to museum use in 1921.



ABOVE: Ansel Hall (right), an incorporator of the Yosemite Museum Association, was responsible for making NPS Director Stephen Mather's dream of a new museum in Yosemite a reality.

RIGHT: The first museum in Yosemite Valley was opened in the old Jorgensen Studio in 1922. The six-room facility had 33,000 visitors that year.

OPPOSITE: Among the purposes of the reorganized Yosemite Natural History Association was the maintenance of a research library containing works of a historical, scientific, and technical nature. The Yosemite Research Library still operates with YA's support.

The six-room facility, opened in June 1922, featured displays on history, ethnology, geology, natural history, botany, and trees, with a scale model of Yosemite Valley built by Hall and mounted birds and mammals prepared by Chief Ranger Forest S. Townsley.

The tiny museum was flooded with 33,000 visitors during its first summer of operation, and its inadequate size was duly noted. Taking Director Mather's words to heart, Ansel Hall set the development and construction of a larger museum operation as top priorities of the fledgling National Park Service in Yosemite.

One of the key events leading to the creation of a new museum was the chance meeting of Hall and Chauncey Hamlin. The new park naturalist undertook a mountaineering expedition with his friend Francis Farquhar of the Sierra Club in August of 1921. They climbed the "Middle Palisade" in Kings Canyon country, and came upon the camp of Hamlin, a wealthy park benefactor and president of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, and his party as they traversed an unfinished section of the John Muir Trail. Hall described his vision and hopes for a new Yosemite Museum before the two men parted.

Working with and through the Central Valley newspaper, the *Stockton Record*, the California Academy of Science, the University of California, and many others, Hall campaigned doggedly to generate support for the museum project. On August 4, 1923, Hall and three others organized the Yosemite Museum Association to secure funds for the erection of the museum building.

The incorporators who joined Ansel Hall in establishing the Yosemite Museum Association were a distinguished group. Joseph Grinnell, the director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at University of California, Berkeley, was an authority on Yosemite wildlife, and was soon to publish *Animal Life of the Yosemite Region* with Tracy Storer. Barton W. Evermann, a noted ichthyologist and marine biologist, was director of the California Academy of Science. William Frederic Badè, a professor at the Pacific School of Religion and president of the Sierra Club from 1919-1922, published *The Life and Letters of John Muir* in 1924.



Fundraising was new to Hall, his fellow incorporators, and the National Park Service. As he worked to identify possible patrons of the museum, Hall learned that Mrs. Lora J. Knight of Santa Barbara was looking to make a donation. Without first obtaining permission to leave his post, Hall rushed to Santa Barbara, secured a check for \$5,000, and returned to Yosemite. Because he hadn't made previous arrangements, Hall received no reimbursement for his expenses, and he was docked his wages for missing work! The group generated an initial \$9,000 (including \$1,794 from the The Yosemite National Park Co., a park concessioner), but much more was needed to construct and outfit a new museum.

Hall's Chauncey Hamlin connection now proved critical. Hamlin had become president of the American Association of Museums (AAM), and his business with that organization took him to the offices of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial in New York. Hamlin hadn't forgotten Ansel Hall's dream for a new Yosemite Museum, and in an informal chat with the Memorial's director, Hamlin casually mentioned the need for a

ANSEL HALL YOSEMITE'S FIRST NATURALIST

museum to supplement the park's educational programs. When the director had a positive response to the notion, Hamlin went back to his office and established the AAM Committee on Museums in National Parks.

Soon thereafter, the AAM presented two proposals to the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, one for \$5,000 to keep its Committee on Museums in National Parks operating, the other for \$70,500 to build and equip a museum in Yosemite. The grants were funded, with the Yosemite Museum project cited as a new experiment in the national parks and an opportunity to put the committee's ideas into practice. The AAM appointed Ansel Hall its executive agent for the new museum, and he temporarily left the NPS payroll.

That the museum grant was made to the Yosemite Museum Association was a significant development in the history of American national parks. No such organization had previously existed, making the association the first non-profit support group to be established at a park within the NPS system. At the same time, the group was the world's first national park



“cooperating association” and fundraising organization.

With the successful funding of the Yosemite Museum, the board determined that the association needed to expand its purposes. Accordingly, in 1924 the name was changed to the Yosemite Natural History Association (YNHA), and discussions began about how its mission should be expanded. On April 4, 1925, new articles of incorporation were filed for YNHA with purposes that included support of the museum and research library, publication of *Yosemite Nature Notes*, gathering and dissemination of information about Yosemite human and natural history, support of park education programs, and study of the Yosemite-area Native American population.

The original incorporators also signed the new articles for YNHA, but the association added an impressive advisory board comprising a variety of educators, scientists, and public figures. The eleven-person board included Joseph N. LeConte, a professor of engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and Sierra Club activist; anthropologist Alfred L. Kroeber, responsible for early Native American studies in the park; Yosemite geologist François E. Matthes; Robert Sterling Yard, writer, editor, and executive secretary of the National Parks Association; Dr. Willis L. Jepson, California's most eminent early botanist; Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Stanford University from 1916 to 1943, with a four year hiatus to serve as Secretary of the Interior under President Herbert Hoover; and C. Hart Merriam, a biologist who developed the theory of “life zones” and published numerous works on California's Native Americans.

Surprisingly, the Yosemite Museum was not the first building constructed by YNHA. When the Rockefeller grant was approved, the AAM asked Hermon Carey Bumpus to work with Ansel Hall in the development of the project. A veteran of the American Museum of Natural History known for his innovative exhibit techniques, Bumpus believed that museums should be more than static collections of artifacts. He instructed Hall to begin work on a “focal-point” building at Glacier Point that would be an outpost of the Yosemite Museum. Thus the Glacier Point Lookout (also known as the

The first chief naturalist and chief forester of the National Park Service, Ansel Hall was born May 6, 1894, in Oakland, California. He graduated in 1917 from the University of California with a degree in forestry. He began his career at Sequoia National Park as a ranger, and after service in France during World War I, he was park naturalist at Yosemite National Park from 1920 to 1923. He rose rapidly and was chief naturalist of the National Park Service from 1923 to 1930, senior naturalist and chief forester from 1930 to 1933, and chief of the Field Division from 1933 to 1937.

Hall married June Alexander on January 24, 1924, and they were blessed with six children, three of whom were triplets. He left the Park Service in 1938 to operate the concessions in Mesa Verde National Park and to develop private interpretive programs. He died suddenly on March 28, 1962.

Ansel Hall was a rare combination of romantic idealist and practical businessman. He was an instinctive teacher and had a deep feeling for youth as well as nature. He personally raised funds from private sources and built the museum in Yosemite National Park. His vision had plans ready for implementation when the “Alphabet Agencies” were formed during the Great Depression and park museums flourished. He developed the first museum association in Yosemite, the first of present day cooperating associations.

His charm and persuasive skills brought private funds and public involvement to the parks and the San Francisco Bay Area regional parks. He was an enormously creative person. He had the faculty of getting things done by selecting people, persuading them, putting them to work, providing them with the facilities, and leaving them alone!

Biographical vignette by William C. and Merrie H. Winkler from *National Park Service: The First 75 Years*, edited by William H. Sontag, Eastern National Parks & Monuments Association, Washington, 1990.



Ansel Hall saws contours for a map of Yosemite Valley he installed as a museum exhibit.

THE ROCKEFELLER LEGACY IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

The first national park museums resulted largely from the philanthropy of the Rockefeller family. The museum at Yosemite funded by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial opened in 1925, as did a museum at Mesa Verde National Park built with contributions from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Stella Leviston of San Francisco. In 1926 the Rockefeller Memorial underwrote the cost of the Yavapai Observation Station–Museum at Grand Canyon National Park, and in 1928 it contributed \$118,000 for four focal-point museums in



Laura Spelman Rockefeller

Yellowstone National Park.

The contributions of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his son Laurance S. Rockefeller to expand the national park system are especially remark-

able. They gave more than \$3 million for land and park roads at Acadia, more than \$2 million to enlarge and improve Grand Teton National Park, more than \$5 million for land to establish Great Smoky Mountains National Park, more than \$2 million for the land comprising Virgin Islands National Park, more than \$1.6 million to expand Yosemite, and lesser amounts for lands at Big Bend, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Haleakala, Lassen Volcanic, Olympic, Rocky Mountain, and Shenandoah national parks; Antietam, Big Hole, and Fort Donelson national battlefields; Capulin Volcano and George Washington Birthplace national monuments; Colonial National Historical Park; Ford's Theatre National Historic Site; and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Excerpted from *Philanthropy and the National Parks* by Barry Mackintosh, from the official National Park Service web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/hisnps/NPSHistory/philanthropy.htm>



Geology Hut) came into being. Designed by Herbert Maier, the rock lookout was completed in the summer of 1925, its construction personally overseen by Bumpus.

The new Yosemite Museum was built in 1925, exhibits were constructed the following year, and the facility was opened to the public on May 29, 1926. The two-story structure contained exhibits, a library, storage facilities, a classroom, offices, and caretaker's quarters. Today it houses the park Research Library, the museum collection, two galleries, and park offices.

A TRADITION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

As the naturalist program of the National Park Service (NPS) grew in Yosemite, so did the role and involvement in that program of the Yosemite Natural History Association. The inter-relationship of the two organizations was such that Carl P. Russell characterized the objectives of YNHA as "in almost every particular also the objectives of the Naturalist Department of Yosemite National Park. . . In effect the Yosemite Natural History Association is an auxiliary of the naturalist department."

The association took over the publication of *Yosemite Nature Notes*, maintained the Yosemite Research Library, aided the development of the Nature Guide Service, continued to acquire artifacts for the Yosemite Museum collection, and helped establish subsidiary units of the museum, such as the Glacier Point Geology Hut noted above.

Originally issued starting in 1922 in a mimeographed form, *Yosemite Nature Notes*, the monthly publication written by park service naturalists, appeared in a printed format for the first time in 1925. The "booklets" later were printed in two colors. Expanded issues on particular topics (known as "special numbers") were produced in full color and sold in large quantities to the public.

The association also supported the Yosemite School of Field Natural History, a summer institute for training naturalists to work both in and outside the park. Established in 1925 under the auspices of the National Park Service and the California Fish and Game Commission, the school brought groups of 20 students to the park for a seven-week summer field course, encouraging them to observe living things in their natural environment. Extensive field activities and identification distinguished the curriculum from that of typical university offerings in the natural sciences. The "Field School" continued operation until 1954, with 5 years off during World War II, and graduated hundreds of skilled



naturalists who worked throughout the country in many public and private agencies.

Another program that received the support of YNHA was the Junior Nature School. Started in 1930 to enhance the nature study experiences of children, the school was the precursor to today's Junior Ranger program. Young people, accompanied by "nature guides," were exposed to many aspects of Yosemite's natural history during walks into the field. Award cards were presented to successful Junior Nature School participants.

THE ASSOCIATION MATURES

The history of YNHA for the three decades between 1940 and 1970 is, in reality, the history of the NPS naturalist division. The Chief Naturalist served as "Director" of YNHA during those years, and was responsible for policy and business decisions of the organization (with the guidance of a volunteer board). Very few civilian personnel were employed, and these were primarily sales clerks.

During the 1950s, the offerings of the Yosemite Natural History Association expanded again. Its publications program, traditionally limited to pamphlets and the *Yosemite Nature Notes*, began to produce books, including reprints of Barrett and Gifford's *Miwok Material Culture* (1956), *One Hundred Years in Yosemite* by Carl P. Russell (1957), and *The Trees of Yosemite* by Mary Curry Tresidder and Della Taylor Hoss (1963).

YNHA branched out into other areas of service to assist the National Park Service during the 1950s. The organization created a revolving fund for land acquisition in the park in 1956. About 25 lots were purchased for the NPS in Foresta, and other properties, including several in El Portal, were acquired.

Despite efforts to adapt to social and other changes in Yosemite, YNHA seemed to lose momentum during the 1960s. Crippled by a dwindling subscription base and ebbing financial support, *Yosemite Nature Notes* ceased publication in 1961 after 40 years. Some believe that park naturalists, already burdened with oversized workloads in their regular NPS jobs, were unable to devote adequate time to the auxiliary organization. All YNHA programming suffered as a result.

About 1970, things began to turn around a bit for the organization. Several civilian employees were hired to handle the affairs of YNHA, and a series of Business Managers (including Jack Gyer, who would later become the park's museum curator) began to make needed improvements and changes to the operation. In 1970, YNHA began to issue

THIS PAGE:

Chief Naturalist Donald McHenry gives a talk in the Yosemite Museum's geology room.

NPS ranger sells educational materials from the YNHA desk in the Yosemite Museum.

The Yosemite Nature Notes were published in a printed form by YNHA on a monthly basis beginning in 1926. From 1922-26, the publication had been mimeographed by the NPS.

A variety of "special numbers" of Yosemite Nature Notes was issued over the years.

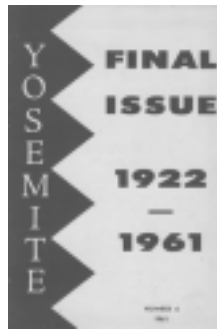
OPPOSITE:

The class of 1935 of the Yosemite School of Field Natural History.

Yosemite Nature Notes ceased publication in 1961 after 40 years.

Henry Berrey (right) became the Managing Editor of YNHA in 1971. Working with board chairman Tom Shephard (left), an open-minded board, and a cooperative NPS, he brought many advances and innovations to the organization.

OPPOSITE: A YA volunteer answers questions from park visitors in the Yosemite Museum.



a newsletter (in place of the discontinued *Yosemite Nature Notes*), and the revival gained strength.

When Henry Berrey was hired as Managing Editor of the association in 1971, YHNA blossomed. Able to devote himself full-time to the job, Berrey demonstrated the administrative energy and leadership that was needed by the organization. A number of new programs were initiated under Berrey, membership acquisition was emphasized, and the publications program expanded and matured.

The association had no offices or headquarters distinct from the NPS naturalist offices until 1970. For a short time a separate YNHA desk was provided in NPS headquarters, then was moved briefly into the museum's old "geology room" (now the Indian Cultural Exhibit). Finally, a long, narrow office was developed at the back of the museum that housed the entire Yosemite Natural History Association from 1973 until 1986. The association moved to the former Bagby Station building in El Portal in 1986, where it remains to this day.

At the request of the NPS in 1971, the association initiated the first program of outdoor educational courses in the national park system. Known as Yosemite Field Seminars, the program has matched participants with qualified teachers (many of them university instructors) to study aspects of Yosemite natural and human history, art, photography, Native Americans, and more. The program continues today, and is now known as Yosemite Outdoor Adventures.

Beginning in the 1970s, YNHA produced a number of new publications with well-edited content and sophisticated design and production. Examples include *Discovering Sierra Trees* by Stephen Arno with illustrations by Jane Gyer (1973), *Legends of the Yosemite Miwok* with illustrations by Harry Fonseca (1981), and *West of Eden* by David Robertson (1983).

Working closely with Chief Park Interpreter Len McKenzie, Henry Berrey also developed a series of new interpretive offerings including the Art Activity Center (a cooperative effort with the park's chief concessioner), the Yosemite Theater program, interpretive van treks, and single-day fee-based walks and talks. In almost every instance, the pro-

grams were the first of their kind in the national parks.

The association's evolution took an interesting turn in the early 1980s when the Board of Trustees made the decision to include fundraising within the organization's ambit. At the urging of the National Park Service, the association embarked on the "Return of Light Campaign" in 1984 to raise \$52 million to be used to implement key elements of the 1980 General Management Plan. It was the first such fundraising effort in the national park system. The program was later re-named the Yosemite Fund.

In 1986, with fundraising an integral aspect of the association's operation, the board chose to change the name of the organization once again, this time to the Yosemite Association (YA). Among the accomplishments of the YA fundraising effort were the reintroduction of bighorn sheep in the Tioga Pass area, the removal of the abandoned sewage plant in Bridalveil Meadow, and the funding of an extensive student intern program to supplement the seasonal ranger staff. Key partnerships were established with foundations and corporations, including Chevron, American Savings & Loan, and the Goldman Fund.

After several years of success at raising money for Yosemite, the association was asked by the NPS to create a separate fundraising entity. In 1988, the Yosemite Foundation was established, and operation of the Yosemite Fund was moved to San Francisco. It has proven to be a remarkably strong and effective institution in support of the park.

THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION TODAY

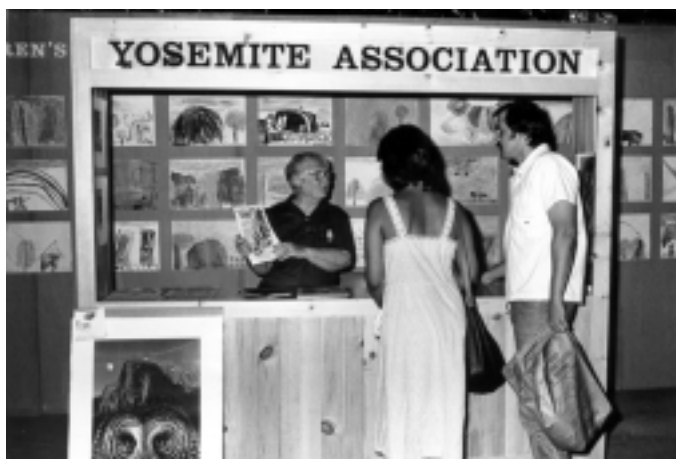
The Yosemite Association continues to be a significant partner of the National Park Service, providing quality educational services, programs, and products designed to enhance the visitor experience and promote park stewardship. It gives substantial support to the naturalist program, furthers research in the park, enriches the collections of the Yosemite Museum and Research Library, and advances the dissemination of the Yosemite story. Since 1990, the association's contributions to the National Park Service have aggregated over \$4.7 million.

The association's publication program for the park has grown even more extensive and successful. Focusing on Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada region, YA publishes important titles such as the landmark *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*, the awarding-winning documentary film, *Yosemite—The Fate of Heaven*, and the children's book, *Two Bear Cubs: A Miwok Legend*, many of them recipients of national recognition. The association also produces the quarterly journal *Yosemite*, a descendant of *Yosemite Nature Notes* that features articles on park issues and regional natural history.

Support for the association and its mission has grown substantially. In 1975, for example, the association roster listed 1,100 members. Today the association enjoys an active membership of about 10,000 dedicated Yosemite lovers. These members generously donate to special projects, provide hours of volunteer labor in the park, and attend special educational events in the park such as the annual Spring Forum.

The association operates fifteen sales and information centers inside and outside Yosemite National Park. Its dedicated staff and volunteers provide important visitor assistance at locations such as the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, Happy Isles Nature Center, and the Fresno Airport Yosemite Store. Its website, www.yosemite.org, provides extensive visitor information, a store, and a live webcam view of Yosemite Valley.

YA's field education program, now known as Yosemite Outdoor Adventures, still arranges for naturalists, scientists,



A HISTORY OF "FIRSTS" AS A COOPERATING ASSOCIATION

The non-profit national park cooperating association is a model of a public-private partnership almost as old as the National Park Service itself. In 1923, just seven years after the founding of the NPS, the Yosemite Museum Association became the first such cooperating association. Once it had raised the needed funds and built the Yosemite Museum, the association continued to assist the government by furnishing high-quality educational materials and visitor information, in many instances when the NPS did not have the resources to do so.

The success of the Yosemite Association sparked an interest in establishing non-government associations in other national parks, and YA served as a model for them. Today, there are 65 national park cooperating associations, serving the nearly 400 areas of the national park system.



The Yosemite Association has been a cooperating association at the forefront in a number of areas during its history. They include:

First non-profit organization within a national park in the United States and the world;

First fundraising organization within a national park in the United States;

First cooperating association in the national park system;

First outdoor field seminar program in the national park system;

First fee-based theater program in the national park system; and

First cooperating association to create a modern fundraising program in the national park system.

YOSEMITE'S PARK NATURALISTS

The history of the association in many ways corresponds exactly with the history of the National Park Service naturalist division. The Chief Naturalist served as “Director” of the association from 1923 until 1984, with responsibility for the policy and business decisions of the organization (with the guidance of a volunteer board). Since 1984, the Chief Park Interpreter (the new name for the position) has served in a close liaison role with the association and has been intimately involved with the organization’s success.

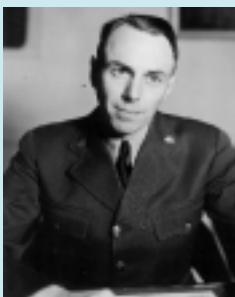
Ansel F. Hall, 1922-23
 Carl P. Russell, 1923-29
 C. A. Harwell, 1929-40
 C. Frank Brockman, 1941-46
 Donald E. McHenry, 1947-56
 Douglass H. Hubbard, 1956-66
 Bryan Harry, 1967-69
 William R. Jones, 1969-72
 David Karraker, 1972-74
 Leonard W. McKenzie, 1975-93
 Rick Smith, 1994-2002
 Chris Stein, 2003-



Carl P. Russell



Bert Harwell



C. Frank Brockman



A YA volunteer work group does meadow restoration in Yosemite’s backcountry. YA members have contributed thousands of hours of labor at the park through this important program.

and park rangers to offer in-depth courses in an array of subjects. Writers Gary Snyder, Terry Tempest Williams, and others have been featured speakers in the Yosemite Winter Literary Conference.

Other YA partnerships with the NPS include the Keep Bears Wild education project, the Wilderness Permit Reservation System, the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, the Bear Canister Rental Program, and the park’s Art Activity Center.



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

As Yosemite moves into the future, the association will continue to respond to the needs of the park and its visitors. Several important projects should be completed within the next several years. They include the long-awaited renovation of the Valley Visitor Center, complete with new Yosemite Association bookstore, and the monumental *Field Guide to the Birds of the Sierra Nevada* by Ted Beedy, David Lukas, and Steve Granholm, with hundreds of new color illustrations by gifted wildlife artist Keith Hansen. In spring of 2004, the association hopes to sponsor the park’s first “bird festival” and conference.

Given the Yosemite Association’s remarkable record of accomplishment since its creation eighty years ago, it seems that anything is possible as Yosemite and its first non-profit support group advance into the twenty-first century.

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Celebrating 80 Years of Service

Our 80th anniversary is underway! In March, we unveiled our new logo at our Spring Forum in Yosemite Valley. Since then we have initiated a series of events, both inside and outside the park, to commemorate this historic birthday. Planned activities include: a gift presentation to the Yosemite Museum on August 4, 2003; an evening at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum on August 17, 2003, featuring a presentation on the history of YA by Steve Medley, and Yosemite park ranger Shelton Johnson's "Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra" living history program; coloring and essay contests for children; acknowledgement of our milestone anniversary at our annual Members' Meeting in Tuolumne on September 13, 2003; and a special reception in Yosemite Valley this fall for the most generous member donors to our "80-for-80" campaign. Additional events are being planned for the Los Angeles area, Bay Area, and east side of the Sierra over the next twelve months. We hope you'll join us at an anniversary event soon.



New Board Candidate Petition Process

Members interested in using the petition process to place their names on the ballot for board positions are reminded that they must collect signatures from at least 4% of the current membership (totaling roughly 9,800 at this time). Signatures can be collected all year and at such events as the Spring Forum and the Annual Members' Meeting. At the petitioner's expense, YA will mail petition materials to all or part of the membership.

Petitions must be filed by 5 p.m. on the day of the annual meeting, which is September 13 this year. For more information, contact the YA office at (209) 379-2317.

YCS 10% Lodging Discount Program Alert



Do you have an existing reservation at The Ahwahnee, Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, Wawona Hotel, or Tenaya Lodge? If so, you **MUST** present a Yosemite Concession Services (YCS) 10% discount coupon along with your current YA membership card at check-in, in order to receive your member discount on the

room rate. This is applicable for all YCS lodging reservations made after March of 2002, without exception.

In April of this year, we began sending out the YCS 10% discount coupons to current YA members as they renewed their memberships, and to new members as we processed their sign-ups. (We also mailed coupons to all our Life and Participating Life members in July 2003.) If, however, you will be making your trip before you renew your membership, please let us help you get your discount! Send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope bearing 37 cents postage to Yosemite Association, Attn: YCS Coupon, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, call us at 209-379-2317, or e-mail us at info@yosemite.org, and we will mail you one coupon right away. Once you receive your coupon, call YCS back before your arrival and have the reservations associate enter the unique coupon PIN number into your reservation record. Then when you check in, turn in your coupon and show your current YA membership card to receive your lodging discount.

Leaving a Yosemite Legacy

Since 1923, thousands of individuals and families have helped the Yosemite Association undertake its important educational, scientific, and research programs, with gifts of time, services, and money. Each year we receive critical support for Yosemite in the form of charitable bequests from wills and estate plans. Such bequests play a vital role in our future funding.

We encourage you to consider including a gift to the Yosemite Association in your will or estate plan. It's a way to ensure that others will enjoy Yosemite far beyond your lifetime.

For information about leaving a Yosemite legacy, call (209) 379-2317, or write to P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318

YA Benefits from Your Online Shopping

Help the Yosemite Association when you shop online. Access your favorite merchants, like Barnes & Noble and Lands End, through www.yosemite.greatergood.com and 5% or more of your purchase will go directly to YA at no extra cost to you.

GreaterGood.com
Shop where it matters.

Member Info Line 209/379-2317

If you're planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our phone line a call between the hours of 9:00 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.

Backcountry Experts to Headline 28th Annual Members' Meeting

Join our year-long celebration of the association's 80th anniversary by attending the 28th Annual Members' Meeting, on Saturday, September 13, 2003, in Tuolumne Meadows. This special event just for YA members includes morning interpretive walks, lunch, interesting speakers, a prize raffle, book signings, a wine and cheese reception, and an evening campfire program.

This year's featured speakers are members of the team who brought you the association's newest title, *Yosemite Once Removed—Portraits of the Backcountry*. This book includes a stunning series of photographs by skilled Sierra photographer Claude Fiddler paired with engaging essays written by a group of veteran Yosemite mountaineers, including Nancy Fiddler, John Hart, Anne Macquarie, Doug Robinson, and Steve Roper. This group will share their views on and experiences in the territory beyond the roads and beaten paths of Yosemite, a primordial wilderness landscape that remains the same generation after generation.

Claude Fiddler is a climber and photographer who has made over fifty first ascents throughout the Sierra. Previous books of his images include *The High Sierra: Wilderness of Light*, and *A Vast and Ancient Wilderness: Images of the Great Basin*. Nancy Fiddler, Claude's wife, spent several seasons working at the historic Tioga Pass Resort, exploring the Yosemite high country extensively during that time. John Hart is a writer and consultant on planning and environmental issues in the San Francisco Bay area. His previous books include *Storm over Mono: The Mono Lake Battle and the California Water Future*, and *Walking Softly in the Wilderness*. Anne Macquarie grew up in Yosemite Valley, then worked summers as a backcountry ranger in the park, and later joined her husband as a winter wilderness ranger in Tuolumne Meadows for many seasons. Doug Robinson, a veteran Yosemite climber and winter mountaineer, is the author of *A Night on the Ground, a Day in the Open*. Steve Roper, also an accomplished climber and mountaineer, has authored



several books including *Camp 4: Recollections of a Yosemite Rockclimber*, and co-edits *Ascent*, the well-known mountaineering journal.

Members were mailed details for the meeting and room lottery for Tuolumne Lodge in July. As has been the case in past years, we expect that there will be a greater demand for the tent cabins at the lodge than are tent cabins available. Other lodging is available inside and outside the park. For alternate rooming suggestions and other questions, please call the Membership Department at (209) 379-2317. We hope to see you in Tuolumne!

Connie Nielson Moves On

Long-time staff member Connie Nielson recently moved on from the YA office to a position with the local child care planning council in Mariposa. Connie came to work at YA in August 1992, quickly becoming indispensable to the Membership Department and office operations. During her tenure, some of her many accomplishments included seeing to the endless logistic details of eleven annual Members' Meetings and eleven Spring Forums, becoming the guru of our new membership database software, ensuring the smooth flow of paperwork in the department, and skillfully coordinating our month-long and worktrip volunteer programs. Through it all, she was also an unfailingly cheerful voice answering our Member Information phone line. Connie is dearly missed, and we wish her the very best in her new adventures.



Staff member Connie Nielson (r.) with author Nevada Barr at the 1997 Members' Meeting in Tuolumne Meadows.

A Special Treat for Our Most Generous Supporters

Enhance your support for the Yosemite Association today, and you'll be invited to a special reception this October, to be held at a home on the Ahwahnee Meadow in Yosemite Valley. Enjoy the change of seasons and sunset reflecting off the face of Half Dome as you socialize with the park superintendent, YA board and staff, and fellow members. How can you secure a spot at this unique gathering? Make a gift of \$1,000 or more to YA in honor of our 80th anniversary, or upgrade your membership to the Benefactor (\$1,000) level. We understand this magnitude of financial support is not within everyone's means, but we hope that those of you who can make such a gift will do so today. It will be our pleasure to honor you at this exclusive event! Please contact YA Membership Director Laurel Rematore at (209) 379-2317 for more information.

For Kids: YA Sponsors Coloring and Essay Contests

As part of its 80th anniversary celebration, the Yosemite Association is sponsoring two contests for young people. Children up to the age of 10 are invited to enter the coloring contest, while students from 11 through 18 are welcomed to submit an essay on the topic: "What makes Yosemite special?" Prizes will be awarded to winning entries.

Prizes in the coloring contest include a \$50 savings bond and a Yosemite stuffed toy bear for First Place, a Yosemite stuffed toy bear for Second Place, and a *Happy Camper Handbook* with whistle and flashlight for Third Place.

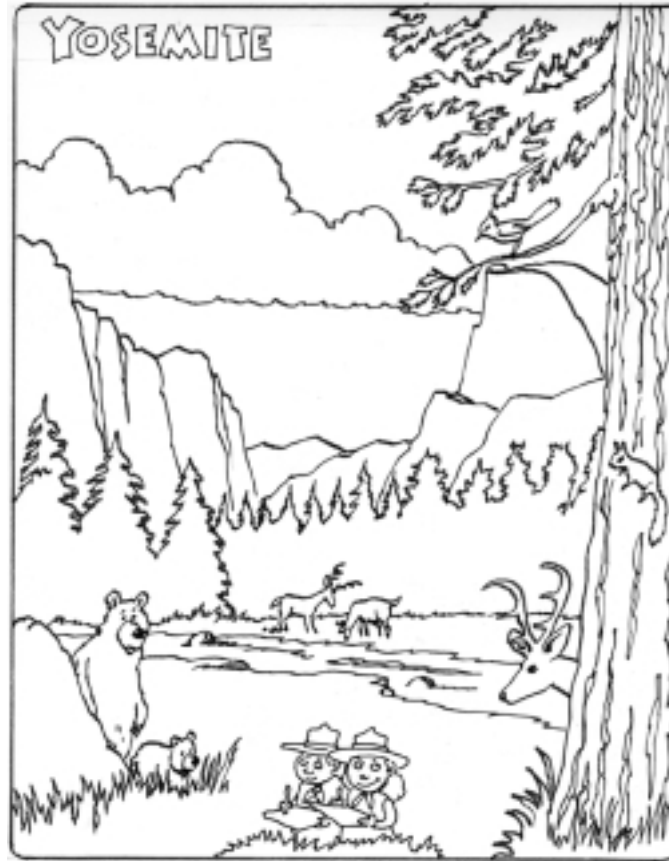
Prizes in the "What makes Yosemite special?" essay contest include a \$100 savings bond and a Yosemite Association fleece vest for First Place, a Yosemite Association fleece vest for Second Place, and a "Keep Bears Wild" t-shirt for Third Place.

To download PDF versions of the coloring and essay contest pages and entry forms, please visit: <http://www.yosemite.org/newsroom/pressreleases/2003/>. You also can request entry forms by calling (209) 379-2646.

Entries for both contests must be received by September 10th, 2003. They

can be delivered to any park visitor center or YA volunteer booth, or mailed to Yosemite Association, PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

The winners will be announced in our e-mail newsletter and posted on this web site by September 15th.



Children's Literature Conference in October!

This October 31 through November 2, the Yosemite Association has scheduled a conference to explore the world of children's literature at Yosemite National Park. The three-day gathering of talented authors, illustrators, and publishers will be held at beautiful Tenaya Lodge at the park's south entrance.

Included on the list of presenters are award-winning Chicano poet and educator Francisco X. Alarcón (*Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems*, and *From the Bellybutton of the Moon and Other Summer Poems*), author Diane Matcheck, whose first young adult novel *Sacrifice* was named an ALA Best Book, a Junior Library Guild Selection, and a Booklist Top 10 Young Adult Novel, Ashley Wolff (*Stella & Roy Go Camping*), and Dan San Souci, who has illustrated

over fifty books for young readers, including *Two Bear Cubs: A Miwok Legend from Yosemite Valley*.

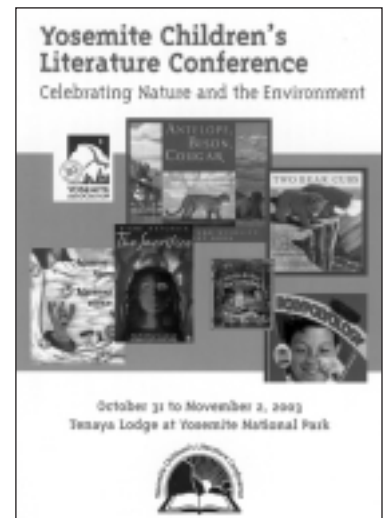
Other speakers include Angelica Carpenter, curator of The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature in Fresno, and Steven Medley, author of *Antelope, Bison, Cougar*, and President and Publishing Director of the Yosemite Association.

Michael Ross, the conference coordinator, has written and illustrated over 40 books including award winners, *Exploring the Earth with John Wesley Powell*, *The Happy Camper Handbook*, and *Cricketology*.

Aside from the diverse workshops, readings, and sessions on the conference schedule, participants will also be able to

explore Yosemite by taking advantage of the special interpretive programs provided by park naturalists for the conference. Walks through the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center will complement the other offerings.

Yosemite Association members receive a 15% discount on the conference enrollment fee of \$225—a savings of \$33.75! Enroll today.





ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:
OA = Outdoor Adventure
AAC = Art Activity Center

AUGUST

Aug. 1-3

OA #60: Photographing High Country Habitats

Aug. 2

OA #21: Predatory Insects: Land, Air & Water

Aug. 3

OA #22: Spiders of Yosemite

Aug. 3-9

Tuolumne Meadows Ecological Restoration Projects Work Trip

Aug. 4

YA's 80th Anniversary – Gift presentation to Yosemite Museum

Aug. 4-10

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with Thor Ericson

Aug. 11-17

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with Jim Burns

Aug. 14-17

OA #42: High Country Day Hikes

Aug. 14-17

OA #52: Tuolumne Meadows *en plein air*

Aug. 14-17

OA #68: Sunrise Lakes, Meadows & Wildflowers Beginning Backpack

Aug. 14-18

OA #43: Bear Patrol II: The Yosemite Wild Bear Project

Aug. 17

80th Anniversary Celebration at Fresno Metropolitan Museum

Aug. 17-23

Backcountry Ecological Restoration Work Trip

Aug. 17-24

OA #69: Into the North Park Advanced Backpack

Aug. 18-24

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with David Deyell

Aug. 21-24

OA #53: Pastel Painting in Yosemite

Aug. 25-31

AAC: Free Pen/Ink/ Watercolor Lessons with Pam Pederson

Aug. 30

OA #12: A Walk in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Aug. 30

OA #23: Sketching Along the Tuolumne River

SEPTEMBER

Sep. 1 - 7

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with Donna Barnes-Roberts

Sep. 4 - 7

OA #70: Yosemite Great Peaks Backpack

Sep. 6

OA #24: The Story Behind the Scenery: The Geology of the Tuolumne Meadows Region

Sep. 6 - 8

OA #44: Ice, Wind & Fire: Yosemite Landscapes

Sep. 7

OA #25: Quest for the Birds of Tuolumne Meadows

Sep. 8 - 14

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with Ben Kudo

Sep. 13

28th Annual Members' Meeting - Tuolumne

Sep. 13

Board of Trustees meeting - Tuolumne

Sep. 15 - 21

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with Doris Henderson

Sep. 19 - 21

OA #45: Southern Miwok Miniature Burden Basket Making

Sep. 19 - 21

OA #46: Three Great Peaks

Sep. 22 - 28

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with Richard Keyes

Sep. 27

OA #26: Exploring Wawona History

Sep. 28

Happy Isles Nature Center last day of operation for the season

Sep. 28

Tuolumne Visitor Center & Bookstore tentative last day of operation for the season

Sep. 28 - Oct. 4

Yosemite Valley Ecological Restoration Projects Work Trip

Sep. 29 - Oct. 5

AAC: Free Watercolor/Mixed Media Lessons with Carol Earle

Sep. 30

Exhibit of historic paintings at the Yosemite Museum Gallery closes for the season

OCTOBER

Oct. 2 - 5

OA #54: Drawing & Pastel Painting in Yosemite

Oct. 3 - 5

OA #47: Three Great Hikes

Oct. 4

Reception in Yosemite Valley for 80th Anniversary Donors of \$1,000 or more

Oct. 5

Wawona Information Station Bookstore tentative last day of operation for the season

Oct. 13

Mariposa Grove Museum Bookstore and Tuolumne Wilderness Center & Bookstore tentative last day of operations for the season

Oct. 16 - 19

OA #61: Autumn Light: Photography in Yosemite Valley and Beyond

Late Oct.

Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center & Bookstore tentative last day of operations for the season

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2

Yosemite Children's Literature Conference

NOVEMBER

Nov.

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

Early Nov.

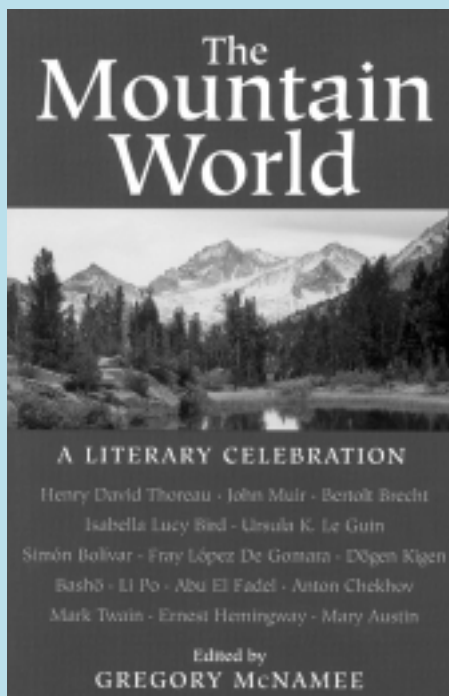
Big Oak Flat Information Station Bookstore tentative last day of operation for the season

Nov. 6 - 9

OA #62: Nature Photography in Autumn

Nov. 24 - 30

AAC: Free Watercolor Lessons with Chris Van Winkle



The Mountain World – A Literary Celebration

edited by Gregory McNamee.

“Whether we climb them or view them from afar, they continue to pull at us, calling us home, those mountains.” So writes editor Gregory McNamee in his eloquent introduction to this compelling anthology of mountain-inspired literature from sources as varied and far-flung as the peaks themselves.

The writings take all manner of literary forms: folktales, myths, essays, travelogues, and poetry of both ancient and modern times. We hear from familiar voices—Whitman, Muir, Chekhov, Conan Doyle—and from those not so familiar but equally fascinating, including Russian naturalist Nikolai Prejevalsky and English “lady” adventurer Isabella Bird.

The mountain experiences described in these works are enormously varied as well. Whether they speak of profound spiritual journeys, easy pleasure trips, or face-to-face encounters with death, all these voices are raised in collective celebration of the glories and terrors of the most awe-inspiring of Earth's natural treasures.

The book is 6 x 9 inches in size, 268 pages long, and paperbound. Copyright 2000, Sierra Club Books. \$16.95; **member price \$14.41**

Yosemite Once Removed—Portraits of the Backcountry

with photographs by Claude Fiddler, and essays by Steve Roper, Nancy Fiddler, John Hart, Anne Macquarie, and Doug Robinson.

The Yosemite Association's newest title is a stunning series of photographs by skilled Sierra photographer Claude Fiddler that are paired with essays that focus on the territory beyond the roads and beaten paths of Yosemite written by a group of veteran Yosemite mountaineers.

Most books about the park place a spotlight on Yosemite Valley with its granite cliffs and waterfalls, and icons such as El Capitan, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall. But the site of these famous landmarks is only seven square miles in size - and makes up just a tiny fraction of the park's area. This work is about the greater Yosemite National Park, with a wilderness area that comprises more than 94% of its nearly 1,200 square miles. It is an undefiled, primordial landscape that remains the same generation after generation.

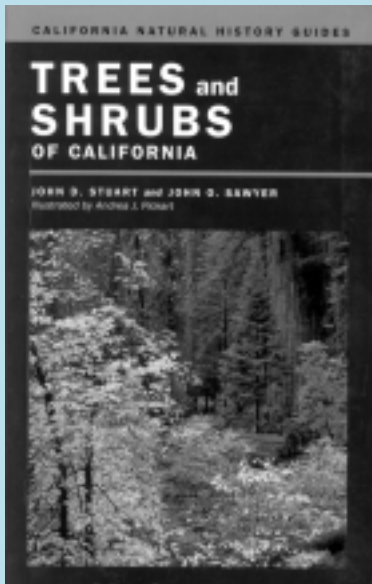
These remarkable photographs and engaging essays will take readers to this marvelous region, far above much-visited Yosemite Valley. That extraordinary valley, visited by queens and presidents, has enjoyed its share of the spotlight. *Yosemite Once Removed* illuminates the Yosemite that queens and presidents never see.

Essay topics include a history of the Yosemite wilderness, a walk with a backcountry ranger, locating the most remote spot in the park, winter skiing over the Sierra crest, and exploring Tenaya Canyon. Claude Fiddler contributes nearly 50 large-format color photographs from all corners of Yosemite that took him some 20 years to complete.

The volume is 11.25 x 9.5 inches, illustrated in full color, and clothbound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2003, Yosemite Association. \$29.95; **member price \$25.46**



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



Trees and Shrubs of California

by John D. Stuart and John O. Sawyer.

This guide to the woody plants of wildland California features easy-to-use keys, revealing drawings, crisp color photos, and handy range maps. They combine to make this a beautiful, reader-friendly resource for both the novice and the expert.

It is the first book to present the magnificent trees and shrubs of California together in one accessible field guide. There are discussions of classification, nomenclature, how to use the book, and a general introduction to California's trees and shrubs. Handy keys direct readers to concise descriptions with entries for leaves, cones, flowers, fruits, twigs, bark, and habitat and range (as applicable).

This volume in the California Natural History Guides series is 4.75 x 7.5 inches, is 468 pages long, includes more than 200 line drawings, 300 range maps, and 40 color photographs, and is bound in a sturdy field binding. Copyright 2001, University of California Press. \$22.50; **member price \$19.13**

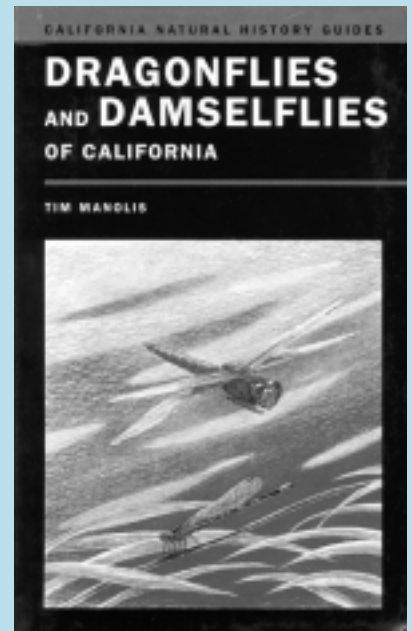
Dragonflies and Damselflies of California

by Tim Manolis.

This complete guide to California's abundant order of Odonates describes dragonfly and damselfly species ranging from the Exclamation Damsel and the Bison Snaketail to the Powdered Dancer and the Black Meadowhawk. The work will both educate and delight anyone who wants to know more about these fascinating insects.

Packed with facts but written in a straightforward style, the books makes California's 108 dragonfly and damselfly species easily accessible. Species accounts discuss identification in the field and in the hand, behavior habitat association, geographic distribution, and flight season. There's also an overview of dragonfly anatomy, behavior, and life history, and a complete set of range maps.

This volume in the California Natural History Guides series is 4.75 x 7.5 inches, is 206 pages long, includes 40 full-color plates and supplemental black-and-white drawings, and is bound in a sturdy field binding. Copyright 2003, University of California Press. \$16.95; **member price \$14.41**



Pajaro Field Bag

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

It's the best such pack we've found.

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



Burning Questions—America's Fight with Nature's Fire

by David Carle.

This book explores 100 years of controversy over prescribed burning and fire suppression, using the voices of early advocates and today's proponents to examine the strategy of controlled burning.

The twentieth century found Americans waging an increasingly dangerous war on wildland fire.

Decades of fire suppression produced a surfeit of natural fuels in our forests, culminating in the severe and uncontrollable fires of recent years: the fires in Yellowstone and the Oakland hills, the disastrous Los Alamos fire, and the summer fires of 2000. But is fire suppression the answer?

In the early 1900s, a pioneer named Harold Biswell dared to question the dogma of fire suppression. He was a proponent of prescribed burning, using fire as a tool to reduce the risk of explosive natural outbreaks. Despite professional controversy and opprobrium, he and his supporters played an integral role in this story about America's changing view of fire.

The hardbound volume is 6.5 x 9.5 inches in size, 300 pages, and illustrated with black-and-white photographs. Copyright 2002, Praeger Press. \$26.95; **member price \$22.91**



NEW! Yosemite Association 80th Anniversary Logo Vest

by Chuck Roast.

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

Whether you layer up on the slopes or throw it on over a T-shirt at the lake, this will prove to be one of your favorite wardrobe choices - especially with its plush feel and the colorful Y.A. logo. It's made of Polartec® 200 from Malden Mills in a full zip unisex style with front hand-warmer pockets.

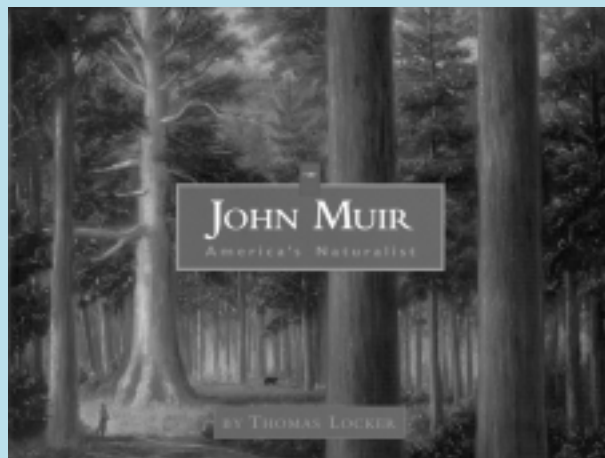
The vest is navy blue in color with an embroidered logo that's 2.5 by 3.5 inches, a charcoal gray collar, a hemmed bottom, and a silver zipper. It is available in S, M, L, XL, and XXL sizes. \$49.95; **member price \$42.46**. Be sure to specify size.

John Muir—America's Naturalist

by Thomas Locker.

In a series of richly-painted landscapes, Thomas Locker brings the world and words of John Muir to readers, both the young and the young at heart. Equally at home in the wildernesses of California and Alaska, Muir wrote charming lyrical descriptions of nature for the benefit of future generations.

Muir recognized that wilderness should not only be appreciated but should be fought for as well. He sparked the preservationist movement in the U.S. and throughout the world, working with President Theodore Roosevelt to establish national parks and spearheading the founding of the Sierra Club. Locker's paintings are paired with a narrative about the key milestones in Muir's life.



This large format children's book features full-color paintings on pages that are 11 x 8.5 inches, and is hardbound with a dust jacket.

Copyright 2003, Fulcrum Publishing. \$17.95 each; **member price \$15.26**

NEW COLORS AND LOGO NOW AVAILABLE!

Yosemite Association Water Bottle

by Nalgene



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

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

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

Yosemite Association Mug

This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green or maroon), it's imprinted with our logo and name in black and white. Holds 12 ounces of your favorite beverage. (please specify color); **Sale Price \$4.00**

(no member discount allowed)



Yosemite Black Bear Stuffed Animal

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

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



Yosemite Wilderness Pin

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



Yosemite Association Logo T-Shirt

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



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NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members! You've joined nearly 10,000 like-minded individuals, families, and businesses helping the association make Yosemite an even better place.

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

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Or charge credit card number: _____

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Mail to: **Yosemite Association**, PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2646