

Yosemite

A JOURNAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

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A Faraway Room with a View



Do you have any pictures that we can use as the side image?

A Message from the President

It's the new year, and everyone at the Yosemite Association is excited about our organization's prospects for 2004, particularly in light of our achievements over the past twelve months. Not only did we celebrate our 80th anniversary with several great events, but we also experienced remarkable support from our members and friends.

Among the encouraging developments for YA in 2003 were the acquisition of over 3,500 new members (many of them at higher dues levels), and our successful campaign to raise \$80,000 to commemorate our 80 years of operation in Yosemite. During December we received a flurry of donations that pushed our "80-for-80" total to well over \$90,000.

Other highlights were a healthy increase in our sales revenue in our park stores, and a wide-ranging and dynamic volunteer program (made possible by lots of dedicated and talented YA members) that contributed thousands of hours to park operations and resources.

What's new with YA in 2004? For one, we're offering added premiums for those members who join at or upgrade to the Sustaining, Patron, and Benefactor levels. They will be invited to various special events, such as a reception at the Ansel Adams Gallery over the Spring Forum weekend, and our elegant autumn barbecue in October (depending on member level). See page 12 and the back cover of this issue for more details.

This also is the year we'll be taking part in a major remodeling project for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center lobby (including the construction of a new, bigger, and better YA bookstore). We had hoped that work would be underway already, but because of delays in Washington we have postponed the project start and now estimate completion to occur by mid- to late summer.

Another first for 2004 is the Yosemite Birding Festival scheduled for April 23-25 in Yosemite Valley. There will be lots of bird-related activities, including field trips, identification workshops, photography walks, wildlife art demonstrations, and more. A number of top-notch birders and naturalists will be present, so make plans to join us for this fun event.

While it may not be new, the DNC Parks & Resorts and Yosemite lodging discount program has been extended for another year. There have been a few changes made to the way the savings coupons work; see page 13 for details. We send thanks to our friends at DNC for making this valuable benefit available again to our members.

How can you help us help at Yosemite in the new year? There are plenty of possibilities! There's still time to make a donation to our 80th anniversary campaign – simply use the return envelope in this journal. Enroll in a Yosemite Outdoor Adventure course like the Yosemite Birding Festival. Consider becoming a volunteer in one of our multiple programs at the park (see pages 14 and 15). Or upgrade your membership: your additional dues will help us and you'll receive more benefits than ever!

However you choose to become involved at Yosemite in 2004, we want you to know how much we appreciated your contributions to our success last year. Your support and contributions continue to make a difference at the park.

Steve

P.S. Special thanks to cartoonist Phil Frank for providing the drawing of yours truly for this page. Phil's hilarious "Farley" strip appears six days a week in the San Francisco

Chronicle, and can be viewed at www.sfgate.com.

Cover: Snow's "La Casa Nevada" hotel was located at the base of Nevada Fall. The roar and spray from the cataract engulfed the establishment in spring. Photo courtesy of Yosemite Research Library.



YOSEMITE'S LA CASA NEVADA (THE SNOW HOUSE)

On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law a historic bill known as the Yosemite Grant, which ceded Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the state of California as America's first scenic preserve, "inalienable for all time." The act specified that the reserved area be managed by a nine-member board of commissioners, serving without pay, who would be appointed by and include the governor of California.

During the first dozen years of state administration, the California legislature, which was going through a period of severe budget-cutting at the time, consistently failed to provide sufficient appropriations for the commissioners to carry on their work. As a consequence, when it became imperative to improve the roads, trails, and hotels in and around Yosemite Valley, the board awarded the rights to independent contractors who were willing to finance the projects under a fee arrangement. The leases stipulated that the state could purchase the improvements whenever funds became available.

Under this procedure, Mr. F. Albert Snow was granted permission in late 1869 to construct and operate a rustic hotel on the rocky flat north of the Merced River at the base of Nevada Fall. The lease included the right to build a toll trail from the end of the existing Vernal Fall Trail to the site.

F. Albert Snow (1825-1891) and wife Emily Topple Snow (1823-1889) were native Vermonters, born and reared near Lake Champlain. The date of their arrival in California is uncertain, but Albert was the owner of the Washington Hotel in Garrote (later Groveland) for a time in the 1860s. The Snows had one daughter, Maria, who married Colwell Owens Drew, a prominent Groveland-area rancher and a silent partner in the hotel project. During their Yosemite years, Albert and Emily wintered in Groveland near their daughter's family.

Early in the spring of 1870, Snow packed in enough material to erect a one-story, barn-like building somewhat grandiosely called the "Alpine House." The structure stood in full view of spectacular Nevada Fall, and so close to the roaring cataract that "in some winds half the piazza is drenched with spray." Entries in the three-volume guest register now in the Yosemite Museum indicate that Snow's unpretentious hotel, elevation 5,360 feet, received its first guests on April 28, 1870. It soon became a favored lunch stop for Yosemite visitors who rode or hiked up from the valley to see Nevada Fall. Hardier

travelers stayed overnight while journeying to or from Little Yosemite Valley and other outlying destinations.

Hostess Emily Snow was an excellent cook. Her doughnuts, bread, and elderberry pie drew special praise, as did her ability to "cook all the popular dishes." One early patron reported that she was "delighted and considerably astonished at the excellence of the abundant meal. We felt as deeply humiliated as Sunday School children at the end of a tea-fight when we were compelled to hurt the feelings of the highly conversational landlady by the assurance that we really were unable to do further justice to her apple pies, hominy cakes, turnovers, and concluding trifles."

Emily possessed a dry wit and a small stock of jokes of her own making that she delivered in a distinct New England twang while waiting table. "Well, you folks would hardly think it," she often said, "but there is eleven feet of snow here all summer." When asked how that was possible, she replied, "My husband is near six feet tall and I'm a little over five. Ain't that eleven?"

In the fall of 1871, Snow added an extension to his existing Alpine House, thereby doubling the size of the original structure. His efforts went for naught, however, after a great earthquake, centered in the Owens Valley east of Yosemite, caused extensive shaking in and around the valley on March 26, 1872. Rock slides and avalanches were common, and a prominent peak in back of Hutchings'



Snow's original "Alpine House" was a barebones structure with little charm.



By the fall of 1875, the expanded La Casa Nevada could accommodate forty guests.



Emily Snow's prim looks belied her mischievous wit and character.

hotel fell with a terrible crash. Snow's Alpine House moved two inches to the east, and the new addition was so badly wrecked it had to be torn down and rebuilt.

"The most remarkable results of the quake occurred at Snow's," Galen Clark reported in his "Guardian's Report." "Mr. Snow, on hearing the terrible rumbling noise preceding the shake, rushed out of his house somewhat alarmed. The night was very light and he being in plain view of Nevada Fall, distinctly saw that the water ceased to flow over the fall for at least half a minute. A large mass of rocks, which would weigh thousands of tons, fell from the west side of the 'Cap of Liberty' about a thousand feet above its base. When this mass of rocks struck the earth, Mr. Snow says that he was instantaneously thrown prostrate to the ground. . . The earth around Snow's place is still completely covered with dust from the pulverized rocks. I think the prostration of Mr. Snow and perhaps the moving of the main house and the wrenching apart of the timbers of the addition was probably more the result of the concussion of the atmosphere when the rocks fell than the effects of the earthquake."

Undaunted, Snow rebuilt his damaged Alpine House in 1872. During the next three seasons he continued to improve his facilities even though every item on the premises from nails to beds had to be packed in on the backs of mules. By the fall of 1875, Snow's establishment consisted of the original building and addition, which now contained twelve rooms; an attractive, well-furnished new chalet (completed that summer) with ten bedrooms and a parlor; a woodshed; ice house; log cabin; and stable. All told, La Casa Nevada (the Snow House), as the expanded hotel was called, could accommodate about forty overnight guests.

In his 1886 book *In the Heart of the Sierras*, James Hutchings wrote that "Snow's La Casa Nevada has become deservedly famous all over the world, not only for its excellent lunches and general good cheer, but from the quiet, unassuming attentions of mine host, and the piquant pleasantries of Mrs. Snow. I do not think that another pair, anywhere, could be found that would more fittingly fill this position; and, although they do not know whether the number to lunch will be five or fifty-five, they almost always seem to have an abundance of everything relishable. On one occasion—and this will illustrate Mrs. Snow's natural readiness with an answer—a lady, seeing so great a variety on the table, with eager interest inquired, 'Why, Mrs. Snow, where on earth do you get all these things?' 'Oh, we raise them!' 'Why! where can you possibly do so, as I see nothing but rocks around here?' 'Oh! madam, we raise them—on the backs of mules.'"

With her high white collars, pulled-back hairdo, and floor-length dresses, quaint, eccentric Emily Snow seemed every inch the prim, sedate New England lady. In her leisure time she gathered lichen and pretty ferns for scrap books that she sold to tourists. Nonetheless, she was (according to old friend Pinkie Ross) "always stewed to the eyebrows." Certainly there was a generous supply of spirits available at the hotel as the rubble of broken bottles on the rocky flat attests today. One guest signed the hotel register with this comment: "No person here is obliged to commit burglary to obtain drinks."

"Emily thought her husband Albert a perfect Apollo and was very jealous of him," Pinkie Ross said, "although there was no question that she was the boss. Albert was a large, loose-jointed, good-natured man with all his



This attractive chalet was completed in 1875. It contained ten bedrooms and a parlor. Albert Snow appears at left with Emily Snow (center) and daughter Maria (right).



A party of tourists eats lunch beside the decaying ruins of La Casa Nevada about 1898.

upper teeth out. I never heard of anyone wanting to run away with him.”

After twenty years as Yosemite innkeepers, Albert and Emily Snow were forced by advancing age and failing health to relinquish the operation of their unique back-country stopping place in the fall of 1889. Following a brief illness, Emily died in Groveland on November 15, 1889, just nine days shy of her sixty-sixth birthday. Less than two years later, on October 13, 1891, Albert joined his longtime marital partner in death.

On June 28, 1890, the commissioners granted one D. F. Baxter, about whom little is known, a lease on La Casa Nevada for the remainder of the year. A token rent of one dollar was established because of the lateness of the season, with the specification that the customary rent of one hundred dollars would apply in the future. Baxter was required to make all repairs to the property and deal with Snow on the furnishings. According to the commissioners’ minutes, Baxter ran the hotel during 1890 and 1891, after which he gave up his lease.

La Casa Nevada never formally reopened, although a party of nine tourists and their guide wrote the following message above their signatures in the hotel register on March 28, 1892: “The season of 1892 is opened at this hotel by the undersigned. . .Ground, trails, and trees covered with snow six to twelve inches but the cascades and vertical rocks remain as before.” A few other entries follow in May and early June, the last dated June 2, 1892. Perhaps the historic old register was saved for posterity at that time by Guardian Galen Clark.

Accounts by passers-by during the next seven years tell the story of the hotel’s gradual demise. A visitor in August, 1893, wrote that “Snow’s Hotel has been deserted

with everything left in it, even to the table being set with all the dishes, and the beds having mattresses and pillows. One of the boys climbed through a window and unlocked a door, and we went all through it. We might have taken a lot of things away, but they will never be taken away, as it would cost more to do so than they are worth. The roof is already broken in several places by snow.”

Three years later a traveler reported the “building’s still standing, but in dilapidated condition with most of the doors and windows gone—a sad relic of earlier days.” Marjorie Cook, a granddaughter of J. J. Cook, who managed three different early hotels in Yosemite Valley between 1882 and his death in 1904, described the premises in 1899: “We stopped at the ruins of Snow’s Hotel on the flat below Nevada Fall. The sagging doors, broken windows, and swaybacked roof intrigued me. There was even some sorry furniture and crockery and a sleepy owl in the wrecked interior. The winter after my visit, Snow’s Hotel was flat. The last vestige of the place served as fuel under the coffee pot of some trail party.”

D. J. Foley’s *Yosemite Souvenir and Guide* for 1901 verifies Marjorie Cook’s account: “La Casa Nevada was accidentally destroyed by fire during the season of last year. It had not been used as a hotel for nearly ten years. Those who have visited Nevada Fall before will note the hotel’s absence with many regrets.”

Hank Johnston is the author of sixteen book and numerous articles about California and Yosemite history. A frequent contributor to this journal, he lives in Palm Springs. Photographs are from the author’s collection.

HISTORY WITH A “YOSEMITE” POSTMARK BY GENE ROSE

Marilynn Guske has another perspective on Yosemite’s rich and colorful past.

The Fresno native and long-time Yosemite-ophile (and YA member) notes that most historians tend to credit the early authors and artists as those who made Yosemite known and helped it become a world-class attraction. Guske agrees to a certain extent, but she thinks it was something else.

“It was the millions of postcards and all those, ‘wish you were here’ messages, all those postmarks. That’s what really made Yosemite known,” Guske claims.

History, she points out, is not a set of immutable facts or chronological dates. It is the legacy people leave. And part of the Yosemite legacy is the thousands of postcards that flowed (and continue to flow) out of the park.

As one of the leading collectors of Yosemite postcards (some call her the “Postcard Queen”), Guske feels that all those postcards have helped convey around the world the magic that is Yosemite.

For the past twenty years, Guske has made her own mark in the world of collecting, seeking out a wide array of images from Yosemite’s past. Along the way she has been able to obtain several major collections. At her last count, she figured she has about 2,500 different Yosemite postcards.

To some extent, Guske “blames” her passion for postcards on her husband, a collector of Native American photos and images.

“He is into American Indian ephemera, and he used to take me to those shows. They would go on for hours and I would get bored. So he suggested that I get into collecting, but I didn’t know what I would enjoy collecting,” she recalled.

“Then at one Sacramento show I saw a large box of unsorted photographic postcards. One was an incredible postcard of a stage with all the passengers in their dusters, with written script at the side saying, “C & K No. 22. P.M. May 19, 1910. I turned it over and saw that it was a 1903 Pillsbury photograph, but I didn’t know what C & K meant.”

The mystery of “C & K” demanded a solution, and Guske got hooked. She started digging, eventually discovering that C & K identified Coffman and Kenney, two of Yosemite’s early teamsters and stage line operators.

Guske’s new-found passion was natural given her Yosemite ties and experiences. She remembers camping (when the activity was unrestricted) in the valley in the years before World War II. After the war, and while she was in college, she worked summer seasons as a waitress at Wawona.

“I can still remember all those old cars, Fords and Dodges, and the fish hatchery, and the old clothes and fashions, it all fascinated me.”

Collecting postcards has been a learning process for Guske. She never dreamed she’d come to know what she does about Yosemite history.



Above: Marilyn Guske examines her extensive collection of Yosemite postcards. Photo by Gene Rose. **Right:** An early postcard view of El Capitan through a “fish-eye” lens.





“That’s part of the pleasure of it. Yosemite is both scenery and history,” she explained. Besides collecting the card, she also tries to obtain the historical information that goes with it. The Internet and increased competition from other collectors have made it harder to collect, but oftentimes there’s more historical background available.

The Yosemite postcard scene often goes to extremes, and Guske tends to follow. She collects both signed and unsigned cards, that is, used or unused. The signed cards afford the opportunity to step back in time and enjoy, albeit vicariously, the messages and other notes, along with the standard “wish you were here.” Of course, there are postcards and there are postcards. Guske classifies them as great, good, and not so good.

Many cards lead Guske on a photographic journey, back to the times of the early Yosemite photographers. But there also are postcards that utilize illustrations and other forms of traditional artwork. And some of the press runs have been in the hundreds of thousands, with cards circulating around the world.

The “Postcard Queen” believes that, among the Yosemite photographers, J. T. Boysen produced some of the finest postcards.

A. C. Pillsbury captured a number of extreme scenes, such as cars perched on the Overhanging Rock at Glacier Point. He also pushed the ubiquitous postcard to new frontiers in the early 1920s.

Recognizing the need to mass-produce the popular cards, the long-time Yosemite photographer invented and patented a “postcard machine” that enabled him to capture much of the market.

As the inventor of the circuit or panorama camera, Pillsbury made postcards something of a family affair. When it came to tinting his mass-produced cards, the process was still labor intensive. To address that problem, Pillsbury utilized his own children to hand color the scenes. But he was able to reduce some of the associated tedium by attracting their friends to join in. It was an example of a real-life Huckleberry Finn operation.



Postcards from Marilyn Guske’s collection depict a Yosemite peace celebration at the end of World War I (top left); an elaborate wood-and-stone bridge over the Merced River (top); an Arthur C. Pillsbury photo of the lobby of the Glacier Point Hotel (middle); and a visitor crank-starting one of the first motor cars to visit Yosemite (bottom).



These Guske postcards capture the "Old" Yosemite Village, including the original Best's Studio (top); a group of horseback riders "Ready for the trail," most likely at the Kenneyville stables (middle); and a group of soldiers showing off their riding skills near Yosemite Lodge (bottom).

As for Harry Cassie Best, Guske believes he should have stuck to painting. His postcards were among the worst she has seen, at least until young Ansel Adams came along and improved those released by Best's Studio. Yes, acknowledged Guske, even the great Ansel Adams did postcards!

Her extensive collection documents the evolution of the ubiquitous postcard. It includes fifteen "Private Mailing Cards" that were authorized by Congress in May of 1898 and preceded the postcard.

Guske said it is impossible to estimate the total number of different Yosemite postcards ever made. The reason is simple: custom postcards. In the early days, visitors could have their Yosemite visit memorialized with a personal postcard. The process was relatively easy and inexpensive, as many of the park's commercial photographers utilized postcard-size film.

Consequently, a visitor could have his or her Yosemite image transferred to postcard by the making of a contact print. These photo entrepreneurs were the park's version of the early "sidewalk photographers," with Half Dome, Yosemite Falls, and other great natural landmarks as their backgrounds.

Guske gains some support for her belief that postcards contributed significantly to Yosemite's notoriety from James Snyder, the National Park Service historian in the park. He points out that the grand art of Bierstadt, Moran, and other Yosemite artists went into the homes of the rich, where it was seen by comparatively few people. And whatever the postcard lacked in quality, it more than compensated in quantity.

"Those early letters and postcards were the popular forces that gave Yosemite much of its identity," Snyder added.

While postcards have changed over the years, with slick, larger-format, four-color cards available, Guske believes that the postcard will continue to spread Yosemite's fame to new stations around the world—in spite of the Internet and e-mail.

Gene Rose is a long-time YA member, the author of a number of Sierra-related books including Magic Yosemite Winters, and a retired journalist living in Fresno. His history of the Tioga high country will be published by YA this year.

THREE BOOKS ABOUT RANGERS

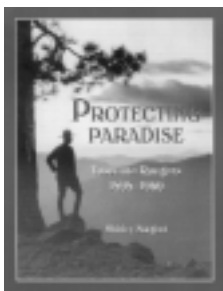
Shirley Sargent, *Protecting Paradise: Yosemite Rangers 1898-1960* (Yosemite: Ponderosa Press, 1998);

Charles R. "Butch" Farabee Jr., *National Park Ranger: An American Icon* (Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart, 2003);

Melody Webb, *A Woman in the Great Outdoors: Adventures in the National Park Service* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2003)

Several years ago a public opinion poll was conducted, asking people who in government they most trusted. Park rangers were at the top of the list, and it's no surprise. They have always been highly regarded as public servants, protecting our nation's natural and cultural resources while fostering our knowledge and understanding of these irreplaceable places.

There are three recent books that chronicle the history and accomplishments of national park rangers. Yosemite's own Shirley Sargent has



authored *Protecting Paradise: Yosemite Rangers 1898-1960*. In typical Flying Spur fashion, it's a

gracefully-written, amply-illustrated, and informative work that updates and expands on John Bingaman's 1960 work entitled *Guardians of the Yosemite*. Sargent's book contains several profiles of famous rangers who ably served the public and the resource, often at great peril and personal sacrifice.

Longtime NPS ranger Charles R. "Butch" Farabee has added his own appreciative monograph to the collection.

National Park Ranger: An American Icon

is a sweeping treatment of the topic, going back in time several thousand years (to trace the origin of the word "ranger") and covering up to the present. Farabee was a ranger for over thirty years and recently received the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award (Yount was the first national park ranger, serving in Yellowstone from 1879-1881). The book is a fascinating compendium of information, including the "Symbols of Protection" (badges, buttons, the Stetson hat, and NPS arrowhead); the evolution of interpretation; resource management; law enforcement; and visitor services. Farabee pays particular attention to the life of a ranger, including living conditions (never glamorous!) and pay scale. Farabee's recounting of the infamous Stoneman Meadow riot of 1970 will be of particular interest to readers of *Yosemite*. The event, occurring during the height of the hippie era, heralded a change in ranger law enforcement training.

The third volume is more memoir than history, and the author offers a unique perspective on her twenty-two-year career in the service. In *A Woman in the Great Outdoors: Adventures in the National Park Service*, Melody Webb tracks her trajectory from Yukon-Charley in Alaska to the Southwest Regional Office, Lyndon Johnson NHS, and finally to Grand Teton National



Park, from which location she retired as an assistant superintendent. Throughout her honest and open examination she details some the park service's key issues, including recent battles over the creation of new national parks in Alaska, the use of snowmobiles in Yellowstone, and the increased politicization of the service. She brings an insider's perspective on day-to-day operations inside a large and complex national park. Her assessment of some of her colleagues, as well as former

National Park Service directors Mott and Ridenour, are blunt and direct (a self-described character trait that did not always serve the author well in her career). Webb left the NPS in 1996, in part to be able to work for change from outside the system. This book is a valuable contribution to that important effort.

There has been a movement afoot lately to privatize the National Park Service. One needs only to consult any of these fine volumes to see what a tragedy and a travesty that would prove to be for our national parks. These fine, dedicated employees are certainly not in government service for the money; low-bid, no-interest workers cannot replace them. Whatever savings might be realized by contracting out these positions would be negligible. The cost to our parks and their great storehouses of natural and human history and resources, however, would be incalculable.



PARK PROFILE

LINDA EADE

Name: Linda Eade

Title: Library technician in the Yosemite Research Library

Hometown: East Bay. I was born in Oakland, California, and grew up in San Leandro.

Education: Six years of assorted college: San Francisco State, Chabot College, Sacramento State, and Cabrillo College. I majored in speech pathology and audiology, but went back and earned an Associate of Arts degree in library science.

Years worked in Yosemite: 32 years

What do you do in Yosemite? I manage the Yosemite Research Library. I answer reference questions and assist the park staff and visitors in using the library and photo collections. I also maintain those collections and acquire and catalog new materials.

What was your first job in the park? I was a server in the Yosemite Lodge cafeteria – on the steam tables.

Why did you become an NPS employee? It was more or less by accident. My husband was a park ranger, and after earning the degree in library science, I began volunteering in the Research Library with Mary Vocelka. The NPS is a close-knit group, and there is an appeal to working for the most well-liked agency in the federal government. Before volunteering in the library, I had been a bartender at the Curry Village Terrace Bar for five seasons. I found my “people interactions” in the library to be much more enjoyable.

What is your favorite place in Yosemite? That’s a hard question. Several come to mind, including Tuolumne Meadows, Buck Camp, Lake Eleanor, many places along the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. But if I had to choose only one, it would be Tenaya Lake.

What do you enjoy most about your job? The exposure to Yosemite’s human and natural history, the variety of the subject matter, and the opportunity to attempt creating order from chaos.

What is your favorite Yosemite book? *Yosemite Place Names* by Peter Browning. It’s a great reference book, but it also contains stories of Yosemite’s history. I keep a copy on my desk.

What is your favorite non-Yosemite book? Usually whatever I’m reading at the time, but the Harry Potter series has touched my heart.



What is your favorite movie? *Princess Bride* and any of the *Lethal Weapon* series – I’m easily swayed by Mel Gibson.

What do you do when you’re not being a library technician? Reading (or is that too obvious), birding, creating a fabric collection for future quilts, cooking, and sharing meals with friends. I’ve just recently started birding, and I enjoy the additional benefit of sauntering outside and just observing what is around me.

What advice would you have for someone who wants to get into this field? Get an MLS (Masters in Library Science) degree, but work as a seasonal or volunteer in a park first.

What do you believe to be YA’s most important role? I’d say publishing, but I have an occupational bias. Gathering support for the park and giving people a variety of ways to connect to and experience Yosemite, whether as YA members, Outdoor Adventure participants, web viewers, or purchasers of books.

What is your most frequently asked question? I’ll give you the Top Three: What does “Yosemite” mean? When was the last Firefall? Where can I get on the Internet?

What would you tell visitors to do if they had only one day in Yosemite? To see as much as they could: visit the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, Glacier Point, Yosemite Valley, and if possible, transect the park on the Tioga Road. Above all be sure and spend a little time just hiking away from the road or down by the river to enjoy what is so special about Yosemite. Also that they should come back and spend more time.

Who is the most famous person who has visited the Research Library? Both Wallace Stegner and David Brower visited, and Stephen Mather’s granddaughter was in last year.

Note: This interview was conducted by YA Vice President Beth Pratt.

80TH ANNIVERSARY COLORING AND ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

We would like to thank everybody who submitted entries to our 80th anniversary coloring and essay contests. The quality of the submissions was very high and we wish everybody could have been a winner. The wonderful pictures and essays truly proved that Yosemite is a special place!

Winners of the coloring contest were Californians Keliann Witt of Walnut Creek in the 1-5 age group, and Lillian Eung of Milpitas in the 6-10 age group.

The essay contest was won by Jacob MacMaster of Clovis, California, in the 11-14 age group, and by Selena Beckman-Harned of Cary, North Carolina, in the 15-18 age group.

The winning art and essays appear below. Congratulations to the talented winners.

WHAT MAKES YOSEMITE SPECIAL?

by Jacob MacMaster

The minute I entered the Valley, I found myself in a different dimension, which brought with it feelings of inner peace and joy. I found myself plunging into crystal clear water with breathtaking views in every direction. The water felt cool and refreshing as I swam in it, and I thought to myself, I am so lucky to be here.

Additionally, I felt even more lucky when I spotted a water snake crossing across the river. I had never seen this before and knew that I would never forget its slithering body swimming across the river.

These are all the reasons why Yosemite is so special to me and the most important reason is the change Yosemite has had on me. Ever since my visit, I feel that Yosemite follows me wherever I go. It's left me at peace and content for its breathtaking sceneries have touched me—and my innermost being—my soul.

WHAT MAKES YOSEMITE SPECIAL?

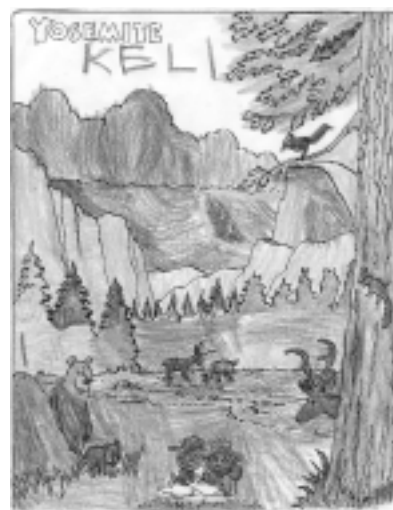
by Selena Beckman-Harned

No one thing makes Yosemite special, nothing that can be simply explained in a photo, sentence, or essay. This sense of uniqueness can only be experienced, and no two experiences will be the same.

It is the majesty of Half Dome rising above the trees, lit by the orange glow of sunset. It is a butterfly pausing on the branch of a raspberry bush. It is a night filled not with city noises, but bugs' twitterings and the distant roar of waterfalls. It's the cool rush of clear green water over stones. It is the dangerous thrill of racing through rapids on a kayak, of clinging to a rock face far above the valley. It's waking up to an argument between Steller's Jays, it's watching deer browse against the rising sun. It's a stand of trees that will never be cut down, a river that will not be dammed. It's the full moon rising over Sentinel Rock, the feeling of triumph on reaching the summit after a long trek.

For me, it's Yosemite's waterfalls; the thundering power of the water, scouring the rocks below smooth, flinging spray into the air that splits into rainbows before settling gently on the watcher's faces.

A child to whom everything is new will experience Yosemite in a radically different way from a rugged hiker who visits every year. But no one can walk away from Yosemite without being touched by the park's sheer natural splendor.



Winning entry by Keliann Witt



Winning entry by Lillian Eung

MEMBERS PAGES

Join Us for the Spring Forum!

Where will you be on March 27, 2004? Consider joining fellow YA members at our annual Spring Forum in Yosemite Valley. Treat yourself to a day of naturalist-guided walks and fascinating auditorium programs, followed by a reception and book signing with three fine authors: Michael Frye, Ron Kauk, and Michael Ross.

This popular annual gathering will for the first time feature a track of programs designed specifically for children age 12 and under and their parents or guardians, in addition to the usual array of programs and walks of interest to all ages. We have also scheduled some Outdoor Adventures that weekend, so you can round out your trip with an Evening of Storytelling for all ages on Saturday night, and a Snowshoe Exploration or hike to discover the wildflowers on the Hite Cove Trail on Sunday. Outdoor Adventures are available for an additional fee, and as always, YA members receive 15% off tuition. Call Lou at 209-379-2321 to register for these Outdoor Adventures.

Registration materials and lodging options for the Spring Forum were mailed to members in early January. Attendance is limited to the first 500 registrants. The day's agenda and information about participating in the events (including the walk sign-up form) will be mailed in late February to those who register for the Forum. If you have questions about this event, please contact the Membership Department at 209-379-2317.

Our thanks go to the National Park Service, The Ansel Adams Gallery, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, and many other friends of YA for their help with this special weekend.

Comings and Goings

Anne Steed concluded fifteen years of service at YA's El Portal office in September 2003. Anne joined the association staff as an assistant for our Field Seminar program in 1988, quickly becoming an

integral part of office operations. She eventually moved into the role of Administrative Assistant, and then to

Membership Coordinator, where she ably facilitated the month-long and worktrip programs. Through it all, Anne was always gracious, friendly, and helpful, and even managed to keep us laughing with her wonderful sense of humor. She also greeted countless members as she assisted with Spring Forums, and coordinated our popular raffle and silent auctions at our Annual Members' Meetings. Her departure has been keenly felt by all of us lucky enough to have worked with her, and we extend to her all our good wishes for joy and success in the future.



In another staff change, we are pleased to introduce Christine (Chrissy) Knight as our new Membership Coordinator.

Chrissy joined us in October from her most recent position as an Interpretive Guide for DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite (formerly "YCS"), where she enjoyed helping people discover the wonders of the park. Chrissy has lived all over the world, but has a deep connection to Yosemite, harkening back to her first camping trip here as an infant. As part of the Membership Department, Chrissy will supervise our expanding volunteer programs, building on her previous experience as an on-site manager for a residential volunteer program in Hawaii. She will also assist with member events and day-to-day operations. Please join us in welcoming Chrissy when you reach her on the member information phone line, or stop in and say hello on your next trip through El Portal.



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operations. Please join us in welcoming Chrissy when you reach her on the member information phone line, or stop in and say hello on your next trip through El Portal.

Obata Reception For Our Most Generous Supporters

On the evening of Friday, March 26, 2004 (the night before the Spring Forum), we will be holding a special reception at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Valley to honor those members who have contributed \$250 or more in dues and additional donations in the last year. Kimi Kodani Hill, Obata family historian and Chiura Obata's granddaughter, will reveal how YA's publication of *Obata's Yosemite* in 1992 resulted in a rediscovery of Obata's art. Tim Burgard, Curator of American Art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, will discuss the "Great Nature" Obata exhibition that was on view in 2000 at the de Young Museum. We will be mailing invitations to all eligible members soon, and we hope to see you there!

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.

Lodging Discount Program Changes



DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite (formerly known as “YCS”) has announced its 2004 Yosemite Park Partner Room Discount program. As with last year’s program, DNC is offering YA members one-time use discount coupons at **The Ahwahnee, Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, Wawona Hotel, and Tenaya**

Lodge. This year, members at the Individual, Joint/Family, International, and Supporting levels will receive one coupon good for a 20% discount off midweek (Sunday through Thursday night) stays from now through April 30, 2004 or November 1, 2004 through April 30, 2005. Members at the Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Participating Life levels will receive the aforementioned 20% off coupon, as well as one coupon good for 10% off midweek (Sunday through Thursday night) stays in any month, valid through June 1, 2005. Members at the Patron and Benefactor levels will receive one 20% off coupon, and two 10% off coupons. The 2004 coupons will be mailed to all current YA members in late January.

If you still have any “2003 Yosemite Park Partner 10% Room Discount” coupons, note that these coupons must be used by June 1, 2004, so come visit the park soon!

YA members are also entitled to discounts of 10% or more at many other lodging properties in and around Yosemite, including **Clouds Rest Cabin** (Foresta), **The Redwoods in Yosemite, Yosemite View Lodge** (El Portal), **Cedar Lodge** (El Portal), **Best Western Yosemite Way Station** (Mariposa), **Comfort Inn Mariposa, Comfort Inn Oakhurst**, and the **Highlands House B&B!** These discounts are not coupon-based, so you can use them as many times as you like. Visit our Member Benefits website at <http://www.yosemite.org/member/benefits.htm> for a complete list of our lodging discount partners. You can also call the YA membership information line at (209) 379-2317 if you have questions about these or any other membership benefits. We thank all of our lodging partners for making these valuable perks available to our members.

Sign-up for a Yosemite Outdoor Adventure!

We invite you to explore the park through one of our fun, educational programs. Some of our upcoming courses include:

- March 13-14** Winter Explorations with a Ranger
- April 3** Yosemite Waterfalls Grand Tour
- April 17** Spirit of the Rock: Discussions with Ron Kauk
- April 23-25** Yosemite Birding Festival
- April 24** Storytelling for Grandparents & Parents
- May 1** Forest Ecology and Tree Identification
- May 9** Women of Yosemite: A Mother’s Day Celebration

For a full listing of our programs, visit www.yosemite.org or call 209-379-2321. YA members save 15% on all courses and proceeds from the program directly benefit the park!

Are You a Steward?

“Stewardship” is such a strange word for such an important value, commitment, and opportunity. Stewardship means something different to everyone...what does stewardship mean to you? More importantly, how are you a steward? Here are some ideas of stewardship from the YA staff:

- Financial Support
- Vote with dollars—choose where you spend your money
- Stay informed about current issues
- Pick up trash on trails
- Report unsafe trail conditions
- Volunteer
- Help lost visitors
- Play tour guide for friends and other park visitors
- Become a YA member!

We would love to hear how you define stewardship, and what you do to show it! Please send your ideas to cknight@yosemite.org or call (209) 379-2317.

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

THREE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER IN YOSEMITE

1 Volunteer for YA for a Month or More

Have you always dreamed of living in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, or Tuolumne Meadows? Do you secretly wish you could wake up every morning with a view of Half Dome, commune daily with the sequoias in the Mariposa Grove, or witness the many diverse floral faces in Tuolumne Meadows? YA's month-long volunteer program offers you the opportunity to realize these dreams and meet other Yosemite lovers.

Members can apply to volunteer in Wawona, Yosemite Valley, or Tuolumne Meadows for a month or longer. In Wawona, members provide information assistance at the historic Hill's Studio Information Station and in the Mariposa Grove Museum. Yosemite Valley volunteers serve at many venues including the "Yurt" in the Camp 6 day use parking area, Happy Isles Nature Center, and the Yosemite Museum Gallery. In Tuolumne

Meadows, highlights include working at Parsons Lodge and Olmsted Point.

Additional benefits include free camping at shared sites in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, or Tuolumne Meadows, \$10 per work-day for "out-of-pocket" expenses, a 30% discount on YA bookstore purchases, a tuition-free outdoor adventure, and discount cards from the concessionaire. Most volunteers work a four or five day week, depending on scheduling needs. Assignments in Wawona and Yosemite Valley run from May through September; the Tuolumne Meadows volunteer season is June through September.

For more information and an application, please visit our website at <http://yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html> or contact Chrissy at (209) 379-2317 or cknight@yosemite.org.

2 Volunteer for the NPS and Inform the Public

The interpretive division of Yosemite National Park is seeking volunteers to assist with visitor information and orientation functions in Yosemite Valley during the summer of 2004. Volunteers will be responsible for staffing the Valley Visitor Center front desk, as well as the Public Information Office in the Valley. A high degree of customer service skill is necessary, as well as patience and good communication skills. Volunteers will be required to commit to a minimum of three months, working a minimum of 32

hours per week. Schedules are flexible and include weekend work. Volunteers are needed from April through October. Uniform and training provided. Housing, either in El Portal or Yosemite Valley, and a small amount of money for "out-of-pocket" expenses are also provided. For more information, please contact Tom Medema, Valley Interpretive Operations Supervisor, at tom_medema@nps.gov or (209) 372-0642 or send an NPS Volunteers-In-Parks application or resume to him at P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389.

3 Volunteer at Big Oak Flat or the Fresno Store

We are seeking long-term volunteers for the Big Oak Flat Information Station and the Fresno airport store. If you love Yosemite, people, or just would like to give back to your community, these opportunities are especially for you. Volunteers receive many benefits unique to the location of service. If you are interested in more information or an application for the Fresno location please contact Pat at (209) 379-2648 or pwight@yosemite.org. For the Big Oak Flat location, contact Chrissy at (209) 379-2317 or cknight@yosemite.org.

A YA volunteer work week crew in action.



RUSS MORIMOTO

2004 Work Week Applications Now Available

Applications are now being accepted for our 2004 Cooperative Work Week Program (a.k.a. work trips). The work trips are a cooperative effort of YA, providing volunteer support, Yosemite Institute, providing a naturalist to oversee campsite operations and culinary services, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, giving crucial financial support, and the National Park Service, providing project direction, tools, and supervision.

The 2004 trips are:

June 20–26: Weed Warriors (Yosemite Valley)

July 11–17: Glacier Point Rare & Endangered Species & Wawona Weeds (Wawona)

July 25–31: Tuolumne Front Country Restoration (Tuolumne Meadows)

August 15–21: Rafferty Creek Restoration (Backcountry)

Sept. 26–Oct. 2: Valley Fall Projects (Yosemite Valley)

In each of these trips, up to fifteen YA members camp together at a group site from Sunday afternoon to the following Saturday morning. They work on various restoration and revegetation projects for four days, with a day rest day in the middle of the week. Volunteers contribute \$50 each to help cover the cost of the seventeen hearty meals served during their stay.

Like Tony (see accompanying letter), many members have had the opportunity to participate in a YA Work Week. However, due to the popularity of the program, there are many more members who have not had the opportunity to experience this wonderful benefit of their YA membership. In order to give our members an equal chance to participate, we will conduct a lottery among the applications we receive by March 29 for 2004 worktrip assignments. Applications received after March 29, 2004 will be considered on a space available basis.

For more information or an application, please call Chrissy at (209) 379-2317, or download an application form from our website at <http://yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html>.

“THE WORK WEEKS AREN’T WORK”

Editor’s Note: The following is a letter from long-time member and worktrip volunteer Tony DeMaio to YA board chair Christy Holloway.

Dear Christy,

Thank you for the handwritten note at the end of the form thank you letter. It is much appreciated. Please forgive this typewritten note but my handwriting is atrocious.

We call them work weeks but I, for the life of me, can’t see them as work. Especially when I look at a photo of me at Washburn Point with, to my left, there is Half Dome, and Clouds Rest, and Tenaya Canyon. To my right are Vernal and Nevada Falls and further in the background is all of the Sierra Nevada. Over the years that I have come to Yosemite as a volunteer I have found four main reasons that I do so.

The first and foremost is to help restore that which is lost and damaged by throngs that visit here. To mend the Merced’s banks eroded by so many feet that trampled down her sides. To help remove old dirt and rock and gravel and replace that with natural flora so that the Fen can return to its former state. To help remove all the non-native plants so that the native plants can continue to flourish. To seek and hopefully find the wildflowers that haven’t been seen in a long time.

My second reason for coming is the chance to get to work with such wonderful people in Yosemite’s Resources Management. Over the years it has been a joy and privilege to work with people like Marty, Noreen, Victor, and Don. The caring that they have for all the natural wonders at Yosemite; the enthusiasm they show as they meet the challenges of their jobs; and the knowledge that they impart to all of us who have worked with them. It is a privilege to know them.

Third, of course, is all the other volunteers that I have gotten to know and work with. The camaraderie that has been developed with not only the people with whom I have worked over the years, but also the people that I have met for the first time; talking over old times with those that have worked together over the years; making friends with people that have come for the first time and having them feel welcome. The amazing teamwork that develops in just one week. It all is so heartwarming.

The fourth, and by far not the least, are the good people of the Yosemite Association: Steve, Laurel, you Christy, and the rest of the Board of Directors and others who have gone on to other pursuits who make the Yosemite Association possible. Having Steve and Laurel come to our Tuesday supper makes us feel appreciated; we even enjoy Steve’s jokes, some of the time. Because of the Yosemite Association, I and others are able to be volunteers in Yosemite.

So instead of you wondering how you can thank me, it is I who thank you and all of those that I have talked about for making it possible for me to help out in the Park. It is my hope that I will be allowed the privilege of coming to the Park, two to three times a year, as a YA volunteer, for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Tony DeMaio



ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:

OA = Outdoor Adventure

AAC = Art Activity Center

FEBRUARY

Feb:
Winter 2004 issue of the members' journal Yosemite to be mailed this month

Feb:
Valley Visitor Center Information and Bookstore services temporarily relocated to Wilderness

Education Center building (next to the post office) during VC renovation

Feb 6:
OA: Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Full Moon Snowshoe with Julie Miller

Feb 7:
OA: Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist with Julie Miller

Feb 7:
OA: A Writer's Winter Walk in Yosemite with Beth Pratt

Feb 16:
YA Administrative Office in

El Portal closed for the Presidents' Day holiday

February 27-29:
OA: A Weekend with Nevada Barr

Feb 27 – May 2:
Yosemite Renaissance XIX exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery

MARCH

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

Mar 5:
OA: Dewey Point by Snowshoe with Julie Miller

Mar 6:
OA: Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist – full moon evening program with Julie Miller

Mar 13-14:
OA: Winter Explorations with a Ranger with Dick Ewart

Mar 26:
Museum Store opens for the season

Mar 26:
Obata Reception at The Ansel Adams Gallery (by invitation)

Mar 27:
Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

Mar 27:
OA: An Evening of Storytelling for All Ages

Mar 28:
OA: Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist with Julie Miller

Mar 28:
OA: Discovering Spring Wildflowers at Hite Cove with Michael Ross

APRIL

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

Apr 3:
Ostrander Ski Hut closes for season

Apr 3:
OA: Yosemite Valley

Waterfalls Grand Tour with Suzanne Swedo

Apr 4:
OA: Discovering Spring Wildflowers at Hite Cove with Suzanne Swedo

Apr 14:
Big Oak Flat Bookstore and Information Station opens for the season

Apr 17:
OA: Spirit of the Rock: Discussions with Ron Kauk

Apr 17:
OA: Hite Cove Hike with Michael Ross

Apr 18:
Waterfalls and Wildflowers: Foresta to El Portal with Michael Ross

Apr 19 – 25:
AAC: Free art lessons with Susan Vanderveen

Apr 23 – 25:
Yosemite Birding Festival with Keith Hansen, Ted

Beedy, David Lukas and more!

Apr 24:
OA: Storytelling for Grandparents (and parents) with The Story Quilters

Apr 24:
OA: An Evening of Storytelling for All Ages

Apr 26 – May 2:
AAC: Free art lessons with Jan Schafir

MAY

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

May 1:
OA: Forest Ecology and Tree Identification with Michael Ross

May 1:
OA: Hidden Hideaways of Yosemite Valley with Kristina Rylands

May 2:
Last day to view Yosemite Renaissance XIX exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery

May 3:
Camp 6 Day Use Parking Area Information Station (Yurt) opens for the season

May 3 - 9:
AAC: Free art lessons with Anne Longman

May 6 – 9:
OA: Drawing and Pastel Painting in Yosemite with Moira Donohoe

May 7:
Happy Isles Nature Center and Bookstore opens for the season

May 8:
Wawona Information Station and Bookstore at Hill's Studio opens for the season

May 9:
OA: Women of Yosemite: A Mother's Day Celebration with Beth Pratt

May 10 - 16:
AAC: Free art lessons with Carole Buss

May 13 – 16:
OA: Yosemite by Camera, Car, and Bicycle with Dave Wyman

May 14 – 16:
OA: Hetch Hetchy Wildflower Explorations with Suzanne Swedo

May 15 – 16:
OA: Yosemite's Forests: Historic Conditions and a Century of Change with Jim Bouldin

May 16:
OA: Inside Yosemite: Wilderness Issues in the Park with Laurel Boyers

May 17 - 23:
AAC: Free art lessons with Frank Poulsen

May 21:
Mariposa Grove Museum and Bookstore opens for the season

May 21 – 23:
OA: Botanical Illuminations with Andie Thrams

May 22:
OA: Music in Yosemite with the Recycled String Band

YOSEMITE CATALOG



Yosemite Meditations

*with photographs by Michael Frye,
and a foreword by Yosemite Superintendent Michael Tollefson.*

The Yosemite Association has released this new gift book that's a beautifully-illustrated collection of quotations about nature, the environment, and the national parks, guaranteed to inspire and uplift readers.

The stunning color Yosemite photographs gracing the book's pages were taken by Michael Frye, a renowned photographer who resides in the park. A diverse group of notables, ranging from Frank Lloyd Wright to John Muir and from Albert Einstein to Henry David Thoreau, provides the included wisdom and inspirational thoughts.

Specifically designed to be used out of doors, this is a work that can be enjoyed alone in a high country meadow, or shared with friends and family on a camping or backpacking trip. The convenient size is ideal for putting into a pack or tote bag, making it easy to carry and appreciate in almost any setting. The book is 96 pages long, illustrated in full color, 4.75 x 6 inches in size, and hardbound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2003, Yosemite Association. \$9.95; **member price \$8.46**

Mammal Tracks & Sign—A Guide to North American Species

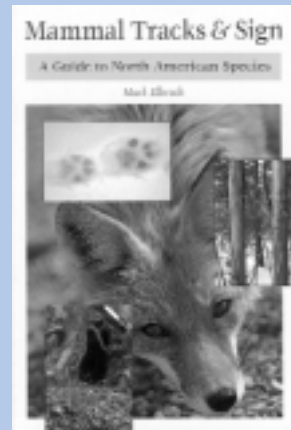
by Mark Elbroch.

This amazing guide brings together concise text, detailed line drawings, range maps, and more than 1,000 color photographs to illustrate and describe the tracks and sign left by North American mammals.

Among the illustrations are feeding signs, scat, burrow, tunnels, bedding areas, rubbings, and remains.

Organized for in-the-field use or at-home reference, it includes a handy section of 104 life-size tracks. This is an invaluable resource for wildlife enthusiasts and beginning or experienced trackers. The formidable volume is 784 pages and 5.5 inches x 8.25 inches in size. It is illustrated in

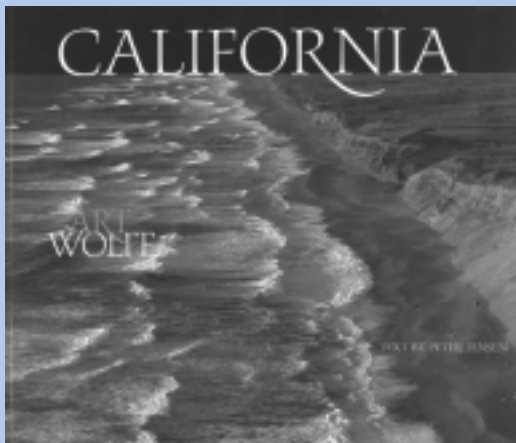
color and black-and-white, and features a heavy-duty paper binding with protective coating. Copyright 2003, Stackpole Books. \$44.95; **member price \$38.21**



California

with photos by Art Wolfe and text by Peter Jensen.

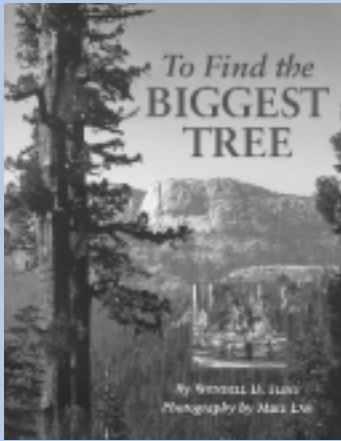
Internationally-acclaimed nature and wildlife photographer Art Wolfe has long had a love affair with California. Along its wild coastline, he finds iconic vistas and light playing upon water in ways that crystallize the very idea of the West Coast.



Heading inland, he is drawn to the dense lushness of ancient forests, the bracing environs of an alpine lake in the Sierra Nevada, and the particular abundance of plant and animal life found only in the desert. Seeking the natural world in the great Central Valley, Art Wolfe captures stands of ancient oaks, wildflower carpets, and migratory bird populations.

This is a California that is familiar — Yosemite, Marin, the Owens Valley — and yet remarkably new. Art Wolfe offers a personal landscape in his images of place. The result is California as it has not been seen before. The book is 160 pages, 11 inches x 9.5 inches, illustrated with full-color photos, and bound with a paper cover with flaps. Copyright 2001, Sasquatch Books. \$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>



To Find the Biggest Tree

by Wendell Flint.

This is the account of two men and their lifelong quest to seek out and record, in all their majesty, contenders for the title of the earth's largest living things. Big tree hunter Wendell Flint takes you on a journey filled with facts, legends, and rumors.

The book explores sequoia groves throughout California. From the largest to the tallest, to the strange and unusual - including the tree you can drive through—this book will take you there. This newly-revised edition includes a section on the mighty redwoods, the world's tallest trees and rivals of the champion giant sequoia.

The volume is 126 pages, 8.5 inches x 11 inches, illustrated in color and black-and-white, and paperback. Copyright 2002, Sequoia Natural History Association. \$18.95; **member price \$16.11**

The Snowflake—Winter's Secret Beauty

with text by Kenneth Libbrecht and photos by Patricia Rasmussen.

High above the earth a snowflake is born. Crystalline branches form around a nucleus of microscopic dust, creating a one-of-a-kind design. Because it weighs next to nothing, a snow crystal may take hours to fall - finally landing where Patricia Rasmussen's amazing micro-photography can capture the fleeting beauty and complexity of nature's art.

Join pre-eminent researcher Kenneth Libbrecht as he chronicles the creation of the snow crystal—though even today, we cannot fully explain why no two snowflakes are alike. The mystery remains unsolved, but with this captivating volume, we can better appreciate the snowflake's secret inner beauty.

This beautiful and fascinating book is 112 pages, 8.5 inches x 11.5 inches, illustrated in full color with remarkable photos, and casebound with dust jacket.

Copyright 2003, Voyageur Press. \$20; **member price \$17**



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**



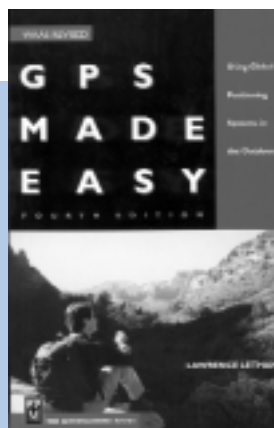
GPS Made Easy (4th edition)

by Lawrence Letham.

This well-written introduction to Global Positioning Systems makes the complex topic easy to understand. Among the subjects covered are how GPS works, the features of all common receivers, and practical step-by-step examples of GPS use in the wilderness.

There's also discussion of GPS use with maps and in rough terrain and varied conditions. The revised edition includes chapters on the use of GPS enhanced technology, such as PDAs, pocket PCs, and more.

The book is 208 pages long, and 5.5 inches x 8.5 inches in size. It is illustrated in black-and-white and has a paperback binding. Copyright 2003, The Mountaineers Books. \$15.95; **member price \$13.56**



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 x 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.

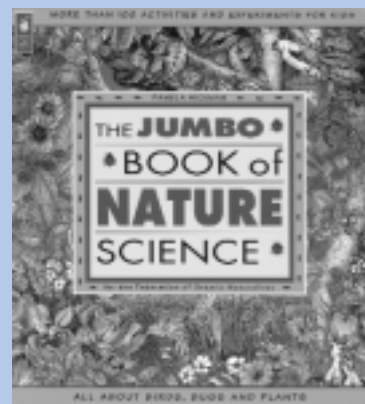
\$49.95; **member price \$42.46**. Be sure to specify size.

The Jumbo Book of Nature Science

by Pamela Hickman.

This book for young people contains more than 100 activities and experiments that explore nature indoors and outdoors and in every season. Using materials found around home, kids will get nose to nose with nature and discover the amazing bugs and plants that live at their doorsteps or down the street.

The author is a natural science educator and writer, and the author of many books for children. The entertaining book is 160 pages long, 8.5 inches x 9.5 inches in size, illustrated with black-and-white drawings, and paperbound. Copyright 1996, Kids Can Press. \$12; **member price \$10.20**



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

by Impact.

Knowing how to identify birds by sight is a key to becoming familiar with different species. This beautiful collection of photos provides an enjoyable and educational experience that will benefit birders of all ages.

The game, for ages 3 and over, includes poster with photos of and information about all 50 included

birds. The game contains 100 cards, each 3 inches x 3 inches. The cards and poster are printed in full color and packaged in sturdy box. Copyright 2002, Impact. \$12.95; **member price \$11.01**



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 80th Anniversary Enamel Pin

by William Spear Design.

This beautiful new "cloisonne-style" enamel pin was developed to celebrate the Yosemite Association's 80th anniversary. With its rich primary colors and gold lettering and highlights, the pin is a real eye-catcher.

The pin was developed for us by William Spear from the new 80th anniversary logo designed by Michael Osborne Design. Made of heavy enamel, it is 1 inch wide and 1.375 inches tall. Packaged in a tan cardboard gift box.

\$12.95; **member price \$11.01**



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**



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**



Order Form

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Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318

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NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS

Welcome and welcome back to our new and rejoining members! You've connected with some 10,000 like-minded individuals, families, and businesses helping the association make Yosemite an even better place.

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Special thanks go to the following members. By recently upgrading your membership level, you have enhanced our ability to provide key educational and other programs in Yosemite.

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We extend our gratitude to our donors who have recently made gifts to the association. Special gifts that mark a loved one's birth, marriage, or passing are a way to ensure that others will be able to enjoy the beauty and solace of Yosemite for years to come.

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To honor the Yosemite Association's 80th anniversary, over 720 members have made donations totaling more than \$90,000. With this tremendous response, we have exceeded our goal of raising \$80,000 in our 80th year! We send many thanks to all these donors for helping us fulfill our mission of stewardship and support.

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Join the Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association initiates and supports interpretive, educational, research, scientific, and environmental programs in Yosemite National Park, in cooperation with the National Park Service. Authorized by Congress, the Association provides services and direct financial support in order to promote park stewardship and enrich the visitor experience.

Besides publishing and selling books, maps, and other materials, YA operates an outdoor adventure program, the 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.

You can help us be successful by becoming a member. Individuals, families, and businesses throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association with their dues and participation in our programs.

Won't you join us in our efforts to make Yosemite an even better place?

MOVING?

If you are moving or have recently moved, don't forget to notify us. You are a valued member of the Association, and we'd like to keep in touch with you.

MEMBER BENEFITS

As a member of the Yosemite Association, you will enjoy the following benefits and much more:

- *Yosemite*, the quarterly Association journal;
- 15% discount on all books, products, and tuition for Outdoor Adventures offered by the Association;
- Discounts on lodging rates at properties in and around the park;
- 10% discount at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Valley (some restrictions apply);
- Opportunity to attend member events and to volunteer in the park;
- Know that your support is helping us make a difference in Yosemite National Park.

When you join at one of the following levels, you will receive a special membership gift:

Supporting: *Spirit of Yosemite*, the video version of the award-winning park orientation film

Contributing: *The Yosemite* by John Muir, with photographs and annotations by Galen Rowell

Sustaining: *Yosemite Once Removed—Portraits of the Backcountry*, a book of photos by Claude Fiddler paired with essays about Yosemite's wilderness, plus an invitation to a special gathering during the year

Patron: "Aspen Leaves and Half Dome," a matted 11" x 14" color photograph by Howard Weamer, plus invitations to special gatherings throughout the year

Benefactor: "El Capitan," a matted 8" x 10" Ansel Adams Special Edition Photograph, plus invitations to special gatherings throughout the year, including an elegant evening reception at the Ahwahnee Meadow

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