



**YoseNite**

A JOURNAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2006

Volume 68

Number 2

# PARKITECTURE

**2005 ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE**

# A Message from the President

One of the benefits of lousy winter weather in Yosemite is that it encourages us locals to explore the rest of California. When you tire of days upon end of snow and rain and gray skies, other regions of the state develop new allure. Wishfully you come to believe that if you leave the park to find better weather, it will help change the climate back in Yosemite.

This winter has been particularly brutal (especially March, which we usually consider a spring month), but the wonderful natural areas that I've been able to visit this year have more than compensated. In December, for example, I visited my son at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at Marin Headlands, where he was working as an intern. San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge, not to mention the hundreds of hawks that passed overhead, were brilliant in the sunlight, and things stayed mercifully dry.

A February trip to Cambria, at the south end of the Big Sur coast, was another great getaway. Things were windy, but clear, and thousands of elephant seals lolled on the beaches north of town. Long walks on the beach, uninterrupted by snow or rain, proved very consoling. And a birding excursion to the Panoche Valley (in San Benito County) at the end of the month introduced me to an entire new section of the state. The area is rich with birdlife, particularly raptors (we saw fifteen different species), and a stop at Mercey Hot Springs was highlighted by glimpses of long-eared, great-horned, and barn owls in a stand of tamarisk trees.

California is a remarkable state, as my winter experiences proved, but even my travels elsewhere in hopes of altering the weather pattern in Yosemite were futile. You could have predicted that it would rain for our Spring Forum on March 25, and it did. In fact, it poured. Our members were undaunted, gallantly hiking, birding, poling, and recreating in all-day-long showers. The event was unquestionably successful, and we thank our presenters, sponsors, and attendees for making it so. As usual, The Ansel Adams Gallery, which hosted our reception on Friday night, the National Park Service, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, and Redwood Creek Wines contributed generously to the weekend, and we are very appreciative.

What's coming up for spring? Let's hope it's not more rain. We have a variety of events, initiatives, and programs scheduled, foremost among them our Yosemite Birding Festival from May 5-7. We'll be opening up the Yosemite Art Center again for more free art classes, moving back into soggy visitor centers and stores that have been closed for the winter, and welcoming our first crop of dedicated YA volunteers for the season. Important in our mind is that you'll be receiving a mailing from us requesting a spring donation so that we can continue to make all this possible. We hope you'll respond with a generous gift.

As I watch the rain fall outside my office window here in El Portal, I encourage you to read YA's annual report included in this issue to see what your support has helped us accomplish. Then you can make plans to visit Yosemite (is there an Outdoor Adventure in your future?) and think lots of sunny thoughts. I can't change the weather, but maybe all of you collectively can!



*Steve*

Steven P. Medley, President

*Cover: This 1929 granite stairway at Mirror Lake was designed to flow around the existing landscape features.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES PALMER

Yosemite is a Temple of Nature, right? The granite peaks, the soaring trees, the waterfalls and meadows, the bears and frogs and deer? After all, that's what John Muir called it. He said that here "Your animal fellow-beings...and every rock-brow and mountain, stream, and lake, and every plant soon come to be regarded as brothers; even one learns to like the storms and clouds and tireless winds."

Some of us might like to imagine that in an ideal world Yosemite should be entirely natural, without any infrastructure at all. The fact is, though, that people have been living and working in Yosemite for thousands of years. They have always needed places to sleep, to make something to eat and, inevitably, to get rid of their wastes. When the numbers were small the impact on the landscape appeared slight, but the situation changed as visitation grew. As early as 1915 Park Service officials recognized that when the seasonal population reached into the thousands, Yosemite was facing the same sorts of problems as a small city. As a result, Mark Daniels, the Service's first general

superintendent and landscape engineer insisted "There are roads to be built, and there are bridges to be built, and there are trails to be built, and there are hotels to be built, and sanitation must be taken care of."

It would have been easy to make a mess of Yosemite—in fact, Yosemite Valley *was* a mess. After forcing out the Indian residents in the 1850s, American settlers proceeded to fence and farm the valley floor, and to build a random assortment of structures for themselves and the increasing tide of visitors. The National Park Service's founding director Stephen Mather hoped to replace this unsightly jumble with a more natural landscape, and with carefully designed facilities that would be a harmonious part of it. Because Mather regarded Yosemite as the flagship for the entire Park Service, many of the lessons learned here set the example for parks across the nation. The Park Service thus embarked on a program of rustic architecture and landscape design that proved so successful many of its products are now regarded as part of Yosemite's natural world.

*The old ramshackle Yosemite general store, seen in 1958, shows why Parkitecture was developed.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY



*Yosemite Administration Building, seen in 1926.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY



*The stone work of the Ostrander Ski Hut (1940) reflects its rugged surroundings.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Park Service's early landscape architects were heavily influenced by the work of Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., America's most prominent designers of gardens and municipal parks in the nineteenth century. Mark Daniels, Charles Punchar, Daniel Hull, and Thomas Vint adopted the principles of naturalistic landscaping in order to make Yosemite and other national parks accessible to the general public, while maintaining harmony with scenic features. These principles advocated blending the necessary built features with the existing natural surroundings to minimize their physical

and visual impact. In many cases the landscaping helped to define the park's scenery by guiding visitors to carefully selected vantage points, enhanced by the thinning or planting of vegetation to frame views or direct sightlines.

The Park Service's landscape architects expended considerable time and effort on road design to ensure that each visitor was given the opportunity to discover Yosemite's iconic vistas from the most spectacular angles. They embraced the philosophy of Major Hiram Chittenden, who had constructed the road system at Yellowstone during the U.S. Army's administration. Chittenden advocated building roads only when absolutely required, but then to the highest possible standards. He argued that modern, high-quality roads would be less likely to distract visitors' attention from the scenery than those that were too rough or winding. The ideal was to disguise any evidence of human activity on the landscape, beyond the existence of the road itself. Banks and cuts were naturalized with careful shaping and planting so that the road would appear to be "lying lightly on the land," rather than plowing through it. From 1925, Frank Kittredge of the Federal Bureau of Public Roads assumed responsibility for designing national park roads, but maintained Chittenden's esthetic standards.

The roads, trails, and scenic outlooks designed by these architects were parts of a larger, comprehensive planning process developed for each national park that sought to prevent the sort of haphazard development so characteristic of Yosemite's early years. Drawing on the experience of urban planners, the Park Service developed zoning guidelines that would direct land use in each area of a park. This enabled administrators to define portions of Yosemite as "wilderness" to be kept separate, as much as possible, from areas of intensive use such as the valley that were meant to be accessible to all.

Yosemite's park buildings were designed to be an integral part of the park's comprehensive plans. The earliest buildings had been a conglomeration of log cabins and Victorian wood frame buildings that, at best, had been designed to give visitors the impression that a decent bed or a good meal could be found inside. While some were undeniably rustic or even attractive on their own, they did little to help visitors appreciate the larger surroundings.

The National Park ideal can be found in the buildings constructed during the 1920s and 1930s for the new Yosemite Village. Stephen Mather donated the chalet-styled Ranger Club to the park in 1920, hoping that it might serve as a model for future construction throughout the Park Service. After refining a more distinctively American rustic style, Park Service administrators commissioned noted architect Myron Hunt—designer of the Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena and the original campus of Occidental College—to develop a plan for

the new Administration Building. Herbert Maier was responsible for the park's museum building, and went on to design other museums for Yellowstone and Grand Canyon National Parks. Both the Administration and Museum buildings are classic examples of the rustic style sometimes called Parkitecture. The lines are low, with stone-covered walls on the ground floor and wood above, to suggest that the buildings have a natural connection to their location. The elements that make up buildings of this kind were often oversized to produce a greater sense of harmony with the massive surrounding landscape of Yosemite. Rough granite boulders from Yosemite's talus slopes, and gravel and river-run stones from the valley streambeds provided materials for foundations, chimneys, and steps, while timber from park forests provided the heavy logs, rough-milled lumber, shingles, and shakes for walls and framing, porches, and trim.

Buildings in the rustic style tend to blend in with the environment when seen from a distance, but at close range the same design features take on a solid, almost imposing quality. Together with the uniformity of design, this helped convey the message that the early National Park Service was firmly in charge, and a reliable guardian of the nation's treasures. It was an important message, because the national park idea maintained that the natural wonders of the United States should be held in perpetual trust for the entire population, rather than being exploited by private entrepreneurs, as had been the case at Niagara Falls. A growing number of Americans accepted the teachings of John Muir and others, who advocated contemplating natural beauty to counter the pressures of urban society. Wilderness once

meant a place of fear and danger that had to be conquered. But, as attitudes in the 20th century changed, it came to mean a place of rugged independence and spiritual renewal to be protected for future generations.

So what does this all mean now? For one thing, Yosemite's carefully-designed rustic buildings have been in constant use since they were built as many as 86 years ago. Those that predate the National Park Service, such as the Wawona Hotel complex or the Yosemite Chapel, are older still. They all need regular maintenance and occasionally additions to enable them to cope with modern needs. The park's cultural resources staff works with the rest of the park professionals to maintain constant vigilance to ensure that the work is carried out, as much as possible, in harmony with the original designs and their intent. The goal is to maintain traditions from the earliest days of the Park Service in an effort to keep the necessary built environment from imposing on Yosemite's scenic beauty.

If all goes well, visitors should spend their time in Yosemite National Park enjoying its natural beauty, rather than anything built in the middle of it. But, if anyone pauses to look at the stonework on a nice old building, or the way it seems to fit in with everything around it, then that's a good thing too.

*Charles Palmer is the Park Historian, working in the History, Architecture, and Landscapes branch (HAL) of Yosemite's National Park Service Division of Resources Management and Science.*

Yosemite Museum in 1935.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY

# INSPIRING THE ARTS & CRAFTS HOME

BY LESLIE M. FREUDENHEIM

## OLMSTED, MUIR, AND WORCESTER IN YOSEMITE

Joseph Worcester (1836-1913), reverend of the Swedenborgian church and the man who gave the simple Arts & Crafts house in Northern California its initial impetus, was an architect by avocation, although he was not credentialed as one. Worcester stands out as a highly influential proponent of unpretentious Arts & Crafts houses built of natural materials to harmonize with nature.

Worcester's prominent friends included John Muir, one of the first explorers to walk through the whole of Yosemite Valley, and possibly Frederick Law Olmsted, whose visits to Yosemite Valley coincided with Worcester's.

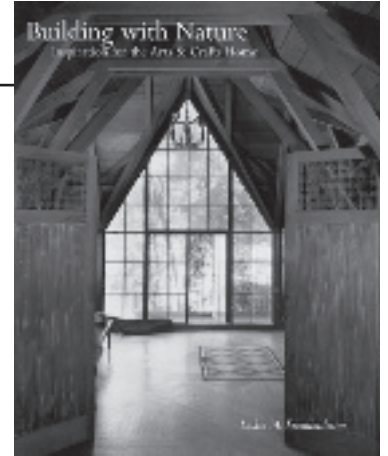
It can be said that in Yosemite, Frederick Law Olmsted, John Muir, and Joseph Worcester found support for their shared belief that it was worth studying nature and landscape in order to increase man's morality, happiness, and sensitivity to all the arts. Furthermore, all three men succeeded in convincing numerous others to share their belief.

Worcester visited Yosemite, as his nephew's memoir reveals:

*From the Yosemite he had brought back a wonderful collection of large photographs—"seconds because of some slight imperfection" as he used to explain, and given to him perhaps in return for help he had given to the photographer, or if bought, then only at a very low price. For during his long stay in the Valley he had been partially earning his way.*

According to Yosemite historian Linda Eade, the well-known photographer Carleton Watkins made a second trip to Yosemite in 1865 (his first was in 1861). No artists or photographers are known to have been there in 1864 or 1866. Then in 1867 Eadweard Muybridge made numerous large plates at Yosemite under the HELIOS trademark. So if Joseph Worcester assisted a photographer and brought the photographs back to Boston to show his family, as Alfred mentions, he would most likely have been in Yosemite and have worked with Watkins in 1865 or with Muybridge in early 1867, since he returned to Boston to be ordained late in 1867. However, the details of Worcester's Yosemite trips and exact arrival dates in California need to be further investigated.

Worcester's letters to Alfred document two visits to Mountain House Ranch in the redwood hills twenty-five miles from San Francisco, and indicate that his two trips to California, and perhaps to Yosemite, were four to five years apart.



March 5, 1869

*Do you remember when I first met Harry East? Well, here I am again, some thirty five miles south of San Francisco up among the Redwood hills.*

*Not feeling very well as Spring approached [the mention of Spring approaching suggests he had been in California before Spring] I wrote down to see if I could be accommodated for a few days here. A cordial invitation came back and within twenty-four hours I was on my way. I have dreamed much of the place since I was here five years ago, and my dreams fall short of the reality.*

This much we can state with certainty: Worcester made two trips to California, one in 1864 and again in 1868, and two trips to the Mountain House Ranch in 1864 and 1869. It is possible, even likely, considering his love of nature that he also visited Yosemite at least twice, but we cannot say so categorically at this time.

Olmsted was in California from 1863 through 1865 and first visited the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees in Yosemite in November 1863; in August 1864 he explored the high country and Yosemite Valley. During his initial visits to Yosemite, Olmsted reports being enraptured and overwhelmed by the grand and subtle elements of its beauty:

*The root of all my good work is an early respect for, regard and enjoyment of scenery . . . and extraordinary opportunities for cultivating susceptibility to the power of scenery.*

Like Worcester, Olmsted had read Ruskin and also shared Worcester's interest in Swedenborg. While in England fifteen years before in August 1850, Olmsted had met James J. G. Wilkinson

(1812-1899), the English translator of Swedenborg's works, and was quite taken with him:

*He showed us manuscripts of [Swedenborg's]. He is a noble-man—was very genial and good with us. I have not [seen] men that impressed more as a character mingling the good with the great.*

As Olmsted expert Charles Beveridge explains:

*Olmsted used the style of the Beautiful—or as he usually called it, the pastoral to create a sense of the peacefulness of nature and to soothe and restore the spirit.*

Commenting to his wife on the lush foliage he saw when passing through the Isthmus of Panama on his way to California in 1863, he wrote: "I think it produces a very strong moral impression through an enlarged sense of the bounteousness of nature."

Worcester arrived in Yosemite with sensitivity to the holiness of nature, direct from Swedenborgian teachings and from Ruskin. For example, rhapsodizing about mountains, Ruskin wrote:

*[They] seem to have been built for the human race, as at once their schools and cathedrals; full of treasures of illuminated manuscripts for the scholar, kindly in simple lessons to the worker, quiet in pale cloisters for the thinker, glorious in holiness for the worshipper.*

As a Swedenborgian, Worcester believed that God is reflected in all of nature.

If Yosemite was not the catalyst that brought Worcester and Olmsted together, it is likely that Worcester heard



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR.

Worcester brought trees into the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church in 1894–5, possibly inspired by his memories of Yosemite.

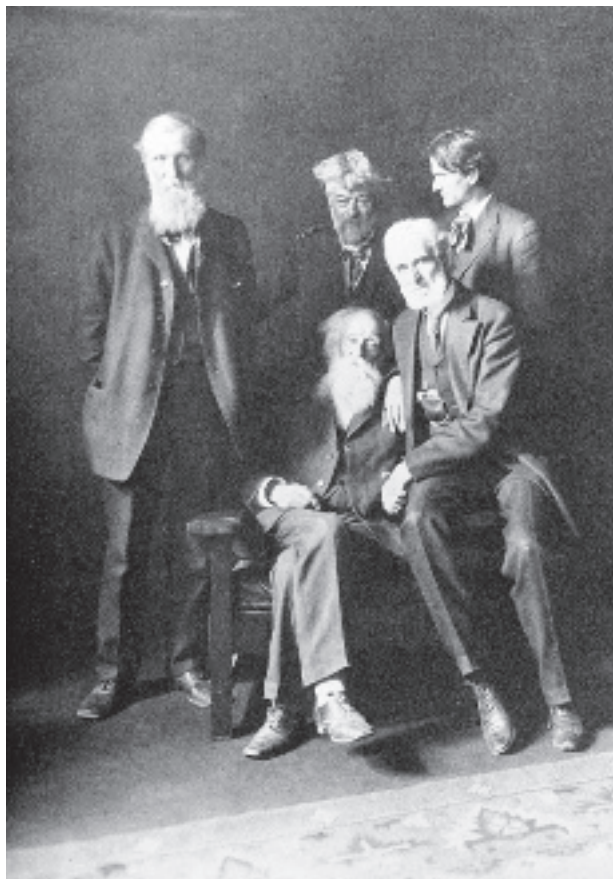


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR.

Group portrait circa 1905—Charles Keeler, John Muir, William Burroughs (seated), William Keith, Francis Brown—probably taken in Keith's studio. Note also the mission style chair.

about the by-then-famous landscape designer who shared his reverence for nature, and Worcester would certainly have been aware of his work in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland between 1863 and 1865. As Beveridge explains: "It was that quality of nature, and of the Creator behind it, that Olmsted sought to express and present in his designs thereafter," just as Worcester did when designing the Swedenborgian Church and his Piedmont and Russian Hill homes.

John Muir first visited Yosemite Valley in May 1868, four years after Worcester's first visit in 1864. If Worcester met Muir at Hutchings' home or hotel (the Hutchings were friends of both Worcester and the Burnham family) as Worcester's nephew-biographer states, we can conclude that Worcester visited Yosemite for the second time in 1868 or 1869; and since Muir built his shelter next door to Hutchings, it would have been odd if they had not met. In any case, they were definitely friends by 1893, when Worcester wrote seeking Muir's assistance in installing native California flowers around the California State Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

By the time Olmsted was appointed to head the Yosemite Commission in August 1864, he had developed

a reputation as the designer of New York's Central Park and had demonstrated remarkable organizing powers with the Sanitary Commission and the War Department. In San Francisco, Olmsted developed a plan in the 1860s (influential, although never implemented) for present-day Golden Gate Park, and in Oakland he designed Mountain View Cemetery (dedicated May 1865) with curvilinear roads contoured to the land. This cemetery adjoins Piedmont at a location about four blocks from Joseph Worcester's 1876 Piedmont house, and from its heights there is a magnificent view over the entire bay. In addition, on March 7, 1865, Olmsted was officially commissioned by the Trustees of the University of California to develop a plan for a new college campus in what later became the city of Berkeley.



*Hutchings Hotel in Yosemite Valley, photographed by J. J. Reilly after 1864.*

We can imagine Worcester, then a young man of twenty-seven compared with the older Olmsted at forty-two and Muir at thirty, transformed by the raw vitality of his experiences in frontier California, impressed by Yosemite's majesty, and challenged by his meetings with Olmsted and Muir; after all, something convinced him to give up Boston and escape the traditional East Coast milieu, ignoring his family's strong opposition.

Olmsted and Muir's California work had a huge influence on the San Francisco Bay Region as did Worcester's ideas ten to fifteen years later. If not Olmsted and/or Muir, something turned Joseph Worcester from a shy and reserved young man into another man—a more sophisticated, self-confident individual, convinced of his opinions and confident in his ability to influence others toward what he saw as best.

Muir and Worcester, like Olmsted, shared a reverence for nature and determined to live in houses reflecting that quality. Muir's description of his Yosemite "hangnest" reveals that, though a simple structure, it was designed specifically to bring nature into his home:

*I boarded with Mr. Hutchings' family, but occupied a cabin that I built for myself near the Hutchings' winter home. This cabin, I think, was the handsomest building in the Valley, and the most useful and convenient for a mountaineer. From the Yosemite Creek near where it first gathers its beaten waters at the foot of the fall, I dug a small ditch and brought a stream into the cabin, entering at one end and flowing out the other with just current enough to allow it to sing and warble in low, sweet tones, delightful at night while I lay in bed. The floor was made of rough slabs, nicely joined and embedded in the ground. In the spring, the common pteris ferns pushed up between the joints of the slabs, two of which, growing slender like climbing ferns on account of the subdued light, I trained on threads up the sides and over my window in front of my writing desk in an ornamental arch. Dainty little tree frogs occasionally climbed the ferns and made fine music in the night, and common frogs came in with the stream and helped to sing with the hylas [tree toads] and the warbling, tinkling water. My bed was suspended from the rafters and lined with libocedrus plumes, altogether forming a delightful home in the glorious valley at a cost of only three or four dollars, and I was loathe to leave it.*

Whether or not they met in Yosemite, it is clear Worcester shared Olmsted's and Muir's commitment to buildings that were designed to enhance and encompass the natural world.

*This article was excerpted from **Building with Nature: Inspiration for the Arts & Crafts Home** reprinted with permission. Copyright 2005 by Leslie M. Freudenheim; Gibbs Smith, Publisher, PO Box 667, Layton, UT 84041. To purchase this book, see page 30.*

**Leslie Freudenheim is an authority on architectural history, and has been published in the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Post. She served as editor of Federal Design Matters for the Design Department, National Endowment for the Arts. Since 2002 she has been studying Arts & Crafts homes and the architectural and social roots of this movement.**



## YOSEMITE AND CHINA'S HUANGSHAN NATIONAL PARK TO BECOME SISTER PARKS

To many, Yosemite—with its “Incomparable Valley”—is the most special place on earth. Disagreement? Not in these quarters, but in China you may find other opinions. Huangshan—or Yellow Mountain—was proclaimed by Ming Dynasty traveler and geographer Xu Xiake to be the “number one mountain on earth.” It is as much a point of pride to the people of China as Yosemite Valley is to Americans.

This May, Yosemite Superintendent Michael Tollefson will travel to China as the invited guest of the People's Republic of China and the communities surrounding Huangshan. While there, he and NPS Deputy Director Don Murphy will join Chinese officials in signing a document making Yosemite and Huangshan the first sister parks between the United States and China.

In 2005, Tollefson was part of a technical assistance mission to six Chinese wildlife refuges. The interaction spurred the Chinese ministry responsible for national parks and the U.S. National Park Service to consider other areas of collaboration. When a high-ranking

Chinese official came to Los Angeles in August 2005, the NPS Office of International Affairs arranged a meeting. Tollefson sent staff, and the discussions concerning a sister park relationship began. In an amusing demonstration of the Chinese official's knowledge of America's national park history, she remarked that it was appropriate for Huangshan to be a sister to Yosemite, because they consider Yosemite to be the “actual first national park,” because of the Yosemite Grant.

**WHY SISTER PARKS?**

Both are cherished landscapes. Yosemite and Huangshan—known as the loveliest mountain in China and acclaimed through art and literature during much its history—hold similar fascination to visitors, poets, painters and photographers. Both are places of pilgrimage, where the landscape stirs the imagination, inspiring great works of art. Historically, more than 20,000 poems have been written in praise of Huangshan, and a school of painting came into being there. Yosemite, beginning with the first



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEI QIANG

*The famous Guest-Receiving Pine Tree, which has welcomed guests from around the world for hundreds of years. To the left are inscriptions by men of letters or people of importance in Chinese history. One says, “The Mountains and Rivers are just like pictures.” In the distance is the third highest and steepest peak in Mount Huangshan National Park, the Celestial-Capital Peak.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEI QIANG

*Huangshan National Park*

tourist party to Yosemite Valley, has held a similar attraction to famous and amateur painters, writers, poets, and photographers, who are drawn to the same beauty that attracted Ansel Adams, Albert Bierstadt, William Keith, Thomas Moran, Helen Hunt Jackson, Thomas Wolf, Gertrude Stein, Frederick Law Olmsted, and John Muir.

Although not twins, the two parks share enough to be biological “sisters.” Both are known for their granite peaks, precipitous cliffs and towering pines. While Yosemite’s El Capitan, Half Dome, and Yosemite Falls have become icons of grandeur in the natural world, Mt. Huangshan—the Emperor’s Mountain—has tremendous cultural significance to the people of China. Its landmarks, including Shixin Peak, Bright Peak, Sea of Clouds, Celestial Basking Shoe and Celestial Basking Boot (subjects of Taoist folk lore), Lotus Peak and Nine-Dragon Waterfall, have drawn pilgrims for millennia.

Both parks are botanically rich. The strange Huangshan pines and the massive giant sequoia of the Sierra Nevada do not draw comparisons to each other, but individual specimens of each have stirred imaginations, inspiring names and characterizations. For example, on Mt. Huangshan there are the Guest-Greeting Pine, Guest-Goodbye Pine, Phoenix Pine, Black Tiger Pine and Sea Exploring Pine; and, in Yosemite we gave the Grizzly Giant, the Fallen Monarch, the Bachelor and Three Graces, the Faithful Couple and the Four Guardsmen trees.

Edifices constructed in each have acquired their own

cultural significance. Much of the architectural style now known as “park rustic” or “parkitecture” was experimented on in Yosemite, a favorite park to Steven Mather, the National Park Service’s first director. At the end of the 13th century, there were 64 temples scattered on slopes of Mt. Huangshan. The influx of hundreds of men of letters further enhanced the position of the mountain as the center of arts and spiritual life.

Because of their locations in and near the major urban centers of Shanghai and San Francisco (which are sister cities), the natural and cultural resources of both face common pressures. The parks wish to increase their already substantial efforts toward the education of school children and the general public so that their country’s people can become committed partners in the conservation of the parks.

The employees of both parks share the common ideals of stewardship and preservation of the resources in their care. Their highest priorities are to preserve natural biodiversity and maintain ecosystems and habitats; and to implement the research, inventory, and monitoring programs necessary to achieve success in these preservation and restoration efforts. To this end, Yosemite has a research and education partnership with the University of California at Merced and its Sierra Nevada Research Institute. The University of California and Sichuan University are establishing a reciprocal research program. This partnership will strengthen the sister park relation-

ship, and provide additional opportunities to achieve mutual goals.

#### **MORE ABOUT HUANGSHAN**

Huangshan National Park was created in 1982 by the State Council of the People's Republic of China. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1990, as just the 17th mixed natural and cultural heritage site. Huangshan National Park is located in southern Anhui Province, and covers an area of 154 square kilometers, with an additional 490 square kilometers as buffer zone, for a total protected area of 644 square kilometers. It is famous for strange-shaped pine trees, grotesque rocks, sea of clouds, and hot springs. It is widely acclaimed as a "Fairyland on Earth" for its unique granite peaks, forests, and floating clouds.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE SISTER PARK RELATIONSHIP**

This relationship will promote international cooperation in benefit to the parks. This will be achieved through exchange of managerial, technical, and professional knowledge, information, data, technology, training, and experience. The relationship will allow the sisters to share experiences and approaches to collaboration, including efforts to work with gateway communities, regional and local economies, friends groups, and partner organizations.

When Chinese officials expressed interest in sending personnel to Yosemite to expose them to the park management experience of Tollefson and his staff, it rang as

somewhat ironic. If Huangshan has been significant for millennia to the people of China, then surely the opportunity for learning the art of preserving natural and cultural heritage flows both ways. A Sister Park Action Plan will be prepared to guide future cooperation.

American naturalist John Muir said, "No temple made with hands can compare to Yosemite." Appropriate words, and undoubtedly a sentiment shared by those who used their own hands to build temples on the slopes of Huangshan. People came, but they came for the mountain, to bask in this spiritual experience that was and is Huangshan. Sounds like Yosemite.

*We are hoping to develop a special trip to Huangshan National Park for Yosemite Association members in the fall of 2007. Watch for more information about this opportunity to visit Yosemite's sister park and fellow World Heritage Site.*

*Jerry Mitchell is the Management Assistant at Yosemite National Park. During his 31 years of federal service he has worked at several of the "most special places on earth," including Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks. He is currently on assignment in Washington, D.C. as a Fellow with the National Park Foundation.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEI QIANG

*Huangshan National Park*

# ZEN AND THE ART OF COUCH-BOUND LEADERSHIP

BY ADRIENNE FREEMAN

As a graduate student and park ranger, I'm doing double duty—answering calls from the media about lawsuits, injuries, and park planning during the day, then staying up late into the night reading about the ideals upon which interpretation was founded.

Recently, the assignment for my Interpretive Leadership was a particularly interesting one, and I pondered it as I hiked the Hite's Cove Trail in a lightly falling rain. Our professor had asked us to identify the individuals who had influenced us to become leaders in the field of interpretation, and I for one, as a lowly government employee, was stumped. Me...a leader?

I managed to mull that over for approximately one second, because as quickly as I hit my Zen nirvana state (it takes a huge amount of self-discipline to convince yourself that you're accomplishing school work when you're tromping up the South Fork of the Merced River) my thoughts were rudely interrupted by my over-eager hiking partner, Sam the Golden Retriever. Having finished his initial obligatory trail sign marking, Sam came barreling by me on the narrow trail at roughly the speed of light. Sam, who is eight, doesn't have a lot of patience for Zen. Additionally, Sam is really convinced that nirvana can only be found when one is fully submerged in frigid water. In a hurry to reach his enlightened state, Sam flew by me, golden ears flopping, tail whirring like a rudder, down the almost vertical canyon wall, taking me, and my relaxed state of mind, with him down the muddy slope.

I landed hard on my tailbone with a disturbing thwack, and sat there, stunned, waiting for the hurt to set in. As I sat, my eyes blurry with tears, I noticed that a little rough-skinned newt was staring up at me in horror as if I'd just fallen from the sky—which I suppose, in a sense, I had.

I had to laugh at the little newt. I guess, in his eyes, I wasn't exactly the picture of grace and balance. More like a disaster of earth-shattering proportions. I thought about the women I know here in the park. Those are the real leaders...those women who take underprivileged kids on backpacking trips, who climb mountains in Africa, who become the first to scale big walls. Those women wouldn't sit on the side of a canyon ten minutes off of the highway and whimper when they fell on their butts. They'd be busy rappelling out of a helicopter or something. Forget it, I thought as I stood up and brushed myself off, I'm taking the easy way out. I'll write something about John Muir, and how much he did to protect Yosemite Valley. Muir's a great example of a leader and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR.

*The author speaks with the media.*

he was certainly an adventurer...he spent a stormy night in a tree *ON PURPOSE*, for goodness sake. My urge to go home, turn up the heat, turn on all the lights, and settle in with a glass of wine and the cooking channel almost overwhelmed me.

But something about the clouds filling the steep canyon, shrouding the gold oaks in mystery, made me continue down the trail. Who did influence me to love this place? Who made me want to tell everybody else in the world how badly I need places like this to stay protected? Who gave me the words that I repeat every day to inspire others?

I think about people like David Mas Matsumoto, who gives me the words to express my love of a place and family, both in his regular writings in the *Fresno Bee* and in other works. Or Penny Otwell, whose painting "Looking Back Bear" is substantial enough to glow with life on my wall, and which every day reminds me of the animals I am here to protect. I think about John Daniel, the poet and nature essayist, who expressed for me, in words I couldn't find, the way each tree, rock, and animal is an individual. And perhaps my favorite, a poem by William Stafford titled "Time for Serenity, Anyone?" that sends chills up my spine. Aldo Leopold, whose stark prose made me weep for a kind of sunflower I never would've known to miss had I not read *A Sand County Almanac*. Authors

like Bernd Heinrich, who had an amazing experience with a goose, and Scott Weidensaul, who can tell you how many wing beats it takes a hummingbird to cross the ocean on its migratory path. These are the leaders who not only inspired me once, but who continuously remind me about why I do what I do, the people who take my inner convictions and give me the words and images to express it. The leaders I admire most are not necessarily those who are out there in -20 weather wrestling with the elements. They might be, as I am, inside curled up with a book, reading about the inner lives of great white sharks or the beauty of a lycopod.

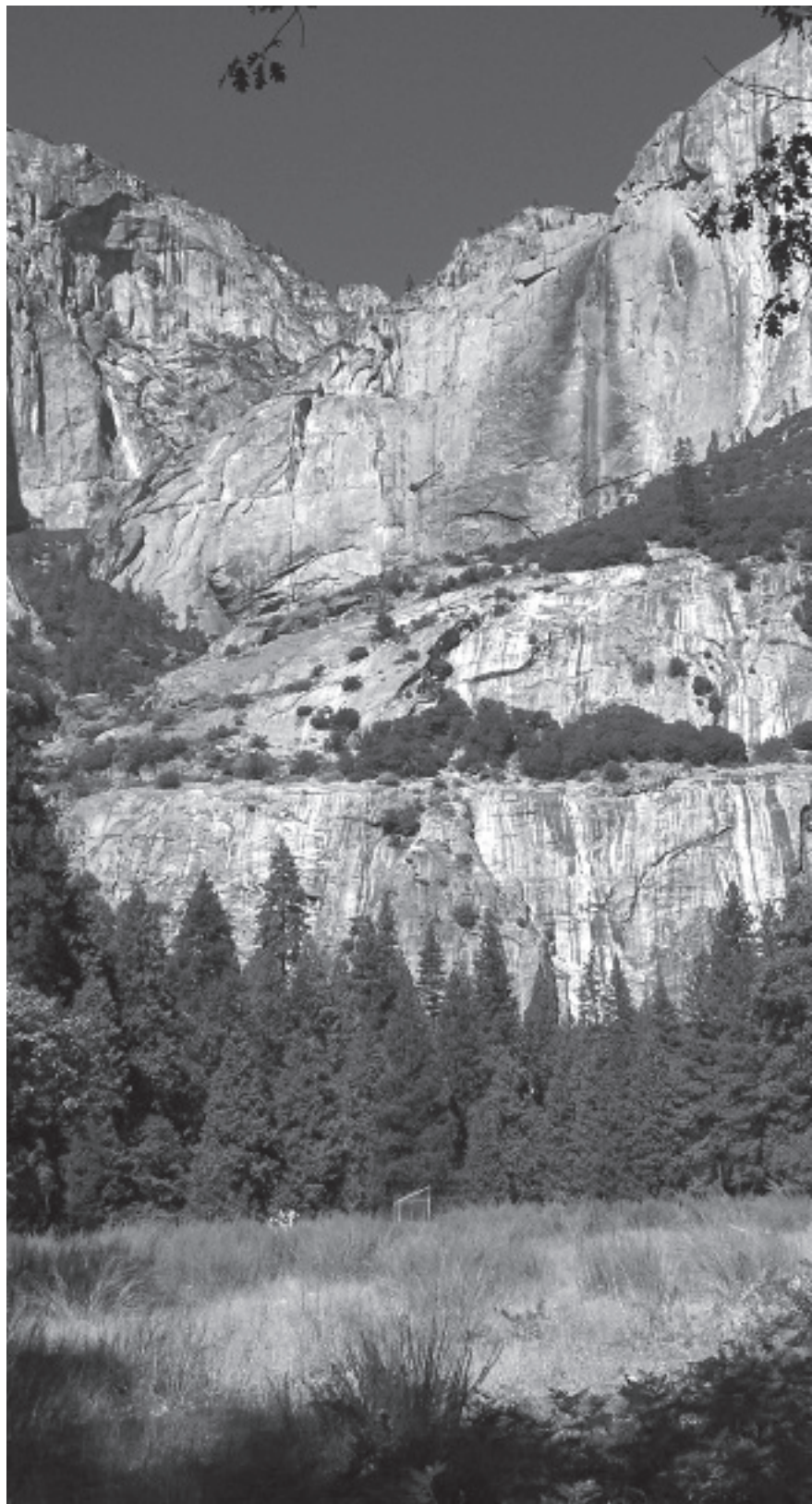
Once I realized who had inspired me, it wasn't too far of a leap to see that I too, could be a leader in a quiet way. Maybe without leaving my computer. Simply by passing on the words of those who I admire, I may have an influence on people and their desire to preserve and protect Yosemite.

### Adrienne's recommended reading list:

Grab a blanket and curl up in your favorite chair with these:

1. *Winter World, the Ingenuity of Animal Survival*. Bernd Heinrich. Harper Publishers, New York, 2003
2. *Natural State: A Literary Anthology of California Nature Writing*. Edited by Steven Gilbar with a forward by David Brower. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California, 1998.
3. "The Methow River Poems," collection reprinted in *High Country News*, December 3, 1994. From a series of signs produced for the Winthrop District. USFS, 1993.
4. *Devils' Teeth: A True Story of Obsession and Survival among America's Great White Sharks*. Susan Casey. Random House, Inc., 2005.

***Adrienne Freeman is a park ranger in the Media Relations office of Yosemite National Park. A regular contributor to this publication, Adrienne will begin thesis research for a graduate degree in Resource Interpretation in the summer of 2006.***



# THE YOSEMITE MARCHING BAND DEBUTS

BY WERNER KEMPLERER

If you have an appreciation for whimsical humor and creative nonsense, you'll appreciate last year's establishment of the Yosemite Marching Band. Believed to be unique to all national parks, the YMB is the brainchild of Yosemite locals Hugh Sakols and Paul Amstutz; it is absurd and wonderful.

Paul and Hugh have lived in the Yosemite area off and on for about fifteen years. Both are teachers in our local El Portal schools. They are renowned for their unpredictable humor, and the band is a high form of creative outlet. Starting with a quirky notion, their energy for fun has quickly grown the YMB into a Yosemite sensation. The fact that neither of them can play a musical instrument is a central part of this caprice. They shopped on eBay for both instruments and uniforms, and with a gutsy panache for public performance, the YMB was born. Their wives Karen and Mara were quickly signed on,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL AMSTUTZ

and they recruited Yosemite Institute instructor Winston Seilor because he actually knew how to play a trumpet.

The debut appearance of the YMB was at a small social gathering in the park, when to the surprised delight of the gathered friends, first the raw sounds of untutored percussion and brass drifted into earshot, then the five-member band marched into view from the woods. The applause of appreciation, not for the "music," but for the concept, encouraged the YMB to more appearances and then to recorded media. The notion of a YMB music video grew to fruition as the band gained experience playing in many different Yosemite locales with a video-camera rolling.

Many more park locals jumped on the "bandwagon," shopping for their own uniforms and instruments on eBay and joining in for impromptu public performances at Lower Yosemite Fall, Badger Pass Ski Area, in El Portal, and Foresta. Musical talent is not a prerequisite for participation in this troupe, but a willingness to caper on camera is vital. The marching maneuvers are basic, but convey the appropriate pomp, as the terrain allows. The band's repertoire is small and simple, their sound varies with the instruments present, and virtuosity is nowhere near as important as élan. It is the very point of this meta-ensemble to create an unexpected sight, not necessarily a mellifluous sound.

The Yosemite Marching Band DVD is its own remarkable art form, a mix of startling sights, discordant sounds, and some dubbed-in actual music. In charming interviews, Paul and Hugh give a farcical description (worthy of a Christopher Guest film) of the band's evolution, while performances in several Yosemite places are depicted. A highlight is the band's making the Tyrolean traverse (sliding across a horizontal rope) out to the Rostrum, a flat-topped column hundreds of feet above the Merced River to perform in their climbing harnesses. They haul over a trombone, a glockenspiel, and a "YMB" bass drum, all very dramatically filmed.

The DVD concludes with a night concert inside the long tunnel on the Big Oak Flat Road, which was interrupted by the more responsible folks of the National Park Service division of visitor protection. This encounter was not a staged scenario, but was filmed as it actually happened. Since then, the YMB has been careful to respect other park visitors and adhere to noise restrictions for our peaceful park. Many of the filmed scenes were in fact contrived without making any sound—lip-syncing, as it were—having music dubbed in later.

The YMB video was screened for YA members at the Spring Forum in late March to amused approval of the unexpected tale. You can see this video for yourself on the internet if you search for "Yosemite Marching Band" using your favorite search engine. There are rumors that the Yosemite Marching Band may be headed for the Wawona area around the time of our Members' Meeting in September. If you join us there, don't be completely surprised if you hear the approach of the imprecise horns and drums of one of the world's only mountain marching bands in their quest for more Yosemite musical adventures.

# PARK PROFILE

KIRSTIE KARI



**Name:** Kirstie Kari

**Job Title:** Project Coordinator for the Yosemite Fund

**Hometown:**

Southwest Harbor, Maine (Although because I was born and lived for two months on an Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina, I'm the only person in my family who isn't a native of Maine—a very BIG deal to Mainers.)

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in English from California State University, Fresno

**Years worked in Yosemite:** Ten

**What do you do in Yosemite?** As the Project Coordinator for the Yosemite Fund, I work with Park Service staff to help monitor and document the progress of projects in the park. We fund projects as large as the Yosemite Falls Rehabilitation and as small as repairing the historic wagon in Wawona. Today, there are 60 outstanding projects on the books, but since inception, the Fund has given over \$32 million dollars to over 200 projects. It is a lot of work, but extremely fun because of the amazing people and the variety of projects.

**What was your first job in the park?** My first job in the park was as a cashier and hostess for the Wawona Hotel in the summer of 1991.

**What brought you to Yosemite?** When I was in college, I met Dave Kari (now my husband) who lived and worked in Yosemite as a trail crew leader. He loved the park so much that I decided to give it a try. At that time I didn't know anything about the mountains or backpacking. On my first backpacking trip, I had to be convinced that it was in my best interest to take the full sized bottles of shampoo and conditioner out of my pack.

Even though I didn't move to the park for work, I've been really lucky at finding interesting jobs here. I've been a waitress, bartender, teacher, ski instructor, photographer, and now I work for the Fund. After nearly 12 years of living and working here, it feels like home.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?** Learning about all the wonderful research going on in the park is the best part of my job. The Fund sponsors scientific research and wildlife management projects. Because I monitor project progress, I have the privilege of occasionally going into the field with scientists. My favorite project was watching Dixie Pierson net bats, take statistics, and then release them. All the work was done in the dark with night vision glasses and high tech monitors. It was impressive.

**What is your most memorable experience at work?**

In the fall of 2004 I attended a program at Camp Mather called the "debrief" for the California Conversation Corps (CCC). The Corps is made up of 18 to 22 year-olds who work on recreational trails. One crew from this program gets to work in the backcountry of Yosemite for the summer doing trail work. Because the Fund sponsors this crew, I was invited to attend the debrief. It was amazing to meet the Corps members and hear about their experiences. I was moved by how much they learned about themselves while learning trail building skills and accomplishing a great deal of work for the park. They were so passionate about the wilderness. It was really inspiring.

**The Yosemite Fund has announced an impressive list of 36 projects it is funding in 2006. Which project interests you personally the most?**

I love the Caboose Restoration Project mostly because it's in El Portal where I live, and my kids get to drive by it nearly every day. They have enjoyed seeing the changes to the train over the last year (also a Fund project) and I think they will be just as excited about the Caboose.

**What is your favorite place in Yosemite?** Badger Pass. I grew up in the East where you had to really bundle up to enjoy the outdoors in the winter. At Badger, I ski most of the winter wearing a light windbreaker, and some days I am still too hot. It is the greatest!

**What is your favorite Yosemite book?** *Magic Yosemite Winters* by Gene Rose. I love the inclusion of the history of the Yosemite Winter Club because skiing at Badger Pass is my favorite part of the park experience. I have been a Winter Club member since 1991 and am currently serving as the Vice President. It is a great history and a great club.

*continued on page 35*

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## Yosemite Cooperative Student Intern Program

This will be the third season of the revitalized intern program, as we grow it back up to a significant size. The goals of this program are to provide a professional development experience for college students, to invite them to consider careers in conservation, and to present a different kind of park employee to changing park visitor populations. We are pleased to partner in this effort with the National Park Service and the new University of California at Merced. Kathy Dimont, the Education Branch Chief in the NPS Division of Interpretation, has been central to the success of this program. She's arranged housing, recruited students, helped train them and place them under the oversight of rangers in various functions, and put a lot of care into the whole process of nurturing a new constituency for Yosemite and wild places.

Recruiting students from the Central Valley gives us access to young people that we hope will become professional stewards of Yosemite and places like it. Students who are bilingual, who are non-white, and/or who come from cultures that are underrepresented as park employees and visitors have some advantages as communicators that can't be gained from study. As demographics in California and the US continue to change, the national parks need to adjust their approaches to people who may not be traditional park visitors. If the connections of value and appreciation of nature aren't made with all citizens, the national parks, wilderness areas, and public lands generally may lose popular support. Yosemite belongs to everyone; our internships are designed to build the relationships between the park and all its constituencies.

Last year our program had six participants; this year we hope to have as many as twelve UC Merced students as interns. Recruiting is just about finished; we'll introduce our intern crew in the next issue of *Yosemite*.



Wawona 2005 Cooperative Student Interns Katlyn Grubb (left), Carla Saldana (center), and Dalinna Cha (right).



## Yosemite Art Center

After 24 years of operation in two different locations in Yosemite Village, the Yosemite Art Center is undergoing a shift in management. The thriving partnership of YA, the National Park Service, and Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite will continue as it has. Free public art classes, taught by a different professional artist each week, will continue to be provided mid-April through September. What will be different is that you'll find YA volunteers or employees staffing the facility, as DNC, with its long success there, gives us the opportunity to handle this operation. If you haven't come into the YAC when you have visited the park, we hope this will be the year that you do so. You'll find diverse art supplies, general park information, and a chance to sign up for Outdoor Adventure courses. Sign up for free art classes that run Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and learn how to connect with our treasured park from an expert. You'll find a full April-September schedule of artists on our website, at [www.yosemite.org/visitor/AAC](http://www.yosemite.org/visitor/AAC). Popular artists starting the season for us include: Carolyn Fitz, Donna Naes, Patrick Duffy, Bob Chapla, Jim Burns and Thor Erickson. Find the Yosemite Art Center in the old bank building which is located at the downhill (southeast) end of the Yosemite Village mall, closest to day use parking.



## Outdoor Adventures

We are very excited about the 2006 courses and instructors on our roster. All the information you need to learn about courses and to sign up is in the catalog that members received with their last *Yosemite* journal, and is also found on our website, [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars). A day or a few days focused on being in this place with a knowledgeable instructor and an enthusiastic group of comrades is a treat for the body, the mind and the soul. Muir wrote of “the University of the Wilderness”; it is our privilege to offer this stimulation to you in one of the planet’s finest laboratories/studios/gymnasia/sanctuaries/museums/libraries/aviaries/cathedrals. There are numerous one-day courses, some of which are stout mountain hikes, while others are more contemplative. The art and photography classes are taught by some of the best outdoor teachers there are. You can get a summer school’s worth of enjoyable left brain learning in the natural and physical sciences, too. Call us at (209) 379-2321 if we can answer any questions for you about our courses. For something quite special you can arrange a custom adventure; we have a cadre of lively and talented naturalists who’ll create the perfect outing for your family, friends, co-workers, or other group.



The **YOSEMITE BIRDING FESTIVAL** is set for May 5–7, when the birds are at their most active. A weekend of field trips and indoor presentations led by experts in ornithology who are also gifted teachers awaits you. Among the elements included this year is a presentation by Dr. Joe Burnett on the recovery of the California Condor. You’ve most recently seen this bird depicted with Half Dome and John Muir on 2005’s California quarter. Could we indeed see this largest of landbirds soar over Yosemite again? A select group will join a search for spotted owls, others have a near-certainty of witnessing the eerie courtship flights of the Wilson’s snipe. You’ll improve your warbler ID skills, watch dippers dance with the Merced, have your ears filled with avian melodies, and enjoy the company of beginning and experienced birders from all over.

If you are new to birding, we’ve scheduled a “Beginning Birding” course for Friday, May 5, just before the festival starts in the evening. Outstanding instructor Sarah Jo Lemley will get you off to a comfortable start in the rapidly growing activity of birding.

**DOING WELL, DOING GOOD**, is a weekend to explore making a difference through one’s work, November 3-5. Gary Erickson walked away from a six million dollar buy-out because he wanted his company to be operated in a way that was more humane than corporate, more personal than profit-oriented. He’ll be joining us in the park the first weekend of November to share the business philosophy he’s applied to successfully running Clif Bar. Other presenters will focus on other aspects of making a living while improving the world, green business, sustainability, women making changes, socially responsible investing, and how Yosemite National Park is modeling success. If you’re interested in how your work can have larger meaning, this is a unique opportunity to share, learn and be inspired.



**SHOWING YOU THE MONEY!**  
NOVEMBER 3-5, 2006

# YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Featuring exciting educational programs, improved systems and facilities, impressive

accomplishments, and talented new staff, 2005 was a heartening year for the Yosemite Association. The period's single most significant development was the completion of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center lobby remodel, which included the total makeover of the association's bookstore. The outlet now boasts state-of-the-art fixtures, lighting, and computer systems, along with a new location in the former National Park Service dispatch office.

The improved facility paid immediate dividends with a marked increase (18%) in gross sales for the year—a remarkable figure given the previous year's strong sales. This growth boosted the Yosemite Association to its second highest gross income (before our Aid-to-NPS donations) in the past fifteen years.

Our membership, a supportive and dedicated bunch that's over 10,000 strong, was integral to our success. Besides their dues, YA members donated nearly \$100,000 in response to our annual fundraising mailer, and as volunteers contributed over 11,700 hours of labor to various restoration, educational, and other programs in Yosemite.

The Yosemite Cooperative Student Intern Program (sponsored jointly with the University of California at Merced and the NPS) expanded in 2005 to involve six college students. They received extensive training in a variety of Yosemite subjects and in the ways of the park service, while providing an important supplement to the park's interpretive division.

YA's publications program continued to create and issue successful educational products and materials. The "Yosemite Commemorative Edition" of the California State Quarter proved to be our most popular sales item for the year, and our park identity logo series was expanded with the addition of Yosemite Valley products. During the year, YA's fine press book, *A Trip to the Yosemite*, was named one of the "Best 50 Books of 2004" by the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

In the administrative area, YA is now better equipped to keep track of our sales, inventory, and financial data. In 2005 we purchased and implemented a new integrated software system called Navision that has made our accounting and sales functions much more efficient. While the transition to Navision was at times painful, the new system holds great promise for improving our overall operation.

Our educational programs took on new life under new director Pete Devine. Some 750 participants enjoyed a broad-ranging variety of Yosemite Outdoor Adventure programs, including our second annual birding festival, and a botany symposium featuring world-renowned conservationist Peter Raven. The Yosemite Art Center served over 2,000 park visitors during its six-month run, with talented volunteer artists offering free art lessons in Yosemite Valley.

On top of extensive programmatic and in-kind support of the NPS in Yosemite, YA was able to contribute nearly \$160,000 in cash to important park educational initiatives during 2005. With the steadfast assistance of our members, friends, volunteers, vendors, and others, our association continues to make a difference in Yosemite.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to every single person who involved him- or herself in our activities in 2005. It is because of you that we are able to accomplish what we do in Yosemite.

Steven P. Medley  
President



*Illustrations are by Shirley Spencer, from her forthcoming book on shrubs of the Sierra.*

#### BOARD AND STAFF

As always, the Yosemite Association benefited from the leadership, direction, and support of its volunteer board of trustees in 2005. The multi-talented group donated countless hours in aid of the organization, while contributing money, services, and in-kind commodities. The board consisted of Christy Holloway, Chair, Suzanne Corkins, Vice Chair, Barbara Boucke, Treasurer, Keith Alley, Brad Anderholm, Tom Bowman, Jeani Ferrari, Phil Frank, Gerald Haslam, Kimi Hill, Malcolm Margolin, Ellie Nishkian, Lennie Roberts, Tom Shephard, and Phyllis Weber.

Everyone at the association was saddened at the passing of long-time board member Ellie Nishkian in July. She had served the organization since 1987, and was one of the founding trustees of the Yosemite Fund. Named a "Life Trustee" of the Yosemite Association last year, Mrs. Nishkian was an advocate of the Yosemite Museum and made a point of supporting fine art and Native American basketry in the park, both financially and politically.

In the annual board election, Barbara Boucke, Tom Bowman, Gerald Haslam, Christy Holloway, Lennie Roberts, and Gina Tan were all elected to new three-year terms. In another board change, Phil Frank submitted his resignation (which was reluctantly accepted by the board), and Jeani Ferrari (an *ex officio* trustee from the Yosemite Fund) was appointed to complete his term ending in 2006.

The Yosemite Association's success during the year would not have been possible without the impressive cooperation, collaboration, and support of the National Park Service. Representatives to the board included Mike Tollefson (park superintendent), Kevin Cann (deputy superintendent), Chris Stein (chief of interpretation), and Mary Kline (interpretive branch chief), though countless other NPS employees worked hand in hand with association staff and volunteers to reach a remarkable level of accomplishment. We send our thanks and appreciation to all those dedicated people.

In staff changes, we bid adieu and best

wishes to veteran Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Store manager Jeanne Andrew, who served us assiduously for thirteen years. She and her husband Bob have moved to Vancouver, Washington, and we wish them a happy retirement. During the year we also filled several long-standing vacancies with talented and motivated new staff members. They included Michelle Hansen, Sales Operations Manager, Laura Beardsley, Membership Coordinator, Megan Pardini, Administrative Coordinator, and Holly Kuehn, Shipping/Receiving Assistant. The Yosemite Association team is now nearly complete, and it's never been stronger.



#### SALES AND PUBLICATIONS

With the completion of the remodel of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center lobby and bookstore, the location strengthened its position as YA's most valuable player in the retail department. Not only is the new bookstore an attractive retail location with quality fixtures and effective lighting, but it is also an example of the standard of excellence that the NPS and YA can achieve work-

#### January 3

Longtime Yosemite NPS employees Jim Snyder (historian), Dave Forgang (Museum Curator), and Norma Craig (museum staff) retired.

#### January 31

California State Quarter (featuring John Muir and Half Dome) unveiled in Sacramento by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver. This was the 31st quarter in the 50 state series.

#### February 17

Werner Braun, a dedicated volunteer for Yosemite Search and Rescue since 1970, was awarded the President's Call to Service Award and the Department of the Interior's Conservation Service Award in recognition of his selfless dedication to rescuing generations of climbers and hikers.

#### April 8

Opening of the new YA Bookstore in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

#### April 18

Dedication of Lower Yosemite Fall Project, attended by NPS Director Fran Mainella, former Yosemite park superintendents, and many dignitaries.

**April 25**

Dedication of new Hybrid Shuttle Bus Fleet in Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. The new buses are designed produce up to 90% fewer emissions than those with traditional diesel engines.

**May 16**

Yosemite Valley closed due to high water and huge runoff from waterfalls. The valley reopened May 17.

**June 21**

Decision announced that the High Sierra Camps would not be opened for the summer due to unusually heavy snow pack and temperatures that continued to hover near freezing.

**June 24**

Tioga Road opened for the summer; this was the fourth latest opening date since 1980.

**June 30**

Ranger Shelton Johnson was presented the Cultural Heritage Award by the Center for Law in the Public Interest for his work on the Buffalo Soldier program.

ing in partnership to present information and educational products to park visitors. The remodel translated into increased sales at the Valley Visitor Center for 2005, as we exceeded our revenue budget by 24%.

Despite the Valley Visitor Center's star status, other retail locations struggled, due in part to the prolonged closure of Tioga Pass through the spring into the summer. With record snowfall, Yosemite's high country remained inaccessible until the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. Record snowfall, however, brought record snow melt, and the waterfalls of Yosemite Valley were spectacular well into August and stimulated spectacular retail sales.

Total retail sales of \$1,048,489 exceeded 2004 by \$119,746 – an increase of 19% over budget. Our new point-of-sale system allowed us to learn that products that the association developed on its own accounted for 45% of all sales revenue generated. What's more, nearly 75% of our top twenty-five sales items are Yosemite Association products.

Among the Yosemite Association's new publications and products in 2005 was the "Yosemite Commemorative Edition" of the 2005 California State Quarter. Two uncirculated quarters (one from each mint) were included in a special package that highlighted the importance of John Muir



and Yosemite (both depicted on the quarter) in California's history. It proved to be the big hit of 2005, helping us generate \$19,000 of website store and mail order sales for the month of March, and becoming our number one retail item for 2005.

We also developed a new *Yosemite Historic Postcard Book* that featured twenty vintage postcards from the collection of the Yosemite Museum. A second logo (this one for Yosemite Valley) was developed as part of YA's park identity program. Products bearing the logo included t-shirts, ball caps, decals, patches, and enamel pins. We expect to add four or five more logos to the series over the next year or two.

In a nice recognition of our work, the American Institute of Graphic Arts named the association's most recent fine press book, *A Trip to the Yosemite*, one the "Best 50 Books of the Year" for 2004.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS****OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

With our eighty-five Outdoor Adventure courses we helped 743 people deepen their connections to Yosemite in 2005. Participation was down slightly from last year's 900 figure, but we enjoyed more annual enrollments than we've had in most of the past ten years. The heavy remnant snows of the preceding winter affected several courses for the worse, limiting access to some field sites.

On the positive side, the second annual Yosemite Birding Festival drew eighty-six participants for field trips and indoor sessions in early June. Outstanding leaders gave marvelous presentations on art, raptors, tricky identifications, and birding for beginners. We had thirty-eight people come to the Wawona Hotel in the fall for our Yosemite Botanical Symposium. Peter Raven, Steve Botti, and a host of park botany specialists shared their expertise indoors and out. We filled two Michael Ross wildflower courses, one photography class, one winter course, the Yosemite Valley waterfalls tour and Lucy Parker's Indian basketry course. The most popular group of courses included some strenuous hikes up Half Dome, Mt. Dana, Mt. Hoffmann, and Mt. Lyell.

#### COOPERATIVE STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM

Six interns from the Central Valley spent twelve weeks in the park, overseen by the NPS Interpretive Division. After training in Wawona, the interns assumed various visitor contact roles for the busy summer. Two were stationed at remote Lake Eleanor, one in the Valley Wilderness Center, and the remaining three carried out interpretive work in the Mariposa Grove and gave evening programs in the Wawona Campground.

Though UC Merced had not yet opened, our interns were all college students who could transfer into the new Central Valley UC campus. It is our hope that these interns will function as ambassadors in building the connection between the park and the world's richest valley, and that they'll encourage a wide variety of cultural and ethnic groups to enjoy and care for Yosemite. This program relied on donations from the Morgan Family Foundation, First Republic Bank, the Fairweather Foundation, and YA members and friends.

#### YOSEMITE ART CENTER

Free art classes were enjoyed by 2,017 people during the 25 weeks of the art center operation. This joint venture involves Delaware North, the NPS, and YA, with a different visiting art instructor each week of the season. Six days a week, from April through September, visitors and locals have the benefit of free instruction in a variety of media. DNC ran the retail element of the center, providing art supplies to visitors, and also provided housing for the visiting artists. YA coordinated the schedule of artists.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Our total membership remains robust at 10,031. We had a good year for signing up new members, adding 2,905 enrollees through the recruiting efforts of diligent bookstore sales staff, dedicated volunteers, direct mail, and other programs. Our members continued to support our programs and services enthusiastically by volunteering their time, attending Outdoor Adventures, purchasing our books and products, and making generous financial contributions in support of our mission.

The annual Spring Forum was attended by 350 members who enjoyed a wide variety of interpretive walks and auditorium



programs despite the cold, rainy weather. Talks ranged from bighorn sheep, to the 1976 "Dope Lake" plane crash that inspired Nevada Barr's Yosemite-based mystery, to a moving tribute to the late Shirley Sargent. Our children's track of programs was once again well attended, and a few hardy souls enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow YA members in the shared campground space we reserved for the weekend.

Our thirtieth Annual Members' Meeting was held at Tuolumne Meadows in early September. More than 300 attendees enjoyed author John W. Simpson's thought-provoking talk about the past and future of Hetch Hetchy, and delighted in the personal observations of California quarter designer Garrett Burke. Members also took part in the many interpretive walks, programs, and fundraisers offered throughout the weekend, and everyone had a role in acknowledging YA president Steve Medley's twentieth anniversary as its leader. Weather is always an important component of the park experience; those who stayed at Tuolumne Lodge after the meeting were exposed to an overnight low tempera-

**July 16**  
founding Yosemite Art Center artist and teacher Ben Kudo passed away.

**July 23**  
YA Life Trustee Ellie Nishkian passed away.

**July 26**  
Record of Decision signed for the Revised Merced River Plan.

**July 30**  
A hiker died after being swept over Vernal Fall.

**August 17**  
Twelve new lightning-caused fires were detected after this day's intense thunderstorms passed through the park.

**August 18**  
San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom visited Hetch Hetchy with NPS staff; signed new cooperative agreement between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the NPS.

**August 23-24**  
Two park visitors died in water-related incidents: one slipped and fell into the Merced River above Nevada Fall; the other slipped and fell over the top of Upper Yosemite Fall.

**September 14**  
Rock climber Bela Feher fell to his death while ascending the face of Half Dome near the "Slab Route."

**September 24**

NPS Special Agent Daniel Madrid collapsed on the Mist Trail and died while hiking to the scene to investigate a previous park fatality.

**October 12**

The director of national parks of Sweden and staff visited Yosemite to learn about park management.

**October 25**

A 20-ton rockfall occurred near Curry Village. Most of the rock fell on the existing talus slope behind the new employee dormitories construction site; no injuries or damage were reported.

**November 1**

A group of conservation professionals from China visited Yosemite as part of an ongoing exchange program sponsored by the Department of Interior and the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China.

**November 28**

The director of national parks of Thailand and staff visited Yosemite to learn about park management.

ture of 17 degrees, not to mention a spectacular ice sculpture created by a sprinkler that was accidentally left running overnight in front of the lodge dining tent.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Seventy-three member volunteers participated in the twenty-first year of the month-long volunteer program. From May through September, YA volunteers gave 9,637 hours of service providing information and promoting park stewardship in a dozen locations throughout Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona. All told, our month-long volunteers introduced thousands of visitors to YA and were directly responsible for recruiting 270 new members.

Fifty-three volunteers participated in five week-long work trips contributing 2,080 hours of vital restoration work to front and backcountry sites in the park. 2005 marked the eighteenth year that YA, the Yosemite Institute, NPS, and DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite have worked together to restore areas of Yosemite. In addition, eight YA members helped DNC perform much needed restoration work at May Lake, Sunrise, Vogelsang, and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camps with over 160 hours of service.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members responded generously to our annual fundraising campaign by donating over \$95,000 in support of our volunteer programs, as well as the many other educational programs and services we provide in Yosemite. We conducted several successful events to recognize our Sustaining and higher level members, along with others who have donated \$250 or more to YA in the last year. These special gatherings included a sneak peak at the Valley Visitor Center renovation while it was still underway, a spectacular sunset at Parsons Lodge, and a sumptuous October dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow to honor the association's \$1,000 donors. We are very grateful to The Ansel Adams Gallery, which hosted our pre-Spring Forum reception, and DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, which hosted our October donor dinner.

YA was pleased to receive nearly \$27,000 in support of the Yosemite Cooperative Student Intern Program in 2005. These gifts went a long way toward matching last year's

\$35,000 challenge grant from the Morgan Family Foundation, and helped the association expand the intern program size by increasing its funding base to cover the costs of intern stipends, scholarships, supplies, and restoration of several houses in the Wawona area to lodge the interns.

**WILDERNESS CENTER**

In cooperation with the National Park Service, the Yosemite Association continued to manage an array of services in the area of wilderness operations, including the wilderness permit reservation system, the bear canister rental program, and the Ostrander Ski Hut.

Although the late opening of the Tioga Road impacted wilderness use early in the spring season, the contributions of the association remained impressive. In 2005, association staff issued 20,721 wilderness reservations, rented 8,868 bear canisters, and processed 1,141 Ostrander Ski Hut reservations. Along with the services provided, the association also donated \$11,587 to support important projects for the Yosemite Bear Council.



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION** *As of December 31, 2005*

ASSETS	2005	2004
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$773,393	\$754,660
Accounts Receivable	38,914	88,777
Inventory	887,040	701,082
Equipment	170,679	161,880
Other Assets	22,243	23,999
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,892,269</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,730,398</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$62,061	\$38,381
Other Liabilities	161,142	223,182
Custodial Funds	89,165	66,816
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>\$312,368</u></b>	<b><u>\$328,379</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	\$985,870	\$878,313
Board Designated Reserve	385,000	335,000
Board Designated Aid-to-NPS	25,158	36,744
Temporarily Restr. Net Assets	183,873	151,962
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,579,901</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,402,019</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,892,269</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,730,398</u></b>



**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES** *For the Year Ended December 31, 2005*

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Totals
Sales & Publications	\$1,048,489		\$1,048,489
Memberships	567,375		567,375
Educational Programs	114,627		114,627
Wilderness Programs	170,717		170,717
Contributions	151,884	\$87,711	239,595
Investment Income	12,500		12,500
Other Income			
Net Assets released from restrictions:			
Restrictions satisfied by payments	55,800	(55,800)	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b><u>\$2,121,392</u></b>	<b><u>\$31,911</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,153,303</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services			
Sales & Publications	\$751,164		\$751,164
Membership	342,460		342,460
Educational Programs	156,605		156,605
Wilderness Operations	103,456		103,456
Volunteers	71,457		71,457
Supporting Services			
Donations	70,478		70,478
Administration	320,757		320,757
Cash Aid to the National Park Service	159,045		159,045
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$1,975,422</u></b>		<b><u>\$1,975,422</u></b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>145,971</b>	<b>31,911</b>	<b>177,882</b>
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,250,057	151,962	1,402,019
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>\$1,396,028</u></b>	<b><u>\$183,873</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,579,901</u></b>

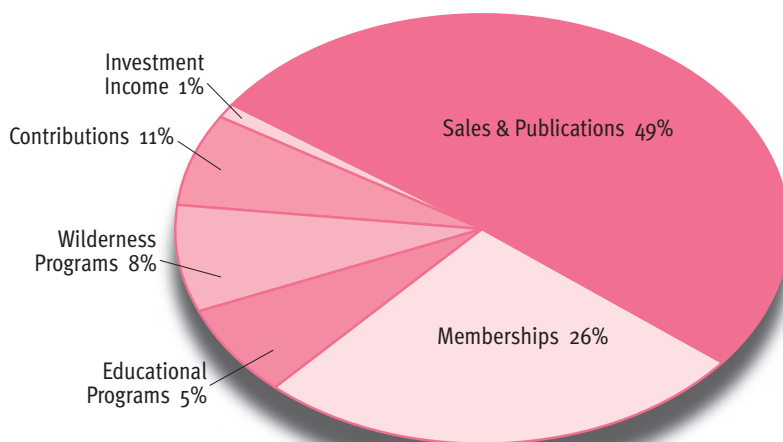
## HOW WE SUPPORT YOSEMITE

The Yosemite Association provides both program support and direct financial contributions to the National Park Service in Yosemite, along with other related public land agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation. In 2005, we donated \$159,045 and spent \$1,425,142 on educational programs that benefited the park and park visitors.

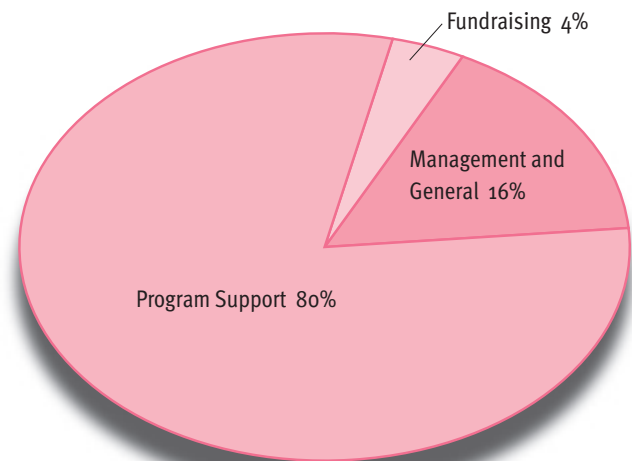
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID

	National Park Service	US Forest Service	Bureau of Reclamation	Bureau of Land Management	Other Agencies	Total Agencies
Interpretation	91,836	1,000			3,944	96,780
Research						
Free publications	8,232					8,232
Sales area construction and redesign	13,423					13,423
Pre-publication expenses	32,235					32,235
Other	8,375					8,375
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL AID</b>	<b>\$154,101</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>			<b>\$3,944</b>	<b>\$159,045</b>
Program service-operating activities	\$1,420,430	\$3,509	\$845	\$358		\$1,425,142
<b>TOTAL AID</b>	<b>\$1,574,531</b>	<b>\$4,509</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$358</b>	<b>\$3,944</b>	<b>\$1,584,187</b>

### 2005 REVENUES



### 2005 EXPENSES



The Yosemite Association's complete audited Financial Statements and IRS 990 can be viewed by visiting [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org) or request a copy by writing to: Vice President/CFO, Yosemite Association, PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

Financial statements are audited by Borchardt, Corona, & Faeth Accountancy Corporation.



## Spring Forum—A Rainy Day with Lots to Do!

On Saturday, March 25, nearly 400 YA members and their guests attended the annual Spring Forum amidst the spectacular granite walls and waterfalls of Yosemite Valley. Rain fell continuously throughout the day, but that didn't stop many intrepid registrants from joining naturalists from the National Park Service, Yosemite Institute, and California schools on 22 interpretive walks focusing on the natural and cultural history and splendor of Yosemite. Highlights of this year's programs

Kolbrener showed a stunning progression of black and white images of the park.

Three very special guests traveled from John Muir's birthplace of Dunbar, Scotland to learn more about the park that Muir loved and protected. Will Collin, Treasurer and trustee of the John Muir Birthplace Trust, presented a heraldic shield from the people of Dunbar to Superintendent Mike Tollefson, representing Yosemite National Park, as a symbol of the common bond between



Trustee Will Collin presented a heraldic shield from the people of Dunbar, Scotland to Superintendent Mike Tollefson.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH PRATT.

Jayah Faye Paley demonstrates good hiking pole technique in her popular clinic.

included Martin Beggs' "Looking at Yosemite Geology," Dean Shenk's "A Visit to the Lower Hotel" and Jayah Faye Paley's trekking poles clinic.

Those less inclined to brave the rain were treated to an array of auditorium programs including curator Amy Scott's discussion of the forthcoming Autry National Center exhibition *Yosemite: Art of an American Icon*, Superintendent Mike Tollefson's annual park update, and Bob Richter's discussion of his book *The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy*. In addition, *Shattered Air* author Bob Madgic presented the story surrounding the dramatic rescue of lightning strike victims on Half Dome, and photographer Bob

Dunbar and Yosemite. The site's manager, Jo Moulin, Will and his wife Val were on hand throughout the day to promote a cultural exchange with our members.

Saturday closed with a rousing wine and cheese reception where members shared the day with friends old and new, met the authors, and entered a drawing to win tickets to the famous Bracebridge Dinner at The Ahwahnee (graciously donated by DNC) and other fun prizes. Proceeds from this fundraiser resulted in more than \$3,000 that will help YA deliver our important educational programs and services in the park.

Such a successful event would not be possible without the generosity of our members, board of trustees, and friends in the Yosemite community. Many thanks to all those who gave their time and expertise to this year's Spring Forum: American Park Network, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Martin Beggs, Barbara Boucke, Joanna Cooke, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, Fred Fisher and Joe Lattuada, Gerry Haslam, Kimi Kodani Hill, Christy Holloway, Jen Hunt, Adrienne Kar, Mary Kline, Bob and Sharon Kolbrener, Calvin Liu, Jayah Faye Paley, Emily Jacobs, MaryJane and Vern Johnson, Bob Madgic, Joe Medeiros, Gail Miller, Professional Print & Mail, Redwood Creek, Dennis Renz, Bob Richter, Lennie Roberts, Amy Scott, Julie Schuller, Sierra Tel Business Center, Darlene Stevens, Heather Sullivan, Mike Tollefson, Jeffrey Trust, Erica Tucker, Erik Westerlund, Ed Whittle, and Catherine Williams.

## Friends Honored

On Friday, March 24, The Ansel Adams Gallery welcomed Yosemite Association members to a special reception to preview this year's Spring Forum. Sustaining, Patron, and Benefactor members and donors of more than \$250 mingled with YA trustees, Park Service staff, and featured forum speakers Amy Scott, Bob and Sharon Kolbrenner, Bob and Diane Madgic, and Bob Righter. Superintendent Mike Tollefson and YA President Steve Medley shared their appreciation for the invitees' very generous support of the park and YA, and led the group in toasting the generous donation of wines by Redwood Creek and American Park Network. Guests were also given a lovely gift pack of note cards from Bob Kolbrenner, whose photographic work was featured that evening.

Our thanks go out to the Kolbrenners, Jeremy Soine at Redwood Creek, and our friends at The Ansel Adams Gallery (Glenn Crosby, Kate DeWaard, Lisha Hengenveld, Carol McElligott, Katie Sheehan, and Claudia Welsh) for hosting such a pleasant gathering.

## Join Us for an Exclusive Reception!

We conduct these special gatherings to recognize our most generous supporters on the evening before our Spring Forum and fall Members' Meetings; we also offer a sumptuous October dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow, and unique events in or near major metropolitan areas of California. If you want to be invited, there is still time to upgrade your membership or make an additional donation to YA using the envelope enclosed with this journal. We hope to see you there!

## May We Share Your Address With Other Nonprofits?

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

Although we have rarely capitalized on such opportunities, we would like to be able to do so in the future when we know the other organizations to be reputable and to have something of value to offer to our members. If you would prefer not to have us share your name and address, please notify the Membership department by calling us Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 209-379-2317, by sending an e-mail to [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org), or by mailing a note to us at P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. All "do not share" requests will be acknowledged and will be honored in perpetuity. Note that telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are not released or traded for any reason.

## Help Wanted!

Still looking for that unforgettable summer vacation? Ever wish you could make your visit to Yosemite just a little bit longer? YA needs your help. We have openings for month-long volunteers in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows to answer visitors' questions and promote park stewardship.

Don't have a month, but still want to give back to Yosemite? Our Work Week volunteers partner with NPS and YI to complete much needed restoration projects in the park. The lottery deadline occurred as this issue goes to press, but there may still be some openings in certain weeks.

If you would like more information or are interested in applying for either program, please call Laura at 209-379-2317, or e-mail [lbeardsley@yosemite.org](mailto:lbeardsley@yosemite.org). More information is also available in the Winter 2006 issue of *Yosemite* (p.18) or visit us online at <http://www.yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html>.



*The Yosemite Valley Work Week crew for fall 2005.*

## Yosemite Gigantea: Mammoth Plate Photographs of the 19th Century

This summer's exhibit in the Yosemite Museum gallery will feature over thirty 19th-century mammoth plate photographs selected from the museum's extensive collection. These rare, extraordinary images are contact prints made between 1861 and 1880 from glass-plate negatives by some of the most famous photographers of the time. The works of Carleton Watkins, Eadweard Muybridge and Charles Weed will be included.

In addition to being beautiful examples of early photography, mammoth photographs played an important role in familiarizing the American public with the wonders of Yosemite. Exhibits of Watkins photographs on the East Coast are widely credited with generating support for the Yosemite protection act of 1864.

A working replica of a mammoth plate camera will be included in the exhibit to give visitors a sense of the scale of the equipment and of the effort required to produce these photographs. Additional 19th-century photographs, in other formats, will be included in the display as well. A digital slide show in the gallery will feature additional mammoth photographs from the museum's collection.

The exhibit was made possible through a grant from the Yosemite Fund.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS

The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Valley next to the visitor center. The exhibit will open June 12, and remain open through September 30. Gallery hours are 10 am to 12 pm and 1 to 4 pm, seven days per week. The gallery exhibit is staffed with hard-working Yosemite Association volunteers.

### 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 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We don't make reservations, but we can give appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice.

## DNC and Local Lodging Partners Offer Great Discounts

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite has announced its 2006 Park Partner discount program, with terrific savings throughout the park! There are lodging discounts at The Ahwahnee, Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, Wawona Hotel, Tenaya Lodge, and Asilomar in Monterey, along with 2-for-1 offers for the Valley Floor Tour, golf in Wawona, and lift tickets next winter at Badger Pass. Members were mailed their annual allocation of one-time use coupons in late March.

To take advantage of DNC lodging discounts, members must make advance reservations by telephone, and state they

are Yosemite Association members at the time of the reservation. Discounts will be provided at check-in when both a valid membership ID and the coupon are presented.

YA members are also entitled to a 10% discount at many other lodging properties in and around Yosemite, including: **Clouds Rest Cabin** (Foresta); **Highlands House B&B** (Mariposa); **The Redwoods in Yosemite** (Wawona); **Sunset Inn** (Groveland); **Yosemite Peregrine Inn** Bed & Breakfast, **Falcon's Nest** Bed & Breakfast, **Falcon's Nest Vacation Home** (all in Yosemite West); **Yosemite West Lodging**; **Cedar Lodge** and **Yosemite**

**View Lodge** (El Portal); **Best Western Yosemite Way Station** (Mariposa); **Comfort Inn Mariposa**; and **Comfort Inn Oakhurst**. These discounts are not coupon-based, so you may 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 lodging and activity discounts. You can also call the YA member 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.



# ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:

OA = Outdoor Adventure  
YAC = Yosemite Art Center

MAY

**Early May:** Yosemite Valley Wilderness Information Center & Bookstore opens for the season (tentative)

**May 1-6:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Bob Chapla

**May 5:** OA: Beginning Birding

**May 5-7:** OA: Yosemite Birding Festival

**May 7:** last day to view Yosemite Renaissance XXI exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery

**May 8-13:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Jim Burns

**May 12-14:** OA: Hetch Hetchy Wildflower Explorations

**May 12-14:** OA: Yosemite Valley Videography

**Mid-May:** Mariposa Grove Museum & Bookstore opens for the season (tentative)

**May 15-20:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Thor Erickson

**May 20-21:** OA: Mine Your Own Business

**May 20-21:** OA: Emerson and Muir: Transcendentalists in the Sequoias

**May 22-27:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Carole Buss

**May 29-June 3:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Roger Folk

**Late May:** Tuolumne Visitor Center & Bookstore opens for the season (tentative)

JUNE

**June 2-3:** OA: Yosemite's Colors and Fragrances

**June 3:** OA: Hiking Poles: Techniques for All Ages

**June 4:** OA: Functional Fitness for the Trail

**June 5-10:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Don Fay

**June 8-11:** OA: Yosemite's Hawks and Owls

**June 9-11:** OA: Photography Backpack to the Unknown Falls of Hetch Hetchy

**June 10:** OA: Yosemite Valley Birds

**June 10:** OA: Pioneer Living, Yosemite Style

**June 11:** OA: Yosemite Waterfalls Grand Tour

**June 11:** OA: Birds of Big Meadow and Foresta

**June 12-17:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Sonja Hamilton

**Mid-June:** Tuolumne Wilderness Center & Bookstore opens for the season (tentative)

**June 16-18:** OA: The Sierra's Wild Soundscapes

**June 16-18:** OA: For Teachers: Place-based Learning

**June 17:** OA: Get Lost with a Ranger

**June 18:** OA: Get Lost with a GPS

**June 17-18:** OA: Biological Illustration

**June 17-22:** OA: Granite Rock Café: a Couples' North Rim Backpack

**June 19-24:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Linda Mitchell

**June 23-25:** OA: For Teachers: Watershed Education

**June 24:** OA: Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite's Other Valley

**June 24-25:** OA: Mountain Birding

**June 24-26:** OA: Introduction to Fly-fishing 1

**June 26-July 1:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Tom Fong

**June 30 - July 2:** OA: Yosemite Natural History

JULY

**July:** Registration materials for 31st Annual Fall Members' Meeting (Sept. 9) to be mailed to all members this month

**July 3-8:** YAC: free transparent watercolor lessons with Tom Winans

**July 8:** National Parks Family Day at Roeding Park, Fresno

**July 8:** OA: Investigating the Wildflowers of Tuolumne Meadows

**July 8-9:** OA: Yosemite's Champion Trees

**July 8-9:** OA: Traditional Uses of Native Plants

**July 9:** OA: Summer Birding in Tuolumne Meadows

**July 9-11:** OA: North Dome Moonrise Photography Backpack

**July 10:** OA: Family Bug Adventure 1

**July 10-15:** YAC: free acrylic lessons with Pat Devitt

**July 14-15:** OA: Waterworld Yosemite

**July 15:** OA: Yosemite Valley Rim Wildflower Walk

**July 15:** OA: Women's Hike up Dana Plateau

**July 16:** OA: Wildflowers of Forests and Meadows

**July 16:** OA: Women's Hike to Elizabeth Lake

**July 17-22:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Bonni Carver

**July 21-25:** OA: Backpacking the Tuolumne Grand Canyon

**July 22-24:** OA: Tuolumne River Field Journal

**July 23-27:** OA: Starry Skies Over Yosemite

**July 24-28:** OA: Flora of the Cathedral Range Backpack

**July 14-29:** YAC: free watercolor/ink lessons with David Collis

**July 27-30:** OA: Mono Pass-Koip Peak Backpack

**July 27-30:** OA: Pastel Painting in Tuolumne Meadows

**July 28-30:** OA: Introduction to Fly-fishing 2

**July 29-31:** OA: Life at the Top; Alpine Ecology

**July 30 - Aug 3:** OA: Beginner Backpack for Women

**July 31 - Aug 5:** YAC: free watercolor lessons with Carole Earle

**Late July:** Summer 2006 issue of the members' journal *Yosemite* to be mailed this month

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

# YOSEMITE CATALOG

## **Eat, Drink & Be Hairy—The Travels & Travails of Yosemite's Bears & Their Peculiar Pals**

by Phil Frank.

Every year four urbanized black bears make a summer-long visit to Yosemite from San Francisco in Phil Frank's cartoon strip 'Farley,' which appears daily in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Known as Bruinhilda, Alphonse, Franklin, and Floyd, the ursine quartet members wreak devious havoc in Yosemite Valley and have become a thorn in the side of the park rangers.

Other Yosemite-related strips feature Velma Melmac (an RV-loving camper from Manteca who abhors dirt), her assistant in a campground cleaning business Lisa Ann, Velma's love interest Rhett, seasonal ranger Farley, Charbeaver (an employee at the Fog City Dumpster), and even former San Francisco mayor Willie Brown.



This collection of nearly 300 hilarious cartoon strips originally appearing between 1999 and 2004 is the second 'Farley' book to be published by the Yosemite Association. The first, *Fur and Loafing in Yosemite*, has proven to be a classic favorite of park visitors and Yosemite lovers. The book includes a cast of characters, a map of the annual migration route of *Ursus corruptus*, a wonderful schematic drawing of Velma's Ark-A-Lounger motor home, and an inside view of the bears in camp. It's 168 pages long; 12 by 9 inches, illustrated in black and white, and paperback. Copyright 2006 by the Yosemite Association.

\$13.95; **members price \$11.86**



**Bear in Mind—  
The California  
Grizzly**  
edited and with  
commentary by  
Susan Snyder.

This is the story of the California grizzly bear. Once arguably the most powerful and terrifying animal in the California landscape, he now lives in the imagination, a disembodied symbol of the romantic West.

The book is also a portal into one of California's great resources, the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley. More than 150 images from the library's archives and collections—newspaper illustrations from the gold rush, paintings from early scientific expeditions, photo albums, sheet music, settlers' diaries, fruit-crate labels, and more—accompany the bear stories of Indians, explorers, vaqueros, forty-niners, and naturalists, among others.

The result is a uniquely compelling natural history, a grand book worthy of its subject. Thomas McNamee notes that: "One feels a strange combination of grief and exhilaration in this book—so powerfully vivid are the stories and pictures."

The book is 244 pages, printed oversize at 11 by 10.5 inches, illustrated in color, and casebound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2003 by Heyday Books and UC Press.

\$49.50; **members price \$42.08**

## **The Last Season**

by Eric Blehm.

This work of non-fiction examines the extraordinary life of legendary backcountry ranger Randy Morgenson and his mysterious disappearance in California's unforgiving Sierra Nevada. It tells the inspiring, poignant story of Morgenson, who, over the course of twenty-eight summers living alone in this craggy wilderness, became a celebrated ranger in the National Park Service's most adventurous unit.

For the solitary, introspective Morgenson, who grew up in Yosemite Valley and as a young man honed his mountaineering skills in the Himalayas, this was more than a job—it was a calling. He became fiercely devoted to preventing outside forces from encroaching on the wilderness he loved. But over the years, the isolation Morgenson had once cherished took its toll, and he grew increasingly estranged from his wife and friends. When, at the height of his struggles, he went missing without a trace in Kings Canyon National Park, where he had long patrolled, many suspected suicide or foul play.



Blehm's reconstruction of a desperate search-and-rescue operation woven with Morgenson's riveting biography takes readers deep into the heart of the High Sierra and into the little-known and much-romanticized world of the backcountry rangers—revealing in the end the mind and spirit of a complicated, original, and wholly fascinating man. The book is 352 pages long, 6 by 9 inches in size, illustrated in black and white, and casebound with dust jacket. Copyright 2006 by HarperCollins.

\$24.95; **members price \$21.21**

To see an expanded list of the products we offer for sale, visit the full-featured, secure **Yosemite Store** on the internet at: [www.yosemitestore.com](http://www.yosemitestore.com)



### **Building with Nature—Inspiration for the Arts & Crafts Home**

by Leslie M. Freudenheim.

Much has been said about the Arts & Crafts spirit of Californians, their appreciation of the land, their desire to build “simple” yet interesting houses that connect with the outdoors (sleeping porches, gardens, verandas, terraces, and so on), and their love of wilderness areas. This volume focuses on the beginnings (1865 and on) of the Bay Area shingle style and Arts & Crafts collaboration in California, and the origins of the trend toward building simple rustic homes in harmony with nature.

Freudenheim explores how and why a small, influential group of Californians (including Joseph Worcester, Bernard Maybeck, Charles Keeler, William Keith, Charles Lummis, A. Page Brown, and others)—all of whom had come from the East or from

England—were especially devoted to Ruskin and the Arts & Crafts style and how this combined with their dedication to California’s natural beauty to create a unique architectural movement.

The book focuses on the largely unknown yet exceedingly charismatic Swedenborgian minister Reverend Joseph Worcester, a serious student of architecture, and the quiet revolution he created as he turned Californians, and eventually Americans, towards the Arts & Crafts movement. A section of the book deals with the influence of Yosemite Valley, John Muir, and Frederick Law Olmsted on Worcester’s values and aesthetic.

The book is 229 pages long, 8.5 by 11 inches in size, illustrated in black and white, and casebound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2005, Gibbs Smith, Publisher. \$45; **members price \$38.25**

Read an excerpt on pages 6–8 of this journal!

### **Songbirds of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada (CD)**

by Kevin J. Colver.

This audio CD features wilderness recordings of the songbirds one would encounter in Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Habitats cover the entire range, from foothill grassland to lofty alpine peaks.

The CD includes crystalline digital recordings of 76 bird species, each introduced with a brief

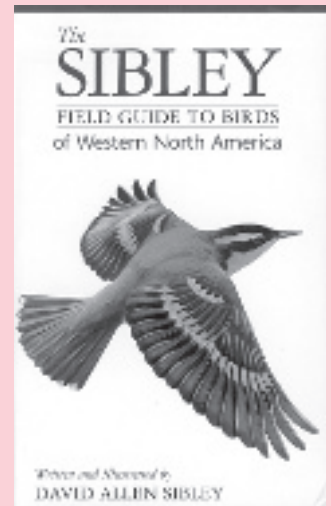
educational narration. The CD has a playing time of 73 minute 48 seconds and is packaged in plastic jewel case. Copyright 1994 by Kevin J. Colver. \$15.95; **members price \$13.56**



### **Sibley’s Field Guide to Birds of Western North America**

written and illustrated by David Allen Sibley.

*The Sibley Guide to Birds* has quickly become the new standard of excellence in bird identification guides, covering more than 810 North American birds in amazing detail. Now comes a portable guide from David Sibley that every birder will want to carry into the field.



Compact and comprehensive, this new guide features 703 bird species plus regional populations found west of the Rocky Mountains.

Accounts include stunningly accurate illustrations—more than 4,600 in total—with descriptive caption text pointing out the most important field marks. Each entry contains new text concerning frequency, nesting, behavior, food and feeding, voice description, and key identification features. Accounts also include brand-new maps created from information contributed by 110 regional experts across the continent.

*The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* is an indispensable resource for all birders seeking an authoritative and portable guide to the birds of the West. The book is 474 pages long, 5 by 7.5 inches in size, illustrated in full color, and casebound in a durable cover. Copyright 2003 by Chanticleer Press. \$19.95; **members price \$16.96**

### Tree—A Life Story

by David Suzuki and Wayne Grady  
with art by Robert Bateman.

In this small, lovely book the authors offer a “biography” of this extraordinary—and extraordinarily important—organism. A story that spans a millennium and includes a cast of millions but focuses on a single tree, a Douglas fir, *Tree* describes in poetic detail the organism’s modest origins that begin with a dramatic burst of millions of microscopic grains of pollen.

The authors recount the amazing characteristics of the species, how they reproduce and how they receive from and offer nourishment to generations of other plants and animals. The tree’s pivotal role in making life possible for the creatures around it—including human beings—is lovingly explored.

The richly detailed text and Robert Bateman’s original art pay tribute to this ubiquitous organism that is too often taken for granted. According the *Publishers Weekly*, “This book is both a touching look at a single tree and an articulate testimony to nature’s cyclic power.” The book is 190 pages long, 5.5 by 7.5 inches in size, illustrated in black and white, and casebound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2004 by GreyStone Books. \$20; **members price \$17**

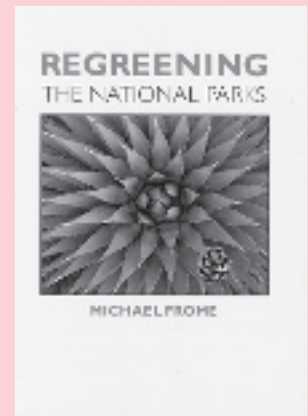


### Regreening the National Parks

by Michael Frome.

The author, one of the most highly regarded observers of our parks, here tells how the National Park Service has been transformed from a professional to a political agency and has betrayed its own values by emphasizing “short-order wilderness served like fast food” rather than the preservation of our natural heritage.

The author has written a serious history of the park system in a vibrant and readable style. He is a writer with a mission, and one not afraid to drive home hard truths. This thought-provoking and intriguing book will interest all who value and respect the national parks, whether they are private citizens, students, or natural resource professionals. The book is 290 pages long, 6 by 9 inches in size, and paperback. Copyright 1992 by the University of Arizona. \$21.95; **members price \$18.66**



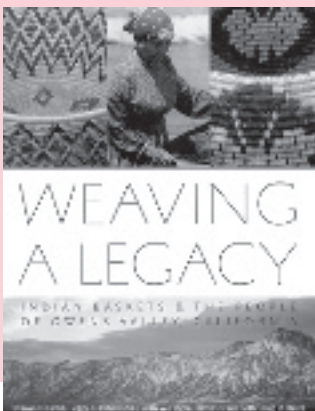
### Weaving a Legacy—Indian Baskets & the People of Owens Valley, California

by Sharon E. Dean, Peggy S. Ratcheson,  
Judith W. Finger, Ellen F. Daus, with Craig D. Bates.

The Owens Valley, situated on the western edge of the Great Basin between the Sierra Nevada and the White-Inyo mountain ranges, has been home for thousands of years to the Owens Valley Paiute and their southern neighbors, the Panamint Shoshone.

The willow baskets created by both groups are noteworthy for their complex construction and durability, and the materials and designs for the baskets reflect available resources as well as the semi-nomadic existence that characterized life in the Great Basin for generations. Since the mid-nineteenth century arrival of non-Indians into the valley, the baskets have changed.

This book places those changes within the region’s dramatic social history, closely examining basketry techniques and technology, historic weavers and their lineages, contemporary weavers, and basket collectors. It is 182 pages long, 8.5 by 11 inches, illustrated in color and black and white, and bound as a paperback. Copyright 2005 by the University of Utah Press. \$24.95; **members price \$21.21**



### My Nature Journal—A Personal Nature Guide for Young People

written and illustrated by Adrienne Olmstead.

This is a personal nature guide for young people that they fill with their thoughts, sketches, observations, and discoveries. The book will help users search for tracks in a woodland, discover a special place in a meadow, find aquatic insects in a stream, explore tidepools at a seashore, and watch for nocturnal animals at twilight.

The journal combines solid scientific information with ample space for thoughtful reflection and field notes. It is a great tool for nurturing a child’s innate curiosity about the natural world. Families will enjoy working together with this journal on family outings and vacations.

Representative chapters include field sketching, woodlands, seashore, meadows, and more. Nature activities include leaf rubbings, scavenger hunts, magnifying glass examinations, and charting. The book is 176 pages long, 6 by 9 inches in size, illustrated with black-and-white drawings, and wire-o bound with a hard cover. Copyright 2000 by Pajaro Books. \$17.95; **members price \$15.26**

**SPECIAL SALE! Order early—quantities are limited!**



**Yosemite Association Logo T-Shirt**

These comfortable short-sleeved t-shirts feature the colorful Yosemite Association logo. Screen printed in four colors, the Hanes Beefy-T brand shirts are 100% cotton and available in two colors: natural and blue. Here's a perfect way to show your support of our work and look good at the same time! Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL. Normally retails for \$16. **Special Price: \$10** (no member discount). Be sure to specify size and color when ordering.

**Direct from Nature: the Oil Sketches of Thomas Hill**

*by Janis T. Driesbach, with an essay by William H. Gerdt.*

This is the first book to draw attention to the remarkable oil sketches of famed landscape artist Thomas Hill. These smaller pieces, painted in the field directly from nature, represent some of Hill's finest work. Driesbach's essay details Hill's production of the sketches while providing much valuable information about his life. Gerdt writes about the role that oil sketches played in nineteenth-century American painting. The essays are illustrated with over 90 reproductions (most in full color) of work by Hill and other landscape artists. The book is 128 pages, 9 by 10.75 inches, and paperback. It is copyright 1997 by the Yosemite Association and the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA. Normally retails for \$19.95. **Special Price: \$5** (no member discount).



**Yosemite Association 80th Anniversary Enamel Pin**

*by William Spear Design*  
This beautiful "cloisonné-style" enamel pin was developed to celebrate the association's

80th anniversary. With its rich primary colors and gold lettering and highlights, the pin is a real eyecatcher. The pin was developed for us by William Spear from the award-winning logo created by Michael Osborne Design. Made of heavy enamel, it is 1 inch wide and 1.375 inches tall. Normally retails for \$12.95. **Special Price: \$5** (no member discount).

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# IN MEMORY OF JOHN CLARK

On February 16, 2006, long-time Yosemite volunteer John Clark died of cancer. John was eight-six years old. During his twenty years of volunteer service, John supported the park and particularly the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (PYHC) in Wawona.

John provided valuable service to the visitors of Yosemite. Well into his eighties, John rode his BMW 1100R motorcycle every day from his home in Yosemite West to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona. Over the years, he provided insight into the history of Yosemite and the National Park Service for literally tens of thousands of visitors.

John offered tours and information in the History Center. He was always conscientious about the appearance of the facility as well as the interpretation of its history. It was not unusual to see John watering the vegetation growing around the History Center, or performing maintenance work to many of the History Center buildings. He frequently came to work early to spruce up the center, and could be seen raking pine needles off of the building roofs, restoring the props used in interpretation, and even applying oil to the wooden floors of the buildings. In recent years, the NPS Division of Interpretation in Wawona relied on John to provide historical information to visitors that, due to budget reductions, it would have been otherwise impossible to provide.

John did a great deal of historical research as well. An outcome of this research was the belated recognition of the heroic actions of an early cavalry soldier. John discovered that a century ago, Private Yates died in an attempt to rescue a woman who had fallen into the south fork of the Merced River. Due to John's discovery, a special recognition service was held at the Wawona Pioneer Cemetery to recognize the efforts of Private Yates.

But John's real gift was sharing his love of Yosemite's

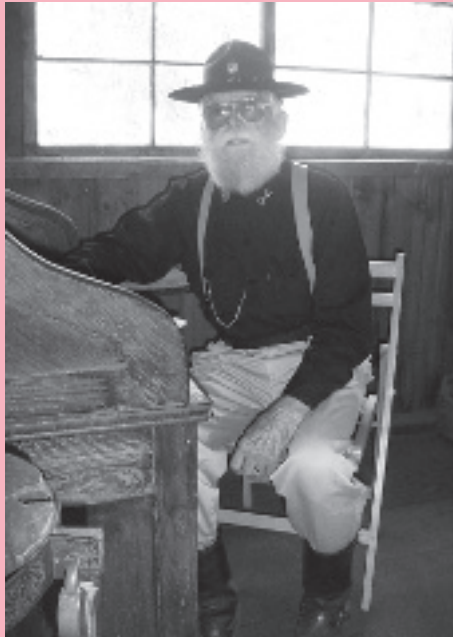


PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF LAHR.

*John Clark as Major Harry Benson. His remarkable memory and ability to tell stories will be his legacy. "The war is over, the battle won. The soldier has gone home."*

history with park visitors. His temperament and training allowed him to provide insight into the contributions of Yosemite's early pioneers through a variety of interpretive techniques. As a part of a cadre of volunteers he spent the late 1980s performing living history. In this manner the employees and volunteers would portray historical characters from Yosemite's past. John participated in extensive living history training, traveling to Joshua Tree National Park to hone his skills as an interpreter. As a living history character, he often portrayed Major Harry Benson. Benson spent several summers working as the acting park superintendent during the twenty-five years

that the cavalry was the primary protector of the park.

John's engaging manner made him a natural ambassador for Yosemite National Park. He loved interacting with people. He learned simple phrases in several languages so that he could greet visitors in their native tongue. John's winning approach helped bring Yosemite's history to life for people from all parts of the globe.

John will be sorely missed at the History Center. His service over the course of two decades set a standard in dedication. He showed a commitment to Yosemite National Park and the PYHC in particular, providing a service to park visitors that will be difficult to replicate.

John considered his contributions to Yosemite to be the legacy he left behind. However, he also was proud of the time he served his country during World War II. During this conflict, John served in the Army 184th Infantry California National Guard in the Pacific Campaign from the Aleutian Islands to the Philippines, where he was wounded on the island of Leyte. He received several medals, including his most cherished Combat Infantry badge.

John is survived by Betty, his wife of sixty years, along with two children, and numerous grandchildren.

# NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

ENROLLMENTS AND GIFTS PROCESSED BETWEEN JANUARY 4 AND MARCH 14, 2006

## NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS

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

### Sustaining Members:

Arthur & Judith Fink, Noah Mapstead, Peter Motel

### Contributing Members:

Linda Bloom, William Boyse & Karen Paver, Linda Dahl, Nate Donovan, Lee Farrell, Ken Fears, Diane Fishburn, Lisa Kennedy, Boonyong Lertsakdadet, Leslie Leslie, Barbara McBride, Paul Royere, Bob Ruggiero, Timothy Schmal, Bill Solari, John Sprague

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### Joint/Family Members:

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John Tackett, Dan Weiner & Joleen Law, James & Elizabeth Whitworth, Howie Wilcox & Ellen Campbell, Robert & Laurie Withers, Jeff Zimmerman, Joseph Zummo

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### International Members:

Leslie Bailey, Guozhen Family, Robin Kirby

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED AT A HIGHER LEVEL

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

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## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

*We extend our heartfelt thanks to the donors who have recently responded to our goal to raise \$115,000 in 2006 to help us deliver the many educational programs and services we provide that promote stewardship of Yosemite National Park. Our success depends on you!*

### \$1,000 or more

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## RECENT GENERAL DONATIONS

We thank the following generous donors for their gifts which will allow us to continue to offer our vital educational programs and services in Yosemite.

### \$1,000 or more

Armington Foundation, Susan McCarthy, Jane J. Robinson, Gregory & Kiyomi Yim

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For the Cooperative Student Intern Program: Susan & Joel Hyatt, Sharon McCray

For Education Programs: Ruth M. Kamena

For the Lorelee T. Hiramoto Memorial Fund: Gregory & Kiyomi Yim

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For the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut: Douglass & Rebecca Carlson

For Parsons Lodge: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Carlson

For the Wawona Barn Dances: The Wawona Area Property Owners Association

In-kind donations: Mary Kline & Calvin Liu

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

We extend our gratitude to our donors who have recently made gifts to the association to mark a loved one's passing or honor a special friend or occasion. These contributions are a thoughtful way to ensure that others will enjoy the beauty and solace of Yosemite for years to come.

In celebration of the marriage of Rebecca Wickett and Dave Nygren: Bob & Julie Stokstad

In honor of Kevin and Virginia Langdon: Matthew Zukowski

In memory of Norm and Joan Allen: Larry & Jeanne Bodiford

In memory of Noemi Bertola: Eric, Jan & Marta Archer

In memory of John Jonas Clark: Joy & Jon Lee

In memory of Denise Delano: Patricia Delano

In memory of Tim Manley: Rosemary Gamblin

In memory of Adrienne Otonello: Dr. Charles & Mrs. Marian Woessner

In memory of Carol Pitman: Jerry Cadagan

PARK PROFILE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

**What is your favorite non-Yosemite book?** My favorite book is usually the one I'm reading at the moment. Currently, I'm reading three: *Unconditional Parenting* by Alfie Kohn, *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown, and an unpublished manuscript about a Buffalo Soldier by Shelton Johnson.

**What is your favorite movie?** "When Harry Met Sally" (or any light romantic movie, really). Clever, simple, predictable, and it makes me laugh.

**Where do you like to go for a vacation?** Now that we have kids, we spend nearly every vacation visiting family in Maine and Michigan or we going camping.

**What do you think YA's most important role is?** YA makes it possible for people who love the park to physically participate in restoring it through the Cooperative Work Weeks program. It's an amazing program.

**What do you hope to do in your life that you haven't done yet?** Someday I would like to live in a big city. Small towns are great, but I would like to try out the chaos of city life.

**What else do you want to tell our readers?** One of the best parts of living and working in Yosemite is the community. El Portal and Yosemite are filled with people who believe in working together for the common good. For such a small population, we have a high number of volunteer groups. People are kind, interesting, and I can't think of a better place to raise a family.

## 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

## Double Your Contribution!

Many companies will match the donations their employees make to nonprofit organizations. Does your employer offer a matching gift program? If so, be sure to enclose your employer's matching gift form whenever you pay your membership dues or make a donation to YA. We will take care of the rest of the paperwork, and your employer will join you in helping YA continue our important work in Yosemite. It's that simple!



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## Join the Yosemite Association

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

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

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

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

### MOVING?

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

### MEMBER BENEFITS

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

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

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

**Supporting:** *A Guide to the Sequoia Groves of California*, a comprehensive guide to all 67 groves, by Dwight Willard

**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 invitations to special gatherings throughout 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, including an elegant evening reception at the Ahwahnee Meadow

**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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is published quarterly for members of the Yosemite Association. It is edited by Laurel Rematore and produced by Robin Weiss Graphic Design.  
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Mail to: **Yosemite Association**, PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2646