



Following Yosemite's
**Wild and Scenic
Rivers**

A Message from Yosemite

Spring...As I drive across the San Joaquin Valley toward Yosemite the new grass is neon green; tidy orchards seem to float in a sea of delicate blossoms while stands of yellow mustard appear at the roadside like splashes from an artist's brush. The land's promise and richness is palpable. Arriving in Yosemite Valley to the roar of waterfalls, I am once again struck with the power of the promise of spring. It reflects the way I feel about the new energy and direction at the Yosemite Association.

The Association is, as always, dedicated to connecting people to the park. The thread begins with information you obtain from us to plan a visit, then moves to inspiring Association adventures (from artistic to athletic) you can join while you are here, and on to books, maps, inspirational art and literature from our stores to bring the experience alive again once you return home. Then, hopefully, there is the second and third visit with friends and family, building a lifetime of deepening connections to the park. Each experience at Yosemite can take your relationship with this dramatic landscape to a new place. This enduring connection is the gift of Association membership.

Even as the Association strengthens longstanding connections to the park, we are in the process of stretching beyond this comfort zone. Together with the National Park Service, we are developing innovative ways to connect with people who may not yet have national parks as part of their tradition.

The Association-NPS Yosemite Leadership Program at the University of California, Merced is one important example of this direction. This college intern program, now four years old, will bring ten students to the park for the 2008 summer months to be trained as seasonal rangers. These students offer language skills and experience that give an added dimension to resources management and interpretive programs for foreign and domestic visitors. It also gives us an opportunity to learn from those we are training about the best ways to reach multi-ethnic populations in the Central Valley and beyond.

You, our members and donors, have made this program possible through your membership and special donations. Now that we have developed a track record for the program, we have been able, with the help of the Park Service, to leverage your gifts to new heights. Toyota Corporation has committed to an ongoing annual substantial contribution to the Yosemite Leadership Program. These funds will allow us to continue to teach and learn from young people who are part of the UC system's most diverse campus.

We will continue to ask to you to partner with us as we develop offerings tailored to new groups. Our hope is to introduce the park to a broader audience and demonstrate its importance to the natural world, our human spirit and well-being. We need as large a constituency as possible to preserve Yosemite and all of our national parks. Working together we will keep the Association's promise to forge vital connections to the park in a changing world.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christy Holloway".

Christy Holloway,
Chair, Board of Trustees

FOLLOWING YOSEMITE'S WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Quick: Think of a Yosemite icon. Do you have one in mind? Did you pick Yosemite Falls? Maybe Half Dome or El Capitan? Those are some obvious choices. But Yosemite National Park is home to two icons that are equally central to the park's identity. Before there was a Half Dome or a Cathedral Peak, for the millennia when those iconic features were deep beneath a primordial sea floor, there was the river.

Actually, *rivers*. Yosemite is home to two wild and scenic rivers, each with headwaters surrounded by federally protected wilderness. The park's northern watershed drains into the Tuolumne, designated by Congress as a wild and scenic river in 1984. The Merced was designated in 1987 and contains the park's southern watershed. Both of these tremendous waterways bisect Yosemite National Park over some 140 miles from the Sierra crest to the Sierra foothills.

THE TUOLUMNE

As seen from Tuolumne Meadows, the Tuolumne appears a peaceful sleeper of a river, meandering quietly through its meadow channel or sweeping in shallows over the granite river bottom. It spills forth from two mighty forks—the Dana and the Lyell.

Between the shoulders of Mount Dana and Mount Gibbs, the Dana Fork emerges into Dana Meadows almost imperceptibly. It then careens along the Tioga Road, heralding the arrival to Tuolumne Meadows. The Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne is superlative in every way. It originates on Mount Lyell, Yosemite's highest peak at 13,114 feet in elevation. The mountain contains one of the Sierra's last remaining glaciers, the Lyell Glacier. Here, the Lyell Fork starts as a trickle that can be straddled in places, flows into glacial pools and over granite benches and finally slows to a near crawl in Lyell Canyon as the river meanders through meadow bends punctuated by chutes and riffles.

The forks meet in Tuolumne Meadows for a last gentle pass before plunging over a series of stair-step cascades to Glen Aulin and on to the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River and the Muir Gorge. From lush Pate Valley, the Tuolumne continues for trail-free miles to the mouth of Hetch Hetchy. Here, the congressionally designated portion of river corridor is interrupted, exempt from wild and scenic river status due to the impoundment created by O'Shaughnessy Dam. However, the wild and scenic river continues below the dam and through the Poopenaut Valley and slot canyons that few

It takes an interdisciplinary team to create a long-term plan for managing a wild and scenic river. Here members of Yosemite's Tuolumne planning team explore the river just above Glen Aulin.



KRISTINA RYLANDS



KRISTINA RYLANDS (2)

The Tuolumne River is wild and free flowing, even as it enters Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Its wild and scenic river designation is interrupted here, but resumes directly below O'Shaughnessy Dam.

are fortunate enough to visit.

Beyond Yosemite's borders, the Tuolumne River flows through lands managed by both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, its wild and scenic status coming to an end at Lake Don Pedro. But the river continues itself for miles, eventually reaching its confluence with the San Joaquin River just outside of Modesto.

THE MERCED

Like the Tuolumne, the Merced also originates from Mount Lyell, but off of its southern shoulder. The Lyell Fork of the Merced River is joined by three other primary forks—Triple Peak Fork, Red Peak Fork and Merced Peak Fork. These portions flow through a wild and largely trail-free landscape, eventually passing through Washburn Lake, Merced Lake and Little Yosemite Valley. Some of the Merced's most iconic views can be seen as the river plunges over Nevada Fall and then Vernal Fall before its riotous springtime cascade into Happy Isles at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley.

The main stem of the Merced River takes center stage in Yosemite Valley as it welcomes the waters of its more iconic tributaries—Tenaya Creek and Mirror Lake, Yosemite Falls, Sentinel Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Ribbon Fall and the Cascades. Ultimately, the Merced plunges through a gorge, descending some 2,000 feet over seven miles before leaving the park at the boundary of El Portal.

At the southern end of the park, the South Fork of the Merced River emerges from southern wilderness and into the sleepy hollow of Wawona. This portion of the river joins the main stem on U.S. Forest Service land along Highway 140 at Savage's Trading Post. The Merced Wild

and Scenic River continues through an incised river canyon to its impoundment at Lake Maclure, where its status as a wild and scenic river ends. Beyond, it too joins the San Joaquin River in Merced County.

WHAT IS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER?

In the early 1960s, it was recognized that the nation's rivers were being dammed, dredged, and degraded at an alarming rate. In response, Senator Frank Church of Idaho championed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act until it was signed into law in 1968 by President Lyndon Johnson. This landmark piece of legislation acknowledges that free-flowing rivers and their unique natural, cultural and recreational values are a central part of our nation's heritage and should be preserved for future generations. Today, 165 rivers have been designated, protecting over 11,000 miles of river from Alaska to Puerto Rico, and Maine to Oregon.

Prior to congressional designation, a river must be determined eligible and then suitable for wild and scenic river status. The process starts with an *eligibility study* to determine if the river can meet two key qualifications: 1) Is the river largely free-flowing? and 2) Does it possess what the Act terms "outstandingly remarkable values?" These are the unique, rare or exemplary qualities that make the river stand apart from all others in the region or nation. (To be eligible for wild and scenic status, a river only needs to possess one such outstandingly remarkable value and be largely free-flowing.) Next, the river goes through a *suitability study* to determine if the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is the most suitable way to protect the river. Once these two studies are completed, Congress can act to designate a river by adding it to the wild and scenic river system.

Far from putting rivers behind velvet ropes, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is meant to allow people to continue



The Tuolumne River meanders through a glacially carved, snowcapped landscape. The Tuolumne was instrumental in creating this unique and magnificent scenery.



JR WARNER, COURTESY KRISTINA RYLANDS

Nevada Fall is one of the most unique features of the Merced River.

GET INVOLVED!

For more information about Wild and Scenic River planning in Yosemite National Park, please visit the following web sites for the most current information about upcoming planning workshops and materials for review and comment. Also, please feel free to contact the Project Managers for either effort. If you would like to receive their periodic e-newsletter, please email yose_planning@nps.gov and ask to join the mailing list.



South fork of the Merced River in Wawona.

ROBIN WEISS

New Merced River Plan

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/newmrp.htm>

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Tuolumne River Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp.htm>

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To learn more about the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, visit www.rivers.gov

forging connections to rivers. Once designated, the law calls for permanent protection and enhancement of the river's free-flowing character, water quality and unique values. October 2, 2008, marks the fortieth anniversary of the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

THE LAW AND THE PLAN

While the law protects wild rivers, it is up to the managing agency to put a plan in place that spells out how the river will be preserved. In 1986, Congress amended the Act to require land managers to develop a comprehensive management plan to guide future actions in the river corridor.

Currently, the National Park Service is preparing individual management plans for both the Merced and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic Rivers in Yosemite National Park. As a central part of these planning efforts, the National Park Service welcomes public participation through all facets of the plans' development. Through a series of PLANNER-FOR-A-DAY public workshops, participants engage in many of the milestone steps taken by the NPS planning teams. For example, one of the primary and foundational steps involved in managing the river is

asking the following questions: "what are the characteristics that are truly special about the river?" and "what do we envision them to be like in the future?" This process—known as establishing *desired future conditions*—creates the management vision and is the proactive planning piece from which all other actions and decisions are based and measured. This is just one aspect of the process that park planners have opened to the public for input and involvement.

Both the Tuolumne River Plan and the Merced River Plan will be accompanied by an environmental impact statement to analyze the effects of a range of management scenarios. These draft documents will be available for public comment in 2009. But this summer, the NPS will give the public a chance to review and comment on early versions of several river management plans.

Kristina Rylands has spent nearly ten years working for the National Park Service in Yosemite on wild and scenic river issues and also serves as the president of the River Management Society's Pacific Chapter. She fell in love with Yosemite along the Tuolumne River as a kid 35 years ago.

The landscape that awed early Euro-American visitors to Yosemite Valley was, and is, remarkable for a natural beauty seen nowhere else on earth. But as wild as that landscape looked, its untouched appearance was deceptive. Humans had used fire to manage the vegetation of the Valley for hundreds if not thousands of years. The open vistas onto El Capitan and Half Dome, the lush meadows, and the rich American Indian culture early Euro-American visitors encountered, were the result of a naturally fire-adapted ecosystem harnessed for human benefit.

All across North America, from the deep eastern forests, to the Midwest's broad prairies, to the steep slopes of the Sierra Nevada, the first human inhabitants had observed the effects of natural lightning-caused fire. They watched closely as entire ecosystems first seemed to succumb to the flames, then sprang back rejuvenated. Over time, these first peoples learned to harness the power of fire to shape the landscapes in which they lived. Historic accounts suggest that Native Americans lit wildland fires for many reasons: to herd game into elaborate traps, reduce opportunities for enemies to hide, encourage certain plants to grow, take away resources from enemies and cover retreats. While some of these effects were immediate, others suggest long-term planning and a deep understanding of complex ecosystems. Fires encouraged new growth the following season that would attract game, or straight growth in plant material used for baskets and tools. Fires set on a regular basis favored the growth of certain staple plant communities over others.

A culture whose diet depended heavily on rich acorns would find advantage by encouraging oak growth in open meadows and reducing shade-tolerant species such as cedar and pine. Regular burning, they knew, would kill small, encroaching conifers and reduce the buildup of litter and duff that might fuel a hotter, more severe fire that could destroy oaks. For these reasons, cultural groups across North America, including the native inhabitants of Yosemite Valley, developed a knowledge base delineating when to burn, where to ignite and what effects fire might have on a given plant community. This information was the result of hundreds of years of observation intertwined into cultural traditions and practices, and passed down through the generations.

The arrival of Spanish explorers into California, and then other Euro-Americans in the Yosemite region, challenged these cultural traditions. Diseases that raced

ahead of actual contact decimated populations, changing cultural practices. After Euro-American contact, Native American lifeways were fundamentally altered. Efforts to protect the beauty of Yosemite Valley and other areas led to the suppression of all wildland fire. Later, as large tracts of land were set aside as preserves and national parks, the role of fire in ecosystems came to be reexamined.

By the middle of the twentieth century, land managers had begun to observe disturbing changes to their parks and forests. Fires were becoming more severe and harder to control. Certain species of trees were being crowded out or were not reproducing. Some critical element was missing, and that element was fire. Concern for public safety and other factors meant that land managers could not allow fire to run freely across the landscape. But it became clear that fire had been, and needed to be, a part of the ecosystem that shaped the beauty of the landscape.

From that realization came the start of a complex fire management program that now utilizes a variety of tools and techniques to protect infrastructure and visitors while allowing fire to play as natural a role in the ecosys-



BRENT JOHNSON, NPS

Smoke from the prescribed burn curls up past Half Dome.



Above left: Yosemite's original human inhabitants regularly set fire to the Valley floor to encourage the growth of grasses and oaks. Here, their descendants use traditional methods to ignite a prescribed burn. *Above right:* Park staff monitor the progress of the prescribed burn.

tem as possible. Those tools have expanded to include not only fire suppression, but fuels reduction and management of naturally-ignited fires.

Fuels reduction can be accomplished in a variety of ways. One method involves mechanically cutting up brush, trees and downed logs, and either piling them for burning or hauling them away. This technique can reduce larger diameter fuels such as snags and downed logs, but does not reduce levels of duff and smaller forms of forest litter that have accumulated. Prescribed fire can reduce fuels of all sizes but is a much riskier practice. There is always the danger of a fire escaping planned boundaries, while the resulting smoke can be a nuisance or health threat. Before land managers burn, they develop a prescribed burn plan based on a prescription: a set of weather, fuel and resource parameters that are aimed at achieving a particular goal.

All of this is made more complicated by fuels that have accumulated over the past hundred years of successful fire suppression. Fire introduced to such fuel-loaded landscapes has the potential to burn too hot or for too long, damaging the ecosystem's ability to rejuvenate. While early fire managers worried over how to put fires out, determining which land management objectives are most important and how to meet them are two of the most difficult challenges that fire managers face today.

In the fall of 2005, the National Park Service conducted a prescribed burn in a thirteen-acre wetland meadow in Yosemite Valley. Like much of Yosemite Valley, the meadow historically had been managed and used by American Indians. These resources are still used by the descendants of the Valley's original inhabitants as well as the Park's Indian Cultural Demonstration Program.

A century and a half of fire suppression, however, had allowed thatch to accumulate, invasive Himalayan blackberry to spread into the meadow, and conifers to encroach. The presence of an old road and its culvert further accelerated these changes by disrupting the natural flow of water through the area. The compounded effect of changes to the natural fire regime and the altered hydrology of the site threatened populations of traditionally gathered plants, and posed a complex restoration challenge.

The National Park Service coordinated with other park partners, including the Yosemite Fund, Yosemite Institute and local Native American tribes, to put together a long-term restoration and research effort addressing many of these concerns. Although the meadow was once maintained by regular burning, fire alone was no longer enough to restore the area with native plants. Scientific literature reports that Himalayan blackberry will resprout vigorously after burning, which in turn suggested that removing the blackberry first was imperative. To determine which approach would be most effective, park staff and volunteers pulled the blackberry before the burn in some areas and simply burned it in others. The study would also track the response of traditionally gathered plants to the different treatments.

The Park Service invited tribes having ancestral cultural associations with park lands to participate in the prescribed burn. The fire was lit using a traditional friction method as representatives of the tribes offered prayers and songs. The igniter rapidly rolled a pointed stick between his hands with the point pressed firmly into a plank of wood. When the heat had built sufficiently, the stick tip was used to ignite a wad of shredded cedar bark

used as tinder. Burning sticks and pine cones were used to spread the fire through the burn unit instead of a mixture of diesel and gasoline in a drip torch. This manner of ignition also kept hydrocarbon contaminants out of the wetland.

The National Park Service made a short film documenting the cooperation involved in arranging and conducting the burn and its subsequent ecological and cultural effects. This video has been used to educate the public, park staff and researchers, illustrating the positive effects of this cooperation.

Ultimately, the project reduced accumulated fuels in the form of thatch and litter, and killed many of the encroaching conifers. The burn also reduced the chance of a catastrophic fire in Yosemite Valley and increased the Park Service's ability to control unwanted fires. As part of a mosaic of Valley burns of differing ages, the meadow will act as a fuel break to slow the spread of unwanted wildfires, and increase the health of surviving native vegetation by reducing competition for water, nutrients and sunlight. Opening up the meadow is a step towards restoring historic viewsheds and the character of the historic landscape which drew Euro-American visitors to Yosemite in the first place.

The prescribed burn also diminished patches of invasive blackberry, permitting ongoing management with mechanical thinning. Pulling sprouts after burning affords several advantages, including improved visibility of the root and less need to pile and burn cut brambles.

The 2006 data from the research plots suggests that mechanical removal and fire resulted in more native and non-native plant species than burning alone. While the increase of non-native plant cover is of concern, the species present are easier to control than blackberry. Finally, plants that were identified as traditionally important have been rebounding. Data gathered in subsequent years will add to our understanding of how resources were traditionally managed, and how these techniques may be integrated with current management practices.

Other aspects of burn success were harder to measure but are equally important to recognize. The project leaders hope that the project succeeded in honoring the traditions and history of the American Indians. One tribal elder, a retired NPS employee who served as burn boss on some of the earliest prescribed fires in Yosemite Valley, found it rewarding to burn again in Yosemite Valley, this time as a continuation of traditional cultural practices. Fire Management personnel got to participate in traditional fire management practices, and proposed that the park attempt to include some form of these traditional practices each fire season. Meanwhile, the Park Service will continue to document the burn's long-term impacts on the health of the meadow and the return of traditionally important plants. As part of scheduled restoration,

the restrooms and part of the road to the defunct campground were removed shortly after the burn. It is hoped that the removal of this infrastructure will allow a more natural hydrology to return to the meadow. Finally, the cooperation and contributions of all involved instilled the hope that the sometimes daunting mission of the National Park Service can be fulfilled one small meadow at a time.

Jun Kinoshita is the Park Fire Archeologist and works in the Branch of Anthropology and Archeology in the Division of Resources Management and Science for the National Park Service.



BRENT JOHNSON, NPS (3)

Careful planning and a fuel break prevent the prescribed burn from spreading farther than desired.

Sixty years have now flown by since I commenced my fondly-anticipated career with the National Park Service. In June of 1948, complete with my new Stetson hat and NPS belt, I debuted as a novice summer ranger-naturalist at Yosemite National Park—my dream choice! Special memories still linger, one in particular which would define my life's pursuit.

Soon after arriving in the park, our small cadre of naturalists embarked on a weeklong field orientation by notable veteran ranger-naturalist Carl Sharsmith. As we were seated around our kneeling mentor along a Yosemite Valley trail, an inquisitive female visitor paused beside our circle. She stood there absorbing information as she slowly peeled an orange, dropping the peelings one by one while she listened. Never looking up at her and without missing a word, Sharsmith picked up each peel as it hit the ground, closing it in his hand. When the last peel fell, he stood up, opened the woman's hand, pressed the rinds into her palm, closed her fist and continued his interpretive lesson.

In good time I was sent to observe one of the senior naturalists giving a slide lecture at a lodge. In these days

before the slide carousel, the projector was operated by a bellboy. To change slides, the speaker, standing beside the portable screen, would punch his noisemaking "cricket" and the bellboy would move the next slide into the projector. The lecture progressed smoothly until the bellboy became distracted by an attractive young lady, and, missing a "crick," didn't move to the next slide. Unable to see the screen, the naturalist rambled on without realizing that every picture was now being misidentified: Half Dome became Yosemite Falls, and so on. His lecture was, for me as an intern, indeed a learning experience.

Meanwhile, my outdoor evening lecture performances before hundreds of campers represented a multifaceted challenge. First I was to announce thirty minutes of recorded classical music, a tradition that had come from National Capitol Parks in Washington. If I mispronounced a foreign composer's name, my supervisor made me announce it again correctly. Then ensued fifteen minutes of community singing, with words projected on the screen and I conducting and vocalizing. It was embarrassing to ask beforehand if anybody in the audience could play the piano, and worse if an amateur accompanist from some obscure church choir volunteered. Last on the program was my slide talk, with the supervisor's reminder that it had to finish at exactly the moment the famous firefall from Glacier Point commenced. One fellow novice naturalist once ignored this admonition; as the entire audience stood and moved to view the firefall, he obstinately continued his illustrated lecture to its bitter end.

I was definitely developing interpretive techniques. The naturalists often presented informal talks near the Yosemite Museum, especially on the Yosemite Indians. But on one occasion I decided to talk instead about porcupines, since there was a porcupine-scarred ponderosa pine under which we could stand in the shade. The small group of visitors was attentive as I chatted about interesting porcupine tidbits and continually brushed flakes of bark from my uniform. I'd picked this spot on purpose for the observant audience. Sad to say, no one noticed that there was a live porcupine at work above their heads!

Soon came experiences with government housing. My wife and I were visited at our NPS tent cabin in the valley by the superintendent's wife, who gushed, "Oh, this is the same cabin that my husband and I lived in many years ago." As we glanced about, we didn't really need to be told that. Then there was the tent cabin we later occupied at Mariposa Grove, propped up on a steep hillside. Coming home after a wearing day answering questions at the museum, I found two elderly women sitting in our camp



COURTESY RICHARD BEIDLEMAN

The author as a newly minted Yosemite ranger in June of 1948.

chairs in front of the cabin. When I pleasantly explained that this was employee housing, the ladies took umbrage, one growling that they had paid their taxes and expected to be housed. Our housing problem became more acute when a visiting friend's stocky wife crashed through the rotting tent-cabin floor while we were eating supper, dropping about three feet to the ground beneath. When I telephoned headquarters in Yosemite Valley about the gaping hole in the floor, the person I spoke to asked, "Do you have a table?" When I replied "Yes," he said "Well, pull the table over the hole."

At Mariposa Grove, we ranger-naturalists would often take visitors on short nature rambles and make our party's way without trails. On one such excursion my group of some twenty hikers encountered a boggy creek bottom we needed to cross. I solved the problem of keeping feet dry after spying a large, fallen sequoia which spanned the marsh. The top end of the tree was easy for everyone to scramble onto, and the trunk proved broad enough that we had no trouble navigating above the streamlet. It was then that I discovered a problem. We were now at the butt end of the fallen giant, and as I looked down, I realized that we were more than fifteen feet above the ground! Chagrined, I carefully turned the party around, and we retreated along the log the way we had come.

In our Yosemite naturalist training we had been forewarned to remember that park visitors often felt out of their element, and we should be understanding. No day went by without encountering such situations. On one occasion I apprehended an elderly driver going the wrong way on the one-way road through the famous (but alas, no longer there) Tunnel Tree in Mariposa Grove. I asked, "Didn't you see the one-way-only sign for this road?" "Yes," he drawled, "but the other sign said 'To Fresno,' and I didn't want to go to Fresno."

During the lunch hour in Mariposa Grove one of us naturalists would occasionally walk up to Big Trees Lodge and chat with the visitors. I remember being on hand when there were excited shouts from the patio about an approaching black bear. One woman dashed to the sales counter, bought a camera, and rushed out to photograph the rambling bruin. Unfortunately, she forgot to put any film in the camera. Then there was the incident at the Glacier Point Hotel. A woman had just parked her car and was getting out when a hefty Jeffrey pine cone fell on the hood. Seeing a jaunty chickaree in the tree above, and spotting a nearby ranger (not me, by the way), the woman yelled at him, demanding immediate action. Before the ranger could respond, the squirrel cut another cone, this one striking the windshield. The situation was neatly solved by the ranger who, after sizing up matters with straight face, pointed out to the woman that her car was in a "no parking" zone.

The transcendent moment in my early National Park



Yosemite ranger and naturalist Carl Sharsmith with the author's wife, Reba Beidleman, in 1976. Sharsmith had helped orient the author as a new park ranger.

Service ranger-naturalist career came at the completion of that first summer in Yosemite. I received an invitation to the Superintendent's office, and I anticipated that the plans for my professional future were unfolding. Having already looked forward to prized and permanent employment at Yosemite, my wife and I had brought with us to California, or put into storage in Colorado, all of our belongings. The superintendent jovially invited me to take a seat. He then proceeded with a cordial salutation: "Dick, we have enjoyed having you with us this summer." After a pause, he continued, "What are you planning to do during the winter?"

Let it be reported that although I had never considered a teaching career, within a month of the superintendent's thunderbolt I became a novice university professor in Colorado and would go on to pontificate at three institutions there before retirement in 1986. I did return to Yosemite for a second summer and have continued many of my NPS relationships directly or indirectly to the present day. By the way, the illusions of Yosemite never diminish. When touring through Tuolumne Meadows in mid-August of 1975, we passed a ranger walking beside the highway. "Stop the car!" my wife shouted. "That looked like Carl Sharsmith." "It couldn't be," I replied. "He must be long gone by now." Glancing into the rear-view mirror, I only kept driving for less than ten seconds. It was indeed Sharsmith. Although officially retired for some years, he was now a special NPS savant, in his most favorite haunt, probably still picking up orange peels dropped by the latest generation of visitors.

In addition to becoming a university instructor, ecologist Richard Beidleman has served as a summer ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park, a consultant for the National Park Service and chair of the Colorado State Parks Board. Many of his former students are now naturalists at parks across the country.

UC Merced Interns Arrive in Yosemite

YA and NPS will soon welcome another multicultural cadre of **Yosemite Leadership Program Interns** to the park for the summer. This year we'll grow the program to include ten UC Merced student interns. I am pleased to play a larger role in the group's May training. They'll spend the summer learning with NPS Interpretation, Wilderness operations, and Wildlife Management. Look for these fine young people on the trail or by the campfire when you're here.

If YA members are interested in contributing to the support of this valuable program, we could truly use your help. Please consider earmarking your usual donation toward our interns.

Outdoor Adventures

We can hardly wait for summer and our own kind of "higher education." Tuitions have been kept the same for the third year in a row and Yosemite has something to teach you.

The roster includes some outstanding **backpack trips** led by guidebook author **Suzanne Swedo**, photographer **John Senser**, ranger **Dick Ewart** and botanist **Steve Botti**. There's even a backpack trip to Glen Aulin just for **women**. For adventurers seeking a view, we're holding one-day, one-night as well as easy two-night trips up to **Half Dome**. The incredibly fun **Family Camping Jamborees** will be held in Tuolumne Meadows in July again. Just bring your kids and your tent up to the cool high Sierra; we'll take care of all the food, cooking and family activities. We are proud of our series of field seminars on the heritage of **people of color** in Yosemite and hope you'll come to discover something you don't know about our cultural history. Finally, a special course on **writing children's books** led by author **Michael Ross** awaits up in Tuolumne.

YA members will be visiting Yosemite's sister parks in **China** next spring; look on our website for those details. And don't forget that I love arranging **Custom Adventures** for people seeking something special for colleagues, family or friends.

2008 FIELD SEMINARS SCHEDULE

The full catalog of 2008 Outdoor Adventures can be found and downloaded from our website—it's an easy way to send the information to interested friends and family. Additional details on each course plus instructor biographies can be found online as well on YA's "Seminars" page.



LEIF RUSSELL

**YOSEMITE
ASSOCIATION
PARTNERS WITH
LEAVE NO TRACE**



To support the National Park Service in promoting sensitive use of Yosemite's popular wilderness and frontcountry, we've joined with the nonprofit Leave No Trace, Inc. to help spread the word about the practices and philosophy of traveling gently on the land. Look in our bookstores for literature that addresses LNT issues.



DWIGHT GOEHRING

ART CONNECTING PEOPLE TO YOSEMITE

Yosemite has long been a playground and palette for artists. Some of the earliest works from Yosemite include sketches made by Thomas Ayres in 1855; the grand Thomas Hill paintings now seen in Sacramento's Crocker Art Museum and the Oakland Museum of California; the moody Albert Bierstadt paintings that captured romantic sensibilities on the East Coast; and the Gunnar Widforss watercolors that grace The Ahwahnee Hotel. In more recent times, Yosemite has drawn artists such as Chiura Obata, whose watercolors and sumi ink on silk stretch the mind and soul; Ansel Adams, whose photographs are now synonymous with the park; and of course the artists of today, who come to Yosemite to work in every season of every year. No medium seems to capture the magic and spirit of Yosemite better than the views through an artist's eyes.

This March, the Yosemite Art and Education Center opened for another season to celebrate art and the powerful imagery associated with this special landscape. We hope that you will join us in Yosemite Valley to participate in the Center's many scheduled activities. The Association continues to invite a broad array of artists to be the Center's artist-in-residence for one week, where they live, eat and drink art by teaching their particular calling. Each resident will teach art classes that are free to the public and have the opportunity to display their art in the Center. In doing so, they help to inspire a deeper connection to Yosemite. We will also be offering receptions throughout the summer to both celebrate art in Yosemite and showcase the work of the artists-in-residence. With your help, we aspire to fully utilize the Center as a classroom, studio, gallery and gathering place to celebrate art in Yosemite.

The Yosemite Art and Education Center gets a new sign.



MICHELLE HANSEN

Come to the Center to celebrate the park with YA's free art classes for Yosemite visitors. Our NPS/DNC/YA facility is open through October and holds free programs six days a week. The full schedule of each week's visiting artists (both new and familiar) can be found on the YA website. If you haven't been to our building in Yosemite Village, this would be a terrific time to come by and take a free class, pick up art supplies or bring your family for one of our walk-in natural history hikes (for example, go birding with Pete Devine). The YAEC is located at the lower end of Yosemite Village, downhill from the Village Store, near the ATM. For further information about the Center, please call 209-372-1442.



Yosemite artist-in-residence Moira Donohoe paints in the park.

COURTESY MOIRA DONOHOE



COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

An artist finds inspiration within a park forest.

ART CENTER MOVES THROUGH HISTORY

The Yosemite Art Center opened in the old Pohono Indian Shop in June of 1981. Located in what is now the Valley Wilderness Center, this building was originally erected as photographer Daniel Joseph Foley's Yosemite Falls studio in 1926. Foley operated it until 1948, when it became the Pohono Indian Studio. The Association partnered with the Yosemite Park & Curry Company in 1981 to renovate the Pohono Indian Studio building as the Yosemite Art Activity Center. The Center offered free art and poetry classes for many years. The Center moved to its current location in the Wells Fargo Bank Building in May 1995, when it was occupied by Bank of America. This building was originally completed for Wells Fargo on April 23, 1971. It was designed by Spencer, Lee and Busse as a redwood building in the "Mother Lode Colonial" style. The main room houses the building's most unique feature: a tremendous wooden mural by famed California artist Ruth Dicker (1919-2004).

PARK PROFILE

TOM MEDEMA



RAY SANTOS

Name: Tom Medema

Job Title: Branch Chief, Interpretive Field Operations

Hometown: Muskegon, MI

Education: B.A. Environmental Education, Calvin College; M.S. Natural Resource Communication, Michigan State University

Total number of years working in Yosemite: 6

What first brought you to Yosemite? A family vacation brought us close to Yosemite in the early 70s, but “hippie congestion” kept my parents away. It wasn’t until my National Park Service career began that I found my way back to California and Yosemite.

What do you do in your job? I manage the park’s personal interpretive services, including field rangers, visitor facilities and all interpretive programming. I am fortunate to supervise amazingly talented people who help visitors discover and personally connect with Yosemite’s resources. My primary job is to provide the resources and tools for these gifted naturalists, historians and storytellers to excel in their role of achieving the National Park Service mission.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Location, location, location. I have what must be the most spectacular commute on the planet. Many days I get to commute from El Portal to Yosemite Valley on my bicycle or motorcycle. To ride along the Merced River, past Bridalveil Fall, El Cap, Sentinel Rock and Cook’s Meadow is a daily blessing and sets the tone for each day of work. I have never had a morning where I didn’t want to get out of bed and go be a park ranger.

What do you like to do when not working? Coaching my kids’ soccer and ski teams is where I find the greatest rewards in my free time. As the head coach of the Yosemite Ski Team and President of the Yosemite Winter Club, my passion for the cold season is readily apparent. Cycling, trail running and hikes-to-nowhere-in-particular are a few of my other passions.

What is your favorite place in Yosemite? Top of Half Dome. No, wait...basking in Ribbon Fall. No, wait... Mariposa Grove in winter. No, wait...Cathedral Lakes. No, wait...Dewey Point. No, wait...Glacier Point at full moon. No, wait...High Sierra Camps. No, wait...

What is your favorite Yosemite book? *Magic Yosemite Winters* by Gene Rose. The book reminds me of long winters growing up in Michigan when my dad used to flood the backyard to form an ice rink and the whole neighborhood would come over for hockey and skating. Yosemite’s winter history is so rich, I can’t hear enough about it.

What is your favorite non-Yosemite book? *The Greatest Generation* by Tom Brokaw. These compelling stories were made even more meaningful by my recent trip to Normandy, France.

Who is your favorite historical figure? My Grandma “Med” and Grandma Dewind would roll over if I didn’t give the nod to Jesus. So many positive messages about how to live well, treat one another and live in peace. Given the number of mistakes I make, I’m also a big fan of His legacy of forgiveness.

What sets Yosemite apart from other parks and public lands where you’ve worked? I haven’t witnessed anyplace that compares to the community life in Yosemite. The friendships, the social atmosphere, the support, the schools, the quality of life. Oh yeah, and Yosemite is the most ridiculously beautiful place on earth.

What do you think is YA’s most important role? I feel that YA’s most important role is fostering deeper connections between the public and Yosemite’s critical and amazing resources. We often say that interpretation is about facilitating caring. YA provides information and opportunities for people to learn and care more *about* the park, but also opportunities to care *for* it through membership, volunteerism and active stewardship.

Is there anything else you want to tell our readers? All the good things that I am are a product of my parents. My faith, my love of the outdoors and my commitment to family are founded on what was given to me by my parents. And, for the record, all the bad things that I am are a product of my two brothers...

MEMBERS PAGES

Celebrating Spring YA Style

Rushing waterfalls and green meadows signal the approach of spring in Yosemite Valley, but the clearest sign for all of us at YA is the annual Spring Forum. This year was no exception. On March 29, over four hundred YA members came together in Yosemite Valley for an inspiring day exploring the natural and cultural history of the park.

Members enjoyed interpretive walks with NPS rangers, Yosemite Institute instructors, naturalists and authors addressing many facets of the park. Highlights included “The Life of a Ranger” with Leslie Reynolds, Keith Lober, Jeff Webb, Mike Siler and Scott Francis; Joe Medeiros’ “Beyond Ceanothus”; and perennial favorites like Dick Ewart’s tour of the Old Big Oak Flat Road and “Life in the Yosemite Cemetery” with Fred Fisher. Inside the Theater and Auditorium, speakers shared their expertise on an even broader range of topics. Tim Palmer presented his latest book of writings and photography, *Luminous Mountains: The Sierra Nevada of California*, while YA’s Pete Devine guided members on a preview of the upcoming YA tour of Yosemite’s sister parks in China. Superintendent Mike Tollefson gave his annual park update and Branch Chief of Wildlife Management Steve



COURTESY YA

David Guy welcomes members at a morning plenary by the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

Thompson explored the fate of the park’s amphibians in “Frogs, Fish & Fungus: Disappearance of a Yosemite Species.” Rounding out the afternoon, photographer Mike Osborne displayed a more intimate side of Yosemite’s natural charms in his presentation “Yosemite without the Icons.”

Throughout the day, members had the opportunity to view and bid on artwork donated by volunteer artists during the opening weekend of the Yosemite Art and Education Center. Winners were announced during the traditional wine and cheese reception while the crowd

greeted new friends and old. Meanwhile, authors Tim Palmer and Michael Ross and illustrator Ashley Wolff signed copies of their books.

Once again, this successful event is due in part to the generosity of our members and many friends and partners in Yosemite. Our thanks go to all of those who contributed to the day; we couldn’t do it without you: Joe Alfano, American Park Network, Barbara Boucke, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Nené Casares, Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, Pete Devine, Nicky Dunbar, Margaret Eissler, Linda Eade, Dick Ewart, Fred Fisher and Joe Lattuada, Scott Francis, Gerry Haslam, Emily Jacobs, MaryJane and Vern Johnson, Janis Kunz, Keith Lober, Calvin Liu, Jo Mariano, Denise Matsuoka, Joe Medeiros, Tom Medema, Ginny “Enid Michael” Mitchell, Mike Osborne, Tim Palmer, Professional Print & Mail, Redwood Creek, Leslie Reynolds, Lennie Roberts, Michael Ross, Julie Schuller, Linda Shepler, Mike Siler, Heather Sullivan, Sarah Stock, Ken Stowell, Mike Tollefson, Jeff Webb, Phyllis Weber, Andrew West, Ed Whittle, Julice Winter and Ashley Wolff.



COURTESY YA

Ranger Scott Francis and his four-legged friend sharing stories of life as a ranger in the park.

Two Great Valleys Connected

One hundred Yosemite Association members and friends explored the vital connection between the Yosemite and San Joaquin Valleys at a special February 29 reception at Arte Américas, in the heart of the Cultural Arts District of downtown Fresno.



Arte Américas Director Grace Solis warmly welcomed our group to their inviting facility.

CORRIE STETZEL

Our guests enjoyed a thought-provoking discussion by award-winning author Gerald Haslam, and met Yosemite Park Superintendent Mike Tollefson and the Association board and staff. We were delighted to see long-time Association members and meet many new friends who traveled from as far as Bakersfield to attend.

We hope you'll join us at a future Yosemite Association event soon. We will be gathering on September 6 in Wawona for the annual Fall Meeting, and are planning Bay Area and Southern California events later in the year. Watch this quarterly members' journal or our periodic e-newsletter for event announcements. Want to become an



CORRIE STETZEL

Author and YA board member Gerry Haslam addresses the group.

e-news subscriber? It's easy! Just visit yosemite.org and click on "Subscribe to Newsletter."

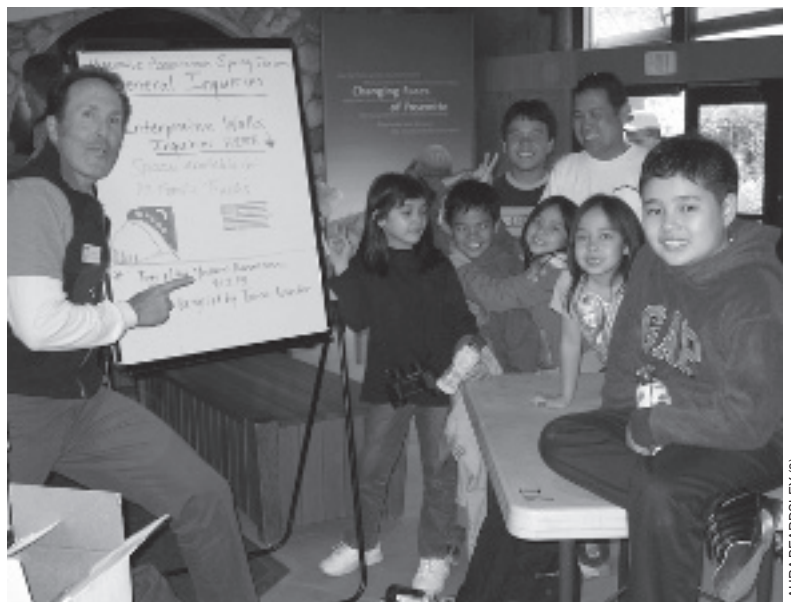
2008 Spring Forum Highlights



Above: Author Tim Palmer signs his newly released title, *Luminous Mountains*.

Top right: Interpretive Ranger Ben Cunningham-Summerfield describes the lives of Yosemite's black bears.

Bottom right: YA's Pete Devine and some young fans.



LAURA BEARDSLEY (3)



COURTESY BIG CREEK INN

New Lodging Partner Added

Big Creek Inn Bed and Breakfast is now offering YA members a 10% discount. The closest B&B to the south entrance of Yosemite National Park, Big Creek Inn is located on Highway 41 just two miles from Yosemite in the charming town of Fish Camp. All three guest rooms feature private balconies that overlook Big Creek and a meadow. The discount applies to stays of two or more nights. Learn more about Big Creek Inn or make your reservation today by calling 559-641-2828 or visiting www.bigcreekinn.com.

We thank Big Creek Inn and all of our lodging, merchandise and activity discount partners for adding tremendous value to an Association membership. For a description of the rest of your member benefits, please refer to your *2008 Membership Benefits* booklet, view them online at yosemite.org/member/benefits.htm, or call the Membership Department at 209-379-2317 for assistance.

Granite Frontiers: A Century of Yosemite Climbing

"As I hammered in the last bolt and staggered over the rim, it was not at all clear to me who was conqueror and who was conquered: I do recall that El Cap seemed to be in much better condition than I was."

—Warren Harding, 1959

The Yosemite Museum will host an exhibit this summer on the park's climbing history featuring artifacts, movies, and stories covering the development of rock climbing. Starting with John Muir's ascent of Cathedral Peak in 1869, the

exhibit explores the challenges of reaching Yosemite's highest heights, including the need for better equipment and techniques. These innovations ultimately led to the two hour and forty-five minute ascent of El Capitan in 2007. Opening June 7 and running through October 27, 2008, the exhibit is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The exhibit is sponsored by The Yosemite Fund and is being produced by the Yosemite Climbing Association.

Warren Harding and Mark Powell during an early attempt on the Nose of El Capitan.



BILL DOLTT-FEJHRE, 1957, COURTESY OF YOSEMITE CLIMBING ASSOCIATION

Volunteers Wanted!

Give back to your park in a new way. If you enjoy working with people and sharing your love of Yosemite, consider a rewarding vacation as a YA volunteer.

Spend a week as part of a restoration crew or a month helping visitors with their questions about the park. Month-long Visitor Information Volunteer positions are still available throughout the park, as are a handful of openings in Cooperative Work Weeks during the 2008 season.

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. More information is available in the Winter 2008 issue of this journal (p. 22) or visit us online at yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html.



LAURA BEARDSLEY

YA Volunteer Adrienne Kalmick assists a visitor in Tuolumne Meadows.

May We Share Your Address With Other Nonprofits?

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

Although we have rarely capitalized on such opportunities, we would like to be able to do so when we know another organization to be reputable and to have something of value to offer to our members. If you would prefer *not* to have us share your name and address, please notify the Membership department by calling us at 209-379-2317, by sending an e-mail to info@yosemite.org, or by mailing a note to us at P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. All “do not share” requests will be acknowledged and honored in perpetuity. Note that telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are not released or traded for any reason.

Donors and Friends Gather at the Yosemite Art and Education Center

When the Yosemite Art and Education Center opened for classes this spring, it did so with a celebration. On Friday, March 28, Yosemite Association donors and friends gathered to welcome our honored Spring Forum speakers and Superintendent Mike Tollefson. Guests enjoyed wine from Redwood Creek and generous hors d’oeuvres from Yosemite Lodge at the Falls while enjoying a sneak preview of the Spring Forum Silent Art Auction. Tim Palmer signed copies of his new YA/Heyday publication *Luminous Mountains: The Sierra Nevada of California*, and YA CEO David Guy, Superintendent Tollefson and Delaware

North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite Chief Operating Officer Dan Jensen welcomed everyone to the park for an exciting weekend of events.

The Yosemite Art and Education Center offers free art classes to the public Monday through Saturday from April through October. For more information call 209-372-1442 or visit yosemite.org/visitor/AAC08.html

Many thanks to the American Park Network, Redwood Creek, Denise Matsuoka, Jo Mariorano, Janis Kunz and the staff of Yosemite Lodge at the Falls for their contributions to this event.

MEMBER INFO LINE

If you’re planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our phone line a call between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We don’t make reservations, but we can give appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice. Call us at 209-379-2317.

I Remember Yosemite...

YOSEMITE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

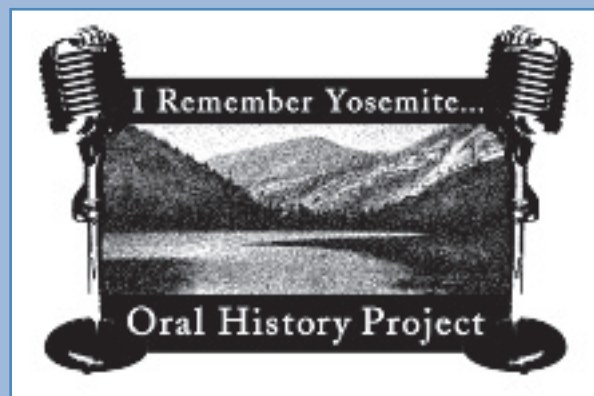
Yosemite National Park has launched a multi-year oral history project to capture the stories of people at one of the nation’s most iconic national parks. The goal of the project is to enhance and enrich the historical understanding of Yosemite National Park with information that could not otherwise be found in the documentary record. The result will be a high-quality audio-visual oral history collection for use by researchers and in future interpretive functions such as museum exhibits, programs and podcasts.

Initial interviews for the project will focus on former and current National Park Service employees who have helped shape the park. However, the scope of the project will expand to include concession employees, spouses and children of employees, long-time park residents and members of neighboring communities—in other words, individuals who have had a significant and often long-term connection to the park. The project will explore such themes as work, technological change, the evolution of park management, environmental change and the development of community life in the park.

Yosemite staff is utilizing professional-quality high definition digital video and audio equipment acquired specifically for the project. Interviews can be conducted not only in the El Portal Archives facility, but in a subject’s home or other agreed-upon

location. Ultimately, all recorded sessions will be transcribed and all materials will be preserved as part of the park’s permanent archive collection. These materials will be available for use in Yosemite interpretive programming and for research by scholars, genealogists and others interested in park history.

If you know of someone who should be nominated for this project, please contact Archivist Paul Rogers or Assistant Archivist Brenna Lissoway at 209-379-1283 or through email at Paul_Rogers@nps.gov or Brenna_Lissoway@nps.gov.





ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:

OA = Outdoor Adventure

YAEC = Yosemite Art & Education Center free courses

MAY

Early May: Spring 2008 issue of quarterly members' journal *Yosemite* sent out

May 4: Last day to view Yosemite Renaissance XXIII exhibit, Yosemite Museum Gallery

May 5–10: YAEC: Travel Sketching with Pam Pederson

May 10: OA #15 Yosemite Waterfalls Grand Tour – Suzanne Swedo

May 12–17: YAEC: The Magic of Watercolor with Robert Dvorak

May 16–18: OA #16 Hetch Hetchy Photography Backpack – John Senser

May 17: OA #17 To the Top of Yosemite Falls – Karen Amstutz

May 19–24: YAEC: Painting Yosemite's Hidden Treasures with Fealing Lin

May 25–31: YAEC: Learn to Paint Water, Trees, Rocks and More with Roger Folk

JUNE

June 1–7: YAEC: Pen & Watercolor with John McClary

June 5–8: OA #19 Yosemite's Hawks and Owls – Jeff Maurer

June 7: OA #20 Half Dome in a Day 1 – Pete Devine

June 9–14: YAEC: Watercolor Workshop with Janice Powell Shedd

June 14: OA #21 Birding Yosemite Valley – Michael Ross

June 15: OA #22 Foresta Birds – Michael Ross

June 15–21: Weed Warriors and More Work Week, Yosemite Valley

June 16–18: OA #23 North Dome Moonrise Photography Backpack – John Senser

June 16–21: YAEC: Watercolor—Bold & Free! with Tom Fong

June 21: OA #24 Get Lost with a Ranger – Dick Ewart

June 23–28: YAEC: Watercolor for Landscape with Don Fay

June 28: OA #25 Glacier Point Birding – Michael Ross

June 30–July 5: YAEC: Watercolor with Pat Hunter

JULY

July 7–12: YAEC: Painting Yosemite in Acrylic with Patricia Devitt

July 10–13: OA #26 Glen Aulin and the Waterwheels Backpack – Suzanne Swedo

July 11–13: OA #27 Yosemite Flyfishing – Tim Hutchins

July 11–13: OA #28 Tuolumne Meadows Pastels – Moira Donohoe

July 12: OA #29 Glacier Point Wildflowers – Michael Ross

July 13–19: Plant Protectors Work Week, Wawona

July 14–19: YAEC: Easy Valley Landscapes with Roy Gould

July 18–20: OA #30 Half Dome Overnight 1 – Pete Devine

July 19–22: OA #31 Family Camping Jamboree 1 – Dave Wyman

July 21–26: YAEC: Dramatic Watercolors with Thor Ericson

July 24–27: OA #32 Family Camping Jamboree 2 – Dave Wyman

July 25–27: OA #33 Introduction to Sierra Natural History – David Lukas and Jack Laws

July 26–Aug 2: Tuolumne High Sierra Camp Restoration Work Week

July 27–31: OA #34 Women's Backpack – Danah Woodruff

July 28–August 1: OA #35 Alpine Botany Basecamp Backpack – Steve Botti

July 28–August 2: YAEC: Watercolors (for journals or paintings) with Linda Mitchell

AUGUST

Early Aug: Summer 2008 issue of quarterly members' journal *Yosemite* sent out

Aug 1–3: OA #36 Stars over the High Country – Rick Combs

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

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

Aug 2: OA #41 Yosemite's First People – Ben Cunningham-Summerfield

Aug 2–5: OA #38 Young Lakes and Marvelous Mt. Conness – Suzanne Swedo

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

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

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

Aug 7–10: OA #42 Tuolumne Meadows en Plein Air – Chuck Waldman

Aug 10–16: Tuolumne Restoration Work Week, Tuolumne Meadows

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

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

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

Aug 18–23: YAEC: Drawing Yosemite in Pastel with Travis Wheeler

Aug 21–24: OA #45 Tuolumne Elite Summits – Pete Devine

Aug 25–30: YAEC: Travel Sketching with Pam Pederson

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

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

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

For an expanded events calendar, visit yosemite.org/member/calendar.htm

To register for an Outdoor Adventure or to book a custom adventure, call 209-379-2321 or visit yosemite.org/seminars. Proceeds from all YA programs help support Yosemite!

BOOKS



Dutch Courage by Jack London

Illustrations by Larry Duke, forward by Gerald Haslam

The Yosemite Association is pleased to announce that *Dutch Courage* by Jack London has been honored by the Association of Partners for Public Lands as a winner in the general interest publications category for 2007. The story, about two men and their exciting experience climbing Half Dome, has appeared in a few collections of Jack London's work, but not as a separate publication. This elegant letterpress edition includes an introduction prepared by author Gerald Haslam and a series of illustrations by acclaimed artist Larry Duke. The edition is limited to 350 numbered copies, each signed by Gerald Haslam and Larry Duke. Perfect for a gift, this beautiful deluxe book makes a wonderful addition to a library of Yosemite literature or the works of Jack London. \$200.00; **member price \$140.00**

An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park

by Stephen J. Botti;

illustrated by Walter Sydoriak

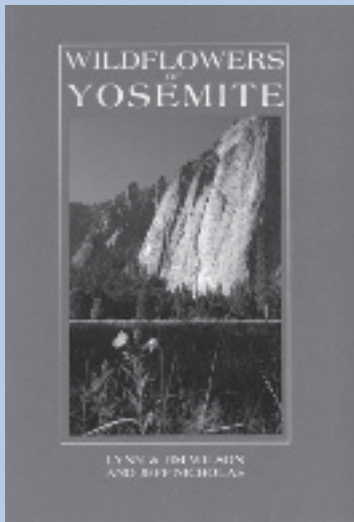
Spring has arrived in Yosemite, revealing nature's garden. With this landmark volume, nearly twenty years in the making, you will have the means to identify every vascular plant species known to occur in Yosemite.

It is beautifully illustrated with over 1,100 watercolor paintings of flowering species, and pen-and-ink drawings for nearly 300 grass, rush and sedge species. This is an important

new resource for scientists, botanists, ecologists and others studying the health and diversity of Sierra Nevada ecosystems. It provides a complete record of species abundance and distribution, and establishes a baseline against which future changes can be measured. The book has applicability well beyond park boundaries; many of the species included are found throughout the Sierra Nevada. The first new Yosemite flora in 90 years, it is the new bible of Yosemite plant identification for lay people, park visitors, amateur botanists and others. The book's foreword is by Peter H. Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden; its line drawings are by Lesley Randall (grasses, sedges, and rushes) and Katherine Hocker (illustrated glossary); Linda Ann Vorobik served as technical editor. The first edition, limited to 3,000 copies, is finely printed on archival, art-quality paper, and is case bound with a dust jacket. \$125.00; **member price \$100.00**



BOOKS



Wildflowers of Yosemite

by Lynn & Jim Wilson and Jeff Nicholas

This user-friendly guide to the wildflowers of Yosemite and the central Sierra Nevada is full of 239 beautiful color photographs. The authors identify 224 different species in chapters keyed to Yosemite's different regions. The book also features maps of selected wildflower sites in the park, simplified terminology and both written and illustrated glossaries. \$9.95; **member price \$8.46**

Introduction to California Mountain Wildflowers

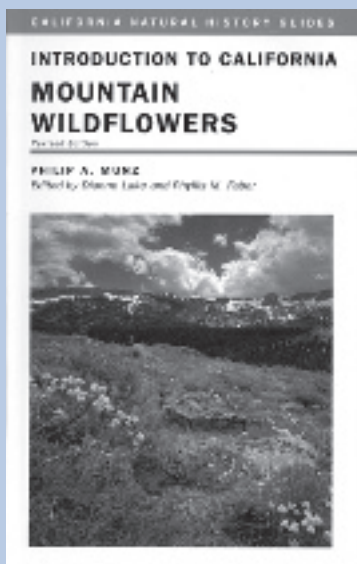
by Philip A. Munz

Many landscapes in California's mountains are still relatively untouched by human activity and provide excellent opportunities for viewing wildflowers. This guidebook describes and illustrates the wildflowers that grow from the yellow pine belt up into the natural rock gardens above the timberline. Some 257 species are described and illustrated with a new color photograph, a precise line drawing, or both. This new edition covers all of California's mountain ranges—from the Klamath

Mountains and Cascade Range to the north, through the Coast Ranges and the Sierra Nevada, to the peninsular ranges and San Bernardino mountains in southern California—as well as most of the mountain ranges in between.

\$16.95

member price \$14.41



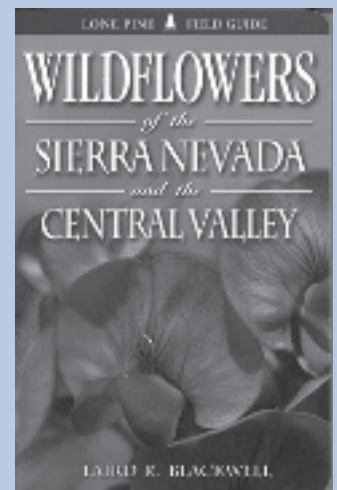
Wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada and the Central Valley

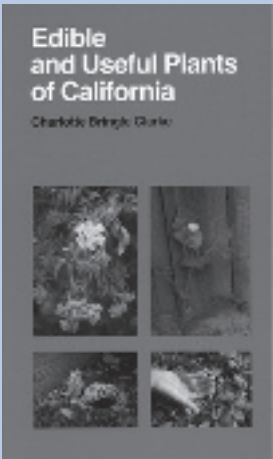
by Laird R. Blackwell

This guide to wildflowers covers 320 different species, all illustrated in full-color photographs. Seventeen different families of plants are color-coded for easy identification. The book is organized by elevation from the Central Valley up to the alpine high

Sierra. Another very useful feature is a Quick Key that sorts flowers by elevation color, and petal number. Also included are a discussion of the elevation zones, description of flower parts, glossary, references and an index to both common and scientific names. This is a handsome and colorful guide to the wildflowers frequently encountered in Yosemite and its environs.

\$15.95; **member price \$13.56**





Edible and Useful Plants of California

by Charlotte Bringle Clarke

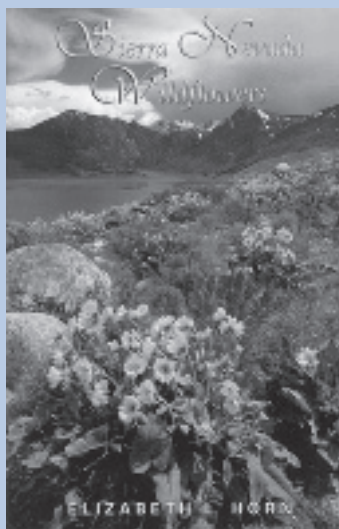
Both American Indians and the pioneers knew and used many different plant species for food, fiber, medicine, tools and other purposes. This is a guide to identifying more than 220 such plants. It also tells how to prepare, cook and otherwise use native plants. The plants are organized by habitat communities. Descriptions, photos, drawings and

distribution information are given. Where poisonous look-alikes exist, they too are illustrated. The author emphasizes conservation considerations; the aim of the book is to educate the reader about intriguing plant uses, and to tell how to gather and use the most palatable and abundant species without damaging the environment. \$18.95; **member price \$16.11**

Sierra Nevada Wildflowers

by Elizabeth L. Horn

Sierra Nevada Wildflowers is your guide to more than 300 wildflower species in the Sierra's vast and varied landscape. Crisp color photographs face the text, allowing you to identify the flowers



you see in the field with ease. The book also contains an illustrated glossary and a section on identifying Sierra Nevada conifers. \$16.00; **member price \$13.60**

Order Form

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

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In memory of Dean & Helen Witter: Mrs. A. Witter

Get your Bracebridge Dinner Raffle Tickets!

Enter our raffle to win two seats for the 2008 Bracebridge Dinner and a one-night stay at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, and you'll help us help Yosemite at the same time! Tickets are on sale now for \$10 each. All raffle proceeds help fund the Association's vital programs and services. You can order by mail using the envelope enclosed with this journal, or by calling the Yosemite Association Membership department at 209-379-2317. The winner will be drawn at the Annual Fall Members' Meeting in Wawona September 6, 2008. You need not be present to win. We thank DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite for generously donating this raffle prize package, valued at \$951. Tickets will be on sale through the summer months, but don't wait, get yours now!

You Can Help Yosemite in So Many Ways

Your dues and donations make possible vital educational programs and services in Yosemite. Did you know there are even more ways you can make a real difference? We invite you to consider these other giving mechanisms. For more information, visit our website at yosemite.org/helpus/donations.html or call the Member Information phone line at 209-379-2317.

• Double Your Contribution

Enclose your employer's matching gift form with your member dues or donations, and we'll take care of the rest.

• Donate Your Car, Boat, or RV

Visit Donationline.com or call Donation Line toll-free at 877-227-7487, ext. 1967.

• Use GoodSearch

GoodSearch.com is an Internet search engine that gives 50% of its revenue to the charity you designate, at no cost to you or us. Choose YA when you search the web!

• Leave a Legacy

Make a bequest to YA in your will or estate plan, or designate YA as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or IRA.

• Donate from Your IRA

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals over 70½ years old to transfer all or a portion of an IRA to YA and not have that money count as income for the year of the donation.

• Shop and Learn with YA

Shop at YA stores and our Internet store, or take an Outdoor Adventure. Proceeds from all YA programs and services benefit Yosemite!

The Yosemite Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (Federal ID No. 94-6050143). Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.



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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 and Education 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

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:

- *Yosemite*, the quarterly Association journal;
- 15% discount on Association books, merchandise, Outdoor Adventure tuition and Ostrander Ski Hut;
- Discounts on lodging, shopping and activities in and around the park, including The Ansel Adams Gallery;
- Opportunities to attend member events and to volunteer in the park;
- Knowing that your support helps us make a real difference in Yosemite National Park.

Members at the following higher levels will also receive:

Family/Supporting: *America's Best Idea*, a visual tour of America's favorite natural and cultural places.

Contributing: *Obata's Yosemite*, featuring full-color reproductions of Chiura Obata's sumi-e ink paintings, watercolors and woodblock prints along with illuminating essays.

Half Dome: *Yosemite—Art of an American Icon*, a companion to the landmark museum exhibit, plus invitations to special gatherings.

Clouds Rest: *Kolbrenner's Yosemite*, the stunning photography of Ansel Adams' student Bob Kolbrenner, a one-year Yosemite National Park pass and invitations to special gatherings.

El Capitan: "Half Dome from Glacier Point," a matted Ansel Adams Special Edition Photograph, a one-year Yosemite National Park pass and invitations to special gatherings, including an elegant fall dinner on Ahwahnee Meadow.

Mount Lyell: A first edition of *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*, a one-year Yosemite National Park pass, invitations to special gatherings, including an elegant fall dinner on Ahwahnee Meadow, and a small gathering with the Park Superintendent, YA Board Chair and YA CEO.

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Website: yosemite.org Inset photo of the Glen Aulin cascade by John Sensor. Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

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