

GETTING TO KNOW  
**the Lichens  
of Yosemite**



# A Message from Yosemite

Though we begin 2009 with uncertainty all around us, we can take solace in the knowledge that certain places always seem to provide comfort and tranquility. Yosemite National Park is one of these places—a refuge that helps us rejuvenate and connect in a deeper way with the special people and places in our lives.

Interestingly, the Yosemite Grant that established this area as our first national park was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864 during the height of the Civil War. Congress and President Lincoln transferred Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove to the State of California “for public use, resort and recreation” forever. Even then, during one of the most unsettling periods in American history, the human spirit rose to recognize the importance of nature to our society. Today, Yosemite and our National Parks remain places where people can invoke their contemplative faculties and seek refuge.

It is also during times of crisis that people look for innovative ways to organize and improve our society. In that vein, we are exploring avenues to more effectively advance our mission and to provide value to you and Yosemite’s visitors. Our plans include several exciting new partnerships that will help connect people to this special place. We are beginning work with the Yosemite Fund to help coordinate various volunteer programs throughout the park and determine how to work together most efficiently. And now the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation is supporting our collaboration with Heyday Books to publish titles that get kids excited about Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. We are also working with the Yosemite Fund to expand our Junior Ranger publications and help the National Park Service provide more in-depth programs for children. The assistance of Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Chapman Foundation has allowed us to reach a broader, more diverse audience for the Sierra Nevada. Finally, we are working closely with the Stanford Alumni Consulting Team, an organization of dynamic business school alumni and students, to explore how electronic media and other tools can help us connect the park with a wider audience.

In the spirit of introducing more people to Yosemite, we hope that you will take the opportunity to serve as an ambassador for the Association and the park. As an example, we encourage you to host a coffee or other event at your house or office for friends and colleagues to share your passion for this national treasure. We would be delighted to attend these gatherings and help tailor a presentation that brings the excitement of Yosemite to your community. Please call me at 209-379-2646 to arrange or discuss an event.

We hope you will visit the park this winter and enjoy the backcountry at Ostrander Ski Hut, a walk along the snow-covered banks of the Merced River or a cozy seat by the fire at the Ahwahnee Great Room. During your stay, we urge you to participate in the numerous Outdoor Classroom winter programs at [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars).

The Yosemite Association has been supporting the park since 1923. Your continuing participation in the Association creates opportunities for visitors to feel a special connection to Yosemite and our National Parks. We look forward to seeing you in the coming year.



David Guy



INGELISE GUY

**Cover:**  
The lichen-streaked cliff face beside Vernal Falls receives a closer look by NPS lichenologist Martin Hutten and American Alpine Club volunteer Enga Lokey.

PHOTO BY  
CRISTA-LEE MITCHELL



# GETTING TO KNOW THE LICHENS OF YOSEMITE

**B**uds are breaking out and spring is about to set off another round of vibrant new growth for trees, shrubs and other flowering plants. But for many of Yosemite's smaller plants, spring marks the end rather than the beginning of their growing period. Lacking true roots, plants such as mosses, liverworts and lichens are unable to tap into a reservoir of replenishing soil moisture. For these plants, warming weather is a prelude to the drought that will soon follow.

Lichens are among the strangest of Yosemite's primitive, rootless plants. All winter and spring, lichens feast on the nutrients and moisture in the air. During our long and dry Mediterranean summers, lichens tend to enter a dormant state.

A lichen is not a single organism, but actually a close partnership among very different types of life forms. The partners may consist of a fungus and a green alga (algae are very simple plants), a fungus and a cyanobacterium (blue-green alga), or a trio of all three organisms. This new individual looks entirely different than either of its component organisms, and can resemble a crust of paint on a rock, a dead leaf on tree bark, or even a skein of lace hanging from a branch.

The fungal partner forms the main body of the lichen, with scattered algal cells embedded within it, or with the algae arranged in a neat layer just below the upper surface of the lichen. In each lichen, the component organisms are so closely interwoven that they appear to be a single individual. The lichen symbiosis has been so successful for the participating organisms that only a few of the algae found in lichens have retained the ability to grow as free-living species. Their fungal partners, on the other hand, are entirely dependent on the lichen symbiosis. Interestingly, the same algae can combine with different fungi to produce entirely different lichens. Once again, the fungi are more limited; very few fungi can associate with another alga to form a different lichen. The alliance gives a lichen special powers, making it capable of surviving in places where neither partner, fungus nor alga, could survive alone.

Many lichens are able to tolerate months of blistering heat and withering drought. When moisture arrives, they revive and resume photosynthesis again within minutes. Lichens can remain active at temperatures below freezing, and survive in extremely cold areas such as the arctic and on high mountain ridges. For example, a colorful

*The identification of *Cyphelium inquinans* is at your fingertips. A special fruiting structure on this crustose lichen produces fungal spores that will speckle your finger; no other Yosemite lichen does this.*



MARTIN HUTTEN





MARTIN HUITTEN

*A lichenologist takes a closer look at a Yosemite lichen.*

“assemblage of lichen species can be found even at the summit of Mount Lyell, the tallest mountain in Yosemite at 13,114 feet. Lichens also thrive in less extreme environments on soil, or attached to seashore rocks, trees and logs, as well as steel bridges, buildings, concrete, even glass and aluminum roofs with enough time. A few species, termed vagrant lichens, are unattached and tumble freely where the wind takes them.

#### LICHENS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Lichens are enormously widespread because of the success of their unusual partnership. Through the process of photosynthesis, the algal cells generate carbohydrates the fungus needs to survive. In return, the fungus passes along the water, nutrients and gases it absorbs from the environment. The fungus also provides a physical structure that shelters the alga from excess sunlight and, in particular, water loss. Together, they act like a sponge, living off air and atmospheric moisture. But these little sponges absorb everything they are exposed to, and are unable to discriminate between pollutants and nutrients. If either the alga or the fungal partner

cannot cope with the level of accumulated pollutants, the coalition breaks down and both partners die. This dual nature essentially makes them twice as sensitive to their environment as a typical single organism.

Many scientists study lichens precisely because they are so attuned to their environments. Though many different lichen species typically live in one place, each species has a slightly different environmental tolerance. A given lichen community therefore can provide useful insights about the local environment. These characteristics have made lichens uniquely suited as biological indicators, and they have been recognized as such for many decades.

#### INDICATORS OF CHANGE IN THE YOSEMITE ECOSYSTEM

Change is constant in Yosemite ecosystems. Some changes are dramatic, such as rockfalls, floods or wildland fires. Others are almost imperceptible to human observers, but have a significant effect on Yosemite ecosystems nevertheless. Air pollution and regional climate change are among the more subtle agents of change. Yet evidence indicates that both have already altered Yosemite, and that those changes will continue to manifest for decades. Air pollution, particularly nitrogen deposition originating from California's Central Valley agricultural, industrial and urban centers, is affecting Yosemite's naturally nitrogen-poor ecosystems. In some areas of Yosemite, nitrogen deposition levels are now up to ten times higher than natural background levels, and lichen varieties tolerant of higher nitrogen levels have already become common.

Similarly, climate change already is thought to have altered the forest structure and vegetation patterns in Yosemite. It is also likely that the ongoing warming trend will cause cold-adapted species presently at the southern extent of their ranges to retract northward. Species that are more heat- and drought-tolerant may remain and perhaps expand their ranges northward. Such trends have been documented in lichen communities in Europe, and appear to be occurring in Yosemite as well.

Increasing levels of nitrogen deposition and local extinction driven by rapid climate change may have put a portion of Yosemite's lichen flora at risk. For this reason, Yosemite National Park has begun a multi-year inventory of park lichen varieties. The Yosemite lichen flora, like other segments of its biota, is rich and diverse, but remains largely unknown. In fact, only about 100 lichen species had been documented in the park prior to 2007, whereas worldwide there are more than 18,000 lichen species known, and in California there are about 1,450 known species.

With Yosemite Fund support, the park began a two-year lichen survey in 2007. These funds were later supplemented by the National Park Service All Taxa Biological Inventory Centennial Challenge Initiative, allowing a third year of work. In the first phase of the project, new species were added rapidly to the list with the help of staff, volunteers and even an acorn woodpecker. The bird dropped a lichen-rich branch fragment in front of a lichenologist that turned out to contain three species new to the park. To date, about 1,500 lichen voucher specimens have been collected from over 163 localities in the park. Only about a quarter of the specimens have been identified, but the total number of lichen species known to Yosemite has already grown to more than 230. The next phase of the study involved generating a hit list of more than 200 additional lichen species likely to be



found in the park based on lichen records for the central and southern Sierra Nevada. During 2008, field efforts focused on undersampled and geographically rare habitats, and targeted specific micro-habitats of lichens that are expected to live in Yosemite but have not yet been documented in the park.

One such microhabitat is Yosemite's vertical surfaces, home to many of the crust-forming lichens that give the walls their streaked and blotched color palette. For two consecutive years, the American Alpine Club has provided technical assistance to the project by organizing experienced volunteer rock climbers to help park lichenologists document lichen communities on steeply inclined rock walls that are normally well out of reach. To identify difficult species, park botanists are now collaborating with the lichen laboratory at Oregon State University (OSU). OSU is also assisting with the organization of a "lichen bioblitz," a short but intensive lichen collection effort, in the fall of 2009. The Yosemite bioblitz will involve an international team of eight to ten lichenologists who specialize in difficult-to-identify lichen groups. The target lichen groups are known to occur in Yosemite but are still under-documented. This intensive sampling effort should result in many additional species reports for Yosemite National Park.

Over the next several years, we hope to be able to document as many as 500 different lichen species in Yosemite. Plenty of unexpected species are sure to be found as well. Such unexpected finds often involve occurrences well beyond the known boundary of a species' range. These isolated populations are particularly important for conservation, because this is where the process of speciation, the refinement and development of a species' traits, runs its course. Our work is especially timely for those species that are presently at the southern extent of their range. Otherwise, they could go extinct in a rapidly warming climate before scientists have a chance to document their presence in the park.

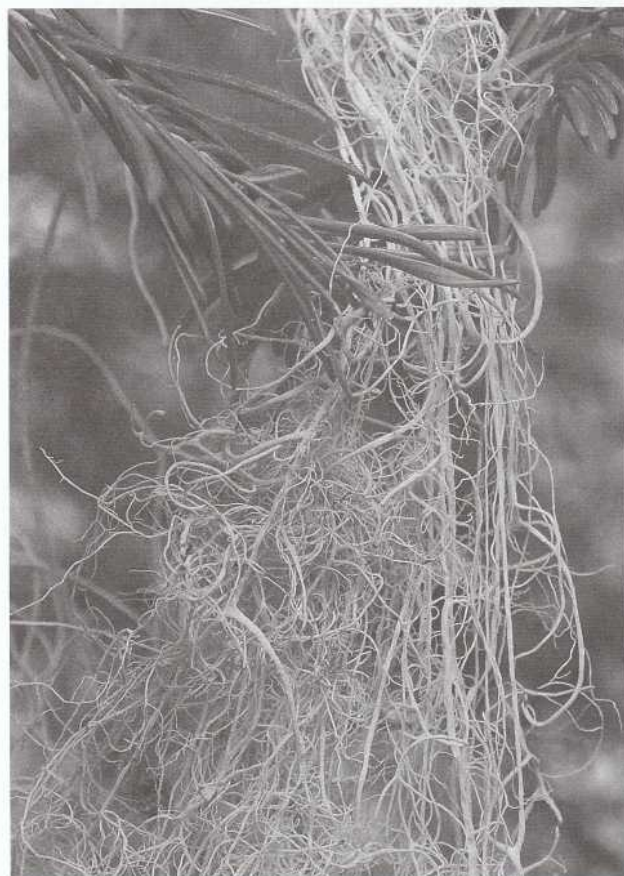
After the 2009 efforts, the majority of Yosemite's common lichens will be known. With this baseline information in hand, park resource managers will be able to begin designing future monitoring projects to document the effects of air quality and climate change on Yosemite's lichen communities.

*Martin Hutten is a Botanist in the Division of Resources Management and Science in Yosemite National Park.*



JAMES WALTON

*The spectacularly textured lichen Umbilicaria virginis.*



MARTIN HUTTEN

*The yellowish strands of witch's hair lichen can grow more than two feet long. This finicky species, known from only one site in Yosemite, is found only in areas with relatively cool, moist and unpolluted air.*



# GOING HOME TO THE NATIONAL PARKS

BY SHELTON JOHNSON

A few months ago, I was back in my hometown of Detroit, Michigan, attending my father's funeral. It was bittersweet thinking about the past as my brother drove me to my mother's apartment. The streets and boulevards were familiar and strange. There was a little bit of sunshine, but the air was cold.

I saw people staring out of windshields, walking along the sidewalks, black people engaged in conversations, going about their daily affairs, and I was struck by how this place was so different from the one I'd left behind in California.

I work as a park ranger in Yosemite National Park. For the last 15 years I've lived in a little town near the western boundary of the park called El Portal. Working in Yosemite Valley, I would occasionally see African-Americans scattered here and there among the throngs of other visitors from this country and beyond, but sightings of African people were usually few and far between.

So now, with my brother in his car and swiftly moving through the streets of Detroit with the radio playing, I'm just staring at all the black folks. There are so many and they're so different from each other; schoolchildren, faces lit with laughter, walking in a group away from me, an old woman using a walker, pausing, smiling, as the kids move past her, and something is said that makes them all laugh, and then all are gone, and we move on down the road.

Not too long ago, I was one of those kids and this was the city that I called home. I wonder how many of those children have visited Yellowstone and felt on their faces the warm spray falling from Old Faithful Geyser, or have hiked California's Sierra Nevada and experienced Yosemite's groves of giant sequoia?

How far is it from Detroit to Yosemite? You can pull

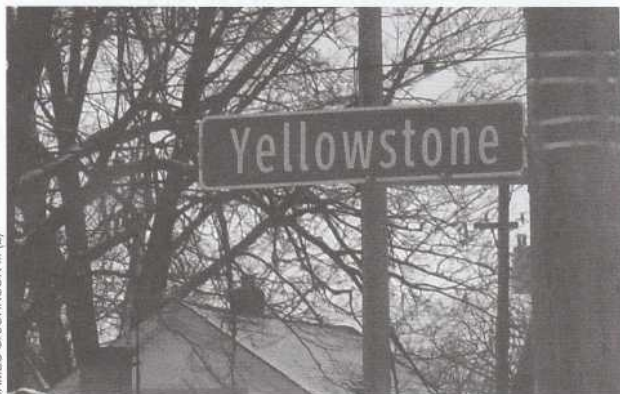
out an atlas, get the coordinates, find the corresponding longitude and latitude, and compute the intervening miles, but somehow the numbers just don't add up. You're left with a void, a distance that can't be expressed in a number. Put another way, Detroit is much farther away from Yosemite than you'd think if all you did was look at a map.

Years ago, when I left Detroit and eventually became a ranger for the National Park Service, I left behind not just a city in Michigan, but a world. Here around me, everywhere, was a culture, a people, neighborhood after neighborhood of families, communities, businesses, residences, mile after mile after mile, and how many had ever seen a grizzly bear in the wild or sunrise on Upper Yosemite Fall?

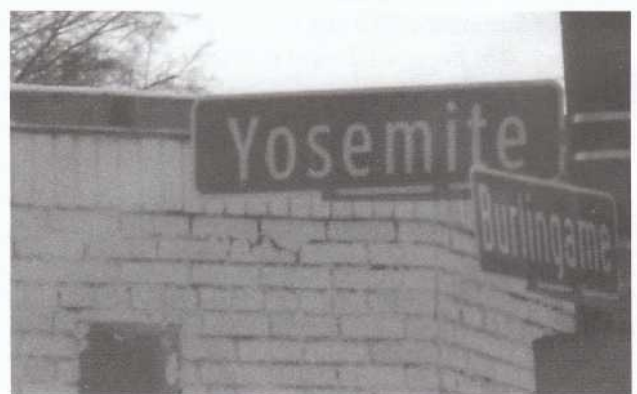
My father and my mother had seen Yosemite Falls. They had come out to visit just a few years ago and had experienced a little bit of autumn in the Sierra Nevada. There hadn't been much water in the waterfalls, yet just enough to stop a breath. The memory of that was carried here, carried home. It was still a light, a sound, a beauty in my mother.

But in the streets that I was seeing, and in the faces that I so briefly saw, there was not the wordless joy, that peculiar excitement that moves unhurriedly through the backwaters of what it means to be human when you find yourself in the presence of things infinitely greater. Grizzly bears and waterfalls are natural reminders that we are all hardwired for moments of awe.

So what do you do when you find yourself in an environment that cuts the connection between you and the universe? There I was, on a well-paved thoroughfare on the east side of Detroit, with hundreds of streets, roads, lanes and paths moving out in every direction, but how many of those paths led to a state of transcendence?



JAMES O. JOHNSON III (2)





How far away indeed was Yosemite from Detroit.

And then I remember shooting across an intersection as the traffic light began to change and where my brother had to brake to avoid cars on the road ahead. I glanced out and saw a post on a corner, but something made me look out and up, to see the road sign.

What I read turned my body to bronze, to a bell, to something hard yet hollow that was struck, and then began slowly, deep down, down so deep that the first impulse of it was deeper than bone and slower to resonate, something lost and forgotten within my body began to shake, to sing.

Momentarily, we had paused at the intersections of Yellowstone and Yosemite with the street we were traversing. Hurriedly, I glanced up Yellowstone, and then a second later into Yosemite. There were no surprises. Just two more streets, two more paths with houses, fences, sidewalks, parked cars and a few pedestrians, that was all.

But I was caught up in the irony of the moment, the realization that Yosemite and Yellowstone were right here, had always been right here in Detroit. Motown. The Motor City.

It was strange, yet wonderful, to consider that Yosemite Creek and the Yellowstone River were *right here*, that, in a sense, the bison of Hayden Valley were grazing for food, *right here*, that the sunlight illuminating the highest waterfall in North America was spilling out for all to see, *right here*, and that in this gritty, industrial, neighborhood, there was a whisper of John Muir and John Colter, Miwok and Shoshone, Steven Mather and Horace Albright.

Yosemite and Yellowstone are just words, but put those words on a sign post and you have a route to Wonderland, to the national parks, to America's Best Idea. You realize that the two streams which flow from the heart of that were right here in my own backyard, here where The Temptations and The Supremes danced and sang their way into the hearts of millions.

And then I asked myself, "How many of the people who live on Yellowstone or Yosemite have ever been to Yellowstone or Yosemite?" Growing up in Detroit, would they have been haunted by the plaintive cry of sandhill cranes, elk bugling in the fall or the thunder of spring runoff in Yosemite Valley?

Probably not, but the future could be very different if we choose. We can make a future that recognizes that national parks are the birthright of all Americans regardless of where they were born or under what circumstances.

In the fall of 2009, millions of Americans will watch the six-day unfolding of Ken Burns' newest documentary film, "The National Parks, America's Best Idea." Much of the history of that film is rooted in Yellowstone and Yosemite. The film will reinvigorate the bond between many Americans and the park system, but what about viewers who've never had such a connection? What about these folks in Detroit who live right here on Yosemite and Yellowstone?

As I write these words I'm considering how this country has chosen to

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move in a bold new direction by electing Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States of America. Years ago, President-elect Obama visited Yellowstone on a family trip. He has also enjoyed the national parks of Hawaii, but what of his wife Michelle, or their two little girls? They are now America's first family, so I have to ask, how connected are they to our national parks? Will daughters Malia and Sasha have memories of family vacations in Zion or the Grand Canyon? Or has the national park experience become as remote to them as for many of the people who live on Yellowstone and Yosemite in Detroit, Michigan?

Ken Burns' new national park film embraces the great cultural diversity of this country simply by telling the story of the national parks and the people who helped create them. Many of the characters in the national park story hailed from ethnically and culturally diverse communities, but they all had two things in common: a passion for places like no other on this earth, and a willingness to devote their lives to safeguarding those places. Every human being can relate to a desire to protect what is most important, and what could ever be more important than the earth itself?

The challenge before us is to remind each other that what we call these special places, these national parks, are not as important as the act of following the direction that they collectively and individually point, for only if we stay true to the meaning of the very legislation that created the National Park Service can we walk that trail that leads to where we began and where we need to go, to yesterday and to tomorrow.

Perhaps if we do this, we'll eventually find no irony at all in the knowledge that Yosemite and Yellowstone run through Detroit. We'll simply understand that it is so, and wonder, perhaps, how it could have been otherwise. The names of all our national parks should be on street signs in every neighborhood, and in every urban area in America.

Who more than those who populate our cities need, or perhaps deserve, the constant reminder of where precisely our democracy is rooted? Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Zion, Haleakala, Acadia, Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah, Grand Teton, Sequoia, Rainier, Olympic, Kobuk Valley, Denali, Gates of the Arctic. They are more than names. They are directions and pathways to places we have not yet fully begun to explore.

There is so much before us, so much to do.

The night ended only a short time ago. We can now see our footprints in the sand, and the footprints of those who walked before us. They're ahead of us on the path. I can hear my father laughing. The sunlight grows warm upon us. A few scattered clouds remain, but they are all full of light. The sky is nearly empty of darkness.

There will be problems ahead, perhaps just around the next bend, or the one just after, but we are all together, and we are confident the way is true and clear. We have a good map, and time is on our side if we stay to the trail. It's still the morning of creation, and there are only miles between us and home.

*Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Shelton Johnson has been a ranger for the National Park Service since his first summer in Yellowstone in 1987. He has worked in Yosemite's Division of Interpretation and Education since 1993, and is featured in the upcoming Ken Burns documentary The National Parks, America's Best Idea, to premiere on PBS in the fall of 2009. Shelton is one of four instructors in our A Park for All People seminar series on the heritage of people of color in Yosemite. Learn more at [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars).*



# MAKING MEMORIES IN YOSEMITE

BY KAREN GANSCHOW

Those who know Yosemite well will tell you that a summer visit to this popular American park can be fraught with annoyances. Crowds of visitors make it difficult to find enough solitude to connect to nature. Instead of being greeted with nature's best it's a good bet that you'll be focused on obtaining more elbow room in the campgrounds and on the trails, or overwhelmed by traffic jams and long lines throughout the park. On the other hand, the quiet of a visit during other times of year can make the park feel like your very own.

Fall presents colorful trees, a calm meandering river, starry nights and cool whispering winds. Spring is blessed with mesmerizing, thunderous waterfalls, meadows giving birth, cascading streams and a phenomenon called a lunar rainbow. Winter is a silent oasis except for nature's voice, a snowy wonderland intriguing enough to draw you from your warm cabin.

The quiet seasons of the park make Yosemite an easier place to retreat into nature. Visits in these months are when burdens can be lifted and imaginations permitted to roam.

This idea of a place where people go to find a sense of self or renewal has prompted me to wonder why people vacation in Yosemite. I suspect most come seeking a brief escape from the city and its concrete, crowds and deadlines, or rest in nature's peace and tranquility. But if connecting to nature is the motive, then why do so many of us plan our vacations like we plan our work schedules, filling every slot in our calendars with things to see and do? Using guidebooks as a resource, we anticipate every moment before we arrive, reducing the experience of

nature to a side dish in the main meal of activity. Why not put away the guidebooks and enjoy nature without any expectations of what we will find along the way?

Those who fast-forward through the park, taking quick snapshots of the areas immediately surrounding their cars, don't even come close to glimpsing the essence of the park. Yosemite beckons us to discover her secrets, invites us to absorb her harmony, to look inside and dream about what is and what can be. Nature lives one moment, one day and one season at a time. We would do well to follow her example.

As a Southern California native and photo enthusiast, I have frequented Yosemite my whole life. But it's only been in the last few years that the park has become a permanent resident within my heart. Like many people, I used to grab a guidebook or two and create a day-to-day and sometimes hour-to-hour itinerary. But one day I decided to explore the park without an itinerary to see if I could obtain a more personal experience. I hoped to breathe Yosemite in a way I had never done before.

Nowadays, I make a conscious effort to put away the guidebooks, focusing instead on small and often short-lived moments in nature. In return, Yosemite has rewarded me beyond my imagination. I have discovered that stepping out of my cabin without any predetermination of where to go can lead to the best park experiences of all. Quietly sitting on a bench in Cook's Meadow, exploring the banks of Sentinel Beach, or walking through the oak groves near El Capitan to observe whatever presents itself has a pleasant, soothing and restorative influence on my spirit. I may see a deer

*Virgin snow sparkles in the clean mountain air.*



KAREN GANSCHOW (2)

*Siesta Lake reflections invite contemplation.*





**Top:** Water forms patterns as it cascades during spring melt.

**Middle:** Entwined branches of black oak on the valley floor.

**Bottom:** The tranquil splendor of Mirror Lake in winter refreshes the spirit.

**Opposite:** El Capitan's Horsetail Fall glows only in February when conditions are right.



chewing on a blade of grass, observe the golden light of sunset moving across the face of Half Dome, watch the leaves forming patterns as they float to the ground, inhale the clean mountain air, and notice a thousand other fleeting acts during my foray.

I now believe that a visit to Yosemite can begin with the saying “take time to stop and smell the roses” and evolve into “take time to stop and watch the roses grow.”

Nature has much to teach about living a balanced life. It is here, amid the purity of nature’s creations, where I am more apt to think about life’s journey instead of all the destinations.

I am still learning about the gifts Yosemite has to offer, but that’s what keeps me coming back season after season. So whenever you decide to visit the park, in whichever season you choose, try to discover some of her splendors on your own. You will no doubt make memories that cannot be found in the pages of a

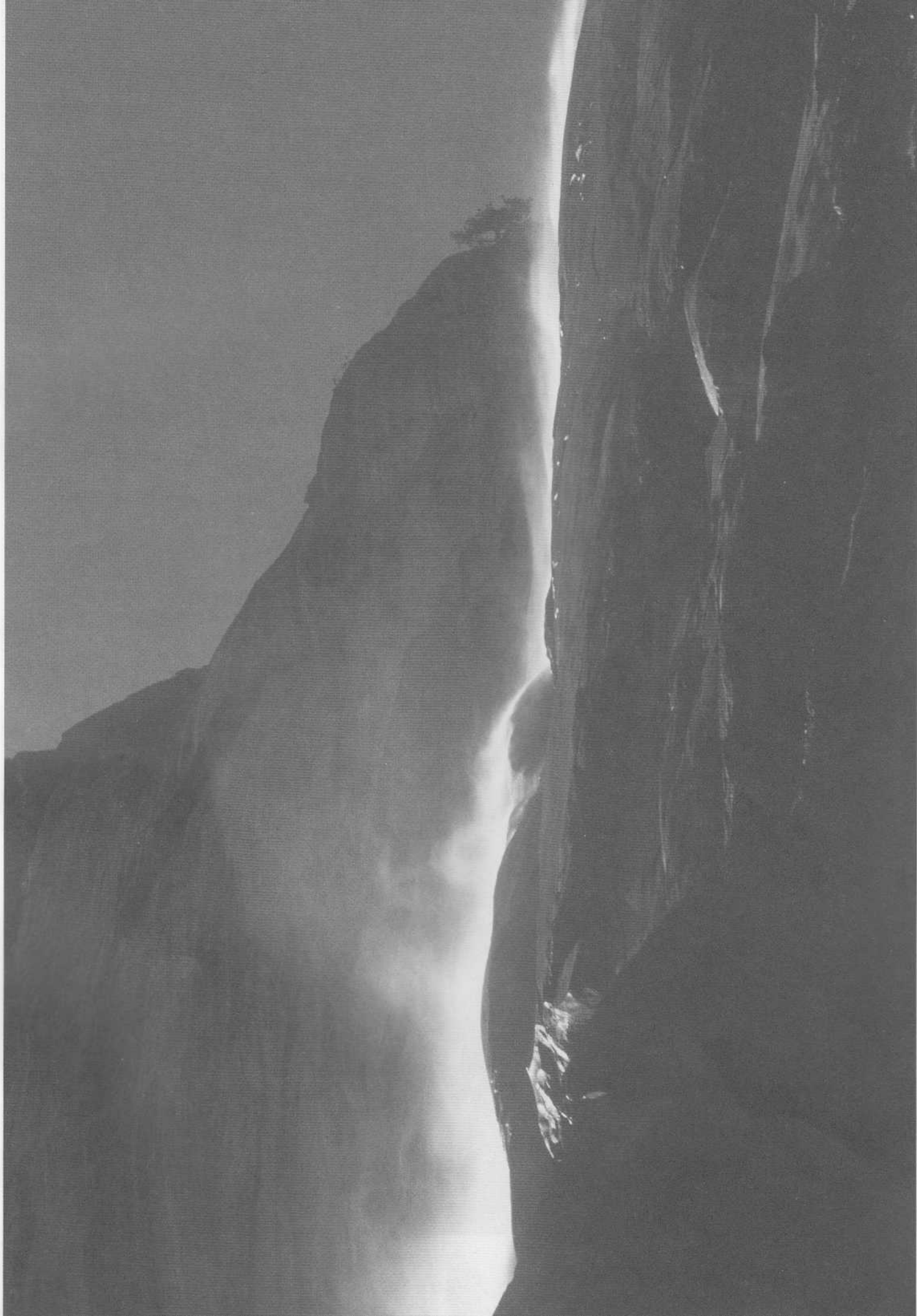
guidebook, and bring home stories that will be cherished and shared in the years ahead. Who knows—you may not even have to return to work to rest from your vacation.



KAREN GANSCHOW (4)

*Member Karen Ganschow is a nature photographer and writer. She currently resides in Morro Bay, California, and volunteers for organizations devoted to nature. More of her images can be viewed at [www.karenlyn-nphotography.com](http://www.karenlyn-nphotography.com).*







# EXPLORING CHINA'S NATIONAL PARKS

BY PETE DEVINE

I recently had the privilege of visiting Yosemite's two sister national parks in China and was struck by one overwhelming feeling: "Yosemite people need to see this!" Our Asian partners are well worthy of their sibling status to Yosemite.

A few hours inland from Shanghai on China's east coast is the small mountain range that comprises the Huangshan (Yellow Mountain) World Heritage Site. Cable cars run up to the summit, but climbing the site's Eastern Steps provides a fine introduction to these 6,000-foot peaks. The path makes a steady ascent through bamboo and hardwood forests. A few hours on wide, well-built stone stairs bring the hiker to the top of the

range. It's walk-in only; roads stop at the base of the mountain at the edge of the park. Several nice hotels are available at the top to welcome weary travelers. Staying here affords access to terrific dayhikes and the glory of the Huangshan sunrises. Scores of hotel guests bundle up and make their way in the predawn darkness to nearby prominences to witness the sun emerge above a sea of clouds. It's easy to see why this place has inspired artists and poets for centuries, making Huangshan a natural and cultural icon.

Even after I'd seen the solid construction of the steps up into the park, I still wasn't prepared for the astonishing trail in and out of Xihai Canyon. I'd never imagined trails like this, engineered through impassably steep terrain, dropping down sheer cliffs, traversing mountain walls, tunneling through bedrock. The route feels very sturdy, with wide, solidly built, even steps and strong, artistic handrails for support throughout. Yet the entire experience is eye-popping, heart-pounding, camera-clicking astounding. Half Dome's cables are more extreme, but this is a continually remarkable route.

After three days exploring the views and trails atop Huangshan's peaks, I went to another World Heritage Site near the base of the range: the ancient village of Hongcun. I found whitewashed houses, tiny garden plots, winding alleys, stone-lined canals and a tremendous ginkgo tree. It was a treat to wander around a living settlement that has barely changed over several centuries. Such unique relict architecture is why Hongcun was chosen as a filming location for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

From here I flew west to visit Yosemite's other sister park, Jiuzhaigou, or Valley of the Nine Villages. This park consists of a Y-shaped valley tucked away in the vast Min Mountains of Sichuan province. Tibetan peoples have lived here for centuries; only recently has the rest of China "discovered" this region. The park goes from 6,000 feet up to over 15,000 feet and is famed for its wild waters. Snowmelt from alpine peaks drains into lakes of shocking ice-blue and pours over wide waterfalls that are nothing like those we see in the Sierra Nevada. While the elevations above 8,000 feet show familiar glacial landforms, the limestone substrate creates very different runoff effects than what we see in Yosemite.

Almost all visitors see Jiuzhaigou by taking a bus between photo points, but there are also about 40



*Sunrise through Huangshan's pines.*





CHONG MEE-YUF (3)

*Nourilang Falls in Jiuzhaigou.*

miles of wooden boardwalk walking routes. On foot, I enjoyed finding attractions that most don't see: old growth spruces draped with protective prayer flags, open meadows with expansive mountain views and wildlife like the red-bellied squirrel, yellow-fronted marten, Elliot's laughingthrush and the white-throated dipper.

Meeting with rangers and administrators in both parks only added to my enjoyment at seeing the parks for myself. They were very excited to have a visitor from their American sister park, and generously helped facilitate my explorations. The connection between Yosemite, Jiuzhaigou and Huangshan should only deepen over the next few years. Several rangers from Jiuzhaigou have already come to Yosemite on professional exchanges, while Huangshan is sending staff here this spring. There is great potential to develop our mutual values in preserving resources and educating our citizens. Spending time on the trail with China's park rangers and discussing our commitments to the natural world brought to life last summer's Beijing Olympic Games tagline: "One world, one dream."



*One of the aqua blue lakes in upper Jiuzhaigou.*

*The Yosemite Association has planned a small group trip to our sister parks in China in October. Please join the Association in China and our sister parks. To discover more trip details, see [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).*



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

### Outdoor Adventures

In the Outdoor Adventures catalog of courses at the center of this journal, you'll find a mix of both new and familiar. We are delighted to have Dave Wyman's marvelous crew offering four Family Camping Jamborees in Tuolumne Meadows in July and August, several natural history courses with Michael Ross and some of the park's best hikes with Suzanne Swedo. Lucy Parker and her family are again providing courses in their unique heritage of Indian basketry in June and October. "A Park for All People" is a series of field seminars focused on some of Yosemite's untold stories from people of color.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has helped Yosemite Outdoor Adventures with a grant that will help match more people with our courses.

Winter conditions arrived slowly this season, but there's plenty of the white stuff here now. Our snowshoe naturalist programs were so popular last year that we've made sure we have a program every Saturday of winter up at Badger Pass. If you're in need of a different kind of experience, bundle up and get out on snowshoes with Kendra Kurihara, Karen Amstutz, Dick Ewart, Emily Jacobs or me. We are very pleased to have remarkable Sierra photographer John Senser offering a pursuit of the fleeting phenomenon of the Horsetail Falls "firefall" in his field seminar in February. No matter what else is going on in the world, Yosemite remains a faithful refuge for body and soul, and our naturalists are delightful ambassadors to our world of trees and rocks, peace and calm. Please come visit.

### Yosemite Art and Education Center

This year the YAEC will offer free art classes Monday through Friday. Aline Allen has lined up a superb series of resident instructors for the season beginning in late March and running through October. You'll find her list of artists on our website at [www.yosemite.org/visitor](http://www.yosemite.org/visitor).

### China's Sister National Parks

We have rescheduled our trip to visit our two sister parks to take place in October, right after China's big national holiday. This gives us the twin advantages of fairly reliable mild weather and autumn foliage at its most colorful. We'll visit Huangshan and Jiuzhaigou as well as two other nearby World Heritage Sites on this focused natural history and hiking trip. There are many more trip details and photographs on our website, [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).

### UC Merced Interns

We are recruiting ten UC Merced student interns on campus now and anticipate that these excited young people will be energizing the park community next summer. If you're interested in supporting this program, we could use your funding assistance. Consider earmarking your next donation to the Association to the interns who are strengthening Yosemite's cultural diversity for the future.

**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.



ABBIE S. CONCOLOR

*Snowshoeing through Yosemite's winter wonderland.*



# Yosemite Outdoor Adventures

April–December 2009

**YOSEMITE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES** invites you to explore Yosemite National Park through one of our fun and educational field seminars. Find much more information on course content, instructors and other logistical questions on our website, [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars), where you can register for programs, too. You can also sign up by calling us at 209-379-2321.

**TUITION** is discounted by 15% if you're a member of the Yosemite Association. It covers instruction, the park entrance fee and camping for most courses. Meals, lodging, equipment and transportation aren't included unless specifically noted.

**STAY** in a shared campsite for free for most of our courses. We'll also send you reservation information for the hotel rooms we have set aside during most (but not all) courses; these are available at extra cost. These rooms are held for us until six weeks before a program.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS** vary between courses. Look at each course description on the website regarding daily mileage, elevation and overall difficulty. **You must be in good physical condition for these mountain programs.** The instructors have the right to deny your participation if they feel you're not healthy enough, not properly equipped for mountain weather or terrain or otherwise unprepared for the course.

**BACKPACK TRIPS** are a great way to experience the Yosemite Wilderness. YA provides the NPS permit, campsites the night before and after most trips and bear-resistant food containers. Participants are responsible for food and all other equipment; we'll send you a packing list when you enroll.

**CANCELLATION** is something we hope won't apply to your participation, but there are three things you should know. A 90% refund is given if you cancel at least 30 days before the course. Within 30 days of the program, **we cannot issue refunds for any reason.** If YA cancels a course, we will refund your full tuition, but we aren't responsible for other travel or lodging plans you've made. We recommend that you consider travel insurance.

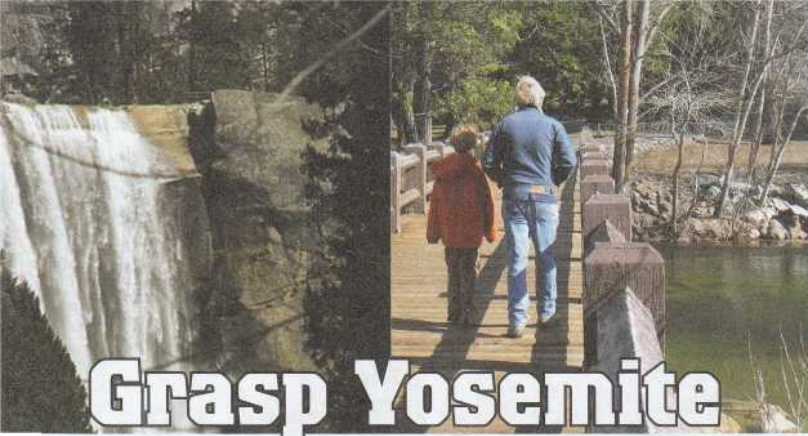
**LIABILITY** forms must be signed by all participants before attending a program, and backpackers need to complete a medical form.

**INSPIRATION** is part of the National Park Service mission, so it's part of the Yosemite Association's, too. Whether for journaling, geology, art or a stout hike, our instructors are the best at sharing the details of your national park with you.

Yosemite is a faithful refuge with something to tell you...







# Grasp Yosemite

## #17 LNT Trainer Certification

April 3-4  
\$100, or \$85 for YA members  
Leave No Trace training is becoming a requirement in many outdoor jobs; get yours on this short backpack trip to teach others about minimum impact backcountry use.

Pete Devine  
Moderate

## #18 Springtime Flowers

April 11  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
Color and fragrance burst forth in the Merced River's richly diverse lower canyon. An expert naturalist will introduce you to identification and biology.

Michael Ross  
Easy

## #20 To the Base of Ribbon Falls

May 2  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
America's tallest single-drop waterfall is far from its best known. This off-trail scramble will get a small group up into the heavy mist in the Ribbon Falls amphitheater.

Suzanne Swedo  
Challenging

## #21 Moonbow Photography 1

May 8  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
The unique phenomenon of a lunar spectral arc can be captured by photographers who'll stay up late with a local expert on this Friday night course.

John Senser  
Easy

## #22 Yosemite Waterfalls Grand Tour

May 9  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
Experience the Valley's best, in peak flow, with an accomplished naturalist guiding you.

Suzanne Swedo  
Easy

## #23 Hetch Hetchy Wildflower Explorations

May 15 (eve)-17  
\$180, or \$153 for YA members  
Spring moisture and summer warmth meet here in a diverse floral display for your enjoyment.

Suzanne Swedo  
Easy

## #24 North Rim Backpack 1

May 27 (eve)-31  
\$340, or \$289 for YA members  
A view-filled three-night trek along the top edge of Yosemite Valley, over El Capitan, Eagle Peak and Yosemite Falls. Featured in Backpacker magazine.

Pete Devine  
Moderate

## #25 Miwok-Paiute Acorn Basketry

June 5-7  
\$351, or \$298 for YA members  
We are very pleased to have Lucy, her mother and her daughter share this traditional practice. All materials (tule, willow, etc.) are included.

Lucy Parker  
Easy

## #26 Moonbow Photography 2

June 6  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
Our camera expert has several locations in mind for staying up late to capture the rare phenomenon of a lunar spectral arc.

John Senser  
Easy

## #27 Birding Yosemite Valley

June 13  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
With Michael's 32 years of leading birding courses here, you're guaranteed a great day.

Michael Ross  
Easy

## #28 Foresta Birds

June 14  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
Share one of Michael's favored places for exploring the most diverse park birdlife.

Michael Ross  
Easy

## #29 North Rim Backpack 2

June 17 (eve)-21  
\$340, or \$289 for YA members  
A view-filled three-night trek along the top edge of Yosemite Valley, over El Capitan, Eagle Peak and Yosemite Falls. Featured in Backpacker magazine.

Pete Devine  
Moderate

## #30 The Nature of Writing Children's Books

June 19 (eve)-21  
\$172, or \$146 for YA members  
The author of over 40 children's books will share his strengths in the Yosemite settings that have inspired him and others in their craft. This is a very special opportunity.

Michael Ross  
Easy

## #31 Waterwheel Falls Photography Backpack

June 26-28  
\$246, or 209 for YA members  
Along the Tuolumne River are some of the more unique aquatic displays to be found anywhere. Two nights in basecamp and a wealth of subject material.

John Senser  
Moderate

## #32 Birding Crane Flat

June 27  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
Hodgdon Meadows and Crane Flat are marvelous habitats explored by very few visitors. Hermit warbler, lazuli bunting, warbling vireo, and Lincoln's sparrow are possibilities.

Michael Ross  
Moderate

## #33 North Dome Moonrise Photography Backpack

July 5-7  
\$246, or \$209 for YA members  
This backpack provides a unique opportunity to photograph a midsummer's full moon coming up over Half Dome.

John Senser  
Moderate

## #34 Yosemite Flyfishing

July 10-12  
\$721, or \$613 for YA members  
Moderately challenging  
A three-day introduction to the art of working local streams with the park's pro fishing guide.

Tim Hutchings

## #35 Bird Banding Studies

July 11  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members  
Join the park's ornithologist to visit the mist nets and get up close to summer birds while conducting long-term research for the MAPS project.

Sarah Stock  
Easy

## #36 Pastel Painting in Tuolumne

July 16-19  
\$254, or \$216 for YA members  
Here's a high country studio for intermediate or experienced artists in a forgiving medium that helps you capture the light and color of the summer mountains.

Moira Donohoe  
Easy

## #37 Half Dome Overnight

July 17 (eve)-19  
\$181, or \$154 for YA members  
The backpacker's classic: camp up in LYV Saturday night, and on Sunday summit the cables and descend to the Valley floor.

Pete Devine  
Challenging

## #40 Introduction to Sierra Natural History

July 24-26  
\$290, or \$246 for YA members  
A chance to get deep into the summertime's wealth of high country life with three rich days of immersion with two park experts.

Michael Ross  
and Pete Devine



# Call YA about a Custom Adventure for your family, friends or group.

## #41 Stars over the High Country

July 24-25 Rich Combs  
\$164, or \$139 for YA members Easy  
Summer constellations, clear, dark skies, a high perch in the mountains: perfection!

## #42 Women's Backpack Trip

July 26 (eve)-30 Anna Landauer  
\$343, or \$293 for YA members Moderate  
Yearning to get out in the backcountry with a fun group and improve your backpacking skills? Join other adventurous women in this unique opportunity to enjoy the Glen Aulin region.

## #43 Photographing High Country Habitats

July 31-August 2 Howard Weamer  
\$246, or \$209 for YA members Easy  
Intermediate to advanced digital and film photographers will find rich material in the landscape of the Sierra crest with this veteran artist.

## #44 Tuolumne Alpine Studies

July 31-August 2 Michael Ross  
\$246, or \$209 for YA members Moderate  
With climate change threatening Yosemite's land above the trees, now is the time to seek out the pika, the sky pilot flower and glacial remnants.

## #45 Young Lakes and Marvelous Mt. Conness Backpack

August 1 (eve)-4 Suzanne Swedo  
\$254, or \$216 for YA members Moderate-challenging  
North from the Meadows to treeline at the Young Lakes basin, with an ascent to the exciting summit of Yosemite's northeastern ramparts. (This trip is not for everyone)

## #47 Half Dome the Easy Way

August 6 (eve)-9 Suzanne Swedo  
\$254, or \$216 for YA members Challenging  
Having two leisurely basecamp nights spreads out the intensity of what Half Dome demands for summit attempts.

## #48 Tuolumne Meadows en Plein Air

August 6 (eve)-9 Chuck Waldman  
\$254, or \$216 for YA members Easy  
Chuck brings you the "language of painting" in an involving and supportive subalpine setting for novices and experienced artists alike.

## #50 Advanced Backpack Southbound

August 17-22 Dick Ewart  
\$410, or \$348 for YA members Very challenging  
Only the hardest, most experienced backcountry travelers go with Ranger Ewart into the glorious wilderness found south from Tuolumne toward Mammoth.

## #51 Tuolumne Elite Summits

August 20 (eve)-23 Pete Devine  
\$254, or \$216 for YA members Challenging  
Rugged dayhikes up three choice peaks ("Sharsmith," Tenaya, Tuolumne) while learning and enjoying in mind and body.

## #52 Tuolumne Area Geology

August 28 Michael Ross  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members Moderate  
So much granite is exposed in the high country that we will be able to learn a great deal by exploring it on foot. Our goal: to understand the bedrock, glacial effects and more.

## #53 Tuolumne Meadows Birds

August 29 Michael Ross  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members Easy  
An ideal setting to discover the high country in late summer. Mountain bluebird, Clark's nutcracker, pine grosbeak, red crossbill and Townsend's solitaire are possibilities.

## #54 Tuolumne Area Botany

August 30 Michael Ross  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members Easy  
The narrow window of the high elevation growing season makes the floral display intense, diverse and exciting to discover with an expert.

## #55 Into the Gaylor Basin

September 5 Suzanne Swedo  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members Moderate  
Start your Labor Day weekend with geology, history, and flowers; a natural high.

## #56 Clouds Rest Dayhike

September 6 Suzanne Swedo  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members Moderate  
With Suzanne is the best way to gain the view from Half Dome's bigger neighbor.

## #57 Tenaya Peak Climb

September 7 Suzanne Swedo  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members Moderate  
Join a small group to "labor" this day to a well-earned summit.

## #60 Hidden Lakes Revealed

September 18-20 Dick Ewart  
\$262, or \$223 for YA members Challenging  
Explore some lesser-known high country waters as autumn takes over Tuolumne Meadows.

## #61 Lyell Glacier Survey

September 16 (eve)-20 Greg Stock and Pete Devine  
\$360, or \$306 for YA members Very challenging  
This alpine backpack expedition will measure the retreat of the park's largest glacier.

## #62 Miwok-Paiute Acorn Basketry

September 25-27 Lucy Parker  
\$351, or \$298 for YA members Easy  
We are very pleased to have Lucy, her mother and her daughter share this traditional practice. All materials (tule, willow, etc.) are included.

## #88 Sister Parks of the Middle Kingdom

October Pete Devine  
See our website for details  
Yosemite has two remarkable sister national parks in the mountains of China and YA is pleased to lead an exploration for hikers and naturalists.

## #68 Autumn Light Photography

October 19-21 Dave Wyman and Ken Rockwell  
\$330, or \$281 for YA members Easy  
Designed for all formats and abilities, this fall course gets you to the best Valley subjects with two masters of the craft.

## #69 Focusing on Nature; Autumn Photography in Yosemite

November 5 (eve)-8 Keith Walklet  
\$330, or \$281 for YA members Easy  
Join this longtime local photographer for the low-angled light of fall in our canyon, and learn his best spots and techniques.

## #70 Woodpeckers: the Quest for Eleven

December 5 Pete Devine  
\$82, or \$70 for YA members Easy  
There are good reasons for our park to have more woodpecker species than anywhere; we'll visit several elevations to see how many can we find.

## FAMILY CAMPING JAMBOREES

\$290 for adults, \$125 for kids under 20;  
\$247 and \$106 for YA members Easy  
Here's your perfect family vacation in the summertime cool of Tuolumne Meadows. Dave Wyman and his wonderful crew fill the days and evenings with activities, and all the cooking is done for you. Bring a tent and your family to grow in nature.

#38 July 18-21 #39 July 23-26  
#49 August 8-11 #58 August 13-16





## A PARK FOR ALL PEOPLE

Join us for this special series of courses that bring to light the lesser-known contributions of people of color who helped make Yosemite what it is today, and what it will become tomorrow.

### #14 A Hard Road on Gold Mountain

March 27 Yenyen Chan  
 \$75, or \$64 for YA members Moderate  
 Go back to 1875 to experience a portion of the amazing contributions immigrants from China have made to Yosemite.

### #46 Yosemite's First People

August 2 Ben Cunningham-Summerfield  
 \$41, or \$35 for YA members Easy  
 How Yosemite's Indians have followed a successful and sustainable way of life for thousands of years and their relationship with the park today.

### #59 Latinos in the Landscape

October 2 Betsy Rivera  
 \$41, or \$35 for YA members Easy  
 An afternoon course to acknowledge the past, present and future influence of Latino people in Yosemite.

### #66 Buffalo Soldiers on Patrol

October 4 Shelton Johnson  
 \$41, or \$35 for YA members Easy  
 Experience the unsung but vital African-American heritage of Yosemite in this morning course based where the Ninth Cavalry was headquartered.

## YA FALL GATHERING ADVENTURES

Everyone is welcome on these easy courses, but we hope that members coming to Saturday's meeting in Wawona will round out their weekend with one or two of these natural history opportunities. More details on these programs can be found on our website, [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars).

### ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

#59 **Latinos in the Landscape**  
 Betsy Rivera \$41, or \$35 for YA members  
 Described above.

### #64 The Rim Walk

Michael Ross \$82, or \$70 for YA members  
 The Sentinel Dome area flies its autumn colors for naturalists.

### ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

#65 **Sierra Shrubs Demystified**  
 Shirley Spencer \$41, or \$35 for YA members  
 The author and artist of a new YA book (and an excellent educator) shares one of her specialties.

### #66 Buffalo Soldiers on Patrol

Shelton Johnson \$41, or \$35 for YA members  
 Described above.

## 2009 OUTDOOR ADVENTURES ENROLLMENT FORM

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

### WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES?

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### YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- Individual \$35
- Family/Supporting \$60
- Contributing \$135
- Half Dome \$250
- Clouds Rest \$500
- El Capitan \$1000
- Mount Lyell \$2500
- International \$50

Enter membership total at right

### FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH ADVENTURE:

Qty.	Class No.	Class Name	Date	Course Fee

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

fax: 209-379-2486  
 phone: 209-379-2321  
 e-mail: [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org)  
 website: [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org)

Total Course Fees:	\$
Membership or Renewal Fee:	\$
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>

### PAYMENT:

- Check enclosed. Checks should be payable to the Yosemite Association.

Or, charge my credit card. We accept:

- Visa     MasterCard     American Express     Discover

Card Number:

Exp. Date:

Signature:

or sign up online! [WWW.YOSEMITE.ORG](http://WWW.YOSEMITE.ORG)

### CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES:

#### Accommodations

- I want to camp with the group in YA reserved shared sites.
- I will reserve and pay for my own private campsite by calling 877-444-6777.
- I want to rent a room—please send me the reservation request form.
- I will make other accommodation arrangements.

#### Cancellation Policy

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

#### Membership

- Enclosed is my new Yosemite Association membership fee.
- I am currently a member of YA. Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Class Roster

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

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



# PARK PROFILE

KEN WATSON



BEN HERBET

**Name:** Ken Watson

**Job Title:** Wilderness Education and Outreach

**Hometown:** St. Louis, Missouri

**Education:** B.S. Forest Recreation, University of Missouri at Columbia

**Total number of years working in Yosemite:** Five years as of March 2009

**What first brought you to Yosemite?** I was working for the U.S. Forest Service in Bridgeport, California, in 1996, and we of course had to visit Yosemite to experience the magic of the High Sierra.

**What do you do in your job?** The variety of my job is wonderful. The main focus of my job is wilderness education and supervising the four Wilderness Centers in the park. I regularly work with staff from Yosemite Search and Rescue (YOSAR), Fire and Interpretation, plus I do trail patrols year-round and snow surveys in the winter.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?** I most enjoy working with my seasonal staff. They bring a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm for Yosemite and wild places. They inspire me to remain true to the ideals that first guided me to be a ranger. Watching them grow and challenge themselves to be the best ensures that I will hold up my end of our bargain and do my best as well.

**What is your favorite place in Yosemite?** A gorgeous unnamed lake tucked just off the trail in the north end of the park. Westfall Meadow with fresh, untracked snow is a great winter spot.

**What is your favorite Yosemite book?** *Yosemite Once Removed*. It transports you beyond the hubbub of the Valley to the quieter parts of the park through stories and beautiful photographs.

**What is your favorite non-Yosemite book?** Impossible to say, but one recent read, Ellen Meloy's *Ravens' Exile*, has really stuck with me. Her passion for her desert home is apparent and the unrestrained primeval connection she shares so openly gives me goosebumps.

**Who is your favorite historical figure?** Alfred Russel Wallace, the ultimate underdog. (Wallace independently developed a theory of natural selection at about the same time as Charles Darwin.) He followed his obsession and heart through the wickedest of conditions to triumph, but alas without much credit. He was a real explorer.

**What do you think is the Association's most important role?** There are many roles that I cannot imagine without YA, but education stands out in my mind. The YA staff does a great job in the visitor centers, wilderness centers, on the phones and on field courses to educate and inspire visitors to become stewards of Yosemite.

**What do you think is the greatest challenge in managing wilderness?** Conveying the intangible values of wild places to those working in and visiting them. I hope we can bridge the gap between the letter and the spirit of the law, creating true stewards of the land who will help preserve wilderness character.

**What do you consider your greatest success in the park to date?** Expanding the Wilderness Centers' staffing, roles and responsibilities in the Wilderness Management Branch while at the same time increasing the credibility of the Centers throughout the park. Our staff of highly skilled rangers are no longer considered just permit issuers and can now showcase their abilities in a broader context. I am getting more requests for my staff to assist with incidents, present programs and try new opportunities.

**What do you hope to do in your life that you haven't done yet?** I would like to improve my Spanish, then travel to Chile and Argentina to work with the rangers in their national parks. The rangers I met during my December 2006-January 2007 visits to several of their parks were all highly dedicated, underfunded, creative and facing many of the challenges we have faced here. I would love to share my knowledge and help them in their efforts to protect and share those parks.



# YA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Association is excited to welcome six new members to the Board of Trustees. They replace the hardworking board members whose terms ended in 2008.

**David Bowman** is a Financial Advisor for the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Murphys (Calaveras County). He maintains a financial security practice, helping individuals, families and businesses coordinate their overall long-term insurance, investment and benefit planning. He is a member of the Angels-Murphys Rotary Club and leads a contemporary music worship band at Foothill Community Church. His involvement with Yosemite began at an early age, when most family vacations were spent camping at Tenaya Lake. These trips continued a Yosemite family legacy of three generations.

**Vince Kehoe** first came to Yosemite in 1975 to work as an Instructor for the Yosemite Institute. Over the next fifteen years he worked his way through the ranks, eventually serving as Senior Vice President of the Yosemite National Institutes. He has worked as an Interpreter for the National Park Service and holds an M.A. in Geography as well as the CCIM professional credential in commercial and investment real estate and a diploma in Banking and Finance. Vince and his wife Lisa raised their two children in Mariposa, California, where he was Vice President of Yosemite Bank and is currently a real estate appraiser.

**Walt Lemmermann** is the Chief Executive Officer of Advantage Enterprises, Inc. He has broad professional experience in management consulting, manufacturing, marketing and banking and serves as Park & Recreation Commissioner for the City of Sausalito, California. Maintaining dual residency in Sausalito and New York City, Walt is an avid hiker, mountain biker and fly fisherman both here and in the Swiss Berner Oberland. Walt has been visiting Yosemite on a regular basis for twenty-five years.

Davis, California resident **Anne Schneider** is returning to the board again after an absence of eight years. She practices water law in Sacramento with Ellison, Schneider & Harris LLP and serves on the board of Tuleyome, an environmental group working in the Yolo/Solano/Napa/Lake County bioregion. Anne used to climb extensively in Yosemite and many other parts of the world, but focuses now on ultra-distance cycling, fly-fishing and cross-country skiing.

**Jonathan Spaulding** is Vice President for Exhibitions and Executive Director of the Museum of the American West at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, California. He is the author of *Ansel Adams and the*

*American Landscape: A Biography* and coauthor of *Edward Weston: A Legacy*. From family vacations to high country backpacking to extended stays in Camp 4, Spaulding has been a lifelong lover of Yosemite.

**Nancy Sutley** is Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment for the City of Los Angeles. She has more than 20 years of experience protecting natural resources and the environment at all levels of government and in the private sector. Nancy is also a Board Member of San Francisco Baykeeper and enjoys painting, hiking, cycling and skiing. She resides in Los Angeles, California, within walking distance of Dodger Stadium.

## SUTLEY GOES TO WASHINGTON

New YA Board Member Nancy Sutley has been named Chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) by President Barack Obama. She will serve as a top advisor to the President on environmental policy coordination and development. Congratulations, Nancy!

## ELECTION OF BOARD CANDIDATES

The Association's bylaws state that candidates for the office of elected trustee will be selected by the nominating committee, which is appointed from the membership of the Association by the Chairperson, with the concurrence of the board. Giving consideration to the knowledge and experience most needed to guide the Association's strategic direction, the nominating committee prepares a list of candidates for each seat on the board. The nominating committee presents its candidates to the members at the annual meeting which will be held on October 3, 2009 in Wawona.

Association members may, by petition, nominate additional candidates that are different from those selected by the nominating committee. Petitions nominating candidates must be on forms available from the Association office. The petitions must be signed by 4 percent of the members, whose signatures may be collected throughout the year. Such petitions, to be valid, must be filed with the board Chairperson or the CEO by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the annual meeting, or by the close of the annual meeting, whichever time is later. Upon request, the Association will mail nominating materials to the membership on behalf of the petitioner and at the petitioner's expense.

If in a given year there are only as many candidates as there are openings, the board generally votes to approve the slate without incurring the expense of an election mailing to the membership. Please contact David Guy at the Association office if you have any questions about this process.

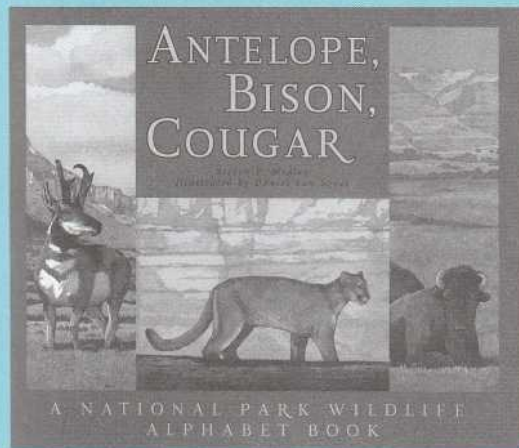
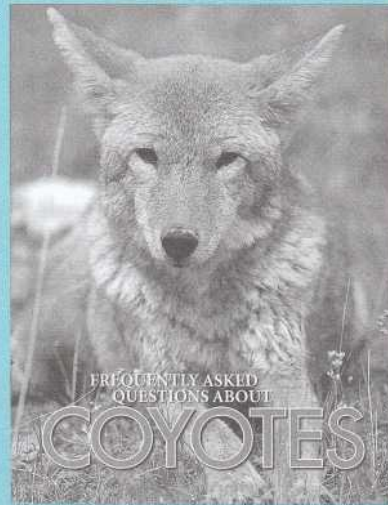


## WILDLIFE

### Frequently Asked Questions About Coyotes

by Michael Rigsby

Why do coyotes howl? What is the difference between a coyote and a dog? Where do coyotes live? What do they eat? How fast can they run? Learn the amazing answers to these and many other questions in this easy-to-follow book. Concise text and colorful photos and illustrations help you learn about this iconic predator. \$5.95 **member price \$5.06**



### Antelope, Bison, Cougar: A National Wildlife Alphabet Book

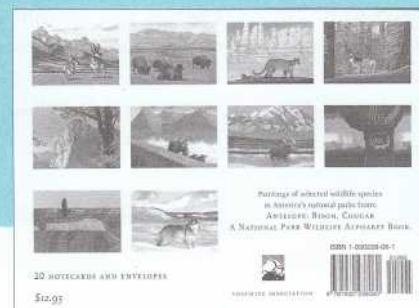
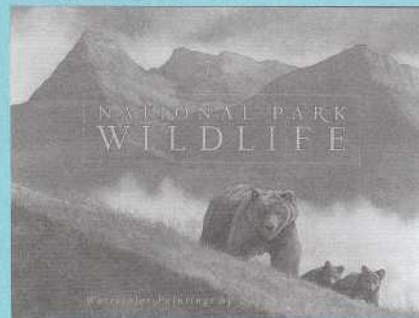
by Steven P. Medley, illustrated by Daniel San Souci

This colorful alphabet book spotlights the wildlife found in America's national parks. Featuring wonderful watercolor paintings and pencil drawings of various animals and parks, this volume offers an introduction to our country's native species and magnificent national parks. The book associates each letter with a different wild animal, making it a great tool for introducing the alphabet to the very young. Older children will find the

text a remarkable resource for learning about birds, mammals and national parks. Extensive information is provided about each national park mentioned, including its importance to our country, a map, park contact information and additional resources. This alphabet book should stimulate interest in America's wild animals and parklands among readers of all ages. \$14.95 **member price \$12.71**

### National Park Wildlife Notecard Set

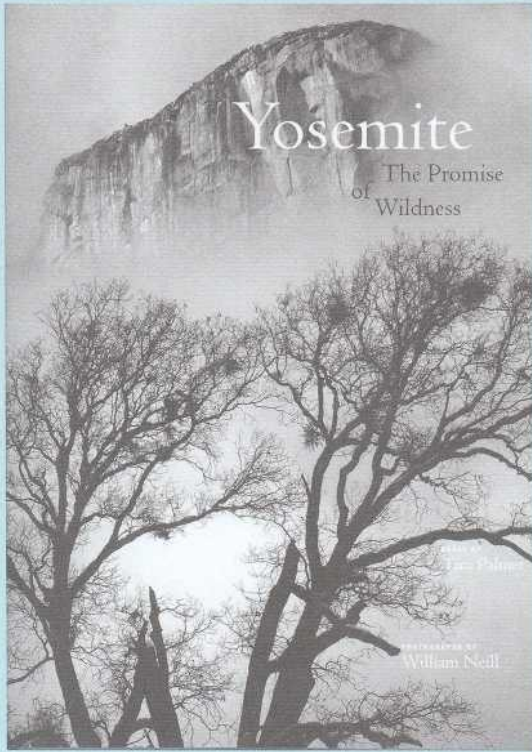
These handsome and colorful notecards feature paintings of wildlife in various national parks from *Antelope, Bison, Cougar: A National Park Wildlife Alphabet Book*. The boxed set includes two cards each of ten assorted wildlife species in different national parks. Represented are pronghorn antelope at Grand Teton, bison at Theodore Roosevelt, cougar at Bryce Canyon, mule deer at Sequoia, peregrine falcon at Yosemite, grizzly bear at Glacier, moose at Denali, elf owl at Saguaro, turkey vulture at Grand Canyon and gray wolf at Yellowstone. Each 5" x 7" card includes a full-color image on the front, a line drawing with natural history information on the back and comes with a white envelope. \$12.95 **member price \$11.01**



**\*SPECIAL OFFER\***  
**Antelope, Bison, Cougar book  
 AND Notecard Set**  
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**\$27.90 member price \$23.71 \$20.00**



## YOSEMITE



### **Yosemite: The Promise of Wildness**

*by Tim Palmer, photographs by William Neill*

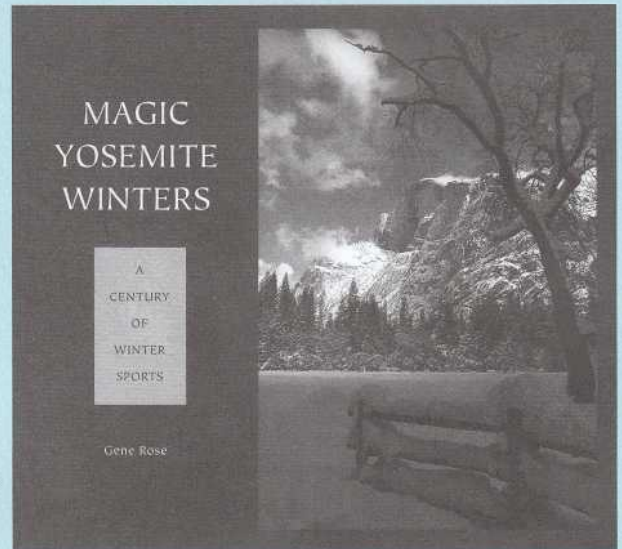
This fine gift book combines the breathtaking imagery of William Neill with the insightful brightness of essayist Tim Palmer. The result is a unique study of Yosemite's meanings and prospects both today and for coming generations. The book's 70 photographs include a variety of striking images, from close-up details of natural objects to monumental portraits of Yosemite's world-famous landmarks. These are the finest examples of Neill's body of work, assembled over many years. Tim Palmer's essay grew from many experiences which have provided him with a deep knowledge of the park. He visited during all seasons of the year to better understand the faces Yosemite assumes. His two-part essay appreciates the park's uniqueness and pleads for the continued well-being of this amazing natural wonderland. This blend of Palmer's words and Neill's photographs creates a work of strong emotional impact. \$19.95 **member price \$16.96**

### **Magic Yosemite Winters**

*by Gene Rose*

This is the first book to thoroughly chronicle the story of winter sports in Yosemite National Park. The book is rich with never-before-published anecdotes and informative profiles of Yosemite's winter athletes, including Nic Fiore, Rusty Rust, Bill Janss, Charley Proctor, Mary Curry Tresidder, Ansel Adams, David Brower and Howard Weamer. Author Gene Rose covers topics from the establishment of Badger Pass Ski Area, to the backcountry exploits of early winter mountaineers, to the history of the Yosemite Winter Club. In this chronicle you will meet early sports pioneers and encounter other fore-runners who are still yodeling their love and enthusiasm for the magic of Yosemite winters.

Illustrated with the color photographs of Galen Rowell, Dewitt Jones and Keith Walklet, along with more than a hundred black-and-white historical images, this is a wonderful tribute to the people who have been involved in the winter sports scene at California's most famous national park. \$19.95 **member price \$16.96**





To see an expanded list of the Yosemite Store's products, visit our secure online site at:  
[www.yosemitestore.com](http://www.yosemitestore.com)

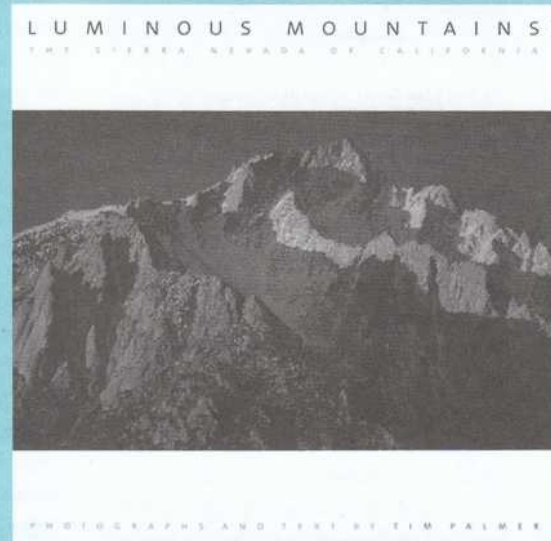
**Luminous Mountains**

*by Tim Palmer*

An extraordinary mountain range, the Sierra Nevada rises high over California. In *Luminous Mountains*, award-winning author and photographer Tim Palmer captures the dazzling variety and enchantment of this revered and exquisite place. His images reveal the essence of the Sierra in a way that has never been done before, from its northern limit to its southernmost slope, from its rolling foothills in the west to its dramatic faultline at desert's edge.

With 135 stunning photographs and engaging text, Palmer guides us through the stormy white depths of winter and into ancient green forests suffused with life. With knowledge gleaned from decades of experience, he writes of the intricate workings of nature and the conflicts inherent in the booming growth of the nation's most populous state. In all months of the year he shows us unmatched images of wonder—from icons of scenery such as Devils Postpile, Lake Tahoe, Mount Whitney and Yosemite's El Capitan, to remote and secret enclaves amid the peaks and canyons. Born of an intimate relationship with nature, *Luminous Mountains* is a spirited journey of discovery up the peaks and down the rivers of the great Sierra Nevada.

\$19.95; member price \$16.96



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# MEMBERS PAGES

## Join Us for Spring, Yosemite Style

Just as winter sets in, we turn our sights to spring and the opportunity to join our members for the 2009 Spring Forum in Yosemite Valley on March 28.

Each year the Spring Forum gives Association members young and old a unique opportunity to explore this remarkable valley and gain insight into its natural and cultural wonders with in-depth presentations and walks from renowned experts. Highlights for 2009 include discussions with authors of newly published books, including Robert C. Pavlik, author of *Norman Clyde: Legendary Mountaineer of California's Sierra Nevada*, and Bonnie J. Gisel and Stephen J. Joseph, who wrote *Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy*. The program includes well over 25 walks with expert interpreters and local naturalists, including an exceptional assortment of programs for kids and their families too. At the end of the day, wind down at the wine and cheese reception where members have a chance to meet our esteemed presenters,



NPS Ranger Jeff Webb gives Association members an inside look at the life of a ranger during the 2008 Forum.

LAURA BEARDSLEY

trustees and staff. Registration and lodging information were sent to all members in early January. Space is limited to the first 500 participants. We hope to see you there for a memorable day in the park!

The evening before the Forum, our high level donors and Half Dome, Clouds Rest, El Capitan and Mount Lyell members are invited to join us for a private reception honoring our featured speakers. If you would like to attend, there is still time to make a donation or upgrade your membership!

YA thanks the National Park Service, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Balanced Rock Foundation, the Yosemite Institute, and many other friends who have provided vital assistance with the Spring Forum. If you have questions regarding these events, please contact the membership department at 209-379-2317.

Add a little adventure to your weekend with an Outdoor Adventure course the day before and/or after the Spring Forum. On March 27, uncover some of the park's hidden history with ranger Yenyen Chen on A Hard Road on Gold Mountain. On Sunday, March 29, join Michael Ross to witness the wildflowers that should pop up in the lower canyons which burned last summer or Discover the Winter World with ranger Dick Ewart. Outdoor Adventures are available for an additional fee, and as always, YA members receive 15% off tuition. For more information or to register, call 209-379-2321 or visit [www.yosemite.org/](http://www.yosemite.org/) seminars for more information.

## Rockfall Shuttters Many Curry Village Cabins



BRAD BENTER

On October 7 and 8, 2008, two rockfalls below Glacier Point sent 6,000 cubic meters of granite crashing into the rustic tent and wood cabins of Curry Village resort. The slides injured three people, crushed at least one cabin and damaged 17 more. The National Park Service immediately closed many of the resort's visitor accommodations until a thorough geologic assessment could be completed.

Over the next several weeks, National Park Service geologists, in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and other national and international scientists, conducted an extensive investigation and study of rockfalls in and around the Curry Village area. Rockfall has been an integral part of the geologic processes that have shaped Yosemite since the last glaciers receded. However, the number of rockfalls reported around Curry Village have increased over the past ten years.

The scientists used the latest scientific mapping and computer modeling techniques to identify a zone where rockfalls and their associated debris are most likely to occur in the near future. Based on this information, the NPS has permanently closed the 233 Curry Village visitor cabins within this zone, reducing the resort's visitor accommodations by approximately one third. The closure affects tent and standard cabins, visitor amenities such as a shower and restrooms, plus employee housing. The shuttered structures were dismantled in November.

*ROCKFALL cont. on next page*

## We've Changed the Date!

**Our 34th Annual Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, October 3 in Wawona. More details will follow. We hope you will join us.**

### 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.



## Mountains of Books

The Yosemite Association traveled to Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills, California, on December 5 to host a reception for our Bay Area members. Our guests gathered in the living room of the Duveneck House to enjoy hors d'oeuvres from Santa Cruz caterers Feel Good Foods and a wonderful presentation from two of our favorite authors. Award-winning writer Gerald Haslam and Heyday Books publisher Malcolm Margolin charmed the standing-room-only crowd with their fireside chat *Mountains of Books, Books of Mountains*. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to gather and laugh with friends old and new during a brilliant evening together.

Many thanks to Chris Overington, Diny van den Velden and Hidden Villa, Feel Good Foods, Redwood Creek Wines and all of our guests for making the night such a success. We look forward to seeing you again.



Association members and friends enjoy the Mountains of Books, Books of Mountains event at Hidden Villa.

### ROCKFALL cont.

However, other tent and standard cabins temporarily closed after the rockfall and located outside the rockfall zone have been reopened for public use. Although no place in Yosemite Valley is entirely safe from rockfalls, rockfall risk in the open areas of Curry Village is considered comparable to that in other areas of Yosemite Valley such as The Ahwahnee and Yosemite Village.

## Enjoy the Yosemite Winter at Ostrander Ski Hut

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

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



HUGH SAKOIS

Spaces at the hut are still open and available on many midweek dates. Call the Yosemite Association's Ostrander and Wilderness reservation line to reserve a space. If you are interested in experiencing the beauty of Ostrander, and would like to be added to our mailing list for next year's lottery, please send your name, address, and phone number to [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org), or call 209-372-0740.

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

## Toast John Muir in Martinez

John Muir's lyrical writings about Yosemite were instrumental in preserving this gem of the Sierra Nevada as a park. To celebrate Muir's achievements, we are planning a joint event for Yosemite Association and John Muir Association members at the John Muir National Historic Site that is sure to appeal to Bay Area residents. Located in Martinez, California, the site preserves the house where Muir and his family lived for more than thirty years. The centerpiece of this event, to be held on February 28 from 2 to 5 p.m., will be the publication *Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy* from Heyday Books. A new book by environmental historian Bonnie Gisel, who serves as curator of the Sierra Club's LeConte

Memorial Lodge in Yosemite, and photographer Stephen Joseph, this resource features sumptuous images of botanical specimens collected by Muir juxtaposed against the life and words of Muir himself. During tours of the house, Gisel will explain how the botanical specimens were sleuthed out, Joseph will discuss how he photographed the images, and John Muir NHS archivist intern Kelli McCormick will bring out several of the actual specimens to view. Copies of the book and enlarged prints of several book images will be available for sale, along with a coloring book featuring California native plants growing in the house's garden. Guests will enjoy wine, cheese and other light refreshments. There is a \$3 admission charge at the park.



## Volunteer with the Association this Summer

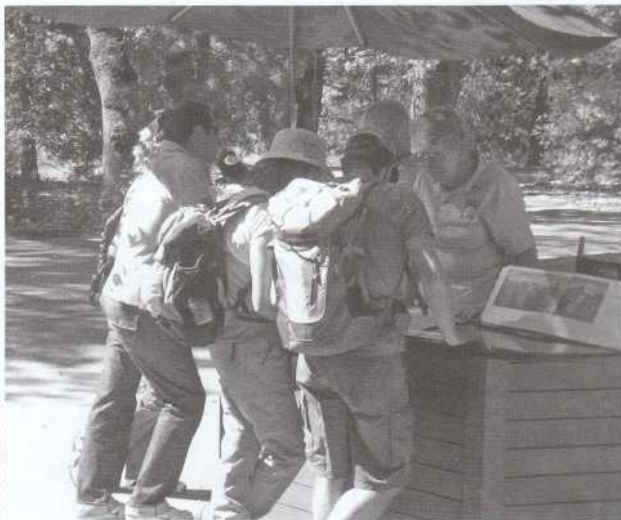
Take a vacation and give something back as a Yosemite Association volunteer. Join the elite group of Association members who donate their time, knowledge, and labor while living in the park. Volunteer opportunities abound this summer thanks to the generous financial support of the Yosemite Fund.

### VISITOR INFORMATION VOLUNTEERS

YA's Visitor Information Volunteers greet thousands of travelers at high traffic information stations and interpretive facilities in the park. They share their knowledge of Yosemite and introduce new members to our mission of stewardship and education. With friendly smiles and helpful guidance, Visitor Information Volunteers are the Association's ambassadors in the park.

Volunteers enjoy a month of free camping in group sites at Yosemite Valley, Wawona or Tuolumne Meadows, a 30 percent discount at YA Bookstores, a free Outdoor Adventure and discount cards from the park concessionaire. Most volunteers work 30 hours per week with time off to relax and enjoy the park. Volunteers are needed May through September in Yosemite Valley and Wawona, and mid-June through September in Tuolumne Meadows.

For more information and an application, visit our website, [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org), or contact Laura Beardsley at 209-379-2317 or [lbeardsley@yosemite.org](mailto:lbeardsley@yosemite.org).



LAURA BEARDSLEY

*Dawn Sherertz and Jack Hansen assist visitors at the new Visitor Information Booth on the Village Mall.*

## Sunrise High Sierra Camp Restoration

Hardy volunteers are needed to help DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite with restoration efforts at their Sunrise High Sierra Camp facilities this summer. Hike in, camp near Sunrise and help to rejuvenate and restore landscaping at this historic facility during the first full week in August.

Further details will be available at [www.yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html](http://www.yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html) in February or by calling 209-379-2317.



ANTHONY DEMAYO

*Chris Keisel and Larry Jansen planting along the Merced River as part of a Work Week in Yosemite Valley.*

### 2009 WORK WEEKS: A VACATION WORTH THE WORK

In only a week, you can enjoy a rewarding vacation and make a difference in Yosemite. In 2009, we will once again partner with the National Park Service, the Yosemite Institute and Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Yosemite to complete a series of restoration projects throughout the park.

### 2009 VOLUNTEERING DATES

**June 21-27:** Weed Warriors in Yosemite Valley

**July 12-18:** Spring in the Forest

**July 26-August 1:** High Country Restoration in Tuolumne

**August 16-22:** Social Science in Yosemite National Park

**September 13-19:** Fall Restoration in Yosemite Valley #1

**October 4-10:** Fall Restoration in Yosemite Valley #2

Join fellow volunteers to work four days on with a day off in the middle of the week to rejuvenate and enjoy the park. Full descriptions of each project and applications will be available in late January on our website at [www.yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html](http://www.yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html) or by calling 209-379-2317. Work Weeks fill quickly. Applications received by March 31 will be entered into a lottery to determine volunteer assignments.





# ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:

OA = Outdoor Adventure

YAEC = Yosemite Art and Education Center free courses

FEB.

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

**Feb 14:** OA #8 For the Love of Winter – Kendra Kurihara

**Feb 16:** YA Administrative Office closed for President's Day holiday

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

**Feb 28:** OA #10 Peregoy Snow Survey – Mark Fincher & Chuck Carter

*Nature's Beloved Son* at the John Muir House, Martinez, CA

MARCH

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

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

**Mar 21:** OA #13 Equinox at the Edge – Nicky Dunbar

**Mar 27:** OA #14 A Hard Road on Gold Mountain – Yenyen Chan

**Mar 23-28:** YAEC Dramatic Watercolor – Thor Ericson

**Mar 28:** Members' Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

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

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

**Mar 30-April 4:** YAEC Watercolor Spring – Mariko Lofink

APRIL

**Fridays-Mondays all month:** Yosemite Renaissance XXIV Exhibit, Yosemite Museum Gallery

**April 3-4:** OA #17 LNT Trainer Certification – Pete Devine

**April 4:** Ostrander Ski Hut closes for the season

**April 6-11:** YAEC Yosemite Landscape in Watercolor – Steve Curl

**April 11:** OA #18 Springtime Flowers – Michael Ross

**April 13-18:** Journaling, Drawing, Sketching, Painting – Donna Naes

**April 20-25:** YAEC The Magic of Watercolor – Robert Dvorak

**April 29-May 2:** YAEC Drawing, Sketching in Yosemite – Bob Magnuson

MAY

**Early May:** Spring 2009 issue of quarterly members' journal *Yosemite* sent out

**May 2:** OA #20 To the Base of Ribbon Falls – Suzanne Swedo

**May 4-9:** YAEC Adventures in Ink Painting – Carolyn Fitz

**May 8:** OA #21 Moonbow Photography 1 – John Senser

**May 9:** OA #22 Yosemite Waterfalls Grand Tour – Suzanne Swedo

**May 11-16:** YAEC Watercolor, Fresh and Loose – Fealing Lin

**May 15-17:** OA #23 Hetch Hetchy Wildflower Explorations – Suzanne Swedo

**May 18-23:** YAEC Travel Sketching Pen/Watercolor – Pam Pederson

**May 24-30:** YAEC Watercolor Painting Water, Rocks and Trees – Roger Folk

**May 25:** YA Administrative Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

**May 27-31:** OA #24 North Rim Backpack 1 – Pete Devine

JUNE

**June 1-6:** YAEC Sketching Yosemite – John McClary

**June 5-7:** OA #25 Miwok-Paiute Acorn Basketry – Lucy Parker

**June 6:** OA #26 Moonbow Photography 2 – John Senser

**June 8-13:** YAEC Watercolor Workshop – Janice Powell Shedd

**June 13:** OA #27 Birding Yosemite Valley – Michael Ross

**June 14:** OA #28 Foresta Birds – Michael Ross

**June 15-20:** YAEC Watercolor Bold and Free – Tom Fong

**June 17-21:** OA #29 North Rim Backpack 2 – Pete Devine

**June 19-21:** OA #30 The Nature of Writing Children's Books – Michael Ross

**June 22-26:** YAEC Watercolor for Landscape – Don Fay

**June 26-28:** OA #31 Waterwheel Falls Photography Backpack – John Senser

**June 27:** OA #32 Birding Crane Flat – Michael Ross

**June 29-July 4:** YAEC Valley Landscapes in Pastel – Roy Ernest Gould

For an expanded events calendar, visit [yosemite.org/member/calendar.htm](http://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](http://yosemite.org/seminars). Proceeds from all YA programs help support Yosemite!



# NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

ENROLLMENTS AND GIFTS PROCESSED FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 TO DECEMBER 22, 2008

## NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS

*Welcome to our new and rejoining members! You've connected with nearly 11,000 like-minded individuals, families and businesses helping the Association make Yosemite an even better place.*

### El Capitan Members

Lynne & James Gibbons, Benjamin Hammett, William Koenig, John & Tashia Morgridge, John Nelson, Shana Robertson

### Clouds Rest Members

Michele Clark, Doug & Eloise Gobin Crary, Lisa Molyneux

### Half Dome Members

Barbara & Marcus Aaron, Lori Alfano, Ed Ayre & Mary Ellen Shepherd, Robyn Clark, Jesse Cool, Jill & David Engelstad, Kathleen Galvin, Rocky Gentner, Henry & Anne Greiner, Steven & Kathryn Hager, Stephen Harrick & Jennifer Min, Jeannette Hayashida, Betsy Holak, Marcie Mortensson, Helen & Jack Nicholas, John & Connie Nielson, Robert Orosz, Karen Ostergard, Robert & Linda Rosenquist, Benjamin Schiffrin, Jonathan Spaulding, Susan Taylor & Robert Fabry

### Contributing Members

Eunice W.Ball, Kitty & Sean Brosnan, Doris Brown, Richard & Virginia Connery, Donna Fleming, Mark & Katie Gibson, Natasha Granoff, Roberta Hadley, Rosemary Hornby, Linda Hudock, Joerg Kaduk & Susanne Hoche, Kevin & Ginna Kelly, Pat Koch, Alice & Trevor Loy, Dana Marble, Kevin G. McHenry, Katherine Meermans, Dale Mizer, Martha Ozonoff & Doug Krause, Ruth & Steve Podiolski, Paulene Popek, Ed Pusatera, Jaun Rios, Judy & Ron Romines, Darel & Linda Scoggin, Mary Shuhert & Jim Agin, Georgia Stapleton, Donald Stow, John L. Taft, Colin Tanner, Toni Weingarten, Holly & David Wolff, Mark Wozniak

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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.

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**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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