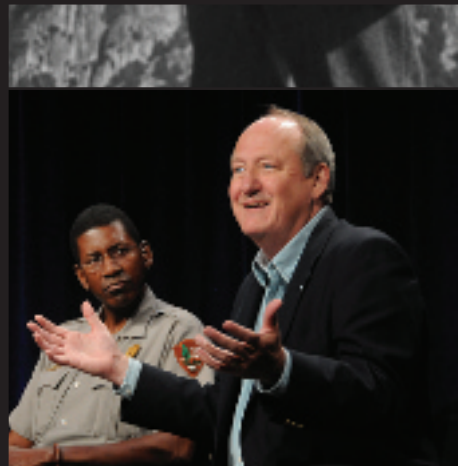
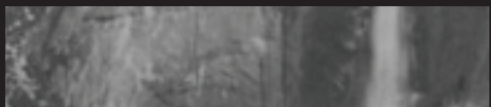
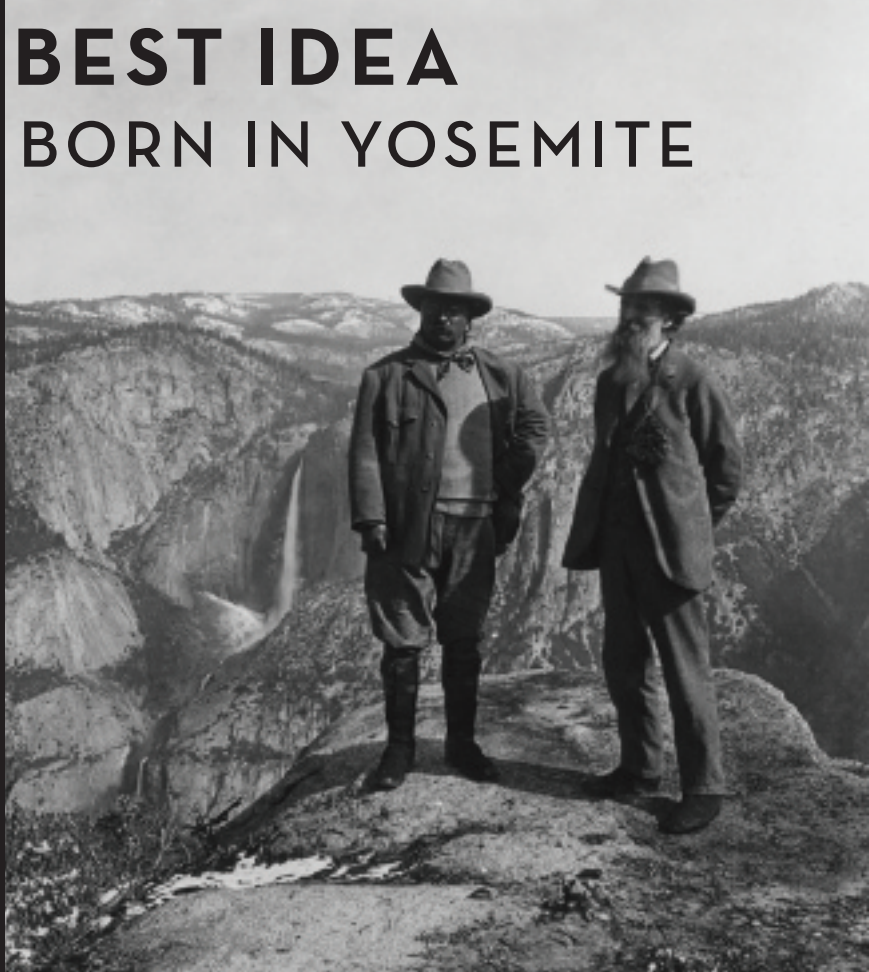


# AMERICA'S BEST IDEA BORN IN YOSEMITE



# FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND CEO

## AMERICA'S BEST IDEA

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE EXCITING TIME to support and stay connected to Yosemite National Park, where “America’s Best Idea” was born. We hope you were able to watch *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*, the latest documentary by eminent filmmaker Ken Burns and writer Dayton Duncan. For those who missed the six-part series or would like to enjoy this sweeping tribute to our National Parks, the DVD and many related books and products are available from the Association (see p. 18).

When Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan visited Yosemite earlier this year, we had the opportunity to share our passions and stories about this treasure of the Sierra Nevada. Both Ken and Dayton singled out Yosemite and Frederick Law Olmsted as the major inspiration for the National Park series. In a foreword they wrote for our new edition of *The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove*, they refer to this 1865 report by Olmsted as “remarkable and prescient,” reminding us that “the National Park idea, born in the United States, is as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical: that a nation’s most magnificent and sacred places should be preserved, not for royalty or rich, but for everyone and for all time.” In this way, the national park ideal first took shape beneath the soaring trees and high peaks of Yosemite.

To build on the excitement created by this series, we have assembled a special collection of stories by and about the Yosemite personalities who grace the screen during *America’s Best Idea*. You will recognize many, including Yosemite Ranger Shelton Johnson, who appeared in every episode of the film; Lee Stetson as the voice of John Muir, who performs as Muir during the summer at the Association-supported Yosemite Theater; Kimi Kodani Hill, a former Association board member who writes about her grandfather, the famous painter Chiura Obata; and Pamela Wright Lloyd, who shares stories about her father George Melendez Wright, a pioneering wildlife biologist for the National Park System. These families have all contributed to the Association in many valuable ways and their stories are woven throughout the fabric of Yosemite.

We are also honored to include contributions from Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan. These include the following words by Duncan, which we believe summarize the essence of the Association:

*The story of the national parks is much more than the story of spectacular places Americans have set aside for future generations. It is a story of people; people from every conceivable background and walk of life who were willing to devote themselves to saving some precious portion of the land they loved, and in so doing reminded themselves of the fuller meaning of democracy.*

We are truly blessed in Yosemite to be surrounded by both the magnificent setting and an amazing group of people, both past and present, who have indelibly shaped the Association and Yosemite National Park. We thank you for your continued support!



Christy Holloway, *Chair, Board of Trustees*



David J. Guy, *Chief Executive Officer*



INGELISE GUY  
Filmmaker Ken Burns with Christy Holloway and David Guy in Yosemite.

**Front cover clockwise from upper right:** *America’s Best Idea* director Ken Burns; President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir at Glacier Point, Yosemite National Park, 1903; Yosemite Park Ranger Shelton Johnson and filmmaker Dayton Duncan; *America’s Best Idea* cinematographer Buddy Squires, director Ken Burns and writer/producer Dayton Duncan; *Yosemite Valley in winter*; NPS biologist George Melendez Wright; tourist at Glacier Point circa 1902.

JASON SAVAGE; UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; JAKE LANDIS/PBS; CRAIG MELLISH; QT LUONG; C.P. RUSSELL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, HARPERS FERRY CENTER; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION



KATHLEEN M. WONG

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# ALMOST CHINA'S BEST IDEA

BY SHELTON JOHNSON

No matter where you travel, any conversation about national parks will invariably lead to Yosemite. The 1864 Yosemite Grant, which set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia, constitutes the first time in history that land was protected for non-utilitarian purposes.

Eight years later, that legislation became the legal precedent for the creation of Yellowstone National Park, considered the world's first national park even though some parks in China are much older. For example, Wuyishan National Park in China's Fujian Province was created by a Tang Dynasty emperor in the eighth century AD—nearly 1,000 years before John Colter began telling tales of a strange region initially called "Colter's Hell."

Was Wuyishan called a national park? No, but it was created by a nation for all of the people to enjoy. By any other name it was a national park. Nor was Yellowstone called a national park at its inception. Instead, it was known as "the nation's park." Not until the creation of Royal National Park near Sydney, Australia, in 1879, would an area be referred to as a "national park" in its enabling legislation.

To flourish, the national parks idea required much more than an imperial decree. It needed word of mouth, newspaper stories, magazine articles, paintings, photographs and that entrepreneurial spirit that so transfigured Yosemite Valley in the late 1800s. Yosemite Valley was a known tourist destination years before Yellowstone National Park was created.

China's Wuyishan was celebrated in art and poetry centuries before anyone had ever heard of John Muir, but the cultural heritage of the United States is European rather than Asian. Why Yellowstone sparked the global transmission of the national park idea while Wuyishan did not is a question for historians to debate.

This is especially intriguing when one considers that China during the eighth century was, unlike Japan in the nineteenth, a culture open to the other nations of the world. The Silk Road was a Eurasian trade route used by Persians and other merchants who opened China to the West, but the Chinese also enacted tight border laws that affected Westerners venturing into China to live and trade. Even so, thousands of foreigners ventured into many Chinese cities during the Tang Dynasty. In addition to Persians, there were Arabs, Hindu Indians, Malays, Christians and other groups travelling by land, and merchant vessels from Korea, Indonesia and Japan arriving by sea.

Though these pathways could have allowed a national park idea to travel from the Middle Kingdom into Europe, Chinese parks did not ignite a global movement such as the one started by Yellowstone in 1872.

Consequently, in the new documentary film by Ken Burns, Yosemite and Yellowstone are presented as the first fruition of the national park idea which became America's gift to the world, and their story dominates the first two episodes. From episode three on to the conclusion of the film, we see how the story of the parks becomes organically inseparable from the story of the National Park Service. The park idea continues to evolve, as new elements such as the need to preserve the ruins of ancient Indian cultures, the early conservation movement, the view of parks as democratic institutions, the rise of the automobile and the appreciation of the role of science in the parks emerge with passing decades. All of this is the legacy of individuals and small groups who became passionate about an idea that would literally change the world.

Nearly one hundred nations now have areas that are classified as national parks. Countries ranging from Austria to Zimbabwe have followed the model first forged in Yosemite Valley in 1864. And yet, as significant as this contribution is to world culture, the story of this great idea is still unknown to millions of people. National parks are now a universal institution, but they were once a radical notion that was shaped not just by people who loved the idea, but also by those who hated it. Mountain prophets and private developers, landscape architects and poachers, poets and profiteers all played a signature role in shaping what would become not only our national park system, but also UNESCO's World Heritage Sites program, which recognizes areas of global importance under one banner.

The parks idea recognizes that areas of great cultural, biological, or geological importance are the common inheritance of all nations. Under this system, not only is Yosemite bound to Jefferson's Monticello, it is also bound to the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the old town of Lijiang in Yunnan Province and the



COURTESY NPS

Great Wall of China, because all of these areas are World Heritage Sites, part of a global legacy for all humanity.

Watching “The National Parks, America’s Best Idea” by Ken Burns is not only a great way to discover how the most significant inventions can have the most humble of origins, it’s also an opportunity to recognize how a revolution in thought that was centuries in the making is still unfinished.

National Parks and World Heritage Sites may be only the beginning stages in our evolving recognition of the beautiful world and universe we live in. What’s next? The largest known canyon in the solar system is located on the planet Mars. Will human beings one day stand at a viewpoint overlooking Valley of the Mariners National Park? Closer to home, how about the Sea of Tranquility Lunar Monument where an Apollo astronaut first set foot on the moon?

Neil Armstrong would probably respond, “Well, that would be one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.”



*Scenic Mount Wuyi was set aside for the enjoyment of the Chinese people in the eighth century AD, making it the world’s first true national park.*

**Shelton Johnson is a ranger at Yosemite National Park and is featured in “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.” His new novel Gloryland is inspired by his portrayals of a Buffalo Soldier in the park’s living history programs.**



*Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne at sunset.*

## Carry America’s Best Idea Forward

Here are three ways you can share America’s Best Idea with your friends and family this holiday season, and help keep the idea alive for generations to come:

- 1 Give the National Parks story as a gift. We are now offering the six-part “National Parks: America’s Best Idea” DVD series, soundtrack and companion book. Details can be found on page 18.
- 2 Share your special connection to Yosemite by giving a Yosemite Association membership to your children, grandchildren or friends. You’ll find a gift membership form on the back page of this issue.
- 3 Make a year-end contribution to the Association. Whether you cherish learning outdoors, volunteering in the park, participating in art and theater programs, reading about Yosemite history in Association publications, or cultivating the next generation of park stewards, now is the time to enhance these important programs at Yosemite with your donation. You’ll find a donation envelope enclosed.

# JOHN MUIR AND LEE STETSON

BY KEN BURNS

*In “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” filmmaker Ken Burns and colleagues highlight the role of conservationist John Muir in shaping what would become the National Park System. Here, Burns discusses his thoughts on John Muir and actor Lee Stetson, who has brought John Muir to life for 27 years in performances at the Yosemite Theater.*

I find John Muir central to the American character because he articulated a vision of our possibilities that even we had not yet fully understood that we had.

John Muir ascended to the pantheon of the highest of individuals in our country. I’m talking about the level of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jackie Robinson—people who have had a transformational effect on who we are.

There is no person to our mind more important in understanding the national parks and their essential, innermost important message than John Muir. This young Scottish-born wanderer walks into Yosemite and has his molecules rearranged, then spends the rest of his life trying to rearrange his adopted country’s citizens’ molecules by preaching to them the blessings of nature.

What I hope our series does in its own modest way is to help spread the gospel of John Muir just as Lee Stetson does in his own way. [Stetson] spreads the gospel of John Muir every time he gets on stage and assumes the words and the manners and the character of an extraordinary

human being who deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Abraham Lincoln.

Hal Holbrook has, for the last several decades, been able to bring Mark Twain alive for us and does so magnificently. Lee Stetson does the same thing for John Muir. And because John Muir is the single most important person in our series, it makes Lee’s on-camera commentary all the more critical to understanding who this man was. Lee’s voice, reading the words of John Muir, is central to whatever success this film might have.

At the end of Muir’s life, at the end of the second episode, there’s a moment that you realize that this man is, in fact, the voice that you have been hearing; that the man who just died is actually still alive in every sense of the word, and that it ends up as Lee quoting the last words of Muir.... The life of John Muir, the art of Lee Stetson, conspire to create that practical type of immortality that will permit John Muir to come alive for viewers and will also permit the artistry and message of Lee Stetson to live for quite a long time.

*Actor Lee Stetson has brought the voice and spirit of John Muir to life onstage at the Yosemite Theater for 27 years.*

COURTESY LEE STETSON



# CHIURA OBATA

“Adorning the heights of the Sierra range are the wildflowers. Every three to seven days they bloom in white, red, yellow and purple, bursting out in a kaleidoscope of beauty and giving us untold lessons and valuable experiences.” My grandfather, artist and teacher Chiura Obata (1885-1975), wrote these words for a Japanese-language newspaper in 1928 describing his recent camping trip to Yosemite. His experiences in the high country had solidified his own philosophy of art and life.



Chiura Obata in Yosemite, 1927.

Born in Japan and raised in the northern city of Sendai, Chiura Obata trained as a professional artist before traveling to America in 1903, at age 18. In California, he found a home to raise his family as well as lifelong inspiration for his artwork. He wrote that he cherished “the grand nature of California, which over the long years, in sad as well as in delightful times, has always given me great lessons, comfort and nourishment.” Obata’s art is infused with his reverence for nature. Viewing it as a powerful spiritual force, he referred to it as Dai Shizen, or Great Nature.

During Obata’s upbringing in Japan, respect and appreciation for nature were central to everyday life. He was also influenced by the writings of John Muir. “When I enter the bosom of Great Nature,” Obata said, “I believe in the blessing of nature as a kind of god to me.”

Obata first visited Yosemite National Park in 1927, when he was 42 years old. He considered the park “the greatest source of inspiration for my whole life and future in painting.” Whether he focused his brush on a sculptural granite dome, as in *Death’s Grave’s Pass and Tenaya Peak*, or the dignity of a single tree in a forest, as in *Life*

and *Death, Porcupine Flat*, he expressed his appreciation in every detail.

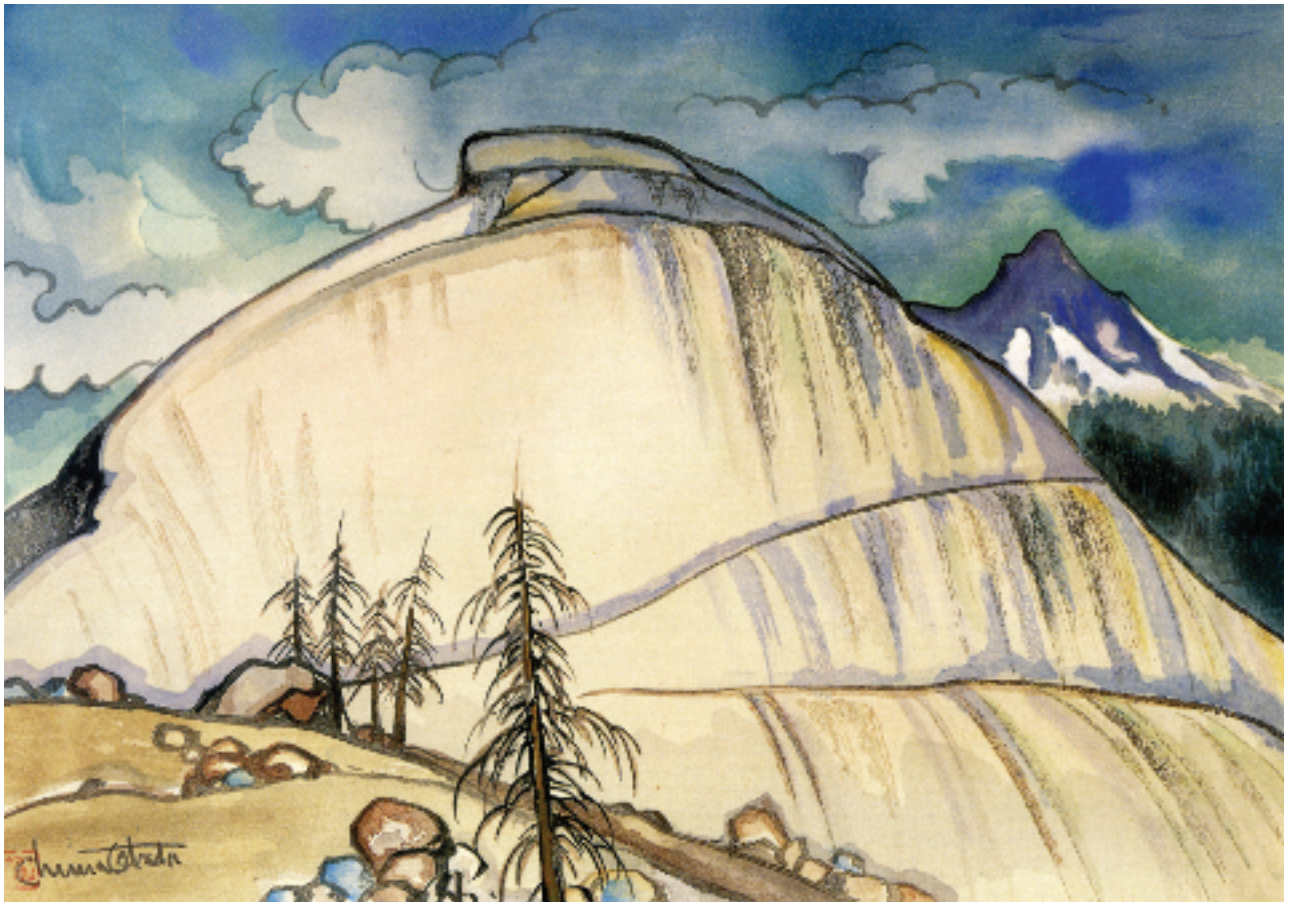
From 1932 on he taught in the art department at the University of California, Berkeley. As a teacher he advocated finding a personal connection with nature. He showed his students the interconnectedness of nature, tracing through his painting the course of a single drop of water from the leaf of a lupine flower in Tuolumne Meadows to the Pacific Ocean. During the 1930s Obata returned to Yosemite Valley each summer to enjoy weeks of camping, fishing and painting with family, friends and students.

In 1942, following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Obata family was forcibly relocated to internment camps alongside 110,000 other Japanese Americans. Despite living in great hardship behind barbed wire fences, Obata continued to sketch and paint, chronicling daily life in the camps. He also founded and directed art schools, believing in the healing potential of art. Even in the remote desert environment of Topaz, Utah, he

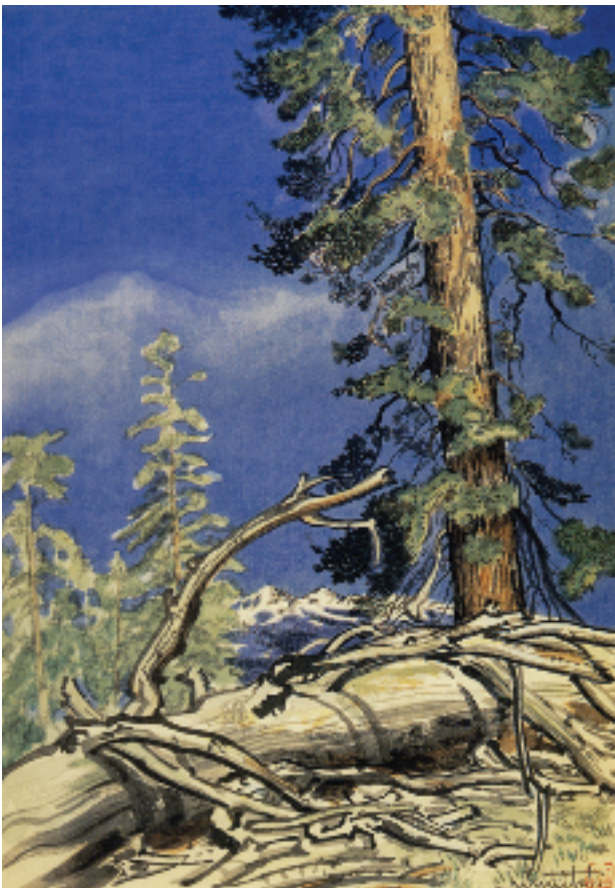


Shooting Stars, Chiura Obata, 1927

COURTESY KIMI KODANI HILL (2)



Death's Grave's Pass and Tenaya Peak, *Chiura Obata, 1930*



COURTESY KIMI KODANI HILL (2)

reminded fellow internees to find hope and solace in the sunsets and starry skies of nature.

For myself, I am proud that the National Park Service has preserved not only the unrivaled beauty of Yosemite, but also created a new national park, Manzanar National Historic Site, commemorating the history of Japanese American internment. Manzanar is located only a couple of hours' drive from Tioga Pass. The national parks provide us with places to reflect on our place in history as well as our relationship to the natural world. Obata's vision of Great Nature as common ground shared by all cultures resonates with people today. Thanks to our national parks we can continue to educate and inspire the next generations.

*Kimi Kodani Hill is the granddaughter of Chiura Obata and the author of Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of the Internment. She has served on the Yosemite Association's Board of Trustees and has been a longtime Association member.*

Life and Death, *Chiura Obata, 1930*



# GEORGE MELENDEZ WRIGHT

The story of the national parks is much more than the story of the spectacular places Americans have set aside for future generations. It is a story of people; people from every conceivable background and walk of life who were willing to devote themselves to saving some precious portion of the land they loved, and in doing so reminded their fellow citizens of the fuller meaning of democracy.

Ten years ago, when Ken Burns and I first started out to tell that story, I started “meeting” many of them. That’s how I got to know George Melendez Wright, who soon became one of my personal heroes. While not exactly unknown, Wright remains a cipher to a large majority of National Park Service employees, let alone to a vast American public—and we quickly decided he deserved far greater recognition.

The son of a sea captain and a mother from El Salvador, Wright’s fingerprints can be found in a number of parks, even though he started out as an assistant park naturalist in Yosemite before convincing his bosses that he should conduct a study of wildlife conditions in the parks—something that had never been done before. His survey resulted in the creation of a new Wildlife Division, and though only 29 years old, he was put in charge and soon became a rising star within the Park Service. Wright

gave the movement for creation of Everglades National Park a crucial boost by urgently reporting, “Unless this area is quickly established as a national park, the wildlife there will become extinct.” Twenty years before Laurance Rockefeller’s philanthropy made Virgin Islands National Park possible in 1956, Wright had called for its creation. Without Wright, the trumpeter swans might not have found refuge at Red Rock Lakes and instead joined the passenger pigeon in the mournful list of vanished species. If Big Bend ever becomes part of an international park, extending across both sides of the Rio Grande, we’ll have Wright to thank for initiating the idea.

But his major contribution was showing that, in order to thrive and evolve, the park idea has relied on the commitment of individuals willing to point in a new direction. Like Martin Luther King, Jr. challenging the nation to apply the tenets of the Declaration of Independence and finally admit that “all men are created equal,” Wright challenged the Park Service to live up to its founding document and apply the injunction of “unimpaired” preservation to animals within park borders, whether they had previously been treated as pets to be pampered or pests to be eliminated. We take both men’s views for granted now, sometimes forgetting how courageously revolutionary they were—and how long it took for their dreams to take hold. As former park superintendent Ernest Ortega told us, Wright “was the savior of wildlife in America’s national parks, but more importantly, George Melendez Wright is the savior of the national park ideal.”

During the survey, Wright found that park managers were not only routinely killing predators of all kinds, rangers in Yellowstone were even stomping pelican eggs to reduce the number of birds, which they considered competitors with fishermen. Despite on-paper regulations against feeding bears, even Park Service directors such as Horace Albright and Stephen Mather loved nothing better than to have their picture taken giving scraps to black bears, and grizzlies were a major attraction at park dumps. Hay wagons routinely doled out winter forage to elk, deer and bison. Wright sensed that “the very heart of the national park system” was imperiled by an attitude that narrowly defined the park ideal to preserving pretty views for tourists in automobiles.

He proposed that nature be allowed to take its course in the parks; that every species—even the hated

*George Melendez Wright with a camera in the snow, Yosemite National Park, 1929.*



C.P. RUSSELL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, HARRPERS FERRY CENTER



ISTOCKPHOTO (2)

*George Melendez Wright was instrumental in shifting National Park Service attitudes toward wildlife. While rangers hunted mountain lions and other predators in Yosemite, and put out hay to feed elk and bison in Yellowstone, he lobbied to permit natural systems to function intact and with minimal interference.*

predators—be left to “carry on its struggle for existence unaided.” National parks, he contended, were not zoos. However self-evident they may seem to us now, Wright’s proposals for wildlife in the parks were nothing less than radical for their time. “Our national heritage is richer than just scenic features,” he prophesied. “The realization is coming that perhaps our greatest national heritage is nature itself, with all its complexity and its abundance of life, which, when combined with great scenic beauty as it is in the national parks, becomes of unlimited value.”

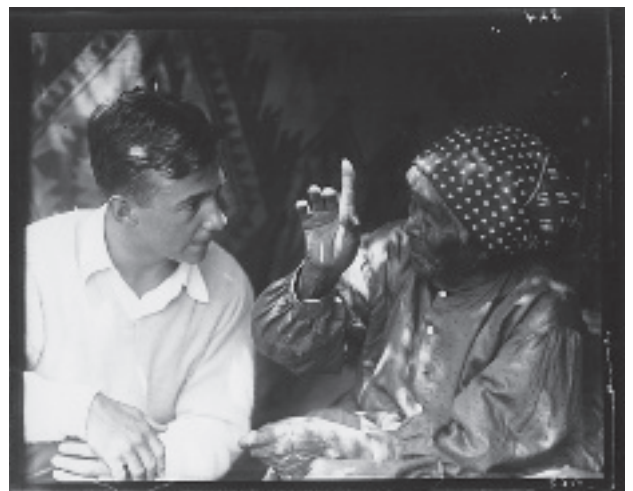
Wright combined a poet’s eloquence and a scientist’s powers of observation with what seems to me at least to be the passion of a belief in something larger. “If we destroy nature blindly, it is a boomerang which will be our undoing,” he wrote. “Consecration to the task of adjusting ourselves to [the] natural environment so that we secure the best values from nature without destroying it is not useless idealism; it is good hygiene for civilization.” Whether he was describing the thrill of encountering a bear in the wild, the song of a Mearns quail (“the voice of eternity in the wind on the desert”) or the reverie he felt in watching thousands of water birds and feeling that “the illusion of the untouchability of this wilderness becomes so strong that it is stronger than reality, and the polished roadway becomes the illusion, the mirage that has no substance,” Wright brought soulfulness to his science.

And when he met a tragic death in a car accident in 1936, at age 31, the Park Service—and the nation—lost a leader who, Horace Albright believed, would have one day become the agency’s director. But even after his death, the parks would ultimately embrace his vision for preserving nature in the national parks as official policy.

George Melendez Wright was a hero and an idealist. A

hundred years after his death, the parks will still be moving to the measure of his thought. And if Ken Burns and I have anything to say about it, he will not be forgotten.

*Dayton Duncan is an award-winning writer and documentary filmmaker who has been involved for many years with the work of his colleague Ken Burns. Their much-anticipated series **The National Parks: America’s Best Idea** has been airing on PBS since September. This is adapted from an article that originally appeared in **The George Wright Forum**.*



*George Melendez Wright listening to Totoya (later known as Maria Lebrado), a granddaughter of Chief Tenaya and possibly the last person to have known Yosemite Valley before European contact, in July 1929. Totoya was charmed by Wright’s kindness and ability to speak Spanish.*

JOSEPH S. DIXON, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, HARPERS FERRY CENTER

# A Personal Tribute

BY PAMELA WRIGHT LLOYD

**ON FEBRUARY 25, 1936**, at the age of 31, my father, George Melendez Wright, was killed in an auto accident. I was only two and a half years old, too young to remember him. But over the years I came to know him through the personal remembrances of my mother, Bee Wright Shuman, other family members, friends and colleagues, the legacy of his work and his professional writing.

My father was a pioneering and visionary biologist in the early days of natural resource conservation and the National Park Service. Long before concepts such as “ecosystem,” “environmentally sound,” and “sustainability” had been coined, George Wright’s ecological perspective and philosophy pointed to the need for science-based management of the national parks.

Even today, 70 years later, my father’s life, work and writing are greatly respected and continue to influence the Park Service and beyond. George Wright articulated a philosophy, indeed a vision, which not only transcends his life and times but speaks to us across the years with stunning clarity and relevance.

My father’s national stature and historical importance should not obscure his origins and strong California ties. His roots were grounded in the San Francisco Bay Area where he was born, raised and educated. He attended San Francisco’s Lowell High School, where he was president of the Audubon Club and senior class president, and went on to the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied forestry and vertebrate zoology. From his teens on, Wright was hiking and exploring the backcountry of the West Coast. These trips fueled his interest in wildlife research



NPS HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, HARPERS FERRY CENTER

and honed his skills as a field biologist and naturalist.

My father found “his” park—Yosemite—long before he came to work there. He would return there again and again for the rest of his life. Working as assistant naturalist between 1927 and 1929, he put his own imprint on Yosemite National Park by helping to develop the museum in the Valley, teaching field classes, conducting field studies of fauna and flora,

and writing many articles for *Yosemite Nature Notes*, this publication’s predecessor.

My father’s deep and abiding attachment to Yosemite and the Sierra became part of his legacy to his family. Long before the 1970s and the modern environmental movement, I grasped the importance of what my father believed in and stood for: his love of wilderness and wildlife; his sure knowledge of the need to tread lightly on the natural world; and especially his first love, birds.

Succeeding generations of our family—George Wright’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren—have followed in his footsteps along mountain paths, feeling a special affinity for Yosemite and the Sierra, the places that gave him such great joy and inspiration for his life’s work.

*A California native and Marin County resident, Pamela Wright Lloyd has long been involved with government and community organizations committed to environmental education, preservation, protection and stewardship. She and her husband Jim visit Yosemite every chance they get.*



KATHLEEN M. WONG

# A PARK FOR ALL PEOPLE

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## Being of this essence...; A Yosemite Sierra Native heritage perspective

BY K. A. CUNNINGHAM-SUMMERFIELD

I am relatively new here, not quite half a century, and I am considered by some a bit odd. Though my entire essence comes from this place we call Earth, Terra, Turtle Island, Lands from the fogs and water, I am born Indigenous. I have had the privilege to spend most of my years here in the Yosemite area and in California in general. It is from this time that I will relay to you as best I can a brief overview of what I have learned to understand is our heritage as Native People in the Ahwahnee area.

Indian peoples have been here in this place since the time of the waters and plants coming. Even before the giant rocks and cliffs came to be. The people were here as witnesses, tenders of the Earth that had always managed to provide for them in every manner necessary. According to those I was raised with as a young girl, the people of Ahwahnee (Yosemite Valley now) are known as the Ahwahneechee generally, and more specifically by the village in which they actually lived. Life, on the whole, was good. Occasionally great beasts from the sky or such would challenge the people, as would other Peoples wanting to resolve a complaint with them. Still others had a desire for their homelands. Gathering, hunting and trading with those same People which were fought with and others for goods that were not readily available composed important elements of life here. The trade allowed for great fun and friendships to develop, perfecting each other's languages and dialects, falling in love, strengthening ties between Peoples and Nations, games, competitions, songs and dances both ceremonial and social. Languages and songs from all the world as it was known then could be heard in the meadows, often followed by both human and water laughter. Back and forth, happy with life struggling with life, facing death, mourning for those gone, new birth, the passing of seasons and years, eons with some changes greater than others went on and on, repeated in historical storytelling to teach and learn from.

Great pride in whom and where you come from has always been a part of family life wherever one might live. No exception was made or taken here. Quality craftsmanship of items for gifting and trade as well as daily use demonstrated that pride, as did excellence in other talents. Knowing the essence of place, the earth between your toes, different winds and water gurgles, sounds of rock talk as a warning or pleasure, knowing the other peoples from other realms and communicating with them, hearing the voices of the plants and their physi-

cal languages were a part of you as you were a part of all of them. Being respectful of that connection, tending it, keeping it healthy, is a part of breathing, a part of our heritage here.

A time came that brought rapid change to the Ahwahneechee. The world's boundaries had been expanded and new things came. Some of these were wonderful and delightful to behold, others devastating and cruel. Between the late 1700s and 1851, the new things were kept at bay, only a few seeping in. In 1852, the world as it existed to the Ahwahneechee abruptly turned upside down and inside out. Fire and smoke brought the smell of their world burning away. The sounds of men and thundering hooves who left Grandmother thrown in a snowdrift freezing, turning blue, brought tears up from the heart, some that spilt over mother's hands as she clamped them over little mouths to still her children's cries in their hiding place, knowing this was a different sort of change than ever before. A different kind of challenge came, one demanding all that they had and were. One that demanded becoming what they weren't or die, or maybe still, just die. Removed from their homes repeatedly, they returned repeatedly, though with some length of time between each return. They found themselves to be an oddity which the newcomers occasionally enjoyed observing.

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**Native peoples tried together to keep the frayed, tattered bits of their heritage alive. Sometimes in complete secret, sometimes hidden in plain view, traditions were handed on to the next generations.**

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For the next six or so decades, rapid changes took place: superficial modifications in dress and housing types allowing for survival in general; decrease in population significantly upwards of 89%; family separation, children sent away to boarding schools; other, far distant tribal peoples relocated to work in the new society's

business establishments; intertribal marriage with tribal people from faraway lands happened. Fear and shame to be too much of whom you were in public and, at times, even at home set in. Social and other laws forbid the continuance of many traditions. Much was hidden or lost. U.S. Army troops were sent to patrol Yosemite. Buffalo Soldiers from San Francisco's Presidio arrived near the turn of the century to "deal with the Indian problem" and assist with poachers and wildfires. 1908 brought back the scent of smoke and fire's touch as villages burned once again.

Beginning in the 1860s a few Natives provided demonstrations to the public making baskets, processing acorn and doing bead work. These became a favorite of tourists. In 1916 the National Park Service sponsored Indian Field Days to focus attention on and encourage the continuance of local Native culture, and of course use Indians to draw influential visitors to the Park. Chief Ranger F. Townsley, H.E. Wilson of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, San Franciscan philanthropist J. Schwabacher, and others were the main organizers in the 1920s. Modifications to several aspects were made to satisfy the expectations of the audience. Yet beside the Plains-style teepee, and warbonnets from other cultures, were family-made baskets, foods, games and competitions, gatherings of Native Peoples. Songs sung where the winds could pick them up and carry them about the meadows, chances to trade, touching of the waters and stone faces about the canyon walls, visiting those special places, watching the plants dance, hearing the languages of the other realms, laughing behind hands, eyes sparkling, it is *not us* that they see but some other make believe.

Publications began claiming that all of the Ahwahneechees were dead, gone, terminated, just a bit of the past. Yet a few Villages (built by the Park Service in the 1930s) of the Ahwahneechee remained inhabited in the Valley until they were razed in 1968, and even then many simply moved into Park Service housing. The Ahwahneechee remained. Through recognition from relatives to the north, the Central and Northern Mewuk extended health and dental services to those living in the Yosemite area. Native peoples, both those relocated and intermarried with locals, and local Ahwahneechee, tried together to keep the frayed, tattered bits of their heritage alive. Sometimes in complete secret, sometimes hidden in plain view, traditions were handed on to the next gen-



*Young ones learning to cook in the old ways with a basket and hot rocks.*

erations. Many Indians continued to find employment in the park itself or the immediate area. Different jobs, modern jobs, whether they were working for Roads and Trails, Forestry, Maintenance, Building and Grounds, Interpretation, Resource Management, Retail, or Fire provided the opportunities to stay in contact with our heritage, our essence in part, our responsibilities. We could watch over and watch out for that which we come from, and try to tend our place of origins for the next generations in a positive way.

Over the last four decades, the Native peoples here in the Yosemite Sierra area, Yosemite in particular, have managed to take some forward strides again. In the early 1970s an Interpretive Cultural Village was rebuilt partially

on an old village site. This in itself allowed for young and not so young Indians to relearn and practice traditions as well as share what was appropriate with the public. In the years past only very few at a time—one, two or sometimes three—were allowed to give educational cultural demonstrations, most often it was a lonely individual. The demonstrations sometimes back then had to be modified to satisfy the stereotypical expectations of the public and employer, yet if you knew how to look, the truth could be seen hidden in front of you. That same decade brought back ceremonial times in the Valley on a more open basis: Big Time was returned. Of course, the cost of having some sacred traditional ceremonies in a public venue was that the public had to be given an opportunity to be observing participants. All of this followed the conception of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County (AICMC), whose guidance and due diligence, along with that of dedicated supporters native and non-native alike, were the catalysts of some of these cultural resurgences. In the 1980s an annual trans-Sierra walk was begun to honor one of the trade routes used between the Mono Lake Paiutes and the Ahwahneechee Miwoks over the millennia. A Memorandum of

Understanding was reached in the mid-1990s between the AICMC and the National Park Service. One of the components allowed for the reestablishment of Wahoga, a traditional village site near one of the villages razed in 1968. In the early 2000s, for the first time since the forced removal, approximately 200 Native youth returned to the Ahwahnee Valley to listen to Elders, learn about a few traditional skills, walk and hike where their ancestors had, speak about their futures and finally listen to an inspired young woman sing a traditional song gifted to her from her Grandfather, a well known healer.

The struggle to become a federally recognized tribe continues, as does the desire to step forward out of the shadows and reassume our place amongst other tribes as self-determining, socially contributing, a strong and proud Nation. Active roles in the management of resources, both as advisors and teachers of traditional management styles, have once again come within reach. Particular events were even completed with celebrated success when allowed to be attempted.

Our continued heritage, as Native peoples who have been here in this place since the time of the waters and plants coming, even before the giant rocks and cliffs

came to be. The people are here as witnesses, tenders of the Earth that has always managed to provide for us in every manner necessary. Our knowing the essence of place, being of that essence, the earth between our toes, different winds and water gurgles, sounds of rock talk both as a warning or pleasure, knowing the peoples from other realms and communicating with them, hearing the voices of the plants and their physical languages and dances, are a part of us as we were a part of all of them. Being respectful of that connection, tending it, keeping it healthy, is a part of breathing, a function of our hearts pounding, a part of our heritage here in Ahwahnee. Yes, we are still here.



K.A. CUNNINGHAM-SUMMERFIELD

*Tribal members gathering and tending native plants for basket making.*

## A Hard Road on Gold Mountain

YENYEN F. CHAN

Years ago, driving with friends from San Francisco to Yosemite, I passed through the town of Chinese Camp in the Sierra Nevada foothills and wondered how the town got its name. I have since learned that a large population of Chinese lived in California from the mid-1800s to early 1900s, and that they contributed significantly to California's history.

These early Chinese were fleeing dire natural and social disasters. Floods, droughts, famines and war pushed several hundred thousand Chinese to emigrate. After gold was discovered in California in 1848, many pooled resources or borrowed money to embark on the month-long boat voyage to California. Infused with hope, they named the land across the ocean "Gum Saan" or "Gold Mountain."

The Chinese were originally tolerated for their hard work. But as gold became scarce by 1850, new restrictive laws targeting Chinese and other foreign miners soon followed. The 1860s and '70s saw an escalation of attacks against Chinese communities. Many Chinese were imprisoned or killed, their homes and businesses looted or burned to the ground. Mark Twain wrote, "Any white man can swear a Chinaman's life away in the courts, but no Chinaman can testify against a white man. Ours is the 'land of the free'—nobody denies that—nobody challenges it... As I write, news comes that in broad daylight in San Francisco, some boys have stoned an inoffensive Chinaman to death, and that although a large crowd witnessed the shameful deed, no one interfered."

Despite oppressive discrimination, the Chinese in California excelled wherever they could. Many worked in some of the most dangerous jobs, such as cutting through mountains to lay railroad tracks. In Yosemite, Chinese immigrants were the primary labor constructing the Wawona and Tioga Roads.

In the summer of 1874, both the Coulterville Road and Big Oak Flat Road entered Yosemite Valley. To maintain tourist business, the Wawona Hotel's owners realized they needed a road from their establishment near the Mariposa Grove to Yosemite Valley. They hired 50 Chinese laborers who began work in December 1874. The crew grew to approximately 300. Working through the snowy winter, they completed in four and a half months an astonishing 23 miles of road that climbed 3,000 feet. A 300-yard gap near Inspiration Point remained until June. While the gap was being completed, workers helped dismantle stage wagons, carried the parts across the gap, and reassembled the wagons. For many tourists, it was the highlight of the trip.

The Tioga Road, originally the Great Sierra Wagon Road, was constructed to help supply equipment to min-

ing towns along the route. It began at Crocker's Station (4,200 feet) and ended just beyond Tioga Pass (9,945 feet). Approximately 250 Chinese and 90 Caucasian laborers completed the 56-mile road in 130 days from 1882-1883.

Other Chinese gained employment with their culinary talents. The Wawona Hotel hired over a dozen Chinese including an exceptional cook named Ah You. Head chef for 47 years, he cooked for both President Benjamin Harrison and Theodore Roosevelt.

Another well known chef was Tie Sing, head chef for the United States Geological Survey. Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, requested Tie Sing for his Mountain Party trips, which included National Geographic Society director Gilbert H. Grosvenor and writer Robert Sterling Yard. Yard wrote in 1916, "To me Tie Sing had assumed apocryphal proportions. The extraordinary recitals of his astonishing culinary exploits had been more than I could quite believe. But I believe them all now, and more. I shall not forget that dinner;—soup, trout, chops, fried potatoes, string beans, fresh bread, hot apple pie, cheese and coffee. It was the first of many equally elaborate, and equally appreciated." To honor their beloved chef, the USGS in 1899 named the 10,522 foot mountain peak along Yosemite's southeastern border Sing Peak.

The early Chinese in Yosemite faced numerous challenges yet made incredible contributions to the park. I believe remembering the stories of the people in our National Parks' history reminds us of the extraordinary gifts we experience today thanks to their efforts and the importance of preserving our parks for future generations.



K. AMSTUTZ

*Yen-Yen F. Chan began working in Yosemite as a Yosemite Association intern for the National Park Service in college and returned as a field instructor for the Yosemite Institute. She has a masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry and worked as an environmental consultant in Hong Kong and as an environmental researcher in the United States and Bhutan. She currently works as a park ranger in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows.*

## Latinos in the Landscape

BETSY RIVERA

Chief Tenaya, James Savage, John Muir and Galen Clark. These are just some of the names that come to mind when thinking about the people who shaped the history of Yosemite. One often hears of the pioneers who “first” came to Yosemite Valley and the impact they had on the place. As a Latina who works and lives in Yosemite National Park, I often wonder if that is why Latinos aren’t drawn to this place the way other ethnic groups appear to be. This is a park for all people, and therefore the history of Latinos in the Sierra Nevada must also take its place in the history of Yosemite National Park.

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### Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo is credited today with giving a name to the “snowy ranges” of California.

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No study into the history of Latinos in the Sierra Nevada can begin without first recognizing that the name for this mountain range comes from two Spanish words. *Sierra* means mountain, and *nevada* means snowy. One might wonder how the 400-mile-long mountain range that makes up a large portion of wilderness in the state of California came to be known as the Sierra Nevada.

While Native Americans are believed to have inhabited the Sierra as far back as 3000 BC, the first European expedition to sail a ship along the coast of what we now call “California” was led by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Spaniard. In November 1542, he and his men saw mountains covered with snow to the summit which they named the Sierra Nevada. When maps in this time period were made, the name Sierra Nevada was used for several mountain ranges across California. Though Cabrillo never actually saw today’s Sierra Nevada, he is credited today with giving a name to the “snowy ranges” of California.

Two Franciscan missionaries, Padres Francisco Garces and Pedro Font, are given credit for “discovering” the Sierra Nevada. Garces and Font were members of an expedition led by Juan Bautista de Anza, which came from Sonora, Mexico in 1775 to colonize San

Francisco and reinforce the Spanish presence in Northern California. Garces and Font saw and mentioned the Sierra Nevada specifically, and for the first time in history, accurately placed the mountain range on a map. From Suisun Bay, on April 2, 1776, Font wrote that “about forty leagues off, we saw a great snow-covered mountain range (*una gran sierra nevada*), which seemed to me to run from south-southeast to north-northwest.” The next day, the expedition moved towards the mountain range and climbed a hill near present-day Antioch, where they saw “on the other side of the plain and about thirty leagues distant a great snow-covered range, white from crest to foot...we could not discover either end of the range.” It would be another thirty years before the Spanish conducted any further explorations of the Sierra Nevada.



PETE DEVINE

*Betsy Rivera has worked for the Yosemite Institute since August 2006 as an outdoor educator helping youth form a personal connection to the natural world. Most recently, she led the Armstrong Scholars program, a 14-day backpacking trip that helps empower teenage girls through wilderness skills education.*



# PARK PROFILE

## VERNAL FALL



KATHLEEN M. WONG

**Name:** Vernal Fall

**Job Title:** spectacular waterfall

**Hometown:** Always Yosemite

**Education:** Years of experience

**Total number of years working in Yosemite:** approximately 1.5 million

**What first brought you to Yosemite?** Before I was a waterfall, I was a spot on a low-gradient river on the gentle western slope of what would become the Sierra Nevada. As the Sierra steepened, the Merced River gained volume and velocity. At a certain point the river cut into plutonic bedrock and encountered a system of planar joints which appeared during the formation of the mountain range. One of these joints is what allowed the river, and then a few ice sheets, to cut the step in the Merced's gradient that would become me. Just like the trees, I started small and grew to my present size right here in this canyon.

**What do you do in your job?** I pretty much serve as a part of the drainage of what you call the Merced watershed. Though I'm just doing my part here, a lot of people—I mean a *lot* of people—stop to take photos or video of me. Because of this, looking good has become an important job function.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?** The visitors are pretty nice; they appreciate what I do. I love it when I see people picking up trash along the trail (Leave No Trace, right?)—but I gotta say that my favorite thing might be that little bird, the American dipper. They fly up and down along the river all year, faster than the water flows. They always seem a little surprised to have to fly up so steeply to surmount me, but the little guys do it. Now and then they land; believe it or not, they kinda tickle.

**What is your favorite place in Yosemite?** Oh, no question: it's Nevada Fall, just upstream. That thing rocks. It's twice as high as I am, and I aspire to someday be more like Nevada Fall.

**What is your favorite Yosemite book?** Easy: *Granite, Water and Light*, by Mike Osborne. His photography and text are top notch; all of us waterfalls here are really excited about the new edition.

**What is your favorite non-Yosemite book?** *Mean Daily Discharge* by Vern L. Phall

**Do you have a favorite movie?** I've always liked "Last of the Mohicans," but that's because I have a brief cameo there.

**Who is your favorite historical figure?** Having been here for so long I've known a lot of important folks. Most of them were Indian people, because they were here so much longer than others. Maybe I'd tell you Lafayette Bunnell, who gave me the name Vernal, for the evocation of springtime that my mist and greenery suggest. Some of the Indians called me Yah-no-pah, a reference to the cloud of mist at my base; that was a pretty good name, too.

**What do you think is the Association's most important role?** It might be that Yosemite Art and Education Center which has those free art classes all summer; inspires a lot of folks to look more closely at this park.

**What do you think is the greatest challenge in being a magnificent waterfall?** There are many, many challenges in this line of work. One of them is disappointing people who come up here in September when the river is so low. I'm just not able to put on the same kind of show that I am for folks who come in May. But worse than that are the visitors who have no idea how deadly, fast and cold the river can be. You have got to respect the swiftwater above and below me as a truly serious hazard.

**What do you consider your greatest success in the park to date?** It might've been making the cover of the Yosemite Association calendar in 1989 and again in 2003. That sure was flattering.

**What do you hope to do in your life that you haven't done yet?** I'd like to work up to being a 600-footer, like Nevada. It'll take a while, but I am inspired to believe that many things are possible in Yosemite.

# YOSEMITE CATALOG

## PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS

### The National Parks: America's Best Idea

#### **The National Parks: America's Best Idea Companion Book**

The companion volume to the new Ken Burns film: a sweeping, magnificently illustrated history of the American national park system from the first sighting by white men in 1851 of the valley that would become Yosemite, to the most recent additions to the 84 million acres that comprise this grand national treasure.

Includes five extended interviews with people whose lives have been shaped by their connections to the American landscape, among them author and naturalist Terry Tempest Williams, plus a vast array of breathtaking photographs both archival and contemporary.

Bonus feature: full color, 15" x 21" pull-out map of the National Park System and a guide listing all National Park System areas. \$50.00  
**member price \$42.50**

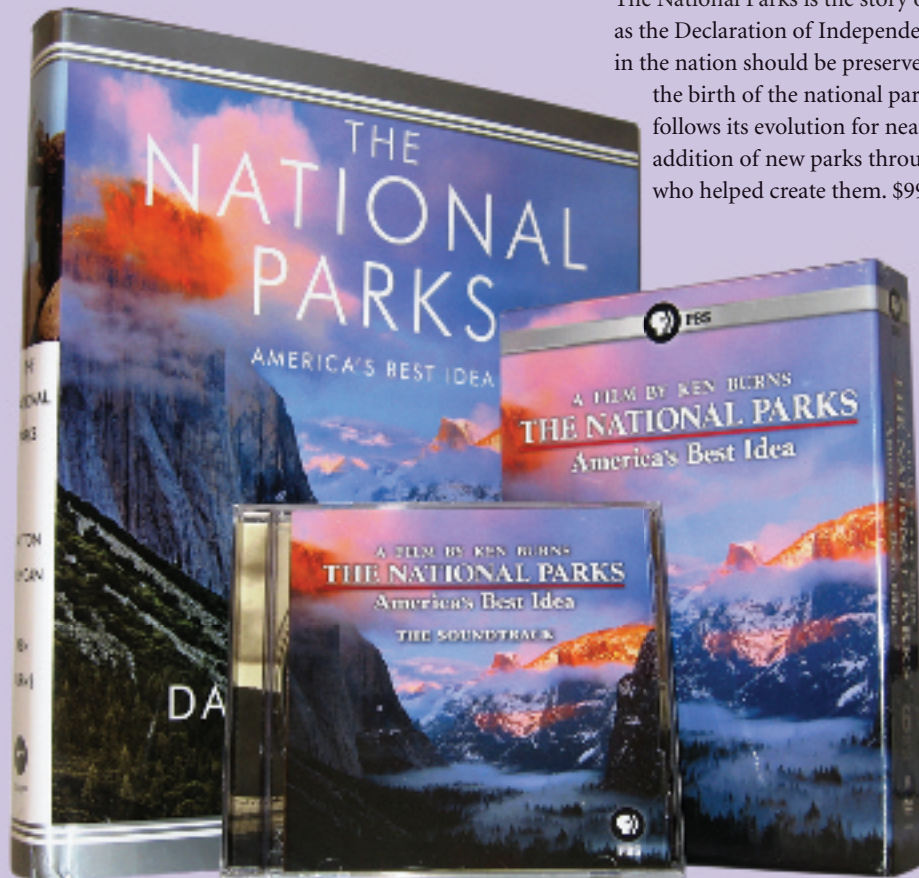
#### **The National Parks: America's Best Idea Soundtrack**

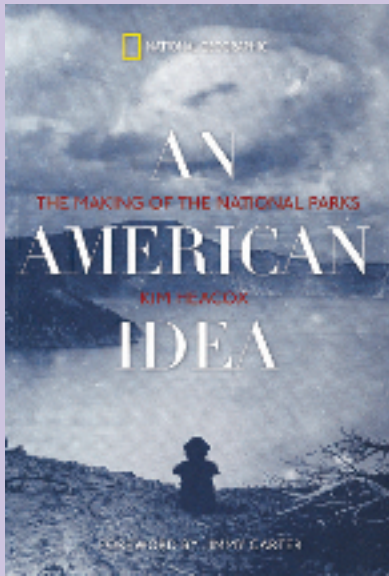
The official soundtrack to Ken Burns' documentary features 20 stunning tracks by artists such as Bobby Horton, Matt Glaser, Amy White, Peter Ostroushko, Will Duncan and Dana Robinson. Includes four stunning music videos viewable on your computer (CD-ROM).

\$18.99 **member price \$16.14**

#### **The National Parks: America's Best Idea 6 DVD Set**

The National Parks is the story of an idea as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence: that the most special places in the nation should be preserved for everyone. The series traces the birth of the national park idea in the mid-1800s and follows its evolution for nearly 150 years, chronicling the addition of new parks through the stories of the people who helped create them. \$99.99 **member price \$84.99**





**An American Idea: The Making of the National Parks**

by Kim Heacox

Wilderness has always defined America. Even now, we are inextricably intertwined with a vast landscape that has shaped our history, ideas, art and view of the natural world. Our national parks embody this deep, almost sacred relationship with the land. In this engrossing, gloriously illustrated book, award-winning author Kim Heacox introduces the colorful characters who played key roles in creating these uniquely American sanctuaries and traces their powerful visions of nature and nation, from transcendentalism to Manifest Destiny to today's preservationist credos.

“A uniquely American story with all the drama and color of a good novel, *An American Idea: The Making of the National Parks* is a compelling presentation of the long and difficult journey that resulted in one of our nation's most significant accomplishments.” —Robert Redford

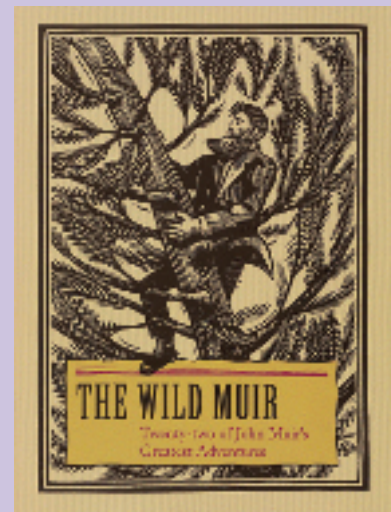
\$14.95 member price \$12.71

**The Wild Muir: Twenty-Two of John Muir's Greatest Adventures**

*Selected and introduced by Lee Stetson; Illustrated by Fiona King*

Compiled by Lee Stetson, the voice of John Muir in Ken Burns' documentary, this collection of John Muir's most exciting adventures represents some of his finest writing. Each adventure shows the extent to which Muir courted and faced danger, living wildly throughout his life. From the famous avalanche ride off the rim of Yosemite Valley, to his night spent riding out a windstorm at the top of a tree, to death-defying falls on Alaskan glaciers, the renowned outdoorsman's exploits are related in passages that are by turns exhilarating, unnerving, dizzying and outrageous. Lee Stetson has carefully chosen episodes from every stage of Muir's life, prepared short introductions to place each in context, then arranged them chronologically so the reader can vicariously enjoy one man's life of adventure. The text is complemented by striking black-and-white scratchboard drawings by illustrator Fiona King. *The Wild Muir* is the first book to assemble the best of John Muir's thrilling experiences in the out-of-doors that he loved so much. Muir enthusiasts, lovers of nature writing, friends of wilderness and fans of adventure and outdoor lore will find the volume unique, enthralling and timeless.

\$11.95 member price \$10.16



### Gloryland

by Shelton Johnson

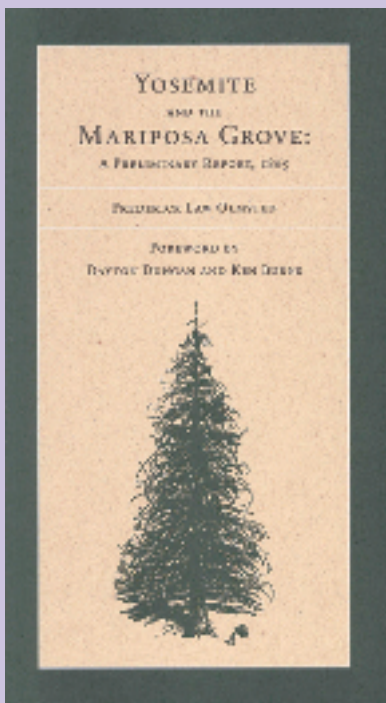
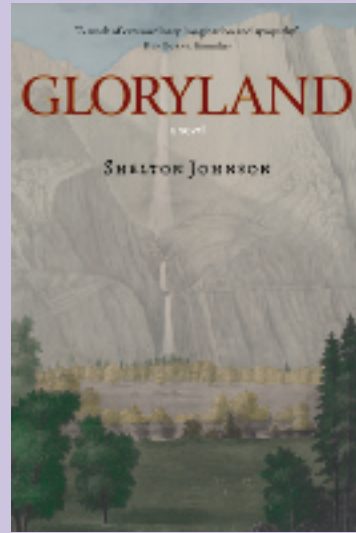
Born on Emancipation Day, 1863, to a sharecropping family of black and Indian blood, Elijah Yancy never lived as a slave, but his self-image as a free person is at war with his surroundings:

Spartanburg, South Carolina, in the Reconstructed South. Exiled for his own survival as a teenager, Elijah walks west to the Nebraska plains—and, like other rootless young African-American men of that era, joins up with the U.S. cavalry.

The trajectory of Elijah's army career parallels the nation's imperial adventures in the late nineteenth century: subduing Native Americans in the West, quelling rebellion in the Philippines. Haunted by the terrors endured by black Americans and by his part in persecuting other people of color, Elijah is sustained only by visions, memories, prayers and his questing spirit—which ultimately finds a home when his troop is posted to the newly created Yosemite National Park in 1903. Here,

living with little beyond mountain light, running water, campfires and stars, he becomes a man who owns himself completely, while knowing he's left pieces of himself scattered along his life's path like pebbles on a creek bed.

Author Shelton Johnson, a native of Detroit, Michigan, currently serves as a ranger in Yosemite National Park. He has worked for the National Park Service since 1987, also serving in Great Basin National Park and Yellowstone National Park, as well as in parks in and around Washington, D.C. He served with the Peace Corps in Liberia and attended graduate school at the University of Michigan, where he won several awards, including a Hopwood Award in poetry. Johnson has presented his original living-history program about a Buffalo Soldier at venues around the country and has received many honors and awards for this work. He is also featured in the Ken Burns documentary film "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." Johnson and his wife and son live just outside Yosemite National Park. \$25.00 **member price \$21.25**



### The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove: A Preliminary Report, 1865

by Frederick Law Olmsted

When Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan visited Yosemite National Park earlier this year, they both pointed to Frederick Law Olmsted as a major influence and inspiration for their film "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." To celebrate Mr. Olmsted and his contributions to our National Parks, the Yosemite Association, in partnership with Heyday Books, has reprinted *Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove: A Preliminary Report, 1865* with a new foreword by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns. This seminal book is a must read for anyone interested in the National Parks and our public lands. \$8.95 **member price \$7.61**

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[www.yosemitestore.com](http://www.yosemitestore.com)



**Yosemite National Park 2010 Calendar**

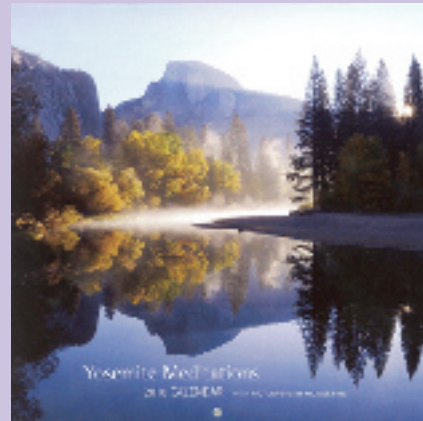
This full-size calendar features 12 stunning photographs and large date boxes. Scenes include waterfalls, winterscapes, meadows and trees.

Produced exclusively for the Yosemite Association, this calendar will remind you of your best times in Yosemite National Park year round. \$5.95 **member price \$5.06**

**Yosemite Meditations 2010 Calendar**

This beautiful and conveniently sized 7" x 7" calendar combines inspiring quotations about nature and the environment with images by acclaimed Yosemite photographer Michael Frye.

Twelve stunning photographs correspond with the seasons in this new product from Michael Frye Photography, in cooperation with the Yosemite Association. \$8.99 **member price \$7.64**



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# MEMBERS PAGES

## Association Members Preview “America’s Best Idea”

More than 50 Yosemite Association members responded enthusiastically to the invitation to host parties featuring a preview of the spectacular new series by Ken Burns, “National Parks: America’s Best Idea.” Gatherings were held from Alaska to Georgia, including an opening night event in Dallas, Texas, organized by Association member Liz Wheelan, that drew 300 park fans.

The Association sponsored several events throughout California, including a preview on August 15 at the Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles, held in conjunction with KCET and the Autry. All Association members were admitted free to view the “Granite Frontiers” exhibition featuring climbing in Yosemite.

Association Board members Nené Casares and Angie Rios organized a

fabulous event on September 9 at the KJWL/KYNO Art Gallery in Fresno. Yosemite Ranger Shelton Johnson kept the audience of over 100 rapt with his stories about being in the Ken Burns film, while making a passionate plea for deeper engagement with Yosemite and our National Parks. Shelton’s new book, *Gloryland*, flew off the Association sales table after his talk. The event was cosponsored by the Yosemite Association, Yosemite-Fresno neighbors, KYNO/KJWL, the Ansel Adams Gallery, Delaware North Corporation, Fresno



State University, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Fresno Visitors Convention Bureau.

More than 100 people attended a preview event at the McHenry Museum in Modesto that was cosponsored by the Association in conjunction with the City of Modesto and KVIE. Nearly 200 people turned out to preview America’s Best Idea at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland. John Muir’s Legacy wines hosted an event in Murphys, where proceeds from wine sales were donated to the Association, while Association member and volunteer Bob McConnell sponsored an event in historic downtown Newman.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of the event hosts and attendees who played an active part in “America’s Best Idea.”

*Yosemite Ranger Shelton Johnson regales listeners with stories of filming “America’s Best Idea.”*

## Help Protect Yosemite for Generations to Come

### LEAVE A YOSEMITE LEGACY THROUGH “NEXT GENERATION” MEMBERSHIPS AND PLANNED GIVING

As Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan made clear in their inspiring film, the reason we have Yosemite and our national parks to treasure and enjoy is because those who came before had the vision and determination to protect these special places. These park heroes created a legacy that lives on in the experience of each and every park visitor.

Each of us likewise can play an important role in carrying forward America’s Best Idea for our children and the next generations. How better than to help preserve what is best about Yosemite for the benefit of those who will enjoy this amazing place far beyond our lifetimes?

Each year we receive critical support for Yosemite in the form of charitable bequests from wills and estate plans, as well as designations as a beneficiary in

life insurance policies and life-income trusts. Such bequests play a vital role in funding to benefit Yosemite National Park now and in the future.

We encourage you to consider including a gift to the Yosemite Association in your will, trust or estate plan or designating the Yosemite Association as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy.

Another way to leave a legacy here and now is to help connect the next generation to the park. Buying a gift membership in the Yosemite Association for your children, grandchildren or friends provides a way to share your special connection to the park with loved ones. Connecting to Yosemite is, after all, often a family affair, with several generations enjoying Yosemite’s grandeur together. You’ll find a gift membership form on

the back page of this journal, or you can dedicate a gift membership on our website, [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org)

For more information about leaving a Yosemite Legacy through planned giving or gift memberships, give us a call at 209-379-2646. Thank you for all you are doing for Yosemite today, and for tomorrow.

#### 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.

## Fall Gathering Report

Over 200 Yosemite Association members gathered under sunny skies at Wawona on October 3 for the 34th Annual Fall Gathering.

The weekend's festivities commenced with a Friday night reception with Yosemite National Park Acting Superintendent Dave Ueberuaga. Wine for the event was donated by Bogle and Muir's Legacy Wines, owned by John Muir's great-grandson, Bill Hanna.



JOHN FRIEDRICH (4)

Afterward, Rodger Hixon from KVPT Fresno played the final episode of "America's Best Idea." This segment focuses on generational bonds to our national parks, and struck a chord throughout the room.

Association Board of Trustees Chair Christy Holloway began the members meeting at the Yosemite History Center by sharing big news: a proposed partnership with the Yosemite Fund. The Association Board had voted the day before to further explore this possibility, which requires a vote of approval by the Association membership. Christy asked members to join her in supporting this opportunity to do even greater things for Yosemite National Park.

Association volunteers MaryJane Johnson, Tony DeMaio, Julie Schuller and Skye Nickell were honored for their extraordinary service to the park, alongside Tom Shepard, celebrated for his years of leadership on the Association's Board.

Yosemite National Park Public Affairs Officer Scott Gediman shared park news, including the resolution of litigation on the Merced River plan. This development allows consideration of park uses and facilities, a transportation plan and much more to move forward.

The keynote speaker was Karl Kroeber, one of the five photographers featured in the new book *First Light*. This spectacular new Yosemite wilderness photography book,



Association volunteers Julie Schuller and Vern Johnson serving wine during the Fall Gathering wine and cheese reception.

published by the Yosemite Association and Heyday Books, was completed with the help of a grant from the Yosemite Fund. Karl spoke of how gratifying it was to work on the book with colleagues Charles Cramer, Scot Miller, Mike Osborne and Keith Walket, all of whom attended Association festivities that weekend.

Following the meeting, members sauntered over to the Grey Barn for a wine and cheese reception and silent auction and raffle. The nearly 60 items donated by Association members and friends generated \$6,000 to support Association programs. We have posted the list of auction and raffle donors on our website—please support these generous friends of Yosemite and the Association when you get the chance.

We greatly appreciate each and every volunteer and member of the NPS and DNC staff whose many hours of work helped us create another memorable gathering of Yosemite stewards. Many thanks to all members who attended, and hope to see you again at the Spring Forum on March 27.

**Top to bottom:** Lee Stetson spoke as John Muir during the members' meeting.

Ken Kroeber (at podium) and the other photographers of the new Yosemite Association/Heyday Books publication *First Light*.

Christy Holloway shares big news with Association members.



JOHN FRIEDRICH

*Celebrating National Parks Family Day in Fresno with the Yosemite Association.*

## National Parks Family Day

BY JOHNNY MOUA

In my first week as a UC Merced Yosemite Leadership Program Intern, I was asked to help represent the Yosemite Association at National Parks Family Day in Fresno. Soon it hit me that I had the momentous duty of representing an extraordinary non-profit organization that connects people of different backgrounds and age to enjoy, love and experience what Yosemite has to offer. As a newbie, I knew I had to do a little more research!

National Parks Family Day was established six years ago by the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the National Parks Conservation Association. This free community event, held in a park across from the Fresno Zoo, was created to foster stronger connections between the diverse residents of California's Central Valley and our national parks.

The turnout for this year's event was impressive—approximately 200 people of all backgrounds and ages visited the Yosemite Association booth to learn how we help support and connect people to the Park.

## New National Park Service Director Named

The National Park Service has a new director in Jonathan Jarvis. A 30-year NPS veteran, Jarvis has served since 2002 as regional director of the agency's Pacific West Region, where he was responsible for 54 national parks in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands of Guam, Saipan and American Samoa, as well as a host of NPS community revitalization programs that serve those states.

"America's National Park System is a gift from past generations to this and succeeding generations. I look forward to working with Secretary Salazar, the Congress, our partners and the extraordinary employees of the National Park Service as we prepare for the next century of stewardship and excellent visitor expe-

riences," Jarvis said.

Jarvis has served as superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park in Ashford, Washington, Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve in Alaska. A trained biologist, he was also Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources at North Cascades National Park. Jarvis is currently the co-leader of the Children in Nature taskforce with the National Association of State Park Directors.

A native of Virginia, Jarvis has a B.S. in biology from the College of William and Mary and completed the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Program in 2001.



COURTESY NPS

*Newly appointed National Parks Service Director Jon Jarvis at Yosemite.*

## 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](http://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](http://Donationline.com) or call Donation Line toll-free at 877-227-7487, ext. 1967.

### • Use GoodSearch

[GoodSearch.com](http://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.

### • 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.



## Jeff Maurer 1962–2009

THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION MOURNS the loss of Outdoor Adventures instructor Jeff Maurer. Jeff was a wildlife biologist for the National Park Service who taught field seminars for the Association for many years. He had become one of the state's top raptor experts and then branched into leading the effort to salvage the vanishing mountain yellow-legged frog. His "Hawks and Owls" course was always filled to capacity with participants amazed by Jeff's knowledge of so many raptor nest sites.

Jeff was athletic, musical, personable and a valued community member. He died in a climbing accident at the end of August and is terribly missed by everyone in the park who'd known him for any length of time. Jeff's family is still working out the details, but donations made to the Yosemite Association in Jeff's name will be used to support education programs that teach visitors about birds.



COURTESY NPS

## Ostrander Hut

As winter weather begins to surround us and visions of exploring silent forests and grand peaks covered in snow take shape, the Yosemite Association invites you to strap on your skis or snowshoes and embark on the ten-mile journey to Ostrander Ski Hut. Come make new friends while you sit around the large dinner table and enjoy the warmth of the wood burning stove. Once you've unrolled your sleeping bag and staked claim to one of the bunk beds, take advantage of the community cookware and kitchen to enjoy dinner with friends, read, relax and meet the live-in hut keepers. Spend additional days exploring Ostrander and surrounding lakes, Horse Ridge and Buena Vista Crest, and enjoying endless ski touring and snowboarding possibilities in the area. Afterward, you can return to the hut for dinner, starry night skies and a warm night's sleep.

The Ostrander Ski Hut is a rustic cabin, with no electricity or running water, which sits at the base of Ostrander Lake. It is a timeless destination for ski touring and exploring Yosemite in winter. The charming two-story stone hut was beautifully crafted in 1941, and houses a maximum of 25 people. The hut will be



HUGH SAKOLS

operated this season from December 18, 2009–April 4, 2010. For more information about Ostrander, reservations and hut rates, please visit [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org), click on "Visit Yosemite," and then follow the links to Ostrander Ski Hut.

If you would like to learn more about Yosemite in the winter, and Ostrander's magnificent surroundings, the Association invites you to enroll in our winter natural history course. Please join instructors Pete Devine and Karen Amstutz for a trip to Ostrander from February 15-18, 2010, and enjoy their wealth of knowledge of life in the Sierra winter season. For more information call 209-379-2321, ext. 17.

## And the Lucky Winner is...

Congratulations to Carol Blair-Taheny and Mike Taheny, lucky winners of the 2009 Bracebridge Dinner raffle. Their ticket was drawn at the Fall Gathering in Wawona on October 3. They will enjoy the revelry of the 2008 Bracebridge Dinner at the Ahwahnee Hotel and a one-night stay at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls compliments of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite. Our thanks go to DNC and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets in support of education and stewardship in Yosemite.

## The Yosemite Association is on Facebook!

Find out about upcoming events, see and post photos, participate in discussions about your experiences in the park and learn how you can deepen your connection with and support of Yosemite. Just type "Yosemite Association" in the Facebook searchbar.



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# 2009 VOLUNTEERS

BY SUZY HASTY  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



SUZY HASTY (2)



**vol•un•teer** (väl ən tir´) n. 1. a person who offers to serve without obligation to do so. 2. a person who performs a service willingly and without pay. 3. a person who is an exceptional human being.

**October marked the end of the Association's work week and month-long volunteer programs.** From the first to arrive to the last to leave, our volunteers were hearty souls who came from all over the nation. They flew, drove, carpoled and took public transportation to get to Yosemite from California, Illinois, Florida, South Dakota, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, North Carolina, Washington, Kentucky, Georgia, Hawaii and Alaska. From newbies to 18-year veterans, they forged new and rekindled old friendships. Their joy and passion for Yosemite was the glue that bound them together.



TONY DEMAIIO

*Steve Bicknese, Skye Nickell and James Chism after setting up campground borders at Yellow Pine Campground.*

Work week volunteers removed illegal fire rings, obliterated social trails, restored habitats, helped archeologists in the aftermath of the Big Meadow fire, monitored trail use and built protective fences in projects located in Foresta, Yosemite Valley, Wawona, Tuolumne Grove, Sunrise High Sierra Camp, Tenaya Lake and the Tuolumne Meadows areas. They nurtured natives from seedlings to sequoias and went after invasive species with a vengeance.

Month-long volunteers provided visitors with information regarding park transportation, activity planning, habitat protection, pets, lost and found, hiking safety, bears, picnic, lodging and campground accommodations, handicap access and cultural events. They also assisted with art classes, theater advertising, Outdoor Adventure classes, bear roving, campsite assignments and festivals. The friendly service they provided in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows and Wawona enabled visitors to make the most of the time they had to spend. These visitors then returned home to become emissaries of the park.

**To all of those who came to contribute to the legacy of volunteerism in Yosemite, the Association extends its thanks!**

**2009 VOLUNTEERS**

- |                   |                     |                     |                     |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Carol Allen       | Rena Cutright       | John Holloway       | Jim May             | Otto Ross         |
| Janet Anderson    | Lynda Daley         | Kathy Hopkins       | Laurie May          | Dick Rudloff      |
| Linda Angle       | Tony DeMaio         | James Horstman      | John McCaffrey      | George Sakelarios |
| Joyce Avenell     | Marianne DeLuca     | Peter Howkinson     | John McClary        | Joan Sanderson    |
| Laura Bagge       | Samuel Devore       | Michael Hudak       | Bob McConnell       | Richard Schuman   |
| Philip Bavender   | Toni Dolan          | Loretta Hunker      | Wendy McDade        | Dawn Sherertz     |
| Teresa Bavender   | David Dold          | Robert Jansen       | Paula McNerney      | Allan Shrafman    |
| Stephen Bicknese  | Dennis Duffy        | Peggy Jester        | Jill Metz           | Julie Schuller    |
| Sydney Bluestone  | Patricia Dusterhoft | Judy Johnson        | Carole Meylan       | Suzanne Sharrock  |
| Jeannette Bonifas | Bill Eggers         | MaryJane Johnson    | Lou Meylan          | Jeannine Shirkey  |
| Roxanne Borean    | Marion Eggers       | Vern Johnson        | Clem Michel         | Jeannette Skaff   |
| R.J. Bragg        | David Eichorn       | Randy Kahn          | Marina Michel       | Patrick Snyder    |
| Helen Brohm       | Donna Engleman      | Adrienne Kalmick    | Bernadine Miller    | Tricia Spada      |
| Misha Buckley     | Candy Elder         | Jerry Kaplan        | Bill Milliken       | Alison Sterley    |
| Mary Burchmore    | Chris Elder         | Susan Kaplan        | Judy Moore          | Sandy Sterling    |
| Mike Burchmore    | Tom Elder           | Kathleen Keller     | Russell Morimoto    | Neila Stewart     |
| Kristin Bye       | Ashley Elston       | Mona Knight         | John Mullen         | John Sundberg     |
| Tom Bye           | Alice Ensley        | Yolanda Koch        | Claudia Newbold     | George Sutliff    |
| Gladys Callendar  | Judy Fisher         | Chuck Krueger       | Ron Nichols         | Mary Sutliff      |
| Gordon Callendar  | Marshall Fisher     | Millie Krueger      | Skye Nickell        | Susan Swanson     |
| Bob Campagna      | Jeanne Furukawa     | June Krystoff-Jones | Retta Niday         | Yukiko Takagi     |
| Joan Carter       | Giedra Gershman     | Jeanette Larsen     | Susanna Odry        | Lynn Taylor       |
| Kathleen Cecere   | Karen Gierlach      | Joe Larson          | Ken Olivier         | Duane Thompson    |
| Angelica Chavez   | Paul Gierlach       | Chris Lashmet       | Johanna Olson       | Elena Torre       |
| James Chism       | Kathy Giraud        | Jeff Lashmet        | Sue Palmer          | Pete Van Kuran    |
| Don Christiansen  | Joel Goldberg       | Amber Lawrence      | Donna Peoples       | Jackie Wagoner    |
| Lois Clarke       | Ann Gomes           | Robert Lawrence     | Kent Pettey         | Jo Wamser         |
| Rosalind Clarke   | Clarie Gorfinkel    | Renchan Li          | Christine Randolph  | Verle Waters      |
| Alice Cocke       | Katherine Greenwood | Terry Liebowitz     | Victoria Randolph   | Ken Williston     |
| Richard Cocke     | Kevin Hall          | Janie Liefhelm      | Elizabeth Randolph- | Julice Winter     |
| Beverly Combs     | Ann Hardeman        | Betty Mae Locke     | Burthe              | Brad Wodjick      |
| Bob Combs         | Carol Harris        | Jim Locke           | James Raveret       | Sue Wyman         |
| Mike Conrotto     | Gerald Haslam       | Bill Love           | Elaine Reed         | Janice Zeppa      |
| John Corpos       | Janice Haslam       | Joanne Mandel       | Phillip Rocha       | Scott Ziegler     |
| Doug Crispin      | Ted Hoesman         | Kate Mawdsley       | Jean Roche          |                   |

*Joan Sanderson digs up deer grass in Foresta for transplanting at Devil's Elbow in Yosemite Valley.*



TONY DEMAO



SUZY HASTY

*Jim May and Allan Shrafman after a shift of providing information to visitors at the Yurt in the day use parking lot in Yosemite Valley.*

# OH THOSE VOLUNTEERS!

BY BOB CAMPAGNA

## A MINI JOURNAL OF VOLUNTEER LIFE IN THE VALLEY

“**B**ut why?” is a question often asked of Yosemite Association volunteers. “Why do you volunteer?” Some volunteers take leave or vacation from work. Many abandon the comforts of home and retirement. Some travel thousands of miles to report for duty. Most volunteers come from California. Others have come from Virginia, Iowa, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Nevada. It’s not for the pay, though a minor stipend helps with food or fuel.



BOB CAMPAGNA (4)

Bob Campagna

Volunteers live in tents or campers. They randomly assemble to become a community, a gathering resembling a blend of Woodstock and M.A.S.H. Bathrooms are shared. The nearest shower is over half a mile away. Campground neighbors can be noisy. Laundry is a dicey prospect. Random visits by bears and other forest creatures punctuate the night. Their meals can be a hodgepodge of foods cooked

in the campground. They sometimes enjoy finer dining at Curry Village, the Yosemite Lodge, Degan’s Pizza, or, in a daring moment, the Ahwahnee or Mountain Room.

Proudly wearing the Yosemite Association shirt, bedecked with pins illustrating their years of service, they operate the Yosemite Association’s stations: the Yurt Information Station, the membership booth, the Happy Isles Nature Center and the art gallery.

They daily face thousands of visitors from dozens of countries and from all over the United States. The questions are often repetitive, sometimes humorous, and always answered professionally:

**Why can’t I drive to the top of Half Dome?**

**Where can I catch the shuttle?**

**Do Indians still live in the Indian Village?**

**Is curry sold ANYWHERE in Curry Village?**

**How can I take a speed boat from Tenaya Lake to the Valley?**

**Where are the geysers?**

**Is there a restaurant on the 4 Mile trail?**

**The waterfalls are dry. Wasn’t the water bill paid?**

**Must I drive to the Wilderness Center?**

**When can we see rattlesnakes? Or bears? Or mountain lions?**

The most common question of all is “I only have two hours here, what can I see?” That also is the saddest question. Yosemite is too large to trivialize.

Through it all the Yosemite Association volunteers patiently handle visitors one at a time. Each month a new volunteer crew assembles. Each crew forms a unique collective personality.

Underlying that diversity of volunteers are recurring elements: passion and commitment. Those elements help volunteers endure challenging conditions and unpredictable situations. Passion sometimes makes volunteers drive each other a bit crazy. Passion and commitment link all to a great life adventure.



Bill Love

Consider these perspectives:

**Bill Love** of Reno, Nevada, a retired teacher of music, finds an “unexplainable inner connection with the Valley.” The wind in the trees and the smell of the pines enticed him to return a second time.

**Marianne DeLuca** of Reno, Nevada, is enlivened by walking through meadows and satisfied when she helps tourists who donate to the Yosemite Association after being helped. “It’s then that I know I did a good job!” she says. Like all first-time volunteers, she has the nickname “newbie.” Her warm, caring approach is appreciated.



Marianne DeLuca

**MaryJane Johnson** of Santa Clara, California, has volunteered five months per year for fourteen years. “I have spent six years of my life living in this camper!” Her husband Vern often joins her. They met while in service to the park. Yosemite is in her blood.

Nine-year volunteers **Mary and George Sutliff** of Ontario, California, honeymooned in Yosemite. Mary appreciates the sense of community among the volunteers. "However, if we weren't volunteering, we'd still come to Yosemite," she adds. As for life in the woods, George exclaims, "I love it!" adding, "animals do their thing, I do mine."



*George and Mary Sutliff*

**Carol Harris** of Sacramento, California, became the monthly campground coordinator in her seventh year as a volunteer. She recalls the adjustment period when she returns to what she calls her "other life." "My friends want to know about how I live in a tent, it's a curious source of humor for them," she says.

**Suzy Hasty** joined the Yosemite Association in 2009 as Volunteer Coordinator after retiring as an art teacher. She moved to Mariposa to be close to Yosemite. "I see volunteers who keep giving, in or out of uniform, to help people have the best experience in the park," she says. To her, seeing Yosemite every morning is an "incredible gift."

Yosemite is indeed a gift. Much as volunteers love the park, they also must let it go. There isn't always a certain return. There is no sense of entitlement.

Energetic second-timer Phil Rocha of Fairfield, California, always concluded his service to tourists by saying "my pleasure!" And so it is, with volunteers, "our pleasure!"

*Bob Campagna of Loveland, Colorado, has been a summer volunteer in 2005, 2006 and 2009, plus once on special assignment in February, 2007. He always drives from his homes in Colorado and Iowa. "As a photographer, I wanted to visit this sacred shrine of Yosemite. It has a sense of aliveness. I like to balance time between helping visitors and exploring the park," he says.*

## Volunteers Celebrated on National Public Lands Day

September 26, 2009, was National Public Lands Day and a day to celebrate volunteerism in the Park. The Yosemite Association coordinated volunteer recognition activities in conjunction with Facelift, a five-day event sponsored by the Yosemite Climbing Association. Facelift hosted over a thousand volunteers who picked up trash throughout the Park. A generous grant from The Yosemite Fund provided volunteer buttons, raffle prizes, entertainment, award certificates, gifts and a display celebrating volunteer efforts during the 2009 season.

The National Park Service and partners chose volunteers to designate as extraordinary during an awards ceremony on National Public Lands Day. The ceremony commenced with acting Superintendent Dave Uberuaga's praise for the benefits of volunteerism at Yosemite. The Association was honored to have four volunteers recognized for the service they have given to the Park. Please join the Association in celebrating these extraordinary volunteers!

Tony DeMaio has volunteered in the work week program for 17 years. An avid photographer, he has contributed his documentation of work week projects to the Association's archives and fellow volunteers as well. Tony has helped the program in a variety of ways, including donating camping and cooking equipment when needed. He is known for quietly acting to enhance the volunteer experience of others.

Skye Nickell has packed her three years as a volunteer with maintaining a restoration project along the river in the Lower Pines campground, working as a month-long volunteer in Wawona and Yosemite Valley, participating in work week trips, helping with theater productions and helping rangers in Resource, Management and Science when needed.

MaryJane Johnson has served as a month-long volunteer in Yosemite Valley for one to five months at a time. She has worked in the Visitor Center and Happy Isles Nature Center as a cashier. This year she coordinated the Art & Education Center. MaryJane has helped with book sales at the Tuolumne Poetry Festival and worked in the Visitor Center on Thanksgiving to enable Park Service employees to be with their families. A 14-year volunteer, she has also answered phones during fires, helped out in the Association's El Portal office and worked at membership events.

Julie Schuller has served the Association for 15 years working as a month-long volunteer in Yosemite Valley and helping with membership events. In her 16 years of volunteering for the Park Service she has sold tickets at the Wells Fargo Stage office in Wawona's Pioneer History Center, often choosing to work a ten-hour volunteer day. When helping in the stables, cleaning the corral, feeding and harnessing the horses, she works a 12-hour to 15-hour day by choice. A senior citizen, Julie's altruistic and energetic service is matched by a wealth of historical Park knowledge which she avidly shares with others.

# TRIBUTE GIFTS

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN DECEMBER 23, 2008 AND JULY 1, 2009

## Gifts in Memory of:

**In Memory of Bob Attebery:** Catherine Holzer, Rebecca Howarth, Targe Lindsay, Nancy Maillo, Adelaide and Judy Weldon, George White.

**In Memory of Mrs. Trudy Bidstrup:** Kathleen Fox

**In Memory of Allan Blasdale:** North Pacific Seafood

**In Memory of Ms. Christine Brock:** Antigone Bellas, Leonard & Rena Birnbaum, Alice and Bruce Bishop, Joe Braverman, Charles Brock, Lois & Jerald Brock, Michelle & Jim Burkhard, Eva Canellos, Katie Christopherson, Virginia Coppock, Frank & Alice Cramer, Franchelle & A.F. Donald, Carla Fletcher Family, Elizabeth Galbreath, Agnes Gianakis, Theopana Hegis, Bryan Hori, Randy & Robin Knutson, Beverly Kraft, Lodi High Varsity Boys Waterpolo, Lodi Running Club, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Maridakis, P. Metropulos, Mary Pappas, Igor & O. Prohoda, Marion Remeluean, Marlene & Oscar Saad, Shirley Saad, Steve & Jean Schroeder, Ella & CJ Stamates, Scott & Janie Towns, Michael Tragoutsis, Frank & Helen Valanais, Constantin Vasilakos, Dyana Vukovich, Tess Wright, Ted & Cathy Zamenes, Mary Zongus

**In Memory of Mr. Dean Conway:** Tammie Ybarra

**In Memory of Joseph Drugay:** Andrea Drugay

**In Memory of: Dan Franke** Janeith Glenn-Davis

**In Memory of Mr. Sal Gonzales:** Tammie Ybarra

**In Memory of Brenda Harness:** Nicholas W. Harness

**In Memory of Lorelee Hiramoto:** Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Kiyomi Yim

**In Memory of Ms. Rosemary Cross Hornby:** Mark Ammen

**In Memory of John G. Kamena:** Ruth Kamena

**In Memory of NJ McDonald:** Bill & Marion Eggers

**In Memory of Larry Nittman:** Phyllis Cribari

**In Memory of Mr. Jon E. Richards:** Barbara Berven

**In Memory of Mr. Stephen Ross:** Sarah Ross

**In Memory of Carl Strehlow:** Sandra Reinhold

**In Memory of Ms. Violet Thomas:** Anonymous

**In Memory of Mrs. Pauline Trabucco:** Dr. Chuck & Marian Woessner

**In Memory of Mary Vocelka:** Preston Reese

## Gifts in Honor of:

**In Honor of Mrs. Frances Bibbes:** Leonard & Rena Birnbaum

**In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jon & Maggie Clendenin:** Heather Clendenin

**In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Kathleen & Richard Keller:** Evelyn Baker

**In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Martin David Koczanowicz:** John B. Ashbaugh

**In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Barack & Michelle Obama:** Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Clark

**In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson & Ina Chun Rice:** Eileen Fong-Jang

**In Honor of Mr. Jan van Wagtenonk:** Dr. Chuck & Marian Woessner

Members and donors will be recognized in the Annual Report.

## 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 the other organizations to be reputable and to

have something of value to offer to our members. If you would prefer *not* to have us share your name and address, please notify the Membership department by calling us at 209-379-2317, by sending an e-mail to [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org) or by mailing a note to us at P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. All "do not share" requests will be acknowledged and honored in perpetuity. Note that telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are not released or traded for any reason.



KATHLEEN M. WONG



# ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:  
OA = Outdoor Adventure

DEC.

**Dec 5:** OA #70  
Woodpeckers: the Quest for  
Eleven – Pete Devine

**Dec 18:** Ostrander Ski Hut  
opens for the season

**Dec 24-25:** YA  
Administrative Office closed  
for Christmas holiday

JAN. 2010

**Jan:** Invitation to Spring  
Forum (Mar. 27) and  
Member Benefits Coupons  
to be mailed this month

**Jan 1:** YA Administrative  
Office closed for New Year's  
Holiday

**Jan 16:** OA #1 Discover the  
Winter World — Dick Ewart

**Jan 21-24:** OA #2 Winter  
Landscape Photography —  
John Senser

**Jan 30:** OA #3 Full Moon  
Snowshoe — Karen Amstutz

FEB.

**Feb:** Winter 2009 issue of  
quarterly members' journal  
*Yosemite* sent out

**Feb 15-18:** OA #4 Winter  
Natural History at Ostrander  
Hut — Pete Devine, Karen  
Amstutz

**Feb 19-20:** OA #5  
Photographing the "Firefall"  
— John Senser

**Feb 26:** Yosemite  
Renaissance XXV Exhibit  
opens, Yosemite Museum  
Gallery

**Feb 27:** OA #6 Peregoy  
Snow Survey — Mark  
Fincher, Chuck Carter

**Feb 27:** OA #7 Moonlight  
Snowshoe 1 — Karen  
Amstutz

MARCH

**Mar 13:** OA #8 Dewey Point  
Snowshoe Trek — Emily  
Jacobs

**Mar 26:** OA #9 The  
Unknown West End — Pete  
Devine

**Mar 27:** Members' Spring  
Forum, Yosemite Valley

**Mar 27:** OA #10 Moonlight  
Snowshoe 2 — Kendra  
Kurihara

**Mar 28:** OA #11 Discover  
the Winter World 2 — Dick  
Ewart

**Mar 28:** OA #12 Merced  
Canyon Wildflowers —  
Michael Ross

APRIL

**April 2-3:** Leave No Trace  
Trainer Course

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

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!



Yosemite Association  
Post Office Box 230  
El Portal, CA 95318

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## Give the Gift of Yosemite Association Membership for the Holidays

A Yosemite Association membership is a thoughtful gift and year-round reminder of the park and its beauty. Introduce your family and friends to the wonders of Yosemite and help support our important work at the same time!

Along with their memberships, we will send your gift recipients a card announcing your thoughtfulness, and your choice of either a **set of Obata Notecards** or a handsome and beautiful **Yosemite Association Calendar**. Memberships at the Family/Supporting (\$60) level and higher come with additional thank-you gifts. All members enjoy such benefits as our quarterly members' journal, discounts on merchandise and lodging and much more.

Every membership contributes to the care, well-being and protection of America's foremost national park—Yosemite!



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- \$35 Individual
- \$250 Half Dome
- \$2,500 Mount Lyell
- \$60 Family/Supporting
- \$500 Clouds Rest
- \$50 International
- \$135 Contributing
- \$1,000 El Capitan

### Please send a Gift Membership to the Yosemite Association to ...

Name (please print): Mr. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sign gift card from: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose their special gift:  Obata Notecards or  YA Calendar

List any additional gifts on a separate sheet of paper.

**For last minute gift giving, call (209) 379-2317.**

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My Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

YA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: (Make checks payable to Yosemite Association) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or charge my credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: **Yosemite Association**, PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318  
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