

HONORING OUR LEGACY SHAPING THE FUTURE



GREETINGS FROM YOSEMITE

SPRING IS IN THE AIR, AND WITH IT THE PROMISE OF NEW BEGINNINGS. This year, it arrives with particularly exciting news—the Yosemite Association and Yosemite Fund are reunifying. Our merger became official on January 1 of this year, following an overwhelming vote of approval from Association members and unanimous votes in favor by the Boards of Trustees of both organizations.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of our members, donors, volunteers and staffs, who have helped us reach this new and exciting chapter in our proud histories. We'll be announcing our new name in early June.

In this edition of *Yosemite*, we take a look back at milestones in our 87-year history of supporting the park, while also looking forward to a new era of serving Yosemite. We have been considering all of the ways that our new combined organization will be able to improve visitor services and build connections to the park. Let's take an imaginary journey and see what a visiting family might experience this spring.

The Vargas family and their three children get an early start from Fresno and reach the park by nine in the morning. They want to have the entire day to soak in the thundering falls cascading from every granite wall, the carpets of spring flowers, and the Merced River rushing through the Valley. At the Entrance Station, they receive their free copy of the *Yosemite Guide*, a NPS publication supported by the Association/Fund and other park partners. They eagerly page through to find the programs offered that day.

Their first stop is Tunnel View, where Association/Fund signs help them identify the vista's peaks and falls. Proceeding to the Valley, they stop by the Yurt in the day use parking area, where Association/Fund volunteers direct them to walks and programs geared for their family and encourage them to visit the organization's kiosk on the mall and Visitor Center.

After an introduction to the Association/Fund store in the Visitor Center, the family takes a shuttle to the Happy Isles Junior Ranger Center. Warmly greeted by Association/Fund staff and volunteers, the kids join the Junior Ranger program for the morning. Mom heads for the Art and Education Center to take a sketching class taught by an artist in residence supported by the Association/Fund. Meanwhile, Dad joins a Special Tram Tour with the Association/Fund's Resident Naturalist to learn about the park's history in depth.

The family regroups for lunch. Afterward they enter the Yosemite Museum, where Mom is quickly drawn to the exquisite Indian jewelry and baskets in the Association/Fund store. The kids follow Dad into the museum to watch Julia Parker make baskets. Mom learns Association/Fund members receive a 15 percent discount on all purchases, and that profits from the store provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy Yosemite and contribute to its future. She joins the family up on the spot.

Now they go to the Visitor's Center to find a map to the Yosemite Falls trail. In the lobby, staff help them with directions and explain that private donations to the Association/Fund constructed both the trail and the signage that brings the history of the Valley alive. The family feels proud because they too are now contributors.

After an hour-long walk, they return to the Association/Fund Store to purchase books, a hat, a T-shirt for Dad and DVDs of Ken Burns' "America's Best Idea" series with their Association/Fund discount. Tucked into their bag is more information on events, Outdoor Adventures, new programs and the organization's website.

On the drive home, the family considers their next trip to the park. How about the Family Camping weekend in Tuolumne? Or a class in the Outdoor Adventures catalog? And the Volunteer weeks in the park, where Association/Fund members can help restore native wildlife habitat and remove invasive species, sound perfect for Uncle Bill.

The Vargas family is at the beginning of a long-lasting relationship with the park that is possible because of your support of our nonprofit organization. This is a story full of promise for the future that is possible because of members like you. Hope to see you at our 35th Annual Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 2 in Wawona!



Christy Holloway was the Association Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2000-2009, and is Vice-Chair of the reunified organization.

Cover: *The marvels of Yosemite held just as much appeal to hikers of the 1880s (front) as hikers a century later (back).*

FRONT: GEORGE FISKE, YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY BACK: I.C. RUSSELL



DAVE WYMAN

Features

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

- 4 A New Era Supporting Yosemite National Park BY DAVID GUY
- 9 Member Anecdotes
- 13 Seven Decades of Yosemite BY PHYLLIS MATTSON

ARTS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

- 15 Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series BY MARGARET EISSLER
- 17 Coyotes BY MICHAEL FRYE
- 18 Why Is It Called Crane Flat? BY PETE DEVINE
- 19 Yosemite's Pioneer Past Survives Through Orchards
BY DAVID T. HUMPHREY AND SKY SKACH

Departments



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- 22 Lyell and China and Bears, Oh My! BY PETE DEVINE
- 23 Explore Yosemite with Your Personal Guide BY MICHAEL ROSS
- 24 The Family Camping Jamboree BY DAVE WYMAN

- 25 Park Profile: Ron Kauk
- 26 Yosemite Catalog

MEMBERS PAGES

- 29 Permit for Half Dome Cables
New Yosemite Superintendent
... and more
- 31 Gifts to the Association

BY DAVID GUY

A NEW ERA SUPPORTING YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

There is excitement in the air as the Yosemite Association and the Yosemite Fund reunify to form a new organization. The Association and Fund are both coming off very successful years in 2009 and are now combining the best elements and strengths of each organization in 2010. The reunification will create new synergies among our programs, generating even greater support for Yosemite National Park while increasing opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy and experience this special place.

As we embark on this next chapter, we hope you will take this moment to reflect on the proud histories of both organizations in Yosemite. For 87 and 22 years, respectively, the Association and the Fund have worked hard to preserve and protect public lands in partnership with the National Park Service. Many of the programs they developed have since been emulated in parks around the world. Most notably, the Association and Fund have been leaders in shaping public consciousness about Yosemite, drawing families and friends together at this special place for many generations.

We hope that the story of both organizations will inspire you to be part of our new organization to support Yosemite in fresh and exciting ways.

SERVING GENERATIONS OF PARK VISITORS

When the National Park Service was created in 1916, its leaders immediately recognized that the young federal agency needed help to protect the parks and provide services for visitors. The agency's first director, Stephen Mather, and the NPS leadership called for museums and other programs to educate visitors about park features and history. The first nonprofit cooperating association—the Yosemite Museum Association—emerged in 1923 to help visitors learn about Yosemite and build the Glacier Point Lookout and Yosemite Museum.

With the museums underway, the newly formed association changed its name in 1924 to the Yosemite Natural History Association. Its mission also broadened to include support for the recently completed museum and research library, the publication of *Yosemite Nature Notes* (the predecessor of this journal), park education programs and the study of Native American and other human history in the park.

Today, the Association operates a variety of programs that help people experience Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. These include bookstores in NPS visitor centers throughout the park; the wilderness reservation system and the Ostrander Ski Hut; a volunteer program that pro-



YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY

The National Park Service is established with Stephen Mather as the first Director.

1916

1920

Mather calls for museums in every national park.

The former studio of landscape painter Chris Jorgensen is converted for museum use.



YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY

1922

The museum opens and 33,000 visitors flood the small building.



The Association expands its purpose and changes its name to Yosemite Natural History Association.

1923

1924

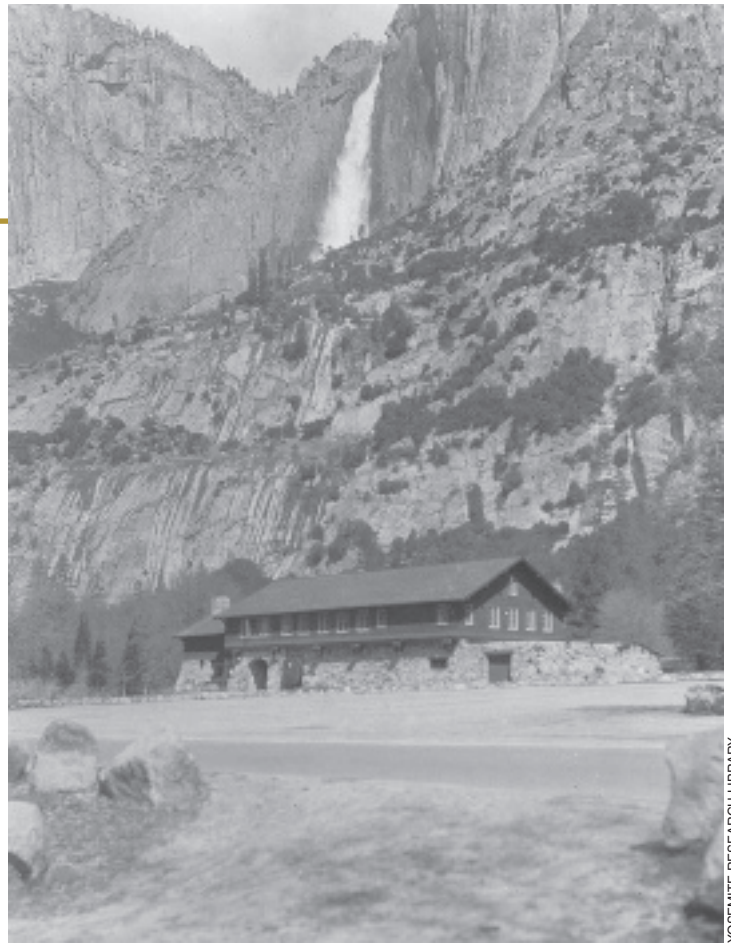
The Yosemite Museum Association is formed to administer private funds to build a bigger museum.

vides visitors with information and helps restore natural areas in the park; publishing books and other materials about Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada; world-class naturalists, poets, photographers, scientists and artists who provide a rich and detailed learning experience in Yosemite's outdoor classroom; and an arts and sciences program that supports the Art and Education Center, the Yosemite Theatre and the Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series.

In most cases, these programs were the first of their kind in the national park system. They spawned innovative new ideas about how nonprofit organizations can provide valuable visitor services and help connect people to the natural world. These programs and services have reached millions of visitors, many of whom have described their experience in Yosemite as life-changing. In all of these endeavors, the Association has upheld the "high public value and integrity of the national park system" by enriching visitor experiences.

PHILANTHROPY: A DESIRE TO HELP MANKIND

The Yosemite Museum Association was formed in 1923 to carry out the NPS mission and administer private funds to construct the Glacier Point Lookout and the



YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY

The first incarnation of the Yosemite Association was formed to support the construction of the Yosemite Museum, shown here soon after its completion in 1926.

<p>1925</p> <p>The new two-story Yosemite Museum opens.</p>	<p>YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY</p>	<p>1930</p> <p>The Junior Nature School, today known as the Junior Ranger program, is created and funded by the Association.</p>	<p>1937</p> <p>Congress authorizes Cooperating Association Agreements with the National Park Service.</p>	<p>1940-1970</p> <p>In the 1950s, the Association reprints and publishes new books about Yosemite's natural and cultural history.</p>
<p>1926</p> <p><i>Yosemite Nature Notes</i> is published monthly by the Association in booklet form.</p> <p>The Yosemite Field School of Natural History is formed with the Association's support.</p> <p>The Glacier Point Lookout is built with part of the funds raised for the museum.</p>	<p>YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY</p>			

Yosemite Museum. As with many other national parks, significant contributions came from the Rockefeller family—in this case the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. The Yosemite Museum Project was funded as an experiment to supplement the park’s educational projects. Importantly, the new Museum also benefited from the Yosemite National Park Company, the first of many partnerships between the Association and park concessionaires and a relationship that continues today with Delaware North Companies.

private partnership with the NPS to support many of Yosemite’s most visible projects, including the rehabilitation of Glacier Point, the Lower Yosemite Fall Trail, Tunnel View, Olmsted Point, Happy Isles Nature Center, the Valley Visitor Center, the renovation of Parsons Memorial Lodge and others. In total, the Fund has provided more than \$55 million to Yosemite.

These private contributions have supplemented federal funding for many important projects that could not have been accomplished otherwise. Today, every one of these projects helps connect people to this iconic park.



YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY

The masthead of Yosemite Nature Notes, this publication’s predecessor, depicted the Sentinel Dome Jeffrey pine from 1925 to 1927.





BUILDING A COMMUNITY FOR YOSEMITE

With the advent of the Yosemite Natural History Association in 1924, the Association began publishing *Nature Notes* and creating a community of interest around Yosemite and its natural wonders. This ultimately led to one of the earliest membership programs in the national park system, allowing people to foster a deeper connection to Yosemite by joining the Association.

Today, the Association and Fund bring people together by sponsoring events, publications and volunteer opportunities that provide a way for people to celebrate their common passions and interests in Yosemite. These include the Association’s Spring Forum and Fall Gathering, events for Fund donors and many special events throughout California. By building community, these organizations have raised public consciousness about the national parks. They provide ways for people to belong to this special place, to experience the park in unique ways and to dedicate their financial and human resources to benefit the park.

Fast forward to 1984 when, at the urging of the NPS, the Association embarked on “The Return of Light Campaign” to more aggressively raise funds for important park projects. This ultimately led to the formation of the Yosemite Fund, which emerged as a separate organization in 1988 in San Francisco’s financial district. The Fund was dedicated to major philanthropy and fundraising in the National Park System.

For the past 22 years, the Fund has developed a public/

<p>The Yosemite Field Seminar program, now known as Yosemite Outdoor Adventures, is created at the request of the NPS.</p>		<p>The Association holds its first Annual Members’ Meeting</p>	<p>The “Return of Light Campaign” is created to raise private money for NPS.</p>			
<p>1956</p>	<p>1971</p>	<p>1974</p>	<p>1976</p>	<p>1981</p>	<p>1984</p>	<p>1985</p>
<p>Over 25 lots in Foresta and El Portal are purchased by the Association for NPS with a revolving fund.</p>	<p>Ostrander Ski Hut operations are taken over by the Association.</p>	 <p>HUGH SAVOLDS</p>	<p>The Association and partners renovate the Pohono Indian Studio into the Art Activity Center.</p> <p>The Association’s Naturalist Intern Program begins with students from the University of California, Davis.</p>	 <p>YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION</p>	<p>The Association changes its name to Yosemite Association.</p> <p>Visitor Information Volunteers begin assisting NPS in the park.</p>	



AL GOLUBGOLUB PHOTOGRAPHY

David Guy (left) and Mike Tollefson (right), leaders of the Yosemite Association and Yosemite Fund, meet with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (center).

As we look forward to this new era in Yosemite, our two organizations have galvanized around a new mission: “Yosemite’s future is our passion. We will inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park’s resources and enrich the visitor experience.” It is our vision “to ensure that Yosemite remains an irreplaceable resource and wondrous icon by funding projects and programs that provide a margin of excellence and inspire enduring connections for current and future generations.”





The new organization will carry forward the heritage established by the Association and Fund and will continue to have a strong Yosemite presence with offices in San Francisco and El Portal. It will continue the tradition of service and giving to the parks that began in 1923, and construct an ever stronger community around Yosemite.

The unified organization will weave existing programs and projects together, broaden their horizons and seek new ways to elevate public consciousness about Yosemite and our national parks.

Jon Jarvis, the new Director of the National Park Service and a champion of our new organization, has reminded us that relevancy may be the largest issue facing our National Parks into the future. “There is deep concern that national parks will become irrelevant to a society that is disconnected from nature and history. We need to help all Americans—especially young people—discover a personal connection to their national parks.”

By joining forces, the new organization will strengthen efforts to conserve Yosemite National Park for future generations. To borrow from the prescient words of Frederick Law Olmsted in his 1865 report *Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove*: “This union of the deepest sublimity with the deepest beauty of nature, not in one feature or another, not in one part or one scene or another, not any landscape that can be framed by itself, but all around and wherever the visitor goes, constitutes the Yosemite, the greatest glory of nature.” We look forward to sharing our common passions supporting Yosemite National Park in this new era.

David Guy was the Chief Executive Officer of the Yosemite Association from 2007-2009. He is Special Advisor to the reunified organization, and counsel to Somach, Simmons and Dunn.

<p>The Association office relocates to the former Bagby Train Station building in El Portal.</p>	<p>The Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series begins with assistance from Association volunteers.</p> 	<p>The Association creates Keep Bears Wild merchandise to raise money for the Yosemite Wild Bear Project. It also rents required bear proof canisters to the public for use in the backcountry.</p> 		
<p>1986</p>	<p>1988</p>	<p>1992</p>	<p>1995</p>	<p>1999</p>
<p>At the request of NPS, The Yosemite Fund becomes a separate entity and relocates to San Francisco.</p> <p>Volunteers begin assisting NPS with restoration projects in the park.</p> 		<p>The Association begins operating the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley.</p> 		

The Organizations' Leaders

The histories of both organizations are rich with people who have devoted their lives and skills to Yosemite and its nonprofit organizations. The original incorporators of the Association included Ansel Hall, the first Chief Naturalist in Yosemite, biologists Joseph Grinnell and Barton Evermann, and close friend and literary executor of John Muir William Frederic Badé. A 1943 Advisory Council listed Yosemite cognoscenti including Sierra Nevada explorer and preservationist Joseph LeConte, Stanford University President and Secretary of the Interior Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, biologist and author on California's Native Americans C. Hart Merriam, founder of NPS interpretive programs Harold Bryant, NPS ecologist Carl Russell, anthropologist Alfred Kroeber, Yosemite glacier researcher Francois Matthes, NPS educational director Robert Sterling Yard, and botanist Willis Jepson.

The park's Chief Naturalist ran the Association for its first 50 years, until the Board of Trustees hired Henry Berrey. He served as Managing Editor from 1972 to 1984 and Executive Director from 1984 to 1985. Upon his retirement, the Board of Trustees hired Steve Medley, who served until his fatal car accident on October 5, 2006. David Guy took the reins as Chief Executive Officer in 2007.



JOHN FRIEDRICH

From left: Christy Holloway, Lennie Roberts and Tom Shephard, the three most recent Yosemite Association Board chairs.

The Association Board of Trustees during this time had four Chairs, including Dana Morgenson (1973-1980), Tom Shephard (1980-1991), Lennie Roberts (1991-2000) and Christy Holloway (2000-2009).

In 1988, the newly-formed Yosemite Fund hired Susan Singer as its first Executive Director. She was followed shortly afterward by Bob Hansen in 1989, who retired in December 2008. Former Yosemite Superintendent Mike Tollefson was named the Fund's President starting in January 2009.

The Fund Board of Trustees Chairs have included Byron and Ellie Nishkian (1988), Richard Peterson (1989), Dick Otter (1989-1995), Sam Livermore (1996-2003), Bill Floyd (2004-2008) and Hal Cranston (2008-present).

The Association resumes operation of the Yosemite Art and Education Center.

Yosemite Association and Yosemite Fund reunite.

2005

Leave No Trace outdoor ethics are promoted in the Wilderness Center and taught to field leaders by the Association's seminar program.



2006

2009

The Association leads its first trip to Yosemite's two sister national parks in China.

The Association resumes administration and promotion of the Yosemite Theater program.



PETE DEVINE

2010

MEMBERS REMINISCE

Becoming an Artist in Yosemite



Betty Johnson, San Luis Obispo, CA

My 82-year-old mother returned to camp with a charming postcard sized watercolor painting of Yosemite mountains and a meadow. She had never painted before, except for using acrylics on craft projects. Yet, she had ventured out to the Art Center to buy basic supplies for a class and was successful on her first attempt to record a portion of the gorgeous park in a new way. I was impressed and felt a flutter of hope that I might be able to do what she did the next day.

The volunteer teacher helped newcomers gather watercolor supplies, showed us a few techniques he used, and led us to the shuttle bus that would take us to Curry Village. Soon we were sitting along the riverbank near Stoneman Bridge, trying to capture a magnificent scene with our paints. After a 45 minute struggle full of disappointment, the teacher approached and said something positive about my painting. He sat down on a nearby rock and offered to add a few brushstrokes, which I gratefully accepted. Suddenly, my blobs of color actually looked like trees! There was hope. For three days I persisted through the classes, mostly to keep my mother company, definitely not enjoying the process.

The next summer we gave it another try with two different teachers. Both of them were as encouraging and affirming as the first one, and each started with a demo reflecting their personal styles. We kept trying to see what they saw and do what they did so well. It would have been faster and easier to just take pictures of the mountains, waterfalls, meadows, and river. However what I see and experience now, after almost ten years of painting, is far more engaging than the photos.

Now we plan our trips to Yosemite around the Art Center schedule of teachers, trying to join the classes of one or two of our favorites each year. We are still learning and enjoying the process. One of my favorite places to go on the days when there is no class (Sundays and Mondays) is Lower Yosemite Fall. I'll sit, look, and paint for an hour or two each day. Later in the week, when a teacher demos a waterfall, I'm ready to finish the painting with what I've just learned.

My mother, now 91 years old, frames a few of her paintings, but delights in mailing most of her smaller ones to friends and family members. Last year she confessed that she only pretended to like those first seasons of classes to encourage me to keep trying. It worked! Both of us now thoroughly enjoy watercolor. We are thankful for the Yosemite Association art program that got us started and teachers who encourage us each time we return. Who would have thought after 50 years of camping in the valley we would learn a new way to appreciate the park's breathtaking beauty?

Camping meant Yosemite Valley. It meant a diet of homemade baked pork and beans with canned New England-style brown bread. It meant wonderfully light pancakes eaten out-of-doors in the warm morning sun with blue jays squawking all around. Camping 1930s style also meant Dad's Mulligan Stew and his good humor. It meant trying to get up very early in order to go to Mirror Lake and experience the sunrise there. The emergence of a new day was introduced by a lovely image gradually appearing from beneath the silky, still surface of the water. A purple glow from the East signaled the stirring of the birds as the sky stealthily took on more color. It was like magic to witness the high granite walls and fringes of greenery steal away the lake

with their inverted reflections. Like the entrance of a holy figure, a new day was unveiled by the godlike crescent peeking over Half Dome, growing bolder every second. The lake was as smooth as glass; the stillness almost mysterious. As colors brightened, the image in the lake took on more character, more life. It was a spiritual moment, a reverence of solitude, of being visitors in Nature's garden, uncultivated by man.

Rita Krabach Blake, Paradise, CA

For 62 years, the women in my family have been camping with their children and loving Yosemite. From the towering trees to the coolness of the river, we return year after year to see it all.

Since my great grandmother has passed on, each summer sees four gen-

erations camping together. Like my ancestresses before me, I bring my children to Yosemite so they can also grow up loving the waterfalls and hiking trails that are so dear to me. Though things have changed over the years, the innate beauty of the Valley never fails to stop me in my tracks and make me fall madly in love with Yosemite all over again.

I have seen fire, flood, politics and rock falls reshape my beloved Valley. With these things, I have borne joyful witness to the preservation efforts like meadow boardwalks and the Yosemite Falls project. These measures will allow many more generations to carry on enjoying the unspoiled splendor of Yosemite National Park.

Rebecca Waddell, San Luis Obispo, CA



Association member Carol Carthew-Tallman with her father, Ranger Naturalist Arthur Carthew, her mother and her brother at the Mariposa Tunnel Tree in the early 1940s.

courtesy Carol Carthew-Tallman

Rise to the songs of a multitude of birds; in the trees above my tent, on boulders that line the campground, on wooden rails that front the meadow to the west. Though the columns of light that pierce through the forested valley are warm, it is still cool in the shadows and I prepare to make a fire. I have only the weekend here to savor the out of doors. But I have those two days well planned. I am looking forward to my hike to Indian Caves, and Mirror Lake. And that is just the start. Yosemite Valley holds many wonderful sights to explore.

Kathy Anne Pippig, Clovis, CA

My partner and I have only been able to visit Yosemite once, as we are from the United Kingdom. However, the reason we ended up there was when I was about eight years old, I saw a breathtaking picture of the park in my parents' Readers Digest Natural Wonders of the World, and fell in love immediately.

The irony comes that when we got there, in front of Yosemite Falls in October 2008, my partner proposed!

We spent the first day of our engagement in the Mariposa Grove, with small fires burning and the smells and sounds of the Sequoias, and went to, you guessed it, Bridalveil Fall. Yosemite for me is utterly magical and I will love it dearly for the rest of my days.

Becci Forster and Stuart Bass, Worthing, UK

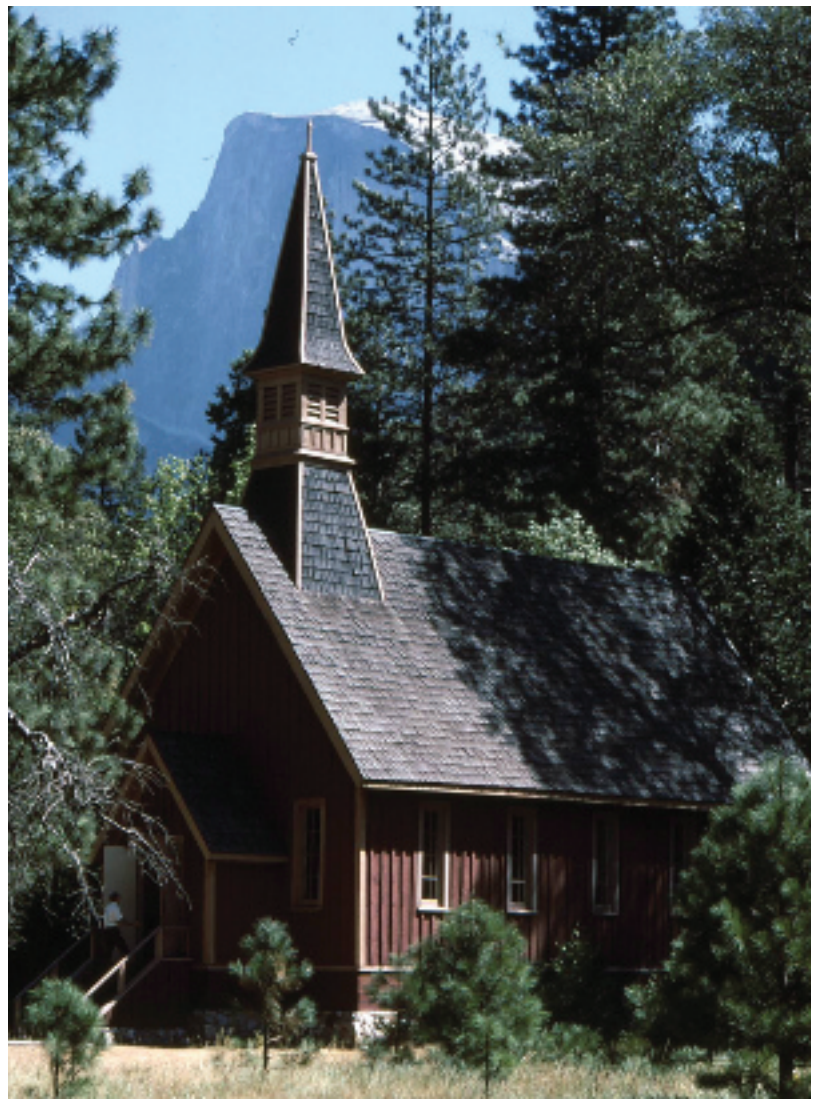
Yosemite has been a part of most of my life. We started camping there as a family in the late 1940s. The process of choosing a campsite consisted of picking out a spot, preferably with some well-spaced trees. Then tying a rope from tree to tree to make a large circle. Blankets were hung from the rope to offer interior privacy, the tent was pitched somewhere within this circle and new rocks or the ones that were always nearby from the last campers were arranged for the campfire pit, and that was camp.

I met my future wife at the campground near Hodgdon Meadow. We were married in the Chapel on the floor of the Valley in 1969 and spent our honeymoon in one of the cabins at Evergreen Lodge.

I could go on and on with stories from my experiences in Yosemite, bears, girls, storms, earthquakes etc. I have Yosemite in my blood. I have seen a lot of changes over the years, but the natural beauty has been consistent throughout my lifetime.

Rolland A. Meyers, Oakland, CA

*Yosemite Valley Chapel by
Rolland A. Meyers*



So how did a Uruguayan end up in Wawona, of all places? When I was seven years old my parents took my sister, my brother, and me on a trip to California from our native Uruguay. We stayed in California for two months, and during that time, our parents took us to just about every spot imaginable: Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Marineland (does anybody remember that?), Las Vegas, San Francisco, Sequoia National Park and of course, Yosemite. It was when we entered Yosemite that I became transfixed. I had never seen anything so stunning. My country resembles Kansas with beaches. There are no mountains and no forests (other than a few man-made ones). So when I first saw Yosemite, it felt like paradise to me.

I remember jumping into every lake, river, and stream we found, and climbing every rock and tree. I just couldn't get enough of the place. When we went back to Uruguay, I remember trying to build a "log cabin" made of eucalyptus branches in my backyard because I wanted to re-create things I'd seen in Yosemite. (I didn't get too far with that log cabin before the whole thing collapsed...)

Two years ago my parents, now in their late 70s and early 80s came over from Uruguay for a family reunion at our cabin in Wawona. It had been 43 years since they had taken me to see that magical place, and now it was my turn to show them that same place from our own home. My siblings and their families came too, and we all celebrated in the Ahwahnee dining room.

Other than first meeting my wife, and the birth of my two children, I can't think of too many other events in my life that were as meaningful as that.

Fede Peinado, Wawona, CA

The visit that stands out took place while tent camping in Yosemite Valley during the first NASA Apollo moon landing. It just seemed like the perfect place to be while looking up at the moon and visualizing what was happening to us as a civilization at that moment.

Peter Hiller, Carmel, CA

Well this gentleman and young boy were dragging a rubber boat toward Mirror Lake. Whereupon I said, "pardon me sir, is it your intention to launch that boat in Mirror Lake?" He answered in the affirmative, whereupon I asked, "sir, how long do you think it would still be Mirror Lake after launching?" Thankfully he was a gentleman who got the picture; they put the boat back on the car top. Mirror Lake lived at least one more day.

Al Riel, Concord, CA



Mirror Lake by Al Riel



Sixty years ago, we hid butter and eggs in a hole in the ground, covering them with a wet burlap sack. We chilled watermelons in the river. Canned goods could be left in a box or bag under the table. If bears came visiting during mealtimes, campers chased them away by banging spoons on empty pots...still an effective way to both confront the bears and alert nearby campers to secure their food. When ice chests became popular, we would hide them in our cars under blankets. They were safe for a few years, until bears learned to break into cars and feast on whatever they found. Finally, metal food storage boxes were provided. Now the biggest challenge is to convince people to put everything into the "bear boxes" and keep the doors closed.

Betty Johnson, San Luis Obispo

HELP PROTECT AND PRESERVE YOSEMITE



Leave a Yosemite Legacy

What better legacy is there than preserving and protecting Yosemite for future generations? When you include the Association in your estate planning, you become a member of the LeConte Society.

Members may enjoy considerable tax advantages by making a gift and will receive invitations to an annual

reception and other special events. When you make Yosemite part of your future plans, you preserve the Park for generations to come. For more information about the LeConte Society Planned Giving Program, call 1-800-4MY PARK, or send an email to info@yosemitefund.org

Show Your Love for Yosemite Every Day with a Yosemite License Plate

The Yosemite license plate features the world-famous image of the Valley from Tunnel View. Californians who purchase this specialty plate for their vehicles help the Fund provide grants to many diverse projects within Yosemite National Park.

The Happy Isles renovation, Yosemite Falls Trail restoration and emergency repairs to the Yosemite Creek Bike/Pedestrian Bridge all benefited from Yosemite license plate fees. We think it's a great way to showcase your love of Yosemite and brighten commute time for other drivers.

Order your Yosemite license plate today at yosemitefund.org



Give at the Office

Gifts made through your employer's **workplace giving program** can be a simple and convenient way to support our work to preserve and protect Yosemite. You may be eligible to designate the Yosemite Association as a beneficiary of your payroll deductions if you work for:

- A firm participating in a United Way giving campaign;
- A firm with a program of its own; or
- A state or local government agency

Federal employees can participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Many employers also have a **matching gift program** in place for employees, board members and retirees. By completing a simple form available from your human resources department or intranet site, you may be able to double or even triple your gift to Yosemite.

If you have questions about how you can benefit Yosemite through workplace giving and matching gifts, please email info@yosemitefund.org, or call 1-800-469-7275.

Donald Prevett Bequest Supports Yosemite Publications

Donald Prevett, who first joined the Yosemite Association in 1999, bequeathed \$40,000 to the Yosemite Association last year. The Yosemite Association Board of Trustees voted at its December 5, 2009 meeting to use Mr. Prevett's generous bequest to support the development of several upcoming publications, including *Coyote Book* and *Sierra on Ice*. The *Photographers Guide* and other titles also may be supported if additional funds are made available in this restricted account over the next several years.

SEVEN DECADES OF YOSEMITE

As I drive up the highway through the Merced River Canyon, as I've done for nearly 70 years, I cannot help exclaiming at the beauty unfolding before me. The sound of the river running beneath the red canyon walls, the delicate flowers growing on its sides, are glorious. I am in a holy place. A weekend in Yosemite relaxes, enlightens and restores me. I like melding into the mountains and meadows, enjoying my memories of our relationship.

I wanted to share these experiences with my grandsons, eight and ten years old, who live in Nebraska, so we came in May and stayed at the housekeeping cabins. They are not campers yet; perhaps this week will be the beginning.

My first visit was in June of 1941, when my foster family with their two little children took me on a camping trip to Yosemite. I was twelve, a "war orphan" from Vienna, living with a foster family in San Francisco because my parents, due to Hitler, were scattered in Austria and Australia. Our journey was disrupted by my getting carsick, and by the car, which overheated on Priest Grade and elsewhere. We pitched our tent in a meadow, and I began a hike to Vernal Falls. In my first experience of reading a map, I found my way to the falls, exhausted

from the effort, but thrilled with the scenery. This new adventure of camping, hiking, swimming in the river, and the beauty of Yosemite remained with me forever, perhaps leading to my lifelong wanderlust. I've explored many places in the world on my own, encouraged by my first hike in Yosemite.

In 1952, I came with three college friends from Berkeley who had never been to Yosemite. The two-lane road into the Valley was jammed, and it took us all day to get there, but the journey along the Merced River canyon, with its breathtaking views of rushing water, kept us happy. We camped by dropping our sleeping bags on a meadow crowded with campers. Perhaps there were no assigned camping places then. We immediately drove up to Glacier Point, admiring the spectacular view of the high country and its many snowy peaks. The graceful Victorian Glacier Point Hotel was perched at the edge of the cliff, its barstools arranged to see the view of Half Dome and Nevada/Vernal Falls. We drank toasts to good times and our promising futures. Oh, we were so sophisticated! Later that evening, down in the valley in Camp Curry, a soprano sang *The Indian Love Song*, the signal for pushing hot coals over the edge to create the firefalls cascading down from Glacier Point. Unfortunately, the hotel was consumed by fire in 1969, while the firefalls were discontinued for environmental reasons in 1968.

In July 1965, my husband, his parents, my seven-year-old girl and four-year-old boy stayed in a housekeeping cabin right on the Merced River. How pleasant to see grandfather and grandson sitting at the edge of the river, fishing! My daughter, covered with mosquito bites from her two-hour pony ride, unfortunately never became a fan of camping. My son, like me, loved hiking and exploring, while my daughter couldn't wait to go home.

In 1972, now without husband, I often took my teenagers camping after school was out. With them, I climbed to the top of Yosemite falls in 1975, proud of my achievement. Later, I found friends to join me several times a year—we came with children, and then without them.

There were at least six of us hiking friends, sometimes more. We stayed in the little cabins by Yosemite Creek, and cooked our meals at the Swinging Bridge picnic site, all contributing some pre-prepared food such as soup. We laughed and talked, drank wine and admired brilliant green meadows and the rush of the river in May, the softness and fall colors in October. Often other people would come over to see who we were, amazed at this group of



Merced River beach, 1967



Tuolumne Loop Trail, 1996

aging women, roughing it but having so much fun.

We hiked the familiar routes in the Valley, and the energy was so high among us that we continued to come to Yosemite spring and fall twice a year. We hiked to Nevada Falls and Mirror Lake, “conquered” Sentinel Dome, or spent a day in Wawona and Mariposa Grove, camped at White Wolf or sometimes Tuolumne. The summer of 1996, seven of us ladies, now in our mid-60s, hiked from hut to hut, a total of 60 miles in a week, exploring the backcountry only to be seen by hiking. We were so proud of our adventure and fortitude.

My most memorable connection to Yosemite, however, started in August 1994 when I became a volunteer for the Park Service. It just so happened that they needed someone to work in the Indian Museum. As an anthropologist, I was just right for the job. I donned the clothes of the 1860s, and got a short course on the Ahwahneechee, the native Yosemite culture. I took classes in basket weaving, and heard lectures about different aspects of the park.

After a month or so, now wearing the park uniform, I also put in shifts at the Visitor Center both answering questions and learning the answers. Visitors came from all over the world, and I loved helping them plan their visiting days. When those dumped from a tour bus came in breathlessly wondering what they should see in the two hours given to them, I tried to calm them with suggestions to see many of the famous places—Yosemite Falls, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock and the Merced River—just across the meadow from the Center. However, I think more headed for the Village Store for souvenirs.

I stayed for nearly six months, living in El Portal in a one room cabin, formerly a motel unit. Even driving the winding road to the Valley was a thrill, as the seasons changed, the trees turned colors, the falls got thinner, the river became languid and the boulders in it appeared bigger. I explored more parts of the park on my days off. I left when it started to snow and I became afraid of driving, but I continued to volunteer for the next seven years, for four to six weeks in May. This is the most beautiful time in the park, when the falls are fullest, the dogwood

trees are blooming, new green leaves are popping out of dormant trees, and there are many visitors needing my assistance.

The memories go on and on—visits to Hetch Hetchy, Mariposa Grove, and Sentinel Dome to visit the gnarled old pine. Visiting Yosemite twice a year is a tradition we continue, although each year it becomes more of a challenge due to our age.

Now that all of us are in our late 70s and 80s, we often just walk by the river and reminisce about previous walks or misadventures. How many times had we joined the endless pilgrimage hiking to Nevada Falls, marveling at the fullness of the falls, the rainbows on them, the backside of Half Dome, and the wildflowers? Was it 80 or 100 times? We recall the landslides that closed the roads, or rivers flooding, fires and unusual weather. We were hiking in Tuolumne meadows in August, 1990, as eleven fires raged in the park; the sky had turned red and ashes were dropping on us as we attempted to hike. We rushed to leave, almost the last car to be allowed to exit the park.

How lucky to have been part of Yosemite most of my life! When I won't be able to go there anymore, I will have photo albums to help me recall the special moments in my life with friends in divine surroundings.

I'm not sure my grandsons were awed by the sights of Yosemite this year, but they enjoyed finding bugs and other treasures on the trails, became “junior rangers” and, hopefully, will come again and again, remembering their first time, and perhaps their grandmother, who loved Yosemite so much.



Mirror Lake, 2000

Phyllis Helene Mattson began her career in public health research and went on to teach at community colleges. In 1994, she joined the Peace Corps in Nepal. She is the author of War Orphan in San Francisco: Letters Link a Family Scattered by World War II (2005).

ARTS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series

BY MARGARET EISSLER

In the 1960s, my sister Christie and I, like many children, presented dance programs in the living room and short plays in our bedroom. We rigged up a curtain to delineate front from backstage. We wore our mother's jewelry and lipstick, dressed up, and then invited our parents to the performance. We had such fun. These scenes from the past sometimes come to mind, and I think, how could it be? I am still doing the same thing—putting together special events in yet another intimate space.

Parsons Memorial Lodge is a simple, rustic building with granite rock walls, lodgepole pine beams, an arched doorway, large fireplace, and casement windows that overlook Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park. The Tuolumne River meanders below through meadows edged by forest, high peaks, and domes. Just to the east is Soda Springs, where cold, carbonated mineral water bubbles out of the ground. Sierra Club members raised money in 1912 to purchase the 160 acre homestead that included Soda Springs. In the summer of 1915 the Sierra Club constructed Parsons Memorial Lodge in memory of mountaineer and conservation activist Edward Taylor Parsons. The Bay Area architectural firm Maybeck and White designed the building. It was not a lodge to sleep in but rather a mountain headquarters, reading room and gathering place open to the public.

For six summers, from 1956-61, my parents, Fred and Anne Eissler, were the caretakers of the Sierra Club property. We lived in the one-room McCauley Cabin just up the hill. Parsons Lodge was a lively place, especially when hikers and campers took shelter from afternoon thunderstorms or when the Sierra Club Board of Directors held their summer meetings. Visitors read books, studied maps, played games, shared stories, ideas and inspirations. Christie and I often sat in the lodge windowsills and watched people come and go.

The Sierra Club sold the property to the National Park Service in 1973. Since then, Yosemite Association volunteers and National Park Service interpreters have kept Parsons Memorial Lodge open to the public and told its stories: How John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of *Century Magazine*, agreed over a campfire near Soda Springs in June 1889 to work together to create a Yosemite National Park, a goal they accomplished in just over a year. How Edward Taylor Parsons joined Muir in the unsuccessful campaign to save Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley from being dammed. How the Sierra Club

worked for the establishment of Redwood and North Cascades National Parks and against dams proposed for the Grand Canyon during their summer Tuolumne Meadows board meetings. How Parsons Memorial Lodge is a perfect example of Bernard Maybeck's architectural vision to blend buildings with the landscape: "The building seems to grow out of the ground naturally and to belong there just as much as the neighboring trees and rocks." (Unnamed architect, *Sierra Club Bulletin*, January 1916) How the lodge was a significant forerunner of the National Park Service rustic design ethic. How for all these reasons Parsons Memorial Lodge was designated a National Historic Landmark.

In 1992, the year of the Sierra Club centennial, Tuolumne interpreters decided to honor and celebrate the historic Soda Springs property and all who had traveled through with a summer series of special programs at Parsons Memorial Lodge. As a member of the interpretive staff, I agreed to take charge of the project. It felt so right to have the lodge once again fulfill its original purpose as a vibrant gathering place where ideas were exchanged—ideas that could be inspiring and life changing, ideas that matched the mountains and powerful thinking that had come before. The Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series has continued ever since. It is now intrinsic to summer in Tuolumne Meadows.

The afternoon weekend presentations in July and August complement the park's interpretive program. The series is a forum for the arts and sciences, a menu of diverse and often cutting-edge offerings. Artists, photographers, writers, musicians, storytellers, and poets join research scientists, naturalists, historians, philosophers, and planners in the lineup. The intent is to inform and inspire, to provide a variety of perspectives, and to realize the possibilities inherent when connecting people with a magical place. The easy walk through the meadow to



ARYA DEGENHARDT

An audience gathers within the rustic stone walls of the Parsons Memorial Lodge.



ARYA DEGENHARDT

Ranger Margaret Eissler introduces a guest at the Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series.

Parsons, the intimate space, the audience—a warm and enthusiastic mix of park visitors, park staff and residents from surrounding communities—make the experience

unforgettable.

Perhaps the most powerful part is the deep sense of community that includes people and place: river, meadow sedges and shooting stars, bears, mountain bluebirds, lodgepole pines and juniper, Johnson Peak granite porphyry.... The lodge breathes all this in and out through the open windows. It's something organic and alive.

It's community that makes the series happen, whether it's the audience; the Yosemite Association staff and volunteers who order and sell books, set up the space and put it back together again; National Park Service co-workers and friends who stamp envelopes, make and serve coffee and refreshments, design flyers and poetry prints, donate images and brainstorm ideas; multiple

organizations and Friends of Parsons Lodge who generously donate time, funds and services.

I sometimes watch, like a bird from above, the pathway of life—observing the connecting threads and marveling at how childhood experiences can take hold of the heart, get into the bones and help shape the life that follows. Everyone has his or her own story. Mine, and very likely yours too, is woven in with Soda Springs and Parsons Memorial Lodge, mountains, meadows and community.

Once complete, the 2010 Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series will be posted on www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/programs.htm. The Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival is always scheduled the third weekend in August. Admission is always free. A gift!

The Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series is supported by the National Park Service, Yosemite Association, Loralee Tucker Hiramoto Memorial Fund, Friends of Parsons Lodge, Institute for Law and Systems Research, and Poets & Writers, Inc.

Margaret Eissler played flute with the Santa Barbara Symphony for 18 years until Tuolumne Meadows drew her back in 1985. After working for the Yosemite Association, she joined the National Park Service, where she is now an interpretive naturalist.

Arts in Yosemite National Park: Cultivating Connection, Inspiring Stewards

In his report to Congress in 1865, Frederick Law Olmsted wrote of the importance of art in Yosemite:

Yosemite yet remains to be considered as a field of study for science and art. Already students of science and art have been attracted to it from the Atlantic States and a number of artists at heavy expense spent the summer in sketching the scenery..... (art) tends more than any other human pursuit to the benefit of the commonwealth and the advancement of civilization.

In the nearly 150 years since Olmsted's groundbreaking report, Yosemite has inspired painters, photographers and writers whose creative works have brought the marvels of Yosemite to millions of people worldwide.

The work of nineteenth-century landscape artists such as Thomas Ayers, Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Hill inspired Congress to establish the Yosemite Grant in the midst of the Civil War. Photographers such as Carleton Watkins, Ralph Anderson and Ansel Adams

communicated the grandeur of Yosemite to successive generations.

Ken Burns' recent documentary series "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" conveyed the park concept to viewers around the world via stunning videography, photography and storytelling. Several of the stars of the film, including Ranger Shelton Johnson and actor Lee Stetson, are performing artists at Yosemite today. They transport audiences to formative moments in the development of the park, deepening the Yosemite experience for thousands of visitors every year.

The Yosemite Association has helped foster the creative arts at the park for three decades. We support the Yosemite Art and Education Center, Parsons Lodge Summer Series, and Yosemite Theater. We also collaborate with the Ansel Adams Gallery on programs such as Art Night in the Village. The Association's Outdoor Adventures include almost a dozen art and photography field seminars each year.

Highlights for this year include exciting new programming at the Yosemite Theater,

which will include another film by Ken Burns, "This is America," followed by a discussion with Ranger Shelton Johnson. Lee Stetson will return as John Muir, while renowned rock climber Ron Kauk will continue to show and discuss his popular "Return to Balance" film two nights per week.

The Association will offer 29 classes at the Yosemite Art and Education Center, held Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning April 6. Check www.yosemite.org for a full listing of class offerings.

Another engaging lineup is being assembled for the Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series featuring prominent authors, artists and scientists. Yosemite Association volunteers and National Park Service interpreters have helped keep Parsons Memorial Lodge open to the public and told its stories since 1973.

Whether you are looking for inspiration, a place to express your creativity, or entertainment, seek out the arts in Yosemite next time you are in the park.

Coyotes

BY MICHAEL FRYE

In the winter and spring of 1994 I spent every spare moment following and photographing a group of coyotes who lived in the center of Yosemite Valley. Here is the story behind this photograph of a pack member:

It was snowing heavily when I picked my son Kevin up from preschool. As we walked down the driveway through the deepening snow I spotted fresh tracks: two coyotes. They had to be members of a pack I had been following and photographing, as their territory included our house behind The Ansel Adams Gallery. I handed Kevin to his mom, grabbed my camera, 300 mm lens and tripod, and set out to follow the trail.

The tracks wound through Yosemite Village and then out toward Cook's Meadow. The trail led me to Sentinel Bridge, and just beyond that I spotted a coyote curled up on top of a log. I recognized him: it was a male I called Ben.

I had already been photographing these coyotes for two months. Like many animals in Yosemite Valley, they were used to people and mostly ignored me as I trailed them. It was challenging at first to tell them apart. Both sexes, I learned, sometimes lifted their hind legs when peeing, but males stretched the leg out and backward, females out and forward. Later I noticed other distinguishing features. Ben, for example, had darker fur than the others. The alpha female, Faye, had a scar across her nose. Eventually I learned to identify them the way we humans identify each other, by their faces. I could recognize these coyotes as easily as old friends.

There were four members of the pack: two males and two females. The two males often hung out together, but one was clearly dominant. In my mind I started referring to them as the alpha male and beta male, but soon realized they needed better names. I kept thinking, "Beta male, beta, what would be a good name for him... Ben!" If he was Ben, then his buddy had to be Jerry—yes, like Ben and Jerry's ice cream. Faye, the alpha female, got her name simply because it started with the same letter as "female." I dubbed the other female Polly just because the name seemed to fit.

As mating season approached in February I watched Jerry assert his dominance over Ben. Jerry would charge Ben and force him to show submission by lying on his back, exposing his vulnerable underbelly. When Faye came into estrus, I witnessed her mating with Jerry.

Coyotes, like other members of the dog family, remain locked "in tie" for 15 to 20 minutes after mating—they're physically unable to separate. I had to laugh as I watched Ben take advantage of the situation, approaching Faye and licking her face while Jerry was immobilized.

In April I discovered Jerry and Faye's den—in a culvert underneath Southside Drive. But the coyotes who were so tolerant of my presence at other times became extremely wary near their den. I glimpsed the pups once, but realized further pursuit would disturb them. Eventually I lost track of these coyotes, but I'm sure their descendants still roam the Sierra.



MICHAEL FRYE

When I found Ben on that snowy afternoon in February he looked at me, then curled up again in the snow. I slowly, casually moved closer, then waited, checking and re-checking my camera settings. After about 15 minutes Ben looked around, stood up, shook off the snow, sat down again, and glanced at me for a second—click, click. Then he and Faye, who had been lying nearby out of sight, trotted away.

Michael Frye is a professional photographer specializing in landscapes and nature, and has lived in and near Yosemite since 1983. Read more stories about Yosemite on his blog, 25 Years in Yosemite: A Photographer's Journal, at <http://www.michaelfrye.com/yosemite-journal/>

WHY IS IT CALLED CRANE FLAT?

Perched 6,200 feet atop the Tuolumne/Merced watershed divide at the western edge of Yosemite National Park is Crane Flat. Thousands of visitors pass through this broad forest/meadow saddle on their way to or from Yosemite Valley and the high country every year. Curious people may wonder how the area got its name.



THOMAS ONEL

Crane Flat's namesake: the greater sandhill crane *Grus canadensis tabida*.

“Flat” is a term used locally for a clearing in the Sierra’s otherwise solid forest cover. In other mountains, such clearings might be called parks, meadows or balds. The historic route to Yosemite and the Sierra high country also travels past Deer Flat, Gin Flat and Tamarack Flat.

Now why “crane”? After surveying a route for the Coulterville Free Trail in 1856, former Mariposa Battalion member Lafayette Bunnell wrote, “The name was suggested by the shrill and startling cry of some sand-hill cranes we surprised as they were resting on this elevated table.” In 1868 John Muir overnighted at Crane Flat and wrote, “It is often visited by blue cranes to rest and feed on their long journeys.”

In the years since, some have questioned the bird identification accuracy of both Bunnell and Muir, and suggest that the birds present were actually great blue herons. Today, sandhill cranes aren’t seen in Yosemite, yet the occasional great blue heron can be spotted hunting along the Merced River in Yosemite Valley or El Portal.

So which birds did Bunnell and Muir see—cranes or herons? Muir confounds us by referring to “blue cranes,” a confusing mix of nomenclature. Bunnell’s description,

however, provides two clues that suggest the crane is the correct species. He mentions “cranes” plural, and the “startling cry.” The great blue heron is generally a solitary and silent bird, while the sandhill crane is both gregarious and vocal.

In fairness to Muir and Bunnell, cranes and herons are similar in appearance. Cranes and herons both inhabit wetlands, have long toes, long legs, long necks and long bills, and prey on small wetland creatures like frogs and fish. It would be easy for the casual observer to apply either name to either bird in a generic sense.

However, not only do cranes and herons belong to different families of birds, but different orders as well; they’re not very close genetically. They are thus a nice example of convergent evolution: unrelated organisms that appear similar because they occupy similar ecological niches. Other examples include birds and bats, swifts and swallows, palm trees and tree ferns, sharks and mosasaurs, penguins and puffins, ostriches and emus. All are similar looking, but genetically quite distinct.

As to the current absence of cranes in Yosemite, we must view Bunnell’s account contemporaneously. In the California of the 1850s, the Great Central Valley was a vast undrained, undiked and unplowed marshland, seasonally filled with unimaginable millions of waterbirds. On the east side of the Sierra, a stable Mono Lake shoreline was surrounded by large expanses of freshwater and saline marsh, fed by miles of lush riparian woodland and wet meadows. South of Mono Lake, Owens Lake also had acres and acres of wetland habitat.

In this context, it is easy to imagine that a large amount of trans-Sierra avian traffic could bring a flock of sandhill cranes to the meadows near Tuolumne Grove. The name makes sense. Indeed, south of the park you’ll find Crane Valley (now under a reservoir).

In this way, the name Crane Flat represents a world we’ve replaced. What are we losing now that will be lamented 100 years hence? Great gray owls have nested near these meadows; this is one reason the speed limit is 25 mph through this stretch of road. Perhaps this vestigial label can inspire us not to surrender any more of the beauties we are lucky enough to have in Yosemite, the Sierra and California.

Pete Devine is the Resident Naturalist for the Yosemite Association

YOSEMITE'S PIONEER PAST SURVIVES THROUGH ORCHARDS

SEEING THE ORCHARDS FOR THE TREES

Unbeknownst to many park visitors, Yosemite National Park contains the remains of at least eight discrete orchards, as well as a number of individual backyard fruit trees. These trees are relics of some of the first Euro-Americans to settle in the area and, in some cases, are the only remaining vestiges of these early homesteads.

Yosemite contains at least 435 documented historic fruit trees ranging from 80 to 150 years of age. The vast majority consist of apple trees of many varieties. Yosemite Valley contains the largest remaining number of fruit trees, but substantial orchards can also be found in Wawona and on the grounds of two historic homesteads in Foresta. Today these trees represent some of the oldest historic features in the park.

Discovery and early development of the Sierra Nevada occurred during the height of the Homestead Era. Not only were orchards useful additions to a farmstead, they were a convenient way to fulfill requirements of the Homestead Act of 1862, which stated that land must be cultivated for five years before it could be legally granted to the applicant. Throughout the country, orchards were planted and maintained, or often ignored, for five years, later to be reclaimed and employed as evidence of cultivation. Several orchards within the park were reportedly

planted for this reason, particularly the Foresta orchards.

Many orchards in Yosemite, however, were planted for an additional reason: as business enterprises. When Yosemite Valley was discovered, a number of entrepreneurs immediately recognized its potential as a travel destination. However, the Valley's remote location required travelers to carry all of the food and other supplies they might need.

To provide services to the growing number of Valley visitors, a number of individuals built structures and planted forage crops for livestock, vegetable gardens, berry patches and orchards. Most packed these supplies to the Valley and spent summers cultivating land, then overwintered elsewhere. The oldest fruit trees in the Valley date to this pre-settlement period, around 1856, and are limited to a few backyard fruit trees.

The first settler to overwinter in Yosemite Valley was James C. Lamon. In 1859 he planted an orchard of over 500 trees beneath Half Dome and constructed a cabin nearby. The following year he installed a second orchard of equal size, and during the winter of 1861, Lamon became the first Euro-American settler to stay in the Valley year-round. Lamon and subsequent settler James Mason Hutchings planted their orchards as a business enterprise, selling fruit to visitors. Lamon in particular



NPS COLLECTION

The Lamon Orchard, 1944. Many park orchards were used as victory gardens during World War II.



DAVID HUMPHREY

The Lamon Orchard today. The orchard is being overgrown by conifers.



SKY SKACH

The Meyer Ranch Orchard and homestead in Foresta have high historic integrity.

was well known for his berry patch and orchard. One visitor, a Boston physician named Samuel Kneeland, made the following observation about Lamon's homestead in his 1872 book *The Wonders of the Yosemite Valley, and of California*:

He has truly made the wilderness to "blossom like the rose" and has succeeded in raising excellent vegetables, and some exceedingly fine berries and other fruit; his garden is one of the sights of the Valley, and the visitor is sure of a warm reception; if the proprietor be not at home to sell you his fruit, you are allowed to pick and eat, but not to carry away, in his garden, depositing on his window a quarter or half a dollar in silver.

The major Wawona orchards were used as business assets as well. The first in the area was planted by Galen Clark, Yosemite explorer and eventual first commissioner of the Yosemite Grant, at his homestead. What was once the largest orchard within the park was planted by the Washburn family. Fruit from both the Washburn and Clark orchards largely went to support the extensive operations of the Wawona Hotel.

The Foresta homesteads, including the two main orchards, supplied meat and produce to the U.S. Army's park operations and hotels in the Valley.

Since their prime, most of the park's orchards have fallen into disrepair. The vast majority of the trees have died. Long-lived apple trees are primarily what remain of the pear, peach, nectarine, plum, and almond trees originally planted. Due to their decline, many of the orchards now lack historic integrity. Many have been altered by

infrastructure changes within the park, including the Washburn Orchard, which was reduced in size by development of the Wawona Golf Course and the re-routing of the Wawona Road in the 1930s. In 1972, one of the orchards belonging to Lamon located near Curry Village was modified to accommodate the parking of cars.

Others, including both of the Foresta orchards, were partially burned by fires, while some trees located near the Merced River have been altered by dynamic hydrologic processes over time. It is likely that some of the individual remaining fruit trees were once part of larger orchards whose place in history has been lost.

The orchards have suffered primarily from a lack of consistent maintenance. Most orchards have not received consistent pruning or irrigation since their original caretakers were in charge and many trees have been heavily damaged by drought and other natural forces. Despite their decline, it is remarkable that these orchards survive. Orchards of similar age elsewhere in the country have not fared nearly as well.

Yosemite's orchards largely date to the most prolific era of fruit growing, from 1800-1880. During this time period, more orchards were planted across the United States than at any other period in the country's history. The viability of growing fruit as a money-making crop, combined with the ease orchards presented for fulfilling Homestead Act requirements, facilitated an explosion of more new grafted varieties than at any other time.

Additionally, fruit—particularly apples—was used in a multitude of ways. One of the most common uses at this time was for the production of hard cider, followed by culinary use, feed for livestock and, for most of the tastier varieties, human consumption.

As technology evolved, however, the number of varieties commonly planted became smaller while more reliable production methods were developed. Quantity and longevity became paramount as fruit production and resale began to expand from a regional to a national scale. As a result, orchards transitioned into large-scale industrial plantations typically containing only a few varieties rather than the diverse plantings of their predecessors.

During this shift to large-scale production, many early orchards were removed, replaced, destroyed or abandoned as cities and suburbs developed in concert with the nation's industrial growth.

Yosemite's orchards were sheltered from this evolution. Their preservation can be attributed to the park's unique status as the first public area set aside as a grant in 1864, followed by its designation as a national park in 1890. This status afforded protection to Yosemite's orchards, first as an important component of the infrastructure,

providing fresh produce to park visitors, and later preserving the orchards against replanting or subsequent development due to National Park Service policies.

Because of these varied influences, Yosemite National Park still contains rare fruit varieties from 1800-1880. Despite their rarity and historic value, the remaining fruit trees are still non-native species. As such, they present a management challenge for the park, particularly due to their production of fruit.

The largest and most pressing concern surrounding the fruit trees is their attraction to wildlife. Apples in particular are a major draw for the park's black bears. But as an unnatural food source, apples also disrupt the natural feeding habits of park bears. Generations of bears and humans now return to the orchards yearly—the bears to feed, and the humans to view the bears—increasing the potential for human-bear conflicts. This situation is exacerbated by the proximity of many orchards to areas with high human traffic. The Curry Village Orchard/Parking Area is the most notable example within the park, though this situation presents itself for only a few weeks each year.

Undoubtedly, these early orchards are an important link to a period of park history for which little physical evidence remains. Equally undisputed is their effect on the park's continuing natural heritage and the need to balance the management of these resources.

David T. Humphrey is the Park Branch Chief of History, Architecture, and Landscapes and Sky Skach was a Historical Landscape Architecture technician with Yosemite National Park's Division of Resources Management and Science. Sky is currently serving with the Peace Corps in the Philippines.



Bears, like this one in the Lamon Orchard, are commonly found foraging for food in park orchards.

Origins of the Apple

Most cultivated varieties of apples commonly grown today have a common ancestor, *Malus sieversii*, the wild apple native to Kazakhstan and the mountains of Central Asia. There the apple is often the climax species in the forest, growing up to 60 feet tall and producing fruit that varies greatly in size, color and edibility.

The apple was first spread by travelers of the Silk Route, who traversed these forests and gathered the largest and sweetest fruits to trade.

Cultivation of the apple began in China with the discovery of grafting during the second millennium. The choicest of these Chinese varieties were adopted by the Greeks and Romans who continued their propagation. As the Romans moved across Europe, apples spread across the continent; some varieties cultivated by the Romans are still grown today.

Apple seeds traveled across the Atlantic Ocean with European settlers and missionaries to the New World and were among the first exotic species to transform the new landscape. Rather than grafting trees, American colonists often sowed apple seeds randomly, resulting in wild orchards with highly variable fruit. These apples were commonly used for two purposes: livestock feed and hard cider.

During the seventeenth century, Americans rediscovered grafting and began propagating new varieties of apples and other fruit. By the nineteenth century, hundreds of grafted varieties were available. Regionally adapted varieties were shared and grown by local farmers with pride.

As the nation's industrialized and fruit-growing technology expanded, orchards transitioned from small diverse plantings to monoculture crops often covering hundreds of acres. For approximately the past 50 years the number of commonly planted varieties has numbered in the tens rather than hundreds.

Today a resurgence of interest in heirloom varieties of apples and other agricultural crops and animals is occurring. Many historic varieties of apples are endangered and are commonly sought by collectors and specialists to preserve genetic diversity.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Lyell and China and Bears, Oh My! The Yosemite Outdoor Adventures Field Seminar Program

BY PETE DEVINE

The Outdoor Adventures field seminars have a long and storied history. These popular courses, which offer the public the chance to learn from expert photographers, authors, naturalists and others, trace their beginnings to a professional training program run by the National Park Service. From 1925-41 and 1948-53, the NPS operated the Yosemite Field School of Natural History to train rangers and others to be naturalists and communicators. This prestigious summer academy had been the locus of interpretive training for the entire park



A Yosemite Association course at Inspiration Point.

system. In 1963 and 1964, interpretive ranger professional development was shifted to Grand Canyon and Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

The idea for a public field institute in Yosemite started about 15 years after the Field School was discontinued, amid the emerging environmental consciousness of the 1960s and 70s. When the park's nonprofit partner, the Yosemite Natural History Association (YNHA), hired its first full-time employee in 1970, the board of trustees and NPS Chief Naturalist Bill Jones saw a way to revive the cherished outdoor education tradition with a twist, with courses geared toward the public.

In 1971, the YNHA offered just four field seminars. The program caught fire, and expanded to 15 courses the next year. People hungry for an in-depth connection to Yosemite filled each class. The first instructors were longtime rangers Carl Sharsmith and Lloyd Brubaker. Eventually, the Association hired a full-time seminar program coordinator who nurtured the program to maturity.

Since then, field seminar programs have spread to

many other national park sites. From that first handful of participants 40 years ago, the program has educated tens of thousands of people on the trail. The Yosemite Association now offers dozens of educational field courses to augment the excellent ranger programs provided by the NPS. In addition to natural history courses on geology, botany and birding, there are classes in photography, art, writing, snowshoe and ski treks, programs just for families, history programs, Leave No Trace training and more. The Association also conducts walk-in naturalist programs and offers private tours for those who want their own guide for the day.

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures are unique for several reasons:

- **Time.** Most ranger programs are an hour or two, while most seminars last a day or more. Participants can immerse themselves in a subject, place and community of explorers.
- **Instructors.** The instruction quality from the knowledgeable field faculty is impossible to beat. People who've devoted their careers to their subjects in the outdoors make inspiring trail companions.
- **Specialties.** Surveying Lyell Glacier, hiking in China, family camps, Merced Grove overnights, moonbow photography and many other trips provide stimulating experiences that you won't find just anywhere.
- **Yosemite.** We are THE Yosemite specialists, based here and focused on park expertise.

The field seminar courses have come full circle in the new millennium. Evolved versions of Carl Sharsmith's two original courses are now taught by two of his former seminar students: Michael Ross teaches "Tuolumne Alpine Studies" at the end of July, and Pete Devine leads the "Lyell Glacier Survey" in September. The first director of the program, Lloyd Brubaker, returned two years ago to attend a woodpecker course taught by Pete Devine, the current program director. Howard Weamer, one of our instructors from 1972, is also still teaching for us. Try his "Photographing High Country Habitats" in early August.

All Yosemite Outdoor Adventures details are found at www.yosemite.org. Your higher education awaits.

Explore Yosemite with Your Personal Guide

BY MICHAEL ROSS

Several years ago I had the opportunity to have my own personal guide in the Sierra Norte of Oaxaca, Mexico. Nicolas led me on a six-day trip from one village to another. He shared his knowledge of traditional uses of plants, such as *hierba de borracho* (herb of the drunkard) which he swore could cure a hangover. I learned that he and his fellow basketball players use skunk fat to heal knee injuries, and was introduced to pulque, a beer-like drink made from fermented agave pulp. His keen eyes enabled him to see birds such as mountain trogons which I surely would have missed. As someone who had guided people through Yosemite for years, having my own guide was a special treat.

Through Yosemite Association's custom guiding program, I have enjoyed many pleasant jaunts with a wide variety of clients. A birder from Massachusetts emailed, "I'm an enjoy-seeing-the-birds kind of birder, not a competitive birder. I definitely don't want us to kill ourselves rushing from bird to bird to tick off a life list. I want to enjoy the place too; if that means fewer birds, so be it." We took a walk in a quiet corner of the park and happened upon a northern pygmy owl and an American dipper nest. Needless to say, we had a great walk.

Over the years I've led walks for families in both the back and front country. One day I explored insects and other small critters with a budding seven-year-old entomologist and her mom. She devoured the information like a ladybug eating mites. Bugs are a big hit with kids, while for many parents, catching and observing these small creatures is a whole new experience. If children have picked up any insect phobias from their elders, these quickly fall away after discovering there is nothing to fear from a caterpillar, jumping spider, or grasshopper. Last summer I guided two couples and their young children. After a morning discovering bugs in a pond, the river and a meadow, reading picture books and playing games, the children were ready for a post-lunch rest. While the dads had kid duty I led the moms on a rigorous hike for grownups.

It's not uncommon for parents to worry about whether the youngest will keep up. With a guide the family dynamics can shift and the youngest can be the most engaged and energetic.

"My family enjoyed it very much and we especially appreciated the wealth of park knowledge that you shared with us. Thanks for being so kind and understanding with Bella—your hiding game was the perfect antidote to her fatigue," wrote a father visiting with his wife and two daughters.



YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Michael Ross leads nature walks, birding expeditions, and family outings in Yosemite tailored to the interests of visitors.

After an outing in Tuolumne with a dad and his two rambunctious boys I later received this note: "Michael, you were especially good with the boys, and our day with you ranked as the top event on itinerary of our California visit (and that is saying something based on all we did on our trip.) We will recommend the Yosemite Association custom adventures to any friends or colleagues who might be traveling out your way in the future."

No naturalist can guarantee to find a particular bird or a bear, or to keep every child happy. But naturalists like myself, Pete Devine, and others have enough tricks up our sleeves and surprises in our packs to provide the ingredients for a great outing in the park.

Whether seeking views of wildlife in their native habitat with a naturalist, capturing Yosemite's breathtaking scenic beauty on film with a professional photographer, or learning the fine art of fly fishing with an expert angler, the Yosemite Association gives groups the rare opportunity to realize their dreams with a field trip tailored for individual timeframes and interests.

"We can easily accommodate requests ranging from one-on-one instruction to several naturalists leading a busload of guests," says Pete Devine, the Yosemite Association's Education Programs Director. "This new feature is ideal for all types of groups, from friends and family reunions, to wedding parties or corporate functions."

Association instructors collectively represent centuries of knowledge, thousands of miles on park trails, guidebooks full of plants and animals, galleries of photographs and paintings, and a deep devotion to this exquisite place.

Michael Elsohn Ross has been leading field classes for the Yosemite Association since 1977. He lives in El Portal and is the author of more than 40 books for young people.

The Family Camping Jamboree

BY DAVE WYMAN

This July, as for some 10,000 summers past, certain changes will happen in Yosemite's high country. The lakes and the granite domes will be warmed each day by the summer sun, melting the snows of winter into a patchwork amid the upper reaches of the Sierra Nevada. Purple asters, red columbines, blue lupine, and multi-hued shooting stars will bloom beneath azure skies, and the Family Camping Jamboree will unfold



DAVE WYMAN

A short hike on a long afternoon to the "beach" at Tuolumne Meadows.

in Tuolumne Meadows.

A part of the 2010 Yosemite Outdoor Adventures program, the Jamboree invites families to a quiet corner of Tuolumne Meadows campground to enjoy an exciting potpourri of activities.

The itinerary includes leisurely hikes up the two granite domes, Lembert and

Pothole, that frame each end of the meadows. Both offer commanding views of the surrounding High Sierra peaks. Walks out into broad, flat Tuolumne Meadows let participants look for wildlife, pan for gold and splash in the waters of the Tuolumne River.

Craft materials will entertain both kids and those who are kids at heart. At night, after s'mores and stories around the campfire, a walk into the meadows lets everyone experience the blazing canopy of stars as our ancestors did.

Jamboree hikes are readily completed by determined three-year-olds. Those younger than three might need to be carried, at least partway, on a couple of the walks. For the younger set and parents who prefer an easier pace, optional easy walks and a shuttle bus ride are available. And relaxing in camp, reading, playing in the creek, or

doing nothing at all is always an option.

The Jamboree is held in a pine-secluded campground loop next to burbling Elizabeth Creek, with Tuolumne Meadows just yards away. While families bring sleeping bags and tents, they can leave the cooking gear at home. There's no need to bring food, either, because every meal, from the first dinner to the farewell breakfast, is included. And while each gourmet meal includes healthy choices, there is plenty of pasta and peanut butter on hand for finicky and plain eaters.

The trip leaders are Dave Wyman and Irene Shibata. Dave has long served as a Yosemite Association trip leader and created the Jamboree for the Yosemite Association more than two decades ago. When not leading family camping trips, he conducts photography workshops, rides his bike and climbs the mountains of California; he is the author of the book *Yosemite in Photographs*.

Irene has created the menu and served as chief chef at the Jamborees since 2004. Each year she comes equipped with an ever-expanding collection of recipes and is famous for her tasty desserts.

In July, bring your family to explore the rhythms of summer in the Sierra Nevada. Come for the freshly brewed morning coffee and the apple oatmeal coffee cake, the rain forest slaw and the grilled seasoned chicken. Stay for the climb up Lembert Dome to view Cathedral, Ragged and Unicorn Peaks, to see the little frogs and taste the water at Soda Springs, to relax on a sandy beach on the edge of a mountain lake. Form new friendships and relax with your family in a special place.

The Jamborees haven't appeared in the high country of Yosemite as often as the fish, wildflowers and shrinking winter snows. They have, though, been around long enough to have become a high country tradition, making memories that last, if not 10,000 years, then a lifetime.

Dave Wyman conducts natural history tours, including photography workshops and camping trips for families. He is the author of the books Yosemite in Photographs and The Backroads of Northern California.



BILL BECHER

2010 FAMILY CAMPING JAMBOREES

Saturday through Tuesday, July 17-20

Thursday through Sunday, July 22-25

www.yosemite.org

PARK PROFILE

RON KAUK: CLIMBER, FILMMAKER, EDUCATOR



What is your film “Return to Balance” about? The film relates to balancing on many levels. The idea of balance is that you can’t take more than you give back. The key to everything in this life is balance—starting with ourselves, then our family, our community and out from there.

In our modern world, there never seems to be enough time to slow down and observe. It’s helpful to slow down and become relaxed enough to feel the relationships we have with the natural world. We need to come back into balance with each other, with natural laws, and to learn how to share things.

How have audiences reacted to your film? The film creates the opportunity for people to see all of the seasons in Yosemite, and the tempo of the film is relaxing. This seems to open up hearts a little more, and to let the medicine of Yosemite get in there.

How long have you been climbing? I started rock climbing at a young age. I climbed El Capitan for the first time at 17. Spending days on the wall puts you in touch with the basics—food, water, shelter—the things you need for survival.

What are your most memorable climbing experiences? I went to Pakistan at age 21—to the Trango Valley, which is within eyeshot of K2, the world’s second-tallest mountain. Our base camp was at 14,000 feet, and we climbed for ten days to reach the summit at 20,000 feet, then rappelled down for two days. All of the disciplines of climbing that I learned in Yosemite came together. I felt completely part of the environment at the end of the trip.

Why do you climb? The foundation of climbing for me is to advance myself as a human being. This has been an ongoing education for the last 36 years. As soon as you leave the ground, you can’t take anything for granted anymore. You are conscious of every move and connection you make to the rock. You have to focus on where

you’re at, to be aware of your environment. And you realize you should show this same respect toward nature whether you’re in the vertical world or walking on the ground.

Recently, climbing has been driven in many ways into the realm of extreme sports. Originally climbers went out for the soul, searching for a way to get to know who we were. It brings a new appreciation for a warm house, a hot shower, friendships. It’s not going to matter down the road whether you made it to the top of the mountain or not.

What have you learned in Yosemite? Yosemite is one of the most inspiring places on earth to acknowledge and observe the ways of nature. There is no better teacher as to the beauty that gives us life, which we most of the time take for granted.

Being 1,000 feet up on the face of Half Dome, watching sunrises and sunsets, it literally and figuratively dawns on you that this life is an absolute, incredible adventure, whether you are hanging off of a rock face, or sitting by the river.

Yosemite has been set aside to protect all life. We have a responsibility when we come into Yosemite to respect everything in nature—plant life, water, trees, animals.

The main thing is to respect nature, to slow down enough to recognize sacredness, and the natural laws that govern our survival. The more you take time to appreciate things, the more you are aware of the value of the basics like clean air and water.

What advice do you give visitors seeking a meaningful experience in Yosemite? To enjoy Yosemite, ask yourself “why am I coming here in the first place?” Hopefully, the answer will be to have an experience of nature and to learn through observation; to notice the river move through the meadows, a gentle breeze through the trees, a songbird, a deer eating grass. It’s an amazing chance to be a caretaker of nature, to realize everything you do—from driving your car to walking through a meadow—has an affect on Yosemite.

Tell us about your organization, Sacred Rok. We are a new nonprofit dedicated to helping youth make a connection to nature. In respecting nature we learn to respect ourselves. We give kids a chance to be in Yosemite and encourage them to share their own, unique way of seeing the world. Nature is very playful and free, something we all need to remember to be.

YOSEMITE CATALOG

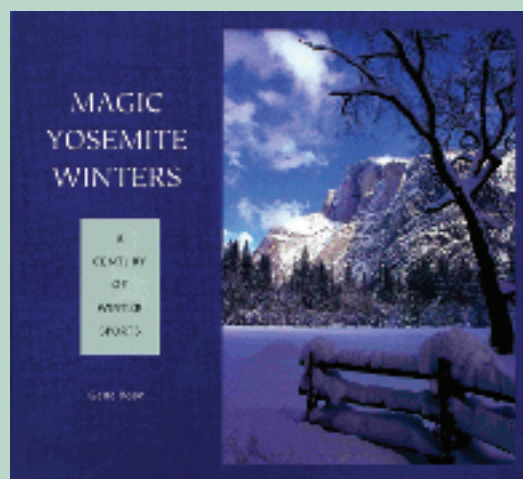
FEATURE BOOKS

Magic Yosemite Winters

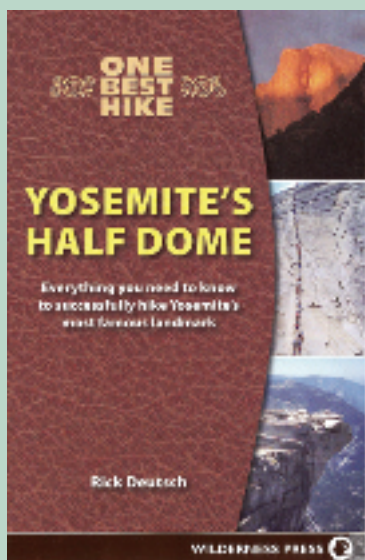
by Gene Rose

This is the first book to thoroughly chronicle the story of winter sports in Yosemite National Park. The book is rich with never-before-told anecdotes and informative profiles of Yosemite winter athletes such as Nic Fiore, Rusty Rust, Bill Janss, Charley Proctor, Mary Curry Tresidder, Ansel Adams, David Brower and Howard Weamer. From the establishment of Badger Pass and the development of downhill skiing there, to the backcountry exploits of early

winter mountaineers, to the history of the Yosemite Winter Club, Gene Rose provides fascinating coverage. In this chronicle you will meet those early sports pioneers and encounter other forerunners who are still yodeling their love and enthusiasm for the magic of Yosemite winters. Illustrated with the color photographs of Galen Rowell, Dewitt Jones and Keith Walklet, along with more than a hundred black-and-white historical images, this is a wonderful tribute to the people involved over the years in winter sports at California's most famous national park.



\$19.95 member price \$16.96



One Best Hike: Yosemite's Half Dome

by Rick Deutsch

Do you have what it takes to hike Half Dome? The trek to the top of this Yosemite icon is one of America's epic day hikes. Starting in Yosemite Valley you'll ascend nearly one vertical mile past two impressive waterfalls, through fragrant pine, fir and cedar forest, then 425 feet up sheer granite on the famed steel cables to the summit. There, you'll be greeted by some of the grandest views on the continent. If you time it right, you'll be back in the Valley celebrating your accomplishment later that evening. While tremendously rewarding, this hike is also one of the Park's most strenuous. Not sure you have what it takes to make the 15-plus mile route? This step-by-step guidebook will tell you exactly how to hit the trail with confidence.

Here you'll find:

- Detailed, specific advice on the proper physical conditioning
- A list of what to wear and bring on the hike
- 16 key points of interest along the trail
- Tips on how to secure hard-to-get accommodations in the Valley

With its can-do approach, nuts-and-bolts advice, and practical tips, *One Best Hike: Yosemite's Half Dome* will leave you wondering why you've waited so long to embark on this hiking adventure of a lifetime.

\$12.95 member price \$11.01

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

MULTI MEDIA

360 Degrees of Yosemite National Park

Take a virtual trip through one of America's most famous parks. View the Tuolumne Meadows Area, take a virtual trip to the top of Half Dome, and explore the backcountry from the ease of your living room.



Included features

- Over 65 interactive 360 degree panoramas
- Interpretive text for every view
- Interactive maps
- Topographic maps
- 3D stereograph photographs
- Historic photographs
- Bonus screensaver

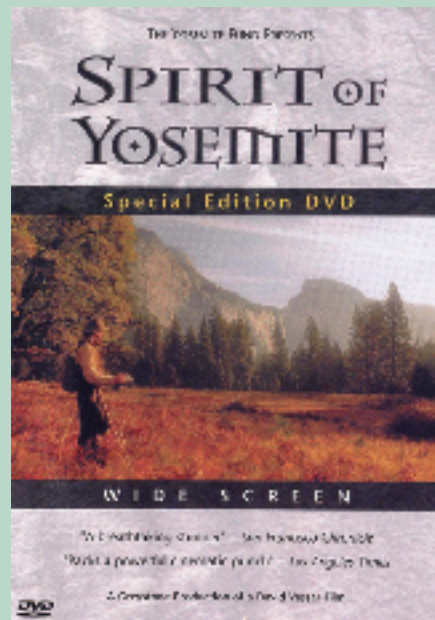
360 Degrees of Yosemite National Park makes the far corners of the park accessible to everyone, including places that are difficult to reach due to distance, weather, lack of accessibility or closure to the public. For those who've had the pleasure of visiting Yosemite National Park in person, the 360-degree Virtual Tour is a terrific way to share the experience with friends and family and take a slice of nature home.

\$18.95 member price \$16.11

Spirit of Yosemite DVD

Produced by the Yosemite Fund, this is the spectacular visitor orientation film is shown daily at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater. This stunning film interweaves the rare beauty of Yosemite with the historical influences that helped to create it. It includes a superb introduction to the magnificent scenery, natural history and cultural heritage of Yosemite National Park. Enjoy the majesty of Yosemite as you are transported to stunning vistas of Yosemite Valley, the giant sequoias, Tuolumne Meadows and the High Sierra. Sense the spirit of Yosemite and experience the glory of the park in all four seasons. Winner of the Best Non-broadcast Award at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival.

\$19.95 member price \$16.96



APPAREL



Organic Cotton Half Dome Baseball Cap

Produced exclusively for the Yosemite Association, these organic cotton baseball caps are a must-have for any Yosemite enthusiast. One size fits most: sliding buckle clasp. Available in brown, olive, and stone.

\$18.95 member price \$16.11

Adult Long Sleeve Half Dome Shirt

Produced exclusively for the Yosemite Association, these long sleeve shirts are a best seller in visitor centers throughout the Park.

They feature a wood-block print of Half Dome on the back and a small Experience Your Yosemite black bear logo on the left front chest area. Available in indigo only.

\$22.95 member price \$19.51



Order Form

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

Qty.	Color	Description	Price Each	Total
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Credit Card No: _____ Expires: _____

Signature: _____

Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318
Shop online at www.yosemitestore.com for more items!

SUBTOTAL

8.75% Sales Tax (CA customers only):

Shipping Charges (see below):

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

SHIPPING RATES UPS GROUND

\$0–\$19.99	= \$7.95
\$20.00–\$50.00	= \$9.95
\$50.01–\$95.00	= \$11.95
\$95.01–\$125.00	= \$12.95
\$125.01–\$225.00	= \$13.95
\$225.01 & up	= \$15.95

Call for AK, HI and International rates

Permit Required for Half Dome Cables

The hike and climb to the top of Half Dome is both long and spine-tingling, making this route among the most popular in the park. In recent years, more than 800 hikers on average have used the wire cables to climb to its summit on Saturdays and holidays. As crowding on the cables increases, travel times to ascend and descend also lengthen. Rapid descents become difficult, stranding hikers during hail, rain and lightning storms.

To address safety concerns related to crowding on the Half Dome cables, the National Park Service is instituting an interim permit system during summer in 2010 and 2011. The system will limit the number of people using the cables to 400 people per day and will be in effect on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays from mid-May to mid-October. No permit will be required on other days unless visitor use monitoring indicates significant crowding throughout the week.

The Half Dome cables were the site of several dangerous incidents in 2009. In June, a woman fell from the cables during a rainstorm on a crowded Saturday and suffered severe head

and facial injuries. Another fall in similar conditions the next Saturday resulted in a fatality. This incident also resulted in a dangerous rescue of more than 40 hikers who were unable to descend from the summit due to the wet rock.

Hikers seeking permits to use the Half Dome cables will receive safety education about the degree of hike difficulty and the potential danger of the trek. Many Half Dome hikers are relatively inexperienced, and often fail to carry sufficient water, protective clothing or emergency gear for the frequent extreme weather and exposed conditions on the summit and cables. Permit holders will receive tips for trip planning, climbing the cables and reading hazardous weather cues.

The National Park Service will initiate an environmental assessment process for a long-term plan for the Half Dome cables beginning in spring 2010. This plan is expected to be implemented in the 2012 season. Learn how you can get involved at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/halfdome.htm.

Obtaining a Half Dome cable permit:

Go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777. Up to four permits will be available per web session or phone call. Each permit has a service fee of \$1.50. Wilderness permit holders may receive a Half Dome permit with their wilderness permit if their wilderness itinerary includes Half Dome.

Advance purchase of permits will be available beginning March 1. Permits for May and June will be available for reservation on March 1. Permits for July and August will come online April 1. On May 1 the permits for September and October will be released. Permits will be available only for advance purchase.

To reach the summit of Half Dome, hikers take a seven- to eight-mile trail, gain 4,400 feet in elevation, and then ascend the last 400 vertical feet on a set of steel cables put in place by the Sierra Club in 1919 and maintained by the National Park Service. The cable route level of difficulty falls somewhere between a hard hike and roped climbing.



BETHANY GEDIMAN

Up to 1,200 people per day have lined up to use the Half Dome cables in recent years, causing hazardous crowding conditions.

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.



FACEBOOK IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF FACEBOOK, INC.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our 35th Annual Fall Gathering
will be held
Saturday, October 2 in Wawona.
More details will follow.
We hope you will join us.

MARY SUTLIFF

Nov. 15, 1942–Nov. 24, 2009

The Association has lost a committed friend with the passing of Mary Sutliff. Mary's was a lifetime of deep connections to Yosemite. She and her husband, George, created honeymoon memories and then family memories with their three children and two grandchildren in the Park. Working together, George and Mary spent the past nine summers volunteering in Yosemite Valley. Their son will take Mary's place this summer. Father and son will assist Yosemite's visitors in making enduring connections of their own.



BOB CAMPAGNA

Mary's life was marked by helping others. She enjoyed children so much that she went back to school to obtain a teaching credential while raising her family. She was a preschool teacher for 28 years. Her warm manner, contagious enthusiasm and wonderful Yosemite memories made a deep impression on her fellow volunteers. An individual devoted to Yosemite for the sake of present and future generations, she was quite a lady!

Ruth Heine Joins Association Staff

The Yosemite Association is pleased to welcome Ruth Heine as our seasonal Volunteer Program Assistant. Ruth earned a BS in computer science and an executive MBA from the University of Central Florida. For the past five years, she and her husband, John, have driven their RV from Florida to spend the sum-



SUZY HASTY

mer volunteering in Yosemite. John, Ruth and her brother, Tim, serve as camp hosts at Yellow Pine campground. They are known to many of the work week volunteers who camp at Yellow Pine.

During the field season in 2008, as a volunteer, Ruth served as acting Volunteer Program Manager for NPS. Her multifaceted service earned her recognition by NPS as an Extraordinary Volunteer Award Recipient on National Public Lands Day, September 26, 2009. Ruth's husband and brother were also award recipients due to their many contributions to the Park Service. As a Yosemite Association member, Ruth brings commitment and passion to our program and we are excited to have her on our volunteer program management team.



COURTESY NPS

Don Neubacher Named Yosemite Superintendent

Yosemite National Park has a new superintendent in the form of 28-year Park Service veteran Don Neubacher. The position had been held by David Uberuaga who has been acting superintendent since Mike Tollefson retired last year.

Neubacher has been superintendent at Point Reyes National Seashore for the past 15 years. He was responsible for completing initiatives such as the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan/EIS, the Fire Management Plan, the Coastal Watershed Restoration Plan/EIS, and the implementation of the park's Land Protection Plan.

"Yosemite National Park has an inspired staff that has been a leader in preserving one of the nation's most sacred treasures," said Neubacher. "I look forward to working with park staff and the many partners and interested groups to ensure Yosemite's future is unimpaired for generations to come."

"Don is a seasoned manager who has proven himself time and time again to be an exceptional leader," said National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis. "He brings a thoughtful approach to the vast range of issues faced by a modern park manager in protecting park resources, providing quality experiences to our visitors, and motivating a highly professional staff. Yosemite is a high priority position, and I appreciate Don taking on this new challenge." Jarvis went on to commend outgoing superintendent Uberuaga for his service during the transition.

Former superintendent Tollefson, now President of the Yosemite Fund, has known Neubacher for over 15 years and is excited to have him at the helm of Yosemite. "Don values the support of partners and will be great to work with to optimize our efforts," Tollefson said.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

FROM JULY 2, 2009 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Gifts in Honor of:

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs.
Gerald Batty
Carol Stadium*

*In Honor of Mrs. Sylvia
Birnberg
Al & Judy Lachman*

*In Honor of Ms. Jennifer
Bright
Kathy Conklin*

*In Honor of Charles Cramer
Lisa Winograde*

*In Honor of Mrs. Frances
Diffendall
Sallie & Jay Whaley*

*In Honor of Mr. Perry
Gardner
Nicholas & Lauren Monroe*

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Lori
& Matt Law Greene
Daniel Law*

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs.
Wayne & Lindsay Grubbs
Desiree La Maggiore*

*In Honor of David Guy
Christy & Charles Holloway*

*In Honor of Mr. Jack Halsey
Warren Halsey*

*In Honor of Jeannie & Jack
Howell
Mason & Linda Byles*

*In Honor of Paul Jerreat
Helen Regazzi*

*In Honor of Mr. Robert S.
Johnson
Julia Zafferano*

*In Honor of Noah Kagen &
Ford Fiesta Movement
Doug Dropinski*

*In Honor of Mr. Andrew Kim
Hot & Delicious*

*In Honor of Jeff Lahr
Shirley Bunger*

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Patty
& John Lennox
Wendy Sissel*

*In Honor of William
Levonian
Angela Curry*

*In Honor of Ms. Catherine
Ann Naworski
Mike Brown
Jane Earnest*

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs.
Eddie & Judy Norlin
Larry & Rebecca
VanDerWege*

*In Honor of Karyn O'Hearn
Michael Chusid*

*In Honor of Ms. Linda
Persson
Linda K. Persson*

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs.
Robert Pfaff
Susan Johns*

*In Honor of Chris Quezada
Jenni & Beau Rahn*

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Leo
Ramirez & Lisa Moretti
Diana Hun
Stephen Tinnin*

*In Honor of Ms. Elizabeth
Roemer
Alice Q. Howard*

*In Honor of Mr. Gene Rose
Jim & Kathie Sims*

*In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Bob
& Sue Scheppler
Randy McNatt*

*In Honor of Mr. Tom Shock
Donald Pearson*

*In Honor of Lou Steck
Jim & Kathie Sims*

*In Honor of Steve & Kim
Barbara Rose*

*In Honor of Ms. Wendy
Swenson
Randall Wildman*

*In Honor of Rob & Sandi
Tice-Raskin
Kim & Joe Bagacina*

*In Honor of Steve Towles
Suzanne Towles*

Gifts in Memory of:
*In Memory of Allan Blasdale
Patricia Green*

*In Memory of Mrs. Juanita
Brelle
Michael Foley*

*In Memory of Ms. Christine
Brock
Scott Danielson*

*In Memory of Anna Burch
Laura Anne Burch*

*In Memory of Ms. Barbara
Bratton Cabrillo
Anna-Marie Bratton*

*In Memory of Mr. Lowell
Clark
Doris Ebert*

*In Memory of Ms. Diane
Elizabeth Clymer
Richard Clymer*

*In Memory of Joseph Drugay
Andrea Drugay*

*In Memory of Mrs. Midge
Fiore
Martha Miller*

*In Memory of Mr. Art
Freeman
William Riddle*

*In Memory of Loren Furtado
Britt Brown
Dorthea Nathan
Stephanie Travis
John Waldichuk
Ralph Young*

*In Memory of Murray Golub
Ann DeMott*

*In Memory of Mr. Michael
Hade
Tom & Salah Hade*

*In Memory of Brenda
Harness
Nicholas W. Harness*

*In Memory of Mary Jane
Hilliker
Marilyn Compton
Tim Norton*

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

*In Memory of Darbin
Alexander Hoetker
Tanya Hildebrand*

*In Memory of William
Brian Huston
Lawrence Beck
Victor Chow
Jim Flanagan*

*Aleta & Bill Huston
Kathleen Huston
Frederick & Diane Kreutzer
Ellen Martinelli*

*Anna Miakiewicz
Kevin Milsom
Hong Ni
Yelena Pevzner*

*Jennifer Protinick
Patricia Reilly
Sarena Shen
Hank Steinberg
Stephen Swanzey*

*Tudor System Trading
Group
Visapolli
Amit Wadhwa
David & Phyllis Wald
Andy Zovich
Frank Zovich
Tommy Zovich*

*In Memory of Bill Ivey
Rich Wilkes*

*In Memory of Mr. Jon Kinney
Preston Reese*

*In Memory of Mr Ben Kudo
Karen Mills*

*In Memory of Mr. Al Lechner
Heather Alter
Kathryn Baddeley
Kara Jariwala*

*Leslie Lau
Marilyn Mersereau
Michael Metz
A. Moore
Monique Mulbry
Elaine Murphy
Lynden & Charlotte Olstead
Omniture
Lani Stalun
The1stMovement*

*In Memory of David Marr
Sulzer Metco Systems Group*

*In Memory of Mr. Richard
Masar
Ellie Masar*

*In Memory of Jeff Maurer
Nanelle McCracken
Teri & Mark Nicoll-Johnson
William & Siobhan Ruck, Jr.
Julie Stoughton*

*In Memory of Mr. Robert
Naifeh
Lisa Robinson*

*In Memory of Ms. Caryl Jean
Plambeck
Janet Iacovetti*

*In Memory of Stuart Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Burns Hegler
Charles Holtz
Lee and Rosalie Kistler
Perry Peine*

*In Memory of Mrs. Nancy
Farrell Robinson
Hannah Robinson*

*In Memory of Mr. John
Schenck
Abbott Nutrition IT*

*In Memory of Gene Schott
Nanelle McCracken*

*In Memory of Chuck
Schweiker
Andrew F. Traynor, Jr.*

*In Memory of Agnes A. and
Stephen J. Sedlock
Robert Sedlock.*

*In Memory of Mr. Lee
Shackelton
Jack & Marjorie Fry
Dr. Chuck & Marian
Woessner*

*In Memory of Del Siebert
Linda Gainza Lucaccini
Peggy Stevenson*

*In Memory of Mr. William
Ronald Smith
Lynne Gilliland*

*In Memory of Paul Spivey
Jim & Kathie Sims*

*In Memory of Ms. Mary
Sutliff
Debbie Benjamin
Hans & Sue Hansen
Carol & Jack Harris
Cecile Heald
Marian Johnson
Patricia Luza
Joann Nickell
Gary & Lois Orr
M. Pritchard
Kathy & Jim Saccone
Eric Thompson
Mary Thompson
Betty Thornton*

*In Memory of Jamie Talt
John Krom*

*In Memory of Rod Van Hook
Eleanor Curry
Ann Parker
Brian & Jill Weintraub*

*In Memory of George Vuoso
Maria Banuelos
Gina Boccanfuso
Lili Boccanfuso
Robert Cukar
Joel Fink
Josephine Pisano
Gino & Julianne Sasso
William Spinelli
Anthony Vuoso
Frank & Violet Vuoso
The Vuoso Family*

*In Memory of Mrs. Margaret
Ann O'Reilly Walters
John & Leah Zwirecki*

*In Memory of Ms Helen
Williams
Rolf & Barbara Norby*

*In Memory of Mrs. Alverta
Williamson
Dr. & Mrs. Hal Browder*

*In Memory of Mr. Ott Wilson
Ken & Sheri Stutzman
Donald Terry*

*In Memory of Mr. Bernard
Wydra
Josh Cohen
Aimee Ezzell
Alistair Newbern*

*In Memory of Frances Yeazell
Flisram
Moreland Stevens*



Yosemite Association
Post Office Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

