

An Interview with Superintendent Mihalic



Yosemite's new superintendent, David A. Mihalic, has arrived at a critical juncture in the park's history. The National Park Service proposes that over twenty years of Yosemite planning efforts will culminate soon with the adoption of the much-discussed Yosemite Valley Plan. Interior Secretary Babbitt wants a record of decision by December 2000, so the plan is definitely on the fast track. Given Mihalic's previous successes in developing and implementing management plans, he appears to be a good choice to direct this effort.

AN INTERVIEW WITH SUPERINTENDENT MIHALIC

The résumé of David Mihalic features a list of leadership roles in both planning efforts and partnerships throughout the national park system. He has been with the park service since 1972, when he began his career as a seasonal park ranger in Glacier National Park. During his tenure as Superintendent at Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in Alaska, he completed the park's first general management plan. He was named the winner of the National Park Service Director's "Superintendent of the Year" award in 1993 for his work in developing a local biosphere community to protect the natural resources at Mammoth Cave National Park.

He returned to Glacier as its Superintendent in 1994, where he led the park in crafting its General Management Plan. While in Glacier he received the Garrison Gold Award for Interpretive Excellence, the Hastings Foundation Annual Leadership Award for developing strong partnerships with gateway communities, and was selected for the Senior Executive Service development program. Mihalic also took a leave from his post at Glacier to serve as resources advisor to Montana Governor Mark Racicot.

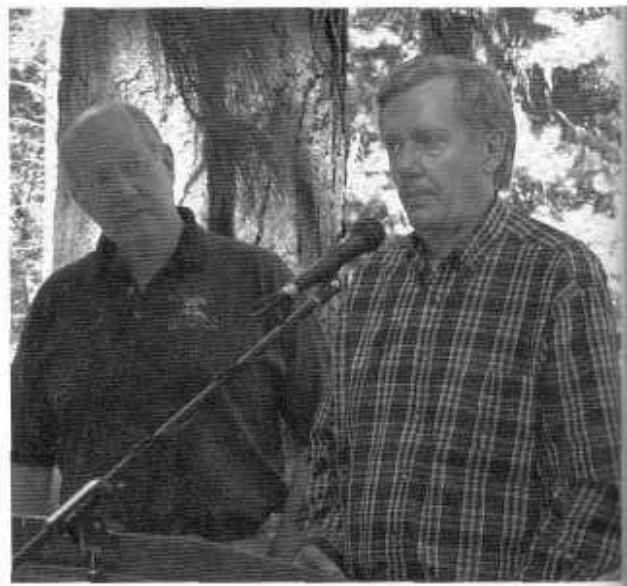
Although this is his first stint in Yosemite, Mihalic does have a connection to the park through his wife. He is married to former Yosemite employee and National Park Service professional, Jeri Andrews. They have two children, Emily 10, and Nicholas, 8.

In a recent interview, Mihalic discussed current park issues, commented on the just-released Valley Plan and also shared his vision for Yosemite.

In your park service career, you've worked at Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve—probably one of the least visited wilderness areas, and also at the Great Smoky Mountains, the national park with the highest visitation. Five years ago Yosemite was trying to cope with increasing visitation, while over the past few years the trend has reversed and attendance is on the decline. Given your experience with both extremes, which trend do you think is better for Yosemite?

People aren't the problem. If we've somehow gotten to the point that we think the visitor is the problem, then we need to reexamine our own view of what our job is. It would be the equivalent of working at the Marriott or the Radisson and saying that we wouldn't have to make all these beds or wash all these towels if we could just keep people from staying in these rooms.

The purpose of the National Park Service (NPS) is to



Superintendent Mihalic with Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt (right).

safeguard the parks for the enjoyment of the people and also to preserve the parks, not for just themselves, but for future generations. So inextricably, people are tied to the place.

This morning as I was walking over to the Lodge, I saw a group of people standing in the middle of the road between two parking lots. A few people in the group were bouncing up and down, clapping their hands. They were looking at Yosemite Falls with the morning fog breaking away and the sun shining, and to them it was such an exhilarating sight that they literally jumped for joy. Now to turn around and say to those people that "you're the problem" means that we just don't get it.

Based on your answer, I guess you don't support putting a limitation on visitation as a solution to overcrowding?

Again, quotas imply that people are a problem. If we saw well a few people are okay, but multitudes of people are not, it gets a little bit closer to the issue, which isn't overcrowding but experience. It might be, when visitation gets to a certain point, that too many people impinge upon the experience. But everybody has a different idea of what that point is. The tolerance level of people is different and there is no magic number that says at this particular point it's too many people and at this point it's not.

The fact that a bunch of people were jumping up and down in a parking lot didn't seem to detract from the experience. But if someone had said to them we've

*Cover:
Superintendent
Mihalic
NPS Photo*

What if you could take those ten million people and during their visit to Yosemite instill in them values so important that they go back home and solve the problems of global warming?

reached our quota today and you have to stay out, that's when I think we've failed. It would be far better for people to realize for themselves that they aren't going to have a good experience and go somewhere else.

What if visitation reached ten million a year?

What if you could take those ten million people and during their visit to Yosemite instill in them values so important that they go back home and solve the problems of global warming? Or their children decide that they're going to change from becoming a dot.com millionaire to becoming a biologist who is going to help in terms of understanding marine life?

But wouldn't ten million people impact the resources of the park?

The park service has been saying since the 50s that we are loving our parks to death. The fact is, and I've used this analogy on several different occasions, I love my wife, I love my children, but I'd be put in jail if I loved them to death. If the NPS and its interpretive programs and Yosemite Association (YA) and its educational programs haven't gotten people to the point where they have learned how to love this park to life, that's when I say we've failed our charge.

If you walk outside the visitor center, you'll see a bunch of posts in the ground with white cables, labeled with signs that say, "restoration area closed." We put a lot of those signs and fences in fifteen years ago, temporarily. When I ask about taking them down, most people react by saying that you need the fences to keep people out. Well, if we haven't taught people in fifteen years to choose to stay out, we've missed the boat. We can't make people appreciate something by telling them to stay out.

I think it behooves everyone who works in national parks to realize that once you make people understand that they are part of the problem, then you can make them understand that they are part of the solution.

Let's talk about another prominent Yosemite issue, bears. Your master's thesis was on "Visitor Attitudes Toward Grizzly Bears" in Glacier National Park. Are the bear management problems the same in Glacier as in Yosemite?

Nowhere else on earth do the bears act the way they do in Yosemite. Here the situation is so acute that bear proof garbage cans that work everywhere else in the United States and Canada don't work here. We've now got the

canisters for backpacking and bear boxes for camping—what if they don't work someday?

What do you see as some solutions to the bear problems in Yosemite?

I think that we are also loving the bears to death. And we need to love them to life. And I think the wonderful things YA and the Yosemite Fund and other park partners are doing with the bear canisters and boxes are a good model of how we can start to dig ourselves out of this hole. It shows me how the public can be part of the solution instead of being part of the problem.

We learn in bear biology it's the sow that teaches her cubs. Learned behavior is the technical term. The behavior is not learned from people; it's learned from the mother bear. When we kill bears, we usually kill males because they are more aggressive. So we're taking the aggressive males out of the population, and the generations are learning from the females. We're altering the population of bears so much that it's unnatural selection. Let's take it back to the NPS mission "to preserve the scenery and the natural and historical objects and the wildlife therein." If by our actions we've turned the wildlife into animals, then maybe we need to change our actions.

As the new Superintendent of Yosemite, you've been immediately thrown into two major planning efforts, the Yosemite Valley Plan and the Merced River Plan. Both plans have triggered lawsuits and attracted much publicity, both good and bad. Being no stranger to the planning process—in Glacier you led the effort to develop a new General Management Plan—what is your approach to making these long-awaited plans a reality?

There are two parts to the strategy for making these plans a reality. The first part is to come up with a really good plan. And I think we've done that. The second part is to involve the public to make these really good plans even better. And I hope they won't focus on what they don't like, but on what they would rather see. There will be plenty of people telling the public how horrible these plans are. But the fact is they aren't horrible.

The next part of the strategy is the timing. People ask why the 1980 General Management Plan didn't get implemented. The 1980 plan was a really good plan, but it would have cost a lot of money to implement and there was no money. There wasn't any money because there

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was no political will. This time the stars are all lined up. As a result of the flood we've got a lot of the money. And we have the political will. What are we lacking? The plan.

Given the diverse groups offering very different opinions on the concepts in the River Plan, and on the alternatives given in the Valley Plan, how does the Park Service balance the reactions of all these constituencies?

We're going to craft a plan for the common good, a plan that will be best for the park. It's going to cater to the mission of the National Park Service, to conserve the scenery and the wildlife and the national and historic objects, and preserve them for future generations. Nothing in that mission says that you have to turn it back into the state it was before 1855, and anything that's happened since is wrong.

With every decision that has been made in this park, for the most part, people have thought they were doing the right thing. The mall in front of the visitor center was entirely paved over. Now you can see sections with trees and vegetation. So even if we make a mistake and pave over something, it won't impair it for future generations. Even if we make a mistake, we have to have the will to admit it and not get caught up in the hubris of wanting to be right rather than effective. We have a choice with this planning effort to make some decisions and move forward or do nothing.

With a lawsuit pending and more lawsuits likely given past history, do you think we'll see a record of decision on the YVP as scheduled, in December of 2000?

Absolutely.

What would you like to see the Yosemite Association accomplish during your tenure here?

I think YA is a wonderful example of a partnership. For example, the upcoming flora book (*An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*) is going to be a great resource for Yosemite. Unlike a traditional business, YA doesn't look at publications and programs from the standpoint of the bottom line, you instead relate them to your mission, to Yosemite. There's a misconception that the job of coop-

erating associations is to sell books. Well that's not YA's job. YA's job is to instill values into people about the park.

What values do national parks represent?

I think the National Park Service tells America's story and preserves America's heritage. What's special about Yosemite is that it was the spark that started the NPS, the whole national park movement. In the middle of a civil war President Lincoln took the time to sign a plan to preserve some trees for the common good. Had that not been done Yellowstone wouldn't have become a national park eight years later and we wouldn't have national parks today.

How has the National Park Service changed (or not changed) since you began your career in 1972?

I think that the park service has not changed much in that time, but the public has changed profoundly. The park service needs to think about how it can be more effective in accomplishing its mission. Let me give you an example. In the 1950s and 1960s people visited national parks primarily in the summertime and as part of their family vacation. They would travel to Yellowstone, see the sights for five or six days, then head for the Grand Canyon. So the NPS set the entrance fee for seven days to accommodate the patterns of the vacationing public. And here we are in a new millennium, still accommodating the patterns of visitors from over forty years ago. And as a result people are scalping park passes in the West Yellowstone Best Western lobby. In our zeal to not change we've created a black market.

We need to manage the demand. Suppose when you paid your entrance fee with a credit card that you got a card with a stripe on it. Then you parked at Badger Pass and rode the shuttle into the valley. When you swipe your card on the bus, you received a five-dollar credit for taking the shuttle. Now I don't know if that's they way to do it, but that's telling people they are part of the solution. You can change the future and also instill values.

Beth Pratt is Vice President of YA. She interviewed Superintendent Mihalic in March.

"FIXING THE FALLS," THE REAL STORY

Many of the readers of this journal have hiked the loop around to Nevada Fall. Many others have used these trails to get to Little Yosemite Valley and beyond. But how many, making the sharp turn in the trail just below the Mist Trail-Little Yosemite junction, have seen the low cement and rock wall along the river at the head of Liberty Cap gully? Some may remember the drinking fountain that stood there for a couple of decades. A few may have noticed the old bridge abutments stranded off the present trail, remaining from a bridge that spanned the head of the gully. Where did these things come from?

The low rock wall is the latest version of a diversion wall or dam built by Albert Snow, who operated the Casa Nevada Hotel below Nevada Fall between 1870 and 1889. John Muir wrote in an undated note that, in building the dam, Snow was "fixing" Nevada Fall to make it more attractive:

A short distance above the head of the [Nevada] Fall on the north side, the river gives off a small part of its waters, which forms a cascade in the narrow boulder-filled channel and finally meets the main stream again a few yards below the fall.

Sometime last year, the Commissioners [to Manage the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove] came to regard these cascades as a waste of raw material, a damaging leak that ought to be stopped by a dam compelling all the water to tumble and sing together. Accordingly, the enterprising landlord [Albert Snow] of the upper hotel was allowed a few hundred dollars to "fix the falls," as he says, and by building a rock dam he has well-nigh succeeded in abolishing Liberty Cap Cascades, though no corresponding advantage is visible in the main fall.

"Where is the landlord?" the guests would inquire. "Oh, Albert is up there fixing the falls" his goodwife would reply, evidently considering her husband's importance greatly augmented by so stupendous a task. . . [T]hat men such as the Commissioners should go into the business of improving Yosemite nature, trimming and taming the waterfalls properly to fit them for summer tourist show, is truly marvelous—American enterprise with a vengeance. Perhaps we may yet hear of an appropriation to whitewash the face of El Capitan or correct the curves of the Domes!

Muir's assumption that the dam's purpose was to enlarge Nevada Fall has been taken as gospel ever since his remark. The idea is even used in the recently issued



1. Snow's Hotel (La Casa Nevada) in 1875.

*Draft Merced River Plan.*² However, with some new evidence we can reexamine the idea to learn just why and how the dam was built.

It is important to note that, even though Muir said the dam was "to fix the falls," he noted in the same breath that the dam produced "no corresponding advantage ...in the main fall." Photographs taken in the 1860s by Carleton Watkins and others, when compared with later photographs, support that view.³ There was "no corresponding advantage" because the purpose of the dam was not to enhance Nevada Fall at all. Instead, the dam was a response to the early discovery in "Boulder Gulch," as Liberty Cap gully was sometimes known, of just how tenuous a hold on the talus the trail from Casa Nevada to Little Yosemite and Clouds Rest actually had. The discovery resulted from several large-scale natural events that caught most people in Yosemite off guard.

Snow's Hotel or La Casa Nevada was opened for business in the spring of 1870. That same spring, Snow's partner in the trail to Casa Nevada, Stephen Cunningham, filed a homestead claim in Little Yosemite Valley.⁴ Snow undoubtedly saw the value of broadening the appeal of his hotel site by providing access to the top of Nevada Fall. Washburn & McReady, who ran saddle and pack trains into the Valley from Clark's Station, took over Cunningham's claim for pasture for their stock and hired John Conway to build the trail from Casa Nevada into Little Yosemite and on to Clouds Rest between July and October 1871.⁵ Albert Snow was charged with trail maintenance on that route until 1882, when the trail was purchased by the State. The new trail was barely completed when it was damaged by the winter flood of December 18, 1871, during which the Merced River swept down

Liberty Cap gully as well as over the main fall. High water in the spring following the very wet winter of 1872 brought enough water down Liberty Cap gully that Muir called that seasonal overflow "Liberty Cap Cascades."⁶

Damage to the trail by winter flood and heavy spring runoff was increased by the Owens Valley earthquake of March 26, 1872. The earthquake shook loose a large slab from the west side of Liberty Cap. That rockfall damaged both the trail and Snow's Hotel.⁷ Snow was living at the hotel at the time of the earthquake. He quickly began repairing hotel and trail damage, opening the hotel for the season on April 15, 1872, to bring in some income even while rebuilding.⁸ The trail was opened to Clouds Rest that summer but the section to Nevada Fall was little more than a "steep, rough foot-trail," obviously in need of further work after the eventful winter.⁹

While Snow could not control the rockfall, he could do something about the river's overflow down Liberty Cap gully. He built a small diversion wall or dam across the gully's head in the spring and summer, 1872, protecting the trail switchbacks up the gully and a small, one-log bridge across the head of the gully on the trail fork back toward Nevada Fall.

Late that spring Yosemite was graced with a visit by Sara Jane Lippincott, a popular writer using the *nom-de-plume* Grace Greenwood, who was married to a major New York publisher. Lippincott had felt the Owens Valley earthquake in Sacramento. In June, she traveled to Yosemite. Staying at Hutchings' Hotel, she and some of her party took an excursion to Yosemite Falls with Hutchings on June 9, having to cross Cook's Meadow from Sentinel Bridge in a boat because of heavy spring runoff and high

water. That evening, Lippincott met John Muir who became the guide for several of her party's trips around the Valley. On June 10, some of her party went to Casa Nevada for lunch, experiencing a "great stone avalanche" from Liberty Cap, which "covered them with dust."

On June 12, Lippincott herself went to Casa Nevada, guided by John Muir, and spent the night there. Muir was also accompanied by James Hutchings' wife Elvira. For their entertainment, he built bonfires of timber downed by the earthquake-generated rockfall to reflect "red gleams and wavering flashes" in the falls and rapids. In the early morning there was another mild earthquake shock, accompanied by "the fall of a small avalanche from the Cap of Liberty." Muir took the party to Nevada Fall on June 13 and told Lippincott then about great and unreasonable expenditures by the Commissioners, the closest example of which was Snow's small diversion wall, which Muir explained was to enhance Nevada Fall by "tinkering with one of God's masterpieces."¹⁰

Muir told Lippincott the cost of the dam was \$500, an exaggeration that seems to have had no basis in fact. Minutes of recorded Commission meetings in 1871 and 1872 mention other permits and arrangements but nothing for the dam. While Commission records for those years are incomplete, published reports of the Commission explain Yosemite Grant financing during that time. Claims by James Hutchings and James Lamon had raised questions about the authority of the State over Yosemite Valley until the US Supreme Court denied those claims. While the suit was pending, from 1867 through 1872, the Commissioners did not allocate any funds for Yosemite Valley improvements, nor did the California Legislature vote any such funds.

As an alternative during this period of uncertainty, the Commissioners permitted private parties to construct facilities at their own expense for which they could collect tolls. The Commission stipulated in all these arrangements, however, that the State could purchase these improvements by repaying construction costs, to be diminished by one tenth each year. Even Galer Clark's salary of \$500 per year as Guardian was held in arrears during this time. Albert Snow had permission from the Commissioners to build a diversion wall, but what he received was the subtraction of his labor from



Yosemite Museum

2. Carleton Watkins, "Cap of Liberty and Nevada Falls," 1861. Liberty Cap gully is the notch left of Nevada Fall. Snow's Hotel sat on the low rocky flat in center foreground.



Yosemite Museum

3. Eadweard Muybridge, "Juniper Fall," 1872, Stereo No. 1323, shows the stream in Liberty Cap gully near the top of the foot trail.



Yosemite Museum

4. Eadweard Muybridge, "The Upper Merced," 1872, Stereo No. 1334, was taken from the low slickrock bench forming part of Snow's dam. The logjam shows in the lower left, and the small gorge for the Merced River is upstream in the background.

the fees due the State for his hotel and trail permits.

Focusing on his disagreements with the Commissioners and giving little thought to the trails he frequently used to guide visiting parties, John Muir told his charges that Snow was "fixing the falls" and making a great profit from the Commissioners in the process. Since the fall Snow was "fixing" was the seasonal overflow down Liberty Cap gully (with the intention of protecting the trail and his investment rather than enhancing Nevada Fall), one wonders if Muir's antipathy for James Hutchings and his problematic relationship with Elvira Hutchings colored his explanations of the events in this case?¹¹

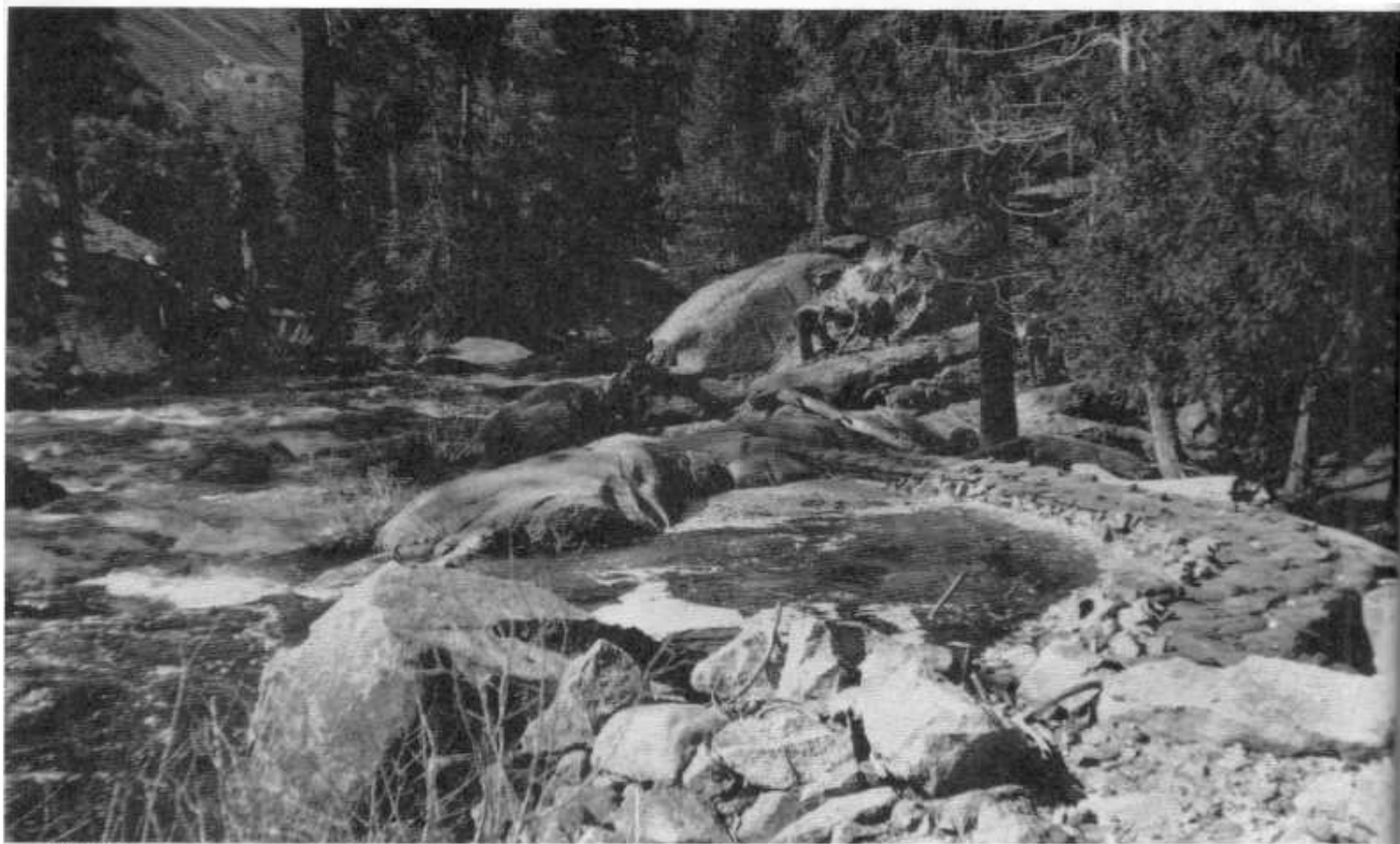
The rock dam Muir mentioned in his undated comment was a slightly later development. There was too much water coming down Liberty Cap Cascade in spring, 1872, to build a rock dam, which was realistically a project for low water. Photographer Eadweard Muybridge went up the Liberty Cap trail in early July 1872, taking views along the way. His stereograph #1323 of what he called "Juniper Fall" shows the flow of the stream at the top of Liberty Cap gully well past high water (figure 3). Snow had built a bridge across the top of this small fall for the trail to Nevada Fall.

What Snow had to work with that wet spring was a logjam. Some two hundred yards up the Merced River above the narrow bedrock opening to Liberty Cap gully is the mouth of a narrow gorge. As the river spills out of that gorge at high water, it spreads out to shallower, wider banks, depositing logs in available openings that create shoals of logs and logjams along its course. One of these

openings is the low bedrock window to Liberty Cap gully. Logs regularly drift into this opening to create temporary logjams. The 1997 flood deposited a number of logs on and behind the present diversion wall, imitating log deposits on the other side of the river.

Fortunately for us, Muybridge took his camera off the trail to set it up on a low rib of bedrock jutting toward the river to take a photograph upstream of the gorge mouth, his stereo view #1334, "The Upper Merced" (fig. 4). In the lower corner of the photograph is the logjam that became the foundation for Snow's first dam. Snow simply shored up the logjam and tried to plug its holes. Even so, water came down the gully, but not with force enough to destroy bridge and trail again. Muir suggested that Snow reinforced the logjam with rock or perhaps built a separate wall behind the jam within a year around fall of 1873. Whatever Snow did was done without cement, making use of material at hand.

Snow's diversion wall seems to have lasted through the 1937 flood, although there are no records of its character or maintenance. It was rebuilt, however, after the 1950 flood and reinforced with sandbags at high water in April 1951. A photograph taken by trail crew laborer Harold A. Atkinson shows a loose rock wall topped with sandbags being filled by workers in the background (fig. 5). The crew had had to shovel their way through the snow and ice on Nevada Fall trail. Then, because there was little loose rock at the site, they drilled and shot some larger rocks for material to build the wall. They used no cement, so the porous wall allowed a small creek to flow down



H. A. Atkinson

5. "Sandbag Dam, Top of Mist Trail, April '51."

Liberty Cap gully but considerably diminished the intensity of its flow.¹²

This loose, concave diversion wall was blown out by the winter flood of December, 1955, destroying the bridge across the head of Liberty Cap gully as well as much of the trail below, running toward the site of Snow's Hotel. The dam was replaced in the fall of 1956 by a differently designed structure of rock and cement. Instead of a weak, porous, concave wall, the 1956 dam spanned outcrops of bedrock as a much stronger arch or convex wall to deflect the current. Blasting was again important for getting material. The use of cement with rock sealed off even low seasonal flows to Liberty Cap gully. This made possible elimination of the old bridge in favor of a trail simply crossing the gully channel. At the crossing, a drinking fountain was set up, drawing from the river through a pipe built into the diversion wall. At high water the river still went over the dam and deposited logs on and behind it.

The dam was replaced after the 1955 flood, but the trail was not. The Liberty Cap gully trail had been supplanted by the Nevada Fall trail from Clarks Point, completed in 1931. Much heavier use of the new trail meant that the older trail received little attention. After a rockslide in 1973, the old trail was finally repaired. Trail crews working in the gully in spring 1974 were occasionally

working in a foot-and-a-half of water running through the talus from the dam above. (The drinking fountain was removed about the same time because river water could not be purified for public use at that point.) The 1997 flood sent the Merced over the low dam, depositing logs on top and behind it. Probably because of the concrete and the dam's convex shape, this flood did not damage the structure in a significant way (fig. 6).

The 1997 flood did damage the foot trail below Liberty Cap. A May 1987 rockfall had the effect of plugging an already rock-choked and narrow gully. As a result, 1997 floodwaters were diverted across several switchbacks, taking out a couple of retaining walls on the trail. Snow's dam still protects the trail, limiting the effects of Merced River flooding on that route.

Snow's dam has not visibly changed Nevada Fall from the 1860s. The fall is affected far more by climatic variations of snow and rainfall running the seasonal gamut between drought and flood. John Muir was a great observer, one of the most articulate of his day, and his writings often provide us "baseline" information about parts of Yosemite. His experience, perceptions, and purposes, however, often conditioned his observations. It is important to recognize, to strive to recognize, the coloring of observation by point of view not only in Muir but

in ourselves as we try to know and understand these mountains in either past or present.

Jim Snyder is Yosemite National Park historian.

NOTES

1. Linnie Marsh Wolfe, ed., *John of the Mountains* (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Co., [1938]), p. 283. Wolfe mistakenly placed the date of the unpublished, undated note on the dam building in the 1880s.
2. US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (Jan., 2000), p. III-27.
3. Peter Palmquist, Carleton E. Watkins, *Photographer of the American West* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press for the Amon Carter Museum, 1983), plate 12, an 1861 photograph of Nevada Fall.
4. Hank Johnston, *The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1906* (Yosemite, CA: Yosemite Association, [1995]), p. 44, note 22, and pp. 86-89.
5. Yosemite Research Library, John Conway biographical file (Yosemite Collections cat. no. 1757d): John Conway, "Pierce's Memorandum & Account Book," pp. 5, 7. California Legislature, *Appendix to the Journals of the Senate and Assembly of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Legislature of the State of California*, Vol. VIII (Sacramento: SPO, 1889), "In the Matter of the Investigation of the Yosemite Valley Commissioners. Assembly-Twenty-Eighth Session," p. 173, testimony of Albert Snow, Feb. 14, 1889; and p. 197, testimony of John Conway, Feb. 12, 1889. Conway called the talus in Liberty Cap gully "Boulder Gulch." See also Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, p. 150.
6. The 1871 winter flood is best described in "John Muir, Yosemite Valley in Flood," *Overland Monthly*, vol. 8, no. 4 (April, 1872), pp. 347-350. Muir's notes on that winter and its weather were summarized and printed in Samuel Kneeland, *The Wonders of the Yosemite Valley and of California* (Boston, MA: Alexander Moore, Lee & Shepard, 1872), pp. 84-85. Muir did not go up to Nevada Fall during the flood itself but noted the cascades at Liberty Cap the following spring: Wolfe, ed., *John of the Mountains*, p. 283.
7. Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, pp. 88-89. The rockslide was also mentioned in Kneeland, *Wonders*, p. 88, again using information from John Muir. Parts of the trail underneath Liberty Cap before the earthquake are still visible; a new route around some of the new rockfall deposits was quickly built.
8. Yosemite Collections (cat. no. 177): La Casa Nevada Hotel Register, Vol. 1 (1870-1874), p. 162.
9. Kneeland, *Wonders*, p. 83, may be the earliest published notice of the opening of the trail to Clouds Rest. The trail's character to Nevada Fall is noted in Sara Jane Lippincott (Grace Greenwood, pseud.), *New Life in New Lands: Notes of Travel* (New York: J. B. Ford & Co., 1873), p. 344.
10. Lippincott, *New Life in New Lands*, pp. 236-246, 331, 334, 337, 343, 358, 359. The party's composition and Elvira Hutchings' presence is shown in the La Casa Nevada Hotel Register, Vol. 1 (1870-1874), p. 174.
11. California State Archives Microfilm ME 6:9 (88), Roll 1, Records of the Commissioners to Manage the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove 1866-1907 (Sacramento: State Archives, 1993): "Yosemite Valley and Big Tree Grove Commission" (Ledger, 1865-1880) contains the minutes of recorded Commission meetings in 1871 and 1872. On Grant financing, see California, Commission to Manage the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove, *Biennial Report* (1870-1871), pp. 3-4, and *Biennial Report* (1872-1873), pp. 3-4. Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, pp. 69-75 summarizes the claims process, while p. 150 mentions Snow's application of labor against permit fees. Muir's relationship with Elvira Hutchings is discussed by Stephen Fox, *John Muir and His Legacy* (Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Co., [1981]), pp. 16-19, 25-26; and by Frederick Turner, *Rediscovering America: John Muir in His Time and Ours* (New York: Viking Penguin Inc., 1985), pp. 202 ff.
12. The Atkinson photograph and National Park Service, Yosemite Trail Foreman Douglas H. Thomas, "Trail Report, April, 1951" are copies from the collection of James B. Snyder.

6. Looking downstream toward the 1956 diversion wall at the top of Liberty Cap gully in 1999.



ANNUAL REPORT 1999



FOR THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION, the final year of the 1990s was one filled with many high points and accomplishments. It was characterized by our wide involvement in the operations of Yosemite National Park and by the impressive support of our members and friends for the full range of our activities.

We were pleased to welcome a new Vice-President, our first new permanent employee in some time. Beth Pratt joined YA in February with responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operations, human resources, and finances of the organization.

With the announcement that the much-awaited, landmark project, *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*, was nearing the publication stage, we received an overwhelming response to our request for sponsors. Some 280 different individuals made gifts totaling \$110,000 to help us complete the flora, which will be released in 2000.

The new bear canister rental program, a joint effort of Yosemite Concession Services, the National Park Service, and the Yosemite Association, resulted in some 98% of the backpackers in Yosemite being equipped with canisters, to the benefit of the backcountry bear population. Many members and friends donated money to YA for the purchase of canisters used as rentals.

In other cooperative efforts, we opened a new bookstore in the Groveland Ranger Station with the U.S. Forest Service, and began a series of winter seminar courses that integrate lodging in the facilities of Yosemite Concession Services.

New publications and products included the cartoon book by Phil Frank, *Fur and Loafing in Yosemite*, a paperback reprint of *Such A Landscape!*, a set of note cards using illustrations from the flora, and new t-shirts for the membership and seminar programs.

Disappointingly, our overall financial performance could be considered only satisfactory, due largely to the fact that our normally strong in-park sales lagged. Factors contributing to this trend were the decline in park visitation, the elimination of parking near the main Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, and the continued construction on the El Portal Road.

Despite the slump in sales, the Yosemite Association still found its way to contribute \$382,000 to the National Park Service during 1999. The funds were used to support interpretation, education, research, and environmental programs in the park.

As always, we extend our gratitude to the multitude of members, friends, and benefactors who helped us help Yosemite over the past year. As our base of support grows and strengthens, we can look forward to even greater achievements in 2000.

STEVEN P. MEDLEY
President

BOARD AND STAFF

There was only one major change to the YA Board of Trustees in 1999. Valued member Anne Schneider left the board (due to term limits) after serving for thirteen years. The Board recognized her many contributions at a dinner at Yosemite Lodge. Over the years, Schneider has given legal advice and been a member of the Grants and Aid committee. When the Yosemite Fund was still part of the association, she assisted in the agreements that allowed the bighorn sheep to be returned to the park.

Gerald Haslam was elected to the board to fill that vacancy. A longtime member, Haslam is a professor emeritus of English at Sonoma State University and writer with many award-winning titles in print: eight collections, one novel, eight anthologies, several hundred magazine pieces, and more. *The San Francisco Chronicle* named *Coming of Age in California*, his collection of personal essays, one of the 20th century's top 100 Non-fiction Books from the West. *Workin' Man Blues: Country Music in California*, published in 1999, is his most recent book. With his extensive writing and publishing background, Haslam will be an important asset to the board and the association.

Barbara Boucke, who had previously been appointed to the board, was elected to her own six-year term. After an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley, she returned to school in her thirties to get a degree as a Certified Public Accountant. After a career in accounting, she is at present Deputy Director and Director of Development of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. In her position she oversees the development and maintenance of their vast membership program. Her experience and expertise in that area has already been a valuable resource for YA's membership development.

In staff changes, the biggest event for YA was the hiring of Beth Pratt, formerly of Working Assets of San Francisco, in the newly-created position of Vice President of Operations. The job description for this position included a variety of management responsibilities: fiscal and accounting oversight, project management, commercial development, and human resource supervision. In her first year, Beth has had the opportunity to plunge into all these areas and more, and has made significant contributions not only to many aspects of the business but also to staff camaraderie.

In other staff changes, Jill Harter assumed bookkeeping duties when Margaret Bailey moved out of the area, and April Rose moved in from the warehouse to become Assistant Sales Manager. Shaina Zelazo was hired to be in charge of the warehouse.

SALES AND PUBLICATIONS

The year was a mixed one in this category, featuring a number of new, well-received publications, but a drop in

gross sales revenue from last year of 9% in the park and 7% overall. Despite this decline, there were a number of positive signs.

- New publications included a brochure entitled *The Waterfalls of Yosemite*, a reprint of *Sierra Campfire Yarns*, a book of cartoons by Phil Frank entitled *Fur and Loafing in Yosemite*, a set of note cards with reproductions of paintings by Walter Sydorik from *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*, and a paperback reprint of *Such A Landscape!*
- The association opened a new sales outlet in the Groveland Ranger Station on the Highway 120 route into the park, and it shows great potential. This is our first cooperative effort with the U.S. Forest Service. When new directional signs are installed on the highway, we should be reaching a large number of visitors.

We continued our relationship with the Golden Gate National Parks and Grand Canyon Associations, offering our combined publications through the "Western Park Books Catalog." This distribution program allows bookstores to order quality publications about a number of parks from one source.

In Yosemite, our sales grew nicely in several locations, with a 34% gain at Tuolumne Meadows and one of 27% at the Mariposa Grove Museum. Unfortunately, the continuing repair of the El Portal Road, the elimination of parking near the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, and a drop in park visitation contributed to the overall sales decline noted above. A major re-model of the sales facility in the Yosemite Museum was underway at the end of the year, and should be ready for spring 2000.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership program had a very successful year in 1999, posting significant gains in the membership totals and in income. YA and the Yosemite Fund cooperated in an exchange mailing, and as a result the association welcomed in 1,100 new members. By the end of the year, membership reached a new high of 8,500, and revenues increased by more than 20%. In addition, the association continued to offer a number of popular programs.

- 450 members attended the YA Spring Forum in March in Yosemite Valley. During this daylong program, they attended sessions on Yosemite bears, Sierran birds, alpine ecology, and park history. Many also enjoyed the walks on a variety of topics such as "In the Footsteps of John Muir," "Climbing History Walk," and "An Introduction to Yosemite's Trees," among many other interesting choices.
- Over seventy YA members participated in six different worktrips helping the National Park Service (NPS) Resources Management Division with their



trail work and revegetation projects in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, Wawona, and the backcountry. Collectively, they donated over 2000 hours of volunteer labor.

- Thirty members served as month-long volunteers in the valley, assisting the NPS and the association with a variety of tasks, hosting over 50,000 people in the Museum Gallery, where they serve as docents, and introducing the park's orientation slideshow to 28,000 visitors. These folks also staffed the YA Information/Membership booth where they signed up 350 new members.
- Cartoonist Phil Frank entertained over 350 members as the featured speaker for the 24th Annual Meeting in Tuolumne Meadows in September 1999. Although rain dampened Saturday morning, people still enjoyed the weekend which included a number of walk choices, lunch on the rocks, wine and cheese with a raffle and auction, and a number of other activities.

In response to a special appeal, YA members and other supporters generously contributed over \$110,000 to the completion of the long-awaited *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*. The book is due out in 2000.

SEMINARS

After several years of erratic winters and springs, the seminar program enjoyed both a normal weather pattern in the Sierra Nevada and a profitable financial year in 1999. A total of 721 students, people new to the program and others who return year after year, signed up for the sixty-five classes that were offered.

- The seminar faculty continued to teach a myriad of subjects about Yosemite and the surrounding area. Classes were offered in botany, geology, bears, birding, drawing, painting, photography, and backpacking, to name just a few. The teachers were flexible and innovative in their approaches to these outdoor programs.
- An excellent team of Tuolumne volunteers came aboard in 1999 and helped seminar participants in the campground, opened Parson's Lodge daily for the public, and assisted the Tuolumne Meadows bear program by educating the public about keeping food away from bears.
- Four field courses were held at Crooked Creek in the White Mountains in the eastern Sierra for students to compare geology and flora of this unique neighbor range.
- The new YA Seminar t-Shirt with original art by Chiura Obata was a big hit and helped Yosemite Field Seminars in our goal to increase program revenues.

In the fall, in preparation for the winter of 2000, YA planned (in cooperation with Yosemite Concession Services) a new program: a series of classes for the winter and early spring that would include Yosemite Lodge rooms with bath. A separate catalog was mailed in November offering these special "packages."

OSTRANDER SKI HUT

YA operated the Ostrander Ski Hut at the request of the National Park Service for another winter. Located ten miles into the backcountry, the hut is a popular destination for cross-country skiers. The association pays for hutkeepers, firewood, and other necessities during its open season: late December to early April. Reservations are handled through the Wilderness Center.

WILDERNESS CENTER

Located in Yosemite Valley, the Wilderness Center continued to provide one-stop shopping for those hiking into the backcountry. Both YA and NPS personnel staff the center. Wilderness permits and/or reservations for permits are available, as well as assistance with trip planning. Books and maps, and other backpacking necessities are for sale, and bear canisters can be rented.

YOSEMITE THEATRE

Yosemite Theatre celebrated its sixteenth season of providing quality interpretive and educational programs to park visitors. Actor Lee Stetson continued to delight audiences with his moving portrayal of John Muir in his

one-man presentations, and added several winter shows this season detailing Muir's adventures in snow and ice. In a program that described the experience of a forty-niner who lives for a period with the Yosemite Miwok, Van Gordon portrayed a unique and illuminating aspect of early California History. Gail Lynne Dreifus and the Recycled String Band entertained visitors young and old with original, Yosemite-based songs and stories.

ART ACTIVITY CENTER

For the 18th season, classes in drawing, sketching, painting, and poetry were conducted at the Art Activity Center in 1999, from May to October and through Thanksgiving week. Twenty-four instructors taught free classes seven days a week for park visitors and local residents. The program promotes individual creativity in the unique Yosemite environment.

Highlights of 1999

JANUARY

A new service began; national park camping and tour reservations can be made on line at <http://reservation.nps.gov>.

FEBRUARY

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS) voted to move ahead with their voluntary bus plan beginning summer of 2000.

MARCH

California Fish & Game upgraded status of the Sierra bighorn sheep from threatened to endangered.

APRIL

Yosemite National Park received \$500,000 to begin implementing an aggressive new bear program aimed at educating park visitors on proper food storage.

MAY

85 year-old Gerry Bloch became the oldest climber to scale El Capitan.

OC Merced and Yosemite National Park signed a pact to form a partnership for research and education.

Camp Curry celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The Half Dome cables went up on May 25, and the Tioga and Glacier Point Roads opened for the season on May 26.

JUNE

A rockslide behind Curry Village (from part of the Glacier Point apron) killed one person and injured three.

The scoping period began for the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan*.

The NPS asked for public's help in an aggressive new education plan that is designed to significantly reduce bear and human conflicts in summer 1999.

JULY

Mark Wellman, disabled climber, and Mike Corbett repeated their El Capitan ascent, marking the 10th anniversary of their first climb.

A federal judge ruled that the NPS must complete environmental studies and comprehensive park plans before proceeding with the final construction on Highway 140.

SEPTEMBER

New entrance gates of granite and timber, replicas of the original ones constructed in the 1930s, were dedicated in a ceremony at Tioga Pass.

Bear Incidents (vehicle break-ins and food storage violations) decreased 70% during 1999 due to the comprehensive public awareness campaign begun earlier in the year.

OCTOBER

David A. Mihalic of Glacier National Park was named new Superintendent for Yosemite.

NOVEMBER

The Tioga and Glacier Point Roads closed for the season on November 23.

DECEMBER

Due to mild winter weather Tioga Pass reopened on December 23 for one week, for the first time since 1976.



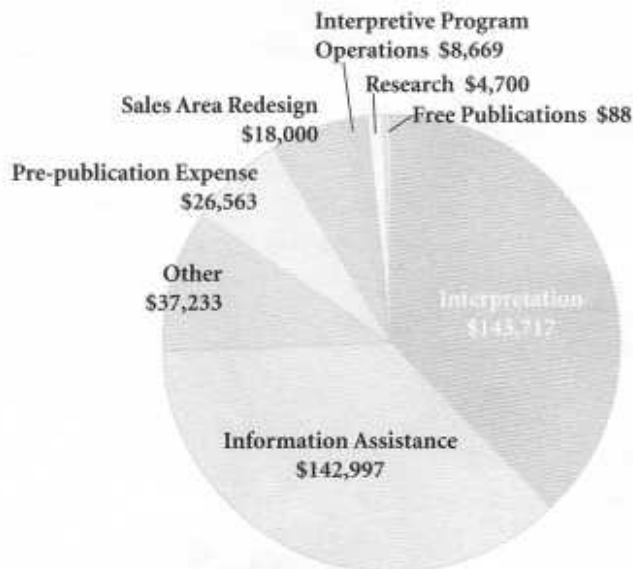
Statement of Financial Position

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$344,056
Accounts receivable	69,028
Prepaid Expenses	33,116
Inventory	816,860
Property and equipment	74,227
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,337,287

LIABILITIES	
Trade Accounts payable	\$21,638
Deferred seminar revenue	11,526
Royalties payable	23,371
Sales tax payable	3,714
Vacation payable	21,191
TOTAL LIABILITIES	81,440

NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted:	
Designated for Programs	38,422
Undesignated	860,652
Temporarily restricted	256,773
Contingency reserve	100,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,255,847
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,337,287



1999 Aid-to-NPS
Total \$381,967

Statement of Activities, 1999

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
REVENUE:	
Publication sales	\$1,462,778
Seminars	157,763
Memberships	363,048
Investment Income	10,097
Theater	44,357
Wilderness Center	50,876
900 Information	345
Auxiliary activities	64,420
Designated programs	8,061
	2,161,745
Net assets from restrictions	137,111

2,298,856

EXPENSES	
Cost of Sales:	
Publication costs	1,156,672
Auxiliary activities:	
Seminars	157,451
Theater	53,026
Wilderness Center	41,014
900 information services	1,154
Supporting services	
Management and general	283,196
Membership	184,206

1,876,719

Aid to National Park Service

513,522

2,390,241

DECREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (91,385)

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
Contributions	4,900
Auxiliary Activities	223,204
Net assets released from restrictions	
Restrictions satisfied by payments	(137,111)

90,993

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS (392)

NET ASSETS, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR 1,256,239

NET ASSETS, AT END OF YEAR **\$1,255,847**

Friends of the Association, 1999

The following fine people and companies made generous contributions of their time, money, or energy during 1999. We extend heartfelt thanks to them and to the many other wonderful people both inside and outside the park who help us in countless ways.



Aceware Systems, Marty Acree, Ansel Adams Gallery, Jeanne & Michael Adams, Stanley Albright, Ragina Anderson, Bob Andrew, Susan Arthur, Art Supplies Etcetra, Bob Aufuldish, Denice Azevedo, Chris Baker, John Bailey, Margaret Bailey, Dave Balogh, Bob Bandy, Don & Rita Banta, Dwight Barnes, Annie Barrett, Magda Barron, Craig Bates, Ted Beedy, Sandy Bell, Mark Bergholdt, Barbara Beroza, Tina Besa, Shirley Bevell, Mike & Jan Bigelow, Scott Bird, Carol Bjorgum, Tom Bopp, Booktrackers, Tom Borchardt, Annette Bottaro-Walklet, Steve Botti, Cindy Bower, Ann Bowns, Laurel Boyers, Ed Brands, John Brennan, Mike Brocchini, Lucy Bunz, Ginger Burley, Donald Burns, Jim Burns, Rex Butler, Barbara Cady, Nikyra Calcagno, California Data Marketing, Kevin Cann, Elena Capella & Larry Wendell, Hugh Carter, Annette Catamec, Terry Chaplin, Les Chow, Sandra Clift, Ken Coburn, Richard & Alice Cocke, Arnold & Carole Campolongo, Joan Conlan, Jennifer Cooley, Brandy Cook, Copernicus Software, Mike Corbett, Jim Corless, Couloir, Christine Cowles, Norma Craig, Kevin & Anna May Cronin, Crown Printing, Kimberly Cunningham-Hammerfield, Susan D'Alcamo, Lisa Dapprich, Tom Darcy, Leigh Davenport, Jason & Ethel Davis, Pat Davis, Tracy

Deitchman, Thomas DeForest, Tony DeMaio, Pete Devine, Melanie Doherty, Moira Donohoe, Leanne Dowd, Patricia Dowd, Gail Lynne Dreifus, Robin Drury, James Duff, Dumont Printing, George Durkee, Robert Dvorak, Linda Eade, Larry & Susan Early, Chris Edison, Marion & Bill Eggers, Brenda Ehmman, Margaret Eissler, Candace & Chris Elder, El Portal Fire Crew, El Portal Garden Club, El Portal Market, Helen Emshoff, Joe Engbeck, Rick Erlien, Judy Ernest, Lonnie Eskridge, Marlene Everingham, Dick Ewart, Dick Felberg, Virginia Ferguson, Marjorie Fielding, Mark Fincher, Jerry Fischer, Fred Fisher, Judy & Marshall Fisher, Janis Fogt, C. J. Flores, Roger Folk, Al Fong, Tom Fong, Dave Forgang, Ruth Foster, Gary Fraker, Phil Frank, Ed Franzen, Brigid Freeman, Fresno Bee, Friends of Ostrander, Sue Fritze, Robert Fry, Michael Frye, Paul Gallez, Garcia Machine, Ilo Gassoway, Skip Gaynard, Gayle Gilbert, Catherine Gockley, Victor Goldman, Mary Lynne Gonzales, Dory Grade, Jack & Jane Gyer, John Haag, Roland Haas, George Hanft, Nancy Hadlock, Bob Hansen, Keith Hansen, Ann Hardeman, Kay & Dick Hargreaves, Joel Harris, John Harris, Bruce & Scottie Hart, Gerald & Janice Haslam, John Hawksworth, Georgia Hays, Don Hedgepeth, Leanne Heine, Lorraine Heitchue, Jack Hicks, Vince Kehoe, Kimi Kodani Hill, Kathy Hocker, Kristine Hutchinson, Stan Hutchinson, Karen Illich, Impact, Robin Ingraham, Jr., Ingram Books, Internet Outfitters, Glenn Iwamura, Tom Jackson, Les James, Richard James, Jeffrey/Scott Advertising, Chip Jenkins, Judy Johnson, Mary Jane & Vern Johnson, Shelton Johnson, Susan Johnson, Hank Johnston, Pat Jordan, Steven Kahn, Richard Glenn Keator, Kevin Kelly, Herb & Betsy Kinney, Mary Kline, Jim Klostergaard, Mona Knight, Ann & Peter Knopf, Joyce Koller, Vance Kozik, Bill Krause, Dennis Kruska, Ben Kudo, Jeff Lahr, Hal Lambert, Jeanne Lamosse, Kathy Langley, Louis Lanzer, Eric Larson, Joe Lattuada, Vicki Jo Lawson, Ann Lee, Martha J. Lee, Mike Lee, Julie Limberg, Little, Brown & Company, Anne Longman, Donald Lopez, Kris Lowry, Denise Ludington, Ed Magee, Burl Maier, David Margiott, Maggie Martin, Mary Martinez, Jeff Maurer, Ken & Sandy Maurer, Kate Mawdsley, Pam McAdoo, John McClary, Kate McCurdy, James McGrew, Ken & Patsy McKay, Ray & Marilyn McKeever, Jerry McMahon, Rita McMurdy, Stacy McNight, Joe Medeiros, Dave Mihalic, Hank Miller, Julie Miller, Martha Miller, James Moore, Mono Lake Committee, Tim Montgomery, Elizabeth Morales, Morrison & Foerster, Elizabeth Moshetti, Paul Mullins, Jim Murray, Lloyd Murray, Karen Najarian, Naturals from the Earth, Bill & Sadhna Neill, Jim Nett, Neumiller

& Beardslee, Richard Newman, Jeff Nicholas, Chris Niemer, Jeff Nixon, Carl Nolte, Marilyn Norton, Ralph Occhipinti, Sheri Ogden, Jack Ohmstede, Mitch Okui, Orange Tree Productions, Ron Oriti, Kathleen Orr, Michael Osborne, Michael Osborne Design, John Ostlund, Linda Patterson, Penny Otwell, Greg Owens, Chris Paine, Peter Palmquist, Julia Parker, Lucy Parker, Peter Parsons, Robert Pavlik, Kolan Peterson, Wayne & Donna Petersen, Deanna Petree, Clint Phelps, Jack Phinney, Edward Polainer, Frank Poulsen, Tammie Power, Heidi Pusina, Taro Pusina, Sarah Rabkin, Real Music, Recycled String Band, Redwoods Guest Cottages, Mike & Kay Regester, Patti Reilly, Jack & Gay Reineck, Laurel Rematore, Anne Reynolds, David Robertson, Adrianna Rodrigues, Jerry Rodriguez, Joseph Rodriguez, Roberta Rogers, Bob Roney, Celia Rosen, Cathy Rose, Gene Rose, Polly Rosen, Ellen Rosenau, Michael Ross, Kristina Rylands, Maren Sampson, *San Francisco Chronicle & Examiner*, Bob San Souci, Dan San Souci, Shirley Sargent, Jan Schafir, Jonathan Schechter, Bob Schlichting, Amy Schneckenburger, Julie Schuller, Scope Enterprises, Susan & Rich Seiling, Richard Sellars, Margareta Sequin, Beverley Sessa, Glenn Shellcross, Dean and Marla Shenk, Mary Beth Shenton, Jill Sholly, Sierra Press, Edith Simonson, Doris Sloan, Mark Smith, Rick Smith, Jim Snyder, Beverly Solis, Dan Sohn, Toni Souza, Mary Spivey, Jamie Spittler, Rick Stalder, Will Staple, Star Dot Technologies, David Starkweather, Tom Starling, Max Stauffer, Harry Steed, Lee Stetson, John Stevenson, Julie Stewart, Georgia Stigall, Bill & Mary Kay Stoehr, Leslie Stone, Ruth & Roger Strange, Edgar Stroke, Lisa Strong-Aufhauser, John Swanson, Suzanne Swedo, Gail Takakjian-Gilbert, Tenaya Lodge, Carole Thickstun, Steve Thompson, Lynn Thorensen, Mike Thornton, Total Waste, Dwight Tracy, Trails Illustrated, Elwynn Trepel, Noreen Trombley, Cary & Wendy Trout, Elvia Trujillo, Val-Print, Linda Vanderwater, George Vega, Chris VanWinkle, John Van Winkle, Jan van Wagendonk, Keith Walklet/Quietworks, Patricia Walls, Kathy Warinner, Mike & Valerie Warren, Howard Weamer, Marlys Weekley, Robin Weiss, Claudia Welsh, Marnie Whelan-DeVos, Wilderness Press, Frankie Williams, Jim & Lynn Wilson, Martha Winnacker, Fern Wollrich, Dave Wyman, Susan Yacuzzo, Linda Yamane, Steve Ybarra, Yosemite Concession Services, Yosemite Fund, Yosemite Institute, Yosemite Motels, Yosemite Mountain Sugarpine Railroad, Yosemite Winter Club, Gil Young, Kathy Young, Fred Youngren, Bob Yutzy, Zellag the Sardonic, Pat Zuccaro.

Wilderness Permit Reservation Changes

In an effort to promote consistency between the land agencies in the Central and Southern Sierra, Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Association announced changes to the Wilderness Permit Reservation System for 2000. Sixty percent of each trailhead's daily quota will now be available by reservation. The wilderness permit reservation-processing fee will also be increased to \$5 per person per trip.

The additional revenue generated by this increase will be used to improve customer service. Comprehensive wilderness trip planning information is now available on the Yosemite National Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/>. This site offers a complete list of trail descriptions by park area, general wilderness information and pertinent regulations. The site also offers links to satellite weather conditions, book and map sales, and other park information. Along with directions for getting wilderness permits and permit reservations, a mail-in form for reservation requests can

be printed from this website. The feasibility of on-line reservation requests is being explored.

Reservations are available from two to twenty four weeks in advance, and may be made by calling 209/372-0740 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday or mail requests to Wilderness Permit Reservations, PO Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389. Phone lines are frequently busy. Mail and phone requests are processed simultaneously. When mailing a request, please make checks payable to the Yosemite Association or include a valid credit card number and expiration date.

Reserved wilderness permits must be picked up in person no earlier than the day before the reserved trip start date. The remaining forty-percent of each trail's daily quota is available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of or one day prior to the desired trip start date. Call (209) 372-0200 or check the website for current permit station locations and hours.

El Portal Road Opens for Summer

The El Portal Road, Highway 140 as it enters the park, re-opens for day use for the summer season on May 1. The road will be open each day from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. until September 30. The road will close from 10:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. to enable the contracted work to continue.

During the months of May and September, delays of one hour are possible. During holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day), the road will be open twenty-four hours a day.

Reconstruction of the road is 75% complete. Rough road conditions and varying road surfaces will be encountered throughout the construction zone as the contractor prepares for paving the road. The initial paving is scheduled to begin at the end of May 2000, and will be ongoing throughout the summer.

The road improvements on the on the 6.5 miles of El Portal Road are scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2000. The park's recorded information line at 209/372-0200 will have updated information.

New Online Store Opens

The Yosemite Association unveiled its new secure online store in February. You can now purchase books, sign up for seminars, or buy memberships, maps and other park related items online at www.yosemite.org. The store features a powerful new search engine and a secure server for credit card transactions. We're

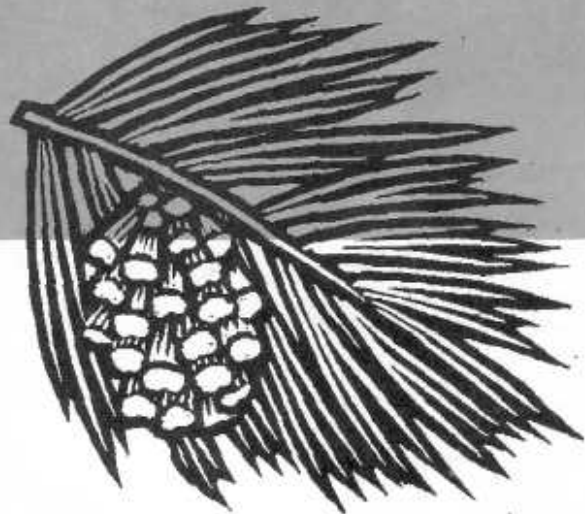
offering free shipping for orders over \$50 and members can take advantage of their discount while shopping online.

Keep shopping www.yosemite.greater-good.com for your other retail purchases online. Yosemite Association members and staff helped to raise over \$600 during the holidays by using the site. The online shopping mall features top merchants such as REI, Lands End, Amazon.com and JC Penney. Up to 15% of your purchase benefits the association—at no extra cost to you!

YARTS Service Starts May 19

Visitors can ride YARTS buses from gateway communities outside the park into Yosemite Valley beginning the weekend of May 19, 2000. YARTS will run buses on Highway 140, Highway 120 East and Highway 120 West. YARTS will serve the Yosemite region by offering an option for visitors who would rather ride transit into Yosemite than drive and park their vehicles inside the gates.

Information about schedules and tickets will be available on the website yarts.ca. Information can also be obtained by phone toll-free at 877/98-YARTS.



Draft Valley Plan Released for Comment

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced the release of the *Draft Yosemite Valley Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft YVP)* a draft plan to restore Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park during a ceremony in San Francisco on March 27, 2000. The purpose of the Draft YVP is to provide direction and propose specific actions to preserve Yosemite Valley's natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and to provide high-quality, resource-based experiences for visitors.

The *Draft YVP* will be available for public comment and review from April 7 to July 5, 2000. To request a copy of, or submit comments on the plan, write Yosemite Valley Plan/SEIS, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, CA, 95389. Copies will also be available at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.htm. Comments must be postmarked by July

5, 2000. Comments can also be e-mailed to YOSE_planning@nps.gov or faxed to 209/372-0456.

A series of public hearings and/or presentations are scheduled to be held in the following locations: May 22 - San Francisco, CA; May 23 - Sacramento, CA; May 24 - Merced, CA; May 25 - Oakland, CA; May 30 - Yosemite National Park; May 31 - Oakhurst, CA; June 1 - Mariposa, CA; June 2 - Sonora, CA; June 5 - Costa Mesa, CA; June 5 - Seattle, WA; June 6 - Los Angeles, CA; June 6 - Denver, CO; June 7 - Chicago, IL; June 7 - San Diego, CA; June 8 - Washington, DC; June 9 - Mammoth Lakes, CA; June 15 - Fresno, CA; and June 17 - San Jose, CA.

For specific times and venues, call (209) 372-0261 or V/TTY (209) 372-4726, or visit <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning/pmsched.htm>.

Merced River Plan Update

The comment period for the *Draft Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan/EIS* closed on March 24, 2000. Over 2,500 comments were received by mail, e-mail, fax, and at twelve public hearings held throughout the state in February.

Now that the comment period is closed, the Merced River planning team is reviewing and incorporating comments into the revised, final Merced River Plan, which is slated for release in mid-June 2000. Following a 30-day required period of "no action," the Pacific West Regional Director of the National Park Service will select an alternative that will be signed as a Record of Decision.

Leaving a Yosemite Legacy

Since 1920, thousands of individuals and families have helped the Yosemite Association undertake its important educational, scientific, and research programs, with gifts of time, services, and money. Each year we receive critical support for Yosemite in the form of charitable bequests from wills and estate plans. Such bequests play a vital role in our future funding.

We encourage you to consider including a gift to the Yosemite Association in your will or estate plan. It's a way to ensure that others will enjoy Yosemite far beyond your lifetime.

For information about leaving a Yosemite legacy, call (209) 379-2317, or write to P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318



Association Dates

June 11-17

Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

June 25-July 1

Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

August 13-19

Backcountry Work Trip

August 27-September 2

Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

September 9

Annual Members' Meeting, Wawona

October 15-21

Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

209/379-2317

If you're planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our phone line a call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We don't make reservations, but we can give appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice.

SPRING AND SUMMER SEMINARS



Take one of these opportunities to be in Yosemite's vast outdoor classroom with a small group and an engaging instructor. Space in these popular courses is limited—sign up today!

Photographing Yosemite's Waterworks

May 12–14
Dave Wyman

Pastel Painting in Yosemite

June 9 (eve)–11
Moirá Donohoe

Birds of Yosemite Valley

June 10–11
Michael Ross

Outdoor Painting in Yosemite Valley

June 15–18
Jeanne Lamosse

Butterfly Diversity

June 22 (eve)–25
Mikaela Huntzinger

Birds of the South Park

June 24–25
Michael Ross

An Introduction to Yosemite Natural History

July 6 (eve)–9
Pete Devine

High Country Birds

July 8–9
Michael Ross

Botanical Drawing

July 13–16
Lynn Thorensen

Photographing the White Mountains

July 13 (eve)–16
Howard Weamer

Lyell Canyon Introductory Backpack

July 13 (eve)–16
Kristina Rylands

Miwok Ethnobotany

July 14 (eve)–16
Alice Tulloch

High Country Wildflowers

July 15–16
Michael Ross

On the Trail of Gourmet Delights

July 20 (eve)–23
Ilo Gassoway

High Country Habitats

July 21–23
Howard Weamer

Pastel Painting in Yosemite–Wawona

July 22–23
Moirá Donohoe

Starry Skies Over Yosemite

July 23 (eve)–27
Ron Oriti

Mountain Wildflowers for the Relaxed Botanists

July 24–28
Michael Ross

Subalpine Botany

July 24–28
Bob Fry

Ten Lakes Introductory Backpack

July 27 (eve)–30
Kristina Rylands

Geologic Wonders of Yosemite

July 28–30
Ron Oriti

Identifying Yosemite Wildflowers

August 4–6
Suzanne Swedo

Diverse Eastern Sierra Habitats

August 7–11
John Harris

Keeping an Illustrated Journal in Tuolumne Meadows

August 11–13
Sarah Rabkin

Summer Family Day Hike Adventures

August 11–13
Kristina Rylands

Adventures For Families With Teens

August 11–13
Michael & Nick Ross

Natural History of Water in Tuolumne Meadows

August 18–20
Lorrie Gervin

Young Lakes Introductory Backpack

August 24 (eve)–27
Suzanne Swedo

Summer Family Day Hike Adventures

August 25–27
Kristina Rylands

Vogelsang Introductory Backpack

August 31 (eve)–September 4
Suzanne Swedo

Sign up for one of these classes by calling Penny or Lou in the Yosemite Field Seminar office at 209/379-2322 or on the internet at <http://www.yosemite.org>

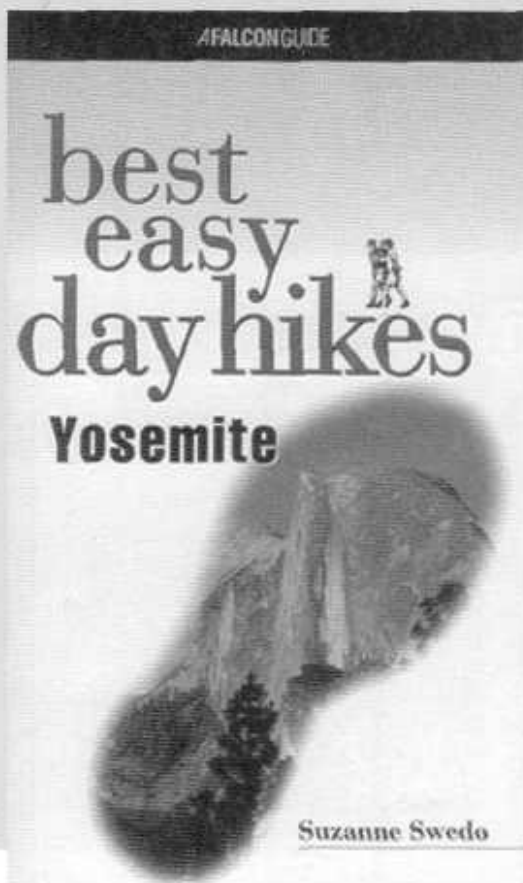
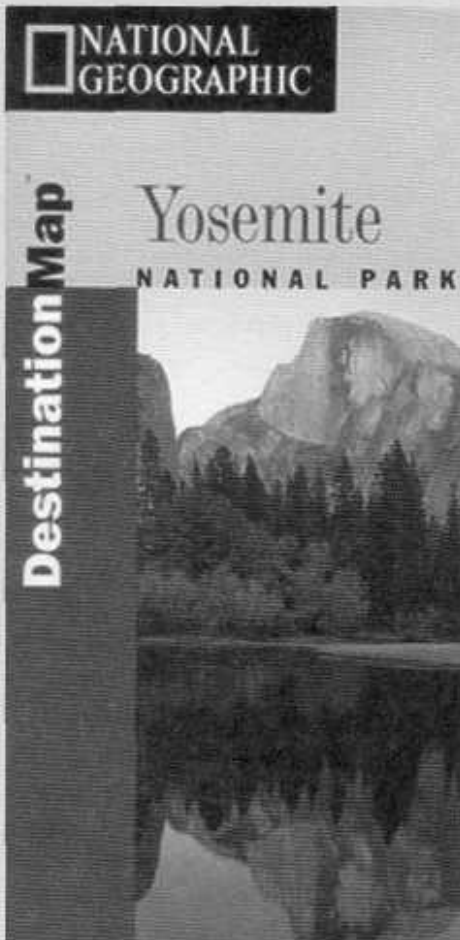


Destination Map—Yosemite National Park

by *National Geographic*. This new map, printed on waterproof, tear-proof plastic, is highly detailed with shaded relief, park roads, trails, and points of interest. Besides suggested itineraries for 1-, 2-, and 3-day visits, there are inset maps of Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona.

There are also suggested hikes, road tours, viewpoints, and a complete listing of visitor services. An included booklet contains key park information including fees, phone numbers, nearby parks and forests, accommodations, and much more. It all folds up into a protective, cardboard cover. The Destination

Map unfolds to 36 inches x 24 inches and is printed in full color. Copyright 1999, National Geographic Society. \$11.95



Best Easy Day Hikes—Yosemite

by *Suzanne Swedo*. This new guide by a long-time Yosemite Association seminar instructor samples over 20 of the most scenic and least-physically-challenging trails within Yosemite National Park. The hikes are scattered throughout the park, leading walkers to uncongested trails and some routes that aren't familiar to most people. Each spectacular hike is accessible by paved road and none is difficult to find.

This indispensable guide provides accurate hike descriptions, easy-to-follow maps, and concise trail information for the author's favorite trails. With hikes varying from half-hour strolls to full-day adventures, this book has something for everyone. The book is 4.25 inches wide by 7 inches high, making it easy to carry in your pack. 85 pages, Falcon Publishing, 1999. Paperback, \$6.95

Building the National Parks—

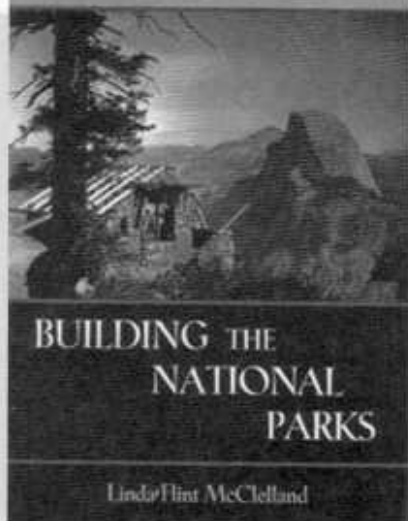
Historic Landscape Design and Construction

by *Linda Flint McLelland*. Recalling the era of the great lodges at Yosemite and Yellowstone, this architectural history book tells the story of how the National Park Service forged a rich legacy of buildings, roads, and trails that both harmonized with the natural scenery and accommodated visitors to the parks.

Describing projects in such parks as the Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, Mount Rainier, Acadia, Carlsbad Caverns, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Yosemite, this story of the early years is illustrated with 118 rare archival photographs.

The author shows that in its design and construction, the NPS accomplished remarkable feats of engineering and consistently responsible stewardship.

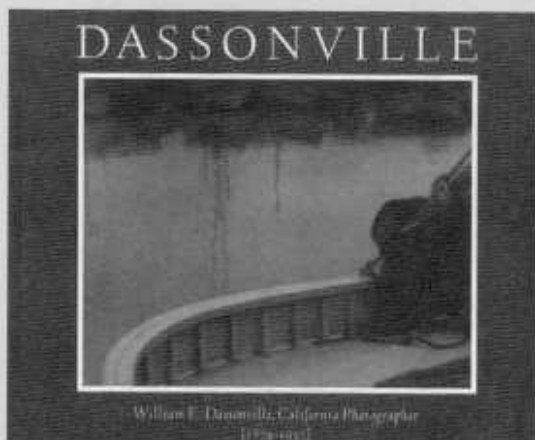
This is an outstanding guide and history for the historically significant designed landscapes in the national park system. The book is 7 inches wide and 9 inches high. 592 pages, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. Paperback, \$29.95



Dassonville—William E. Dassonville, California Photographer [1879–1957]

with an essay by *Peter Palmquist*. The photographs of William Dassonville were widely published during his life, and won numerous prizes and honors. He counted many prominent artists among his friends and clientele, including John Muir, William Keith, and Maynard Dixon. As well, his images hung in exhibitions beside the work of Alfred Stieglitz, Clarence White, and other renowned artists of the Photo-Secession and Arts and Crafts movements.

Along with 47 plates of Dassonville photographs (several of Yosemite and the California landscape), the book includes a biographical essay with much new information not previously published, an exhibition history and listing of published photographs and articles (several of which are reprinted), and a number of illustrative photos. The 10.5 inch by 9 inch book is printed in color and black and white. 110 pages, Carl Mautz Publishing, 1999. Paperback, \$35

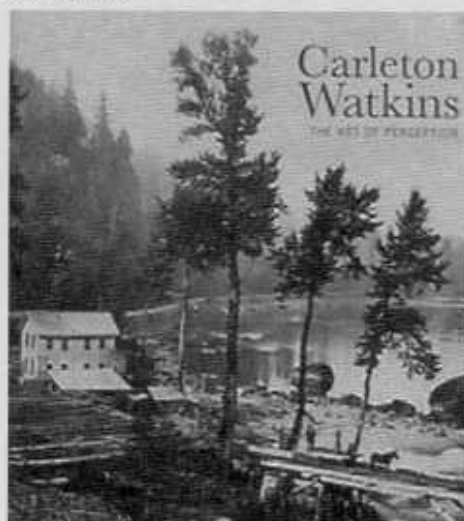


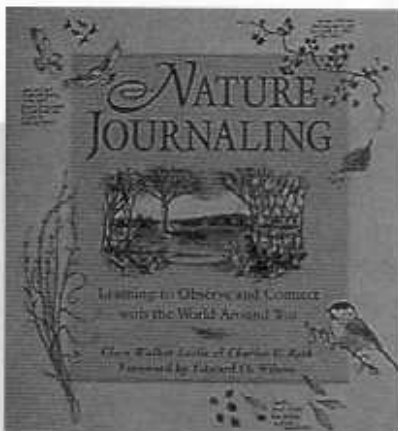
Carleton Watkins—The Art of Perception

by *Douglas R. Nickel*. Carleton Watkins (1829–1916) is considered by many to be the greatest American photographer of the nineteenth century. During his career he traveled and photographed the western U.S., making thousands of remarkable images of Yosemite, the Pacific Coast, and the Sierra Nevada.

This new study of Watkins examines the signal achievement of this photographic innovator in the context of the burgeoning western development and new ways of experiencing the world visually. Produced using state-of-the-art tritone printing, the book showcases over one hundred of the photographer's best images (including twenty-one with Yosemite subjects), accompanied by essays with new insights into Watkins's life and ambitions.

This is an impressive and beautiful art book, 11 x 12 inches in size, 228 pages, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Harry N. Abrams, 1999. Hard bound, \$65





Nature Journaling—Learning to Observe and Connect with the World Around You

by *Clare Walker Leslie & Charles E. Roth*. Using the simple techniques in this book, anyone can learn to start and keep an ongoing nature journal. Along the way, you'll develop skills in observing, sketching, appreciating, and writing about life's beauty and mysteries.

Though writing and nature study can seem a bit daunting to the uninitiated, this handsome book, with its friendly, rambling format and unpretentious drawings, makes keeping this kind of record a

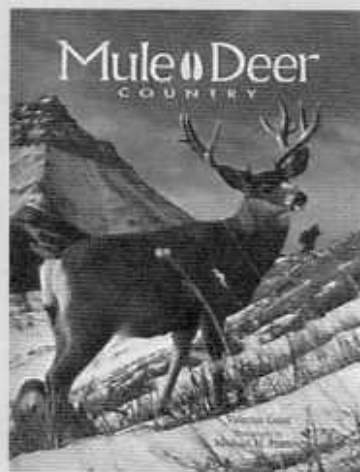
natural and anxiety-free experience. This is a great guide to discovering nature for yourself and creating your own work of art along the way. Illustrated with color and black-and-white drawings, the book is 9.5 by 10 inches in size. 182 pages, Storey Books, 1998. Hard bound, \$26.95

Mule Deer Country

by *Valerius Geist, photography by Michael H. Francis*. This new book is the stunning result of an international collaboration between two uniquely talented individuals. Dr. Geist, from Alberta, Canada, is the world's foremost authority on mule deer, and Mr. Francis is a gifted, dedicated wildlife photographer from Montana.

Together they reveal, through authoritative text and dazzling photographs, the fascinating world of the mule deer. Over 100 full-color images depict virtually every aspect mule deer seasonal behavior, as well as their spectacularly beautiful habitat. This is both an invaluable reference and an elegant coffee-table book sure to find a special place in any natural history collection.

The 9 x 11.5 inch volume is printed in full color. 176 pages, Creative Publishing International, 1999. Hard bound, \$25



Pajaro Field Bag

This newly developed waist pack features seven pockets for everything you'll need when you're hiking or enjoying time in the outdoors. The main pocket is sized to accommodate field guides, travel books, or binoculars. There are smaller pockets (including one with a zipper) for note pads and maps, and specialized pockets for pencils, pens, and sunglasses. Best of all, a secret pocket sealed with Velcro keeps keys, credit cards, and other valuables safe. It's the best such pack we've found.



Made in the U.S.A. of durable Cordura in navy blue, forest green or black by Pajaro. (please specify color) \$29.95



Yosemite Association Patch

Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The newly-designed patch is available in three attractive

colors: dark blue, forest green, or maroon.
\$3.00 (please specify color)



Yosemite Wilderness Pin

Here's a beautiful enamel pin commemorating Yosemite's unparalleled wilderness. It's circular in shape with a high country scene rendered in blues, grays, and greens. A real treasure for collectors. Approximately 1 inch in diameter. \$4.00

Yosemite Association Mug

This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green or maroon), it's imprinted with our logo and name in black and white. Holds 12 ounces of your favorite beverage. \$6.50 (please specify color)



Sierra Nevada Field Card Set

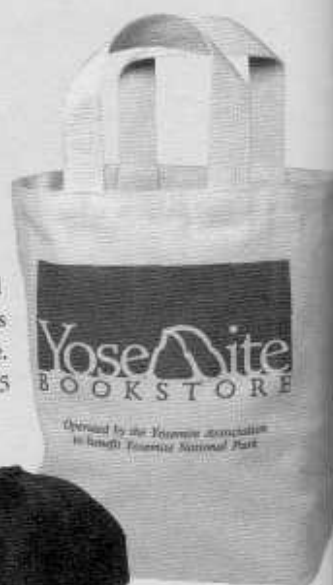
Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales

These handy field identification cards depict the most commonly seen birds, mammals, trees, and wildflowers from the Sierra Nevada region. Illustrated with color drawings and including information about the size, habitat, and other field marks of each, the cards are unbreakable, waterproof vinyl plastic and fit conveniently in one's daypack or glove compartment. Particularly helpful for newcomers to the Sierra as regularly observed flora and fauna can be quickly identified. Four plastic cards printed on both sides, Yosemite Association, 1991 and 1995. \$11.00



Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag

Conserve resources with YA's handy book bag made from durable 100% cotton fabric with a sturdy web handle. Cream-colored, it's imprinted in blue with the Yosemite Bookstore logo. Fine craftsmanship and generous oversized design make this a bag you'll want to take everywhere. Approximately 17 x 16 inches. \$8.95



Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap

Our YA caps are made of corduroy with an adjustable strap at the back so that one size fits all. The cap is adorned with a YA logo patch, and comes in dark blue, forest green or maroon. The cap is stylish and comfortable, and wearing it is a good way to demonstrate your support for Yosemite. \$9.95 (please specify color)



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Join the Yosemite Association

You can help support the work of the Yosemite Association by becoming a member. Revenues generated by the Association's activities are used to fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite. Not only does the Yosemite Association publish and sell literature and maps, it sponsors field seminars, the park's Art Activity Center, the Wilderness Center, and the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.

A critical element in the success of the Association is its membership. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association through their personal commitments. Won't you join us in our efforts to make Yosemite an even better place?

MOVING?

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

MEMBER BENEFITS

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

- * *Yosemite*, the Association journal, published on a quarterly basis;
- * A 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars, publications stocked for sale by the Association;
- * A 10% discount on most of the field seminars conducted by the Association in Yosemite National Park;
- * The opportunity to participate in members' meetings and volunteer activities held throughout the year;
- * A Yosemite Association decal.

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

Supporting: the award-winning video, "Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven."

Contributing: *Yosemite—The Promise of Wildness*, an elegant book of essays and photographs.

Sustaining: *Tradition and Innovation, A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite/Mono Lake Area*, a beautifully illustrated, finely printed book.

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