

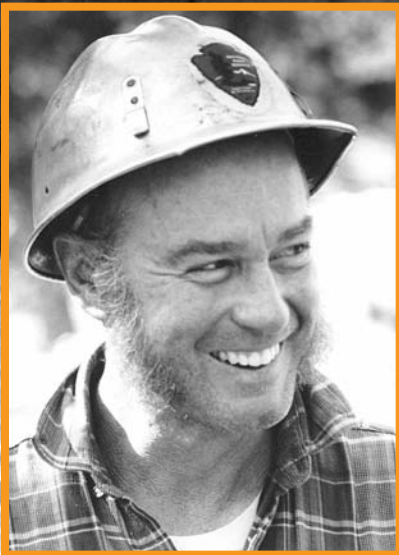
# Yosemite

A JOURNAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2005    Volume 67    Number 2

## A LEGACY IN THE ROCKS AND TREES

Park Historian Jim Snyder Retires from the National Park Service



**2004 ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE**

# A Message from the President

**A**s we cast away our umbrellas and lift our wet and bedraggled heads towards the Yosemite sky, we think we perceive spring—that novel time of year when it doesn't precipitate! It's been quite a stretch of wet weather in the park, with day after day of sogginess and cold.

The heavens made no exception for our annual Spring Forum. It rained coyotes and foxes all day long, and the 350 or so of us were chilled to the bone. But no one drowned, and we enjoyed a great slate of walks, talks, and other presentations.

Again this year in conjunction with the Spring Forum, we offered a special reception (for our \$250 donors and members) that was hosted by The Ansel Adams Gallery. The Friday evening event offered shelter from the storm, and featured short talks by park superintendent Mike Tollefson, bighorn sheep biologist Les Chow, and Frank Green, the filmmaker who shot and produced the bighorn documentary entitled *Counting Sheep*. Thanks again to Claudia Welsh, her gallery staff, and the members of the Ansel Adams family, who are always so generous to the Yosemite Association.

We held a special raffle during the Spring Forum for a night at The Ahwahnee and two tickets to the Bracebridge Dinner this December. Ticket sales were brisk, and Joanne Riker was the lucky winner. We extend our appreciation and thanks to Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Yosemite for donating this valuable package that allowed us to raise additional funds to benefit the park.

We enjoyed another spring event that attracted many of our members. On Saturday, May 21 at the John Muir House in Martinez, cartoonist Phil Frank entertained our members/donors of \$250 and higher with stories and drawings of his cast of *Farley* characters like Velma Melmac and the Yosemite bears, along with an introduction to the subjects of his new *Elderberries* comic strip. Our next special event will be in conjunction with our September members' meeting in Tuolumne Meadows. You'll be receiving information about the reception soon.

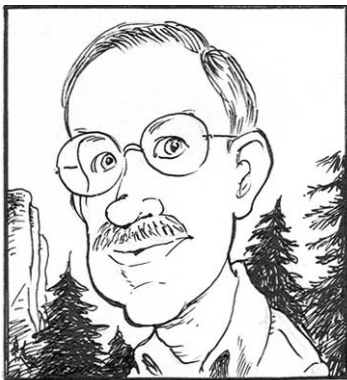
During April we've been celebrating the completion of several key projects in Yosemite. The largest and most significant is the Lower Yosemite Falls rehabilitation. On April 18 that project was dedicated with a number of special events, tours, and parties, and we congratulate the Yosemite Fund for this major accomplishment. Thanks go out to all of the YA members who donated to the project.

On your next visit to the park, stop by the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and see the newly-remodeled lobby and bookstore (also done in April). Both rooms highlight beautiful wood cabinets and fixtures, new carpet, improved lighting, and enhanced exhibits and displays. The project was a cooperative one, with funds being contributed from the National Park Service "Fee Demonstration" Program, the Yosemite Fund, and the Yosemite Association. Many of our members donated to YA's share of the cost, and your help will appreciably improve the experience of millions of visitors over the coming years.

So despite the rain, it's been a productive start to 2005, with enjoyable occasions, noteworthy achievements, and the winter wonder of Yosemite at its finest. The support of our many members and friends continues to make a difference in the park. Thanks again for that.

*Steve*

Steven P. Medley, President



**Staff Note: Please join us in congratulating Steve on his twentieth anniversary serving as YA's president. Happy anniversary, Steve, and thank you for all your leadership, hard work, and bad jokes!**

*Cover: The arch bridging a Tuolumne River overflow on the trail to Glen Aulin, constructed in 1976, was one of several efforts made to restore trail-damaged meadows.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM SNYDER.

*Inset: Jim Snyder on the Wilderness Historic Resources Survey in 1989.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF DWIGHT BARNES.

# A LEGACY IN THE ROCKS AND TREES

## Park Historian Jim Snyder Retires from the National Park Service

*Editor's note: 2005 has already yielded a momentous turn of events in Yosemite: the retirement of key Yosemite Museum staff members Jim Snyder, Dave Forgang, and Norma Craig. All three of these fine individuals have been tremendous friends and supporters of the Yosemite Association over the years. In this issue of Yosemite, we are featuring a profile of Jim. Watch for profiles of Dave and Norma in a future issue. We wish them the very best in this new phase of their lives!*

### A YOSEMITE TREASURY

In a small subdivision in Davis, just minutes from the university, is the home of Jim Snyder. To the uninitiated, it might not be immediately apparent that you've entered the home of one of the foremost experts on Yosemite history. Upon entering, two friendly dogs roughly the size of Shetland ponies would greet you, along with an affectionate cat with one blind eye. Next you would glance at the two bookcases dedicated to Jane Austen in the living room, catch a rare sight of the almost extinct record player, and then wonder what lies under a colorful scarf on a table next to the fireplace (answer: a televi-

sion, watched only for movies rather than for television programs). Walking into the kitchen, you would pass the collection of equestrian portraits in the hallway, and a beautifully tooled packsaddle on an ancient sixteenth-century rosewood table.

Your initial impression might be that you have entered the home of two extremely well-read animal lovers with Luddite tendencies. At first glance, Yosemite is not an overwhelming presence in the Snyder home.

When the tour begins, and Jim commences his wonderful storytelling, you realize that Yosemite is embedded in the entire house, waiting to be identified by the patient observer like minerals in granite. The packsaddle, with Jim's initials on the britching, was a retirement gift from Bob Barrett, a long-time Yosemite associate. Mixed in with the equestrian photos of Jim's wife, Wendy, hangs a portrait of Jim's favorite work mule, Katie.

And then comes the tour of the library! When, after lunch, Jim asks if I want to see the library, I realize that the wallpaper of bookshelves that extend into all areas of the house, and that contain an impressive mix of authors (from Neville Chute to Robinson Jeffers) is the proverbial

*Jim Snyder in his home library.*

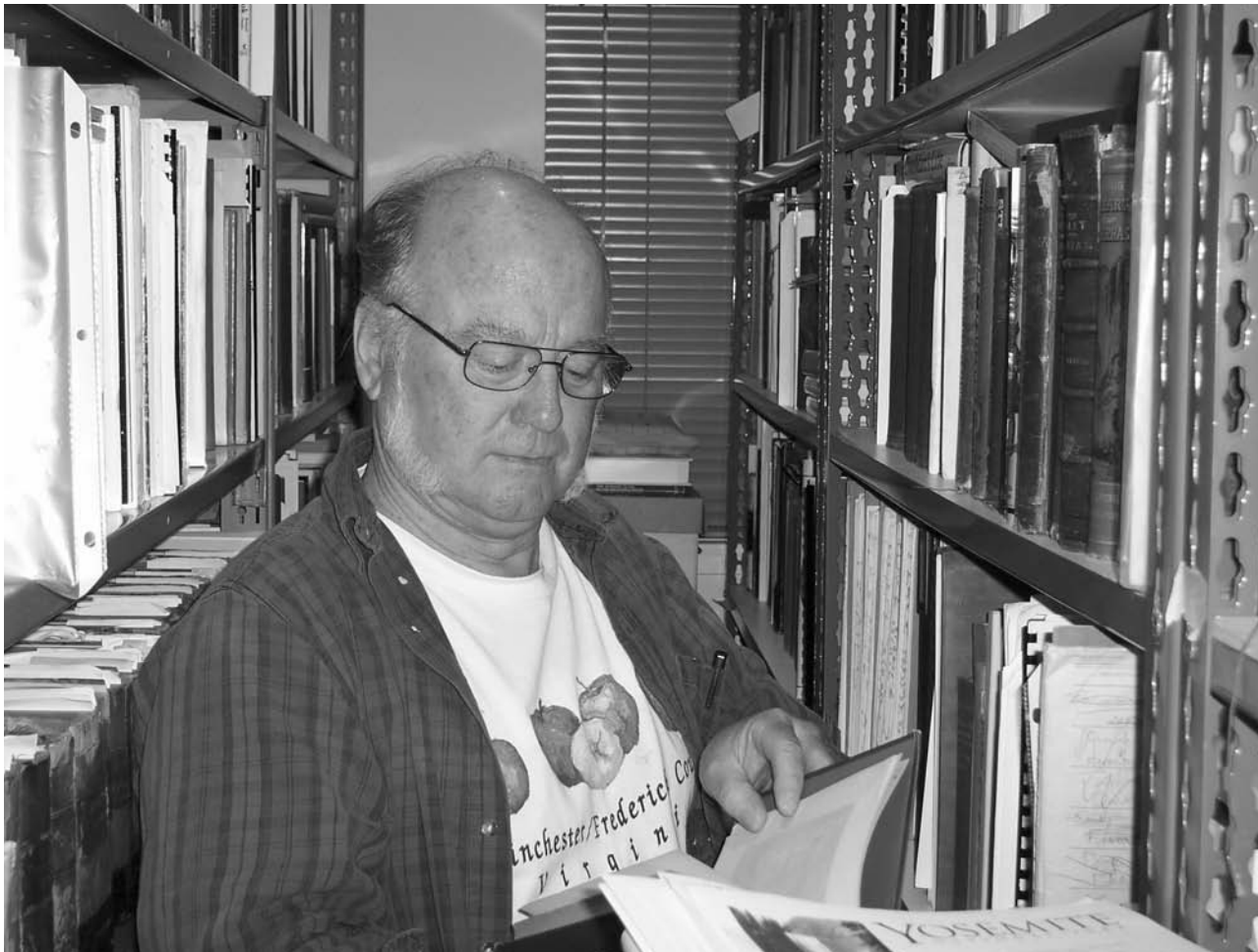


PHOTO COURTESY OF SYLVIA ROSE AUGUSTUS.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM SNYDER

*Snyder's mule friend Katie pulled many rocks for the first meadow restoration project in Yosemite at Tuolumne Pass in 1975.*

tip of the iceberg. Jim opens the door to a back room, and crammed into every possible corner on metal shelves are the chronicles of the first national park.

Hundreds of years of history stand in this crowded room full of musty books, old news clippings, sepia-toned photographs, and obscure yet fascinating records. Just a sampling: REI catalogs from the past thirty years, a 1913 *Financial History of California* that details appropriations and budget expenditures for Yosemite and other state programs, and nineteenth-century weather records for the Sierra. All these volumes are stored in aisles so narrow that you have to turn sideways to maneuver. As a portly visitor to his library once commented, “Well Jim, this certainly isn’t a fat man’s library.” An old wooden card catalog houses the information about his collection, definitely more appropriate to the setting than a computer (although one is partially visible under the stacks of uncataloged material).

Hidden away, unexpectedly, this treasure trove of Yosemite, the Sierra, California, and western history has been patiently and carefully assembled over a lifetime by Jim. I feel much like the exploration party in 1833 that stumbled accidentally on Yosemite Valley—I am in awe that I turned a corner and now view an unexpected wonder.

#### A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE PARK

Jim Snyder began working as a volunteer in Yosemite in 1958. A California native, he began his studies at UC Davis in 1961, when the school had two thousand students (today over thirty thousand attend). Jim admits to spending “a lot of time just walking down the aisles in the library,” and remained friends with the head librarian from that era until the end of the librarian’s life. Jim studied anthropol-

ogy and was one of only two undergraduate majors in the field at Davis. His early archaeology classes piqued his curiosity about the story behind the scenery of the natural world, and set the stage for a lifetime of questing about “how things work.” In 1962 he began working summers on trail crews in Yosemite to put himself through school.

One anecdote he recalled from his early years in Yosemite involves the construction of the new Tioga Road, a project that began in 1957. Jim recalled his days on site: having dinner at the Yosemite Creek construction camp, hearing the massive explosions needed to carve the route out of Polly Dome’s unyielding granite, and assisting with traffic on the old road. The amusing footnote to this experience came years later, when David Brower’s son Ken received a contract to write a Yosemite book for National Geographic, published in 1997 as *Yosemite — An American Treasure*. Ken asked for Jim’s help with research, and Jim invited him for a tour of the backcountry. During their time together, Ken recalled camping with his father at Tenaya Lake during the road construction, and having rocks fly across from the blasting. After the crews had left for the day, Ken remembered accompanying his dad to “de-survey” the road by pulling up survey stakes. Jim and Ken had some laughs about being at opposite ends of the lake at the same time.

Jim’s work on Tioga Road was only the beginning of his experiences in the park. Given his twenty-seven seasons on trail work, many of the paths we walk on today bear the result of his work. In his trail building days, Jim followed the philosophy of Gabriel Sovulewski, Park Supervisor (Assistant Superintendent) of Yosemite from 1906 to 1936, who claimed, “If the deer won’t use it, there’s something wrong with it.”

During our interview, Jim showed me cardboard cut-outs that had been the template for the first true Roman arch constructed in the backcountry, built by Jim and his crew in 1976 where the river overflowed on part of the trail to Glen Aulin. Jim wanted to remove the small metal culverts and replace them with something less obtrusive and more appropriate for wilderness trails. Bill Sabo, a former bridge crew foreman, suggested a Roman arch to provide a greater natural span for the river overflow.

To build the arch, they labored after hours to avoid wasting work time and money on the unusual project. No one on the crew had actually ever built an arch, but this didn’t deter them in the least. Jim simply read books on nineteenth-century stonemasonry, assigned a mathematically-talented crewmember to figure out the exact geometric patterns, and then they carved the granite by superimposing models over the rock. The metal culverts were packed out to the road by mule, while the arch stones were designed and shaped in native material using traditional skills and hand-tools.

Getting the materials to the actual site was no simple matter either—they transported the tons of granite over the trail by hand, using dead lodgepole pines as rollers. As Jim remembers, it was incredible when they assembled the arch and realized “that it had worked just like in the books. No cement was needed—it was just unbelievable.”

The arch still stands today. When I admitted I could not recall having ever trekked over the arch on my many hikes to Glen Aulin, Jim replied, “So many people walk over it and never know what it is—that’s the way it’s supposed to be. Trails should be in symmetry with the landscape, rather than being imposed on the landscape.”

In my nearly twenty years of visiting Yosemite, I’ve hiked many of the trails Jim helped construct or improve, but it wasn’t until six years ago that I finally met him, after he had left trail work and had assumed the role of park historian. I encountered Jim for the first time in one of his elements: a library. Linda Eade, Yosemite’s knowledgeable and friendly research librarian, had helped me on many occasions. On a day she was out of the office, I stopped by the research library to locate some information on early Sierra Club trips, and from behind a stack of books an amiable face emerged. Since then, he has assisted me with several projects, and has served as an invaluable member of the Yosemite Association’s publications committee.

Jim is a researcher’s dream, an autodidact who is as knowledgeable about the geologic processes in the park as he is about the history of sheepherding. His other natural element, the backcountry, is what eventually led him back to the library. During his years of trail work, he and his crewmembers began to ask questions about their surroundings, such as: Where did that blaze come from? Why does this trail run through this watershed? As he stated, “Learning about the surroundings made it more interesting than simply trudging to work with a rock hammer.”

#### A LANDMARK STUDY OF YOSEMITE’S BACKCOUNTRY

It was that questioning that led to one of the most recent significant natural and cultural research projects in the park. In 1986, while

looking for old trail crossings on the Merced River after work one day, Bob Barrett commented, “you know what we ought to do is stop this shit and go look at the whole park.” The crew at the time took it as a half-joke, but it got them all thinking about how to record the undocumented history of the backcountry where they had worked for so many years.

About the same time, Jack Morehead, then park superintendent, wanted something in the park’s north end to “knock the socks off” of visiting dignitaries coming for a backcountry trip. Jim knew the perfect thing. As he recounted in his article, “Rendezvous with the Fourth Cavalry” in the winter 1987 edition of *Yosemite*, in 1977 he had “stumbled upon three trees in Spiller Canyon with crossed sabers and initials. One tree was down; it had died shortly after the time of its carving, which had effectively girdled it.” The carvings were from Lt. N.F. McClure’s first visit to Spiller Canyon in 1894, a trip he made to “run the

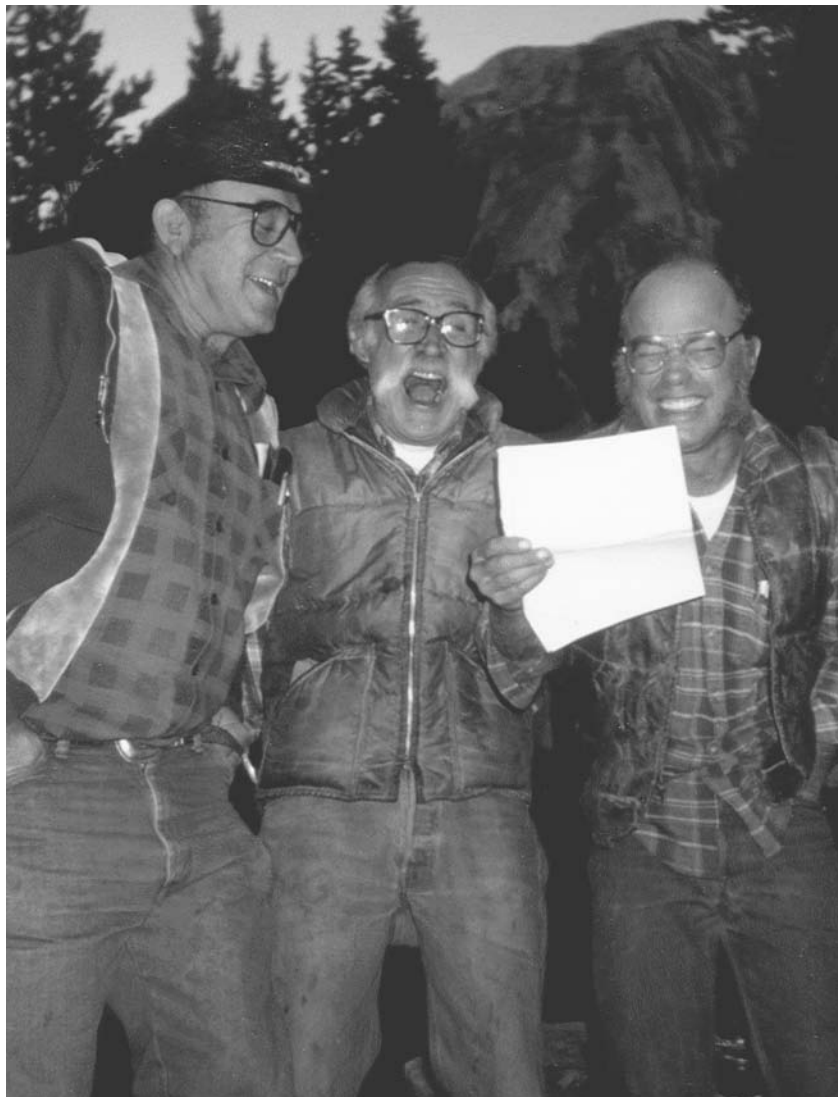


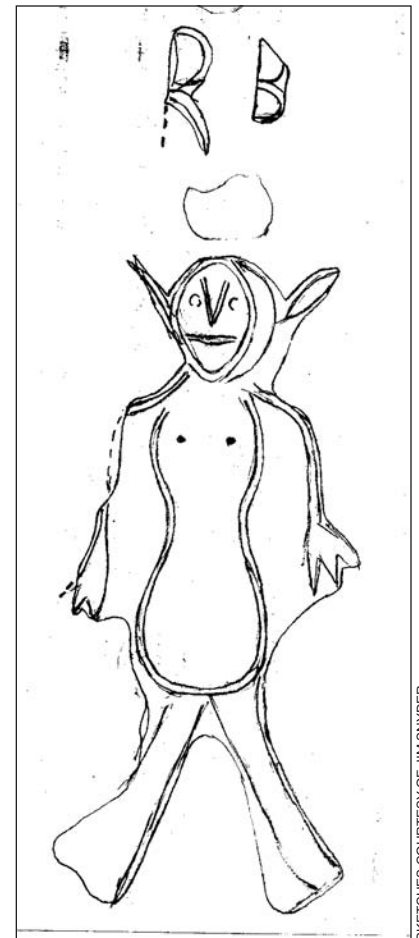
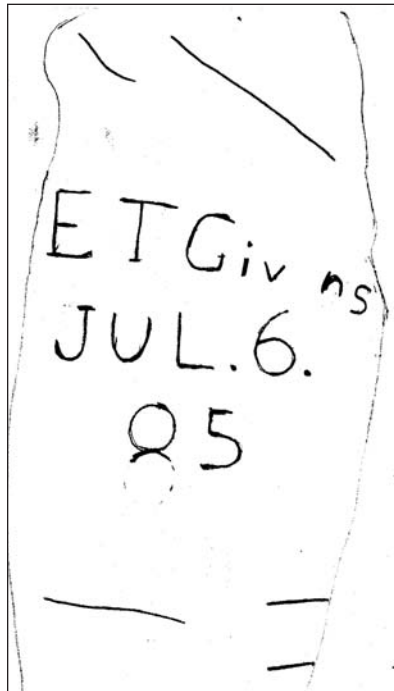
PHOTO COURTESY OF DWIGHT BARNES.

*Bob Barrett, Jim Murphy, and Jim Snyder on the Wilderness Survey in Kerrick Canyon in 1990. When things get tough, you’ve got to have a little fun, so they made up a song together.*

**Left to right:**

*Wilderness Survey Blaze 863: E. T. Givens, July 6, 1885, at Merced Pass.*

*Wilderness Survey Blaze 849 was carved by sheepman Robert Bright, who may have portrayed himself a bit like the devil in this Dana Meadows carving because Col. Harry Benson was unable to catch him there or anywhere else.*



SKETCHES COURTESY OF JIM SNYDER.

sheepherders and their flocks out of the park” and also compile information for the first cavalry map of Yosemite.

Superintendent Morehead used Jim’s direction to guide his party to the tree. The sight of the carvings, voices from almost one hundred years ago, did indeed “knock the socks off” of those who viewed it. Funds were soon secured to transport the tree to the Yosemite Museum for the park centennial. “Sponsored by the superintendent, our tree recovery party consisted of packers, rangers, a sawyer, reporter, artists, curator, photographer, and trail crew—a little bit of everything to get the tree out safely.”

After that discovery, Jim and his group, at the urging of the superintendent, submitted a grant request to the Yosemite Fund for research in the backcountry. The Fund generously supported this endeavor for eight seasons. Jim, Bob Barrett, and Jim Murphy surveyed the park, drainage by drainage, and recorded a remarkable amount of history that would have been lost if not for their efforts. Although all of them knew the backcountry extremely well, a common remark during the project was, “I’ve ridden by that thing for forty years and didn’t see it until today.”

Along with exploring the park, they interviewed descendants of early backcountry users, such as sheepherders and cattlemen. As Jim explains, “The survey became not just about looking for stuff, but recapturing what happened by getting people around the campfire to tell their stories.”

One such story is that of shepherd Eleazer Givens, who had carved his initials on a tree near Merced Pass. Jim met Eleazer’s grandson, who had in his possession letters from his grandfather written during the Gold Rush. From those letters, and from further explorations in the park, Jim was able to piece together Eleazer’s life, which included being scalped by a grizzly bear—ironically enough—in Bear Valley. The injury prevented him from joining the Mariposa Battalion, but contributed to his future of driving cattle and sheep into Yosemite’s high country. Jim eventually guided Eleazer’s great-granddaughter, who had known very little about her ancestor’s high country trips, to the site of one of Eleazer’s camps and corral. They sat on a rock near his old camp, enjoying a living connection to the past that Jim had uncovered.



SKETCH COURTESY OF JIM SNYDER.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DIXON.

**Left to right:**  
Sketches of the  
cavalry tree blazes.

The cavalry tree,  
before it was split  
and hollowed for  
packing out in  
fall 1986 for the  
Yosemite Museum  
and Centennial.  
The 1894 carved  
blazes girdled and  
killed the cavalry  
tree.

**NEW PROJECTS**

Although Jim retired from the National Park Service this year, he certainly has not ceased his research and writing. As might be guessed, his lifetime of study, both from hands-on experience and scholarly pursuits, has caused him to amass a number of unfinished projects. One such project is a book about the life of Eleazer Givens, based on his Gold Rush letters, family documents, and use of Yosemite’s high country.

Jim also has an interest in the displacement of people—sheepherders, settlers, and others—that resulted from the establishment of national parks. He’s begun a comparison of the displacements in Yosemite, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Shenandoah. Along that theme, he recently wrote an article for the *Nevada Historical Quarterly* that largely debunked John Muir’s long-standing portrayal of sheep being “hoofed locusts” that caused apocalyptic damage to the Sierra. In the long-term, Jim has several projects planned about Yosemite history and geology as well. But don’t look for these works in bookstores too soon, Jim advises: “Like a good soup, these things have to fester for a while before they are ready to

serve.” I can certainly attest to the savory nature of his soup, as he served me a delicious homemade minestrone during my visit.

As evident from his ambitious list of upcoming work, Jim’s Yosemite accomplishments will thankfully continue despite his retirement, along with his role as curator of the satellite Yosemite archive. Next time you hike to Glen Aulin, look for one of his many contributions to park history, the arch modeled from a cardboard cut-out housed today in his spare room in Davis, along with other many written vestiges of Yosemite’s past.

***Beth Pratt is the Vice President and CFO of the Yosemite Association. A frequent contributor to this journal, Beth is also the author of a novel, The Idea of Forever, the Junior Ranger Handbook, and numerous magazine articles.***

# THE MAN WHO “KODAKED” THE YOSEMITE ROAD AGENT

## How Tourist Anton Veith Photographed a Real Stagecoach Holdup a Century Ago

On the hot, humid afternoon of August 15, 1905, about three miles above the Sierra foothill town of Ahwahnee, a horse-drawn stage bound from Raymond to Yosemite Valley was held up by a lone highwayman brandishing a shotgun and a pistol. It was not an extraordinary occurrence, considering that there were a number of similar incidents during the four decades of Yosemite horse-stage travel, with this exception: the bandit permitted Anton G. Veith, one of the passengers, to snap two pictures of the robbery in progress. Only one came out, but that print exists today as perhaps the only authentic photograph of an actual stagecoach holdup as it was taking place.

Anton Veith was the Austrian consul at Milwaukee and editor of an agricultural newspaper. His trip to Yosemite was the culmination of a tour of farm areas in the western United States, and he eagerly anticipated seeing California's world-famous natural wonder.



*Anton G. Veith, the man who photographed the stage holdup, is shown here in a formal portrait.*

According to Veith, his open-sided stage wagon left Raymond at 7 a.m. heading for Wawona, with driver Walter Farnsworth and ten passengers on board. The long morning ride passed uneventfully. About 2 p.m., soon after the usual lunch stop at the Ahwahnee Tavern, the stage was creeping up a steep, twisting grade where the passengers sometimes had to get out and walk.

“I was dozing in the back seat,” Veith said, “when I heard a voice yell out, ‘Get down!’ I looked to the left of the stage and there was a fellow standing alongside the road. He wore a kind of duster over his whole body with two holes cut out for his eyes. He had a soft hat on his head, and a shotgun hanging on a string in his hands, with one hand on the trigger. The gun was covered with a black cloth about ten inches long, perhaps to hide the bore of the gun.

“He ordered the four men aboard to get down and line up, and told the six women and driver Farnsworth

to keep their seats. I thought the whole thing a joke and hesitated, but he said come down now quick. I got off the stage and joined the other three men, who were already standing twelve-to-fifteen feet apart in front of the stage, one behind the other.

“When I turned around, I saw him training a revolver (a small one, commonly called a bulldog) and walking toward us. He told the two men who were laborers with the turnpike company that he would not molest them, that he was after tourists. Then he ordered Mr. G. H. Molzen of Altoona, Pennsylvania, to give up his money. With his left hand he went through Molzen's pockets, one after another, all the while holding in his right hand the revolver, ready to fire.

“Then he stepped behind me, put his left hand in each of my pockets in turn, and had his right hand with the revolver in my right side. He took a few papers, my match box, my pocketbook, and my watch. Now I asked him what use could be made with this old watch, even though it was a gold watch. He returned it after some consideration, then turned toward the stage. He stepped up on the wheel, revolver always at the ready, and asked the ladies to put up their money.

“I told Mr. Molzen in German that if he wants to help me, I will jump at the robber, but Mr. Molzen refused to risk it. Then I whispered to the laborers that if they will help me, we can overpower the gunman, but they flatly



*The famous Veith snapshot shows the two stage company laborers at right, with G. H. Molzen just behind them (straw hat). Driver Walter Farnsworth remains in his seat aboard the stage. The masked bandit stands alone in the center of the scene.*





*This photograph, circa 1900, shows the dusty conditions inherent in the sixty-mile stage trip from the Raymond railhead to Yosemite Valley via Wawona during the four-decade period of horse-stage travel.*

refused. Mr. Robber finally pointed his revolver at me and told me to stand quiet or he would help me to.

“He then went on to search the women, but did not handle them roughly except for Miss Anna Fullerton, when he caught her hiding money in her camera and took it, but got little else. One woman had slipped her money under the driver’s seat. By the time he got to the Austrian lady on the back seat, he seemed to get angry at not getting anything and started to search her, and I said, ‘That lady has no money.’ He stopped.

“Then he asked the driver if he had a weapon; the driver replied that if he had one he would have used it before this [Yosemite stage drivers never carried guns and were instructed not to resist]. During all this time the other men stood like sentinels, and I must say I felt ashamed. Here were four men, and one robber holding us in check. Then he ordered us back on the stage.

“I said, ‘You have my money, and now I want a favor of you.’ He said, ‘What is it?’ I said that I want to take a snapshot of the whole scene. He said, ‘All right; nobody would recognize me anyway.’

“He foolishly allowed me to go back to the stage and get my Kodak, for he didn’t know but what I had a revolver there. I took two snapshots. Only one came out, but you can see by the picture that he posed for it. Afterward I boarded the stage, and he said we should move on. I asked the driver to wait, jumped off, and said to the robber that he had my pocketbook, which had a little rosary in it, and I want to have it. It is worthless to you. He took several pocketbooks out of his pocket, emptied them, and threw them toward me. I picked them up and asked if he would not return the watches of the ladies as well. He threw two watches to me. He went through all his pockets, but couldn’t find the rosary. Then he said, ‘Well, I’ll leave it on the road somewhere and someone will find it for you.’ Sure enough, the sheriff after-

ward found it hanging from a bush and returned it to me. How was that for being a gentleman?

“Then I went back to the stage, and the driver started the horses. I was again on the back seat, and as we drove off, I could see our man down the road waving his arm at us, and I waved back. He was certainly all right. I lost \$40, and altogether we lost slightly more than \$100. The robber missed another \$40 that I had in my inner vest pocket.

“The whole experience was certainly worth the \$40. It is a memory worth having.”

Sixteen hours after the holdup, the sheriff and his five-man posse took up the chase. Horse tracks were found leading

away from the scene, but they soon disappeared in the hard, dry ground. Despite a reward of \$700 posted by the Yosemite Stage & Turnpike Company, the lone highwayman was never caught.

Some years later, Will Sell, himself a former stage driver as well as a long-time Yosemite hotel proprietor, found an unusual block of wood at the edge of his ranch, which was near the holdup site. The block was shaped like a horse’s hoof, with a strip of leather attached on top to fit over a man’s shoe. The clever imitation (now in the Yosemite Museum) was doubtless one of a pair the bandit used to mislead pursuers into thinking he had employed a horse to make his getaway.

**NO WORD OF BANDIT**

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**SHERIFF JONES AND POSSE NOT  
HEARD FROM.**

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**How the Lone Highwayman Got Little  
Booty and Was Kodaked by  
Austrian Consul.**

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No report had been received up to midnight at the sheriff’s office at Madera of the movements of Sheriff Jones and posse of five. These men started early Wednesday morning to get on the track of the lone highwayman that held up the Yosemite stage. The robber had

*Hank Johnston is the author of sixteen books and numerous articles about California and Yosemite history. A frequent contributor to this journal, he lives in Palm Springs. All illustrations are from the author’s collection.*

# PARK PROFILE

## CHRISTOPHER STEIN

**Name:** Christopher Stein

**Title:** Park Ranger (Chief of Interpretation and Education)

**Hometown:** Uniondale, New York (Long Island)

**Education:** Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Recreation, with emphases in park management and interpretive planning, and valedictorian for the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, 1979.

**Years worked in Yosemite:** Two+

**What do you do in Yosemite?** I have the honor of working with those people whose job it is to share the park story with visitors—be that a park ranger presenting an evening program in a campground, a museum specialist displaying objects from our collection in the Yosemite Museum gallery, the public affairs officer answering a reporter's questions, or rangers planning new exhibits in the Valley Visitor Center, teaching school children about the park, or educating the public about Yosemite's plans for the future. I also serve as the park's liaison for the Yosemite Association and the Yosemite Institute.

**Why did you want to work in Yosemite?** Is this a trick question? Why wouldn't I want to work in the one of the world's greatest parks?

**Where else have you worked?** Too many places to name for this article. Suffice it to say, I've worked in natural, cultural, and recreational national and state parks (Utah) in the east, west, and in-between for the past twenty-eight years. When I was back east, they told me to follow John B. L. Soule's advice and "go west young man," but I missed the west coast and landed in the South Pacific on the tropical islands of Samoa...four years in paradise!

**What do you enjoy most about your job?** Thursday evenings at Yosemite Association headquarters discussing

park issues and life (in general) with my friends. Also, the great people I work with in all park divisions and our great park partners, like the Yosemite Fund, Yosemite Association,

Yosemite Institute, Delaware North Company, The Ansel Adams Gallery, UC Merced, and all the gateway communities.

**What is your favorite place in Yosemite?** On my fiftieth birthday last year, I wanted to remember what I did on my special day so I hiked to Mount Hoffmann, the geographic center of Yosemite. The view from the top is on my favorites list, but how can you pick just one when you work in this great place? I haven't made it to the top of Clouds Rest yet, but it tempts me...

**What are your favorite Yosemite books?** I enjoy YA President Steve Medley's guidebook to Yosemite. Alfred Runte's *Yosemite: The Embattled Wilderness* was also a good read. I'm also looking forward to reading Dr. Robert W. Righter's new book, *The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism*.

**What is your favorite non-Yosemite book?** My wife Meryl's *Field Guide to the Samoan Archipelago*. I enjoy reading non-fiction over fiction. I particularly enjoy travel writing and any book on national parks and protected areas around the world.

**What are your favorite movies?** *Out of Africa*, and anything Star Wars or Star Trek. (I particularly like *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*.) I like comedies too.

**What do you do when you're not being the Chief of Interpretation?** I am the husband of Meryl Rose (who works as an ecologist for the National Park Service on a new program called the Sierra Nevada Inventory and Monitoring Network), the father of three sons (Jeremy, 27; Matthew, 24; and Gregory, 22), and the father of two of the best dogs on the planet (Chloe and Gus).

**Where do you like to go for a vacation?** Hawaii or any tropical island, and the Pacific Northwest. My favorite place on earth is the Canyonlands of Southeastern Utah. My favorite continent is Africa, to which I have been twice.

**What do you think YA's most important role is?** Providing support for park management priorities. I am particularly impressed by YA's commitment to members, volunteers, and the Outdoor Adventures programs. I love YA's volunteer corps—you're the best!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RAY SANTOS, NPS.

*continued on page 20*

BY ADRIENNE FREEMAN

# THE TALLEST WATERFALL IN THE UNITED STATES GETS WHAT IT DESERVES

Recently at lunch, I decided to take advantage of a rare (this year especially!) sunny day in Yosemite Valley and walk to Lower Yosemite Fall during my lunch break. The sun was shining, the snow twinkled blindingly from the valley rim, and the dogwoods were tentatively considering blooming after a long, snowy winter. What a day to work in the valley!

I approached Yosemite Falls from the east: on the new trail, which winds its way lazily over braided vernal streams and around bus-sized boulders, hiding its prize until one walks onto the bridge which crosses Yosemite Creek. Lower Fall and Upper Fall suddenly appear straight in front of you—staggering in their sheer size and might.

For me, standing at the bottom of Lower Yosemite Fall surrounded by awe-struck visitors is not a rare event. As a matter of fact, as an interpretive park ranger in Yosemite Valley, I have seen the mighty falls in all seasons, in all kinds of weather, and in many different situations. Yet despite my frequent visits, I am always awed, anew, at the sight in front of me. Especially on this perfect spring day, all of my senses are hit at once by the life of the rushing water, by the booming noise, by the cold wind. John Muir has, once again, been able to perfectly describe the experience in words. Muir tells a story about spending the night behind Yosemite Falls, with the water coming over the Upper Fall appearing as “spent comets” as it plummets over 1,000 feet before dropping down the Middle Cascade. I’m mesmerized, but lunch is almost over, and I walk quickly on.

It’s Spring Break week here, and despite the off-and-on snow and rain, the park is busy. It’s estimated that over one million visitors walk to the bottom of Yosemite Falls every year. This year I’m struck, though, by how quiet the trail seems. I look around, wondering where everyone is. They are all there: the young children climbing all over the big boulder, the teenagers having a snowball fight, two school groups here with the Yosemite Institute doing field studies. As I watch, a group of German tourists approaches from the direction of Yosemite Lodge, cameras in hand. They exclaim and point up at the falls, then use smiles and sign language to indicate that they want me to pose in their picture. I laughingly agree. All in a day’s work.

From a historical perspective, Yosemite Falls hasn’t changed much. Its scale is still impressive, its power

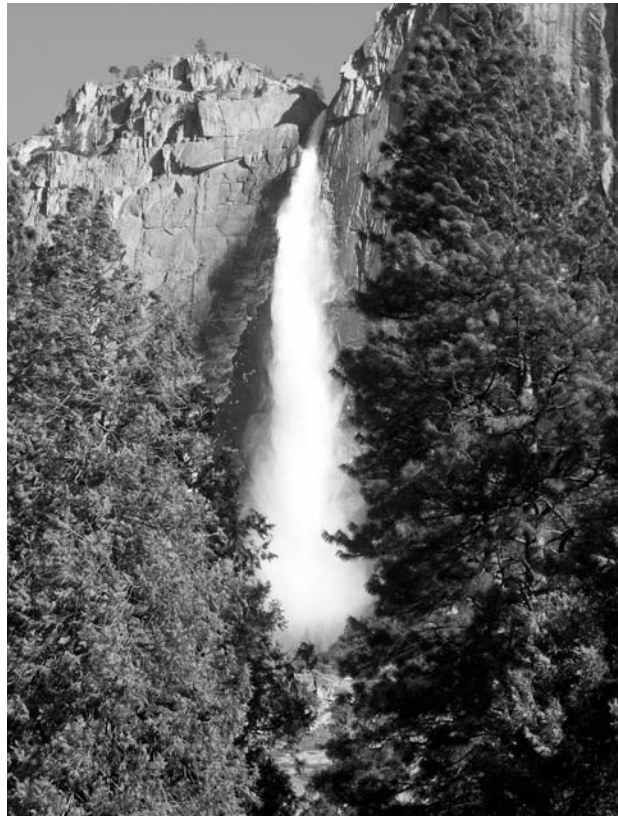


PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB RONEY, NPS

unfathomable. But how we approach it has changed this year. This year, with the completion of the Yosemite Falls restoration project, visitors to the falls won’t encounter hordes of people standing in line for too-small bathrooms. This year, mobility-impaired visitors will be able to experience the whole Lower Fall loop on a wheelchair-accessible trail. This year, visitors with visual impairments will have the opportunity to “see” the topography surrounding the falls with the help of three-dimensional maps. There is room for picnics and parties, as well as for solo meditations. Thanks to the vision of landscape architect Larry Halprin, the Yosemite Fund, and the National Park Service, Yosemite Falls, and the visitors who come to experience them, have finally gotten what they deserve.

Come and see us!

*Adrienne Freeman is a park ranger in the Media Relations office of Yosemite National Park. A graduate student in Resource Interpretation, she has worked in Yosemite since 2003, and is a member of the Bear Council and the Hispanic Outreach project. She worked at Redwood National Park before joining the Yosemite team.*

# Annual Report 2004

Though it featured little of last year's fanfare attendant to our 80th anniversary, 2004 was equally special for the Yosemite Association. It may sound odd to say that it was exciting to close our Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Store, but exciting it was. In November we moved our sales operation to the Wilderness Center for the winter and watched as our sales facility was transformed and improved in our first major remodel in nearly forty years. The results? Those will be included in next year's annual report!



We are grateful to the several hundred YA members who donated to our annual campaign in support of the new store (and other initiatives). The gifts totaled over \$107,000. Thanks to them, we will be able to make the sales outlet as attractive and efficient as possible for millions of park visitors.

One of our proudest moments occurred in August when Yosemite Association volunteer coordinator Virginia Ferguson received the 2003 Yosemite Fund Award for her ten years of service at Yosemite National Park. Virginia spends five months every summer working without pay for YA in the park, organizing as many as 75 volunteers who assist and orient park visitors. Her many contributions over the years to benefit Yosemite and our organization are greatly appreciated and her award (as an "unsung hero") very much deserved.

Our reinstatement of the Student Intern Program in cooperation with the University of California at Merced and the National Park Service (NPS) was a real feather in our cap for 2004. For financial reasons, the program had been suspended for several years, but we pulled together enough resources to bring four culturally-diverse, talented students to the park for a 12-week learning experience. The NPS assigned us a house in Wawona to lodge the interns, and we repaired and furnished it with a special volunteer grant.

During 2004 we made the Student Intern Program the focus of special fundraising efforts, in the hopes that we could expand and enhance the initiative. Our work was rewarded when at the end of the December the Morgan Family Foundation notified us we were the recipients of a \$35,000 challenge grant for the program. That grant should bring exciting things for student interns in Yosemite.

At the annual convention of the Association of Partners for Public Lands, YA was honored with several awards for our programs and publications. We received first prizes for our Yosemite Outdoor Adventures program and for our Cooperative Work Weeks Programs, which involves many of our members and four park partner groups.

The year 2004 marked the first time that YA produced an interpretive publication for the U.S. Forest Service, our partner at the Groveland Ranger Station in the Stanislaus National Forest. The brochure is titled "Flowers and Stories of Trumbull Peak," which location is a Historic and Botanic Special Interest Area.

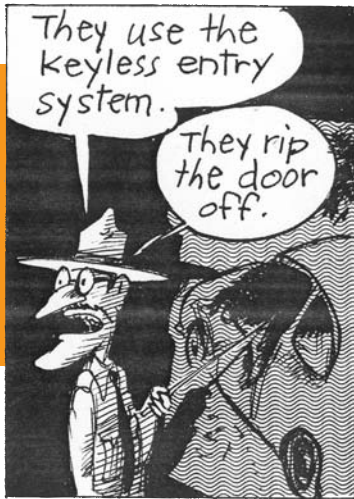
Another example of partnering was our co-publication with DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite of the handsome new photographic book *The Ahwahnee-Yosemite's Grand Hotel* by Keith S. Walklet. This title allowed our organization and the park's main concessioner to pool our resources and talents to produce a quality interpretive product.

In summary, it was a very rewarding year, filled with important initiatives and projects that allowed us to work with the many capable individuals, companies, and groups that care so much about Yosemite. From members to volunteers to donors to partners, each contributed something important to our work to promote stewardship at the park and to enhance the visitor experience there. We are grateful for that.

Thanks again for helping to make the Yosemite Association an effective and valued partner at Yosemite during 2004.

Steven P. Medley, *President*

*Cartoons illustrating this report are by Phil Frank from Farley and are used with permission.*



### BOARD AND STAFF

Once again the Yosemite Association's volunteer board of trustees provided invaluable guidance, assistance, and support throughout the year. The talents of the entire board contributed enormously to our successes in 2004. The board was made up of Christy Holloway, Chair, Suzanne Corkins, Vice Chair (replacing Gerald Haslam), Barbara Boucke, Treasurer, Keith Alley, Brad Anderholm, Gerald Barton, Tom Bowman, Jeani Ferrari, Phil Frank, Gerald Haslam, Kimi Hill, Kevin Kelly, Malcolm Margolin, Ellie Nishkian, Lennie Roberts, Tom Shephard, and Phyllis Weber.

Also providing important assistance and remarkable cooperation were National Park Service representatives Mike Tollefson (park superintendent), Kevin Cann (deputy superintendent), Chris Stein (chief of interpretation), and Mary Kline (interpretive branch chief), as well as many other NPS employees throughout the ranks.

In the annual board election held without balloting (no nominations by petition were received at the annual meeting), incumbent Phyllis Weber (who has served the association since 1980) was elected to a new three-year term. Gabriella "Nené" Casares of Fresno was elected to replace Gerald Barton, who left the board for business reasons after six years of dedicated service.

Gerald Barton of Ripon brought needed financial experience and business savvy to YA at a time when our fiscal fortunes had declined. As a key member of the Finance Committee he helped develop a plan to reinvigorate the association's business and to cut costs and streamline operations. His hard work resulted in a significant turn-around in YA's financial position and important new fiscal policies and systems. We will miss Jerry and his wife Janet, but are hoping we will still enjoy the benefit of their support and wisdom for years to come.

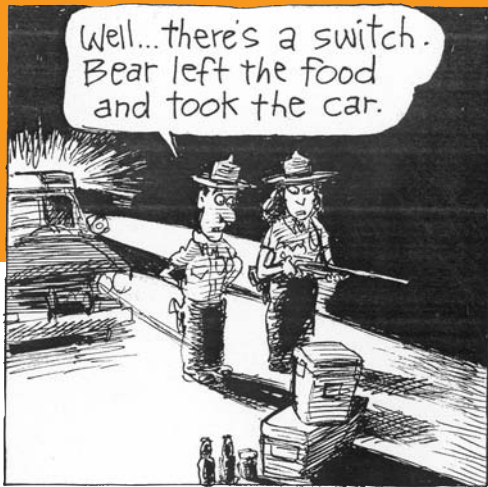
In other trustee changes, Bradley C. Anderholm replaced Kevin Kelly as the DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite representative to the board. Mr. Kelly was promoted to regional vice-president for DNC, and Mr. Anderholm was named to follow him as chief operating officer of the Yosemite operation. As well, long-time Yosemite Fund representative Tom Bowman was appointed to fill a regular board position with the Yosemite Association.

For the first time in several years there were no staff changes to report.

### SALES AND PUBLICATIONS

The Valley Visitor Center emerged as the "most valuable player" in sales in 2004. As history has demonstrated, the performance of the center can make or break our operation, and thankfully it hit a home run this year. The scheduled remodel of the center—the association's largest retail outlet—was delayed in 2004, but even the temporary location (necessitated by the postponement) proved fruitful: total sales of \$705,897 represented an increase of \$121,716 over 2003 and a level of sales we have not experienced in the center since 1996. Additionally, despite the fact that sales at other stations experienced sluggish growth, overall in-park sales revenues exceeded budget by 17% due to the center's stellar performance. These gains underscored the importance of the remodel project, which was given a new targeted completion date of spring 2005.

Our publishing program continued to issue quality, educational products. Highlights in 2004 included the new book, *The Ahwahnee: Yosemite's Grand Hotel*, a collaborative effort with Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, along with an attractive gift set of note-cards featuring a selection of Chiura Obata's prints. The association also produced a guide to Trumbull



Peak in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. We released the fifth edition of *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*, one of our best sellers, and a paperback edition of the popular *Missing in the Minarets*. Even with our new initiatives, our wholesale business continued to struggle, posting a decline in revenues of 8% from the prior year.

To assist with setting strategy in our sales operations, the board of directors formed a new Retail Committee. The committee will examine our retail locations in 2005 and make recommendations for updates and remodels.

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

The program began the year on a high note, winning first place at the 2004 Association of Partners for Public Lands Annual Media and Partnership Award for Best On-Site Educational Program. Highlights of our offerings in 2004 included the new Yosemite Birding Festival, a sold-out Weekend with Nevada Barr, the popular Family Camping Jamboree, along with Junior Ranger Adventures, and Yosemite en Español.

Partially due to the new initiatives, we experienced a large increase in enrollments, almost doubling our total participation from the prior year with 900 enrollees (as compared with 475 in 2003). Not surprisingly, the boost in enrollments allowed us to decrease our operating loss for the year, from a loss of \$16,556 in 2003 to \$8,866 in 2004.

### MEMBERSHIP

Our total membership remained stable at 10,073 members for the year. We had a modest year for signing up new members, welcoming 2,448 enrollees through the recruiting efforts of diligent bookstore sales staff,

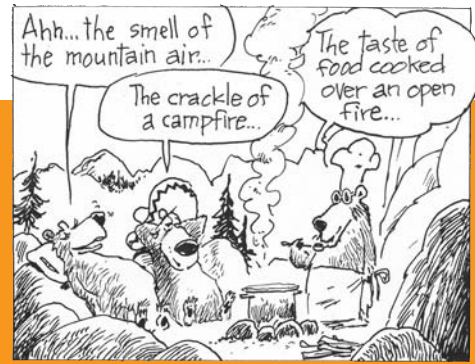
dedicated volunteers, direct mail, and other programs. Our members continued to support our programs and services enthusiastically by volunteering their time, attending Outdoor Adventures, purchasing our books and products, and making generous financial contributions in support of our mission.

The annual Spring Forum was attended by more than 400 members who enjoyed the day's customarily wide variety of interpretive walks and auditorium programs as well as a Research Library open house. New this year was the offering of a children's track of programs, which were well attended and which resulted in the commissioning of many new Junior Rangers, to the delight of all who witnessed or participated in the ceremony.

Our twenty-ninth Annual Fall Meeting was held on an uncharacteristically cool and cloudy September day at Wawona's Pioneer Yosemite History Center. More than 300 members enjoyed the witty observations of guest speaker Royal Robbins as he spoke about the "golden age of climbing," took part in the many interpretive walks offered, and experienced living history thanks to the efforts of many talented volunteers who staffed the PYHC.

### VOLUNTEERS

Seventy-four member volunteers contributed 12,073 hours of service in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows, providing information services to thousands of park visitors in the twentieth year that YA month-long volunteers have been helping us help Yosemite. In addition, volunteer coordinator Virginia "Mother Duck" Ferguson was honored with the Yosemite Fund Award, in recognition of her decade of service to YA and the park's visitors.



Fifty-one member volunteers donated 1,700 hours to the park through the Cooperative Work Week program. Participants worked alongside NPS leaders to restore Yosemite's natural places. Now in its seventeenth year, this program has been made possible by our member volunteers and support from our partners at the National Park Service, the Yosemite Institute, and DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite. In an annual competition for nonprofits that support public lands across the United States, this program was honored with the Association of Partners for Public Lands' Media and Partnership Award for Best Public Land Improvement Program for 2004.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members responded generously to our annual fundraising campaign by donating over \$107,000 in support of the renovation of our flagship year-round Valley Visitor Center bookstore as well as the many other programs and services we provide in Yosemite. We conducted several events to recognize our Sustaining and higher level members, along with others who have donated \$250 or more to YA in the last year. We are very grateful to several partners who helped us with these events: The Ansel Adams Gallery, which hosted our pre-Spring Forum reception, and DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, which hosted a sumptuous autumn dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow to honor the association's \$1,000 donors.

YA was gratified to receive a \$35,000 challenge grant from the Morgan Family Foundation in support of the Yosemite Cooperative Student Intern Program. The grant, and subsequent matching pledges by several magnanimous members, is helping the association expand the size of this important program by increasing its funding base to cover the costs of intern stipends,

scholarships, supplies, and restoration of several housing in the Wawona area to lodge the interns.

**OSTRANDER SKI HUT**

YA oversaw the winter operation of the hut at the request of the National Park Service. Frequented by wilderness skiers and snowshoers, the hut received over 1,330 visitor nights of use. Primary hutkeepers returning for another fine season were Howard Weamer and Kelsey Ripple.

**WILDERNESS CENTER**

The Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Centers were operated once again as a cooperative effort with the National Park Service. A vital information resource for thousands of wilderness travelers, the center also manages the wilderness permit reservation system and bearproof food canister rentals (the latter with the further cooperation of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite). The center booked 22,600 permit reservations and 9,730 canister rentals in 2004. Generous donations for the purchase of replacement canisters were received throughout the year, which helped YA maintain this important program to protect Yosemite's bears.

**YOSEMITE ART CENTER**

The twenty-third season of the Yosemite Art Center (formerly known as the Art Activity Center) welcomed 2,898 participants who registered for free painting, drawing, and sketching classes taught by visiting artists in the park. YA continued to sponsor this popular program with DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite and the NPS.

# Yosemite Highlights for 2004

## FEBRUARY

- The federal budget included a proposal to raise the rent that San Francisco pays for Hetch Hetchy reservoir in from \$30,000 a year to \$8 million, inciting immediate opposition from some of California's most powerful members of Congress. This change would have required legislative action, which has not occurred to date.
- John Hawksworth, tireless volunteer steward of Yosemite's giant sequoias, died.

## APRIL

- The US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals directed the National Park Service to prepare a revision to the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that adequately addresses user capacities throughout the entire corridor and properly draws the river boundary in El Portal. While the Court's decision upheld the other elements of the plan, work had to be stopped on seven construction projects; media attention toward the interrupted work was intense.
- Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton celebrated Earth Day by touring Yosemite Valley.
- Bill Krause, a long-time association member, park resident, and naturalist died at the age of 84.

## JUNE

- Park officials dedicated the Wawona Covered Bridge to commemorate an extensive restoration project for this structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of two covered bridges owned by the National Park Service and one of 13 in California.
- The University of California at Merced and Yosemite and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks opened the Yosemite Field Station in Wawona, which will be managed as part of UC Merced's Sierra Nevada Research Institute.
- The Wawona Hotel's 125th anniversary and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center's 40th anniversary were marked.
- Jane Gyer, a versatile and talented artist considered by many to be the first lady among contemporary painters of Yosemite, died at age 78.

## JULY

- Widespread lightning activity ignited numerous fires in the park, including the Meadow Fire, which experienced



sudden growth during the month. It was eventually contained at 4,777 acres.

- A yearling black bear and its mother were euthanized by park authorities after the yearling reportedly injured a young hiker and regularly approached people in search of food; the mother encouraged the bold behavior by teaching her cubs how to scour campsites for food.

## AUGUST

- Long-time YA volunteer Virginia Ferguson was honored with the Yosemite Fund award for her decade of service to the park and its visitors.

## SEPTEMBER

- A celebration was held to mark the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which brought legislative protection and definition to America's wilderness, and 20th anniversary of the California Wilderness Act, which officially designated the Yosemite Wilderness.

## OCTOBER

- One hundred five park rangers and search and rescue personnel were involved in rescue efforts for seven climbers on four different routes on El Capitan caught during the first major storm of the season. Two climbers were deceased by the time a team reached them; five others were rescued.

## NOVEMBER

- California Secretary of Resources Mike Chrisman directed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and California State Parks and Recreation to undertake a comprehensive study of the costs and benefits of restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley.

## DECEMBER

- Yosemite historian and prolific writer Shirley Sargent died at age 77.



# Yosemite Association Statement of Financial Position

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004

## ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$754,660
Accounts receivable	88,777
Prepaid expenses	23,999
Inventory	701,082
Property and equipment	161,880

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$1,730,398**

## LIABILITIES

Trade accounts payable	\$38,381
Other accrued liabilities	50,221
Deferred revenues	28,315
Loan payable	111,593
Royalties payable	33,053

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** **261,563**

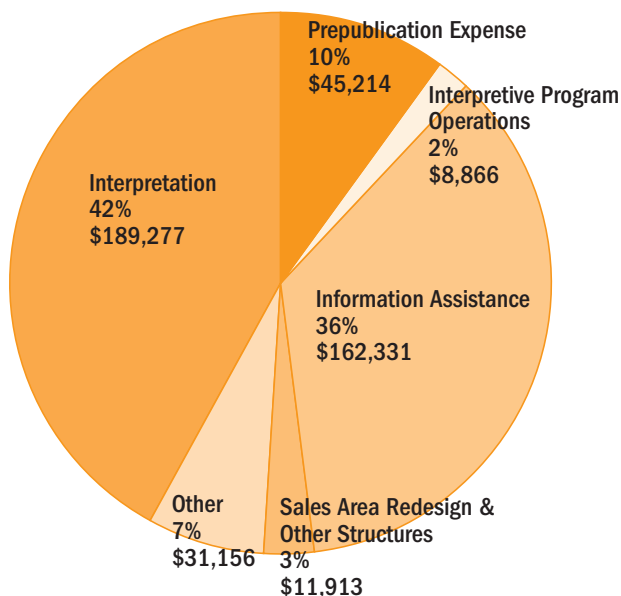
## NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:	
Undesignated	877,925
Temporarily restricted	255,910
Contingency reserve	335,000

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** **1,468,835**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** **\$1,730,398**

## 2004 TOTAL AID TO NPS \$448,757



Includes all reportable items from operations

# Statement of Activities, 2004

## REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Contributions	\$137,418
Publication sales	1,866,017
Outdoor Adventures	115,183
Memberships	544,395
Investment income	3,989
Other income	6,655
Wilderness programs	215,552
Restrictions satisfied by payments	145,984

**TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS,  
AND OTHER SUPPORT** **3,035,193**

## EXPENSES

Cost of Sales:	
Publication costs	1,571,140
Auxiliary activities:	
Outdoor Adventures	125,340
Wilderness Center	166,230
Supporting services:	
Management and general	351,437
Membership	337,771
Aid to National Park Service	411,892

**2,963,810**

**CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED  
NET ASSETS** **71,383**

## TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	80,498
Auxiliary activities	121,119
Designated programs	
Net assets released from restrictions	
Restrictions satisfied by payments	(145,984)

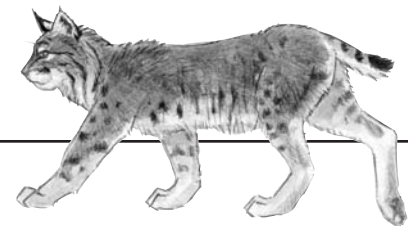
**INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY  
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS** **55,633**

**INCREASE IN NET ASSETS** **127,016**

**NET ASSETS, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR** **1,341,819**

**NET ASSETS, AT END OF YEAR** **\$1,468,835**

# OUTDOOR ADVENTURE NEWS



## Spring Upcoming Offerings

We invite you to explore Yosemite through one of our fun educational courses. Here's a sampling of some of our early summer classes. For a complete list or to enroll call (209) 379-2321 or visit [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars). Tuition varies by course and includes free camping. Proceeds from Yosemite Outdoor Adventures directly benefit Yosemite National Park!

## Join us for a Navigation Weekend!

Learn important navigation skills with these two talented instructors.

### GET LOST WITH A RANGER

JUNE 18

Does using a map and compass leave you baffled? Ranger Dick Ewart, who has worked in Yosemite for over thirty years, will help to decipher the language of maps and teach you how to find your way in the wilderness. A must for any beginning hiker or backpacker. Not only is this course fun, but it also provides lifesaving skills!



*Ranger Dick Ewart shares his knowledge and love for Yosemite.*

### GPS LAND NAVIGATION JUNE 19

Come explore Yosemite by GPS (Global Positioning System) and learn how to navigate in the backcountry using this satellite technology. During this session, Jeff Duesing will focus on understanding how the GPS works, who uses them, and how to operate any model sold. You will practice outdoor exercises in creating waypoints and bread-crumbs trails, and explore the popular activity of geocaching. You must provide your own GPS unit for the class.

## Explore the Night Sky of Yosemite!

We're offering two wonderful astronomy courses this year. Why not spend some time stargazing in the park?

### THE SEARCH FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE: FROM YOSEMITE TO THE MILKY WAY JULY 9-10

Since ancient times humans have gazed at the stars and sought to answer the question: 'Are we alone?' In this survey of astronomical discoveries, you'll begin with the sky watching history of the Native Americans in and near Yosemite. As you move into the 21st century, you'll explore the possibility of other life existing in the universe and what forms it might take. In the evenings, you'll learn about the night sky, while observing likely places for life using a large telescope. Ron Bissinger will also discuss the efforts of the National Park Service to preserve the dark nighttime skies in the national parks.

### STARRY SKIES OVER YOSEMITE JULY 31-AUGUST 4

'The sight of a planet through a telescope is worth all the course on astronomy,' claimed Emerson, and we agree! In this course with Ron Oriti, you'll view planets, meteors, globular clusters, nebulae, the Milky Way, and many more delights of the night sky. Spend the day exploring Yosemite on your own, then gather each evening at Glacier Point to learn about star lore and mythology, the motions of the sun, moon, and planets, direction-finding using the sun and stars, and identification of the stars and constellations.

## 2006 Catalog in Development!

Do you have a course suggestion for our program? We are currently developing our 2006 catalog and would love to hear from you. Send your suggestions for courses to [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org) or to P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. Thank you for helping make Yosemite Outdoor Adventures even better with your feedback!

## Long-time Instructor Michael Ross Battles Cancer

We hope you'll join us in sending good wishes and supportive thoughts to our instructor Michael Ross. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent surgery early this year. He is recovering slowly and hopes to be back teaching in the late spring. If you wish to send him a note, address it in care of the YA office at P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. If you are registered for his classes this year, we have found substitutes for him until he returns.



## Spring Forum –What An Adventure!

Attendees at this year's Spring Forum, held March 19, 2005, were treated with the delights of seasonal creeks and waterfalls created by Yosemite's final winter storm. Over 300 members gathered together to spend time with old friends and to make a few new ones in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center courtyard. Warm and dry auditoriums were the backdrop for a variety of programs that included a park update with Superintendent Mike Tollefson; a riveting presentation about the 1976 plane crash by Butch Farabee; a tribute to the talented author and historian Shirley Sargent by Leroy Radanovich, Shirley's niece Kathy Chappell, and Fernando Peñalosa; a stunning slide show and presentation by conservationist Tim Palmer; and a presentation of the award-winning documentary Counting Sheep: Returning the Bighorn to Yosemite with filmmaker Frank Green and wildlife biologist Les Chow. Many brave souls also attended the twenty-six interpretive walks, learning about trail work, cultural and natural history, watery ecosystems, geology, traditional music and stories, photography, writing, Indian uses of plants, trees, bears, and birds.

For the first time, this year's Spring Forum attendees were invited to support important programs in the park by pur-

chasing raffle tickets to win two seats at the famous Bracebridge Dinner and one night's stay at The Ahwahnee. Joanne Ricker was announced as the winner during the wine and cheese reception while attendees, authors, presenters, and walk leaders had the chance to swap their stories of the day. As the laughter quieted and wishes for safe travel and a glorious snowy spring morning were made, we said good-bye to another spectacular day in Yosemite Valley.

This annual event would not be possible without the generosity of our many friends who lend their time as speakers, interpreters, and volunteers, sharing their vast array of talents. We extend our thanks to the following individuals and entities for helping us stage another enjoyable Spring Forum:

American Park Network, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Karen Amstutz, Brad Anderholm, Summer Blackburn, Laurel Boyers, Missy Carter, Yenyen Chan, Kathy Chappell, Les Chow, Deb Collins, Ben & Kimberly Cunningham-Summerfield, Brenda Deatherage, Pete Devine, Kathy Dimont, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Dick Ewart, Butch Farabee, Fred Fisher, Adrienne Freeman, Bob Fry, Jason Gayeski-Peters, Frank Green, Allen Hawksley, Ben Herbert,

## We Look Forward to Seeing You at a Future Members' Event!

Come help us celebrate at our thirtieth Annual Fall Meeting in beautiful Tuolumne Meadows on Saturday, September 10, 2005. Watch your mailboxes for more details and a registration packet, which will be mailed to all members in July 2005. If you can't join us in the fall, don't miss next year's Spring Forum on Saturday, March 25, 2006. Registration materials will be mailed in January 2006 with more information.

Kimi Hill, Emily Jacobs, MaryJane & Vern Johnson, Janis Kunz, Joe Lattuada, Amy Loukonen, Mark Marschall, Joe Medeiros, Tom Medema, Julie Miller, Tim Palmer, Billie Patrick, Fernando Peñalosa, Conrad Picou, Beth Pratt, Professional Print & Mail, Bridget Rabon, Leroy Radanovich, Redwood Creek Wines, Lennie Roberts, Bob Roney, Michael Ross, Julie Schuller, Katie Sheehan, Mike Shenton, Jill Sholly, Sierra Tel Business Center, Michelle Sproat, Chris Stein, Mike Stuckey, Heather Sullivan, Suzanne Swedo, John Tipton, Mike Tollefson, Jeffrey Trust, and Claudia Welsh.

## DNC Coupon Corrections

Earlier this year we mailed members their annual allocation of 2005 Park Partner discount coupons presented by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite. Unfortunately, some exclusionary periods were omitted from the validity dates for the Yosemite Lodge, Wawona Hotel, and Tenaya Lodge coupons. Please note that the Yosemite Lodge and Tenaya Lodge coupons are not valid for use November 20-24, 2005 or December 15, 2005 – January 1, 2006, and the Wawona Hotel coupon is not valid for use November 20-24, 2005. The complimentary Valley Floor Tour coupon is good through December 15, 2005, instead of December 31, 2005. All other conditions for use and exclusionary periods are as stated on the coupons. We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused you.

If you have questions about these or any other membership benefits, please call the YA member information line at (209) 379-2317.

## Member Discount at The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery has offered YA members a 10% discount on purchases for several years, and we thank the Gallery for its generosity. The following conditions and restrictions apply to this benefit:

- The discount is not applicable to the purchase of original Ansel Adams prints, consignment art, shipping fees, or gift certificates.
- Members must present a valid membership card and photo ID at the time of purchase to receive the discount.
- Sales transactions cannot be reversed to provide discounts if members forgot their cards, or if they join YA after the purchase was made.
- The discount is not transferable to nonmembers or to members of other cooperating associations.
- Discount privileges may be revoked if policy abuse is suspected.

The Ansel Adams Gallery and other benefit partners are under no obligation to offer our members a discount. They choose to do so to acknowledge the value of our members' stewardship of Yosemite. Please comply with the conditions set forth by each partner.

## Don't Miss Your Chance to Volunteer in Yosemite This Summer!

YA needs your help this summer! Consider spending a month in Wawona, or late August to mid-September in Tuolumne Meadows, as a visitor information volunteer. Or this could be the

year to spend a weekend at Sunrise, May Lake, Vogelsang, or Glen Aulin with a High Sierra Camp Restoration crew. And there are only a few slots left for the Weed Warriors (June 19-25) and Glacier Point (July 10-16) Restoration Work Weeks. For more information on how you can help us help Yosemite, please call Chrissy at 209-379-2317 or email [cknight@yosemite.org](mailto:cknight@yosemite.org). You may also refer to your Winter 2005 issue of Yosemite for more information about these volunteer opportunities.

*Valley Fall 2004 volunteers assist the NPS in constructing a fence at the new Lower Yosemite Fall trailhead.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSSELL MORIMOTO

## May We Share Your Address with Other Nonprofits?

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

Although we have rarely capitalized on such opportunities, we would like to be able to do so in the future when we know the other organizations to be reputable

and to have something of value to offer to our members. If you would prefer not to have us share your name and address, please notify the Membership department by calling us Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 209-379-2317, by sending an e-mail to [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org), or by mailing a note to us at P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. All "do not share" requests will be acknowledged and will be honored in perpetuity. Note that telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are not released or traded for any reason.

## Yosemite Art Center Opens For Season

The Yosemite Art Center opened April 11, 2005, for its twenty-fourth season of bringing free art classes to the park daily (except Sunday). The program is co-sponsored by YA, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, and the National Park Service. Classes in painting, drawing, and sketching are taught by volunteer artists to students of all levels, from beginner to expert. Evaluations given last year to almost 3,000 participants indicated that this program is a well-loved and truly unique way to express the experience of being in one of the world's most beautiful places.

We would like to thank the following visiting artists for their dedication and hard work to offer their instruction in 2004: Carole Buss, Douglas Castleman, Bob Chapla, Pat Devitt, David Deyell, Robert Dvorak, Carol Earle, Thor Ericson, Donald Fay, Carolyn Fitz, Roger Folk, Tom Fong, Pat Hunter, Fealing Lin, Anne S. Longman, James Murray, Pam Pederson, Frank Poulsen, Janice Powell-Shedd, Roberta Rogers, Osamu Saito, Jan Schafir, Al Setton, Susan Trimmingham, and Christian Van Winkle.

For more information and a schedule of the 2005 classes, mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the YA office, or view the schedule online at [yosemite.org/visitor/AAC.html](http://yosemite.org/visitor/AAC.html).

### *Park Profile, continued from page 10*

**Historically speaking, who do you think was the best park interpreter?** The best in my opinion was the first director of the National Park Service, Steve Mather. He was an expert at promoting the national park idea. He educated influential people about the park idea by taking them on deluxe camping trips. He asked the first park interpreters, Harold Bryant and Loye Miller, to come to Yosemite to be nature guides. He valued what interpreters do and can do to protect park resources. He personified the old interpretive adage, "through interpretation, understanding; through understanding, appreciation; through appreciation, protection."

**What is the most unusual thing you had to do on the job?** Some tell me that having to wear a skirt during my job in Samoa was pretty unusual. I guess it was if you didn't live there; I was just following the local custom. I think twice hosting a Koshers Circus, starring the Flying Wallendas, and serving as the ring master when I was a chief ranger at Gateway in NYC was the most unusual.

**What is your plan for the Yosemite Museum?** Dave Forgang, Norma Craig, and Jim Snyder, who all retired this year, are greatly missed. They added so much to our museum program. But a new, exciting day has

arrived in Yosemite. The Yosemite Fund has formed a Museum Task Force that has taken a great interest in helping us preserve our collection and archives, rehabilitating our museum, and potentially working on a state of the art facility, with a proper collection room, library, teaching space, and exhibit space. Yosemite has one of the largest museum collections in the National Park Service and we need to share this fabulous collection with the public.



# ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:

OA = Outdoor Adventure

YFJS = Yosemite Field Journal Series

YAC = Yosemite Art Center

MAY

**Mid-May:** Mariposa Grove Museum & Bookstore opens for the season

**May 21:** OA #41: To the Top of Yosemite Falls

**May 21:** Donor reception at John Muir House National Historic Site, Martinez, CA

**May 22:** OA #24: Yosemite's Hidden History

**May 23-28:** YAC: Free watercolor lessons with Don Fay

**May 28-29:** OA #12: YFJS Session 4: Wawona Color Studies: Skies, Sunsets, & Silhouettes

**May 28:** OA #25: Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite's Other Valley

**May 30:** YA Administrative Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

**May 30-June 4:** YAC: Free watercolor lessons with Roger Folk

JUNE

**June 3-5:** OA #18: Yosemite Birding Festival

**June 6-11:** YAC: Free watercolor lessons with Chris Van Winkle

**June 10-12:** OA #63: Introduction to Sierra Fly-Fishing

**June 11:** OA #56: Traditional Uses of Native Plants

**June 13-18:** YAC: Free watercolor lessons with Tom Fong

**June 18:** OA #65: Get Lost with a Ranger

**June 19:** OA #66: GPS Land Navigation

**June 19-25:** Weed Warriors Work Week

**June 20-22:** OA #71: Moonrise Photography

Backpack: North Dome

**June 20-25:** YAC: Free oil pastels lessons with Susan Trimmingham

**June 25:** OA #26: Yosemite's Southern Belle: Wawona History Walk

**June 27 - July 2:** YAC: Free watercolor lessons with Linda Mitchell

**June 30 - July 4:** OA #31: Backpacking the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne

**Late June:** Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center & Bookstore, and Tuolumne Wilderness Center & Bookstore open for the season (tentative)

JULY

**July:** Invitation and registration materials for 30th Annual Fall Members' Meeting (September 10) to be mailed to members this month

**July 1:** OA #22: Yosemite en Español

**July 2:** OA #79: Investigating the Wildflowers of Tuolumne Meadows

**July 3:** OA #19: Summer Birding in Tuolumne Meadows

**July 3-16:** OA #75: Keep Bears Wild Research Project: Session 1

**July 4:** YA Administrative Office closed for Independence Day holiday

**July 4-9:** YAC: Free art lessons with Al Setton

**July 9:** OA #29: Junior Ranger Adventure

**July 9:** OA #70: Following the Wildflowers: Photography Exploration: Part 3

**July 9:** OA #42: Twenty Lakes Basin

**July 9:** OA #80: Yosemite Valley Rim Wildflower Walk

**July 9-10:** OA #14: The Search for Life in the Universe: from Yosemite to the Milky Way

**July 10:** OA #43: Clouds Rest

**July 10:** OA #81: Wildflowers of Forests & Meadows

**July 10-16:** Glacier Point Rare & Endangered Species & Wawona Weeds Work Week

**July 11-16:** YAC: Free art lessons with Doug Castleman

**July 15-16:** OA #62: Yosemite's World of Water

**July 15-17:** OA #32: Half Dome Backpack

**July 15-17:** OA #64: Introduction to Sierra Fly-Fishing

**July 16-17:** OA #82: Colors & Fragrances of Yosemite

**July 18-23:** YAC: Free art lessons with Sonja Hamilton

**July 21-24:** OA #27: Family Camping Jamboree

**July 23:** OA #83: A Day at the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

**July 23-24:** OA #4: Tuolumne: A Sojourn of the Spirit

**July 23-26:** OA #33: Mt. Lyell Adventure

**July 24-30:** Tuolumne Front Country Restoration Work Week

**July 25-30:** YAC: Free sketching/drawing lessons with Millon Bullard

**July 29-31:** OA #72: Photographing High Country Habitats

**July 29 - August 1:** Sunrise High Sierra Camp Restoration Weekend

**July 30:** OA #44: Exploring Gardisky Lake and the Tioga Crest

**July 30:** OA #68: Following the Wildflowers: Photography Exploration: Follow-up

**July 30 - August 13:** OA #76: Keep Bears Wild Research Project: Session 2

**July 31:** OA #45: Trek to the Dana Plateau

**July 31 - August 4:** OA #15: Starry Skies Over Yosemite

AUGUST

**August:** Summer 2005 issue of the members' journal *Yosemite* to be mailed this month

**August 1:** OA #46: Go Climb a Peak: Mt. Dana

**August 1-5:** OA #84: Alpine Flora Basecamp

**August 1-6:** YAC: Free art lessons with Thor Ericson

**August 4-7:** OA #5: Pastel Painting in Tuolumne

**August 6:** OA #30: Junior Ranger Adventure

**August 6:** OA #47: Alpine Pass Trek: Mono & Parker Passes

**August 7:** OA #48: Go Climb a Peak: Mt. Hoffmann

**August 8:** OA #49: Mono Lake Canoe Trip

**August 8-13:** YAC: Free art lessons with David Deyell

**August 11-14:** OA #6: Tuolumne Meadows *en plein air*

**August 14-10:** OA #34: Into the North Park II: Advanced Backpack

For an expanded events calendar, visit: [www.yosemite.org/member/calendar.htm](http://www.yosemite.org/member/calendar.htm).

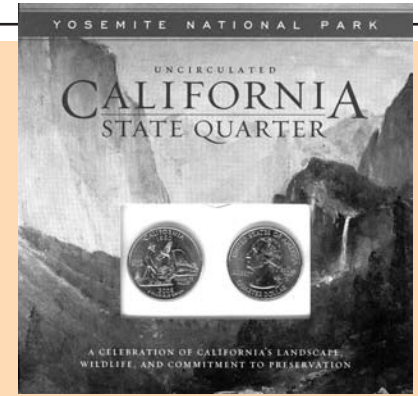
# YOSEMITE CATALOG

## 2005 California Quarter - Yosemite Commemorative Edition

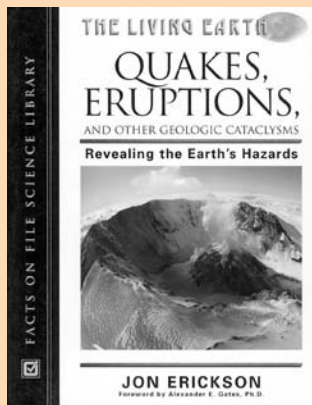
by Yosemite Association.

This beautiful Yosemite keepsake consists of two uncirculated 2005 California quarters presented in a colorful tri-fold holder that includes interesting facts and Yosemite paintings by Chris Jorgensen.

Commemorating California's entry into the U.S. on September 9, 1850, the quarter features images of John Muir, Yosemite's Half Dome, and the California Condor. The design was intended to represent California's wildlife, its majestic landscape, and the state's commitment to preserving the Golden State for future generations.



The package includes quarters from both the Denver and Philadelphia Mints, and because only gloved hands handled the coins, the new quarters are in shiny, uncirculated condition. Two uncirculated 2005 quarters in plastic holder; full-color, tri-fold cardboard package. Copyright 2005, Yosemite Association. \$5.95; **member price \$5.06**



## Quakes, Eruptions, and Other Geologic Cataclysms: Revealing the Earth's Hazards (Living Earth Series)

by Jon Erickson.

This is a fascinating overview of the geologic hazards that have affected populations and their environments from today back to millions of years ago.

The author details the hazards civilization faces when the planet reminds us that she is only sleeping, fitfully at times. He begins by setting out the geological forces that shape the earth, then discusses in turn the effects of ground shaking from earthquakes and the dangers posed by volcanic activity. Other topics are desertification, floods, glaciers in motion, and mass extinctions.

The work includes an extensive index, a glossary of terms, and a bibliography of current sources for further research. Printed in a paperback format that is 7.25 inches by 9.25 inches in size, 310 pages long, and illustrated in black and white. Copyright 2001, Checkmark Books. \$19.95; **member price \$16.96**

## John James Audubon: The Making of an American

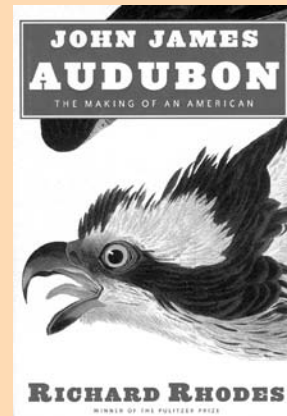
by Richard Rhodes.

This Pulitzer Prize-winning historian has written the first major biography of John James Audubon in forty years, and the first to illuminate fully the private and family life of the master illustrator of the natural world.

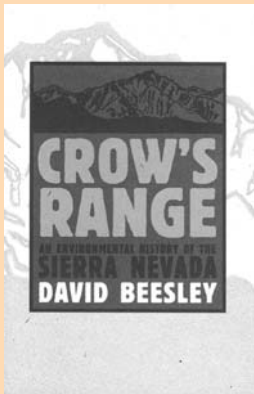
Here is Audubon exploring the wilderness of birds—pelicans wading the shallows of interior rivers, songbirds flocking, passenger pigeons darkening the skies—and teaching himself to revivify them in glorious life-size images.

This is also a moving love story. In his day, communications by letter across the ocean were so slow and uncertain that John James and his wife, Lucy, almost lost each other in the three years when the Atlantic separated them—until he crossed the Atlantic and half the American continent to claim her.

Here is a revelation of Audubon as the major American artist he is. And here he emerges for the first time in his full humanity—handsome, charming, volatile, ambitious, loving, canny, immensely energetic. The book is 6.5 by 9.5 inches in size, 516 pages long, illustrated in black and white, and case bound with a dust jacket. Copyright 2004, Alfred A. Knopf. \$30; **member price \$25.50**



To see an expanded list of the products we offer for sale, visit the full-featured, secure **Yosemite Store** on the internet at: <http://yosemitestore.com>



### **Crow's Range: An Environmental History Of The Sierra Nevada**

by David Beesley.

The author, a professor emeritus of history at Sierra College, examines the history of the Sierra Nevada from earliest times, beginning with a comprehensive discussion of the geologic development of the range and its various ecological communities.

Using a wide range of sources, including the records of explorers and early settlers, scientific and government documents, and newspaper reports, Beesley offers a lively, readable, and deeply informed account of the history, environmental challenges, and political controversies that lie behind the breathtaking scenery of the Sierra.

Through Beesley's thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion, John Muir's "divinely beautiful" range is revealed in all its natural and economic complexity, a place that at the beginning of the twenty-first century is in grave danger of being loved to death.

The hardcover book is 6 by 9 inches in size, 390 pages long, and illustrated in black and white. Copyright 2004, University of Nevada Press. \$39.95; **member price \$33.96**

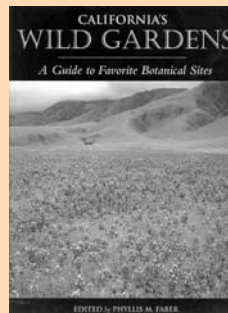
### **California's Wild Gardens: A Guide to Favorite Botanical Sites**

edited by Phyllis M. Faber.

This large format book showcases the splendid abundance of California's native plants in their natural settings--from foggy rain forests and rolling grasslands to high alpine meadows and parched deserts.

The volume offers a close-up look at more than one hundred special sites in the state, highlighting their distinctive ecology, the rare and unique plants found in them, and some of their more familiar botanical treasures. With its spectacular color photographs and lively writing by some of California's best biologists and ecologists, California's Wild Gardens is the perfect introduction to the state's remarkable botanical diversity.

Like the best travel guides, it will inspire its readers to further explore California's natural heritage. In addition to illuminating California's botanical bounty, this book discusses threats facing the state's flora and describes protection efforts now under way. The book is 9 by 12 inches, 236 pages, printed in full color, and paperback. Copyright 1997, University of California Press. \$34.95; **member price \$29.71**



### **Exploring National Parks—A Fun Kid's Guide**

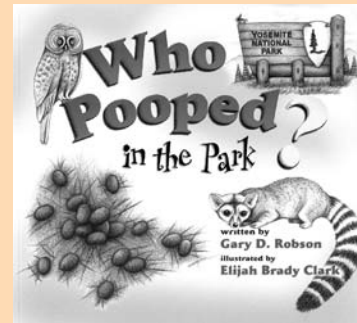
by Mary Maruca.

This entertaining and educational guide introduces the diverse wonders of our national treasures to young readers. Festive text and over 150 breathtaking color photographs explain where National Parks are, what you can see in them and why we save them.

Filled with activities, historical accounts, things to see, questions to ponder, and more, the colorful and playfully designed book is guaranteed to engage and involve children of all ages. There's a map and list of all the national park areas, a history of the park system, and even a discussion about how the park ranger uniform came to be.



The paperback book is 11 by 8.5 inches in size, 32 pages long, and illustrated with photographs in full color. Copyright 1998, Southwest Parks and Monuments. \$3.95; **member price \$3.36**



### **Who Pooped in the Park? Yosemite National Park**

by Gary D. Robson, illustrated by Elijah Brady Clark.

This charming tale of Michael, Emily, and their parents as they explore Yosemite National Park and discover scat and tracks is designed to both entertain and educate.

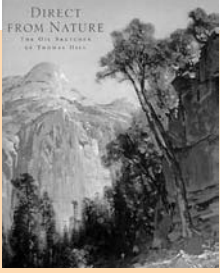
Wildlife can be elusive, and both kids are disappointed when, at first, they don't encounter many animals in the park. The kids quickly learn, however, that there are animals all around, and these creatures leave behind scat and tracks.

Before long, the kids are able to identify animal tracks and determine what a creature has eaten recently. Colorful illustrations of animals and their scat and tracks supplement this lively tale, and a quick-reference chart at the back will make field identification a breeze!

The paperback book is 9 by 8 inches in size, 48 pages, printed in full color. Copyright 2005, Farcountry Press. \$9.95; **member price \$8.46**

# SPECIAL \$5 SALE!

*Order early –quantities are limited!*



### Direct from Nature: the Oil Sketches of Thomas Hill

by Janis T. Driesbach, with an essay by William H. Gerdt.

This is the first book to draw attention to the remarkable oil sketches of famed landscape artist Thomas Hill. These smaller pieces, painted in the field directly from nature, represent some of Hill's finest work. Driesbach's essay details Hill's production of the sketches while providing much valuable information about his life. Gerdt writes about the role that oil sketches played in nineteenth-century American painting. The essays are illustrated with over 90 reproductions (most in full color) of work by Hill and other landscape artists. The book is 128 pages, 9 by 10.75 inches, and paperback. It is copyright 1997 by the

Yosemite Association and the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA. Normally retails for \$19.95. **Special Price: \$5** (no member discount).

### Yosemite Association 80th Anniversary Enamel Pin

by William Spear Design

This beautiful "cloisonné-style" enamel pin was developed to celebrate the association's 80th anniversary. With its rich primary colors and gold lettering and highlights, the pin is a real eyecatcher. The pin was developed for us by William Spear from the award-winning logo created by Michael Osborne Design. Made of heavy enamel, it is 1 inch wide and 1.375 inches tall. Normally retails for \$12.95. **Special Price: \$5** (no member discount).



### Such a Landscape!

A Narrative of the 1864 California Geological Survey Exploration of Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon from the Diary, Fieldnotes, Letters & Reports of William Henry Brewer.

*Introduction, notes, and photographs by William Alsup.*

Brewer's notes, many previously unpublished, are tied together with Alsup's own careful observations made over a dozen years as he retraced and photographed the 1864 survey party's route through the central Sierra Nevada. An important addition to any Yosemite lover's library, this award-winning book also features forty of Alsup's remarkable large format black-and-white photographs, elegantly reproduced by the duotone process. The book is 120 pages, 10 by 11.25 inches, illustrated with black-and-white photographs and maps, and paperback. It is copyright 1999 by the Yosemite Association.

Normally retails for \$29.95.

**Special Price: \$5** (no member discount).



### Yosemite Association 80th Anniversary Water Bottle

by Nalgene.

This highly functional wide-mouth Nalgene bottle made of super-tough lexan polycarbonate features YA's award-winning 80th anniversary logo printed in white on a brightly colored bottle with an attached white cap. The bottle is virtually leak-proof, won't conduct heat or cold, and doesn't affect the taste of water or other liquids. Besides the YA logo, the bottle features permanent gradation marks to make measuring powdered foods and drinks easy. A bottle weighs 5.3 ounces including cap, and comes in meadow green, glacier blue, or violet. Normally retails for \$9.95. **Special Price: \$5** (no member discount). Be sure to specify bottle color when ordering.



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# NEW MEMBERS AND RECENT DONATIONS

## NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS

*We welcome our new and rejoining members! You've connected with 10,000 like-minded individuals, families and businesses helping the association make Yosemite an even better place.*

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*We extend our heartfelt thanks to the donors who have recently responded to our goal to raise \$100,000 this year to help us expand our volunteer programs, as well as to deliver the many other educational programs and services we provide that promote stewardship of Yosemite National Park. Our success depends on you!*

#### \$1,000 or more

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*We extend our gratitude to our donors who have recently made gifts to the association. Contributions that mark a loved one's passing or honor a special friend or occasion are a thoughtful way to ensure that others will enjoy the beauty and solace of Yosemite for years to come.*

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*In Memory of Jean & Ron Stockwell:* Trudy & Mark Stockwell

*In Memory of John Zuccaro:* Pat Zuccaro

## A Toast to Our Wine Donors

YA recently received a very generous wine donation from Redwood Creek wines of California and *American Park Network*. The gift was so substantial that we'll be able to serve these award-winning wines at all our member events for at least the next year! The delicious offerings have already received high praise from guests at our March 18 donor reception and the March 19 Spring Forum wine and cheese reception.

According to the winery, Redwood Creek wines "embody the adventurous spirit of California." Winemaker and outdoorsman Cal Dennison developed these single-varietal wines to provide

## REDWOOD CREEK<sup>®</sup> WINES OF CALIFORNIA

richness and flavor, and to consistently deliver outstanding quality at an attractive price. If you would like more information about these wines, please visit [RedwoodCreek.com](http://RedwoodCreek.com)

*American Park Network*, led by Mark Saferstein and his brother Joel Saferstein, has been America's leading provider of national park visitors for more than two decades. In addition to producing the complimentary full-color guide now distributed at Yosemite's entrance gates, *American Park Network* also produces the definitive guides to the most visited parks in the country, from Acadia to Zion, helping more than 20 million

readers make the most of their national park experiences. As the official guide of the National Park Foundation, *American Park Network* is committed to building partnerships with the nonprofits that support our public lands.

We thank Redwood Creek wines of California and *American Park Network* for helping us stage pleasant and memorable receptions for our members to enjoy.



## Leaving a Yosemite Legacy

Since 1923, 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

## Double Your Contribution!

Many companies will match the donations their employees make to nonprofit organizations. Does your employer offer a matching gift program? If so, be sure to enclose your employer's matching gift form whenever you pay your membership dues or make a donation to YA. We will take care of the rest of the paperwork, and your employer will join you in helping YA continue our important work in Yosemite. It's that simple!

## An Enjoyable Evening

Sustaining level members and higher, and those who donated \$250 or more to the association in the last year, were treated to a special evening reception on Friday, March 18, hosted by our friends at The Ansel Adams Gallery, Redwood Creek Wines, and *American Park Network*. Attendees met park superintendent Mike Tollefson, Chief of Interpretation Chris Stein, board member Kimi Kodani Hill, award-winning documentary filmmaker Frank Green, and wildlife biologist Les Chow. Frank and Les spoke about their experiences with the Sierra Nevada big-horn sheep, in a preview to the Spring Forum screening of the film *Counting Sheep*. Tours of the work in progress to renovate the Valley Visitor Center bookstore and lobby, which member dues and donations helped support, were led by park rangers Mary Kline and Calvin Liu. The delicious appetizers and comfortable surroundings were graciously provided by The Ansel Adams Gallery, and glasses were raised in thanks to Redwood Creek Wines and the *American Park Network*, who generously donated the wine. Our thanks go to these partners for a very enjoyable evening!

## Our next donor reception is right around the corner!

We conduct these special gatherings the evening before our Spring Forum and fall Members' Meetings, a lovely dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow in October, and unique events such as a talk with cartoonist Phil Frank and tour of John Muir's house in Martinez, CA. If you want to be invited, there is still time to upgrade your membership or make an additional donation using the handy blue envelope enclosed with this journal. We hope to see you there!

### NEW LEAF PAPER

#### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS STATEMENT



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YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

## Join the Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association initiates and supports interpretive, educational, research, scientific, and environmental programs in Yosemite National Park, in cooperation with the National Park Service. Authorized by Congress, the Association provides services and direct financial support in order to promote park stewardship and enrich the visitor experience.

Besides publishing and selling books, maps, and other materials, YA operates an outdoor adventure program, the Yosemite Art Center, the bear canister rental program, and the Wilderness Permit Reservation system. Revenues generated by these activities fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite.

You can help us be successful by becoming a member. Individuals, families, and businesses throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association with their dues and participation in our programs.

Won't you join us in our efforts to make 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 and much more:

- *Yosemite*, the quarterly Association journal;
- 15% discount on all books, products, and tuition for Outdoor Adventures offered by the Association;
- Discounts on lodging rates at properties in and around the park;
- 10% discount at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Valley (some restrictions apply);
- Opportunity to attend member events and to volunteer in the park;
- Know that your support is helping us make a difference in Yosemite National Park.

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

**Supporting:** *Spirit of Yosemite*, the video version of the award-winning park orientation film

**Contributing:** *The Yosemite* by John Muir, with photographs and annotations by Galen Rowell

**Sustaining:** *Yosemite Once Removed—Portraits of the Backcountry*, a book of photos by Claude Fiddler paired with essays about Yosemite's wilderness, plus invitations to special gatherings throughout the year

**Patron:** "Aspen Leaves and Half Dome," a matted 11" x 14" color photograph by Howard Weamer, plus invitations to special gatherings throughout the year

**Benefactor:** "El Capitan," a matted 8" x 10" Ansel Adams Special Edition Photograph, plus invitations to special gatherings throughout the year, including an elegant evening reception at the Ahwahnee Meadow

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