

## THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) IN YOSEMITE



Winter/Spring 2006 Outdoor Adventures Catalog Enclosed!  
See center section

# A Message from the President

**B**ased on the number of questions I've had about the backpack trip I described in the last issue, I'm beginning to think that people actually read these words! With the onset of autumn and another school year, I've decided to put myself in the role of a student this time and write about "what I did on my summer vacation."

As feared, the mosquitoes at 10,000 feet at the end of July were intolerable. My party's Matterhorn Canyon trip ended after two days, when one of our members, lacking protective mosquito netting, was carried away by a swarm of the little buggers and had one of his ears chewed down to the cartilage. The truth is that we retreated to lower park elevations, where we enjoyed a welt-free, itch-free remainder of the hike.

Later in the season it was my privilege to head out with my wife Jane and a park researcher in search of a spotted owl nest. Fortune was with us as we not only found the unoccupied nest, but also located an adult male and two owlets. It was a thrill to be in the presence of these remarkable creatures, whose penetrating dark eyes were unforgettable.

You can always depend upon YA's "work week" volunteers to be full of surprises. At the dinner to recognize our hard-working Yosemite Valley trip members, they pulled a switcheroo and presented me with a special gift. Courtesy of long-time volunteers Chris and Candy Elder, I'm the proud owner of a "USS Yosemite" cap, featuring an embroidered image of that ship and more gold "scrambled eggs" than a grand slam breakfast. I send thanks to the Elders and all our good volunteers who contribute so much to the park.

At the beginning of September my backpacking buddies and I sneaked into the Cathedral Range for one final wilderness trip. Our route took us to Echo Lake, Matthes Lake, Nelson Lake, and Reymann Lake, with a day trip to the top of Rafferty Peak. At Nelson Lake I came across a first for me—a bear scratching tree that had been thoroughly scarred. It was, I'm happy to report, not being used at the time.

In other summer news, Park Superintendent Mike Tollefson, as the result of a volleyball injury, will be on crutches for some five months. He's wearing a large cast to hasten the healing of his surgically re-attached Achilles tendon. Never one to miss an opportunity, Mike has been allowing people to sign his cast, but only if they donate \$1,000 or more to a park friends group! So far his gambit has resulted in \$2,000 in contributions to YA, thanks to Richard Fogel and Jeannie Tasker. There's still time to get your name on Mike's cast.

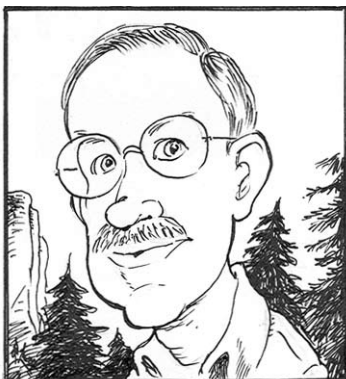
The most significant event of the season from my perspective was the official opening of the new University of California at Merced. The opening ceremonies were held over the Labor Day weekend, and they both inspired and hinted at the promise that this new institution holds for the entire region, and not least Yosemite. From the Sierra Nevada Research Institute to our student intern program that will bring "Bobcats" (that's the new UC mascot) to the park each summer to any number of other initiatives, UC Merced offers a huge array of opportunities for Yosemite-related education in its highest form.

With those opportunities in mind, I'll leave you with a request that you respond positively and generously to our annual appeal letter that should be in your mailbox soon. There are so many important Yosemite projects that we can undertake in the coming years with your support! You can send a gift using the return card enclosed in the mailing, or why not pull the return envelope out of this journal and mail your contribution today?

Hoping your summer was full of your own special experiences at Yosemite. Wishing you a rewarding fall and a safe and peaceful holiday season.

*Steve*

Steven P. Medley, President



*Cover: CCC group at Cascades Camp, November 29, 1934. Photo by Don Christiansen, courtesy of Yosemite Research Library.*



# THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) IN YOSEMITE

“I enlisted as a teenager and came out a man.” This sentiment, expressed by a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollee assigned to Yosemite National Park, was likely typical of the 250,000 unemployed young men recruited into President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s CCC in March 1933. It is a comment that reflects just one of Roosevelt’s far-reaching goals in creating a dedicated corps of American youth who would be trained to complete dozens of wide-ranging work projects on federal and state-owned land—projects dealing with fire, floods, soil conservation, plant, pest and disease control, as well as the construction of trails and national park landmarks that we take pride in today.

In his message to Congress urging passage of this Emergency Conservation Work Bill, Roosevelt envisioned that “the CCC would conserve our precious natural resources and pay dividends to the present and future generations. More important, we can take a vast army of unemployed young adults into healthful surroundings.” On March 31, 1933, Roosevelt signed the bill into law and six days later ordered the formation of the CCC.<sup>1</sup>

It is estimated that in 1932, of the young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four who were in the labor market, perhaps one in four was unemployed. At the time the federal government was trying to cope with the plight of these unemployed youths, it was also trying to cope with another wasted resource: American forests. Forests had once covered 800,000,000 acres of the continental United States, but by 1933 there were only 100,000,000 acres of virgin timber left. Thanks to the bounty of American timberlands, the country’s early economy was substantially based on wood. Lumber,

ships, pitch, turpentine, potash, and paper were among the first American exports. Until after the Civil War, it was assumed this source of national wealth was inexhaustible. But with the start of the Industrial Revolution, immigration and passage of the 1862 Homestead Act pushed waves of settlement into and through the forests. In addition, as land grants in the public domain were awarded to the railroads, even more forest and timberland began to disappear from the American scenery.

The Civilian Conservation Corps served as a catalyst, bringing together two wasted resources: the young men and the land. The CCC was not for everyone, but was restricted to young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five. They had to be physically fit, unemployed, and unmarried, and had to be willing to make allotments from their salaries to their families. The Department of Labor, operating through local public relief agencies, selected the enrollees. Each enrollment period was for six months, from May to October and from October to April, which could be extended for up to two years or longer if a man was promoted to a leadership job. Typical pay for a CCC enrollee was thirty dollars a month, with a twenty-five dollar allotment going to the enrollee’s family. Clair Nelson, a CCC recruit who worked in Buck Meadows, remembers “poker and craps kept some of the boys in perpetual debt. They collected their pay, made the rounds paying off carefully documented debts, and, with their money gone, almost immediately began the borrowing process over again.”<sup>2</sup>

The leaders of the National Park Service, realizing that the CCC was a potential bonanza for the national parks, worked to get the program started in the spring and summer of 1933. By mid-May, the National Park Service was prepared to open sixty-three camps accommodating 12,600 men for work in national parks and monuments. A total of ten CCC camps were located in Yosemite National Park during the life span of the CCC (May 1933 to October 1940) with 6,816 CCC enrollees assigned.<sup>3</sup> These camps were strategically located and, in some cases, time controlled in order

*CCC at work constructing log benches, August 1934.*



PHOTO BY DON CHRISTIANSEN, COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY.



to accomplish specific work projects. CCC Company 942 was designated as the service company for Yosemite and was located in the park for nine years. The CCC Cascades Camp, first located at Cascade Creek on Highway 140, was wiped out in the 1937 flood. It was then relocated to the El Capitan area at the base of the Old Big Oak Flat Road. The Buck Meadows Camp was in Buck Meadows, along Highway 120.<sup>4</sup>

Once a camp was organized, the normal complement of men ranged from between 225 and 250. Of these, about 200 were enrollees from the city, twenty-five to thirty were local enrollees, and fifteen to twenty were locally experienced men (LEMs). The park service was allowed to hire a small number of skilled local experienced men who brought knowledge of local climate, vegetation, building materials and practices, and environmental conditions. Leighroy Davis, a Cascade recruit, recalled his work superintendent, William Mayhall:

*“He was known by everyone as “Wild Bill Mayhall,” though nobody, but nobody, ever called him by that name to his face. He was a man’s man that commanded full respect, and any knot head that didn’t give it to him had to be out of his gourd. At a glance, when you first saw him, you might believe he was an old man. But don’t let that grey hair and ruddy complexion fool you. The man stood over six foot two, had real large shoulders that tapered down to a very narrow waistline and hips. In spite of his age he was still as light and spry on his feet with the strength of a Brahma Bull. In the old days, he had been the superintendent of a thousand-man logging camp.”<sup>5</sup>*

Seven or eight local men served as foremen and camp superintendents aided by two to five regular army personnel. An enrollee designated “camp sergeant” carried out orders issued by the army captain and supervised the camp. The sergeant took roll, held evening retreat (complete with bugler and flag salute), and maintained the camp in a generally clean and orderly state. Nelson recalls that while this could have been a difficult job, it seldom was because peer pressure kept the more slovenly in line while the worst offenders found themselves isolated or sent home. That was the last thing most of them wanted. One former CCC recruit recalls helping scrub a guy with GI laundry soap and scrub brush in a washtub because he would never take a shower.

#### **HALF DOME CABLES, APPLE TREES, AND FERN SPRINGS**

One of the most outstanding achievements of the Cascade recruits was the rebuilding of the stairway ascending the eastern face of Half Dome in May 1934. The Half Dome cables, which had been installed about 1920 by the Sierra Club, were replaced and strengthened by the CCC. The objective was to replace 429 feet of 3/8-inch cable with 7/8-inch galvanized iron cable and also to

replace thirty-nine pipe posts with stronger 1-inch pipe. A stub camp was established at the base of the dome. Workers drilled forty-one holes averaging seven inches in depth by hand in the rock for the new pipe posts. Each man was tied with a piece of rope to the pipe posts while he was drilling to prevent slipping or falling. New wooden steps were installed at the base of each pair of posts so that hikers could rest at these points. Although the weather had been perfect before work began, when enrollees set up camp and started the task, it suddenly changed. Every afternoon a storm blew in with rain, hail, or snow combined with high winds and work had to be discontinued. The stairway was eventually finished later that summer.<sup>6</sup>

Cascade enrollees made many improvements at Yosemite Village. They installed log curbing and new paths, and planted ferns, trees, and shrubs along the foundations around the administration building, new hospital, residences, and the Yosemite Museum. Native plants removed from various places outside the valley were transplanted around government residences. CCC workers also revitalized the historic 250 apple trees planted by James Lamon, one of the first settlers in Yosemite Valley in 1868.

Village improvements continued as workers placed flagstones around the telescopes in front of the museum. Over a six-month period beginning in April 1935, 1,973 pine and cedar trees and thirty-six quaking aspens were planted in the barren areas fronting the road at Camps 7 and 15 (Lower and Upper River campgrounds). Under the direction of the park naturalist, enrollees from the Cascades Camp transformed the garden around the Yosemite Museum into a wildflower meadow featuring a spring and a stream.<sup>7</sup>

CCC work in Yosemite also included rehabilitating springs to make them safe sources of drinking water. Enrollees turned Fern Spring (located just beyond the Pohono Bridge on the way into Yosemite Valley) into an attractive naturalistic rock garden by artistically arranging rocks at the site and planting a variety of ferns, wildflowers, and ground covers. A log guardrail was installed to define the parking area, and log seats were placed in the woods around the spring to improve the popular spot. To this day, Fern Spring is a traditional stopping point for Yosemite visitors.

#### **FIRE-FIGHTING, DYNAMITING AND BADGER PASS**

Forest fire suppression was an important duty of the Yosemite CCC camps and they maintained a fully trained and ready fire suppression crew along with search and rescue teams. Reminiscences of CCC Yosemite alumni include countless stories of fighting wildfires. John Newcomb remembers walking with a firefighting crew to within two miles of the first fire he had ever experienced and, while the “bosses got together and talked about how





COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY.

CCC fire crew.

the best way to fight the fire, the fire jumped the road and they had to run for their lives.”<sup>8</sup>

Clair Nelson recalls being assigned to the fire suppression crew at Buck Meadows under the supervision of foreman Bill Fiske, a local fire fighter:

*“My romantic notions about fire fighters were soon shattered however. The crew was based at the local ranger station because it was a natural communications center. But fires were few and far between. What do fire fighters do when there are no fires? Easy! Ranger Neil Perkins had plenty of jobs. Large patches of underbrush had to be cleared--a hot and tedious task at best. At least we learned to use the brush hook without killing ourselves.”<sup>9</sup>*

In addition to fire fighting, CCC recruits at the Buck Meadows Camp also built miles of access roads.<sup>10</sup> Building these roads in the 1930s was not without its danger since dynamite was frequently used. Darrel Stover, a CCC enrollee assigned to the construction crew, had the job of transporting the dynamite. Stover recalls, “The dynamite was carefully stowed in the back of one truck and I rode in the cab of a second truck holding the caps on my lap.” He remembers one job removing an enormous stump on the old Coulterville Road:<sup>11</sup>

*“The road had to make a very sharp turn around this stump, located in a small gully. Too large to cut out, the only solution was dynamite. The LEM on our crew was Cecil “Pop” Benda, a bohemian about 55 years old who claimed to be a powder expert and was given the powder monkey appointment.<sup>12</sup> Benda and I dug holes under the stump in several places, opened the box of 30% Hercules*

*powder and he started putting sticks in place. I knew that clearing land of timber, two sticks were enough to blow stumps. After a half dozen, I said, “Pop, plenty.” He said, “No, we need a lot more” and ended up putting half of the box around under the stump, and with the caps in place, attached the wires to the magneto detonator. Benda yelled, “fire in hole” three times in his bohemian accent, and pushed down the plunger. After the ground stopped shaking, the dirt, rocks and wood stopped falling, and the dust cleared, we looked at the results. Pop did a bang up job, as the stump was gone. But it took three big dump truck loads of dirt to fill in the crater!”<sup>13</sup>*

Corpsmen at the Buck Meadows Camp also worked on a woods crew, clearing roadsides, building campgrounds and picnic areas, cutting firewood, clearing brush and planting trees, in addition to helping surveyors. Clair Nelson assisted Ranger Paul Struble in surveying the western boundary of the Stanislaus National Forest between the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers. For two months they hunted benchmarks, measured distances by chain, and posted signs distinguishing between interspersed Forest Service lands and private parcels. As Nelson says, “Attempting to follow a compass line down into river canyons, over hills and peaks, and through gullies and creek beds was a strenuous experience. On the boundary survey, we followed the proper direction in spite of the terrain.”<sup>14</sup>

The CCC camps in Yosemite National Park completed numerous significant improvements that are still visible today. They constructed view areas at Glacier Point, Hennes Ridge, Crane Flat Lookout, and North Mountain



COURTESY OF YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY.

*CCC crew removing invasive plants, July 1941.*

Lookout towers; constructed the entrance station at Arch Rock; and developed grove areas of the Big Trees, including construction of native wood barriers, identification signs, walking paths, and rest areas; and developed new campgrounds and improved existing ones. The Badger Pass ski complex, including the Ski House and ski runs, were built by CCC recruits. In August 1940, a stub camp was established at Ostrander Lake consisting of twenty enrollees, one carpenter, two stonemasons, and two foremen. Construction began on the Ski Hut at once and was ready for occupancy on October 26 of that year.

Many of the young men who joined the Civilian Conservation Corps learned skills and craftsmanship that would become their livelihood in later life. Other recruits brought skills with them learned from working on their family farms. Tim Ludington, the National Park Service's

Branch Chief for Roads and Trails, and crew supervisor for the California Conservation Corps Backcountry Trails Project said, "The real good rockmanship skills were lost when the Civilian Conservation Corps left Yosemite National Park. In 1970, Jim Snyder, Park Historian, began looking at the way the old trails were built and adopted the techniques used by the CCC in the 1930s."<sup>15</sup>

The CCC gave desperate young men the chance to be gainfully employed, learn an occupation, receive an education, send money home, and earn self-respect and confidence in a time of social and economic chaos. In October 1993, a recognition and dedication program was held in Yosemite to honor and recognize the work accomplishments of the CCC in Yosemite National Park. A plaque was installed at the entrance to the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center honoring CCC participants. In one of the remembrances written by various CCC participants, Darrel Stover of Company 942, Camp Cascades #6, was asked if he would do it all over again. Stover replied, "Yes, I would do it all over again. It was a new life for a nineteen-year-old kid. I, like so many of the others, enlisted as a teenager and came out a man. And it happened in the most beautiful place in the world, Yosemite."

*Lois Orr has volunteered for the National Park Service and Yosemite Association for the past seven years. She is currently working on a Master's degree in Women's History at Fresno Pacific University, and is volunteering on the Civilian Conservation Corps Oral History Project for the Resources Management & Science Division of the NPS. A major aspect of this project is to locate former CCC members who worked at any of the camps in Yosemite and arrange for the recording of their oral histories, which will then become a valued part of the history of Yosemite.*

## NOTES

1. Roger L. Rosentreter, Roosevelt's Tree Army, Michigan's Civilian Conservation Corps (24 May 2000) <http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/museum/techstuff/depressn/treearmy.html>.

2. Clair Nelson. Journal of Forest History, Remembering the CCC: Buck Meadows Camp CA 1933-34, vol. 26, Oct. 82, 184-191.

3. Linda Flint McClelland, Building the National Parks, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 350.

4. Anonymous, Observations/ Remembrances CCC Binder, Yosemite Research Library. In 1993, the National Park Service held a reunion of CCC

members stationed at Yosemite National Park. At the reunion, each CCC member was asked to fill out a sheet indicating the time he served, what he did, who he served with, etc. These remembrances are compiled into a binder at the Yosemite Library. Some of these remembrances did not have names on them.

5. Leighroy Davis, Oral History, CCC binder, Yosemite Research Library.

6. McClelland, 364.

7. McClelland, 434.

8. John Newcomb, Experiences I Recall, CCC binder, Yosemite Research Library.

9. Nelson, 188.

10. Also called trucktrails.

11. Old Coulterville Road parallels Highway 120, the northern route to Sacramento.

12. Powder monkey was the term given to the man that handled the dynamite and blasting.

13. Darrel E. Stover, CCC binder, Yosemite Research Library.

14. Clair Nelson, 190.

15. "Ideas in Motion: The Moral Equivalent," produced and directed by Jim Mayer and John Rogers, 15 min., KQED 1982, videotape.

The chart below shows the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in Yosemite National Park from 1933 to 1940. If you are familiar with any of these camps or know someone who might have worked in one of them, please contact Charles Palmer, Park Historian, at PO Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318, (209) 379-1378. The History, Architecture, and Landscapes Branch of the Division of Resources Management and Science would like to locate former CCC enrollees and take oral histories about their CCC experiences. This will be a valuable contribution to the current project.

**LIST OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CAMPS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK 1933-1940**

<b>OriginalYNP Project ID Number</b>	<b>USDI-NPS Project Identification Number</b>	<b>Official Camp Name and County Location</b>	<b>Dates of Occupancy</b>	<b>CCC Company Number</b>
YNP-1	NP-15	Wawona #1, Wawona Mariposa County	5/15/33 to 11/14/33 4/16/34 to 10/26/34	915 529
YNP-2	NP-16	Wawona #2, Wawona Mariposa County	5/16/33 to 11/23/33 4/16/34 to 10/21/34	942 530
YNP-3	NP-17	Crane Flat Yosemite Nat. Park Tuolumne County	6/11/33 to 10/14/33 5/11/34 to 10/20/34 6/15/35 to 10/19/35 6/5/36 to 10/31/36 6/12/38 to 10/27/38 5/8/39 to 10/28/39 4/23/40 to 10/21/40 5/19/41 to 8/31/41	576 1551 1978 2926 1952 1952 5434 5490
YNP-4	NP-18	Eleven Mile Meadow YNP Mariposa County	6/7/33 to 10/14/33	577
YNP-5	NP-19	Merced Grove YNP-Mariposa County	6/12/33 to 10/14/33 5/26/34 to 10/16/34 6/30/35 to 10/31/35	578 921 1901
YNP-6	NP-20	Cascades-YNP Mariposa County	11/24/33 to 7/1/42 7/2/42 to 7/31/42	942 3805
YNP-7	NP-21	Wawona #3, Wawona Mariposa County	10/27/34 to 4/15/35 6/1/35 to 1/4/36 1/12/36 to 10/16/37 10/17/37 to 11/30/41	529 916 2548 487
YNP-8	NP-22	Middle Fork-YNP Tuolumne County	6/2/38 to 10/31/38 4/25/39 to 10/11/39 6/21/40 to 7/13/40 7/14/40 to 10/21/40 5/3/41 to 10/23/40	904 5434 916 5490 5494
YNP-9	NP-23	Tamarack Flat YNP-Mariposa County	6/2/39 to 10/14/39 6/26/40 to 7/9/40 7/10/40 to 10/23/40	911 2927 5491
YNP-10	NP-24	Empire Meadows YNP-Mariposa County	5/21/39 to 10/6/39 6/22/40 to 7/13/40 7/14/40 to 10/16/40	1912 1952 5494





**A National Park:** within its boundaries we expect that the plants and animals that form the living portion of the ecosystem to exist in a pristine state, where the engine of nature operates unimpaired, unaffected by logging, grazing, and development that afflicts habitats outside its boundaries. It would seem that management and protection of these resources would be as simple as keeping out free-ranging livestock, being on the lookout for people with chain saws and logging trucks, and minimizing the construction of, or even removing roads, parking lots, buildings, and other pervasive signs of human industry that displace natural habitats. If only it were that simple. But there are factors beyond these superficial, even “traditional” threats that may be reaching beyond park borders to undermine the ecological integrity that we expect to be protected within a National Park. Research continues to reveal more, less conspicuous, but deeper, threats.

We expect that in areas like Yosemite, so treasured nationally and internationally, we would know the full array of plant and animal species present, and the threats that could alter the natural ecosystems of which they are parts. Sadly, this is most often not the case.

## INVENTORY AND MONITORING

So how can a National Park adequately protect its natural resources without knowing these fundamental data? For this reason, in 1998, the National Park Service launched a new program, with funding provided by Congress,

aimed at providing a comprehensive and accurate inventory of plants and animals in each National Park unit. The new program further directed parks to develop a plan for monitoring the health of these resources and the ecosystems they form in a way that can efficiently detect the most serious human-caused changes. Inventory and monitoring (I&M) became an integral, science-based part of park management.

The first task was to form

*Dr. Jim Patton of UC Berkeley weighs a mouse as part of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology survey in Yosemite.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF LES CHOW, USGS.

“networks” of park units, geographically close to each other and, therefore, likely to have similar resources and be affected by similar human effects. Yosemite is part of the “Sierra Nevada Network,” which is also composed of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and Devil’s Postpile National Monument.

In the first two years of the program, the Sierra Nevada Network was tasked with identifying and verifying at least 80% of the vertebrate animals and vascular plants in its parks. In most cases, this could be accomplished by reviewing existing texts, records, studies and museum collections. Data, however, were often old and fragmentary for small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. For many of these species, especially small mammals, their presence had not been verified since the completion of the transect survey by Joseph Grinnell and Tracy Storer in the 1920’s. To help fill these gaps, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ), founded at UC Berkeley a century ago, is completing a survey which endeavors to replicate and expand upon the Grinnell–Storer survey. The project, in its third and final year, is supported by network I&M dollars and the Yosemite Fund, and has been highly successful by adding several species to the park species list and detecting yet unexplained changes in abundance and distribution of some species

An integral part of the inventory effort was also focused on compiling a list of all papers, reports, and publications related to Sierra Nevada Network natural resources. Such documents are valuable not only for verifying the existence of plant and animal species, but also for providing a compilation of research that has already been done, and for establishing a baseline of information to which future research can be compared.

## VITAL SIGNS

Currently, the Sierra Nevada Network is involved in development of the next large step: a monitoring plan. To ensure most effective selection of monitoring subjects, each park is required to come up with a list of “vital signs,” a term borrowed from the medical field. As defined by the NPS in relation to its park units, vital signs are “a subset of physical, chemical, and biological elements and processes of ecosystems that are selected to represent the overall health or condition of park resources.” This may sound simple, but given the complex pathways of exchange of energy, nutrients, and materials that occur among ecosystem components, teasing out individual components or processes that are most representative of



ecosystem health is a daunting task. Finding these elusive linchpins has required consultation among large numbers of biologists, and construction of conceptual ecosystem models which graphically, and in text, depict ecosystem dynamics and connections. These models are designed to reveal the components that, when monitored, will provide the greatest insight into human-caused changes.

A large influence on the selection of vital signs was existing knowledge of wide-scale and potentially severe effects from human activity that have been building for decades. Dr. Nate Stephenson of the U.S. Geological Survey in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks coined the term “The Sierra Nevada’s Five Horsemen of the Apocalypse.” They encompass five broad, systemic stressors of the Sierra Nevada national park ecosystem:

**1. Loss of Fire Regimes:** Until recently, forest fires were seen as destroyers of life, property, and merchantable timber, and were aggressively suppressed, including in Yosemite. We now know that for millennia fire has played a critical role in the process of change in a range of vegetation communities in the Sierra Nevada. Plant and animal species in these communities have adapted to regular, low-intensity fires. With decades of suppression, many of these communities have become densely overgrown, which alters the ecosystem in two ways. First, the overgrown forest is not suitable habitat for many animals that have evolved in a more open, fire-affected habitat, thus leading to changes in the species composition and diversity. Second, in forests where fire has been suppressed for many years, there are unnaturally high accumulations of fuels which, when they finally catch fire, burn at a much higher intensity that can kill even large, old-growth trees. Destructive fires can cause a complete conversion in vegetation type over wide areas, from forest to shrub community, as the succession of plant species must begin from a deeply scarred landscape. Fires of such high intensity can even change soil and water characteristics in the burned area, leading to erosion and altered water chemistry. Fire management staff in Yosemite is attempting to return the role of fire to the park’s forest ecosystem through an ambitious program of setting prescribed fires, and allowing natural fires to burn in remote areas when conditions permit. Implementation of this program, however, faces hurdles related to air quality issues that affect communities as far away as the Central Valley.

**2. Invasive, Non-native Species:** Much money and effort has been expended in Yosemite to control invasive weeds, such as star thistle, spotted knapweed, and bull thistle. Without this effort, these weeds would increase in area and density, and result in severe alterations in the ecosystems they infest. With continued effort these and other weeds can be held at bay, but new, aggressively invasive

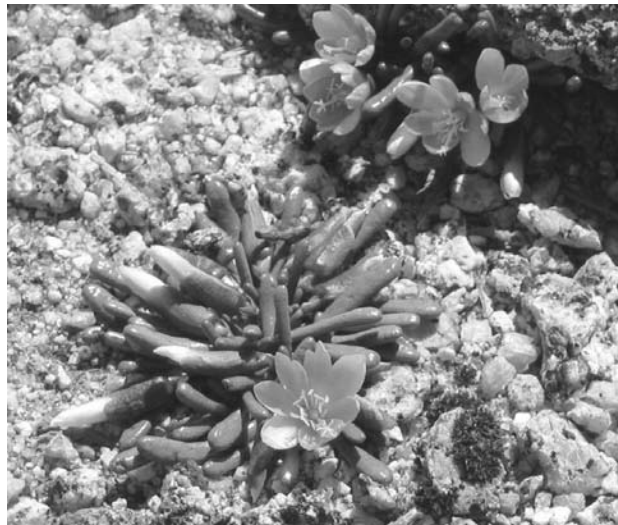


PHOTO COURTESY OF PEGGY MOORE, USGS

*Yosemite Bitter Root, a park rare plant*

plant species are always knocking at the door. They can arrive in contaminated soil, on cars and machinery, even on the shoes and pant legs of visitors.

In wildlife, the greatest destruction has been caused by the introduction of non-native fish to many lakes and streams in the park. Above the elevation of Yosemite Valley, no fish naturally occurred, but soon after the arrival of Euro-Americans, fish planting of various trout species began; first in barrels carried by mules, and culminating in showers of fish dropped into lakes from low-flying aircraft by the California Department of Fish and Game. All of this effort was aimed at providing park visitors with sport fishing. Eventually, it became evident that the introduction of large non-native predators into Yosemite’s lakes and streams was having a dramatically adverse effect on the park’s aquatic ecosystems. Most conspicuous was the correlation between the presence of fish and the absence of mountain yellow-legged frogs, a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

We now suspect that multiple factors are harming frog populations, but the first and most significant blow came from predation of frogs and tadpoles by the introduced trout, with 80% of the frog populations quickly disappearing. The impacts of the fish are also reflected in the absence of a wide variety of invertebrate species in lakes and ponds, the effects of which ripple through the aquatic food chain. In much-belated recognition of these effects, fish planting in Yosemite was scaled back in 1975, and ceased completely in 1990.

Perhaps the most insidious arrival of non-native species in Yosemite is the specter of alien pathogens. Remaining populations of mountain yellow-legged frogs are being infected by *Dendrobactitis chytridiomycosis*, or “chytrid” for short, a fungal disease that is infecting amphibians around the world, resulting in widespread disappearances of species. It remains unknown how the disease spreads so widely and so quickly, but within



*Adult mountain yellow-legged frog*

the last three to five years, nearly half of the remaining mountain yellow-legged frog populations resurveyed in 2005 have gone extinct, and the remaining populations surveyed so far have all tested positive for chytrid fungus.

There is, however, a glimmer of hope. Some of the frog populations in Yosemite continue to persist, despite testing positive for chytrid. We don't know whether such resistance is related to genetics, habitat, water chemistry, or some other factor. In any case, such populations may hold the key to saving the species, and perhaps repopulating Yosemite with this formerly abundant frog species. Such abundance made the frogs a keystone species. The effects of its loss would radiate widely in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and such effects are likely well underway with the disappearance of so many populations.

We have all by now heard about West Nile Virus, and how it has arrived in California and spread to nearly every county in the state, including Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Madera counties, in which Yosemite lies. Aside from the threat to humans, the disease holds unknown consequences for the bird species in the park. As the disease has spread, it has shown to be most lethal to birds in the family Corvidae: which, in the park, includes species such as Common Ravens, Steller's Jays, Scrub Jays, and Clark's Nutcrackers. Other taxa, however, have also shown vulnerability, including raptors and owls. This is especially worrisome when we consider that fewer than 100 Great Gray Owls remain in California, and that nearly all of these owls are found in and around Yosemite.

**3. Air Pollution:** Increasingly, air quality in California's Central Valley is reaching the legendary poor levels seen in southern California, as urbanization and industry spread. Wind patterns blow this toxic soup of aerial chemicals into the Sierra Nevada, where it damages plants and animals. Thousands of tons of pesticides and fertilizers are dumped on crops upwind of Sierra national parks. A portion of these chemicals becomes airborne and is

deposited in the parks in a dry form or contained in rain or snow. The toxic effects of these chemicals are not fully understood, but nitrogen deposition in alpine lakes from fertilizers may radically alter the lakes' nutrient dynamics. In addition, some of the pesticides have hormone-mimics as active ingredients, which upset the reproduction of their target insect species, but may also be affecting reproduction of Sierran amphibians when they drift into the mountains. Many other chemicals may result in direct toxicity to animals, especially amphibians, and may be a factor in the rampant spread of chytrid fungus in mountain yellow-legged frogs by impairing the immune systems of the frogs.

Degraded air quality also limits the park's ability to reintroduce fire to forests as a natural force shaping habitats. Prescribed fires often must be curtailed and natural fires in remote areas suppressed because human-imposed air quality standards are exceeded.

**4. Habitat Fragmentation:** As development and exploitation of resources in the Sierra Nevada increase and accumulate, the national parks increasingly become islands of relatively intact habitat. The question is whether the land protected within the parks is enough for the long-term survival of species, given both natural and human-made stressors that shove plants and animals in the parks through bottlenecks of abundance. Without the ability for immigration of affected species from surrounding habitat, now subject to rapid degradation, stressed species are at a greater risk of extinction in the parks. Large carnivores are especially vulnerable to extinction. The grizzly bear is gone. Who will be next?

A good example is the Great Gray Owl. Are there enough owls and suitable habitat in Yosemite to sustain the species if habitat outside the park continues to go downhill? What if West Nile Virus strikes the species? Will enough owls survive to repopulate the park? It's unlikely that we would be able to depend on owl populations outside the park to come to the rescue.

Degraded habitats are also more likely to harbor invasive non-native species, because such species tend to thrive in disturbed areas. Continued degradation outside the park means more non-native species on the doorstep, waiting for the opportunity to invade.



*Great Gray Owl*

**5. Rapid, Human-caused Climate Change:** Of all the stressors, this one is the “big hammer,” with the potential to cause the largest changes in the ecosystem of Yosemite and other Sierra Nevada Network parks, both in scope and space. Global warming is real. Even some politicians formerly mired in short-sighted, greed-induced denial, are admitting its existence, although are yet doing little about it.

The effects of climate change on the Yosemite ecosystem are uncertain, but a likely scenario is that winters would become warmer and wetter. That would mean more precipitation would come in the form of rain, rather than snow, and run off immediately, rather than accumulating over winter, and slowly melting in spring. Without the gradual runoff from snow, spring seasons would be drier. Summers would be hotter and drier. As a result, vegetation communities adapted to the pre-existing conditions would be forced higher in elevation. The same would be true of animals that depend on these communities. We may be seeing the first signs now. The survey by MVZ revealed this year that pikas and alpine chipmunks no longer exist in the Tuolumne Meadows area. Anecdotal observations from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks suggest that pikas are disappearing from their lower ranges. Pikas, small (and incredibly cute) mammals related to rabbits, inhabit high-elevation talus slopes, and are sensitive to high temperatures. With continuing climate warming, how high will they move, or will they run out of mountain elevation and go extinct?

Changes in temperature and water cycle are also likely to change the role of fire in forest communities. Forest fuels would become drier more quickly in the spring, and higher summer temperatures would combine to increase the chance of large, catastrophic fires that would alter vast areas of habitat.

#### **YOUR PARK, YOUR PLANET**

So what do all these predictions of disaster have to do with inventory and monitoring? Reviewing the list of Horsemen of the Apocalypse above, only two have a chance of being mitigated through actions of park management: restoration of a natural fire regime and eradication of non-native species, although both are huge tasks.

The rest have to do with large and remote sources of adverse impacts over which parks have no control. Air pollutants will continue to seep into the parks, and the parks have no control over management of land outside their boundaries to reverse habitat fragmentation. Climate change, like a runaway train, will continue, even if we were able to take the necessary steps now to eventually stop or reverse it.

Whether we can stop these impacts or not, we need to be in the position to monitor and document the resulting changes, and then to conduct research to determine the

causes: (1) for park science, (2) so we can take informed management action when possible, and (3) to inform the public.

The last category is critical. Education leading to change in human (individual and societal) behavior is the only way to ultimately stop the stressors over which the parks have no control. Yvon Chouinard, in his new book on his philosophy of operating an environmentally conscious business, writes “(t)he Zen master would say if you want to change government, you have to aim at changing



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEGGY MOORE, USGS.

*Dr. Alison Colwell of the USGS searches for rare plants during a survey conducted as part of Yosemite's I&M program.*

corporations, and if you want to change corporations, you first have to change consumers.” That’s us! How do we distinguish between what we *need* and what we *want* as consumers? How do we adopt simpler lives, and get a majority of the American public to do likewise? It sounds crazy, but it is absolutely necessary and the government has a large role in encouraging such behavior, for the long term benefit of the world.

By monitoring our national parks, and publicizing the results, we will be revealing that what are supposed to be the most protected places on earth suffer and die slowly because of the choices people who love these places make in their everyday lives and in the voting booth. The “vital signs” we choose to monitor in individual parks could well be the vital signs of the earth. Listen closely.

***Wildlife biologist Steve Thompson is the National Park Service Branch Chief of Wildlife Management. He has worked in Yosemite for more than 16 years.***



# RUNNING IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

BY ADRIENNE FREEMAN

**A**s we start, the air is crisp and I remark that it definitely feels like fall. Even at this early hour—it's not yet seven—something about the yellow light slanting lazily through the black oaks looks different from yesterday. Cozy, not glaring and white: the bleached look of a too-dry summer.

We startle several deer, but after a moment only one seems concerned at our sudden noise. It's a fawn, still spotted, who stops chewing and looks at us, head turning slightly away as we approach, as if getting ready to follow its nose should his mother give him the cue. She, however, is unimpressed. Deer in Yosemite Valley are nothing if not used to humans.

Our run takes us past Yosemite Falls, dry this time of year, and into the high grass of Cook's Meadow. There's something enchanting about the meadows in the morning—soft and quiet—still green despite the dryness that caused the falls to disappear. Sunlight illuminates the top of the rocks (John Muir must have hit upon the name "Range of Light" in the early morning) but the towering cliffs keep the valley in shadow.

We run for an hour, talking most of the time about work and boyfriends, our futures. The beauty slips past as we go, step by step, leaving the lush meadows and following the rocky perimeter of the valley floor. It's easy to be immune to beauty when you see it every day.

The sudden overhead rattle of a woodpecker surprises us. We follow him, hopping and swearing, laughing, through the prickly blackberries until we see him land ahead on a huge Ponderosa pine. It's a Pileated, big and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR.

pretentious. He lets us admire him fully for a moment before taking flight. Standing in the grove we become aware of the day-heat that is spreading over the valley, and both of us are reluctant to leave the shade of the trees. We pause and sigh as the excitement of seeing the impressive bird wears off and is gradually replaced by a new sensory experience—the smell of pine. They've been clearing the trail, probably thinning before a prescribed burn, and the smell of pine recalls Christmas time. Earlier I was thrilled with the start of fall, now I'm getting excited for winter!

Coming back past the Ahwahnee Meadow, it's suddenly too hot and we slow to a walk. Civilization, like the heat, has arrived for the day. The campers are waking up, stretching and crying for coffee, and our run becomes noisy with the familiar sounds of traffic and people.

Not many people are lucky enough to get to spend such a huge portion of their life in Yosemite Valley, like I do. I look forward to seeing this place every day, in every season, in every kind of light. Certainly, the campers in Upper Pines, here for only a brief time, are filled with amazement as they gaze on beauty that is, to me, a part of daily routine.

Come see us this winter!

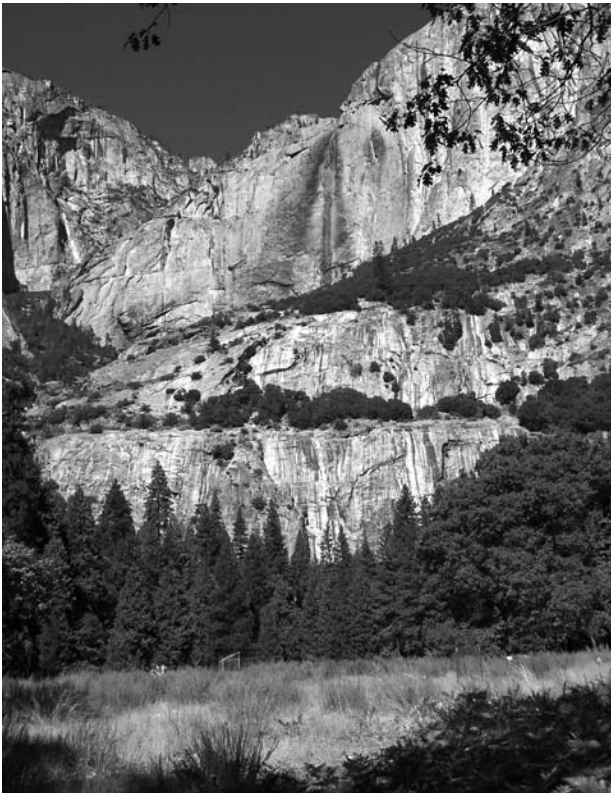


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR.

*Adrienne Freeman is a park ranger in the Media Relations office of Yosemite National Park. A frequent contributor to this publication, she has worked in Yosemite since 2003 and is studying for a graduate degree in Resource Interpretation.*

# In Memory of Ben Kudo

The Yosemite Association has lost a wonderful teacher and friend of many. **Ben Kudo** passed away on July 16, 2005 at the age of 83.

Ben was born in the farm country of Dinuba, California. He lived with his parents and brothers on a farm his father owned. The family had to sell the farm hastily during World War II when they were all incarcerated in an internment camp in Poston, Arizona. Ben then volunteered for the U.S. Military, serving as a translator in the South Pacific.

After World War II, Ben enrolled at the Art Center of Design, which was located in downtown Los Angeles at the time, and majored in Commercial Art. After obtaining his degree, Ben worked as a free-lance commercial artist.

While Ben learned to work in all mediums, watercolor was one of his favorites. His other specialties included portrait and figure drawing. He had a love for nature. He and his family enjoyed yearly trips to Yosemite, which inspired his beautiful landscapes of the park.

In the 1980's, he helped the Yosemite Association create the Art Activity Center (now known as Yosemite Art Center) workshops, where visiting artists teach free classes to the public. Ben's class turned out to be one of the most sought-after by annual participants in this popular program.

Ben, by nature, was an inspiring and enthusiastic person; he loved teaching, sharing, and being around people. He conducted watercolor classes at Yosemite for more than 20 years. Ben always had a beaming smile and jovial presence. He will be greatly missed.

*Contributed by YA life member and artist Tom Fong.*



*"Tenaya Lake" by Ben Kudo.*



## Ellie Nishkian, YA Board Member, Dies at 86

**Elvira "Ellie" Nishkian**, an ardent Yosemite lover and long-time member of the board of the Yosemite Association, died July 23 in San Francisco of leukemia. She and her husband Byron (who predeceased her) helped pioneer the Yosemite Fund in the early 1980s, and he served as the first chairman of the fund board.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Ellie enjoyed hiking, skiing, golfing, and other outdoor activities. The Nishkians purchased a home in Yosemite's Wawona and spent many summers with their three children in the park and its backcountry. Ellie continued to make walking trips to high country camps well into her 80s.

When the National Park Service asked the Yosemite Association to initiate a major fundraising campaign for the park over twenty years ago, park officials approached Ellie and Byron Nishkian who agreed to head the initial program. Known as "The Return of Light Campaign," the initiative found immediate success and grew to become today's Yosemite Fund.

Byron served as a representative from the fund to the Yosemite Association board until he died in 1987, when Ellie took his position. She was an engaged and active trustee until her death. Her special interests were the Yosemite Museum, Native American basketry, and Yosemite art. She and Byron were generous donors to park projects, and Ellie amassed what's probably the largest single collection of baskets created by local artist Julia Parker.

Just prior to her death, Ellie Nishkian was honored by the Yosemite Association and named a "Life Trustee" of the organization. She also had embarked on a personal fundraising effort to provide the money needed to publish a complete catalog of Ms. Parker's basket work, to be illustrated in full color.

Ellie's three children, Levon Nishkian, Bonnie Nishkian-Clark, and Barry Nishkian, have designated the Yosemite Association for memorial donations. Gifts sent in memory of Ellie Nishkian will be used to ensure that the Julia Parker basket catalog will become a reality.

We at the Yosemite Association will greatly miss Ellie, whose lively spirit, energetic personality, and generous attitude brought such life and zest to Yosemite and our organization.



# PARK PROFILE

## TOM BOPP

**Name:** Tom Bopp

**Job Title:** Musician

**Hometown:** Torrance, CA

**Education:** 10 years of private study in classical piano with Laura Lee Lukas; BA in music composition/theory from UCLA.

**Years worked in Yosemite:** 22

**What do you do in Yosemite?** Singer/pianist at the Wawona Hotel (year-round) and at The Ahwahnee (part-time in winter). I also give interpretative programs on aspects of Yosemite cultural history, and develop, consult, and perform in certain special events (Curry Centennial, Ahwahnee 75th Anniversary, Ahwahnee Heritage Holidays, etc.).

**What was your first job in the park?** Playing piano and singing for the guests at the Wawona Hotel – my first night was May 25, 1983.

**Why did you want to work in Yosemite?** I had only two ambitions in life: make music for a living and live in the mountains. Coming to Wawona was coming home.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?** Connecting with our guests through music and stories.

**What is your most memorable experience at work?** When my future wife (Diane Detrick) first smiled at me over the back of a lobby sofa while I played piano.

**What is your favorite place in Yosemite?** Behind the piano at Wawona. For millennia in Yosemite, wherever people gather at the day's end is where the Yosemite experience takes shape – that's a nice place to be.

**What is your favorite Yosemite book?** *The Wilderness World of John Muir* edited by Edwin Way Teal. It's nice for an outing, and a good "Muir primer" to recommend to world-weary guests.



**What is your favorite non-Yosemite book?** The *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams; actually not so much the book (certainly not the movie), but the author's way of lateral thinking; showing profundity is often integral to frivolity.

**What is your favorite movie?** *The Legend of 1900* – I like the idea that someone can play so hot that he or she could light a cigarette from the piano strings.

**Where do you like to go for a vacation?** Just out the front door, with no destination, and lots of totally unscheduled time.

**What is your motto?** Eschew Mottos.

**What do you think YA's most important role is?** Keeping everybody informed, in touch, and involved with Yosemite's cultural and natural history.

**What do you hope to do that you haven't done yet?** In the next year, complete my first book (co-written with Wawona Hartwig) about Wawona's history; over the next four years, to have finished two other book projects and three video documentaries, all to do with Yosemite history. Um, we'll see.

**What haven't I asked you that you want to tell our readers?** I'll be out somewhere on a rock by a stream reading this issue – hope to see you there, too.



# Yosemite Outdoor Adventures

January–March 2006

**Welcome** to experiential education in Yosemite! These four pages contain the information you need to join us for an adventurous outdoor learning program in the first part of the year. Taking a course in the quiet winter months is an excellent way to grow your connection to Yosemite. As Mr. Muir put it in 1901, “...the winds will blow their freshness into you, and the storms their energy...”

**Register** on our website, [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org), by calling Lou or Pete at (209)379-2321, or by mailing or faxing us the form on the fourth page of this insert.

**Tuition** is 15% less if you're a YA member. It covers instruction, the park entrance fee, and camping. Meals, lodging, and equipment are not included unless specifically noted.

**Stay** in a campground for free if you're in a course, but we'll also send you reservation information for the rooms we have set aside during each course, available at extra cost.

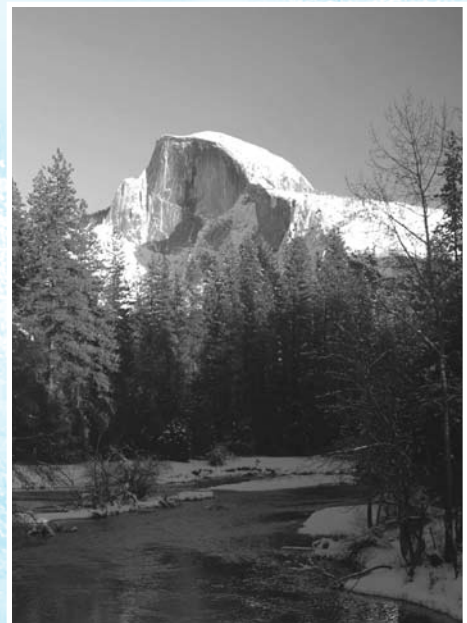
**Weather** is what makes the Sierra in winter so dynamic! We prepare and want you to be prepared for anything, from rain and snow to warm sun. Links on our website will get you more information, and you can phone the continually updated NPS road and weather recording at (209)372-0200.

**Physical demands vary among courses and with snow and weather conditions.** Look at each course description regarding daily mileage, gradient, elevation and likely snow cover conditions. **You must be in good physical condition for these mountain programs;** the instructors have the right to deny your participation if they feel you're not healthy enough or are otherwise unprepared for the course.

**Cancellation** is something we hope won't apply to your participation, but there are three things you should know. A 90% refund is given if you cancel at least 30 days before the course. Within 30 days of the program, without exception, **we cannot issue refunds for any reason.** (You may be able to apply your tuition to another course in 2006, though.) If YA cancels a course, we will refund your full tuition, but aren't responsible for other travel or lodging plans you've made.

**Liability forms must be signed by all participants before attending a course.**

**Why?** As with everything the Yosemite Association does, our Outdoor Adventure program is devoted to the National Park Service mission of preserving resources and providing for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of today's citizens such that the beauty we value today will be unimpaired for future generations. Through educational courses that are professional, safe, fun, and Leave No Trace on the Sierra, we want our participants to become more informed, active park stewards. Yosemite needs you.



The catalog for March through December will be mailed out in February's *Yosemite* journal—and posted at [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org) in January.



# YOSEMITE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Start 2006 with something interesting...

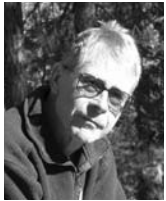
## JANUARY

### #1 Winter Ecology

Friday, January 13 (evening)–Sunday, January 15  
\$178, or \$151 for YA members; Yosemite Valley

What makes winter so important to understanding the full annual cycle of the natural history of Yosemite? How do plants resist freezing? How do animals find enough calories? While enjoying the serene beauty of the winter landscape, you'll discover a range of surprises about how living things respond to the reduced availability of sun, warmth and water. This two-day course of fairly easy walking will explore the season's manifestations in very different parts of the wintertime Valley.

**Roger McGeehee** inherited this course from Dr. Carl Sharsmith, and brings his encyclopedic knowledge, warm style, and deep concern for



Yosemite and its visitors to sharing his fascination with all things outdoors. Roger was a legendary NPS interpretive ranger, and taught for Yosemite Institute for many years. He has recently retired to the Sierra from teaching biology at a prestigious Bay Area high school.

### #2 Introduction to Winter Camping

Saturday, January 21–Sunday, January 22  
\$205, or \$174 for YA members  
Badger Pass

No bears, no mosquitoes, no dirt, no crowds, and an amazing landscape in which to spend a diurnal cycle; these are some of the reasons why you may have thought about giving winter camping a try. This one-night trip involves reviewing equipment, just over a mile on snowshoes (included), and setting up camp, while emphasizing Leave No Trace and safe winter practices. The group will return to Badger Pass by mid-afternoon on Sunday. YA will provide limited equipment, but most will be up to the participant to procure.

**Eryn Bordes** and **David Jaffe** were married in a mountaintop storm in Yosemite, and bring a wealth of outdoor experience to this course.



Their years of teaching and leadership at Outward Bound, Yosemite Institute, and the National Park Service, and their dedication as curious naturalists will be a delight to those who join them for a night sheltered in the snow.

### #3 Winter Landscape Photography

Thursday, January 26 (evening)–Sunday, January 29  
\$335, or \$285 for YA members  
Yosemite Valley

Winter may well be the most spectacular season for photographing Yosemite Valley. The low-angled winter light adds drama to the landscape, and photogenic clouds can cling to the massive walls and domes. These three days of modest 1-3 mile hikes exploring Yosemite's winter wonderland with your camera will be well rewarded. Your instructor will cover a range of topics essential to working with landscapes in winter, including secrets to adequate exposure, techniques for extending tonal range, how to get rid of the "winter blues" and much more. All levels of experience, and all digital and film camera formats are welcome.

**John Senser** is a landscape and wildlife photographer who has also lived and worked in Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon as a naturalist and archeologist. His photography has appeared in books and magazines like *Arizona Highways*, Sierra Club calendars, and National Geographic special publications. For more than 25 years, he has conducted workshops for UC Santa Cruz Extension and Columbia College, and owns the Golden Oaks Studio located just north of Yosemite.



## FEBRUARY

### #4 A Writer's Winter Walk in Yosemite

Saturday, February 4  
\$84, or \$71 for YA members  
Yosemite Valley

This is a unique opportunity to spend a day contemplating the icy cliffs, strolling the forests and meadows, and refining your writing experience. With the inspiration of this mountain fastness, you'll explore creative methods for "finding your voice" in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, while enjoying walks in our canyon at its most wintry. This fine day concludes with sharing tea and dessert at The Ahwahnee.

**Beth Pratt** is the author of *The Idea of Forever* and *Yosemite's Junior Ranger Handbook*. She has written for *Harbinger*, and YA's *Yosemite* journal, has hiked the John Muir Trail and hundreds of miles of Yosemite's trails. Beth is Yosemite Association's Vice President and CFO, and she is a dedicated student of the weather.



We congratulate YEE GAN and DANAH WOODRUFF for their status as champion Outdoor Adventures participants; watch for them wearing their YA fleece vests—and quiz them on their knowledge of Yosemite!

## #5 Full Moon Snowshoe

Saturday, February 11

\$82, or \$70 for YA members

Badger Pass

“What if one moon has come and gone with its world of poetry, its weird teachings, its oracular suggestions - so divine a creature freighted with hints for me, and I have not used her?” wondered Henry David Thoreau. Here’s your opportunity to enjoy the luster of the full moon in an afternoon/evening snowshoe at Badger Pass. During the trek, your instructor will discuss various aspects of Yosemite, winter ecology, and the astronomical spectacle overhead. Snowshoes will be provided, no experience is needed, and the travel will be no more than moderate in difficulty.

**Emily Jacobs** has worked for DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite for two years in the Interpretive Services office. She is an award-winning interpreter with a graduate degree in environmental education from a top program in Wisconsin. She’s been a ranger in three other national parks before coming here, and Emily’s passion is exploring Yosemite in all its seasons.



## #6 Exploring the Winter World of Yosemite

Saturday, February 25–Sunday, February 26

\$170, or \$145 for YA members

Yosemite Valley and Badger Pass

A day of easy hiking at 4000’, then a day of snowshoeing at 7200’ should give you a look at two different degrees of winter in the Sierra. The specific adaptations of our wildlife and plants to the challenges of winter will be examined on some of the Valley’s lesser known trails, then on the higher country’s snowy routes. Animal tracks, natural anti-freeze, snow crystals and their metamorphosis in the snowpack, and human acclimation to this season will compose some of your lessons. Snowshoes are provided, and experience isn’t necessary.

**Dick Ewart** is well-known to Yosemite visitors for his 30+ years as a ranger at Glacier Point and Badger Pass, the thousands of miles he’s put on his hiking boots and skis, and the depth and breadth of his natural history knowledge. Beyond being well-known, he is outright famous for his New England accent, and his charming leadership style.



## MARCH

### #7 The Unknown West End

Friday, March 24

\$41, or \$35 for YA members

Yosemite Valley

This half-day course consists of an easy walk around the west end of Yosemite Valley on the seldom-used bridle trail. Our five mile loop will bring us to two historic roads, Ribbon Creek, Black Spring, a series of end moraines, a 600’ and a 1200’ waterfall, the “Acorn”, Douglas-firs, an old CCC camp, Bunnell’s plaque, a president’s camp, and a lost prospectors’ graves.

**Pete Devine** never has returned to Colorado like he thought he was

going to when he moved to the park twenty years ago. He’s taught numerous YA courses, trained NPS rangers and YI faculty, studied the Lyell Glacier, written a natural history column for the concession newsletter, and knows more about Steller’s Jays than anyone in Yosemite.



### #8 Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist

Sunday, March 26

\$82, or \$70 for YA members

Badger Pass

Technically speaking, spring will have just started, but the higher elevations will still be blanketed in white. The potential for dramatic lighting, stormy skies, milder temperatures, and unexpected discoveries at the change of the seasons make a trek on snowshoes worth a day’s time. Exploring with a fun-loving naturalist is the best way to learn about what living things are active, what’s dormant, and what’s gone away for the winter. Snowshoes will be provided, and no experience is necessary for this day of moderate travel over snow.

**Julie Miller** manages the Interpretive Services operation for DNC

Parks and Resorts at Yosemite. Since she arrived in Yosemite almost 20 years ago, Julie has been an NPS ranger, a Yosemite Institute instructor, taught many YA courses, and has obtained her teaching credential. It is hard to find someone more enthusiastic than Julie in their love for being outside with people.



**Mark your calendars now, for  
the Yosemite Birding Festival,  
May 5-7.**

**YA would be glad to design  
a custom adventure for your  
family or group event.  
Call us at (209) 379-2321  
for more information.**





## Volunteers Make the Difference in Yosemite

A smile and a friendly hello—that can be the beginning of a park visitor's life-long association with our organization. For the 73 volunteers who spent a month (or two, or even five!) this summer, making new friends for YA among the park's visitors was just another day of work. For the visitors, it may have been among the most helpful and pleasant contacts during their stay. Many thanks to our month-long volunteer crews for the 9,637 hours they gave to the park to make vital information services and unique interpretive facilities available for the public. We salute the following members who contributed so much in the twenty-first year of this program:

June Bailey, Jennifer Baker, Michael Bonham, RoxAnne Borean, Helen Brohm, Mary & Mike Burchmore, Thomas Bye, Robert Campagna, Gary Cava, Gary Childs, Alexandra V. Cole, Richard Conness, Karen Corcoran, Barbara Cordero Hill, Marion Eggers, Donna Engleman, Alice Ensley, Virginia Ferguson, Anna Fong, Barbara Fumagalli, Randy Gamboa & Mike Oplinger, Hank & Linda Gilliam, Judith & Marston Girard, Anne Gomes, Hans & Sue Hansen, Ann L. Hardeman, Carol Harris, Doug Hitchingham, Ted Hoesman, Kathy Hopkins, Tom Hopkins, Suzanne Howell-Gleason, MaryJane & Vern Johnson, Adrienne Kalmick, Jerry & Susan Kaplan, Everett & Anne-Marie Kaukonen, Charles & Mildred Krueger, Chris & Jeff Lashmet, Joanne Mandel, John A. McClary, Robert McConnell, Kenneth & Patsy McKay, Carole & Lou Meylan, Donna Minnick, Dorothy Nakama, Harriet Novakovich, Robert Prola, Joyce Rasmussen, Julie Rice, Charles R. Ryan, Julianne Schuller, Richard Schuman, Linda Shepler, Dawn Sherertz, Mary & George Sutliff, Doug Van Der Linden, Ellen Waddell, Jackie Wagoner, Jo Wamser, Barry Warmerdam, Julice Winter, and Pat Zuccaro.

As Yosemite-philes, we can probably all call to mind a favorite spot along the Merced River, a special backcountry trail, or the sight of a wind gust sweeping

fallen oak leaves along the valley floor. But how many of us are able to spend the time and effort to help rehabilitate and preserve the amazing resources Yosemite has to offer? Fortunately there are those who can answer the call, and have.

For the past eighteen years, YA has been assembling member volunteer crews who assist the National Park Service in their mission to preserve Yosemite for future generations. This summer, 53 volunteers participated in five week-long work trips, giving 2,080 hours and a lot of sweat to help eradicate invasive plant species, monitor oak seedlings, reduce the human footprint in the backcountry, and much more. This popular program is a cooperative effort of the National Park Service, Yosemite Institute, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, and YA. On behalf of all our partners, we thank the 2005 Work Week crew:

Ricardo Azucena, Melody Baldwin, Sydney Bluestone, Ray Borean, Donald Burns, Joan Carter, Thomas M. DeForest, Tony DeMaio, Jim Derry, Candace & Chris Elder, Marshall & Judy Fisher, Belinda Gilbert, Gerald & Janice Haslam, Don Hedgepeth, Judy Johnson, June Jones, Eric Juline, Steven Kahn, Mona Knight, Betty Mae & Jim Locke, David Margiott & Kathy Montgomery, Kate Mawdsley, Jerry & Dianne McMahon, Jillian Metz, Hiroyuki Minamino & Kyoko Adachi, Tim Moore, Russell Morimoto, John Mullen, Lloyd & Susanna Murray, Claudia Newbold, Jerry Nuding, Ralph Occhipinti, Cindy Pavlicek, Teresa Peterson, Marie Pitruzzello, Edward Polainer, Richard Rice, Jean Roche, James Rolf, Joan Sanderson, Barbara Shimkus, Pat Soussan, Alison Sterley, Verle Waters, and Jan Webster.

New this year, DNC Parks & Resorts spearheaded an effort to perform much-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LLOYD AND SUSANNA MURRAY.

*Backcountry work trip leader Vicki Hartman (left) and YA volunteer Russell Morimoto (right) use a log to create a natural barrier.*

needed restoration work around the popular High Sierra Camps. YA members joined teams of DNC employees who volunteered to spend a weekend eliminating social trails, decompacting soil, revegetating denuded spaces, and defining pedestrian paths to protect trail-side plant life. Patterned after a 2004 restoration effort DNC performed at Merced Lake HSC, the 2005 trips accomplished tremendous progress at the May Lake, Sunrise, Vogelsang, and Glen Aulin camps. We are deeply grateful to the eight YA member volunteers who performed more than 160 hours of service on this unique venture: David Eichorn, Lisa Eurich, Ann Henry, R.K. "Pete" Howell, Jeanette Larsen, Lloyd Murray, Richard Rudloff, and Jerel Steckling.

## Would you like to help us help Yosemite next year?

Recruiting for our month-long information assistance volunteer program will begin in December 2005. Applications for the restoration volunteer program will be released in February 2006, once the program dates have been set. For more information about these programs, visit our website at [yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html](http://yosemite.org/helpus/volunteer.html), or call (209) 379-2317 after December 1.



## Members Gather for YA's 30th Annual Meeting

Nearly 300 members enjoyed a crisp fall weekend in Tuolumne Meadows when they attended our 30th annual members' meeting on September 10, 2005. Registrants took part in a wide variety of interpretive programs on Saturday morning. The hearty Tuolumne Lodge lunch was accompanied by the musical musings of the Recycled String Band's Gail Dreifus and Denise Ludington. Then at the afternoon's formal meeting, Superintendent Mike Tollefson, board chair Christy Holloway, and YA President Steve Medley addressed the assemblage. Everyone joined in to help us pull a few well-orchestrated pranks on Steve, who marked twenty years as YA's

president this year. In addition to the good-natured ribbing, we presented Steve with a certificate and custom "Farley" cartoon to commemorate this milestone.

Guest speaker John W. Simpson gave a rousing talk about how the Hetch Hetchy story reflects the evolution of American environmental values and politics. John was followed by guest speaker Garrett Burke, who shared his hopes and intentions as he developed the design for the California State Quarter.

After the meeting, the speakers signed books and commemorative quarter packets during the wine and cheese reception. We thank Redwood

Creek Wines and American Park Network for generously donating the wines that were served at that event. Ninety-eight prizes were raffled off, and then seven very special items were sold in a live auction.

The day ended with a musical program around the much-needed campfire. Many attendees also went on interpretive walks or took in a special archeology presentation at Parsons Lodge on Sunday morning. After overnight temperatures that dipped to seventeen degrees at the lodge, we needed to get moving to warm up!

It takes a village to raise a child—and to put on a YA members' event! We thank the following friends for providing interpretive programs during the weekend: National Park Service staff Carol Blaney, Yenyen Chan, Margaret Eissler, and Sonni Montague; Restore Hetch Hetchy's Ron Good and Debbie Colston; Yosemite Institute's Deepak Dathatri; Gail Dreifus; YA staff Denise Ludington and Pete Devine; and volunteer Fred Fisher. Many thanks to NPS ranger Calvin Liu for Saturday afternoon's audio support; to DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite staff Mike Anderson, Alana Dolen, Janis Kunz, Martha Miller, Karen Prichard, Kim Terguson, Andy Wilson, and the rest of the employees at Tuolumne Lodge who graciously hosted us all weekend; and to tireless volunteers Fred Fisher and Joe Lattuada, MaryJane and Vern Johnson, and Julie Schuller for their efforts to ensure the raffle, auction, and wine and cheese reception came off flawlessly.

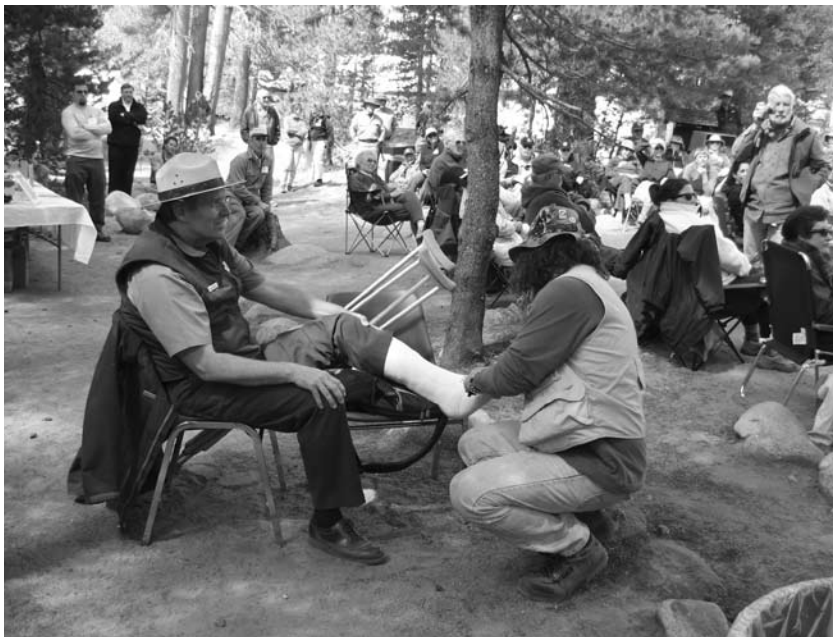


PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH PRATT.

*Superintendent Mike Tollefson, recently injured, offered anyone who donated \$1,000 to YA at the meeting the opportunity to sign his cast; life member Richard Fogel (at right) gleefully anted up for the privilege.*

### Join us for a members' gathering!

We hope you will attend our next members' event; the Spring Forum will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2006, in Yosemite Valley. Forum invitations and registration materials will be mailed to all members in early January. Our 31st Annual Members' Meeting will be held in Wawona on Saturday, September 9, 2006 (note date change!); registration materials for that meeting will be mailed in July 2006.

We are also very grateful to our generous raffle and action prize donors who helped us raise \$6,826 in additional support for our programs and services: The Ansel Adams Gallery, Gerald & Janet Barton & Gold River Orchards, Nicole Brocchini, Garrett Burke, Gabriella Casares, Arnold & Carole Compolongo/Scope Enterprises, Suzanne Corkins, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Dumont Printing, E&J Gallo Winery/Redwood Creek Wines, Fred Fisher & Joe Lattuada/Naturals from the Earth, Tom Fong, Michael Frye Photography, Richard Garcia/Garcia Machine, Patti Garrity/Patti's Plum Puddings, Jeff Grandy Photography, Bobbie & Carl Handen, Gerald Haslam, Christy & Charles Holloway, Gina Tan & Barbara Boucke/Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Malcolm Margolin/Heyday Books, Mono Lake Committee, Mountain Light Gallery, Pacific Printing, Panorama International Productions, Beth Pratt, Tom & Irene Shephard, Carol Skooglund/First Street Gallery, and Keith Walklet/QuietWorks Photography.

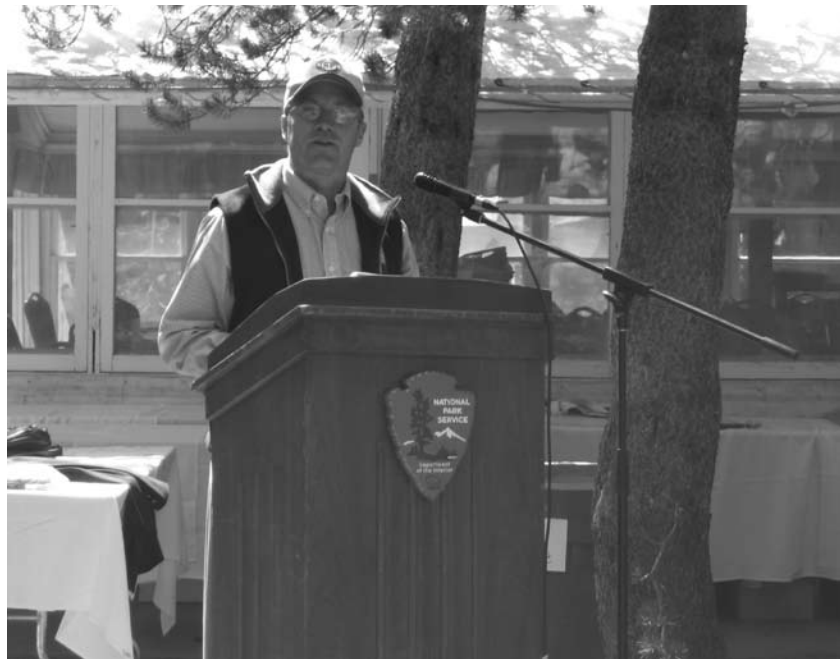


PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH PRATT.

*Author John W. Simpson addresses YA members.*

## Special Gatherings in Special Places

About fifty YA members started their weekend early when they attended a special reception with speakers John W. Simpson, Garrett Burke, Superintendent Mike Tollefson and other park officials, and YA board at Parsons Lodge on Friday, September 9. This event was held to honor those members who have donated \$250 or more to YA in the past year. Guests were treated to a gorgeous high-country sunset as they enjoyed good conversation along with delicious appetizers, and wine that was donated by Redwood Creek Wines and American Park Network.

On Saturday, October 1, more than twenty YA members enjoyed a mild fall Yosemite Valley evening when they attended a dinner on the Ahwahnee Meadow, outside the home of Brad Anderholm, Chief Operating Officer of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite. This sumptuous gathering was hosted entirely by DNC to honor supporters who have contributed \$1,000 or more to the association in the last year. Guests feasted on culinary creations by The Ahwahnee's chefs while they chatted with the superintendent and several National Park Service division chiefs, Cooperative Student Interns, DNC executives, UC Merced representatives, and YA board and staff. We thank DNC for their generous hospitality, and for renewing their commitment to host this very special recognition event; next year's dinner will be held on October 7, 2006.

Won't you join us? We invite you to upgrade your membership or give a generous gift to the association today so that you too may attend these special gatherings! You can make a gift online at [yosemite.org/helpus/donations.html](http://yosemite.org/helpus/donations.html), or send your gift in the envelope included with this journal. To upgrade your member level today, please contact the Membership Department at (209) 379-2317.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL KNOBLICH

*California Quarter designer Garrett Burke (at left) stands with members June and Paul Knoblich; the Knoblich's auction bid of \$1,700 won them this one-of-a-kind artwork created and signed by Garrett.*



## A New Generation: A New Junior Ranger

By Olivia's Auntie (Vicki Jo Lawson)

In the early 1980s, my brother spent summers in Yosemite with my husband, Steve Botti, and me. Steve and I worked for the National Park Service, he with the Resources Management staff, and I with the Interpretation staff. My little brother, David, lived in Fresno with our parents, but, at age 15, enjoyed the summer adventures of living and working in Yosemite.

An able person, even a young one, with local housing has always been a resource to all Yosemite operations. So, it was no surprise that the Yosemite Association offered David a summer job. He worked as a "go-fer"—stocking book shelves in the Valley Visitor Center, helping with the Junior Ranger program at Happy Isles, collecting tickets at Lee Stetson's evening performances, organizing the stock room, etc. He worked with Dinorah Martin, the 14-year old daughter of Jim Martin, then a Valley District Ranger, and Maria Martin, who also worked for the Yosemite Association. David and Dinorah became fast friends, Junior Ranger assistants extraordinaire, experienced shuttle bus riders, cynical observers of park visitors, and regular attendees at all valley interpretive programs. They did this for two summers until Dinorah moved to Ventura where her father served as Chief Ranger at Channel Islands National Park.

David and Dinorah remained friends, seeing each other only occasionally over the next 16 years. During that time, both earned Bachelors Degrees at U.C. Davis.

Dinorah went on to earn a Master's Degree, teach history and Spanish and coach girls' soccer at schools in Hawai'i. Concurrently, David earned a Doctorate from Washington State University in biochemistry focusing on computational chemistry and bioinformatics. When their paths crossed again in 2001, sparks flew. During a visit to Yosemite, David proposed to Dinorah at Happy Isles! They were married in 2003 in the Yosemite Chapel (by Wawona District Interpreter Dean Shenk).

They now live in Fort Washington, PA where Dinorah is an educator and coaches soccer at a local school, and David works as a researcher for Vitae Pharmaceuticals. Their new Junior Ranger, Olivia Malie Lawson, was born on December 16. No doubt, she already is thinking of Yosemite. It is certain that her aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents all are planning trips with her to their favorite Yosemite spots.



Former Junior Rangers, David Lawson and Dinorah Martin, wed May 2003.



PHOTO BY JIM MARTIN.

New Junior Ranger, Olivia Malie, born to David and Dinorah Lawson, December 2004.

*Olivia's paternal grandparents still live in Fresno, CA and visit Yosemite at every opportunity. Olivia's maternal grandparents now live in Marfa, TX following Jim Martin's retirement from a 40-year NPS career, including 10 years as Superintendent of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Olivia's two Uncle Steves still work for the National Park Service—Steve Martin is a law enforcement ranger at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and Steve Botti, co-author of An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park, is a fire management specialist at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID. If this reads a bit like a soap opera, or if you need a diagram to understand the familial relationships, don't despair. Suffice it to know that a shared love of Yosemite and wild places continues to unite people.*

## Ostrander Ski Hut Operation Dates Set

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, operated by the Yosemite Association on behalf of the National Park Service, will open for the 2005–06 season on December 16, 2005. It will remain open until April 7, 2006. The facility is staffed during the winter and made available to the public to encourage ski touring and snowshoeing in the park. Space in the hut



is limited to 25 people per night, and a fee of \$20 per person per night is charged. Reservations are required, especially for weekend dates. Because reservation requests often exceed the available beds on weekends, the association allocates those reservations using a lottery. That lottery is scheduled for November 21, 2005. Users may call (209) 379-2646 after December 1 or (209) 372-0740 after January 4, 2006 to reserve any remaining openings. If you are interested in entering the Ostrander lottery, please contact the association office at (209) 379-2646 for an application and information.

### Member Info Line 209/379-2317

If you're planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our phone line a call between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We don't make reservations, but we can give appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice.

## The Story Behind the Rod Collier Scholarships

YA member Rod Collier's association with Yosemite National Park began in 1971, when he and fellow Huntington Beach, California, middle-school teachers set out to create an outdoor education program for gifted students, similar to a county program in the San Bernardino Mountains. They wanted to foster in their students a sense of connection with the environment and the desire to act as lifelong stewards of preserved park and wilderness lands.

They selected Yosemite as the focus



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN MICHAEL.

*ELP student John Pansarosa washes clothes in the pioneer way.*

for a month-long academic curriculum centered on ecology, biology, geology, and history, which culminated in a week-long field trip to Yosemite. The first trip took place in the spring of 1972 and involved approximately one hundred sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. For the first few years of the program, these students went each year; as a result, there were many students who shared the experience for three consecutive years and became real experts and advocates for Yosemite and the national parks

in general.

Equal to Rod's love for Yosemite and the environment was his passion for his history. In the mid-1970s, he was excited to learn that the National Park Service was inaugurating an overnight pioneer history environmental living program (ELP) at Wawona's Pioneer Yosemite History Center. He attended the first teachers' workshop and took a group of eighth grade students the very first spring the program operated, and every year after that until he passed away in 1990. His programs were a model of interdisciplinary learning as he expertly wove science, history, math, art, and language arts through the ELP experience. He helped the NPS refine the program over the years and mentored new teachers bringing groups to the program for the first time.

Rod's enthusiasm for the program inspired everyone around him including his students, fellow teachers, and the parent chaperones who participated in the experience. The chance to be a Yosemite pioneer became a coveted reward each year for all involved. Rod also made a \$300 gift to the History Center each year to help cover the cost of a particular need the program had. One such gift helped put the oven at the Degnan's bakery building back into operation.

After his death, Rod's family wanted to perpetuate his desire to support the History Center's mission, so they continued making the yearly gift in his name to the Yosemite Association. Currently these annual donations are used to support school groups that apply for financial assistance with their preparation and participation in the ELP program. Over the years, friends have joined the group

of family donors, and the amounts of the donations have grown considerably from the \$25 each initially gave. While Kathy Dimont (Yosemite's Chief of Education Services) is always effusive in her gratitude for the group's donations each year, it is the donors themselves who are grateful for the reward of knowing that not only are they perpetuating Rod's memory in connection with a place he loved so much, but also that they are helping foster the creation of another generation of stewards who will love and care for Yosemite as much as he did.

The 2005 donors to the Rod Collier Scholarship are: Dan & Jessie Briggs, Ben & Christie Cesar, Kelly & Sharon Collier, Mary Collier, Ed & Janet Engesser, Mike & Laura Hill, David & Elizabeth Himelson, and John & Carolyn Loyd.

***Editor's Note: We thank Rod's widow, Mary Collier, and Sue Moynihan (NPS Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources Management, Cape Cod National Seashore) for their crucial assistance in preparing this article.***



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAREA ORTIZ.

*A young ELP pioneer fetches water.*

## 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.





# ASSOCIATION DATES

Legend:  
OA = Outdoor Adventure  
YAC = Yosemite Art Center

NOV.

**Nov:** Fall 2005 issue of the members' journal *Yosemite* to be mailed this month

**Nov 4-6:** OA #74: Focusing on Nature: Autumn Photography in Yosemite

**Nov 14-Jan 20:** "Experience Your America" photo exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery Nov 21: Ostrander lottery applications must be received by this date

**Nov 24-25:** YA Administrative Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

DEC.

**Dec 8:** YA Holiday Open House and Warehouse Sale at El Portal office, 3 to 6 p.m.

**Dec 16:** Ostrander Ski Hut opens for the season

**Dec 19:** Last day to place orders for Christmas delivery (expedited shipping charges will apply)

**Dec 23-26:** YA Administrative Office closed for Christmas holiday

JAN 2006.

**Early Jan:** Invitation to Spring Forum (March 25) to be mailed to all members

**Jan 2:** YA Administrative Office closed for New Year's holiday

**Jan 4:** Wilderness permit reservation system opens for the season

**Jan 13-15:** OA: "Winter Ecology" with Roger McGeehee

**Jan 16:** YA Administrative Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

**Jan 20:** last day to view "Experience Your America" photo exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery

**Jan 21-22:** OA: "Introduction to Winter Camping" with Eryn Bordes and David Jaffe

**Jan 26-29:** OA: "Winter Landscape Photography" with John Senser

FEB.

**Feb:** Winter 2006 issue of the members' journal *Yosemite* and 2006 Outdoor Adventures Catalog to be mailed this month

**Feb 4:** OA: "A Writer's Winter Walk in Yosemite" with Beth Pratt

**Feb 11:** OA: "Full Moon Snowshoe" with Emily Jacobs

**Feb 20:** YA Administrative Office closed for President's Day holiday

**Feb 24:** Yosemite Renaissance XXI opening reception and awards presentation at Yosemite Museum Gallery, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Feb 24-May 7:** Yosemite Renaissance XXI exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery

**Feb 25-26:** OA: "Exploring the Winter World of Yosemite" with Dick Ewart

MAR.

**Mar 24:** OA: "The Unknown West End" with Pete Devine

**Mar 25:** Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

**Mar 26:** OA: "Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist" with Julie Miller

APRIL

**Apr:** Free Yosemite Art Center courses begin this month

**Apr 7:** Ostrander Ski Hut closes for the season

**Mid-Apr:** Big Oak Flat Information Station & Bookstore opens for the season (tentative)

SPRING/  
SUMMER 2006

**May 5-7:** Third Annual Birding Festival, El Portal/Yosemite

**May 7:** last day to view Yosemite Renaissance XXI exhibit at Yosemite Museum Gallery

**September 9, 2006:** 31st Annual Members' Meeting, Wawona (note date change!)

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

# YOSEMITE CATALOG

## Yosemite In Time—Ice Ages, Tree Clocks, Ghost Rivers

by Mark Klett, Rebecca Solnit, and Byron Wolfe.

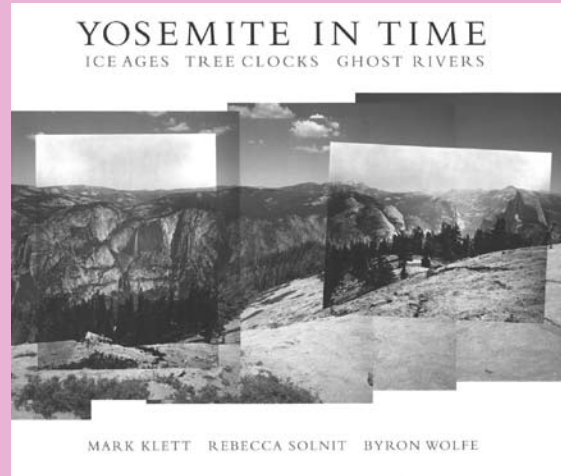
Yosemite is a world-famous location that has attracted photographic greats such as Eadweard Muybridge, Edward Weston, and Ansel Adams, along with environmentalists, mountaineers, and countless tourists.

This thought-provoking book puts this landscape and its history in a new perspective, with Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe's original photographs and panoramas, together with rephotographs of some of the most enduring images taken at Yosemite.

In three essays, noted critic Rebecca Solnit brings in nature, culture, and politics to look through the past to understand the present. The photographs and essays reconsider the iconic status of Yosemite in America's conception of wilderness, examine how the place was interpreted by early Euro-Americans, and show how our conceptions of landscape have altered and how the landscape has changed—or not—over time.

Arresting and incisive, the title explores the environmental and imagistic history, science, and politics of a site that has long captured our collective imagination. Sumptuously produced with five-color printing, it is a beautiful evocation of a place wrapped in layers of meaning and overlapping ideas. 144 pages, 12 by 10 inches, illustrated with 60 duotones, 15 four-color plates, and 6 gatefolds, clothbound with dust jacket. Copyright 2005, Trinity University Press. \$45;

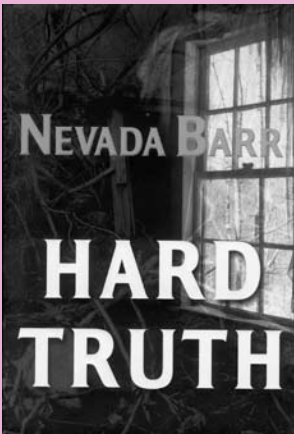
**members price \$38.25**



### SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION of *Yosemite In Time!*

A limited edition version of *Yosemite In Time* is also available. It's a numbered, signed edition of 75 copies and 10 artists' proofs. The book was printed and the custom portfolio box constructed at Tien Wah Press in Singapore in 2005, and it is accompanied by a special inkjet print, Panorama from Sentinel Dome (which is also the cover image for the book) made by Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe. That print combines images from the project made in 2003 with historical insets by Carleton Watkins photographed in 1865 and 1866 (courtesy of Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco).

This special edition was created by Trinity University Press and designed by David Skolkin. The limited edition sells for \$750, plus shipping (no member discount allowed).



### Hard Truth

by Nevada Barr

(an Anna Pigeon mystery).

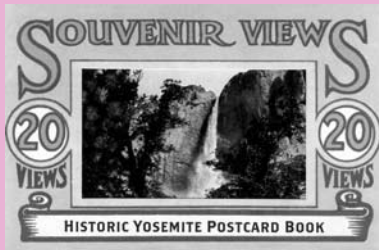
Park ranger Anna Pigeon moves from Mississippi to Colorado to assume her new post as district ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park, where three young girls have disappeared during a religious retreat. Two of the children emerge a month later, clad only in filthy underwear and claiming to remember nothing of the intervening weeks.

With the reappearance of the children comes an odd and unsettling presence in the park, a sense of disembodied evil and unspeakable terror: small animals are mercilessly slaughtered and a sinister force seems to still control the girls. As Anna investigates, she finds herself caught up in the machinations of a paranoid religious sect determined to keep their secrets and the girls sequestered from law enforcement and psychiatric help.

Following the trails of the many suspects, especially that of the cult's intense youth group leader, Anna discovers the force which has destroyed the children's minds. Here in the park, evil has the eyes of a visionary and the soul of the devil. The book is 366 pages, 9 by 6.25 inches, and casebound with a dust jacket. It is copyright 2005 by G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$24.95; **members price \$21.21**



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



### **The Historic Yosemite Postcard Book—20 Souvenir Views**

*from the Yosemite Museum Collection.*

Specially selected from the extensive collection of the Yosemite Museum, these twenty full-color postcards are exact reproductions of vintage Yosemite views from the original cards. Published in a handy tear-out format, they represent a variety of historic locations, activities, and individuals from the park's fascinating past.

The twenty different images are printed on sturdy white card stock, and their backs are divided with plenty of room for messages to

friends or family members and mailing addresses. The book can be used to stay in touch, to share Yosemite's history, or to step back in time for a glimpse of earlier days in the park.

Among the subjects of the cards are the Fire Fall, Arch Rock, Yosemite Lodge, the Yosemite Valley Railroad, Overhanging Rock, the Mariposa Grove, and Camp Curry. There also are images of Native American residents of Yosemite, as well as several views of waterfalls and major landmarks. This is a nice collection of nostalgia with historical authenticity.

Twenty postcards, 6 by 4 inches, reproduced in full color and packaged in a sturdy cover. Copyright 2005 by Yosemite Association. \$6.95; **members price \$5.91**

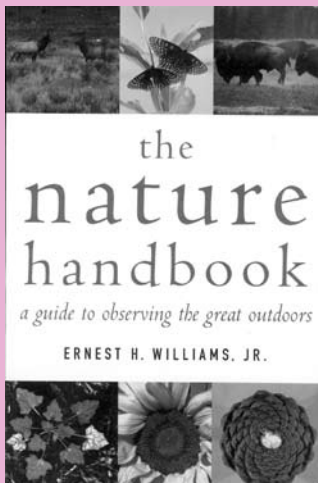
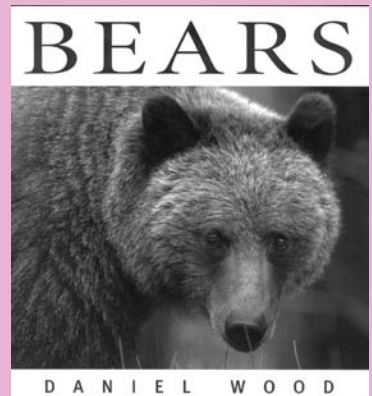
### **Bears**

*by Daniel Wood.*

This fascinating newly-revised book combines the work of some of North America's leading wildlife photographers with the writing of Daniel Wood, a leading nature writer. This celebration of the bears of North America covers black bears, brown bears, and polar bears.

Through photographs, text, and extended captions, the earth's largest terrestrial carnivore is revealed in intimate detail. Wood explores social interaction, hunting and hibernation patterns, mothering behavior, and the consequences of human contact with these magnificent creatures. He also follows a year in the life of a bear and, in the process, dispels many common myths about this misunderstood animal.

The book allows the reader to enter the wild domain of this fascinating animal and presents an in-depth portrait of it at work, rest, and play. 288 pages, 9 by 9 inches in size, illustrated in full color, and casebound with a dust jacket. It is copyright 1995, 2005 by Whitecap Books. \$14.95; **members price \$12.71**



### **The Nature Handbook—A Guide to Observing the Great Outdoors**

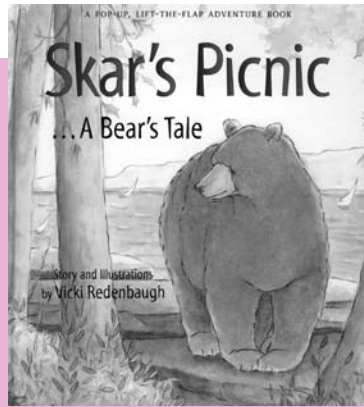
*by Ernest H. Williams, Jr.*

This book does what no other field guide does: explores and explains nature through its complex web of associations and patterns, revealing them to the many different types of nature lovers.

All naturalists—from birders to gardeners, hikers to environmentalists, wildflower enthusiasts to butterflyers—will appreciate the different approach of the handbook, even those whose interest in the natural world is just beginning to develop.

Approximately 500 color photographs help make the more than 200 patterns apparent and recognizable for readers, and each pattern is accompanied by a detailed description and a brief list of sources. The book is designed to invite browsing, and readers will gain a rich ecological perspective and insight. 264 pages, 6 by 9 inches, illustrated in full color, and paperback. It is copyright 2005 by Oxford University Press. \$26; **members price \$22.10**

Last day to place orders for Christmas is Dec. 19 (expedited shipping charges will apply)



### **Skar's Picnic**

*with story and illustrations by Vicki Redenbaugh.*

This new pop-up, lift-the-flap adventure book is sure to engage and entertain readers of all ages. Join Skar, a large black bear, as his sense of smell

leads him to his own private picnic. But look out—the campers are returning to their site! What will Skar do now?

Learn from Skar's adventures why campers should store food properly and keep a clean campsite, and how you can help keep safe and protect wildlife in the wild. Based on a true story from Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the book is a guaranteed winner for children. 16 pages, 9.75 by 10.75 inches, illustrated in full color with lots of pop-ups and flaps that open, in a sturdy case binding. Copyright 2005 by Eastern National. \$14.95;

**members price \$12.71**



### **Yosemite National Park Logo Decal, Patch, and Pin**

*by Yosemite Association.*

The colorful Yosemite National Park logo is reproduced here to help you demonstrate your love for Yosemite in a variety of ways. All items are copyright 2005 by Yosemite Association.



The heavy vinyl decal (shown here) can be applied to your car, a window, or any other flat surface. It measures 3.5 inches in diameter and is printed in green, grey, light blue, yellow, and white. The adhesive is on the back. \$1.50; **member price \$1.28**

The high-quality enamel pin is 1.125 inches in diameter and uses green, grey, white, yellow, and light blue enamel within a gold ring with gold highlights. It features a pointed prong on the reverse with a removable clip to hold it to clothing or a day pack. \$5; **member price \$4.25**

The full-color embroidered cloth patch is 3 inches in diameter, and can be sewn or ironed onto clothing, day packs, and other fabric objects. \$4; **member price \$3.60**

### **Yosemite National Park Logo Cap.**

This stylish baseball-style cap is embroi-

dered with the Yosemite National Park logo that is a favorite of visitors. Besides the embroidered logo, there's also the words "Experience Your Yosemite" embroidered on the back of the hat. The "unstructured" style hat conforms to the shape of the wearer's head and has a curved bill; the bill, cap, vent holes, and buttons are all the same color. The "structured" style hat has a piece of mesh under the front panel to provide rigidity. The curved bill of each structured cap features a contrasting tan "sandwich" layer, and there are contrasting vent holes and button on top.

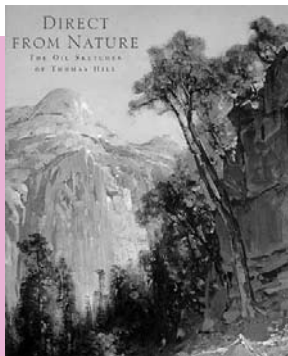
The unstructured caps are manufactured by Paramount of 100% cotton with an adjustable velcro sizing strap at the back; available in dandelion, dark blue, black, and tan. The structured caps are manufactured by Otto of 100% cotton with an adjustable velcro sizing strap at the back; available in dark blue, dark green, and black. One size fits all. Copyright 2005 by Yosemite Association. Please specify color and style (structured or unstructured). \$16.95; **member price \$14.41.**

**More YNP and YA logo products are available! Shop online at [yosemitestore.com](http://yosemitestore.com) or call (209) 379-2648 to order.**



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

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

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. Gerdtz 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).

### Michael Frye Yosemite Wildlife Note Cards

by the Yosemite Association.

The subtlety and grace with which park wildlife is caught on his film have made the photography of Michael Frye unique, engaging, and captivating. These are eight of his finest works including black bear, spotted owl, mule deer, coyote, great gray owl, bobcat, raccoon, and Belding ground squirrel. The photographic cards are printed in full color and come with quality white envelopes. The cards are 5 inches by 7 inches in size and copyright 1993 by the Yosemite Association.

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### 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).

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ENROLLMENTS AND GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 6 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

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*In memory of Bradford P. Smith:* Beatrice Dybwad, Cora Gray, Tami & John Pagen, Thelma P. Smith, Charlotte Sullivan

## 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!

## 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



Yosemite Association  
Post Office Box 230  
El Portal, CA 95318

Return Service Requested

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



## Give the Gift of YA Membership for the Holidays

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

Along with their memberships, we will send your gift recipients a card announcing your thoughtfulness, and your choice of either a **2006 Yosemite wall calendar**, or a handsome and practical **canvas tote bag** that features a full-color Phil Frank cartoon offering "Greetings from Yosemite National Park." Memberships at the Supporting (\$60) level and higher also come with additional thank-you gifts. All members enjoy such benefits as our quarterly members' journal, discounts on merchandise and lodging, and much more.

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

# Yosemite

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Website: <http://yosemite.org> Cover inset photo: courtesy of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite. Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

- \$35 Individual
- \$40 Joint/Family
- \$60 Supporting

- \$125 Contributing
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$500 Patron

- \$1,000 Benefactor
- \$50 International

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Choose their special gift:  2006 Calendar, or  Canvas Tote Bag \_\_\_\_\_

List any additional gifts on a separate sheet of paper.

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

From:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

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