

Yosemite

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JAMES MASON HUTCHINGS AND THE DEVILS POSTPILE



JAMES MASON HUTCHINGS AND THE DEVILS POSTPILE

BY N. KING HUBER AND
JAMES B. SNYDER

The "Devils Postpile" in the eastern Sierra Nevada of California is an erosional remnant of a lava flow that erupted within the canyon of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River sometime between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago. About 20,000 years ago, a glacier moving down the river valley removed the upper part of the lava flow to expose its interior and display a magnificent example of columns formed by shrinkage during the cooling and solidification of the once-molten lava flow (Fig. 1).

The Devils Postpile was originally included within Yosemite National Park when the park was established in 1890. The Postpile was deleted from the park when the park boundaries were realigned in 1905, but was returned to the National Park System as a National Monument in 1911. But in 1875, fifteen years before establishment of the park, James Mason Hutchings chanced upon the Postpile and made some remarkable observations about it—observations that have never before appeared in print.

Hutchings is best known for his association with Yosemite Valley, which began very early. He led the first "tourist" party to the valley in 1855, only four years after non-Indians first entered the valley. His association with the valley extended over many years, and included the operation of a hotel there. He is also widely known for his many publications, including *Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California*, first published in 1860, a major part of which was "A Tourist's Guide to the Yo-Semite Valley."

In true entrepreneurial spirit, Hutchings organized an expedition in 1875 to journey from Yosemite Valley to Mount Whitney in order to take the first photographs from its summit. Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states at 14,494 feet, was first climbed only two years earlier. Hutchings apparently intended to publish a book using these and other photographs taken along the expedition's route. Although never published, Hutchings

Cover: NPS Photo

Figure 1. The Devils Postpile.



NPS photo

used the photographs in a number of lantern-slide lectures in the 1870s and 1880s.

The photographer on the expedition was W. E. James, about whom little is known. He was one of a number of photographers that Hutchings used to illustrate his publications and lectures. From San Francisco, where he apparently met Hutchings, James moved to Santa Cruz in the 1880s, and then dropped from sight. Dr. Albert Kellogg, physician, botanist, and namesake of *Quercus kelloggii*, the California black oak, was also a member of the expedition to Mount Whitney.

Describing the expedition's eastbound traverse across the Sierra Nevada from Yosemite Valley to Long Valley, Hutchings' diary also indicates that they camped near the Devils Postpile and took a photograph of it. In the early 1930s, Hutchings' daughter "Cosie" transcribed his diary and then gave a copy to the Yosemite Museum. Included with that copy were many of the expedition's photographs, but not the one of the Devils Postpile. Hutchings' original diary was held by Cosie's son William Mills, Jr., and is also now in the museum collection. Although without photographs, it contains some sketches not included in the transcribed copy. Hutchings had sent a number of photographs to the Secretary of the Interior to support the addition of Mount Dana to the newly created Yosemite National Park, including the one of the Postpile. The wayward photograph was recently unearthed at the National Archives, and we now have it as the cornerstone of this tale.

Hutchings' diary entry for September 19, 1875, provides the following description of the Devils Postpile:

"The first thing that we did this morning was to visit the basaltic cliff for the purpose of taking a view. The more this formation is examined the more interesting it becomes. In the centre the columns are vertical and as regular almost as though carefully cut and placed in shape by a stone mason. One had fallen out of place and was leaning forward from the stack (so to speak) probably about 15 or 18 feet at top. This was shaped thus (give measurements of sides of square). On the easterly side they were leaning about in this shape. An immense mass of broken columns formed the debris (see picture). Climbing to the top we found the ends of the columns smoothed and polished, and presented the appearance of a mosaic or tessellated floor. This smoothing was done of course by glacial action" (see Fig. 2).

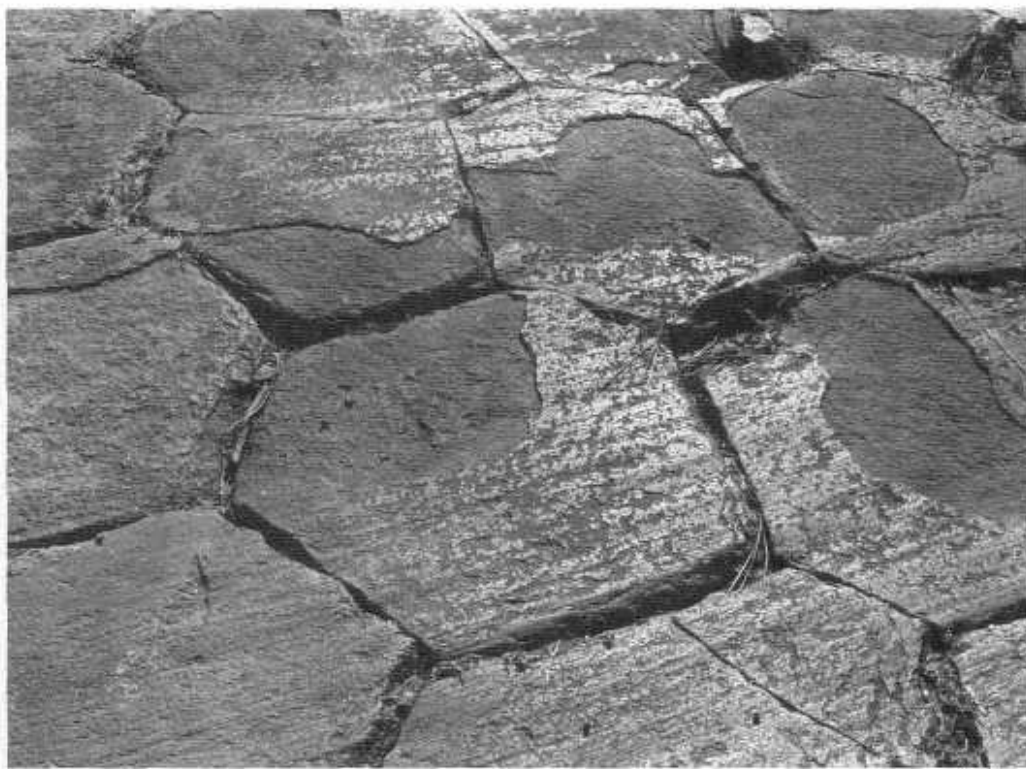


Figure 2. Mosaic pattern of glacially smoothed column tops.

NPS photo

In the margin of the diary Hutchings gives "the measurements of the Basaltic Trap Column leaning out" as $7\frac{1}{2}$, $17\frac{1}{2}$, 15, $12\frac{3}{4}$, $6\frac{3}{4}$, and 4 inches.

As far as we know, these observations precede by four years the first published mention of the Devils Postpile. A brief description appeared in a Fresno newspaper in 1879 after the Postpile was seen by a crew surveying a route for a road from Fresno Flats (Oakhurst area) to the gold mines at Mammoth.

Hutchings' "leaning forward" basalt column can clearly be seen in James' photograph (Fig. 3). At first glance it would appear to be leaning against a tree. This is an illusion, however, as closer examination indicates that the tree in question is actually growing along the top of the cliff tens of feet behind the column, as are the other trees in the photograph, and the column is freely leaning outward (Fig. 4). Also visible in the photograph are two figures. One, just to the right of the base of the leaning column, is probably Hutchings making his measurements on the column. A second figure at the top of the Postpile is probably Dr. Kellogg.

The precarious position of the leaning column invites physical analysis. From measurements on the photograph the column appears to be leaning outward at an angle of at least 20° . But how could a column of considerable length and weight be leaning out at such an angle? We speculate that the leaning column was buttressed at its base by some column stubs in front that were somewhat higher than the leaning column's basal fracture. In the



Figure 3. Photograph of the Devils Postpile by W. E. James. 1875. Hand-written note on reverse of original photograph reads "Mountain of basaltic columns 50 ft long without a break, and only about 20 inches in diameter."



Figure 4. Detail of James' photograph of the Devils Postpile in the area of the leaning column.

photograph there appear to be quite a few such column stubs in the general vicinity.

The measurements provided by Hutchings of the leaning column's sides allow reconstruction of a probable cross-section of the column, which compares reasonably well with a rough sketch in Hutchings' original diary (fig. 5). But the length of the column cannot readily be determined from the photograph. Consequently we organized an expedition of our own to obtain more data.

James' photograph is sufficiently detailed to recognize individual columns still visible today, and we were able to locate the leaning column's former position quite closely. And at that point we discovered a column stub leaning outward from behind supporting stubs (fig. 6). Was this what we were looking for? Because of access restrictions, we could not get to the stub itself, but looking down on it from the top of the Postpile it appeared to match the described cross-section (fig. 5) quite well and was in the proper location. James' photograph strongly suggests that the leaning column originally reached to the top of the adjacent cliff. Lowering a tape measure to the top of the remaining stub gave a length of 28 feet. Estimating a

length of 6 feet for that remaining stub gives a total length for the leaning column of about 34 feet.

If a 34-foot-long column were leaning out at an angle of 25° , its top would be about 15 feet away from the cliff face. If Hutchings' estimate of "15 or 18 feet" is accurate, then an angle of at least 25° would be required. James' photograph supports this conclusion. Figure 7 illustrates our reconstruction of the leaning column's setting.

The area of the column's cross-section is approximately 1.85 square feet. Assuming a uniform cross-section over a length of 34 feet, the volume of the column would be about 63 cubic feet. Assuming a density (specific gravity) for basalt of 3.0, the column's weight would be about 11,770 pounds, or roughly 6 tons.

Given that this column was indeed leaning far outward in 1875 at the time of Hutchings' visit, how could it have arrived at its precarious position and remained there? Columns commonly become separated from the cliff face to lean slightly outward, where they become more and more susceptible to catastrophic failure. Such a failure occurred in 1980 when two slightly leaning columns collapsed during one of a series of earthquakes

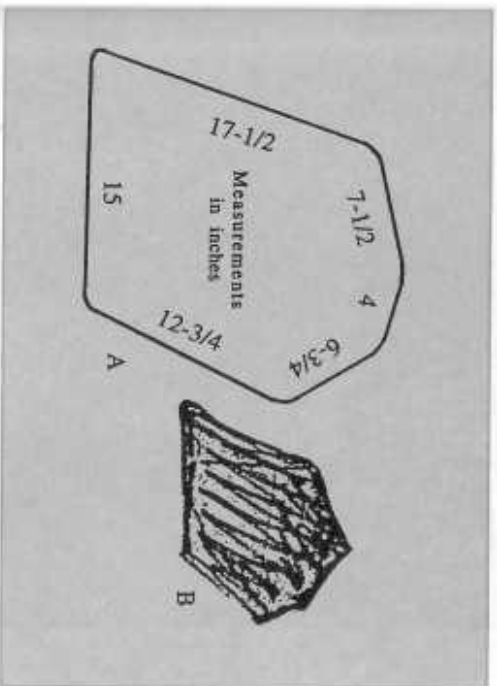


Figure 5. A: Cross-section of basal column derived from Hutchings' measurements. Area is about 1.85 square feet. B: Sketch from Hutchings' diary.

Figure 6. Photograph of a column stub leaning forward from behind column stubs in front of it.



in the nearby Mammoth Lakes region. But those columns toppled catastrophically and wound up as broken fragments among the others on the talus pile. For a 6-ton basalt column to rest at an angle of 25° or more, one would surmise that it must have reached that position slowly, as any quick movement would likely cause it to snap off and join the talus pile immediately rather than later. This would seem to rule out an earthquake as a triggering mechanism—but would it really?

If the fractured base of the column was behind and below the tops of some slightly higher column stubs, the column might be jiggled slowly into its tilted position during a series of minor shakes until it stabilized against those stubs, postponing ultimate catastrophic failure of the column. Although the type and timing of a triggering event remains unknown, it is unlikely that the leaning column remained in its precarious position for very long. It was fortuitous that Hutchings happened by when he did, and had a photographer along.

Regardless of how this leaning column acquired its amazing position, it would be difficult to believe that such was even possible if it were not for the truly remarkable photograph taken by W. E. James while on J. M. Hutchings' 1875 expedition.

N. King Huber is Geologist Emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey; James B. Snyder is Park Historian for Yosemite National Park.

NOTE: The Yosemite Association plans to publish Hutchings' diary and accompanying photographs with commentary by Jim Snyder in the coming year.

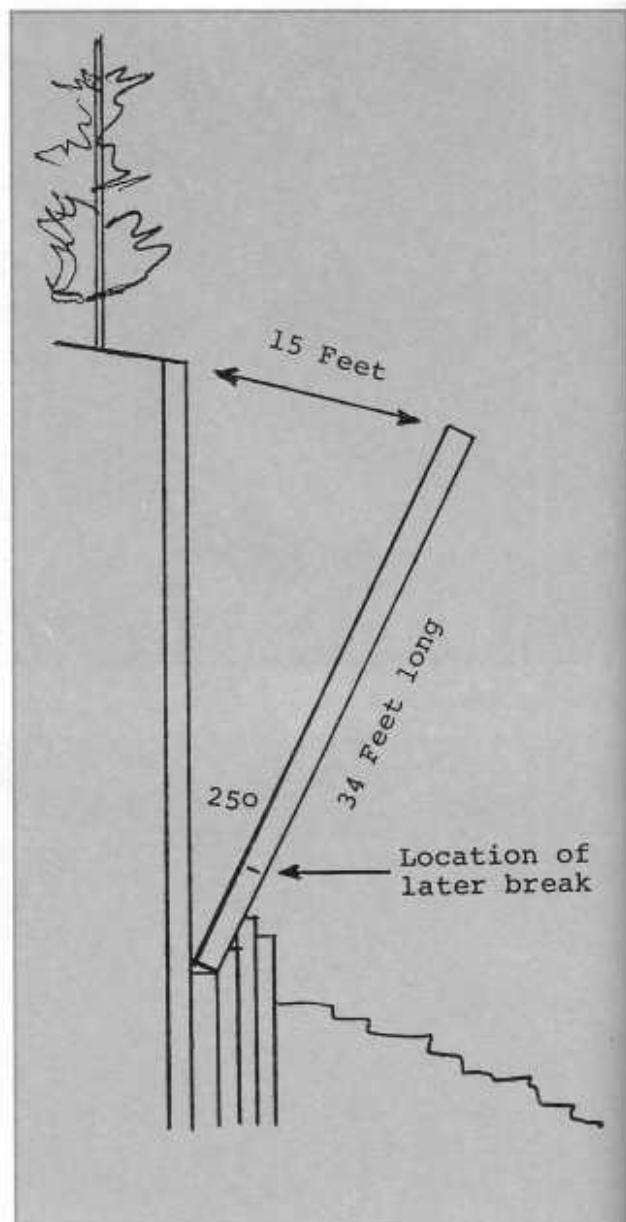


Figure 7. Schematic diagram illustrating probable setting of leaning column at the time of Hutchings' visit, and the location of subsequent fracture resulting in collapse.

YA VETERAN FORGES HER OWN MUIR TRAIL



Ardent and long-time Yosemite Association member Maymie Kimes is one of the leading experts on John Muir, the celebrated naturalist and conservationist. For

decades, she and her late husband Bill, who died in 1998, pursued Muir's legacy and philosophy. Even today, long after both of them completed the 210-mile Muir trail between Yosemite and Mount Whitney, she continues alone to follow the Muir historical trail.

Her ties to the venerated one are reflected in *John Muir: A Reading Bibliography*, a landmark book that she and her husband completed in 1986. The 175-page labor of love, generally recognized as the most complete reference to Muir's extensive writings, is found in most major libraries across the country and abroad. "My husband and I dedicated ten years of our retirement to this book, when we would rather have been hiking in the mountains—like Muir. But," she added, "it has been worth it."

Years after the completion of their exhaustive research effort, the book continues to bring the 90-year old Santa Rosa resident into the spotlight of Muirana. In June, she and her son David journeyed to Meaford, Canada to participate in the three-day celebration of the Canadian Friends of John Muir, which recognized the contribution of the famed naturalist. "It was a very fascinating gathering. The Canadians claim that this was where Muir got his start. His first article was published there," she explained. When young Muir found the rare orchids identified as *Calypso borealis* in a Canadian swamp, he wrote to his mentor Mrs. Jeanne Carr, "I never before saw a plant...so spiritual...I sat down beside them and wept for joy." This letter, printed in the *Boston Recorder*, was the first publication of Muir's writing and thus became the first entry in the Kimeses' bibliography.

During her visit, the local newspaper, the *Meaford Express*, noted that Canadian archeologists were studying the Trout Hollow area of Ontario, the site of Muir's first cabin in North America and the launching point for the conservation crusades. "Detectives dig up the dirt of Muir," proclaimed one headline. Maymie went along on the "dig," and she also garnered her own share of the headlines. "Hiker from California was an inspiration," one columnist noted.

Bill and Maymie were early voices in the Muir movement. They first became interested in Muir in high school, where Muir was required reading for third year English class. Bill liked to recall that he selected *My First Summer in the Sierra* and after reading the first chapter, he "was hooked."

Before World War II, they began hiking the John Muir Trail. They completed that mission in 1949, but that only led to other trails that Muir blazed. It became an on-going effort. They followed Muir's route to the top of Mount Whitney, Mount Ritter, half a dozen other major peaks of the Sierra, and then on to Alaska and the Pribilof Islands (part of the Aleutians). At one point, Bill even tracked Muir's route into the Amazon of South America.

Early on, they began picking up books and other memorabilia related to Muir. Later as their interest deepened, they were urged to specialize in him. The two then set off on another trail—one that defined their senior years: over time, they acquired the foremost private collection of Muir memorabilia in the world. For many years Bill and Maymie lived in rural Mariposa, where their home resembled a library more than a residence.

"One of the many pleasures of researching John Muir in depth has been the opportunity it has offered for purposeful travel, always adding a new dimension to our understanding of this great naturalist," she explained.

For more years than she can recall, Maymie has had a continuing love affair with Muir's "Range of Light." Much of her interest and effort has revolved specifically around Yosemite and that led her to the Yosemite Association. A member since 1970, she particularly enjoys the annual fall meeting where she has been a regular contributor to the popular auction of Yosemite memorabilia.

As the Muir scholar looks into the murky crystal of a new millennium, she speculates that Muir's philosophy will remain a guiding force in the surging preservation movement. She sees his basic philosophy as a repudiation of today's irrational policy that advocates unending, unfettered growth and development.

"Muir's basic philosophy is that man has to live in some reasonable balance with nature," she explains.

Gene Rose is a veteran California journalist with a lifelong interest in the Sierra. He can be reached at gorose@aol.com.

REFLECTIONS ON A SUNNY SIERRA AFTERNOON

BY PETER OVERMIRE

Author's note: Perhaps other readers of Yosemite feel as I do about marmots.

Drive up a highway in California's Sierra Nevada, turn off on a side road, park and walk up a trail, then leave the trail and hike over a pass and down to an ultramarine lake in a grassy meadow, ringed by granite boulders, a few white-bark pines and imposing peaks. This is the famed, but unknown, Mot Lake.

Resting in that meadow a few weeks ago, I decided that



Mar Mot, the family motriarch.

I should set down what I know of the history of the first settlers in this lake basin—the Mot family. They are members of the genus *Marmota*, specifically *M. Flaviventris*, the yellow-bellied marmots.

As I'm certain most of my readers know, the senior Mots in the family are Mar Mot, the Motriarch, and her husband Par Mot. Mar, though fond of her mountain home, truly loves the seashore, and often vacations on the Moterey Peninsula. Par is a skilled golfer, which explains the many holes in the meadow around the lake. Mar and Par can often be seen basking in the sun and reading tales from Moter Goose to their several generations of descendants, the mini-Mots. They are, of course, enormously proud of their eldest son, William Penn Mot, former director of the National Park Service.

My main purpose in writing a few lines, however, is to record some of the lesser-known facts—things I've learned of the family history and of the present homes and activities of other branches of the family.

The earliest recorded Mot, progenitor of all family branches that I have been able to trace, was the French nobleman Bon Mot, of Brittany. According to records in the cathedral of Mot Saint Michel, he was christened in 1513. Many scholars believe that *mottes*, the mounds on which the Normans build their castles, were the invention of Bon Mot.

Subsequent generations of the family, descended from Bon Mot, fought with great honor in the service of the Kings of France. However, like many other noble families of France, their fortunes turned at the time of the Revolution. Penniless, Bal Mot and his wife and children fled with a few dairy cows to Switzerland and established a hole in the mountains, near the village of Zarella. Being an industrious family, they worked hard and long, gradually gaining fame for their cheese making. Mot's Zarella cheese is still highly regarded, almost two centuries later.

Bal Mot's son, Jacques Bal Mot, made the first ascent of Mot Blanc, and his grand-nephew, Auguste Bal Mot,

was a noted motaineer and guide, with many ascents of Mot Blanc from Chamotnix, and of the Moterhorn from Zermot. Auguste had five sons: the eldest remained in the dairy business; the others are all fairly well-known today.

The second son, Motsignor Mot, returned to France and devoted his life to religion. He presided for many years in the Motparnasse section of Paris.

The third son, Don Mot, oft-called "Quixote," left the family cheese business and moved to the Pyrenees, starting a small cattle and windmill business. One of his sons became a motador, while descendents of the other son are now in the windpower business in California, on Altamot Pass.

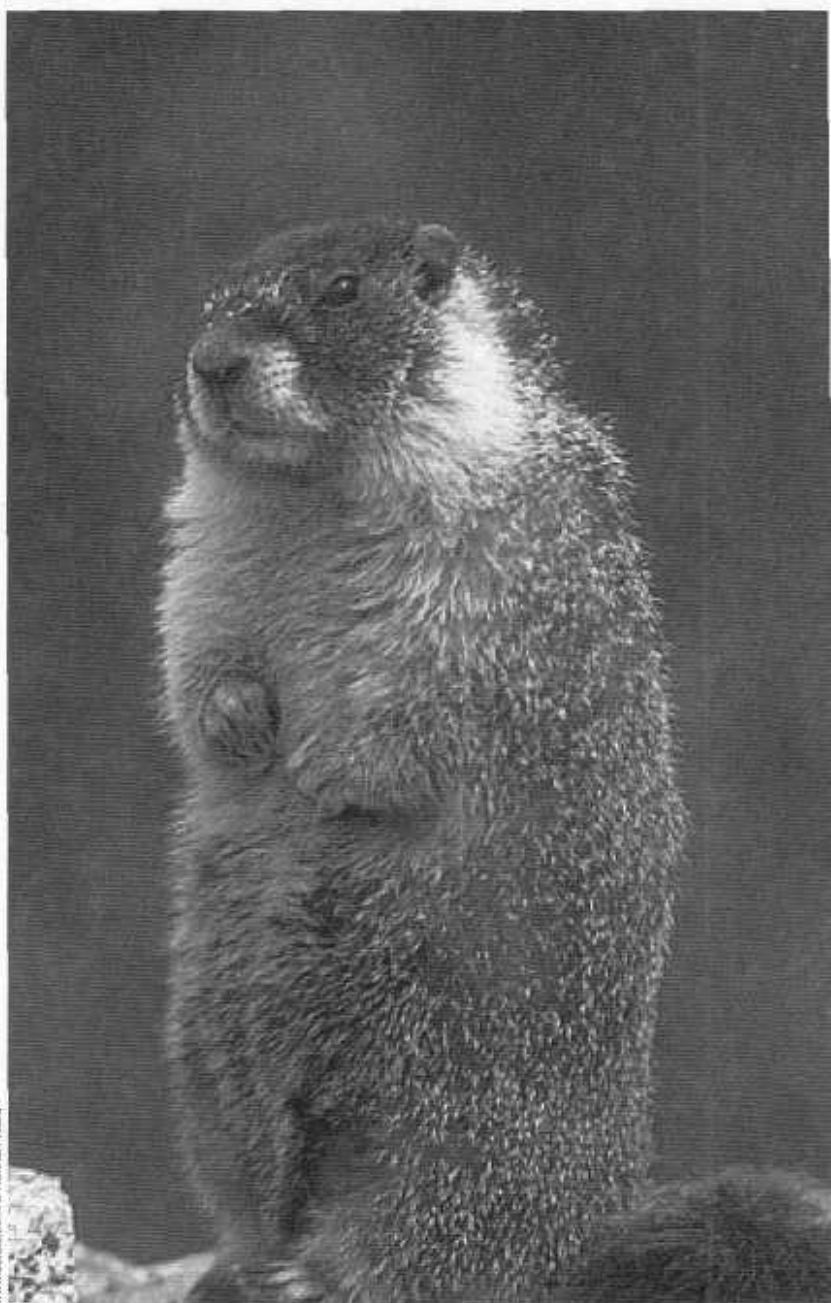
The fourth son, Bean Mot, founded a large vanilla plantation in Motegascar, still in business.

The youngest of Auguste's sons, Mal de Mot, emigrated to the New World, settling in Motreal after a very rough sea crossing. After a short time, he moved to a small town near Motpelier, Vermot, motriculating in mathematics at a small college in the Green Motains. It was his son, Var Mot, who founded the Mot Lake branch of the family, moving to California, and to the Sierra Nevada at the turn of the century. Var became a close friend of John Muir—his name is often encountered in early issues of the Sierra Club Bulletin.

A common decorative motif in Mot family homes at the lake today, as in their ancestral homes in the Swiss Alps, are door mots, place mots, and motresses—woven of grasses from their own meadow. The grasses are carefully selected and collected each summer and fall, before the return of winter's snow to their peaceful lake basin.

On your next trip to Yosemite, stop in to meet the Mots—you'll find them to be friendly, if a bit shy, and quite as curious about you as you will be about them. There was some discussion a few years ago about building a motel at the lake, but as there is no road for motor cars, the plan was wisely abandoned. The lake is much as it was when Var Mot moved to California.

Longtime YA member Peter Overmire first visited Yosemite Valley in 1944. He remembers the experience fondly since it occurred during gas rationing, and there were almost no cars.



www.yosemite.com/b/Kennan/Ward

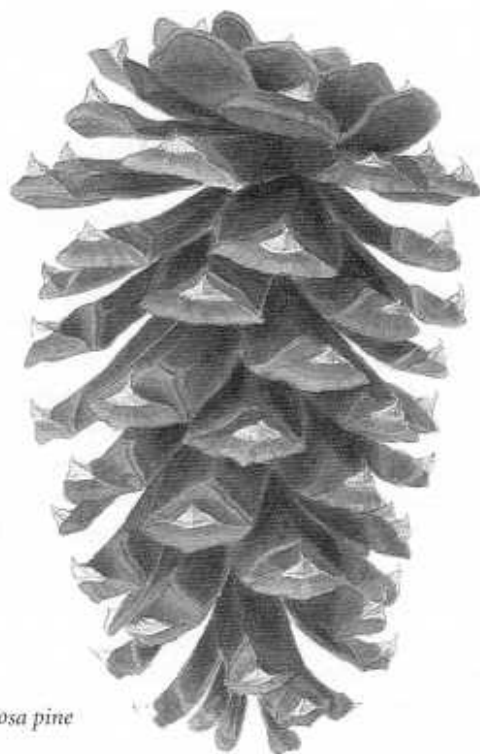
Par Mot, the golfer.

BOOK REVIEW

BY ROBERT PAVLIK

When one thinks of Yosemite, images of Half Dome, El Capitan, the waterfalls and meadows all come to mind. And, as a verdant, fragrant backdrop are the trees—ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, red fir, Sierra juniper, giant sequoia: conifers all. Cachuma Press has enlisted the able skills of forester and biologist Ronald Lanner to compile the first comprehensive study of all the state's conifers.

It's not as easy as it sounds. The author was faced with a daunting number of subjects, as cone-bearing trees are found throughout the state, from sea level to almost 12,000 feet in elevation, and from the southeastern deserts to northwestern rain forests. The types and varieties of trees are remarkable: California has more kinds of conifers than any of the other forty-nine states. There are fifty conifers discussed in this book, including eighteen types of pines, ten cypresses, and seven firs, along with four junipers, three spruces, two hemlocks, two redwoods (coast redwood and giant sequoia), Douglas fir, Pacific yew, and California nutmeg.

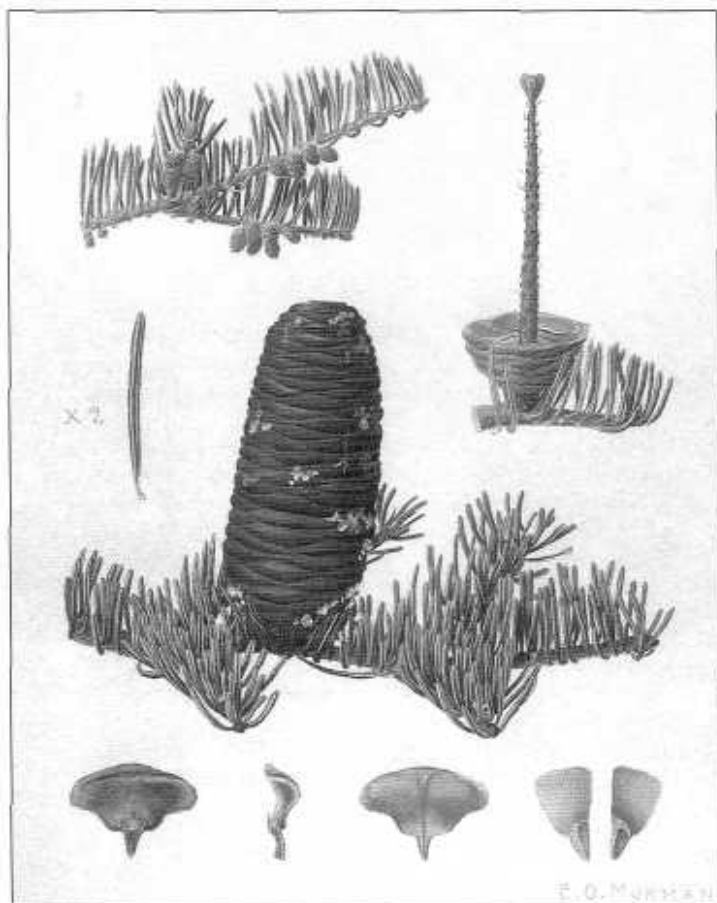


Ponderosa pine

The book is organized by taxonomic families (*Pinaceae* [pines], *Cupressaceae* [cypress], *Taxodiaceae* [baldcypress], and *Taxaceae* [yew]). Each chapter is devoted to a detailed discussion of the tree under study, and includes information on its discovery, naming, appearance, and, where appropriate, uses. Each tree also includes a section for identifying the tree from a distance, standing beneath it, and holding the needles and cones in one's hand. Descriptions of its habitat and distribution round out the discussion.

Lanner engages in a practice called "taxonomic full disclosure." In his text he presents all of the information related to the challenges of identifying and classifying trees, and cites the appropriate literature, so that the informed reader and professional forester alike can gain from his meticulous research.

A hallmark of all Cachuma Press publications is the clear, graceful writing and the illustrations. For example, the section on gray pine includes the following: "One's first impression is of a wispy crown supported on a slender, often branched trunk. Most of the trees stand upright in their semi-arid surroundings and are sometimes garnished with poison oak vines. Many lean and tilt this way and that, creating the suspicion of a drunken forest staggering as it ascends the oak-studded foothills." There are several color photographs that accompany each tree, along with a map showing its distribution throughout the state.



White fir

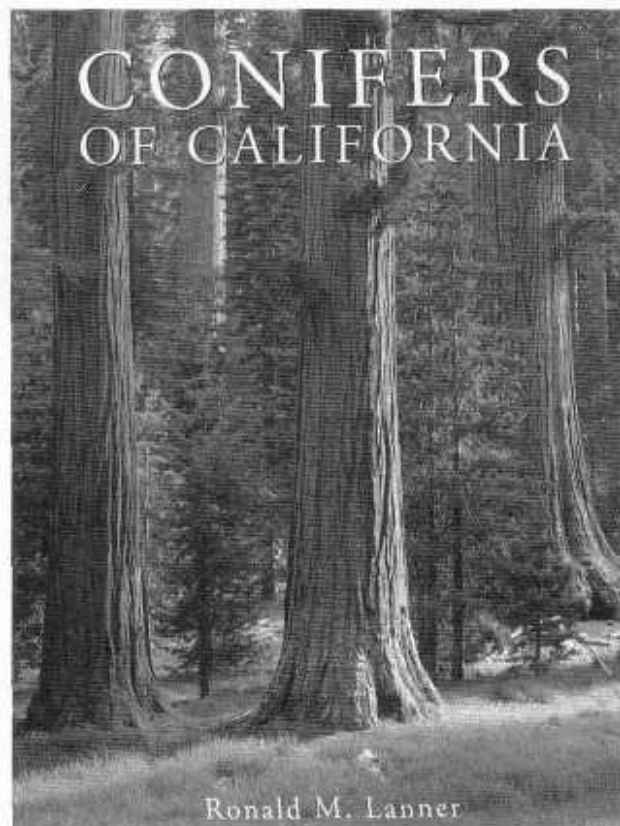


Gray pine

Some of the most interesting and pleasurable aspects of this volume are the scientific illustrations of Eugene O. Murman. An artist by trade and a naturalist by inclination, Murman painted more than 500 watercolors of California flora over a twenty-year period. The paintings of seeds, cones, needles, and branches not only help with identification but also are a pleasure to view.

This is a book that will find favor among scientists, naturalists, and nature lovers alike. It is equally useful as a field guide, textbook, or coffee table volume, ready for perusal. Every time one picks up this book he or she will learn something new about our state and its fascinating and diverse flora. I commend *Conifers of California* to all Yosemite Association members.

Robert Pavlik is an Associate Environmental Planner for the Department of Transportation for the State of California. A longtime Yosemite enthusiast, he is a frequent contributor to this journal.



NOTE: Author Ronald Lanner will be present a program on California conifers at the YA Spring Forum, April 1, 2000.

Ronald M. Lanner, *Conifers of California*. Los Olivos: Cachuma Press, 1999; 288 pages, photos, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index: paperback, \$24.95, hardcover, \$36.95.

To order this book, please see Catalog section beginning on page 15.

MEMBERS PAGE

Work Trips Scheduled for Summer 2000

June 11-17: "Weed Warriors"

Volunteers will tackle weeding in Yosemite Valley, El Portal, Foresta and elsewhere as needed.

June 25-July 1: Valley Projects

This week will focus on restoration and touch-up work in the valley and may include black oak cage removal and replacement, rare plant surveys, and weeding exotics.

August 13-19: Backcountry Trip

Location is not set, but work will involve wilderness restoration, campsite removal, elimination of campfire rings and social trails.

August 27-September 2: Tuolumne Meadows Projects

Restoration work in the Tuolumne area may include social trail elimination at Elizabeth Lake and maintenance of the campfire ring free areas at Budd and Cathedral Lakes.

October 15-21: Fall Valley Projects

This group will concentrate on blackberry removal and may continue with black oak seedling care, fencing and touch-up work, possibly work in Tuolumne or Merced Groves.



The snowless high country on January 1, 2000

In addition to the scheduled trips, week-long rare plant surveys are being planned for spring and/or summer. Contact the phone number below for more information.

In each of these trips, fifteen YA members camp together in an assigned campground (shared sites) from Sunday afternoon to the following Saturday morning. They work with National Park Service project leaders during the week on restoring damaged trails and campsites to more natural conditions. The National Park Service, Yosemite Institute, Yosemite Concession Services, and Yosemite Association cooperatively sponsor these workweeks.

For an application and/or more information, call Holly or Connie at 209/379-2317.

Wanted: Volunteers for Summer 2000

Does spending a month in Yosemite Valley or Tuolumne Meadows sound good to you? YA has volunteer places to fill from May through September. The tasks are varied and involve public contact. The work schedule is reasonable with time off to hike and explore the park. They share several campsites in either the Valley or Tuolumne. If you'd like more information and/or an application, please call (209) 379-2317.



NEW WINTER - SPRING LEARNING VACATIONS

Enjoy one of the new seminar packages—a room and seminar combined—January through April in Yosemite Valley and Wawona with experienced outdoor instructors. Discounted rooms and an array of diverse classes are offered in these mid-week programs.

Join a small group of people (no more than fifteen, and probably eight to ten) who also want to experience Yosemite in winter and learn how animals and plants adapt to extremes of cold and snow. Leave your footprints alongside the tracks of coyote and chickadee while learning about ice crystals, hoarfrost, and rime. Dress warmly and come with a sense of adventure to one of the following winter or early spring seminars:

Writing Winter in Yosemite Valley, January 26–28, with Robin Drury

Winter Family Adventure - Wawona, February 2–4, with Kristina Rylands

Winter Snowshoe in Wawona, February 8(eve)–10, with Julie Miller

Nordic Ski Trek, February 15–16, with Michael Ross

Wukchumne Berry Basket, February 23, with Alice Tulloch

Black & White Winter Photography, February 23–25, with Jeff Nixon

Winter Ecology Walk, March 1–2, with Dick Ewart

Portable Magic: Keeping an Illustrated Journal, March 21–23, with Sarah Rabkin

Observing Wildlife, March 27 (eve)–30, with John Weller

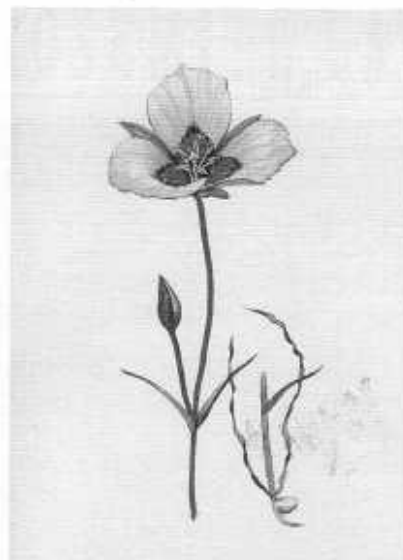
Material Culture of Central California Indians, April 4–6, with Bob Fry

A Walk in the Wild, April 11–13, with Kristina Rylands

These courses and many other great field seminars will be included in the new 2000 catalog that will be mailed to members early in the year. If you have any questions, call the seminar office at 209/379-2321.



Instructor Michael Ross leading a Nordic ski trek.



Member Donations for Flora Top \$100,000

Yosemite Association members responded with great generosity to our request to sponsor the completion of the long-awaited *An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park* by Stephen Botti with illustrations by Walter Sydoriak. Over two hundred and fifty different members and other supporters contributed an aggregate of more than \$100,000 to help make the new publication a reality. In addition, a special grant from the Parks Company in the amount of \$1,000 was applied for and funded.

In development since 1984, the flora features a thorough text and key by Stephen J. Botti and covers every species of plant recorded at the park. Central to the work are over 1,100 remarkable watercolor paintings of all the flowering plants by Walter Sydoriak, and nearly 300 black-and-white line drawings by Lesley Randall. The book is moving towards completion, and we are still hoping to meet the projected publication date of May, 2000.

The board and staff of the Yosemite Association send thanks to all of those who helped with gifts for the flora. Donations can still be sent, and every effort will be made to acknowledge contributors of \$250 or more within the book.

A special pre-publication offer to purchase the flora will be sent to members sometime in early spring.

Yosemite Transit Service to Start in May

Beginning in May of 2000, visitors can ride transit from gateway communities into Yosemite Valley. Mariposa, Merced, and Mono Counties have partnered with the National Park Service to initiate the transit alternative, named YARTS (the Yosemite Area Transportation System).

While those who choose to drive their own cars may still do so, visitors who would rather ride can buy a round-trip ticket for \$7-15, depending on the length of their trip. YARTS will provide a dependable and comfortable ride to and from Yosemite. Buses will include amenities such as restrooms.

Once inside the park, transit riders can connect with free Yosemite shuttle buses. YARTS transit will offer service into and out of the park all day, beginning at approximately 8 a.m. and continuing until approximately 6 p.m. YARTS will finalize exact schedules and stops at the beginning of 2000. For additional information, visitors can call (209) 723-3153 or access the YARTS website at: www.yosemite.com/yarts.

YA Benefits from Your Online Shopping

Help the Yosemite Association when you shop online. Access your favorite merchants, like Amazon and JC Penney through www.yosemite.greatergood.com and 5% of your purchase will go directly to YA at no extra cost to you.

GreaterGood.com
Shop where it matters.

Spring Forum Set for April Fool's Day

Yosemite Association's annual Spring Forum is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2000 in Yosemite Valley. Members are invited to attend this popular day that features informative presentations, both indoors and outdoors, on a variety of Yosemite-related topics.

In the East and West auditoriums, there will be a series of concurrent sessions. University of California at Berkeley professor Tim Duane will present a program based on his new book, *Shaping the Sierra: Nature, Culture, and Conflict in the Changing West* in which he explores the dilemmas of economy vs. ecology in the Sierra foothills. The conifers of California will be the topic of a presentation by Ronald Lanner, who has authored a new book of the same name. Art Baggett, YA

member and El Portal resident, will offer a slide-illustrated talk on his winter trek that traced Orland Bartholomew's transsierra journey seventy years ago. In addition to the auditorium programs, members can also choose from a series of guided walks that take place throughout the day, weather permitting.

Members have already received details about the Spring Forum by mail, and should sign up by returning the registration form along with \$25 per person. Attendance is limited to the first 500 registrants. A finalized agenda, nametags, and information about participating in the day's events (including the walk sign-up form) will be mailed to those who register.

Leaving a Yosemite Legacy

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

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

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



Foxtail pine

Association Dates

April 1, 2000
Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

June 11-17
Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

June 25-July 1
Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

August 13-19
Backcountry Work Trip

August 27-September 2
Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

September 9
Annual Members' Meeting, Wawona

October 15-21
Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

209/379-2317

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



Shaping the Sierra

Nature, Culture, and Conflict in the Changing West

TIMOTHY P. DUANE

Shaping the Sierra—Nature, Culture, and Conflict in the Changing West

by *Timothy P. Duane*. The Sierra Nevada landscape has always been valued for its bounty of natural resource commodities, but new residents and an ever-growing flood of tourists to the area have transformed the relation between the region's nature and its culture. Today the primary social and economic values of the Sierra are the amenities and ecological services provided by its wildlands and functioning ecosystems.

This book documents the consequences of rapid population growth, under way since the late 1960s, to the social, economic, and ecological characteristics of the Sierra Nevada. The author recommends innovative policies for mitigating the negative impacts of future population growth in the range and other rural areas of the west. He contends that for there to be sustainable development in the Sierra, we must explicitly recognize the importance of an environmental land ethic.

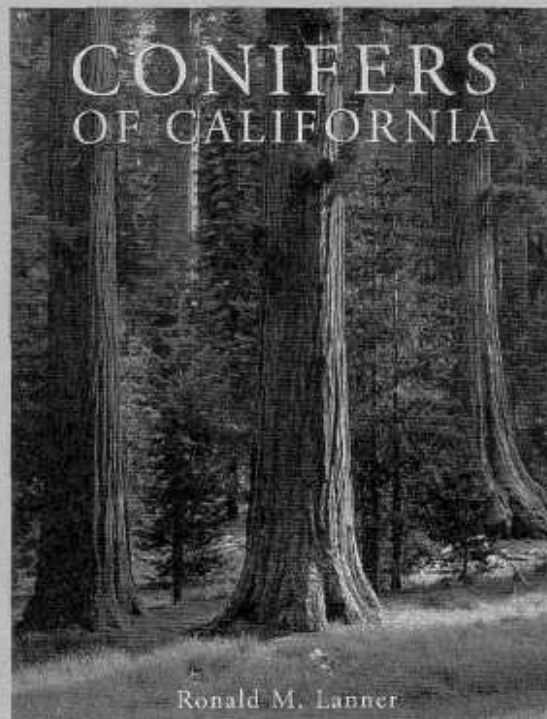
The author is assistant professor of city and regional planning, landscape architecture, and environmental planning at the University of California at Berkeley. Illustrated with black-and-white maps, photos, and charts. 596 pages, University of California Press, 1999. Hardback, \$50

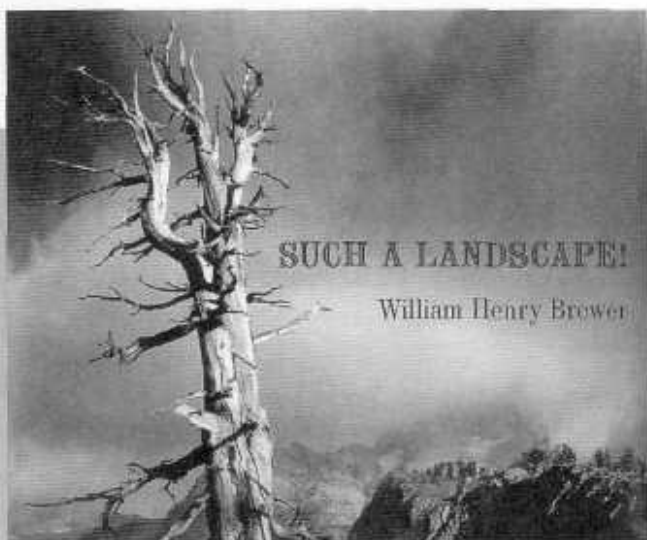
Conifers of California

by *Ronald M. Lanner*. This is the first book entirely devoted to the state's native cone-bearing trees and shrubs. Fifty-two species of conifers grow throughout California, from sea level to about 12,000 feet, and they grace practically every natural habitat in the state, from arid desert scrub to fog-shrouded rainforest.

The variety of conifers is also impressive, and some are distinguished or unique for a medley of reasons. Species include the coast redwood (the world's tallest tree); giant sequoia (the world's most massive tree); the Great Basin bristlecone (Earth's oldest living organism); and Torrey pine (the rarest pine in the U.S.).

The author shares his forty years experience with forest trees in a text that serves as both natural history and field guide. The narratives are accompanied by detailed identification information, watercolor botanic illustrations, color photographs of each species, and distribution maps. The volume is beautifully designed, printed in full color, and handsome in all regards. 274 pages, Cachuma Press, 1999. Paperback, \$24.95





Such A Landscape! A Narrative of the 1864 California Geological Survey Exploration of Yosemite, Sequoia, & Kings Canyon from the Diary, Field Notes, Letters & Reports of William Henry Brewer

With an introduction, notes, & photographs by William Alsup and a foreword by Cathleen Douglas Stone. This new publication from the Yosemite Association collects William Brewer's diary, field notes, letters and reports (many previously unpublished) made in 1864 during the Geological Survey's landmark explorations of some of California's wildest terrain. William Alsup has tied these various sources together with his own careful observations made over a dozen years as he traced and photographed the survey party's route through the central Sierra Nevada.

Alsup, a photographer, writer, attorney, backpacked with his large format camera to make the stunning images that so eloquently illuminate Brewer's text.

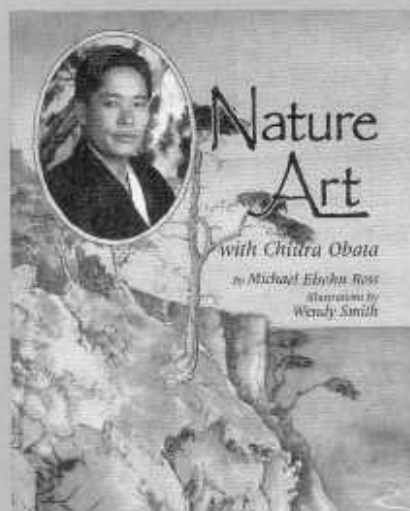
The book was issued in a limited edition of only 500 copies in 1987, and it is now finally available in a paperback version. The large format book is 10" x 11", includes 40 black & white photographs, is 120 pages long, and features a paper binding with flaps. \$29.95

Nature Art with Chiura Obata

by Michael Elsohn Ross; illustrations by Wendy Smith. This book for young people combines information about Chiura Obata's life and work with tips on making nature art. It chronicles Obata's growth from his childhood when he started to draw the world around him, through his move to the United States, where he discovered Yosemite and the natural beauty of California, and his life as a professor in Berkeley.

The book illustrates the way in which Obata used his internment during World War II to teach art and share the natural wonders around him with his friends and neighbors. Overcoming all obstacles he faced, he influenced thousands of students, friends, and admirers.

Filled with lots of art activities based on works by Obata, this is a fine introduction to nature art for children. It is illustrated in full color, and features important dates, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. 48 pages, Carolrhoda Books, 1999. Hardback, \$15.95

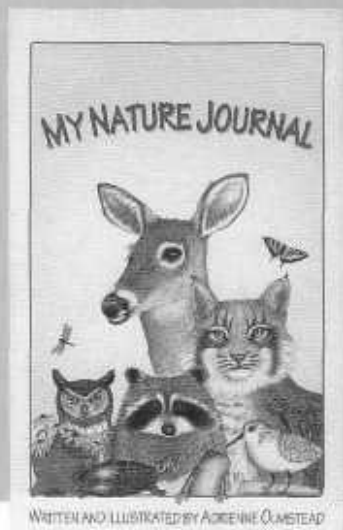


My Nature Journal

written and illustrated by Adrienne Olmstead. This is a personal nature guide for young people that they fill with their thoughts, sketches, observations, and discoveries. The book will help users search for tracks in a woodland, discover a special place in a meadow, find aquatic insects in a stream, explore tidepools at a seashore, and watch for nocturnal animals at twilight.

The journal combines solid scientific information with ample space for thoughtful reflection and field notes. It is a great tool for nurturing a child's innate curiosity about the natural world. Families will enjoy working together with this journal on family outings and vacations.

Representative chapters include field sketching, woodlands, seashore, meadows, and more. Nature activities include leaf rubbings, scavenger hunts, magnifying glass examinations, and charting. Illustrated with black-and-white drawings. 176 pages, Pajaro Books, 2000. Wire-o Bound with Hard Cover, \$17.95

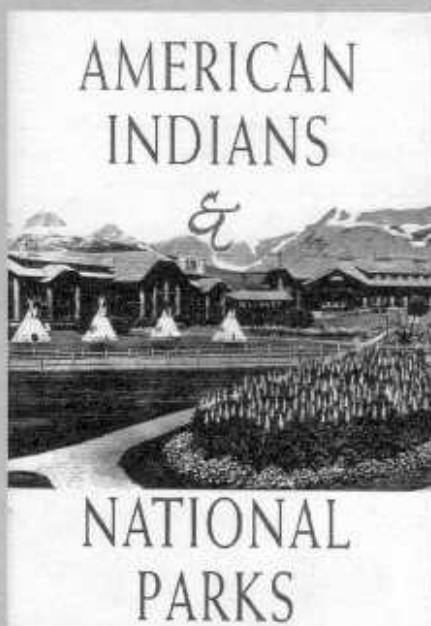
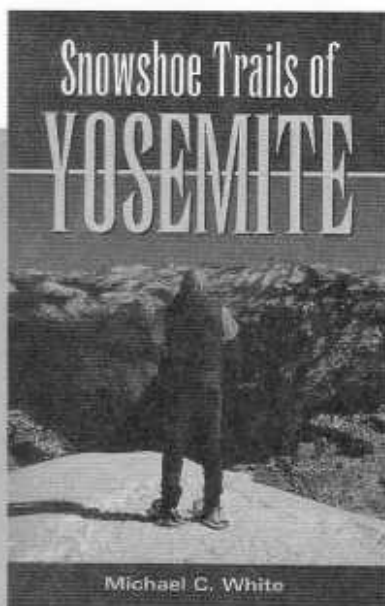


Snowshoe Trails of Yosemite

by Michael C. White. In winter, visitors to Yosemite are blessed with the rare opportunity to sample the unparalleled majesty of such landmarks as Half Dome, El Capitan, and Yosemite Falls without the hustle and bustle of activity commonplace during the warmer seasons. The quiet serenity of winter beckons snowshoers to come and experience the park and its backcountry in relative tranquility.

This book describes 41 of greater Yosemite's best snowshoe trips which have been selected for their great scenery and ease of accessibility. Included are topographic maps, precise trailhead directions, and detailed trip descriptions. There are also sections on equipment and winter travel.

Each trip has listings for degree of difficulty, elevation gain and mileage, as well as advice on trailhead parking. There are even tips on where to warm up and relax after your snowshoe outing! Illustrated with black-and-white photographs and maps. 217 pages, Wilderness Press, 1999. Paperback, \$13.95



American Indians & National Parks

by Robert H. Keller and Michael F. Turek. From Yellowstone to the Everglades, many of America's national parks and monuments have been the scene of conflict between native peoples and park officials over such issues as hunting rights, craft sales, cultural interpretation, and sacred sites. This book examines the evolution of federal policies toward land preservation in our parks, and explores some of the provocative issues surrounding park/Indian issues.

Based on extensive research, including more than 200 interviews with Native Americans, environmentalists, park rangers, and politicians, the volume will be an invaluable resource for anyone concerned with preserving both cultural and natural resources. With its ethnographic details and insights, this is a well written and argued analysis.

Illustrated with black-and-white photographs and maps. 322 pages, University of Arizona Press, 1998. Paperback, \$19.95

Pajaro Field Bag

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

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





Yosemite Association Patch

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

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



Yosemite Wilderness Pin

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

Yosemite Association Mug

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



Sierra Nevada Field Card Set

Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales

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



Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag

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



Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap

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



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Join the Yosemite Association

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

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

MOVING?

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

MEMBER BENEFITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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