

# YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY

AUTUMN.WINTER 2015 :: VOLUME 06.ISSUE 02

## Youth Explore Yosemite's "Classroom"

### INSIDE

Transforming Young Lives,  
Transforming Yosemite

A Day in the Life with  
World-Class Trail Crews

Expert Insights on Reintroducing  
Bighorn Sheep to Yosemite

Presenting Favorite Yosemite Vistas





**YOSEMITE  
CONSERVANCY**

## *Providing For Yosemite's Future*

### YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### CHAIR

Philip L. Pillsbury Jr.\*

#### PRESIDENT & CEO

Frank Dean\*

#### VICE CHAIR

Bob Bennitt\*

#### VICE PRESIDENT, CFO & COO

Jerry Edelbrock

#### COUNCIL

Hollis & Matt Adams	Jean Lane
Jeanne & Michael Adams	Walt Lemmermann*
Gretchen Augustyn	Melody & Bob Lind
Susan & Bill Baribault	Sam & Cindy Livermore
Meg & Bob Beck	Anahita & Jim Lovelace
Suzy & Bob Bennitt*	Lillian Lovelace
David Bowman &	Mark Marion &
Gloria Miller	Sheila Grether-Marion
Tori & Bob Brant*	Patsy & Tim Marshall
Marilyn & Allan Brown	Kirsten & Dan Miks
Steve & Diane Ciesinski*	Robyn & Joe Miller
Sandy & Bob Comstock	Janet Napolitano
Marilyn &	Dick Otter
Don R. Conlan	Sharon &
Hal Cranston*	Philip L. Pillsbury Jr.*
Carol & Manny Diaz	Bill Reller
Leslie* & John Dorman*	Frankie & Skip Rhodes*
Dave & Dana Dornsife*	Liz & Royal Robbins
Lisa & Craig Elliott	Dave Rossetti &
Kathy Fairbanks*	Jan Avent*
Sandra &	Lisa & Greg Stanger*
Bernard Fischbach	Jennifer &
Cynthia & Bill Floyd*	Russ Stanton*
Jim Freedman	Ann & George Sundby
Susan & Don Fuhrer*	Susan & Bill Urick
Bonnie Gregory	Clifford J. Walker*
Rusty Gregory*	Wally Wallner* &
Karen & Steve Hanson	Jill Appenzeller
Christy &	Jack Walston & Sue Estes
Chuck Holloway	Phyllis Weber* &
Jennifer &	Art Baggett
Gregory Johnson*	Ward & Polly Wolff

#### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Don Neubacher

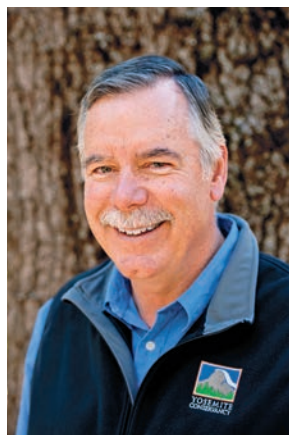
\*Indicates Board of Trustees



## MISSION

*Providing for Yosemite's future is our passion. We inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park's resources and enrich the visitor experience.*

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE



### Pay It Forward

One of the ways Yosemite Conservancy and our generous donors are "Providing for Yosemite's Future" is through the variety of youth programs we support each year. Most of us have experienced inspiration from a Yosemite visit. I have also been fortunate to see the wonder of Yosemite through a child's eyes, and to witness the excited arrival of young adults who have never had the opportunity to visit the park before. The joy on their faces is powerful. Conservancy-funded park programs have changed the lives

of these students, as Yosemite becomes a reality — and not just a screen saver or operating system.

Yosemite Conservancy is actively partnering with the park to inspire the next generation of stewards. Throughout this issue, you will see how our donor-funded youth programs are making a difference for young people and for the future of Yosemite. From the Junior Ranger program to our partnership with UC Merced on the Wilderness Education Center, you can learn how these young leaders are also assisting with trail restoration, providing visitor services and even fundraising! And, in this youth-themed-issue, you will also meet the park's newest horses and learn about the baby lambs in the big horn sheep herd our donors helped to reintroduce to Yosemite's Cathedral Range.

A visit to Yosemite is life-changing. We are thankful for your generosity, which is allowing us to make that experience relevant to the next group of rangers and park supporters.

Thanks for all you do for Yosemite!

*Frank Dean*

Frank Dean, President

**COVER PHOTO** Yosemite park ranger Christine Loberg shows junior rangers how American Indians traditionally ground acorns for food.

PHOTO: © KEITH WALKLET.



**We are now on Twitter and Instagram!**

Follow Yosemite Conservancy, and stay connected.





# CONTENTS

AUTUMN.WINTER 2015  
VOLUME 06.ISSUE 02

**ABOVE** A snowshoer enjoys a wintery view of Half Dome from the Glacier Point overlook.

## IN THIS ISSUE



### **04** TRANSFORMING LIVES, TRANSFORMING THE PARK

Youth in Yosemite Programs offer opportunities for young people to learn, grow and find inspiration.



### **06** GRIT AND GRANITE: SHAPING YOSEMITE'S TRAILS

Experience a day in the life of Yosemite's hard-working trail crews, as they restore the park's world-class trails.



### **08** THE VIEW FROM UP HERE

Celebrate the restoration of some of the park's most well-loved overlooks with photos of their stunning views.

## DEPARTMENTS

### **10** EXPERT INSIGHTS

Yosemite's wildlife biologist Sarah Stock on the successful reintroduction of bighorn sheep to the park.

### **12** Q&A WITH A YOSEMITE INSIDER

Park rangers Moses Chun and Alejandra Guzman reveal how Conservancy-sponsored youth programs inspired their careers in conservation.

### **14** PROJECT UPDATES

Preserving Yosemite's equine legacy, restoring habitat at Vernal Fall, transforming Tenaya Lake and more.

### **19** PROGRAM UPDATES

A new publication celebrates the national park's centennial, and Outdoor Adventures build on a legacy of Yosemite exploration.

### **22** ANNUAL REPORT

Your gifts are making a difference in Yosemite.

### **26** WHY I GIVE

Conservancy donors share their stories of inspiration and passion.

### **30** READER PHOTOS

Yosemite Conservancy supporters share their special Yosemite memories.





# TRANSFORMING LIVES, TRANSFORMING THE PARK

## *Yosemite's next stewards climb a ladder of opportunity*

Through a partnership with NatureBridge, WildLink students complete a two-week, hands-on career-training program, complete with stewardship projects, wilderness patrol and opportunities to explore the park.

**O**n a stormy July afternoon, Michael V., a 16-year-old from Washington, D.C., stood before students, rangers and park-partner staff in the Wawona Gray Barn. He recapped the excitement of the time he'd spent restoring trails and completing educational workshops as a member of Yosemite's Youth Stewardship Corps. "It's an incredible feeling to know the work we're doing benefits the environment today and protects the beauty of nature for future generations," he said. "I've learned so much about Yosemite and how I'm connected to the environment as a steward."

Michael shared his experience as part of the Youth in Yosemite Open House, which celebrated the Conservancy-funded programs that create a "ladder of opportunity" for young people to explore Yosemite and learn about park stewardship. ➤



These diverse programs transform the lives of young people of all ages by empowering them to transform Yosemite. Young children earn junior ranger badges for environmental and educational activities. Middle-school students explore photography through Parks in Focus. High-schoolers participate in wilderness expeditions and residential stewardship experiences. Older youth explore careers through the Yosemite Leadership Program (YLP), California Conservation Corps and other programs.

Youth in Yosemite Programs often reach communities underrepresented in national parks. These programs also can provide a young person's first exposure to Yosemite and to conservation work. Hector P. discovered an interest in wildlife while visiting the park for the first time with WildLink, which connects high-school youth to nature through backpacking, stewardship and more. Later, as a 20-year-old biology major in college, he completed an education-focused YLP internship, developing wildlife-themed curricula and set his sights on a career in the park. Without those programs, Hector says, he probably still would be working in the Central Valley fields where he grew up, thinking of "nature" as rows of fruit trees.

Hector's story echoes many others. At least 15 current Yosemite rangers got their start through the park's youth programs. Like Hector, Vera R. grew up near Yosemite, but she was more familiar with farms than mountains before visiting the park as an Adventure Risk Challenge participant. Now she manages the Wilderness Education Center at University of California, Merced. Alejandra G., who completed several Conservancy-funded programs after an inspiring Yosemite visit during high school, now serves as an education ranger, teaching participants on every rung of the Youth in Yosemite ladder.

As young people explore opportunities on that ladder, they're making a difference in the park. "They're not just the future of Yosemite — they're also the present," YLP Director Jesse Chakrin says. "These students are doing amazing work every day."

Youth-stewardship projects affect every corner of the park. Youth crews have restored miles of trails, replaced moss on boulders marred by "eco-graffiti" and removed inappropriate



More than 20,000 children earn their junior ranger badges in Yosemite each year, learning about the park's history and resources, completing stewardship projects and exploring Yosemite.

campsites. This summer, they supported the multiyear project to restore the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias by collecting native plants to support revegetation. Students also transform the park behind the scenes, creating educational videos, leading volunteer projects and more.

Back at the barn, as distant thunder rumbled, Yosemite's Education Branch Chief Shauna Potocky thanked the people behind the programs, from rangers and educators to Conservancy donors who invest in the future of these youth and the park. Her final thanks went to the bright students whose confidence and camaraderie lit up the darkening afternoon: "Thank you for sharing the beginning of your journeys with us," she said. "We can't wait to see where you will go!"

For students such as Michael, Hector and countless others, each hike, lesson and project helps build a foundation for a future of environmental stewardship. Wherever they go, they'll be ready to make a difference in their communities, parks and world. ■

**THANK YOU TO SARA MILLER MCCUNE** for generously sponsoring the following Youth in Yosemite Programs: Connect the Class of 2016 to Yosemite, Junior Ranger program, Parks in Focus, Teens Connect to Yosemite through WildLink, WildLink Alumni Explore Yosemite Careers and the Yosemite Leadership Program. Major support for other youth programs has been provided by The North Face, Daniel and Diane Vapnek, Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation and other generous donors.



# GRIT & GRANITE

## Shaping Yosemite's Trails

### ON THE TRAIL WITH WORLD-CLASS CREWS

Yosemite's trails and the crews that take care of them are among the best in the world. With support from our donors, trail restoration creates safe and enjoyable hiking experiences, protects habitat, and helps stock animals navigate the backcountry.

Much of that vital work is a mystery to the everyday hiker. "People don't see a lot of what we do," Yosemite Trails Supervisor Steve Lynds says. "They only see the top layer."

To understand what goes into shaping Yosemite's trails, we asked Lynds, who got his start through the California Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1991, and Mark Scrimenti, a 2014 CCC alum and current Conservancy wilderness assistant, about life on the park's backcountry crews. We invite you to step into their boots, and imagine you're spending a season in a wilderness base camp.

### HERE'S WHAT YOUR DAY MIGHT LOOK LIKE:

**4:30 AM** Wake up. Head to the makeshift camp kitchen, and eat breakfast prepared by the trail crew cook. Having a cook on the crew (a norm in Yosemite, but not necessarily in other parks) helps keep workers energized through long seasons of intense 10-hour days.

**7:00 AM** Hike to the work site (sometimes several miles), carrying tools such as shovels, hammers and "rock bars," which work as levers when wedged under boulders. Spend the morning removing brush and logs, digging trenches called swales to divert rain and prevent erosion, or building a boardwalk to protect plants and preserve water flow.

Or dive into what Scrimenti calls the "coolest, toughest" part of trail restoration: rockwork. Yosemite's crews typically practice drystone masonry, which means they build sturdy structures without mortar, drawing instead on patience, strength and skills passed down by experienced supervisors.

**12:00 PM** Refuel with a lunch break. You'll need the energy — it's time to move rocks!

Yosemite's crews almost always use native materials. That means finding granite boulders — sometimes the size of cars — and breaking them into manageable pieces, then moving them using your own strength (hug, lean, roll), rock bars or even pulley systems. While major moves require multiple hands, trail workers often tackle these tasks alone.

Basic rules include building on a strong foundation and offsetting stones to avoid creating vulnerable vertical seams. Rockwork is like a jigsaw puzzle. Carefully chisel the stone into the shape you need. Chipped off too much? Find a new rock.

**5:00 PM** Hike back to camp. Bathe in a lake or river. Eat with your crew. Celebrate your progress: Placing two rocks in a single day is cheer-worthy. To build a rain-diverting waterbar, Scrimenti spent five weeks moving and meticulously arranging fewer than 20 rocks — about one per day.

Look closely, and you can see traces of the extraordinary diligence and precision that make Yosemite's crews and trails stand out. Their work is visible throughout the park: steps on the Mist Trail, stone walls near Yosemite Falls, smooth high country switchbacks and much more. Through immersive programs such as CCC, a new generation is learning to embrace that work ethic, attention to detail and appreciation for each small, crucial layer of the restoration process. ■

*Thank you to the Rossi Family Foundation, REI, Don and Dorothy Lewis, John and Nadine Mills and Planet Granite for generously providing significant funds in support of these projects.*





**Drainage Feature**



**Plug & Feathers**



**Griphoist**

## GLOSSARY

A small selection of terms used by our trail teams.

### CRUSH

Small, angular pieces of rock used to fill space around rock structures. Rounded rocks or gravel can act like slippery ball bearings, but angular crush, which is created by smashing larger rocks and is a standard material on almost any project, is crucial for stabilization.

### DRAINAGE FEATURE

An existing or constructed element that helps keep water off a trail. Common features include swales, which are naturally occurring or excavated dips that redirect water (armored swales are reinforced with rocks), and waterbars, which combine a broad dip in the trail and an angled rock barrier.

### GRIPHOIST

The brand name for a portable, manually operated hoisting device with a strong wire cable, used to move rocks and logs weighing thousands of pounds.

### PLUG & FEATHERS

A technique used to split rocks using sets of three tools: a metal wedge (the plug) and two curved, tapered shims (the feathers). After drilling holes along a line in the surface of the rock, you position the feathers in the holes, then drive the plugs into the slot between them with a maul. The shims function as a guide that prevents the wedge from getting stuck. Eventually, a crack will appear.

### RIPRAP

Medium or large angular rocks carefully stacked on an unstable slope to slow erosion.

### ROCK BAR

A steel bar with a beveled end, used with a fulcrum to move rocks. Rock bars are typically about 4 feet long, and weigh 16 to 18 pounds.

### RUNNING (OR UNBROKEN) JOINT

A vertical seam that weakens dry-stone walls. When building rock structures, crew members always offset stones, using one rock to bridge two below it, so there is never a single unbroken line.





# THE VIEW FROM UP HERE

**Y**osemite boasts some of the most spectacular views in the world. With towering granite cliffs, rich green forests and thundering waterfalls, the opportunities for jaw-dropping sights are all around. To keep our visitors' favorite views intact while protecting sensitive habitat, Yosemite Conservancy has helped to rehabilitate many vista points and overlooks. Thanks to your support, Conservancy-funded projects have restored trails, created secure retaining walls, increased visitor accessibility and cleared vantage points to welcome photographers and visitors alike. Here is a small selection of stunning views captured from these well-loved overlooks.







### GLACIER POINT

Rehabilitated in 1997, Glacier Point offers one of the most spectacular vistas in Yosemite. At 3,200 feet above the Valley floor, visitors can see Yosemite's major peaks in every direction.

PHOTO: © ERNIE SLONE



### OLMSTED POINT

Olmsted Point, on Tioga Road at 8,400 feet, offers views of Tenaya Lake, Clouds Rest and Half Dome. At the overlook, visitors can explore the “erratic” boulders and fields of polished and fractured granite left by glaciers long ago.

PHOTO: © CHARLOTTE GIBB.

### TUNNEL VIEW

Tunnel View wows visitors emerging from Wawona Tunnel, offering the most iconic vista of Yosemite Valley. Opened to traffic in 1933, the tunnel and viewing platform were restored in 2008.

PHOTO: © MARK LILLY.

### HALF DOME VIEW

Half Dome View gives those driving east on Big Oak Flat Road (Hwy. 120) their first opportunity to pull off and view El Capitan and Half Dome. Visitors are routinely awestruck by their first glimpse of these granite giants.

PHOTO: © KEITH WALKLET.

### YOSEMITE FALLS

Yosemite Falls is the highest and most dramatic waterfall in North America, plunging 2,565 feet from the rim of Yosemite Valley. An ambitious campaign in 2005 restored the viewing area at the base of the falls and set a new standard in landscape design.

PHOTO: © JEREMY EVANS.





# BACK FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

RETURNING SIERRA NEVADA BIGHORN SHEEP TO  
YOSEMITE'S WILDERNESS

BY SARAH STOCK, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

**LEFT** Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are known for their large size and strength. Both rams (males) and ewes (females, pictured) have permanent horns, but only rams grow the massive coils for which they are named.

**MIDDLE** After being transported from Inyo National Forest, a herd of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep runs out into their new home.

“**T**here they are!” I exclaimed, after hours of scanning. Seven bighorn sheep crossed the ridge into view. Five adult females and two lambs moved along precipitous cliff ledges deep in the Cathedral Range. I was on a five-day backpacking trip with Tom Stephenson and Alex Few, biologists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to survey the newly introduced herd of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

These sheep were part of a group of 13 that was brought into Yosemite’s Cathedral Range on March 26, 2015. On that day, Tom, Alex and I stood on metal crates containing the sheep that had been delivered by helicopter, and in unison, we raised the metal doors of the crates. The sheep ran out and up into the rocky cliffs. High above the canyon floor, they stood quietly and gazed out over their new Yosemite home.





PHOTOS: (LEFT) © STEVE YEAGER. (MIDDLE) © STEVE BAUMGARDNER. (RIGHT) © LES CHOW & PEGGY MOORE. (BELOW) ©COURTESY OF NPS.

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep lived in the Cathedral Range for thousands of years before their extirpation from Yosemite in 1914. Beginning with the gold rush in 1849 and continuing well into the 20th century, unregulated hunting and fatal diseases transmitted from domestic sheep eliminated entire herds from across the Sierra Nevada, including all remaining bighorn in Yosemite. The range-wide population plunged to a low of about 125 individuals, prompting its listing as an endangered species in 1999. The protected population has since increased to more than 600, marking an important milestone toward recovery goals.

For nearly 30 years, Yosemite Conservancy has played a significant role in restoring Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep to the park. One of the Conservancy's earliest projects supported work by biologists Les Chow and Peggy Moore to monitor the outcome of the first bighorn reintroduction to Yosemite in 1986. These small herds persist today, and they sometimes spend summers along the Sierra Crest, on Mt. Dana and Mt. Gibbs. Many of these sheep wear Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite collars, also funded by the Conservancy, allowing biologists to track their movement patterns and population. In 2015, the Conservancy provided funds to reintroduce bighorn into the Cathedral Range.

Back on the ridge, as the sun dipped closer to the horizon, I shivered and pulled my jacket higher around my neck. I'd been watching the sheep for more than an hour, but I couldn't take my eyes off their silhouettes, accented by the evening's alpenglow. As I watched the sheep, I realized that, through projects such as this one, we are restoring our personal connection with wilderness and what it means to be in a wild place. ■



#### PEGGY MOORE & LES CHOW

A generous gift in support of this project honors Les Chow and Peggy Moore for their years of work protecting bighorn sheep.

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

During the past 30 years, Conservancy donors have supported major efforts to bring Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep back from the brink of extinction. In 1986, with the financial support of the Conservancy, the National Park Service reintroduced these animals to Yosemite. The 2015 reintroduction of bighorns to the Cathedral Range continues to move the species toward recovery. With your help, bighorns in the Sierra Nevada could join the tiny fraction of animals that have been "delisted" from the endangered species list.



**SARAH STOCK** is a wildlife biologist in Yosemite and has been overseeing the park's program for land-animal biodiversity since 2006. She manages projects to protect mammals and birds, including bighorn sheep, bats, great gray owls, songbirds and others. Before moving to Yosemite, Stock oversaw Ventana Wildlife Society's songbird-monitoring programs. She also worked on field biology programs in several parts of the United States, including Alaska, Louisiana, Hawaii and the Mariana Islands.



“I get to be part of this larger goal, to work with people who believe in preserving and sharing Yosemite.”

— **MOSES CHUN**

Park Ranger, Yosemite National Park

# Q&A

WITH A  
YOSEMITE  
INSIDER



Alejandra Guzman (top) and Moses Chun (bottom) pose outside the Wilderness Education Center.

**N**ational Park Service rangers Moses Chun and Alejandra Guzman were inspired by Conservancy-funded youth programs to pursue park-service careers. Both joined the Wilderness Education Center at University of California, Merced, as students; participated in the Yosemite Leadership Program (YLP); and now gain valuable career skills through Yosemite internships. Chun works in the superintendent's office and assists with event planning for the National Park Service's centennial. Guzman provided translation assistance for the Chilean delegation from Torres del Paine National Park when they visited Yosemite in 2014; she currently works with the education department to teach the next generation of park stewards.

**Q ::** How did Youth in Yosemite Programs make a difference for you?

**GUZMAN ::** As a young child, I had never been to the outdoors. When I saw Yosemite for the first time in high school, I had an instant connection. It was the most beautiful place I'd ever seen. I now see how valuable this place is for visitors to meditate, to vacation, to heal after tragedy; for

students to learn firsthand and for scientists to conduct research. Yosemite has so much to offer.

**CHUN ::** It clicked for me during a YLP trip to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. During a discussion about the Yosemite Grant Act with park ranger Shauna Potocky, the conservation ideal became real to me in a personal way — the idea that these places are protected for everyone ... even people who haven't been born yet.

**Q ::** What was the best part about your program experience?

**CHUN ::** It was empowering. In the beginning, I wasn't sure if I could take on these projects. Now I know I am a very capable person. I have gained so much confidence and perspective, and that has set me up for success.

**GUZMAN ::** I found a sense of purpose. I grew up in a bad neighborhood with drugs and gang violence, and I thought I'd give in to that eventually. Yosemite offered me a different path. It opened up a career. It's given so much to me that I want to give back to these wild and beautiful places — to protect the national parks.

**Q ::** Why do you love working in Yosemite?

**GUZMAN ::** This is where I belong. I want to live in these beautiful granite walls and to teach students about Yosemite like these rangers are teaching me.




**CHUN ::** I get to be a part of this larger goal, to work with people who believe in preserving and sharing Yosemite.

**Q ::** How would you describe the Conservancy's impact on youth programs?

**CHUN ::** We're incredibly grateful that we have donors who believe in us, who value sharing Yosemite with young people. We appreciate being able to meet the people behind our opportunities, so we can share with them how much they have contributed to our growth.

**GUZMAN ::** These experiences change students' lives. It's inspired me to provide the same opportunities to other young people. [Conservancy] donors have an exponential impact: They inspire us to continue helping the next person, and the next, in perpetuity. ■

 **Want to read more about Guzman and Chun?**  
Read the full-length story online at [yosemiteconservancy.org/magazine](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/magazine)



**ABOVE** Moses Chun (third from left) on his life-changing trip to Mariposa Grove. **RIGHT** The Wilderness Education Center at UC Merced provided early career training and inspiration for both Guzman and Chun.



## Give the Gift of Yosemite

Share your love for Yosemite this holiday season with a gift from the Yosemite Conservancy bookstore. Every purchase helps us preserve and protect Yosemite for generations to come.

**Conservancy donors receive a 15% discount with code HOLIDAY2015.**

**Shop now at**  
[yosemiteconservancy.org](http://yosemiteconservancy.org)

*Code valid through Jan. 31, 2016; online purchases only.*

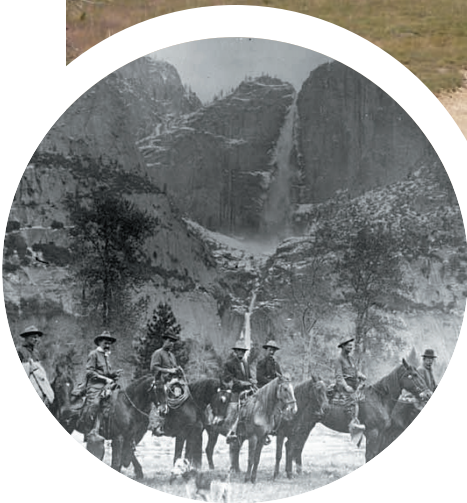


# PRESERVING AN EQUINE LEGACY

YOSEMITE'S STOCK PROGRAM COMBINES  
TRADITION AND PERFORMANCE



PHOTOS: (ABOVE) © JENNIFER MILLER. (LEFT) © COURTESY OF NPS.



**ABOVE** A train of pack mules delivers supplies in the backcountry. Your support ensures Yosemite's stock continues as a vital element of the park. **LEFT** Yosemite's stock tradition dates back to the park's formative years. In 1915, these early rangers posed with their horses in front of Yosemite Falls.

Have you ever spotted a horse carrying a ranger in the park? Or seen a train of pack mules picking their way up a trail? These hard-working animals are part of Yosemite's stock program, a National Park Service-wide model with a long legacy and a crucial role in preserving the wilderness quality of areas that are inaccessible to motorized vehicles. Yosemite's time-honored mounted patrol relies on horses to navigate the backcountry, while pack mules carry supplies to trail crews. Your support brings in new horses and mules to give aging animals a well-deserved rest, upgrades corral feeders and educates the public about Yosemite's stock program.

Some of this year's new arrivals are named for Yosemite people and places: Mules Dewey and Taft are named for the viewpoints, mules Clark and Clare are named for the park's first guardian and first female ranger, and patrol horse Teddy is named for Theodore Roosevelt. Say hello on your next visit! ■

*Thank you to the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation for providing a major gift in support of this project.*



# PROTECTING VERNAL FALL

## SPRAY ZONE TRAIL AND HABITAT RESTORATION



Hikers exploring the Vernal Fall spray zone have diverged from the Mist Trail (shown in yellow) and created “social trails” (shown in red), which lead into slippery terrain and damage fragile native plants.

Hikers climb the Mist Trail to the spray zone of Yosemite’s impressive Vernal Fall, known for its rainbows and lush water-loving plants.

From the Valley’s northern edge, the Mist Trail leads to a sanctuary of lush greenery, rainbow-strewn mist and the rushing waters of Vernal Fall. As many as 3,000 people walk through the fall’s spray zone every day — and nearly one in four of those hikers veers off the designated trail to take photos and explore, creating dozens of potentially dangerous informal “social” trails. These visitors sometimes unknowingly trample fragile plants in the fall’s “mist zone” and can introduce invasive species that threaten native plants.

This summer, trail crews and youth interns completed key steps to ensure people can enjoy this remarkable place for years to come. They treated invasive plants, including velvet grass and bull thistle; surveyed for rare native flora; and removed inappropriate trails. In the long term, these steps will prevent further erosion, protect delicate plants and keep hikers safe as they explore this magical, mist-shrouded Yosemite treasure. ■





PHOTOS (TOP) © COURTESY OF NPS, (BOTTOM) © KEITH WALKLET.

# TECHNOLOGY PROTECTS FROGS

SCIENTISTS USE eDNA TO HELP ENDANGERED FROGS



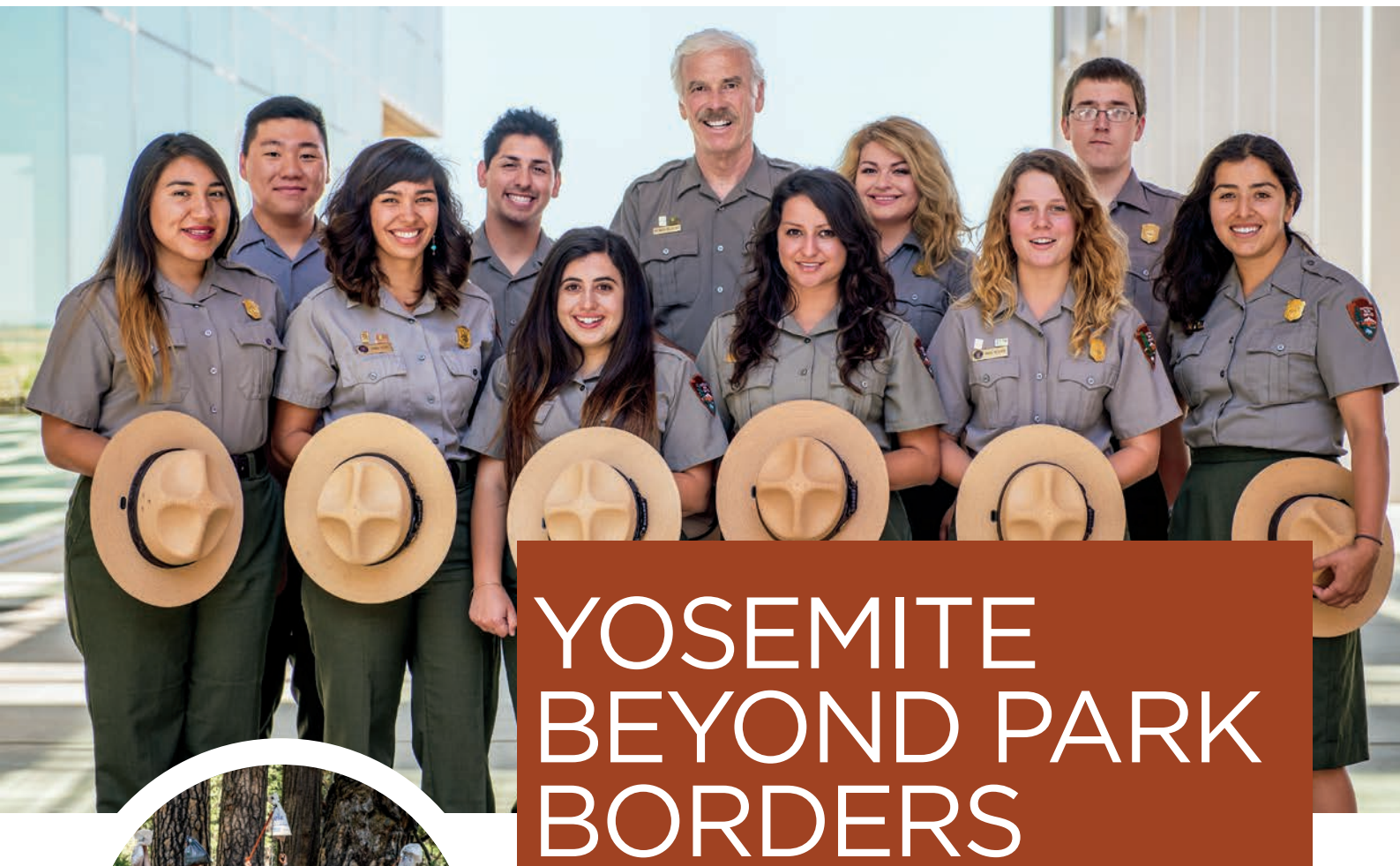
A scientist takes a water sample from one of Yosemite's alpine lakes to test for the genetic presence of frog predators.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs (*Rana sierrae*) are an important, but threatened, part of the alpine ecosystem.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs were once abundant in Yosemite's mountain lakes, but diseases and non-native predators have caused their population to drop by more than 95 percent. In 2014, they were listed as federally endangered. Now, with your support, scientists are protecting this tiny spotted creature and restoring Yosemite's aquatic alpine ecosystems. Building on past Conservancy-funded work, scientists are using environmental DNA (eDNA) to identify lakes where future frog populations will be able to thrive. This cutting-edge technique, which has never before been used in an alpine-lake setting, provides a minimally invasive, cost-effective way to identify the presence of DNA in the water from potential frog predators.

Thanks to your support, this technology will allow scientists to build on recent successful Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog reintroductions and continue replenishing their numbers in as many as two dozen Yosemite lakes in the coming years. This project also helps scientists nationwide validate a crucial tool that could be used to protect other threatened Sierra amphibians. ■





**TOP** This year, student rangers at the UC Merced Wilderness Education Center helped their community connect with Yosemite through presentations, stewardship projects and more.

**BOTTOM** UC Merced students participated in the annual Yosemite Facelift, organized by the Wilderness Education Center, to help clean up the park after the summer season.

# YOSEMITE BEYOND PARK BORDERS

WILDERNESS EDUCATION CENTER CONNECTS  
COLLEGE AND COMMUNITIES

**T**he National Park Service–run, student ranger–staffed Wilderness Education Center (WEC) at the University of California, Merced, serves as a robust resource for students, faculty and community members to learn about Yosemite National Park. The WEC provides opportunities for young people to gain awareness about natural and cultural resources, and it encourages students to engage in environmental stewardship on campus, in their communities and in the park.

In 2015, WEC student rangers delivered dozens of presentations at local schools on topics such as wildlife and “Leave No Trace” principles, staffed educational stations at anniversary events in Yosemite, organized an on-campus Earth Day cleanup, spent their summers working with professionals throughout the park, and more. With your support, students are developing the knowledge, skills and passion they need to grow into Yosemite’s next leaders. ■

*Thank you to SAGE Publications Inc. for fully funding this project.*



# ENHANCING A HIGH COUNTRY JEWEL

RESTORATION IMPROVES VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT TENAYA LAKE

**ABOVE** Tenaya Lake offers stunning scenery from any angle. This view is from the Sunrise Trail, near where Tenaya Creek flows out of the lake. **LEFT** In 2015, crews transformed the paved causeway on Tenaya Lake's Sunrise Trail into a wooden boardwalk that enhances the hiking experience while protecting surrounding wetland habitat.

**T**enaya Lake, an oasis of clear, cool alpine water surrounded by lodgepole pines and granite domes, has earned its reputation as the jewel of Yosemite's high country. Your support is transforming this iconic location by improving visitor access and protecting lakeshore ecology. In recent years, crews have restored critical wetland areas at the East Beach and made major improvements to the trail along the south side. This year, work focused on the western edge, where a new boardwalk will help protect sensitive wetland habitat and provide a safe, enjoyable experience for hikers on the Sunrise Trail.

With your support, this work will create a scenic hiking trail around Tenaya Lake, benefitting not only the thousands of people who visit the area each year, but also the plants and animals that live in and around the water. ■

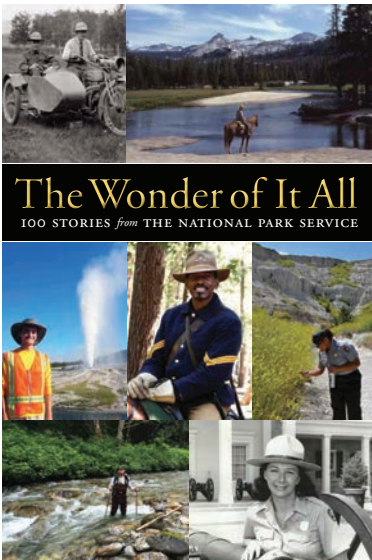
*Thank you to the many generous donors who have supported this multiyear transformation of Tenaya Lake.*







100 TALES TO HONOR THE NPS CENTENNIAL



*The Wonder of It All* collects 100 years of inspiring and thrilling stories.



Now available through the  
Yosemite Conservancy bookstore at  
[yosemiteconservancy.org/shop](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/shop)

Yosemite Superintendent Don Neubacher shared “one of the finest days” of his 32-year career, when Yosemite and the Make-A-Wish Foundation helped Gabriel Lavan-Ying, an 8-year-old with a life-threatening disorder, realize his dream of becoming a national park ranger.

Since it was established in 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has grown to include more than 400 places, covering 84 million acres and employing 22,000 people. To celebrate the upcoming NPS centennial, staff and volunteers from across that vast, vital network contributed stories about memorable moments in the parks to create *The Wonder of It All — 100 Tales from the National Park Service*.

The compilation takes readers inside the national park system, with tales of exciting rescue missions and quotidian trail maintenance; encounters with bears, wolves and, yes, skunks; steering dogsleds and swearing-in junior rangers; and the transformative experience of living and working in wild places.

This fun, engaging collection, which includes stories from 80 sites (including 10 from Yosemite), is the perfect book for anyone curious about the people and places that make up one of our nation’s landmark institutions. ■



# A CENTURY OF CREATING CONNECTIONS

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

CONTINUE FIELD SCHOOL TRADITION

“I was highly impressed by [our naturalist guide’s] depth of knowledge... He is a true and gifted story teller.”

— BETTY HOVENDEN  
Livermore, CA



Michael Ross, one of about 20 naturalists who lead the Conservancy’s Outdoor Adventures, often welcomes participants with a John Muir quote: “Most people are *on* the world, not *in* it.”

To be *in* the world — and *in* Yosemite — means exploring beyond postcard-perfect views. “Yosemite is not just important because of Half Dome and waterfalls,” Ross says, “but also because of the incredible plant and animal diversity that most people don’t see.”

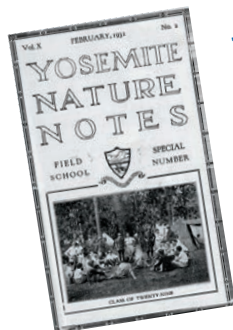
Whether leading bird-watching workshops or wildflower walks, Conservancy naturalists help people experience that diversity firsthand, drawing on a tradition of field education in Yosemite stretching back nearly a century.

## TIMELINE



**1920**

Naturalists begin offering in-park interpretive programs. The Yosemite Museum Association takes root.



**1922**

*Yosemite Nature Notes* publishes its inaugural monthly update of fascinating facts from the park.



**1925**

The landmark Yosemite Field School of Natural History offers summer courses for nascent naturalists.





PHOTOS: (ABOVE) ©NANCY ROBBINS, (RIGHT) ©KEITH WALKLET.



**LEFT** Conservancy Outdoor Adventures offer opportunities to explore the park in every season, including snowshoe treks through stunning winter scenery.

**ABOVE** Outdoor Adventures help visitors explore and connect with the park, as they learn from experts about Yosemite's unique landscapes, wildlife and history.

## 2016 OUTDOOR ADVENTURES HIGHLIGHTS



**MARCH 19**

Snowshoe Yosemite: Winter Ecology at Tuolumne Grove



**APRIL 29**

Hors d'Oeuvres and Owls



**MAY 21-22**

Hetch Hetchy: Water Exploration & Wildflowers



**JUNE 25-26**

Learning to Listen: Birding by Ear & Beginner Birding



**JULY 16-19**

High Country Campout for Grown-Ups: Tuolumne Meadows #1



**AUGUST 25-28**

Backpacking: On the Quest for Bighorn Sheep



**AUGUST 27**

Yosemite Day Hike: Pika Peak Romp



**SEPTEMBER 1-4**

Backpack to Mono Pass: Peak Bagger



**SEPTEMBER 17**

An Evening with Bats: Apps and Echolocation



**OCTOBER 1-2**

American-Indian Food Preparation and Acorns with Julia Parker



See our full listing of Outdoor Adventures at [yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures)

In the early 1920s, the Yosemite Museum Association (the Conservancy's predecessor) helped establish the Yosemite Field School of Natural History to fill a national void in training opportunities for aspiring naturalists. Like today's Outdoor Adventures participants, Field School students learned from experts while immersed in a place renowned for biological diversity and unique geology. Alumni went on to serve in Yosemite and in parks across the country.

With your support and participation, the Field School legacy continues to thrive, in part through Outdoor Adventures that allow visitors to deepen their connection to Yosemite and develop a lifelong appreciation for being in the world. ■



**1926**

The Yosemite Museum opens to visitors, and serves as the Field School headquarters.



**1971**

The Yosemite Association's field-seminar program launches, creating the basis for today's Outdoor Adventures.



**2008**

The Yosemite Nature Notes video series debuts, covering wildlife, geology, park history and more.





# 2014 Annual Report

## A Special Message from the Chair & the President

**Y**our commitment to preserving and protecting Yosemite made 2014 a landmark year. As we commemorated the 150th anniversary of the 1864 Yosemite Grant Act in June, your support helped continue a legacy of improving trails, preserving ecosystems and protecting Yosemite's wildlife, including black bears, pikas, Pacific fishers and yellow-legged frogs. With your help, we honored the park's history with a new replica of the Wawona stage coach and celebrated the future with the groundbreaking of a multiyear effort to restore the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

By supporting our 2014 Signature Project, Youth in Yosemite, you have made Yosemite a leader in inspiring the next generation of park stewards. Your support was visible in the smiles of young visitors, from junior rangers receiving their badges, to Parks in Focus participants sharing their photographs and stewardship projects.

### OTHER NOTABLE 2014 ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- \$10.2 million in aid was provided to Yosemite for project grants and programs.
- 42,000 Conservancy donors made a difference for Yosemite's future.
- 1,886 birds were captured and released during the bird-banding program. Now in its 25th year, the program holds the longest-running nationwide data set on songbird populations.
- 55 project grants and visitor-service programs were funded, ranging from trail and habitat restoration, to cultural-resource protection, to enhanced visitor services.

Your gifts support the continued realization of the national park idea that wild places should be preserved and accessible to all. We are honored to help preserve your Yosemite, now and for future generations.

Thanks for all you do for Yosemite!

Philip L. Pillsbury Jr., *Chair*

Frank Dean, *President*



Please enjoy highlights of our 2014 Annual Report.  
The full-length report can be viewed on our website at  
[yosemiteconservancy.org/2014annualreport](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/2014annualreport)



# Giving Back to Yosemite

## How You Made a Difference

**Y**our gifts help preserve and protect Yosemite all year — and for years to come. We're thrilled to celebrate the important work made possible by your generous support in 2014.

Last year, you supported vital project grants that made a difference for Yosemite in every season. Your gifts helped the park launch another year of life-changing youth programs, such as the Wilderness Education Center at University of California, Merced, in the spring; complete climber-access trails, which protect sensitive habitat, in the summer; discover rare great gray owls in five new meadows in the fall; and lay the groundwork for important snow-depth research in the winter.

Along with funding these and many other key projects, our



PHOTO: © BOB RONEY.

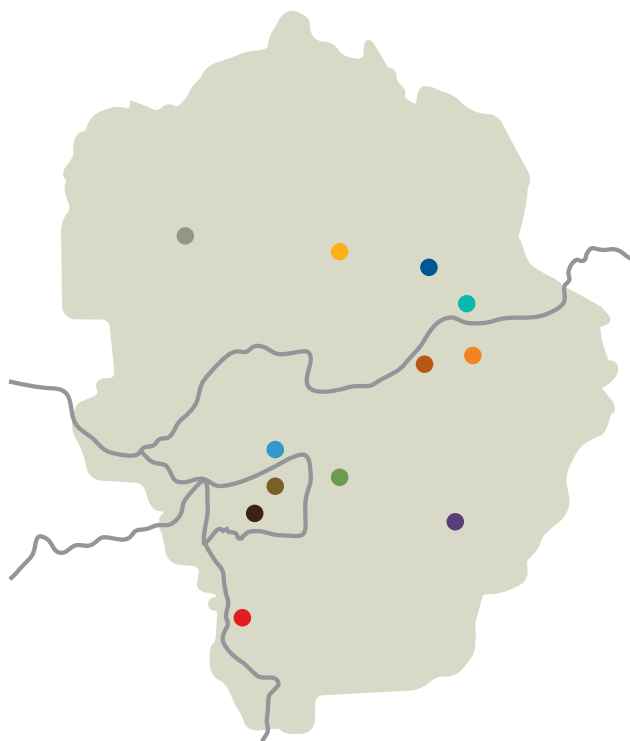
Conservancy-funded GPS collars help scientists track and study Yosemite's black bears to improve understanding and protection.

donors provided valuable support by exploring and enjoying Yosemite through the Conservancy's in-park experiences, including guided hikes, live theater and art workshops. By sharing your passion for the park, you make a difference in Yosemite's present and future.



See black bears in action in the Yosemite Nature Notes video at [yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-nature-notes](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-nature-notes)

## Your Support is Everywhere



**E**verywhere you look in Yosemite, your gifts are making a tangible difference. Whether it's restoring the majestic grandeur of habitat such as Mariposa Grove, helping young people connect with wilderness, protecting rare wildlife species such as the American pika or rehabilitating miles of world-class trails, your gifts are preserving and protecting Yosemite.

**This map shows selected highlights of projects and programs.**



Visit our interactive map online for images and updates  
[yosemiteconservancy.org/2014map](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/2014map)

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| ● Replacing the Historic Wawona Stage Coach | ● Yosemite Theater      |
| ● Restoring Tenaya Lake's Sunrise Trail     | ● Outdoor Adventures    |
| ● Protecting the American Pika              | ● Volunteers            |
| ● Rehabilitating Trails                     | ● Bear-Canister Rentals |
| ● Youth in Yosemite                         | ● Retail                |
| ● Tracking Movements of Bears in Yosemite   | ● Publishing            |



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The amounts presented here are derived from Yosemite Conservancy's audited financial statements for the year ending Dec. 31, 2014. A copy of the audited financial report is available on request.

## Statement of Financial Position

As of Dec. 31, 2014

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Cash & Investments	\$18,813,966
Receivables & Other Assets	\$2,660,900

**Total Current Assets \$21,474,866**

Pledges Receivable, Net of Current Portion	\$2,342,938
Furniture & Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	\$517,144
Land Held for Future Use	\$764,200
Deposits	\$14,500

**TOTAL ASSETS \$25,113,648**

### LIABILITIES

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$720,677
Grants Payable to Yosemite National Park, Current Portion	\$1,907,410

**Total Current Liabilities \$2,628,087**

### NET ASSETS

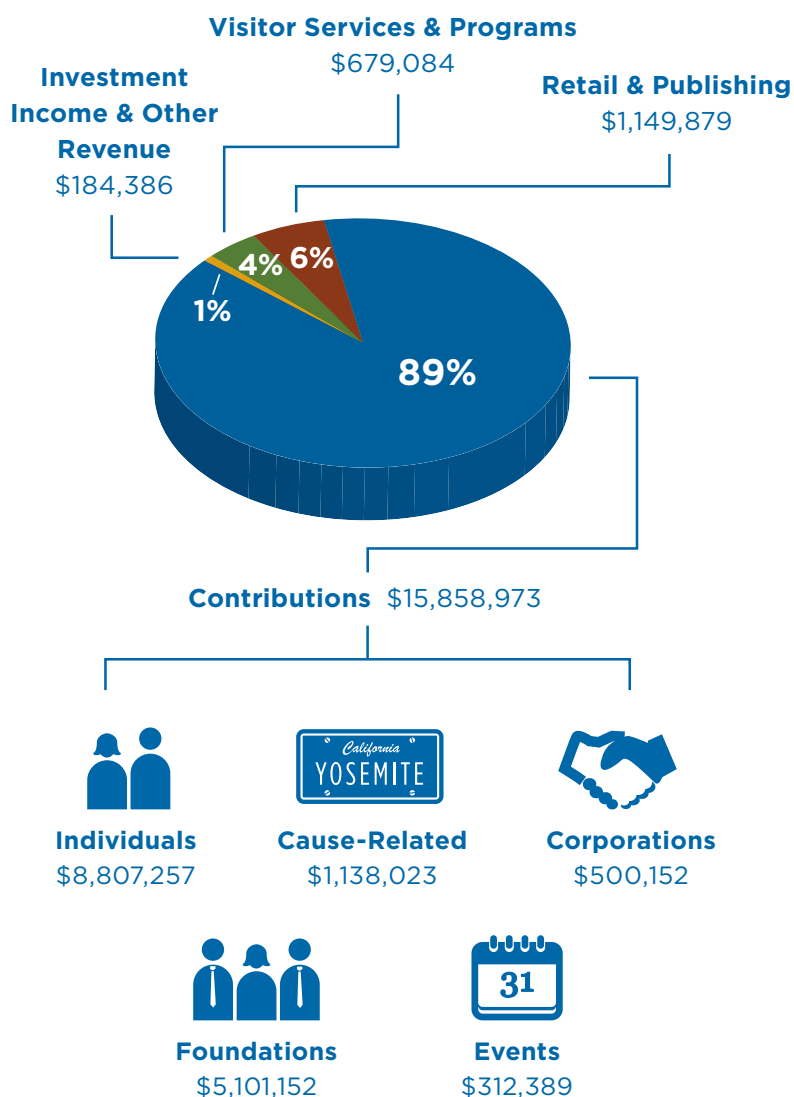
Unrestricted*	\$10,632,939
Temporarily Restricted	\$10,838,913
Permanently Restricted	\$1,013,709

**Total Net Assets \$22,485,561**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$25,113,648**

\*Reserves are maintained to meet future grant obligations to Yosemite National Park.

## Support & Revenue \$17,872,322

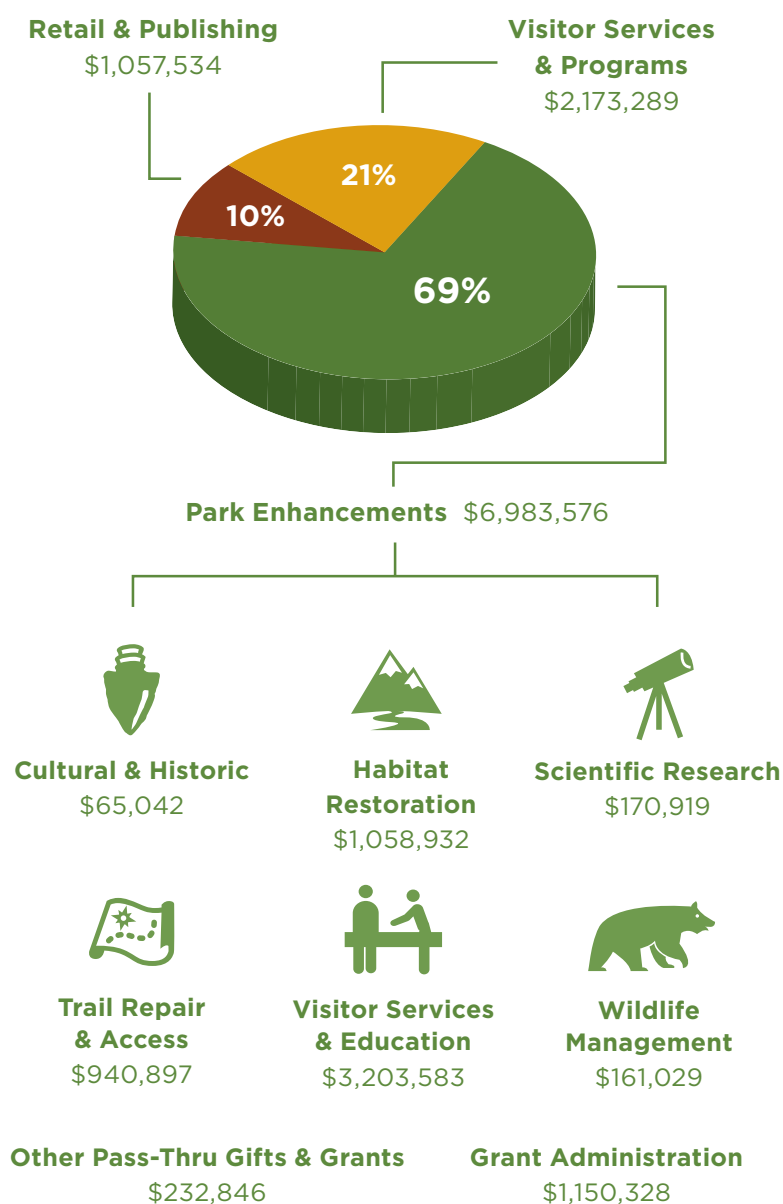




Dec. 31, 2014

## Aid to Yosemite National Park

### \$10,214,399



*The amounts presented here are derived from Yosemite Conservancy's audited financial statements for the year ending Dec. 31, 2014. A copy of the audited financial report is available on request.*

## Statement of Activities

As of Dec. 31, 2014

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$15,858,973
Retail & Publishing	\$1,149,879
Visitor Services & Programs	\$679,084
Investment Income & Other Revenue	\$184,386

**TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE** **\$17,872,322**

### EXPENSES

#### Aid to Park

Park Enhancements	\$6,983,576
Retail & Publishing	\$1,057,534
Visitor Services & Programs	\$2,173,289

**Total Aid to Park** **\$10,214,399**

Administrative	\$818,375
Fundraising	\$2,504,256

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$13,537,030**

### VOLUNTEERS

Number of Visitors Served	455,958
Number of Volunteer Hours Served	17,515
Financial Value of Volunteer Hour	\$26.34

**VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE** **\$461,345**





**LEFT** Xander Carlson, a Southern California high-school senior, Eagle Scout and philanthropist — credits his parents for supporting his project to raise funds for Lyell Canyon.

# The Next Generation of Givers

.....

One student's campaign to restore the John Muir Trail

**T**rekking through rocky passes, foraging for wild vegetables and watching sunrises from 14,500 feet might not be a standard part of a teen's to-do list. But Xander Carlson isn't your average high-school senior.

While adept at classic 17-year-olds' activities (playing music, hanging out with friends), Xander is also an accomplished outdoorsperson — and a budding philanthropist whose affinity for the High Sierra helped him leverage Web-based crowdfunding to support trail restoration in Yosemite.

In 2014, while hiking the first half of the John Muir Trail (JMT), Xander found what he now calls one of his favorite places: Lyell Canyon. "It was just beautiful," he says, recalling wind-rippled grass, deer and Donahue Pass on the horizon. "It put things in perspective."





“It was just beautiful.  
[Lyell Canyon], put  
things in perspective.”

— XANDER CARLSON  
Yosemite Conservancy Donor

PHOTOS: © XANDER CARLSON.

**ABOVE** Yosemite's Lyell Canyon provides stunning scenery for hikers as they trek between Tuolumne Meadows and Donahue Pass.

Eager to do his part to preserve that remarkable part of Yosemite, Xander set up an online crowdfunding campaign to raise money for the Conservancy-funded project to improve the Lyell Canyon section of the JMT. He shared it with friends and family, explaining the restoration and his plan to hike the second half of the 211-mile trail. By the time he returned from the two-week trek, he had raised more than \$6,000 — exceeding his original goal.

For Xander, the true value of the campaign is the way his experience on the trail inspired people to help preserve a place he loves. With many more hikes — and college — on his horizon, we can't wait to see how Xander's passion for conservation continues to make a difference in Yosemite and beyond. ■

## Your Guide TO CROWDFUNDING

### Learn the Lingo

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. Online crowdfunding campaigns can be used to support a wide variety of projects in Yosemite National Park.

### Pick a Project

Crowdfunding works best when tied to a specific project (such as trail restoration in Lyell Canyon). Find a Yosemite Conservancy project you care about, and consider how the project's story and outcome could motivate people to donate.

### Choose a Platform

Popular sites for nonprofit-related fundraising include EverydayHero and Crowdrise (the site Xander used), but there are dozens available. Be sure to read the fine print: Many charge a small fee for each donation, and some require you to meet your entire fundraising goal before they release any money.

### Create a Campaign

Give donors a tangible target by setting a fundraising goal and explaining how their money will support the project. Inspire people to support Yosemite Conservancy by creating an engaging campaign site using relevant photos, videos and stories. And, as Xander recommends, “Take action!” You don't have to spend weeks in the wilderness, but if you can, get out and do something connected to the cause to show people why the campaign matters to you.

### Find Your Crowd

Crowdfunding is all about getting a lot of people to donate small amounts of money, such as \$10 or \$25 each. Share your campaign with your family and friends, post your page on social media, or send the link in an email. Ask others to share the link with their networks. Before you know it, your message will reach a “crowd” of potential donors!

.....  
For more information about crowdfunding for Yosemite Conservancy, contact Isabelle Luebbers at **415-434-8446 x313** or [ILuebbers@yosemiteconservancy.org](mailto:ILuebbers@yosemiteconservancy.org)





## Outdoor-Gear Companies Make a Difference in Yosemite

REI AND THE NORTH FACE GIVE BACK —  
CREATIVELY

As popular purveyors of outdoor equipment and apparel, REI and The North Face have become household names. But did you know both companies are playing an important role in preserving Yosemite? Drawing on their shared dedication to inspire people to get outside and become active environmental stewards, REI and The North Face are investing in the park's future by supporting the Conservancy.

Earlier this year, both companies provided grants for Conservancy-funded projects in the park: The North Face helped fund a youth-stewardship program, while REI invested in efforts to improve access trails for rock-climbers. Additionally, the two companies went beyond those generous grants to support Yosemite in less traditional ways. This summer, The North Face partnered with Delaware North Co. and Peet's Coffee & Tea to donate a percentage of revenue from a special Yosemite Dos Sierras blend to support projects in the park. REI, which often supports conservation work tied to its photoshoot locations, helped fund restoration at the Mist Trailhead after using that site in a shoot.

By investing in a place and projects that mirror their own missions, these two outdoor-gear leaders are making a measurable difference in Yosemite. ■

"We are thrilled to partner with Yosemite Conservancy to help support important enhancements on the Mist Trail and on the trails that lead to Yosemite's iconic climbs."

— PHILIP WATKINS

Bay Area Outdoor Programs  
& Outreach, REI

"We are strong supporters of Yosemite Conservancy and their work in providing kids with an opportunity to care for and explore the natural world."

— ANN KRCIK

Senior Director of Brand  
Communications & Outdoor  
Exploration, The North Face





## CORRECTION

## We Missed the Bus...

DID YOU CATCH OUR MOTOR-VEHICLE MIX-UP IN THE SPRING/SUMMER 2015 MAGAZINE?

**S**harp-eyed readers noticed we mislabeled a vintage photo of four silver-and-white vehicles as Airstream trailers. The pictured vehicles are 1950s-era buses manufactured by the Ohio-based Flxible Co. Unlike Airstreams, Flxible buses were partially painted, and usually had rooftop “air scoops.”

Thanks to the readers who not only discovered our mistake, but shared some great Yosemite memories.

Gordon Glass recalled his experience riding the Flxible buses, or “Flexis,” as he and his fellow Yosemite Elementary students called the vehicles: “[A Flexi] picked us up each Wednesday at noon during the winter and took us to Badger Pass Ski Area,” he wrote, “where, for a total of 65 cents, we were transported, rode the lifts and were given ski lessons.” ■



Visit our new blog to read more stories and learn about Yosemite!  
[yosemiteconservancy.org/blog](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/blog)

## Love Yosemite Show the World

Yosemite Conservancy receives a portion of revenue from the sale and renewal of every Yosemite license plate. Buying a California specialty plate is a great way to show the world your love of Yosemite, while supporting projects and programs that preserve Yosemite National Park.

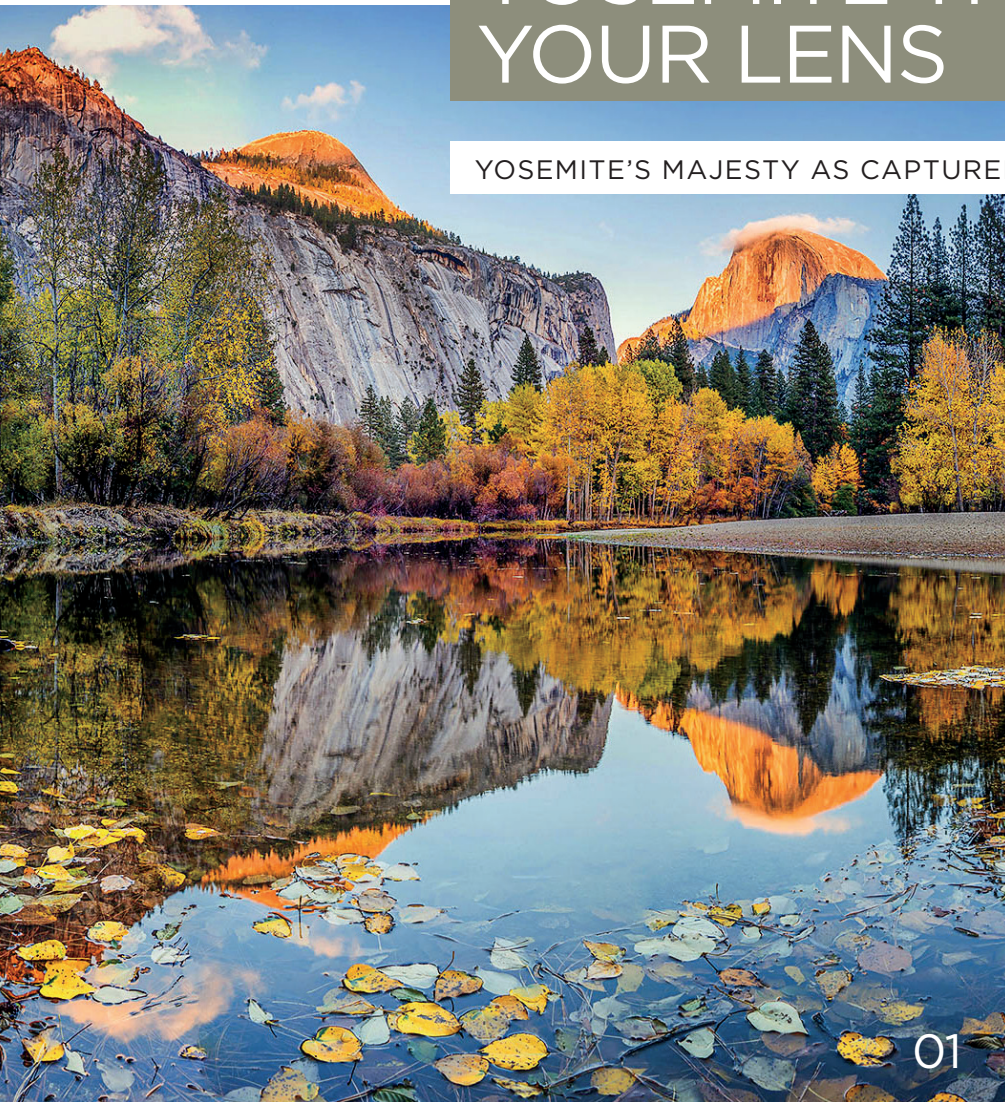
**Order your plate today at**  
[yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-license-plate](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-license-plate)

**Already have a plate? Let us know:**  
[info@yosemiteconservancy.org](mailto:info@yosemiteconservancy.org)



# YOSEMITE THROUGH YOUR LENS

YOSEMITE'S MAJESTY AS CAPTURED BY OUR SUPPORTERS



**01** Yosemite Valley in Autumn

PHOTO BY © MURALI ACHANTA

**02** Mountain Dogwood.

PHOTO BY © GARY BAIER

**03** Jeffrey Pine on Sentinel Dome, 1980

PHOTO BY © RICHARD GASKILL

**04** Raven in the Snow

PHOTO BY © ROBB HIRSCH

Do you have a special memory you would like to share?

We love to see photos from your first or 100th visit to Yosemite. Our staff will select a few for printing in each issue of *Yosemite Conservancy*.



Visit Yosemite Conservancy on **Facebook**, **Flickr** or **Pinterest**, and share any photos of a special place you like in Yosemite, or email your photo submission to [community@yosemiteconservancy.org](mailto:community@yosemiteconservancy.org)





## YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY

Magazine of Yosemite Conservancy,  
published twice a year.

## EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Jennifer Miller

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Claire F. Meyler

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Frank Dean Sarah Stock  
Claire F. Meyler Gretchen Roecker

## DESIGN

Eric Ball Design

## PRINT PRODUCTION

TradeMark Graphics, Inc.

## STAFF :: San Francisco

Frank Dean, *President & CEO*  
Jerry Edelbrock, *Vice President, CFO & COO*  
Darlene Bellucci, *Associate Director of Major  
& Planned Gifts*  
Kim Coull, *Development Director*  
Edin Draper-Beard, *Executive Affairs Manager*  
Jamie Henion, *Events Manager*  
Debra Holcomb, *Strategic Technology Director*  
Holly Kuehn, *Development & Donor Services Assistant*  
Isabelle Luebbers, *Annual Giving Manager*  
Claire F. Meyler, *Communications Manager  
& Webmaster*  
Jennifer Miller, *Marketing & Communications Director*  
Anastasia Pryor, *Institutional Giving Officer*  
Gretchen Roecker, *Communications &  
Social Media Manager*  
Amanda Roque, *Data Entry Assistant*  
Kit Thomas, *Controller*  
Christina Yu, *Donor & Data Services Assistant*

## STAFF :: Yosemite

Adonia Ripple, *General Manager of Yosemite Operations*  
Aline Allen, *Art Center Coordinator*  
Greg Archer, *Valley Sales Supervisor*  
Nicole Brocchini, *Museum Store Supervisor*  
Kylie Chappell, *Outdoor Adventures Coordinator*  
Pete Devine, *Resident Naturalist*  
Teresa Ellis, *Sales Information Assistant*  
Schuyler Greenleaf, *Projects Director*  
Suzy Hasty, *Volunteer Program Manager*  
Cory Jacobs, *Inventory Coordinator*  
Ryan Kelly, *Projects Coordinator*  
Michelle Kuchta, *Accounting Assistant*  
Olotumi Laizer, *Valley Complex Supervisor*  
Belinda Lantz, *Retail & Publishing Director*  
Denise Ludington, *Accounting Supervisor*  
Katie Manion, *Outreach & Wholesale Coordinator*  
Michael Ross, *Naturalist*  
Angela Sberna, *Accounting Director*  
Shelly Stephens, *Inventory Manager*  
Laurie Stowe, *Wilderness Programs Manager*

## STAFF :: Southern California

Patti Johns Eisenberg, *Major Gifts Officer*

Autumn.Winter 2015 :: Volume 06 Issue 02 ©2015

Federal Tax Identification No. 94-3058041



YOSEMITE  
CONSERVANCY

# Ways to Give

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS** you and your organization can support the meaningful work of Yosemite Conservancy. We look forward to exploring these philanthropic opportunities with you.

## CONTACT US

## Visit

yosemiteconservancy.org

## Email

info@yosemiteconservancy.org

## Phone

800-469-7275

## Mail

Yosemite Conservancy  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104

## Fax

415-434-0745

## INDIVIDUAL GIVING

## Development Director

Kim Coull  
kcoull@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x324

## Annual Giving

Isabelle Luebbers  
iluebbers@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x313

## Major Gifts - Northern California

Darlene Bellucci  
dbellucci@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x318

## Major Gifts - Southern California

Patti Johns Eisenberg  
peisenberg@yosemiteconservancy.org  
626-792-9626

## FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

Anastasia Pryor  
apryor@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x328

## PLANNED GIVING & BEQUESTS

Darlene Bellucci  
dbellucci@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x318

## HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

Isabelle Luebbers  
iluebbers@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x313

## GIFTS OF STOCK

Amanda Roque  
aroque@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x330

## SEQUOIA SOCIETY MONTHLY GIVING

Isabelle Luebbers  
iluebbers@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x313

## MATCHING GIFTS

Isabelle Luebbers  
iluebbers@yosemiteconservancy.org  
800-469-7275 x313

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Suzy Hasty  
shasty@yosemiteconservancy.org  
209-379-2317  
yosemiteconservancy.org/volunteer





Yosemite Conservancy  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104

PHOTO: © KEITH WALKLET.

## Your Yosemite Legacy

Yosemite's natural wonders are not only our inheritance, but also our responsibility. Your legacy gift to Yosemite Conservancy makes a lasting impact beyond your lifetime, commemorating your special connection to Yosemite while ensuring the park remains a beloved treasure for future generations to enjoy.

To find out how you can leave your legacy to Yosemite, contact Darlene Bellucci at [dbellucci@yosemiteconservancy.org](mailto:dbellucci@yosemiteconservancy.org) or **415-434-8446 x318**.

[yosemiteconservancy.org](http://yosemiteconservancy.org)