

in this issue

- **It's Really Winter in Yosemite**
- **Fewer Park Visitors Than Expected in 2004!**
- **New Yosemite National Park Logo T-Shirts Available**
- **More Benefits for YA Members in 2005!**
- **Delightful New Children's Book About John Muir**

Fewer Park Visitors Than Expected in 2004!



Yosemite National Park continues to attract fewer visitors - a trend in evidence again in 2004 with possibly the lowest tourist total in 14 years.

The NPS is expected to report less than 3.4 million visitors for the year, almost a 20% drop in the past seven years, and park officials are at a loss to explain the continuing decline.

While no one is certain why Yosemite visitor numbers continue to slip, there is little doubt about how the slump began. Eight years ago this month, a large flood filled Yosemite Valley and shut down the park for many weeks. Visits tumbled from almost 4.2 million in 1996 to 3.8 million in 1997.

[To read more about 2004 visitation to Yosemite...](#)

New Yosemite National Park Logo T-Shirts Available

Check out these colorful new t-shirts sporting the Yosemite National Park logo developed by Michael Osborne Design for the Yosemite Association's park identity program.



The stone-washed shirts are printed on the left chest with "Experience Your Yosemite," and carry a full-color Yosemite National Park logo (about 9 inches across) on the back.

Available in three muted colors, the shirts regularly retail for \$16. But YA members with their 15% discount can **purchase the t-shirts now for only \$13.40!**

[For more info and to purchase the YNP logo shirts...](#)

It's Really Winter in Yosemite



During December and January, moisture-laden skies dumped great quantities of snow over Yosemite. At some higher elevations accumulations have reached over ten feet! It's finally behaving like winter in the Sierra Nevada.

Do you recognize the building pictured above? It's the Tuolumne Meadows campground reservation office in the summer (on the main highway at the entrance to the campground) and the public ski hut in winter. It looks like you'd have to shovel down to reach the front door!

To read about the conditions in Tuolumne, check the winter ranger report filed every couple of weeks by Bruce and Tracey.

[To read the Tuolumne winter ranger reports....](#)

More Benefits for YA Members in 2005!



We recently learned that DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, one of our park partners and the chief concessioner here, has expanded its discount program for YA members in 2005.

In addition to numerous lodging discounts, you can now save on several popular seasonal activities, such as skiing at Badger Pass and golfing in Wawona.

Separate coupons were created for each lodging property and activity and sent to members earlier this month.

Members also are entitled to a 10% discount at other lodging properties in and around Yosemite, and we send thanks to DNC and all our other generous business partners who make these special reductions possible!

[To read the full list of YA membership benefits...](#)

Delightful New Children's Book About John Muir

Floy Hutchings, also known as Squirrel, is the daughter of the man who opened the first hotel in the Yosemite Valley in the 1860s. She has to fend for herself much of the time and is considered wild by her family and her father's guests.

When the future naturalist John Muir is hired as a carpenter, Floy becomes his inquisitive shadow as he builds himself a cabin over a stream, talks to flowers, and listens to snow.



Floy, determined never to grow up because she'd have to be a lady, and Muir, searching nature for a way to live free of society's expectations, are primed to find common ground.

In this story set against a backdrop of watercolor paintings that vividly capture the beauty of Yosemite, Floy learns to see the world through John Muir's eyes.

This new book for children normally sells for \$16, but with a **15% YA member discount**, you can purchase it for **only \$13.40**.

[For more info and to purchase *Squirrel and John Muir*...](#)

Quick Links...

[Join the Yosemite Association](#)

[The Yosemite Webcams](#)

[Electronic Newsletter Archives - Read back issues of this update.](#)

[The Yosemite Store](#)

[Donate to the Yosemite Association \(secure site\)](#)

[Yosemite Outdoor Adventure Courses](#)

Join our mailing list!

Join