



Hetch Hetchy Happenings

In Yosemite National Park

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Spring 2008

Photography, Art, and Naturalist Workshops at Hetch Hetchy in May

On May 18, 19, and 20, Y-explore Yosemite Adventures will conduct workshops at Hetch Hetchy with experienced naturalists, artists, and photographers as guides. Participants will be able to go on naturalist led walks to learn about natural history, and take plein air art and photography classes – all with Hetch Hetchy's great granite walls and booming waterfalls as a backdrop.

Naturalist-artist-photographer James McGrew will be one of the trip leaders, and he exclaims: "Even after years of hiking, painting, and photography excursions, as well as giving many naturalist presentations, I still find Hetch Hetchy one of my favorite places. I've always delighted in finding new beauty and discoveries with each trip. I am excited to share the place I have so loved since childhood. The purpose of these workshops is to help others get out and uniquely experience the

wonders of this magnificent part of Yosemite National Park. Last year, at the closing critique and wrap-up



James McGrew

following three days of discovery in Hetch Hetchy, one participant fondly expressed her newfound discoveries and appreciations while tears began trickling down her smiling face as she gazed up at the massive granite walls and clouds overhead. For me, moments like that are what make my career as an artist and interpreter so fulfilling." Please visit his website, www.JamesMcGrewFineArt.com to see examples of his excellent work.



For more information about, and to register for, these exciting workshops, please contact Y explore Yosemite Adventures at: <http://>

yexplore.com/hetchhetchy.htm, or call toll-free (800) 886-8009, or e-mail tours@yexplore.com.

The Evergreen Lodge is cooperating with us by hosting evening interpretive presentations. And, they're holding some cabins for outings participants through mid-March. Please visit their website www.evergreenlodge.com/ to make reservations. Other guest accommodations near Hetch Hetchy are listed on the Y-explore Yosemite Adventures website.



Wildflowers and Waterfalls

James McGrew



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San Francisco House Party



On January 26th, RHH had a houseparty in San Francisco attended by over a dozen people. It was hosted by Steve Chapman (left) and his wife Martina (not pictured), and organized by RHH's San Francisco Field Director Tuan Nguyen (second from left, with bumper sticker). Also pictured are RHH volunteer Angela McClure and RHH Executive Director Ron Good. Attendees watched our documentary film, "Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite's Lost Valley," discussed our move-ment to restore Hetch Hetchy, and ate delicious munchies. One volunteer brought a foot-long chocolate rendering of Yosemite Valley, complete with Half Dome, El Capitan, and a waterfall. Tuan took the chocolate home for "safe-keeping!"

SEARCH THE WEB AND DONATE TO RHH! Please use GoodSearch as your search engine, and about one penny per search comes to RHH:
<http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=823359>. Go to TOOLS, then INTERNET OPTIONS, then type in www.goodsearch.com into the ADDRESS. RHH received \$150 last year. Thanks!

Please renew your tax-deductible membership with Restore Hetch Hetchy by going online (www.hetchhetchy.org "Join or Renew") and using the secure Network for Good system, or sending in your check to P.O. Box 3538, Sonora, CA 95370. Premium gifts are available for renewal donations of \$100 or more. Visit the website for more information.

Wildnesswithin.com



was created in 1998 by environmentalist web designer Robert Brower in partnership with his father, conservationist David Brower. The website promotes the principles of conservation, preservation, and restoration of the Earth's natural resources. It is

also a tribute to the late David and Robert Brower. Both David Brower and Robert Brower were avid supporters of the Restore Hetch Hetchy movement and were members of the Board of Directors.

Please visit our website, www.hetchhetchy.org to purchase catalog items that support our movement to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley. Items available: organic t-shirts, baseball caps, documentary videos, beautiful posters, bumper stickers, greeting cards, Magic Mugs, and books.



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MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS.....DENNIS LATONA

Dennis was born and raised in Sacramento, California, and has earned an Associate in Science degree in Forestry, as well as an Associate in Arts degree in General Education, both from Sierra College. As an Eagle Scout, Dennis learned respect for Nature and the dire need to preserve it for future generations. He is currently working in the heating and air conditioning industry and has a part-time photography business.

Dennis says, "I use my camera as a tool to educate the public and make them aware of the need to continue preservation of our natural resources in general, and the restoration of Hetch Hetchy in particular."

This was evident when a visitor stopped by his photography booth at High Hill Ranch near Placerville to look at his photos. Seeing the RHH button on his hat and the photos of Tueeulala and Wapama Falls, the visitor began to discuss

the restoration of Hetch Hetchy with Dennis. And before leaving, the visitor gave high praise for all the RHH volunteers "who are doing something about it!"

Dennis continues, "I made my first of many pilgrimages to Yosemite National Park at the age of 20 and, of course, it was love at first sight. About 20 years later, I was walking by a bookstore in downtown Sacramento when I noticed Restore Hetch Hetchy bumper stickers on the counter. I picked up a couple of them and went online to check out the RHH website. Later that year, I made my first visit to Hetch Hetchy and saw firsthand what John Muir meant by opposing the desecration of a 'grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples.' I was hooked. The feeling experienced that day was one of foreboding, as if something was wrong. That something was the O'Shaughnessy



Dam. Since that day, I have made it a mission to see the valley restored and John Muir's nightmare ended."

Dennis' greatest memory of Hetch Hetchy is a field trip with members of Restore Hetch Hetchy to hike to Wapama Fall where, during a peak run-off year, he was "baptized in the crystal clear waters of Wapama Fall!"

Dennis concluded, "I would love to see Hetch Hetchy restored in my lifetime, so I could be an active part of helping Nature return the valley to its original glory. It's not a matter of 'IF', it's only a matter of 'WHEN!'"



Don Fuhrer (left), Chair of RHH's Finance Committee, hosted a reception at a restaurant in Marina Del Rey where Dr. Roderick Nash (center), emeritus Professor of History at UC Santa Barbara, spoke to attendees about the historical roots and future efforts of the movement to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley. RHH Executive Director, Ron Good (right), also attended the event, gave an update of our work, and thanked everyone for attending. A big THANKS goes to Don Fuhrer for organizing this successful event, and a similar one the evening before at the Montecito Country Club!



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RESTORE HETCH HETCHY CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL AT MUIR WOODS

by Dennis Pottenger

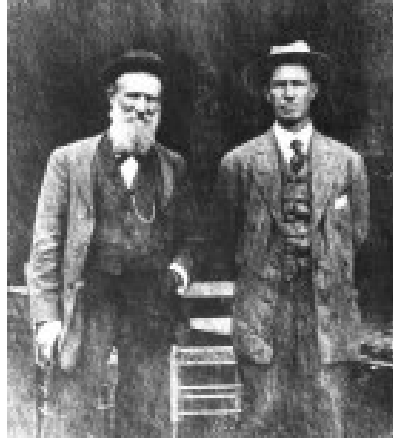
On a wet winter morning this past January, Restore Hetch Hetchy volunteers, husband-wife team Dennis and Rebecca Pottenger, helped keep the wilderness legacy of John Muir alive by joining the Centennial Celebration at Muir Woods National Monument in Mill Valley. They set up an information table, talked with visitors, and passed out RHH literature.

The morning's festivities featured a long ramble by an actor portraying John Muir, who told several hundred conservationists the story of what happened when California Congressman William Kent and his wife, Elizabeth, returned home to Marin County from a vacation in Hawaii in the winter of 1907.

At the time, the modern-day Muir said, the forest along Redwood Creek was home to one of the last uncut groves of old-growth redwoods in the San Francisco Bay Area. William Kent wanted badly to protect these trees from being logged – so badly that in 1905 he and Elizabeth had talked a banker friend into loaning them \$45,000. With the money the Kents bought 611 acres of land in Redwood Canyon.

Two years later, on December 2, 1907, a water company in Sausalito

filed condemnation proceedings against the Kent's holdings in Redwood Canyon. The water company's plan was to log the redwoods and build a dam at the confluence of Redwood and



John Muir and William Kent at Muir Woods, circa 1909. National Park Service collection.

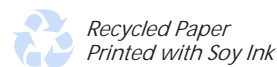
Fern creeks. The next day, William Kent went to work to save the trees. Kent's efforts led him to Frederick Law Olmstead, the acclaimed landscape architect and conservationist, who told Kent that there was a way to protect the redwoods – forever. The ticket, Olmstead told Kent, was a new federal law called the Antiquities Act, which allowed the President of the United States to establish national monuments

in areas with historic or scientific value *without* the consent of Congress. When the water company went to court to condemn the land along Redwood Creek, Kent checkmated the plans for a reservoir by donating 295 of the 611 acres he and Elizabeth owned to the federal government.

William Kent insisted that America's seventh national monument be named for John Muir. Muir couldn't have been more delighted. "This is the best tree-lover's monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world," he said. "You have done me a great honor, and I am proud of it."

In just a few years, of course, the warm feelings between Muir and Kent would cool considerably when Kent became one of the strongest supporters of San Francisco's plan to flood the Hetch Hetchy Valley. How could William Kent work so hard to thwart the reservoir at Redwood Canyon and then champion the one that flooded Hetch Hetchy? For a complimentary copy of the journal article, "William Kent: The Puzzle of Progressive Conservationists," e-mail Dennis Pottenger at dennis@hetchhetchy.org

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