



# Restore Hetch Hetchy

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Summer 2002

## Hetch Hetchy Valley, Paradise Lost... to be Found Again!

*By Paul Davis, Editor*

**H**etch Hetchy Valley has long existed in relative obscurity in a little-visited part of Yosemite National Park. A recent survey found that only 2% of all park visitors ever see Hetch Hetchy. Most visitors do not realize that the Valley contains some of the same spectacular sights they see in Yosemite Valley: towering cliffs, majestic domes and thundering waterfalls. Tragically however, since the early 1900's, the Hetch Hetchy Valley floor has been flooded under nearly 300 feet of water, drowning out habitat for all plant and animal life, cutting off the lower 300 feet of the glorious granite walls and booming waterfalls, and covering Native American cultural heritage sites.

Restore Hetch Hetchy (RHH)

was formed to right one of the greatest wrongs ever done to the National Park system when, in 1913, Congress passed the Raker Act allowing San Francisco to build the O'Shaughnessy Dam in Hetch Hetchy. John Muir called Hetch Hetchy "a grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." We are endeavoring to return to its natural state, one of the most beautiful mountain valleys on Earth, restoring Nature simply for the enjoyment and enrichment of the American people, international visitors, and for the plants and animals that should inhabit it. This effort embodies the vision imagined when the national parks were established. RHH seeks to develop a mutually beneficial solution for

Hetch Hetchy Valley and all of the people who depend on water and power from the Hetch Hetchy system. With San Francisco facing a multi-billion dollar renovation of the Hetch Hetchy system, the time has come to develop a dynamic solution that would restore the Valley while at the same time, develop alternate sources of water and power outside Yosemite National Park.

Already, much has been accomplished by Restore Hetch Hetchy, and this newsletter will strive to keep you informed of our activities.





Restore Hetch Hetchy is:

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# John Muir Musical Set for Expanded Schedule this Summer

**M**ountain Days - the John Muir Musical is an elaborate, Broadway style musical based on the life, vision and legacy of noted conservationist and Martinez (CA) resident, John Muir.

With a cast of 85, Mountain Days premiered in October 2000 at the Chronicle Pavilion in Concord for four performances with an attendance of nearly 10,000 and earned high critical praise. The concept of presenting the show as an annual event was received with tremendous support from the City of Martinez (home of John Muir and the Muir National Historic Site), and the 1,100 seat John Muir Amphitheater was constructed in the Martinez Waterfront Park for the 2001 presentation.

Mountain Days is John Muir. You will follow his journey from boyhood in Scotland to a farm in Wisconsin; from ingenious inventor to determined preservationist. You will take the 1000 mile walk and see Yosemite Falls, through his eyes. You will live his passionate love story with Louie Strentzel. The final third of the production focuses on Muir's tireless struggle to save the Hetch Hetchy Valley from being flooded to provide a water source for the San Francisco Bay Area. The outcome was a sorrowful defeat for Muir culminating in one of the most stirring musical numbers in the show, "A Valley Has a Soul". Mountain Days, with its beautifully written, sometimes humorous book, rousing score and glorious lyrics

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*Lee Strawn as John Muir*

# Meet our Board: Harold Wood

(First in a series.)

**T**he Chair of Restore Hetch Hetchy, Harold Wood, has been a wilderness advocate and environmental activist for over 30 years.

In the Sixties he devoured the writings of John Muir as a high school student. In the Seventies, while attending college and graduate school, he worked on wilderness legislation in California and Washington state, including support for the Alaska Lands Act. In the Eighties, he worked on everything from international environmental issues like tropical rainforests to oak tree preservation in his home town of Visalia, California. In the Nineties he focused on environmental education and the Sierra Club John Muir Education Project. Now in the Oughts, he feels we oughta restore Hetch Hetchy!

After most of the hoopla over Interior Secretary Don Hodel's 1988 proposal to restore Hetch Hetchy had died down, in order to make sure the dream stayed alive, Harold joined the Sierra Club Hetch Hetchy Task Force as its secretary. When he met Ron Good (now Executive Director of Restore Hetch Hetchy), he encouraged Ron's enthusiasm and helped transfer the Club's Task Force from

a rather dormant national entity to a more active wing of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee.

Harold continues to serve as webmaster and vice-chair of the Sierra Club Hetch Hetchy Restoration Task Force. He is still very active in the Sierra Club, and currently chairs its LeConte Lodge Committee, the John Muir Education Project, and the Mineral King Group in Visalia. He is also the Secretary of the Club's Sequoia Task Force. He is the webmaster for the award-winning John Muir Exhibit website as well as for the Restore Hetch Hetchy website.

Harold's day job as an attorney still leaves room for him to pursue his environmental passions. Harold says, "I am sometimes asked even by environmentalists why I would

'waste time' on what they call the 'pie-in-the-sky' dream of restoring Hetch Hetchy when there is so much crucial need to preserve disappearing wild places that have not yet been destroyed.

My answer is that we can - and must - do both. As David Brower said, the Earth needs CPR - Conservation - Preservation - Restoration. We need wilderness for solitude and spiritual enrichment, and we also need 'working landscapes' to provide food, fiber, water, and recreational resources as well. The great split between Gifford Pinchot and John Muir a hundred years ago must now be healed. In addition to conservation and preservation, we need restoration. Let's start by remedying the great mistake of damming Hetch Hetchy. Restoring Hetch Hetchy is not only a logical and rational step, but it will provide inspiration for restoring other ravaged areas of the Earth. I truly believe that a win-win- alternative to retaining the O'Shaughnessy Dam in Hetch Hetchy Valley exists if we will only put our minds and hearts to it, and that we can, in fact, restore Muir's 'grand landscape garden' in our lifetimes."



*Harold Wood, Chair of  
Restore Hetch Hetchy*

# Galen Rowell Gallery Hosts Hetch Hetchy Fundraiser

**O**n March 9, 2002, Restore Hetch Hetchy held its first formal fundraiser at Galen Rowell's world famous Mountain Light Gallery in the San Francisco Bay Area. Over 200 people packed the gallery to raise money for Restore Hetch Hetchy and to enjoy delicious food, great enthusiasm, and beautiful photographs for our silent auction. Inspiring speakers included:

Deborah Moore, former member of the World Commission on Dams; Betsy Reifsnider, Executive Director of Friends of the River; Spreck Rosekrans, Policy Analyst with Environmental Defense and member of the RHH Board; and Ron Good, Executive Director of Restore Hetch Hetchy. RHH raised nearly \$10,000 to support its effort, raised many people's consciousness

about Hetch Hetchy Valley, and provided a good time for all!

A special thanks to Galen Rowell for the use of his studio and to Melissa Rossi, who provided the catering. RHH would also like to extend an extra warm and appreciative thanks to all who attended and generously contributed to the Restore Hetch Hetchy effort!



## Restore Hetch Hetchy Goals:

**T**he mission of Restore Hetch Hetchy is its name. We are a California non-profit corporation, exempt from state and federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Restore Hetch Hetchy are tax deductible.

Our purposes are:

- a To promote the social welfare through restoration and protection of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park.
- b To promote the conservation and protection of the natural habitat and ecosystems of Hetch Hetchy Valley.

- c To educate the public regarding the benefits and importance of restoring and protecting the natural environment within Hetch Hetchy Valley.
- d To encourage cooperative interaction among all of Hetch Hetchy's stakeholders in order to promote mutually beneficial solutions for the restoration and protection of Hetch Hetchy Valley.



### John Muir Musical

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promises to touch you deeply.

More information about the Mountain Days musical can be obtained at [www.willowstheatre.com](http://www.willowstheatre.com) or call 925-798-1300. The play runs every Thursday through Sunday, August 1 - 25. By Kate Sheridan Thon  
Photo Right: John Muir comes to life in Mountain Days.

Please volunteer at the Restore Hetch Hetchy table during Mountain Days! Send an e-mail to [info@hetchhetchy.org](mailto:info@hetchhetchy.org) or call (209) 372-8660. Volunteering gets you in FREE!!



# Restore Hetch Hetchy Makes Recommendations To San Francisco Mayor & Supervisors

In a recent letter to San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and Supervisors, Executive Director Ron Good stated that Restore Hetch Hetchy is seeking a “win-win” outcome for Hetch Hetchy Valley and for the San Francisco water and power service area, and recommended four additions be made to the \$4.5 billion revenue bond proposal for the Hetch Hetchy system that may appear on the ballot in November:

- 1) \$600,000 to fund a Feasibility Study demonstrating feasible and environmentally sound means by which the O’Shaughnessy Dam can be decommissioned and removed, the Hetch Hetchy Valley can be restored, and the water and

- 2) matching state and federal funding should be used to take the burden of financing the repairs off the people in the Bay Area;
- 3) none of the monies for seismic upgrades or water quality improvements could be used for upgrading, maintaining, or otherwise improving O’Shaughnessy Dam; and,
- 4) water quality improvements would include filtering water from the Hetch Hetchy system, to eliminate public health threats to the general public, and in particular, to people with compromised immune systems.

RHH urges your support. Please call, or e-mail the SF Mayor and Supervisors in support of these four items — most importantly the money for a Feasibility Study:

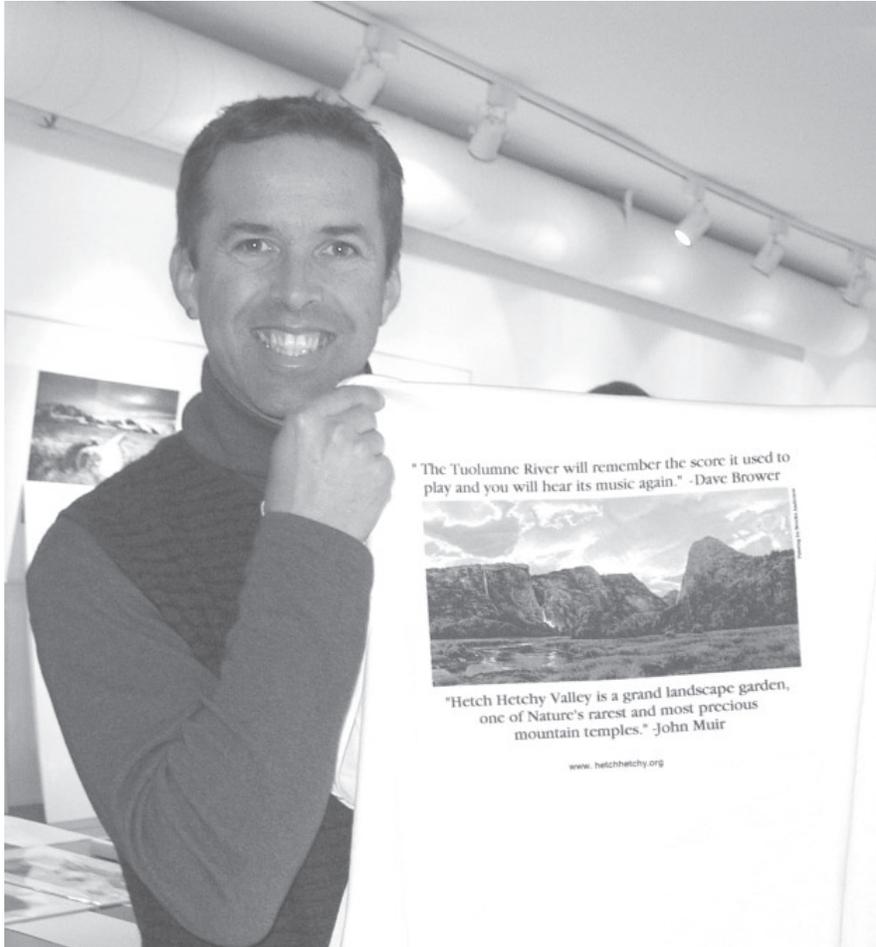
Mayor Willie Brown  
City Hall, SF, CA 94102  
(415) 554-6141

e-mail: [damayor@sfgov.org](mailto:damayor@sfgov.org)

Supervisors are: Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Matt Gonzalez, Tony Hall, Mark Leno, Sophie Maxwell, Jake McGoldrick, Gavin Newsom, Aaron Peskin, Gerardo Sandoval, Leland Yee, address: City Hall, SF, CA 94102, (415) 554-5184; e-mail: [board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org)



# Restore Hetch Hetchy T-shirts Are Now Available!



*Brooks Anderson holding a Hetch Hetchy T-shirt.*

The front of the t-shirt has our color logo on the top-left with "Yosemite National Park" underneath. The back of the shirt, see photo above, has the spectacular Brooks Anderson painting of the restored Hetch Hetchy Valley, along with wonder-

ful quotes from Dave Brower and John Muir. Get yours today by sending a \$20 donation, and \$3.50 to cover priority mail postage. Checks for \$23.50 should be made out to: Restore Hetch Hetchy and sent to P.O. Box 289, Yosemite, CA 95389



# Fun Evening Set for Saturday, November 2nd

Acclaimed actor, Lee Stetson who portrays John Muir's love of Nature and his agony over the loss of Hetch Hetchy Valley, and the wonderful Scottish fiddler, Alisdair Fraser, will both perform to benefit Restore Hetch Hetchy on Saturday, November 2nd. The event will take place at Dominican College in San Rafael, and will begin at 7 pm. Stay tuned for more details. Please be sure to mark your calendars for this great event!



Don't forget to  
visit our  
website at  
[www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org)

Please Use Our Website Catalog To View the  
Items Described Below at [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org).

- Please send \_\_\_\_ **Restore Hetch Hetchy t-shirt(s)**. Size \_\_\_\_M \_\_\_\_L \_\_\_\_ X-L  
I am enclosing a check for \$20 (plus \$3.50 for priority mail postage) for each shirt, or have entered my credit card information.
- Please send \_\_\_\_ **Restore Hetch Hetchy bumper stickers**. I am enclosing \$1 for each bumper sticker (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information.
- Please send \_\_\_\_ copies of the color **fact-sheet/fold-out poster**. I am enclosing \$5 (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information.
- Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of David Brower's 1955 video, *Two Yosemite's*. I am enclosing \$10 (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information.
- I would like to become a member of Restore Hetch Hetchy's **Monthly Donor Program**. I have entered my credit card information and the amount I wish to donate each month.
- Please enroll me as a new member or renew my **Restore Hetch Hetchy membership**. I have filled out the information on the reverse.

.....fold here.....

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Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible **Restore Hetch Hetchy membership donation** of:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ other

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month (minimum \$5 per month) beginning immediately for Restore Hetch Hetchy.

Please make check payable to **RESTORE HETCH HETCHY**  
and insert into an envelope  
or include credit card information and fold in half to use the self mailer.

Please charge my credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ VISA

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Planning and Conservation League Foundation  
**Restore Hetch Hetchy Membership Office**  
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*Don't forget to visit our website at*  
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