Amphibians Under Siege
They survived whatever killed the dinosaurs and wooly mammoths, withstood the comings and goings of glaciers, and are found from the straits of the Antarctic to the parched Sonoran desert. They are amphibians, commonly known as frogs, toads, and salamanders, and they are disappearing. I am a Ranger-naturalist in Yosemite National Park, and before my evening campfire in the summer I wander through the campground and invite people to my program. I am met with many different reactions when the topic of the program is disclosed. "Amazing frogs and toads!" they exclaim. "Why I haven’t really looked at one since 7th grade dissection.” Many people have learned by now that some of the “warm and fuzzy” creatures are in trouble and/or endangered, but they are often unaware of the problems our smooth-skinned friends are having. Frogs and toads leave a trail in the fossil record dating back 200 million years. Yet in the past two decades, their numbers have fallen around the world. This decline has researchers baffled.

One biologist, David Wake, began his study on Yosemite toads near the eastern entrance of Yosemite National Park in 1959. “In that place I found paradise for a herpetologist,” he declared. “We could not help but step upon the mountain yellow-legged frog because it was so abundant it got in the way of us seeing toads.” Twenty years later his observations were quite different. “I still found a few frogs, but they were hard to find,” he reported. “You had to work for it.” In the 1980s, Wake returned to the site once more. His fervent looking went unrewarded. There was “nothing, no frogs at all,” he said. “Something was happening, and I didn’t know what.”

For an animal that has adapted to so much throughout its tenure on earth, this abrupt demise piqued my curiosity. Frogs and toads, we suspect, can act as environmental barometers regarding the health of the planet. A crude measure of safety in the early mining days was to take a canary down into the shaft. If, in picking or blasting, a pocket of odorless, poisonous gas was uncovered, the bird would expire and the miners would hightail it to fresh air. Scientists fear that frogs and toads are today’s environmental canaries. Thus the fact that they are disappearing from many of their prime habitats throughout the world should be cause for concern.

In Yosemite, concern has led to action. National Biological Service researchers Gary Fellers and Charles Drost were funded by the Yosemite Association to survey 40 sites during the summer of 1992. They resurveyed the same sites first studied by Joseph Grinnell and T. Storer in their classic work on Yosemite wildlife between 1914 and 1919. A complete inventory of amphibians in the park has not been done since the Grinnell studies and most regions in the Sierra have no baseline data.

Fellers and Drost followed a 140 kilometer transect from lowland scrub and mature pine forests to alpine meadows. The researchers looked for both tadpoles and adults, as well as egg masses. The seven species of amphibians historically found here are: western toad, Pacific tree frog, red-legged frog, foothill and mountain yellow-legged frogs, and the Coachella Valley basin spadefoot toad.

Comparisons of old and recent data revealed significant declines. In some of the sites there were few or no individuals at all. The species of greatest concern are the mountain yellow-legged frog down 86%, the western toad down 83%, the red-legged frog down 77% and the foothill yellow-legged frog and the spadefoot toad which no specimens were found. The Yosemite toad and Pacific tree frog are barely holding their own declines of 54% and 86% respectively.

Frogs and toads leave a trail in the fossil record dating back 200 million years. Yet in the past two decades, their numbers have fallen around the world.

The Sierra Nevada is not isolated in its declines; amphibians are occurring all over North America and the globe. In 1989 a convention of herpetologists gathered in England to discuss current research. Almost as an accident, a worldwide decline became evident to the participants. They conversed casually during coffee breaks. For example, the golden toad, commonly found in the Montebello Cloud Forest Reserve in Costa Rica until 1988, dropped from more than 1,000 specimens to a single toad. I
The southeastern rain forests of Australia, the gastric brooding frog was first discovered in 1973. "It was so abundant that an agile collector could have picked up 100 in a single night," says Michael Tyler, a researcher at the University of Adelaide. The gastric brooding frog disappeared, and no sign of it has been seen since 1981.

The declines we are seeing are not happening in obviously environmentally degraded areas but in seemingly pristine environments. Although we might expect that many of the native frogs and toads in southern California have disappeared, it should alarm us that protected areas are suffering almost as badly. This is not a case of a few isolated occurrences. It is a whole class of animals that is disappearing, analogous to losing all our birds or rodents.

"I wish there were a death star to explain it," says David Wake, now the Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California at Berkeley. "I don't see a single toxin, a single virus. My theory is that it's general environmental degradation. That's the worst thing. Frogs are telling us about the environment's overall health. Unfortunately, they are the medium and the message." The variety of environmental problems and circumstances affecting frogs and toads makes any single cause questionable.

But surely human impact is at the root of it. On the global scale our rising population and our ability to destroy habitats quickly has led many plants and animals down the road to extinction. Holes in the protective ozone of our planet have allowed ultraviolet radiation to penetrate the atmosphere. Studies confirm that ultraviolet light can destroy amphibian eggs and embryos. Acid precipitation affects small bodies of water, especially during spring runoff. Yosemite has had pH levels in water as low as 3.9. Lab tests show that a pH of 4.5 or less will kill eggs. In addition, some pesticides appear especially harmful to frogs with their permeable skin, creating among
Frogs and toads, we suspect, can act as environmental barometers regarding the health of the planet.

Other effects an inability to reproduce. And now, laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water and Air Acts which are intended to protect the environment are themselves endangered as Congress struggles with attempts to weaken them.

In Yosemite we have a multitude of influences that might be interfering with amphibian reproduction. The introduction of trout above the Valley rim, where they did not exist previously, has impacted both frogs and toads. Trout are voracious consumers of frog eggs, tadpoles and adults. The recent drought has both caused many ephemeral ponds to dry up before young frogs can develop and has led other frogs to concentrate in deeper pools where they are vulnerable to fish predation. Bullfrogs, an introduced creature, now abound. Their large size and appetite out-compete native species.

Amphibians have overcome many obstacles in their history on this planet. But the pressures frogs and toads face today change so quickly that there is not enough time for adaptations for survival to evolve. Only through awareness, continued research, and the strengthening of environmental laws can we alleviate the pressures that drive the clock of extinction. In doing so we may save the frogs and toads and, perhaps, save our kind as well.

Julie Ahern is a park ranger who spends her summers in Tuolumne Meadows and her winters in Yosemite Valley. She has been working in Yosemite since 1988.
MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

We'd like to share with you what has transpired over the past several years and what is planned for the future.

Fifteen years have passed since Yosemite's General Management Plan (GMP) was adopted in 1980. The goals of the GMP are still valid: to reclaim priceless beauty, reduce cars and congestion, and allow natural processes to prevail.

Many of the goals of the GMP have already been accomplished and steady progress has been made in developing the required plans, studies and documentation which are essential for further implementation.

We are ready to take the next step in fulfilling Yosemite's GMP—preparation of the Valley Implementation Plan (VIP). The intent of the VIP is to improve Yosemite Valley access and circulation, remove unnecessary roads and buildings, and reclaim priceless beauty while enhancing visitor enjoyment.

The vision for Yosemite is one of more extensive meadows and fewer roads and buildings. The visitor experience should be dominated by the wonder of the Valley rather than the frustration of dealing with traffic and parking. More opportunities to hike, bicycle, and enjoy interpretive activities is the goal. Through implementation of the VIP, we hope to realize this vision for Yosemite Valley—to ensure that this unique resource will be protected not only for today but for future generations.

We will be producing newsletters, holding public briefings and releasing documents for public review which will be used to refine alternatives and select a final proposal. We are seeking public input throughout the entire process. If you are interested in participating, please write to me:

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 ATTN: VIP Planning Process.

Yosemite belongs to all Americans and we want your help in charting its future.

B. J. Griffin

The following overview is provided to explain how the current planning activities relate to the GMP and other planning efforts.

1980 GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (GMP)

In 1980 the National Park Service (NPS) completed a long-range conceptual plan to guide the future of Yosemite National Park. The primary goals of the General Management Plan were to reclaim priceless beauty, reduce cars and congestion, and allow natural systems to prevail. Two major recommendations of the plan for reducing congestion in Yosemite Valley were to remove most nonessential operations (including two-thirds of the employee housing) and develop a transportation system that would allow the elimination of private vehicles. Park headquarters would also be relocated outside of the valley. In keeping with the goals of the GMP, many projects have already been completed. Some examples are:

* Yosemite Village was redesigned to create a pedestrian mall, eliminating 250 parking spaces.

* Two new, quiet, zero-emission, electric-powered buses were added to Yosemite Valley's shuttle system this summer.

* National Park Service warehouse operations and some maintenance functions moved from Yosemite Valley into a new building in El Portal. This move relocated 44 pieces of equipment and 421 employees out of the valley. The move also allowed for the recent demolition of two valley buildings and the restoration of their sites to oak woodland.

* The concessioner reservation office and some warehouse functions were relocated to Fresno. In September 1995, the concessioner's fast photo building was demolished removing another nonessential structure from the valley.

* Valley campsites along the Merced River corridor were removed and the areas revegetated. Ten Housekeeping Camp structures (20 units) were also removed along the river.
* More than 600 parking spaces were removed along valley roadways.

* Cultural and natural resources in Yosemite Valley have been preserved and restored. This includes maintenance of historic structures, preserving archeological resources and restoring riparian zones and meadows.

Some of the proposals of the GMP were tentative recommendations based on available information and required further study before they could be implemented. Studies currently completed or underway are:

* A housing study and subsequent housing plan to determine essential housing needs in Yosemite Valley and housing options in El Portal, Wawona and outside the park.

* A transportation study for Yosemite Valley and outlying areas to determine public transportation alternatives to automobiles.

* A parkwide water study to form the basis for water resources management.

YOSEMITE VALLEY HOUSING PLAN (HOUSING PLAN/SEIS)

In 1992, the National Park Service released the draft Yosemite Valley Plan/Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan. The project had two purposes: to improve housing for the NPS, concession, and other employees who provide visitor services in Yosemite Valley; and to implement the GMP objective to remove nonessential employee housing from the valley. It described five alternatives for providing housing for the 1,359 employees living in Yosemite Valley.

The preferred alternative in that document would have provided primary housing for 934 employees at a new development site in Foresta. The majority of public comments on the Housing Plan/SEIS opposed the proposal. In response to public concern, the NPS developed two new alternatives that consider providing housing in El Portal. The new alternatives will be described in a draft addendum which is not yet ready for public review. The proposed action from the addendum will be incorporated in the Valley Implementation Plan.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION MODES, FEASIBILITY STUDY (TRANSPORTATION STUDY)
The Alternative Transportation Modes, Feasibility Study, Volume IV, Yosemite National Park, California was part of...
a larger study authorized by and funded by Congress to evaluate the range of transportation options, their technical feasibility and their ability to reduce the presence and impact of private vehicles in Denali, Yellowstone and Yosemite national parks.

The Yosemite portion was completed in 1994 and released to the public in 1995. It evaluated two Yosemite Valley concepts for intercepting day use traffic and transferring passengers to a visitor transportation system.

* One option promoted a system of staging areas in remote locations that would intercept day use traffic enroute to the valley. Visitors would be transported by bus from the staging areas to the valley, where they would transfer to a circulator system to reach individual destinations within the valley.

* The second option called for a single staging area located in an appropriate site within the valley where day use traffic would be intercepted. Visitors would then board a shuttle connector to the Yosemite Valley area where they would then transfer to a circulator system similar to that proposed in the previous concept.

The study indicated that an in-valley staging area site would be the most efficient, environmentally sound and cost effective option. Several alternative sites in Yosemite Valley have been identified and analyzed over the past 20 years. Because of several advantages over other options, Taft Toe (near El Capitan crossover) was recommended by the study.

The Superintendent invited the public to comment on the transportation study when it was released in June, 1995. Over 400 responses have been received to date.

Most of the commentaries were concerned about or opposed to the development of parking at Taft Toe or at any other site within Yosemite Valley. Many also believed that a parking structure was being proposed for the Taft Toe site (actually, those design considerations were undefined in the study). Many of the commentaries also asked the NPS to consider regional transportation alternatives, including light rail.

In response to the comments received, the NPS has placed a greater emphasis on collaboration with gateway communities and regional transportation planners, through its membership on the board of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS) group.
Working with YAKTS, the NPS hopes to identify and evaluate regional transportation systems and the potential means of funding and implementing them.

Transportation is a vital issue and one which is very complicated. Any final transportation alternative must help achieve the goals of the GMP and work toward fulfilling its commitment to eventually eliminate private vehicles from Yosemite Valley.

CONCESSIONS SERVICES PLAN (CSP)
The Concessions Services Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement prepared in 1992, defined further the management of concession services in Yosemite to meet the goals of the GMP. The CSP called for greater reduction in the total number of overnight accommodations and examined the types of available lodging. The variety and location of food service facilities were redefined to better meet the needs of park visitors. The total amount of retail space was reduced and a process established to tie merchandise more closely to park themes. The plan provided for continued use of the Village Store, valley warehouse, and the ice rink at Curry Village.

The CSP was specifically incorporated into a new concession contract which went into effect October 1, 1993. One of the unique features of the new contract was the setting aside of nearly 5% of the concessioner's gross receipts in a Capital Improvement Fund. Under NPS direction, the fund will be used to accomplish major rehabilitation and capital improvements to existing structures and to implement concession-related components of the GMP as amended.

VALLEY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (VIP)
The intent of the Valley Implementation Plan is to remove unnecessary structures, restore and protect recovered land, relocate other facilities out of sensitive or hazardous areas, and reduce traffic congestion in the valley. This will be accomplished by initiating and completing a comprehensive plan and a multi-year implementation program for Yosemite Valley.

In December 1993, the public was invited to provide input to guide the early stages of the planning process. Nearly 150 individuals, organizations and government representatives responded. Of the 83 separate issues raised, those most frequently mentioned centered around transportation, employee housing, restoration of recovered lands, day use limits and reservation systems, and the improvement of interpretive services.

The input from public comments as well as the infor-
ation from the transportation study, the employee housing study and the Concession Services Plan provided the NPS with enough material to begin preparation of the VIP. Before the planning process could begin, three very important analyses needed to be conducted.

A geographic information system (GIS) was used to analyze all resource values in the valley including floodplains, wetlands, archeological and historic sites and districts, vegetation, soils and scenic quality. From these data layers, a single resource based land use suitability map was produced. This map will help park managers remove facilities from high value and sensitive areas.

A functional and space inventory (Operations Functional Analysis, 1993) was prepared to determine how the park could carry out its mission with the fewest possible facilities in the valley. The data in the functional analysis, along with other information, will determine which buildings should be removed from the valley and what size space is needed for functions that are to remain.

A cultural landscape study entitled Yosemite Valley Cultural Landscape Report, 1994 (CLR), was prepared to document, evaluate and analyze the Yosemite Valley landscape from a number of perspectives. The ultimate goal of the CLR is to provide planning guidance which addresses cultural, historic and natural resources.

The NPS is still in the process of evaluating the issues and recommendations given by the public. Discussions are continuing with a great number of interested individuals, agencies and organizations. Park managers hope in the near future to begin presenting various alternatives that are being developed both in response to public comment and with the information derived from the various studies. In the meantime, the NPS remains interested in any contributions the public might make toward the development of the VIP.

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

Yosemite is at a crossroads. At the time the GMP was released in 1980, the park’s visitation was 2.5 million. By 1994, the figures nearly doubled with 4.1 million people visiting the park. Traffic volumes in Yosemite have become so high as a result of increased visitation, that access to the park had to be restricted for seven weekends between May and July in 1995. The high volumes of traffic adversely impact resources, often compromise visitor safety and diminish the visitor experience. Given the daily vehicle congestion and resource damage resulting from current visitation levels, unrestricted access to the park cannot continue.

Increasing pressures have made it more important than ever to move forward in implementing the goals and objectives of the General Management Plan — to reclaim priceless beauty, reduce cars and congestion, and allow natural processes to prevail. A day use reservation system is also being considered for reducing congestion.

The vision for Yosemite Valley is one of more extensive meadows and fewer roads and buildings. The visitor experience should be dominated by the wonder of the valley rather than the frustration of dealing with traffic and parking. More opportunities to hike, bicycle and enjoy interpretive activities is the goal. Through implementation of the VIP, we hope to realize this vision for Yosemite Valley — to ensure this unique resource will be protected not only for today, but for future generations.

We encourage you to participate and remain involved in fulfilling the goals of the 1980 General Management Plan.
As years go, 1995 offered more than its share of challenge and excitement in Yosemite. Not only did it start with one of the heaviest snow accumulations in years, but there were a variety of natural and human events that combined to keep everyone from assuming that anything would be "normal."

Following heavy rains, the Arch Rock Road above El Portal collapsed and fell into the Merced River in March. At the same time, snow and rock closed the other entrances to Yosemite, and for a short time, Yosemite Valley was isolated from the rest of the world. The Arch Rock Road remained closed for over a month, turning the normally simple trip from the Yosemite Association offices to Yosemite Valley into a three hour driving marathon.

The heavy snow pack meant a very late opening for the Tioga Road and the Tuolumne Meadows visitor center. The average opening date for the center is May 15, but it didn't throw wide its doors this year until July 22. Other complications included the closure for the season of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground for sewer repairs, and the slow snow melt which made the park's high country inaccessible until very late in the summer. For the first time since they were built, the High Sierra Camps did not open.

On the human front, the Yosemite Association's operation was disrupted in August following the kidnapping of a ranger, her escape, and the search for her abductor. The park closed briefly, and when it re-opened, all visitors were made subjects of searches and experienced long delays. The incident was a prelude to the federal budget wars of November and December.

Without an approved budget, the federal government shut down in November for seven days, resulting in Yosemite's closure for two days. A stop-gap measure was passed that allowed the parks to open again, but a repeat scenario developed in December. Unable to reach agreement on the budget, Congress and the President forced a second closure, this one much longer. It lasted from December 18 through January 7. Visitors were deprived of Christmas in Yosemite, the Bracebridge Dinners were cancelled, and many long-term plans of a trip to Yosemite were spoiled.

Despite all these remarkable occurrences, the Yosemite Association enjoyed a relatively prosperous and rewarding year, as detailed below. We appreciate all those who support us through rain and shine (and snow and rock fall), and look forward to working with the many people who make our activities exciting and successful during the coming year.

The images accompanying the Annual Report are by photographer Jerry Uelsmann, whose creative work will be on exhibit in Yosemite this summer (see page 17).
BOARD AND STAFF
This year's fall election resulted in renewed terms on the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees for two incumbents, Bill Alsup and Bob Eckart. Both were nominated by committee and ran unopposed, being declared winners without the balloting process.

Bill Alsup's interest and involvement in Yosemite are well established. The San Francisco attorney, a Harvard graduate who served as a law clerk for Justice William O. Douglas and worked as a civil rights lawyer in Mississippi early in his career, first joined the Board in 1989. As a photographer, author, YA seminar trip leader, and dynamic participant in this and other organizations, he has made the well-being of Yosemite National Park an integral part of his activities for over twenty years.

Bob Eckart grew up in Yosemite National Park, attended grammar school here, and is a graduate of the University of the Pacific and the University of California. While he lived in the Bay Area, Bob journeyed often to Yosemite for the "tremendous physical and spiritual pleasure" he found here, and finally returned permanently to Mariposa County where he is Vice President and Credit Administrator of the Yosemite Bank. His intimate knowledge of the park is a distinct asset to the Board, as are his experience and expertise in the business world.

SALES AND PUBLICATIONS
The publication and sales program strongly felt the impact of the unusual events of the year. Even though there was an increase in sales within the park of four percent, the late opening of our Tuolomne Meadows store and the park closures in November and December spoiled what could have been an impressive sales year. Because mail order business dropped steeply from 1994 and wholesale business was off over eight percent, we experienced a decrease in overall sales of three percent.

Our publishing projects for 1995 included the paper edition of Omsted's The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. Y.A. also re-issued a paperback edition of Railroads of the Yosemite Valley, a classic work telling the intriguing story of the four shortline railroads that operated in the Merced River canyon. In the non-book category, the Association published two new Sierra Nevada Field Cards covering trees and wildflowers.

A number of reprints were undertaken in 1995 including The Wild Muir; Domes, Cliffs, and Waterfalls; The Pictorial Guide to Yosemite (English); Yosemite Indians; Discovering Sierra Mammals; and the Yosemite Road Guide. The Yosemite Wilderness Pin continues to be a popular item (with over 6,000 sold), all proceeds from which benefit the Wilderness Education Program.

Y.A. opened a new sales outlet in the Wilderness Center, and it proved to be popular and financially successful. Several of our existing sales outlets showed healthy growth in 1995. For example, sales at the Wawona District Office were up 61%, the Museum Store grew 46%, and Happy Isles and the Pioneer History Center each increased 28%. As noted above, the late opening hurt performance at Tuolumne Meadows (-28%); the Mariposa Grove Museum was also disappointing with sales down 50%. Gross receipts from sales operation in the park totalled $1,189,004.

A non-financial benefit of our sales program was the information and general assistance provided by our sales employees to visitors in support of the National Park Service.

Y.A. participated in a number of trade and retail exhibits, including the American Booksellers Association convention in Chicago, the Northern California Booksellers Convention in Oakland, and the San
Francisco Book Festival. The contacts afforded by these appearances benefited the sales operation as well as the membership and seminar programs.

MEMBERSHIP

Highlighted by the return of the membership/information booth to the mall, the YA membership program experienced another successful year. Some 30 volunteers braved foul weather and uncertain campground openings to staff the Museum Gallery, operate the orientation slide show, welcome seminar participants, give out park information, and encourage membership in the Association. Their enthusiasm brought in over 500 new or renewing memberships, enabled over 67,000 visitors to view the Museum Gallery exhibit, and permitted over 33,000 visitors to experience the orientation slide show. We are most grateful to these volunteers who so generously gave of their time. At the end of 1995, YA had a total of 6600 members.

YA's other volunteer program, the member work trips, saw nearly 70 volunteers in various locations throughout the park (Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Valley, Sunrise Lakes area, Forcsta) doing revegetation and restoration work for the Park Service. These five work trips were cooperatively sponsored by YA which supplies the labor; the Yosemite Institute which provides the meals and leadership; the NPS which establishes and supervises the work projects; and Yosemite Concession Services which contributes the funding for the program. We thank these volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

The first member event of the year proved to be truly memorable. The Spring Forum took place March 25 in Yosemite Valley in spite of rock slides, road closures, and a significant snowfall just a few days before the event. Nearly 400 YA members braved the elements to attend an event that highlighted such varied speakers as Park Superintendent B.J. Griffin, Patricia Winters from the California Bat Conservation Fund, mining historian Susan Guhm, and astronomer Ron Oriti. In addition, numerous walks were conducted throughout the Valley, covering topics as diverse as photography, geology, climbing, archaeology, river restoration, and history.

The Twentieth Annual Members' Meeting, held in September in Tuolumne Meadows, featured an entertaining and informative talk by Michael Frome. An award-winning author and conservationist, Dr. Frome's inspirational speech was entitled “Americans Will Save Their National Parks — Here's How.” Members were also treated to several naturalist walks and many joined NPS Ranger Bob Roney for “Tales from the Woods” at the evening campfire.

SEMINARS

The seminar program experienced a roller coaster ride in 1995 like never before. It all began with the “Great Snowy Winter.” Hundreds of participants enrolled to participate in our various offerings, but the deep, slow-melting snow and the wet and muddy spring conditions forced the cancellation and re-location of many courses. Classes were moved to new areas whenever possible, and instructors and students alike were good about adapting to change. One teacher gallantly taught alpine ecology in Yosemite Valley! Many participants stayed at Tamarack Flat Campground for courses normally held in Tuolumne Meadows. Backpack trips suffered the most, with over two hundred cancellations forced by trail closures and impassable conditions.

The rock slide on Highway 140 impacted our spring classes. We use the term “spring” loosely, however, as our birding seminar instructors were hard-pressed to find some sign of spring.

Two new archaeological courses were planned in cooperation with the National Park Service in 1995. These backcountry research programs were to conduct surface surveys in designated areas that had not been recorded before. Despite full enrollment of both classes, the NPS decided to cancel the projects due to concerns raised by the Mariposa Indian Council. It is hoped that similar work trips can be offered in the near future.

To make matters even more complicated, Tuolumne Meadows Campground did not open in 1995 because maintenance work was being done on the sewer lines. Snow kept Tamarack Flat and Porcupine Flat Campground closed until late in the season.

Field seminar students, when they were able to participate, had the special experience of seeing the effects of a heavy winter in Yosemite. The major beneficiaries were those studying
the wildflowers - there was a grand display! Our fine seminar teaching staff and our devoted seminar participants are to be congratulated for the flexibility and patience they demonstrated in Yosemite this year.

751 people participated in a total of 73 classes in 1995. There were originally 935 signed up, but there were many cancellations due to snow.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Wilderness Reservation System
At the request of the National Park Service, the Yosemite Association initiated a Wilderness Reservation System for backcountry users during 1995. Based at the new Wilderness Center, the system allows backpackers to reserve wilderness permits up to 24 weeks in advance of their planned trip. Thousands of hikers took advantage of the reservation option, the charge for which is $3 per person per permit. Y.A. provided the staff that operated the system and answered the many phone calls that came in.

Art Activity Center
Despite a move to the former Wells Fargo Bank building that delayed things somewhat, the Art Activity Center enjoyed its thirteenth year of operation in 1995. The superb staff of artist/teachers encompassed seven new artists and represented a variety of states including Texas, Nevada, Idaho, Hawaii, and Vermont. The classes were held seven days a week for no fee April to October plus Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday weeks. The Center had 2526 people experience art in the park during 1995.

Yosemite Theater
The Yosemite Theater program completed its twelfth year of offering evening interpretive programs for a fee to Yosemite visitors. Lee Stetson continued his portrayal of John Muir in one-man productions that he now travels around the country. Connie Stetson added her dramatic interpretation of the experiences of a strong pioneer woman who endured many hardships in settling the West. Gail Lynne Dreifus again offered original music and songs incorporating environmental messages, in conjunction with her group, The Recycled String Band. These performers offered a fine mix of programs, both entertaining and educational, to enhance the enjoyment and understanding of park visitors. Over 20,750 people attended Yosemite Theater performances between April and October in 1995.

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut
The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, which was closed for the 1994-95 winter season due to significant problems with the hut’s sewage system, has reopened for the 1995-96 season. While no permanent solution to the problem has
been determined, the National Park Service approved the opening of the hut this year on a zero waste discharge basis. This involves collecting all human waste and packing it out at the end of the season.

Ten miles into the backcountry and surrounded by wilderness, the hut provides a favorite destination and rustic lodging for nordic skiers in a season that lasts from late December to early April. YA operates the hut at the request of the National Park Service, pays for hutkeepers, firewood, and other necessities, and handles the lottery and reservation system through the Wilderness Center.

Special Trips
The Association arranged several special outings in 1995, pairing talented and knowledgeable area naturalists with visiting groups. Trips ranged from half a day with a small family to several days with approximately twenty visitors from England. A variety of activities were offered to guests who attended a wedding in the park. The Association received several donations as a result of these contacts.

1995 Highlights

JANUARY
B. J. Griffin arrived in Yosemite to begin her assignment as Park Superintendent.

MARCH
On March 11 Highway 140 closed when a 25 foot boulder destroyed 71 feet of road. The Arch Rock entrance to the park remained closed until April 5. Hwy. 41 also closed for one week during this period due to rockslides.

MAY
On May 8 the park's new Wilderness Center opened in Yosemite Valley with David Brower as guest speaker.

Park access was restricted on weekends from May through the Fourth of July weekend. Due to congestion in the Valley, thousands of cars were turned away at entrance stations midday on most weekend days.

JUNE
A new wilderness permit system began which enabled people to reserve permits by phone.

The cables went up on Half Dome on June 7.

On June 23 a Yosemite License Plate Day event was held in the park to celebrate that sales for the Yosemite plate had surpassed 26,000 for an all-time record for special plate sales.

Due to an unusually wet and snowy winter, the Tioga Road opened late for the season on June 30. While plowing the road in preparation for opening road crew foreman, Barry Hance, was killed by an avalanche on June 13.

On June 30, the first electric bus arrived for use in Yosemite in the shuttle bus system.

JULY
The Glacier Point Road opened for the season on July 1.

On July 2, with the opening of all of the park for the summer season, the weekend traffic restrictions ended.

In mid-July the decision was made to not open the High Sierra Camps due to the short season caused by heavy snow and the concern over resource damage due to wetness.

OCTOBER
The Tioga Road closed for several days and rangers stopped and questioned visitors in hopes of finding an armed fugitive who was suspected of attacking a park ranger. The suspect was arrested in the park two weeks later.

NOVEMBER
Yosemite closed for two days as part of the federal shutdown over the budget crisis.

DECEMBER
The park closed again on December 18 with the federal shutdown and remained closed for three weeks.

Visitation for 1995 reached a near-record level of 4,101,928, despite the three week Christmas closure and the spring weekend traffic restrictions which turned away thousands of visitors.
Association, 1995

The following fine people and companies made generous contributions of their time, money, or energy during 1995. We extend heartfelt thanks to them and to the many other wonderful people both inside and outside the park who help us in countless ways.

### Statement of Financial Position

**FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1995**

**ASSETS**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$310,099</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>76,589</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>6,334</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>698,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>45,792</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,137,544</strong></td>
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**LIABILITIES**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Trade accounts payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Payroll Taxes</td>
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<td>Royalties payable</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>1,532</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacation payable</td>
<td>13,018</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,193</strong></td>
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**NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated for programs</td>
<td>48,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>839,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>127,962</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,016,351</strong></td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,137,544</strong></td>
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### Statement of Activities, 1995

**UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication sales</td>
<td>$1,587,716</td>
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<td>Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>232,908</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>62,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilderness Center</td>
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<td>Auxiliary activities</td>
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<td>Designated programs</td>
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<td><strong>Net assets released from restrictions</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,143,841</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of sales:</td>
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<td>Publication costs</td>
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<td>Auxiliary activities:</td>
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<td>Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
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<td>Wilderness Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other activities</td>
<td>33,792</td>
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<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
<td>300,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>124,666</td>
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<td><strong>Aid to National Park Service</strong></td>
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<td><strong>INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,163,755</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>19,392</td>
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<td>Auxiliary activities</td>
<td>126,302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions:</td>
<td><strong>74,192</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restrictions satisfied by payments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>71,502</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>125,780</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS, AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,016,351</strong></td>
</tr>
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### Pie Chart Analysis

- **Free Publications** (16.7%)
- **Interpretive Operations** (4.6%)
- **Pre-Publication Expense** (8.3%)
- **Other** (1.7%)
- **Interpretation** (20.9%)
- **Information Assistance** (30.9%)
- **Research** (11.6%)
- **Structures and Facilities** (5.3%)
Yosemite/A Personal Vision Exhibit Opens

The work of internationally-known photographer Jerry Uelsmann will be on exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery of the Yosemite Museum from June 3 through September 30, 1996. The photographs on exhibit resulted from his participation in the Yosemite Artist-in-Residence program and his excursions on the Artists’ High Sierra trips. The exhibition coincides with the publication of a book containing this work which is also titled *Yosemite/A Personal Vision* by Florida State Press. The book contains essays by David Robertson, photographer and author of two books on the arts in Yosemite, and Ted Orland, photographer and author of *Man in Yosemite* and other titles. Dave Forgang, Yosemite Curator, has written the forward.

Uelsmann’s black and white photographs are a technical wonder of multiple images seamlessly assembled in the darkroom. Humorous and disturbing, the images evoke multi-layered responses which have been described as teasing the dreaming parts of the mind into consciousness. Uelsmann has said, “I think of my photographs as obviously symbolic, but not symbolically obvious.” Ted Orland has commented that looking at the images “is a process that involves both artist and viewer.” Yosemite Association volunteers will staff the gallery as docents for the duration of the exhibit.

New Internet Web Site for Yosemite Association

Yosemite lovers can now keep in touch with the park via “Yosemite Online”—the new Internet web site maintained by the Yosemite Association. Located at “http://yosemite.org” the site features visitor information, news, a bookstore, outdoor classes, Yosemite Association membership data, even a live camera view of Glacier Point. Browsers will find digital maps, 3-D Quicktime VR movies from Yosemite Valley, the daily weather forecast, and much more.

New 900 Telephone Service Opens for YNP Information

On April 15, the Yosemite Association began operating a new 900 information telephone number for Yosemite National Park. This 900 telephone system will supplement the present National Park Service telephone information system which is currently overloaded with an increasing volume of calls.

The new number is 1-900-454-YOSE and is staffed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Daylight) Monday through Friday. Callers have access to up-to-the-minute information on weather, campsite and lodging availability, trip-planning, visitor activities, and other services in Yosemite National Park. The line cannot be used to make camping and lodging reservations. For camping reservations, call DESTINET at 1-800-436-7275. For lodging reservations, call Yosemite Concession Services Corp. at (209) 252-4848.

The service will cost $1.95 for the first minute and $0.95 for each additional minute. All revenues generated by the 900 line will be used by the Yosemite Association to benefit educational programs in Yosemite.
Summer Seminars - 1996

Have you signed up for a seminar yet? Many courses are full, but the following excellent classes still have some space. Enjoy a learning vacation this summer while supporting your cooperating association!

Meet the Butterflies of Yosemite
June 13 (eve)–16 — John Lane
Yosemite Valley
(free camping or rooms at extra cost)

The Giant Sequoias, Past and Present
July 26–28 — Stan Hutchinson
Wawona
(free camping or rooms at extra cost)

The Lifeways, Games, and Tools of Central California Indians
June 21–23 — Bev Ortiz
Yosemite Valley
(free camping or rooms at extra cost)
(includes materials)

Beginner Backpacks
Learn minimum-impact backpack techniques while enjoying Yosemite's beautiful High Sierra Backcountry. Pre-trip camping will be provided in Tuolumne Meadows.

Yosemite Creek & Westward
July 5–7 — Sue Gonshor
May Lake

August 2 - 5 — Bryon Solberg

Vogelsang
August 16–18 — Lisa Strong-Aufhauser

The following YA classes include all meals, dormitory lodging, and showers so you can fully enjoy these outdoor hiking classes. The seminars are planned to be fun and informative.

An Introduction to Yosemite's Natural History
June 20 (eve)–23 — Pete Devine
Dorm lodging and meals included

Basics of Wildflower Identification
June 27 (eve)–30 — Dr. Glenn Keator
Dorm lodging and meals included

Mountain Wildflowers for the Relaxed Botanist
June 30 (eve)–July 5 — Michael Ross
Dorm lodging and meals included

Call Penny or Lou for more information about these or other seminars at 209/379-2321.

Yosemite Valley
July 26–28 — Stan Hutchinson

July 21-27, 1996:
YA Member Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

August 2 - 5, 1996:

August 2 - 5, 1996:

August 16–18, 1996:
Lisa Strong-Aufhauser

August 4–10, 1996:
YA Member Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

August 25–31, 1996:
YA Member Work Trip,
Backcountry/Sunrise Lakes

September 7, 1996:
21st Annual Members' Meeting,
Wawona

September 22–28, 1996:
YA Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley*

October 6–12, 1996:
YA Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley*

March 23, 1997:
YA Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley**

* Space still available, call (209) 379-2646
** Members can make their own room reservations with YCS (209) 252-4881

There are still openings for YA volunteers for this summer. If you’d like to spend a month in the park, call 209/379-2317 for details.

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 you appropriate phone numbers and usual lots of helpful advice.
Artist Stephen Lyman Dies in Park Accident

A long-time friend of the Yosemite Association, Stephen Lyman died recently when he fell in a steep rocky gully in the Cathedral Rocks area of Yosemite Valley. Lyman, a gifted artist and photographer, had been the featured speaker at Y.A.'s Spring Forum on March 30. A resident of Sand Point, Idaho, he had returned to the park (reportedly his 41st visit) to explore, hike, and prepare for several public appearances to promote his new book entitled Into the Wilderness.

Lyman, 38, loved Yosemite and used it as the setting for many of his paintings. Motivated by his desire to see the park and its wildlife protected, he (and his publisher, the Greenwich Workshop) donated several posters and prints to the Yosemite Association to benefit education, research, and environmental programs at the park.

Donations to the Yosemite Association in memory of Stephen Lyman are welcomed and will be used to benefit programs designated by the Lyman family.
YOSEMITE CATALOG

13850 Yosemite Adventure Guide on CD
by Copernicus Software.

This is the first comprehensive guide on CD-ROM to be developed for Yosemite. The developers made use of this distinctive medium by including video clips, slide shows, and music, in addition to all the information, maps, and photography you would expect in a printed guidebook. There's a special treat for rockclimbing fans - detailed photographic coverage of a climb of El Capitan that allows users to zoom in on the climbers along the route. With over 400 color photographs, topo maps from five regions of the park, and extensive data on park resources, this CD should prove useful to both new and returning Yosemite visitors. One Microsoft Windows compatible CD-ROM (Windows 3.1 or later - including Windows 95), Copernicus Software, 1995.

CD-ROM, $29.95

Yosemite Adventure Guide on CD
A Complete Guide For Planning, Enjoying and Remembering Your Trip To Yosemite!

13825 Sierra Nevada CD-ROM
by Mountain Images.

Backpackers and hikers will find this multimedia trail guide to the Sierra Nevada indispensable. Users can access trail information by features, trailheads, and trips, then preview recommended trips or create their own. With over 2,700 different color photos, the CD allows you to see what you'll experience along each route. And the copious trail descriptions, elevation profiles, and trailhead information can be printed out to take along with you on your hike. Other features include toggling between maps, relief shading, trail walking, guided tours, and more. The CD covers some 2,000 miles of trail in the following wilderness areas: Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite, John Muir, Ansel Adams, Emigrant, Hoover, Carson-Iceberg, Mokelumne, and Desolation. One Microsoft Windows compatible CD-ROM (Windows 3.1 or later - including Windows 95), Mountain Images, 1995.

CD-ROM, $79.95

400 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
34315 Weavers of Tradition & Beauty - Basketmakers of the Great Basin

This attractive new volume presents new information on contemporary Native American basketry of the Great Basin, largely from the viewpoint of the weavers themselves. The author and photographer traveled throughout Nevada, and accompanied the weavers as they gathered and prepared their special willow, dyed the bracken fern root, and wove their baskets. Their experiences are captured in vivid text and in over 100 black and white and color photographs. While children and grandchildren have been passed down the basketmaking traditions, those traditions have evolved over time. By documenting the contemporary basketry of Nevada's native people, this book makes a significant contribution to the preservation of this ancient and beautiful craft. 138 pages, University of Nevada Press, 1995.

Paper, $19.95

34811 Women in Wilderness - Writings and Photographs

In this volume of ten captivating essays are collected a variety of women's perspectives and distinctive attitudes toward nature and the wonders that the wild has to offer. In writing about locations from the mid-Atlantic coast to the depths of the Grand Canyon to the untamed ranges of Alaska, these writers find beauty, harshness, solitude, and loneliness. And in each case, their spirits are nourished. Contributing authors include Gretel Ehrlich, Margaret Murie, Cathy Johnson, and Terry Tempest Williams. The book incorporates 65 color photographs from such artists as Kathy Clay, Kathleen Norris Cook, Pat Leeson, and Connie Toops. 100 pages, Harcourt Brace, 1995.

Paper, $19.95

14430 Ansel Adams and the American Landscape

Despite his many accomplishments in photography and the environmental movement, Ansel Adams has remained one of the least studied of our major twentieth-century artists. This book is meant to be the first full biography of the photographer and a critical analysis of his life's work. The work relies on correspondence, interviews, and published and unpublished works to explore Adams's early influences, his friendships with other leading artists (Lange, O'Keeffe, Stieglitz, Strand, and Weston), and his adventures in the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite. The author brings one of the greatest photographers of our time into sharp focus, while raising questions about the effort of humans to create a future that balances nature, progress, and spirit. 516 pages, illustrated, University of California Press, 1995.

Cloth, $34.95
07800 Yosemite Wilderness Pin.
Here's a beautiful enamel pin commemorating Yosemite's unparalleled wilderness. The latest in the series of pins for all of California's wilderness areas, it's circular in shape with a beautiful high country scene rendered in blues, grays, and greens. A real treasure for collectors. Approximately 1 inch in diameter. $4.00

07510 Yosemite Association Mug.
This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green and 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)

07720 Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag.
Here's 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. Conserve resources with a reusable book bag. Approximately 17 x 16 inches. $8.95

07505 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, and maroon colors. The cap is stylish and comfortable, and wearing it is a good way to demonstrate your support for Yosemite. $9.95 (please specify color)

07516 Yosemite Association Patch.
Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on day-packs, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The newly-designed patch is available in three attractive colors: dark blue, forest green, and maroon. $3.00 (please specify color)

Order Form
Credit card orders call: (209) 379-2648  Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm

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Credit Card No: [Credit Card No Here]  Expires: [Expiration Date]
Signature: [Signature]

Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318

Price Each  Total

Subtotal: [Subtotal Here]
Less 15% Member's Discount: [Discount Here]
SUBTOTAL A: [Subtotal A Here]
7.25% Sales Tax (CA customers only): [Tax Here]
Shipping Charges: $3.95
TOTAL ENCLOSED: [Total Enclosed Here]
NEW MEMBERS

Regular Members
Beck Adams, Barbara Antler, Benedict Arnold, Mary Tchakirides

Supporting Members

Contributing Members

Centennial Members
Martha & Bart Brown, Mary Ann FitzGerald, B. J. Griffin, Julie LeDoux, Patrick & Kathy Rider

Life Members
Carl & Dana Elder, Bruce & Scottie Hart, Jim Whipple, Len Wilkinson

Participating Life Members
Gay Abercromb

International Members
Dr. Neil Badham—England, Heiko Bremicker—Germany, Tamaki Hashimoto—Japan, Peter Hill—Australia, Nobutomo Kutsuji—Japan, Esther Lane—England, Shinichiro Nakamura—Japan, Chinatou Ohara—Japan

Recent Donations to YA
Orange Tree Productions, Real Music, Pete Ryan, Paul & Edith Simonson

In memory of Eleanor Andrews: Elizabeth King, Betty Ann Slaughter

In memory of Kathleen Atkinson: Neil & Elizabeth Lark, The Rusin Family

In memory of Rod Collier: Mary Collier

In memory of Daniel L. Rex Kahler: Joan Burroughs, Stan & Grace Evans, John & Diane Fourout, Polly Kidd, Janey Willis

In memory of Eva Lee: Robert W. Lee

In memory of John Oliphant: Les & Susan Mann

In memory of Carl Sharsmith: Gary Moerlein

In memory of Edna Wainscott: The Hettinga Family

Jerry Uelsmann
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.

Please enroll me in the Yosemite Association as a...

_Regular Member $25
_Supporting Member $35
_Contributing Member $50
_Centennial Member $100
_Life Member $500
_Participating Life Member $1,000
_International Member $35
_To add a spouse/partner $5.

Name (please print):
Address:
City: State/Zip:
Daytime phone number:
Enclosed is a check for:
Or charge credit card number: expires:

Mail to: Yosemite Association, PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2646