

Wawona Community News

PO Box 2008, Wawona, CA 95389
August, 2018



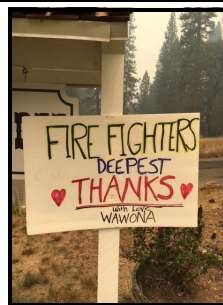
Wawona Stayed Informed During the Ferguson Fire!

Our local Wawona News website (www.wawonanews.com) kept us all informed with up-to-date fire information since the Ferguson Fire began on July 13. Webmaster Fede Peinado used information from Sierra News Online, Gary Wuchner and the twice daily Ferguson Fire Updates. Daily views on the website increased dramatically over the course of the fire as property owners and residents depended on the website for the current status and maps of the fire. Throughout the fire, the average number of readers jumped 400%. We were averaging 200 readers a day prior to the fire and we are currently at 800 a day.

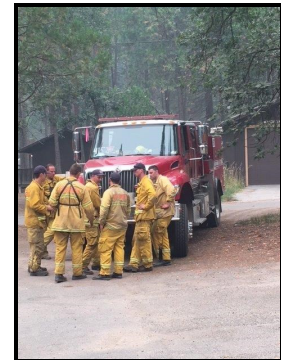
A thank-you note left at the front door of the Heringer house in Wawona from Maeve Juarez, Montecito (Santa Barbara), CA, Fire Department, who was the Wawona Structures Fire Supervisor for our recent and on-going Ferguson Fire that threatened the Wawona community and is still burning in portions of Yosemite National Park. She thanks Wawona for our generosity and support of the fire Strike Teams.

Besides the support and many "thank-yous" from Wawona residents, WAPPOA allocated \$1000.00 in funds split between the two Wawona markets to provide complimentary food, snacks, beverages and sundries to firefighters in the area – this was very well received by the firefighters, EMTs, and Strike Teams!

With containment of the Wawona portion of the fire, Maeve and many of the Teams have been re-assigned elsewhere in California or moved to more active portions of the Ferguson Fire.



Wawona commends the first responder firefighting crews for the work they do. We salute and honor our brave fallen heroes of the Ferguson Fire: Braden Varney and Brian Hughes.



UC Merced Yosemite Field Station

Anne Kelly ~ Director

Why such crazy fires? The science behind Ferguson, Carr, and California's "new normal"

It is clear to the Wawona community and the rest of California that our fires are larger, faster, and hotter than ever before. What is driving the shift? Researchers from UC Merced, the USGS, the NPS, and other universities have been tackling this question for years, and their most dire predictions are coming true. The recent drought in the Sierra Nevada was unremarkable in terms of rainfall: we've had equally dry periods many times over the last 150 years. What made our recent drought so hard on the forest is temperature. The last drought was about three degrees warmer in the Sierra than temperatures in the 1900s. It doesn't sound like a lot, but the slightly warmer air causes trees and soils to dry out much faster. This warm drought stressed trees, which allowed beetles to kill trees by the tens of millions. Native Americans in our area used to burn our forest every decade or so for hunting and agricultural purposes, thinning the forest of small trees and litter on the ground. When they were pushed out in the mid 1800s, fires became more rare. Forests thickened with trees, and needles and sticks built up on the ground. This July was almost seven degrees warmer than July in the 1900s. The combination of a hot July and dry, thick stands of dead trees created the perfect conditions for a hot, fast fire. UC and USGS researchers have observed in the Rim Fire scar that when the Sierra forest burns hot, seeds have a hard time surviving and recolonizing large burns. The Sierra Nevada has adapted to low-intensity, small, frequent fires and we will discover in the coming decades how a warmer, drier climate and hotter fires will reshape our forest ecosystem. (To explore California's drought and temperatures over the last century, see <https://wrcc.dri.edu/monitor/cal-mon/>)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



September 1: Wawona Friends of the Library **Book/Bake/Craft Sale**
Library Parking Lot 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

September 1: Square Dance Gray Barn
8 - 10 p.m.

October 13: WAPOA Wawona Community Center 9 a.m.

October 13: Large item pickup YNP Maintenance Yard 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

October TBA: Flu Shot Clinic at the Library



Free N95 Respirator Masks are available at The Pine Tree Market for use due to the unhealthy air quality.

Get signed up for NIXLE Alerts by going to the Mariposa County webpage and clicking on the Sheriff's Department.

Park Ranger Dean Shenk scheduled for Retirement

Jeff Lahr ~ Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona



After over
years of

long-time park ranger, Dean Shenk, is retiring at the end of August. Although living in El Portal, Dean has long been a part of the Wawona community. Dean's association with Yosemite is a long one. Many rangers transfer to new parks after several years, but Dean's roots remain solidly in Yosemite soil!

Dean began his career as an "undocumented volunteer" in Yosemite Valley in 1971 and became an official volunteer the following summer. Pursuing a career in the Park Service Dean became a seasonal interpreter in Yosemite Valley in 1973. Dean took a year's leave from Yosemite to work as the first seasonal laborer hired by the Maintenance Division at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Returning to Yosemite in the summer of 1975 he worked for the Museum branch and lived in Wawona's Tent City (below the current Law Enforcement office). Since that time Dean has held many different positions in the park including several seasons on backcountry patrol and many years as a Supervising ranger. As supervisor of Wawona's Interpretive office, the loyalty shown to Dean by his staff is reflected in the fact that the average length of service of the current staff is nearly twenty years.

Dean has been the supervisor of Wawona's Interpretation division for over twenty years. His responsibilities include overseeing interpretive programs at the Yosemite Pioneer History Center, staffing of Hill's Studio Visitor Center, overseeing Wawona's Junior Ranger Program, campfire programs and programs in the Mariposa Grove.

Dean is married to Marla who is retired from the park service after serving in the Public Information Office and in the Interpretation Division. Dean and Marla have two children, Kevin and Laura. Kevin, age 25, is a senior engineer with Tesla corporation. Laura, age 22, recently graduated from Cal Berkeley and works as an interpretative ranger in Nez Perce National Historical Park, in Idaho.

As many Wawona residents are aware, Dean's retirement party was scheduled for the end of July but was postponed due to the Ferguson Fire. The party will be rescheduled in the near future. Whether you're able to attend the retirement party or not, be sure to congratulate Dean on his successful career with Yosemite's National Park Service.

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service,

Wawona Large Item Pick Up

The Mariposa County Public Works will again pick up large items in Wawona on Saturday, October 13 – the same date as the October WAPOA meeting. The truck will arrive in the Wawona maintenance yard at 9 a.m. that morning and depart at 3 p.m. Large household furnishings, appliances, deck furniture, etc. will be accepted. No hazardous waste, electronics, or items that require special handling like refrigerators, air conditioners, or appliances that have a mercury switch will be accepted.

WAWONA RANGER UPDATE

Eric Scott ~ Wawona District Ranger

As you all know, the Ferguson Fire has had a long impact on Yosemite during the last month. At the height of the fire into the park, highways 41, 140, and 120 were eventually closed. El Portal, Wawona, Foresta and finally Yosemite Valley were all evacuated. The evacuation of Wawona was unexpected, but thankfully went smoothly and was complete within 2 hours. The impacts to the park, employees, residents and surrounding communities has been long and trying. The repair and rehabilitation of affected areas within Yosemite will be on-going into the fall. During this process, there may be temporary closures of some areas. This includes the Glacier Point Road, where the fire burned hot across the road when it crossed Highway 41 in the Avalanche Creek area.

Also due to the Ferguson Fire, CalTrans projects on Hwy. 41 between Oakhurst and the park were put on hold. Now that things are winding down, you will see CalTrans contractors repaving Hwy. 41 between Sugarpine and Fish Camp with some traffic delays.

As always, please feel free to contact me at (209) 375-9520 or at Eric_Scott@nps.gov should you have a question or concern.

The Redwoods in Yosemite

Christian Mueller ~ General Manager

It has been a tough season for the Wawona community. The Redwoods in Yosemite would like to offer our deepest thanks the first responders and their families for your continued hard work and support. We are all so incredibly lucky to live and work in such a hardworking and strong community. We look forward to rounding out this season with happy guests that get to enjoy the beauty that is Wawona despite the challenges this summer.

We will soon be saying goodbye to our international students. They have been a great help and a wonderful addition to The Redwoods team this season. We wish them and all of the seasonal workers in this community, a wonderful fall and winter season.

Wawona Fire August 2018

Shanelle Saunders ~ Yosemite Fire Information

It is already turning out to be another busy summer for Yosemite National Park. Right now we are in the middle of the Ferguson Fire, which started on the Sierra National Forest the night of July 13th. Yosemite National Park Fire and Aviation Management wants to thank all our employees, residence, visitors, and local communities for their support throughout this incident. Smoke will continue to be an impact on the area well passed containment as the fire continues to burn small pockets within containment lines. This fire has been an unprecedented event for Yosemite National Park and the surrounding communities.

Yosemite National Park and incident fire crews worked tirelessly in the Merced Grove of giant sequoias conducting mechanical thinning, prepping around monarch trees, and historic structures ahead of the spread of the Ferguson Fire. This work was detrimental in stopping forward progression of the fire front into the grove. This work also follows existing prescription and resource protection measures developed as a part of the Yosemite Fire Management Plan, specifically for Unit 5 and 6, proposed fuels reduction projects.

The Section 35 Fuels Reduction project around the community of Wawona is on-going. This last spring fire crews were out cutting trees and slash with chainsaws, then piling that slash for either mechanical removal or pile burning this coming fall when conditions are safe to do so. This project is scheduled to continue as time permits throughout the summer and fall when fire crews are not busy on wildland fire assignments.

We would also like to remind residents about Ready-Set-Go. This is a national model used throughout many agencies to help remind people to prepare themselves for wildfire, visit: www.readyforwildfire.org

Also get signed up for NIXLE Alerts by texting 888777 with your zip code in the subject box. This will sign you up to get alerts for any immediate alerts (wildfire, evacuations, and local hazards) sent out by the Sheriff's Office.

For Fire Information in the park contact yose_fire_info@nps.gov

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @YosemiteFire

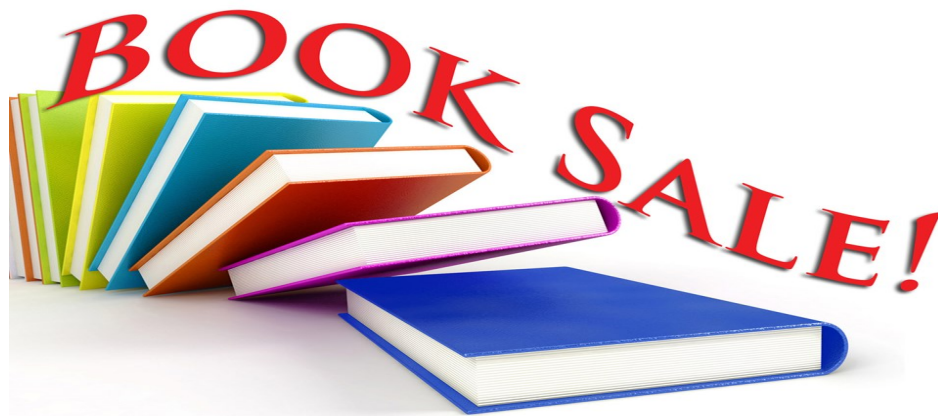
Big Trees Lodge

Amanda Lee ~ General Manager

Operations for the Yosemite Hospitality will remain closed until August 30th. The general store and post office will open on Monday, August 13th from 9 AM to 6 PM. Once the Hotel reopens the store operating will go back to normal operating hours from 8 am -8 PM (7PM after Labor Day). The stables are closed for the season. The golf course at this time is TBA.



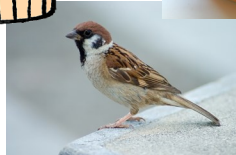
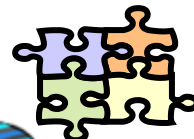
The 2018 Wawona Friends of the Bassett Memorial Library 21st Annual Book/Bake/Craft Sale



The 21st annual sale is on Labor Day Saturday, September 1, 2018. Are you available to volunteer? We need community helpers to make the sale a success. Call the library at 209-375-6510 or stop in and let one of the librarians know you can help set up/cleanup or work during the hours of the sale. Wawona community bakers have the best recipes! What are you going to bake for the sale? We already have a great selection of books that have been donated and sorted for the sale. If you are a crafter, please consider donating an item for the sale. Book donations will be accepted until August 24th.

This Book/Bake/Craft sale will be a post-Ferguson community event! With the fire and evacuation being such a distraction, we are all hoping that we will have the sale this year after the Railroad Fire forced us to cancel in 2017.

**Make the 2018 sale the best one yet!!!
We need your help!**



Friends of the Bassett Memorial Library in Wawona

Library News

PO Box 2008, Wawona, CA 95389

August, 2018

June ~ August Memorial Donations



Dr. E. Henderson *Brian Ken Kennedy*
Bob and Mary LaCroix
Frank and Margie Yost

Thanks to Wawona Property Owners who donated the dollars for our 2018 Summer Extra Hours!!

We still need donations to cover our Extra 2018 Summer Hours over the County funded 15 hours. The Extra Hours donations are being matched by Sara Miller McCune. The library is open 5 hours daily, Monday through Friday, from 1 p.m.—6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The library is closed on Sunday and holidays. Our heaviest use is in the summer when the Redwoods and Scenic Wonders cabins are occupied.

Thank you for helping keep the library open 30 hours weekly during the busy summer season!!!

Wawona Friends of the Bassett Memorial Library fund the extra hours after Labor Day

Library hours change after Labor Day

Wawona Bassett Memorial Library Hours

Labor Day through Memorial Day

209-375-6510

Free Internet & Wi-Fi Available

Monday: Noon – 5 PM
Wednesday: Noon – 5 PM
Friday: Noon – 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM – 3 PM

Closed Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Holidays

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P.O. Box 2008
Wawona, CA 95389

2018 MEMBERSHIP WAWONA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Please print information for mailing list: April 1 ~ March 31

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Membership Categories:

____ Individual \$ 5.00
____ Family \$ 10.00
____ Business \$ 50.00
____ Life \$ 100.00
____ Golden Patron \$ 500.00

Email Address

____ Gold Friend \$15.00
____ Gold Panner \$25.00
____ Gold Miner \$50.00
____ Gold Strike \$75.00
____ Wawona Fund Booster Unlimited

Additional Contributions: (Include address for acknowledgement)

\$ _____ Memorial for (Name) _____

\$ _____ Gift in honor of (Name) _____

\$ _____ Extra Hours Donation _____

I am interested in assisting with the following:

____ Membership
____ Serving on the Board of Directors
____ Help at Special Events

____ Telephoning
____ Fundraising
____ Newsletter

____ Volunteering in library
____ Book Sale
____ Other

Make checks payable to:

WAWONA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

P.O. Box 2008
WAWONA, CA 95389

ALL DUES AND DONATIONS ARE

TAX DEDUCTIBLE.