

# Wawona Community News

June, 2022

## Wawona Ranger District Updates Chad Andrews ~ Wawona District Ranger

- As a reminder, Yosemite will be back to a reservation system this summer, though it will look a bit different than the last two years. For residents, this means that you should expect lines at the entrance gates daily. We hope to be able to streamline the process but please be patient, and try to plan your trips to and from the park accordingly.
- The shuttle system in the Mariposa Grove will once again be operational, beginning May 26th, and will run daily from 8am to 7pm. There will not be shuttle service to/from Wawona to the Grove.
- The opening of the Wawona Golf Course is expected to occur in mid-June, with reconstructed greens.

### Swiftwater/River Safety

With the warming trend, the spring runoff has begun and the river is rising. This brings us a significant seasonal hazard that we all need to be aware of. When recreating by the river, make sure you remember and follow these safety considerations:

- Stay at least 10 feet back from the water's edge. It is easy to slip on wet or polished rocks and fall into the water.
- Keep children away from the water and keep a close eye on them. They are likely not aware of the dangers of moving water. Even shallow water can be moving quickly and sweep you off of your feet.
- Avoid moving water. Water is always moving much faster than it appears, especially in narrow channels and river bends.
- Avoid playing in or near the water directly above a downed tree or other object. Downed trees, bushes, debris, rock shelves, narrow gaps between rocks, or other objects in the water present grave hazards that can cause you to get stuck underneath the water. Different water levels can expose or create different hazards.
- If you find yourself in the water unexpectedly, try to stand up if it's shallow. If you can't, point your feet down river and try to swim to the shore as quickly and aggressively as possible, using the current to help you.
- Water volume and velocity are greatest at night and lowest in the early afternoon. Water levels will begin to rise again mid to late afternoon.
- If you see something, say something! If you see someone doing something that looks unsafe, please kindly say something. They likely are just unaware and you could potentially prevent an accident.
- If you're with someone else that falls into the water, do not jump in after them. It is highly likely that you too will become a victim. Remember, moving water is very different than standing water. So: Reach, Throw, *Don't Go*, Call for help.
- **Be aware and be safe!**
- If you are interested in South Fork water data, go to <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/> and look for Real Time data for station SMW.

Yosemite Conservancy Education Grant  
makes study trips possible for YWECS students  
Stacy Boydston ~ Teacher

Wawona students were able to experience the Gold Rush route first hand thanks to the generous annual grants which are available to support student learning. 4th-6th graders spent 4 days exploring stops along the 49. Stops at places such as Sutter's Mill, Angel's Camp and Hornitos helped give them a better understanding of California's history. The April trip was topped off with time in Sacramento. Students toured the capital, met their Assemblyman Bigelow as well as George Radanovich, visited Old Town, the zoo, Crocker Art Museum and Fort Sutter. It was a great trip that should stay with them for a lifetime. The school is also using this year's grant to fund a total school/family trip to the Grand Canyon in May. Check Wawona News for the latest photos and the report from that trip.

**CAMP WAWONA UPDATE**

Rachel Martin

As of now our top priority for Camp Wawona is the necessary renovations that are needed due to the damage caused by a recent wind storm. In order to ensure the safety and well-being of our guests we will not be open to year-round reservations until repairs are made. Thank you for your understanding and your prayers for this beautiful campus. We look forward to accommodating you in the future. We are currently accepting **tentative** reservations.

Golf Course in Wawona

Yosemite's Wawona Hotel Golf Course was the first regulation course in the Sierra Nevada when it opened in 1918, and has provided golfers challenging but rewarding rounds ever since. Designed by Walter G. Favarque to blend seamlessly into its spectacular surroundings, this nine-hole, par-35 national park golf course measures 3,050 yards and includes two par-five holes and three par-three holes. Different tee positions per side provide a par-70, 18-hole format.

Check [www.wawonanews.com](http://www.wawonanews.com) for information on the opening dates for our golf course!

**Wawona Large Item Pick Up**

There will be no large item pickup this year.

**Wawona News Website**

For the latest Wawona information, check the Wawona News Website at: **[www.wawonanews.com](http://www.wawonanews.com)**

Please keep up-to-date with community and park happenings, fire news and drought news at our Wawona News Website.

# WAWONA PINE NEEDLE PICKUP BEGINS: MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022



## The word is out!

With the hard work and cooperation between Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa Public Works Director Shannon Hansen, and Mariposa County Resource Conservation District's Melinda Barrett the annual Wawona Pine Needle Pickup will happen! Pine needles and small green material generated from cleaning your property to meet the Firesafe clean up requirements will be picked up. This year, we want to be sure that materials can be picked up in an efficient manner. In order to make this a success, and as a friendly reminder, the materials need to be placed as near the road as possible and away from anything that might obstruct the loader like trees, tree stumps, and rocks. If it cannot be accessed, it will not be picked up. As most Wawona property owners and residents are aware, only green materials are to be placed in the piles. Only small branches under three feet in length will be picked up. As a friendly reminder, please be sure that there is **NO CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS, logs, large limbs, root balls, or household garbage in the pile.** Your pile must be ready by Monday, June 6! If it is not ready by the time the equipment is in your area, the crew will not go back and pick up late piles. This program is for removal of pine needles and small green material trimmings to make our community more Firesafe.

## **WAWONA FIRE INFORMATION**

Nancy Phillipe ~ Fire Communications and Education Specialist

### **Are you fire ready?**

Defensible space is the buffer you create between building(s) on your property and the surrounding vegetation (grass, trees, shrubs).

Creating and maintaining defensible space is essential to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and can help protect your home from catching fire. It is also important for the safety of fire-fighters who may be in the area during a wildland fire. Help keep the community safer from fire spread by ensuring your home meets the recommendations, visit [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) for more information.

Defensible space inspections will occur in Wawona beginning mid-June.  
For questions about defensible space inspections, contact [yose\\_fire\\_prevention@nps.gov](mailto:yose_fire_prevention@nps.gov)

Sign up for Yosemite alerts at: [go.nps.gov/alert](http://go.nps.gov/alert)

## **PINE TREE MARKET NEWS**

Michael Henderson

### **Summer Ranger Programs at the Pine Tree Market**

Beginning on Sunday, June 12:

#### **Sunday**

10:00 a.m. **Art in The Park** (1 hr.) Make your own Yosemite masterpiece at this ranger-led art activity. Meet at Pine Tree Market, 7995 Chilnualna Falls Rd, Wawona. (NPS)

#### **Friday**

8:00 p.m. **Ranger Campfire Talk** (1 hr.)  
Meet at Pine Tree Market, 7995 Chilnualna Falls Rd, Wawona. (NPS)

### **First Wawona Pine Tree Market Barn Dance**

#### **Friday**

June 24

6 – 8 p.m.

The Pine Tree Market is honored to be hosting a "Barn Dance" in the Pine Tree Market parking lot. Join us for music and square dancing.

There will be food for purchase.

**Proceeds will go to the school roof fundraising efforts.**

## The Redwoods in Yosemite

Peggy Hutchinson

The Redwoods in Yosemite is proud to sponsor through the Yosemite Conservancy the Interpretive Ranger Program.

This year's Seasonal Interpretive Ranger Program will begin on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 and end on September 3, 2022. Individual programs will take place on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings for a total of 24 for the season. The Saturday morning programs are likely to focus on art lessons and activities, while the Tuesday programs will be more in keeping with tradition and will focus on educating and engaging visitors with park principles and values—such as Leave No Trace, visitor safety, protecting wildlife and the importance of conservation and public lands

## Wise Words From Rich Apple!



This is a message that would be good to reach EVERYBODY (tourists, locals... everybody). We're quite sure most who drive on dry dirt roads in Wawona are not intentionally being rude and ugly to people walking on a dirt road. They're just not aware that even at 15 MPH their vehicle is producing a cloud of dust that envelops anyone on foot, engulfing them in Pigpen-like clouds of dirt.

And, for the strolling victims, it may be the very day they'd had their weekly shower.

We are in for very dry dirt roads for the coming months, so folks should keep in mind that - for instance - to drive from where Chilnualna Falls Road turns to dirt to get all the way to the Swinging Bridge trailhead takes barely an additional 2 minutes to cut ones speed from 15 MPH to 5 MPH.

As for the paved roads, all roads in Wawona have a speed limit of 15 MPH, except for the first three quarters of a mile on Chilnualna Falls Road after turning off from the highway. And with good reason! At stake is the safety of Squirrels, Deer, Lizards, Humans, Birds and even Bears. The math? Breaking that 15 MPH speed limit by driving 25 MPH on Chilnualna Falls Road from the Wawona Elementary School all the way up to the end of the paved road by the Chilnualna Falls Trailhead gets you there only a minute and a half sooner. *So not worth it!*

**Added thoughts:** Remember, that same dust impacts all homes located on our Wawona dry, dirt roads!

**Friends of the Library Board of Directors Vacancy**

Would you like to be a member of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors? When you join the Wawona Friends of the Library, you can become a member of the Board of Directors. We have 2 meetings a year and we hold our annual Book/Bake/Craft Sale on Labor Day Saturday. Let the librarian know you are interested or mark it on the form when you renew your membership.

*April 2022 ~ May 2022*  
*Memorial Donations*



*Marguerite Bossert  
Dudley and Jane Goul  
Dr. Brian E. Henderson  
Sarah Cathleen Henderson  
Donald Leigh Hitzl  
Ken Kennedy  
Patricia and Norman May  
Frank and Margie Yost*

**Friends of the Library**  
**Board of Directors**

Members include Kathie Heringer, Pierce Loberg, Colleen Murray, Kathy Sanders, Carol Saulsbury, Pat Sischo, Michelle Stauffer. and Jennifer Wuchner.

Friends of the Bassett Memorial Library in Wawona

# Library News

PO Box 2008, Wawona, CA 95389

June, 2022

## **The 2022 Wawona Friends of the Bassett Memorial Library**

### **Annual Book/Bake/Craft Sale**

The annual sale is on Labor Day Saturday, September 3, 2022. Are you available to volunteer? We need volunteers to help set up at 8 a.m. and to shut down at 2:30 p.m. Wawona community bakers have the best recipes! What are you going to bake for the sale? Call the library at 209-375-6510 or stop in and let one of the librarians know you can help. 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. Books will be accepted until August 25th.

For more information, call Pat Sischo: 209-375-6273.

### **Thanks to Wawona Property Owners who donate the dollars for our summer Extra Hours!!**

Since the library opened in 1997, the Friends of the Library members have donated dollars to be matched by Sara Miller McCune's Extra Hours Challenge. This enables the library hours to be extended to 30 hours a week from the County's funded 15 hours a week. The library is open 5 hours daily: Monday through Friday, from Noon.—5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.—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 vacation rental cabins are occupied. Thank you for helping keep the library open 30 hours weekly!

### **Summer Staff Vacancy**

**Until Additional Staff can be hired to staff the full 6 days weekly, the library will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursday.**

If you are interested in a position in the Wawona Bassett Memorial Library, please stop in and let the librarian know. Applications are available on the Mariposa County website.

Wawona Community Newsletter  
P.O. Box 2008  
Wawona, CA 95389

**2022 MEMBERSHIP WAWONA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories:		Email Address _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Friend	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Panner	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Miner	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Strike	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Patron	\$ 500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

- |  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering in library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on the Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sale               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help at Special Events            | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                   |

Make checks payable to:

**WAWONA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**      **ALL DUES AND DONATIONS ARE**  
P.O. Box 2008      **TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**  
WAWONA, CA 95389