

Wawona Community News

June, 2018

Pine Needle Pickup Reminder

Wawona Pine Needle Pile Pick Up:
June 4 – June 8, 2018

Your pile must be ready by Monday, June 4. If it is not ready by the time the equipment is in your area, they will not go back and pick up late piles. Remember, one pile per property along the road in front of your property in an unobstructed area where the equipment can easily access your needle pile. Tree limbs and branches must be cut to a maximum of 3 feet in length to be picked up. Only vegetation material will be picked up. No construction materials or large branches, please.

Yosemite National Park, Aramark, & UC Merced properties are not part of the Special Services District and are not included in the pick-up.

If your address is on an out-of-the-way street, you can call or e-mail Calvin Jones so your needle pile won't be missed.

Calvin Jones
Superintendent
Mariposa County
Solid Waste & Recycling
(209)966-5165 x203
jones@mariposacounty.org

Mark
Your
Calendar



June 4-8: Pine Needle Pickup

June 8: Annual Friends of the
Library Membership Board
Meeting in the Library

June 9: WAPOA meeting and picnic
Wawona Community Center
9 a.m.

June 12: Hooting Owl Wawona
Community Center 6:30 p.m.

July 4: Square Dance Gray Barn
8—10 p.m.

July 21: Square Dance Gray Barn
8– 10 p.m.

August 4: Square Dance Gray Barn
8—10 p.m.

August 18: Square Dance Gray Barn
8—10 p.m.

September 1: Wawona Friends of the
Library Book/Bake/Craft Sale

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

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

October 13: Large item pickup 9 a.m.

Wawona Fire Update **May/June 2018**

The beginning of the 2018 fire season is here! The grass is tall again this year and the fuels have begun to dry out. We have already had a number of small fires in Yosemite in the last month, some at unexpectedly high elevations for this time of year. It is definitely time to clean up the hazardous fuels around your homes in preparation of another busy wildfire season.

There is no update on when the Wawona woodyard/burnpile might be available for us to use again. The area has been reserved for government tree crews to dump material and also PG&E. Large amounts of pine needles, grass, and yard debris can be chipped or composted as alternatives.

The seasonal firefighters for Yosemite are here for the season. Wawona will have a crew similar to last year. We will be spending the 4 weeks training hard to prepare for this wildfire season. If you have not been to the Wawona fire station to meet the crew and tour the building and equipment, I encourage you to do so. Feel free to stop by anytime to ask questions or watch while we train.

There are still plans to continue fuels treatments throughout the residential Wawona area. We have begun reducing heavy amounts of fuel loading in key locations. We are planning to build many burn piles throughout Wawona this season in hopes of burning them in the fall of 2018.

Residential Pile Burning Regulations

As a reminder, burn restrictions within Mariposa County began on May 15, 2018. If a property owner wishes to conduct debris pile burning, a burn permit issued by CAL FIRE is necessary. In addition, residents must also obtain a Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District burn permit.

- Open burning is allowed above 2,000' elevation with a valid permit only and on burn days.
- All residents need to contact the burn day information line prior to burning and the Yosemite Emergency Communications Center.
 - ◆ Mariposa Burn Day Information Line: 209.966.1200
 - ◆ Yosemite Emergency Communication Center: 209.379.1992
- Burn piles must be no larger than 4x4 foot in size. A water source and a shovel, rake, etc., must be at the burn location and a responsible adult in attendance at all times. Scrape the area around the burn pile to bare mineral soil. Do not burn on windy days.
- Piles must be fully consumed on the day of ignition.

Additional Information:

Mariposa County Burn Permit APCD Information - To obtain a permit on-line:
mariposacounty.org;
air@mariposacounty.org
CAL FIRE: 209.966.3622 or
www.fire.ca.gov or
ReadyForWildfire.org

Big Trees Lodge

Amanda Lee ~ General Manager

The summer season is here, all of the operations open. The Golf Course opened Mother's Day weekend and will remain open until October 23rd. The stables opened Mother's Day weekend as well. Tour will begin running four times a day Memorial Day weekend along with once a week we will run an all day ride into Mariposa Grove; reservations for stables can be made at the front desk at the Hotel. The Dining Room is open daily from 7 AM to 10 PM for Breakfast, 11 AM to 3 PM for Lunch and 5 PM to 9 PM for dinner. BBQs begin Memorial Day weekend on Saturdays from 5 PM to 7 PM and we will have BBQ on Father's Day, Fourth of July and on Labor Day (Sunday).

WAWONA RANGER UPDATE

Eric Scott ~ Wawona District Ranger

The summer season is upon us and the Park is working hard to complete necessary things to be ready for the opening of the Mariposa Grove. The Mariposa Grove has been closed for the last three years and we are very excited to be opening it back up to the public. The services at the Mariposa Grove will include; The Welcome Center which is where visitors will park and get on the free shuttle bus to the Grove. There will also be a Yosemite Conservancy bookstore and restroom facilities with flush toilets. The trail system in the Mariposa Grove has also been upgraded with better signage for wayfinding.

The first day of opening will be Friday, June 15th. Needless to say, the first couple of weeks the Mariposa Grove is open, it is going to be extremely popular and highly visited. It would be my recommendation that you try to avoid the crowds and go in the very late afternoon. The shuttle buses will be operating from 8am to 6pm.

The last estimate of water content in the snow pack in the South Fork drainage was measured at 16% of normal. What this means is that the South Fork of the Merced will not stay high very long into the summer months. It may become necessary at some point to implement water conservation restrictions again, as we have done pretty much every summer for the last six years, except for last summer.

You all were advised at the last several WAPOA meetings what the situation was with all of the downed trees dropped by PG&E on your property, and what needs to happen with them. The property owner is responsible for removing the trees. Contact Pat Sischo for the list of contractors who can assist with this removal.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Email: Eric.Scott@nps.gov, or by phone: Office: (209) 375-9520, ext. 226.

The Redwoods in Yosemite

Ashley C. Standen ~ Assistant to the General Manager

The Redwoods in Yosemite is in full summer swing.

We are happy to say that we are fully staffed and ready to go this season. Our six international students are here and ready to see the best of America in our beautiful town of Wawona. I am truly excited to see them connect with the hospitality and majesty of Yosemite. We do face some exciting and challenging days ahead with the opening of Mariposa Grove and this busy season rapidly expanding. We are looking forward to overcoming these challenges and as always, learning from them.

The Redwoods is honored to have Christy take time out of her busy schedule to teach our locals yoga in our beautiful event center! If any other vendors are interested in this space during our off times, please contact Christian at Christian@RedwoodsInYosemite.com. Just a reminder to those who live on Yosemite Pines Lane, our maintenance staff repaired the sign post that fell this past winter. If you wish to reinstall tour signs, please feel free!

Have a wonderful summer!

Hooting Owl Lecture Series

By James Cox

The Valley has the Yosemite Forum, El Portal has the Croaking Toad and so it seemed time for Wawona to have a lecture series. Thus, was born the Hooting Owl, a monthly lecture series featuring topics and speakers that are connected in some way to our beloved town and surrounding area. Why the Hooting Owl? It's a nod to our local great gray owls and the logo is designed by our resident artist, Larry Duke.

The Hooting Owl kicked off in January with a dynamic and fascinating presentation on... ROCKS. Yes, ROCKS. We learned from Greg Stock, our park geologist, how much the granite walls surrounding the Valley move. We also learned how scientist measure this movement, have tracked rockfalls throughout the past 100+ years and have started to identify areas of risk in the Valley. While they are not able to predict rockfalls, it is possible to determine which areas in the Valley floor are more susceptible. Based on this, structures are moved and repurposed to attempt to mitigate rock/human conflict.

In February, we got a tour of the Wawona pioneer history from our very own Tom Bopp. He shared stories of Wawona and the characters that lived here from Galen Clark to Wawona Washburn. Through some photographic mastery, Tom showed us where old building sites and pictures were taken relative to what currently resides there today. We learned about the numerous transformations the Hotel went through over the years prior to it being acquired by the park. We ended with a lively discussion between Tom and Ed Mee, who descends from the Gordons, an old stagecoach family, sharing their known history and "secret spots" where events transpired.

March's lecture was postponed due to an epic storm and flooding, so on to April... In April, we learned what fire archaeology is from Jun Kinoshida, the park's fire archaeologist. We learned what a cultural resource is, how fire can affect these resources and how Jun and his team work with our firefighters to comply during prescribed burns and protect during wildfires. We also learned interesting facts about how different materials change in a fire. Did you know that obsidian looks and feels like a fried gray Cheeto when it gets burnt? This is important because if a new cultural resource is uncovered after a fire, you need to figure out how to date the site using various clues.

The May lecture was very appropriate as Spring makes its way to Wawona and bear sightings become more numerous. Ryan Leahy, one of the park's wildlife biologists, shared with us the success of the bear program over the past 100 years. He had a great visual presentation showing bears eating garbage from dump sites around the park and the extent of damage bears can do to cars, buildings and dumpsters. Once they get a taste of human food, it's hard to convince them that berries are really the best option. Over the past 20 years, the park has become very serious about mitigating bear damage through education of visitors, law enforcement for food storage and hazing of bears. The number of incidents has dramatically decreased, less bears are euthanized, and property damage is negligible.

The Hooting Owl committee is made up of myself, James Cox, Yuliya Rippetoe, from the Redwoods, Anne Kelley, from SNRS and Gary Wuchner, community member at-large. If you have any thoughts and ideas for future lectures you would like to hear, please contact one of us.

Next event is Tuesday, June 12, about mountain lions in the Sierra Nevada at 6:30 pm at the Community Center.

News from Yosemite-Wawona Elementary Charter School (Y-WECS)!

We are growing!

Yosemite-Wawona Elementary Charter School is excited to share that we currently have **30 TK-8th grade students** enrolled for the upcoming **2018-2019 school year!**

We are currently going into our 5th year of operation as a charter school & this is the largest group of students Y-WECS has served thus far.

With the hard work, dedication and partnership of our local community members, board members, parents and educators, we have continued to grow our program.

Thank you to all of our community supporters!

MORE GREAT NEWS!

Yosemite-Wawona Elementary Charter was a clear leader in getting students to grade level and beyond and has recently been named as an **Honor Roll School for the 2017-2018** by the

Campaign for Business and Education Excellence. Congratulations to our students and staff for all of their hard work and efforts! Our school stands above others in the state because of our demonstrated ability to get students to grade level achievement and beyond.

We are thankful for all of the hard work done by our students, teachers and support staff here at Y-WECS. This recognition is a testament to the sustained focus on academic results and commitment to student success that our entire school community has supported. Watch for more information coming home with students next week and in our local media outlets soon after.

MORE INFO: <http://edresults.org/HonorRoll/HonorRoll>

Stay connected with Y-WECS throughout the year!

School Website: <http://www.yosemitewawonacharter.org/>

School Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/YosemiteWawonaCharterSchool>

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Dean Shenk ~ Supervisory Park Ranger

**The Mariposa Grove is scheduled to re-open Friday, June 15 at 9:00 am. Shuttle Bus service will pick folks up at the new parking area near South Entrance. Nature Walks in the Mariposa Grove will be offered by NPS Rangers every day of the summer at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm beginning June 15.

**Burrel "Buckshot" Maier and his Horse-Drawn Stage rides will be offered from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays beginning Saturday, May 26. Wednesday afternoons as well as Thursdays will be added beginning June 6.

**Blacksmithing Demonstrations will be offered Wednesday afternoons through Sundays beginning Wednesday, June 6.

**Remember that the 4th of July will fall on a Wednesday this year. As always, we will be celebrating an Old Fashioned 4th of July in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center on the 4th of July. Cabins will be open and Stage rides will be offered from 10:00 am to Noon the morning of the 4th of July. At 2:00 pm we will begin the afternoon activities. The evening of July 4, from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, we will have our first Barn Dance of the season in the Grey Barn at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Wawona Field Station

Anne Kelly ~ Director

The UC Merced Yosemite Field Station, based in Wawona, is part of a larger network of natural reserves across the state. The Yosemite Field Station, the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Field Station, and the Vernal Pools Grassland Reserve (on campus in Merced) are sites managed by UC Merced for research, education, and public service related to environmental conservation and education. The UCM Yosemite and Sequoia field stations are two of the first within National Parks. These partnerships provide opportunities for talented young people to work within our National Parks to become future leaders of park management and land conservation. UC Merced's Yosemite Leadership Program, hosted in Wawona, is a premier environmental leadership program, and is a model program nationally and internationally. The Yosemite Leadership Program is back in Wawona again this summer; if you meet these wonderful students, please welcome them to our community! UC Merced's reserves are part of the broader University of California Natural Reserve System (UC NRS) that includes 40 reserves across California. The UC NRS just celebrated its 50th anniversary. For more information on the UC NRS, go to www.ucnrs.org

Friends of the Bassett Memorial Library in Wawona

Library News

PO Box 2008, Wawona, CA 95389

June, 2018

Annual Membership Board Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Wawona Friends of the Bassett Memorial Library will be held in the library, Friday, June 8 Time will be announced on the Wawona News website. All dues paying members are invited to attend. Memberships may be paid at the meeting if you haven't already renewed your membership. Wawona Friends whose dues are overdue at all, shall not be eligible to vote or serve on the Wawona Friends Board of Directors. (Bylaws: Article VII, Section 3.)

Wawona News Website

To learn the latest Wawona and Park news, check out our website:

www.wawonanews.com

We post all the latest community updates, fire information, and schedules. Check us out!

Annual Book/Bake/Craft Sale

September 1 ~ Labor Day Saturday

Donations of craft items will be accepted all summer before the sale. Just leave your craft donations at the library.

Wawona bakers are already checking their recipe books for their favorite baked items to donate for the sale. Baked items can be left at the library the afternoon before the sale or early on the morning of the sale.

Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Members include Larry Duke, Kathie Heringer, Pierce Loberg, Colleen Murray, Kathy French Sanders, Kathy Scott, Pat Sischo, and Jennifer Wuchner. Chairpersons are: Larry Duke, Art and Kathy Scott, Book/Bake/Craft Sale. We are always looking for new board members who are available to help with our Friends projects. Just check the space on the membership form if you are interested in working on the Wawona Friends of the Library board, or let one of the librarians know you are interested.

April—May 2018 Memorial Donations



*Margurite Bossert
David Coyle*

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? 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. Book donations will be accepted until August 24th.

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 1 p.m.—6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The library is closed on Sunday. Internet and WiFi are available. Our heaviest use is in the summer when the rental cabins are occupied. Thank you for helping keep the library open 30 hours weekly!

Library Book Bags

The Wawona Friends of the Library are selling two sizes of books bags in the library with this Larry Duke logo. Come in and check them out!



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP???

Mariposa County Library Web Site www.mariposalibrary.org

Mission Statement :

The Mariposa County Library System is committed to supporting lifelong learning and knowledge through self-education for all the residents and visitors of Mariposa County. The Library strives to enrich the lives of all users by meeting the informational, recreational, self-educational and cultural needs of the community. Our helpful and expert staff provides information, quality service, and programs in a welcoming environment. The Mariposa County Library System provides free access to ideas and information to all citizens regardless of age, ethnic background, educational, and socioeconomic level.

Community Newsletter
PO 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