

# CAMP WAWONA GAZETTE

## In This Issue

New Leadership at Wawona  
**page 1**

Camp Wawona Makes  
Improvements in Time for  
Summer  
**page 2**

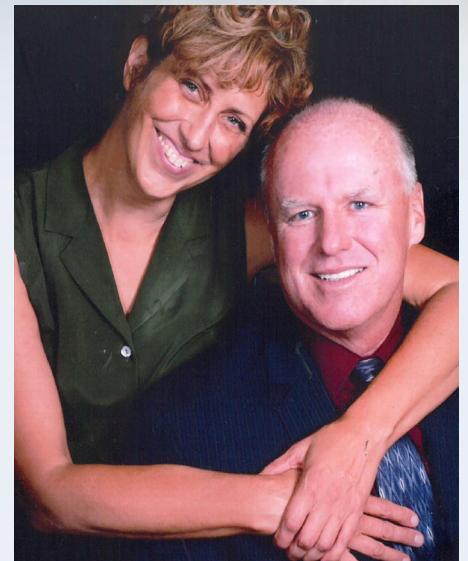
New Recreational Field  
**page 3**

Play Equipment is needed for  
the new Recreational Field  
**page 3**

Outdoor Education  
**page 4**

## New Leadership at Wawona

Over the past few months, conference administration has explored various options and models for staffing leadership and the ministry at Camp Wawona. As a result, Wawona will now be operated with a new camp manager, Alan Pratt, who will focus on implementing the strategic plan for year-round operations, including supervising year-round staff and serving as business manager. Alan brings a strong set of skills to Camp Wawona, including survival camp management and training.



Aland and Sherry Pratt

In addition, we have called his wife Sherry to serve as guest services and marketing manager. Sherry has been serving as a Bible Worker, Children's and Women's Ministry Leader at the Sonora Church. Alan and Sherry together led a ministry for high school-aged youth and young adults. They are both Camp Wawona alumni Alan as a summer camper

and Sherry as a summer camper and summer camp staff. They are the parents of Lindsey (who is one of our sponsored seminarians at Andrews University) and Joshua, who is at Andrews University studying aviation.

We are very excited that they are here and we look forward to their leadership at Camp Wawona.

Please join us in prayer to continue excellence in ministry at  
Camp Wawona



## Camp Wawona Makes Improvements in Time for Summer

By: James Montague

Camp Wawona continues to be a source of fond memories for the hundreds who reside, one week at a time, within its borders each summer. Settled in the forest of Yosemite National Park since 1929, Camp Wawona is still a coveted destination. It has been able to retain a sense of nostalgia while evolving to meet the ever-changing times.

For campers, all of the traditional summer camp activities are available, including swimming, horseback riding, obstacle courses, art and archery. In addition, Wawona offers campers the opportunity to find God in nature, to grow spiritually and to develop life-long relationships.

This year, Camp Wawona hosted a steady stream of campers throughout the hot summer months. “I love Camp Wawona!” It’s a place that feels like home-

like heaven on earth” nine time camper Jana Fritz explains. “By the end of the week, there is a strong spiritual connection you have with camp. Words cannot describe it”.

Wawona’s week-long programs intertwine spiritual lessons that accentuate the chosen theme among staff and campers. This year’s theme, “Acceptance”, was emphasized each morning during worship. During evening programs, the staff performed an on-going play based on the theme, climaxing at the end of the week. As the week drew to a close, many campers dedicated their lives to Christ and wrote their names in a symbolic Book of Life.

While there is still a strong sense of tradition at Camp Wawona, it has not become stagnant. Some changes have already had a pos-

itive impact on campers and the environment. A recently installed artificial turf field will not only improve camper’s overall but will also help conserve water during California’s drought. Wawona is also supporting Fresno Adventist Academy’s organic farm by purchasing fresh produce for its kitchen.

“I love Camp Wawona!” It’s a place that feels like home-like heaven on earth”

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you know former staff or friends who do not receive the Camp Wawona Gazette send their address to [news@campwawona.org](mailto:news@campwawona.org). This email can be used for any news you want to share or any change of address.

### VOLUNTEER WORK PROJECTS

Camp Wawona is looking for volunteers for their upcoming work projects. Watch for further information on what will be done and the dates.



## New Recreational Field

Just before Wawona was to begin another year of summer camp, final steps were taken to complete its new recreational field of artificial turf. In celebration and thanks, Ramiro Cano, conference president, led a group of Wawona staff and CCC administrators in worship before the official ribbon cutting ceremony on June 3.

Cano emphasized the importance of sacrifices that were made to complete the project through donations and time volunteered. "I am so thankful for the many sacrificial gifts from campers, alumni and other generous donors that made this recreational field pos-

sible", said Jackie Phillips, Central's capital campaign director. "It is much-needed addition to Camp Wawona so that everyone can play in God's beautiful outdoors".

With the field's completion in June, campers are now able to use it for any number of activities. The new field is a major improvement for Camp Wawona, which originally used its horse corrals for sports activities. Conference leaders anticipate that everyone who uses the field will be able to reconnect to God spiritually through the beauty of nature.



The first campers and staff on the new Recreational field

## Play Equipment is needed for the new Recreational Field



We are thrilled to have the new turf recreational field. The campers and staff used it a lot this summer to play soccer, dare base and capture the flag. Outdoor education will use this field often in their team building activities as well as church groups, retreats, family reunions, etc.

We are in need of play equipment to be used on the recreational field like soccer balls, softball equipment, footballs, Frisbees, dodge balls, badminton and volleyball equipment, soccer goals, etc. We will purchase as many of these supplies as possible as we receive donations for. The estimate amount is \$5,000. Addition-



al donations are still needed to complete the fencing and the picnic area around the bathroom. We have enclosed a donation envelope for your convenience. Thank you for your continued interest and support of Camp Wawona.

# Outdoor Education

Thanks to a couple of grants from the The Archie Tonge Education Foundation, Camp Wawona now has added a whale watch activity, wood chips around the entire ropes course and a low-v addition to the low ropes course, as well as towards the new recreational field.

We will soon be adding a Great Wall, a spider web and a lowering counter-balance device to the zip line. We are excited about the continuing improvement to the outdoor education program.



New Whale Watch Activity

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Capital Campaign Department  
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