



## Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

*Inspiring the Protection of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks Through Quality Educational Experiences and Infrastructure Improvements*

### September 2017 Newsletter

#### **Michele van Zuiden Joins the PCRF Board of Directors**

Michele brings a rich skill set to the PCRF Board. She graduated from the MBA program, at UCLA's Anderson school and had a 35 year career as a health care executive in the Bay Area. She lived and raised a family in Los Gatos, where she was elected to the Los Gatos/Saratoga School Board. In addition she has served as a on boards of a variety of community and non-profit organizations.

As part of transitioning into a second career, she is following her life-long interest in the outdoors. As a Board member, she will help support programs which enhance visitor experience to our parks.



#### **Interpretive Hike in Castle Rock State Park by Ex-Ranger Miles Standish Labor Day Weekend**

**Sept 4, 2017**

**Meet: 9 Am at Waterman Gap pull out on Hwy 9**

Ex Castle Rock Ranger and PCRF Board member Miles Standish will lead two back-to-back hikes in the Waterman Gap and lower Toll Road areas of Castle Rock State Park. Both hikes will focus on the human and natural history of the area. Around Waterman gap, Miles will describe the old road leading down to Big Basin.

Remnants of the old road and the water infrastructure needed to support that dusty road will be shown. The short hike will go to the Trail camp and back on the old road.



At the lower end of the Toll Road, remnants and excavations for the rail lines used in logging operations in that area will be identified. The two hikes will take between 2-3 hours total. They are not strenuous, but appropriate hiking shoes are required. Poison oak is always a potential problem, so be prepared.



## Graffiti Cleanup at Dan's Memorial Castle Rock Grove

Unfortunately the iconic rock formations and infrastructure in Castle Rock State Park are often tagged with graffiti by thoughtless jerks. Since 2013, the PCRFB has sponsored volunteer graffiti cleanup workdays in the park. Earlier this year with a generous grant from the Cal Parks Foundation, we purchased a portable self-contained power washer which was first used to remove some of the most visible graffiti. In late summer, some thoughtless visitors sprayed rocks in the newly dedicated memorial grove memorializing Dan Seldow.



Before

In July, Parks staff used the power washer and ecologically friendly chemicals to remove the most egregious of the tags. It should be known that graffiti tagging is a punishable misdemeanor and if you witness this activity please inform the taggers and park staff.



After cleanup

## Other Park Activities in September

Both Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Park will be open throughout the month. here will be occasional interpretive hikes in both Parks.

- On Sept 2 there will be an Interpretative Hike in Portola Redwoods on the Old Tree starting at 11:AM at the Visitors Center.
- On Sept 23 there will be an Interpretative Hike at Castle Rock featuring some of the iconic rock formations and scenic views.

Portola is open for Camping through September. The reservations are full but there are still open camping spaces available on a first-come basis.

The Junior Ranger program at Portola will continue on weekends throughout the month.



## Membership

Will you support our community's cherished parks by accepting this invitation to become a Member of the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation?

To learn more and join, visit our website at [www.PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org](http://www.PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org).

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