



## Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

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

### Summer 2019 Newsletter

#### Celebrating the Opening of the New Entrance at Castle Rock State Park

Years in the making, the new Robert C. Kirkwood Entrance for Castle Rock State Park is now open!

Join us on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. State Parks, along with Sempervirens and Portola and Castle Rock Foundation will be at the Park new entrance to celebrate! Family friendly activities, including art made with nature, short hikes and a little rangers activity will begin at 11am.

Besides a parking lot that holds 90 vehicles, what else is new for Castle Rock State Park? For starters, a drinking water station, flush toilets and free WIFI. Step beyond the asphalt and you'll see the amphitheater and fire pit, as well as the native plants garden and the restored native black oak forest.



#### Another Friday Night in Portola Redwoods State Park

*Article and pictures provided by Board member and Volunteer, Julie Zack.*



Well, sort of. The Park is having one of its busiest years ever with the campground full almost every night.

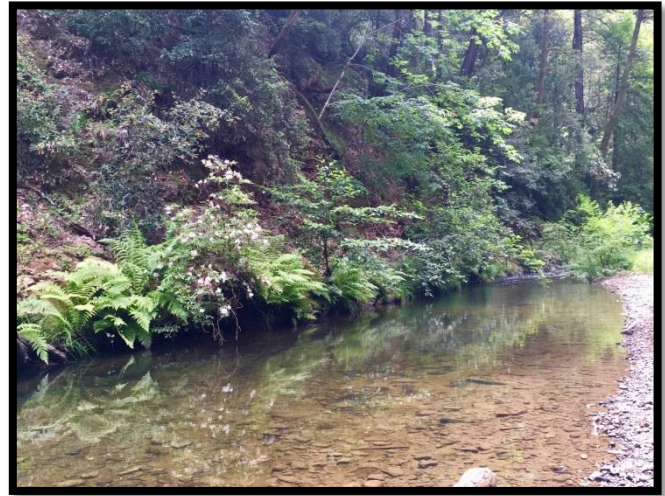
But Friday nights and Saturday nights bring out one of the best things Portola offers during camping season - Campfire Sessions.

About 8 pm find your way down to the Campfire Center, Portola's outdoor amphitheater, near the newly

built Ramada, just off the Service Road. Strings of lights outline the seating area with a stage and projection awaiting Michelle Garcia, this season's Park Interpreter and Campfire Hostess.

Michelle is a dynamo, a real crowd pleaser for both young and old. She has an enthusiasm for the Park and the nature within that is contagious. It's not just something I can feel, but I hear it in the compliments at the end of the show. Friday nights are usually dedicated to learning more about the inhabitants of Portola, complete with a nod to the humans while Saturday nights are all about the banana slug. Saturday nights are Michelle's favorite with her original material for all things "slug".

You don't have to be a camper to join a Campfire Session, you can be a Day Use Visitor. Perhaps come a little early to take a short hike down the Old Tree Trail or check out the creek on the Sequoia Trail behind the Visitor Center then have an evening picnic that you brought for the occasion. The program lasts about an hour and is a great way to wind down the day at Portola. When you do visit a Campfire Session, you will quickly find that mosquitoes are among the attendees. They are a natural part of outdoor activities alongside the



Pescadero Creek so come prepared. Plans are underway for a complete remodel of the Campfire Center, with rustic giving way to the more modern world including the replacement of the old redwood benches along with other improvements.

## Rock Climbing Classes

Did you know that REI has rock climbing classes? Learn the fundamentals of outdoor rock climbing at Castle Rock State Park.

Intro to Rock Climbing ... the focus will be on building the skills you need to continue your climbing journey, including proper belay techniques to keep your fellow climbers protected while they're off the ground. The course will cover necessary knots and give you the chance to practice basic outdoor climbing techniques, with some personalized instruction along the way. REI will provide all of the necessary climbing equipment for this great first-time experience.

For more details about this and other REI courses, visit [www.rei.com/events](http://www.rei.com/events). This is NOT a free event.

Summer 2019 Page 2

## Portola Entrance Improvements Will Use Native Redwoods

Thanks to an inspired offer from Ed Rogers, owner of Out of the Woods Mill & Kiln in Soquel, some of Portola Redwoods State Park's fallen redwood trees will be recycled into beautiful new benches and interpretive planter boxes for the visitor center front porch. As part of a new PCRFF project to make the visitors' entrance more engaging and welcoming, the new benches and planters will integrate with a display of other native species and historical features.

When Ed heard this project would be funded by donations to PCRFF, he found a way to make a unique contribution, by offering to bring a portable mill to the park, mill the necessary lumber from Portola's fallen trees, and construct the benches and planters himself. Ed's love of nature, his desire to contribute to California State Parks and his expertise in environmentally conscious milling practices make this a truly inspired gift to future visitors of this park. Ed, we thank you.



## Membership



*Help us do great things!*

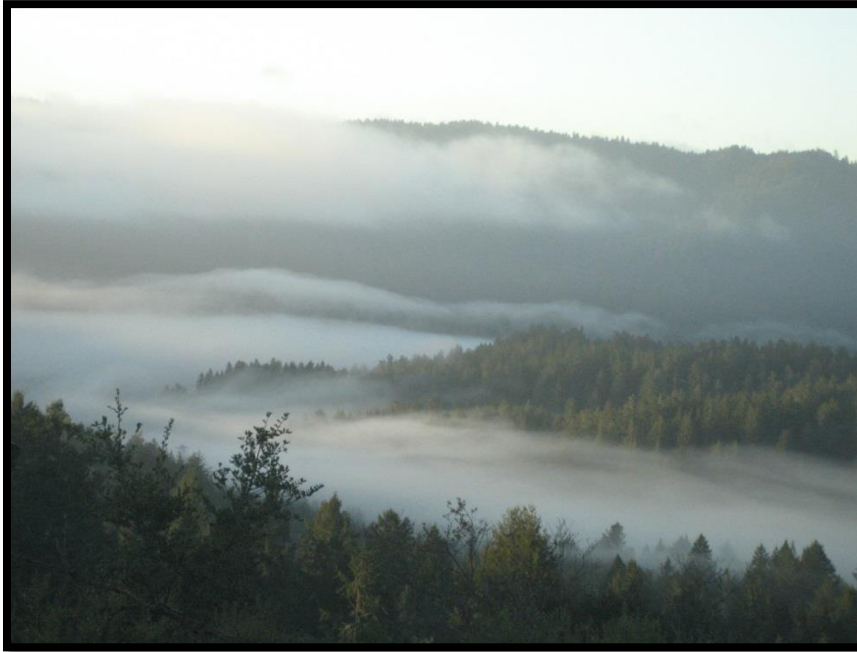
*Become a member of Portola Castle Rock Foundation today and we will provide you with free detailed hiking maps of both Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State parks. Other Membership benefits include a 20% discount at Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Store and an invitation to our annual membership and volunteer appreciation event.*

*Learn more: [portolaandcastlerockfound.org/become-a-member/](http://portolaandcastlerockfound.org/become-a-member/)*

## Forest Produces Clouds

Board member Pekon Gupta captured video in Portola Redwoods State Park of clouds forming within the forest. The video was shot in May 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEU4MdtwEjA&feature=youtu.be>



## Shop and Support Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

Help us to direct Amazon.com's charitable giving. Shop at Amazon via the following link: [smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3151586](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3151586). The only difference in the shopping experience is the knowing that for many of your purchases, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation. We thank you for your support.

## Make a Difference Today with Your Donation

Portola and Castle Rock Foundation uses donations from supporters like you to sponsor local State Park programs and events, including volunteer and docent training. We also make improvements at the Parks, including the recent replacement of the roof at the Castle Rock Interpretive Shelter and the restoration of the Danny Hanavan trail. Donate today at [PortolaAndCastleRockFoundation.org](http://PortolaAndCastleRockFoundation.org).

Summer 2019 Page 4