

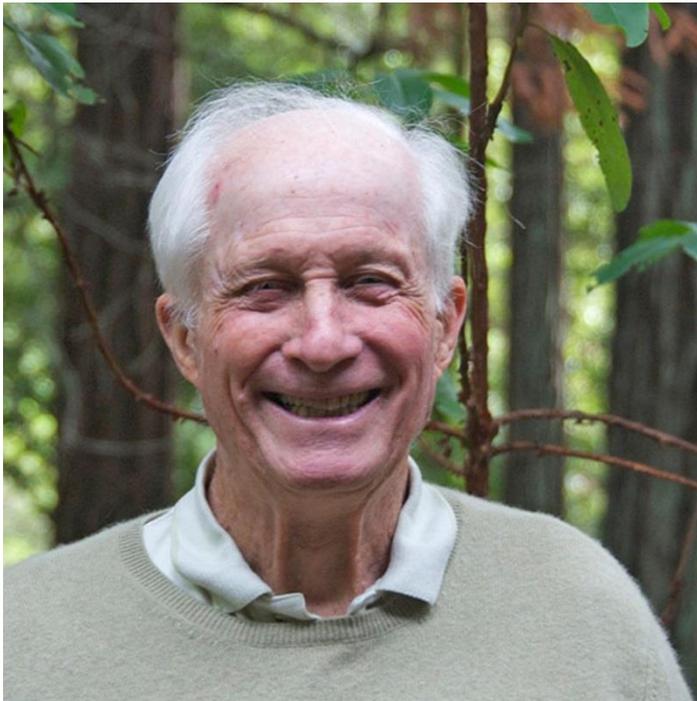


*Portola and Castle Rock Foundation  
Inspiring the Protection of Castle Rock and  
Portola Redwoods State Parks Through  
Quality Educational Experiences and  
Infrastructure Improvements*

## Presidents Message

We have lost friend and colleague Stu Langdoc, who passed away in January. Stu was a passionate supporter of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks. He generously gave much of his time to lead numerous initiatives to keep the Parks open and vibrant. He coordinated volunteer programs in the Parks, led the production of interpretive panels for the parks, patrolled the trails, and developed many hiking recommendations for visitors of all abilities. He served as a Vice President and as a Director of the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation. Stu's dedication to the Parks was an inspiration for all of the Foundation's Directors and I speak for all of us when I say that we will miss him.

--James Rauen



**Stu Langdoc 1930-2016**

# Superior Achievement Award

Stu started his association with Castle Rock as a climber in the 1960's. In the 1990's, he joined the Castle Rock Advisory Committee where he worked with other volunteers and Park personnel on a number of issues facing the Parks. He worked with the Trail Committee to identify potential new trails and improvement of existing trails. He worked on a climbing plan for the Parks to identify existing climbs and develop best practices to protect the unique rock features of the Park. As part of this effort, every climbing bolt in Castle Rock was catalogued. In the early 2000's, Stu joined the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation where he continued his support of the Parks. He initiated a successful Volunteer Program and spearheaded the development of educational Panels for the Parks.

In recognition of his contributions to the Parks, Stu was awarded the prestigious Superior Achievement Award by California State Parks. The award plaque reads:

**Your ardent contributions and passion for Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks leave a legacy of increased support, volunteerism and improved recreational access. Your infectious enthusiasm for parks and your service as a project consultant and team member, foundational cooperating association board member, and volunteer mentor continues to be an inspiration to park staff and volunteers.**

**You are an outstanding ambassador for California State Parks; you demonstrate the very spirit of volunteerism.**

**California State parks extends its heartfelt gratitude.**

**Signed by Lisa Ann Mangat, Director**

**November 1, 2015**



**Parks Trail Manager Chris Periera and Ranger Jason Rule with Stu at the award presentaion**

## Stu was Instrumental in Keeping the Parks Open

July 10, 2012 ·

Reed Holderman, Executive Director of Sempervirens Fund, accepts \$50,000 from Stu Langdoc, Board Member and Secretary of Portola and Castle Rock Foundation.

These funds came from YOUR generous contributions, fundraisers at Planet Granite and Pacific Edge, and a grant from the Access Fund.

Together we've saved Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks for one year - but unfortunately the job is not over. Please go to our website to volunteer or contribute.



## Interpretive Panels

A very visible legacy of Stu's are the interpretive panels at both Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods. Stu worked with Parks on the design and production of these valuable aides for visitors. These panels were both educational and designed to welcome visitors. Stu obtained the funds for the panels through a generous grant from REI and paid meticulous attention to detail during development. The educational panels give visitors a deeper understanding of the natural history of the parks. Welcome panels provide visitors with park highlights and with both descriptive and graphical displays, choices of hikes for all fitness levels.

# Welcome to Portola Redwoods State Park

## A Secluded Sanctuary, Yours for Safekeeping

Just over the ridge from the bustling San Francisco Bay Area, this park's 2,800 acres offer a tranquil gateway. The first- and second-growth coast redwoods that dominate the park are still standing thanks to the tireless efforts of preservationists and citizens like you. Whether you are here for a day hike, camping for the first time, or returning to experience a family tradition, you are joining generations of visitors who cherish this hidden gem as if it were their own backyard.

**KEEP YOUR PARK CLEAN AND WILD**

- TRUCKS:** - From camp to car, truck, picnic area and day parking space are closed. Only registered campers in designated camps may remain in the park overnight.
- DOG:** - Dogs are only permitted in picnic areas, paved roads and the Upper and Lower Eagle Lakes. They must be on a leash longer than six feet and removed at all times.
- BICYCLES:** - Allowed on paved trails only and prohibited from trails. From the Service Road west of French Hill to the Canyon Gate to the 10-mile road to the west through the woods.
- FISHING:** - Fishing is not allowed in the park to allow struggling fish populations to recover.
- WATER RESOURCES:** - All irrigation, wildlife and geologic features in the park are presently being and must not be disturbed or removed.

**Our parks are Crumb Clean**

Use the red bin to put your trash. Leave no food behind, no waste or trash. Use the recycling bin for plastic, paper and metal. If the material is not clearly marked, recycle it in the trash.

### Choose Your Adventure!

Listed here are just a few suggestions:

**Easy**

- Sequoia Nature Trail:** Take the spectacular view from the top of Sequoia. The trail, which winds through the park, is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods.
- Old Tree Trail:** This trail is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods.
- Upper Coyote East Tower:** This is a heavily forested area in the park. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods.

**Moderate**

- Upper Coyote East Tower:** This is a heavily forested area in the park. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods.

**Strenuous**

- Upper Coyote East Tower:** This is a heavily forested area in the park. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods.

Maps are available at the Visitor Center. See brochures for more info.

Portola Redwoods State Park

Welcome Panel at Portola Redwoods State Park

# Castle Rock Wildlife – A Closer Look

## Finding Creature Comforts

Just as we want to live in safe places, near shopping and good schools, wildlife seeks shelter where they find can food and water and safely raise their young. Castle Rock extends over steep terrain with varying elevations, soils and exposure to sun, wind and weather. Like different neighborhoods, these six habitats support plant communities favored as homes by specific species of wildlife. As you explore the park, see if you can identify these six "neighborhoods" and spot some of their residents.

**Chaparral—Dry, Diverse City**

Included diverse thickets of woody, drought-tolerant shrubs such as chamise, manzanita, California sagebrush and bush monkeyflower. Many birds, such as shrews, bluebirds, and woodpeckers are attracted to this neighborhood for nesting, nesting and nesting. The leaf litter and other debris are a source of food for many insects.

**Mixed Evergreen Woodland—Restaurateur**

Included diverse thickets of woody, drought-tolerant shrubs such as Douglas fir, incense cedar, coast redwood, western oak, madrone, bay, and big leaf maple. Birds of color nesting gophers and mammals are attracted to this neighborhood for nesting, nesting and nesting. The leaf litter and other debris are a source of food for many insects.

**Riparian Woodland—Cool in the Shade**

Included diverse thickets of woody, drought-tolerant shrubs such as Douglas fir, incense cedar, coast redwood, western oak, madrone, bay, and big leaf maple. Birds of color nesting gophers and mammals are attracted to this neighborhood for nesting, nesting and nesting. The leaf litter and other debris are a source of food for many insects.

**Oak Woodland—Easy Access**

Evergreen oak, bay, and madrone oak trees and abundant canopy of oaks that attract wildlife. Birds and squirrels find this neighborhood for nesting, nesting and nesting. The leaf litter and other debris are a source of food for many insects.

**Redwood Forest—Cool in the Shade**

Swamp ferns, wood rat, redwood salamander and blackberry grow on the moist, dark soil. Redwood forest trees are a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods. It is a great place to see the redwoods.

**Snags and Dead Wood—Multi-species Dwellings**

Dead trees or snags and downed logs are an important part of the forest life cycle. Snags are homes for bats, woodpeckers, swallows, salamanders and insects. Decomposing logs and large branches provide nutrients and hold moisture. They feed and shelter rodents, reptiles, amphibians and insects. You may see ferns, fungi and even young trees sprouting from dead logs.

Educational Panel at Castle Rock Interpretive Shelter

## Volunteer Training Program

State budgetary pressures led to drastic reduction in Park personnel-including rangers. At its peak, Castle Rock had 5 rangers whereas today 2 rangers share duty between Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods. The many duties assigned to park rangers leaves them little time to actually hike trails and show a presence in the Parks. In response to this Stu initiated a Parks Volunteer program. After studying volunteer programs at county parks and Mid-Peninsula Open Spaces, he helped State Parks develop a unique program to train volunteers to supplement the duties of rangers and maintenance staff. The

inaugural class was held in the spring of 2013 and annual training continues. There are now 28 active volunteers who have logged over 5,500 hours of service to the Parks. This program will be one of his lasting legacies.

If you are interested in this program visit: <http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/volunteer/>



Volunteer Class of 2013



Stu and Volunteer with Park visitors

## My First Climb at Castle Rock State Park

Written by Stu Langdoc, originally published in the Spring 2015 PCR Foundation Newsletter

Even as a child I've always been fascinated by rocks and always wanted to scramble and climb on them. By the time I lived in California, I was fascinated by the Sierra Nevada Mountains. I went with my brother to Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite Park where we hiked in to Upper Cathedral Lake and I scrambled up a pile of rock called Mt Treseder. It was wonderful, but I couldn't get quite to the very top. I explored the rest of the mountain top, which was a large sloping plateau with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. I knew I had to learn how to rock climb. About that time I went on a few Sierra Club hikes and saw their local schedule. There was a thing called the Rock Climbing Section of the local chapter of the Sierra Club, and they had meetings and trained climbers! It was September, 1966.

I went to the next meeting and signed up for training at Castle Rock. We met at the Saratoga Gap and drove to a place where you could park along Skyline Boulevard not far from the Rock. I was loaded with 2 ropes and we all walked the quarter mile to the rock. It was set at the top of a small rise. It was very interesting looking, about 40 or 50 feet high with caves and bulges and pretty vertical. Some of the "teachers" went to the top and set up the climbs, tying in the belayers and throwing the ropes down for two separate climbs.

While others were climbing, we, the learners were shown a traverse around the rock base as a training exercise. My turn came to do an evil looking bottomless cleft at the right front corner of the rock. The instructor wrapped the end of the dangling belay rope around my waist about 3 times then tied what they called a bowline on a bight with the loose end and my "life line" to the belayer. I walked to the climb and put hand to rock.

Hmm, not much in the way of handholds, and where do you put your feet? This is a chimney I was told, should be pretty easy, you just put your back against one side and feet, knees, or hands against the other side, but you have to lever yourself up into it. You put one of your feet up under your butt and push up, and you can use any hand or foothold you can find. OK, but how do you start this thing? There's nothing here. I keep falling out. I get some pointers and finally get up into the chimney, but too far into it. I felt nice and secure but I didn't have enough room to move. The Instructor chuckled. You'll have to move out a bit to move up. I'm only 8 feet above the ground and tied to a belay rope going to the top but it was so hard to get there I didn't want to have to do it again. I move out



Stu revisits his first climb -2015



Remembering the first move

just far enough to allow me to push up with my right foot and I could reach a sort of handhold with my right hand. OK, now I can see a place to put my left foot on the other side of the chimney. With that I can put my left hand behind me and move myself up another foot. I can now see more foot holds and hand holds just above me (so that's why the instructor had me put my back on this side) and I move on up on them, partly using hand and footholds and chimneying.

It did get easier and soon I found myself moving on to a rounded sort of ledge that was the

end of the chimney. I stood there, about 40 feet above the ground and about 6 feet below the edge of the sloping top of the rock. I was encouraged to “mantle“ up to the top but didn’t have the skill or strength. Alright then go across left to the continuation of the other side of the chimney, kind of an arête. I could stretch to get a left foot over there on a small ledge, but felt I’d fall off if I tried to move over. Nothing for my hands! I moved my left foot back and forth a couple of times looking for a handhold. I was assured that there was stuff there to use, just step over and you’re up as the rest is easy. Right, but I couldn’t find anything I understood how to use. I could have been belayed back down, a bit like a rappel but I was determined to finish so I looked at that narrow, slightly sloping arête to the left, with its small ledge, judged the distance – and jumped. I stuck to it but mainly because I got both hands on a small knob and the friction of my stomach and thighs against the rock. I awkwardly pulled myself up a bit and got my feet on the magic foothold. I was soon and easily up on top from there. Success, finally!

Now I know the secret. There’s a small dish like indentation on the wall about shoulder high that you can palm to give enough balance to step over, but I’ve never been able to mantle directly from the ledge to the top.

I’ve done a lot of climbing since 1966 and still love it!

## Others remembering Stu -from the PCRFB Facebook page

**Support Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks** One of my favorite memories of Stu is seeing him up top of Goat Rock mentoring the young rock climbers. Thank you so much Stu, we love and miss you!!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · Commented on by Gretchen Lenoir · 29 January at 19:37



**Support Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks** What a huge loss.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Donald Kerns · 29 January at 15:40



**Reed Holderman**

Stu Langdoc was Castle Rock's guardian angel. He was always there, always ready to make this park better and to protect it from being closed or relegated to a second class status. He knew that Castle Rock is a gem in the State Park system and with a little attention and love, could reach its full potential as one of California's premiere destinations. Stu knew this long before the rest of us and made us all believe in his vision. He was the man--Castle Rock's guardian angel--and we all owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his passion, hard work, and friendship.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 12 February at 16:26



**Support Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks** Wonderful words for a longtime friend, Thanks Reed

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Douglas Brown · 12 February at 17:13



**Andrew Vought** Stu was a truly exceptional person - intelligent, fun, meticulous in detail - but more than anything he exuded love for Castle Rock State Park and helped us all appreciate this special place. He hiked and climbed in Castle Rock for nearly 50 years - but more than that he took personal responsibility for the park he loved and made sure others would be able to enjoy them for generations to come.



[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · 31 January at 01:44



**Sempervirens Fund** Very well put, Andrew! Stu will be greatly missed but his contributions endure.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 3 February at 15:57



**Steve Wood** I'll always enjoyed working with Stu, not just because of his tireless advocacy for the parks, but for the heartfelt love for the parks that radiated from him when he spoke of these special places.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 29 January at 19:44



**Caren Engberg Tereck** I volunteered with him while a docent and President of the VIPS of Portola. So sorry to hear this news.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 29 January at 14:59 · Edited



**Paul Kang** His spirit lives on in Castle Rock. May his work last in his memory.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 29 January at 15:46



**Philip Watkins** Really going to miss Stu. Such a strong advocate for the parks we love.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 29 January at 19:37



**Stacy Beard** Stu will definitely be missed and leaves behind an amazing legacy. Thank you, Stu.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 29 January at 14:49



**Shelley Ratay** A special man. I'm grateful to have known him.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 29 January at 21:44



**Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument Campaign** People like Stu make conservation and good stewardship possible. We're sorry for your loss.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 29 January at 15:38



**Bob Brett** Thank you Stu!

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 2

Farewell Stuart Langdoc. Your presence is missed. You have inspired so many to continue the legacy you created. Thank You.