



## *Portola and Castle Rock Foundation*

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

### **Winter 2019 Newsletter**

#### **Portola Redwoods First Day Hike Images**



Eric Schmidt, President of the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation, led hikers at Portola Redwoods on January 1<sup>st</sup>. These beautiful images were captured during this hike.

## Make Your Camping Reservations Now

Camping reservations for Portola Redwoods for the April – October 2020 season can be made via the Reserve California website. The park has a 55-site family campground, 4 group campsites, and a trail camp for backpackers. It also protects some of the most remote and scenic redwoods in the region, the Peter’s Creek Grove. Don’t delay, plan your trip to Portola Redwoods today! <https://www.reservecalifornia.com/CaliforniaWebHome/>

## Portola and Castle Rock Foundation Elects Officers

At our December 7th meeting the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation elected officers, including a new President and new Secretary.

- Eric Schmidt – President
- Miles Standish – Vice-President
- Doug Brown – Vice President
- Becky Rivera – Treasurer
- Mujtaba Ghouse – Secretary

Several Directors were re-elected, and two new Directors were also elected.

- Sarah Viaggi
- Megha Zutshi

Bios for all Directors are available on our website.

## 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/)*

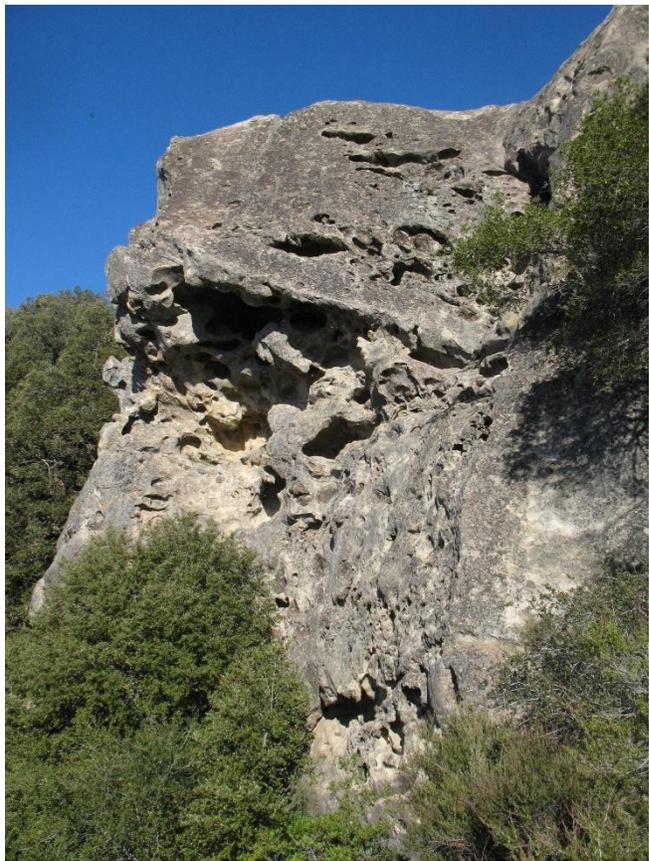
## Geology of Castle Rock State Park

The following article was written by the late Stuart Langdoc. Stu was a passionate supporter of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks and an avid climber.

The geologic characteristics of the climbing and bouldering rocks, and of the soils, their slopes and their cover, as they relate to climber's trails, are of particular interest from the standpoint of rock climbing and bouldering.

**THE SOILS.** The soils vary from sandy loams of up to 5 or 6 feet deep on ridge tops to sandy clay and clay with sandstone boulders on the steeper slopes. Ground cover consists of grasses on the ridge top meadows and leaf duff in areas of woodland. Some of the steeper slopes have very little or no cover. The steeper slopes are susceptible to both erosion and landslides, though landslides are less prevalent in Vaqueros Sandstone areas.

**THE ROCKS.** Of primary interest to climbers are the sculpted rock outcrops that are found in many areas of the park, but primarily along Castle Rock Ridge. These rock outcrops, called bosses by geologists, are formed from very thick layers of Vaqueros Sandstone which have been exposed at the surface. The smooth and rounded rock shapes are interrupted by formations that are each unique. Geologists believe that finger pockets to whole cave systems are carved out of the rock by a chemical "cavernous weathering" process which occurs because of the rock, rainwater, and the wet winters and dry summers of California's Mediterranean climate. The individual caves, pockets, and associated sculpted shapes are referred to as tafone (plural, tafoni) which is a Corsican term identifying similar formations found on the island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea. This type of cavernous weathering can be found worldwide where conditions of moderately arid to semi-humid climate with a long dry season are met; however, cave formation in the park's Vaqueros Sandstone is worth investigating in some detail.



Read the full article at [PortolaAndCastleRockFoundation.org/wp-content/uploads.GEOLOGY-AND-THE-ROCKS.pdf](http://PortolaAndCastleRockFoundation.org/wp-content/uploads.GEOLOGY-AND-THE-ROCKS.pdf)

## Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Entrance Improvements

As part of the PCRf effort to make the visitors' entrance more engaging and welcoming, a new bike rack was installed near the firewood shed. The bike rack holds up to nine bicycles.

More improvements, including new park benches and planter boxes are planned for 2020.



## Shop and Support Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

### Share the love

Shop for your Valentine at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates.

You shop. Amazon donates. 



Did you know that when you shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3151586](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3151586), AmazonSmile donates to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation?

Thank you for your support.

## Photo Contest

PCRf is hosting a photo contest! Submit up to five of your favorite photos from our Parks for a chance to win REI gear. Contest ends February 29, 2020. To enter your photos, please visit <https://bit.ly/pcrfphoto> (requires a google login). We look forward to seeing everybody's pictures from our beautiful parks!

## Leap Year

2020 is a leap year, which means you have one extra day to donate your vehicle to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation. It's easy to give, the pick-up is free, and your gift is tax-deductible.

Call 855-500-7433 or donate securely online at

[portolaandcastlerockfound.org/pcrf-vehicle-donations/](https://portolaandcastlerockfound.org/pcrf-vehicle-donations/).

