



Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

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

Our mission is to inspire the protection of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks. We do that with quality education experiences and infrastructure improvements. While we are saddened by the early closing of camping at Portola Redwoods, the Parks are open and the trails are ready for visitors. Make plans today to visit our Parks!

Mujtaba Ghouse, PCRF President

SAVE THE DATE ... MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC ... Sunday, September 11th

The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation would like to thank all its members and volunteers for helping our beloved Parks this year! Together, we've:

- replaced a restroom destroyed by a falling tree
- replaced the decades-old grills in the picnic areas at Portola,
- removed lead paint from some of the restrooms,
- improved trails in both Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods, and much more!

Thank you! We'd like to invite you to a BBQ/Picnic, with a guided hike.

Please mark the date on your calendar now!

Date: Sunday, September 11, 2022

Location: Portola Redwoods State Park at the Ramada

Time: 10:00 - 12:00 Board Meeting. (Please feel free to attend)

1:00 Lunch, a guided hike, biodiversity talk, and an opportunity to speak to Docents, Board members, Trail Crew, and old friends.

Please mark your calendar and let us know if you are planning to attend and how many you'll be. Call or text: 650.793.6122 or click on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pcrf-member-appreciation-picnic-tickets-395662827167> (When you RSVP, please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions or preferences.) Remember to check our website for updates.

Please RSVP by September 2nd.

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Native plants in the planters!

Have you noticed the plants we added to the new redwood planters at the Portola Redwoods Visitor Center entrance? We planted several native plants. Pictured here is a Liberal Bleeding Heart.



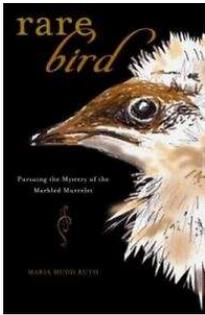
The next improvement to the front porch will be a new water fountain!

Portola Trail Crew

We have been busy the last few months working on Coyote Ridge Trail. We are improving both the lower and upper sections so it's taken quite a lot of work, and we have at least two more workdays to complete it. The trail had become very narrow in some places so we are widening as well as clearing debris that has fallen in the trail. Learn more or sign up (our next workdays are 8/13 and 9/10) at the Portola Trail Crew Website (<https://karlmosgofian.smugmug.com/PCRF-Trail-Crew>).



Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Store Highlight ... Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet by Maria Mudd Ruth



What in the world is a marbled murrelet?! If you were to ask me, I would give you “the Google answer” – a small seabird along the Northern Pacific from the auk family that nests high up in the redwoods, with plumage that varies by season. If however, you let Maria Mudd Ruth tell you this mysterious bird’s tale, she will have you absolutely believing it is nothing short of nature’s little (fluffy) miracle.

“Marbled murrelets stay true to a specific type of tree [when nesting], and in many cases to one specific tree, and even to one particular spot on the tree. ”

We know now that these sea birds raise their young in the old-growth redwood forests, but do not take this knowledge for granted because this fact wasn’t discovered until a few decades ago, when in 1974 an adventurous tree climber nearly stepped on a chick 150 feet up a redwood – right here in Portola! In 1971, the National Audubon Society, was offering a \$100 reward to the first person who correctly identified the secretive bird’s nest.

Besides these and other fun facts and all its cuteness, the marbled murrelet is seriously endangered.

This book, however, envelops you in the history and the current issues of

the bird as part of a wonderful unfolding tour, never guiltling or depressing you out of reading, but rather compelling you to care. You certainly don’t need to be a birder to enjoy this well-researched and well-written read.



Photo by Mike Danzenbaker

Pick up your copy today from the Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Store!

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

Park News

As you may have heard, camping at Portola Redwoods is closing on August 5th. The reason ... lack of water. The Park uses water from Peters Creek to service the restrooms and showers. More importantly, the Park uses water from the creek for fire suppression. With the lack of winter rains, there is insufficient water to keep the public safe.

Camping is anticipated to reopen on April 1, 2023.

The Park will remain open for day use.

Park Maintenance Request for Funding

The picnic tables at the Portola group camping areas are in bad shape and need to be replaced. PCRf is requesting donations to help fund this \$10,000 project. Please help us fund this project by donating today.

To support this project, please donate today, indicating "Picnic Tables" in the memo field. Send us a check, visit our website (<https://portolaandcastlerockfound.org/donations/>) or use the PayPal Giving Fund (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/110027>). We also accept donations at both Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks.

Donations Welcome

Our State Parks needs are many. Please help us do more by donating to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation.

Send us a check, visit our website (<https://portolaandcastlerockfound.org/donations/>) or via the PayPal Giving Fund (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/110027>)