



## **Friends of Castle Crags, McArthur~Burney Falls and Ahjumawi State Parks**

# **Spring~Summer 2023 Newsletter**

### **Burney Falls Park**

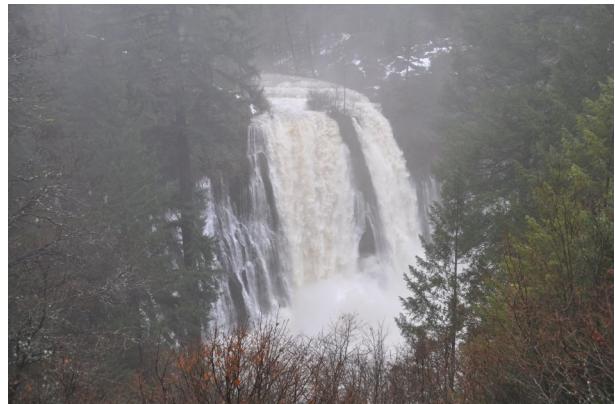
Up here in the Southern Cascades, it seems as if we went straight from winter into summer! And it was a long, hard winter. Most roads heading to the park... Highways 89, 299, 44... suffered damage, which means that highway crews are out with their orange cones as they start repairs. Plan your trip this year accordingly!

As we head into the summer months, please remember that we have a lot of visitors to Burney Falls from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The last two years have us at 250,000+ park visitors each year! As usual, we anticipate that the weekends will be filled to capacity, so you need to plan on being here early in the morning for a day visit. If you're camping, you might be out of luck if you haven't already made reservations. In any event, ***PLEASE don't park on the shoulders of Highway 89 near the entrance.*** That's a dangerous curve coming from both directions... which is why it's illegal to park there. We don't want any pedestrian traffic across the highway because oncoming traffic may not be able to stop in time! Park management is currently working on adding additional camping space, which should be completed late this year or early next year. Parking for day visits remains a problem, particularly on weekends. While plans are in the works for expanding parking, that's still several years away from fruition.

We're very excited to be back in full action again! We're rolling up our sleeves and working on many projects, one of which is the purchase and location of a new storage shed which will contain many of the items we use during the Heritage Day Celebration. That, in turn, will enable us to start considering working together with park management toward the restoration of the pioneer cabin which has been used solely for storage in recent years. That'll be a major project for the Association to undertake and will involve a lot of planning and fund-raising.

The heavy winter snows, coupled with warming temperatures and spring thunderstorms, combined to send torrents of water down the Pit River and Fall River, which feed the falls. There was moderate damage to the park itself, but everything is back up and running on an even keel.

Over the years, the interpretive signs around the park have been subjected to blistering sun and heat during the summer months, as well as cold and wet during the winter months. Some have become difficult to read. We've ordered two replacements for Burney Falls and one for Castle Crags to be installed later this year, and plan to do the same again next year.



If you've signed onto the McArthur~Burney Falls website in recent weeks, you've noticed an entirely new website has been created. We'll be updating this website in the near future to include more bells and whistles! [www.burneyfallspark.org](http://www.burneyfallspark.org)

We're making a concerted effort this year to revamp and update our annual Heritage Day, held on Sunday of Columbus Day weekend. We'd like to add some additional activities! If you'd like to volunteer to host a booth featuring fun things to do from the pioneer days of years past, or if you have suggestions along these lines, please contact Alice Hoveman at: [hoveman@citlink.net](mailto:hoveman@citlink.net)



## Castle Crags State Park

Because our association originated to support McArthur Burney Falls State Park, our emphasis over the years has been placed there. But, if you haven't visited Castle Crags, you need to! More than 170 million years old, these 6000-foot tall granite spires in the wilderness border the north-western edge of the Park. With 28 miles of hiking trails, everyone can enjoy a mild stroll or an invigorating adventure. At the Vista Point, there are dramatic views of Castle Crags, Mount Shasta, and nearby Grays Rocks. The Sacramento River flows through the park and has several access points that allow for fishing and hiking.

We are planning to add a station at the trailhead to provide maps, directions, information and cool water for those visitors making the trek! This should be in place within a week or two.

Again, signage is fading at some of the Park's locations as well as at McArthur~Burney Falls Park, so we're including replacement of one sign in this year's replacement project.

The website for Castle Crags will undergo a total revision sometime within the next 12 months, so stay tuned! [www.castlecragspark.org](http://www.castlecragspark.org) The website will give you a great introduction as to what this unique park has to offer! If you haven't visited it, you should!

As of the creation of this newsletter, Castle Crags is in need of another campground host for the season. If interested, or if you'd like more details, please contact: [lori.watts@parks.ca.gov](mailto:lori.watts@parks.ca.gov)

We'd like very much to add a Board Member from the Castella-Dunsmuir area to act as a supportive liaison between the park and the Board. Please refer to the MBFIA section of this newsletter for more details!

## More About the Parks and the Association

The Park Visitor Centers have traditionally provided a venue for local artists to share their creations with our visitors. This year we are happy to expand the number of local artists hosted at each park.

**McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park:** The **McKay Brothers** continue to share their unique jewelry, tools, and ornaments they craft from Grey Pine cones. **Andrew Urlie**, a past park Ranger, brings us the rich earthy colors of nature, imprints of leaves, and images of wild animals in his ceramic art. **Marla Nolan**, joins us this year, adding her original watercolors and oil paintings of Burney falls.

**Castle Crags State Park:** Two companies from the town of Weed, California have joined us this year. A family owned business, DS Laser Engraving, crafts images of Castle Crags in wood on one-of-a-kind products while aiding with reforestation. Darrel W. Parham, of Weed Technology & Fabrication, creates imaginative flexible 3-D toys of animals.

We are pleased to host these creative artists at our parks. They will provide our visitors with beautiful, unique mementos of their time in our Northern California State Parks.



All of us who are Members of the Board come from differing backgrounds and have different capabilities. But, we all share a common bond: We understand and accept that the many beauties and benefits of nature that exist around us can only be maintained for future generations if we join together to protect this wonderful world around us. Our rewards are impossible to measure, impossible to put into words.

We'd like to extend to you an opportunity to share your experiences and capabilities with us as a Member of the Board.

### **BECOME A BOARD MEMBER**

This is your opportunity to have a positive impact on your favorite parks! We are currently recruiting for four board members committed to enhancing the quality of visits to McArthur~Burney Memorial State Park, Castle Crags State Park, and Ahjumawi State Park.

### **ABOUT US**

Just like you, members of the Board of Directors of the McArthur~Burney Falls Interpretive Association (MBFIA) are excited to work together as a team to provide ideas, assistance and funding for activities which enhance the quality of experiences for visitors of these State Parks.

### **OPENINGS**

The four Board Member positions we would like to fill are:

- Liaison/Advocate for Castle Crags State Park
- Assistant Board Treasurer
- Advertising/Public Relations/Publications Specialist
- Assistant Manager for Heritage Day

### **VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Directors are selected from a broad range of backgrounds and skills to provide varied input necessary for the board's mission and activities. Ability in any of the following areas would greatly contribute to our continued successes:

- Leadership ability to assist the Board in operating as a team
- Some familiarity with these local State Parks and willingness to learn more
- Some knowledge of and interest in the intermountain region, its people, history and ecology
- Some accounting background and ability
- Experience in merchandising, sales and advertising

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY**

Please send a letter of interest to: MBFIA, PO Box 777, Burney, CA 96013. Or by Email to: [friends@burneyfallspark.org](mailto:friends@burneyfallspark.org). Be sure to include your contact information!

#### **Would You Consider?**

Perhaps you are not able to serve as a Board Member for one reason or another, but would still like to contribute in some way to the parks for the benefit of future generations? You can make a one-time monetary donation to the association or spread your donations out on a monthly or annual basis. We are a non-profit, 501-c3 organization. No one takes a salary or bonus, so all of your donations go to help the parks. To donate online, simply go to: [www.burneyfallspark.org](http://www.burneyfallspark.org) where you can click on the "Make a Donation" button on the home page. Your donation can also be made in memory of or to honor a particular person or event.

Finally, if you know of someone who would like to become a member of "The Friends," why not encourage them to go one of websites where they can join online, for free?