

LASSEN PARK FOUNDATION

# NEWS



LASSEN PARK  
FOUNDATION

*Snow Clearing on Highway 89*

*Be Bear Aware This Summer*

*Early History of the Park*

*John Sharrah Remembered*

*The Importance of Lassen's  
Snowpack*

SPRING **2021**







## SNOW CLEARING ON HIGHWAY 89 THIS SPRING

Spring road clearing continues in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Crews have been making great progress throughout April and managed to break through the hardest part of the snow on April 21st as the Lassen crew working on the south end of the highway met up with Caltrans working on the north end of the highway at Kings Creek. "We still have a lot of clean up to do, but the hard work is complete," reports the park's website. Recent snows at the end of April have added to the work load, and it will be a little while longer before Highway 89 through the park is open for vehicular access.

**"...A great opportunity to hike or bike through the snowy landscape"**

"Visitors should be prepared for over-snow travel in most areas of the park," said Superintendent Jim Richardson. "However, cleared sections of the highway that are not yet open to vehicles offer a great opportunity to hike or bike through the snowy landscape."

In the spring and early summer season, visitors can Hike and Bike the Highway as the park undergoes a winter-to-spring transition. During this time visitors can enjoy park sights without traveling over snow by walking, running, or biking sections of the park highway once they are cleared of snow and before they open to vehicles.

View a map of road clearing progress and the status of road sections at [go.nps.gov/lavo/snowclearing](https://go.nps.gov/lavo/snowclearing) or learn more about Hike and Bike the Highway at [go.nps.gov/HHB](https://go.nps.gov/HHB).

Lassen Park Foundation reminds you to enjoy your visit to Lassen Volcanic by being prepared. Conditions change quickly in the spring season at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Check the weather forecast, dress in layers, and carry food and water. Stow a shovel, blankets, and tire chains in your vehicle and expect winter road conditions.

Visitors are encouraged to check current conditions—including where you can go and what you can do—before visiting at [go.nps.gov/lavo/current](https://go.nps.gov/lavo/current). Remember, the entrance fee returned to the normal rate of \$30 on April 15.



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to all our generous donors who supported Lassen Park Foundation and Lassen Volcanic National Park last year and this year! There is no doubt that it has been a challenge getting through the pandemic so far, and we're not out of the woods yet. Still, there may be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, and we have some happy news to share.

Superintendent Jim Richardson has approved opening and facilitating youth camping trips at the Volcano Adventure Camp this summer. We are thrilled that we will be able to safely bring kids from California and Nevada to the park for educational excursions into this beautiful wilderness setting.

We're anticipating about 1,000 kids and their chaperones will be traversing Lassen's trails and exploring the park's sulfuric areas throughout the camping season. All of this is possible thanks to the generosity of our donors, the determination of our Board of Directors, and the dedication of our park partner.

In addition to that happy news, I'm also pleased to report that we have successfully completed our fundraising to build Phase II of the Volcano Adventure Camp (VAC). The park's Maintenance Crew has been working on building four additional foundations for the tent cabins, and those are nearly finished. Our Foundation staff has ordered the equipment to outfit each cabin, and Caltrans will be paving the asphalt areas for the cabins this summer.

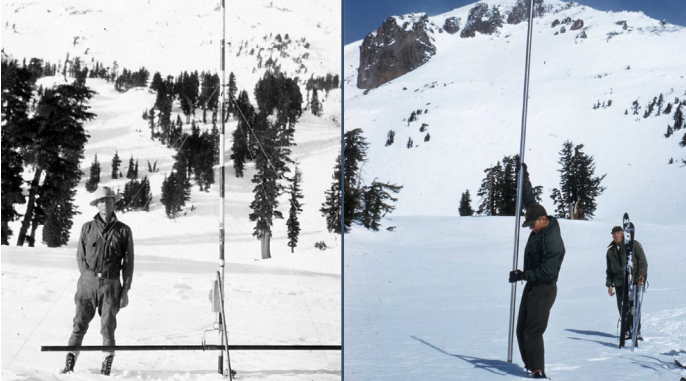
Getting Phase II of the VAC construction to this point has truly been a successful group effort! We hope to see those four additional cabins occupied in Summer 2022. Thank you again to everyone who helped make this possible.

Sincerely,

Pete Dailey, Chairman  
Lassen Park Foundation







Lake Helen survey site in 1961 (left) and 1931 (right).  
Photos Courtesy of the National Park Service.



Click the image above for a fun "Bear Stuff" video.  
What is Bear Stuff?...

## LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK 2021

[www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/index.htm)

### CAMPGROUND OPENINGS

Southwest Walk-In Campground - Open  
Manzanita Lake Campground - 5/21/21  
Manzanita Camper Cabins - 5/27  
Warner Valley & Butte Lake Campgrounds - 6/4  
Lost Creek Campground - 6/11  
Volcano Adventure Camp - 6/12  
Juniper Lake Campground - 6/25  
Summit Lake Campground - 6/29

### SPRING HOURS

**Kohm Yah-mah-nee V.C.**  
Starting 5/21: Open Daily, 9am-5pm  
**Lassen Cafe & Gift**  
Starting 5/21: Open Daily, 9am-5pm  
**Lassen Crossroads**  
Starting 5/22: Open Daily, 8am-3pm

**Manzanita Camper Store**  
Starting 5/27: Open Daily, 8am-5pm  
Starting 6/15: Open Daily, 8am-8pm

**Loomis Museum:**  
Starting 5/21: Open Fri/Sat/Sun, 9am-5pm  
Starting 6/18: Open Daily, 9am-5pm

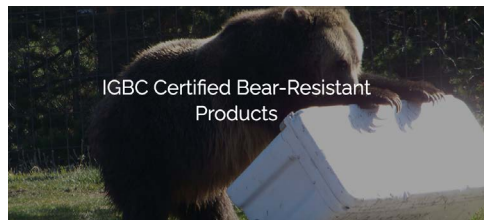
## BE BEAR AWARE THIS SUMMER

Last summer Lassen Volcanic National Park placed a temporary closure on backcountry camping as a result of negative human-bear interactions. The area east of the park highway was temporarily closed to backcountry camping to protect visitors and bears.

At least one bear obtained food and/or scented items that hikers had not stored in bear-resistant containers. After multiple incidents, the bear learned to associate humans and their equipment with a food reward.

The temporary closure has been lifted, but there's still a potential for future closures unless we all do our part to prevent them. It's up to all of us to care for our park and its animal residents by being mindful of our surroundings, following park rules, and responsibly securing scented items at all times.

**Backpackers are required to store food, toiletries, and scented items in a bear-resistant storage container** certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.



Black bears have obtained improperly stored scented items from hikers, and that has led to an increase in negative human-bear interactions.

The most important part of using a bear-resistant

container is what goes inside it. Make sure all food, trash, toiletries, and other scented items are inside the container. This includes but is not limited to all sealed or packaged food, sunscreen, soap, mosquito repellent, lip balm, deodorant, medications, and feminine products. As a general rule, if you put it in your mouth or on your skin, it should probably be stored in a bear-resistant container.

**If you don't have your own bear-resistant storage container, we have good news... you can rent them in the park!** Bear-resistant food canisters (image below) are available in two different sizes for rent in limited quantities at park stores in the Loomis Museum and Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center during business hours. The cost of rental is \$10 for 7 days with a \$95 deposit.



**Bear-resistant canisters work, but only when they are locked.** Be sure to keep it closed and locked any time it's not in use. The Bear Vault canisters available in the park have a special latch that requires human dexterity to open. Your fingernail, a credit card, or other thin, hard tool can be helpful when opening the canister. When closing the canister, make sure to turn the lid until you hear the latch click.

We recommend trying to open it by turning it counterclockwise to verify it's locked. Keep in mind that a bear may easily get to your canister, but it cannot get what is inside if it's locked.

**Place the container on the ground 100 feet (or 70 big steps) from both your tent and cooking**

**area**, in a place where a bear can't easily roll it away (example image below). Take care not to place it near a cliff or any water source, as a bear may knock the container around or roll it down a hill. Do not hang or attach anything to the container (ropes attached to the container enable a bear to carry it away). Watch the Bears and Food video for Lassen Volcanic National Park for some helpful information.



Photo credit TheTrek.com

Please help us keep Lassen open to visitors and its bears wild in nature! Recreate responsibly and use a bear-proof canister when traversing Lassen's backcountry.



Video & image courtesy of the National Park Service. Click the image above and scroll to the bottom of the page to view the "Bears and Food" video.



# "Love Your Pet Day" Photos



Thank you to the owners of all of these adorable pets for celebrating National Love Your Pet Day with us! We hope you got to enjoy spending time with your furry (or scaled or leathery) friends.

## THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE PARK

BY: PETE DAILEY

Though established in 1916, Lassen Park would remain a rough, unmanaged and nearly inaccessible wilderness for several years thereafter. It wasn't until 1925 that federal funding was increased to \$10,000 annually, which finally supported the first full time ranger, L. Walker Collins, who was designated Chief Ranger that first year, then Acting Superintendent in 1926, and ultimately Superintendent in 1928.



Photo of L. Walker Collins courtesy of the National Park Service

Collins shepherded the Park through its early period, accomplishing a number of key objectives. Collins established Park headquarters in Mineral, oversaw the completion of the Park Highway, the development of a small ranger force, the cultivation of nascent visitorship, and put into place early wildlife and resource conservation policy.

Lassen Volcanic National Park took a huge step forward as a tourist destination with the completion of the Park Highway and the proliferation of the automobile. In the Spring of 1924, Congress passed a measure appropriating \$7.5 million for 3 years of road and trail construction in the National Parks, including \$110,000 for work on Lassen's main park road. In July 1925, Collins's first year, construction commenced from the north and

south under two separate contracts. It would take the next six summers to complete.

Site selection for Park Headquarters was controversial, pitting the interests of Redding against the interests of Red Bluff. The Redding contingent pushed to site Headquarters at Manzanita Lake. Red Bluff luminaries pushed for Mineral. Despite the aesthetic charms of the proposed Manzanita Lake site, and the promise of famous photographer Benjamin Loomis to build a museum at the Northern location, the Southern site prevailed. Two factors were determinative.

First, the Susanville-to-Red Bluff highway was already completed and would remain open year-round. While Shasta County was working on the road from Redding to Viola, trying to connect to the existing county road from Viola to Manzanita Lake, these unpaved roads were not up to the standard set by the Susanville-to-Red Bluff state highway and would be closed during the winters.

Second, synergies with the Forest Service were the icing on the cake. Eighty acres of Forest Service Land would be made available for Park Headquarters, and the new facility could also make use of the existing Forest Service Switch Board.

By the end of Collins's tenure in 1931 as the first Superintendent of the Lassen Park, the Park had transformed from a remote and mostly inaccessible wilderness to the wonderful institution and magical destination so many would enjoy over ensuing decades.



# JOHN SHARRAH REMEMBERED

We are saddened by the recent loss of Board Member John Sharrah who passed away peacefully in his home in March. John joined our Board of Directors in 1995. Since that time, he has been a powerful force in our fundraising event production as well as a staunch supporter of the Youth Camping Program.

John earned a BS in Zoology from UC Davis and went on to Sacramento State University to earn his BS in Civil Engineering and found a calling. After three years working in the Sacramento area, John moved with his family to Redding, California, in 1964. Anderson River Park is John's most enduring legacy of his time with the City of Anderson Public Works Department. After leaving employment with the city, John worked as a civil engineer both independently and in partnerships. He co-founded the engineering firm Sharrah Dunlap Sawyer, Inc.

He "retired" in 1998 when he sold his share of the company, but he could not stay retired long and continued to do engineering work until his death. His exceptional engineering skills, along with his understanding of the geological and hydrological features of the north state, gave him a wealth of knowledge to share with developers and friends.

In addition to his professional work, John's second family was his Anderson Rotary Club. A member since 1964, John served as president, was honored with several awards over the years, and was known as the "chowder cook" for the annual Crab feed. His passion for philanthropy extended beyond his work with Rotary to numerous other organizations in the north state area. At the time of his death, he was serving as a Board Member for the Lassen Park Foundation and on the Board of Directors for the Community Revitalization and Development Corporation.

An avid outdoorsman, John enjoyed fishing - whether on Lake Shasta, the coastal waters off Crescent City, the Bering Sea, or Key West's gulf waters. He included many friends on his trips to Kodiak or Adak, Alaska, to fish with his son, Mike.

John loved his children and grandchildren, always finding ways to make their time together shared fun and memorable. His great-grandchildren loved sitting at his counter as he popped them popcorn in his fancy machine.

In 2012, John reconnected with his first love, Ruth Fitz (Pintar), and they spent the last eight years together. She shared John's passion for philanthropy. Together, they relished time socializing with special friends and enjoying the view of Mt. Lassen from the family room and the deck outside.

John is survived by Ruth, daughters Debra Sharrah and Patty Sharrah Montague (Tyler), son Mike Sharrah, grandsons Clark Montague (Margaret), Ben Montague (Caroline), Shawn Trujillo, and William Forrest, granddaughter Shelby Montague (Jeff Winer), and great-grandchildren Matthew, Lily, and Abigail Sharrah; Ethan and Porter Montague; Bryan and Ronnie Miller, and Adelyn and Johnathan Winer.



John Sharrah  
1931 - 2021

John Sharrah was beloved by many and will be greatly missed. For those who wish to honor his memory, donations may be made to the John Sharrah Fellowship at Anderson Rotary, the Lassen Park Foundation, or Trinity UMC in Anderson, CA - his church home for the past two years.

Adapted from [obituary published in Redding Record Searchlight](#) from Mar. 23 to Mar. 24, 2021.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF LASSEN'S SNOWPACK

This winter seemed to fly by and that's not just because we spent so many fun hours playing in the snow up at Lassen. It's also because California's northern region had a mild winter.

We found ourselves in late April already breaking through the snow-covered park highway and able to hike and bike its curves and inclines without interference from automobiles. Most of us recall just a few years ago when the snow was so thick and heavy up at Lassen that we couldn't drive through the park until late July! What does this change in snow levels (or snowpack) mean for our park and the larger environment?

Melted water from snow, ice, and ground springs at Lassen slowly releases to replenish rivers, reservoirs, and aquifers in California's dry, summer months. Water from Lassen flows through four watersheds that provide the state with water for drinking, irrigation, domestic usage, and hydroelectric energy



production. Lower snow depth and earlier spring snow melt directly affects the year's fire season. Lassen Volcanic National Park completed a Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFSS) exercise on April 20, in preparation for a drier-than-normal summer and fall season.

California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) measures snowpack in Lassen Volcanic and throughout the state. The measurements help to predict the state's water supply in the coming summer months. A new panel to be installed at Lake Helen Picnic Area will tell you that the "California Department of Water Resources has recorded snowpack measurements at Lake Helen since 1930." It goes on to report that the snowpack in Lassen serves as a natural reservoir in California's dry summer months.

Now when you hear reports on Lassen's snowpack, you'll know how important it is to all of us in California!

**At Lassen Park Foundation we connect children with nature. Through our policies and practices we offer opportunities for youth to experience and learn about their national park, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, location, citizenship status or religion.**





**LASSEN PARK  
FOUNDATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Chairman*.....Pete Dailey
- Vice-Chair, Grants* .....Elizabeth Norton
- Vice-Chair, IT*.....Robert Ono
- Vice-Chair, Development* .....David Trotter
- Chief Financial Officer*.....John Livernois
- Corporate Secretary*.....Benjamin Webster
- Executive Officer* .....Casey Freeland
- Executive Officer* ..... John Koeberer
- Executive Officer* .....Deborah Trotter  
& *Communication Chair*
- Executive Officer* ..... Steve Williams

- Zach Brunner, Honorary
- Patrick W. Carr
- Paul Coots
- Jeff Finck
- Lizabeth Forsberg
- Katie Harris
- Jody Johnson
- Jon King
- Joe Kneer
- Kacey Koeberer
- William Latham
- Mike Lynch
- Nancy Piret
- Pam Pitts
- Jack Potter Jr.
- Christy Rojas
- Dave Shakes
- Emilyn Sheffield
- Janette Storer
- Randall L. Townsend
- Jim Weber
- Kenny Wilsey
- Laura Young, Event Chair

**AGENCY LIAISONS**

- Superintendent Lassen Volcanic National Park* .....Jim Richardson

- Chief of Interpretation & Education Lassen Volcanic National Park*..... Kevin Sweeney

**STAFF**

- Executive Director* .....Jennifer R. Finnegan
- Program Assistant*.....Daniel Peschard

**MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS**

View our full list of Board Members online at [LassenParkFoundation.org](http://LassenParkFoundation.org)



**Joe Kneer**

Joe Kneer joined Lassen Park Foundation's (LPP) Board of Directors in February 2021. Joe grew up in Crescent City, Ca. and spent a lot of time camping, hunting, and fishing in and around that area throughout his childhood. His love of lakes, rivers, skiing, and outdoor activities in general often brought him to the Redding area for vacationing and adventuring. He moved to Anderson, Ca. to work for Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), and after 33 years there he retired in 2020. Joe is a member of the Anderson Rotary Club where he is able to give back to his local community. Joe and his wife Cathy continue to enjoy outdoor recreation and camping.



**Jack Potter Jr.**

Jack Potter Jr. joined Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors in February 2021. Jack is the Chairman at Redding Rancheria and has served on that council for over 20 years. He also serves on the National Congress of American Indians and is Vice Chairman of the Northern California Chairmans Association. Jack says that, "Lassen is a Sacred Mountain to our Native People." He joined the Foundation to help support and share Lassen with others.



**Jon King**

Jon King joined Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors in February 2021. Jon grew up in Redding, California where Lassen Peak and Lassen Park were a part of his daily routine. His first snow skiing adventure was at the Lassen Park Ski Area. He has fond memories of spending time in the park at the mud pots, the visitor center, hiking or simply driving through. Jon began his professional career as a police officer for the East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland, which provided him the opportunity to work in law enforcement in a park setting. There he learned the importance of resource protection for people to experience and enjoy the park.



**Mike Lynch**

Michael Lynch joined Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors in February 2021. The park was Mike's second home in the winter. He learned to ski at the Lassen Ski Chalet on the bunny hill and put on his first pair of strap on skis with leather lace-up boots at Lassen Park. He and his family enjoyed their summers hiking throughout the park, but his favorite stop was Sulphur Works. Mike and his wife Gayle have two grown children, Vance and Mariah, that both live in Northern California. Mike and Gayle enjoy cycling, travel, boating, hiking, spending as much time outdoors as possible and spending time with family and friends.

**Lassen Park Foundation is seeking new Board Members.** If you have an interest in serving on our Board of Directors please contact our office via e-mail at [info@lassenparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@lassenparkfoundation.org).





## IN HONOR / IN MEMORY DONATIONS

### In Honor:

- Zachary Brunner
- Steve, Maura and Kieran Buckley
- N.C. Betts Family
- Steve & Clare Gaston
- Happy Birthday Peter
- Xixi & Jonathan Shakes
- Happy Birthday Shane
- Michael D. West

### In Memory:

- Merle Bashor
- Ashli Bennett
- Jeremy Brandon & Scott Brittain
- Harry Daniell
- TJ Day
- DJ
- Theodore Lee Friedline II
- James Galbreath
- George Giannini
- Perry Harris
- Edward G. Heinzl
- Robert Mendelson
- George Perkins
- Saul Eli "Chick" Shapiro
- John Sharrah
- Susie Watson
- Phyllis Wilsey

All those listed as "In Honor" or "In Memory" have been recognized within the last 24 months.

## DONORS

### \$10,000+ Donors

- Mr. & Mrs. Pete Dailey & Karen Rasmussen
- Redding Rancheria
- Mrs. Pam Pitts

### \$5,000+ Donors

- Mrs. Polly Hillis
- Mr. David Winzenz
- Mrs. Ruth Pintar
- Basecamp Hospitality
- Dr. & Mrs. Paul & Jael Mazur
- Golden Valley Bank
- Hanford ARC
- Mr. John Koeberer
- Murdy Foundation

### \$3,000+ Donors

- Mr. & Mrs. David & Debby Trotter
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Janice Latham
- Mrs. Joanna Dean
- Mr. & Mrs. Bob Andrews & Elizabeth Norton
- Anderson Rotary
- Ms. Jane Flynn
- Mr. & Mrs. Randy Townsend & Karen Mitchell
- InterWest Insurance Services, LLC
- Sierra Pacific Foundation

### \$1,500+ Donors

- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ono & Betty Masuoka
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Kathryn Coots
- Mr. & Mrs. Greg & Shannon McKinnon
- Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Strawberry Weber
- Mrs. Andrea Howell
- Rotary Club of Redding
- Mr. & Mrs. Ben Webster & Joy Wake
- Mr. & Mrs. Jason & Anna Mateljak
- Ms. Emilyn Sheffield
- Mr. & Mrs. Kris Koeberer & Eva Jimenez-Koeberer
- Mr. & Mrs. John & Piper Livernois
- Mr. Alex Sifford
- Mr. & Mrs. Steven & Karen Jahr
- Mr. & Mrs. Nancy & Ron Piret
- Mrs. Laraine Sanford
- Mr. & Mrs. Todd & Kristi Davis
- Ms. Kelli McCrea
- Mr. Nathan Arendt
- Mr. & Mrs. Jeff & Nancy Finck
- Cornerstone Community Bank
- DH Scott & Company
- Fresh Twisted Cafe
- Merchants Bank of Commerce
- Morgan Stanley
- Moule's Tehama County Glass
- Mt. Lassen Trout Farms
- Norcal Nutrients
- Ms. Connie Petlack
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- The Village at Childs Meadows

# Thanks!

Donor contributions noted above were received within the last year.



LASSEN PARK FOUNDATION  
 PO Box 33  
 ANDERSON, CA 96007



[www.instagram.com/lassenparkfoundation](http://www.instagram.com/lassenparkfoundation)  
[@LassenParkFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/@LassenParkFoundation)



[www.facebook.com/LassenParkFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/LassenParkFoundation)



[www.youtube.com/LassenNPS](http://www.youtube.com/LassenNPS)



[www.twitter.com/LassenParkFound](http://www.twitter.com/LassenParkFound)

# SUPPORT RENEW APPRECIATE INSTILL WONDER DONATE

A contribution to the Lassen Park Foundation will be used towards supporting youth programs, enhanced interpretive and educational activities, trail restoration, wildlife research, park improvements and cultural resource development. Those who contribute to the Foundation support the Lassen Volcanic National Park and surrounding region, helping to preserve its unique beauty for generations to come, as well as enriching the experience of today's Lassen visitors.

Go to [www.lassenparkfoundation.org](http://www.lassenparkfoundation.org) or call us at **(530) 768-1110** to make a donation today. Or you can fill out the form below and mail to: PO Box 33, Anderson, CA 96007. **You make our Foundation possible!**

**YES!** I would like to help support the Lassen Park Foundation by making a donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**

Cash  Check  Visa  Mastercard

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CC#: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_