



## Week of August 9 - 15



Port-Orford-cedar branches

### Special Events This Week

#### Ranger Programs

Free Ranger programs will be offered each day. Check the blackboard in the Visitor Center for fascinating topics and times. Candlelight tours that present a unique perspective of the caves will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings. Reservations for the adventurous off-trail tours are now being accepted.

Join Ranger Suzan Thursday night for a free evening program: "Caves of the National Park Service." Ranger Heather presents a program on Saturday night: "Tall Tales and Ghost Stories."

#### Chateau Programs

Entertainment at the Chateau is in full swing this week. Monday is "Artist's Adventure," featuring interviews with local artists. Classical pianist Lindsey Brown plays on Tuesday, while David Hodges brings poetry to life on Wednesday evening. Chateau Artist-in-Residence, Jennie May Donnell reads intriguing stories in the Lobby on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visitors on Sunday afternoon can enjoy the Celtic harpist, Bob Clark. Inquire at the Chateau's front desk for the finer details of these hotel events.

### Port-Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)

When you hike the Monument's trails, you will likely notice the lovely Port-Orford-cedar, which is only found naturally in a small area of Southwest Oregon and Northwest California. This false cedar can grow to 200 feet tall, and is at home among our giant Douglas-firs.

The wood is important commercially, having been used in this country as well as exported in great quantity to Japan. Several cultivars have been patented and cloned, and sold in nurseries. Port-Orford-cedar wood contains an oil which makes it toxic to termites and slow to rot. The Chateau and

Chalet are sheathed with Port-Orford-cedar bark, original to the 1930's construction.

The mature, forest-grown tree has a narrow crown, faintly drooping branches, and deeply fissured brownish-gray bark. The lacy foliage is yellow-green to dark green. On the reverse is a series of small white Xs.

The Port-Orford-cedar is an important part of both the natural and cultural history of Oregon Caves National Monument.

### Help protect our native trees – disinfect your boots!



Boot Disinfection Station at Oregon Caves

Since the mid-1900s a root-rotting fungal parasite (*Phytophthora lateralis*) has become a serious killer of Port-Orford-cedars. Fungal spores spread naturally by flowing or splashing water, or where spore-laden soil is moved by humans, animals, or automobile tires. This parasite kills Port-Orford-cedars of all ages, and there are no signs yet of any natural resistance.

You can help prevent the spread of this parasite by visiting the boot disinfection station at the trailhead near our Visitor Center. Here's how:

1. Knock off excess mud and debris by stomping and using the boot brush.
2. Roll up your pant legs.
3. Spray the soles of your shoes with the diluted bleach (10%) solution.

To prevent this disease at Oregon Caves we ask that you please disinfect your boots before hiking.