

LASSEN

# NEWS

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WINTER 2019



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service



# Lassen Dark Sky Festival



Photos Courtesy of the  
National Park Service

## NEW CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION ANNOUNCED

Lassen Park Foundation would like to congratulate Kevin Sweeney on his new permanent position as the Chief of Interpretation and Education at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Kevin has been acting as the Interim Chief of Interpretation at the park since March of 2018. The Lassen Park Foundation works closely with Kevin in numerous ways, including him in multiple committee and board meetings per year.

Kevin's knowledge of and enthusiasm for Lassen is evident in all of his endeavors at the park. This paired with his background and history with Lassen have prepared Kevin for his newest role in which the Foundation is excited to support him.

Kevin's career at Lassen began in October of 2008, when he was selected to staff the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, a project funded in part by the Lassen Park Foundation.

He has also worked in Alaska as a seasonal park ranger at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park as well as in Colorado at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Kevin is responsible for creating and curating the annual Lassen Dark Sky Festival (see images above), for which he was awarded the region's Freeman Tilden Award, the highest award given in the National Park Service for excellence in interpretation.

In addition to his responsibilities at Lassen, he serves regionally and nationally as a public information officer for large scale incidents, specializing in communicating wildland fire information.

Prior to his career with the National Park Service, Kevin was a licensed broker with a multinational investment firm. He also served as a business adviser in the Peace Corps while living in the West African nation of Burkina Faso.

He lives at Lake Almanor with his wife, Amanda, son, William and dog, Aurora. When not in the office, Kevin can be found hiking or backcountry skiing in Lassen's wilderness.



## IRA DONATIONS FOR LASSEN

*As much as you might like to, you can't keep your dollars in a retirement account forever.*

The IRS generally requires you to make withdrawals from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) once you reach 70.5 years of age. In fact, the IRS has a formula to determine the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that you must withdraw from your retirement account each year. If you don't take your RMD, you could be subject to a hefty IRS excise tax penalty.

The annual withdrawals from your IRA account are taxable as income. If you are in the fortunate position of not needing your RMD for living expenses, you can avoid this additional income tax by making use of the IRS qualified charitable distribution rules.

These rules permit you to request your retirement account administrator to directly contribute all or a portion of your annual RMD income tax-free to organizations like Lassen Park Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. In 2018, the maximum tax-free RMD that could be directed to a non-profit organization was \$100,000 for a single taxpayer and \$200,000 for both taxpayer and spouse.

Keep in mind there is presently an IRS restriction which prevents such retirement account donations from also serving as a charitable contribution tax deduction. If your RMD is first distributed to you, as an IRA owner, your IRA withdrawal does not qualify for income tax-free treatment under the IRS qualified charitable distribution rules.

An RMD also applies to individuals who inherit an IRA. As IRS rules are complex and subject to change, we encourage you to discuss the IRS qualified charitable distribution rules with your tax advisor and/or financial planner. Note that State tax rules may vary in respect to RMDs - another reason to seek expert guidance.

If you'd like to plan your 2019 contributions to Lassen Park Foundation under the IRS qualified charitable distribution rules, please contact your IRA administrator.



## 2018 RESULTS & 2019 PLANS



**2018 was a tough year to live in Northern California.** Even areas that weren't directly affected by the Carr and Camp fires felt their heat, and some are still dealing with the aftermath. Lassen Volcanic National Park is no different.

Early summer 2018 was showing record high attendance at our favorite national park. But the two fires, bad air quality and concern about air quality changed that. Even though air at Lassen was not negatively impacted for the most part, the perception around the country of devastation throughout northern California resulted in low attendance records at Lassen through the fall.

**There was a silver lining.** Despite all of the horrors Californians faced this year, Lassen Volcanic remained beautiful and steadfast. It became an escape destination at higher elevations for those of us wishing a break from the smoke. Campgrounds were kept clean and noise level was reduced as fewer people vied for the best camping spots.

**"EARLY SUMMER 2018 SHOWED RECORD ATTENDANCE COUNTS AT OUR FAVORITE NATIONAL PARK. AS SOON AS THE CARR FIRE BEGAN IN JULY, THAT ALL CHANGED."**

**Lassen Park Foundation also felt the sting of the fires this year.** Our second annual Reach the Peak Hike-A-Thon this past August had fewer than half the participants of the previous year, a direct result of the uncertainty about conditions caused by the Carr Fire. The Day in the Park event's return on the same day was our attempt to flood the park with visitors enjoying either or both of these excuses for a special outing. Unfortunately, our advance planning could not have anticipated that the date selected would be a mere two weeks after the Carr Fire's now infamous fire-tornado, and low attendance at both events resulted in a net loss for these fundraising events (something no non-profit wants to have).

**"...NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS LIKE PHASE II OF THE VOLCANO ADVENTURE CAMP, AND PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES AT THE PARK THAT WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE."**

**A new five-year Strategic Plan is in the works with Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors.** They are currently developing a Strategic Plan that will guide us into the next decade. It will focus on expanding our donor base, welcoming new Board Members, increasing outreach efforts at local events and through local community groups. It will encompass new capital projects like Phase II of the Volcano Adventure Camp that will add four more tent-cabins to the facility, and examine proposed improvements to existing facilities at the park that we all know and love. 2019 will mark a year of rebirth and growth here at Lassen Park Foundation.

Our Youth Camping Program, housed at the Volcano Adventure Camp, continues to build up momentum and participation as more youth groups learn about the opportunity. Grant funding up to \$1,000 and a free stay at a beautiful new facility are just part of the program aimed at providing kids with the chance to learn about nature from a Park Ranger and experience the Park. It is an opportunity most find too good to pass up. Those grant applications are now open through the end of March and available online at [www.LassenParkFoundation.org](http://www.LassenParkFoundation.org).

To ensure Lassen Park Foundation's security for the generations to come, LPF now has both an Endowment and an Investment Fund through Shasta Regional Community Foundation (SRCF). Donations for both can be made through either [Lassen Park Foundation's](http://LassenParkFoundation.org) website or through [SRCF's](http://SRCF.org) website. These funds can be used for future projects and programs at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

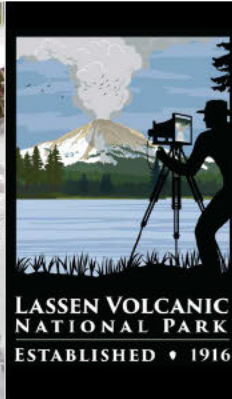


## "BUMPASS HELL" PENDLETON BLANKETS

If you would like to order your "Bumpass Hell" Limited Edition Pendleton blanket please visit our website at [www.lassenparkfoundation.org](http://www.lassenparkfoundation.org) and go to the "SHOP" page. The blankets retail for \$250 and can be shipped for \$17.95 or picked up for no additional cost at our office located in Anderson, Ca.







## LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK 2019

[www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/special-events.htm](http://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/special-events.htm)

### WINTER OPERATING HOURS

**\*ALL VISITOR SERVICES ARE CLOSED DURING THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**  
Once regular services begin again, the hours will be:

**Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center:**  
Open Wed - Sun: 9am - 5pm  
Closed Mondays and Tuesdays, exceptions:  
February 18, 2019 (Presidents' Day)

**Loomis Museum:**  
Closed for the season.

**Lassen Cafe & Gift:**  
Weekends Only, 11am - 2pm  
Also open on the following dates:  
February 18, 2019

**Manzanita Camper Store:**  
Closed for the season.

### RANGER-LED SNOWSHOE WALKS\*

**When:** Saturdays and Sundays through 4/1/19

**Time:** 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Location:** Meet outside the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. Space is limited!

**Cost:** Suggested \$1 donation for snowshoe maintenance

**Ages:** 8 years and older. Infants and children in carriers are not allowed for safety reasons.

**What to Bring:** Boots, warm layers, water, lunch/snacks

### YOUTH CAMPING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2019 Youth Camping Grants are now available via the link below.

[www.LassenParkFoundation.org](http://www.LassenParkFoundation.org)

The deadline for all 2019 Youth Camping Program Grant Applications is April 2, 2019.

**Volcano Adventure Camp Operating Dates 2019:**

June 15, 2019 - September 22, 2019  
(closed Labor Day Weekend 8/31 - 9/2)

### SUMMER EVENTS

Tentative dates for LPF's Summer Events are:

**Saturday August 10**  
Day in the Park

**Sunday August 11**  
Reach the Peak Hike-A-Thon

**Saturday September 21**  
Peak Experience Auction

Dates to be confirmed after all park services have re-opened.

## GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN EFFECT ON LASSEN

Lassen Volcanic National Park announced that recently closed areas of Lassen Volcanic National Park are once again accessible to visitors as of January 12, 2019. Some limited visitor services have been restored by using revenue generated by recreation fees. Visitors should visit the park website at [nps.gov/lavo](http://nps.gov/lavo) while planning their visit to get the latest information on accessibility and available services.

Areas that have been recently closed but that will be accessible to park visitors include:

- Lassen National Park Road (Highway 89) from the junction of Highway 36 to the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center on the south side of the park, and from Highway 44 to the Loomis Ranger Station on the north side of the park. However, intermittent road closures should be expected during the winter season due to strong winter storms with heavy snowfall in a mountain environment.
- All trails in the park are currently covered in snow and are accessible via snowshoes or skis.
- Southwest campground (snow camping). All other campgrounds remain closed for the winter season.
- The roads to Butte Lake, Warner Valley, and Juniper Lake remain closed for the winter season.

National Park Service officials have determined that by using Federal Land and Recreation Enhancement funds to immediately bring back park maintenance crews to plow roads and provide limited visitor services, the park will be able to restore accessibility to the park for visitors while ensuring health and safety. Outdoor areas of the park will



remain accessible. However, all facilities will remain closed.

"We greatly appreciate the generous contributions of Caltrans for providing plowing services during the lapse in appropriations," said park superintendent Jim Richardson. "Their efforts have contributed significantly to our ability to restore access and basic services to Lassen Volcanic National Park."

While basic visitor services have been restored, other services are unavailable during the lapse in appropriations, including visitor centers, ranger talks, and snowshoe programs. Additional information is available at [www.nps.gov/lavo](http://www.nps.gov/lavo).

Hikers, snowshoers, and skiers coming to Lassen must have appropriate training and gear for traveling in an avalanche-prone mountain environment, as well as the ability to self-rescue. Law enforcement rangers will be patrolling the park, but rescue services will be extremely limited. In addition to checking the local weather forecast, winter adventurers should "Know Before You Go" and are encouraged to check regional avalanche center reports at [www.shastaavalanche.org](http://www.shastaavalanche.org) and [www.sierraavalanche.org](http://www.sierraavalanche.org). While these avalanche forecasts are not specifically for Lassen, they provide information about avalanche conditions near the park.

All visitors to the park should be prepared for winter weather road conditions. Check the most recent weather forecast, dress in layers, and carry food and water. Keep a shovel, blankets, extra food and water, as well as tire chains in your vehicle in case snow and ice delay your travel.

For updates on the shutdown, please visit [www.doi.gov/shutdown](http://www.doi.gov/shutdown).





## MEET OUR BOARD

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Chairman*.....John W. Koeberer  
*Vice-Chair, IT*.....Robert Ono  
*Vice-Chair, Youth & Projects*.....Bob Warren  
*Vice-Chair, Grants*.....Elizabeth Norton  
*Chief Financial Officer*.....John Livernois  
*Corporate Secretary*.....Benjamin Webster  
*Chair, Donor Development*.....Patrick W. Carr  
*Chair, Communications*.....Deborah Trotter  
*Chair, Nominations*.....Steve Williams  
*Executive Officer*.....Steven Jahr  
*Executive Officer*.....Art Whitney

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Scott Chandler  
Michael Coogan  
Pete Dailey  
Harry W. Daniell, MD  
Lizabeth Forsberg  
Steven Jahr  
Kacey Koeberer  
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Wayne Maire  
George Perkins  
Nancy Piret  
Pam Pitts  
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Dave Scott  
David Shakes, Day in the Park Chair  
John Sharrah  
Emily Sheffield  
Robert Simpson  
Randall L. Townsend  
Art Whitney  
Kenny Wilsey  
Laura Young, Auction Chair  
Steven Zarwell

### 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  
*Assistant Director*.....Marissa Young



#### Robert Ono

Robert (Bob) Ono, CISSP, has served on Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors since 2007. Bob retired as the Chief Information Security Officer for the University of California, Davis. In this position, Bob managed the university cybersecurity program and contributed to state, federal and higher education security initiatives. Bob currently provides guidance on the use of technology to advance the Foundation mission.

In his spare time, Bob enjoys extensive world travel and his travel articles have appeared in an international travel magazine. He also tries to find time to ski, fish, hike and pursue photography. Bob has enjoyed annual visits to the Lassen area over the past fifty years.



#### Elizabeth Norton

Elizabeth Norton has served on Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors since 2008. Elizabeth retired in January 2008 after a 31-year career in federal government working for the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. She served as the Public Services Officer for the Lassen National Forest in Susanville for 15 years. She resides in Susanville where she and her husband, Bob, manage a ranch. They enjoy wilderness hiking, camping, canoeing, skiing, and four-wheeling. Elizabeth is an active volunteer with the Recreation Outdoor Coalition, Lassen Land and Trails Trust, Great Shasta Rail Trail Association, and Volcanic Legacy Community Partnership promoting outdoor recreation in the North State.



#### Wayne Maire

Wayne H. Maire has served on Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors since 2008. He is the founding principal of Maire & Deedon, established in 1983. Mr. Maire received his Bachelor of Arts degree at Brigham Young University in 1976 and his law degree at University of Santa Clara, School of Law in 1979. He is a member of multiple Defense Counsels both statewide and internationally. Mr. Maire has been recognized by Law & Politics as one of Northern California's "Super Lawyers" since 2005 and in Best Lawyers in America since 2010. Maire & Deedon has served as the major Peak Sponsor for the Reach the Peak Hike-A-Thon both in its inaugural and second annual years.

**Lassen Park Foundation is seeking Board Members.** If you have an interest in serving on our Board of Directors please contact our office at (530) 378-2600 or via e-mail at [info@lassenparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@lassenparkfoundation.org).





*Preserving the Lassen area's unique  
beauty for generations to come*

PO Box 33  
Anderson, CA 96007

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

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

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

 [www.twitter.com/LassenNPS](https://www.twitter.com/LassenNPS)

# SUPPORT RESEARCH INITIATE CULTIVATE ACHIEVE **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](https://www.lassenparkfoundation.org) or call us at **(530) 378-2600** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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