

The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park



Early Spring 2011

Winter Warmth

By Victor Bubbett

It might have been a nicer day considering that April was well advanced, but no. The golden sunshine might have deceived the eye, but the breeze in advance of a coming storm front was stiff, raw, and chilly. But we had the kind of park visitors who did their very best. They were here, and they were going to like it. You've just got to love people like this.

The occasion was a birthday picnic, and the visitor center volunteers did their best to find a beautiful and comfortable place for them to have it since they weren't prepared to find their own perfect place in the backcountry. Backcountry veterans know there will always be some ideal spot: that place in the sunshine in a little hollow out of the wind and, with some luck, even a rock or tree trunk to lean against. And no stickies, bugs, or poison oak. In fact, the deer have usually found it already and have trampled down a nice, level spot.

Anyway, our visitors finally chose the steps of the ranch house. I had some other places in mind, but they liked that one.

I looked up from stocking the beverage cooler and saw them, smiling and trying to keep talking through chattering teeth. I could see it wasn't really working out and, looking to the side at the tack room, I remembered that Eric had



The stove

Photo by Heather Ambler

advised me to make a fire in the cast iron stove if it got cold. Well, it was cold.

Cynthia went outside to invite the visitors to finish their picnic inside, on the table by the stove, while I laid a fire and got it going. Luckily I have the knack, though it isn't really hard. The cold ashes from last time go in the bucket, then crumpled paper first, followed by splinters of kindling, small wood, bigger wood, and a couple of fair-sized pieces of split firewood. There are always matches in the drawer under the cash register. It is easy in that stove; the end and the lid open up, and the shovel and fire mitt are very handy. Also, the draft is excellent and the fire catches right up.

By this time, the visitors were digging into their lunches, warm and happy, thanking Cynthia over and over.

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Winter Warmth continued....

It is funny that I hadn't thought of it since, but my mind flashed back to my very first visit to the park on a winter day quite a few years back. We saw a bobcat lounging not ten feet from the Monument Trail who was so undisturbed by our passing he actually yawned. But by the time we'd hiked the Middle Ridge Trail we were good and cold. Like so many first-time park visitors we had miscalculated the ridgetop weather, judging it by temperatures on the floor of Santa Clara Valley below Pine Ridge. The volunteer on duty that day took one look at our shivering misery and set to work firing up the woodstove—the very one I had just fired up, and for the very same reason. It only looks small; its fiery heart makes the whole visitor center toasty.



A warm glow, photo by Heather Ambler

Now it's winter again and the sight and smell of woodsmoke rising from the chimney is better than all the "open" signs in the world.

By the Light of the Moon

By Chere Bargar

Several friends and I set a goal in 2010 to ride our horses on the eve of the full moon every month of the year in Hunting Hollow at Coe Park. Our numbers ranged from four to a dozen, with Carol Abel, Judy Hayamizu, Kitty Swindle, and Chere Bargar making all twelve rides. Judy rode a different horse each month, all with a bareback pad. Kitty's grandson, Nathaniel, rode with us twice. September's ride was open to the public and Chere's son, Scott, and his girlfriend, Victoria, were visiting and joined us. It had been a number of years since either of them had ridden.

We named each moon. We saw "night critters," such as the skunk that we waited for patiently until he moved off the trail, also a fox, bats, and deer. We saw gorgeous sunsets and moon shadows. One woman gets vertigo when riding in the dark, which was a little perplexing until we figured it out.

Mother Nature treated us well with good weather. The only time we got rained on was in December. When we rode out, it was warm and gorgeous. The creek crossings were wide with swiftly running water. About five minutes after we turned around to start back, the rain came down in a torrent. The horses wanted to turn with tails to the wind, but they soon got headed in the right direction and we hustled for the parking lot.

We all have good memories of our rides by the light of the full moon.



News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

It's a brand new year! Several changes are in the works:

- As we move forward on the four levels of public access for Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (GYHS), we're delighted to see construction in progress so that level 1 day use will become a reality as soon as our camp host is in residence.
- Level 2 guided tours continue with school groups, the latest being San Jose State University interior design students who envision a spa retreat center that just might attract a concessionaire to make it happen. We also plan to schedule regular tours. With sufficient trained volunteers, we can have monthly or biweekly tours. Would you be interested in becoming a GYHS docent? Please let us know and we'll be in touch about training.
- Level 3 rental use conversations are in progress with various groups. Imagine retreats, company and family picnics, group outings, and more, combined with volunteer service and outdoor mineral water soaks. Do you have a group that might be interested in organizing an event?
- Level 4 volunteer and community full moon campouts are scheduled, and we welcome the new association with Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers (ROMP), some of whose members already participate in the mountain bike patrols.

Full Moon Campouts

You can now register for this year's full moon campouts. Coe Park volunteers participate at the discounted rate of \$20/person. The schedule for campouts is as follows; dates of the full moon are in parentheses:

April 16-18, 22-24 (Sunday April 17)

May 13-15, 20-22 (Tuesday May 17)

June 10-12, 17-19 (Wednesday June 15)

July 15-17 (Friday July 15)

August 12-14 (Saturday August 13)

September 9-11, 16-18 (Monday September 12)

October 7-9, 14-16 (Tuesday October 11)

November 11-13 (Thursday November 10)

Third Annual GYHS Walk Through History

Please mark your calendars for our third annual GYHS Walk Through History on **Saturday May 14th** from 8:00am-4:00pm. That's the Saturday after the Mother's Day weekend. Bring a picnic and join us for guided tours, entertainment, displays, and a relaxed day with family and friends. Volunteers are needed and camping is available for a limited number of people, also late evening and early morning soaks. Day admission is \$5 per person; overnight camping is \$20 per person.

Memberships

Membership in Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs (FOGHS) includes membership in the Pine Ridge Association, together with all its associated benefits. If you're already a PRA member, only \$15 more adds FOGHS priority reservations to your benefits. In both cases, the membership runs through the calendar year (January to December). If you've received a renewal form from the PRA, you can pay it and then send your FOGHS membership of \$15 to P.O. Box 1745, Gilroy, CA 95020-1745, letting us know you're also a PRA member. For new members, we'll continue to forward the corresponding amount to the PRA.

For more information, see www.FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org, email info@friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org, or call 408-314-7185.

First in a Series of Prescribed Burns of the Western Zone Complex

By Chris Weske

After a year of planning and extensive last-minute preparations, the south-facing slope of Blue Ridge was burned on November 5th, 2010. This burn was plot #1 of a series of five burn plots planned for the western zone complex. By burning under prescribed conditions, we hope to reduce the fuel loads under the Ponderosa Pines and Big Berry Manzanitas and thus reduce the mortality rate should a wildfire occur.

At 8:40 a.m. on November 5th, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District gave its permission to burn 1,000 acres. At 10:54 a.m. the fire was set by crews lighting along Blue Ridge Road and backing the fire down off the ridge. Doing this created a wide fire line that allowed us to return and light the interior of the plot with less concern about the fire jumping the road. Going was slow as the humidity dropped into the mid to upper 20s, and the fire spotted across the line in a couple of places. Quick action by engine crews and helicopter water drops brought things back under control. By the end of a long, 14 hour day we had a black line along Blue Ridge Road.

Saturday morning dawned cool, damp, and overcast. With only a skeleton crew from Cal Fire, State Parks, and Spring Valley, we began ignition along Poverty Flat Road coming down from Jackass Trail. We soon had reports of rainfall in Hollister and soon after had sprinkles on the burn plot. Just as crews were preparing to pull out of the project, the clouds parted and the sun came out. Burn conditions quickly improved and we completed ignition along Poverty Flat Road. After the perimeter of the plot was black-lined, a Cal Fire helicopter lit the interior of the plot.

On Sunday morning, steady rain moved in but did not extinguish the fire. By the following Friday, November 12th, the fuel had dried out and the smoldering fires came back to life. With strong winds blowing across the plot through the weekend of November 13th and 14th, several areas kept burning. On Saturday night the glow was enough to catch the



Blue Ridge prescribed burn, photo by Chris Weske

attention of a passing aircraft but the fire was found to be well inside the lines and allowed to burn out.

Long-time park supporter Bob Patrie did his magic with satellite imagery and produced a burn intensity map of the project. Bob's map and aerial photos taken by Cal Fire indicate that 50–75 percent of the plot burned. It appears that this was mostly a low-intensity, understory burn although some pockets of chaparral burned with higher intensity. The rain on Sunday November 7th washed much of the ash down into the soil and a week later a crop of new grass began to emerge.

Fire crews from Cal Fire and State Parks participated, with assistance from crews from Marin County, Santa Clara County, San Jose, Gilroy, the city of Santa Clara, and Spring Valley. Most of the State Parks Santa Cruz District fire crews were tied up on a prescribed burn in Big Basin, and most of Cal Fire's crews had been laid off at the end of the fire season. Some crews attended on their own time because of overtime restrictions. This project would not have happened without the assistance of the local agencies.

The PRA Calendar

Mark your calendars—important dates

Saturday March 5, *Trail work day*, meeting at Hunting Hollow entrance, 8.30am. For more information call Chere Bargar 408-683-2247

Saturday March 12, *Spring at Coe Park*. This weekend marks the beginning of the interpretive programs at Coe Park. There are guided hikes on Saturdays, an evening program at the visitor center on Saturday evenings, and wildflower walks on Sundays. There are also activities starting out of the Hunting Hollow entrance. The schedule of the spring programs will be posted on www.coepark.org or call the visitor center 408-779-2728 to find out more.

Saturday March 26, *Ranch Day* (April 2 rain date). Hunting Hollow entrance, 10am until 3pm. See www.coepark.org for more information or call Chere Bargar 408-683-2247

Saturday April 9, *Spring trail day*, meeting at Hunting Hollow entrance, 9am. Contact Rob Glover at wrglover@yahoo.com for more information and to sign up. Visit www.coepark.org to find out more.

Annual park events coming up...

Friday April 29 through Sunday May 1 is the *Coe Backcountry Weekend*. This event is always very popular and fills up quickly; admission is by a lottery system. This year's event will be starting earlier, allowing backpackers and campers entry at 1.00pm on the Friday. For additional information please visit www.coepark.org or call the visitor center at 408-779-2728.

Annual park events continued...

Sunday May 8, *Mother's Day Breakfast*. Once again this event will take place at Ridgeview campsite. Tickets for this event will go on sale online mid-April. **Information regarding ordering tickets will be posted on the website www.coepark.org in early April.** The event sells out very quickly, so get your tickets early! For more information visit: www.coepark.org or call the visitor center at 408-779-2728.

Saturday June 11, *Hunting Hollow 5K/10K walk and fun run*. You can register for this fun event at www.coepark.org and download an entry form.

Upcoming horse-related events

March 26, Ranch Day, Hunting Hollow
April 2, Ranch Day (rain date)
April 10, wildflower ride, Hunting Hollow

For more information regarding any of the horse-related events please contact Chere Barger at 408-683-2247

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the new members listed below. Thank you for your support

Carol and Ed Ferri, Gilroy
Lynn Tahernia, Morgan Hill

We need your help to keep our membership list current and accurate. If you are a paid annual member, your *Ponderosa* mailing label includes an expiration date. (No expiration date for life members, electronic mailing or organizations.) If you have any question regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of address, please contact us:

Email: membership@coepark.org
US mail: 9100 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Phone: 408-779-2728



Gilroy Hot Springs

May 14, 2011

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

“A Walk Through History”

WHAT: Displays, docent lead tours, music, dance, 1860-1960s period costumes encouraged

WHERE: Gilroy Hot Springs, a part of the Henry Coe State Park, at the end of Gilroy Hot Springs Road, Gilroy

RESERVATIONS: (408) 314-7185 or (925) 837-1024

or email: info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org

Adults and teens \$5 / under 12 free with adult

Tour optional; Ask about accessibility

One Day Only! Bring a picnic lunch, friends & chairs! Stay all day!

Parking free but limited – please carpool

Proceeds benefit Friends Of Gilroy Hot Springs (FOGHS) efforts to preserve, protect, and restore public access to this historical resort



FOGHS is part of the Pine Ridge Assn., a non-profit official State Parks organization for Henry Coe Park



www.FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org

info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org

Photos courtesy of Gilroy Historic Museum

Preliminary 2010 Financial Report of the Pine Ridge Association

Summary

As expected, 2010 was another challenging year relative to income and donations for the Pine Ridge Association. Income decreased by almost \$7,000 during the year, due primarily to lower donations, PRA dues, and visitor center sales. These decreases, we believe, are a reflection of the continued difficult economic times in California.

However, program service revenue, particularly with regard to the 5K/10K Run and Mother's Day Breakfast, increased over 5% from 2009 levels. This increase was surprising considering the current economic environment in California, and is a reflection of the diligence and efforts made by all the volunteers associated with these programs.

In addition, the Pine Ridge Association created a surplus of \$26,812 in the year. This was accomplished by a sharp decrease in expenses, an increase in our investment income, and the sale of donated equities. Summary numbers are presented in Figure 1.

In summary, our surplus was accomplished through a combination of strong work by the volunteer organization on program revenue, coupled with good investment income results.

The balance sheet summary, shown in Figure 2, is a reflection of these events. We ended the year with total assets of \$532,205 with no liabilities. The quality and safety of our balance sheet also improved, with our liquid assets increasing by almost \$29,000, while our illiquid assets (visitor center inventory and fixed assets) decreased by over \$7,000.

Issues for 2011

By all accounts, 2011 will be another challenging year for income and donations. In addition, there will be increased expenses relative to enhanced efforts on the Pine Ridge Association web site, as well as increased support for interpretive programs at Coe Park. Also, we will not be collecting significant money from this year's backcountry weekend as a result of the cancellation of the 2010 event due to rain. The money received from visitors for the 2010 event will be applied to their 2011 visits, thus providing no income for that event in 2011 even as we incur expenses as we host the backcountry weekend.

The cumulative impact of these cost increases will be approximately \$40,000 more spending in CY 2011 than in CY2010.

Preliminary PRA Operating Statement CY2010		
Ordinary Income/Expense	2009	2010
Income		
Total 230000 - Donations	\$14,142	\$11,506
230100 - Program Service Revenue		
230122 - Mother's Day Breakfast Donation	\$3,752	\$4,890
230123 - Backcountry Weekend Event	\$13,184	\$10,875
230124 - Coe Park First Aid Training	\$0	\$0
230125 - T Fest and Fall BBQ	\$4,172	\$3,842
230126 - Event, 10K Run / Walk	\$6,478	\$7,437
230127 - Fundraiser, raffle	\$0	\$1,090
230128 - Coe Connections	\$350	\$300
230133 - Coe Barn Dance/Poker in Park	\$0	\$365
230134 - Equestrian Programs	\$550	\$250
230512 - Packard Summer Learning	\$0	\$1,000
Total Program Service Revenue	\$28,486	\$30,049
Total 240000 - PRA Dues	\$8,850	\$7,155
Total 4000 - Visitor Center Sales	\$30,827	\$26,812
Total Income	\$82,305	\$75,522
Cost of Goods Sold		
Total 5000 - Cost of Goods Sold	\$21,579	\$18,768
Gross Profit	\$60,726	\$56,754
Total Expense	\$70,689	\$50,927
Net Ordinary Income	(\$9,963)	\$5,826
Other Income / (Expense)		
Total 8000 Realized Gain on Sale of Donated Equity	\$0	\$15,000
Total 7000 - Total Invest Income	\$7,517	\$5,217
Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$2,446)	\$26,043

Figure 1: Operating Statement

Continued on page 8....

Preliminary 2010 Financial Report of the Pine Ridge Association continued....

To offset these increases, revenue from all of our “usual” sources is expected to increase by approximately \$8,000, largely as a result of the sale of previously donated equities, offset by the increased spending associated with the CY 2011 backcountry weekend. If our organization did nothing else with respect to increasing revenue, therefore, the Pine Ridge Association would have a deficit in CY 2011 of approximately \$32,000, leaving us with a CY2011 year-end asset base of approximately \$500,000.

To compensate for these projected increased expenses and reduced income/donations, the PRA has established a committee to capture corporate grants for 2011 and beyond. The committee’s CY2011 goal is to secure \$25,000 from corporate sponsors.

Dan McCranie, treasurer, Pine Ridge Association

PRA Preliminary Balance Sheet for CY 2010		
ASSETS		
	2010	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	(\$)	(%)
Bank of America Accounts	\$122,342	23.0%
Money Market Accounts	\$210,226	39.5%
PayPal Account	\$2,994	0.6%
Cash	\$469	0.1%
Proceeds from Equity Sale	\$13,500	2.5%
Total Cash/Cash Equivalents	\$349,531	65.7%
Investment Vehicles		
Large Cap Equities	\$22,601	4.2%
Bond Fund	\$68,198	12.8%
Small Cap Equities	\$0	0.0%
Total Investment Vehicles	\$90,799	17.1%
TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS	\$440,330	82.7%
Visitor Center Inventory	\$77,509	14.6%
Fixed Assets	\$14,366	2.7%
TOTAL ILLIQUID ASSETS	\$91,875	17.3%
TOTAL ASSETS	\$532,205	100.0%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0	0.0%

Figure 2: Balance Sheet

What’s Blooming Now

by Heather Ambler

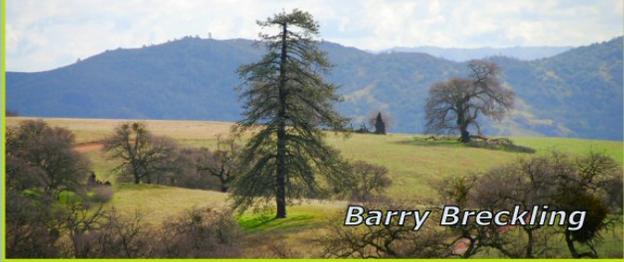
Spring is in the air, wildflowers are blooming, including the Lowland Shooting Star, Bigberry Manzanita, Milkmaids, Miner’s Lettuce, Hound’s Tongue, Woodland Shooting Star, Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry, Blue Dick, Johnny Jump-Ups, Buttercups, White Baby Blue Eyes, and many more.

To see a full list of wildflowers currently blooming in Coe Park, visit www.coepark.org/wildflowers/blooming.html.



Lowland Shooting Star, photo by Heather Ambler

Nature Notes



Barry Breckling

Tick Talk

Tim arrived home after a late-winter hike in Coe Park. As he settled into his recliner, his thoughts returned to the exhilarating hike and the thrill of the fast flowing streams. During the evening news, he felt an odd itch on the back of his neck. When he scratched the spot, he dislodged something with his fingernail and gave it a look. A tiny dark round creature with busy little legs. "Oh no! I bet this is one of those Deer Ticks that give you Lyme disease. It must have dropped out of a tree onto my neck."

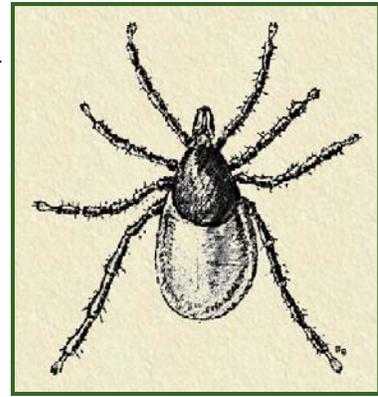
So, are there Deer Ticks in the Bay Area? No, but there is a close relative. And, do ticks actually drop from trees? Highly unlikely. The adults of some tick species do climb, but only to the top of lower vegetation, typically grass, where they wait, with outstretched legs, to grab onto passersby. And, they can easily crawl from your pants leg up your clothing to your neck without your knowing.

Of the over 20 tick species in the Bay Area, only a small number bite humans. The Western Black-legged Tick, *Ixodes pacificus*, is one of the most common species, and it's the only western tick that transmits Lyme disease to humans. The Deer Tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, an eastern species, is the only tick east of the Rockies that transmits Lyme disease to people.

A tick inserts its barbed snout into its victim's skin. The barbs, along with cementing secretions, make the tick difficult to remove. Its saliva, which it injects into the prey, contains anticoagulants, an anesthetic, blood vessel dilators, digestive enzymes, and, on occasion, disease organisms.

After sucking the prey's blood, females drop off and lay thousands of eggs on the ground. The eggs hatch into larvae that eventually molt into nymphs. These younger stages of the Black-legged Tick feed on the blood of lizards, birds, and small mammals.

Although the Black-legged Tick can transmit a number of diseases, Lyme disease has gotten the most press, and rightfully so. It's the most common vector-transmitted disease in the United States. The disease was misdiagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis until the 1982 discovery of the true culprit, a spiral-shaped bacterium named *Borrelia burgdorferi*.



Western Black-legged Tick
Artist, Barry Breckling

Early Lyme disease symptoms, occurring 3 to 30 days after the bite, can include a red "bull's-eye" rash with a clear area in the middle, muscle and joint pain, fever, and chills. Later symptoms include headaches and facial paralysis, and in the last stages, chronic arthritis, fatigue, and memory loss.

In some New England states, up to 60 percent of Deer Ticks carry Lyme disease, but the incidence of the disease in California's Western Black-legged Ticks is rarely above 5 percent. Why so low? Western Fence Lizards account for part of the explanation. In the 1990s, scientists discovered that the blood of the Western Fence Lizard, one of the most common hosts for the larval and nymphal stages of the Black-legged Tick, contains a substance that kills Lyme disease bacteria. The bacteria injected into the lizard's blood die, and the tick's body is cleansed of the bacteria when the lizard's blood enters the tick.

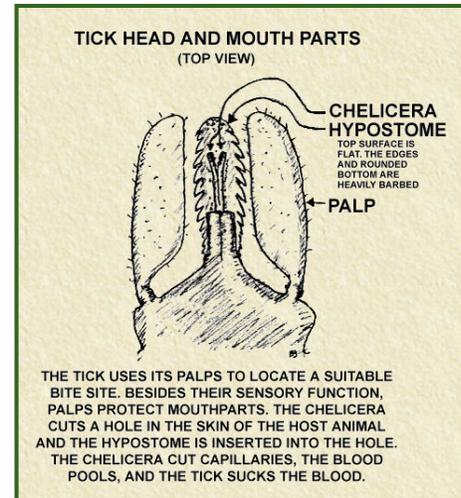
The younger stages of Black-legged Ticks crawl onto prey from leaf litter, logs, and such. We rarely notice the nymphal stage because of their small size, and they seldom bite humans. In the East, bites by Deer Tick nymphs are more common, which contributes to a higher incidence of Lyme disease in New England.

Your chances of getting Lyme disease in the Bay Area are slim, and you can use simple precautions to avoid being bitten. In the wetter months, when ticks are most common, consider using repellants containing DEET or permethrin. Avoid brushing against vegetation along the edge of the trail and don't sit in areas with leaf litter. Wear long pants, tuck your pants into your socks to keep ticks on the outside, and check for ticks when you're outdoors and after you get home.

Tick Talk Continued....

Prompt removal of ticks is important because ticks must be attached for several hours before they can transmit Lyme disease. Several tick removal myths, such as applying Vaseline, kerosene, alcohol, or hot objects to ticks, simply don't work. Antibiotics, when taken early, successfully kill Lyme disease bacteria and prevent the disease.

For more information on ticks see the longer [ARTICLE](#) from a past Ponderosa at www.coepark.org/tick-info.html or checkout this [WEBSITE](#):
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7485.html>.



Coe Park Slide Collection Up and Running

By Carolyn Straub

Henry W. Coe State Park's slide collection containing more than 1,200 color images is now available on the computer in the PRA office at the visitor center. These slides were converted from slides stored for years in the park's archives. Go to "My Computer," then "PRA-Data (D)," then "Slide Collection." There are seven main folders labeled activities, animals, annual events, astronomy, history, plants, and scenes. Each folder has several sub-folders arranged by subject.

You can find, for example, beautiful photos of wildflowers, birds, and mammals. Also, amphibians, reptiles, insects, butterflies, and a set of 84 historical slides for use in programs at the park.

If you are searching for a particular name or subject and cannot find it, try "Search" on the desktop and use a keyword. Your chosen subjects slide, if available, should come up together with its location.

The collection is not complete; there are more than 600 slides still to be entered.

The collection can be used for educational and interpretive programs by park staff and volunteers, and has taken more than a year to catalog. For more information, contact Carolyn Straub, PRA volunteer, at castraub@earthlink.net.



Tidy Tip, a regular bloomer in Coe Park



A mountain lion, photographed by a hiker in Coe Park, circa 2008

News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

There have been two meetings of the board of directors of the Pine Ridge Association since the last issue of *The Ponderosa*, on November 17, 2010 and January 19, 2011. A summary report of business from those meetings follows:

- Ron Erskine and Diana Maloney were re-elected to the board of directors, and Steve McHenry was elected for the first time. Rob Glover was appointed to complete the term of John Wilkinson. Paul Nam was elected president and Ron Erskine was elected vice president. Winslow Briggs was reappointed secretary and Dan McCranie was reappointed treasurer.
- The volunteer committee will be chaired by Linda Keahey, Bill Frazer will be vice-chair. Although there was not a volunteer class in 2010, volunteer training is scheduled to take place as usual in 2011.
- Treasurer Dan McCranie presented a proposed budget for 2011 to be reviewed by the board and approved at the March meeting. The board has operated without a budget in the past and has authorized expenditures on an as-needed basis. Without some new sources of income, Dan expects the PRA to show an operating loss for 2011. At the January meeting, it was decided that Dan will present a plan to seek significant donations from corporate donors to remedy this shortfall.
- The board debated a very difficult issue. State Parks are terribly underfunded, even in good times, but are experiencing unprecedented budget cuts. The Pine Ridge Association has been very cautious, even miserly, in using association funds for purposes generally considered to be the responsibility of the state. Many other associations routinely fund full-time state park positions for tasks related to their interpretive purpose. The PRA never has. After lengthy discussion, the board unanimously approved a total of \$25,000 to fund both one park aid for nine months and 500 hours of State Parks Interpreter Sheila Golden's salary, all of which will be spent at Coe Park. Coe Park has had three park aids in the past; the PRA contribution will fund one park aid, which will free Ranger John Verhoeven to perform the ranger tasks he has not been able to carry out. This commitment is for a single year and was unanimously approved with caution and with full awareness of the implications, but the board felt that our basic interpretive task would be unacceptably hindered without this basic staffing. To compensate for these expenses, the board also committed to developing a program to obtain significant corporate donations to bolster the PRA coffers.
- Barbara Bessey, Rob Glover, and Manny Pitta reported that work on the new PRA website is progressing very well. The look and features of the site are excellent and uploading content will not require special knowledge, just word-processing skills. Work by an expert on search engine optimization will enhance the chances of a hit for any general search engine inquiry for the attractions Coe Park offers.

All members of the Pine Ridge Association are welcome to attend meetings of the board of directors. The next meeting of the board will take place at 7:00pm on Wednesday, March 9th in the EOC Room, Morgan Hill Police Department, 16200 Vineyard Boulevard, Morgan Hill.

Ron Erskine
President, Board of the Pine Ridge Association



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Morgan Hill, CA
Permit No. 160

Pine Ridge Association
Henry W. Coe State Park
9100 East Dunne Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

408-779-2728
www.coepark.org

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PRA Board of Directors

Paul Nam, President
Ron Erskine, Vice President
Winslow Briggs, Secretary
Dan McCranie, Treasurer
Diana Maloney
Rob Glover
Steve McHenry
Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger
Linda Keahey, Chair, Volunteer
Committee

Your Volunteer Committee

Linda Keahey, Chair
Bill Frazer, Vice Chair
Liz Brinkman
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The Ponderosa is a quarterly publication of the Pine Ridge Association. The PRA's mission is to enhance and enrich the public's experience at Henry W. Coe State Park through education and interpretation. Articles and artwork relating to the natural history, history, and management of the park are welcome. Also, interested in volunteering? Email Linda Keahey, jodielifindak@sbcglobal.net

Please send submissions and ideas to the editor at: PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net.

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