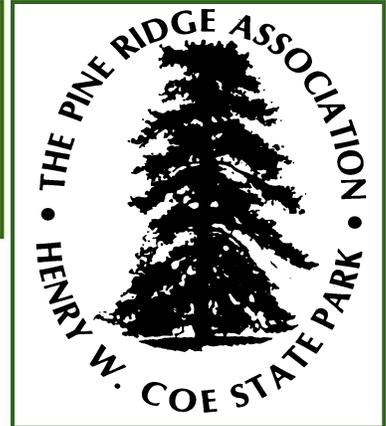


The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park



Early Spring 2013



Major General Jackson and CPPF board members gather for the signing of the amendment to the donation agreement to keep Coe Park open, Sacramento, December 2012. Photo courtesy of Roy Stearns.

Coe Park Preservation Fund Update

By Winslow Briggs

On December 19, 2012 several members of the Board of the Coe Park Preservation Fund traveled to Sacramento to meet with the recently appointed Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Major General Anthony Jackson, and the newly appointed Deputy Director, Aaron Robertson. The purpose of the meeting was to renegotiate the Donation Agreement between the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Coe Park Preservation Fund that was signed in December 2011 in light of the recently passed assembly bill AB 1478. This bill stipulates that no park may be closed for fiscal years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Further, matching funds amounting to \$10 million will be used to match contributions already given to the state prior to the discovery of an additional \$20 million not reflected in the department's current budget calculations. The board reasoned that had the Coe Park Preservation Fund not made its significant contribution, the state would have provided Coe Park with full funding for two years. Board members felt that the \$279,000 that they had already donated for the current fiscal year should be matched and that we should also be guaranteed two full years of state support—something that was to be provided for parks that were not successful in their fund-raising efforts to keep the parks open.

Continued on page 2...

Inside this issue:

Coe Park Preservation Fund Update 1, 2
by Winslow Briggs

Clearing Timm Trail 3
by Ken Hulick

Pollination Situations 4
by Barry Breckling

Class of 2013 photograph 5
by Dick Rawson

New Events in 2013: Coe Outings 5
by Ron Erskine

Eddie Guaracha's Promotion 6
by Libby Vincent

Spring Programs 6
by Ranger Jen

Coe Park Events and Information 7

News from FoGHS 8, 9
by Laura Dominguez-Yon

Coe Park Preservation Fund Update continued....

On that chilly December day, we were met by Director Jackson and Deputy Director Robertson expecting a possibly tense negotiating session during our hour's appointment. Our anxiety was short lived. We were welcomed by two people already prepared to sign our proposed amendment. A short and gratifying signing ceremony took place immediately, immortalized by a photograph that's now on display in the Coe Park visitor center. There followed two hours of discussion about the current status and the present predicament of state parks and several phone conversations with various newspaper reporters to get some good coverage of our agreement. We departed with a strong conviction that the Department of Parks and Recreation is in excellent hands.

According to the amendment, Coe Park will remain open with full staffing (two rangers, two seasonal aids, and a maintenance person) for fiscal 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Half of our donation will be used each of the two years with the state providing the remainder. The department also guarantees that the park will remain open for an additional two years (2014-2015 and 2015-2016). State Parks is unable to guarantee full staffing during the third and fourth years because there is not yet any budgetary information available for those two years. However, it is clear that their intention is to do their very best to keep up full funding for Coe Park through June 30, 2016.

The Board of the Coe Park Preservation Fund is elated at this outcome and optimistic about the future—not just for Coe Park but for California State Parks in general.

You can read or download PDFs of the original agreement and the amendment at www.coeparkfund.org.

Major General Jackson and Ann Briggs sign the amendment to the donation agreement, Sacramento, December 2012.

Photo courtesy of Roy Stearns.



Clearing Timm Trail

By Ken Hulick

On a threatening but ultimately very nice day in December, Mike Meyer, Ted Tawshunsky, Sue Dekalb, Jodie and Linda Keahey, Bruce Coffman, and I gathered at Hunting Hollow, had a few warm biscuits for extra energy, and headed for the Timm Trail, which offers an alternative to part of Spike Jones Trail near the Coyote Creek entrance. We planned to remove several downed trees on the Timm Trail that were blocking the trail to horses and making life difficult for hikers and mountain bikers.

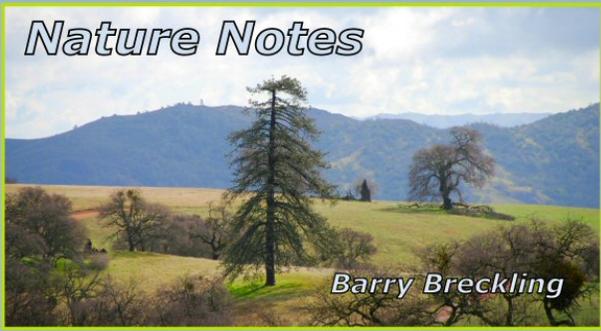
We started work on the downed trees with the crosscut saw called "Big Mike." Knowing how much energy each cut with the saw takes, we talked over our tactics and rotated our crew as we worked to make sure everyone was equally exhausted. The really slick move involved cutting a limb that was about 1.5 feet in diameter and six feet off the ground so that the top of the tree pulled itself down the hill, getting it off the trail and out of the way. We then had to make only one more cut to move the largest log off the trail. Safety was paramount as a wrong move could cause serious injury. We came through unscathed, the trail was cleared, and we had a little help from two mountain bikers who came down the trail just in time to help us roll a large log off the trail. They were very appreciative of the work volunteers do to keep trails open, and with 300 miles of trails that maintenance can be a chore. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to working on the trails in Coe Park.

If you would like to work on trails, please contact me, Rob Glover, or Mike Meyer. We would love to have you join us.



Photos by Sue Dekalb

Nature Notes



Barry Breckling

The relationship between flowers and their pollinators is often fascinating. Flowers go to great lengths to attract pollinators. They use bright-colored petals, perfumed aromas, sweet nectar, and protein-packed pollen. Flowers have intricate designs that make the efforts of insect pollinators more efficient. For example, many flowers have nice landing pads with “nectar guidelines” that show insects the way to the goodies. The petals of many bee-pollinated flowers turn red after they’re pollinated. Bees don’t see red and thus they don’t waste time on flowers that can’t be pollinated.

POLLINATION SITUATIONS

BETLE POLLINATED

- Flowers produce large quantities of pollen.
- Little or no nectar produced.
- Mostly large single flowers.
- Fruity smell.

Beetles feed on pollen, not nectar



poppy, cactus, dogwood

BUTTERFLY POLLINATED

- Flowers can be fragile and small.
- Large flat landing areas.
- Long tube.

Butterflies are considered “illegitimate pollinators” because they feed on a wide variety of flowers, those with long tubes and those without. Their long proboscis is slick, and pollen doesn’t stick well to it.



phlox, linanthus, primroses

HUMMINGBIRD POLLINATED

- Flowers with long tubes that allow only hummingbirds access to the nectar.
- Red flowers or occasionally yellow.
- Stamen and stigma stick out. The face of the birds collects and deposits the pollen.
- Birds collect large quantities of thin nectar.
- Flowers usually without scent; hummingbirds have poorly developed sense of smell.
- Flowers without nectar guides.



California fuchsia, sticky monkeyflower, red larkspur, crimson columbine

BEE POLLINATED

- Showy flowers.
- Blue, purple, yellow flowers; not red flowers.
- Bees can see ultraviolet and many flowers we see as white are reflecting UV.
- Flowers fragrant.
- Often the plants are found in dry, open areas.
- Reward is nectar or pollen.
- Flowers have nectar guides. Bumblebees have long proboscises and can feed on flowers with long tubes. Bees sometimes bore a hole in the base of the flower and steal the nectar without pollinating the plant.



peas, lupines, violets

MOTH POLLINATED

- Flowers that open at night.
- Flowers white or very light colored so they are visible at night.
- Highly scented; the moth uses its antenna to detect the fragrance.
- Flowers often with simple structures
- Flowers may have long tubes that are the same length as the moth’s proboscis.

soap plant, jimson weed, evening snow



WIND POLLINATED

- Dull colors.
- No fragrance.
- Stigma large and feathery.
- Separate sexes.
- Fruit single seeded.
- Often lack petals and sepals.
- Oldest form of pollination.



oaks, grasses, pines



Congratulations to the Class of 2013 Volunteers

Top row (left to right): John Verhoeven; Pete Harper; Paul Gillot; David Cartwright; Chris Fent; Dan Healy; Manny Pitta

Bottom Row: Jill Newburn; Michael Hundt; Ewa Blalkowski; Susan Blake; Bob Kass; Buddy Schwabe

Missing: Bob Currier; Sandy Currier; Olga Eames; Lourdes Stone.

Photo by Dick Rawson

New Events in 2013: Coe Outings

By Ron Erskine

One of the great features of Henry W. Coe State Park is its enormous size. At 136 square miles, you know that true wilderness and genuine solitude are out there. But how far out there? Most visitors see only a small area of the park near the Dunne Avenue visitor center and the Hunting Hollow entrance. Few people have the chance to visit the park's vast and beautiful inner reaches.

Coe Outings aims to change that. Beginning in the spring and early summer of 2013, volunteers will lead guided trips into the backcountry of Coe Park by three different modes of travel: backpack, vehicle, or horseback. Features of the types of trip are different, but each includes at least one night camping out in the backcountry and includes most meals (except for backpacking). Members of the Pine Ridge Association receive a discount on the cost of each trip. In the first year, there will be only one date for each trip type, so don't wait. Dates are as follows:

Guided backpack trips, March 23 and 24, 2013

Guided backcountry ridealong and fishing tour, April 6 and 7, 2013

Guided equestrian outing, May 31-June 2, 2013

For full information, look for details on the Coe Park website at:

<http://coepark.net/pineridgeassociation/programs-events/coe-outings>.

Eddie Guaracha has been Promoted, Will be Leaving Coe Park

By Libby Vincent

Eddie Guaracha, Sector Superintendent who has been at Coe Park since 2007, has been promoted to District Superintendent of the Northern Buttes District and will be leaving Coe Park and the Gavilan Sector in the Monterey District. This from Park Operations in Northern Buttes:

“It’s with pleasure that I announce that Eddie Guaracha has been selected as District Superintendent for Northern Buttes District. Eddie began his career as a Park Aid at Hollister Hills before graduating from Basic Visitor Services Training in 1995. He was a State Park Ranger at Lake Perris SRA [State Recreation Area] from 1995-1997, Carnegie SVRA [State Vehicular Recreation Area] 1997-1999, and Chino Hills 1999-2000 before promoting to Supervising Ranger at Silverwood Lake in 2000. Eddie was a State Park Superintendent I at Mt. San Jacinto from 2003-2007 before promoting to State Park Superintendent II at Monterey District Gavilan Sector from 2007 to present. Eddie also has performed in an out-of-class Superintendent III role at Diablo Vista District. Please join me in welcoming Eddie to his new assignment at Northern Buttes District.”

And this from Eddie to the board of the PRA: “It is with great mixed emotions that I announce my promotion to the Northern Buttes District in Oroville. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with all of you at Henry W. Coe State Park! I have met a lot of passionate people supporting Coe and believe that tradition will not die. I will be working with Mat [Fuzie, Monterey District Superintendent] over the next several weeks on a transition plan, as my duties will focus on the Northern Buttes Operation. I will be attending special meetings in Northern Buttes in February, but will not be moving until mid-March.

“Thank you for your endless financial support for Coe and the countless hours of volunteering, sharing, imparting your wealth of knowledge of Coe with me and the countless park visitors. Without your direct involvement as the Pine Ridge Association Board, many of the past and current accomplishments could not have been achieved.”

Eddie, we congratulate you on this fine promotion and wish you much success in your new position. We have very much enjoyed working with you at Coe Park over the last six years and will miss your great support. All the very best to you; we look forward to keeping in touch.

Spring Programs

By Ranger Jen

Dear PRA members and volunteers:

Happy New Year’s to all of you. While the new year has just begun it will be spring before we know it and Coe Park will be bustling backpackers, day users, and campers. In order to make our visitors’ trips to Coe Park memorable we would like to continue providing them the opportunity to participate in guided walks, campfire programs, or other volunteer-led programs. During the month of February, Park Aide Kaela Henrickson and I will be meeting to begin planning the park’s calendar of programs. If you are interested in leading or assisting with a program, please contact me at Jennifer.naben@parks.ca.gov or call my cell phone at 831-901-6101.

Thanks, and see you out in the park.

Ranger Jen

Coe Park Events and Information

Mark your calendars—important dates and other announcements

Also see the Coe Activity Calendar at <http://www.coepark.org/calendar.html>

Trail work days

Meet at Hunting Hollow, 8.30am, on the following dates:

Saturday, February 16

Saturday, March 16

We will be working on the Cullen Trail. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215, or visit www.coepark.org.

New event – Rain Coats and Rubber Boots

Saturday, March 9, 10.00am at the Hunting Hollow entrance, rain or shine. We'll hike down the creek, scavenger hunt, perhaps enjoy a boat race or a duck race. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215, or visit

Annual park events coming up

Friday April 26 through Sunday April 28 is the *Coe Backcountry Weekend*. This event is always very popular and fills up quickly; admission is by a lottery system. Applications need to be postmarked by **February 28**. Once again, 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.

Sunday May 12, Mother's Day Breakfast. Once again this event will take place at Ridgeview campsite.

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 8, Hunting Hollow 5K/10K walk and fun run. You can register for this fun event at www.coepark.org and download an entry form. For more information email kfhowell@pacbell.net.

Ranch Day – new date (we're tired of fighting the rain)

Saturday, May 4, 10.00am – 3.00 pm at Hunting Hollow. (Rain date May 18.) We HOPE this works for all the fantastic volunteers who have helped make this event a success in the past. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247, Kitty at 408-842-6215 or visit www.coepark.org.

June Bloom – Hunting Hollow

This event will take place on Saturday June 15, 22, or 29 (one of these dates only), depending on when the wavy-leaf soap root plant decides to bloom. The hike will start at 6.45pm so we can enjoy these beautiful night-blooming flowers. Check www.coepark.org, upcoming events, as the date gets closer to learn the actual date. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215.

Special Announcement

Dan McCranie, long-time treasurer of the Pine Ridge Association (PRA), will vacate his position on May 1st, 2013.

Dan, we thank you for all your hard work as treasurer of the PRA over the last many years. We have been most fortunate to have you and are enormously grateful for all you have contributed. We're especially pleased that you will continue to be active with the PRA in other ways.

The board of the PRA is now seeking someone with accounting skills, enthusiasm, and integrity to serve as PRA treasurer. It would be ideal if the candidate were to start early in 2013 and work with Dan through tax season to learn the ropes.

If you're interested, or know of someone who might be interested, in serving as treasurer, please contact Steve McHenry at stephen.l.mchenry@gmail.com.



News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

In order to continue the efforts to protect, preserve, and restore public access to Gilroy Yamoto Hot Springs (GYHS):

- 1) Activities at GYHS are currently currently performed as Coe Park uniformed volunteers, not as Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs.
- 2) Currently, we are under the umbrella of the Pine Ridge Association, reporting to the PRA board and submitting money to the PRA treasurer. As part of the PRA, comprehensive insurance may cover activities (with the exception of organized water activities). The PRA is not responsible for our expenses.
- 3) Below is a list of proposed activities and 2013 dates for GYHS.
- 4) Fees paid by participants are expected to cover expenses. Fundraising will cover other costs. Fundraising includes donations, sponsorship and advertising, and product sales.
- 5) Items including note cards, buttons, T-shirts, and posters and are sold at events, in person, or via the website.

Proposed Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs 2013 Activities

Monthly Guided Tours

First Saturday of each month, on demand. Reservations required

Full Moon Campouts

March 22-24 (Palm Sunday, full moon 3/27)

April 26-28 (Earth Day, full moon 4/25)

June 21-23 (first day of summer, full moon 6/23)

July 19-21 (full moon 7/22)

August 16-18 (full moon 8/20)

September 20-22 (full moon 9/19)

October 18-20 (full moon 10/18)

Combine volunteer work, swimming in Coyote Creek, and enjoying Henry W. Coe State Park with onsite camping. Limited to park-approved volunteers.

Fifth Annual GYHS Walk Through History and GYHS Travel Through History

May 25, Saturday (full moon 5/24); corresponds with the campout.

October 19, Saturday (full moon 10/18); corresponds with the campout.

Holiday Weekend Campouts

May 24-27, Memorial Day weekend, Friday 3pm – Monday 3pm

July 4-7, Independence Day weekend, Wednesday 3pm – Sunday 3pm. Four nights, higher rate; no fireworks allowed.

August 30-September 2, Labor Day weekend, Friday 3pm – Monday 3pm.

These events are limited to Coe Park volunteers. Same as full moon campouts with an extra day during the busy holiday weekend. Bring your own equipment, food, drinking water, tools. Plenty of time to contribute volunteer work, enjoy the park, and maybe swim in Coyote Creek.

Continued on page 9....

News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs continued....

Volunteer Work Days

April 20 (Earth Day 4/22)

September 21 (fall solstice 9/22)

Bring your own lunch, snacks, and drinking water, work gloves, gardening tools (shovel, hoe, rake, pruning and hedge clippers), no power tools unless you bring a generator and fuel. We're clearing pathways, underbrush, and possibly moving dirt away from structures. We are maintaining safety fencing. Bring swimsuit and towel; you can swim in a waterhole in Coyote Creek nearby after contributing some hours of labor. Mineral water soaks are not available at this time.

For more information, visit:

<http://friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org/>.

Please join the GYHS group!

Your \$20 senior / \$50 family contribution annually will help ensure the continued protection, preservation, and restoration of public access to Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs in Henry W. Coe Park.

Make checks payable to the Pine Ridge Association and add the note "for GYHS."



PRA New Members

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

Andy Butcher, Sunnyvale
Stephen Cameron, San Jose
Michael Hundt, San Jose
Susan Ness, Hayward
Michael & Jill Kilty Newburn, San Martin
David Reneau, Menlo Park
Celia Skipton, San Carlos

We need your help to keep our membership list current and accurate. If you have any question regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of mailing or email address, please contact us.

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



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

DATED MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY

PRA Board of Directors

Diana Maloney, President
Ron Erskine, Vice President
Steve McHenry, Secretary
Dan McCranie, Treasurer
Dan Benefiel
Ken Howell
Cynthia Leeder
Paul Liebenberg
Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger

Contributors for this issue

Heather Ambler, publisher
Libby Vincent, editor and author
Barry Breckling, author
Winslow Briggs, author
Sue Dekalb, photographer
Laura Dominguez-Yon, author
Ken Hulick, author
Jen Naber, author
Dick Rawson, photographer
Roy Stearns, photographer

Mailing & Distribution

Jodie Keahey
Linda Keahey
Margaret Mary McBride
Diane Scariot
Pat Sharfe
Martie Sinclair
Carolyn Straub
John Thatcher
Heather Ambler, e-distribution

PRA Volunteer Committee

Jim Wright, Chair
Liz Brinkman
Ken Howell
Cynthia Leeder
Manny Pitta
John Thatcher
John Verhoeven, Ranger

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 Jim Wright, jimtina@yahoo.com.

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

Deadline for the next issue: April 30, 2013

© 2013 The Pine Ridge Association