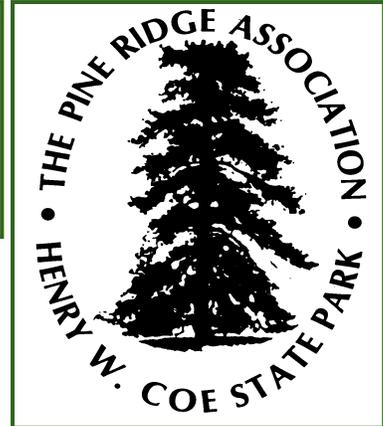


# The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter  
Henry W. Coe State Park



## John F. Wilkinson, 1940-2010

By Libby Vincent and Dmitry Nechayev



John Wilkinson was a long-time Sierra Club member and Pine Ridge Association member, and he was a huge fan of Coe Park. John was also a passionate and articulate spokesperson for wild places and for State Parks. He was actively involved in keeping high-speed rail planners from placing the route from the Central Valley across Coe Park, up Robison Canyon, and through the Thomas Addition. More recently, he became intensely active in getting the State Parks Access Pass initiative on the November ballot.

John was born and raised in California and had a Ph.D. in mathematics from Caltech. He was astonishingly bright but was also a very low key and unassuming person. John joined the Coe Park volunteer training program in the fall of 2008 and became active in 2009. He very much enjoyed being a uniformed volunteer and spent many hours staffing the visitor center. Bill Frazer remembers a shift with John in which John picked up the New York Times crossword puzzle at a quiet time and completed it in a few minutes. He was extraordinarily helpful to visitors, especially those wanting to visit remote corners of the park.

John was most passionate about wilderness trekking and backpacking, and was an extraordinarily

strong hiker. Libby remembers a hike with John in the White Mountains in September, 2003. On the Friday, John hiked up Mt. Whitney, on the Saturday he joined Libby in the White Mountains for the 50th anniversary celebration of Schulman's discovery of the age of the ancient bristlecone pines, and on the Sunday John and Libby climbed White Mountain, at 14,246 feet California's third highest peak. John got there first, of course, and by a long way. Not too many of us, let alone anyone over 60, could hike two 14,000+ peaks in three days.

Dmitry remembers especially three hikes with John, the first in March, 2001. This was an annual Sierra Club hike—one of the John's favorites in Coe Park—from Coyote Creek to Burra Burra and back on a circuitous route, a distance of 23 miles. This was Dmitry's first hike in the park:

"Little did I know about the real scale of the park and little did I and another 20 hikers know that an early spring hike would feel more like a mid-July hike with temperatures hovering in the low 90s well into the afternoon when we were still barely half way into the hike. Of all the hikers

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Fall 2010

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### John F. Wilkinson continued....

John seemed to be the least physically fit because he looked thin and somewhat frail. At first, he was even less convincing as a hike leader, almost unnoticeable and very unassuming. Yet, as the hike progressed and some were almost ready to panic over heat, lack of water, and miles to cover to the cars, only then John's calm confidence and amazing resilience emerged as the single most important factor that kept the group together and kept it moving."

Dmitry enjoyed a number of great hikes with John after that—in Coe Park, in the Sierras, even in Argentina, but his most memorable hike was in April 2006:

"The idea of crossing the most desolate and remote lands of the West came to us almost simultaneously and we spent about a year researching, scouting, and preparing for it. By the time we were ready to start the Owens Valley-Death Valley crossing, we still weren't entirely sure that all segments of our route were really passable. On day zero, while driving and setting up water caches, we got into a terrible storm and a blinding blizzard and almost miraculously made it out without losing the car. Day one greeted us with brilliantly clear skies and breathtaking views of the snow-covered Sierras. We spent the next five days in a state of such profound solitude and separation from the rest of the world that we spoke very little during the whole hike, we were simply too numbed and humbled by the whole experience. Later, John confessed that it was probably his most difficult yet his most rewarding trip."

Dmitry's last hike with John was this summer:

"I received an email from John proposing a hike in the Toiyabe Range yet when I met him a few days before the hike I was shocked by his thin and frail appearance. But fit and determined he was and I learned it very soon. John had spent several months in intense preparation for this trip, hiking and backpacking in Coe Park and beyond. One of his training feats was five days solo backpacking in Coe Park. The route he chose for the trip (he had visited the Toiyabe Range probably a dozen times before) was doubtless the most ambitious of anything he had done there previously: he intended to walk along the crest bagging two difficult summits on the



John atop Toiyabe Range Peak. July 2010

Photo by Dmitry Nechayev

way—French Peak and Toiyabe Range Peak. The hike appeared to be excruciatingly difficult for him, but he held on stubbornly, refusing any help. Only half way through the hike, after realizing that further progress along the crest would require mountaineering skills, time, and stamina that neither of us had by that time, we decided to drop down to the trail. Yet by that time John had stood on the summits of both French Peak and Toiyabe Range Peak and he seemed quite content with what we had accomplished. At our last campfire, John expressed the only deeply personal feelings I've heard from him in all those years. He said that the Toiyabes were the dearest to his heart and that he would love to come back here again and again. The last night and day were especially difficult for him as his health problems resurfaced, but when we parted ways, he was in a blissfully happy state of mind, already talking about the next trip. It was July 5th 2010 and this is how I will remember him."

John had signed up to staff the visitor center with Libby on August 21st. When Libby visited him on August 7th in the nursing home in Sunnyvale he'd been moved to, John said he still wanted to come up to the visitor center on the 21st. He understood that he wouldn't be able to staff it, but he said just to be there, to sit in the sun, and to enjoy the views and that place would be heaven.

John died on August 16th 2010. His death is a huge loss to his friends and to those who love wild places. A memorial gathering to celebrate John's life is pending.

# News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

## Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs Update

How do you change a liability into an asset? Last time, I wrote about three years of listening to concerns, questions, and ideas, and gave examples of shared dreams being fulfilled. Now I share my ideas for returning public access to Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (GYHS), funding its maintenance, and creating a visitors/activity center. Will these dreams be fulfilled?

The late Frank Shiavo, retired San Jose State University engineering instructor and leader in passive energy solutions and practices, suggested four levels of public access:

**Day use.** Parking at Hunting Hollow, hike or bike to GYHS; use of the access road and the area beside the barn for picnicking; public toilets available in the repaired cinderblock structure nearby. Day use to begin when the camp host is in place.

**Guided tours and special events.** Access to the restricted historic area; establishing a regular tour schedule (once or twice monthly); annual or biannual open-house events; other special interest events (workshops, campouts, fun runs, etc.); fees collected.

**Rental use.** Green events (leaving no environmental footprint; pack in/pack out); renter pays use fee plus costs for features (water, toilets, showers, tents, cleanup, etc.). Possibly market to high-profile people who value their health and their privacy, and who are willing and able to pay top dollar. Subcontractors to provide RV rental, food services, fitness and health services (mineral water soaks in a temporary portable tank, massage, yoga, martial arts, meditation, etc.). Renters to contribute volunteer hours or donations (monetary, materials, etc.).

**Volunteer and community recognition.** Reward volunteers and donors with opportunities for special events (company picnic, campouts with or without mineral water soaks).

A recent grant opportunity stimulated ideas for a GYHS visitors' activity center, utilizing the original, dirt-filled soaking tank as a presentation area and rebuilding the bleacher seats, boardwalk, and the oldest cabin on the site. Imagine outdoor education programs and other events here!

FoGHS extends heartfelt thank you's to the following people and organizations:

Dan McCranie for his recent donation for FoGHS operating costs.  
Paul and Chris Nam for contributing to the success of the full moon campouts.  
Henry Kato and Steve Knepper for sharing stories and logistical information.

The volunteers who helped protect GYHS from fire and rain: Chris Kangas, Anne Rosenzweig, Jim Williams, Eric Simonson, Brian Warkentine, Roy Ross, Brian Potter, Ross Finalyson Pablo Gonzales, Debbie Frederick, Paul Bryant, Janet Wagner, David Willis, Mika Obayashi, Cheena Shigematsu, Isaac Enlow, Ken Simon, Paul Liebenberg, Camille Moitozo.

Underwood & Rosenblum, Inc. for donating civil engineering and surveying expertise and labor.

State Parks staff Eddie Guaracha, Randy Neufeld, Joan Carpenter, and Eric Griggs and for supporting all the improvement efforts.

Special acknowledgements to Dean Yon for the planning, leadership, and hard labor he has provided, and to Tom Goold for substantial contributions and labor preparing the camp host site.

Support the FoGHS fundraiser **Tuesday, November 16** at Mimi's Restaurant, Gilroy. Fifteen percent of your sale is donated to FoGHS that day when orders are accompanied by the special flyer. See the enclosed flyer or download it from [www.friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org/mimis.htm](http://www.friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org/mimis.htm).

## Henry Coe State Park's Summer Enrichment Program a Success!

By Sheila Golden

This summer marked the second Summer Enrichment Program at Henry Coe State Park. With financial help from the Packard Foundation, Coe Park partnered with the Gilroy Unified School District's Super Power Summer Camp program, a summer component of their successful after-school program. Throughout the summer Elaine Hall, an Interpretation Specialist hired out of grant money to assist with the program, and I designed in-class programs and organized six field trips to Hunting Hollow for K-5th graders, and three overnights at Manzanita Point for middle schoolers.

Around 600 Gilroy students participated in the program and their families were given one-time parking passes to the park to encourage independent exploration of their local wilderness.

This year's program focused primarily on watershed

education and tracking skills. Students learned the important role that Coe Park's protected lands play in their own watershed. They were given interactive presentations and learned about Gilroy's watershed and the origins of their water. Students became



familiar with track and scat characteristics through games and labs in the classroom, and also had the opportunity to test their tap water. In the park, students conducted stream studies, testing water quality and looking for key insects and amphibians. They also checked out pictures taken by trail cameras of coyotes, bobcats, and foxes, and identified tracks left in sand.

The middle-school overnights were one-night programs that immersed students in field studies courses. Students learned about basic plant families, tree-ring dating, and using a dichotomous key. They also set up cameras and soot trays to keep track of a resident fox. With the help of resource aide Mason Hyland, students learned about pond quality and conducted pond surveys, and learned about resource management projects for Coe Park's pond ecosystems. In the evening Ranger John Verhoeven awed the kids with a top-notch astronomy program under clear, starry skies.

The summer was incredibly successful and would not have happened without the help of the following volunteers who contributed over 500 hours to the program. Heartfelt thanks to all of you:

Carolyn Straub for assisting with field trip groups and taking wonderful pictures of the program.

Diane Scariot, Rosemary Schmidt, and Carolyn Tucker for their professional work giving the students an amazing experience out in the field and helping with the setup and management of the groups.

Bill Workman and John Prior for not only helping with field trips but enduring the heat and hard work of the overnight programs. The kids would not have eaten were it not for their help.

Teddy Goodrich for taking on a head teacher position and helping design parts of the curriculum.

Bonnie Stromberg for bringing her mustang, Mesquita, to Hunting Hollow for the students to enjoy.

Dan McCranie for helping to manage the financial aspects of our program.

Special thanks to Ranger Jen Nabor, Ranger Cameron Bowers, Ranger John Verhoeven, and resource aid Mason Hyland for stepping in whenever needed and providing quality interpretation. Special thanks to Eric Griggs who made the overnights possible by providing the family-camp trailer and supplying our campground with the essentials.

Here's to sharing the beauty and treasures of Henry Coe State Park with future generations!

Sheila Golden  
Interpreter, Gavilan Sector  
[sgolden@parks.ca.gov](mailto:sgolden@parks.ca.gov)  
831-623-2753



Ranger Cameron Bowers makes sure kids know poison oak

# Reflecting on Sada

By Carolyn Straub

Irene Lim 68, remembers her mother, Sada Sutcliffe Coe Robinson, as a good cook and a cowboy who joined in rodeos and handled her horses well. “She was a horse rider and a rodeo cowboy who had a great sense of humor when in a good mood,” the Carmel Valley resident remembers.

Sada was also thoughtful and private, writing stories and poetry. She named one of her poems “Chapulyi,” the Spanish word for “grasshopper,” after one of her beautiful horses. Irene and her sister Bonnie Nazarenko, 77, of Florida, are the daughters of Sada and Charles Robinson who together managed the Pine Ridge Ranch in the 1930s for Sada's father, Henry W. Coe Jr. Today this is Henry W. Coe State Park, the gift of Sada to Santa Clara County in 1953.

Irene recalls her father liked to gamble and “would lose his shirt in Reno.” The family eventually had a large ranch in Gilroy with a home they called Knob Hill. Sada and Charles divorced in the 1940s, and Sada, who bought back her father's Pine Ridge Ranch in 1949, led a simple life there and later on at “The Vineyard” on Mt. Hamilton Road after donating her ranch to the county. She made butter, and good rhubarb pie, and read tea leaves. “My mother was psychic. She would just smile when asked if it was true,” Irene recalled. Sada smoked cigarettes with a holder. Irene has many family photos, including a photo in 1955 at the dedication of the Henry W. Coe Jr. monument in what was then Henry Willard Coe Memorial Park. Sada wore slacks and a business coat.



Irene Lim, right, Sada's youngest daughter, with Carolyn Straub. Photo by Steve McHenry

Irene has a box of records that Sada recorded while reading aloud her own poetry. Peggy Dean (Turley) of Gilroy, to whom Sada gave a record, recalls her childhood in the 1950s when her father, Norman Turley, rented a house at Sada's Mt. Hamilton property. “When my Dad moved up there, it was like heaven to me,” said Peggy, whom Sada soon befriended and called “Little Me.” Sada had a prune orchard, a vineyard, and probably leased land for cattle. She ground her own flour and coffee. Peggy never saw her in a dress.



Peggy Dean with one of Sada's recordings dated July, 1960. Photo by Carolyn Straub

“Sada had a long braid wound around her head and beautiful blue childlike eyes, and she wouldn't have a chain saw. It was all by hand. Sada was a little bitty woman but she was very fit.” Peggy would walk the fence line with Sada while the older woman carried a bucket with staples and fence pliers. Sada kept long rows of chicken coops. She had peacocks and pheasants. George, who had his own window chair, was Sada's dog. “Sada seemed content and low key,” Peggy said. “She was a good storyteller.” Sada had a porch where she crafted items from natural objects, wood, and stone.

Sada often wore a flannel shirt, deerskin vest, men's Levis, boots, and an olive-gray felt cowboy hat. Her house had a high ceiling, rock fireplace, and wood-burning stove. She played a Martin guitar and a piano.

“She was a wonderful inspiration. She was soft spoken, and she loved her animals and named her deer. She was a genuine person,” Peggy recalled.



Gypsy, a Morgan mare, was Sada's gift to Peggy Dean around 1960. Photo courtesy of Peggy Dean

## Time to Run for the PRA Board

The Pine Ridge Association will hold its annual election for the board of directors in December. The terms of three directors expire at the end of this year. Now is the time to prepare your candidacy statement and send it to Kevin Gilmartin, 127 Glenwood Avenue, Woodside, CA 94062 or [KevinGilmartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:KevinGilmartin@sbcglobal.net).

Any association member may run for the board. A member may also nominate another PRA member. To do this, send Kevin a short statement explaining why you believe the person would be a good board member, and he will contact your nominee to ask the person to consider running.

The most important qualification for a board member is a willingness to attend board meetings and to participate in carrying out tasks for the association. Meetings typically take place every other month on weeknights. The term of office is three years. If a board member is also a uniformed Coe Park volunteer, meetings and board-related activities count toward volunteer hours.

We use the special nonprofit bulk-rate mailing permit for sending out association-related materials. However, this means that some members might not receive their newsletters or other materials for a couple of weeks after they are mailed. So that the ballots can be distributed (and received by all members) in a timely fashion, it is important that all candidacy statements be postmarked on or before **Friday, November 26**. Please send your statements to Kevin at the address above. (If you plan to nominate someone else, please do so at least two weeks earlier.) Your statement might be a few paragraphs long and might contain information such as how long you have been a PRA member, why you became interested in Coe Park, ways that you have served the park or other volunteer activities in which you have benefited the public, any special qualifications or experience that you have, and specific plans that you have for improving the park as a board member.

If you have any questions about what it would be like to be a board member, or if you would like additional guidance on putting together a candidacy statement, please call Kevin Gilmartin at 650-851-7813.

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## Nominations Sought for the Volunteer of the Year Annual PRA Award

Each year at the PRA annual meeting held in February, an award is presented to an individual (or individuals) whose efforts have preserved and enriched Henry W. Coe State Park. It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of the Pine Ridge Association or be a uniformed volunteer in the park. The recipient receives an engraved plaque, and the person's name is added to the large plaque that is displayed at the visitor center.

Two unofficial sets of criteria have been used to guide the selection process:

Leadership: scope, motivation, and initiative

Involvement: scope, altruism, and time contribution

Asset growth: recruiting, fund-raising, and contributions

Ideas/projects: creative, innovative, follow-through with personal implementation

Performance: past, sustained, future expectations

Measurable accomplishments: visible results

Has had a beneficial effect on the park's resources and activities

Has sought responsibility and has acted as a leader

Has leveraged efforts into multiplicative effects by organizing the activities of others

We are asking PRA members to supply nominations for this award by the end of November. If there is someone you would like to nominate, please write a short paragraph of reasons why that person should be considered and send it to the PRA President, Ron Erskine, 1060 West Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, or [ronfoxtail@msn.com](mailto:ronfoxtail@msn.com). A committee of the PRA board of directors will collect additional information about the activities of your nominee and will make a selection.

# Mounted Assistance Unit Happenings

By Bev VanderWeide

## MAU Overnight

The wagons (or, in this case, trailers) were circled in the Coit Camp corral. On Saturday morning, the horses whinnied to each other as they were readied for the day's ride. The day was filled with sunshine as 13 MAU members learned how to use a GPS system. Following the preset coordinates (thanks to Kitty Swindle), we rode into the park to find interesting tidbits about California, pruning the trails as we rode. Did you know that the state mammal is the gray whale? And that the state insect is the California dogface butterfly? GPS locators provided useful information in many ways and it was a great experience getting exposed to them.

After a hard day's work, we enjoyed a fabulous potluck dinner and later met to discuss other MAU business. The Coit water trough was almost dry so Kenny McDermott filled it with water from the water buffalo provided for our use. I'm sure the wildlife appreciated your efforts Kenny!

We woke on Sunday morning to much cooler weather and light rain. Our wonderful country breakfast

warmed us then so we saddled up, split into groups, and headed out. One group pruned trails and checked some of the trails we had previously worked on (Grapevine Trail, Domino Pond Trail). Other groups headed to China Hole and Kelly Lake. We encountered hikers and bikers along the way, offering water and directions when needed. At day's end, we all met at Coit Camp and, as the volume of rain increased, helped each other pack and clean up the area before heading out.

On the way home, feeling satisfied with our accomplishments, I wondered if the park was more beautiful in the sunshine or the rain. I'm glad Coe Park is there for everyone to enjoy in any weather; members of the mounted assistance unit are proud to be a part of keeping it going.



MAU members, photo by Lynn Starr

## News from the Volunteer Committee

By Bonnie Stromberg

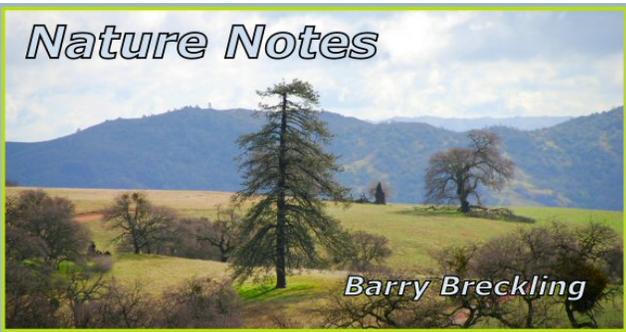
The volunteer committee recruited 14 candidates for this year's new volunteer training. Park staff had debated for some time whether or not to proceed with the training; by the time the decision to go ahead was made, it was too late to schedule interviews and trainers. So, no new volunteers this year, but we'll try for a goodly crew of new recruits next year.

In lieu of the campout at Pacheco Camp during the ridealong, park staff have offered a campout at Pacheco Camp for all volunteers on November 6th and 7th. Contact John Verhoeven or Libby Vincent if you would like to participate.

The committee discussed volunteer retention and morale. We would love to hear from you about how things are working out for you as a volunteer and what you think might be done to change or improve things. All feedback will be completely confidential.

Close to 30 volunteers enjoyed participating in CoeEd training day on October 23rd. A big thank-you to our superb instructors—Mike Meyer, Bill Frazer, Jim Brady, Dan McCranie, Winslow Briggs, Ann Briggs, Dick Rawson, and Carolyn Straub.

## Nature Notes



### Rain Flowers

There certainly isn't much blooming in the winter—but you can find rain flowers...better known as mushrooms to most people. Mushrooms are a type of fungus (fungi or funguses are the plural forms of the word). Fungi include such things as yeasts, molds, rusts, mildews, athlete's foot, and of course mushrooms.

The mushrooms we see are not so much the plant as they are the fruit of the plant. The plants consist of a web of root-like material called mycelium. Mushrooms pop out of the ground to release the "seeds" of the plant, the spores. These spores are so small that it would take about a dozen to span the width of a human hair, and they can be so numerous that a typical mushroom can have hundreds of millions of spores.

Typical shaped mushrooms often have gills that hold the spores, but others have pores. Some mushrooms such as puffballs and earthstars have spores contained within their

rounded bodies that are dispersed when the outside covering ruptures. Some other shapes of mushrooms, such as teeth, jelly, coral, cup, and saddle, disperse their spores in other manners.



Mushrooms can be parasites, feeding on living organisms, but are more commonly saprophytes, feeding on dead organic material. The mycelium break down complex organic compounds into raw materials that plants can use. Without mushrooms, we would be buried in mountains of organic material. Mushrooms also have what is called a mycorrhizal relationship with many, probably most, higher plants. Structures in the mycelium link with the roots of plants and form a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship. The plant provides moisture and carbohydrates to the mushroom while the mushroom helps the plants absorb phosphorus and inorganic nitrogen. This relationship also gives the plants increased protection against certain pathogens. Without this relationship, plants do poorly.

Put on your raincoat and get out there and see those beautiful rain flowers this winter. Are you interested in hunting mushrooms to eat? Plan to spend a lot of time learning about them first, because although many mushrooms are edible, some are deadly poisonous. A good way to start learning about mushrooms is to go to the Santa Cruz Fungus Fair on January 7 thru 9 this coming year. You can find information at [www.scfungusfair.org](http://www.scfungusfair.org). You can also get started by picking up a mushroom guide. The two I'd suggest are All That the Rain Promises and More, and the mushroom bible, Mushrooms Demystified, both by David Arora.



# Planning for a Prescribed Burn

By Chris Weske

In recent years, lightning-sparked fires occurred on Blue Ridge in 1990 and again in 2003. Human-caused fires occurred on Pine Ridge in 1991, on Blue Ridge in 2006, and then the Lick Fire in 2007. Between 1983 and 1995 State Parks staff conducted a series of prescribed burns on Blue Ridge, Middle Ridge, and Pine Ridge. A study conducted in the mid-1980s determined that the western ridges of Coe Park have historically experienced fire on average every 15 years.

So after nearly a year of planning, the Henry W. Coe State Park Western Zone Complex Prescribed Burn Plan has been submitted for final approval. If the plan is approved, and weather permitting, we may begin burning this fall or winter. The project area is 4,665 acres, which includes five plots on Blue Ridge, Middle Ridge, and Pine Ridge. Only about half the acreage will actually be burned as the fire moves through the plots in a mosaic pattern. It is estimated that 14,000 tons of fuel will be consumed during the burns.

One of the goals of the project is to protect the Ponderosa Pines and Big Berry Manzanita found in this area of the park. Ponderosa Pines have been killed by fire in the past three wildfires; with frequent, cool burns the Ponderosa Pines are thinned out, allowing the trees room to grow and raising the branch canopy. If a fire burns intensely, the flames leap up through the Ponderosa Pines and kill them. Another goal of the project is to reduce the fuel loads in the western portion of the park to more natural levels.

A burn plan identifies the treatment area, goals, objectives, landforms, geology, vegetation, wildlife, climate, cultural resources, and developed areas. Potential negative impacts must be identified and mitigated. Desired fire behavior and intensity must be determined and the necessary weather conditions, fuel moisture, and ignition patterns identified. We must estimate the amount of particulate matter that will be generated in the smoke and we must determine where the smoke will go. Mitigation measures must be identified for smoke impacts. Personnel and equipment needs, risk analysis, and contingency plans must be developed.

Weather conditions are a key component of a burn plan. The ideal weather conditions for this burn project are:

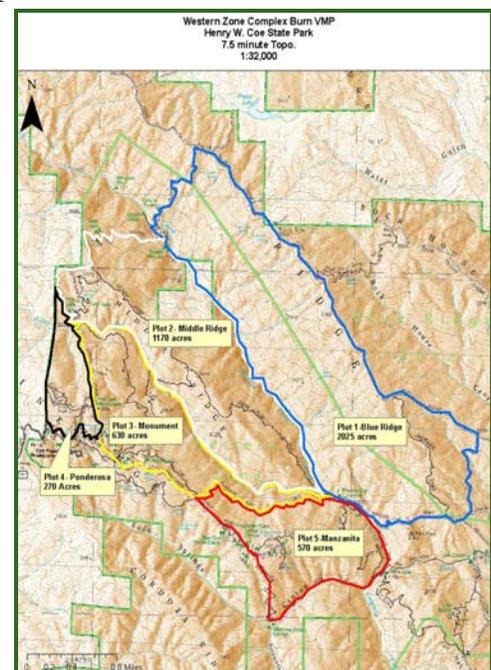
- relative humidity 15-45% with 30% being optimum
- air temperature 45-80 degrees with 70 being optimum
- wind direction from south to north, clockwise, and wind speed from 1-10 mph

Prior to the burn, San Jose State University's Department of Meteorology will set up weather stations in the project area to monitor weather trends. During the burn, they will monitor weather conditions that will influence the fire behavior, and they will also monitor conditions aloft that will influence smoke dispersal. The data they generate will help with this burn as well as future fire behavior forecasting and air quality permitting.

Although State Parks is able to conduct some prescribed burns with in-house staff and equipment, we will team up with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as well as other local fire agencies because of the size of these burn plots. These agencies will give us greater resources as well as access to a helicopter, which can be a great help in monitoring the burn and helping with aerial ignition.

If all goes well, we could start burning this winter on the western slopes of Blue Ridge.

From there, we anticipate burning one to two plots per year in autumn or winter until all five plots have been burned. Plans are subject to change due to weather, air quality issues, problems with paperwork, or availability of equipment and personnel.



## The PRA Calendar

Mark your calendars—important dates

### Saturday, November 27 2010

Thanksgiving potluck for all friends of Coe Park, 3.00pm at the white barn, park headquarters.

### Saturday, February 5 2011

PRA annual meeting at the Community Center in Morgan Hill. For more details visit [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org) in the new year.



See the enclosed flyer or download it from [www.friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org/](http://www.friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org/)

## Tarantulafest and Raffle

By Ann Briggs

The fall Tarantulafest, barbeque, and raffle were held on Saturday October 2nd on a gloriously warm and sunny day. Everyone enjoyed the day and the activities. As usual, the food was delicious, the jug band, The Tarantulas, played and sang their finest, and children had a fine time with the activities designed just for them by Denice Verhoeven and her helpers.

The raffle was again supported by many local friends, artists, and businesses; our thanks to all of them for their contributions:

- Mel Cotton's Sporting Goods donated two \$50 gift certificates
- Jean Rusmore donated a copy of her book *South Bay Trails*
- Rosy's at the Beach donated a \$20 gift certificate
- NW Photography donated five boxes of note cards featuring pictures of winter snow at Coe Park
- Guglielmo Winery donated a gift basket of wine, cheese, and salami
- Gilroy Gardens donated two complimentary tickets
- The Tarantulas jug band donated a copy of their CD "Spider Bytes"
- Sinaloa Café donated a \$20 gift certificate and two T-shirts
- Sunshine Bicycles in Morgan Hill donated a standing floor pump
- Sunshine Bicycles in Gilroy donated a bicycle carrier for a car
- Winslow Briggs donated two copies of his book *Trails of Henry Coe State Park*
- Kitty Swindle donated a beautiful, handmade Afgan shawl
- Marilyn Smith donated a sterling silver tarantula pin



In addition, we were pleased to raffle passes to the traditional PRA events: Mother's Day Breakfast, Coe Backcountry Weekend, 10K fun run, a "Day with Ranger John Verhoeven," and a "Day with Ranger Cameron Bowers."

## News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

The most recent meeting of the board of directors of the Pine Ridge Association took place on September 22nd, 2010 at the Morgan Hill Police Department. The following items were discussed:

- The chair of the volunteer committee, Bonnie Stromberg, was not able to attend but the cancelation of the new volunteer training this year was discussed. The board hopes we can reschedule the training for the spring.
- Treasurer Dan McCranie presented a proposed budget for 2011 to be reviewed by the board and approved at the November meeting. The board has operated without a budget in the past and has authorized expenditures on an as-needed basis. Net income for the PRA has declined from highs of \$34,000 to \$46,000 in 2007-2008 to around break-even or even a projected slight loss for 2011. Economic times, as well as reduced contributions from major donors, are the reasons.
- Keith Shiley reported on progress he and Diana Maloney have made to query the PRA membership and devise, through various social media and other web-based media, ways in which the PRA and the park can reach out to the public and as well as our current friends and members.
- Barbara Bessey, Rob Glover, and Manny Pitta reported on the progress they have made updating our antiquated website, coepark.org. After carefully considering various alternatives, they presented proposals from two vendors to build a new site, transfer content from the old site, and train volunteers to manage content. The board approved \$15,000 for site creation and maintenance costs through 2011. Maintenance costs will be greatly reduced when the site is up and running.
- Dan McCranie was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board created by the sad death of John Wilkinson.

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 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 17th in the EOC Room, Morgan Hill Police Department, 16200 Vineyard Boulevard, Morgan Hill.

Ron Erskine  
President, Board of the Pine Ridge Association

## New Members

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

Geri & Don Albers, Menlo Park  
Jeanne Anson, Morgan Hill  
Margo Barnett, San Martin  
Mike Buncie, Los Gatos  
David Croyle, San Jose

Paula Davis, Morgan Hill  
Michael Flores & Nicole Nott, Berkeley  
Jean Halloran, Menlo Park  
Elahe Hejazi, San Jose  
Paul & Allene Liebenberg, Hollister

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 questions regarding your membership or need to let us know of any change of address, please contact us:

Email: [membership@coepark.org](mailto:membership@coepark.org)  
US mail: 9100 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
Phone: (408) 779 2728



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### **PRA Board of Directors**

Ron Erskine, President  
Paul Nam, Vice President  
Winslow Briggs, Secretary  
Dan McCranie, Treasurer  
Barbara Bessey  
Kevin Gilmartin  
Diana Maloney  
Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger  
Bonnie Stromberg, Chair, Volunteer  
Committee

### **PRA Volunteer Committee**

Bonnie Stromberg, Chair  
Bill Frazer, Vice Chair  
Jim Brady  
Linda Keahey  
Cynthia Leeder  
Rick Leonard

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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 [bonniestromberg@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniestromberg@yahoo.com).

Please send submissions and ideas to the editor at: [PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net](mailto:PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net).

**Deadline for next issue: January 31, 2011**

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