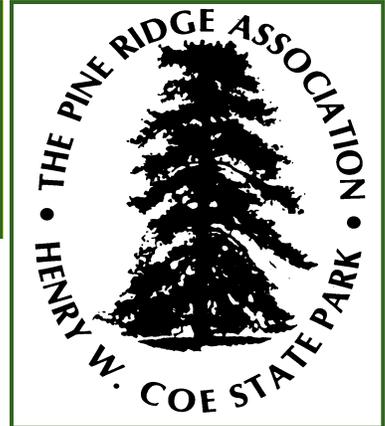


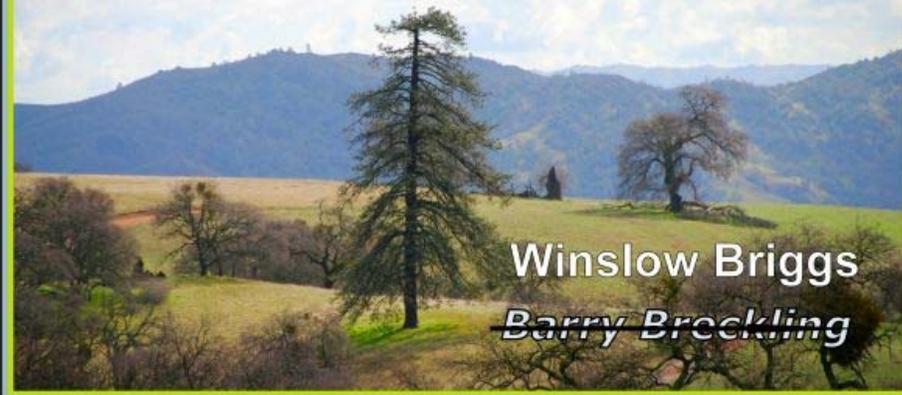
The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park



Fall 2013

Nature Notes



Winslow Briggs
Barry Breckling

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The Saga of Ed the Deer

In the mid-1970s, Ann and I decided that it was just about time to explore on foot some of the many Bay Area parks beyond the ones that featured only those very tall trees. Bay Area maps displayed a multitude of attractive and tempting green patches—parks of all shapes and administrations—and we clearly had a lot of exploring ahead of us.

Coe Park was not among the first we visited for two reasons: (a) it was then a pretty insignificant green patch on the map, and (b) it was more than an hour away. Ultimately we allowed our horizons to widen (we were running out of parks) and drove up East Dunne Ave. for the first time. Ranger Joe White greeted us cordially and we asked him to recommend a ten-mile hike—preferably not an out-and-back. He replied that Coe Park had a couple of loops, but nothing that length. However, he said, there was a 15-mile loop if we felt up to it. He neglected to tell us two important facts. The first was that it also involved something like 4,000 feet of elevation change. The second was that we might have unexpected company.

We headed up the Monument Trail and were startled by the almost immediate arrival of a half-grown buck. Ed the Deer had just joined the hike. You might expect a devoted dog to follow you enthusiastically over the Blue Ridge Loop but a young deer??? I need to add that there was a third item Joe White didn't mention: the notorious climb up the Short Cut, now called Hobbs Road. Of course it didn't bother Ed one bit. On our lunch (recovery) stop, he had the gall to poke his nose into my pack looking for food he could swipe. Clearly Ed had no manners. Blue Ridge was, of course, sublime as

Continued on page 2....

The Saga of Ed the Deer continued....

was the remainder of the hike—even the miserable climb up out of Poverty Flat. Ed must have enjoyed it too as he remained tenaciously close on our heels. Only when we were almost within sight of the visitor center did he quietly vanish.

Joe White was still on duty when we arrived at the visitor center and naturally we couldn't wait to tell him about this rather bizarre animal. He was obviously not impressed. Apparently the young deer had been taken by the game warden from someone in San Jose who had tried to make a pet out of a fawn. Joe said he was certain they had deported the deer far enough that the critter wouldn't return to bug people again. Joe was clearly disappointed with the news.

A couple of weeks ago I mentioned this incident to Barry Breckling in an email exchange about a horrendous and mercifully long-vanished trail (a straight shot from the East Fork to the top of Middle Ridge). The following is Barry's response:

"This saga began about 2 years before I arrived at Coe Park and, since I wasn't there, I can't vouch for the accuracy of the story. What I can say is that I've put together what I've heard from others and what I've read about Ed. In early December of 1975, there was a drug raid in San Jose and police found a yearling buck in the bathroom of the raided house. On December 4th, Fish and Game Warden Ron Columbonni (and there are plenty of stories, even sagas, that could be told about him) and San Jose Police Officer Jack Morris brought the deer to Coe Park and released it at Poverty Flat. On December 7th, the deer followed backpackers from Poverty Flat to park headquarters. By now the deer had been given the name Ed. On December 10th, Ranger Joe White took the deer to Mahoney Meadows. Four days later, as the sun was setting, the last of the day hikers were wandering into park headquarters with their four-legged buddy Ed in tow. Visitors really enjoyed seeing a deer up close, but the staff was not too happy, especially the maintenance worker who was always laying down his pack of cigarettes only to have Ed chow down on it.

In early April of 1976, Warden Columbonni and a wildlife biologist checked out Ed's broken leg which was healing nicely. I never heard how he broke his leg. On June 17th, Ed was taken to Grizzly Flats, way beyond what is now the Thomas Addition. Ed was becoming a problem and finally he was taken far enough away that he'd never be back. The next morning Ed arrived at park headquarters at 10 a.m.

On September 8th, an old ranger friend of mine, Jim Fife from Point Lobos, was up visiting the park with his wife Jan. Ed by now was sporting a fine set of antlers, but luckily when he butted Jan in the face, it was not with those antlers. Her nose however was broken. Two days later Columbonni was back at the park to end the saga."

So that is the Saga of Ed the Deer. The rascal reminds me of an old song about another critter that was unsuccessfully deported a number of times: "The Cat Came Back the Very Next Day...."

Winslow Briggs, 85th Birthday Celebration

Difficult though it is to believe, Winslow Briggs celebrates his 85th birthday this year. Winslow's colleagues at the Carnegie Institute Department of Plant Biology organized a symposium in November, a day-long series of talks by Winslow's colleagues from around the world. The symposium was followed by dinner and more celebrations--the presentation to Winslow by his colleague Devaki Bhaya of a beautiful card adorned with the thumbprints of Winslow's colleagues inscribed with their names, and an elegant botanical illustration. Inside the card were a gift certificate for dinner for two for Winslow and Ann at Chez Panisse AND a check for the Pine Ridge Association, contributions by Winslow's colleagues who all know of his passion for Coe Park. Well done, Winslow, happy birthday to you from all your friends at Coe Park, and our thanks to your colleagues for their generosity. The Pine Ridge Association hugely appreciates it.

2013 Tarantula Festival and BBQ

By Sue Dekalb

It takes a lot of volunteers to put on a successful festival, sixty in fact. Work starts long before the first Saturday in October; there are permits to acquire, insurance, arrangements for using the kitchen at Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill, porta potties, entertainment, and publicity. Thanks to Cynthia Leeder and Bev Vanderweide for taking care of the calls and paperwork and Kitty Swindle for driving all over the county passing out flyers. In the months before the festival Eric Griggs, Tony Oldofredi, Ted Tawshunsky, and Ed Martini helped gather wood and split it for the barbecues. Many others helped with the pre-event setup and food preparation at the high school.

There's a lot of tradition associated with T-fest and this year we went back to the Santa Maria steak, marinated chicken, veggie burgers and hotdogs of years past. Each meal was served with meaty beans carefully cooked by Steve Knepper or veggie beans cooked by Linda Keahey. The beans were the one food item missing from last year's T-fest and visitors let us know how much they missed them. There was also salad, garlic bread, and watermelon to fill plates. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and we received lots of compliments. A small army of people participated in the cooking, serving, and cleanup. Einar Anderson and Gary Keller arranged for all the beverages and Denice Verhoeven kept the popular tarantula cookies in stock. Fortunately, the Tarantulas jug band kept us all entertained throughout the day with their great music.

John Verhoeven arranged to have the tarantula exhibitors (R.J. Adams and Monika Davis) display their very popular Chilean tarantulas. We also had some local California tarantulas on display thanks to John and Denice. My personal favorite was a Forest Scorpion carrying her brood of white babies on her back. This year the Keller snakes were not able to make it, but the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC) of Morgan Hill brought five beautiful birds of prey—Screech Owl, Horned Owl, Barn Owl, Peregrine Falcon, and Turkey Vulture. According to the responses we received from a T-fest questionnaire, this was a very popular display.

Susan Blake brought a display of pelts and skulls that covered two tables, and also had a table for kids to make animal masks. Susan and Carolyn Tucker spent the entire day teaching adults and children about all the different animals.

There was the ever popular toilet toss bean bag game with Dave Flack at the helm, also a new bean bag game. Kaela Henriksen and her crew kept the kids busy making crafts in the interpretive room. Kevin McDevitt kept a whole corral of kids busy practicing their roping skills on two plastic cows. The tarantula hikes led by Nancy Thomas, Ken Howell, and Mike Meyer and geocaching hikes led by John Thatcher were also popular and well attended.

Attendance wasn't as high as it has been in years past but those who did attend certainly enjoy themselves on a fine and sunny day on Pine Ridge. Rick Leonard and I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped put on this year's festival. There isn't room to mention everyone by name but we couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you all for keeping the tradition going!



Inspecting a tarantula found on a hike led by volunteer Mike Meyer.
Photo by Marty Cheek.



Toilet toss bean bag game.
Photo by Patrick Goodrich.

News from the Volunteer Committee

By Jim Wright, Chair, Volunteer Committee

The volunteer class of 2014 consists of fourteen enthusiastic trainees. They are: Marty Cheek, George Cooper, Bonnie Daley, Mark Deger, Martin Eppel, Joe Fabiny, Rebecca Faith, Allene Liebenberg, John Rinaldo, Roy Ross, Eric Simonsen, Bill Schloetter, Dean Yon, and Ligaya Yrastorza.

The trainees endured the heat of September 7 for introductory lessons on the park and the volunteer program, followed by a tour of park headquarters then lessons on geography, geology, climate, and Bill Frazer's illuminating Monument Hike (with the always reliable nail test to determine the difference between sandstone and chert.) Trainees bravely returned on September 14 for such classic lessons as Teddy Goodrich's "Human History" and Winslow Brigg's "Introduction to Plant Communities of Coe Park," followed by Libby Vincent, Bill Frazer, and Mike Meyer leading the Corral Trail, Springs Trail, and Forest Trail hike to learn more about plant communities and how they're related the geology of the area.



Trainee volunteers on the Springs Trail.

Photo by Jim Wright.

The annual ridealong training weekend was held on October 12 and 13. Our thanks to Manny Pitta, who oversaw all volunteer training; Ken Howell, who took responsibility for Pacheco Camp; John Thatcher for recruiting drivers; our indispensable drivers and their vehicles; those volunteers who appeared along the route with practical demonstrations (foot patrol, good camping, very bad camping, bicycle patrol, equestrian patrol, springs work, and fishing). And thanks to the large number of volunteers who transformed Pacheco Camp into a four-star oasis (well, sort of; how about a four-star oasis with portapotties?).

Eventful outings to Pacheco Falls, Coit Lake, and Mustang Peak followed the day's training. It's noteworthy that the performances during the ridealong were so realistic that the trainees were skeptical when a real incident occurred—a plane landing illegally at Paradise Flat, witnessed by 12 trainees and volunteers on Mustang Peak! See photograph on page 5.



New volunteer class of 2014 at Los Cruceros on day 2 of the ridealong.

Photo by Jim Wright.

Continued on page 5....

News from the Volunteer Committee continued....

As dusk fell, volunteers and trainees were treated to a full course meal, thanks to chefs Dan Benefiel, Paul Yellowhorse, Liz Brinkman, and crew. The evening wrapped up with the group gathered around the roaring fire and sharing stories and feelings about Coe Park.

An addition to this year's ridealong was a stop at a visitor support station in windmill meadow in Hunting Hollow demonstrated by Dave Stoner and Libby Vincent, with the windmill and fall colors in the hollow and on Osos Ridge shining in the background.

Coe-Ed Day offered practical lessons in resource mapping; GPS use and map reading; animal tracking; the birds of Coe Park; radios demystified; nature observation; the Coe family; Native Americans, and ranch history; emergency procedures; and how to lead a wildflower walk. All for free! As several trainees have noted, we benefit immensely from the wealth of expertise in the volunteer community.

The trainees are continuing their program within one or more specialties: visitor center service; foot, equestrian, or bicycle patrol; trails or springs maintenance; and Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs. We look forward to welcoming these friends of Coe Park to the volunteer community at the PRA annual meeting on February 1, 2014 at the Morgan Hill Community Center.



A dozen volunteers, including eight volunteers in training, stood on Mustang Peak in the late afternoon enjoying panoramas of the eastern half of Coe Park. Suddenly, we saw a small light plane, markings obscured, fly very low into the park from the east, up and over Long Ridge and the Rooster Comb Ranch, continue flying at treetop height up and down Red Creek, and then turn and land at the old, abandoned, and closed Paradise Flat landing strip. Two people got out of the plane and walked some way east, then we heard two gunshots. We had notified Ranger Derek Davis and Central Communications when the plane first appeared, and kept them informed the whole time. A Sheriff's Office helicopter was alerted and approached from the southeast, the plane took off to the east, flew north up Orestimba Creek, and disappeared into the hills. The Sheriff's Office chopper flew in close but there wasn't much they could do given there was no ID on the plane. Let's hope the pilot was scared off ever trying to land again in Coe Park.

Photo by Marty Cheek.

Visitor Support Stations

By Libby Vincent

Earlier this year, Dave Stoner and I brainstormed ways we could help visitors enjoy Coe Park, enhance their experience, and even ensure their safety. The kinds of things we thought of were providing water, advice on trails and routes, directions, maps, a chair to sit in for a break, an opportunity to share their experiences on the trail, information (reference books and brochures) about the natural habitat and creatures of the park, and even light medical attention (bandaids, tape) with the ability to get real help should that be needed. The most important item we each carry is a radio so we can stay in touch with park staff and Central Communications.

We did not want to set up a visitor support stations to sell maps or other park merchandise. Visitors looking for those services can pop into the visitor center.

We thought of providing this support during the warm months, and at the end of weekends and long weekends when weary visitors might be returning after a long hike or ride or backpack adventure and would perhaps need some assistance. We thought of staffing more remote locations as well as busy trail intersections so we could assist the maximum number of visitors.

Dave sounded out Ranger Jen, I sounded out Ranger Cameron, we prepared a written plan for what we decided to call visitor support stations, a tentative schedule of dates for 2013, and met with Ranger Stuart in April to get his approval to set up some stations on a trial basis. All park staff were fully supportive of the plan and we got Stuart's enthusiastic approval.

We have staffed visitor support stations each month from May through October this year, suggesting a location to park staff a few days beforehand and always asking if they would like us somewhere else. At that time we would also ask for the gate combo. We enlisted assistance from Winslow and Ann Briggs as senior advisors to the program and they have staffed several weekends, in different locations to Dave and me. We have between us set up at Poverty Flat and Los Cruzeros, on Wasno Ridge at the Kelly Lake Trail, at windmill meadow in Hunting Hollow, at the junction of Poverty Flat Road and Manzanita Point Road, at the Little Fork below Frog Lake, and at Grand Junction.



Hunting Hollow visitor support station.
Photo by Dave Stoner.



Family of visitors enjoying the information available. Photo by Dave Stoner.

The busiest locations are windmill meadow and the junction of Poverty Flat Road and Manzanita Point Road. At the more remote locations we serve fewer visitors but of course should our assistance be needed in those places it would be invaluable to visitors to get information and assistance quickly. After each outing, we sent a report, including a tally of the number of visitors we interacted with or waved to as they passed, to Ranger Stuart and copied park staff.

We have had a tremendous response from visitors both coming back from and setting out on trips, so may in future staff visitor support stations at any time depending on our availability. We'll be working on a protocol to open up sign-ups so other volunteers can help us. Details TBD but the first outing would be with Dave, Winslow and Ann, or me so you can learn the ropes. Subsequent staffing would require a hang tag so you can drive in the park, or riding along with someone who has a hang tag.

We've had loads of fun, look forward to more of the same next year, and hope to continue to provide support for visitors to Coe Park. We hope you can join us!

Park Events and Information

Mark your calendars—important dates and other announcements

Also visit www.coepark.org for more information about all activities.

Thanksgiving Potluck

Saturday, November 30, 2013. Thanksgiving potluck for all friends of Coe Park, 3.30pm at the white barn near the visitor center for appetizers, turkey and many other delicious contributions served starting at 4.00pm. For more information and to sign up with a food delight, contact Rosemary and Bruce Rideout at 408-847-5729 or rideout@garlic.com or Sue Dekalb at sue.dekalb@verizon.net.

PRA Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 1, 2014. The annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association will be held at the Community Center in Morgan Hill located at the corner of Monterey Road and East Dunne Avenue. Plenty of parking is available behind the building. Coffee and bagels will be served starting at 8:15am and the meeting will begin promptly at 9:00am with meetings of the PRA board and the volunteer committee, graduation of new volunteers, and presentations of various awards.

The guest speaker will be Frank Helling: “A visit with John Muir—The Scootcher of a Lifetime.”

http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/live_presentations/helling.aspx

He will do a “live presentation” of John Muir.

Lunch will be served after the meeting.
For more details, visit www.coepark.org in January.

Trail Work Days

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

Saturday, January 25
Saturday, February 22
Saturday, March 22

We will be working on the Blue Tank Springs Trail and others yet to be determined. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215 or visit www.coepark.org.

Rain Coats and Rubber Boots (or shorts and T-shirts depending on the weather)

Saturday, March 8, 10.00am at the Hunting Hollow entrance, rain or shine. We'll hike down the creek, scavenger hunt, perhaps enjoy a boat race (toy boats furnished) or a duck race. Bring a picnic lunch. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215, or visit www.coepark.org.

Wildflower Ride (bring your own horse)

Saturday, April 12, Hunting Hollow entrance, 10.00am. Contact Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215, or visit www.coepark.org.

Ranch Day

Saturday, May 17, 10:00am-3:00pm at Hunting Hollow. (Rain date June 7). For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247, or Kitty at 408-842-6215 or visit www.coepark.org.

New Hike, THAT'S a Fungus??!

Join Chris MacIntosh, a docent with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, on a winter hike at Coe Park and learn what an amazing variety of colors, shapes, and sizes there are in fungi. We'll explore some different habitats during the rainy season in search of fungi large and small, dull or brightly colored, in many different forms. The hike is tentatively scheduled for Saturday 18 January with a rain date of Sunday 2 February. Check the Coe Park website, www.coepark.org, for confirmation of the date, place, and time to meet.

More Trail Work Days

Lend a hand every second Saturday at 9.00am for trail work. Venues will be posted on the Coe Park website nearer the time. For more information visit www.coepark.org or email Ranger Cameron Bowers at cameron.bowers@parks.ca.gov.



News from Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs

by Laura Domínguez-Yon

Exciting activities are developing at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (GYHS)! Thanks to funding by the Pine Ridge Association and a matching grant from the Department of Parks and Recreation, protective roofs are being put over the cabins to stop further weather damage. Over 20 Monterey District maintenance staff dedicated a day to clearing out hazardous debris, removing soil from direct contact with buildings, and roofing two and a half cabins. Thank you, Matt Bischoff and Randy Neufeld, for your support in making the work possible. Thanks also to Tim Lantz for directing a lot of the work, including the Boy Scouts project on the Nevada cabin.



Work in progress. Two and a half roofs over cabins.

Photos by Matt Bischoff, California State Parks, and Laura Dominguez-Yon.

We enjoyed a very successful “Travel Through History” public event on October 19. It was the smoothest, most relaxing, and thoroughly enjoyable event ever at GYHS. The weather was perfect; the tours were well attended; the many, many visitors responded positively and expressed appreciation for events like this that give them the opportunity to learn about their local history and heritage. Visitors enjoyed picnicking, exhibits, activities for kids, and great music by the Tarantulas jug band.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made the Travel Through History event possible. Setup and cleanup: David Godkin, Dean Yon, Karen Pogue, Rhonda Pellin, Steve Eddlemon, Tim Vaughn, David Perrin, Amy Hui, Bijay Naurla, Patrick Lotten, Sara Lotten. Food for the volunteers: Joy Miyamura, Miriam Taba, Stephanie Lee, Joyce Amador, Lily Kawafuchi, Sara Lotten. Gate admissions: Mike Meyer, Buddy Schwabe, Olga Eames, Nikki Combs. Parking and logistics: Bill Headley, Steve Pellin, Leonard Hall, Tim Vaughn, Dean Yon, David Perrin, David Godkin. Music: Tarantulas jug band members Bill Craig Jones, Mark Gray, Jane Hemeon, Lynne Baldwin, David Perrin, Ramon Valdez. Information: Rhonda Pellin, Jodie Mabery, Jennifer Mabery-Nelson, Shawna Mabery-Lawton, Jason Mabery, Morgan D. Mabery, Jacob Nelson, Ashley Mabery, Garrett Mabery. Tour guides: Matt Bischoff, Karen Pogue, Connie Rogers. Exhibitors: Connie Rogers, Sara Kelly, John Kelly (Gilroy Historical Society), Kathy Devine (Morgan Hill Historical Society), Gael Troughton (Mok River Models), Lily Kawafuchi, Lisa Sheedy, Michael Oshida, Grace Iwanaga, Doris Kumora (Gilroy JACL), Kei Hagiwara (Japanese Vice Consul), Yoshiro Tasaka (Japanese Consulate Community Affairs Advisor), Sharon Holloway (Somatic Massage Therapist), Tim Lantz (Circa Architectural Antiques), Rowdy Hall (Silicon Valley Budokan). Thanks also to the Gilroy Japanese American Citizens' League for the load of tables, and to Richard Lico and Joe Filice for use of folding chairs.

Continued on page 11....

News from the Mounted Assistance Unit

By Chere Bargar

October was a busy month for the Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU). On Sunday October 13th, several of us rode from Hunting Hollow in the wee hours of the morning to meet new volunteer ridealong participants at Willson Camp. We did a presentation on what the MAU does, what the horses are tested on, and how to interact with horses when you meet them on the trail. On the return trip to Hunting Hollow, some of us took the Bowl Trail and spent a number of hours pruning low tree branches and clearing brush.

The weekend of October 19th and 20th was the annual MAU training ride. Several MAU members went in on Friday to set up camp at Coit Camp. On Saturday, we checked out one prospective new member, Allene Liebenberg. Allene's husband, Paul, who is already a volunteer, joined us on his mountain bike. We went over some safety rules and headed out on the trail.

Our route was Cross Canyon Trail and Kelly Cabin Canyon Trail to Coit Lake. As is our custom, we pruned along the way. Once at Coit Lake, we practiced using scoops (made from plastic bleach bottles) and collapsible buckets to give water to the horses. Some horses are reluctant at first to put their noses into a small container to drink. We do this because sometimes the footing near the edge of lakes and ponds is steep and can also be very soft and mucky, making it unsafe for horses to get close enough to the water to drink.

On our return we took Coit Road to Blue Tank Spring where the horses were very glad to get a good long drink. (Many thanks to the Springs Committee for maintaining these important water sources.) We took Blue Tank Spring Trail to Coit Spring Trail and rode on back to camp. After a discussion on how to handle various situations while on patrol, we enjoyed a great potluck dinner, and singing and guitar entertainment provided by Christine Amber and Brian Deutscher.

Sunday morning, after a potluck breakfast and learning how to make an emergency halter, we headed out on the trail on a quest to find the flag pole. The flag pole was put up on a knoll that was visible from Gilroy Hot Springs across the canyon. When Gilroy Hot Springs was a vacation destination, one of the events for entertainment was a race UP the ridge in what is now Coe Park by some young men. Each carried a flag of a different color and the first to the top would raise his flag. The onlookers below would watch for the flag to go up. Of course, there were bets on who the winner would be. We rode up Jackson Trail and Jackson Road to Rock Tower, a feature on the north-facing side of Jackson Field. After a short cross-country ride, we tied up the horses and went exploring on foot. Yahoo!! We found the old metal flag pole where it lay on the ground. We rode back to camp via Rock Tower Trail, Domino Pond Trail, Coit Spring Trail, and Coit Road.

All in all, we were blessed with great weather, good company, great food, and the pleasure of meeting our newest MAU member.



Raising the flag pole.
Photo by Colleen Combes.



Making a twine halter.
Photo by Colleen Combes.

Time to Run for the PRA Board

The Pine Ridge Association will hold its annual election for the board directors in December. The terms of **two** directors expire at the end of this year. Now is the time to prepare your candidacy statement and send it to Steve McHenry, 439 Chateau LaSalle Drive, San Jose, CA 95111 or email, stephen.l.mchenry@gmail.com.

Any PRA member may run for the board. A member may also nominate another PRA member. To do this, send Steve 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 30**. Please send your statements to Steve 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 benefitted 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 Steve McHenry 408-286-8858.

Nominations Sought for the Volunteer of the Year Annual 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 their 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, Diana Goodwin, 8305 Fairview Road, Hollister, CA 95023 or email at diana@diacomm.com. A committee of the PRA board of directors will collect additional information about the activities of your nominee and will make a selection.

News from Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs continued....



Model of GYHS hotel.



The Mabery family, fifth and sixth generation Roops.

Photos courtesy of California State Parks, photographer, Patricia Clark-Gray.

The November GYHS docent training, one of the specialty days in the Coe Park training program for new volunteers, may mean we can offer more guided tours each month. With more opportunity to share GYHS history, more people will also get to know and enjoy Coe Park.

PRA New Members

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

We need your help to keep our membership list current and accurate. If you have any questions regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of address, please contact us. If you have chosen to receive *The Ponderosa* electronically and, for some reason, it is undeliverable, we will send the next issue via USPS.

Adam Cole, Menlo Park, CA
 Amy Lauterbach, Palo Alto, CA
 Michael Monroe, Gilroy, CA
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Jim Wright, author and photographer

PRA Volunteer Committee

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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.

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