The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter

December 1992

From under My Brim

by Barry Breckling

A Proper Prescription

It looked like an early rain was going to dampen the woods and fields, but the clouds held more than just rain. Out of the billowing white clouds came lightning. One bolt struck a tall pine on the ridge top, and after the electricity spiraled down the trunk, flames jumped up in the grass at the tree's base. The rain, though heavy, was short lived and did little to stop the fire that was quickly pushed forward by the strong wind. The flames burned much of the field of bunch grasses, but below the ground, the still living rootstocks lay dormant waiting for the winter rains to send out their new growth—an even greener, stronger growth with the nutrients that were released with the passing of the fire.

Flames blazed up through an old black oak, burning out much of the heartwood from the ground up to an old broken-off branch 20 feet in the air. It made a tunnel, or more of a cave, that would be home to a fox, a raccoon, and a bobcat at various times during the next decade. A grove of young, over-crowded pines that were 15 years old—having come up right after the last fire in the area—were killed except for one healthy and slightly taller one. Its lower branches would never see green needles again but neither would they see flames when the next fire came through in 12 years. A large, old pine weakened by bark beatles burned half way up its 120 feet. The cambium layer, nearly destroyed by the insects, was finished off by the fire, and the bark along with the bark beetles was consumed by the flames. The remaining needles soon died, but the tree continued to stand. It became a home for kestrels as well as a home and food storage for an extended family of acorn woodpeckers. A pair of red-tailed hawks used it as a place to perch and look for food in years when it wasn't home to the kestrels.

As the fire spread through forest and field, the elk and grizzly, the deer and mountain lion all ran ahead of the flames to safety. The ground squirrel and badger, the mouse and weasel escaped death deep in their dens. The birds escaped into the air, and as a dark-eyed junco flew off, one of its white, outer tail feathers dropped, landing on the cool ashes. Nutrients released by the fire would bring an abundance of plant life to the area, and that in turn would increase the numbers and health of the animals. There was no one to put out the fire. It would burn and smolder and burn again for weeks in the cool days of late fall, and finally the rains would put it completely out . . . .

The lightning struck a tall pine on the ridge and a fire started. First half an acre, then an acre, then two, but before it could spread farther, a helicopter dropped off six men who started putting a line around the east side. The helicopter left but quickly returned with water and "picked up" the south side, and soon three air tankers dropped a red liquid that put out the fire on the west side. Finally, a bulldozer arrived and stopped the fire on the north side, and

all that remained for the ground crew to do was to cut down a couple burning snags. Success! Smokey the Bear would be proud; another fire stopped—in fact, with the exception of this small fire and two of even smaller size, the area had not burned in over 90 years.

Three weeks later the weather warmed, and 30 mile per hour winds came out of the east. A hiker stopped to smoke on a stump at the top of the ridge and flipped a cigarette to the edge of the road. The cigarette started leaves smoldering, and quickly the grass sparked into flames. In just minutes the fire had spread to 10 acres, then to 100, and before nightfall it was over 1,000 (it would be 9,000 acres before it was finally put out).

On a wooded slope the flames burned up through thick brush and years of accumulated dead branches. This brush and dead wood carried the fire with tremendous heat up into the tops of the oaks and pines, killing many of them. A fox living in a hollowed-out black oak died along with the tree. Although the deer ran with great speed, some could not outrun the flames. Heat in some areas was so hot that it sterilized the soil, killing every seed buried near the surface. In a thick grove of 25 year old pines, not one remained alive. Birds flew in all directions, and most escaped. A crow, blinded by the smoke, crashed into the top of a burning tree, and feathers flew. Only one of its black feathers escaped the flames and drifted to the ashes below . . . .

On Wednesday November 4th, 1992, men walked Pine Ridge with drip torches laying down lines of fire. Most of the area between the park headquarters and the Little Fork of the Coyote Creek had not burned since 1886—that's 106 years! This was not a controlled burn—we long ago learned that it is very difficult to control the forces of nature—this was a prescribed burn: lit only when temperature, humidity, wind, fuel moisture, and soil moisture all fell within the proper ranges specified by the prescription.

I walked the area a week after the start of the fire and more extensively two weeks later. Some stumps were still smoking, and areas of leaf litter were still smoldering. The burn went well, with even the cool and damp north-facing slopes burning. It left a mosaic of burned and unburned areas. Although cooler than a natural fire, it did a fair job of cleaning out the sick, the old, and the dead. What impressed me most was how quickly the wildlife returned. Birds were everywhere. Bluebirds (as well as a lone plain titmouse) hopped around in the ashes, picking up insects. Robins pretended to hide between quick grabs for madrone berries. A covey of quail scurried through the ashes from some surviving bushes to the protection of the limbs and leaves of a fire-fallen black oak. Acorn woodpeckers were all around and mouthing-off as happily as ever. I saw a hairy and a downy woodpecker, and I'm sure I heard a Nuttall's woodpecker. Two red-tailed hawks circled above, and Stellar's and scrub jays were seen throughout the burn area, jumping up the tree limbs as if they were ladders. Meadows, that seemed only black and gray with ash, upon closer inspection showed green grass that had come up since the fire (despite no rain), and I saw many young dicot leaves already coming up, including a few California poppy plants a few inches tall. On the shady slopes, bunch grasses were sprouting from their rootstocks. Thickets of 10, 15, and even 20 year old pines were thinned so that most were killed, but I could see that a few will survive.

I saw a number of does with this year's young and one large buck. Mice, voles, and ground squirrels were making new trails and had pushed out new earth on top of the ashes. A badger or two had dug a number of holes across the top of the ridge in search of food or for dens. I saw coyote tracks at various locations and two sets of fox tracks. Some areas of the burn were opened up so it was easier to see the view of the surrounding hills with bright green pines contrasting with the beautiful greens, yellows, and reds of the changing black oaks. The only reptile I saw was a small dead rattlesnake. I also found a beautiful, pale gray band-tailed pigeon feather lying in the ashes.

Just before leaving the burn I found something unusual—something that seemed at first not related to the fire. There, at the base of a fallen, dead oak, was an Indian's bowl mortar, probably just as it had been left 200 or more years ago. It reminded me of a time long past when the people of this area lived closer to the earth. Those people could have told us that we were doing wrong by putting out all the fires. They could have told us that fire is as important to the earth and its inhabitants as the wind, the water, and the air.

All Things to All People

by Kay S. Robinson

It's a book shop, a museum, a repository for natural and cultural history information, a food/beverage stand, a kiosk, a computer work station, a gift shop, an office, a kitchen, a rest room. It is where people come to find out about Coe and get "pointed in the right direction" (with water!). It is the Henry W. Coe Museum/Visitor Center—all in 2,650 square feet.

Wouldn't it be nice to have another 1,500 square feet? Well, that is exactly what we are planning. Plans are underway to add a one-story expansion at the lower level of

the building. Included in the new area will be more room for training and interpretive programs for the public, work space for interpretive projects, and better storage of items to be sold in the Visitor Center. This addition will increase the interpretive display area, excluding the museum rooms, from about 1,000 to 2,100 square feet and the storage/ office/project room space from 370 to 660 square feet.

This project actually started several years ago. We now have rough architectural sketches of the floor plan, and a committee is working to determine how the space should be divided. During fiscal year 1991, we spent $25,000 to relocate the propane tank and gas lines, abandon the old septic tank and build a new one, and construct the paved handicap parking stall.

But that is only the beginning. We estimate that the construction alone could cost $150,000; the interpretive displays would cost an additional amount. Thus, the Department of Parks and Recreation, in coordination with the Pine Ridge Association, is now launching a major fund-raising drive to obtain the funds needed to carry out this project.

The work done in 1991 was funded by the Department's Volunteer Enhancement Fund, a fund created by the voters of California when they passed the 1988 Park Bond. That pot of money is depleted now, with little chance for more funding unless the proposed 1994 Park Bond Act passes. A subcommittee of the Board has been created to address the goal of raising funds: from grant-writing to raffles to a donation box at the Visitor Center to individual contributions. All of these methods (and more, I'm sure) will move us toward that goal of $150,000.

Quite often grants can be procured on a matching basis. Total commitment from the Board of Directors and support by a majority of the membership will go a long way toward convincing potential grantors and contributors that we are serious about this project. What can you do to help? Consider the following.

Help us create a catchy logo for our new project

Consider donating a prize for our raffle

Consider donating your time as an architect, draftsperson, or as a contractor to work on our new project

Let us know if you know of sources of grants or of employers with matching-grant programs

Look for a contribution envelope coming your way, and support the new project with a tax-deductible contribution

Let others know of our goals, and encourage them to help

We are entering an exciting phase at Coe Park. I hope you will all decide to get in on the ground floor (figuratively and literally!) to help us realize our dream. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, or if you would like to volunteer to help us with any aspect of this project, please contact me (408/623-4526), or the Fund Raising Committee persons: Winslow Briggs (415/325-1455) and Barbara Bessey and Kevin Gilmartin (415/851-7813).

Adopt a Project 1993

by Lee Dittmann

You would like to help the park but are not sure how to do it? If that is your predicament, then why not take on an interpretive project? If you are a park volunteer, interpretive projects are a fun and satisfying way to get in your hours. If you are a PRA member, but not a part of the formal volunteer program, you are also eligible. It's a great excuse to get up to Coe, meet other members, and work with your usually amiable park staff.

Herewith is a list of ideas. Please understand that you are not restricted to these ideas alone. If you have your own idea for a project—anything that would help visitors better understand the natural and cultural resources of the park—we want to hear it!

To cut out some of the red tape, the PRA Board has given conceptual approval to these listed projects. If you would like to adopt one, all you have to do is put together a specific proposal detailing your plans, including how much money you would need for materials. Then present your plan to the Board. You can make your proposal in person at a board meeting or by proxy, if it's inconvenient for you to attend.

Adopted Projects: Get inspired! Get inspired!

Here are some projects that are already adopted or under way; look them over for inspiration and for opportunities for *you* to offer your help:

PUBLICATIONS

1. ***From Under My Brim,*** by Barry Breckling. A collection of the best of Barry's illustrious articles from *The Ponderosa*. Already we have had a number of board members volunteer to help set it up, edit it, and proofread it. Additional proofreaders will be helpful, and **everyone** should encourage Barry as much as possible to make this book a reality.

2. ***Wildflowers of the Green Grass Season,*** a pocket book by yours truly. This is the first of a series of three fully illustrated wildflower books; this one would cover about 60 of the most common wildflowers blooming during the January to April "green grass" season. It would have an easy-to-use key and informative text. I will need help proofreading and especially field testing the key, as well as an occasional whack about the head and shoulders for encouragement.

3. **Tarantula booklet or handout,** by Larry Haimowitz. Larry may have forgotten that he has agreed to put together such a leaflet, but I haven't. I'm sure Larry would appreciate any ideas you may have as to what should go into this, as well as proofreading assistance and maybe an illustrator. I won't mention her by name, but it would be wonderful if the former volunteer and illustrator of the Coe Park tarantula and other T-shirts could be persuaded to produce some illustrations for this leaflet.

4. ***Henry Coe's Pine Ridge Ranch,*** by Bob Kelley, illustrated by Ross Hemeon. This little 12-page booklet is nearing completion and features Bob's research into the history of the area that once was Pine Ridge Ranch, focusing on the historical structures. It includes Ross's outstanding original drawings.

5. ***Pine Ridge Anthology,*** a collection of writings by Sada Coe, edited by Joe White, former park ranger BB [Before Barry], and current volunteer Ron Erskine. Will include photos by Ron and should be available next year.

MUSEUM PROJECTS

6. **Remounting and upgrading San Jose State insect collection.** Shannon and Derek Smith hope to improve the old mounted set of insect specimens collected by SJSU students over twenty years ago that has been in storage in the museum basement. If they rearrange the specimens and put new labels on them with information on habitat and behavior of the insects, in addition to names, the specimens would be much more useful and presentable for public display. Presently, we have virtually no interpretive displays on insects, which are always a major component of any terrestrial or fresh water ecosystem.

7. **Raised relief map of the whole park.** I hope to construct a large (ca. 7 foot by 9 foot) model of the entire park, similar in construction to the existing original Coe Park relief map in the visitor center. This project could take hundreds of hours to complete. Maybe you would be willing to assist? In fact, the Coe Park General Plan calls for *two* such relief maps, the second for the east side of the park when the Bell Station entrance is opened. Since each map could take a couple of years to construct—depending, of course, on how many hours per year we are able to put into the projects—perhaps it is not too early to begin the construction of number two. As with other projects, we need to coordinate our plans with those of the State Park. It would be a pity to build a wonderful map, then find that it wouldn't fit in the Coe Headquarters visitor center or an east side visitor center.

OTHER PROJECTS

8. **Conversion of the "bunk house" into a "cook house."** Jim Mason and David Perrin hope to remodel the little shack next to the ranch house so that they can do living history demonstrations—like baking sourdough biscuits the old fashioned way. They wouldn't mind help from someone with experience in architecture—the services of a structural engineer would be just dandy. Once the project gets going, they probably wouldn't refuse your help if you're handy with a hammer.

Completely new projects: Adopt one! Adopt one!

PUBLICATIONS

9. **An annual or semi-annual park newspaper.** You've seen them in other parks: a newspaper format, mass-produced free handout containing interesting articles about the park or region. It would contain rules and regulations, information about park facilities, and interpretive articles on wildflowers, trees, tarantulas, creeks, you name it. It would also contain photos of the park, information on trails, things to whet the appetite of the visitor and *get them out in the park*—where the action is! It would cover items of interest to the major user groups of the park such as hikers, mountain bikers, campers, backpackers, and equestrians. It could also include a park map, designed to replace all current free handout maps.

To defer our costs, we could sell limited advertising space to appropriate businesses such as camping equipment suppliers, mountain bike dealers, and whatever the heck you call businesses that sell stuff to horseback riders. The aim would be to reproduce ten thousand or more of these each year and distribute them not only at the park (where we could distribute 4,000 copies annually), but at county fairs, libraries, colleges and universities, retailers, equestrian groups, conservation groups, and so forth and really get the word out about the existence of our gorgeous park.

This publication would need a project manager, writers, editors (part of whose function might be to steal the most fitting material from back issues of *The Ponderosa*), proofreaders, layout artists, photographers, artists, advertising sales people, and people to help distribute it beyond the boundaries of the park. How would *you* like to help?

10. ***Mountain Biking in Coe Park*** booklet. This could be a resale item in the $2 price range and is a perfect project for such distinguished mountain biking volunteers as David Hornby, George Van Gordon, and Rob Sinclaire, hint, hint. Besides general information on park mountain biking conditions, it could contain a half a dozen or more specific rides rated by difficulty with maps (I could do these for you), trail profiles, interpretive information (as long as you've got to walk up the Short Cut anyway, you may as well take the time to learn about the trees along the road), advice on minimum impact riding, and so on. Could it be produced in cooperation with Specialized Bicycles?

11. **Revise, upgrade, and reprint *Aquatic Animals of Henry W. Coe State Park.*** This is one of the early publications of the PRA; we are down to fewer than 30 copies of the original printing. It is really quite well done and doesn't necessarily need a lot of revision. There are a few proofreading errors that need to be corrected, and it would benefit from some additional information on the aquatic habitats gained during the major park expansions that have taken place since it was first published. Most importantly, it could use a full-color cover to increase its attractiveness to the general public. It would be appropriate to consult with the author/illustrators, Saelon Renkes and Steve Fend, who are still on our mailing list, before making any significant changes.

12. **Coe Park coloring book for kids.** This could be a large format resale item with simple but accurate line drawings and brief interpretive descriptions on plants, animals, Ohlone and Yokuts, ranchers, campers, and rangers. This would be a great project for such talented artists as Ross Hemeon, Judy Mason, and Dave Sellers, hint, hint; or maybe *you*.

MUSEUM PROJECTS

13. **Backpack sites photo album.** A collection of photos of each site and its surroundings, with information on seasonal water availability and other notes of interest.

14. **Back country views photo album.** A collection of photos to inspire visitors to get out and hike/bike/horseback ride throughout the park, and for the benefit of less mobile visitors, enabling them to get an idea of what a beautiful park their tax dollars have paid for.

15. **Wildlife photo album.** To be used in the visitor center similarly to the wildflower photo album originally created by Dave Hildebrand and recently upgraded by Barbara Radd and Dennis Pinion. Would help visitors answer their "What was *that*?" questions. Would contain photos of the most commonly seen or most commonly asked about animals, such as ladybugs, tarantulas, newts, garter snakes, golden eagles, raccoons, wild pigs, bobcat, coyotes, and mountain lions.

16. **Build new lectern for interpretive room.** Something sturdy and substantial, with hardwood panels, shelves, a drawer for markers, pointers, and so forth, and a place to set a pitcher of water . . . maybe *you* have additional ideas? The lectern could be faced with a state parks seal and the PRA tree [a.k.a. Sada's Pine]. Any carpenters want to adopt this one?

17. **Build all-weather map/brochure box** to replace the old one outside museum. Should have separate slots for the tan brochure, the general free map, and the bike and horse maps. Should also be designed to accommodate possible park newspaper (idea #9 above) in case we get that going.

18. **Storage/display counter.** Replace or modify current T-shirt and artifact display fixture to include storage space for inventory.

19. **Counter storage unit** to better use space beneath raised relief map and USGS map shelves. You would be removing the legs from the relief map and attaching the map to the counter unit, which would also incorporate the USGS map shelves.

20. **Update and improve raised relief map.** This project needs someone with a steady hand to paint on the Forest and Live Oak trails and the trail to Eric's Bench. The feature labels could also be improved.

21. **Introduction to Coe Park video.** This could be a 15–20 minute video on Coe sights, activities, precautions, and rules. Volunteers could show it every hour in the interpretive room on busy weekend days. This would be a great project for someone with the skills and equipment of a Don Mason, hint, hint.

22. **Coe backcountry video.** A 30 minute or longer video showing the major sights and minor wonders that you only see if you get out on foot, bike, or horse. This could include audio narration so that volunteers who haven't developed their own programs could still host an evening or daytime program for park visitors.

OTHER PROJECTS

23. **New information/bulletin board.** Plans for this will be put together by park staff, so if you want to help with this one, you don't even have to design it—just help build it.

24. **"Peak pointer" for top of "Monument Hill."** This could be a swivel-mounted metal tube that visitors would peer through at a summit they wanted to identify—anything

from Mt. Hamilton south to the Pacheco Route region. When lined up through the tube, the base would indicate the name of the peak, its elevation, and possibly its distance from the view point. The structure could have a base and pedestal made from local stone. The pointer itself and the information plate would be made of metal. This would obviously take some special skills, including stone masonry and metal working. Is this your kind of project?

Adopt a project! Adopt a project!
Talk to Barry or me if you want to work on one of these, or if you have ideas for completely new projects. Talk to me or any other PRA board member if you want to know how to present your plans to the Board for final approval. Talk to each other if you want to help with a project but don't really know how to do the whole thing—or talk to us and we can put you in touch with other persons who might be interested in the same project.

Then quit talking and get busy!

Board Election Procedures

The election for members of the Pine Ridge Association's Board of Directors is held annually in the December issue of *The Ponderosa*. There are two or three vacant seats that expire each year, and the term of office is three years. This year three candidates are running for the three vacant seats.

Only members of the Pine Ridge Association are eligible to vote in the annual election. An official ballot (allowing one vote by individual members and two votes by family members) and accompanying envelope are provided as inserts to this newsletter for all Association members. It is extremely important that you mail your ballot in the envelope provided. The envelope has the address of the District Headquarters, where the ballots will be tabulated, and the return address of Coe Park. The District Office will use this specially addressed envelope to identify you as an Association member who is eligible to vote. Please do not include your membership renewal dues along with your ballot—the District Office does not process the membership dues.

You may vote for **no more than three** candidates on each ballot. **To be counted, ballots must be postmarked on or before 31 December 1992.**

Statements of the three candidates are printed below in the order in which they were received.

Board Candidate: David Perrin
Coe Park has gone from being an obscure name on an inverted trapezoidal sign along the freeway in Morgan Hill to one of the places I hold special in my heart and enjoy visiting the most.

I moved to the area from San Diego in 1985 and, after years of passing and noticing the park sign, I visited the museum. As a result of that visit, I joined the Pine Ridge Association and applied to be a volunteer as a way to return to the "outdoor experience," with the thought of participating in mounted patrols. I soon learned that the experience was one of enjoying not only the park's natural offering but also its many wonderful volunteers and permanent staff. Connecting to the park through its people has been a fantastic experience I never anticipated. To see the park through others' perspectives and interests has brought out a dimension that has enabled me to expand my enjoyment. These new avenues of enjoyment and participation are so numerous I now have them listed so I can follow up on them.

My involvement has included staffing the museum, foot patrols, leading hikes for clubs and schools, participating in the Mother's Day Breakfast, the Fall Barbecue, trail days, and new volunteer training.

I want to ensure as much as possible that others have the opportunity to enjoy Coe as much as I have in the last two years. Like all of you, I can only offer my time and talent. I look forward to representing you on the Board.

David W. Perrin

Board Candidate: Ron Erskine
I have been a PRA member for three years and a volunteer for two years, and I would like to be a member of the PRA Board. Activities I have taken part in are trail flagging, installing the Morgan Hill Library display, editing a book of Sada Coe's writings that will be published by the PRA, various wildflower and bird classes, and many backpack trips and hikes to interior portions of the park.

My desire to be on the Board simply comes from a wish to get closer to the park and participate in its future. As I said in my statement for a Board position last year, I have no agenda or major proposal. I simply offer the energy and desire to be a steward for the park and to act in a conscientious way and with common sense. I ask for your vote. Thank you.

Ron Erskine

Board Candidate: Barbara Bessey

I seek your support to become re-elected to the Board of Directors. I love Coe Park and would like to continue to be involved with the organization. Since I joined the Coe Park volunteers four years ago, I have donated more than 200 hours each year to activities sponsored by the association. In 1990, I was pleased to receive the Golden Bear award, which was given by the Coe volunteers. Some of my association activities are highlighted below. I am co-editor of *The Ponderosa,* the newsletter of the Pine Ridge Association. I received funds from the board to develop programs on birds, which were used during the training of the volunteers and during evening Saturday programs attended by the public. Last spring, I participated in the search for nesting birds in the Mustang Flat area for the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas. This past year, I served as chair of the Board of Directors, and I coordinated the association's activities for the artist's reception during the opening of the art show co-sponsored with Gallery Morgan Hill.

This coming year will be an important year as far as the association is concerned. If the Visitor Center expansion is to become a reality, we will need to write grants and raise funds to cover the costs of the architectural plans and building costs. I would like to use my knowledge of grant-writing to help the association acquire the funds necessary to carry out this much needed project.

I enjoy Coe and the PRA; with your support, I would like to be re-elected as a member of the Board of Directors. Thank you very much.

Barbara L. Bessey

Fall Barbecue a Great Success!

by Margaret Enns

The All-You-Can-Eat Barbecue held on September 27 at the park was a wonderful occasion. We did all the cooking ourselves instead of hiring a caterer, and we found out we are good cooks. We knew we could make breakfast (from the Mother's Day Breakfasts that we cook each year), and now we know that we can barbecue as well.

A special thanks to Joan and Paul Toth, who did the organizing. The list of helpers is long, and what a job they did! Bob Kelley and Lee Dittmann processed the tickets, and Roberta Wright had the flyers and tickets printed. Tim Fast, Bob Vega, Carl Clinger, Janet Pettinotti, Dave Hornby, and Earl and Lois Phillips came early to help with the set-up. Nancy Filice made the tables pretty, and Jim Mason got us our license to party. Roger McClain, Dick Stone, Chris Weske, and Harry Councell made sure we parked in the right places, and Dave Greco made sure we got a ride in from the parking lot. Our super chefs, Hersch Wright, Jim Tuomey, Dave Perrin, and Steve Knepper, really put out some good food. Millicent Kellogg helped with food preparation. Tina Greco and I made sure the beverages were available, and Rob and Martie Sinclaire, Gary and Shirley Keller, and Bill Frazer did the bartending. Gary Keller always knows just how much ice we need to keep those drinks cold. Larry Haimowitz was in charge of the instructive and entertaining activities. Thanks to all of you, especially those whose names were not mentioned.

We served 233 people, and when the final tally is in, we probably made a little money for our interpretive programs at the park.

PRA Annual Meeting

by Derek Smith

The PRA annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 1993. It will once again be held at the Santa Clara County Health Building auditorium.

Although attendance at the meeting is voluntary, the PRA Board, along with the Coe Park Volunteer Committee, would like to encourage a strong turn-out for this year's meeting. Along with introducing the new PRA board members, introducing the new Volunteer Committee members, and conducting the annual PRA meeting, we will be graduating this year's volunteer trainee class, presenting special awards to deserving individuals, and receiving updates on the latest developments regarding the park.

In addition to the above, a very special presentation will be provided by Wildlife Associates on "California Wildlife." California has one of the richest and most diverse wildlife habitats in the country. Looking around the world, we see many animals to save and habitats to be protected without realizing that the wildlife in our own backyard needs our help. This presentation will give us an insight into the secret lives of many of the ecologically important animals that inhabit the hills and valleys of our park and state. As with our past informative and entertaining presentations, you are not going to want to miss out on this one (special guests will be present!). Please mark the date on your calendar today, and I hope to see everyone at this year's meeting.

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The Ponderosa is a periodic publication of the Pine Ridge Association. Its mission is to enhance and enrich the public's experience at Henry W. Coe State Park through education and interpretation.