The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

March 1993

From under My Brim

by Barry Breckling

A Kid's Day in the Rain

"Keep your coat on, and if it starts to rain you get inside, and don't play in the puddles—remember the last time you were out in the rain? You got soaked; I though you'd catch your death."

"Wow! It's so fresh and clean out. There's second base at the far end of the lawn. Darn, pitch-out, but I'm committed. 'Henderson is going for it.' Swishhhhhh. Safe! My whole right side is wet and green and even dirty. Mom is going to be mad. I wonder why clouds are white? Look up there. The tree doesn't have any leaves and I can see that squirrel real easy. It's part of nature. My teacher said the tree and the squirrel and even the little ants are important and shouldn't be hurt. No more throwing rocks at squirrels; that wouldn't be right. Cool! The squirrel almost flew as it jumped to that other oak tree. Now it's running across the tree that fell over the creek. Dang, it's slippery when its wet. How did the squirrel get across so easy; I guess it has claws.

"I'm getting too hot. I'll leave my coat on the fallen tree; I can pick it up later. It's raining. Ouch, the rain stings my eyes, but it does taste better than the water in our house. I could stand here and eat rain all day (although I never drink water in the house, I'd rather have milk or a Coke). A frog! Wow! Whoops, I missed it. I can't keep up with it on my knees. Oh! got it. That's fun: sliding like on the Slip 'n Slide last summer, except my shirt is all wet now and it's a lot colder—this frog sure has big eyes, and look it has yellow on the bottom of its legs, and its all slimy. I wonder why frogs are slimy. I could take it to school; the girls would scream if I handed it to them. Mr. Johnson would get mad; I'll let it go in the creek to see how good it can swim. The creek is only knee deep. That feels neat: the water going into my high-tops. Frogs swim funny. Look, a water dog. It's heading for the creek. Its so squishy but I can feel its ribs. This one is all smooth, the one I found yesterday had rough skin. It has such a bright green eye. It swims real good with its flat tail. This is more fun than looking for snakes and lizards in the summer."

"I think I'll go for a walk in the rain. I haven't done that for such a long time, in fact, the last time was with my son last year, or was that the year before. Lets see: polypropylene top, pile jacket, Gortex parka—great, it still fits—rain

Inside this issue . . .

Public meetings on the future of the state parks

The Jepson Manual is almost here!

PRA Annual Meeting was a great success

Calendar of upcoming events

. . . and more!

pants, wool socks, better wear my best boots with their Gortex sock liners—wouldn't want my feet to get wet.

"It sure is wet and cold out here. You can't walk into the wind without getting your face all cold. Look, quail. There's about 15 in that covey. It looks like the water must be running off their oiled feathers. They don't seem to mind the heavy rain too much, but they all have their heads pulled into their shoulders like they are cold. The males look like little, chubby men in the financial district of San Francisco wearing their best suits, and having forgotten their umbrellas, they are hurrying through the rain to catch their busses home. Even with all this clothing on I'm getting cold. I had better keep moving. That tall digger pine sure is swaying from side to side in this heavy rain, looking as if it is doing aerobics. It seems to be enjoying the wind and rain as it bobs back and forth—enjoying it as much as I enjoy a good game of basketball followed by a nice hot shower. The cool rain must feel good on its limbs and needles. It doesn't feel the cold—cold is its friend. I can feel it smiling.

"A newt on top of Pine Ridge. What a funny place for a newt, but it is the time of year when they travel. Its flat tail proves it is a male heading for a quiet stream where it can swim and mate with a rough-skinned female. It must not feel the cold at all. Looking into its beautiful green eye and watching it plod slowly but persistently on, I can see that it knows its purpose in the world.

"I'm too out of touch. Even though it is raining harder, I'm going to take this rain coat and these rain pants off. How quickly I've become soaked. How wonderful this is. The rain is picking up even more. While I'm engulfed in nature I don't even feel the cold. This is great. Lightning is flashing in the west. The wind is being sucked up from the east to join in the building of this immense thundercloud, and now mixed hail and rain are pounding down on me. Lightning then some thunder, and lightning and thunder, and lightning 'n thunder, and lightning—THUNDER. Time to go into the house. This has been a very good day. Maybe we all need to become like children again."

Public Meetings on the Future of Recreation in California

The California State Park and Recreation Commission will hold public meetings throughout the state to hear public concerns about the future of California recreation. The commission, a policy-setting body appointed by the governor, seeks information on how well the park and recreation needs of Californians and visiting tourists are being met, how park and recreation areas, facilities, and programs might better serve all citizens, and how recreation suppliers should prepare to meet tomorrow's anticipated greater and more diverse recreation demands.

The testimony received will be used to guide future policy development and assist the California Park Service (which operates the state park system and provides grants to local agencies) to prepare plans to meet tomorrow's challenges. The commission is especially interested in learning more about the locations, needs, and desires of under-served segments of the population and how various regions of the state can keep pace with the recreation, open space, and heritage preservation needs of rapidly growing populations in an era when capital outlay and support funds are severely limited.

Meeting facilities are wheelchair accessible. At each session the staff of the California Park Service will present a brief overview of the status of parks and recreation in California along with projections of some of the factors expected to influence recreation demand.

Questions regarding the meetings (including information on locations other than the one listed below) should be addressed to the California Park Service Planning Section at 916/653-9901 or P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001.

The nearest meeting is in Oakland on Wednesday, March 24, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at:

Oakland BART Headquarters Board Room
(Lake Merritt BART Station)
800 Madison Street, 1st Floor
Oakland, CA.

Big-berry Manzanita (Arctostaphylos glauca)
Particularly large on Middle Ridge and Manzanita Point
Blooms December to March, fruit from May on
Three-quarters life size

Available Soon: *The Jepson Manual*

by Lee Dittmann

If you are a botanist, native plant gardener, ecologist, wildflower lover, or amateur naturalist, it is possible—though not likely—that you have not yet heard of the soon-to-be-published (any week now) *Jepson Manual.* The culmination of a ten-year project coordinated by the University of California's Jepson Herbarium involving almost 200 specialists, *The Jepson Manual* is a completely new and up-to-date flora of California. It promises to be *the* standard reference for years to come. The last major statewide flora was Philip Munz's *A California Flora,* published in 1959, and updated with a 1968 supplement. Since that time, many new species have been described, extensions in the known ranges of many species have been discovered, and other research has led to changes in botanical names to reflect genetic relationships better.

Not just a resource for professional botanists, *The Jepson Manual* has been created with the interested layman in mind. The keys strive to be as nontechnical as possible, and there are hundreds of fine illustrations as well as a clearly written and illustrated glossary that defines the necessary specialized terminology. *The Jepson Manual* describes all known native species of "higher" plants—ferns and fern allies, conifers, and flowering plants—as well as nonnative plants that are more or less naturalized. Brief notes describe the garden requirements of species deemed to be of horticultural value.

Does this sound like a book you want to buy? We will be selling *The Jepson Manual* in the park visitor center. Since it is an expensive item, we will generally stock no more than two copies at a time. If you want to be sure to get a copy, we will be happy to take your advance order and call you when your copy arrives. The publication price is $55.00. If you are a PRA member, you will receive a 15 percent discount. Your total cost including sales tax will come to about $50.61. You will save a few bucks, while helping the PRA raise additional funds for our interpretive and educational activities. As of this writing, we already have orders for 22 copies.

If you would like to reserve a copy, please call me at the park, 408/779-2728. We will place new orders every two to four weeks, depending on demand. Once the book is published—probably in March—we'll have one copy in our PRA reference library for you to take a look at if you aren't sure that this book will be useful to you. Don't delay too long—the University of California Press intends to raise the price to $65.00 this summer!

PRA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association was held this year in San Jose on February 6. The meeting of the Coe Park Volunteers was held first, chaired by Bill Frazer. Recent developments concerning the park and the reorganization of district operations were presented to the volunteers by John Kolb, Superintendent of the Four Rivers District, and Kay Robinson, interim manager of the Four Rivers District, West Sector (Coe State Park).

This year's keynote speaker was Steve Karlin, Executive Director of Wildlife Associates. Now in its thirteenth year, this nonprofit educational group located in the Bay Area specializes in introducing science and wildlife to school students. He thrilled the association's membership by bringing onto the stage an opossum, a coyote, a red-tailed hawk, a bobcat, and a raccoon. Hearing how a bird of prey uses its talons or how a short tail may help the bobcat in hunting provides one with some information; to be able to sense these things directly is an extremely powerful message indeed.

Nineteen new volunteers graduated from the training program and became trainees: Mike Anthony, Sandra Castaneda, Linda Cowles, Stew Eastman, Jenifer Emma, Frank Escobar, Page Frechette, Patrick Frederick, Vic Hill, Jan Jeffers, Jim Jeffers, Tami Koval, Bill Mauk, Carmen Patane, Shannon Smith, Kitty Swindle, Jeanie Wallace, Jan Webb, and Doug Wilson.

Nine trainees from previous volunteer classes, who had completed the requirements of the training program and had served 50 or more hours, were promoted to full volunteer status: Mavis Ellis, Tim Fast, Loren Mansel, Roger McClain, Beverly Nickol, Lois Phillips, Zenaida Salas, Bob Vega, and Bill Workman.

Specially designed T-shirts, which feature a drawing of a mountain lion designed by Judy Mason, were given to volunteers who worked 36 or more hours in the visitor center during the past year. Receiving awards this year were Barbara Bessey, Bob Buchner, Lee Dittmann, Phyllis Drake, Nancy Filice, Bill Frazer, Kevin Gilmartin, Tina Greco, Ross Hemeon, Don Holmes, David Hornby, Gary Keller, Bob Kelley, Millicent Kellogg, Fred King, Irwin Koff, Don Mason, Jim Mason, Judy Mason, Celia McCormack, Dave Perrin, Lois Phillips, Barbara Radd, Derek Smith, Richard Stone, Jane Tracey, Jim Tuomey, Libby Vincent, Bill Workman, and Roberta Wright.

Eleven individuals who volunteered 200 or more hours of which 100 hours were spent in the visitor center were

promoted to senior volunteer. These are Ross Hemeon, David Hornby, Bob Kelley, Fred King, Irwin Koff, Michael Lynds, Judy Robinson, Richard Stone, Jeff Swindle, Libby Vincent, and Susan Voss.

Two volunteers received special pins for the tremendous numbers of hours they have spent on Coe Park interpretive activities: Gary Keller volunteered more than 1,000 hours of service, and Lee Dittmann was recognized for his 2,000 hours of service.

The Volunteer Committee's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service was presented to Roberta Wright. Roberta has been actively involved in a wide variety of park activities for many years—she has served on both the Volunteer Committee and on the Board of Directors; for several years, she coordinated the training program for new volunteers; she has provided a helping hand to most events sponsored by the Volunteer Committee or the PRA; and, in 1992, she received the PRA's award for outstanding service to the park community.

During the past year, volunteers spent over 4,500 hours working in the visitor center. An amazingly large number of hours—about 11,000 hours—were spent on all kinds of park activities during the past year.

Congratulations to all!

Chair Barbara Bessey opened the Association portion of the meeting. New members to the Board were introduced: Ron Erskine and David Perrin. For the current year, Dennis Pinion is Vice-Chair, Kevin Gilmartin is Recording Secretary, Jim Mason is Treasurer, and Lee Dittmann, with assistance from Everett Allen, is in charge of membership. Board members made presentations about the financial status of the Association, membership, and an update on trails and the upcoming dedication in the Orestimba. Some future activities that will be carried out to raise funds to complete the expansion of the visitor center were highlighted.

After the meeting was adjourned, all members enjoyed a delicious luncheon catered by Martie Sinclaire, Millicent Kellogg, Joan Toth, and Bill Frazer.

PRA Financial Report for 1992

by Jim Mason, Treasurer

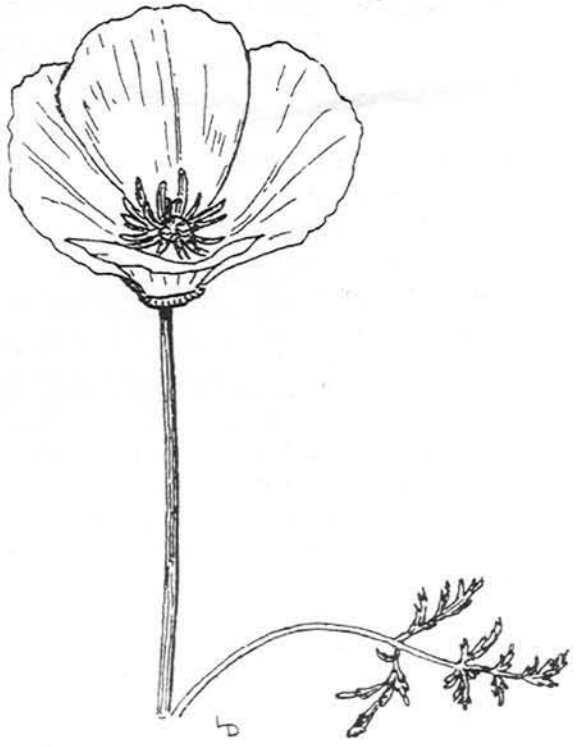
The PRA's fiscal year ended on October 31, 1992, with assets of $37,745, of which $21,883 was cash in the bank. Visitor center inventory was valued at $10,142. This amount of inventory is an indication of the large amount of business we do at the visitor center these days. Gross sales for the year were $11,345. Overall for 1992 our income was $23,421. Besides the income from visitor center sales, other significant categories were:

Mother's Day Breakfast	$2,233
Fall Barbecue	$2,159
Visitor center, drinks	$2,273
Donations	$3,030
Dues	$1,960

Expenses exceeded revenues in 1992 by $186, however, the Board of Directors has authorized expenditures from reserves of up to $500 for purchase of new award plaques, including the new perpetual award plaque now located in the visitor center. Major categories of expenditure were:

Items for resale	$10,246
Newsletter printing	$2,305
Postage	$553
Volunteer expenses	$1,635
Interpretive projects	$1,416

The financial statements for 1992 are at the park, where you may review them. If you would like a copy sent to you, please let me know (% the park).



California Poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
Annual or perennial in open grassy places
State flower of California
Blooms February to September
Life size

Thanks to all of you who supported the PRA during 1992!

Life Members (including Patron Members)
Everett Allen, Morgan Hill
Ann & Winslow Briggs, Palo Alto
Thomas Coe, Saratoga
Ruby Domino, Morgan Hill
Ron Erskine, Morgan Hill
Larry Haimowitz, Morgan Hill
Albert Heckbert, San Jose
Don Holmes, Morgan Hill
Dave Hough, San Jose
Celia McCormack, Gilroy
Robert Patrie, Scotts Valley
Joseph Reader, Morgan Hill
Diane Rubida, Gilroy
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter Backpack Section
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Verbica, San Jose
John Williams, Palo Alto

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David & Lorna Hornby, Morgan Hill
Dan May, Santa Cruz

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Oscar & Ruth Buneman, Los Altos Hills
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Park Chamberlain, Cupertino
Tim Gilrein, Morgan Hill
Thomas Preisler, Morgan Hill

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Alvin Baird, Morgan Hill
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S. M. Bassett, San Jose
Jim Bertholf family, San Martin
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Barry Breckling, Morgan Hill
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Ed & Sally Burke, Santa Clara
Michele Calos, Woodside
Bruce Camden, Gilroy
Vickie Camden, Gilroy
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Sandy Castaneda, Morgan Hill
Jim Challis, Watsonville
Betty Chase, Lake Buena Vista, Florida
Carl Clinger, San Jose
Thomas & Phyllis Conrad, Morgan Hill
Harry Councell, Morgan Hill
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Rodger Cryer, San Jose
Jonnie Danielson, San Jose
Bill & Jan Deckman, San Jose
Lee Dittmann, Morgan Hill
Phyllis Drake, Gilroy
Chris Dresden, San Jose
Stew Eastman family, San Jose
Mavis Ellis, Morgan Hill
Jenifer Emma, Los Gatos
Margaret Enns family, Morgan Hill
Frank Escobar, Santa Clara
Tim Fast, Morgan Hill
Nancy Felice family, Gilroy
Bill Frazer, Morgan Hill
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Vic Hill, San Jose
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Monty Jensen, Morgan Hill
Ernie Johnson, Santa Clara
Gary Keller, San Jose
Bob Kelley, Morgan Hill
Millicent Kellogg, Morgan Hill
Fred King, San Jose
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Sandy Knapp, Oakland
Glen Knepper family, Gilroy
Sharon Knight, Sunnyvale
Libby Vincent & Irwin Koff, Palo Alto
Tami Koval, San Martin
Detlef Kutzscher family, Los Gatos
Leif & Bonnie Larsen, Morgan Hill
C. L. Lillig, Morgan Hill
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Penny Luch, Morgan Hill
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Stephen Lynds, San Martin
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Jim & Karen Mansel, San Martin
Loren Mansel, San Martin
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Jim Mason, San Jose
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Evelyn Newman, Sunnyvale
Beverly Nickol, Gilroy
Paul Olness, Gilroy
Donald Packwood, San Jose
Michael & Kathy Paivinen, San Martin
Carmen Patane, Gilroy
Iva Pepper, San Jose
David Perrin, San Martin
Janet Pettinotti, San Jose
Marty Pflasterer, Morgan Hill
Lois Phillips, San Jose
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Shel & Nancy Prince, Morgan Hill
Barbara Radd, Morgan Hill
Lori Radich, Morgan Hill
Mark Rauscher, Morgan Hill
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Saelon Renkes family, Palo Alto
Doug Reynaud family, Gilroy
Judy Robinson, San Jose
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Robert Rogallo family, Los Altos Hills
Terry Rossow, Livermore
Jean Rusmore, Portola Valley
Zenaida "Sal" Salas, Santa Clara
Michael & Janice Sanders family, Morgan Hill
Neal Schirle, Morgan Hill
Dave Sellers, Felton
Lee Sims, Merced
Rob & Martie Sinclaire, Gilroy
Derek Smith, San Martin
Robert Smith, Woodside
Tim Stokes, Campbell
Richard Stone, Morgan Hill
Jeff Swindle, Sanger
Kitty Swindle, Gilroy
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Marlene Testaguzza, Gilroy
Ann & Jerry Thalls, Sunnyvale
Nancy Thomas, Santa Cruz
Bill & Joan Throgmorton, Gilroy
Derrick Tischler, San Martin
Elaine Tischler, San Martin
Paul & Joan Toth, Morgan Hill
Jane Tracey, Morgan Hill
Carolyn Tucker, Morgan Hill
James W. Tuomey, San Jose
Lisa Nelowet & Eric Twitty, Englewood, Colorado
Frank & Edith Valle-Riestra, Walnut Creek
George Van Gorden, Morgan Hill
Bob Vega family, Gilroy
Dennis & Sandy Voechting, Gilroy
Jane May Voigts, Morgan Hill
Susan Voss, Gilroy
Alan & Pat Walker, Gilroy
Jeanie Wallace, Morgan Hill
Tim Watson family, Morgan Hill
Jan Webb, San Martin
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Don Webster, Morgan Hill
Janneá Webster, Morgan Hill
Christopher Weske, Gilroy
Jerry A. Wilkinson, Salinas
Doug Wilson, Morgan Hill
Steven Wilson, San Jose

Bill Workman, Gilroy
Hersch & Roberta Wright, Gilroy
Scott Zavack, Morgan Hill

Welcome to new or rejoining members
As of the end of January:

Garnetta J. Annable, Campbell
Estella Hopkins, Gilroy
Ann Puglizevich, Merced
Hal Smith, Milpitas
Jack & Dotty Sturla, Gilroy
Dwight Testerman, Gilroy
Diana Thompson, Morgan Hill
Richard Trevisan, San Jose
Paul Wesling, Saratoga
Chris Xydes & Ronda Hruby, Gilroy

Did You Know?

Mariposa is the Spanish word for butterfly. The mariposa tulip probably got its common name from the patterns inside the flower that look like a butterfly. DPinion

Ground Iris (Iris macrosiphon)
Common on the west side of the park
in woods and sunny grassy slopes
Blooms only in April and May
Three-quarters life size

The PRA Calendar

Saturday, March 6: The PRA Board of Directors will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the park headquarters. All PRA members are invited to attend. If you would like to attend, or if you would like to receive a copy of the meeting's agenda in advance, please call Barbara Bessey (415/851-7813).

Saturday, March 13: The 1993 season of interpretive walks gets underway; see the enclosed flyer for details, or call the park headquarters (408/779-2728).

Saturday and Sunday, March 13 & 14: Experience a little-known section of the southern portion of the park. Camp at Coit Camp and hike Kelly Cabin Canyon; this route is an alternative to the more familiar routes along Willow Ridge and Mahoney Ridge. The six-mile hike up the canyon is over relatively flat rocky creekbeds or alongside the creek, although there are a few places that require scrambling over rocks or hiking several hundred feet above the creek. In case of rain, the hike will take place on May 15 & 16. Please contact Larry Haimowitz (408/778-6088) or Roberta Wright (408/683-2219) if you plan to attend; they will also provide you with information on what to bring and when and where to meet.

Saturday, March 20: The 1993 season of interpretive evening programs gets underway; see the enclosed flyer for details, or call the park headquarters (408/779-2728).

Saturday, April 17: Spring Trail Days at Coe Park starts at 9 a.m. for everyone who is interested in working on a park trail (see enclosed flyer). More trail crew leaders are needed this year. Bring gloves, sturdy shoes, and drinking water. For further information and to volunteer to be a trail crew leader, call Leif Larsen (408/779-7785).

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 & 25: The Orestimba dedication and gala (see enclosed flyer for details). This is another opportunity to see the eastern section of the park—don't miss it!

Sunday, May 9: The PRA's ever popular Mother's Day Breakfast (see enclosed flyer for details). The event sells out very quickly, so order your tickets now.

Pine Ridge Association
Henry Coe State Park
P. O. Box 846
Morgan Hill, CA 95038
(408) 779-2728

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Lee Dittmann
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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. Articles and artwork relating to the history, natural history, and management of the park are welcome. Please send submissions to the editors care of Henry W. Coe State Park, P.O. Box 846, Morgan Hill, CA 95038; or call 415/851-7813.

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