The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

February 1994

From under My Brim

by Barry Breckling

Prairie Wolves

Jesse said, "Too bad you can't eat them prairie wolves. You know we've shot enough this year that we wouldn't have to eat no more of the sheep."

Frank answered, "I don't think there were enough meat on all those flea-bitten, scroungy dogs put together to feed us for more than a day and a half."

Jesse shook his head in agreement and added, "There ain't no more despicable animal I know of than a prairie wolf. They look like a bunch of long, wobbly-jointed bones stuck in a fur coat that's a size too big and got so few hairs that a flea wouldn't live on them for fear he'd die of sunstroke."

Frank said, "Do you remember the one we saw a couple weeks ago when we didn't have our rifles? It saw us and took off a runnin' with its tail dragging the ground. It kept lookin' over its shoulder at us with its evil eye and that smile that looked like he knew somethin' we didn't."

Jesse lit the kerosene lantern as the pink glow in the windows was almost gone. As the lantern's light filled the little one-room cabin, a most eerie howl came from somewhere nearby in the darkness outside. Jesse grabbed his rifle and said to Frank, "It sounds like there's a pack of them varmints out by the barn." Jesse ran out the door with one suspender over his torn, long underwear and only holey socks on his feet. As he ran towards the barn, he tripped on a low pile of firewood and hit his head on the edge of the rock-incased well.

Frank was saying, "Wake up, wake up." As Jesse opened his eyes, Frank repeated, "Wake up and pay attention to the professor." Jesse looked around and realized he was sitting in a college classroom. He wondered how this could be possible, as he never even finished third grade.

The professor was saying, "Now we'll go on to the coyote, occasionally called brush wolf or prairie wolf. Its scientific name is *Canis latrans,* which means barking dog. They do have a wide variety of yips and howls but actually bark very little. The name coyote comes from the word "coyotl" of the Nahuatl language and was the Aztec name for the coyote. They are a medium-sized canid weighing between 20 and 40 pounds with occasional individuals reaching 50 pounds. They are about four feet long, including a tail that is about 16 inches in length, and stand about 18 to 20 inches at the shoulder. The coyote's fur is generally gray in color but may vary towards a reddish-brown. They have rufous red on their feet, legs, and ears. This wild dog's tail is tipped in black, and there is a black spot on the top, middle part of the tail and some black on their backs." Jesse saw that he was taking notes, something which he found very strange; as best he could remember, he couldn't read much less write. The professor continued, "Their ears are large and erect, and they have a good sense of hearing and an excellent sense of smell. They are omnivorous and will eat rodents, insects, berries, human's garbage, carrion—they will eat almost anything. Coyotes can run about 40 mph, and so they often use their speed to catch prey. They can also get into an easy trot that they can keep up for hours. This gives them

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the ability to look for food in a large area. Their home range can be a few thousand acres. Coyotes don't hunt in packs as do wolves. You may see family groups hunting together, but these groups technically are not packs. Generally coyotes mate for life. They usually dig their own dens, which can be up to thirty feet long and as much as six feet below the surface. The female gives birth in late spring to five to six and occasionally as many as ten young. Coyotes have been extensively hunted, trapped, and poisoned over the years. In one year in the 1960s, 89,653 were killed."

Jesse thought, "I didn't think there were even that many animals in the whole United States, and how did we get to the 1960s, I thought it was 1948." The professor went on, "In areas where coyotes have been heavily shot and poisoned, rodent populations explode and become a problem for farmers and ranchers. In these areas, surviving coyotes answer the slaughter by having larger litters and can quickly return to areas from which they were removed. Originally, coyotes were confined to western America. Wolves, which need big game for food, were either killed outright or retreated due to the lack of food as men killed off all the big game. Coyotes moved into the territory vacated by the wolves. They were able to survive on a more meager diet. Now they are found as far east as Pennsylvania and Maine and north through western Canada to Alaska. Amazingly, coyotes are more numerous now than they were before man started killing them off in large numbers. They are extremely resourceful animals. Coyotes even live in close proximity to humans—their only true enemy." This made sense to Jesse. It seemed the more he killed, the more there were. Jesse found himself mildly bored. After all, what in the heck did "proximity" mean. He started to doze off.

Jesse felt someone nudge him. "Pay attention grandson," a voice said. Jesse rubbed his eyes and saw that he was sitting on the ground in front of a fire. The older gentleman next to him was not wearing a shirt and was bare-footed. He was wearing only a deer skin around his middle. The old man looked Jesse straight in the eyes and said, "You know the coyote is full of trickery and magic and that he is the father of the Indian. He gave us the net and the bow and arrow, and he taught us how to make acorn mush. When all other animals are gone from the earth, the coyote will remain. You know he teaches us how to live. These things you have learned from the elders when you were just a little boy. Grandson, what have you learned from the coyote?"

Jesse, with his mouth wide open, stared back at the old man and didn't uttered a sound. Besides having no answer to the question, he had no idea where he was and who this old man could be. The old man said, "Did you not learn that the coyote is a smart and beautiful animal? In the summer he is smart. He loses all his under fur and has just his long guard hairs. He is cool. The Indian has learned and does not wear a fur in the summer. In the winter he is covered with a beautiful thick fur that keeps him warm. The Indian wears a fur in the winter to keep warm. Did you not learn that the coyote is a good husband and father? He stays with one wife, and when the babies are born he brings food to the den to feed them. The mother cleans the den every day. It is never filthy. He can hunt by himself but likes the company of others. Did you not learn that the coyote is crafty and resourceful? He eats the grasshopper when it is plentiful, the mouse when it is foolish, the berries when they are ripe. He uses his great speed to run down the rabbit. Did you not see the coyote lie as if dead until the magpie came to look and then he quickly grabbed it? Did you not see the coyote chase the rabbit past the bush where his mate was waiting to take up the chase? Did you not see the coyote wait near the digging badger until the ground squirrel ran out and he grabbed it? The Indian is like the coyote because we have learned from him. When things are plentiful, we have much. When things are scarce, we use our wits and our craftiness and our deep desire to survive. At night he talks to the Creator in the spirit world. Have you not heard his long clear call, the high pitch barks and yaps, the mystical sounds that could only be praying? My grandson, I do not think you are yet a man. You have much to learn." Jesse was embarrassed but very tired from this ordeal. He leaned his head on grandfather's lap and fell asleep.

Jesse awoke to the sound of his brother saying, "Wake up. Are you O.K.?" Jesse sat up but still felt dazed. He wasn't sure if it was from the blow to his head or his very real dreams. Frank said, "Get your gun! Look there. One of them prairie wolves is on the ridge up there with the moon right behind him. It's an easy shot. Can't you hear him howlin' to the moon? Come on, shoot him. What's a matter with you?"

Jesse listened to and looked at the howling coyote silhouetted by the moon. He picked up his rifle and threw it into the well, then turned to Frank and said, "Be quiet and listen. You might learn something."

Coyote Fact Sheet

Compiled by Barbara Bessey

Order: Carnivora
Family: Canidae (the dog family)
Genus & Species: *Canis latrans*

Range: Widespread throughout California, including Coe Park
Habitat: Prairies, open woodlands, brushy fringes
Territory: Can patrol territories from five to twenty-five square miles in size
Diet: Omnivorous, including rodents, rabbits, squirrels, fish, carrion, insects, berries, grains, nuts, vegetation.
Sounds: Varied, heard often at night, including yelps in a group chorus, yips, long howls; sometimes referred to as a haunting sound
Size: The size of a small German shepherd (weighing about twenty to fifty pounds)
Tracks: Hind feet seldom register directly on the front feet and may be well to the side of them; front feet are larger than the rear feet; front toes spread wider; toe nails almost always leave imprints; front pads differ from rear pads in that the leading edges of the rear pads are convex; however, sometimes the pads do not register and may appear round
Stride: From eight to sixteen inches in length; leaps of up to ten feet; can reach speeds of up to 40 mph; walks in a straight line with tail down
Scat: Droppings are gray in color, often containing fur, bones, and seeds or berries; scats frequently found on the trails and trail intersections in the park
Behavior: Often hunt and travel in pairs or small family groups; when traveling as a pair, they often follow parallel routes up to one hundred yards apart
Offspring: Often mating for life, they have about six pups that are born in the spring; both parents raise the young, which are born helpless and blind; they make dens in hollow logs, rock shelters, or underground, moving the young to a different den if disturbed; young may remain with their parents over the winter

If you would like to learn more about coyotes, take a look at the following books.

Halfpenny, J. *A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in North America.* Boulder: Johnson Publishing, 1986.

Russo, R., & P. Olhausen. *Mammal Finder: A Guide to Mammals of the Pacific Coast States, Their Tracks, Skulls, and Other Signs.* Berkeley: Nature Study Guild, 1987.

Stall, C. *Animal Tracks of Northern California.* Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1989.

Stokes, D., & L. Stokes. *A Guide to Animal Tracking and Behavior.* Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1986.

Trial Opening of Coyote Creek Entrance

Over the past year, the Pine Ridge Board of Directors has been working with representatives from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to explore the feasibility of opening the entrance along Coyote Creek in the Gilroy Hot Springs area to the public. At the January 1994 board meeting, an agreement was finally reached that calls for the entrance to be open to the public on a trial basis. The entrance will be open each Saturday and Sunday during the months of March, April, and May. Coe Park volunteers will staff the entrance during the weekend hours and collect park fees. Members of the board and the Department of Parks and Recreation will monitor the use carefully, since parking and overnight facilities are limited in this area. They will review the success of this spring's trial opening and decide whether to keep the entrance open all year or only for designated periods of time. For more information about the opening of the Coyote Creek entrance, call David Perrin (408/683-0415) or the park headquarters (408/779-2728).

Gilroy Hot Springs—A Resort with a History

by Teddy Goodrich

With the announcement that the Gilroy Hot Springs entrance to Coe Park will be opened to the public on a trial basis this spring, park volunteers are increasingly asked for information about Gilroy Hot Springs just outside the park. Several years ago, the U.S. history honors class from Gilroy High School interviewed local "old timers." Sharon Duncan, a student in the class, interviewed Grace Weske, who worked at the Hot Springs in the 1930s while she was in high school. Here is the glance that Grace offered into the Hot Spring's former glory!

"I was working at Gilroy Hot Springs in 1935, when I was a senior in high school. I started out as a waitress in the hotel and ended up as kitchen help. I was not too good at waitressing. It was during that summer that I shared a small room on the second floor with my girlfriend. She was a waitress. Our salaries were at a flat rate, and our room and board, including the use of the resort facilities, were free. I remember the large robust woman who was in charge of the kitchen blowing her wake-up whistle underneath our bedroom window in the morning, when it was still dark."

Gilroy Hot Springs was a resort mainly used by vacationers. It was very family-oriented and had a long-standing clientele. The Hot Springs were frequented by the locals as often as the out-of-towners. It was a well-known resort in those days and attracted quite a crowd of people from all around the Bay Area, mainly professionals and businessmen.

The hotel itself was a huge three-story building. It was made entirely out of wood, with a large veranda in front where guests could relax in comfortable wicker furniture and enjoy the day. The first floor of the sparkling white hotel contained the lounge, a large dining room, and the lobby. The second and third stories, which housed the guests, were beautifully done in antiques. The entire hotel was elegantly decorated in the Victorian manner. Next to the hotel there were individual cabins. All the cabins had lavish marble tables and separate bathroom facilities and were cleaned daily, as were the hotel rooms.

The most attractive feature of the resort was the hot springs. There were mineral and sulphur baths, steam rooms, and a swimming pool. The mineral baths and spa were inside a building that joined to a separate steam room. Along the pathway to the baths was an immense outdoor swimming pool and a well that furnished mineral water. Accommodating the outdoor pool was a clubhouse where one could buy snacks, while another building provided swimming accessories. This building had a large stone fireplace inside and resembled a lounge.

Surrounding the resort was a beautiful wooded area full of wildlife. The picnic area was vast, and you were not to be surprised if, while "having a picnic, you looked under the table and found two or three raccoons waiting for a hand-out," Grace Weske recounted fondly.

In 1939 Gilroy Hot Springs was sold to the Sakata family. It was my privilege to interview Frank Sakata, who has since passed away. Frank Sakata was born in Lompoc, California, and spent his life in agriculture. He was married and had a family when World War II began, and along with other Japanese Americans, they were removed to a concentration camp. Later, with special approval, he and his family were allowed to leave the camp to farm in Ontario, Oregon. He personally experienced the humiliation of segregation and was a champion of all people who found themselves down-trodden or victimized by prejudice. His story reveals the man: kind, generous, stoic, and honorable.

In 1939 Gilroy Hot Springs was purchased by the Lompoc and Watsonville Land Company. The company had been organized by the Sakata family in 1918 in response to a law that prohibited Asian immigrants from buying or leasing land. Angry at this blatantly discriminatory law, Frank Sakata's parents circumvented it by giving 52% ownership in the corporation to their children, who were citizens of the United States.

The family bought the Hot Springs because Japanese traditionally enjoyed hot springs, or *onsen* as they are called in Japan. At that time in the U.S., Japanese often found they were not welcome at other hot springs.

When they purchased the property, many of the buildings were in very poor condition. With this in mind, they purchased some of the materials used in constructing the Japanese pavilion during the 1939 World's Fair in San Francisco, disassembled them, and used them to repair and rebuild the hot springs.

Many elderly Japanese came to the hot springs for a week or more to enjoy the baths. Frank Sakata's family visited there from their home in Watsonville about once a month.

During World War II, when the Japanese were forced into concentration camps, the family leased the hot springs for a mere $1,000 per year. During this time, many items were stolen, especially antique furniture. Frank Sakata bitterly remarked that even his mother's dishes disappeared. The final insult came when the Sakatas returned from the concentration camp—they had to pay the lessee to vacate!

After the war, many Japanese people returning from the concentration camps had no place to live. The Sakata family opened up the hot springs as a hostel where people could stay until they could find homes. A substantial number of people stayed in the hotel and cabins for as long as two years.

Finally Frank Sakata's father decided he did not want the burden of maintaining the hot springs any longer. For a while he considered donating it to the Northern California Interdenominational Church Federation, which is made up of Japanese ethnic churches. In the end, the family voted to sell the property. Frank Sakata cast the only dissenting vote.

Bringing Our Park to the Classroom
by Rosse Hemeon

Last spring my oldest daughter, Katherine, asked me to talk to her fifth grade class about Henry Coe Park. She teaches in Sacramento, and most of her students had never been to a state park. The experience of talking to those young people about our beautiful park was a great joy for me. Since then I've brought Henry Coe State Park to several elementary school classrooms, including Nordstrom School, where my daughter Molly teaches.

The session usually lasts all morning because there is a lot of interaction with the students. They love to talk about their experiences, and there are always many, many questions. Also, I believe the teachers enjoy the morning off. Many of the students have been studying about rain forests, ecosystems, and nature in general. I try to make the session flow with their interests. The first hour is spent talking about parks in general and Coe Park in particular. We make good use of the blackboard, and I bring along a lot of things to see and feel. One student always volunteers to put on the mountain lion skin. And we have pine cones, skulls, and bones to look at. I borrow these items from the visitor center.

Most of the time is spent looking at and talking about slides. During August 1991, I went on a three-day backpack patrol. At that time, I took many pictures that make up most of the presentation. We look at Manzanita Point, China Hole, and Mahoney Pond, along with many slides of oak trees, deer, and wild turkey. These slides are heavily supplemented with some great slides from our PRA library of slides downstairs in the visitor center. I include wildflowers, birds, mountain lions, some buildings, and a snow scene or two. A simple slide showing a chert formation allows us to talk about geology (they already know all about tectonic plate action) and arrowheads made by the Ohlone Indians. One girl was a descendant of the Ohlone.

I always bring along an adventure pack[1] to show. In it, of course, is a track tracer. So we have simulated track tracing during the session. I bring along full-size black-on-white tracks of deer, mountain lion, bobcat, skunk, and so forth. During the morning, the kids pass around the tracks and the track tracer. By the end of the morning, each child has made a track with the tracer. We then identify the tracks and take roll by animals. The mountain lions always win. I always show them Barry Breckling's animal track book. I try to tell them a little about Ranger Breckling and what it might be like to be a ranger. (The teacher asked for this.) I try to tell them about volunteers and the PRA, but at this age that isn't very interesting to them.

I bring along my backpack, and we take it apart after recess. Some of these youngsters have never camped, so it is fun for them to pass around the stove, water filter, and other camping articles. We even have a little session on how to use a compass.

I've talked to a couple of adult groups about the park, but it is much more fun to meet with these young students. Their enthusiasm and desire to learn new things is very reassuring in these times. Two classes wrote me thank-you notes—with more questions! So I wrote them back. Several students wrote they wanted to be rangers when they grow up. They'll certainly meet a great role model when they come to Coe.

[1] Adventure packs are available to be borrowed free of charge at the visitor center. Each pack is filled with identification guides, a bug box, a magnifying glass, a track tracer, and other items that children might want to use during a day hike. Eds.

Visitor Center Expansion Projects
by Barbara Bessey

Last fall at our annual BBQ, we tried something new—we added a raffle, the proceeds of which went to support the new visitor center expansion project. We were delighted that there was such a positive response to the raffle. More than $700 was added to our visitor expansion fund. PRA member Millicent Kellogg was the chief organizer of the event; Martie Sinclaire, Stew Eastman, Rosse Hemeon, Barbara Bessey, and Page Frechette also worked hard to see that the raffle was a success. About two dozen gifts were given out as part of the raffle. The top two prizes, a specially designed and knitted sweater with a Coe Park design and a hand-made afghan covered with beautiful bird designs, were made for the occasion by Millicent. Thanks also go to

Millicent for donating bird feeders, bird watering dishes, and books; to Rosse Hemeon for preparing and framing some of his water colors; to Julia Chisholm Adams for donating several beautiful water colors; to Eddie Bauer, South Valley Bikes, Sport Shack, and Specialized for their gift certificates; to Kay Robinson for donating a variety of wines; to Martie Sinclaire for donating the leather vest; to Terry Bullock for his wonderful photograph of the nestling prairie falcons; to the PRA for donating some T-shirts; to Barry Breckling, Kay Robinson, and Doug Meyers for allowing themselves to be "won for a day."

Congratulations to the grand prize winners: Jillian Raymond (who won the sweater) and to Everett Allen (who won the afghan) and to the other winners (some won more than once): Linda Cowles, Jonnie Danielson, Ruby Domino, Pat Ellen, John Elliott, Nancy Filice, Kevin Gilmartin, Kathy Kocina, Lynn Liebschutz, Caitlin Meyer, David Perrin, Janet Pettinotti, Judy Robinson, and Donna Taniguchi. Even though not everyone could win a prize, all participants should feel pleased that their donations helped us move forward with our plans to expand the visitor center.

This winter, while Donald Ferris, the architect, is busy working on preparing the architectural plans for the expansion project, the Pine Ridge Association contracted with a design consultant to help us think about what displays we want in the new area and how the space will be integrated with the existing museum area. Jeff Northrup and Rick Kitamata of Pouncing Pachyderm Productions have met with representatives from the PRA as well as the state to review the architectural plans and to plan the interpretive displays. The process is iterative; that is, the displays must fit in the architectural designs, yet any special needs for the displays must be included in the architect's plans. We hope that we will have fairly specific plans—both the architectural drawings and the plans for the interpretive displays—by later this spring.

Board Seat Vacant—Replacement Sought

In January PRA board member Lee Dittmann stepped down from the Pine Ridge Association's Board of Directors. He added a lot to the board discussions, and the board is very appreciative of his efforts over the past two years. He will, however, still serve as the Chair of Membership activities. The board is seeking someone to serve out the remainder of Lee's term, which is to end in December 1994. Any PRA member who is interested in becoming a board member is encouraged to prepare a brief candidacy statement and send it to Chair Dennis Pinion by **March 1.** The board will review the statements at its next regularly scheduled meeting (on March 10) and will select Lee's replacement.

This is an opportunity to participate in the decision-making processes of the association. Board members meet approximately seven times a year to discuss issues that are relevant to the association. Some of the items that have been addressed by the board over the past year include the opening on a trial basis of the Gilroy Hot Springs entrance, review of the architectural plans for the visitor center expansion, activities to raise funds to support the visitor center expansion project, changes in the membership dues structure, and changes to the bylaws. Don't delay—send your candidacy statement today!

Kudos for Ranger Breckling

Sometimes news travels slowly, but better late than never! In July 1993, our ranger Barry Breckling was honored at a ceremony and reception hosted by Donald Murphy, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Barry received the Governor's Employee Safety Award for his involvement in developing search tracking skills. For the third consecutive year, Barry completed a sixteen-hour class in search tracking techniques for law enforcement personnel; in fact, the class is now POST-certified (Peace Officers Standards and Training) through Gavilan College. He has also trained Coe Park volunteers, state park staff, and others in search tracking.

Congratulations, Barry!

PRA Photographer Featured

Gallery Morgan Hill is currently featuring the photographs of PRA member Ron Erskine through February 28. A number of his photographs have also been displayed at the last two Coe Art Shows, which the PRA co-sponsored with the gallery. His subjects are intimate landscapes. Some of the works on display feature vistas of Coe Park.

Gallery Morgan Hill is located at 17490 South Monterey Road in Morgan Hill. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. For further information, call the gallery at 408/776-7990.

Some Common Trees of Henry W. Coe State Park

by Susan T. Voss

These little ditties serve as a clue to familiar trees in a park near you. For most of us, the common name will do. But if you think you're an expert, add the family name, too. You think you're a genius? Well, let's see, add genus and species, smarty!

Oaks are we, a truly noble tree
We're not the same, do you know our names?

1. With lobed leaves, I grow the largest of these trees.
2. On top, my leaves leather-like are found, underneath, a yellowish down.
3. The color cast of my lobed leaves names me.
4. My shiny green leaves are all a prickle. They scratch not tickle!

5. Gray white my bark, palmate my leaves
   I like to grow near streams.
   And when the frost comes in the fall,
   My orange tinted leaves ablaze in canyons all.

6. My cones are the second largest of any pine
   My nuts the Indians found very fine.
   At lower elevations, I tend to grow
   Among the Blue Oaks, and sometimes, with mistletoe.

7. In shady canyons I make my home
   And give them an aroma all my own.
   The Indians made use of my oil-scented leaves
   For out of their houses it kept the fleas!

8. One of the more western stands of this particular tree profile Pine Ridge, distinctively!
   At the ends of bare branches grow the leaves
   In brush-like clusters of yellow green.

The answers are printed on page 9.

For more information about trees in Coe Park, you might be interested in checking out the following books:

Sudworth, G. B. *Forest Trees of the Pacific Slope.* New York: Dover, 1967.

Balls, E. K. *Early Uses of California Plants.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962. (This book is also for sale at the visitor center.)

Membership

by Lee Dittmann

By the end of 1993, there were 269 memberships in the organization; this is an increase over the previous year of 26%. Since the last issue of the newsletter, the following people have joined our organization; if your name does not appear below and you joined recently, look for it in the next issue. Thank you all for your support, and welcome to the Pine Ridge Association!

Scott Atkinson, Half Moon Bay
Brad Bates, Turlock
Alexandria C. Bunten, Los Altos Hills
Nancy Coe, San Jose
Barbara Conley, San Jose
Teri Davis, San Martin
Jan & Bill Deckman, San Jose
Sam & Gigi Eastman, Salinas
Sandi Garrett, San Jose
Jon Goble, Morgan Hill
Dennis Green, San Martin
Dave Higgins, San Jose
Bill & Carol Hoover, Livermore
Keasley Jones, Albany
Thomas Laye, Gilroy
Andy Lott, Sunnyvale
Dan May, Santa Cruz
Maureen Reincke, Morgan Hill
Chris & Mary Stokes, Santa Nella
Jon & Martha Stoodley, San Jose
Thomas & Johanna Tacci, Morgan Hill
Bill Wilson, Salinas
Dorothy Woolum, Pasadena

Thanks also to all of you who joined or renewed your memberships in 1993. Special thanks are due to our 1993–94 **Sponsors:** Michael Brookman, Pat Cassen, Park & Joan Chamberlain, Carl Clinger, Dianne Dryer, Sandi Garrett, Tim Gilrein, David Perrin & family, Ronald Pray, and Suzanne Weaver & family; **Benefactors:** David & Lorna Hornby; and **Patrons:** Barbara Bessey, Paul Brown, Kevin Gilmartin, and Peter Coe Verbica.

If "1993" is typed in the upper right corner of your mailing label, we still have not received your 1994 membership renewal. Please renew now. Please also consider making a donation to the visitor center expansion fund if you can possibly afford to do so. It is your support that enables the PRA to continue to provide interpretive, educational, and other assistance to Coe Park. Gift memberships are also welcome. Thank you!

New Corporate/Business Membership

The Pine Ridge Association board of directors has approved a new category of annual membership for corporations and businesses. The $100 membership enables a business to contribute to interpretive and educational activities in the park and receive recognition as a contributor. When joining, corporate/business members will be acknowledged with up to two column-inches of space in this publication and may submit their camera-ready logos to be included with our thanks. Corporate/business members are also entitled to one vote in PRA elections and a subscription to *The Ponderosa*. Corporations and businesses are also welcome to donate additional amounts to our visitor center expansion fund and will be publicly recognized for doing so.

If you run a business, or work for any incorporated organization that might like to help support our activities, a tax-deductible membership in the PRA may be just the thing for your charitable gifts program. You may send us your dues or request additional information at the park address on the mailing page of this newsletter.

The PRA Calendar

Saturday, February 5 to Monday, February 28: Photographic exhibit of Ron Erskine at Gallery Morgan Hill. See article in this issue for gallery hours and address. Call 408/776-7990 for further information.

Saturday and Sunday, February 19 & 20: Robinson Creek hike. A great opportunity to see the east side of the park—Burra Burra peak, Orestimba Corral, Robinson Creek, and the Rooster Comb. Be prepared to hike about 14 miles; the hike is not difficult or steep but it is long. The hikers will meet at the Dowdy Ranch (enter through Bell Station) promptly at 7 a.m.; expected return to the Dowdy by 5 p.m. There may be another (shorter) hike on Sunday if there is sufficient interest. You may camp out at the Dowdy on both Friday and Saturday nights; bring food and camping gear. Since access to the back country depends upon having dry roads, the hike may be canceled if heavy rains fall the week prior to the hike. RSVP to either Roberta Wright (408/683-2219) or Lee Sims (209/722-7467); you will receive additional instructions on what to bring, the telephone number to call to confirm that the hike will take place (should rain fall just before the hike), and how to enter through Bell Station.

Friday, February 25: Full moon. The Oto name for this full moon is "raccoon's rutting season."

Tuesday, March 1: Deadline for interested PRA members to submit their candidacy statements to PRA Chair Dennis Pinion to fill a board seat recently vacated. See article in this issue for more details.

Saturday and Sunday, March 5 & 6: Join members of the Pine Ridge Association as they explore the southwest area of the park from the Gilroy Hot Springs entrance. You can camp at Coit Camp on Friday and Saturday nights. Hikers will leave from Coit Camp at 8 a.m. on Saturday to begin the exploration of Kelly Cabin Canyon. Although there are a few places that require scrambling over rocks and one place where the trail rises several hundred feet above the creek, the hike is mostly flat and approximately six miles in length. You won't want to miss it! Please call Roberta Wright (408/683-2219) or Larry Haimowitz (408/778-6088) for additional information and instructions on how to enter through the Gilroy Hot Springs entrance. Should heavy rain fall prior to the weekend, the hike will be rescheduled for the weekend of March 20.

Thursday, March 10: The meeting of the PRA Board of Directors will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Gateway Title Company, 16275 South Monterey Road, Morgan Hill. All PRA members are invited to attend. Please call PRA Chair Dennis Pinion for additional information and to receive a copy of the meeting agenda.

Saturday, March 19: The 1994 season of spring interpretive programs gets underway at Coe Park. Participate in a walk starting from the visitor center at 10 a.m. or attend an evening interpretive program starting at 8 p.m. in the lower floor of the visitor center. More details will be included in the next issue of *The Ponderosa.*

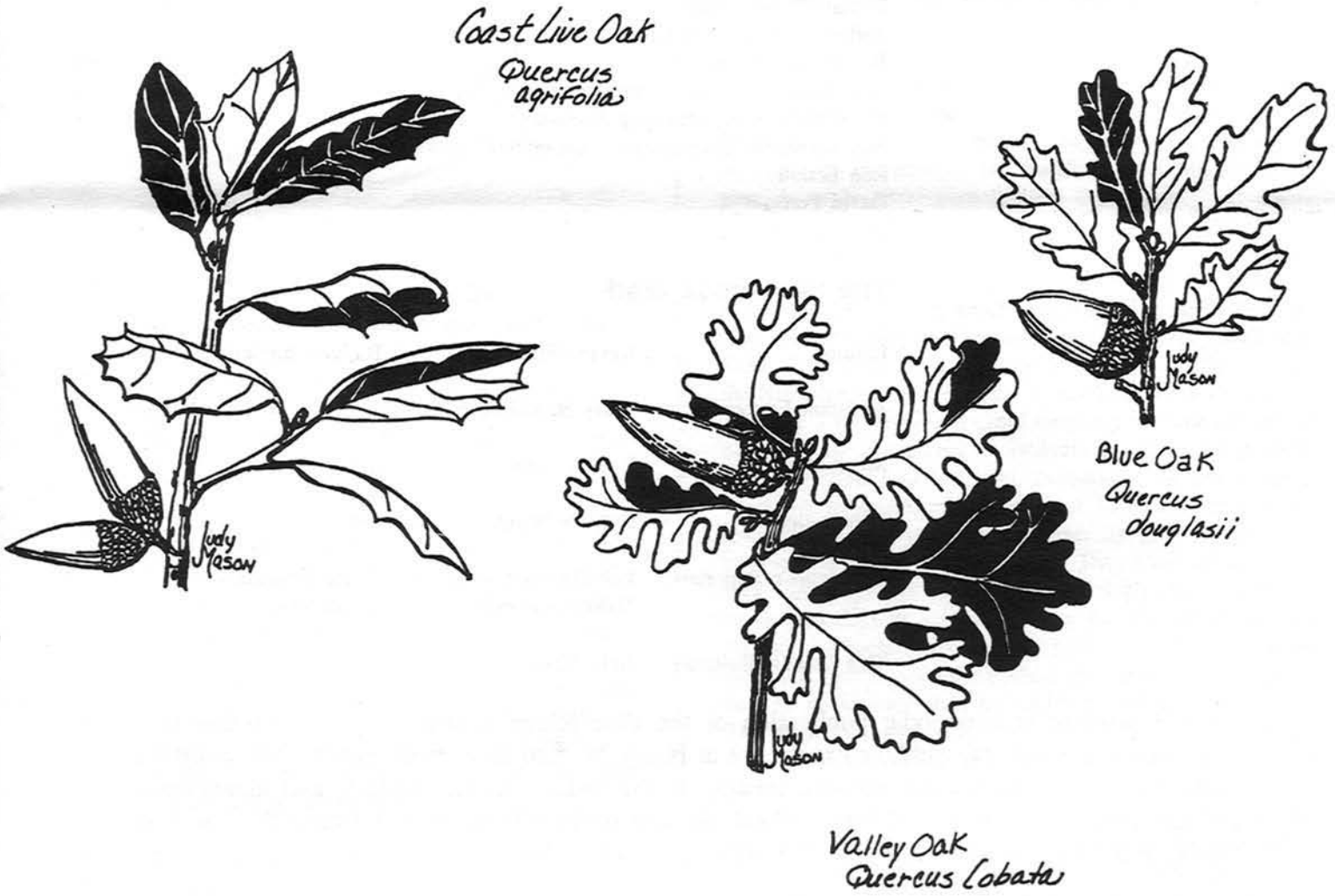
Sunday, March 20: The beginning of spring is heralded by the vernal equinox at 12:29 p.m. The 1994 Sunday series of wildflower walks begins at the visitor center starting at 1 p.m. and at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 27: Full moon. Early American settlers referred to this moon by several names, including "fish moon," "worm moon," and "crow moon."

Saturday & Sunday, April 23 & 24: Another weekend event in the Orestimba corral area. Put these dates on your calendar, as you won't want to miss this opportunity to enter from the Bell Station entrance. More details will be included in the next issue of *The Ponderosa.*

Common Trees of Coe Park

Common Name	Family Name	Genus and Species
1. Valley Oak	Fagaceae	*Quercus lobata*
2. Canyon Live Oak	Fagaceae	*Quercus chrysolepis*
3. Blue Oak	Fagaceae	*Quercus douglasii*
4. California Live Oak or Coast Live Oak	Fagaceae	*Quercus agrifolia*
5. California Sycamore	Platanaceae	*Platanus racemosa*
6. Gray Pine (formerly Digger Pine)	Pinaceae	*Pinus sabiniana*
7. California Laurel	Lauraceae	*Umbellularia californica*
8. Western Yellow Pine or Ponderosa Pine	Pinaceae	*Pinus ponderosa*



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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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