THE PINE RIDGE ASSOCIATION • HENRY W. COE STATE PARK •

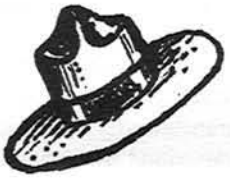
# The Ponderosa

*The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter*
*Henry W. Coe State Park*

**April 1995**

## From under My Brim

**by Barry Breckling**



### Spring

Each year, as winter slowly gives way to spring, my daydreams and nightdreams become more and more populated with wildflowers. And each year, as my expectations grow, I begin to wonder if my memory has exaggerated the splendors of spring. Then April arrives, and I'm blown away all over again.

Spring officially begins toward the end of March, but long before March arrives, you'll see signs of spring in the Diablo Range. In January, and maybe even as early as December, the delicate, white, bell-shaped flowers of the manzanita shrubs bloom, braving the short days and cold winds. Milkmaids begin to bloom in February, and long before most people begin thinking of spring, plump bumblebees are out feeding on the nectar of the blue forget-me-not Hound's Tongue flowers.

The birds that flew south to escape the short cold days of winter begin to return to nest and rear their young, relying on the bounty of spring in Northern California. The turkey vultures, like the manzanita blossoms, arrive early. They soar over the landscape and seem totally in their element as they're buffeted about by the cold, gusty winds of late winter.

If you spend time outdoors in spring, you're bound to hear the lovely song of a sort of drab little bird. If you spot the singer, you might be surprised to discover that it's a plain titmouse, a bird that's spent the months since last spring just being plain.

As the days get longer they also become noticeably warmer. There are still periods of unsettled weather, but rainbows forecast the marvelous days ahead. You catch a whiff of fragrant ceanothus blossoms, and suddenly your spirits soar. Before you know it, spring is here in all its glory, and it progresses now in leaps and bounds.

Wildflowers are one of the most precious gifts of spring, and the Diablo Range is one of the best places in the world to seek them out and enjoy them. Let me tell you a little about some of my favorites.

My favorite wild violets are the Johnny-jump-ups, and they're extremely numerous this year. Their glowing yellow faces brighten the open grasslands. There are two less common species of yellow violets in the park that you might mistake for Johnny-jump-ups,

Johnny-Jump-Up

**Inside this issue . . .**

Do you recognize these wildflowers?

The dynamic geological history of Coe Park

A travelogue of the Orestimba Corral Trail

Calendar of other upcoming events

**. . . and more!**

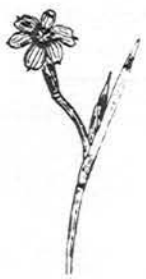
until you take a closer look. One species, the oak violet, grows in the shade of trees. Its petals are smaller and paler than Johnny-jump-up petals, and its leaves are longer and more gray-green in color. If you're walking through one of the drier areas of the park and you find a brighter yellow violet with finely divided leaves, you've discovered a Douglas violet.

You'll find several species of larkspurs throughout the park, most of them in shades of blue and purple. Larkspurs are also called delphiniums because of their genus name *Delphinium,* which was derived from the Greek word for dolphins. The name was chosen because the nectar "spur" of the flower resembles a dolphin. My favorite larkspur is the red larkspur. It's not very common in the park, but if you're lucky, you might come across some along the East Fork of the Coyote Creek (in the narrows area) or in the canyon of the Little Fork.

Another flower that's rather uncommon in the park is the beautiful crimson columbine. The word columbine comes from a Latin word for dove-like. The plant grows only in canyon bottoms in the park. If you find one, take a close look at one of its blossoms. If you squint your eyes and use your imagination, the five petals and their upward pointing nectar spurs become a circle of five doves facing one another.

Iris is the Greek word for a rainbow, and irises do come in a rainbow of colors. We have only one species in the park, the ground iris, and its blossoms are a dreamy shade of blue. Irises belong to the Iris family (sometimes things are simple, sometimes not), and we have one other member of the family in the park, blue-eyed grass. Common names are sometimes kind of dubious, even downright deceptive. Blue-eyed grass is not a grass, its "eye" is not blue (it's yellow), and the flower's more purple than blue. If that's not confusing enough, a few unusual blue-eyed grass plants in the park have white flowers. I found one "white-eyed grass" plant along the trail between the Frog Lake dam and the Little Fork of the Coyote and some others along the upper section of Middle Ridge Trail.

Ground Iris


Blue-Eyed Grass

One of the most charming flowers in the park is also one of the smallest. The blossoms of purple mouse ears look like tiny, deep purple mouse faces with brilliant magenta ears. If you look inside the dark purple flower tube, you'll see bright golden stripes and striking yellow anthers. The plants grow only two or three inches tall, so it's easy to walk right past them without seeing them. Look for them in rocky areas with sparse vegetation along the Corral and Monument Trails. You might have to get down on your belly to really appreciate the beauty of the tiny flowers, but the rewards are well worth the trip. Some years, you won't find purple mouse ears anywhere, but this year they're exceptionally plentiful.

Purple Mouse Ears

Bird's eyes often blanket large sections of hillsides with a pale blue glow. The petals are a whitewashed shade of blue, and the flower tube has alternating stripes of deep blue violet and bright yellow, which give the flower its other common name—tricolor gilia. You can delight in the color the flowers give to the hillsides, but this is another one of those belly flowers; to really appreciate them, you need to get down to their level. When you do, you can see one of their most striking features—four fluffy azure blue anthers.

When you're out hiking through some of the drier locations of the park, keep an eye out for bitterroot, one of the rarest and loveliest flowers in the park. Bitterroot is a low-growing plant with a large, multiple-petaled flower in the middle of a ring of leaves. The petals of the flower vary in color from white to pink. A few small colonies that grow in the Miller Field–East Fork area have beautiful translucent, iridescent pink petals. Because the plant was first described by Captain Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, botanists named it *Lewisia.*

I think my favorite spring wildflower is the white mariposa lily. Mariposa is the Spanish name for butterfly, and these tulip-like flowers do resemble butterflies. Although the petals are usually white with beautiful red markings on the inside, you'll sometimes find flowers with brighter colors, ranging from light red to brilliant crimson. A patch of red-flowered mariposa lilies grows along the road to Poverty Flat less than a mile from the Coyote Creek. Each year, I look forward to seeing mariposa lilies, but they also make me a bit wistful since their presence is a signal that spring soon will be over.

Hound's Tongue

## The Subduction of Coe Park

**by Phil Frame**

Actually this title is misleading, since the "subducing" happened before there was a park, but it did catch your interest, didn't it?

You may recall learning in the last exciting geo-article in *The Ponderosa* that representatives from all four of the major rock groups (igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic, and The Rolling Stones) are present at Coe Park. This is in marked contrast to other, geologically mundane parks such as Yosemite, where solid granite is exposed as far as the eye can see, or even the Grand Canyon, where layer upon layer of horizontal sediments record time back to the beginnings of life without missing as much as a single era. A visitor at Coe, on the other hand, is usually greeted with a different rock type, or at least a different geologic structure, at each new outcrop.

To make sense of the rocks in an area, geologists group the materials into units of similar rock type and age—formations. At Coe, we are faced with many different rock units and many question marks on our maps since dirt, rather than rocks, covers most of the park, making the location of contacts between different rock types questionable. In this case, it is easier to group the rocks by similarities in their heritage, and when we do this, the rocks at Coe are found to correlate with other rocks extending in the coast ranges from Oregon to Santa Barbara. These rocks are now known as the Franciscan Complex, a fitting name indeed.

As is often the case, the harder we try to understand something, the more complicated it becomes. Franciscan rocks were first described in a publication of 1858, *Report of a Geological Reconnaissance in California,* and identified as the "San Francisco Sandstone." As studies of these rocks continued on the Peninsula and beyond the Bay Area, many more rock types other than sandstone were included in the fledgling formation, and by 1895 it became termed the "Franciscan Series," implying to geologists a consistent sequence of strata. Still more studies led to greater complications and longer explanations as to how you could get so many different rock types and different age fossils mixed up in one geologic unit. There was also this problem of not finding the top or bottom or even knowing what formations capped or underlay the Franciscan. For a while, it was known as the Franciscan "Group" or Franciscan "Formation," but these names gave a misleading impression of order to this confused group of rocks. I always liked the name Franciscan "Melange" (French for hodgepodge, not the spice in the novel *Dune*), which was in vogue several years back but didn't quite fit those areas of extensive, somewhat coherent sandstone deposits. Nowadays the rocks are most often referred to as the Franciscan "Complex" or plain old Franciscan.

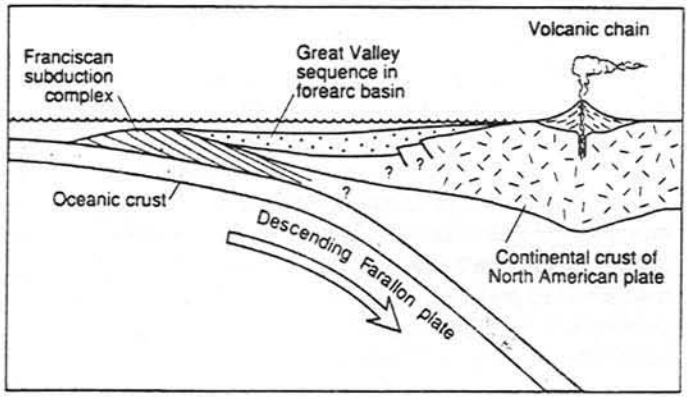
We know Coe is big, but really! Franciscan rocks that formed in a near-shore marine environment (sandstone and conglomerate), deep water (shale), and mid-ocean (basalt or greenstone) are present within the park. All of those rocks formed at the surface of the Earth's crust; others that formed miles below [high-grade metamorphics such as blueschist] are also found at the park. How is this possible? If you are thinking of a whole lot of squishing going on, you are not far off.

Some of the hardest things to comprehend in geology are the magnitude of the Earth, the expanse of time, and the long-term effect of imperceptible movement. We tend to base our judgments on personal observations: a lifetime, averaging 75 years, is a long time; Mississippi Lake is a long hike from the visitor center; my kids grow quickly. Geologists, pondering the planet Earth and its history beginning 4.5 billion years ago, see things differently. They think nothing of entire continents shuffling about the Earth's surface. At a pace of one inch per year, much slower than the growth rate of your average oak for example, the San Andreas fault will move one mile in 63,000 years or 16 miles in a million years. Since the San Andreas fault is believed to preside over a system of faults at a plate margin, perhaps it is not too difficult to envision giant chunks of the Earth dancing about without our noticing.

So let us make like geologists, crank up the latest model of the geologic universe, and see what happens. At the start of our story, about 160 million years ago [Late Jurassic time], we would be donning scuba gear and riding sea horses to visit the park. The nearest dry land was the Sierra Nevada, and Coe was separated from these eroding mountains by a stable continental margin where sediments that would become known as the "Great Valley sequence" were accumulating. Way out west in the Pacific, new ocean floor was forming by upwelling on older crust, forcing it toward the surrounding continents. Being more dense than continental rocks, the oceanic crust dove (lucky for us the state park system had not yet make this a crime) beneath the continental margin at a trench/subduction zone. (See the figure at the end of the article.) We now have our basaltic crust with overlying deposits of oceanic mud and chert meeting the sandstone, siltstone, and conglomerate eroding from the continent and being deposited in the trench. As the eons slowly tick by, this process continues, with some of the materials being scraped off near the surface, while others are thoroughly mixed as they are dragged down beneath the continent to be metamorphosed by the higher temperatures and pressures of that particular hell.

But wait. Just as all seemed hopeless for our primordial park, a shift in the Earth's tectonic whims ends formation of those churned up Franciscan rocks some 80 million years ago as lateral movement on the San Andreas fault system becomes the dominant action. The relief was overwhelming, and the rocks tectonically uplifed in joy. By that time, the Franciscan Complex

was beneath the oceanic floor with its overlying layers of Great Valley sediments. Uplift caused all those materials to arch upward into what is now the Diablo Range. All we needed then was to erode a few thousand feet of rock, including most of the old ocean floor and overlying sediments, squirt some volcanics up in the eastern part of the park, and voilà—there is the Coe Park we all know and love.




*East-west cross-section through California at an early period in the formation of the Franciscan Complex. At this time, Franciscan rocks that will one day be exposed at Coe Park are still accumulating beneath the leading edge of oceanic crust and the overlying Great Valley sequence.*

## Orestimba Corral Trail

**by Winslow R. Briggs**

From the Orestimba Corral, an attractive objective is the waters of Mississippi Lake, perhaps a little over two miles away as the crow flies. Until the spring of 1993, there were really only two possible ways to make the trip. The first was to backtrack south about half a mile and take the Cross Ridge Trail (a section of County Line Road) to the crest of Mississippi Ridge, and then follow the Mississippi Ridge Trail (another section of County Line Road) to the short side trails leading left to the lake. The second was to follow the Gill Route north somewhat more than two miles and take the Hartman Trail up to Mississippi Ridge, joining the Mississippi Ridge Trail just south of the first trail to the lake. The first route, while a very pleasant walk or ride, is entirely on patrol road and offers the lack of intimacy characteristic of any patrol road. The second route involves finding one's way up one of the most obscure and the steepest named trails in Coe Park, conditions hardly conducive to a deep and contemplative appreciation of one's surroundings. Neither alternative was particularly appealing to the Trails Advisory Committee, and a search for a new route was initiated. Since the east-facing slope of Mississippi Ridge is steep and convoluted, and in places covered with dense chaparral, efforts to find an alternative to the above two routes were initially fruitless.

However, a volunteer reported having taken a cross-country route on horseback up to the ridge top along a fence line someplace near the corral, and it seemed that there might be a feasible route for a new trail after all. Inspection of the slope through binoculars from partway up Mustang Peak revealed a line at least worth investigating—some fairly open digger pine and oak woods, with slopes that appeared not to be impossibly steep, a moderate ridge to follow, and a minimum of chaparral. Subsequent investigation led to a rediscovery of the fence line right up the middle of the promising ridge. The end result is the present Orestimba Corral Trail. It rarely exceeds a grade of 10 percent and is only briefly in chaparral. Except for the extreme upper end, shade is abundant, and the trip from valley to ridge is an extremely pleasant and scenic one. It is only 1.7 miles in length, with a total climb of 600 feet.

The trail starts from the Gill Route about a tenth of a mile south of the corrals, where it drops immediately to cross Orestimba Creek just by a large rock and begins a steady westward ascent on the other side. It slants up across a grassy slope rising to the right, following a small tributary valley of Orestimba Creek that is on your left as you start your ascent. A gently sloping ridge largely covered by open blue oak forest rises above and beyond the grassy hillside. After about two hundred yards, watch for three digger pines just to the left of the trail. Their bark is completely riddled with holes—many thousands of them—made by acorn woodpeckers to store their favorite food. Indeed many of the holes still contain the remnants of acorns. One wonders why the woodpeckers favor the pine bark over that of oak, for example. Is the former softer? Do substances in the pine bark help preserve the acorns longer? Does pine bark just taste better during the drilling process? Why do some diggers have hundreds of holes while others nearby and just the same size have scarcely any? Listen for the whir of California Quail for whom someplace within the forest of digger pines across the tributary to the south is home. The trail maintains a steady grade, following irregularities in the ridge surface, in and out of small drainages, and Orestimba Creek is soon out of sight. After a few hundred yards, a tangle of dead and fallen trees blocks the way, and the trail makes switchback 1, the first of 14. **(Please don't take shortcuts!)**

The trail soon reaches the broad and gently sloping ridge and levels off, bearing left into a wide shady basin. It shortly resumes its climb, following the contours of the land as the slope of the ridge steepens above to the left. Behind you through the trees are the beginnings of good views of the long ridge ascending from the southwest to Mustang Peak. Switchbacks 2

and 3, not more than 20 yards apart, follow in quick succession, the second just below the first patch of chamise on the ridge, keeping the grade at a steady 10 percent. Along the margins of the trail on the warm May day when I took notes for this trail description were innumerable funnel-shaped webs, each leading to a hole a half inch or more in diameter—the lairs and snares of countless tunnel spiders. The views of Mustang Peak and Long Ridge to the east become progressively better, and after about 100 yards or so, the trail again makes a switchback (number 4) back left, still managing to avoid chamise, and finally levels momentarily on the ridge crest next to a tangle of fallen dead oak trees. Note the extensive digger pine forest again in view directly to the south on the slope facing you. Whereas the western half of Coe Park has occasional digger pines, one needs to come deep into the Orestimba drainage and other valleys on the east side to see digger pines in such profusion that you can safely speak of a pine forest!

Finally, after having avoided the chamise so far, the trail swings right and upward and plunges into it for a few yards. I once noted what were clearly the scratch marks left by a wandering mountain lion to the right just at the end of this patch of chamise, reported these in great excitement, and subsequently brought back several people including a park ranger to show them off. The ranger studied the scratches for a minute and then demonstrated in a kindly and understanding manner just how the scratches had been made by a large branch of chamise moving back and forth in the wind, quietly terminating the Legend of the Orestimba Lion.

Once beyond the chamise (and the ersatz lion scratches) look up west and locate a patch of open meadow with a few oaks, directly ahead on the skyline. Just beyond this meadow is the upper end of your climb. The trail continues climbing across a fairly open grassy slope, broken by an occasional patch of shade from a solitary oak, and reverses itself at switchback 5, just short of another patch of chamise. (I also showed the ranger what he suspected might be a pig's den under the far side of this chamise, but he expressed the notion somewhat more cautiously following the lion affair). Following a sharp turn right, your route crosses the crest of the ridge again, and for the first time crosses the fence line. (It was this fence line that the volunteer had followed some years earlier and that was the key to locating a feasible route). The slope now rises to your left, and just beyond the first of several tall diggers there are for the first time lovely views of the valleys and ridges to the north. If you have sharp eyes (what an odd expression!) you should be able to spot the Rooster Comb somewhat west of north. Its rocky crest meets the horizon where it is formed by a broad dip in the profile of the mountains in the distance. A telltale identifier is the wide grassy slope below the rib of rock. Nearer to you to the northwest is a steep slope covered with a massive accumulation of chaparral.

The route now takes a rather level course through a mixture of digger pine and oak, traversing just below the ridge crest but never quite reaching it. It crosses the fence for the second time, still below the crest, but close enough to yield some lovely views to the south, while forest blocks the views to the north. As the ridge ahead begins a steeper ascent, the trail just touches the crest and then swings right into open chamise to fence-crossing 3. It soon leaves the chamise and begins to climb again, and switchback 6 leads back to the crest (and fence-crossing 4, buried in the chamise). The more open vegetation allows lovely views eastward across the Orestimba Basin toward Mustang Peak. Switchback 7 comes shortly after you cross the crest, and leads you just back to but not across the fence. The higher ground of the ridge top is once again on your left as the fence drops down and away to the right. A gentle climb through oak and digger pine past an interesting rock outcrop to the left leads you to a saddle just beyond the rock and a view south down a steep slope into a pine-filled canyon. You soon cross the fence once again (crossing 5) where it returns to the ridge but remain on the north-facing slope. A few yards further are some very nice views of Long Ridge to the north of Mustang Peak. The chamise-choked slopes to the north are again impressive, looking for all the world like a giant dark-green lawn. Consider, however, that they represent an immense fuel load—the raw material for a firestorm should they burn on a hot dry summer day. The controlled burns of which you have undoubtedly seen evidence near headquarters are carried out to prevent this awesome and dangerous phenomenon.

Your route remains either level or gently climbing for a hundred yards or so before fence-crossing 6 at another saddle. Here you drop a bit, following the ridge top closely, until the ridge begins a steep ascent straight ahead. Your forward progress is blocked by a deadfall of trunks and branches, and the trail climbs off to the right (fence-crossing 7) into a mixture of diggers, many small, but with occasional giants, and an impressive miniature forest of poison oak on either side. Although the trail has been well cleared, watch for overhanging branches of this botanical pest. It has an unpleasant habit of growing rapidly into any and all available open space. A pile of large boulders soon blocks forward progress, and switchback 8 takes you back left and almost out of the poison oak. On reaching the fence line, however, the trail turns sharply back into the noxious weed (switchback 9). The climb steepens a little as the trail soon threads its way between two specimen digger pines, only to make switchback 10 around a third landmark pine. Following the switchback, the trail remains fairly level, traversing across the face of the ridge (and making fence-crossing 8), finally leaving the poison oak behind. After passing a few diggers, the trail traverses below some more chamise into switchback 11, just at a small draw. The route crosses back through the chamise for about ten yards and takes you out into some lovely grassland well shaded by scattered blue oaks. In the process it recrosses the

fence line (crossing 9) to gain the north slope of the now considerably wider ridge.

Here the trail makes a broad curve left around a knoll covered with mossy boulders. It brings you almost back to the fence but then turns back right as the slope ahead once again steepens. Switchback 12 takes you around several boulders and provides a close view of a beautiful big berry manzanita. While this handsome shrub is common on Pine Ridge, Middle Ridge, and Blue Ridge, it is far rarer on the east side of the park, and such a lovely specimen is even rarer. What determines its narrow range is not known (as far as the author is aware, it is completely absent from Mahoney Ridge on the west side) but is perhaps related to water availability—too much for it to compete on the west side and too little for it to survive on the east side. Note several smaller manzanitas ahead just as you enter the switchback. You head across the face of the ridge again (fence-crossing 10) before the trail curves back right. Soon there is a lovely large rock outcrop on your left, with lots of small flat surfaces, ideal seats for a rest, a drink, a snack, or even lunch (permissible any time after 11:00 a.m.).

The route enters open chaparral again, passing into a small drainage and then sharply left out of it, leading you quickly to switchback 13, still in the chamise. Shortly after leaving the chamise and just beyond a large digger pine to your right are sweeping views to the south. You are then led across a far broader crest into much more open terrain and into a grassy draw that is blocked by a specimen poison oak (this one a large shrub) placed artfully in front of a small digger pine. The trail crosses a long open sloping meadow (and fence-crossing 11) with the sweeping views now to the north and east. A sharp eye may spot the Mississippi Ridge Trail (County Line Road) where it slices through the chaparral close to the skyline.

Our side ridge has entirely lost its identity, having merged into the broad flank of Mississippi Ridge. The trail soon enters a large grove of small digger pines ahead (landscaped with a bit of poison oak) into the final switchback (switchback 14) immediately followed by the final fence crossing (number 12). Note the reddish soil exposed just at the switchback. You soon emerge from the diggers to some marvelous views east, skirt below a patch of chamise, and begin crossing a sloping meadow between widely scattered oaks. (This is the meadow you first saw from the grassy slope just beyond the chamise with the ersatz lion scratches.) To the southeast are the distant peaks south of Highway 152 and Pacheco Pass, visible as the trail contours up the final few hundred yards before reaching the Mississippi Ridge Trail (part of County Line Road). At the end of the trail, as you top the ridge, your view encompasses one hundred and eighty degrees, extending westward to the wooded ridge on the far side of Mississippi Creek. Careful study of the ridge you ascended will reveal the short section of trail from which you could first see this upper meadow. Several sections of the road up Mustang Peak (the Mustang Peak Trail) are also visible.

If you didn't eat lunch earlier, the top of the trail offers two possibilities. The first of these is a group of several small flat rocks in front of the chamise clumps across the road, very nice if the day is cool. The second is the bank under a large oak just to the north, also across the road, lovely shade on a hot day. Once, during a leisurely lunch, our altimeter, which relies on changes in atmospheric pressure, indicated that the ridge on which we were sitting had risen fully fifty feet during lunch. Since we did not notice any large earthquakes, however, we concluded that the phenomenon was probably just because the hot sun had lowered the atmospheric air pressure a bit (hot air expands), altering the calibration of the altimeter—a far less interesting explanation!

From here, you have three choices to return to the Orestimba Corral. First, you can simply return down the trail you ascended, clearly a pleasant option. Second, you can head south along the Mississippi Ridge Trail to its junction with the Cross Ridge Trail and follow it east back to the Gill Route (the Kaiser-Aetna Road) where a left turn will return you to the Corral in about 0.7 miles. Finally, you can head north a couple of miles along the ridge to the top of the Hartman Trail and follow it with all of its difficulties back down to Orestimba Creek and the Gill Route. About two miles back south (to your right on this jeep road) are sufficient to return you to the Orestimba Corral. This latter alternative, however, is not for the casual hiker: As mentioned before, parts of the Hartman Trail are almost obscured (how good are you at route finding?), and much of the trail is impossibly steep and in some sections, especially near the top, badly eroded. Whatever your choice, you will be in some lonely, wild, and beautiful country on the east side of Coe Park.

On Saturday, April 22, this trail will be dedicated to Senator Alquist at a ceremony to be held at the Orestimba Corral. State Senator Alfred Alquist from California's thirteenth senatorial district has been a steadfast supporter of parks and environmental issues and has frequently helped Coe State Park.

## Mother's Day Breakfast

**by Lee Sims**

Mother's Day is May 14th. Tickets for the eleventh annual Mother's Day Breakfast at Coe go on sale at the park visitor center on Saturday, April 15. Tickets may be ordered by mail or purchased in person; no telephone orders will be accepted. If you order by mail, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope; otherwise your tickets will be placed on will-call. Also, of course, please include a check for the proper amount. Tickets are $8.25 for adults and $5.00 for children (under 12) and seniors (over 60).

The breakfast location has been moved to the Ridgeview environmental camp. This site is much closer to the visitor center. **We encourage everyone to walk to the breakfast.** The distance is about 1¼ miles and will take 30–45 minutes from the parking lot. There will be transportation available from the parking lot for those unable to walk to the breakfast site, including handicapped, older people, and those with very young children. The breakfast will be accessible for anyone caring to attend. Call park headquarters for clarification (408/779-2728).

## New Park Aid at the Visitor Center

**Deodoro Morelos** has joined the Coe staff as a Park Aid. Deodoro performed construction work for many years, and more recently he has worked as a correction officer at a state prison. His favorite outdoor sport is fishing, and his favorite indoor activity is playing jazz and classical music on his baby grand piano. Deodoro also plays the guitar. Please stop by the visitor center and welcome Deodoro to our family.

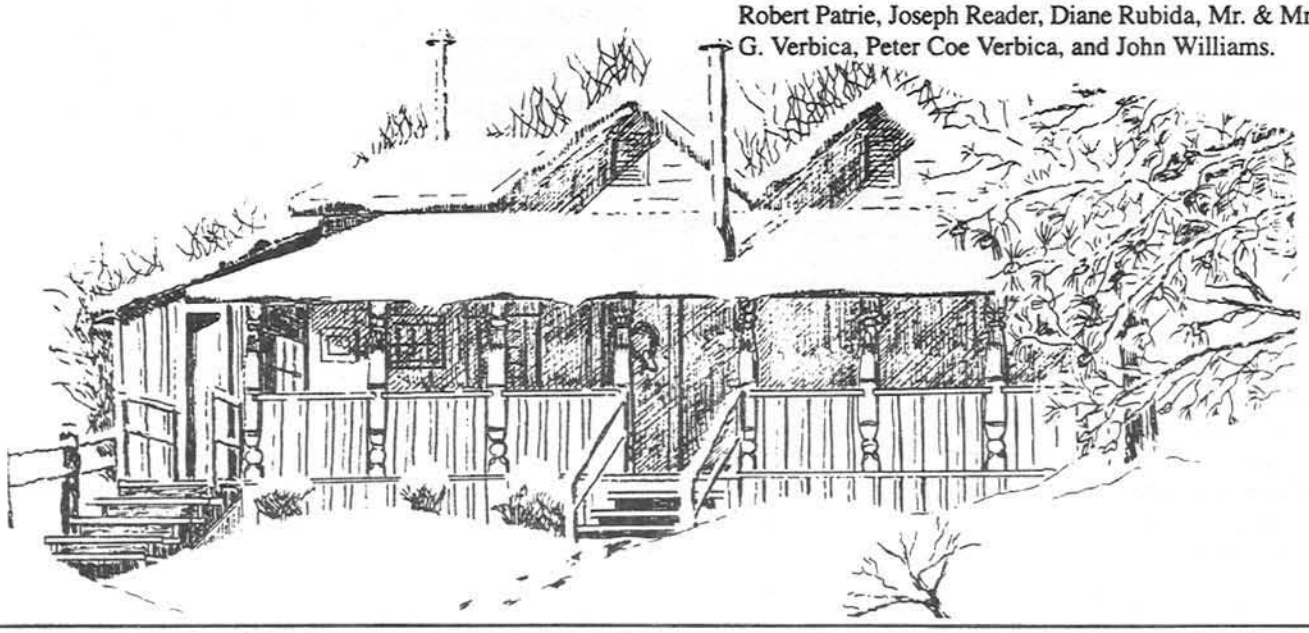
## Membership & Contributions

**by Lee Dittmann**

As of March 9th, we welcomed a number of new members to our organization, bringing the total number of memberships to 283. Thank you all for your support, and welcome to the Pine Ridge Association!

**Galen Andre**, Los Gatos
**Bob & Debie Caldwell**, Angels Camp
**Charles Carlisle**, San José
**Dr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Dreyfuss**, Los Altos
**Lois J. Durham**, Palo Alto
**Catherine Hatcher**, El Granada
**Dolores & John Kent**, Morgan Hill
**John Kim**, Campbell
**Mike & Sandee McCaffrey**, Los Altos
**Mary Massee**, Sunnyvale
**Erin & Mike Monroe**, Gilroy
**Joe Parisi**, San José
**James Fredric Parker & family**, Hollister
**David M. Simcho**, Morgan Hill
**Edward L. Sinz**, San José
**Scott Stevenson**, San José
**Tommy Tacci & Donna Soto**, Morgan Hill

We would also like to thank **Nancy Coe**, who has opted to become a **Life Member**. She joins the ranks of the Pine Ridge Association's other esteemed Life (formerly Patron) members Everett Allen, the Backpack Section of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, Larry Bernal, Jr., Barbara Bessey, Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Paul Brown, Carl Clinger, Thomas Coe, Ruby Domino, Ron Erskine, Kevin Gilmartin, Larry Haimowitz, Albert Heckbert, Don Holmes, Dave Hough, Celia McCormack, Robert Patrie, Joseph Reader, Diane Rubida, Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Verbica, Peter Coe Verbica, and John Williams.



## First Corporate Member

Welcome to our first ever Corporate/Business Member:

**RAM COMMERCIAL INSURANCE**
**195 San Pedro Avenue, Bldg. A**
**Morgan Hill, CA 95037**

**(408) 776-2800**

If your business would also be interested in supporting the Pine Ridge Association, we would welcome your involvement. Minimum annual dues are $100 and entitles your business to 1) one vote in PRA elections, 2) a subscription to *The Ponderosa*, 3) a 15% discount on purchases of items from the park visitor center, and 4) acknowledgment of your membership as in the format above. If you would like an application or have questions about PRA Corporate/Business memberships, please contact me, Lee Dittmann, at the park.

## Special Gifts

We extend our thanks to **Cisco Systems, Inc.** for their donation in support of employee **Libby Vincent**'s volunteer time at Coe Park.

We would like to thank the **McGraw-Hill Foundation** in appreciation for its double matching gift with McGraw-Hill Employee **Lou Ashworth**.

## New Contributors to the Visitor Center Expansion Fund

**Galen Andre**
**John Briese**
**Daniel & Jo Ann Cobb**
**Linda Cowles & family**
**Sam & Gigi Eastman**
**Jenifer Emma**
**Patrick Frederick**
**Beresford Garner family**
**Robert & Glenda George**
**James & Barbara Gregory**
**Mr. & Mrs. Sherman V. Holmes**
**Leif & Bonnie Larsen**
**Thomas Laye**
**Steve Marquez**
**Bill Mauk**
**Joe Parisi**
**Thom Parks**
**Janet Pettinotti**
**Carolyn Schimandle & family**
**Felix T. Smith**
**Marlene Testaguzza**
**Joan Throgmorton**
**Derrick Tischler**
**Jane & Pat Tracey**
**Margaret Young & David Lister**

Thank you for helping us realize our dream of a larger, more wonderful visitor center!

Note: It has come to my attention that at least two members contributed to the Expansion Fund by writing checks and depositing them in Park Superintendent Kay Robinson's collection box. Any donations placed in this box were deposited directly into the Visitor Center Expansion Fund account. Since they were unaccompanied by a donation form, they were not known to, or recorded by, the membership department, and consequently have not been acknowledged. If you have made a direct Expansion Fund contribution in this manner, I would like to acknowledge your support. Please send a copy of your canceled check to me care of Coe Park.

In order to correct this oversight, let us now give our belated thanks to **Don Holmes** and **David Perrin** for their contributions to the Expansion Fund.

Also please note that donations to last year's raffle, although deposited in the Expansion Fund account, are not treated as regular contributions since the chance of winning a prize has some monetary value. We are unable to acknowledge all individual raffle participants, but again we give our thanks to you for your assistance towards expanding the visitor center.

## PRA Calendar

*Saturday, April 8:* Join spring **trail building day** at Coe Park to help push Flat Frog Trail closer to its destination. No previous experience is needed; your enthusiasm and willingness to work are all you need. You work as hard as you want to. When you want to take a break, you take a break. If you need to leave early, you leave early. We want you to build as much trail as you can without getting tired, sore, or burned out. Trail building is manual labor, but it's also a great opportunity to enjoy the Coe out-of-doors. Bring work gloves, lunch, and a container for drinking water. For more information about where to sign up, call the park headquarters (408/779-2728).

*Saturday & Sunday, April 22–23:* The **Backcountry Coe weekend**. Attendance at this popular event is by reservation only, and it is already **SOLD OUT**. Interpretive hikes and walks, including a special campfire program, are scheduled throughout the weekend.

**Don't forget about the interpretive programs at Coe Headquarters from now until May 30:**
**Saturdays at 10:00 am: Hikes**
**Saturdays at 8:00 pm: Slide shows**
**Sundays at 1:00 pm: Wildflower walks**
**Meet at Coe Park headquarters if you wish to participate in these activities**

### *Join the Pine Ridge Association*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Telephone ( ) _____

**Membership Categories**

| | Individual | Family |
|---|---|---|
| **Basic** | ☐ $10 | ☐ $16 |
| **Contributor** | ☐ $15 | ☐ $26 |
| **Supporter** | ☐ $25 | ☐ $46 |
| **Sponsor** | ☐ $50 | ☐ $95 |
| **Benefactor** | ☐ $100 | ☐ $195 |
| **Donor** | ☐ $200 | ☐ $395 |
| **Life** | ☐ $300 | ☐ $595 |
| *Special needs discount memberships:* | | |
| **Senior** (age 62 and over) | ☐ $5 | ☐ $8 |
| **Student** (full-time) | ☐ $5 | ☐ $8 |

Membership dues: $ _____

Contribution to Visitor Center Expansion Fund: $ _____

Additional contribution: $ _____

**Total amount enclosed:** $ _____

Since 1975, the Pine Ridge Association (PRA) has provided educational and interpretive programs and services for visitors at Henry W. Coe State Park.

Your membership is an excellent way to show your support for the park and assist in maintaining interpretive programs in these times of limited state resources.

All membership levels entitle you to a subscription to *The Ponderosa*, a 15% discount on purchases of books, maps, T-shirts, and other items in the Visitor Center, and a vote in PRA elections (two votes for Family memberships). Members receive advance notice of special events and activities and are also eligible to apply for admittance to the volunteer training program.

In addition, membership categories of $15 or more are entitled to receive a free gift.

PRA memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Memberships of persons joining after July 1st are valid until the end of the following year.

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Morgan Hill, CA
Permit No. 160

DATED MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY

## PRA Board of Directors

Dennis Pinion, Chair
David Perrin, Vice Chair
Jim Mason, Treasurer
Bill Frazer, Volunteer Committee Chair
Kevin Gilmartin, Recording Secretary
Kay Robinson, Cooperating Association Liaison
Barbara Bessey
Ron Erskine
Thom Parks
Libby Vincent

## The Ponderosa Staff

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Editors: | Barbara Bessey | Kevin Gilmartin |
| Assistant Editor: | Barry Breckling | |
| Mailing & Distribution: | Roberta Wright | Everett Allen |
| This Issue's Reporters: | Winslow Briggs<br>Lee Dittmann | Phil Frame<br>Lee Sims |
| This Issue's Illustrators: | Barry Breckling<br>Lee Dittmann | Rosse Hemeon<br>Kathy Paivinen |

*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.

Copyright © 1995 The Pine Ridge Association