The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

February 1996

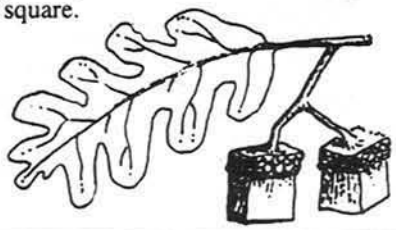
From under
My Brim

by Barry Breckling

The Legend of the Oak

This is a story that came to me many years ago, so long ago in fact that I don't remember if I put it into words or if it simply remained an image in my mind until I wrote it down for an issue of **The Ponderosa**.

Once upon a time, a long time ago, a grove of oak trees lived in a pretty little valley tucked deep in the mountains. A clear creek flowed down through the grove all year long, providing the trees with plenty of water. These trees were special, and they seemed to know it, for they were the only oak trees in the whole wide world. If you could have seen the grove in the winter or spring, you probably would have thought that the oaks were exactly like many of the oaks you see today, but if you'd seen them during the fall, you would have noticed something very strange indeed. All the acorns on the oak trees were big and square.



The acorns never fell far from the trees. Occasionally one would land in a spot with just enough moisture and just enough light, and a new oak seedling would sprout. And every now and then a tired old oak would die and give a lucky little seedling the room it needed to grow up and become a respected member of the group. Over the years, the grove remained constant and contented, with few signs of change, and there were never more than a couple dozen trees in their prime.

One year an acorn fell into just the right kind of spot, and a tiny new seedling popped out of the ground. Although the seedling looked and acted quite ordinary, deep down inside it held a secret.

The little oak grew healthy and strong, and it kept its secret safe and sound until the summer of its 16th year. That was the year when the tree made its first acorns, and its acorns were very strange indeed. Unlike normal acorns, which were large and thick shelled, these acorns were small and rather delicate.

Inside this issue . . .

Happenings in and around the park

Mother's Day Breakfast at Coe Park

The annual Coe Backcountry Weekend

Calendar of upcoming events

. . . and more!

recycled paper

Most surprising, though, was the way they were shaped. These little acorns weren't square at all. They were round!

The other oaks were amazed by the acorns, and some of the younger trees laughed and made fun. Although the older trees were much more polite, they were sure that such strange little acorns could never become trees.

Summer turned to fall, and one crisp, clear morning, the oaks began to drop their acorns. Most of the acorns landed in spots that were less than ideal. They would lie still without sprouting and would slowly rot away. One of the acorns fell into a squirrel's hole, but the annoyed squirrel pushed it back out and left it alone. A noisy jay swooped through the grove, but she barely even glanced at the acorns lying on the ground. The squirrels and the jays knew that the tasty meat inside the acorns would be yummy to eat, but they also knew that the acorns were too big and awkward to get a good grip on and that their tough shells were simply too hard to crack.

Later that morning, two young squirrels scampered around the grove playing hide and seek in the trees. One of them found a little round acorn, picked it up in his mouth, and carried it off to his favorite stump. He chipped away the thin shell, and gobbled up the meat inside. Soon both squirrels were busy hunting for more of the tender acorns. A scrubby young jay happened along and noticed the commotion. He picked up one of the little acorns in his beak and flew to the top of an old oak tree. Holding the round acorn steady with both feet, he chipped the outside shell away, ate the tasty meat inside, and gave out a loud boastful screech.

News of the strange acorns spread quickly, and more squirrels and jays soon joined in the feast. After a while, one by one, the animals began to get full. The squirrels tucked acorns into their cheeks and headed off in different directions to bury the acorns so that they could dig them up and eat them later. The jays flew off with acorns, stashed them in hastily dug holes here and there, and returned for more.

Before long, there were no more little round acorns lying on the ground, and some of the oak trees snickered a bit. But, unlike humans, squirrels and jays don't always remember where they put things, and the next spring several little oak seedlings popped out of the ground on the hillsides surrounding the valley. A few years passed, and each spring more oak trees graced the hillsides and spread into neighboring valleys. All the oaks outside the grove had little round acorns, and the oaks in the old grove no longer laughed at the strange young tree in their midst.

Some bright fall day, if you're exploring deep in the mountains, you may come across a pretty little valley with a clear creek flowing through it and oaks all around. And if you look carefully, you might discover a few lonely old oaks trees with very strange acorns indeed.

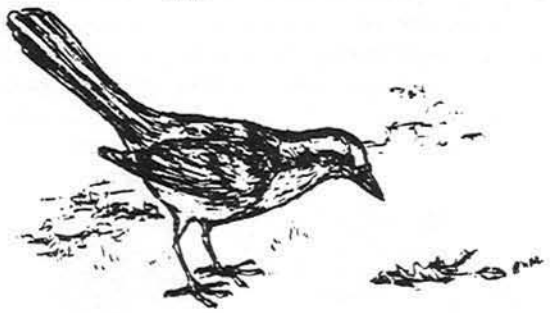
Scrub Jay

by A. J. MacLaren

If you spend any time hiking in California, chances are you've seen this raucous, boisterous clown of the woods and scrub desert. At first observation, you would find nothing extraordinary about this avian, save for the fact that he's quite brave around the picnic table. I chanced to see something else on one occasion.

I was sitting at the library engrossed in a novel when I noticed a particular scrubber acting strangely like an acorn woodpecker. He was pecking relentlessly in one spot on the ground. He was jabbing his bill under a leaf with the precision of a jackhammer. You almost never learn about some bird's behavior in one observation. I stayed where I was. Soon the same bird returned to the area and practiced the same behavior in a bundle of dead leaves on a shrub. I was absentminded enough to forget my field glasses. The observations would have been a good deal easier with them.

After a while, the bird did not return. I had kept a close eye on the areas of its attentions. Finally I lifted that leaf and found that our critter had placed a peanut there. I had a hunch. He had deposited a peanut in the dead clump of leaves as well. In conclusion, scrub jays store food in a given area. This can lead to many ramifications dealing with bird behavior or even species behavior. The question forefront in my mind at the time was: How many jay species do this, or is this an isolated trait of scrub jays?



Park News

by Kay S. Robinson, Park Superintendent

It has been slow going, but we are making progress on the Visitor Center Expansion Fund. The Fundraising Committee has been meeting to discuss some options for raising the necessary $300,000+ needed for construction as well as the $500,000+ for displays and interior design. Several grant prospectuses have been submitted to foundations and corporations, but we have no "bites" so far. Some of the activities we intend to initiate or continue this year are a PRA/ group garage sale (start saving your better throw-aways for an August sale), a raffle at the fall BBQ, more grant submissions, and a donation box. If you haven't been to the visitor center **recently, stop by to see the beautiful model/donation box of the expansion constructed by PRA member, Bob Caldwell. Our bank account for the expansion fund now stands at about $22,000.**

Our staff activities in the park are wide ranging, geographically speaking. On the west side of the park, we have done some culvert and road repair. The recent storms have also brought a fair amount of damage to the park roads, so the equipment operator will have his hands full (and keep his equipment busy) this spring. In the southwest corner of the park, construction is completed on the new Anza Trail. At two miles in length, it is a small segment of the 1,200-mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. This was finished in September with the help of a $5,000 grant from the National Park Service. On the far east side of the park, two new segments of fence were installed. As a result, visitors will be able to make a loop trip from Orestimba Corral up to Mustang Peak, north on Long Ridge, returning to Orestimba Creek and then south to Orestimba Corral and never cross a fence or have to go through a gate. Previously misplaced fences created the mistaken appearance of crossing onto private property. Visitors will be pleasantly surprised when they arrive for this year's Coe Backcountry Weekend. This creates a wonderful opportunity for a lengthy loop trip from the Corral.

All indicators are that Coe is gaining in popularity and attendance. Last year's Bay Area Backroads presentations, the Orestimba Event in April, and word-of-mouth advertisement have all helped to increase our visitor base. One of the PRA's and State Parks' missions is to educate the public about natural and cultural features and recreational opportunities. Our methods of education range from maps and literature at the park to newspaper articles to TV spots to articles in related organization's newsletters.

It was inevitable that we would enter the world of electronic data transmission, and it has happened. Henry W. Coe State Park now has a World Wide Web home page accessed at http://www.garlic.com/coe. Our Coe Sector office has even entered the twentieth century. Our e-mail address is coepark@ix.netcom.com (just give me a few weeks to get familiar with it). Especially I would like to hear from you if you have some ideas about reaching our fundraising goal for the visitor center expansion!

PRA Annual Meeting a Success!

by Barbara Bessey

The annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association was held this year in Morgan Hill on 3 February 1996. Kevin Gilmartin opened the Pine Ridge Association portion of the meeting. He announced that Barbara Bessey, Owen Melroy, and David Perrin had been elected to the Board of Directors. The new officers of the PRA Board of Directors for 1996 are: Kevin Gilmartin is Chair, David Perrin is Vice Chair, Owen Melroy is Secretary, and Barbara Radd is Treasurer. Thanks were expressed to retiring treasurer Jim Mason, who had served in this role for more than ten years. Barbara Radd provided information about the financial status of the organization. Barbara Bessey briefly reviewed the status of the Visitor Center Expansion efforts. Libby Vincent announced that Coe Park is now on the Internet. She introduced Wes Rolley, who had worked with the Association over the past year to prepare a home page for the park. She displayed a few pages showing the kinds of graphics and the types of information included on our web site.

The meeting of the Coe Park Volunteers was held next. Stew Eastman, the chair of the Volunteer Committee, stated that the total number of hours volunteered during the 1995 calendar year was a staggering 15,464. Volunteers spent 3,528 of those hours working in the visitor center—which is equivalent to approximately two full-time employees. The volunteer organization had been extremely active during the past year, as evidenced by the large number of award presentations.

Eighteen new volunteers graduated from the training program and became trainees: Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Paul Brown, Joe Cannon, Scott Cowherd, Aileene Edsinger, Larry Edsinger, Robert Esposito, Sheila Flodberg, Alan Haviland, A. J. MacLaren, Chris Mahon, Margaret Mary McBride, Matt Pauly, Steve Schramm, Vickie Shelton, Travis Smith, and Mike Torralba.

Sixteen trainees, who had completed the requirements of the training program and had served 50 or more hours, were promoted to full volunteer status. They are Brian Adams, Kendra

Carlisle, Carolyn Fatooh, Jeff Frame, Phil Frame, Sandi Garrett, Susan Haselhofer, Victor Haskett, Stefan Ignaczak, Mathew Kidd, Teri Patane, Joanie Smith, Bonnie Stromberg, Deborah Vajretti, Bev VanderWeide, and Chris Williams.

Specially designed T-shirts, which contained a beautiful drawing of the Coe Park Ranch House drawn by Rosse Hemeon, were offered to volunteers who spent 48 or more hours working in the visitor center or on other visitor-centered activities during the past year (e.g., staffing the booth at the Mushroom Mardi Gras, giving programs to visitors, leading hikes). This year, thirty-three volunteers were eligible to receive this award. This year's award recipients were Everett Allen, Barbara Bessey, Lee Dittmann, Phyllis Drake, Sharry Dunn, Stew Eastman, Carolyn Fatooh, Julie Fitzharris, Bill Frazer, Kevin Gilmartin, Dennis Green, Don Holmes, David Hornby, Gary Keller, Bob Kelley, Millicent Kellogg, Mathew Kidd, Irwin Koff, Jim Mason, Judy Mason, Owen Melroy, Dave Perrin, Lois Phillips, John Prior, Barbara Radd, Judy Robinson, Martie Sinclaire, Rob Sinclaire, Toni Sousa, Jim Tuomey, Libby Vincent, Bill Workman, and Roberta Wright.

Seven individuals, who volunteered 200 or more hours of which at least 100 hours were spent in the visitor center, were promoted to senior volunteers. These are Tim Fast, Julie Fitzharris, Jim Gregory, Tami Koval, Loren Mansel, John Prior, and Sandy Voechting.

Nine volunteers received special recognition for the tremendous numbers of hours they have spent on Coe Park interpretative activities. Between them, they have donated 20,000 hours to the park! Karen Mansel, Judy Robinson, Rob Sinclaire, Libby Vincent, and Hersch Wright each volunteered 1,000 hours of service. Bill Frazer volunteered 2,000 hours of service. Ruby Domino volunteered 3,000 hours of service. Everett Allen volunteered 4,000 hours of service. Lee Dittmann volunteered 6,000 hours.

Kay Robinson, Park Superintendent for the Coe Sector, made a special presentation to those volunteers who had donated 200 hours or more within the past year. Each received a free annual pass to state parks in California. Receiving the award are Everett Allen, Barbara Bessey, Lee Dittmann, Ruby Domino, Stew Eastman, Carolyn Fatooh, Julie Fitzharris, Bill Frazer, Kevin Gilmartin, Teddy Goodrich, Don Holmes, David Hornby, Bob Kelley, Mathew Kidd, Jim Mason, Judy Mason, Owen Melroy, Dave Perrin, John Prior, Barbara Radd, Judy Robinson, Lee Sims, Martie Sinclaire, Toni Sousa, Kitty Swindle, Joan Throgmorton, Jim Tuomey, Libby Vincent, Chris Weske, and Roberta Wright.

The Volunteer Committee's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service was presented to two individuals this year: **Bob Kelley** and **John Prior**. Bob Kelley was part of the volunteer class of 1991. He has volunteered 1,872 hours to date; of those hours, 1,114 were spent in the visitor center. He spent three years on the Volunteer Committee, and he was in charge of the volunteer training in 1994. He has done much to bring Coe Park's name into the community by arranging for a booth at the Mushroom Mardi Gras. He has an interest in Coe Park history; he wrote the booklet that is for sale in the visitor center on Harry Coe. He has also been actively involved with the Visitor Center Expansion fundraising committee. John Prior volunteered over 500 hours in this first year as a volunteer, and more than half of those hours were spent working in the visitor center. He is one of the few volunteers to become promoted to the senior level in his first year. He is an avid foot patroller, and he has covered many miles of trails as part of this pursuit.

Kay Robinson announced that the state also has an award honoring volunteers who have contributed much to state parks over the past year. This year's recipient is **Ruby Domino.** Ruby spent over 400 hours on park-related activities just in the past year. She has been a part of the Trails Advisory Committee. She has worked closely with the Mule Deer Foundation to ensure that the park's springs are in working order. With a grant from the Mule Deer Foundation, Ruby and other volunteers worked on five springs during the past year.

The PRA Annual Award is given to an individual who has contributed outstanding work in furthering the mission of the association in preserving and enriching Coe Park. This year's award, which was presented by Bill Frazer who was the award recipient last year, was presented to **Everett Allen.** In addition to a wood plaque on which Everett's name is engraved, Bill also gave him a necklace containing a flattened frog, in honor of his many hundreds of hours spent working on the "Flat Frog Trail" from the park headquarters to Frog Lake. Everett started as a Coe Park volunteer in 1987; he has volunteered more than 4,000 hours since that time. Over the years, he has been a member of the Volunteer Committee and the Trails Committee, he has scouted out new trails, he has handled the tickets for the Fall Barbecue and the Mother's Day breakfast, he has helped the state round up cattle and carry out prescribed burns of park land, he prepared the rain book in the visitor center in which summaries of rainfall are presented for previous years, and he has been maintaining the PRA membership list. Visitors can see Everett's name on the large plaque in the visitor center near the cash register, along with the recipients from previous years.

Congratulations to all!

Kay Robinson and John Kolb provided information about some of the recent district-level activities that affect us at Coe. The sector office in Gilroy opened this past year. A major project to change the trail names in the park is underway; the

new signage will be more destination driven than the current signs. John indicated that, in June 1995, the state received 7,000 acres from Paula Fatjo, the last of the Pacheco family. She wished to preserve her heritage, along with several Native American sites and beautiful rolling oak woodlands. In May of this year, the new park will be named; the plans are to design trails that will hook this park into Coe eventually.

This year's speaker was Alan Kaplan, a naturalist with the East Bay Regional Park District. He presented a fascinating slide show on pollination using California's plants as examples. He discussed different types of flowers, each showing an adaptation to a specialized pollinator. Wild gingers, for example, produce rotten-meat odors that attract flies. Buttercups have specialized nectar guides, which reflect ultraviolet light. Although we humans are unable to detect the ultraviolet, they are visual cues for bees. Checkerspot butterflies are frequent pollinators of the buckeye. Its pollen and nectar are said to be poisonous to non-native honey bees, but not so to its native pollinators. Some plants, like the lupines, change color as they age (and thus are depleted of nectar and pollen). Thus, bees can be diverted away from the "empty" flowers, and they can focus their attention on the flowers most likely to provide nectar or pollen.

After the meeting was adjourned, all members enjoyed a delicious luncheon catered by the Volunteer Committee.

State parks help renew the spirit of the people;
let's help keep the spirit of the state parks alive!
John Kolb, Superintendent of Four Rivers District

Mother's Day Breakfast

by Lee Sims

Mother's Day is May 12th. Tickets for the twelfth annual Mother's Day Breakfast at Coe go on sale at the park visitor center on Saturday, April 13. 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 62).

This very popular event, which sells out shortly after tickets go on sale, includes a delicious hot breakfast, live old-time fiddle and banjo music, nature hikes, and plenty of relaxation among the grasses, flowers, and pines of Coe Park.

The breakfast location has been moved to the Ridgeview backpacking 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 older people and those with very young children Special arrangements will be made for handicapped visitors. The breakfast will be accessible for anyone caring to attend. Call park headquarters for additional information.

Visit the Backcountry of Henry W. Coe State Park

by Ann Briggs

For one spectacular weekend this spring, Henry W. Coe State Park will open its gate at Bell Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The annual Coe Backcountry Weekend held in the little traveled east side of the park is scheduled for **April 27 and 28.** This event, sponsored by the Pine Ridge Association, allows visitors vehicle access to a remote and beautiful area of the 80,000-acre park. Hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians have a special opportunity to see and enjoy an area isolated by long distances and rugged terrain from the park's Morgan Hill entrance. This area of the park puts on a spring extravaganza of colorful wildflowers in the oak woodland. Fishing for bass and sunfish is excellent in secluded ponds and reservoirs. The trails provide panoramic views of the Diablo Range. Visitors may come into the park for the day, camp overnight at Orestimba Corral or Pacheco Creek Crossing, or backpack to one of the seldom visited areas of the park. They may explore on their own or join a guided ride or hike, or participate in naturalist activities. Brochures, maps, information, activities, and volunteer assistance will be available.

Participants will travel 8.5 miles on an unpaved road from Bell Station to Pacheco Creek Crossing or an additional 3.8 miles to the Orestimba Corral. The road is in good condition and passable by two-wheel drive vehicles, although there are some narrow and steep sections requiring high clearance. Four-wheel drive is strongly recommended for towing horse trailers. Because of several steep creek crossings, the road is not suitable for camp trailers or motor homes. Entry for the weekend is by reservation only. Flyers announcing the event and providing an application form are available at hike, bike, and equestrian businesses such as REI and bicycle shops, as well as at the Trails Center and at Coe Park Headquarters. Or **call the Henry W. Coe State Park sector office in Gilroy at (408) 848-4006 and leave your name, address, and telephone number on the recording. An application with additional information will be mailed to you.**

Applications and entry fees, $5.00 per vehicle for day use, $10.00 per vehicle for overnight, must be returned **by April 5.**

A random drawing will be held to meet the 330 vehicles per day space limitation. All unsuccessful entry forms will be returned with their checks to the applicants. No dogs will be allowed. Camp stoves will be permitted, but no open fires, barbecues, or hibachis. A group campfire will be held on Saturday night.

Join us for an unforgettable experience. The backcountry of Henry W. Coe State Park on a spring weekend is not to be missed!

Coe Garage Sale
by Judy Robinson

During the weekend of August 3rd, Coe Park plans to have a "garage" sale to raise money for the Visitor Center Expansion Fund. The goods we sell will be donated by PRA members and park volunteers and their friends, relatives, and colleagues. Please start saving nice stuff and ask the people you know to start saving, too. When you visit the park, you can drop off your bags and boxes. We'll store them until it's time to start sorting and pricing, and we'll give you a receipt to save for tax time.

In the meantime, we need suggestions for places to have the sale and places to store goods before and during the sale. The sale location should have lots of space and lots of traffic on the weekends.

Sheila Flodberg has volunteered to set up and help run a bake sale to bring in additional funds at the garage sale.

This event will require all sorts of volunteers. We'll need planners, promoters, storers, sorters, pricers, drivers, bakers, bargainers, and just plain workers. If you're willing to help out, please sign up in the visitor center or call Barry Breckling at 408/779-2728.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 1995
by Barbara Radd

The PRA's income for fiscal 1995 was down 10% ($4,672) despite a 9% increase ($1,843) in book store sales and new revenue from the *Coe Backcountry Weekend.* The reduction was primarily due to a reduction in donations ($4,593) and cancellation of the Mother's Day Breakfast.

Total expenses were up 6% ($1,942), mostly due to computer equipment maintenance and replacement.

Net income was down 44% from last year, which was a record year. Nevertheless, our net income was $8,393.

Balance Sheet
as of October 31, 1995

ASSETS	
Current Assets	$69,569.14
Fixed Assets	$1,252.56
Total Assets	$70,821.70
LIABILITIES	
Sales Tax Payable	$97.61
CAPITAL/EQUITY	
Total	$70,724.09

FY-1995 INCOME

Sales	$23,818.26
Donations	$11,566.20
Dues	$3,219.53
Other Income	$2,940.70
Total Income	$41,544.69

FY-1995 EXPENSES

General Administration	$6,937.30
Fund Raising	$2,503.61
Volunteer Expenses	$1,495.09
Interpretive	$7,735.28
Cost of Goods Sold	$14,480.48
Total Expenses	$33,151.76
Net Income	**$8,392.93**

Special offer: Coe Park coyote sweat shirts and other garments
Order by March 31st

Occasionally, we get requests for Coe Park sweat shirts and long-sleeve T-shirts. While the regular 100% cotton short-sleeved coyote T-shirts will be available at the visitor center as usual, these other garments can be purchased by *limited time special order only* and must be ordered *by* ***March 31st***.

The centerpiece of the design is an excellent portrait of a coyote drawn by PRA Volunteer Judy Mason. The coyote and its tracks are reproduced in brown, with lettering in dark green.

Here's what you can special order:

Long Sleeve Crewneck T-shirt, 100% cotton
Colors: Natural, White, Ash.
Adult unisex sizes S–XXL.
Member's Price: **$14.00**; Non-member's Price: $16.50; sales tax included.
(Size XXL: **$16.00** member's, $18.85 non-member's, sales tax included).

Crewneck Sweatshirt, 7.75 oz. fabric, 50/50 poly cotton, set in sleeves.
Colors: Natural, White, Ash, Denim Blue, Fuchsia, & Sage.
Adult unisex sizes S–XXL.
Member's Price: **$14.50**; Non-member's Price: $17.00; sales tax included.
(Size XXL: **$17.00** for members, $20.00 for non-members, sales tax included).

Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt, 7.75 oz. fabric, 50/50 poly cotton, matching drawcord, muff "hand warmer" pocket, set-in sleeves.
Colors: White, Ash, Cardinal.
Adult unisex sizes M–XXL (no size Small).
Member's Price: **$21.50**; Non-member's Price: $25.50; sales tax included.
(Size XXL: **$24.25** for members, $28.50 for non-members, sales tax included).

50/50 Poly Cotton Crewneck T-shirt, 5 to 5.6 oz. fabric. (*We ordinarily stock only 100% cotton T-shirts; if you prefer the 50/50 mix, here's your chance to order them in short sleeves—available in a wide variety of colors—and at a lower price than the 100% cotton shirts*).
Colors: White, Ivory, Ash (a light speckled gray), Athletic Heather (dark speckled gray), Fuchsia, Pink, Watermelon, Orange, Gold, Yellow, Fresh Mint, Stonewashed Green, Kelly Green, Light Blue, Stonewashed Blue.
Adult unisex sizes S–XXL.
Member's Price: **$10.00.** Non-member's Price: $12.00; sales tax included.
(Size XXL: **$12.25** for members; $14.50 for non-member's; sales tax included).

TO ORDER, send us:

1. Your **name, address, and phone number**.
2. **Description of item(s), size, quantity, and color** choices **(please indicate an alternate color choice for each item).**
3. Your **check** for the total amount of your order plus a **$2.00 shipping fee**. The shipping fee is the same no matter how many garments you order and is waived if you opt to pick up your order at the Coe visitor center.

Your order must be postmarked by **March 31, 1996**. Your Coe Park coyote garment(s) will be ready by the end of April.

Make your check payable to the **Pine Ridge Association**, and mail to:

Pine Ridge Association
P. O. Box 846
Morgan Hill, CA 95038-0846

Questions? Contact Lee Dittmann at the park (779-2728) for the answers to your special order garment problems. As usual, all profits from the sale of these items benefit the Pine Ridge Association's interpretive and educational programs.

Membership & Contributions
by Lee Dittmann

As of February 7, we welcomed many new members to our organization. Thank you all for your support, and welcome to the Pine Ridge Association!

Joseph Carlig, El Cerrito
Rafael Luke Castell, San Mateo
John Essman, Healdsburg
Lammers & Derasary, Oakland
Bonnie Lemons, San Francisco
Ron Marazzo, Bend, Oregon
Florence Pease, Los Altos
Wesley C. Rolley, Morgan Hill
Gonzalo S. Valencia, Gilroy

New Contributors to the Visitor Center Expansion Fund

Chere Bargar
Joseph Belli

Andra Cassen
Harry W. Councell
Annemarie & Robert Donjacour
Dave & Patty Flack
Ric & Joanne Heinzen
Bonnie Stromberg
Bev VanderWeide
Bill Workman

"Who says the PRA is local?" Dept.

If the addresses of our members are any indication, the Pine Ridge Association is a *national* organization! Let's give special recognition and a big thanks to renewed members: **Bonnie Poulos & Jim Brooker** in **Tucson, Arizona**; **David D. Kirkman** in **Spokane, Washington**; **Mr. & Mrs. Sherman V. Holmes** in **Virginia Beach, Virginia**; and **Bob & Glenda George** in **Newton Highlands, Massachusetts**.

Special Contributions
In this section we acknowledge special donations of $200 or more over and above dues payments.

Thanks to **Sam & Gigi Eastman** for their very generous contribution to the Visitor Center Expansion Fund.

Thanks to **Robert Patrie** and to **Joseph Reader** for their very generous year-end contributions to the general fund of the PRA.

Thanks to **Cisco Systems, Inc.** which made a cash donation in support of employee **Libby Vincent's** Coe Volunteer hours.

Visitor Center Expansion Fund
by Lee Dittmann

Thanks to all of the generous donors who are making the visitor center expansion a reality! This list includes the aggregate cash contributions of all of these donors to this special fund. Not included are the purchase of raffle tickets, donations of prizes to the 1994 raffle, and membership dues payments or other unrestricted donations to the Pine Ridge Association.

PONDEROSA PINE
$5,000 or higher

The Pine Ridge Association

SYCAMORE
$1,000–$4,999

MADRONE
$500–$999

Sam & Gigi Eastman
Robert Patrie
Robert & Sarah Rogallo

BAY LAUREL
$100–$499

In Memory of Molly Hemeon Adkins
from Rosse Hemeon
Everett Allen
Barbara Bessey & Kevin Gilmartin
Will B. & Margaret M. Betchart
Boole & Babbage
Winslow & Ann Briggs
Michael F. Brookman
Ed & Sally Burke
Park & Joan Chamberlain
Susan & Dennis Dong
Ron Erskine
Nancy Filice
Bill Frazer
Beresford/Garner family
Rosse Hemeon
Vic Hill
National Semiconductor (on behalf of
Martin Michael)
Dennis Pinion & Barbara Radd
RAM Commercial Insurance Services
Joseph Reader
Judy Robinson
Standish W. Sibley
In Memory of Thomas A. Sousa
from Toni Sousa
Peter Coe Verbica
The many anonymous donors contributing in the visitor center expansion fund collection boxes at Coe Headquarters and the Coe Sector office (over $380 to date!)

LIVE OAK
$25–$99

Betty Allin
Bernard G. & Mary Frances Anderson
Maryellen Bauer
Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Blakley
Mary Brandeau
Liz Brinkman & Greg Scott
Tracy Brobst

Terry Bullock
Phyllis Drake
Laura Durica
Stewart Eastman
Tim Fast
Beverly Filippi & Nick & Pat Nickol
Page G. Frechette
Tim Gilrein
Bill Gingras
Albert I. Heckbert
Dave Hildebrand
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Vanessa Wray

Thanks to you all!

PRA Calendar

Saturdays and Sundays, March - June: The **Coyote Creek entrance** to the park near Gilroy Hot Springs will be open on weekends from March through June. Visitors can backpack or spend the day; there is also room for horse trailers. Call the Coe Park headquarters for more information (408/779-2728).

Saturday, March 16: Join the San Jose Astronomical Association members as they view **celestial splendors above Coe Park.** The public is invited to attend. Call the Astronomical Association's events hotline for more details (408/559-1221).

Saturday and Sunday, March 16 & 17: The **1996 season of interpretive hikes, walks, and evening programs** begins this weekend. A flyer announcing the schedule of events for the weekend programs is included in this issue of the newsletter.

Thursday, March 21: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the **PRA Board of Directors** will be held at the Coe Sector Offices in Gilroy. Please call Chair Kevin Gilmartin (415/851-7813) to receive a copy of the meeting agenda.

Saturday, April 13: **Join us for Coe Park's Spring Trail Days. No previous experience is needed; your enthusiasm and willingness to work are all you need. Trail building is manual labor, but it's also a great opportunity to enjoy the Coe out-of-doors and to feel satisfaction in making beautiful trails! For more information and to sign up, please call the sector office (408/848-4006).**

Saturday, April 20: Join the San Jose Astronomical Association members as they view **celestial splendors above Coe Park.** The public is invited to attend. Call the Astronomical Association's events hotline for more details (408/559-1221).

Saturday and Sunday, April 27 & 28: **The Coe Backcountry weekend will be held in the Orestimba. Flyers describing this very popular event are included as an insert in this issue. Please note that, due to the popularity of this event, applications must be submitted on or before the deadline; attendees will be selected by a random drawing. Please call the Coe Park Sector office for more information (408/848-4006).**

Sunday, May 12: **Weather permitting, Mother's Day Breakfast at Coe Park will be held. This event has sold out in previous years, so please request your tickets early. A flyer describing the event will be distributed.**

Saturday, May 18: Join the San Jose Astronomical Association members as they view **celestial splendors above Coe Park.** The public is invited to attend. Call the Astronomical Association's events hotline for more details (408/559-1221).

Be a part of the future by preserving the past!
Support the Visitor Center Expansion!

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 1, 1995, are valid until the end of the 1996 calendar year.

Please make checks payable to the ***Pine Ridge Association.***

Pine Ridge Association
Henry W. Coe State Park
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(408) 779-2728

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