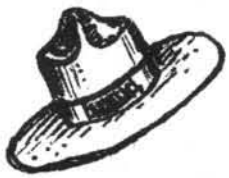
THE PINE RIDGE ASSOCIATION • HENRY W. COE STATE PARK •

The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Summer 2001

From under My Brim



by Barry Breckling

The Handsome Butterfly

From a distance it looked like a flitting red butterfly bouncing over the grassy, rock-strewn ridge, but it never seemed to fly away as butterflies always do. It bounced with the breezes as butterflies do, but its flight seemed to be dictated entirely by the wind, not by its own power. It was brightly colored as butterflies often are (but is there really a species of red butterfly?). Its wings were the shape of a butterfly's, but wait . . . there were *three* wings. It wasn't a butterfly at all, it was just a flower . . .well not *just* a flower, a very special flower, a mariposa lily. Mariposa, mariposa, such a beautiful name, the Spanish name for butterfly.

Close by, in the partial shade of widely spaced oak trees, were other similar bobbing and bouncing lilies, but these were all white. And towards the top of the ridge, where it leveled out and was less rocky and more open, there were yellow mariposa lilies. All of these lilies would be given the genus name of *Calochortus,* which means beautiful grass, and certainly the flowers are most beautiful, and the leaves are long and slender like the leaves of grass. Some people would call the yellow ones Yellow Mariposa Lilies and some would call them Gold Nuggets. Their scientific name would be *Calochortus luteus*; luteus means yellow, and that one color describes the flowers perfectly. Besides a few reddish-brown lines and a crescent shaped yellow-orange bearded gland on the petals, the flowers were consistently sweet lemon yellow. The white ones would, as you might suspect, be called White Mariposa Lilies, but others would call them Butterfly Mariposa Lily or even Mariposa Tulip. The resemblance to tulips is easy to see. The scientific name of the white ones would be *Calochortus venustus,* and venustus means charming or handsome, a well-fitting name.

But what about the red one? Many people would be fooled. The red lily was actually the same species as the white lily. For those who lived close to the earth, it was easy to see. The White Mariposa Lilies could be almost all white when viewed from a distance, or they could be lilac, lavender, magenta, purple, or even crimson. And beyond the general color seen at a distance, a single petal of what first looked like an all-white flower, would have a great variety of colors.

On a typical White Mariposa Lily (if such could exist), a reddish lilac glow could be seen on the outside of the petals as they spiraled shut with the waning sunlight of each late spring evening. And on the bright early days of summer, the petals of the flowers, which at first appeared to be pure white, would, with closer inspection, be found to be white impregnated with a plethora of colors and designs. The inside of

Inside this issue . . .

Coe family belongings on display in the Visitor Center

Introduction to a barn owl

Progress toward opening the Bell's Station entrance

A hike by moonlight and other summer events

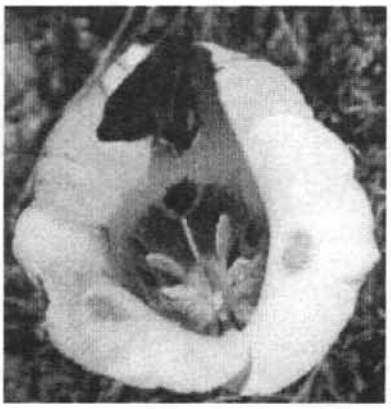
. . . and more!

each petal would usually have a hollow, rounded smudge of purple-red near the top, a blood-red to purple circle or semi-circle surrounded by yellow in the middle, and at the bottom, a squarish, yellow-orange, hairy nectar-producing gland that was surrounded and subtended by red-purple speckles and striations.

When you had seen enough of these lovely lilies, no matter what their color, you knew that the long slender form of the plants were the same, the flowers all had the same range of size, the petals and sepals and leaves and stems were all the same shape. But, the flower color varied from ivory white to brilliant crimson, and no two flowers were quite alike. In fact, a truly all-white flower is much harder to find than the uncommon all-red ones.

The woman admired the beautiful red mariposa. She sat next to it for some time, her back to the sun. She might have paused because she was tired. Her basket was nearly full of bulbs, many Brodiaea and Yampah bulbs, but mostly the bulbs of the yellow mariposa lilies. It might have been the extraordinary beauty of the flower that kept her sitting silently. It could have been a desire to know the oneness between the flower and herself.

Deep inside the flower were three black bugs. She knew they were to be expected in almost all the flowers. She carefully opened the petals wider for a better look, and the bugs rolled around, and some fell to the ground. A yellow and black flower fly that looked a lot like a bee came to feed on the nectar-rich glands. She knew the little stingless fly was imitating a bee so that nothing would try to eat it. She gently held out her hand near the flower, and the little hover fly landed on top of her thumb to rest. She smiled at its cuteness. After several minutes, the flower was visited by a woodland skipper, an Anna's hummingbird, and finally a buckeye butterfly, which landed on the flower, carefully uncurled its long tubular tongue, and took a drink of the nectar. As a breeze tossed the flower here and there, the butterfly had the appearance of being part of the flower, moving with its every little wave. The woman leaned over and buried her nose deep into the flower. She inhaled very slowly. In the faint fragrance she found the second attraction the flowers had for insects. The first, of course, was the brightness and beauty of the petals. A bit of sticky nectar dripped from her nose and landed on her lip. She gently tasted its wonderful sweetness with the tip of her tongue.



The woman had stayed long enough to notice that one of the red mariposa's petals had changed almost imperceptibly. It was the texture of the petal, the difference in the color. The petal had begun to wilt. She took her flat digging stick, which she had carved from an oak branch, pushed it into the earth near the base of the plant, and then paused. She slowly took in a life-giving breath and gave thanks just as she had done with every other plant she had dug up that day. She dug up the bulb, dusted off some of the dirt, and placed the bulb in her basket.

With each plant she had dug up that day, her thoughts did not dwell on how important the food would be for her family's survival. What she measured was the survival of her family seven generations into the future. Maybe she had to travel a little farther out this trip so that she would not take too many bulbs, but seventh-generation collecting was the right way to live on the earth. It was living with the earth. She looked off to the hazy horizon and wondered, would her great-great-great-great-great-grandson still treat the earth the same?

Six Men on Horseback—A Closer Look at the Displays in the Coe Park Visitor Center

by Teddy Goodrich

It was the photograph of six men on horseback looking out at me from behind the glass in the central display case that first piqued my curiosity about the remaining photographs and artifacts in the visitor center. Though I knew the furniture in the living and dining room displays had belonged to the Coe family, it didn't fit into the rustic lifestyle at Pine Ridge, and I doubted that it had ever been used there. All else, artifacts and photographs, I assumed, had been provided from some big warehouse in Sacramento to portray life on a cattle ranch in the early part of the twentieth century. Was I wrong!

As it turns out, almost every item in the visitor center was donated to the park by Sada Coe Robinson in 1972. The story is told that she invited some representatives from the

state park service to her home at 100 Mt. Hamilton Road and told them to pick out whatever they wanted, and so the furniture, rugs, serving pieces, even the sadly deteriorated jars of canned food—cherries, peaches, and plums—were all given to the park by Sada.

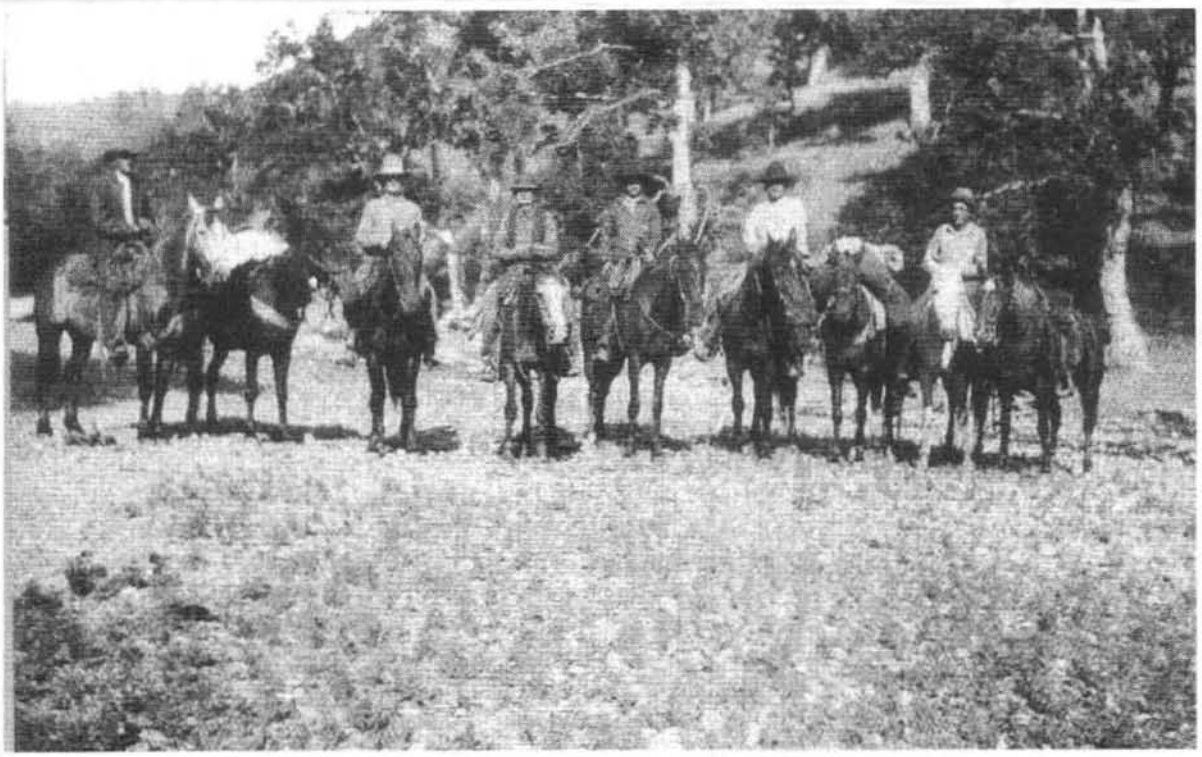
Our tour begins at the living room. In spite of the sign that tells us these items found a home at Pine Ridge, it is very unlikely that anything in this room, or the dining room, was ever at Pine Ridge. Of special interest in this room is the portrait of the woman on the back wall. This is Hannah Huntington Smith Coe, Harry Coe's[1] mother and Sada Coe Robinson's grandmother. The loveseat belonged to her. She feared her possessions, including the loveseat, would fall into the hands of the influential Huntington family upon her death. Mysterious footsteps and the sound of furniture being moved around in the night are ascribed to Hannah Coe making sure her possessions are still there. The carpets have various origins, but most are hand-woven. They were described by the person who restored them as being as fine as any at Hearst Castle.

One of the guitars is a Washburn, the other is a Lyon and Healy, and the sheet music is a volume of sonatas by Franz Schubert. The bound, leather book on the table with the Coe family crest on the cover is a "vanity genealogy" published in memory of Dr. Thomas Upham Coe.

Though he looks like he belongs in the nineteenth century, the man lighting the kerosene lamp in the photograph on the back wall of the display room was actually an unidentified state employee in the early 1970s.

The glass display case in the center of the room holds items that were commonly used by a rural family at the turn of the century. Almost all of these items were given to the park by Sada. On the right side of this display, behind the vest and disposable collars, is the photograph of six men on horseback (below). Several years ago Barry Breckling told me that someone had come into the visitor center and identified these men. He had written down the names on a piece of paper and put it "somewhere." Good fortune seems to be with me, and I found not only the names but made the acquaintance of Keith Soward, whose father, Evan, took the photograph.

The photograph was taken about 1930. From left to right, the men are Mike Mahoney, George Young, Joseph Finley, Tommy Elgrem, Leo Fitzgerald, and Lou Duden. Mike Mahoney owned a large cattle ranch northeast of Gilroy Hot Springs. Tommy Elgrem worked for Mike. George Young, Leo Fitzgerald, and Lou Duden worked for other ranchers in the area. Joseph Finley homesteaded at Poverty Flat. The pack-horse on the right side of the photograph was named Topsy. She is remembered as a very special horse, as she was single-gaited—the legs on each side of her body moved in unison. Evan Soward drove the stage that served Gilroy Hot Springs and also built a number of the cabins there.



The people in the photograph on the right side of the same display are a bit harder to identify, as we only see them from the back, sitting on a corral fence. We do have other photographs of the same event, a branding at Harry Coe's ranch in the San Felipe Valley, that helped us identify them, and we are fairly certain that Sada Coe

Robinson is the person on the far right. The individual astride a horse in the photograph on the left side of the display is Harry Coe.

Most of the serving pieces displayed in the dining room are from the nineteenth century. The blue and white dinnerware on the dining room table is Royal Doulton. The black and white portrait of Rhoda Coe was drawn by her granddaughter, Nancy Coe.

Harry Coe is portrayed dressing out a deer in one of the photographs on the far right wall. Another photograph is of a barbecue given by Harry and Charles Coe in May 1899 at the Coe ranch in San Felipe Valley at which they served 425 people. There are four figures standing in the middle of the photograph. Charles is the figure on the far left; Harry is on the far right. In yet another photograph, Harry Coe is shown sighting down the barrel of a rifle. Barry believes the rifle on display above the photographs is, if not the same rifle, the same model. The rifle was found at Manzanita Point. The other photograph in this group is of Rhoda Coe with her pet deer.

At the entrance to the "back room" of the visitor center are portraits of Sada and her father, Harry Coe. Both portraits were painted by Nancy Coe. Sada made the leather shirt she is wearing in the painting. She also "rolled her own" cigarettes and smoked them in a holder. In a taped interview with Sada's brother, Henry Sutcliffe Coe, and his wife Pearl, Pearl is heard to remark, "Isn't that just like Sada?" Harry Coe's portrait was done from a photograph made of him about 1937. He is shown with his favorite horse of those years, Tommy Boy.

The photographs of the cattle branding or mowing hay and providing rock salt for the cattle were all taken at the Coe ranch in the San Felipe Valley.

The tack room at the end of the "back room" contains tack and saddles that belonged to the Coe family. The man shown shoeing a horse along the east wall is either Ben Nunes or Charlie Robinson. It is difficult to know exactly who it is, as neither man was hardly ever photographed without his hat. Charlie, in particular, always wore his hat pulled down over his face.

The last photograph along the east wall is of Gilman (Gillie) Gruwell with Harry Coe's cattle dog, Bruce. It was taken at Charles Coe's homestead at Cold Flat about 1910.

For years I have felt that the furnishings on display in the visitor center give visitors to the park a false impression of ranch life at Pine Ridge. While this is undoubtedly true, they do very clearly tell us much about the Coe family. The elegant furniture, carpets, china, and silver service tell us the Coes were people of substance whose lives and influence extended far beyond the boundaries of Pine Ridge.

[1] Henry W. Coe, Jr., was usually referred to as Harry Coe to differentiate him from his father, also Henry W. Coe. The park is named for Sada's father, Harry.

Park News

by Kay Robinson
Park Superintendent

It is time for an update of the progress toward development of day use facilities at the Dowdy Ranch. For those of you less familiar with the park, the Dowdy Ranch is located in the southeast corner of the park and is part of the Gill-Mustang Ranch, which was acquired in the early 1980s. You approach Dowdy Ranch from the Bell's Station entrance off Highway 152, Pacheco Pass Highway; it is six miles from the highway to Dowdy via Kaiser-Aetna Road.

When the park's General Plan was completed in 1985, it called for development of overnight camping and day use facilities at the Orestimba Corral (and even farther in at Mustang Flat). But it soon became apparent that development that far into the park had more negative than positive issues:

- it was close to the boundary of the designated wilderness
- the results of five test wells proved very poor water quality and quantity
- the development site was near evidence of Native American habitation
- six more miles of road would result in greater public hazard and park maintenance
- it pushed the limits of the idea of "perimeter development"

So the idea of opening the east side to the public was put on hold until ideas jelled and funding could again become available. Then came the 1990s economic downturn . . . .

Now, with a renewed interest in funding California State Parks, the legislature has authorized a three-year period of funding for development. The General Plan allows only for day use and administrative/maintenance facilities at Dowdy, so the plan is proceeding, minus the camping element. We are in Phase I/Year I of funding, which consists of the conceptual drawings and environmental review. We have a contractor on board who has been working with us to develop the site sche-

matics, keeping in mind the natural and cultural resource issues of the area.

Such issues, which must be worked out and built around, are the presence (suspected or actual) of red-legged frogs, tiger salamanders, and San Joaquin kit fox (species that are federally listed or are of special concern). Some of the mitigation efforts to minimize impact are:

- "conceptual" roads and parking areas have been moved on paper to remain outside a certain distance from the wetlands area (pond)
- determinations have been made of when certain construction activities can take place (seasonally)
- a new style of gate was proposed to reduce night-time use of the road
- the number of parking spaces has been reduced from the maximum number proposed
- trenches for water lines will be sited carefully to avoid sensitive areas

The filing of the Project Evaluation Form (pre-CEQA document) will occur this summer, with the project going before the Public Works Board in October to secure future funding.

Pre-construction work will involve the destruction (by burning) of the Dowdy modular buildings, the hand-removal of the old Dowdy barn (with the proposed retention of the old boards as the facade for the new visitor center), protection of sensitive areas with barriers, and moving of the existing concrete generator shed to a new location nearby. The development will consist of minor road improvements, a visitor center and office, two restrooms (one with a shower), three large group picnic shelters, about ten smaller picnic sites with ramadas, parking for about 35 vehicles and 10 trucks/horse trailers, retrofit of the water system for public consumption, and interpretive materials inside the visitor center and scattered throughout the day use development.

The site will be available for day use and trailhead parking for overnight (backpack) camping as well as the group picnic use. Its expected time of use will be daylight hours from May through October, or as dictated by the weather. The road becomes impassable with even a half inch of rain, so inclement weather will dictate the opening and closing regime. Our optimistic schedule for completion and opening to the public will be May 2004. Bear with us and stay tuned for future announcements.

Coe ♫

by Barbara Bessey, President, PRA

Although many visitors believe that Coe Park is at its loveliest in the spring, there is much to appreciate in the summer. There are still some wildflowers in bloom in June. The goldfinches tend to nest in the summer, which coincides with the abundance of thistles as a source of food for their young. Remember that we still have interpretive walks, hikes, and evening programs throughout the summer. Check the interpretive program schedule, which is also on our website, for more details.

If you are hiking with children, don't forget about our Adventure Packs. These are day packs that you can borrow free of charge at the Coe Park Headquarters. You can decide just which field guides, hand lenses, and natural history resources you are interested in borrowing for the day. This is a great way to introduce nature to children (as well as to adults who have forgotten their flower guides)!

Several of you have asked me just what you should do with binoculars you have that are either in reasonably good condition or broken when you upgraded to better optics. The American Birding Association has a program that fixes binoculars that don't work very well anymore, and it also sends these refinished binoculars to researchers who work on various research and conservation projects in Latin America and other countries around the world. For more information about the Birders' Exchange program and other conservation efforts, contact the ABA at 800/850-2473, ext. 228, or at *edcon@aba.org*.

Don't forget about the upcoming summer events at Coe Park. Our annual search for new Coe Park volunteers ends in August, when interviews are scheduled. If you would like to join the family of about 130 uniformed Coe Park volunteers (who have a lot of fun exploring various aspects of the park together), please see the announcement in this issue of the newsletter. We also have our annual Rummage Sale in August and the Fall TarantulaFest in October; the proceeds are applied toward the expansion of the Visitor Center.

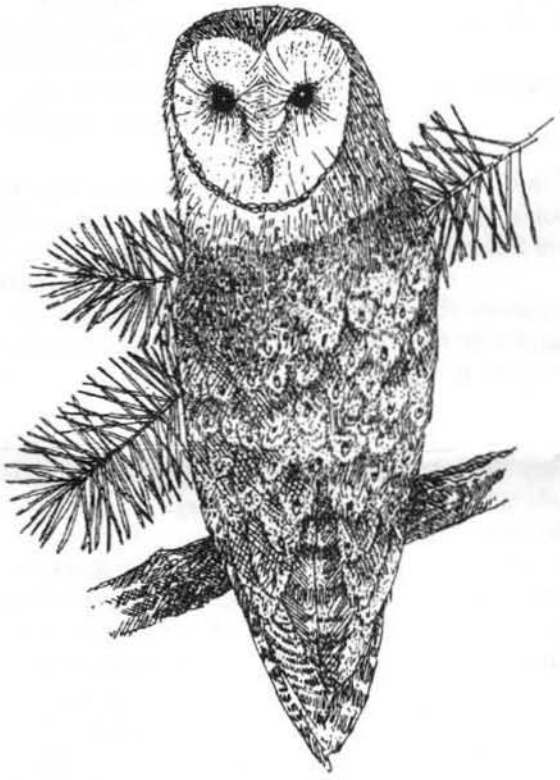
This is your organization. Get involved in something that interests you. Let me know if there is something you would like to participate in but haven't yet seen an opportunity to do so. You can e-mail me any comments or suggestions (*bbessey@air.org*).

See you at the park!

When a Barn Owl Smiles Upon You...

by Barbara Bessey

The day was January 29, 2001; the time was 12:03 p.m. I was working busily at my computer trying to meet a deadline, when, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a bright moving white blur. I cautiously peered over the top of my computer and out the window to the source of the light, and, to my amazement, I was looking at a magnificent barn owl that was perched on a horizontal branch of a redwood tree not too far away from my office window. He had just moved into the sunlight, spreading his wings and expanding his chest as if to show off the lovely white soft-looking feathers on his breast and under his wings. He spent several hours on the same branch that afternoon, often gently rocking back and forth, seemingly with his eyes closed, or grooming his feathers. I lost track of him, primarily due to my travel schedule, until I saw him again on the same branch on April 2. From then until now, he has often appeared for a few days of each week and for almost the entire day each time, always sitting in the same place. The closest I had ever been to a barn owl before this experience was in the Coe Park Visitor Center: if you look up on top of one of the book cases, you can see a stuffed one looking down at you. However, these marvelous "up close and personal views" prompted me to seek out more information about barn owls.



Owls belong to the order of Strigiformes. Loosely translated from Latin, this means "kinds of owls." Owls are primarily nocturnal birds of prey (that is, they tend to be more active and to hunt during the night and to rest during the day), having hooked beaks and facial discs (feathers that appear to flow outward from the eyes), long legs, long broad wings, and short tails. They have four very sharp talons, the outer one of which has a great deal of movement such that it can move either forwards or backwards as is needed. In North America, there are two families of owls. Most of the owls we see in Coe Park, such as the Great Horned Owl or the Western Screech Owl, belong to the family called Strigidae. The Common Barn-Owl belongs to the family Tytonidae and is the only one of this family in North America.

Called *Tyto alba* (alba means white), the barn owl is considered by many to be the most widespread of all owl species in the world. It is found on all continents except Antarctica. It appears to be a year-round visitor to Coe Park, but it is not as abundant as the Great Horned or Western Screech. The barn owl does not have ear tufts or a loud "hoot" as does the Great Horned Owl; rather it makes more of a raspy, hissing, or shrieking sound, with the female making a little softer sound than the male. (If you look at our Coe Park website, webmaster Judy Breckling has provided a list of the owls that are found in Coe Park, along with how abundant they are throughout the year. She also has included pointers to other websites that contain pictures and vocalizations of barn owls: *www.coepark.parks.ca.gov/bird1list.html*.)

The barn owl is very distinctive in appearance. It has a heart-shaped facial disc and small dark eyes that face forwards. Its distinctive face is why some people have referred to it as the monkey-faced owl or the ghost owl. It has very long legs that are covered with short feathers, and, when it stands, it appears to be knock-kneed due to the fact that the leg joints are held very close together. Some field guides, for example David Allen Sibley's recent *Guide to Birds*, show that the colorations of the male and female barn owls are slightly different. Sibley shows that the males tend to have mostly white under the wings and on the breast, whereas the females tend to have more of a buffy or tawny wash (often speckled) on their breast. The upper part of their wings and back are pale tawny/grayish in color with speckled dots. After looking at my Alba on many occasions for evidence of breast color, I could see no color other than white on the breast or under the wings, so I am inclined to think of it as a "he." Some field guides say that barn owls are crow-size; however, my visitor appears to be larger than that. Like many birds of prey, the female is about one-third larger than the male (males may average approximately one pound in weight), so I wonder if my visitor is a light-colored female or a large male.

There is a comb-like structure on their middle claws, which is believed to help barn owls preen their feathers. My Alba seems to spend a lot of time preening feathers on its wings, and it is a great visual display to see it facing me with its large wings outspread while it appears to comb them into place. As with many nocturnal owls, they can fly soundlessly, due to the fact that one of their primary feathers has its tips recurved and separated, looking almost fringe-like in appearance, which helps them to fly without having the wind whistle through the feathers. Scientists have studied the barn owl

extensively and have concluded that barn owls can locate their meals by hearing them move, even in total darkness, and then swoop down upon them without a sound.

The head of a barn owl is designed to maximize its hearing. Its heart-shaped face is not completely symmetrical. The left ear is higher than the right ear, and it is most sensitive to sounds below the horizontal plane. The right ear, being lower, is most sensitive to sounds above the horizontal plane. The feathers on the face form troughs that facilitate sounds moving to each ear. As you might expect, the feathers on the left side of the heart-shaped disk face downward, which enables the owl to hear sounds below the horizontal plane, and the feathers on the right side face upwards. By tilting its head just slightly up or down, the barn owl can pinpoint the location of a meal very accurately.

Barn owls tend to eat small rodents. They do not digest the bones and fur of their meals; these are regurgitated in the form of pellets. Scientists, by dissecting these pellets, can study the diets of owls without disturbing or threatening the birds. Although some researchers have said that each pellet contains the remnants of one rodent, studies show that many pellets contain the remains of at least two rodents.

Males and females tend to remain together once a pair bond has been formed. During courtship, the male flies and calls around the female, often chasing her. He claps his wings together in the courtship flight and offers her food tidbits.

I was surprised to learn that barn owls have a rather short life span, on the order of two to three years. Although it may be difficult to determine cause and effect, it is also observed that these owls tend to have several sets of owlets every year (so the question is, do they spend more time in nesting because they have a short life span or does the extra effort needed to create multiple broods each year take its toll on their life spans?). Barn owls seem to be able to make use of a wide variety of places for their nests. They do not build a nest themselves. Instead they use sheltered places, cavities that already exist in trees or elsewhere, including setting up territory in human-occupied structures, like abandoned buildings or belfries where they are not likely to be disturbed. White and fairly round eggs are laid several days apart (barn owls tend to have a little more elliptical egg than most owls); nests may contain an average of six eggs, although there have been reports of up to eleven eggs in one nest. The female starts incubating the eggs as soon as the first one is laid; the male has been observed bringing her food at the nest during the incubation period. Thus, by the time the last egg hatches, there may be owlet siblings that are several weeks older than the newest hatchling. Although the owlets may fly at approximately two months of age, the parents continue to feed the young at the nest until they are about three months of age or older. Depending upon the abundance of food, the parent barn owls may have more or fewer owlets each year.

When barn owls are disturbed, they have been observed to spread their wings and rock their heads back and forth over their toes and utter loud hisses and shrieks. This has been called most picturesquely "toe dusting." Although I have seen my Alba perform this activity on a number of occasions, I have not heard him make any noise while doing it. In fact, he appears to be very relaxed throughout and in almost a dreamy, doze-like state. When he was disturbed by fellow employees who wanted to get a closer look at him, he tended to back up on the branch into the more dense canopy and fly away.

Barn owls have often been associated with ghostly or superstitious images. Roger Tory Peterson, in his *Birds over America,* discusses barn owls in his chapter entitled "Ghoulies and Ghosties." He said that "a barn owl always seems as eery as a golliwog, [when] it is hunting amongst the rows of stately palms in southern California where it snatches up the palm rats as they clatter over the dead fronds." Even Sibley in his recent field guide suggests that the underside of male barn owls appears to be a "ghostly" white in color. And, after looking at many photos taken of barn owls during the nighttime, I can understand why people think that they appear a little menacing and ghostlike.

But my Alba has me trained by now. Each day, as I enter the office, I always enter slowly and search The Branch for a glimpse of my Alba. Early in the day, I often see him sitting back on The Branch, often with his back toward me, and I enjoy looking at the multi-colored plumage of his feathers. As the day progresses, I enjoy his moving out on The Branch to be in the sunshine, preening his feathers, showing his face, and spending a lot of time turning and getting comfortable on The Branch. It is always an exciting moment when he finally gets comfortable on The Branch, facing me, and starts to preen—spreading his beautiful wings. From time to time, I feel as though he catches me stealing a glance at him, and I lower my eyes.

I don't know how much longer I will be able to enjoy seeing my Alba. I am still not sure if my Alba has a mate who is sitting on a nest nearby. But each moment has been a special treat for me. My advice to you is, the next time an Alba smiles upon you, don't forget to smile back!

Earth Day 2001 at Henry W. Coe State Park

by Ranger Barry Breckling

The Earth Day 2001 project at Coe Park headquarters went well. The weather was pretty iffy on Friday, with lots of rain and clouds, but by Saturday morning things had cleared. The rain actually helped with the largest part of the three-part pro-

ject. The ground was nice and soft, and exotic plants could be pulled easily. One of the other parts of the project was putting the new recycling bins in place. The California State Park Foundation (CSPF), who was sponsoring the project, had given the Pine Ridge Association a $1,700 grant for purchasing the bins. The third part of the project was collecting and organizing recycling and moving everything into the new recycling room at the far end of the metal barn.

In addition to the CSPF and the Pine Ridge Association, there were four other sponsors of our Earth Day event: The American Automobile Association, Starbuck's Coffee, Odwalla, and the radio group of KRTY, KARA, KLIV.

State Assembly member Simon Salinas talked to the group of 67 Earth Day volunteers about the importance of protecting the environment, and past owner and editor of *Sunset Magazine* and honorary State Park Ranger Bill Lane talked about the importance of conservation efforts.

In addition to moving the new recycling bins into place, volunteers bagged and sorted about 15 bags of recyclables and set up the new recycling room, and others picked over 120 bags of exotic weeds from the headquarters area.

I would like to personally thank the park's uniformed volunteers and paid staff who jumped in and helped wherever they were needed and made the day a success: Maintenance worker Ken Parrish, volunteer Mike Meyer, and eight AAA volunteers got the heavy recycling bins into place using what could be described as Egyptian methods. Larry Haimowitz and Norm Berube led a group that chopped back the non-native berry vines invading the horse camp. Nancy Hildebrandt, Jim Citta, Margaret Mary McBride, Stephanie Charles, Libby Vincent, Pete Henshaw, Holly Harper, and Bonny Doran led groups in weed picking. Jim Mason ran around in the Gator and picked up bags of weeds, and Libby Vincent and Margaret Mary McBride led participants on wildflower hikes after all the work was done. I thank you and the earth thanks you for a job well done.

August 4: Moonlight Daylight Burra Burra Hike Hike

by Lee Sims

The moon and Coe Park—experience the pristine land and a mystical experience on August 4 with the full moon.

We will hike without flashlights from the Dowdy Ranch buildings around Burra Burra Peak on Saturday night after dark. The total distance is less than three miles, the time about 90 minutes. We also will ascend Burra Burra, a quick side trip, and view most of the Hamilton Range, over to the Gabilan Range and beyond towards Big Sur, and also south beyond Pacheco Pass in the San Carlos range—spectacular under moonlight!

The following morning we will repeat the hike and observe the differences between night sounds and scenes and those in the daytime.

The Dowdy Ranch, located off Highway 152, Pacheco Pass Highway, has a chemical toilet but no potable water. For camping (which is recommended), bring your own food, drinking water, camping gear, and a chair. Stoves but not utensils will be available. Plan to arrive after 1 p.m. and no later than 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 4.

If you are afraid of your shadow, you might not want to come. The moon is so bright, you will see your own shadow; the mood is so dramatic, you will feel the shadows of people who walked these same trails hundreds of years ago.

A wonderful evening in Coe Park. Call me at 650/726-7547 (home) for more information, combination to the locked gates, and to sign up; number of participants may be limited.

An Invitation to Join the Uniformed Volunteer Program

Would you like to learn more about Henry W. Coe State Park—its fascinating history, interesting animals, beautiful wildflowers, singing birds? Would you like to share your knowledge with park visitors? Then consider joining approximately 130 others who donate some of their time to assist Coe Park visitors. Consider becoming a uniformed volunteer.

Uniformed volunteers add to the park visitor's knowledge, interest, enjoyment, and safety by assisting regular park employees through interpretation, operating the visitor center, patrolling the park trails, and carrying out special projects. Uniformed volunteers receive free admission to Coe Park and the other parks in the Four Rivers District and, more importantly, receive the satisfaction derived from doing a job well and providing a necessary service to the public and to the park. In addition, uniformed volunteers find that the initial training and the continuing workshops and classes on topics such as wildflowers, bird identification, tracking, and how to plan an interpretive program are of significant value.

There is a series of classes each fall for all new uniformed volunteers. Topics in the next classes include geology, geography, climate, ecosystems, plants, animals, humans in the park, history of the park, being a volunteer, dealing with the public, interpretive techniques, and first aid. The training will be held at the park on eight weekend days from September 8,

2001, through the beginning of December. Some of the training will occur during hikes and a campout in the park. Graduation will be held during the annual meeting of the PRA on February 2, 2002.

Applications are available now. August 11 is the deadline for receipt of applications. Applicants will receive a telephone call to set up a short interview, which will be on August 16, 18, or 19 at park headquarters. If you have any questions or if you would like to obtain an application, call the park at 408/779-2728, or visit our web site at *coepark.parks.ca.gov.*

Raffle at Fall TarantulaFest and Barbecue

by Stew Eastman

Once again we will have the excitement of a raffle at the October TarantulaFest on Saturday, October 6. At this time we are seeking help in obtaining prizes for the occasion. Prizes are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Pine Ridge Association is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We are hoping to obtain several items of significant value that will encourage raffle ticket sales. The proceeds of the raffle will benefit our Visitor Center Expansion project. If you or your company has items that could be donated to this PRA fund raising event, please contact me at 408/227-9515 or e-mail me at *sweastman@aol.com.*

New Members through March

by Margaret Mary McBride

We are pleased to welcome the **new members** listed below. Thank you for your support, and welcome to the Pine Ridge Association!

Martin Asplund, Morgan Hill
Bruce & Evvi Bowen, Morgan Hill
Victor Bubbett, San Jose
Carol Courtney, San Jose
Ruth Dyer, Lafayette
Akira Hangai, Gilroy
Elaine Hartman, Morgan Hill
Maarten & Cathy Kalisvaart, Cupertino
Dave & Kathy Kocharhook, Mountain View
Brian Marashi, San Francisco
Dale Mitlolovich, Sunnyvale
Gerry Murphy, San Francisco
Bambi Moise & Tim Charles, San Jose
James Pace, San Jose
Diane Scariot, Gilroy
Glen Schneider, Berkeley
Maggie Sharp & Dave Parks, San Francisco
Stieber Family, San Jose
Brian Truskowski & Teresa McManus, San Jose
Linda Van Loon, Berkeley
Chuck & Judy Waggoner, Monte Sereno
Kerstin Willmann, Sunnyvale
John Wilkinson, San Jose
Robert H. Yang, San Jose

We would like to remind you to let us know of any change of address so your issue of *The Ponderosa* will follow you.

PRA Calendar

Saturday & Sunday, August 4 & 5: **Coe Park Rummage Sale**. The annual rummage sale to benefit the Visitor Center Expansion Fund will be held at Nordstrom Park in Morgan Hill. Our website has a pointer to a map showing where Nordstrom Park is: *www.coepark.parks.ca.gov/garage-sale.html.* Helpers are needed for pick-up, pricing, set up, selling during the sale, and tear down on August 5. Please call Priscilla Campbell (408/842-2343) if you would like to help or if you would like to make a donation.

Saturday & Sunday, August 4 & 5: **Burra Burra Hike weekend**. Hike around Burra Burra peak in the light of the moon without any flashlights and then do the hike again the next morning and see how different it is. See article on page 8.

Saturday, August 11: **Deadline for new volunteer applications.** If you would like to consider becoming a uniformed volunteer, see page 8 for details.

Friday–Monday, August 31–September 3: **Labor Day Weekend Backpack.** Join Coe Park Volunteers Irwin and Janet Koff on this three-night adventure under a full moon. You will be able to enter the park at the Bell's Station entrance. One night will be spent at the Orestimba Corral and the other two at Paradise Lake. Please call them (408/293-8194) for more information and to sign up.

Friday–Sunday, September 21–23: **Last Backpack Weekend of the season.** Join Irwin and Janet Koff for a two-night weekend. You will enter the park at the Coyote Creek Gate and backpack to Kelly Lake. There may be some rough and scramble spots on Saturday's hike. Please call them (408/293-8194) for more information and to sign up.

Saturday, October 6: **Fifth Annual TarantulaFest and Barbecue.** Get an up close and personal look at a tarantula and help support the programs of Coe Park! Check out our website at *www.coepark.parks.ca.gov/tfest.html* for pictures of last year's event.

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

Pine Ridge Association
Henry W. Coe State Park
P. O. Box 846
Morgan Hill, CA 95038-0846
(408) 779-2728
http://www.coepark.parks.ca.gov

DATED MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY

PRA Board of Directors

Barbara Bessey, President
Kate Hager, Vice President
Winslow Briggs, Secretary
Dennis Pinion, Treasurer
Derek Smith, Volunteer Committee Chair
Ann Briggs
Kevin Gilmartin
Dave Perrin
Libby Vincent

Kay Robinson, Park Superintendent

The Ponderosa Staff

Editors:	Barbara Bessey	Kevin Gilmartin
Assistant Editor:	Barry Breckling	
Mailing & Distribution:	Phyllis Drake Margaret Mary McBride	Martie Sinclaire Roberta Wright
This Issue's Reporters:	Barbara Bessey Barry Breckling Stew Eastman Teddy Goodrich	Mary Margaret McBride Kay Robinson Lee Sims
This Issue's Illustrators:	Barry Breckling Cindie Brunner	Margaret Buck

The Ponderosa is a publication of the Pine Ridge Association with approximately five issues per year. 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 at 127 Glenwood Avenue, Woodside, CA 94062-3512; or call 650/851-7813.

Copyright © 2001 The Pine Ridge Association

Printed on recycled paper.