The **Ponderosa**

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Fall 2002

From under My Brim

by Barry Breckling

Red-Leaved Oaks

If you're a little familiar with oaks at Coe Park, you probably know a few of the common ones, like the white oak (more commonly called valley oak), the black oak, and the blue oak, but do you know the red-leaved oak?

Well, they're in full bloom right now. Several people have asked me what those red things are on the oak leaves. They're galls. We don't really have red-leaved oaks, but this year some of the blue oaks have leaves with more red galls on them than green leaf surface. Some years you'll see a few galls on the oaks, but in other years, like this one, the galls will be so numerous that you can't help but see them.

A gall is a growth of plant material caused by such things as viruses, bacteria, fungi, and insects, and you can find galls on many kinds of plants. What we most commonly see on oak trees are galls caused by insects in the family *Cynipidae,* insects called Cynipids. Well, OK, let's just call them gall wasps. These wasps are not the kind that would be after your hotdog at a picnic. They look more like tiny flies, with bodies no larger than a grain of rice. They're not very showy, but what they leave behind sure is.

The life histories of gall wasps can be quite varied, but many follow a common pattern. In the spring, a female gall wasp lays eggs on the leaf, stem, bud, or another part of a tree. When the eggs hatch, the larvae release chemicals that cause a gall to form. The larvae, which live inside the gall, eventually pupate into adult females who emerge from the gall in the summer and fly off to lay their eggs on another oak. There are no males produced in this generation. The females lay unfertilized, but viable eggs. This type of reproduction, which is also used by other insects, is called parthenogenesis. The eggs laid in the summer hatch into larvae that cause a completely different looking gall to form. These larvae overwinter, and in the spring they pupate to become adult males and female wasps. The male and female wasps mate, and the females lay eggs, all of which will again produce only females.

The inside material of the gall serves as food for the hungry larvae. The gall also provides the eggs and larvae with some protection from predators and parasites, and from heat and cold. The spring galls are usually small and not very noticeable. Since the wasp larvae don't live in these galls very long, they don't need much food, and since the weather is

Inside this issue . . .

Descriptions of a Kelly Cabin Canyon loop hike

A number of staffing changes in Coe Park

The new Coe wildflower guide needs your photos!

Call for nominations for the annual PRA Award

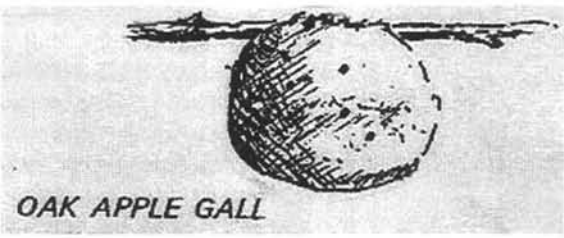
. . . and more!

milder in the spring, the larvae don't need much protection from the elements. The summer galls are the big showy ones that provide lots of food and more protection for the overwintering eggs and larvae.

STEM GALL

Of the almost 200 species of cynipid wasps in California, most are gall makers, and many produce two types of galls. This alternation of generations that produce two types of galls has caused confusion in the past. On many occasions, two different galls were thought to be formed by two different species of gall wasps until it was learned that they were both produced by a single species.

How galls form is still somewhat of a mystery, but most galls don't start forming until the eggs hatch and the larvae begin to feed. Crushed glands from gall-producing insect larvae injected into plants have formed the expected gall. Hormones resembling plant hormones have been found in the larvae saliva, but some scientists think it is actually nucleic acids or viral DNA that is released. The chemical or chemicals that cause the growth, whatever they may be, are released by the larvae in growing layers of cells that are just learning what they are going to be: a chlorophyll cell, an outside epidermis cell, or a vascular cell. Then the magical chemicals jump in, reprogram the genes of the cells, and force them to forego the original plan and instead become a fuzzy pink thing or a spiny red thing.



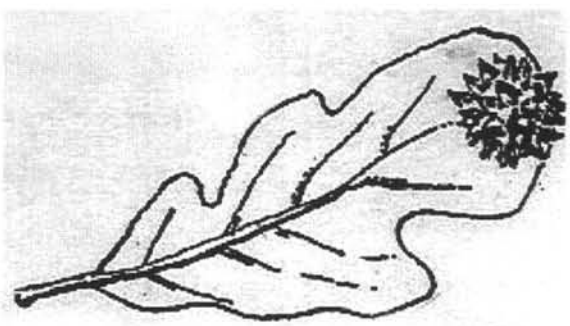
OAK APPLE GALL

Oaks are the most common host for gall wasps. Oak galls can be found on twigs, buds, acorns, leaves, and even roots and can be smaller than one millimeter or over five inches across. Over 50 percent of the galls on oaks are found on leaves, and blue oaks have, by far, the largest variety of galls. On the leaves of blue oaks, you can find galls that look like fuzzy red caterpillars, spiny sea urchins, cups or saucers, dunce caps, royal crowns, elegant vases, and a myriad of other shapes.

The oak apple and jumping gall are two interesting galls that grow on valley oaks. The oak apple starts from eggs laid on twigs in the fall. The larvae hatch in the spring, and the round to oval gall begins to form. When they're small, the galls are green with red blushes. By summer, they become light tan in color and reach apple size, and by fall they're brown. The next year the galls may be covered with a black mold. With all the food and thick protection from the weather that the oak apple provides, the adult wasp often doesn't emerge for over a year. This species of gall wasp is thought to be totally parthenogenetic because no males have been found. I recall as a kid, when our last plastic whiffle ball was lost down the hillside, we would pitch and bat at dry oak apples. They usually lasted about two or three at-bats.

Jumping galls are tiny galls that grow on valley oak leaves. Most gall wasps hatch from galls still attached to the trees, but in the fall, the little one-millimeter jumping galls drop to the ground with the larvae still in them. The larvae inside a jumping gall move around and cause the gall to "jump." The mobile galls are able to wiggle farther down into the leaf litter where they are better protected.

Many other insects can inhabit a gall wasp's home, and lots of them consider wasp eggs and larvae to be tasty treats. Although the gall provides some protection to the eggs and larvae, some predators and parasites are able to move in. Some visitors simply use the gall for shelter. Others take advantage of the gall for food, if they can abide the tannins found in most galls. Galls often develop with very high concentrations of tannins, acidic compounds used by oaks to repel insects. The gall wasp larvae can eat the gall material because they are able to neutralize the tannins, but most other insects find the material inedible. Some visitors are after cynipid meat. Some mites, midges, and wasps eat the eggs or larvae straight away. Taking a more delayed approach, chalcid wasps lay their eggs on the gall wasp larvae, and the chalcid wasp larvae, when they hatch, munch on the gall wasp larvae. Even acorn woodpeckers will peck into oak apples and eat the larvae. Life's rough out there for a wasp without a sting.



BLUE OAK LEAF GALL

The harsh tannins of their homes provide gall wasp eggs and larvae protection from many insects, but they also have other protective strategies. Some galls produce honeydew, a sweet liquid that attracts bees and ants. The bees, and especially the ants, will defend their food against any animal that might come near, including gall larvae predators. Also, sharp spines and thick hairs on some galls may deter animals from invading them, and some would-be predators are attracted to bright protuberances

that are located away from the chamber that holds the eggs or larvae.

If you make it up to the park this fall, take some time to check out the many kinds of galls you can find on the oak trees. The names are so descriptive that you'll be able to figure them out for yourself. There's the porcupine gall, the urchin gall, the dunce cap gall, oak apples, the saucer gall, the woolly-bear gall, and, my favorite, the deep crimson, yellow dotted, reversed teardrop shaped "spotted beaked gall" on the scrub oaks. That last one needs a better name, I think. If you see one, let me know what you think it should be called.

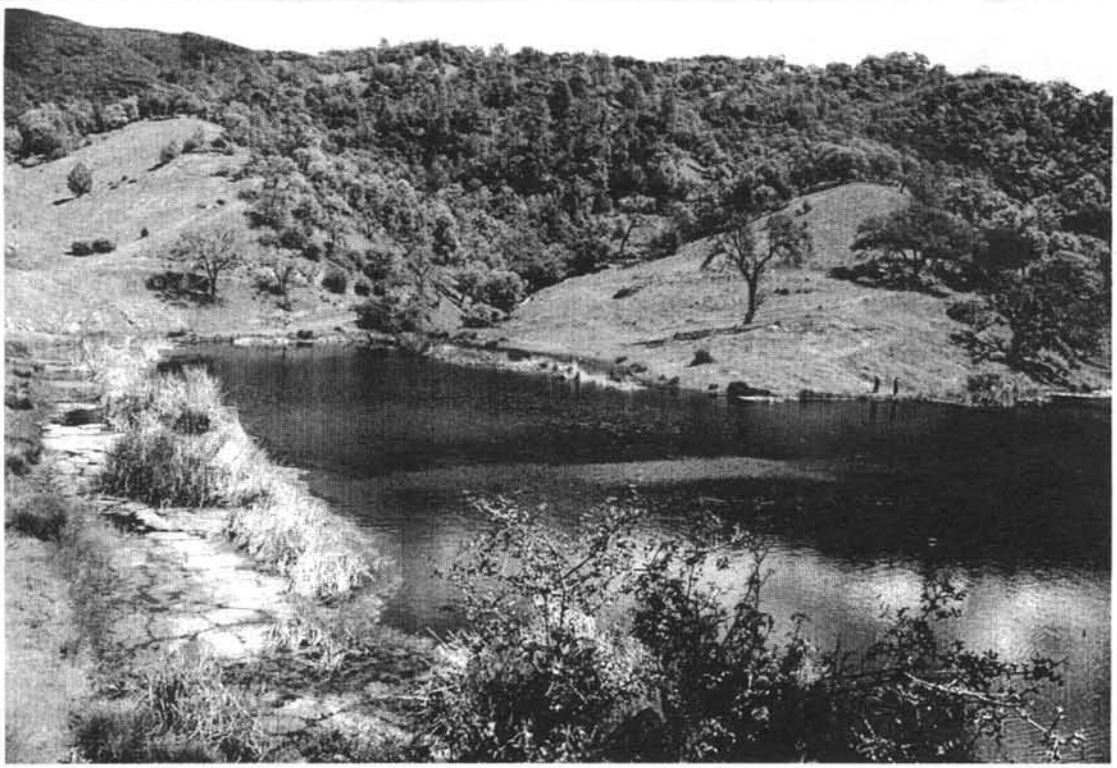
The Betsy Crowder Memorial Hike

by Don Savant

The Cross Canyon Trail is a delightful four-mile trail descending into picturesque Kelly Cabin Canyon and connecting Willow Ridge Road near Coit Lake with Coit Road on Mahoney Ridge. I was introduced to this route by volunteer Larry Haimowitz in October 1997, as part of a volunteer backcountry training weekend. I was anxious to see how it looked in springtime when it would be carpeted with wildflowers. In May of the next year, I managed to entice my Wednesday Hiking Group into doing the 13-mile trek from the Coyote Creek entrance, up Grizzly Gulch and over the hill to Kelly Lake for lunch, then up Coit Road to the Cross Canyon Trail, and returning to the entrance via Coit Road.

It was late in May, but the wild flowers that year had the benefit of the El Niño rains. As Elna Cunningham wrote in her hike report: "The flowers were unexpectedly abundant. Not just a few late blooming stragglers, as might be expected, but huge displays. The frilly purple and white Chinese houses were especially spectacular. There were also masses of lavender linanthus, deep purple delphiniums, delicate yellow lupines, pale pink globe lilies, blue Ithurial spears, yellow and white mariposa lilies, and many, many others. Talk about sensory overload!"

Now we were hooked. We just had to get back in May the next year (1999) for another late season wildflower fix. Once more the floral display inspired Elna to write: "It was apparent that spring is entering into its final act. But as a grand finale, it has set an elegant table with candelabras of lavender Ithurial spears and slender chalices of winecup clarkias on a shimmering cloth of green gold. Small bouquets of bright orange California poppies and vibrant blue-eyed grass are strewn about as accents, and the misty purple outlines of far ridges form a distant backdrop. The shadier embankments wear fandango skirts of ruffled purple and white Chinese houses, while sunnier slopes are covered in drifts of tiny lavender linanthus. Deep purple larkspurs, clear red Indian paintbrush, and brilliant golden yarrow are sprinkled about the canyon walls. Yellow seep-spring monkey flowers dance around the sparkling creek, and delicate creamcups line the trail. Kelly Cabin Canyon is the premier late spring wildflower display of our area, every bit worth the price of admission."



That was the year Jean Rusmore, author of a number of Bay Area trail guide books, was doing an update of her "South Bay Trails" with co-author Betsy Crowder. Having read about the hike in the "1999 Spring Programs" brochure, they planned to meet the group at Hunting Hollow and join us for the hike. As we left Hunting Hollow to caravan to the Coyote Creek entrance, I was extremely disappointed that Jean and Betsy had not shown up. I concluded something had come up at the last minute that prevented them from being there. WRONG—they arrived at Hunting Hollow within minutes of our departure. After a while they gave up waiting for us, drove to the Coyote Creek entrance, parked outside the gate, and explored on their own up Grizzly Gulch to Wasno Ridge. Later in the afternoon they met some of our front runners, who had completed the hike without stopping to sniff the blossoms. There ensued a lively discussion with Betsy over having been "stood up" at Hunting Hollow, with Betsy making it very clear just how displeased she was.

Naturally feeling a load of guilt over this unfortunate occurrence, Elna and I scheduled another hike covering the same territory with Jean and Betsy a week later. This time, to be safe, we met them in Cupertino rather than at Hunting Hollow. The flowers and weather were still cooperating, and the four of us had a memorable time together that day. As we got to know Betsy better, we came to very much admire this outspoken and feisty lady from Portola Valley. Seeing her on subsequent occasions, we would reminisce and laugh about the time she and Jean were left "standing at the altar" in the Hunting Hollow parking lot.

Later we all were shocked and saddened to learn of Betsy's untimely passing in September 2000. Because she was so greatly admired for her efforts on behalf of environmental causes, our annual hike through Kelly Cabin Canyon has since been named in her honor "The Betsy Crowder Memorial Hike." Who was this determined lady, and where had she invested her boundless energy? The following sketch of her life is excerpted from "Open Space Views," a publication of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD):

"On September 29, 2000, the MROSD lost one of its inveterate Board members, Director Betsy Crowder, to a tragic accident. At 74 years young, Betsy had served many environmental causes, both before and while serving on the MROSD Board.

"A native of Dedham, Massachusetts, Betsy came to California in 1947 to study anthropology at Stanford University. She met her husband, Dwight, at the university, and the two became active in conservation causes. Locally, they campaigned for the incorporation of Portola Valley, hoping to stem encroaching development. Nationally, they worked toward the establishment of North Cascades National Park and the 1964 Wilderness Act. During this time Betsy also began her work in public service as a member of the League of Women Voters.

"After her husband was killed in an automobile accident in 1970, Betsy dedicated more time to conservation efforts. She became chairperson of the Portola Valley Conservation Committee, later becoming a member of the Portola Valley Planning Commission. Meanwhile, she earned her Master's Degree in City Planning from Stanford in 1972. She worked as an Environmental Planner for Palo Alto until her retirement in 1980.

"Betsy was appointed to the MROSD Board of Directors in 1989 to fill a vacated term. She was then re-elected to succeeding four-year terms. She served as Board President twice during her eleven-year tenure. In addition, she contributed over 400 hours of service to MROSD's volunteer program. Co-author, with Jean Rusmore, of "Peninsula Trails" (third edition, 1997), Betsy's knowledge of San Mateo County lands and her intimate familiarity with every mile of MROSD trails made her a very effective Board Director.

"Other community service included board terms with the Planning and Conservation League, the Committee for Green Foothills, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the San Mateo County Ridge Trail Committee, the San Francisco Bay Trail, and the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. She also worked as a nature docent for Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and as a volunteer at Filoli [in Woodside]. An independent and intrepid outdoors person and traveler, Betsy enjoyed whitewater rafting, hiking, and exploring, often visiting conservation or botanical sites and gaining friends in countries as diverse as Africa, China, and South and Central Asia.

"Known for her candor and "feisty" spirit, Betsy spoke directly and honestly, never leaving her fellow Board members, constituents, the MROSD staff, or the public to guess where she might stand on any issue. She has been admired, even by those on the receiving end of her feistiest moments, for her strength, clarity, courage, and sincerity. Her dedication to the preservation of land and its restoration to the natural condition was evident, not only in the number of regional board seats she held, but also in the enthusiastic support she demonstrated for MROSD work.

"Betsy's energy, knowledge, determined spirit, and honesty will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all of us who knew her, however briefly."

And if you are fit and a wildflower addict, you might want to join us for the Betsy Crowder Memorial Hike next spring. Look for it in the "2003 Spring Programs" brochure. I promise not to leave anyone waiting in the Hunting Hollow parking lot!

Photo Op—Coe Park's New Wildflower Guide

by Victor Bubbett

Attention botanical paparazzi: The Pine Ridge Association is publishing a field guide to the wildflowers that grow in Coe Park. We are looking for wildflower photos to publish.

The guide will be compact and easy to use in the field: a single sheet of glossy, magazine-cover stock, 18½ by 24½ inches, printed on both sides in full color. It will fold up like a road map, to fit in your pocket or day pack. The wildflower photos will be ranked six down and six across, each with four lines of text: sixty-eight in all, after we give up a few blocks for the title page and credits.

The pictures will measure 3.7 by 2.35 inches, on a black backplane, to make the flowers stand out better. The print quality will be similar to your best book of wildflower pictures (*California's Wild Gardens* edited by Phyllis Faber and *Wildflowers of California* by Larry Ulrich, both of which are sold in the Visitor Center bookstore, come to mind). Of course, the final result can be no better than the source image, and that is where we have to use some care.

Those beautiful shots you took with your new digital camera might work for this project, as long as the resolution is in excess of 350 dpi by the time the image is cropped and resized (600 or more would be better, scanned a bit larger than the destination size). We prefer TIFFs, which save all the image information, but JPEGs might work if they're not saved with too much compression. Slides, negatives, or prints are a safer bet, as we can scan them at the resolution needed for good press output. We'll need to borrow the negatives or slides for a while, and they must be in pretty much perfect condition. Your original materials will be returned to you, and an itemized receipt will be provided to you while we have them in our care. You can provide high-resolution scans on CD, if surrendering your originals is not acceptable.

The picture itself must also be right for the purpose. It needs to be the kind of photo that will help people, who may be unfamiliar with the plant materials, to be able to identify them in the field. The images also have to fit in the landscape-oriented frames, which presents challenges of its own, considering the upright growth habit of many plants. One sensational photo will be used on the front panel, three times as tall as the rest, overprinted with the title.

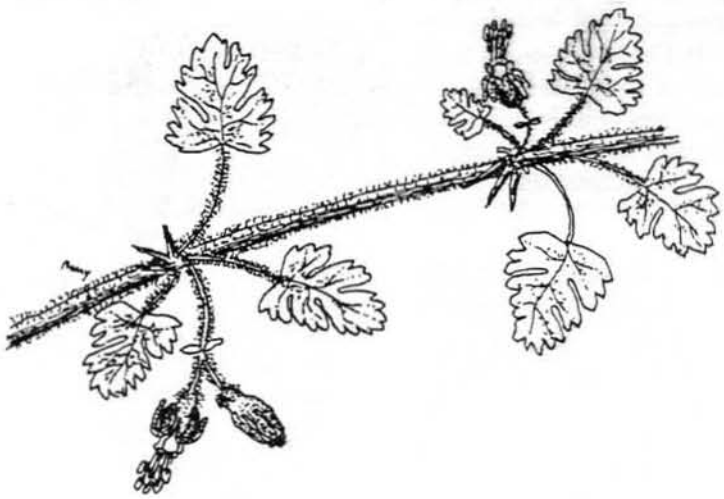
We can't pay money for the photos, but your photo credit will appear next to your picture. We're looking at a print run of 10,000 pieces, so distribution could be pretty wide. Proceeds from the sale of the Wildflower Field ID Guide (at an affordable $3.00) will go to support the educational and interpretive mission of the Pine Ridge Association, including funding the expansion of the Visitor Center. Professional photographers may take the commercial value of their photos as a tax deduction, since the PRA is a 501(c)(3) organization. We'll ask contributors to sign a photo release, granting rights to the use of their images for this project only. Otherwise, you retain ownership and all rights to your work. The publication will be copyrighted, to protect the interests of the PRA and our contributors.

Thanks to the work of Barry and Judy Breckling, we were able to select a list of sixty-eight flowers. Most are spring-flowering, herbaceous species that park visitors are likely to notice. There was some agonizing over which of our favorites to leave out, but we were lucky to be able to take advantage of Barry's twenty-five years of watching the wildflowers grow, and helping people find and identify them. Dave Hildebrand's photos, accumulated over many years, and the information he has made available on the park's website deserve a special thanks. These have been a great help to the project, and the expanded information (and much bigger photos) are online, and on CD at the bookstore. We've also received very generous help, support, and good advice from the members of the PRA Board, particularly Ann and Winslow Briggs, Dan McCranie, and Barbara Bessey. So many people have put energy into this project to help make it happen that it's really kind of overwhelming. Everyone's help is very greatly appreciated.

If you would like to submit pictures, please contact me at 408/971-3555 or by e-mail at vbubbett@att.net. If we can get all of the pictures we need soon, we'll go to press in February; otherwise May. There's still time to get out the SLR and capture the early-blooming species, if you want to get in the game. Slides are easiest for us to work with, if you're taking fresh pictures.

Here is the plant list:

Achillea millefolium	Common Yarrow
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye
Allium serra	Pom-Pom Onion
Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia	Fiddleneck
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
Aquilegia formosa	Crimson Columbine
Arctostaphylos glauca	Bigberry Manzanita
Brodiaea elegans	Harvest Brodiaea
Calandrinia ciliata	Red Maids
Calochortus albus	White Globe Lily
Calochortus luteus	Yellow Mariposa Lily
Calochortus venustus	White Calochortus Lily
Cardamine californica	Milkmaids
Castilleja affinis	Indian Paintbrush
Castilleja exserta	Purple Owl's Clover
Cirsium occidentale var. venustum	Venus Thistle
Clarkia concinna ssp. automixa	Santa Clara Red Ribbons
Clarkia purpurea var. quadrivulnera	Four-Spotted Godetia
Clarkia unguiculata	Elegant Clarkia
Claytonia perfoliata	Miner's Lettuce
Collinsia heterophylla	Chinese Houses
Cynoglossum grande	Hound's Tongue
Delphinium decorum ssp. decorum	Coast Larkspur
Delphinium nudicaule	Red Larkspur
Dichelostemma capitatum	Blue Dicks
Dodecatheon clevelandii ssp. patulum.	Lowland Shooting Star
Dodecatheon hendersonii	Woodland Shooting Star
Epilobium canum	California Fuchsia
Erodium brachycarpum	Blunt-Folded Filaree
Erodium cicutarium	Red-Stemmed Filaree
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy
Fritillaria affinis	Checker Lily
Gilia achilleifolia	California Gilia
Gilia tricolor	Birds-Eye Gilia
Iris macrosiphon	Ground Iris
Lasthenia californica	Goldfields
Lathyrus vestitus	Hillside Pea
Linanthus androsaceus	Common Linanthus
Linanthus bicolor	True Baby Stars
Linanthus grandiflorus	Grand Linanthus
Lithophragma heterophyllum	Woodland Star
Lupinus bicolor	Miniature Lupine
Lupinus macrocarpus var. densiflorus	Butter Lupine
Lupinus microcarpus	Chick Lupine
Lupinus succulentus	Arroyo Lupine
Marah fabaceus	Wild Cucumber
Mimulus douglasii	Purple Mouse Ears
Mimulus guttatus	Common Monkey Flower
Nemophila menziesii ssp. atomaria	Baby Blue-Eyes
Pedicularis densiflora	Indian Warrior
Plagiobothrys nothofulvus	Popcorn Flower
Platystemon californicus	Cream Cups
Ranunculus californicus	California Buttercup
Ribes speciosum	Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry
Sanicula bipinnatifida	Purple Sanicle
Sanicula crassicaulis	Yellow Sanicle
Saxifraga californica	California Saxifrage
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-Eyed Grass
Solanum umbelliferum	Purple Nightshade
Thermopsis macrophylla	California False Lupine
Trifolium willdenovii	Tomcat Clover
Trillium chloropetalum	Giant Trillium
Triphysaria eriantha ssp. eriantha	Butter-and-Eggs
Triteleia laxa	Ithuriel's Spear
Viola pedunculata	Johnny-Jump-Up
Viola purpurua ssp. quercetorum	Oak Violet
Wyethia glabra	Green Mule Ears
Zigadenus fremontii	Fremont's Zigadene



Park News

by Kay Robinson
Park Superintendent

In spite of not having a budget for the first two months of the fiscal year (and being prevented from spending during the last month of the previous fiscal year), we have accomplished a fair amount of work this summer. Landmark Volunteers were with us again in late June for a fortnight, and we had a wonderful group this year. Park volunteers and staff provided them with work projects such as painting, corral mending, barbed wire fence removal, trail work, and springs maintenance. They staged at Coe Headquarters the first week and were handsomely hosted by the Springs Committee at the Stevenson Ranch the second week. These Landmark Volunteers, a dozen high-achieving teenagers and a young energetic crew leader, gave the park new sparkle and gave our volunteers and staff a renewed boost of energy. Next year we plan to host them again; if you'd like to get involved, call me at 408/848-4008.

There have been several staff changes on our small crew. State Park Equipment Operator Phil Collett has transferred to Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area near Tracy. He will be challenged with resource management issues, mainly involving erosion, at this off-highway vehicle park. Ranger Nedra Martinez will be getting more sand in her shoes as she promotes to supervising Ranger at the South Sector of Santa Cruz District. Her responsibilities will include field Rangers, Park Aids, and volunteers at Sunset State Beach and the Forest of the Nisene Marks. We wish both Phil and Nedra good luck in their new assignments.

Exactly one year to the day of Ric Carpenter's retirement, we are welcoming Randy Neufeld, who is promoting from Will Rogers State Historic Park to the position of Park Maintenance Supervisor. We are excited to see Randy on our staff and look forward to his assumption of the maintenance program at Henry Coe SP. There are too many details for me to cover all of the aspects of running a park: interpretation, law enforcement, maintenance, real property management, resource management, and the administrative issues. Randy will be a great asset to the park, the staff, and the volunteers. He will also interface with the Pine Ridge Association for special events and cooperatively funded projects.

By the time you read this, the Fall Barbecue and TarantulaFest will be old news. I hope you were able to attend and enjoy it. If you would like to become more involved in your association, consider becoming a candidate for the Pine Ridge Association Board of Directors. It is not an exclusive club, and it does not require your involvement as a volunteer at the park. In fact, I would like to see more general participation from the PRA membership on the board and encourage you to look into this opportunity.

Coe ♬

by Barbara Bessey, President, PRA

As we move into the fall and look back over the year, it is worth reviewing some of the events held at the park. We offered a number of special events that I hope you were able to participate in, including the Mother's Day Breakfast, the Run/Walk out of Hunting Hollow, and our fall fund-raising activities, the TarantulaFest and the Rummage Sale. A lot of individuals worked very hard to produce each of these events, which were very well received again this past year. But don't forget that each of them started out as someone's idea . . . .

Coming up next is our annual Coe potluck that is held on the **Saturday** after Thanksgiving (I think that at least two people over the years have shown up at the park on Thanksgiving Day, dish in hand, looking to celebrate). It will be held rain or shine. One year it was held outdoors, since the weather was very warm and sunny; another year it was held in the white barn, since the weather was very misty, cold, and foggy. But regardless of the outside temperature, you will be warmed by the friendship and closeness of spirits of those around you. Hope you can join us this year!

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 you 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!

Nominations Sought for the Annual PRA Award

Each year at the PRA annual meeting,, an award is presented to someone whose volunteer efforts have preserved and enriched Henry W. Coe State Park. (This year's meeting will take place on Saturday, February 8, 2003.) It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of the Pine Ridge Association or be a uniformed volunteer in the park. Occasionally the award has been given to two people who had worked closely together to benefit the park. The recipient receives an engraved plaque, and the person's name is added to the large plaque that is displayed at the visitor center.

We are soliciting nominations for this award. To help you focus your thoughts, you can use the following two sets of criteria, which have guided the past selections:

- Leadership: scope, motivation, and initiative
- Involvement: scope, altruism, and time contribution
- Asset growth: recruiting, fund-raising, personal contribution
- Ideas/Projects: creative, innovative, follow-through with personal implementation
- Performance: past, sustained, future expectations
- Measurable accomplishments: visible results

- Has had a beneficial effect on the park's resources and activities
- Has sought out responsibility and has acted as a leader
- Has leveraged efforts into multiplicative effects by organizing the activities of others

If there is someone you would like to nominate, please write a short paragraph of reasons why that person should be considered and send it to the PRA Secretary, Winslow Briggs, 480 Hale St., Palo Alto 94301 or Briggs@Andrew2.Stanford.edu. A committee of the PRA board of directors will collect additional information about the activities of your nominee and will make a selection in January. Please submit your nominations by December 1.

Time to Run for the PRA Board

The Pine Ridge Association will hold its annual election for Board of Directors in December. The terms of two directors expire at the end of this year. Now is the time to prepare your candidacy statement and send it to the Board's President, Barbara Bessey, 127 Glenwood Ave., Woodside 94062-3512.

Any association member may run for the Board. A member may also nominate another PRA member. To do this, send Winslow a short statement explaining why you believe the person would be a good Board member, and he will contact your nominee to ask the person to consider running.

The most important qualification for a Board member is a willingness to attend Board meetings and to participate in carrying out tasks for the association. Meetings typically take place every other month on week nights. The term of office is three years. If a Board member is also a Coe Park volunteer, meetings and board-related activities count toward volunteer hours.

We use the special nonprofit bulk-rate mailing permit for sending out association-related materials. However, this means that some members may not receive their newsletters or other materials for several weeks after they are mailed. So that the ballots can be distributed (and received by all members) in a timely fashion, it is important that all candidacy statements be postmarked on or before **Friday, November 15.** Please send your statements to Winslow at the address above. (If you plan to nominate someone else, please do so at least a week earlier.) Your statement might be a few paragraphs long and might contain information like how long you have been a PRA member, why you became interested in Coe Park, ways that you have served the park or other volunteer activities in which you have benefitted the public, any special qualifications or experience that you have, and specific plans that you have for improving the park as a Board member.

If you have any questions about what it would be like to be a Board member or if you would like additional guidance on putting together a candidacy statement, please call Board President Barbara Bessey at 650/851-7813.

New Members through August
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!

James & Linda Bily, Pleasant Hill
Dan Capps, Morgan Hill
Tim Dooling, San Jose
Robert Dougherty, Campbell
Darryl L. Dubois, San Jose
Peggy Elwell, San Jose
Leah Halper, Gilroy
Tick & Kathleen Houk, Monte Sereno
Howard Johnson & Marianna Tubman, Redwood City
Ronald & Rosemary Johnson, Santa Clara
Phil & Susie Kaplan, Soquel
Kelly Kersten, Watsonville
John T. MacDonald, Morgan Hill
Lida Marschke, San Jose
Bobbie Morrison & David Marancik, San Jose
Jan Novak, Palo Alto
Tina Peterson, Sunnyvale
Ruthanne Shepherd, Morgan Hill
Rich Wisowaty, Placerville

We need your help to keep our membership list current and accurate. If you are a paid member, your *Ponderosa* mailing label includes an expiration date. (No expiration date is included for Life members and organizations.) If you have any question regarding your membership or if you want to let us know of any change of address, please contact us using the information provided below.

E-mail: pra@coepark.org
Snail mail: P.O. Box 846, Morgan Hill, CA 95038-0846
Fax: 408/778-5749
Phone: 408/779-2728

PRA Calendar

Saturday, November 30: **Coe Park Thanksgiving Saturday.** All PRA members are invited to attend a potluck at Coe headquarters on the **Saturday** after Thanksgiving Day. Bring a favorite dish to share, and enjoy the camaraderie of other individuals who also enjoy the park. Appetizers will start at 3 p.m. Sunset that evening will be at 4:51 p.m. Please call the park headquarters to sign up or to obtain more information (408/779-2728). We always need a few individuals who are willing to cook turkeys for this event

Saturday, February 8, 2002: **The Annual Meeting of the PRA and the Uniformed Volunteers.** Invitations will be sent to all PRA members in early January. This meeting is always a highlight of the year, filled with presentations, a guest speaker, and a delicious lunch!

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.org

DATED MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY

94062+3512 24

PRA Board of Directors

Barbara Bessey, President
Kevin Gilmartin, Vice President
Winslow Briggs, Secretary
Dan McCranie, Treasurer
Derek Smith, Volunteer Committee Chair
Ann Briggs
Stephanie Charles
Dave Perrin

Kay Robinson, Park Superintendent

The Ponderosa Staff

Editors:	Kevin Gilmartin	Barbara Bessey
Assistant Editor:	Barry Breckling	
Mailing & Distribution:	Phyllis Drake Margaret Mary McBride	Martie Sinclaire
This Issue's Reporters:	Barbara Bessey Victor Bubbett Margaret Mary McBride	Kay Robinson Don Savant
This Issue's Illustrators:	Barry Breckling Rosse Hemeon	Kathy Paivinen

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 © 2002 The Pine Ridge Association

recycled paper