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

The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Early Spring 2003

From under My Brim

by Barry Breckling

The Creek of the Coyote

Grandson, what do you see?

I see the trees and the rocks and the sky and the creek.

What do we call this creek?

The Creek of the Coyote, grandfather. You know that I know the name of the creek.

But do you know why we call it the Creek of the Coyote?

No, grandfather.

Look again, grandson. But first, close your eyes, take a slow deep breath, quiet your mind . . . . Now open your eyes and don't just look. See.

I see it, I see it, grandfather. It is the coyote in the forest across the creek. He isn't looking at us, but by his ears I can see that he knows we are here.

Good, grandson. You have been observant, but did you not see the dragonfly skimming across the water and the frog that caught it, and the garter snake try to catch the frog and the red-tailed hawk look at the snake with hungry eyes? Did you not see the coyote laugh at all this?

I did not, grandfather.

This is the creek of the coyote because we see him here often, but there is much to see and learn if you are quiet and still. Now let us fill our baskets with water and take them back to our home. The others are thirsty.

Grandson, what do you hear?

I hear the wind in the oaks and pines and the jays talking and a towhee scratching in the leaves beneath the poison oak behind us. And I hear the creek flowing over the rocks.

Close your eyes, take a slow deep breath, quiet your mind. Now tell me what you hear.

I hear the creek very loud now, grandfather. I can hear its

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Barry Breckling: 25 years as ranger at Coe Park

Two hiking weekends open to PRA members

. . . and more!

many sounds. It is like music.

Yes, grandson, it is music. Someday you will know in your heart that the music is the song of the blood of our mother the earth. Now let us fill our baskets with water. The women are waiting for us to bring it home so that they can prepare acorns.

Grandson, put your hand in the water. What do you feel?

I feel the coolness and the softness and how the water moves across my hand.

Close your eyes, take a slow deep breath, quiet your mind. Now tell me what you feel.

I feel the creek moving as if it will never stop, grandfather. It is as if its motion is many years long, maybe forever.

This is our blessing, grandson, and why we are always thankful to have the creek. Now let us fill our baskets with water and take them back to our home. The men need the water to put on the hot rocks in the sweat lodge.

Grandson, what have you smelled today?

I smelled the deerskin blanket and the fire. And the new mint you showed me and the bay trees and the freshness of the air.

Grandson, put your nose very close to the water and close your eyes.

Ahhhhhhhh . . . .

Ha ha ha ha!

Grandfather, why did you push me into the creek?

Ha ha haaaa! I wanted you to smell the creek better. You play now. Today, I will take the water back to the camp so that the women can make the acorn mush.

Grandson, what have you tasted today?

I tasted the mush this morning and the nutty seeds and peppery roots we ate this afternoon, and I tasted the new mint you showed me growing near the creek yesterday. It smelled better than it tasted.

Take a drink of water from the creek. What do you taste?

Nothing, I taste nothing, grandfather.

Yes, grandson, it is good water, it is pure water. Upstream, our friends do not spoil the water because they know we too must use it. And downstream we have more friends. We must not spoil the water. Now, let us fill our baskets with water and take them back home, so that the men can soak the deer hides.

Grandson, what have you caught?

I've caught three trout, grandfather, but I did not catch the others. I left them as you have taught me.

Yes, grandson, you have done well. In all things, we must consider those who come after us. All my life I have used the plenty of our mother the earth such that my ancestors seven generations from now will have the same things. It is your responsibility, grandson, to think that far ahead also. I think you will be old enough and wise enough to help the men catch the steelhead this winter.

Thank you, grandfather.

Now let us fill our baskets with water and take them back home, so that we can bathe.

Grandson, sit down by the creek, close your eyes, take a slow deep breath, and quiet your mind. I will be back in a while to find out what you have seen . . . .

Grandson, you can open your eyes now. What have you seen?

At first I did not understand, grandfather. I closed my eyes and you told me you would come back to find out what I had seen. How can I see with my eyes closed? But after a while, I did see. I could see with inner eyes that the music of the creek is not just ours, it belongs to the sky; it belongs to the trees and the birds and the fish. It belongs to the coyote. I opened my eyes once as I felt something near. It was a coyote taking a drink across the creek. She stopped and looked at me and then we both just looked at the water and listened to the music.

You have spoken well, grandson. Get your basket, and we will go home. We will leave the water in the creek today.

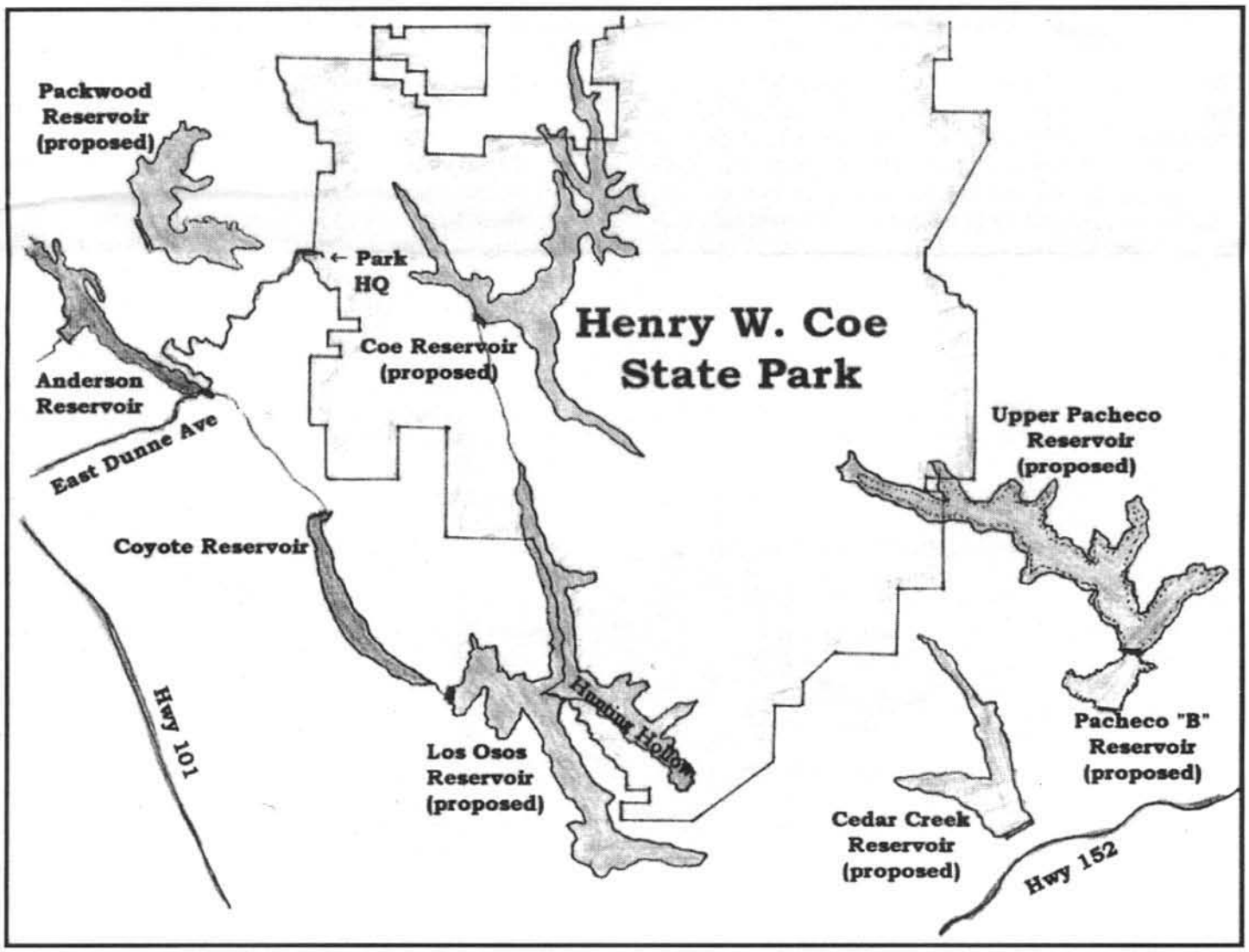
Proposed Reservoirs That Would Inundate Coe

by Barry Breckling and Dennis Pinion

The following contains some information that was included in the last newsletter but with some updates.

Recently it came to our attention that the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is contemplating the construction of a reservoir with a capacity of approximately 200,000 to 400,000 acre-feet as part of their San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. Several sites currently under consideration would impound water within Henry W. Coe State Park.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District had two "scoping" meetings on their "Notice of Preparation: Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Project, California" this last August. The meetings covered what the water district has called the Low Point Problem and the water district's Low Point Improvement Project, which they hope will solve the problem. Among the solutions is a plan to build at least one new reservoir out of a list of five proposed reservoirs. Four of the proposed reservoirs would either require a dam to be built in Coe Park or would back water up into the park. The four reservoirs that would affect the park are:



The **Los Osos Reservoir,** with a dam a short distance upstream of Coyote Reservoir, would flood, in addition to other areas, all of Hunting Hollow and about four miles of Coyote Creek within Coe Park.

Coe Reservoir (referred to by some as The China Hole Dam), with a dam a short distance downstream of China Hole, would back water up the East Fork of the Coyote Creek for about seven miles, up the Middle Fork about four miles, up Kelly Cabin Canyon about four miles, and up the Little Fork, Rock House Canyon, Little Long Canyon, Water Gulch, and other drainages for varying distances.

Pacheco "B" Reservoir would back water up to the area of Pacheco Creek Crossing (the Large Culvert) and a short distance into the park on the Coon Creek drainage.

Upper Pacheco Reservoir would back water beyond Pacheco Creek Crossing and a short distance into Mississippi Creek and up Coon Creek a short distance farther than the Pacheco "B" Reservoir.

Despite an article in the *San Jose Mercury News* on January 29 stating that the Santa Clara Valley Water District was "no longer considering building a reservoir that spreads into Henry W. Coe State Park," the water district low point project manager on the same day said the news article was incorrect and that the Los Osos Reservoir and one of the Pacheco Reservoir alternatives were "still on the table."

Contacts

Advocates for Coe Park is a group that was formed to ensure that portions of Henry W. Coe State Park are not converted for uses contrary to the General Plan for Henry W. Coe State Park, pursuant to California Resources Code 5019.53. Their website is at *www.CoeAdvocates.org*. If you would like to receive informational e-mails from the group, you can send an e-mail to *subscribe@CoeAdvocates.org*. For general inquiries, you can e-mail them at *mail@CoeAdvocates.org*.

Other Contacts

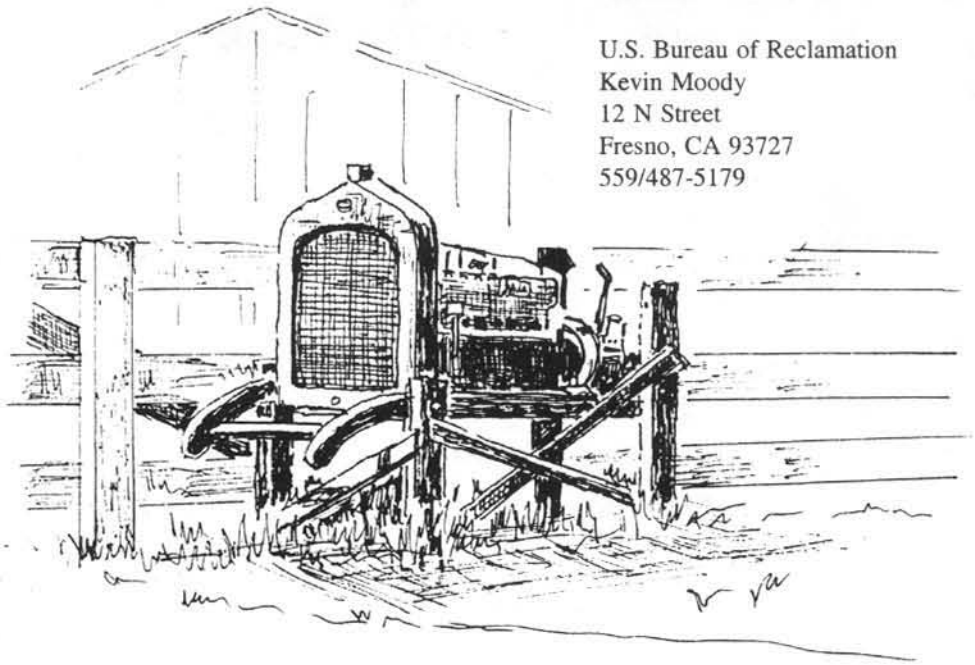
If you have concerns or would like more information, contact the following:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
408/265-2600
www.ValleyWater.org
(To learn more about the project, search on their site with the words "low point.")

Kurt Arends, Senior Project Manager
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3614
KArends@ValleyWater.org
408/265-2607 ext. 2384

SCVWD Board Members at *LKeller@ValleyWater.org* or individual members listed on their website under "Contact Us."

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kevin Moody
12 N Street
Fresno, CA 93727
559/487-5179



Coe ♬

by Barbara Bessey, President, PRA

As I mentioned at our Annual Meeting at the beginning of February, we are entering into some challenging times. We will continue to bring you updates on issues facing the park; among them are the possibility of dams in the Coe Park as well as the possibility of a high-speed bullet train that may cross the park. And, with the California State budget crisis, the districts are being reconfigured, so, as of May 2003, Coe Park is scheduled to become part of the Monterey District. The implications of all of these changes are not yet known, but we will keep you informed as we learn new information.

I also mentioned at our Annual Meeting that, even though there are some issues that may (or will) impact the park, we on the PRA Board have discussed the issue of sharing our mailing list with those who would serve as advocates for the park, and we agreed that we would not do this. However, if you would like to know more about any of these issues and would like to do more to support Coe Park as it currently exists, please let us know. You can so indicate on your renewal form or, if you would like to support the separate group called "Advocates of Coe" (contact information is provided in the left column of this page), you can let them know that you would like to be kept informed of issues affecting Coe Park and what you can do to help support the park. However, we will also provide information and updates to you in *The Ponderosa.* I strongly urge that, however you feel about the possible dams or bullet train, you learn as much as you can about the issues and voice your opinions to the people who are making the decisions.

These are definitely unsettled times. However, Coe Park is a wonderful place for re-creating. Springtime at the park is a great way to connect with the beautiful wildflowers and to get more in tune with the singing birds. Don't forget that our spring programs begin on March 15. Why not join one of our volunteers for a springtime walk or hike or evening program?

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 at any time with your comments or suggestions (BBessey@AIR.org).

See you at the park!

PRA Annual Meeting a Success!

by Barbara Bessey

The annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association was held this year in Morgan Hill on February 8. Barbara Bessey opened the Pine Ridge Association portion of the meeting. She introduced the members of the Board of Directors. The officers of the Board of Directors for 2003 are: Barbara Bessey, President; Stephanie Charles, Vice President; Winslow Briggs, Secretary; and Dan McCranie, Treasurer. The other board members are Ann Briggs, Kevin Gilmartin, David Perrin, Dennis Pinion, and Dan McCranie (who is also serving as Uniformed Volunteer Committee Chair). Barbara Bessey briefly summarized the mission of the PRA, which includes the promotion of interpretive services at Coe Park. She reminded the PRA members that the board welcomes applications for funds for projects that fit within the association's mission and gave some examples of such projects. An example of a project from the previous year was the Calendar of Coe Park, a project that was proposed and implemented by Sharry Dunn and Marlene Testaguzza. She also showed a preview of the new brochure on the wildflowers of Coe State Park. This was a proposal that Victor Bubbett sheparded through the approval process over the past year, which included photos of some of the prominent wildflowers found in the park taken from a number of very talented photographers. The brochure is expected to be sold in the Visitor Center by the end of February.

Dan McCranie presented a preliminary financial report for fiscal year 2002. The Association increased its net equity by approximately $32,000 over 2001, largely because of increased sales from the PRA store.

President Barbara Bessey indicated that the board had approved a change in the PRA bylaws at its January 2003 meeting; this proposal was brought before the membership at the annual meeting for a vote of approval. Stephanie Charles described the recommended change in the bylaws that followed the recommended wording in Article IV, Section 13 (Action without Meeting) in the Cooperating Associations Program Manual, California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1992, page 30: **Any action required or permitted to be taken by the board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such consent or consents shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote of the board, and shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the board**. The former PRA bylaws only required that the directors be polled and that the action would stand if six of the directors approved. President Bessey asked for a voice vote. The amendment was approved unanimously. An association member asked whether e-mail was an acceptable medium for conducting

board business. Stephanie Charles, and emphasized by President Bessey, indicated that an actual signature was required.

Barbara Bessey pointed out that the year of 2003 was going to be a particularly challenging year with the loss of the park superintendent and a backcountry ranger plus the current state of California budgetary crisis. There were also two major threats to the park: one route option for a bullet train line between San Francisco and Los Angeles passes directly through the Orestimba Wilderness; and three dams under consideration by the Santa Clara Valley Water District would seriously impact the park. Dennis Pinion announced the formation of a group called "Advocates for Coe" and pointed out that the group needed people to help participate in dealing with these crises. He and President Barbara Bessey made it clear that under no circumstances would there be any general use of the PRA mailing list, regardless of how relevant the issues might be. Barbara asked that members who wished to be informed about such issues and how they might be able to support Coe Park indicate such an interest on their annual renewal form or submit their interest to the association.

The meeting of the PRA uniformed volunteers followed, chaired by Dan McCranie. The number of active volunteers is over 140. These volunteers donated a total of 19,200 hours in 2002. Of this total, 4,400 hours were spent staffing the Visitor Center. This is an amazingly large number of hours. The volunteers were extremely active during 2002, as evidenced by the large number of award presentations that followed.

Sixteen trainees, who had completed the requirements of the training program and had served 50 or more hours, advanced to Volunteer status: Marty Asplund, Shirley Asplund, Victor Bubbett, Tim Charles, Gillian Fairclough, Daniel Lewis, Diana Maloney, Bambi Moise, Chuck Nelson, Linda O'Heron, Tim O'Heron, Bruce Rideout, Rosemary Rideout, Fred Rounds, Susan Stillman, and Richard Wildanger.

Beverage coasters, which were printed with the PRA logo to honor the recipients of the 2002 Visitor Service Award, 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 Coe Backcountry weekend event, presenting interpretive programs to visitors, or leading interpretive walks or hikes). This year, sixty-three volunteers were eligible to receive this award: Heather Ambler, Shirley Asplund, Chere Barger, Norm Berube, Barbara Bessey, Judy Breckling, John Briese, Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Victor Bubbett, Robert Buchner, Priscilla Campbell, Stephanie Charles, Tim Charles, Susan Cheu, Julie Donohue, Michael Donohue, Phyllis Drake, Sharry Dunn, Stew Eastman, Gillian Fairclough, Bill Frazer, Kevin Gilmartin, Rob Glover, Teddy Goodrich, Kate Hager, Larry Haimowitz, Don Holmes, David Hornby, Stephan Ignaczak, Jodie Keahey, Linda Keahey, Bonnie Larsen, Daniel Lewis, Don Mason, Jim Mason, Judy Mason, Dan McCranie, Mike Meyer, Bambi Moise, Chuck Nelson, David Perrin, Lois Phillips, John Prior, Bruce Rideout, Rosemary Rideout, Don Savant, Pat Scharfe, Martie Sinclaire, Rob Sinclaire, Toni Sousa, Susan Stillman, Richard Stone, Kitty Swindle, Marlene Testaguzza, Nancy Thomas, Lisa Thornquist, Carolyn Tucker, Nancy Valencia, Bev VanderWeide, Libby Vincent, Chris Weske, and Bill Workman.

Eleven individuals, who had volunteered 200 or more hours of which at least 100 hours were spent in the Visitor Center, were promoted to senior volunteers: Cari Benefiel, Dan Benefiel, Stephanie Charles, Dan McCranie, Michael Donohue, Bambi Moise, Rosemary Rideout, Pat Scharfe, Heike Stabenow, Rainer Stabenow, and Nancy Thomas.

Twelve volunteers received special recognition for the tremendous numbers of hours they have spent on Coe Park volunteer activities over a period of years. Between them, they have donated over 41,000 hours to the park! Joseph Belli, Sharry Dunn, Margaret Mary McBride, and George Van Gorden each volunteered 1,000 hours of service. Kevin Gilmartin volunteered 3,000 hours of service. Barbara Bessey, Ann Briggs, and Winslow Briggs each volunteered 4,000 hours of service. Don Holmes, Judy Mason, and Roberta Wright each volunteered 5,000 hours of service. And Ruby Domino has volunteered more than 7,000 hours!

A special silver pin with the association's logo was presented to those individuals who have participated in the volunteer program for ten or more years. Four individuals were so honored this year: Stew Eastman, Jan Jeffers, Derek Smith, and Kitty Swindle.

A special gold pin was presented to those individuals who have participated in the volunteer program for twenty or more years. This year, a pin was presented to Robert Buchner, Bonnie Larsen, Don Mason, Judy Mason, and Roberta Wright.

Barry Breckling, Coe Park Ranger, made a special presentation to those individuals who had donated 200 hours or more within the past year (this also includes the time spent by some uniformed volunteers who volunteered time to other state parks, and the time that some non-uniformed individuals volunteered to Coe Park). Each received a free annual pass to state parks in California. Thirty-six individuals received the award this year: Richard Auser, Chere Bargar, Joseph Belli, Barbara Bessey, Judy Breckling, Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Victor Bubbett, Ruby Domino, Sharry Dunn, Stew Eastman, Bill Frazer, Teddy Goodrich, Dave Hildebrand, Don Holmes, Jodie Keahey, Linda Keahey, Gary Keller, Bill Levey, Daniel Lewis, Jim Mason, Judy Mason, Dan McCranie, Mike Meyer, Bambi Moise, Chuck Nelson, Bob Patrie, David Perrin, John

Prior, Lee Sims, Martie Sinclaire, Kitty Swindle, Marlene Testaguzza, Libby Vincent, Chris Weske, and Bill Workman.

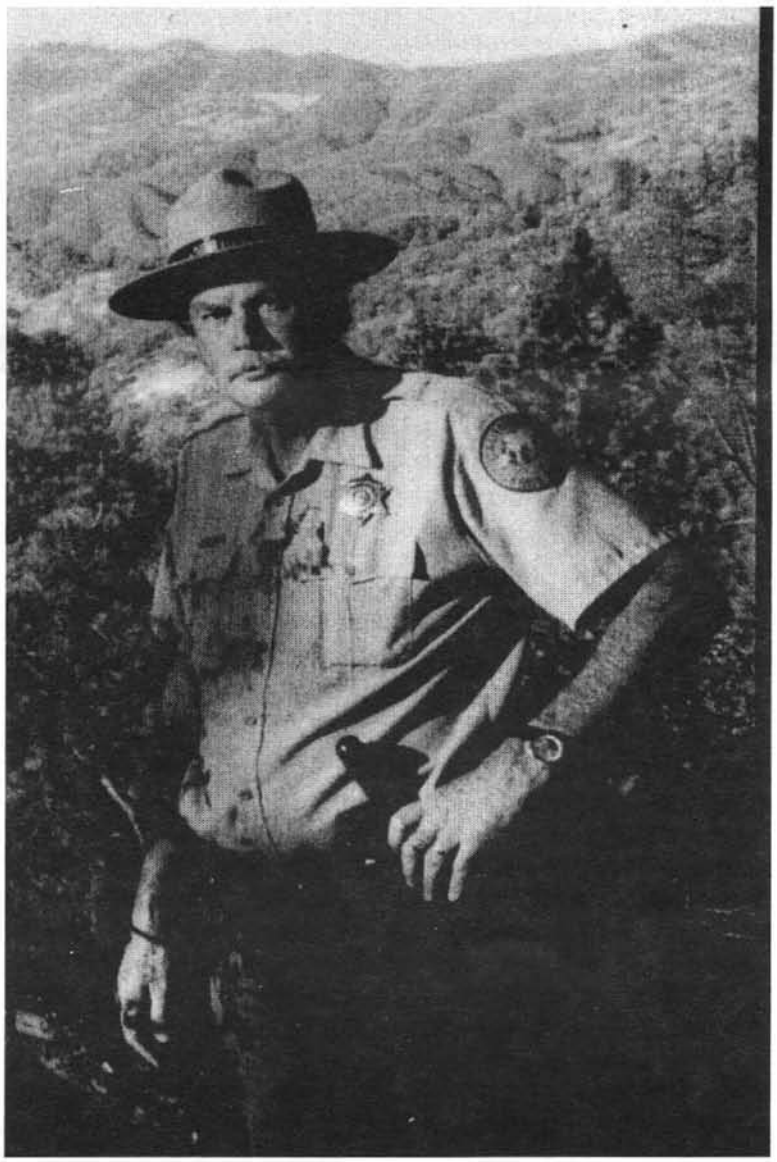
Barry Breckling presented the Uniformed Volunteer Committee's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service to **Chere Barger.** Chere became a uniformed volunteer in 1986, and by the end of 2002, she had volunteered more than 3,400 hours, of which 360 were spent in the Visitor Center. She has been very active in the Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU), including serving as its Chair. She has conducted numerous horse patrols, on which she has carried out tree trimming or tree removal; she has conducted horse check-out rides; she organized the first "poker in the park ride;" and she organized a moonlight ride. She was one of several MAU members who conducted a multi-day search-and-rescue mission for a lost horse in 1998, after a rider got separated from his horse.

Bill Frazer, a long-time Chair of the Uniformed Volunteer Committee, announced a second Golden Bear Award for exceptional service to **Stew Eastman.** Stew became a uniformed volunteer in 1993, and he has volunteered approximately 2,700 hours to Coe Park since that time, of which more than 500 hours have been spent in the Visitor Center. He has been very actively involved in the training of the uniformed volunteers and has served on the Volunteer Committee, including several years as Chair of the committee. He developed the trail guide for the Forest Trail, including a large print version for visually impaired visitors. He has worked on all of the major PRA-sponsored events, including the Mother's Day Breakfast, the TarantulaFest and raffle, the Coe Backcountry Weekend, as well as participated in community events (such as the Mushroom Mardigras) to share information about Coe Park. He has also participated in the Coe Connections program, which introduces school students to the natural history of Coe.

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 Barbara Bessey and Phyllis Drake, went to **Judy Breckling.** Judy has served more than ten years as a uniformed volunteer, and, as of the end of 2002, she has volunteered more than 4,600 hours, of which more than 600 hours were spent in the Visitor Center. She has served on the Volunteer Committee, was one of the original editors of the Uniformed Volunteer Handbook, and has worked on almost all of the PRA-sponsored events, including the Rummage Sale, the TarantulaFest, Mother's Day Breakfast, Backcountry Weekend, and the Redfern Resource Inventory. She has also led wildflower hikes and carried out foot patrols. And last, but certainly not least, she has served as the Webmaster par excellence for the Coe Park website for the past several years.

After all of the serious awards were presented, humorous awards were announced. This year's award presentations were hosted by the very creative and funny Barry Breckling and Lee Sims; however, this year, a special surprise celebration in honor of **Barry's 25 years of involvement with Coe Park** was orchestrated by Larry Haimowitz and other volunteers. In addition, Barry was surprised by a specially made cartoon by Phil Frank, a proclamation by the Morgan Hill Mayor, and with a plaque from the Pine Ridge Association. After the meeting, a delicious lunch was provided by the Uniformed Volunteer Committee; special thanks to Roberta Wright, Kitty Swindle, and Chere Bargar for all of their efforts in the kitchen! A good time was had by all!

Congratulations to all!



Tracking—John Prior Style

by Millicent Kellogg

Editors' note: John Prior played a remarkable role in the celebration of Barry's 25th anniversary at the Annual Meeting. The following is an article written by someone who interviewed John prior to his becoming a Uniformed Volunteer almost nine years ago. At that time, Millicent Kellogg was part of the Uniformed Volunteer Committee Selection Committee.

At first there was John Prior, in 1994, coming into the interview room, inquiring about volunteering at Coe Park. He was a taciturn man, eyeing us warily, scooting his chair back a few inches to increase the distance between us. He looked at the floor, straightening the small bunch of papers on his lap with minimal gesture. He crossed his leg over the other and aligned his foot with his knee. When all was correct in his judgment, he raised his eyes and waited calmly for us to begin. We all said "hello," and he replied with measured response. We talked about the park and the duties of a volunteer, and he listened. Occasionally, he stirred a micron. In the end, he indicated his interest in becoming a volunteer, and we may have wondered if Coe Park, with all its jocularity and hugging, wouldn't be just the thing to bring him out of his shell. We did not know that therein lived a mimic, thespian, raconteur, and Buster Keaton.

So then there was John Prior, in 2003, at the Annual Meeting, giving his recollection of being a student in Barry's tracking class. With loving earnestness and devotional accuracy, John showed us how important it was to get a definitive reading of animal prints while "backtracking" with rump in the air and measuring stick always in the wrong place. Looking for the "shine" of the compressed earth beneath the marking, John probed even closer by looking at the track from underneath it. Only John could look underneath a track. A little hazy on some details as to why it was necessary to do specific maneuvers and observations, he impressed the entire gallery with the gravity of trying very hard. He muttered and mumbled and stammered and fumbled with affecting grace until he transported us into the delicate world of splendid burlesque. In 1994, who knew?

Twenty Five Years

What a surprise I had at the Annual Meeting. Just when I was about to turn the CARP awards around on Lee with a surprise "This is Your Strife," I mean "This is Your Life, Lee Sims" award, the rug was pulled out from under my feet. A celebration, of sorts, for my 25 years at Coe.

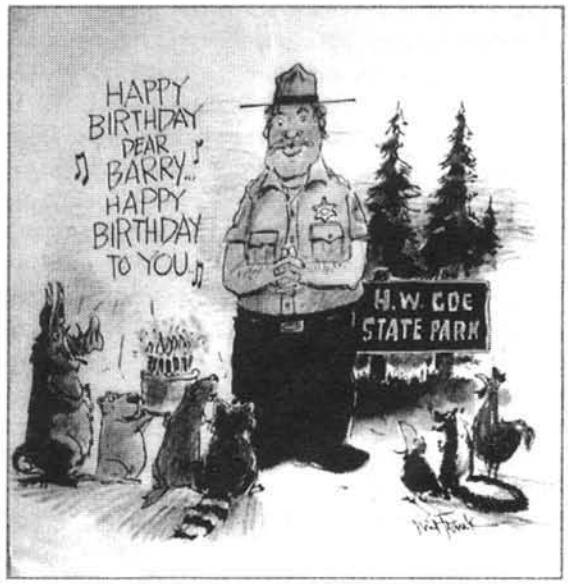
There were Larry, Derek, Winslow, and Lee (wasn't Chuck up there, too?) telling stories and dressing me in a Class "A" Ranger Uniform Loincloth. And Acting Park Superintendent Dennis Imhoff, filling in at the last minute. I'll never forget that snake, and no one should have missed John Prior crawling on the floor, demonstrating all the clever tracking "skills" he's learned.

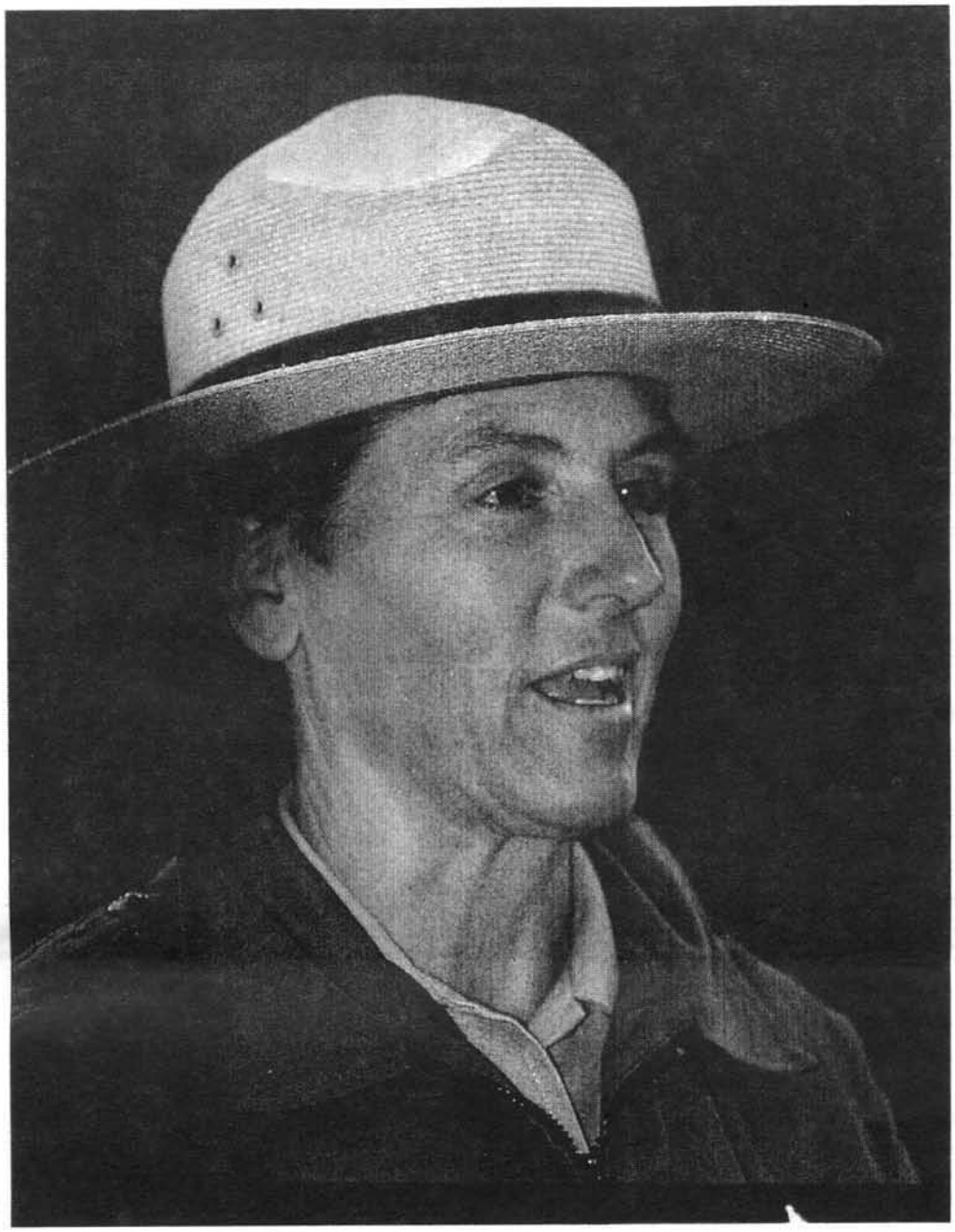
I heard a rumor that the Volunteer Committee was responsible for the beginnings and much of the ends of this event, and they grabbed a few others to round things out: Derek Smith, Chuck Nelson, Larry Haimowitz, Dave Perrin, Bruce Rideout, Rosemary Rideout, Priscilla Campbell, Bill Frazer; Pat Scharfe, Phyllis Drake, Lee Sims, Ruby Domino, Stew Eastman, Barbara Bessey, Kevin Gilmartin, and Roberta Wright. A special thanks to you guys (and I promise I'll remember your "kindness"). The Tarantulas even showed up to play some new tunes. Thanks, Bob, for coming all the way from Southern California. Then Barbara Bessey and Rosemary Rideout brought out the resolutions, plaques, and certificates, not to mention the trip to the Wine Country. And Bonnie and Lee with the Phil Frank cartoon. I love the cartoon even though the 25-year celebration came out as a Happy Birthday.

Then there was the cake. Thanks guys for doing that and for helping get rid of the evidence. It was a highlight to have my son, Mike, and daughter, Tasha, there to help me celebrate 25 years at Coe. Where did all those years go?

I was in such a daze that some of what I have said above is likely a fabrication of my dizzied mind, and I likely forgot to thank a few of you who did a lot. The best part of being a ranger at Coe for 25 years has been the friends.

Thanks, Ranger Barry Breckling





Wonderful Memories!

by Kay Robinson
former Park Superintendent

I was overwhelmed at my retirement party in January. In celebration of a 30-year career, I enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie of family and friends—from relationships established 30+ years ago to my most recent friendships with staff, volunteers, Pine Ridge Association members, and neighbors of Henry W. Coe State Park. I am blessed to have had a wonderful partnership with the park's nonprofit organization, the PRA, as well as productive interactions with the park's volunteers. Thank you, as a PRA member, for your support of me, the park staff, the park, the visitors, and the volunteers. Your support of the Pine Ridge Association has created a strong bond between the community and California State Parks—a very healthy and beneficial bond. As a life member of the PRA, I will be keeping abreast of developments and plan to return periodically to enjoy Coe events and renew friendships. As some of you may know, at the party I received a painting of the Coe landscape by artist and PRA member Dave Sellers. It will grace a special place in our home and will be a lasting reminder of a significant portion of my State Parks career. Thank you for wonderful memories.

PRA Spring Outings
by Barry Breckling

All PRA members are invited to go on these outings. We will be highlighting wildflowers on the hikes we take. To sign up, call the park at 408/779-2728 and get your name on the list for the hike or hikes you plan to go on. Leave your phone number or e-mail address. There is some information below, but the specifics will be given to participants later.

March 29 & 30 (Saturday/Sunday) Coit/Redfern Outing
We'll be camping at Coit Camp. People can arrive on Friday or come early Saturday morning. You can stay overnight Friday and Saturday or just come for the day Saturday or Sunday. On Saturday, we'll have a longer hike for those who want to get some miles in and a shorter hike for those who want to spend some time looking at flowers. There will be two hikes on Sunday also. Coit Camp has a backcountry toilet. You'll need to bring all your own camping gear, cooking implements, food, and water. Saturday night's meal will be a potluck.

April 5 & 6 (Saturday/Sunday) Rockhouse Ridge/East Fork Outing
We'll be camping at the Arnold Cabin (the cabin itself is unusable). We'll carpool from park headquarters in four-wheel-drive vehicles Saturday morning. There will likely be one small group of people leaving Saturday evening and possibly a group coming in Sunday morning. We'll have two hikes (long and shorter) on Saturday, but both will be doing Rock House Ridge. The shorter hike will be for people who want to stop for wildflowers. We'll do one hike on Sunday. Some cross-country hiking will be required both days. The Arnold Cabin site does **not** have a toilet. You'll need to bring all your own camping gear, cooking implements, food, and water. Saturday night's meal will be a potluck.

New Members through January
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!

Alan Bartholomew, Santa Clara
Daniel Baxter, Fresno
Anne Espinosa, Morgan Hill
Judy Etheridge, Sunol
Wayne Gilfillan, San Jose
Sherry Hansen, Aptos
Bill Jones, Gilroy
Ken Mignosa & Tammy McCrory, Santa Clara
Teresa Nemeth, Santa Clara
Donald & Flavia Polensky, Morgan Hill
Paul Ridge, Redwood City
Joanne Rife, Morgan Hill
Chris Wilson, Redwood City
Jeff Winkler, San Jose
Erik Zaborsky, San Juan Bautista
Jeff Zolotar, Mountain View

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 for Life members and organizations.) If you have any question regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of address, please contact us.

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

Lowland shooting Star
Dodecatheon clevelandii

Indian Paintbrush
Castilleja affinis

PRA Calendar

Saturday & Sunday, March 15 & 16: The start of the **Spring Programs at Coe Park**. The schedule is included in this issue of the newsletter. Generally, there are hikes on Saturdays, an interpretive program on Saturday nights, and two wildflower walks on Sundays throughout the spring season. Events are planned for both the Hunting Hollow and the main Morgan Hill entrances to the park. The spring programs flyer is included with this newsletter, or you can find the schedule of programs on the park's website at *www.CoePark.org/programs.html*.

Saturday, March 22: **Barbed Wire Fest.** Help remove barbed wire in the park. Please call coordinator Rob Glover at 408/778-3619 for more information.

Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30: Join in a special PRA-sponsored wildflower weekend outing to the **Redfern** addition. Overnight at Coit Camp on Friday and Saturday nights. More information about this weekend is described on page 10 of this newsletter. Please contact Barry Breckling at the Coe Park Visitor Center (408/779-2728) for more information.

Saturday & Sunday, April 5 & 6: A special PRA-sponsored weekend outing to **Rock House Ridge**. Please see page 10 of this newsletter for a description of this outing. Please contact Barry Breckling at the Coe Park Visitor Center (408/779-2728) for more information.

Saturday, April 12: **Trail Day.** Help work on trails in the park. For more information, please contact Cameron Bowers at the sector office (408/848-4006).

Saturday, & Sunday, April 26 & 27: **Coe Backcountry Weekend.** Always a sell-out, please submit your application for admittance by March 29, 2003. An application form is included in this newsletter, and one is also available on our website: *http://www.coepark.org/orestimba-form.pdf.* This year, the artwork for the special commemorative T-shirts will be selected by competition (see our website for details).

Sunday, May 11: **Mother's Day Breakfast at Coe Park.** Join us for this very popular event, which will be held this year at the Ridgeview Camping area. Tickets will go on sale in mid-April. Please see our website for more information: *http://www.coepark.org/mothers-day.html.* For more information, please contact Barry Breckling at the Coe Park Visitor Center (408/779-2728).

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http://www.coepark.org

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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.

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