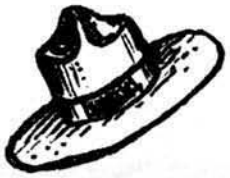
The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Early Spring 2005

From under My Brim



by Barry Breckling

Special Spring, Special Places

In my twenty-seven spring seasons at Coe Park, I can't recall a single "bad" spring. Well, I do gauge last year as the worst for wildflowers, but it was still a wonderful spring. The El Niño spring of 1998 was an unbelievably extraordinary wildflower year. There were splashes of color in places where in previous years there had only been the green of grass. The cute little Purple Mouse-Ears were found in many places, not just the few regular spots where we see them each year. The Mouse-Ears were even on a bank along the Corral Trail a little past the bridge, a place where we'd never seen them before and have never seen them since. Then there is the Mount Hamilton Jewelflower, a tiny two-inch tall purple-flowered plant with a purple topknot. This little gem is one of the rarest of plants, known only from a very few limited locations in the Mount Hamilton Range. One of those locations is the bottom of a small side ridge in a remote part of Coe Park. During that El Niño spring, we also found the Mount Hamilton Jewelflower in a few other locations.

This year, from the perspective of early February, the signs point to a great wildflower season. To date, our rainfall total is over 160% of the average figure. Last year through February, we were at about average rainfall, and then March came and the rains stopped. Let's hope we continue to get more rain through early spring this year. With a lot of October rain, the grass was green before Halloween. Chaparral Currant along East Dunne Avenue was blooming around the end of October, the earliest I've ever seen it bloom. I always recall Lee Sims talking about backpacking on the east side of the park on Christmas Eve and waking up Christmas morning surrounded by Lowland Shooting Stars. Well, this year has one-upped Lee's experience; I saw Lowland Shooting Stars in the Miller Field on December 10.

Right now, at the beginning of February, we have a list of over 25 species of wildflowers already blooming. The wildflower season is very early this year, and let's hope it will last a long time, too.

With the prospect of a very fine spring season in store, I hope you can plan several trips to the park. And, while you're here, you might want to take your time and maybe do something different, something special.

Here are some possibilities.

Hike out the Springs Trail to a little beyond Blackberry Spring,

Inside this issue . . .

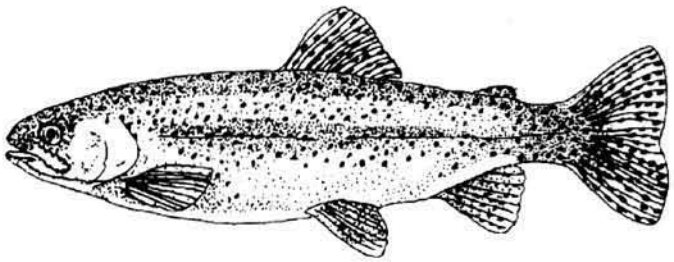
Storm damage in the park

Report on the PRA Annual Meeting

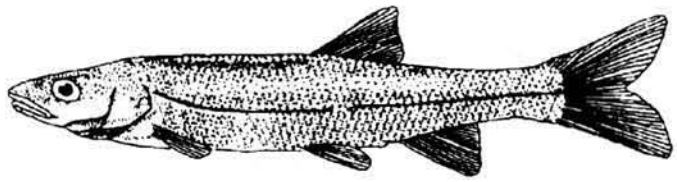
How mountain lions are related to other cat species

Plans for the Coe Backcountry Weekend in April

. . . and more!



Rainbow Trout



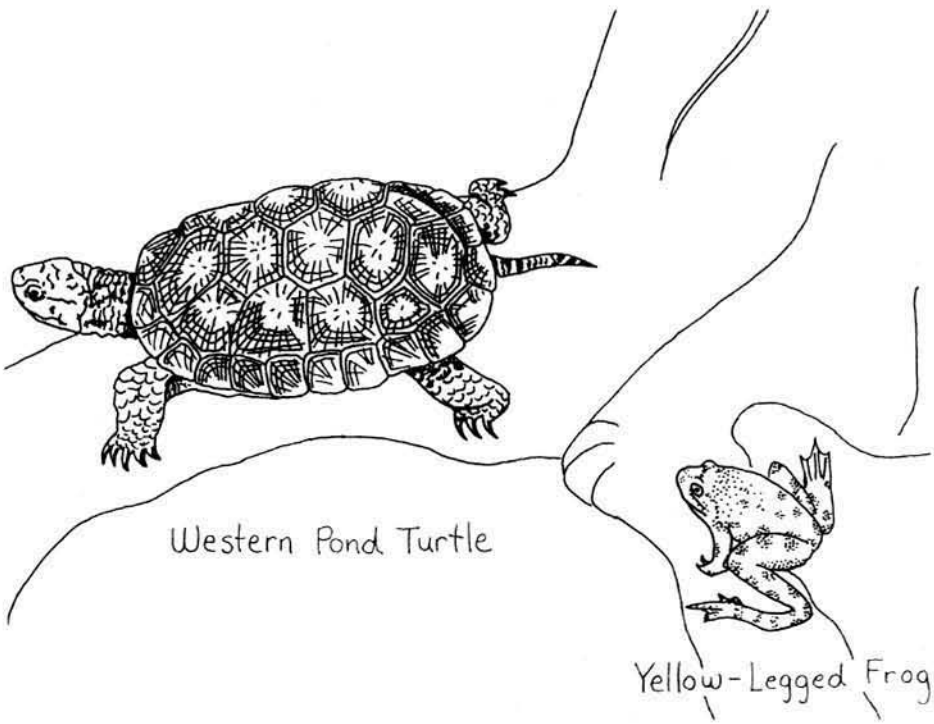
Sacramento Pike Minnow

turn left, and walk out into the middle of the Arnold Field. Find a fine spot to lie down and visit with Johnny-Jump-Ups.

Spend a half hour or more there and feel what it's like to be a little wild violet. If you watch carefully and stay long enough, you might even be able to see that the little violets' faces follow the sun, a trick to make their faces brighter to the pollinators.

Go to Lion Spring, or to Deer Horn, or another of the numerous springs in the park, especially as things start to dry out in May. Sit quietly for a half hour or more. Once your human disturbance (which precedes and follows all of us) has settled, the wildlife will go back to being their wild selves. You may have Ruby-Crowned Kinglets land in shrubs at arm's length. A small flock of Lesser Goldfinches might line the water trough getting a drink, and a couple of Oak Titmice might take a bath in a puddle nearby. A hummingbird might come to take a drink of the water trickling from the pipe, or a male hummingbird might dive with lightning speed from over 100 feet up to a spot in a shrub a few feet above your head where a female is sitting. In his J-shaped dive, he swoops just inches above the female and lets out a shrill whistle.

Go to the Middle Fork of the Coyote Creek, around Upper Camp or Skeels' Meadow or downstream from China Hole, and sit quietly by a pool for a half hour or more. Once the aquatic animals view you as a tree or a rock, they'll go back to their active but wary way of life. Rainbow Trout will emerge from under rocks and patrol the pool or set themselves up where the water enters the pool to catch bugs washing downstream. If an insect lands on the surface of the pool, the trout will accelerate to the surface and grab the morsel. A little stick or pebble flicked into the pool will be investigated and left as inedible. Sacramento Pike Minnows (once called Squawfish) will swim around looking a bit like trout, but the end of their tails are forked (while the trouts' are just curved). Sacramento Suckers with their downward-facing sucker mouths will start sucking algae off of rocks, and minnow-sized California Roach will go back to gleaning algae and grabbing small invertebrates. Suddenly you'll notice that a Yellow-Legged Frog has climbed up on a rock at the edge of the pool and that a small inquisitive head has popped up in the middle of the pool. On closer inspection you can see that the head is attached to an oval rock-like body; all put together it's a Western Pond Turtle.



Walk down to Poverty Flat and then walk about a third of a mile up the Little Fork of the Coyote Creek. Expect to get wet. When you get to the waterfall, sit quietly for a half hour or more. You might learn some physics, such as the truth about gravity and what negative ions do.

Go to the top of Pine Ridge a half hour before sunset and sit quietly with your back to a tree. Sit, just sit with a quiet mind. Weigh nothing, give no value to anything. It will be a special experience.

Park News

by Michael Ferry
Supervising Ranger

The New Year is here, the rain continues to fall, and winter presses on. The creeks are flowing wildly, the lakes are full, and wildflowers are starting to pop up! That's the good news. The bad news is the park has received significant storm damage. We lost a major portion of Coit Road near the Wasno Road intersection and Kelly Lake. This part of the road was partially slumped off from last year, however, with the recent heavy rains we lost an entire section of roadway in which no vehicles can pass. We are recommending that all park users avoid this section of Coit Road until we can accurately assess the damage once the rain stops. Hopefully we will at least be able to allow bikes and foot traffic through the area this spring.

There are also numerous trees down throughout the park. A large Gray Pine fell on all three chemical toilets in the Hunting Hollow parking lot. It was a direct hit, but fortunately the toilets were not being used and nobody got hurt. We request that if you are out hiking and find a tree down creating a hazard or blocking a trail to please report it to Coe Headquarters, and we will try to get it cleared as soon as possible. Many trees have already been cleared but several are still down. We have also not been able to assess all the trails and roads in the backcountry.

I would like to report some good news on the Gilroy Hot Springs. As many of you know, the Gilroy Hot Springs now belongs to Henry Coe State Park and is also a State Historical Landmark. Since the closure of the hot springs several years ago, this beautiful area of the park (242 acres) has been closed to the public and only opened through special arrangements. The Hot Springs buildings are very run down and have been the site of recent vandalism (numerous citations have been issued).

We are in the process of organizing a revitalization committee to begin exploring ideas for opening the Hot Springs up again! We (CL Price, Sector Superintendent, and I) have meet with the former owner, Masaru Seido, along with other State Park representatives and members of the private sector to explore funding possibilities to open the Hot Springs. We would like to preserve the rich Japanese history that has been such a part of this area. Imagine for a moment, after a long day on the trail (horse, bike, or foot) dropping by the hot springs on the way out for a soak in this special area of the park. We really want to protect, preserve, and open this area of the park. We are not thinking of any large-scale development but something more on the primitive side. Stay tuned on this one.

The Coe Backcountry Weekend is set to go April 23 and 24. The CBW committee has been working hard over the last several months to make changes to minimize the environmental impact, mainly the creek crossings. The number of vehicles entering the Narrows will be limited. Many vehicles (well over 100) will be parked outside on the Kaiser-Etna Road (day use and backpackers). Vehicles that will be allowed into the Orestimba Corral (overnighters) will be limited to one pass in and one pass out. This will include volunteers as well, with some exceptions. We hope to have a shuttle system to assist those who may need it. The fees will also be doubled from last year to help offset increasing costs of the event. These are some of the major changes. See the article on the CBW on page 8 of this issue.

I have reached my first year anniversary at Henry Coe State Park and must say it has been one of the most rewarding years in my State Park career. Every day was and is a learning experience at Coe. I look forward to continue working together with all of you to achieve our goals and thank you for all your hard work and commitment over the past year.

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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 5. President Ann Briggs opened the Pine Ridge Association portion of the meeting. She introduced the members of the Board of Directors and reported on the results of the election of officers. The officers of the Board of Directors for 2005 are: Ann Briggs, President; Kevin Gilmartin, Vice-President; Winslow Briggs, Secretary; and Dan McCranie, Treasurer. The other board members are Barbara Bessey, Ross Campbell, Ron Erskine, Dennis Pinion, and Priscilla Campbell (Uniformed Volunteer Committee Chair). Kevin Gilmartin summarized the mission of the PRA. Barbara Bessey described the various projects that the Board has funded in the past (including several book projects and hosting students as part of the Landmark Volunteer project), and reminded the PRA members that the board welcomes applications for funds for projects that fit within the association's mission.

Dan McCranie presented a preliminary financial report for the fiscal year 2004. The Association's financial health remained strong throughout 2004. The net assets increased almost $44,000 (as opposed to the increase of $12,000 in 2003). Donations and grants were up from the previous year; however, Visitor Center sales were down more than $11,000, reflecting the lower level of attendance at Coe Park throughout last year.

Dennis Pinion talked about the possible impact of the high-speed rail on Coe Park. The 700-mile network of rails would connect the Bay Area with Sacramento, the Central Valley, Los Angeles, San Diego, and inland. Two of the routes under consideration would have gone through the Orestimba Wilderness area in Coe Park. Dennis indicated that the decision makers were no longer considering a route either through or under Coe Park. Dennis, Robert Patrie, Teddy Goodrich, Mike Meyer, Bruce Rideout, Rosemary Rideout, and all of the others involved with the group Advocates for Coe were recognized for all of their hard work to keep Coe safe from the high-speed rail.

The meeting of the PRA uniformed volunteers followed, chaired by Priscilla Campbell. The number of active volunteers is now more than 130. These volunteers donated 17,868 hours in 2004, which is almost 9 full-time equivalent paid employees! Of this total, over 4,000 hours were spent staffing the Visitor Center, and another 3,000 hours were donated to provide interpretive programs or other services for the public. This is an amazingly large number of hours. The uniformed volunteers were extremely active during 2004, as evidenced by the large number of award presentations that followed.

Eleven Trainees, who had completed the requirements of the training program are: Ken Binder, Lynn Binder, Jim Brady, Rita Gormley, Lucy Henderson, Don Irving, Jubilee Menzies, Chris Renz, Tina Schiffman, Dan Straus, and Dave Thompson.

Thirteen Trainees who served 50 or more hours advanced to Volunteer status: Ross Campbell, Colleen Combes, Darryl Dubois, Dewight Emery, Ken Howell, Rick Leonard, Kay Morshead, Bud O'Hare, John Rosica, Ruthanne Shepherd, Ron Siechen, Jeff Winkler, and Jim Wright.

Thirteen individuals, who had volunteered 250 or more hours of which at least 100 hours were spent in the Visitor Center, were promoted to Senior Volunteer: Jeri Allen, Victor Bubbett, Mark Deger, Gillian Fairclough, Holly Harper, Pete Henshaw, Nancy Hildebrandt, Susan Hund, Rick Leonard, Daniel Lewis, Dave Raiman, Greg Scott, and Susan Stillman.

A silver notepad and pen, which was engraved with the PRA logo to honor the recipients of the 2004 Visitor Service Award, were given 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., presenting programs to visitors, leading interpretive walks or hikes). Seventeen of these individuals donated more than 100 hours on visitor-service activities: Everett Allen, Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Victor Bubbett, Bill Frazer, Teddy Goodrich, Don Holmes, David Hornby, Jodie Keahey, Linda Keahey, Rick Leonard, Dan McCranie, David Perrin, Don Savant, Marlene Testaguzza, Bill Workman, and Libby Vincent. Thirty-four volunteers donated between 48 and 99 hours in visitor-service activities: Chere Bargar, Norm Berube, Barbara Bessey, Judy Breckling, Robert Buchner, Priscilla Campbell, Ross Campbell, Stephanie Charles, Phyllis Drake, Darryl Dubois, Stew Eastman, Dewight Emery, Wayne Gilfillan, Kevin Gilmartin, Rob Glover, Kate Hager, Gary Keller, Daniel Lewis, Don Mason, Jim Mason, Margaret Mary McBride, Chuck Nelson, Lois Phillips, Bruce Rideout, Rosemary Rideout, Pat Scharfe, Ron Siechen, Martie Sinclaire, Susan Stillman, Richard Stone, Bonnie Stromberg, Kitty Swindle, Bev VanderWeide, and Chris Weske.

Eighteen volunteers received special recognition for the tremendous numbers of hours they have spent on Coe Park vol-

unteer activities over the years. Between them, they have donated over 65,000 hours to the park! Victor Bubbett, Priscilla Campbell, Rob Glover, and Linda Keahey each volunteered 1,000 hours of service. Celia McCormack and Mike Meyer each volunteered 2,000 hours of service. Stew Eastman, Libby Vincent, and Chris Weske each volunteered 3,000 hours of service. Chere Bargar, Martie Sinclaire, and Marlene Testaguzza each volunteered 4,000 hours of service. Barbara Bessey, Judy Breckling, Ann Briggs, and Bill Frazer each volunteered 5,000 hours of service. And Everett Allen and Ruby Domino each volunteered over 8,000 hours of service.

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: John Prior, Sandi Stevenson, Bonnie Stromberg, and Bev VanderWeide.

A special gold pin with the association's logo was presented to those individuals who have participated in the volunteer program for twenty or more years. Six individuals were so honored this year: Bill Frazer, Martie Sinclaire, Rob Sinclaire, Joan Throgmorton, Nancy Valencia, and Chris Weske.

Ranger Barry Breckling 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 individuals received the award this year. Of these, nine donated more than 400 hours: Everett Allen, Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Victor Bubbett, Priscilla Campbell, Ruby Domino, Teddy Goodrich, Dan McCranie, and Kitty Swindle. Twenty-one individuals donated between 200 and 399 hours during the year: Chere Bargar, Joseph Belli, Barbara Bessey, Judy Breckling, Stew Eastman, Bill Frazer, Kevin Gilmartin, Rob Glover, Sam Harper, Don Holmes, Jodie Keahey, Linda Keahey, Bill Levey, Daniel Lewis, Mike Meyer, Robert Patrie, Martie Sinclaire, Bonnie Stromberg, Libby Vincent, Chris Weske, and Bill Workman.

Two special awards were presented by Barry Breckling to **Kitty Swindle** and **Chere Bargar.** With the heavy rains in early January, the creeks were overflowing and the roads across them were not passable. As a result, three backpackers were stranded in the park and were not able to cross the creek to return to the Visitor Center. Barry called Kitty and Chere and asked them if they would be willing to ride their horses into the park and assist the backpackers to safety. Rescue operations were not new to Kitty and Chere; they were involved in a rescue mission of a horse that had been abandoned by its rider in Coe Park (again in inclement weather) a number of years ago. Despite the heavy rains and cold wind, they saddled up their horses, entered the park from the south end, rode many miles to get to the backpackers, and helped them to safety. Both Kitty and Chere are very active in the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit at Coe Park; Chere is the current President.

Barry Breckling presented the Uniformed Volunteer Committee's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service to **Margaret Mary McBride.** Margaret Mary became a Uniformed Volunteer in 1996. Barry characterized her as a very hard-working volunteer and one who was willing to do anything that needed to be done. She started out collecting and sorting all of the recycling items (cans and bottles) that were left at the park and driving them into town to collect the deposits, which she turned into the PRA. Later, when the PRA needed someone to keep track of membership renewals and donations, she volunteered for the job. She has also worked on almost all of the major PRA-sponsored events, including the Mother's Day Breakfast, the rummage sale, and the TarantulaFest. In addition, she is very knowledgeable about wildflowers, and she has led numerous wildflower walks for the public over the past years.

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 Ann Briggs and Winslow Briggs, went to **Teddy Goodrich.** Teddy was in the original class of volunteers, which was started in 1980. She has volunteered almost 4,000 hours to Coe Park during this time. She also was a recipient of the Uniformed Volunteer's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service. Teddy has written two books, one of which will be published this spring. She has served as the historian of Coe Park, documenting her findings in articles that were published in *The Ponderosa* over the last decade. In recent years, Teddy has been active in Advocates for Coe, first working to keep the dams out of the park and more recently to keep the high-speed rail from crossing the park.

Phil Jenkins, the Superintendent of the Monterey District, of which Coe is now a part, made a special presentation to **Robert Patrie**. He presented the Volunteer Medallion, which was signed by California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a volunteer by the state. Bob's work to map the park using GPS technology and to document features in the park spans three decades. He also developed a "visual reality" of what Coe Park would look like if the various planned routes of the high-speed rail went through the park, which was posted on the Advocates for Coe website. The inscription on the plaque reads: "In recognition of Bob Patrie's tireless advocacy and positive contributions to the State Parks experience."

Michael Ferry, the Supervising Ranger for Coe Park, offered the association members a road map for success in whatever activities we are undertaking for state parks. First, we need to "get it done." Then we need to work on "getting it right." We need to "get along with others" as we do it. We need to work on "getting acknowledged." And, lastly, "make it fun!" With this comment, the meeting turned to giving out the humorous awards . . . .

This year's humorous award presentations were hosted by the very creative and funny Barry Breckling and Lee Sims. Teddy Goodrich and Gary Keller, volunteers from the first class of uniformed volunteers (as was Lee), also participated in the various skits. Part of the theme for this year's program was a very moving retrospective on some of the thoughts and questions that these individuals had in 1980 as they embarked upon the volunteer program. Who would have anticipated what the program would become by 2005 and all of the activities that are supported by the association. A number of these early discussions took place at the end of a day, sitting on the chicken coop behind the ranch house (the chicken coop is no longer there), and watching the sun set. As I looked around the room to the new group of volunteers, I wondered where their chicken coop might be where they could sit and dream of activities that they would like to see carried out in the next 25 years . . . .

A delicious lunch was provided at the end of the meeting; special thanks to Kitty Swindle, Chere Bargar, and their team for all of their efforts in the kitchen! A good time was had by all!

Congratulations to all!

The Mountain Lion

by Barbara Bessey

Michelle Cullens, the Director of Conservation Programs for the Mountain Lion Foundation, gave a very informative presentation at the PRA Annual Meeting about mountain lions and the work that the Mountain Lion Foundation does. The Foundation has been in operation since 1986. In 1990, the Foundation was active in getting the California Wildlife Protection Act passed, which banned the sport hunting of mountain lions in California and set aside $30 million to purchase lands for wildlife habitat.

Her presentation included information on the various myths associated with mountain lions, how mountain lions are related to other cats, information about their life history, and information about how to minimize (or prevent) conflict with humans.

She pointed out that there have been only 20 deaths of humans by mountain lions in over 110 years in the U.S. and Canada. However, if we pay attention to the stories that the media presents, we would think that there were far more.

In the past, scientists divided the cat family into two groups: the large roaring cats (e.g., African lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar) and the smaller purring cats, of which the mountain lion is the largest in this group. However, with the use of DNA research, scientists now believe that the 37 species of cats evolved in three distinct lines. The earliest branching took place around 12 million years ago and included the South American cats, including the jaguar. A second branching occurred around 8 million years ago and included the domestic cat and other small cats. A third branching occurred around 4 to 6 million years ago and included the middle-sized and large cats, of which the mountain lion is one.

The Latin name for the mountain lion (*Puma concolor*, formerly *Felis concolor*) means cat of one color. Except for the sides of the face and the backs of the ears (which are dark brown or black) and the chin and under belly (which are a creamy white), the rest of the animal is uniformly brownish in color. One of the most distinctive features of the animal is the very long tail, which can be almost two-thirds of its body length.

Mountain lions are very powerful animals. They can jump over 20 feet straight up; they can leap more than 40 feet horizontally; they can bound 16 feet while carrying a deer; they can run 50 miles per hour for short sprints; they can also swim well.

Mountain lions are solitary animals, unlike the African lion. When the juveniles are ready to be on their own, at around two years of age, they leave their mother's territory to search for one of their own. They seek out an area that is not occupied by another lion. Ms Cullens noted that, during this time of dispersal, the young and inexperienced mountain lions may wander into populated areas looking for territory and food and find pets and livestock available. Older and more experienced lions are better skilled at taking deer, their preferred prey, and are less likely to seek out livestock.

The Mountain Lion Foundation believes that, if we can keep our pets and our livestock safe by keeping them in safe shelters, we will minimize conflicts with the mountain lions, and that will go far in protecting these big cats. Wildlife depends upon suitable habitat to survive. However, as we have observed, wild habitat is often in our back yards. The Foundation is supporting efforts for all of us to live in harmony with wildlife.

For more information on the mountain lion, check out "Cougar: The American Lion," a book written by Kevin Hansen in association with the Mountain Lion Foundation (Northland Publishing Company, 1992). For more information about the Foundation and the programs they sponsor, check out its website: *http://mountainlion.org/*.

PRA Financial Report for 2004

by Dan McCranie, PRA Treasurer

The Pine Ridge Association's financial health remained strong throughout 2004. The organization's equity increased $44,000 over the course of the year. The details of the equity growth for the Association from 2001 through 2004 is provided in the table below. (The liabilities each year have been minor, usually several hundred dollars of sales tax yet to be paid.)

Significant financial highlights from 2004 were:

- Donations and grants during 2004 were up $31,000 over the 2003 levels, to a total of $40,000.
- PRA dues for 2004 were up $3,000 over the 2003 levels, to a total of $8,000.
- Visitor Center sales were down $11,000 over the 2003 levels, to a total of only $36,000. This reduction was due, we believe, to the lower level of attendance at the park throughout last year. We are not certain of the reason for the lower attendance.
- Visitor Center store inventory as of the end of 2004 was up $17,000 over 2003 year end. This increase was due primarily to the large bulk printings of the new Animals and Birds Brochures (approximately 10,000 copies combined). These costs will be more than recovered as the brochures are sold.
- There were no significant discrepancies or issues uncovered as a result of the two physical inventory audits performed in June 2004 and January 2005.

Pine Ridge Association Balance Sheet Comparison: 2001-2004

Assets	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cash and Short-Term Investments	$202,000	$229,000	$236,000	$254,000
Long-Term Investments	$49,000	$57,000	$60,000	$63,000
Visitor Center Inventory	$59,000	$53,000	$56,000	$73,000
Fixed Assets	$9,000	$11,000	$9,000	$15,000
Total	$320,000	$350,000	$362,000	$405,000

Visit the Backcountry of Henry W. Coe State Park

by Ann Briggs

It's that time again! For one spectacular weekend this spring, Henry W. Coe State Park will again open the gate at Bell's Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The Coe Backcountry Weekend, held in the little-traveled east side of the 90,000-acre park, is scheduled for April 23–24, 2005. This event, sponsored by the Pine Ridge Association and the Department of Parks and Recreation, allows visitors vehicle access to a remote and beautiful area. Hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians have a special opportunity to see and enjoy an area isolated from the park's Morgan Hill entrance by long distances and rugged terrain.

The fees for entering the park on this special weekend are: for one day (either Saturday or Sunday) $20 per vehicle or for both days (and camp overnight) $40 per vehicle. There is no limitation on the number of people in a vehicle. Car pooling is encouraged. Because of space limitations, there will be a random drawing, and if your application is chosen, you will receive a ticket for the day(s) you request. Your check will be returned to you if your application is not chosen.

We all love Coe Park and want to continue to have the Coe Backcountry Weekend (CBW) in the future. To do this, we have to adjust the way we run the event. There are two areas of concern that will have noticeable changes. (1) Due to the tight budget, the state cannot contribute as much as they have in the past. We have raised entrance fees to cover the shortfall, and the volunteers from the PRA are taking over some tasks formerly performed by state personnel. (2) There is concern about the environmental impact of the heavy traffic that crosses Orestimba Creek many times between the end of the Kaiser-Aetna Road and the Orestimba Corral. (CBW alumni will recognize the fascinating and beautiful area in question.) There will be changes in driving and parking requirements to lessen the environmental impact, but these plans are not finalized yet, so please watch our website, *www.coepark.org*, for details, and read carefully all notices that you get from us.

More applications will be available early in February on our website, at park headquarters, at the libraries in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Modesto, and as an insert in this issue of *The Ponderosa*. Written requests for applications (include a self-addressed stamped business envelope) should be addressed to Application Forms, Coe Backcountry Weekend, 1410 Terri Lynn Court, Gilroy, CA 95020.

If you have any questions, please e-mail to *CoeBackcountry@hotmail.com*, or call 408/847-1193 or 650/324-1455.

New Members through December

by Jim Wright

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

Jim and Maggie Brady, Morgan Hill
Michael Brazell, Livermore
Patricia A. Brennan, San Jose
John & Alice Czerniec, San Jose
Ken Hulick, Morgan Hill
Tim Schiffman, Santa Cruz
Mitsi Shine, Morgan Hill

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 questions regarding your membership or if you would like to update your address, please contact us.

E-mail:	PRA@CoePark.org
Snail mail:	9100 East Dunne Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Fax:	408/778-5749
Phone:	408/779-2728

PRA Calendar

Saturday, March 19: **Spring at Coe Park.** This weekend marks the beginning of the interpretive programs at Coe Park. There are hikes on Saturdays, an evening program at the Visitor Center on Saturday evenings, and wildflower walks on Sundays. Activities are also planned to start out of Hunting Hollow. See the Spring Program insert in this newsletter or call the Visitor Center for additional information (408/779-2728).

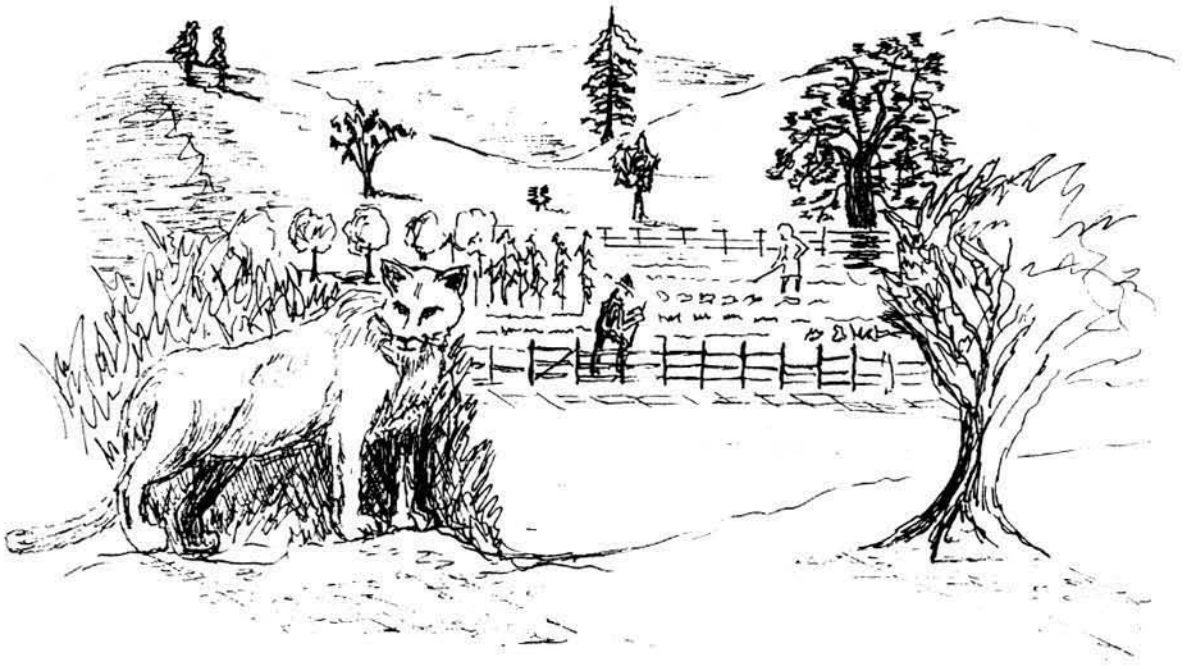
Saturday, March 26: **Trail Day.** Help work on trails in the park. We have two trail days at Coe Park; one in the fall and one in the spring. For more information about what a typical work day is like, please look at: *http://www.coepark.org/trailwork.html.* For more information and to sign up, please contact Ranger Cameron Bowers (408/846-8164).

Saturday & Sunday, April 2 & 3: **PRA Outing to Robinson Canyon/Red Creek Loop.** Join Ranger Barry Breckling on this weekend outing to a beautiful place at Coe Park, and one that would take some effort to get to if you started hiking from the Visitor Center. Although the terrain is relatively level for Coe Park, this is a long, rather hard hike (approximately 14 miles). For more information and to sign up, please call the Visitor Center (408/779-2728).

Saturday & Sunday, April 23 & 24: **Coe Backcountry Weekend.** See the article on page 8 for information on this very popular event. This year's event will be different from previous years. For up-to-date information on the changes and how they will affect the individuals who attend, please check out: *http://www.coepark.org/orestimba-changes.html.*

Sunday, May 8: **Mother's Day Breakfast at Coe Park.** This year's breakfast again will be held at the Ridgeview camp site. Tickets for this event will go on sale at the Visitor Center on April 15. A form for ordering tickets will also be posted on our website in early April. The event sells out very quickly, so get your tickets early!

Saturday, June 11: **The Hunting Hollow 10K Run / 5K Walk.** Join us for a day of fun and great exercise! If you haven't had a chance to explore the Hunting Hollow area, this is a great opportunity to do so. More information about the event will be forthcoming; however, please check our website now to obtain an application: *http://www.coepark.org/hh-10k.html.*



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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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