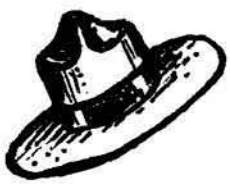
The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Late Spring 2006

From under My Brim



by Barry Breckling

Not Ready for Spring

I'm sorry, but it's almost spring and I'm too busy to write a new From under My Brim article. I've been writing them for almost 30 years anyway. I need a break. Hey, I can just recycle an old one. How about *Spring Fever* that I wrote in 1991. And, it's in my new book, *From under My Brim, Stories from the California Coast Ranges,* which includes over a dozen of my other stories. You can read it here, but, hey, if you buy the book, you'll get a special hand-colored *papillon*, or is that *una mariposa.*

Spring Fever April 1991

Because Henry W. Coe State Park is less than an hour's drive from Silicon Valley, lots of the people who come to the park are people who work with computers. Some of our park volunteers are computer experts, and they've brought modern technology deep into the backwoods of Pine Ridge. We had computers at Coe long before most of the other California parks, and we have knowledgeable people who keep them running and keep us up to date on the latest hardware and software. We Coe Park lovers are grateful for such electronic advantages. But, the deeper we delve into the computer world and the more time we spend there, the more we need wild places to revive our spirits.

He squinted as he tried to read the words on the screen. He'd worked hard all day, and he knew it would be way past dark before he could go home. His fingers still skipped quickly over the keyboard, but he was making more and more mistakes. The breaks he took to get just one more cup of coffee seemed to be more rejuvenating than the coffee itself. He had an important proposal to prepare, and he had to get it done tonight. His manager was counting on him, and this certainly wouldn't be the first Sunday evening he'd spent at work.

He paused and glanced out the window, and just as he did, a "sharpie" flew by. "What luck to look up at that moment," he mused, and his thoughts drifted back to his last trip to Coe Park. He'd seen three sharp-shinned hawks and a Cooper's hawk that day. It was during their fall migration way back in November, and here it was spring already. Way too much time had passed since his last soul-soothing escape to the park. Hmmmmmm . . . .

"Get to work!" he muttered as he dragged his attention back indoors. His eyes struggled to change focus from some indiscernible object beyond the window to the screen in front of his face. He fiddled with a graphic and sent the page to the printer to see what it would look like on paper.

Inside this issue . . .

A look at animals and how we relate to them

Deep snow at Coe!!

Park aides for this year

Report on the PRA Annual Meeting

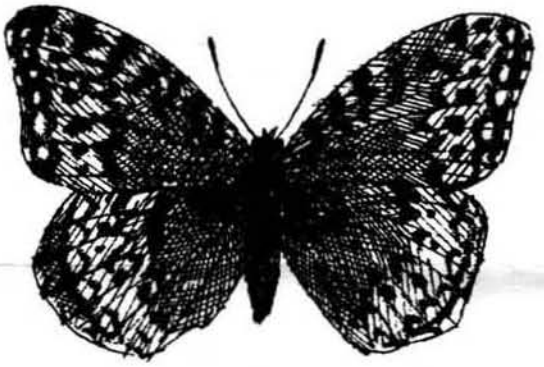
. . . and more!

He dozed while he waited and woke up when he realized that nothing was printing out. Sure enough, the paper tray was empty. He added some paper, got his printout, looked it over a bit, and sat down. Then he straightened his spine, focused his eyes on the screen, and resolutely began to type on.

Before long his head began to nod, and his eyelids lowered. At the brink of blankout, he pulled himself back, lifted his head, and squinted at the screen. He gazed in numbed amazement as the text dissolved and rearranged itself into the image of a monarch butterfly, filling the screen with deep oranges and black, with soft shades of yellow and points of pure white. What in the world was going on? Had he pressed some weird key combination? Was he that bleary? He squeezed his eyes shut, and when he opened them the butterfly was gone. "Concentrate," he whispered to himself through clenched teeth.

With grim determination, he composed the next paragraph in his mind and began to type, but soon he drifted off again.

The whizzz of the hard disk brought him back as his software application saved whatever questionable keystrokes he'd made since the last save. As the disk spun, a warm breeze blew across his face. He lifted the nearly empty coffee cup to his lips, closed his eyes, and began to smell the alluring aromas of spring wildflowers.



"Wake up," he begged his tired brain. "Huhhhmm . . . . Exercise? Yes! Exercise! That'll bring me back to reality." He jumped up and began to march briskly back and forth in front of the window. As his pace slackened, he glanced outside and saw a thunderstorm building and heading his way. He watched as the clouds became darker below and billowed up higher and higher into the sky. Flickers of light danced through the clouds, and jagged bolts of lightning struck the earth, as thunder rumbled in the distance. He felt cool, refreshing gusts of wind as a wall of hail approached. Soon it engulfed him, marvelous in its strength, cold on his arms, stinging his face.

He pulled himself out of the reverie, shook his head to dislodge the illusions, and wearily returned to his desk. A few minutes later, when he pressed the delete key to get rid of a typo, the screen blinked a few times and blacked out. And then, all of a sudden, a large-eared, skinny-legged mouse scurried across the screen with an agile bobcat close at its heels. He pressed all kinds of F-keys, but clearly in vain, as megabytes turned into mosquito bites, floppies into poppies, DOS into moss, and his screen widened and filled the room with a panoramic vision of Coe. As a last resort, he hit the escape key and was instantly whisked to Miller Field.

Oh, it feels so good to be walking briskly and breathing in deeply the fresh air of the hills. Through a field of Johnny-Jump-Ups, sweet little wild violets, perky and golden, all facing the sun.

That's the screech of a hawk I hear. Yeah, there it is! Soaring in circles, right over my head! And here comes another one, diving straight for the first one. Wow! The first one flipped over, and they've grabbed each other by the feet! Now they're locked together, flip-flopping down through the air.

Gosh! How lucky to see this! And back up they go. Hmmmm. They've got rusty red tail feathers, so they've gotta be red-tail hawks, and this must be the time of year for flip-flopping.

I don't know why my feet were so tired. I didn't really walk that far. They feel much better now, with the clear waters of the East Fork flowing over them. The sounds of the creek are so soothing, but this rock's getting hard.

Hmmmm, where'd I put my shoes? Oh, there they are, under that lovely valley oak with the shiny new leaves. I think I'll join them and lie down for a while. It was a little chilly out in the open, but it's nice and warm in this sheltered, grassy spot. Just a short nap and then I'll head back.

The smells of spring are so pleasant. Mmmmmmm . . . . I think I could sleep here for hours . . . .

When he woke up, he found himself back at his desk. He stretched and yawned and looked out the window. The sun was low on the horizon. It must be morning. Morning . . . Monday morning! It was Monday morning, and his proposal was still not done! What time is it? As he lifted his wrist to check on the time, his manager poked her head in. "An hour and a half till the meeting, you know. But I'm sure you're just polishing things up." She gave him an encouraging smile and left.

He took a deep breath and started to work. To his amazement and delight, his thoughts and fingers began to move at incredible speed. An hour and ten minutes later, he was done. He pressed the print keys and hummed a tune as the printer went through its paces. When the printer was finished, he gath-

ered the pages, checked them over, and dashed to the nearest copy machine to run off copies for the meeting. Back in his office, he punched holes in the margins of one of the copies, grabbed a report binder, and headed for his manager's office.

He waited patiently while she skimmed over the pages. "This looks really good," she said and flashed him a smile. As she put the pages into the binder, she exclaimed, "Oh! What an nice touch!"

"What's that?" he asked, and leaned over her shoulder. She reopened the binder and pointed to the inside front cover. Right in the middle, in glorious colors, was a beautiful image of a monarch butterfly.

Critters: A Critical Look at Animals and How We Relate to Them

by Ken Hulick

Vignettes

A young calf stands in the darkness all of its short life, with enough room to move only slightly. It's fed milk to keep its meat whitish colored.

A bison walks slowly across the ice in Yellowstone before crashing through and spending hours slowly succumbing to the cold while park visitors watch.

Native lizards are farm-raised in Central America to supply skins for leather boots sold in North America.

A flightless bird in the Hawaiian Islands has its eggs taken by humans and is ultimately killed for food by those humans. Not one of these birds survives into the 19th century.

Over 30 species of large mammals, according to Dr. Paul Martin, are extirpated from North America within 200 years of the arrival of the first humans in the area. These include wooly mammoths, ground sloths, and saber-toothed cats.

Humans have a long and complex history of interaction with animals. Our ancestors were undoubtedly preyed upon by large carnivores until they developed the skills to defend themselves and then to visit retribution upon the carnivores.

One writer, Jared Diamond, believes that the domestication of large animals such as dogs, horses, cattle, sheep, and goats was essential to the development of human cultures as we know them. We are only a few generations away from a society that was heavily dependent upon these animals for transport of people and things, for power (think of the horses spending their entire lives walking in a circle turning a capstan wheel in a salt mine in Poland, hauling huge chunks of salt to the surface), for fiber (how many of us are wearing leather shoes and belts?), for food (the vegans are still a minority), and for passing diseases back and forth (cowpox and smallpox are closely related for a reason.)

Snowfall March 10 at Coe Park (photo by Rita Gormley)

Our relationships with our domestic pets is a curious one. Where dogs used to be eaten during lean times, we now pamper them as surrogate children. One writer speculates that the domestication of the dog in Central Asia allowed humans to defend themselves from predators more effectively, leading to the migration of humans into the Americas. It's not been a big step from wolf/dogs to Pomeranians.

Think of the many ways that we interact with animals. They occupy our minds as symbols of virility, wilderness, strength, inspiration, and personal security. Food, clothing, the catgut strings (actually made of intestines of horses or sheep) and horsehair bows for our violins, medicines, raw materials for most of the items that we use on a day-to-day basis are all included in the largess provided to us by animals.

Of greater mystery to me is our obsession with looking at animals. Whether they be wild animals in a park, zoo occupants, or merely a coyote trotting across the road in front of our car, most of us find their appearance and habits to be fascinating. Peak experiences in my life include:

1. Watching a grizzly bear suckle her young in Denali.

2. Seeing a wolf trotting down the road in the same park, veering off the road to allow the bus to go by, then hopping back on the road to continue his trip.

3. A badger in a meadow near Lee Vining when I was young.

4. Glimpsing a Florida panther in Everglades, a 50 lb. youngster.

5. Seeing a resplendent quetzal wind his long tail into a tree cavity in Panama.

6. Being bluff charged by a javelina in Tucson.

7. Seeing fresh grizzly bear scat on a trail and realizing that I was not the top predator in that park.

There is still another level on which we relate to animals. We seem fascinated with the similarities between other animals' behaviors and ours. Why is it that young animals are always "cute," that their antics are anthropomorphized, that they are cuddly even when they would probably attack and hurt us if we tried to cuddle them. I've heard lots of stories about people inviting black bears to sit in the front seat of their car for a picture, of feeding them and being surprised when the bear reacts to the ending of the feeding. Even more interesting is the reaction of a visitor to Glacier National Park whose daughter and son were both injured by a grizzly. He later stated that he did not blame the bear for the attack, as they had allowed their daughter to walk ahead on the trail out of their sight and the bear was just doing what bears do.

Do we see similarities between large predators and some of our behaviors as humans? Do we fear the "beast within us," hoping to learn what triggers our aggression? Are we more like the animals than we care to admit? Do we get smug satisfaction when we believe that we are smarter, more successful, or just better than animals? Do we feel guilty about the subjugation of animals to meet our needs? Is there an inherent difference between skinning a farm-raised mink and skinning a horse? Do we envy the apparent simplicity of animals' lives, or do we envy the lack of options that animals have—some of them must kill to eat. Is it hard for us to accept the primitive bases of our motivations and actions, so we project those onto animals and declare ourselves immune to such base desires? Animals mate and reproduce their species—we create heirs.

Animals represent the real world, not some conjured-up special effect. They kill or are killed in real time and with apparent distress. They represent our wild side, a dangerous world where humans don't call the shots. They share some emotions that we are uncomfortable with, such as aggression and misrepresentation and the urge to reproduce more often than society permits. Many of us like visiting places where the rules are more primitive, where trespassers might be eaten, where tooth and claw rule.

In summary, we use animals for any thing that we want, as most of the killing is done out of our sight. We have always used them for food and fiber, but now our use of them for research subjects and sources of genetic material to improve our lives carries this utilization to a higher level. Who is dealing with the ethics of our treatment of animals, who is dealing on a philosophical level with the implications to our collective consciousness, and who regulates how far we go? People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have their realms, but are we as a society asking the penetrating questions about how we use the animals? As we are the animals with the most ability to change things, how will we relate to the rest of the animal kingdom? What right do we have to cause the extinction of any other organism—to so modify habitats, and in reality the entire world, to meet our needs? Do we want a world where all the lands and waters are modified to increase productivity to meet human needs? Is there a morality related to animals?

I have no answers to these questions, but I do believe that we should participate in the dialogue about these questions. I like living in a world that still has some wildness in it, where natural processes pretty much rule. And I really like critters.

More vignettes

In the aftermath of the World Trade Center incident, the dogs who searched for survivors are monitored for health effects more closely than the rescue workers.

Research on the behavior of guinea pigs exposed to nerve gas may provide clues about Gulf War syndrome. These animals were given doses where up to 40% of them died from the effects.

A group of 22 search dogs and handlers in Puerto Rico are presented with medals for heroism after searching for 1,300 human victims in a mudslide and flood. When people clap for them in the small room, all the dogs begin barking.

Park News

by Michael Ferry
Supervising Ranger

Was that Barry Breckling I saw on cross country skis patrolling the park? Snow, snow, and more snow! Yes, the white stuff was flying everywhere. Coe HQ had eight inches of snow on the ground, with the road closed on March 12. There were several days of snow in late February and March this year up at Coe. The Kickham Ranch even got a few inches (see photo taken by Ranger Cameron Bowers of the two carved bears from Gilroy Hot Springs covered with snow). Fremont Peak had lots of snow, and record numbers came to visit it. Not surprising, since Fremont Peak looks out over the Monterey Bay/Hollister area. I hope many of you got the chance to visit Coe during this winter treat.

Well, spring is here. Breezy days, green hillsides, spring rain showers, and lots of wildflowers make it a favorite time up at Coe Park. It looks like it will be another great year for wildflowers, and we are anticipating lots of visitors. With this in mind, I would like to introduce the park aide line up for the spring.

Heather Ambler has returned this year as a Park Aide and will be working out of HQ. Heather will be taking the lead this year since Patrick Goodrich has left (Good luck, Patrick!). Heather's knowledge of the park and her warm smile are always welcome.

We have also hired Mason Hyland, a new Park Aide, to work Coe HQ and fill Patrick's position. Mason has been visiting Coe Park for many years and is excited to be part of the team. Welcome Mason!

We have also hired back Teddy Goodrich as a Park Aide to work the weekends and holidays at Hunting Hollow. The "Hollow" as many of you know, can be a busy place in the spring. Teddy's presence and knowledge will benefit all who visit this end of the park.

On behalf of the California State Parks Foundation, I am pleased to inform you that Henry W. Coe State Park has been awarded an Earth Day grant in the amount of $2,000. This is part of the California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2006 Restoration and Cleanup on April 22, 2006. This money will be used to purchase tools and materials for trail maintenance around the Coyote Creek Gate area. We are looking for volunteers to work the trails on this day. Randy Neufeld (Chief Maintenance) will be taking the lead on this project. This will be a fun day and a chance to get out into the park and make a difference. Anyone wishing to participate in this event will need to be at the Hunting Hollow parking area by 8:00 am, Saturday, April 22. Please contact Randy or me for more information as the date gets closer.

I am happy to announce the new Henry W. Coe State Park Map is out and ready for purchase. The new map sports a jazzy new cover photo (taken by Larry Haimowitz) of Coe wildflowers. You will find new park additions in the map, such as the Gilroy Hot Springs, Kickham Ranch, and Mustang additions. There are some name corrections as well, such as Willson Peak (two Ls) and Robison Trail. Also, the Wilderness Boundary has been updated according to Coe's General Plan, and trail distances have been corrected. I would like to say a big thank you to Bob Patrie and Winslow Briggs for all their hard work on this project. Great job! I would also like to thank the California State Parks Foundation who donated $2,500 towards the new map. So don't wait! Pick up your new map now.

Something else you may be seeing this spring is uniformed volunteers with radios. Yes, real park patrol radios. The PRA has purchased seven new Kenwood TK-480 radios to be used exclusively by uniformed volunteers. The new radios will provide greater public and volunteer safety throughout the park. All volunteers who

choose to use the radio while on patrol must attend a radio training class prior to carrying a radio. The Volunteer Committee will be setting up the guidelines for this program. I would like to thank Barbara Bessey and Kevin Gilmartin for contributing over $1,000 from their special PRA account to the radio program. This special account was money raised by their former employer, the American Institutes for Research, and donated to the PRA as a retirement gift. The funds were to be used towards a project of Barbara's and Kevin's choosing.

Don't forget, April 28–30, Coe Backcountry Weekend, and May 14, Mother's Day Breakfast. Hope to see all of you there. Have a great spring.

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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 4. 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 2006 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, Bob Patrie (who is completing the term of Dennis Pinion), and Priscilla Campbell (Chair of the Uniformed Volunteer Committee). Kevin Gilmartin summarized the mission of the PRA, described the various projects that the Board has funded in the past, and reminded the PRA members that the board welcomes applications for funds for projects that fit within the association's mission.

Winslow Briggs stated that the board had approved several minor changes to the Association's bylaws and that these needed to be ratified by the membership. The first was to change the Association's legal address, and the second was to raise the limit from $200 to $400 for Association checks that do not need two signatures. Both proposed changes to the bylaws were approved.

Dan McCranie presented a preliminary financial report for fiscal year 2004. The Association's financial health remained strong in 2005. The total equity held by the PRA was over $452,000; this represented a growth of about eleven percent. Donations and grants were down from 2004; however, Visitor Center sales were up by more than six percent from the previous year, and the revenues from some of the PRA-sponsored events such as the Backcountry Weekend and the Hunting Hollow Run-Walk were also extremely good.

Bob Patrie summarized the current status of the high-speed rail project. While it appears that the high-speed rail project may not be viable at this time, Bob thought that, if the State were to be in a position to finance such a project in the future, we might again need to discuss all of the possibilities for routes (including a possible route through Coe Park) at a future date.

Winslow announced that the PRA had produced four new publications in 2005 and a new and revised park map. The four publications are: a Coe Cookbook, a project started by Phyllis Drake a number of years ago and one that involved many volunteers and friends of Coe Park; a series of essays written by Ranger Barry Breckling (entitled *From Under My Brim*); a book by Park Historian Teddy Goodrich on how many of the names in the park came about (entitled *Names on the Land*); and a book on trees written by Lee Sims and illustrated by Judy Mason (entitled *Trees—Henry W. Coe State Park and the Mt. Hamilton Range*).

Ann announced that the PRA had received a number of grants and gifts. A grant of $7,500 was received from Cisco and IBM to match hours donated by volunteer Don Holmes. These funds were earmarked for use by the Springs Committee. An amount of $5,000 was given by Gilroy Foods (now the Gilroy office of ConAgra), which was used to publish the tree book produced by Lee Sims and Judy Mason. Two anonymous grants of $5,000 each were used to purchase new audio/visual equipment, including power point projectors, laptop computers, and a computer and monitor to show DVDs in the Visitor Center.

The meeting of the PRA uniformed volunteers followed, chaired by Priscilla Campbell. She introduced the other members of the Uniformed Volunteer Committee: Dan McCranie (Vice Chair), Rita Gormley, Linda Keahey, Rick Leonard, and Bonnie Stromberg.

The number of active volunteers is now 138. These volunteers donated almost 16,000 hours in 2005, which is almost 8 full-time-equivalent paid employees! Of this total, over 4,200 hours were spent staffing the Visitor Center, and another 3,500 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 2005, as evidenced by the number of award presentations that followed.

Seven Trainees, who had completed the requirements of the training program, are Candace Britton, Hang Cui, Ken Hulick, Jean O'Young, Rosemary Schmidt, Stan Soles, and Chris Turner.

Ten Trainees who served 50 or more hours beyond the training program advanced to Volunteer status: Jim Brady, Wayne Gilfillan, Rita Gormley, Lucy Henderson, Don Irving, Jubilee Menzies, Diane Scariot, Tina Schiffman, Dan Straus, and Dave Thompson.

Seven 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: Einar Anderson, Jim Brady, Ross Campbell, Darryl Dubois, Bruce Rideout, Rosemary Rideout, and Ron Siechen.

A pen on an expandable chain, which was engraved with the PRA logo to honor the recipients of the 2005 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., presenting programs to visitors, leading interpretive walks or hikes). Forty-six individuals were recognized in this category: Everett Allen, Chere Bargar, Barbara Bessey, Jim Brady, Judy Breckling, Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Victor Bubbett, Robert Buchner, Priscilla Campbell, Ross Campbell, Susan Cheu, Darryl Dubois, Stew Eastman, Bill Frazer, Kevin Gilmartin, Rob Glover, Teddy Goodrich, Larry Haimowitz, Lucy Henderson, Don Holmes, Ken Howell, Jodie Keahey, Linda Keahey, Rick Leonard, Margaret Mary McBride, Kay Morshead, Chuck Nelson, Matt Pauly, David Perrin, Lois Phillips, Don Savant, Pat Scharfe, Ron Siechen, Toni Sousa, Dan Straus, Bonnie Stromberg, Kitty Swindle, Marlene Testaguzza, Nancy Thomas, Dave Thompson, Nancy Valencia, Bev VanderWeide, Libby Vincent, Chris Weske, and Bill Workman.

Fourteen volunteers received special recognition for the tremendous numbers of hours they have spent on Coe Park volunteer activities over the years. Between them, they have donated over 40,000 hours to the park! John Briese, Jodie Keahey, Daniel Lewis, Pat Scharfe, Sandi Stevenson, Bev VanderWeide, and Sandy Voechting each volunteered 1,000 hours of service. Teddy Goodrich, John Prior, and Lee Sims each volunteered 4,000 hours of service. Winslow Briggs, Jim Mason, and Kitty Swindle each volunteered 5,000 hours of service. And Don Homes volunteered over 6,000 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. Five individuals were so honored this year: Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Alan Haviland, Margaret Mary McBride, and Matt Pauly.

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. Three individuals were so honored this year: Ruby Domino, Jim Mason, and Celia McCormick.

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: Everett Allen, Chere Bargar, Barbara Bessey, Jim Brady, Judy Breckling, Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Victor Bubbett, Ruby Domino, Darryl Dubois, Stew Eastman, Bill Frazer, Rob Glover, Teddy Goodrich, Larry Haimowitz, Sam Harper, Don Holmes, Ken Howell, Jodie Keahey, Linda Keahey, Daniel Lewis, Dan McCranie, Mike Meyer, Chuck Nelson, Matt Pauly, Martie Sinclaire, Bonnie Stromberg, Kitty Swindle, Chris Weske, and Bill Workman.

Barry Breckling presented the Uniformed Volunteer Committee's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service to **Mike Meyer.** Mike became a Uniformed Volunteer in 1997. He volunteered more than 250 hours in 2005; he has volunteered more than 2,000 hours since he joined the Volunteer Program. He has taught nature observation classes and assisted with the search tracking classes. He has led hikes at the TarantulaFest and done training for new volunteers at the annual backcountry volunteer training weekend. He has done a lot of trail work and has put up trail signs in the wilderness area. He is currently working on a project to take the extensive Volunteer Handbook and put it in electronic form to make it more accessible to the volunteers.

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 two individuals—**Chere Bargar and Kitty Swindle.** Between the two of them, they have volunteered more than 9,000 hours. They have been involved with search and rescue operations, building and maintaining trails, and are key members of the Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU). They certify volunteers and their horses before they can patrol at Coe Park on horseback. They have worked almost all of the PRA-sponsored events, including the Mother's Day Breakfast, the TarantulaFest, the Coe Backcountry Weekend, and the PRA Annual Meeting. They have often staffed the park entrance at Hunting Hollow and have helped with volunteer training.

Michael Ferry, the Supervising Ranger for Coe Park, announced the recipients of the State's Most Valuable Volunteer Award for 2005. This year's award went to **Priscilla Campbell and Dan McCranie.** Both have been actively involved with the Uniformed Volunteer Committee and with the Volunteer Program. They have been involved with the new volunteer training and with all of the PRA-sponsored events.

This year's humorous award presentations were hosted by the very creative and funny Barry Breckling and Lee Sims, and assisted by Park Aide Patrick Goodrich.

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!

Seeking Talented Artistic and Technical People
by Ron Erskine

We who have come to know Coe Park love all that it has to offer, but it is a state park that doesn't always make a great first impression. At the end of that long, twisty drive to the Visitor Center, some newcomers may ask, "Is this it?" **We** know there is so much more, but how do we show **them**?

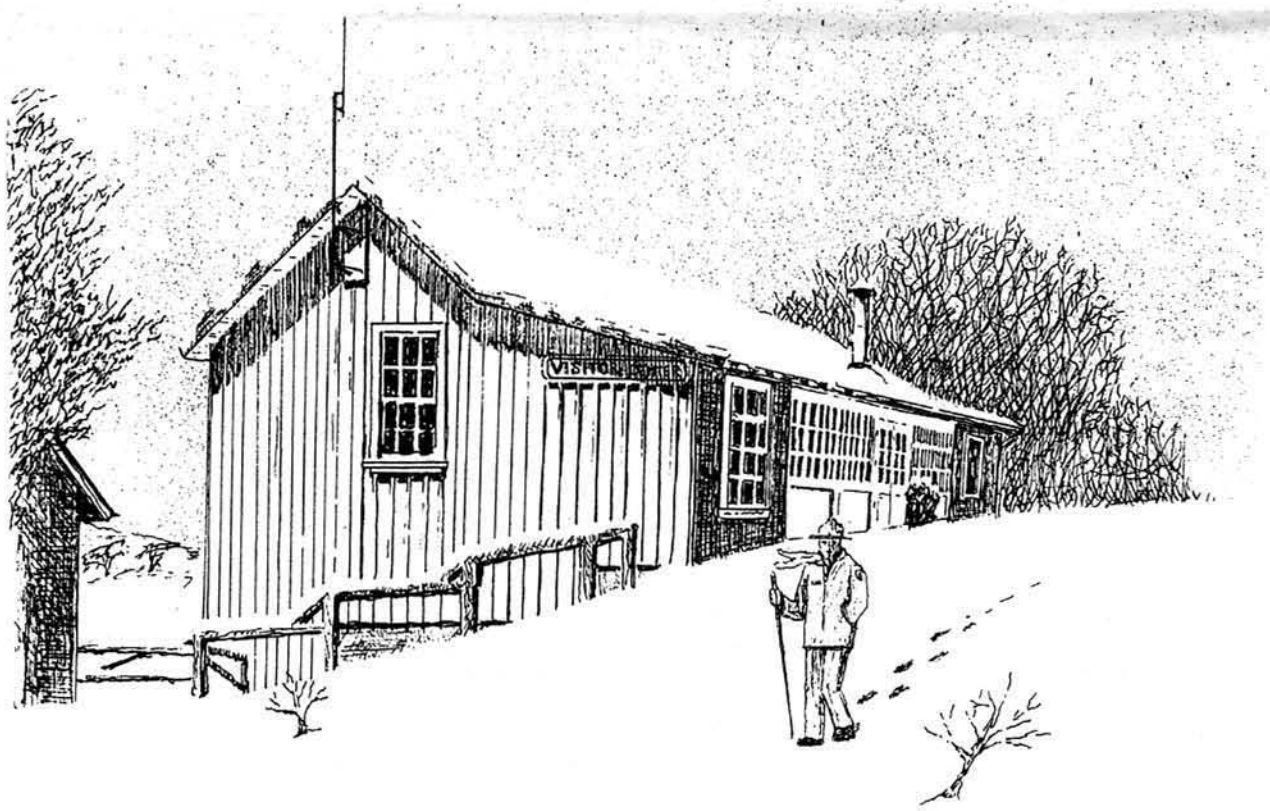
The PRA recently purchased some impressive video equipment including a 42" high-definition TV monitor. I would like to find a group of people who would be interested it creating a short (10–15 minute) video that shows off what a newcomer can't see at first—the views, the flowers, the wildlife, the moods, and the solitude. Similar to videos you have no doubt seen in many park visitor centers, we would create something that would inform and excite new visitors to appreciate Coe Park and motivate them to take a longer, deeper look. Soft music, breathtaking video and still pictures, and narrated information about Coe's natural history and ranch history—we would work to assemble these and other items from a smorgasbord of choices to turn people on to the park.

So, what do you say? Spielberg and Lucas started somewhere. I know there are many creative and technical people out there. With you, we can do this. If you have some technical knowledge in this realm or an artistic itch that needs scratching, please e-mail me (*ronfoxtail@msn.com*) with a little statement about your interest. Then we will arrange to meet informally to kick around ideas and see if we can figure out how it's to be done.

New Members through February
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!

Cassie Beals, Oakland
Elizabeth Danel, Belvedere
James Desmond, Morgan Hill
Suzanne Downing, Royal Oaks
Laurie Fannin, Pebble Beach
Angelika & Thomas Groenbeck, San Jose
Chris Kangas, San Jose
Nancy Kittle, Mill Valley
Richard Lutschg, Yakima, WA
Josh & Marianne Osborne, Boulder Creek
Chuck Peradotto, Mountain View
Bruce Schine, San Leandro
Roy Ross, Sunnyvale
Etienne Studer, San Francisco
Jane Threet, San Jose
Chris Turner, Redwood City
Timothy Weidman, Sunnyvale
Marcia West, Los Gatos
John Wilkinson, San Jose
David B. Zerweck, Los Gatos



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 & Sunday, April 1 & 2: **PRA Outing to Pacheco Falls.** 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. For more information and to sign up, please call the Visitor Center (408/779-2728).

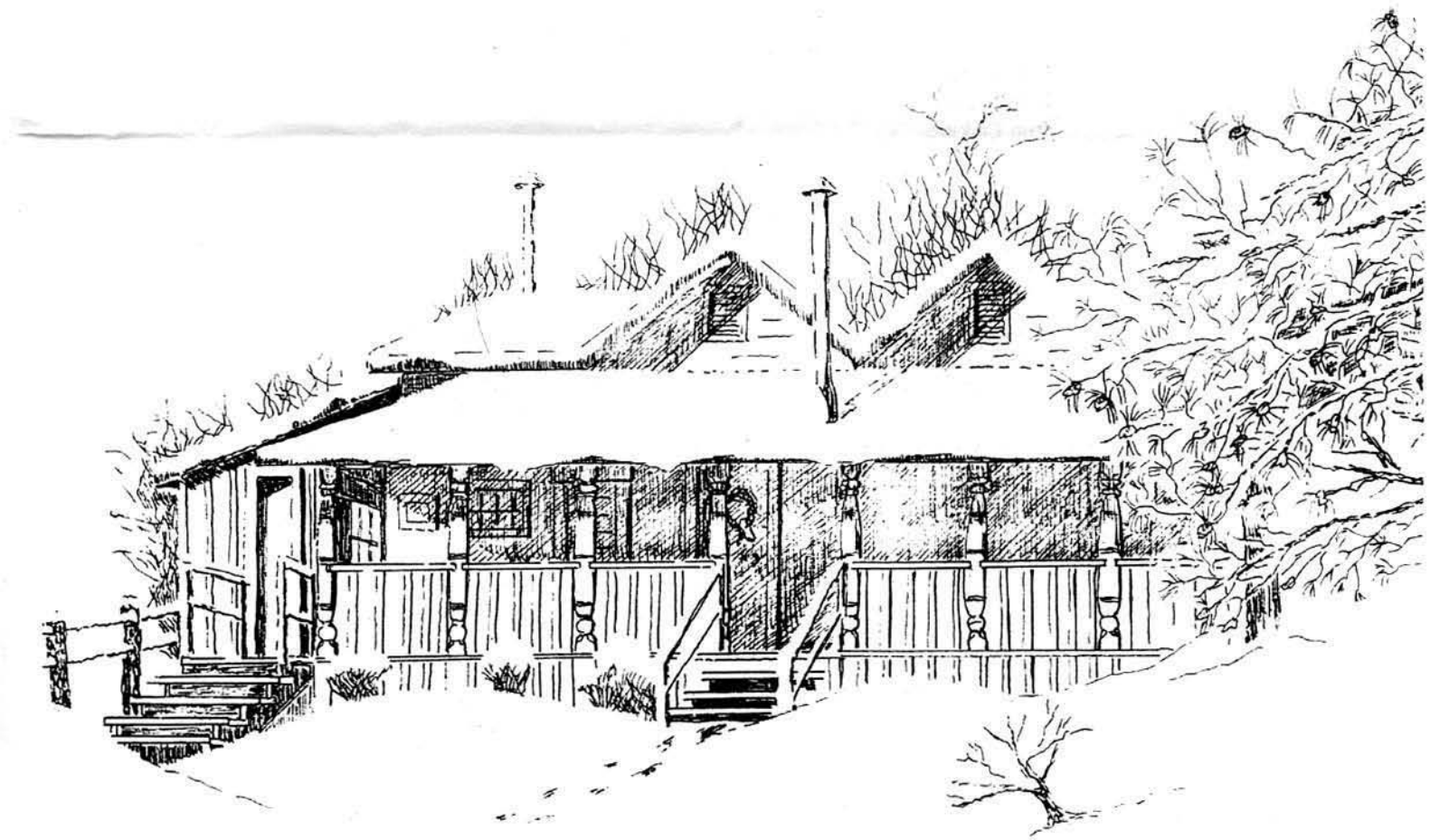
Saturday, April 8: **Tree Seminar.** This new seminar offering on trees will be led by Dr. Winslow Briggs. To sign up, please call the Visitor Center (408/779-2728).

Sundays, April 9, April 23, and May 7: **Bird Seminar.** This series of three seminar sessions on the identification of birds by sight and sound will be led by Kevin Gilmartin and Barbara Bessey. It is not necessary to attend all three sessions, but different topics will be covered in each session. To sign up, please call the Visitor Center (408/779-2728).

Saturday & Sunday, April 29 & 30: **Coe Backcountry Weekend.** This popular event is filled for this year. For up-to-date information about the event, please check out our website: *http://www.coepark.org/orestimba.html.*

Sunday, May 14: **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 10: **Hunting Hollow 10K Run and 5K Walk.** This is the 8th annual Run/Walk event. In 2005, 188 registrants enjoyed the day. For photos of the 2005 event, see our website at *http://coepark.org/hh-10k.html.* For more information about this fun event, please contact Ken Howell (408/267-4729).



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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 Coe State Park through education and interpretation. Articles and artwork relating to the natural history, 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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