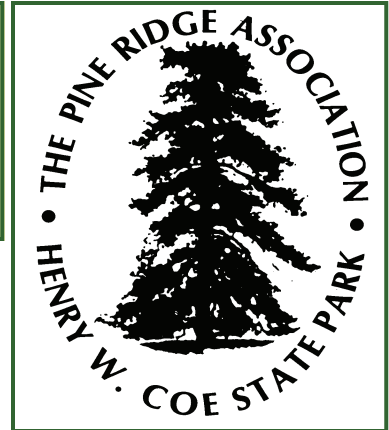


# The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter  
Henry W. Coe State Park

## Winslow Briggs Wins the International Prize for Biology

By Bonnie Lemons



Early Spring 2010



Winslow receiving the International Prize for Biology in Tokyo. The Emperor and Empress of Japan are seated on the right.

We know Winslow Briggs as the guy who washes dishes at Mother's Day Breakfast and the Tarantula Fest. We know him as a humble, hard-working guy although, as a longtime PRA board member, he's been involved in every major event and decision at Coe Park for over 30 years.

In November, the guy with the dishrag won one of the science world's biggest awards, the International Prize for Biology. It's the equivalent of a Nobel, which isn't offered in biology.

The prize, established in 1985 by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science to honor then-Emperor Showa, a biologist, rewards outstanding work in biology research and comes with a pot of 10 million

yen (around \$109,000). Previous winners include scientist and popular writer E.O. Wilson, who was a graduate student at Harvard with Winslow.

Winslow, 81, runs his own lab at the Carnegie Department of Plant Biology at Stanford University and is an international leader in molecular research on how plants respond to light. The word "emeritus" is in his title, but he actively runs the lab.

For decades, he and a progression of four or five graduate students and postdoctoral fellows tried to pinpoint what makes plants grow toward light. The breakthrough came in 1998 when they isolated the protein that serves as a photoreceptor for blue light.

Continued on page 2....

### Inside this issue:

<i>Winslow Briggs Wins International Biology</i>	1,2
<i>News from FoGHS</i>	3,4
<i>Park News</i>	4
<i>Weed Control in Coe by Chris Weske</i>	5
<i>PRA Calendar with important dates</i>	6
<i>PRA Annual Meeting, by</i>	7,8, 12,13
<i>Mounted Assistance unit (MAU) Happenings and Volunteer Committee News</i>	9
<i>The Woodpeckers of Coe Park by Barry Breckling</i>	10,11
<i>News from the PRA</i>	11
<i>Treasurer's Report by Dan McCranie</i>	13
<i>The Coe Gallery</i>	14,15

## Winslow Briggs Wins International Biology Prize continued....

The bottom line is, “it’s like plant vision,” said Peter Quail, professor of plant biology at the University of California, Berkeley, and a former fellow at Winslow’s lab. Quail calls Winslow “an amazing mentor, very bright and imaginative, very innovative in his thinking.”

Isolating the blue light receptor is “a groundbreaking scientific step forward,” says Bob Patrie, a physicist and a founding board member of the Pine Ridge Association.

Since the breakthrough in Winslow’s lab, blue light research has exploded—from two labs in 1997 to 42 in 2005. Other processes in plants and other organisms are now known to be triggered by blue light using the same protein isolated by Winslow and his lab.

Light activation of brucella virulence is one. This bacterium causes brucellosis, a disease afflicting cattle, bison, and sometimes people. Winslow is involved with researchers in Argentina, where brucellosis is a particular problem.

He says the blue light receptor can be attached to a virus to track the progress of viral diseases. “It will be no surprise to me if there are all kinds of applications.”

Winslow accepted his medal on November 30th, 2009 in Tokyo from Emperor Akihito who like his father is a biologist. Winslow bought a black suit for the occasion, the first suit he had worn in years. Japan’s empress, prime minister, and minister of education were there, along with Winslow’s colleagues from around the world.

Winslow flew his entire family to the event—wife Ann and their three daughters and their husbands. Winslow is thrilled that Ann was onstage with him and that the emperor and empress talked with each family member.



The Emperor’s gift, a silver vase with the Imperial crest, the gold chrysanthemum.

Now, it’s back to the lab. Winslow is full of ideas for future research, by his lab and many of the others. “He’s just unstoppable,” Quail says.



Patrie, a longtime friend and collaborator on Coe projects, says there’s just one thing Winslow can’t get his mind around. “He doesn’t understand what ‘emeritus’ means.”

Taking care of business at Coe Park!

### 10 things about Winslow

- If you Google him, you get 11,800 hits.
- He’s a pianist and has a music degree from Harvard.
- He started the Coe Backcountry Weekend.
- He wrote “The Trails of Henry W. Coe State Park.”
- He grew up in St. Paul, Minn.
- He and Ann quit smoking in 1976 and decided to hike in every nearby park.
- They got to Coe Park in 1977, and their first hike was Blue Ridge.
- Winslow’s breakthrough in the lab came not long after incipient esophageal cancer forced a risky, complicated surgery that left him missing most of his esophagus and part of his stomach.
- He trained as a Coe volunteer after his surgery.
- He heads a study of plant regeneration after the 2007 Lick Fire and will hold a seminar about that work at the University of Santa Clara in February.

### Resume

BA, MA, and PhD from Harvard  
 Biology instructor then professor at Stanford  
 Biology professor at Harvard  
 Director, Carnegie Institution for Science Department of Plant Biology at Stanford, 1973-1993  
 Director Emeritus of Carnegie’s Department of Plant Biology, 1993 to present

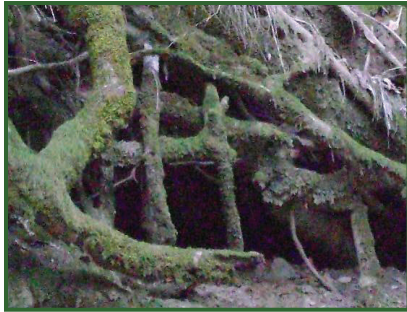


# News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

## Update

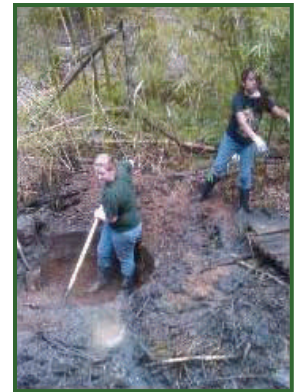
How do you find a square root? Imagine you are a very young child living at the resort that was Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (GYHS). How do you spend your time while the adults are busy working with visitors and keeping up the place? What captures your attention? Now that I am revisiting my first home, I better understand why I'm fascinated by trees and clouds: they're familiar and comforting. I love looking at them, appreciating their form and movement. Even better, the GYHS photographers tours got me to look differently at my surroundings. That's when I saw it—square roots! Think about your own childhood: what fascinated you? Where does that appear in your life today? And when you look again with a new perspective, what will you see? Is it “just dirt and trees,” or something more? Join us on an upcoming photographers tour on April 4 or July 18 and find out.



Anzar High School carpentry students returned to GYHS with their teachers Dan Faurot-Daniels and Paul Stampleman. They've done considerable cleanup and repair under State Parks supervision, plus helped FoGHS protect some of the cabins from water damage before the heavy rains. Charlene McKowen, Anzar's principal, stopped in to admire their handiwork, and Frank Rosenblum of Underwood and Rosenblum, Inc., met with the students to show how the company surveyed the property. Thanks to Eddie Guaracha's quiet, behind-the-scenes work, this was a win-win opportunity: students get community service credits, learn from professional engineers and surveyors, get on-the-job experience; Underwood and Rosenblum and Henry Kato pass on information about the site; GYHS gets much needed work and cleanup. All share pride in preservation work.

*“Is that a circular individual soaking tank we uncovered?”*

*“No, it's the secondary septic tank”*



We've scheduled the second annual Walk Through History at Gilroy Hot Springs on May 1. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends. We are once again opening the gate for the public to visit and learn about this hidden place and will have guided tours, displays, and music. Bring a picnic lunch and come along to explore, enjoy, and learn.

Margarita Jimenez was instrumental in rebuilding the roof and upper portions of the shrine at GYHS when it became part of Henry Coe State Park. She worked hard during the day, camped on site, and relaxed in the mineral waters as a reward for her efforts. Her experiences have inspired the full moon photography and maintenance campout, which is scheduled for June 25-27. We're planning to combine some volunteer work with the event so bring your camping gear and food, camera, work gloves, and tools. We'll be bringing in a portable tub. There will be a registration fee to cover expenses, discounted for PRA members and volunteers. More details soon. Call or email us that you want to attend; there are very few spaces available. (408) 314 7185 [info@friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org](mailto:info@friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org)

Alan Hummel hiked the area frequently as a teenager. No longer a teen and having learned more about the historical significance of GYHS, he asked “How can we get the message out to more people about this fabulous place?” He's applying his professional project management skills toward creating a video about GYHS, and he needs your help. Do you have stories, photos, or information that could be included? Do you have video experience, equipment, time, and want to help create it? Alan needs lots of volunteer talent and collaboration. We're thinking many options—short or full-length videos, or a series. We welcome your input and your assistance; please contact us if you can help.

### Schedule of events:

**April 4**, photographers tour, \$25 general admission, \$15 PRA members

**May 1**, second annual GYHS open house and walk through history, \$5 per person

**June 25-27**, full moon photography and maintenance campout

**July 18**, photographers tour, \$25 general admission, \$15 PRA members

Continued on page 4....

# Park News

By Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger

Happy New Year everyone! The year is off to a very wet start. With the high amounts of precipitation we've received in the month of January, the waterways in and around the park have been greatly affected.

The storm system that hit us during the third week of January created so much runoff in the Coyote Creek drainage that a section of Gilroy Hot Springs Road got washed away. The road was closed at the CDF station for a week. Luckily, a couple days of light rain allowed the waters to recede enough for the Santa Clara County roads crew to repair the damage and reopen the road to vehicles as of January 26th. As of the end of January, the roads and water crossings throughout the park remain impassable. Rangers John Verhoeven and Cameron Bowers will keep the volunteers advised about when the park will be accessible to volunteers again.



As we get closer to the end of the fiscal year in June, the budget for California State Parks continues to be bleak. Rangers and maintenance staff will continue to be furloughed three days a month through the end of June. What this means is there will be fewer park staff around to keep up with park operations. As always, all the help we get from the volunteers is greatly appreciated. And when you see any park employees please thank them for the job they are doing. The park staff continue to do the best job possible despite these hard financial times.

Have a safe winter, and when the rain stops we'll see you out in the park.



**May 1, 2010**  
**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## Gilroy Hot Springs

**WHAT:** Displays, docent lead tours, live music  
**WHERE:** Gilroy Hot Springs, a part of the Henry Coe State Park, at the end of Gilroy Hot Springs Road, Gilroy  
**RESERVATIONS:** (408) 314-7185 or (925) 837-1024  
 Adults and teens \$5 each / under 12 free with adult  
 Tour optional; Ask about accessibility

**One Day Only!** Bring a picnic lunch, friends & chairs! Stay all day!  
 Parking free but limited - please carpool

Proceeds benefit Friends Of Gilroy Hot Springs (FOGHS) efforts to preserve, protect, and restore public access to this historical resort



FOGHS is part of the Pine Ridge Assn., a non-profit official State Parks organization for Henry Coe Park



[www.FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org](http://www.FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org)

[info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org)

Photos courtesy of the Gilroy Historic Museum

### FoGHS continued...

For information regarding events and to register, email [info@friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org](mailto:info@friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org) or call (408) 314 7185

(PRA uniformed volunteers earn volunteer hours for time contributed).



Finished roof over cinderblock restroom—GYHS

# Weed Control in Coe Park

By Chris Weske

Visitors to Hunting Hollow may have noticed that some of the meadow areas were mowed this past summer. This work is part of a multifaceted approach to controlling invasive weeds in Coe Park. In Hunting Hollow, the weed is yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). Other weeds that have been targeted this year include stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

Weed control methods that may be used include manual control (such as hand pulling, cutting, or grubbing out), mowing, herbicide application, propane flaming, prescribed burning, and biological control (such as releasing insects that feed on the target weed). In some cases, multiple control methods will be used in a multi-year control strategy.

The hope is that once the invasive weeds are under control the native vegetation will flourish once again. When the site is badly degraded, nature may need a helping hand—seeds from desirable species in the area may be collected and planted on the site. Another option is to temporarily protect desirable species on the site with fencing while they get better established. Fencing protects the plants from both grazing animals (deer, cattle) and our two-legged visitors.

Monitoring and follow up are ongoing in any weed control program. This work is especially important along routes of entry into the park, and at sites where construction or soil disturbance have occurred. Also

important is remaining aware of what weed species are moving into the area and what control methods may or may not be effective. To help with this, the Department of Parks and Recreation is a member of the Santa Clara County Weed Management Area, a cooperative of local public and private land managers, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and interested individuals that meets to discuss local weed issues and control strategies. For control methods involving herbicides, staff are licensed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and registered with the Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture

Anyone finding what they believe to be a new invasive species, or an isolated infestation of a species known to be in the park, is encouraged to report it. Information or questions may be directed to Natural Resource Management staff at (831) 623 9456. In 2004, an observant visitor reported a saltcedar (*Tamarix*) plant in the East Fork of Coyote Creek. Tamarix is a species noted for taking over rivers and drainages, lowering the water table, and changing the chemical balance of the soil. Park staff were able to locate and eradicate two plants. No other plants have been found at the site or downstream from it.

Weeds are here to stay; however, with diligence we can control and in some cases eradicate the worst offenders and give nature a helping hand.

## New Members

**We are pleased to welcome the new members listed below. Thank you for your support**

Matt Heid, Anchorage,  
AK  
Jessie Leister, Morgan Hill  
Timothy Babalis, Oakland

We need your help to keep our membership list current and accurate. If you are a paid annual member, your *Ponderosa* mailing label includes an expiration date. (No expiration date for life members, electronic mailing or organizations.) If you have any question regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of address, please contact us:

Email: [membership@coepark.org](mailto:membership@coepark.org)  
US mail: 9100 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
Phone: (408) 779 2728



# The PRA Calendar

Mark your calendars—important dates

**Saturday March 20**, *Spring at Coe Park*. This weekend marks the beginning of the interpretive programs at Coe Park. There are guided hikes on Saturdays, an evening program at the visitor center on Saturday evenings, and wildflower walks on Sundays. There are also activities starting out of the Hunting Hollow entrance. The schedule of the spring programs will be posted on [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org) or call the visitor center (408) 779 2728 to find out more.

**Saturday March 20 & 21**, *PRA Orestimba outing*. Join Ranger John Verhoeven on a hike near the very scenic Robison Mountain area. There will be an option to stay overnight in the park on the Saturday night. Please sign up at [jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov). This event will be cancelled if the weather does not permit road access. For additional information please contact John at [jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov).

**Saturday April 10**, *Spring trail day, Earth Day* contact Rob Glover at [wrglover@yahoo.com](mailto:wrglover@yahoo.com) for more information and to sign up.

**Sunday April 11**, *PRA Thomas Addition outing*. Join Ranger John Verhoeven on a hike around the beautiful Thomas Addition to look for spring wildflowers. For additional information and RSVP, email John Verhoeven at [jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov) by **April 4** as numbers are limited.

**Saturday, May 1** FoGHS second annual *Gilroy Hot Springs Walk Into the Past*. For more information contact [info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org) or phone (408) 314 7185.

**Saturday May 22**, *PRA Lakeview Meadows outing* Join Ranger John Verhoeven for a day hike. Meet at the visitor center. Please RSVP by **May 9**. For more information and to register, please contact John at [jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov).

*Artist paint-out*, each Spring a group of artists have been enjoying a day of plein air painting in Coe's backcountry. If you are interested in participating, as either an artist or as a volunteer who will drive, please contact Rosemary Rideout (408) 847 5729. The date for this year has not yet been determined and will be dependent upon available drivers and artists' interest.

## *Annual park events coming up...*

**Friday through Sunday April 23, 24, 25** is the *Coe Backcountry Weekend*. This event is always very popular and fills up quickly; admission is by a lottery system. This year's event will be starting earlier, allowing backpackers and campers entry at 1.00pm on the Friday. For additional information please visit the website [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org) or call the visitor center (408) 779 2728.

**Sunday May 9**, *Mother's Day Breakfast*. Once again this event will take place at Ridgeview campsite. Tickets for this event will go on sale online mid-April. **Information regarding ordering tickets will be posted on the website [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org) in early April.** The event sells out very quickly, so get your tickets early! For more information visit: [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org) or call the visitor center at (408) 779 2728.

**Saturday June 12**, *Hunting Hollow 5K/10K walk and fun run*. You can register for this fun event on our website; download an entry form at [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org).

## **Upcoming horse-related events**

February 27, trail work day  
 March 20, Ranch Days, Hunting Hollow  
 March 27, Ranch Days (rain date)  
 March 28, trail work day  
 April 10, wildflower ride, Hunting Hollow

For more information regarding any of the horse-related events please contact Bonnie Stromberg at [bonniestromberg@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniestromberg@yahoo.com).

## PRA Annual Meeting a Success!

by Barbara Bessey

The annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association was held in Morgan Hill on February 6th. PRA board president Ron Erskine opened the PRA portion of the meeting. He introduced the members of the board of directors and reported on the results of the election of officers. The other officers of the board for 2010 are:

Paul Nam, vice president  
Winslow Briggs, secretary  
Dan McCranie, treasurer  
Barbara Bessey  
Kevin Gilmartin  
Diana Maloney  
Bonnie Stromberg (chair of the uniformed volunteer committee)  
John Wilkinson

Board members provided updates on the annual fundraising/interpretive events, the new PRA website that is currently under construction, the burn regeneration study, and the State Parks Access Pass initiative. Board members also described a grant proposal issued by the California Nature Education Facilities Program that funds capital campaigns; if the PRA is awarded a portion of these grant monies, those funds would support the remodeling of the visitor center. Board members reminded PRA members that the board welcomes applications for funds for projects that fit within the association's mission and encouraged PRA members, especially uniformed volunteers, to sign up to work at the various association events, to lead hikes and walks, and to put on evening programs for the public.

The meeting of the PRA uniformed volunteers followed, chaired by Bonnie Stromberg. Bonnie introduced the other members of the uniformed volunteer committee:

Bill Frazer, vice chair                      Jim Brady  
Linda Keahey                                  Rick Leonard  
Cynthia Leeder

The number of active uniformed volunteers is now 130.

In 2009, volunteers donated more than 14,000 hours, which is the equivalent of around seven full-time employees! Of this total, about 3,200 hours were spent staffing the visitor center, and another 1,900 hours were donated to provide interpretive programs or other services for the public. This is an amazingly large number of hours.

This year, eighteen people completed the requirements of the volunteer training program:

Jesse Benefiel	Paul Nam
Liz Brinkman	Dmitry Nechayev
Thomas Conrad	Paul Osborn
Tanya Cottle	Manny Pitta
Patrick Goodrich	Keith Shiley
Julian Isacco	Lynne Star
Cynthia Leeder	Dave Stoner
Kenneth McDevitt	John Thatcher
Kevin McDevitt	James Wong

Four people who served 50 or more hours beyond the training program advanced to full volunteer status:

Bill Barnhart  
Debbie Frederick  
Mukesh Jani  
John Wilkinson

Three people who had volunteered 250 or more hours of which at least 100 hours were spent in the visitor center were promoted to senior volunteer status:

Greg Lee  
Steve McHenry  
Carolyn Straub

Continued on page 8....

## PRA Annual Meeting continued...

Forty-one volunteers received the 2009 visitor service award, which was a water bottle embossed with the PRA logo. These are volunteers who spent 48 or more hours working in the visitor center or on other visitor-related activities during the past year, for example, presenting programs to visitors or leading interpretive walks or hikes.

Heather Ambler	David Hornby	Rob Sinclaire
Chere Bargar	Stefan Ignaczak	Susan Stillman
Barbara Bessey	Jodie Keahey	Carolyn Straub
Jim Brady	Linda Keahey	Bonnie Stromberg
Ann Briggs	Gary Keller	Jim Swartz
Winslow Briggs	Rick Leonard	Kitty Swindle
Pat Dallam	Jim Mason	Nancy Thomas
Darryl Dubois	Margaret Mary Mc Bride	Bev VanderWeide
Bill Frazer	Steve McHenry	Libby Vincent
Kevin Gilmartin	Lois Phillips	John Wilkinson
Rob Glover	Don Savant	Bill Workman
Mike Harper	Diane Scariot	
Sue Harwager	Pat Scharfe	
Lucy Henderson	Rosemary Schmidt	
Don Holmes	Martie Sinclaire	

Twelve 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 about 25,000 hours to the park! Jan Jeffers, Diana Maloney, Dick Rawson, Heike Stabenow, Susan Stillman, and Dan Straus each volunteered at least 1,000 hours of service. Joseph Belli, Victor Bubbett, Margaret Mary McBride, and Don Savant each volunteered at least 2,000 hours of service. Bonnie Stromberg volunteered more than 4,000 hours of service. And Kitty Swindle volunteered more than 6,000 hours of service.

A special silver pin with the association's logo was presented to three people who have participated in the uniformed volunteer program for ten or more years: Rob Glover, Jodie Keahey, and Linda Keahey.

A special gold pin with the association's logo was presented to two people who have participated in the uniformed volunteer program for twenty or more years: Richard Stone and George Van Gorden.

A special pin that has not yet been made will be presented to two people from the original class of volunteers for their thirty years of service as volunteers: Teddy Goodrich and Gary Keller.

Sector Superintendent Eddie Guaracha gave free annual passes to California State Parks to 31 volunteers who had donated 200 hours or more within the past year and to couples whose combined number of hours totaled 200 hours or more. The hours include the time spent by some uniformed volunteers who volunteered time at other state parks, and the time that some non-uniformed individuals volunteered at Coe Park:

Everett Allen	Bill Frazer	Paul Nam
Heather Ambler	Kevin Gilmartin	Sam Parker
Chere Bargar	Rob Glover	Bob Patrie
Barbara Bessey	Ken Howell	Dick Rawson
Jim Brady	Jan Jeffers	Martie and Rob Sinclaire
Ann Briggs	Jodie Keahey	Sharon and Mike Slattery
Winslow Briggs	Linda Keahey	Carolyn Straub and Steve McHenry
Ruby Domino	Rick Leonard	Dan Straus
Darryl Dubois	Diana Maloney	Bonnie Stromberg
Ron Erskine	Dan McCranie	Kitty Swindle
		Libby Vincent

Continued on page 12....





## Mounted Assistance Unit Happenings

By Bonnie Stromberg

### What it takes to be a great MAU horse, Part 3

This is the third article in the series. The previous articles discussed “scary things” and “obstacles” in the park. This article talks about the types of “movements” horse and rider must execute.

The horse needs to be trained for “movements” and the rider needs to be able to properly communicate to the horse the movement desired. There are two basic movements that are performed routinely—halt and rein back.

Halt is used for more than just stopping the horse. When you’re doing trail work on horseback, the horse needs to stand still. You may be sawing off a branch above you while mounted. The branch is moving, leaves are falling down around you, and you’re trying to reach out or above to stabilize the branch while you saw. You need to have your hands free to do this and not worry about your horse moving. The horse needs to tolerate the moving branches shaking overhead and all around.

Just as it’s necessary for a car to have a reverse gear, rein back is essential for the daily handling of your horse. You may find yourself in a dead-end situation with no way to go other than back.

What can make for an exceptional MAU horse is trail work where you may not have your hands free to direct your horse. You need to communicate to your horse that you want to move to a better position to reach a limb. Hands free, using only your seat and legs you ask the horse to back up a few feet uphill or around a tree.

Last time, I talked about gates and the movements necessary to go through a gate without dismounting. Side pass, halt, turn on the forehand, rein back, and halt once more are all used in combination to achieve this maneuver.

While many other movements are used in other equestrian activities, a great MAU horse can handle those mentioned here easily and under adverse conditions.

The MAU horse must be more than one that just lets the rider sit and ride down the trail. The horse must provide safe passage for the rider under all types of conditions, as well as handling who knows what that may be encountered in the park. Next time you see a MAU horse, stop and ask to give him/her a pat. It’s well deserved.

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See PRA Calendar on page 6 for upcoming horse-related events.

## News from your Volunteer Committee

By Bonnie Stromberg, Chair

The volunteer committee elected the new chair, Bonnie Stromberg, and Bill Frazer will act as vice chair. In addition, the subcommittees will be chaired as follows:

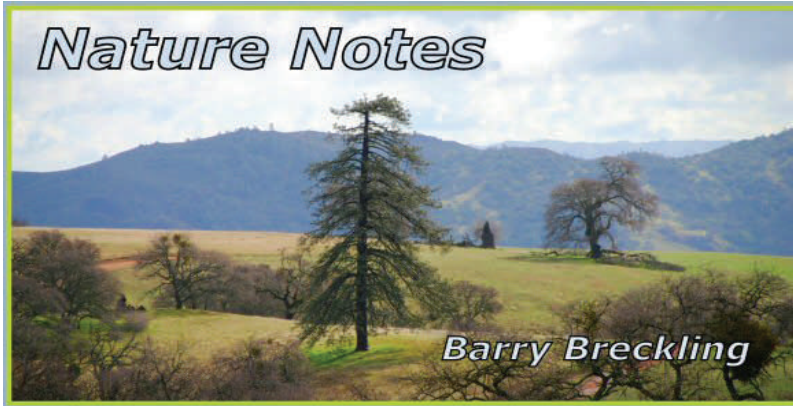
- Training, Jim Brady assisted by Bill Frazer
- Recruiting, Bonnie Stromberg
- Visitor center staffing, Rick Leonard
- Retention and morale, Linda Keahey assisted by Bill Frazer

Cynthia Leeder has graciously agreed to join the committee to fill our vacant position.

We introduced a new format for training this year, which went very well. We’ll continue with the new format in 2010. Nineteen new volunteers completed the training, although one has now had to resign. All eighteen graduated at the annual meeting on 6 February.

Lastly, looking ahead, the focus of the volunteer committee will be to retain all our valued uniformed volunteers. As chair of the committee, I welcome all your comments, positive or negative, and assure you that they will be held in complete confidence.

## Nature Notes

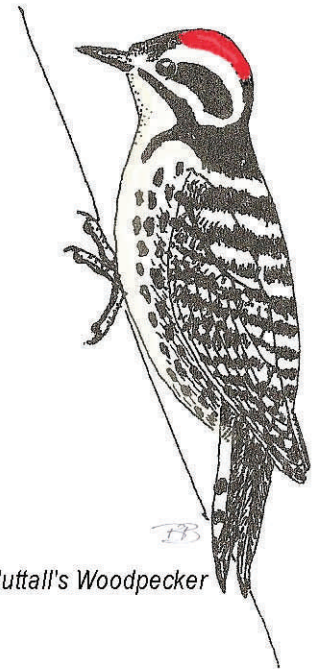


### The Woodpeckers of Coe Park



Acorn Woodpecker

Coe Park has five common woodpeckers plus two other birds that are considered woodpeckers—the Northern Flicker and the Red-breasted Sapsucker. The most commonly seen and most interesting woodpecker in the park is the Acorn Woodpecker. Their striking patterns of red, black, and white, with a light colored eye give them the appearance of a flying clown, and their raucous rasping “rack-up rack-up” call is distinctive. They live in groups, often nesting in old snags (all woodpeckers are hole-nesters). They drill small holes in snags and other trees and store acorns in the holes. This behavior provides them with a granary where they can go for a meal any time of day—a meal of acorn meat and a side dish of insect if one happens to be inside an acorn.



Nuttall's Woodpecker

The Nuttall's Woodpecker is our only woodpecker with a truly barred back (the Flicker and Sapsucker have somewhat barred backs). Nuttall's Woodpeckers can be as numerous as Acorn Woodpeckers but they're much more reclusive. If you see a woodpecker skittering around to the backside of a tree, it's probably a Nuttall's.



Hairy Woodpecker

Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are similar, both having a large white patch on their back. The Hairy is a little bit larger than an Acorn Woodpecker and the Downy is a bit smaller, and the Hairy has a rather long bill while the Downy's is noticeably small.

Lewis's Woodpeckers are rather uncommon and populations seem to wander. Their colors are distinctive: luminous dark green head and back and raspberry-red face patch and belly. They're somewhat commonly seen in the San Antonio Valley and are reported to frequent burned areas, so they might be seen in many places at the park in the wake of the 2007 Lick fire.



Downy Woodpecker

Continued page 11....

## The Woodpeckers of Coe Park continued....

Northern Flickers are large birds, often seen eating ants on the ground. The eastern states have the Yellow-shafted race with yellow feathers on the underside of the wings, and the western states have the Red-shafted race with salmon-colored feathers. Where the two races meet, in Arizona and south into Mexico, you find the Gilded Flicker, which has some characteristics of both.

If you see evenly spaced rows of small holes in trees, often in Coast Live Oaks, you've found where a Red-breasted Sapsucker has drilled to find sap to drink. They also eat any bugs that have gotten caught in the sap. They're absent from Coe Park in the summer. The other woodpecker species live in Coe Park year round.

Although the Acorn Woodpecker eats acorns and other nuts, they also eat a lot of insects, often flying out to catch them in the air. Many woodpeckers excavate insects beneath tree bark, using their great gripping feet with two toes pointing forward and two back, a stiff tail for bracing, and a strong beak for chipping.

On one occasion, near the park entrance, I saw a Pileated Woodpecker, a spectacular, crow-sized Woodpecker that is most commonly found in dense coniferous forests. Keep an eye out for these guys as they are occasionally seen in the Diablo Range

## News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

The Board of Directors of the Pine Ridge Association met on January 27, 2010.

- Paul Nam was re-elected to the board and John Wilkinson was newly elected to replace Ann Briggs who has retired from the board. Each member was elected to a three-year term. Ron Erskine was re-elected president and Paul Nam was elected vice president. Winslow Briggs was reappointed as secretary and Dan McCranie was reappointed as treasurer.
- Sheila Golden, Gavilan Sector Interpreter, spoke to the board about the grant proposal that she and Ranger Jennifer Naber are making to the Stewardship Council. With the support of the Packard Foundation, Sheila would like to extend the successful summer interpretive work she did with the Gilroy School District to middle school students during the school year. She asked that the Pine Ridge Association act as a fiduciary for grant funds. The board agreed unanimously.
- Treasurer Dan McCranie reported a break-even year for the Pine Ridge Association for 2009. In each of the previous two years there had been a net income of approximately \$30,000. Donations were down and visitor center sales were off by 15 percent from last year. This drop in income bears watching but is believed to be largely due to threats of closure last year and a drop in visitation.
- Ann Briggs discussed the grant proposal that she and several board members are writing to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services. Funds approved when voters passed Proposition 84 in 2006 are being offered through a grant program called the Nature Education Facilities Program. The proposal is for funds to build a new visitor center at Coe Park. Applications are due this spring.
- Barbara Bessey reported on work she and other volunteers are doing on the new Pine Ridge Association website. Topics being discussed include the transfer of content from [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org), organization of the new site, and uploading current content.

The next meeting of the Pine Ridge Association will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday March 17, 2010 in the EOC Training Room at the Morgan Hill Police Department, 16200 Vineyard Boulevard, Morgan Hill. All Pine Ridge Association members are welcome to attend.

Ron Erskine  
President, Board of the Pine Ridge Association



## PRA Annual Meeting Continued.....

Eddie Guaracha gave free annual passes to State Parks within the Monterey District to 40 volunteers (uniformed and non-uniformed) who had donated at least 72 hours but fewer than 200 hours (and to couples whose combined number of hours totaled between 72 and 200 hours):

Dan Benefiel	Daniel Lewis	Greg Scott and Liz Brinkman
Priscilla and Ross Campbell	Jim Mason	Stan Soles
Ron Fischler	Margaret Mary McBride	Heike and Reiner Stabenow
Debbie Frederick	Mike Meyer	Susan Stillman
Teddy Goodrich	Gary Newsome	Jim Swartz
Rita Gormley	Matt Pauly	Nancy Thomas
Sue Harwager	Lois Phillips	Sigal Tzoore
Don Holmes	John Prior	George Van Gorden
David Hornby	Bruce and Rosemary Rideout	Bev VanderWeide
Ken Hulick	Don Savant	Sandy Voechting
Gary Keller	Diane Scariot	John Wilkinson
Irwin and Janet Koff	Pat Scharfe	Bill Workman
Greg Lee	Rosemary Schmidt	Paul Yellowhorse
		Jeff and Gena Zolotar

The PRA volunteer-of-the-year 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, Libby Vincent, Martie Sinclair, and Chris Weske, went to **Rob Glover**. Rob became a uniformed volunteer in 2000. At the end of 2009, he had volunteered about 2,500 hours, about 600 of them staffing the visitor center. In 2007, Rob received the Golden Bear award. For the past several years he has served as webmaster for the park's website. He has worked at PRA's annual events—the Coe Backcountry Weekend, Mother's Day Breakfast, the Hunting Hollow Run/Walk, and the TarantulaFest. Rob is perhaps most well known for his work on trails; he held a trail-building class for the newest class of volunteers, he organizes and leads trail days, and he scouted and flagged much of the route for the ADA-accessible trail in Hunting Hollow and contributed to much of the planning of the trail.



PRA Volunteer of the Year, Rob Glover.  
Photo by Dick Rawson

The uniformed volunteer committee's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service was given to **Diana Maloney**. Diana became a uniformed volunteer in 2002, and has donated more than 1,000 hours to the park. In 2009, she became a member of the PRA board of directors. She has also been active in the mounted assistance unit (MAU). For the past several years, Diana has devoted many hours to chairing the Coe Backcountry Weekend committee and working at the event.



Diana Maloney, between Eddie Guaracha and Bonnie Stromberg, received the Golden Bear Award for exceptional service.

Photo by Dick Rawson

Continued on page 13....

## PRA Annual Meeting continued...

Libby Vincent presented beautiful bouquets of yellow chrysanthemums and roses to **Winslow and Ann Briggs**. In the fall, Winslow was awarded the International Prize for Biology by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science for his work in plant biology, specifically the molecular basis of how plants respond to light. Winslow, Ann, and their extended family traveled to Japan, where they met the Emperor and the Empress at a special awards ceremony and reception. Both Libby and Eddie Guaracha expressed the appreciation of the PRA and State Parks to Winslow for his many enormous contributions over the years.



Winslow and Anne Briggs.  
Photo by Bonnie Stromberg

This year's speaker was Teddy Goodrich who has served as the park historian for many years, and her son Patrick Goodrich who is now a trained volunteer presented a slide show. More about Teddy's and Patrick's presentations in the next issue of *The Ponderosa*.

A delicious lunch was provided at the end of the meeting. A good time was had by all!

## Preliminary Financial Report for the Pine Ridge Association Estimated Income/Expenses/Balance Sheet

The following is an estimation for our financial performance for calendar year 2009. The summary financial status of the PRA is as follows:

<b>Estimated Income:</b>		<b>Estimated Expenses:</b>	
Donations/event income	\$41,300	Event/operating expense/ depreciation	\$64,500
Visitor center sales (net of costs)	\$13,300		
PRA dues	\$ 4,200		
Investment income	\$ 4,900		
<u>Total income</u>	<u>\$63,700</u>	<u>Total expenses</u>	<u>\$64,500</u>

These numbers are preliminary, and the final statements from our investment instruments as well as a detailed analysis of our visitor sales profits won't be finished until the end of this month. From these preliminary numbers, we can see that, despite a substantial reduction in donations, visitor center sales, and investment income, the PRA was still able to have expenses approximately equal to income. As a result, there was no material negative impact on the asset base of the PRA.

### Balance Sheet Details:

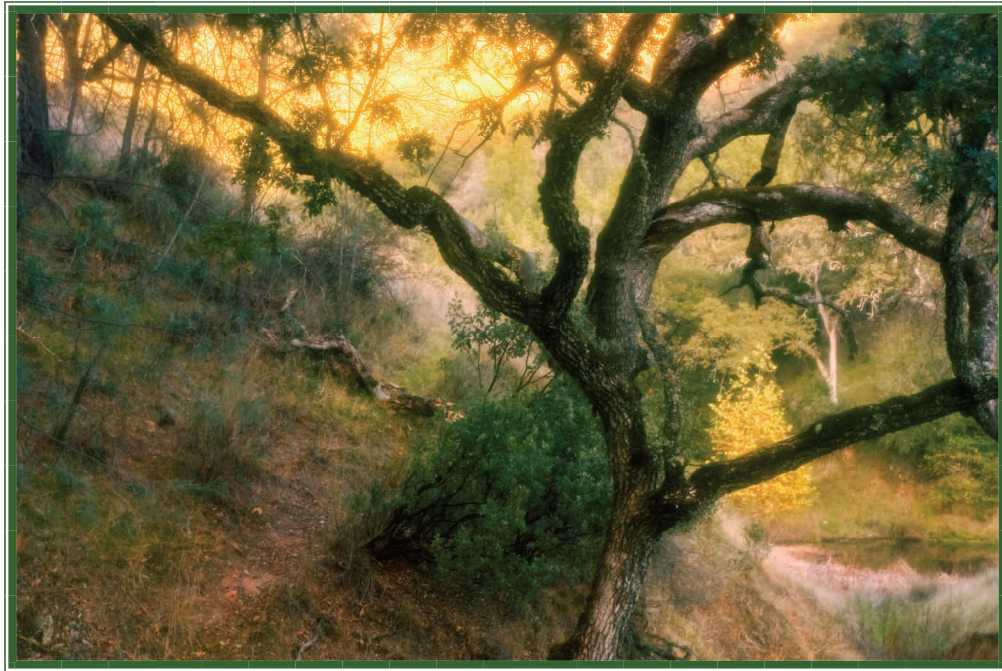
Cash/cash equivalents	\$317,200
Investment assets	\$ 94,500
Visitor center inventory	\$ 78,500
Fixed assets	\$ 20,500
Total assets	\$510,700
Total liabilities (state sales tax for Q4 2009 paid mid-January 2010)	\$ 400
<u>Total net assets</u>	<u>\$510,300</u>

Our preliminary review of visitor center activity shows that inventory decreased by approximately \$4,000 as we made no extraordinary PRA publication purchases in 2009. Concurrently, our cash and cash equivalents increased by approximately \$5,500 during the year as we converted PRA publication inventory to cash through visitor center sales. Decreasing our large PRA publications inventory is a positive event.

Dan McCranie, treasurer, Pine Ridge Association



# The Coe Gallery



Photos taken by Cynthia Leeder

If you have any photos you'd like to include in the next issue of the online *Ponderosa*, please email them to [PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net](mailto:PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net), before April 30.



# The Coe Gallery



Photos by Cynthia Leeder

Please share your Coe photos in the online gallery. You can email them to [PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net](mailto:PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net), before April 30.



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Barbara Bessey  
Kevin Gilmartin  
Diana Maloney  
John Wilkinson  
Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger  
Bonnie Stromberg, Chair, Volunteer  
Committee

### **Your Volunteer Committee**

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Bill Frazer, Vice Chair  
Jim Brady  
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*The Ponderosa* is a quarterly publication of the Pine Ridge Association. 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 natural history, history, and management of the park are welcome. Also, interested in volunteering? Email [bonniestromberg@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniestromberg@yahoo.com)

Please send submissions and ideas to the editor at: [PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net](mailto:PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net).

**Deadline for next issue: April 30, 2010**

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