

The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Coe's Charms

By Mike Meyer

Pinto Creek

The sun's lighting the hill across this narrow canyon, the light's high in the east still, it touches a million chamise needles across the big flank, breaks into the manzanita designs, the mountain's green and no trees just chaparral and grass but muted with blue in the shadows, there's these canyon wounds that scar the big face, cuts ripping down, they're skinny and shallow with no trees just rock, the rock browns and blacks in there too. But what you see, what you notice are the committees of goldfields, they're etched like stains in the big grass sheets, color strong as acid, their claws get in you as soon as you come over a hump on your mountain. The air's bright and glossy and the mountain's in it, this rumply slant with muted blues in the hundred shadows, the thousands. It's close, you think you could throw a rock across, but it's not that close, it stretches way up canyon and goes way down away east.

I wish you could get there, hope you can see it for yourself, it stirs something in you right away, it goes with you like it was always there, it's like nothing on the freeway, it turns you inside yourself in a way you can't do yourself. Some people get their camera, some stand still, some laugh and say words. It's awake over there, man, it's a wild thing not often seen, this mountain stretching slow and strong in the morning sun, way down to the Orestimba.

In a while you get down your slope and you are into the canyon under the mountain, the canyon's running down east, it's a real canyon with trees and water sweet and chilled and you come down with the light in your face, walking slow and nice, the light's in the grass which is just turning down close to the ground, a honey yellow. It's in those poppies poking in the breeze below a boulder—they pop around their stalks, and in the popcorn flower white as salt sprinkling itself down to the trail, like a sheet of surf, and glazed across these blue patches of miniature lupine in here where you walk, all purple blue and green on the stubbly soil, and oh yeah, in the bull's eyes of bird's eye gilia, you find them all over down in there when you look! You hate to walk through, spoil it right here on Pinto Creek for the others coming, so you follow Stan walking in his steps, but in a while he turns off down into the rocks toward that creek music, they're big rocks, a waterfall in there. You go past down under the oaks in dappled light, think things through, or maybe not, and you go down and are under the sycamores when the trail's on a ledge, then under the bays, and you see up the shady hill, you see the buckeye blooming and sweet green stuff and it all keeps coming and you go with it, all along the way.

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Fall 2009

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Pinto Creek continued...

Then after a while you stop for your group to come for a sit in the shade, drop the saw or loppers, let your legs out, feel the pleasure. Something's on the pine below, on the limb at eye level, a squirrel with a pine-cone, he's turning it in his hands biting and spitting. You barely get a look and he fumbles it, drops his cone, it bounces on the trail. He looks at you and screams like you did it, the eyes livid, he advances out on the branch, you judge the distance, calculate how far a tree squirrel could jump.

Then you are in a haze of flowers on a flat where the creek opens and passes under a woodland of pines, the pines spaced so the light's like through a silk, and you see that fifteen goldfield stems might be as thick as a pencil lead. Just one stem under its flower face shakes close to the earth, you barely see it in the little leaves, how it holds on when the wind animates it in a stiff way, it tries not to move, its feet down in the earth holding on. The face of the flower flutters like a skirt in the wind by comparison to the wooden movements of the stem. But the flower is so small, the flesh so limited that movement stops as quick as the wind dies. The face of it has fine gold structures in the gold center, a few round bodies, they reach up with gold hair-width fingers, and you are looking with a hand lens when from under this shelter a creature

inches across the gold petal, a gray line crossing this pure deep gold, a being the size of a worm in fish flesh. You can only notice because you have stopped to see a single goldfield within the mob. This critter comes to the edge, looks into the goldfield forest, contemplates a human propped on an elbow, retreats half into the shade.

You are a visitor, a traveler here, you only notice the highlights, while across the creek shallow house pits grow grass and fill with needles and leaves, house pits of the human beings who clothed and fed and doctored themselves of this place, who danced it with their hands reaching into the stars. I hope you can get here, see for yourself on a morning in spring...when the goldfields are out.

Eds. note: The remote and beautiful part of Coe Park Mike describes includes, just up Pinto Creek from its confluence with Robison Creek, a place called Barry's Bathtub. If Ranger John offers a PRA excursion there next spring, do it. If Mike's looking for help as he and crew work on the Pinto Creek and Mt. Stakes Trails, do it. Any way you can get there, it will be more than worth it.

Nominations Sought for the Annual PRA Award

Each year at the PRA annual meeting held in February, an award is presented to an individual (or individuals) whose efforts have preserved and enriched Henry W. Coe State Park. It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of the Pine Ridge Association or a uniformed volunteer in the park. The recipient receives an engraved plaque, and their name is added to the large plaque that is displayed at the visitor center.

Two unofficial sets of criteria have been used to guide the selection process:

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

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

We are asking PRA members to supply nominations for this award by the end of November. If there is someone you would like to nominate, please write a short paragraph of reasons why that person should be considered and send it to the PRA President, Ron Erskine, 1060 West Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, or ronfoxtail@msn.com. A committee of the PRA board of directors will collect additional information about the activities of your nominee and will make a selection.

News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

Lots of Activity at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs This Fall!

The first obvious change at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs is the surveillance camera signs. Yes, we are watching. Security is the highest priority to protect and preserve this historic place. Thanks to Lisa Bechmyer and money raised from membership fees and the May 16th event, we were able to obtain several surveillance cameras that are being installed. Surveillance cameras will also provide extra “eyes” for a camp host/caretaker, so different types of cameras will be used.

We are still seeking the right camp host/caretaker. Could it be you? Send us an email at info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org if you're interested. The camp host would need to have an acceptable camper or trailer, a generator for power, a self-contained septic system (initially), a water tank, and be willing to take care of dumping off site. California State Parks associate civil engineer Joan Carpenter and associate architect Mike Zuccaro are working with historian Matt Bischoff on the planning, logistics, and approvals for a septic tank at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs with the goal of repairing and providing toilet facilities for the camp host. All this, of course, requires funding.



We thank Joan Carpenter, who arranged for Underwood and Rosenblum, Inc., civil engineers and surveyors, to spend three days at Gilroy Hot Springs making a detailed topographic map of the developed area which will be used “to plot and draw the map that will become the basis of future planning documents.” Their volunteer efforts have been a significant and substantial contribution. Frank Rosenblum, principal engineer and president, summarized the event:

“Everyone enjoyed learning about the rich history of the site and understanding what an important role our mapping and surveying will play in the preservation of Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs. It was one of our most successful annual volunteer events to date. We had more than 20 people working on the survey.... I feel strongly about the importance of companies volunteering to work in their communities and encourage publicity, especially on important projects such as preserving Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, in these difficult economic times.”

Tours are ongoing: Russ Mabery gathered his family of 4th, 5th, and 6th generation descendants of George W. Roop for a reunion tour.



Roop family reunion tour

College students have inquired about tours for research projects, and we've begun tours for photographers, with focused time to capture the subtle beauty of Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs through the camera's perspective, as well as other group tours. Like to join us? See details of our Brown Paper Ticket event #87830 at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/87830. Or you can email us to request a tour date. Why Brown Paper Tickets? Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs is closed to the public except for guided tours. Given the financial situation of California State Parks, we need to contribute to the maintenance costs, and we need to keep record of attendance. BPTix helps manage these. Sorry, soaking in the mineral water is still not allowed.

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FOGHS continued...

We're working on bylaws and project management plans for preservation, restoration, and reopening activities. New Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs (FoGHS) member Alan Hummel is enthusiastically lending his experience and insight to organize the many notes and specifications gathered over the last six years. The goal is to have a working resource in order to consistently communicate plans, progress, needs, and opportunities to different audiences

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs has been a place of healing for more than 140 years. Visitors agree that they feel how peaceful it is to just be on the property. The easy drive takes them away from the hectic stress of Silicon Valley to a beautiful and relaxing natural world. Learning about the history of the place adds to the pleasure and pride of sharing the experience through the generations.

Join us in preserving, protecting, and reopening Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs to the public! Add FoGHS membership for \$15 more with your PRA renewal. Or check our website (www.friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org) for the application and donation form.



1939 decal from Henry Kato

News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

The most recent meeting of the board of directors of the Pine Ridge Association took place on September 23rd at the Morgan Hill Police Department. The following items were discussed:

- The chair of the volunteer committee reported that renewed recruitment efforts had resulted in 35 applications for the uniformed volunteer training, but that number had been reduced to 18 trainees because of schedule conflicts with the training program dates.
- Supervising Ranger Stuart Organo reported on the status of threatened State Park closures. While rumors abound, he confirmed that we will not know what actions will be taken until a final announcement is made.
- There was general discussion among the board members about contingency plans to maintain vitality and interest among uniformed volunteers and PRA members should the park be closed.
- Ann Briggs reported that the printing of Carolyn Straub's anthology of Sada Coe's writings was almost done and that it would soon be sent to the bindery. Eds. note: The anthology is now on sale in the visitor center!
- Ron Erskine reported that the PRA's liability insurance was renewed and a new five-year contract with the State of California had been executed.

All members of the Pine Ridge Association are welcome to attend meetings of the board of directors. The next meeting of the board will take place on Wednesday, November 18th in the EOC Room, Morgan Hill Police Department, 16200 Vineyard Boulevard, Morgan Hill.

Ron Erskine
President, Board of the Pine Ridge Association

Reading the Landscape

By Teddy Goodrich

The Orestimba Corrals*

Age and neglect have brought the corrals to their knees, but they mark the location of one of the oldest homestead cattle ranches in the park. While the pole construction identifies them as an example of pole corrals used throughout Spain's colonies in the New World for over 400 years, it also reflects the design of corrals used for cattle today.

Orren "Dick" Dowdy homesteaded near the headwaters of the South Fork of Orestimba Creek, making his home there as early as 1869. The 1881 United States Federal Survey map shows the "trail to Dawdy's [sic]," and "Dawdy's corral and barn" near the present-day corrals. Shortly before his death in 1892, Orren sold his ranch to his brother, Perry Dowdy, whose ranch headquarters were farther south, near Burra Burra Peak. The only visible remnant of Orren's tenure is a rock-lined cellar hole near the present-day corrals, but it is likely his corral stood somewhere nearby.

After Perry Dowdy's death, it appears that the land passed to Frederick Hyde, a San Francisco land office attorney whose underhanded practices netted him approximately 100,000 acres, much of it in the present-day park. Hyde called his ranch the Orestimba Ranch. After he went to federal prison for land fraud, the Orestimba Ranch was divided up and sold; the portion that contains the corrals was sold to John and Robert Snodgrass in 1921. In the early 1940s, the Snodgrasses sold their ranch to Ernest and Mabel Gill who renamed it the Gill Mustang Ranch, the name by which we know it today.

A year ago, I was privileged to take Phil Stadtler, Hilmar cattleman and one-time owner of the Gill Mustang Ranch, into the park to give me some history about the corrals. Phil is not a young man, and I worried for his health when he should see the sad state of the corrals. My worries were unfounded. As the corrals came into view through my truck's windshield, he remarked, in a very matter of fact way, "I shoulda known they wouldn't last when I built them out of pine."

Phil had the corrals built in the 1950s of pine, juniper, and oak, harvested on his ranch. Originally there were four holding pens, and Phil gathered as many as 6,000 head of cattle there. A long alleyway with cutting gates allowed the cowboys to take cattle out of the main herd and either move them into open pasture or into a separate corral. The cattle that were separated out might be a neighbor's cattle, cattle that needed special treatment, or cattle not scheduled for sale. A crowding pen, whose function is to funnel cattle into the loading chute, is directly to the side of the chute; a larger holding pen was once adjacent to the crowding pen. After state ownership, this holding pen was removed, the wood cut into small lengths and used for firewood during the first backcountry weekends.



Orestimba Corrals—1986

Approval has already been given to reconstruct the corrals with native materials—trees killed during the Lick fire. Reconstruction will be a slow process, beginning with the loading chute, crowding pen, and holding pen. Eventually, completely reconstructed corrals will provide an excellent opportunity for interpreting cattle ranching in the park.

Teddy Goodrich
Historian, Pine Ridge Association

*In 1982 when the property was first acquired by the state, all the corrals were still intact, and they were called the Orestimba Corrals.

Time to Run for the PRA Board

The Pine Ridge Association will hold its annual election for board of directors in December. The terms of two directors expire at the end of this year. Now is the time to prepare your candidacy statement and send it to the vice-president, Kevin Gilmartin, 127 Glenwood Avenue, Woodside, CA 94062; or KevinGilmartin@sbcglobal.net.

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

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

We use the special nonprofit bulk-rate mailing permit for sending out association-related materials. However, this means that some members might not receive their newsletters or other materials for a few weeks after they are mailed. So that the ballots can be distributed (and received by all members) in a timely fashion, it is important that all candidacy statements be postmarked on or before **Friday, November 27**. Please send your statements to Kevin at the address above. (If you plan to nominate someone else, please do so at least two weeks earlier.) Your statement might be a few paragraphs long and might contain information such as how long you have been a PRA member, why you became interested in Coe Park, ways that you have served the park or other volunteer activities in which you have benefited the public, any special qualifications or experience that you have, and specific plans that you have for improving the park as a board member.

If you have any questions about what it would be like to be a board member or if you would like additional guidance on putting together a candidacy statement, please call board vice-president Kevin Gilmartin at (650) 851 7813.

New Members

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

Kris Ackerknecht, San Jose
 Mark Bolda, Watsonville
 Thomas Conrad, Morgan Hill
 Jason Daniels, San Francisco
 John & Lisa Doyen, El Cerrito
 John Giesecker, San Bruno
 Julian Isacco, San Jose
 Nicholas Jacques, Menlo Park
 Jill Lin, Cupertino
 Allie Lishanski, San Jose

Jeffrey Morgan, Walnut Creek
 Mary Ohlson, Morgan Hill
 Jed & Jill Paulson, San Mateo
 Peter Saviz, Milpitas
 Keith & Gina Shiley, Mountain View
 Lynne Starr, Aptos
 David Stoner, Sunnyvale
 Elena Tareva, San Jose
 John Washbourne, Walnut Creek

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
 US mail: 9100 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
 Phone: (408) 779 2728

Important Notices, Please Read...

E-Ponderosa

Help!

If you received a **paper** copy of *The Ponderosa*, please help us reduce mailing costs and also help the environment. Send your email address to **membership@coepark.org** so we can email you when each issue of *The Ponderosa* is available on www.coepark.org. You can then read it online in glorious full color, save mailing costs, and keep the world a little cleaner. Those already receiving the E-Ponderosa please keep us informed of your current email address, and ensure your spam filter accepts pranewsletter@wildblue.net.

The Dowdy. The Bell's Station entrance and the Dowdy Ranch visitor center are **CLOSED**.

Coe's fire followers.....

The 2007 Lick Fire was a firestorm that consumed 47,000 acres, most of it in Henry W. Coe State Park, east of Gilroy. Just days after the fire, park volunteers were on the scene. Two years later the "fire followers" of Coe Park are still at it, and even in the face of park budget cuts, they hope to keep their research going for years to come. Read about it in Bay Nature magazine at www.baynature.org/articles/oct-dec-2009/coes-fire-followers.

The MAU winter project needs your help!

Please keep a look out for material needed for new tablecloths for the Mother's Day Breakfast and other PRA events. It should be 100% cotton, 45 inches x 90 inches, preferably in a print pattern. New napkins have already been made by MAU members. Please contact Kitty Swindle for more information. (408) 842 6215

The PRA Calendar

Saturday November 28

Thanksgiving at Coe Park, the usual delicious potluck for volunteers and PRA members.

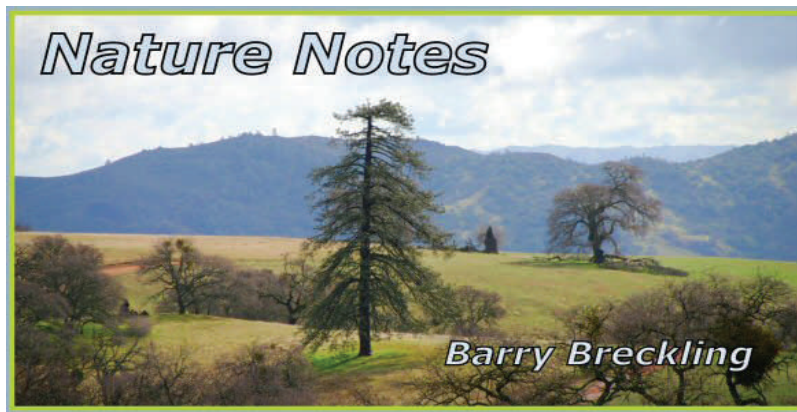
Email Jverhoeven@parks.ca.gov to sign up and let us know what dish you're bringing.

Saturday, February 6 2010,

PRA annual meeting at the Community Center in Morgan Hill. For more details visit www.coepark.org in the new year.

Upcoming horse-related events

Nothing scheduled for the remainder of the year.



Salamanders of Coe Park

Of the five species of salamanders that live in Coe Park, only the California Newt is familiar to most park visitors. The other four species are rather reclusive and seldom seen.

The Arboreal Salamander, the Slender Salamander, and the *Ensatina* are lungless and absorb oxygen through their moist skin. These three species are terrestrial; they lay their eggs in moist areas under bark and duff. Their young are born fully formed. Many other salamander species lay their eggs in water, and the eggs hatch into aquatic larvae.

Arboreal Salamanders are brown to black with yellow to cream spots and are up to 7 inches long. They live mostly on the ground under duff and bark but can use their long toes and prehensile tail to climb trees. They often lay their eggs inside tree cavities.



California Slender Salamanders are small, slender, worm-like salamander with tiny legs and long tails. They are brown to reddish with variously colored striping and spotting. They can often be found in groups in moist areas under logs, bark, or rocks. If disturbed, they wiggle wildly. Their tail can break off and continue to wiggle, diverting a predator's attention from the salamander. The tail eventually regenerates.



*Ensatina*s are orange-brown to dark brown with orange underneath and are 3 to 6 inches long.



The rarest salamander in the park is the California Tiger Salamander. They are believed to be gone from half of their historic range and are listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act as threatened. They are shiny black with striking yellow spots, splotches, and bars. They live in squirrel and gopher holes and migrate to ponds to breed after fall rains have started. In my 30 years at the park I only saw two, and those were outside the park on East Dunne Avenue.

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Salamanders of Coe Park continued.....



Coast Range Newts have rough brown skin on top and yellow to orange bellies. They are 5 to 8 inches long. When they migrate to still pools in creeks or to lakes to mate, the male's skin becomes smooth and they develop a flattened tail for swimming. Most newts return to the place where they hatched, often migrating several miles. When disturbed, they arch their bodies, showing their bright orange undersides as a warning. Newts are extremely poisonous containing the same poison as puffer fish. A single newt's body contains enough

toxin to kill more than 10 humans, but humans, and most animals, are seldom poisoned as the newt's skin emits a secretion that has a very disagreeable taste. However, human deaths have occurred. A 29-year-old man died after swallowing a newt on a dare. A 26-year-old man who swallowed five newts on a bet was a bit luckier. He became dizzy and vomited up the poor creatures. He survived after hospitalization.



Salamander populations are in decline mostly due to global climate change and chytridiomycosis, an emerging disease. Habitat destruction, introduced predatory species, exploitation, UV-B radiation, and pesticides are also implicated in their decline.

News from the Headquarters Visitor Center for Volunteers by John Verhoeven, Ranger

Hello everyone, and welcome to the wet season. The recent deluge brought 5.18 inches of rain to the park, which is four times the monthly average! Instantaneously, creeks filled and some ponds that were dry are now near full capacity. Complementing the rain are the beautiful fall colors of trees and shrubs.

The Tarantula Festival took place October 3rd and was enjoyed by all. The weather cooperated this year with warm sunshine. Highlights included native and non-native tarantulas to view, delicious BBQ fixings, music by the Tarantula's band, children's activities, and a new attendee this year, Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center (WERC). WERC is an organization that cares for sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife and brought a hawk, a great horned owl, and a garter snake, all creatures you can find at Coe Park but not see up close.

This winter, changes are coming to the visitor center. I am working on a plan to refresh the interpretive areas, improve the store displays, and improve the overall appearance of the visitor center. With support from the PRA and volunteers, by spring the visitor center operation should be improved.

Also, new this year is the addition of the group camps to the ReserveAmerica camping reservation system. This change should help simplify reserving campsites at the park, which will help visitors as well as volunteers. Now visitors can reserve a specific campsite at the Coe Ranch Entrance campground, Manzanita Point, or Poverty Flat. To see the changes, go to www.reserveamerica.com and fill in the fields to find reservation details.

I want to thank all of you for your support of Henry W. Coe State Park through these tough budget times. While service at State Parks is decreasing, at Coe there is still some staff presence in the visitor center as well as maintenance of trails and springs in the park. Just yesterday I had comments from some long-time park visitors on how great the trails looked. Please come and enjoy the great weather and green hills at the park. Hope to see you soon.



Mounted Assistance Unit Happenings

By Bonnie Stromberg

What it takes to be a great MAU horse, Part 2

My article in the last issue of *The Ponderosa* was about “scary things” you and your horse can encounter in the park. This article is about “obstacles” in the park.

Like “scary things,” horses need to be trained for “obstacles.” The main difference between a “scary thing” and an “obstacle” is that when you encounter a scary thing you want your horse to observe it and not panic, but with an obstacle you need to do more than observe: you need to overcome it and move on. The training for each is different. You train for scary things in general and expect that the horse will generalize the experience to other scary things. For obstacles, you need to train your horse for the specific obstacle and how to deal with it. An obstacle can ruin your day and the objective of your ride if you and your mount are not prepared to handle it. At worst, it can cause you to have to back-track to avoid it.

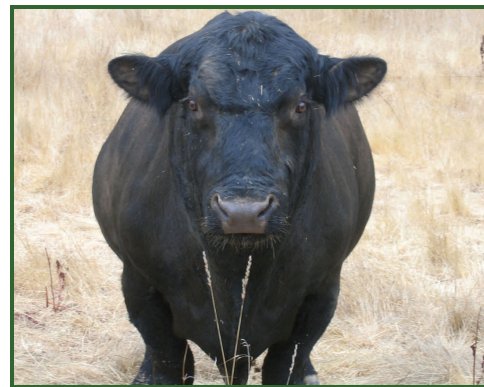
Coe Park has many seasonal creeks. In the rainy season, these can rise rapidly and you can find yourself on the wrong side of a creek that was flowing gently when you passed through it an hour ago. Now it's an obstacle—a torrent of rushing water and you need to get to the other side.

One of the most common obstacles I have encountered in the park is fallen trees across the trail. There's a special challenge when that fallen tree lies across the trail with a high bank on one side and a steep cliff and/or water on the other side.



Suppose that the height of the tree trunk lying on the ground is above your horse's knees. He may step over it and that's O.K., but he may need to jump it. It's been two years since the Lick Fire; fallen trees are going to be even more common after this winter's rains.

You can encounter cattle in the park on occasion; there are even some that have gone wild. The MAU horse may need to face cattle and either move on or go through the herd. One of these guys can be intimidating for even the boldest horse.



A lotabull in Hunting Hollow

Steep slopes and gullies are abundant in the park. Many times you can find an alternative route to avoid them but sometimes there's no other choice and you and your mount have to deal with them. Gates are less common in the park. A horse that can side pass next to the gate and stand still so you can lean over to undo the latch and allow you to open the gate without dismounting and then step through the gate, back up and then stand still next to the gate on the other side while you latch it gets a gold star and a carrot to boot.

If you're in search and rescue mode, these obstacles need to be nothing more than a walk in the park for horse and rider. Training for obstacles starts at home.

A Tail of Two Horses or the Pied Piper Finds the Scarlet Pimpernels

If you didn't see this in the last issue and would like to learn about the horses lost in Coe Park, follow this link: <http://mysite.verizon.net/bls3/coepark/coelosthorses.html>

News from your Volunteer Committee

By Bonnie Stromberg, Chair

We have made a number of changes to our volunteer program. To reiterate what Ranger John said in the last newsletter, **20 hours in the visitor center are no longer required.** Volunteers still need a minimum of 50 hours a year to remain active. Anyone who would like to volunteer time in the visitor center is very much encouraged to do so. Visitor center time will continue to count toward the visitor service award at the end of the year.

New volunteer trainees can choose what type of volunteer work they would like to do and will need to take the training associated with that work. Some may choose to do only patrol—foot, bike, or equestrian. If so, they will be required to complete four mandatory days of training that include the two-day ride-along and campout at Pacheco Camp. In addition, they will need to complete the specific training for **foot patrol (11/21), bike patrol (12/12), or equestrian patrol (11/1).** The “Requirements and Guidelines” for patrol work have changed. A new document has been posted on CoeSign for volunteers and will eventually be incorporated into the Volunteer Handbook. All uniformed volunteers who would like to patrol must be familiar with the new requirements. Please take the time to review this material.

The ride-along was a huge success. Nineteen new trainees and 31 “wise and experienced” uniformed volunteers participated. Larry Haimowitz served the appetizer course and our mouths watered in anticipation of the delicious blackened Cajun shrimp. Paul Yellowhorse and his crew (Stan Soles, Darryl Dubois, and Dan Benefiel) served up a gourmet feast with choices for all—vegan chili, cashew stuffed pumpkin, Jamaican jerked chicken, western dry-rubbed tritip, spicy coleslaw, and sweet potatoes praline. The breakfast



Gourmet feast sizzling on the grill
photo by Dave Flack

cooks were headed up by Larry Haimowitz and served custom omelets. Thanks to Victor Bubbett for getting up at 4:00am to have hot coffee and tea ready for everyone. In the morning, Darryl Dubois had washed all the camp chairs and tables, placed the chairs around the fire and spruced up everything. Many others helped out with the setup, tear down, dish washing, and all the other logistics involved in putting on this event. This year Jim Swartz graciously helped me with the logistics of getting all supplies inventoried and transported to and from Pacheco Camp. This event offers all of us the rare opportunity to meet our new recruits and visit with other volunteers whom we seldom have the opportunity to see in a relaxed social setting. I hope that those who did not attend this year will put it on their calendars/PDA/iPhone/Droid/etc. for next year.

Lastly, looking to the future, the focus for the volunteer committee will be to retain all our valued uniformed volunteers. As chair of the committee, I welcome your comments, suggestions, and constructive criticism to help us make this happen. All comments will be held in confidence.

New Volunteers...

Jesse Benefiel
Liz Brinkman
Thomas (Tom) Conrad
Tanya Cottle
Loretta Edwards
Patrick (Pat) Goodrich
Julian Isacco
Cynthia Leeder
Kenneth (Ken) McDevitt
Kevin McDevitt



Paul Nam
Demetry Nechayev
Paul Osborn
Manny Pitta
Keith Shiley
Lynne Starr
Dave Stoner
John Thatcher
James Wong



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Permit No. 160

Pine Ridge Association
Henry W. Coe State Park
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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

Please send submissions and ideas to the editor at: PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net.

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