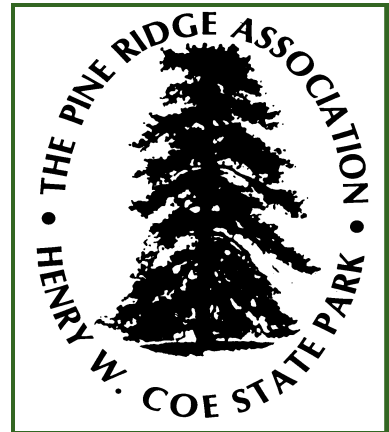


# The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter  
Henry W. Coe State Park



Fall 2016

## The White Barn update

By Libby Vincent

Good news! The historic white barn near the park visitor center has a new roof! Many thanks to everyone who contributed funds to make the repair possible. Thanks also to volunteer Mike Hundt who wrote the grant to the California State Park Foundation, which provided generous funding for the reroofing project. We have already made good use of the barn during Coe Ed training day.



Above, work in progress. Below, roof repair completed.  
Photos by Cynthia Leeder.



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# Pacific Chorus Frog

By Joseph Belli

These are tough times for frogs. All over the world habitat loss, pesticides, exotic predators, and devastating diseases have decimated them. Of the three frog species native to central California, two have experienced pronounced declines, disappearing from many areas where they once thrived. Frogs can be a sobering subject.

But today, we're going to avoid all that is bleak in the frog world and focus on a story of resilience, that of the Pacific Chorus Frog, which continues to thrive throughout the Pacific Coast states and is abundant in Coe Park, where it breeds in every major stream and most ponds. And while few visitors have ever come across either a California Red-Legged Frog or a Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog, everyone has seen or at the very least heard a Pacific Chorus Frog.

Pacific Chorus Frogs are Coe Park's smallest frog, about two inches long. They come in a variety of colors: green, brown, gray, and copper. To complicate matters, they're able to alter their color to conform to surrounding conditions, becoming a lighter or darker shade when necessary. Some are blotched, while others are uniformly colored and blotches can, like color, intensify or fade as circumstances dictate. Regardless of color or blotching, all Pacific Chorus Frogs have a dark eye stripe extending from the nostrils to behind the eyes that serves to distinguish them from any other kind of frog in the region.

For many years, Pacific Chorus Frogs were known as Pacific Tree Frogs for they possess enlarged toe pads that aid them in climbing. The name tree frog is inaccurate, though, for while they ascend boulders and occasionally shrubs, they don't climb trees. Chorus Frog is a more suitable name because in late winter and spring males gather at breeding sites and call en masse, resulting in an amphibian concert that's as sure a sign of the seasons as wildflowers gracing the hillsides.

Their call is the familiar two-note "ribbet" produced by a large vocal sac that inflates when frogs expel air from their lungs. The resulting sound resonates even though the mouth is closed. It's surprisingly loud for such a small creature: Chorus Frogs easily drown out the softer calls of much larger Red-Legged Frogs. The purpose of all that frenzied calling is mating and, while breeding in frogs seems straightforward enough, it involves some interesting complications worth mentioning. That's right, we're going there: the sex lives of frogs.

Among Chorus Frogs, males stake out territories along the edges of streams and ponds and begin calling to attract females, which respond by heading toward the caller that tickles their fancy. So far, so good. But not all males play by those rules. Some, known as satellite males, forego calling, lurking in silence and intercepting females attracted by a calling male. Things get serious when a male clasps onto the back of a female. You may have witnessed such behavior, known as amplexus, in the shallows of a pond. If you did, you recognized correctly that they were breeding. They just weren't breeding in the way you thought. With a couple of notable exceptions, frogs and toads must practice external fertilization. They're not having sex because males lack a copulatory organ. To use a contemporary political analogy, worse than having small hands, males don't have hands at all. When they latch onto the backs of females, they're simply inducing them to release unfertilized eggs into the water, which are then fertilized by the male. If that seems unenjoyable and anticlimatic, such is the life of a frog.



Pacific Chorus Frog.



Pacific Chorus Frog.



Toe pads.

Continued on page 3...

## Pacific Chorus Frog, continued....

Amplexus can also get complicated. Sometimes, overeager frogs latch onto other males. They also jump species on occasion. Male Red-Legged Frogs have been documented atop Bullfrogs and even toads. Such couplings, of course, are destined to fail.

Part of the reason Pacific Chorus Frogs are so successful is that they're able to breed in a variety of habitats, some natural, some manmade. They use large lakes as well as small ponds, roadside ditches, even cattle troughs and backyard fountains. They may have a difficult time if fish are present, but their ability to use small bodies of water or sites that dry later in the year affords them many other alternatives. The tadpoles transform rapidly, sometimes in as little as two months, a big advantage in a dry region or during a drought. Once transformed, Chorus Frogs show little allegiance to water, seeking out upland habitat instead. They sometimes move in excess of a mile from their natal pond or creek, crossing some daunting terrain. They've been found at the tops of ridges nearly a mile from the nearest stream or pond, and I've had them enter my kitchen from the crawl space via unsealed pipes.

Chorus Frogs breed in water but, unlike Coe's other frog species, they're not particularly adapted to it. If you surprise one along the shore, it might jump into the water but after that it will often remain motionless or swim feebly away. Red-Legged Frogs, Yellow-Legged Frogs, and Bullfrogs, on the other hand, swim powerfully and dive with abandon. Without the large muscular legs and webbed feet of their distant relatives, Chorus Frogs remain on the surface, never submerging or diving.

\*\*\*\*\*

A few years ago I received a call from a friend. She sought advice for the frogs calling in her spacious suburban backyard. I told her to avoid using pesticides, provide some boulders and logs for hiding places, and maybe expand the water features present. After hearing my thoughts, she informed me that I had misunderstood her. She didn't want to provide a home for those frogs attracted by her fountain, she wanted to get rid of them. Their racket, she said, was driving her crazy. I was astonished; of all the sounds emanating from suburbia, the calls of Chorus Frogs were the most irritating? I mentioned something about the breeding season lasting only a few more weeks and that silence would soon ensue. She didn't seem to take much comfort in that. We kind of fell out of touch after that.



Volunteer trainees (L-R) Back row: Jim Loweecey, Sabine Whitechurch, Robert Method, Steve Goldblatt, Michael Ingrassia, Elena Armstrong, Christ Prendergast, Nicholas Smith, John Jenkins, Jesus Valdez, Dan Olson, Marla Zayed. Front row: Lilia Kilmer, Harry Cline, Keiko Olson. Photo by Patrick Goodrich.

# Local History

By Teddy Goodrich

Three weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the following article was published in the San Jose News, January 2, 1942.

## “Stockmen Organize as Rangers”

“Formation of the Santa Clara County Civilian Defense Rangers, composed of 100 valley cattlemen and ranch owners, was announced here today by its chief ranger, Louis Oneal.

The cattlemen have divided the county into 17 districts with a captain in charge of each. The district organization will have such duties as watching for parachute troops, rounding up crews if enemy planes are forced down, and giving assistance to the United States armed forces.

In addition to stockmen, Oneal has enlisted city dwellers who own ranches and are available for service.

Joseph McKinnon, chairman of the board of supervisors and head of the civilian defense council, has given approval to the organization, which may spread throughout the State.

Membership in the rangers is still open to applicants who can prove unquestioned loyalty to the United States and receive unanimous approval of the membership committee.”

Ranchers in the Diablo Range were very involved after the outbreak of WWII. Fear of enemy attack by parachute or incendiary bombs was the reason County Line Road was graded and a lookout tower constructed on Bear Mountain.



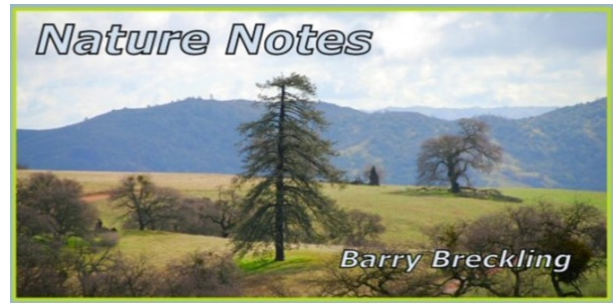
Civilian Rangers, Fair Ground, March 1942.

# Mammal Tracks

When animals move across the land they leave signs of their passing, mostly tracks made from their footfalls. Finding and investigating animal tracks can be fun and when you're out and about chances are good that you'll see more animal tracks than the often elusive animals that left them.

The first mountain lion track you find, maybe along the muddy edge of a pond, can be thrilling. And once you're accustomed to finding tracks, spotting the footprint of a field mouse in a patch of moss can be just as exciting.

Let's skip past tiny tracks for now and focus on the tracks of some larger mammals.



Mountain Lion

Cat tracks are mostly round in outline, they don't show claw marks, and they're generally laid down in what is called direct register (which is the "gait" they use most of the time). Their hind foot lands exactly in the track of the front foot, so you only see two prints where you might expect four (on careful inspection you can occasionally see the smaller hind foot track inside the front track). Mountain lion tracks are about three to four inches across; bobcat tracks are mostly less than two inches wide.



Bobcat

Dogs indirect register. In other words, their hind foot lands behind or partially on the front track. An exception is the gray fox which direct registers (and like cats can climb trees).



Coyote

Coyote tracks are oval in shape, and they show claw marks (although at Coe Park I've occasionally seen coyote tracks without noticeable claw marks). Probably the best way to distinguish "dog" tracks from "cat" tracks is to divide the tracks in half lengthwise. The two sides of a "dog" track are mirror images while the two sides of a "cat" track are not the same; they have a larger "thumb" on the inside and a little toe on the outside. How do you tell the difference between coyote and domestic dog tracks? The outside two toes of coyotes are larger than the inner and the opposite is true in most cases for domestic dogs.



Gray Fox



Deer

Deer tracks are quite easy to recognize except where they might be confused with wild pig tracks. The tips of pig tracks are more rounded than those of deer tracks, and you often see the marks left by a pig's dew claws. Deer tracks seldom show dew claw marks.



Pig

Raccoons have tracks that look a bit like human hands, with substantially larger back foot tracks. Badgers leave distinctive pigeon-toed tracks. These two guys along with skunks are pace walkers. They move both legs on one side at the same time (bears are also pace walkers as you can see on our state flag).



Raccoon

Rabbits and Hares (our Jackrabbits) often leave blurry tracks due to the hairy bottoms of their feet. They are gallop walkers, hopping from their larger hind feet to their smaller front feet, bringing their hind feet forward around their front feet.

Rodents such as squirrels, rats, and mice have front feet with four toes and hind feet with five toes. They are also gallop walkers. Their main gait involves hopping onto their front feet and bringing their hind feet up behind their front feet.

All of the mammals discussed above can use various gaits at different times: walking, pacing, trotting, and galloping.

With time and patience, you can learn to discover an amazing amount of information from a single track. Maybe one day you'll find a mouse track in moss and determine that it came from the mouse's right front foot and was laid down within the past four hours.

# News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

By Daniel Benefiel, President, PRA Board

On September 13th, the PRA board held a full and productive meeting. The agenda included discussion of the financial report (Cynthia Leeder), volunteer committee update (Manny Pitta), Monterey District update (Supervising Ranger Stuart Organo), and Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs update (Robert Method).

The board also discussed the upcoming board elections, reviewing process and ensuring that we have excellent candidates.

Peter Verbica presented two plaques thanking Morgan Hill restaurant Ladera Grill for their generous grant and ongoing commitment to Coe Park.

The repair of the roof of the white barn was discussed as there were various concerns including interference with the Tarantula Fest and meeting the terms of a grant from the California State Parks Foundation.

A major agenda item was selection and funding of interpretive projects. For more than a year, board members, volunteers, and Park staff have worked together to develop and prioritize a long list of potential interpretive projects. The board voted to fund the top four projects:

- A full park relief model, replacing the one currently in the visitor center
- A low profile panel showing peaks and elevations of the Quien Sabe volcanic field to the south of the park
- Reprinting The Endangered Animals coloring book
- New audio/visual equipment for the interpretive room

We are grateful to Patricia Clark-Gray, District Interpretive Specialist, for her hard work developing, vetting, and moving these projects forward.

The final agenda item was a discussion of a proposal to maintain contact with the many Coe Park supporters known from events and past PRA membership. The proposal would include periodic emails with easy opt-out designed to remind people about Coe Park and the great work done by volunteers. These emails would allow us to stay in touch with the many people who may not be PRA members but who are still interested in the park and may be willing support the park in some way.

The board meets every two months at 6:30pm at the Gilroy Public Library. All PRA members are welcome to attend. The next two meetings will take place on Wednesday November 9th and Tuesday January 10th, 2017.

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## PRA New Members

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

We need your help to keep our membership list current and accurate. If you have any questions regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of address, please contact us. If you have chosen to receive *The Ponderosa* electronically and, for some reason, it is undeliverable, we will send the next issue via U.S. mail.

Harry Cline III, Sunnyvale  
Norm Madge, San Jose  
Stephen Peterson, San Jose  
Jonathon Simmons, San Jose

Email: [membership@coepark.net](mailto:membership@coepark.net)  
U.S. mail: 9100 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
<http://coepark.net/pineridgeassociation/join>

## Volunteering at Henry W. Coe State Park

Tina Peterson

M.S. Environmental Studies, August 2016

Do you ever wonder why the Coe Park uniformed volunteers look so happy when you meet them in the park? What keeps them coming back for more work week after week, year after year? This was the major question of my recent thesis research and I was privileged to dig for some answers in the first half of 2015 by conducting in-depth interviews with 18 current uniformed volunteers. These study participants told me about their experiences as volunteers, why they are loyal to the program, what they thought needed changing, what made them consider leaving the program, and what they give to and get out of volunteering at Coe. Interviews yielded 29 hours of data. All participants' identities have been kept confidential throughout the study.

Three themes describing a strong loyalty to the uniformed volunteer program emerged from the interviews. These themes were almost universal among study participants, all of whom spoke eloquently about how they derived deep personal meaning from volunteering.

### Theme one was “connecting with nature”

Connecting with nature happened through experiences in the backcountry of the park, sharing the outdoors with visitors, learning about environmental processes, and feeling like an effective steward of the land. Connecting with nature was the strongest motivating theme overall and importantly was often described as the factor that had led participants to become volunteers. Here is what one volunteer said about camping during the annual volunteer training ridealong event in an area that had been burned by the Lick Fire in 2007: *There was no wildlife out there, no birds. But fire is a very important part of the natural cycle and [the trainers] were able to use that to teach us new volunteers about the importance of what fire does, of clearing out brush, burning off dead wood, providing different habitat as well as the nutrients that come from the ash.* Another talked about strong personal feelings: *There is a spiritual element to going into the park and going into the wilderness by yourself and finding that spiritual connection with the universe.*

### Theme two centered on “working together”

Participants described how they valued learning from experienced volunteers while maintaining trails and working at the visitor center. They felt strong camaraderie in working events, informally mentoring new volunteers, and working with park rangers. One participant summed up what many others said: *So I end up doing parking at [a park event]. When the parking is done, I go help wash dishes. And the fun part is you get to work with people who are enjoying it as much as I am. So it's always fun to work with others and you become part of the team.*

### Theme three was about “helping others,” especially park visitors

Volunteers connected with park visitors through a shared affinity for outdoor and backcountry recreation and a mutual sense of environmental stewardship. They told long stories about helping keep visitors safe, assisting in planning hikes and backcountry trips, and the gratification they felt when visitors came back to offer personal thanks for their help. As one participant said, *[visitors] who've never been to the park before have no idea what they're in for.*

As in any volunteer program, participants in this study thought that some concerns ought to be addressed.

- Strongest enough for some to consider quitting the program was the deep unease they expressed around dismissal of fellow volunteers. They understood the necessity of confidentiality around dismissal but wanted to better understand the official process and general triggers for losing volunteer colleagues in this way.
- A second concern was the problem some volunteers had in “finding a niche” in the program after training was completed. They thought they would have benefited from a clearer way to find who is in charge of volunteer specialties—for example, trails, events, or interpretation—and suggested the addition of informal mentoring or a central web directory of volunteer opportunities in the park.
- Lastly, several participants expressed chagrin at the “monoculture” nature of the uniformed volunteer program and suggested that attention be given to attracting a greater diversity of volunteers.

This was my first ambitious research project and I was awestruck by how enthusiastically participants told their stories and how consistently they found meaning in their work. You are all rightly proud of this complex and strong program! As so many participants told me, “without the volunteers there would be no park.” This kind of feeling has been shown by research to promote program loyalty and lead to robust volunteer service. Best wishes for continuing success.

Continued on page 8....

# Tarantula Fest 2016

By Sue Dekalb

Another Tarantula Fest is in the books. For the past four years I worked with Rick Leonard to organize the event. This year I had no partner to help and it was also my last time as coordinator. After five years, it's time for others to take on the task. Plenty of people helped as usual and I heard many people say this year's Tfest was one of the best.

Once again we had strong competition from the Harvest Festival at Martial Cottle County Park, which was again on the same day as the Tfest. It's possible that the Harvest Festival will be changed to a different weekend in future but there are no firm plans yet.

Paul and Allene Liebenberg's daughter, Jessica, painted two new tarantula photo boards this year. One was large and featured two tarantulas, and the other was smaller, just for kids. Kids and adults all enjoyed these new attractions. Cal Fire provided a crew for the event and brought along some goodies to give the kids, which was very nice. With all the fires in the area it was great that Cal Fire was able to send an engine.

Shirley Keller and her daughter, Megan Tyler, brought their snakes for display and handling. The snakes are very popular with the kids but a few volunteers were quite frightened by them. I held a gopher snake for a while and think snakes are pretty cool! RJ Adams brought his tarantulas to the visitor center and spent the entire day talking to people about how tarantulas live and breed. Susan Blake brought along her pelts, photos, skulls, and kids' crafts and provided excellent interpretation. Morgan Hill's Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center participated again with their ambassador animals and as usual were very popular. Volunteers John Thatcher and Tom Conrad provided lots of information about geocaching, and Kevin McDevitt showed kids how to rope a cow. The Sada Springs Jug Band played their bluegrass music for the crowd, and the Tfest raffle had everyone checking their tickets to see if they had won any of the prizes. Thanks to Adam Escoto for taking care of all the raffle details and Bev VanderWeide for selling tickets at the event, which is an important part of making Tfest a success. Volunteers helped this year by purchasing their own lunches, which really helped the bottom line.

Tfest 2017 will be run by new event coordinator Allene Liebenberg but it would be really great if other volunteers would join in to help her so no-one has to do everything. Helping with next year's organization would be a great opportunity for some of the new volunteers to step forward to help support the park and the PRA.

I have really enjoyed my time organizing and coordinating the Tarantula Fest. Now I'm looking forward to spending more time with my horses and working on trails and springs. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers for their support and some great Tfest years.



Photo board for kids.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.



Volunteer Susan Blake with her pelts, skulls and kids' crafts.

Photo by Sue Dekalb.

## Volunteering at Henry W. Coe State Park, continued....

Thank you to the 18 study participants, the volunteer committee, Park Ranger John Verhoeven, and Park Ranger Cameron Bowers for your participation and support. The entire thesis can be found at [http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/etd\\_theses/4736/](http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/etd_theses/4736/). Contact Tina at [tina.peterson@sjsu.edu](mailto:tina.peterson@sjsu.edu).



# News from the Volunteer Committee

By Manny Pitta, Chair, Volunteer Committee

Volunteer-led activities have continued to grow, many of them scheduled through the Coe Park Meetup group. The meetup group's membership now tops 600 thanks to the work of Michael Hundt and the many volunteers who have stepped up to lead the various hikes and talks.

The volunteer committee is planning the 2017 PRA annual meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th, 2017. The featured speaker will be Barry Breckling, retired State Park Ranger, talking about his time as Coe Park's Headquarters Ranger. Of course, there will still be the exciting PRA board and volunteer committee meetings, volunteer awards, new volunteer graduation, and lunch!

The volunteer committee has also been working on the volunteer training program. This year's program started on September 10th with 15 trainees. The full-day program, including volunteer duties, a tour of Coe headquarters, and emergency procedures, was followed on September 17th and 24th by Coe Park history, the physical environment, cultural resources, and hikes covering geology, plants, and animals. Thanks to volunteers Bill Frazer, Chris Weske, Ed Martini, Ken Hulick, Mike Meyer, Patrick Goodrich, Paul Leibenberg, Teddy Goodrich, Associate State Parks Archaeologist Rae Schwaderer, and Rangers John Verhoeven, Cameron Bowers, and Jen Naber for leading talks and hikes. Thanks also to Allene Liebenberg and Liz Brinkman for providing great refreshments for the morning mixers.



The much anticipated ridealong scheduled for October 15th and 16th was canceled because of rain. A large group of volunteers was queued up to drive the volunteers through the park, provide training activities at strategic locations, and host dinner and evening activities at Pacheco Camp. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked to have the ridealong ready to go on time, even if the event didn't happen.

Bill Frazer leading the geology training hike to the Monument and Pine Ridge.

Photo by Manny Pitta.

CoeEd Day for all volunteers and trainees took place on October 29th. New sessions were offered including mountain lions, tree sketching and nature journaling, and grasses and flowering plants. Thanks to volunteers Bill Frazer, Bonnie Daley, Carolyn Straub, Dick Rawson, Joe Belli, Ligaya Yrastorza, Mike Hundt, Mike Meyer, Steve McHenry, Teddy Goodrich, Associate State Parks Archaeologist Rae Schwaderer, and Rangers Jen Naber and John Verhoeven for leading talks and hikes. Thanks also to Kat Levine and Kathy McBride for providing great refreshments (including breakfast burritos!) for the morning mixer. The Coe Ed Day morning mixer, and the emergency procedures session, were the first activities held in the White Barn since the roof renovation!



Mounted assistance unit training took place on October 22nd and 23rd at Coit Camp. This training session will be followed in the next few weeks by training sessions for mountain bike patrol, the visitor center, trails and springs, and foot patrol.

Bonnie Daley and Ligaya Yrastorza leading the tree sketching and nature journaling session during CoeEd Day.

Photo by Manny Pitta.

We look forward to welcoming the trainees into the ranks of the uniformed volunteers on February 4th, 2017 at the PRA annual meeting. (See the class of 2017 photo on page 3).

## Nominations Sought for the Volunteer of the Year Annual 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 be 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, fundraising, 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 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, Daniel Benefiel, P.O. Box 1015, Morgan Hill, CA 95038 or email [dbenefiel@gmail.com](mailto:dbenefiel@gmail.com). A committee of the PRA board of directors will collect additional information about the activities of your nominee and will make a selection.

## Time to Run for the PRA Board

The Pine Ridge Association will hold its annual election for the board of directors in December. The terms of three directors, at least two of whom are not running again, expire at the end of this year. Now is the time to prepare your candidacy statement and send it to Steve McHenry, 439 Chateau La Salle Drive, San Jose, CA 95111 or email, [stephen.l.mchenry@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.l.mchenry@gmail.com).

Any association member may run for the board. A member may also nominate another PRA member to serve on the board. To do this, send Steve 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 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 to send out PRA-related materials. However, this means that some members might not receive their newsletters or other materials for a couple of 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 25th**. Please send your statements to Steve 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 you have served the park or other volunteer activities that have benefited the public, any special qualifications or experience you have, and specific plans 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 Steve McHenry at 408-286-8858.

# Mounted Assistance Unit Happenings

By Sue Dekalb

The annual mounted assistance unit (MAU) training weekend took place the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd. The purpose of the weekend was to get the group and their horses together to work on training, and to check out new volunteers and their horses, along with any existing members with new horses.

A good horse needs to be able to climb the hills and descend into the canyons in case we need to search the park for anyone missing. The horses need to be able to step over logs, go through water, and stand quietly while you mount the saddle them. They also need to tolerate other horses in a group or be by themselves.

This weekend, one new volunteer, Marla Zayed, and her horse, Trixie, applied to join the group. Marla and Trixie were tested to make sure the tack was in good condition and that they made good partners. Marla was also required to lead another horse while she rode her horse, which is called ponying. Trixie also had to be ponyed by another rider to show that she was comfortable being led by another horse. Marla was tested on her knowledge of what to do under certain situations that might occur in the park. There were also questions about how to know if her horse was in good health. Marla and Trixie will be a great addition to the unit.

The focus of this year's training was using a GPS. We had to find preset waypoints on the GPS by riding the horses in the correct direction until we found the markers.

The traditional potluck dinner on Saturday night featured some really great food—salad, vegetables, beef stew, baked beans, spaghetti, pies, and brownies. A great time was had by all.



GPS training.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.



New volunteer Marla, riding Trixie.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.

## Park Events and Information

Mark your calendars—important dates and other announcements

Also visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net) for more information about all activities.

### Thanksgiving Potluck

Saturday, November 26, 2016. Thanksgiving potluck for all friends of Coe Park, 3.30pm at the white barn near the visitor center for appetizers, then turkey and many other delicious contributions served starting at 4.00pm. For more information and to sign up with a food delight, contact Sue Dekalb at [sue.dekalb@verizon.net](mailto:sue.dekalb@verizon.net).

### PRA Annual Meeting

Be sure to save Saturday, February 4, 2017 for the annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association. The meeting will be held at the Morgan Hill Community Center, located at the corner of Monterey Road and East Dunne Avenue. Plenty of parking is available behind the building. Coffee and bagels will be served starting at 8:15 a.m. The official PRA meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m., followed by the graduation of new volunteers and presentation of awards by the volunteer committee and state staff. The guest speaker will be Barry Breckling and the topic is: Thirty Years of Coe Memories.

### Trail Work Days

Saturday, February 18  
Saturday, March 25

For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net).

### Fungus Hike

Saturday, February 11 (rain date February 25)  
For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net).

### Raincoats and Rubber Boots

Saturday, March 4 10.00am at the Hunting Hollow entrance, rain or shine. We'll hike down the creek, have a scavenger hunt, perhaps enjoy a boat race (toy boats furnished) or a duck race. Bring a picnic lunch. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215, or visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net).

### Wildflower Ride (bring your own horse)

Saturday, April 8. Please visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net) for more information.

### Coe Backcountry Weekend

Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30. Check the park website, [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net), in early February.

### Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 14. For more details and to buy tickets visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net) in April.

### Ranch Day

Saturday, May 20 10:00am-3:00pm at Hunting Hollow. For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247 or Kitty at 408-842-6215, or visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net).

### Coe Campout for Equestrians and Hikers

Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29.  
Please visit [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net) early next year for more information.

### Coe Park Meetup group

Coe Park meetup group is growing. Don't miss the guided hikes and other fun activities. Join today at: [www.meetup.com/Henry-Coe-State-Park-Outdoors-Meetup](http://www.meetup.com/Henry-Coe-State-Park-Outdoors-Meetup).



Striped skunk tracks.

Drawing by Judy Mason.



# News from Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs

By Laura Domínguez-Yon

The crew from the national historic preservation nonprofit HistoriCorps was still hammering in shingles hours before the first rains of the season in early October.

The two weeks of active roofing started problematically: how to erect scaffolding on a hillside, and how to build a roof on walls that are missing? Fortunately, the Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (GYHS) historic restoration team of approved park volunteers, under the direction of architectural preservation contractor Tim Lantz, had already stabilized the cabins and hand built a cement foundation deep into the hillside under the Pennsylvania cabin that had begun sliding down the hill. This work involved days of grueling labor with pick and shovel.

Even more problematic was the state on the smaller Ohio cabin. The end walls did not meet the expected height to support a roof. On one end, the wall boards had slid down because foundation boards had eroded. The HistoriCorps crew raised the boards to the appropriate height although such repair work was not part of the roofing contract. On the opposite end of the cabin, the top of the boards had rotted leaving nothing onto which a roof could be attached. Here, the crew leader built a frame to support the roof until the wall boards can be replaced. In short, the HistoriCorps crew and volunteers built a “floating” roof above the wallboards so the roof will still fit when the cabin walls are repaired and restored. Well done, HistoriCorps!

While on site, a HistoriCorps video team followed the crew and volunteers. The team has been filming HistoriCorps projects all year as they work on 33 sites to draw public attention to the work being done, and to garner public support for parks and for preservation projects nationwide. The videography company hopes to market the end result to PBS for airing. They interviewed the State Parks Monterey District Historian Matt Bischoff and thought GYHS was the most interesting of the 13 sites they’ll include in the documentary. GYHS has the most varied history over a long period of time versus other historic sites that have the same purpose with generally the same people carrying on for generations. The short promotional trailer is so inspiring! We’re looking forward to the results.

The U.S. Geological Survey revisited GYHS to continue tests of the water. Coe Park uniformed volunteer Doris Kramer was on hand to let them in and took pictures of the process. USGS researchers Marc Buursink, James Thordsen, Andrew Hunt, and Celeste Lohr ran the tests. According to Marc “The sampling is for USGS research into potential sources of natural gases, and includes gas (isotopes and nobles) and water (dissolved gases and associated microbiology) analysis.”

With all these activities, we’ve had to cancel our annual public event. It has been rescheduled for the third Saturday in May and will feature “Women of Gilroy Hot Springs.” Exhibitors are welcome. Please email us with your interest.

Docent training is scheduled for December and January. There will be two training sessions, one for GYHS information, and the second for tips and strategies for being a State Park docent.

Pennsylvania cabin before and after restoration work.

Photos by Laura Domingues-Yon.



USGS testing the water.  
Photo by Doris Kramer.





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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 Manny Pitta, [mannypitta@gmail.com](mailto:mannypitta@gmail.com).

Please send submissions and ideas to the editor at: [PRAnewsletter2@gmail.com](mailto:PRAnewsletter2@gmail.com)

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