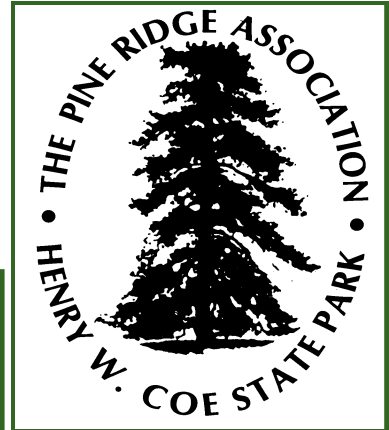


The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park



Late Spring 2015

Creatures of Coe



Joseph Belli

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California Tiger Salamander

When I was growing up there was no such thing as a California tiger salamander. That's not to say they didn't exist but that they weren't recognized as such, they were simply known as tiger salamanders, a single species enjoying a broad distribution across North America. Tiger salamanders inhabiting California were regarded as one of a number of sub-species.

Tiger salamanders belong to the genus *Ambystomidae*, commonly known as mole salamanders. That name suits them well because Ambystomids tend to spend most of their lives not only on land but underground, in burrows. They return to water only to breed, where their eggs hatch into aquatic larvae much like tadpoles. Unlike tadpoles, tiger salamander larvae hatch with all four limbs fully developed. Eventually, the larvae grow and transform and the tiger salamanders depart for a life on land.

Researchers first studying the tiger salamanders in California began to notice some interesting differences between these salamanders and those in other regions. Tiger salamanders in California weren't found in mountains or forests even if water was abundant. Rather, they seemed to prefer flat, open terrain, especially grasslands and oak savannah, lands that were if not arid then quite dry. Tiger salamanders never bred in streams; rather, they bred in still waters such as vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, and ponds and they bred in winter following the first heavy rains.

Continued on page 2....

California Tiger Salamander, continued....

Tiger salamanders in other areas bred primarily in spring and summer. The larvae of California tiger salamanders also transformed quickly, usually within four months, while those in wetter climates took considerably longer. It became clear that tiger salamanders in California had adapted to the state's Mediterranean climate and biologists began to wonder if perhaps the tiger salamanders in California, separated from the nearest populations in Oregon and Arizona by over 300 miles, might be considered a separate species.

Answers to such questions began to emerge in the 1990s when advances in DNA research enabled biologists to see just how different California tiger salamanders really were from other tiger salamanders. Biologists determined that California tiger salamanders had been isolated from other populations for a period of five million years and the genetic differences were enough, they argued, to consider the California tiger salamander a separate species.

For five million years, isolation worked well for the California tiger salamander as it evolved into a creature ideally suited to the valleys and foothills of California. Unfortunately, those very habitats soon became sought after by humans when the state's population exploded after the Gold Rush. The extensive grassland and vernal pool habitats were plowed under to make way for irrigated agriculture, and cities and suburbs replaced natural habitat. Virtually every sizable city between Sacramento and Santa Barbara is built on what was once prime salamander habitat; the Bay Area, the wine country, the Salinas Valley, and the Central Valley were all at one time strongholds for the species, but today land conversion has rendered nearly all of those areas unsuitable for them. Where good habitat remained, other threats emerged.



California Tiger Salamander.
Photo by Joe Belli.

Massive campaigns to eradicate ground squirrels on agricultural lands hurt salamanders as well, both directly—when salamanders in burrows were poisoned—and indirectly after squirrel populations had been decimated and burrows disappeared, robbing the salamander of upland habitat. A final ironic threat came from hybridization as bait and tackle stores began selling live tiger salamander larvae from other parts of the country. Those larvae were released in several areas and those tiger salamanders began breeding with California tiger salamanders. Unfortunately the long isolation was not long enough to preclude breeding, and hybrids threatened to overwhelm populations in both Monterey and San Benito Counties. All these factors resulted in a substantial decline for the California tiger salamander over time. In 2004, the California tiger salamander was declared a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

While agricultural development has been decidedly detrimental to the California tiger salamander, there is one agricultural activity that has actually aided the salamander, cattle grazing. Grazing benefits salamanders in several ways: it keeps the non-native grasses low, allowing salamanders to move through habitat more readily, and those low grasses also support more ground squirrels whose burrows are so important to the salamanders. Most important, the building of stock ponds has provided crucial breeding habitat, compensating for the extensive loss of the natural habitat formerly provided by wetlands and vernal pools. Within Coe Park, the California tiger salamander would not exist without the presence of such ponds.

Continued on page 3....

California Tiger Salamander, continued....

Many species in Coe Park are restricted to particular habitats; the California tiger salamander is one of the few animal species found in only one section of the park. It is known to breed in the ponds of Hunting Hollow, Phegley Ridge, the southern section of Steer Ridge, and Vasquez Peak. It is absent from the east side and the interior of the park. Why is this so? Perhaps a combination of factors—rugged topography, thick vegetation, and fewer ponds—combine to make most of Coe unsuitable for the species. For example, the area around the Dunne Avenue visitor center seems to have some suitable habitat, yet there are no California tiger salamander there.

But when you realize how few ponds are nearby, how far apart they are, and the presence of fish, you realize there's nowhere for tiger salamanders to breed. In other areas of Coe, chaparral and closed-canopy woodlands also act as barriers. So the salamander is restricted to the western edge of the park, particularly the southwest portion, which contains more ponds and open terrain.

Those ponds are not natural; they were constructed in the not too distant past, and it seems highly likely that salamanders spread into Coe from the valley floor, colonizing the hillsides one pond at a time.



California Tiger Salamander Eggs.

Photo by Joe Belli.

If you're hoping to see a California tiger salamander while out hiking in the park, you'll have a better chance of spotting a mountain lion. Tiger salamanders are underground most of the year, and when they are out and about it's usually at night, often during a driving rain. Not the kind of subject for an interpretive hike. Your best bet would be to head out on a night following a heavy rain up to some of the ponds above Hunting Hollow and shine a flashlight into the shallows. If you did, you might be rewarded with a glimpse of the park's largest salamander and rarest amphibian.

Given the limited presence of California tiger salamanders in Coe Park, it's hard to say what the future holds for them here. The fact that both the tiger salamander and the habitat in the park are protected bodes well, but there are no guarantees. The current drought is worrisome. California tiger salamanders often use small, shallow ponds to breed, and these are of course the first ponds to dry out. There's actually a benefit to using such ponds because predators such as fish and bullfrogs cannot persist in ponds that dry regularly. But if a pond dries too early, before July, the larvae will not transform in time and will perish. In addition, female salamanders often forego breeding in dry years. That's not a problem because tiger salamanders can live for over ten years, but if breeding is curtailed for several consecutive years, the population could disappear. Finally, the small Coe population relies on healthy populations on private lands outside the park. If land use changes occur on those lands and breeding ponds are not maintained, Coe's population could disappear. Let's hope that Coe Park will continue to provide a sanctuary for these fascinating creatures.

PRA Annual Meeting

By Barbara Bessey

The annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association (PRA) was held in Morgan Hill on February 7, 2015.

Board of the Pine Ridge Association

PRA board president Dan Benefiel opened the meeting, introduced the members of the PRA board of directors, and reported on the results of the election of officers. The officers and members of the board for 2015 are:

Dan Benefiel, president
 Ron Erskine, vice president
 Steve McHenry, secretary
 Cynthia Leeder, treasurer
 Diana Goodwin
 Ken Howell
 Peter Coe Verbica

A preliminary treasurer's report was provided showing that both total income and expenses were down from the previous year but membership dues, visitor center sales, and our bottom line value increased in 2014. Final figures will be reported in the next issue of The Ponderosa.

Secretary Steve McHenry presented two amendments to the bylaws, which were passed by the members attending the meeting. The details of these changes are described in Steve's article on page 12.

Volunteer Committee Meeting

The meeting of the PRA uniformed volunteers followed. Jim Wright, formerly the chair of the committee, introduced Manny Pitta as the incoming chair for 2015. The other members of the uniformed volunteer committee were introduced: Liz Brinkman, Ken Howell, Michael Hundt, Allene Liebenberg, and John Thatcher.

There were twelve new volunteers in the fall training class. The total number of uniformed volunteers now numbers 141 people who volunteered 14,655 hours during the year.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 Volunteers!

Left to right: Jeremy Simmons, Jayme Simmons, Art Pon, Tina Peterson, Kathy McBride, Larry Fitterer, Ranger John Verhoeven, Rodolfo Figueroa, Adam Escoto, Manny Pitta (training coordinator)
 Not pictured: Josh Cardenale, Colin Wilson, Vu Nguyen, Daniel Scott.



Photo by Dick Rawson.

Continued on page 5....

PRA Annual Meeting, continued....

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

Martin Cheek	Joe Fabiny	Bill Schloetter
Shea Collinge	Rebecca Faith	Eric Simonson
Bonnie Daley	Allene Liebenberg	Dean Yon
Martin Eppel	John Rinaldo	Ligaya Yrastorza

Thirty-six volunteers received the visitor service award, a special journal containing the association's logo. These volunteers 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 hikes and participating in interpretive events:

Heather Ambler	Darryl DuBois	Linda Keahey	Pat Scharfe
Chere Bargar	Bill Frazer	Gary Keller	Bill Schloetter
Jim Brady	Patrick Goodrich	Cynthia Leeder	Carolyn Straub
Ann Briggs	Teddy Goodrich	Jim Mason	Kitty Swindle
Winslow Briggs	Sue Harwager	Steve McHenry	John Thatcher
David Cartwright	Don Holmes	Dave Perrin	Nancy Valencia
Bonnie Daley	Michael Hundt	Lois Phillips	Bev VanderWeide
Mark Deger	Stefan Ignaczak	Manny Pitta	Libby Vincent
Sue DeKalb	Jodie Keahey	Don Savant	Dean Yon

Eight volunteers received special recognition for all the hours they have spent on Coe Park volunteer activities over the years. Between them, they have donated 22,548 hours to the park! Dan Healy, Lynne Starr, and John Thatcher volunteered at least 1,000 hours of service. Pat Scharfe and Bev VanderWeide volunteered at least 2,000 hours of service. Sue DeKalb volunteered at least 3,000 hours of service. Teddy Goodrich and Jim Mason each volunteered more than 6,000 hours of service.

A special silver pin with the PRA logo was presented to two people who have participated in the uniformed volunteer program for ten years or more: Jim Brady and Lucy Henderson. A special gold pin with the PRA logo was presented to four people who have participated in the uniformed volunteer program for twenty or more years: Stefan Ignaczak, John Prior, Bonnie Stromberg, and Bev VanderWeide. And five people received a special bronze pin to honor their more than thirty years as uniformed volunteers: Bill Frazer, Martie Sinclair, Rob Sinclair, Nancy Valencia, and Chris Weske.

Ranger John Verhoeven presented annual passes to California State Parks to 34 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 nonuniformed individuals volunteered at Coe Park:

Heather Ambler	Patrick Goodrich	Paul Liebenberg	Rob Sinclair
Chere Bargar	Teddy Goodrich	Steve McHenry	Lynne Starr
Jim Brady	Dan Healy	Manny Pitta	Carolyn Straub
Ann Briggs	Don Holmes	Bruce Rideout	Kitty Swindle
Winslow Briggs	Ken Howell	Rosemary Rideout	Ted Tawshunsky
Thomas Conrad	Jodie Keahey	J. J. Sasaki	John Thatcher
Sue DeKalb	Linda Keahey	Eric Simonson	Libby Vincent
Laura Dominguez-Yon	Cynthia Leeder	Martie Sinclair	Dean Yon
Bill Frazer	Allene Liebenberg		

Continued on page 10....

News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

By Ron Erskine

Pine Ridge Association (PRA) treasurer Cynthia Leeder reported that total PRA assets are \$335,000. Visitor center sales are \$5,600 but the books show a net loss thus far this year of \$3,800.

The year-end renewal letter effort was expanded to include a request for donations to the PRA. More than 400 letters were sent out to a list that included life members, expired members, and nonmember donors. This effort generated \$6,745 in donations. Fifty new PRA members were generated from the Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs book promotion.

The board discussed Michael Hundt's leadership of outreach projects and Ron Erskine's efforts to document a procedure so that various board tasks and timelines are recorded and not left to members' memories. The board also discussed the possible formation of a development committee to expand fund-raising efforts.

PRA board members Steve McHenry, Peter Verbica, and Dan Benefiel volunteered to form a new finance committee that would create a detailed annual budget and include individual event budgets from each Coe Park event director. The finance committee would also look at different investment options for PRA assets. The board discussed the possibility of seeking outside bookkeeping help.

The board discussed the new Interpretive Master Plan and the PRA's role in fulfilling the long wish list of potential interpretive projects in the plan.

The next PRA board meeting will be held at 6:30 pm Tuesday May 12, 2015 in the meeting room of the Gilroy Library. All PRA members are invited to attend.

The Gift That Kept on Giving

By Chere Bargar

At the end of each annual mounted assistance unit (MAU) meeting, some special awards are given out. These awards are called "The Awards of Dubious Merit." This tradition was started by the first MAU coordinator, Phyllis Drake, who was a long-time Coe Park volunteer. Each certificate begins as follows: "In recognition of many arduous hours, park visitor encounters, tall tales, and prickly predicaments met and mastered during the past year, the MAU presents this Award of Dubious Merit." Each recipient gets a certificate that tells the story behind the "prize" they receive.

Several years ago, we gave out an award to a female member who had found herself in an awkward position. When dismounting from her horse, she leaned over and started to get off. Her foot slipped out of the stirrup and she found herself hanging from the saddle horn. Her bra had caught on the horn and there she was, dangling in the air. She couldn't get her foot back in the stirrup and was forced to call her husband, who was nearby, to get her unhooked. Thank goodness her horse didn't get excited and stood very still or she could have been in real trouble. This situation was perfect fodder for a special award. She received a break-away emergency bra—one that had been cut apart in the front and laced back together with string. That way, if she found herself in the same predicament again, the string would break and set her free.

But this was not the end of the story. When said recipient left the meeting, she tossed her prize in the back seat of her car. The next morning, her husband got in the car and left for work. There were visitors at his workplace that day and he was taking them to lunch. He got to the car just ahead of his guests. He was horrified to see a bra in the back seat. There was just enough time to toss it in the front seat and sit on it. He had to stop for gas on the way to the restaurant. When he got out to pump the gas, laughter erupted from the car. It took a while for him to figure out what was so funny. The bra had stuck to his pants, and he now had a very unique tail. He did his best to explain that it was his wife's bra, only to be met with more laughter.

Hence, the gift that kept on giving!

Volunteer Committee Report

By Manny Pitta

The goal of the volunteer committee is to provide the staff of Henry W. Coe State Park with assistance and advice in managing, supporting, and coordinating the activities of the uniformed volunteers. The volunteer committee consists of the volunteer coordinator and six uniformed volunteers.

Transitions

Cameron Bowers is the new volunteer coordinator, taking on the role that Ranger John Verhoeven filled for several years. Thank you, Ranger John, for your work on the volunteer program!

After serving as the volunteer committee chair for three years, Jim Wright is taking a well deserved break before moving on to other volunteer duties. Thank you, Jim, for guiding the committee and keeping us on track! Manny Pitta has now taken on the role as committee chair.

Allene Liebenberg has joined the committee. Welcome, Allene, to the volunteer committee!

Highlights

Mike Hundt has taken on the responsibility for organizing spring programs, rounding up volunteers for wildflower walks, evening programs, and guided hikes, and other fun stuff. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Mike to plan a spring or summer activity. Mike has also taken on Pine Ridge Association (PRA) outreach activities including Earth Day Outreach at San Jose State University and Ulistac Natural Area Restoration and Education Project Wildflower Day at Ulistac Natural Area. Great job at getting the word out Mike!

We opened our online casual shirt sales again in March and 18 volunteers bought 39 shirts. We will open up sales in the future as needed. Thanks to John Thatcher for managing volunteer shirt sales.

David Cartwright has stepped forward to take on updating the volunteer manual. The new manual will focus on uniformed volunteer program organization, policies, procedures, and best practices. The excellent volunteer manual content that addresses plants and animals, the environment, and park history will be examined for use on the public website, coepark.net. The new manual will be made available to volunteers online.

Manny has put together the framework for a volunteer website that is intended to become the central location for uniformed volunteer information, how-to documents, who's who, and volunteer group happenings. The site will also contain forums for discussion of event planning, group activities, trails and springs maintenance, and other volunteer activities. Contact Manny for more information.

If you have any questions about any of the above topics or the volunteer committee in general, you can contact any of the committee members listed on the last page of The Ponderosa.

Coe Park Updates and Fun Events

By Chere Bargar

The Raincoats and Rubber Boots event this year continued with its previous history of gorgeous weather and kids wearing shorts and T-shirts rather than rain gear. There was water in the creek so they enjoyed floating their boats and, of course, getting sopping wet. They strung beads for bracelets or key chains for their backpacks while learning about the weather cycles. For the second year, the mountain biking challenge course for kids proved to be a big hit, and the kids rounded out the day on a scavenger hunt and enjoying a picnic lunch. For a number of families, this was their first adventure in Coe Park. And all this fun was made possible by our awesome Coe Park volunteers.



Photos by Dan Benefiel.

The mounted assistance unit hosted two interpretive rides this spring. We were fortunate to have perfect weather for both events.

The Anza Gilroy Hot Springs Ride was an opportunity for people to ride their horses on part of the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail and to visit Gilroy Hot Springs and learn about some of the history of both these places. Lunch back at the staging area gave people the opportunity to catch up on news with old friends and to meet new friends. Lots of positive feedback on this ride.

A number of equestrians enjoyed the annual spring wildflower ride in Hunting Hollow again this year. For some riders, this was their first visit to Coe Park, for several others it was their first trip back to Coe Park in many years. There were a surprising number of wildflowers blooming in this year of drought, there was still water in the creek, and the grass was still green. Participants enjoyed learning some fun facts about a number of the plants they saw. Another very enjoyable day.

Happy Trails!



Photo by Pauline Wood.



Wild! Flowers!



PRA Annual Meeting, continued....

Ranger John Verhoeven presented free annual passes to State Parks within the Monterey District to 45 volunteers (uniformed and nonuniformed) who had donated at least 72 hours but fewer than 200 hours (and to families whose combined number of hours totaled between 72 and 200 hours):

Liz Brinkman	Ron Fischler	Irwin Koff	Lois Phillips	Rainer Stabenow
David Cartwright	Paul Gillot	Janet Koff	Karen Pogue	Dick Stone
Dale Combs	David Godkin	Ed Martini	Don Savant	Lourdes Stone
Bonnie Daley	Sue Harwager	Jim Mason	Diane Scariot	Philip Strenfel
Mark Deger	Judy Hayamizu	Mike Meyer	Pat Scharfe	Bev VanderWeide
Ruby Domino	Ken Hulick	Lori Oleson	Bill Schloetter	Dave Waldrop
Darryl Dubois	Michael Hundt	Sam Parker	Buddy Schwabe	Chris Weske
Olga Eames	Bob Kass	Bob Patrie	Greg Scott	Jim Wright
Ron Erskine	Gary Keller	David Perrin	Heike Stabenow	Ligaya Yrastorza

Golden Bear Award

The uniformed volunteer committee’s Golden Bear Award for exceptional service was given to Jodie and Linda Keahey who joined the volunteer program in 2000. Between the two of them, they have volunteered more than 7,200 hours, and more than 1,000 of these hours were spent in the visitor center. Jodie and Linda are also both active members of the springs committee, have assisted with many events at Coe Park, and are part of the mailing distribution team for The Ponderosa, among other activities.



Linda and Jodie Keahey receiving the Golden Bear Award from Ranger John Verhoeven. Photo by Dick Rawson.

Volunteer of the Year Award

The PRA volunteer-of-the-year award is given to people who have contributed outstanding work in furthering the mission of the association in preserving and enriching Coe Park. This year’s award went to Manny Pitta. Manny joined the uniformed volunteer program in 2010. He has volunteered 870.5 hours since joining the program; almost 200 of these hours were spent in the visitor center. He has been very active in setting up and maintaining the Coe Park website. He has also served as the training coordinator for the uniformed volunteer committee and in 2015 he became chair of the volunteer committee.



Manny Pitta receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award from John Verhoeven. Photo by Dick Rawson.

Marty Buxton, a bat education specialist who has just retired from the Lindsay Wildlife Experience in Walnut Creek gave a fascinating presentation on bats. See the next issue of The Ponderosa for full information but, in the meantime, remember “bats purr when they’re happy”!

A delicious hot lunch was provided at the end of the meeting. Many thanks to the volunteers who worked hard in the kitchen preparing all the food.

Congratulations to everyone!

Park Events and Information

Mark your calendars—important dates and other announcements

Also visit www.coepark.org for more information about all activities.

Ranch Day

Saturday, May 16, 10:00am-3:00pm at Hunting Hollow. (Rain date May 30). For more information, please call Chere at 408-683-2247, or Kitty at 408-842-6215 or visit www.coepark.net.

Coe Campout for Equestrians and Hikers

Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7 at Coit Camp. For more details visit www.coepark.net or call Chere at 408-683-2247.

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs “Playing Through History”

Saturday, May 23, 9:00am-4:30pm at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs. Enjoy docent and staff tours, displays, children’s activities, entertainment. \$15 per person; under 12 free with adult. For reservations call (408) 314-7185 or email: info@GilroyYamatoHotSprings.org.

Guided Hikes, Interpretive Walks, and Saturday Evening Talks

Our springtime series of interpretive events continues and grows. For a current list, details about a specific event, or to sign up for one of these events visit www.meetup.com/Henry-Coe-State-Park-Outdoors-Meetup/. The current schedule includes the following events:

Pollinator walk: How do all those lovely flowers get pollinated and by whom. Saturday, May 23, 1:00pm at the Coe Park visitor center.

Saturday evening program talk—After the Fire, Survival of the Cleverest Plants. Saturday, May 23, 7:00pm at Coe Park headquarters.

Learn to explore, Sketch, and log your notes in a nature journal. Saturday, May 30, 10:00am at the Coe Park visitor center.

Hunting Hollow 10k/5k Fun Run

Saturday June 13.

It’s time to dig your dusty running shoes out of the closet and get outdoors to enjoy spring flowers and be ready for the Henry Coe 5K or 10K on Saturday June 13 at 9:00am. Hunting Hollow is a lovely place with ridges along both sides. Oak, sycamore, and bay trees are scattered throughout the canyon floor. And the sound of Hunting Hollow creek may be enjoyed while you run or walk.

A group discount is available this year. Groups are eight or more and all save money in addition to enjoying the beauty all around you. Because of strong demand there will be a new age group for those 70 years old and more. Also, children 10 years and below have a rate of only \$10. Children in strollers are free.

Registration and details can be found at: coepark.net/hh-10k

Trail Work Days

Trail work days will resume later in the year. Venues will be posted on the Coe Park website, www.coepark.net.

The Dowdy Visitor Center

The Dowdy visitor center is now open again. It will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. See www.coepark.org for more details.

Changes to the Pine Ridge Association Bylaws

By Steve McHenry

PRA board secretary Steve McHenry presented information about two potential changes to the PRA bylaws to the members attending the annual meeting on February 7, 2015. At the PRA board meeting held on January 13, 2015 the board approved two changes to the bylaws and those changes are required to be ratified by a majority of the membership at the annual meeting.

The first proposed change was to Article IV, Directors, Board Meetings, and Committees; Section 10, Action without Meeting. The original sentence read: "Any action required or permitted to be taken by the board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action."

The proposed change would change the ending of that sentence to "... consent in writing or by email to such action." Steve said that this change would allow the board to act on urgent issues through email discussion instead of waiting for a board meeting, and he clarified that email would be considered consent in writing.

The second proposed change was to Article VI, Other Provisions; Section 2, Finances. The original sentence read: "Checks exceeding \$400 shall also be signed by one of the following: the President, Vice President, or Secretary."

The proposed change would change the beginning of that sentence to "Checks exceeding \$1,000 shall also be signed by..." Steve said that this change would allow the PRA treasurer to sign checks up to \$1,000 before a second signature would be required.

Both measures were approved by the membership on voice votes.

If you would like to read the complete bylaws, you can find them on the park website at:
<http://coepark.net/pineridgeassociation/support-coe/pr>

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 USPS.

Fredrick Child, Saint Paul, MN
Ron DeFalco, San Martin
Deena Gannot, El Cerrito
Warren Geissert, San Jose
Kat Levine, Morgan Hill
William F Manry, Monte Sereno
Julie Page, Saratoga

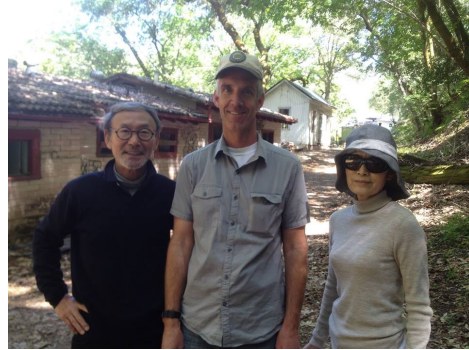
Email: membership@coepark.net
US mail: 9100 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Phone: 408-779-2728



News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Domínguez-Yon

Mr. and Mrs. Masaru Seido (owners from 1988 to 2003) visited the Gilroy Yamoto Hot Springs (GYHS) site with Matt Bischoff, State Historian, Monterey District, in mid April. “It was a really nice time, and Mr. Seido is still very passionate about this special place,” said Matt.



Additionally, Matt reports on restoration progress:

- Restoration of the Texas Cabin is moving along—roofing work is underway.
- We will be installing a septic system to support that building that will likely get started this summer. The next step will be providing water.
- We have stabilized the Kitaji Cabin, saving it from imminent collapse but much more has to be done of course. We are now working on stabilization of the Wyoming Cabin also to prevent collapse. The goal is to stabilize all buildings then obtain funding to complete restoration on certain buildings. We will be working with an engineering firm to develop a master utility plan soon.



Texas Cabin

Photo by Laura Dominguez-Yon.

6th Annual GYHS event, “Playing Through History,” Saturday May 23, 2015

See the enclosed flyer.

GYHS has been the playground of social and business movers and shakers. So, what kind of entertainment? Margaret B. Alverson wrote about helping to raise the flag on the 4th of July, 1868 and of using her concert-trained voice to entertain the other guests during her visits from 1870-1882.

In 1866, the *Daily Alta California* reported on pastimes at the hot springs:

“Billiard table, piano, etc., the first two articles essential to the happiness of both males and females.... The men have gay times here, those who are able to be about. Two gentlemen went out yesterday and bagged over a hundred quail and several rabbits—a pretty good half day’s hunt; and deer may be found in abundance....”

So, in the spirit of family traditions, bring your picnic, bring your family and friends, AND bring your games—board games, card games, and musical instruments—any nonelectronic means of entertaining yourself! Make a kazoo, fly a frisbee. Anyone for “Red Rover”? Y’all come!



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Ron Erskine, Vice President
Diana Goodwin
Steve McHenry, Secretary
Ken Howell
Peter Verbica
Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger
Cynthia Leeder, Treasurer
Manny Pitta

PRA Volunteer Committee

Manny Pitta, Chair
Liz Brinkman
Ken Howell
Mike Hundt
Allene Liebenberg
John Thatcher
Ranger Cameron Bowers, Volunteer
Coordinator

Contributors for this issue

David Cartwright, publisher for Heather Ambler
Libby Vincent, editor
Chere Bargar, author
Joseph Belli, author and photographer
Dan Benefiel, photographer
Barbara Bessey, author
Barry Breckling, author and photographer
Laura Dominguez-Yon, author and photographer
Dick Rawson, photographer
Pauline Wood, photographer
Manny Pitta, author
Ron Erskine, author
Steve McHenry, author

Mailing & Distribution

Jodie Keahey
Linda Keahey
Diane Scariot
Pat Sharfe
Martie Sinclair
Carolyn Straub
John Thatcher
David Cartwright, e-distribution

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.

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

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