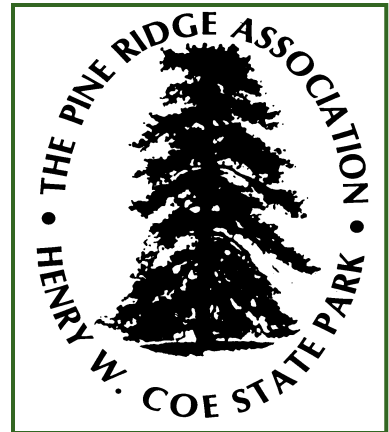


# The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter  
Henry W. Coe State Park



Late Spring 2016

## Creatures of Coe



### Inside this issue:

<i>Foothill Yellow-legged Frog</i> by Joseph Belli	1, 2, 3
<i>PRA Annual Meeting</i> by Barbara Bessey	4, 5, 10
<i>Update on the White Barn</i> by Teddy Goodrich	4
<i>The Roosevelt Connection</i> by Teddy Goodrich	6
<i>The Gray Fox</i> by Barry Breckling	7
<i>Some Coe Park Fun Events</i> by Chere Bargar	8
<i>Park Events and Information</i>	9
<i>News from Gilroy Yamoto</i> <i>Hot Springs</i> by Laura Dominguez-Yon	11

## Foothill Yellow-legged Frog

If you've spent time in Coe Park exploring Coyote Creek, you may have come across Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs, one of four frog species inhabiting Coe. Maybe you surprised one as it basked on a boulder or gravelly bank. You may not have noticed it until it dove into the water where it frantically headed to the bottom to hide, blending in amongst rocks. Had you gotten a good look, you would have seen a gray to brown frog two to three inches long, with granular skin. Their namesake feature, a wash of yellow on the lower abdomen and thighs, would probably have gone unnoticed.

Had you been almost anywhere else in Coe, the frog you encountered would have been a different kind because yellow-leggeds are found only in streams and never inhabit ponds, wetlands, or lakes. Not just any stream will do: in order to breed, they need slow-flowing, shallow streams with rocky bottoms, open banks, and partial shading. In Coe, there are only two such streams: Coyote Creek and Robison Creek. All the other creeks either lack the proper conditions or dry too early in the year to allow tadpoles to survive. Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs are habitat specialists, and the modern world with all its habitat modifications has become an unforgiving place for such creatures.

Their lime-sized egg masses must be attached to something, usually gravels or stones, in shallow water. Rushing water washes away and destroys the eggs. Timing is also critical. If eggs are laid too early in the

Continued on page 2....

## Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, continued....

year, they risk getting washed out by subsequent storms. If they're laid too late, the stream may dry before the tadpoles transform. This reliance on specific stream conditions makes them more vulnerable than any of Coe's other frog species, including the California Red-legged Frog, which is protected under the Endangered Species Act. The Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, however, is not. The State of California classifies it as a Species of Special Concern, but that designation doesn't provide much protection.

Historically, Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs ranged from central Oregon to Baja, from the west slope of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada to the coast. Today, they've disappeared from half that range. Their stronghold is from San Francisco Bay north to southwestern Oregon. They may be gone from Baja and southern California, surviving from Monterey County north. In the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, they have declined in the north and are virtually gone in the south. In the Bay Area, populations have dwindled and they've disappeared from a number of watersheds. A recent statewide survey of streams once occupied by Yellow-legged Frogs found that only thirty had as many as twenty frogs. That's troubling.

A number of factors have contributed to the frog's decline. Water diversion, logging, mining, grazing, disease, and pesticides have all been implicated in one watershed or another. Predation by non-native species—bullfrogs, bass, sunfish, and crayfish—has taken a toll. Habitat loss, though, has been the biggest culprit, and that produced by dams has been the most damaging. Dams transform stream habitat into reservoir habitat, which is useless to the frog, and provide refuge for non-native predators such as bass and bullfrogs. Reservoirs also fragment habitat, creating an impassable barrier between upstream and downstream populations that were once connected, larger, and more secure. Downstream populations are particularly vulnerable, for even where the streams continue to flow and habitat is protected, the frogs often disappear.

Frogs don't vanish because of lack of water; they disappear because the water isn't right for them. Water releases from reservoirs are controlled by agencies such as water districts and vary with each reservoir. When water is released and how much is released are decisions made on a case-by-case basis. The vast majority of releases fulfill human needs—irrigation for agriculture, domestic water for communities, and so on. Sometimes, releases are conducted to benefit wildlife, particularly endangered fish. Lacking the protection of an endangered species, the needs of Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs go unaddressed.

What those frogs need is a system mimicking the conditions they adapted to: streams that flood following winter storms. Like fire, floods have garnered a bad reputation, but in natural communities they play a critical role in ecosystem health. Floods keep streams open, shallow, and meandering. What reservoirs deliver, on the other hand, is water that is too cold (water from the depths of the reservoir is colder than the shallow water of streams, and cold water delays egg and tadpole development), too fast (washes away egg masses and tadpoles), and often at the wrong time of year. Reservoir releases yield deeper, entrenched channels in place of the open, shallow, wandering streams preferred by the frogs. Without those spasmodic winter floods, trees take over stream banks, replacing the gravel bars needed for basking. The stream below a reservoir may be habitat for some species but not Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs. The dynamic system those frogs evolved in has vanished, replaced by a consistency they can't abide. Foothill Yellow-legged Frog populations rarely last long downstream of dams. Coyote Creek is no exception. A century ago, Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs were probably found along its banks as far as south San Jose. Today, they exist only upstream of Coyote Reservoir.

\*\*\*\*\*



An egg mass.  
Photo by Joseph Belli.

## Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, continued....

In 2004, a graduate student at San Jose State University began a three-year study of Yellow-legged Frogs along Coyote Creek from above Coyote Reservoir upstream into Coe, just beyond the bridge at Gilroy Hot Springs. What he found was interesting. In spring, frogs gathered along Coyote Creek to breed but afterwards most headed up one of several tributaries where they spent the rest of the year. What the tributaries may have offered that the main creek didn't was protection: predators such as bullfrogs, mergansers, garter snakes, herons, and fish were rarely encountered along tributaries. This might explain the frogs' presence in Grizzly Gulch, Water Gulch, Soda Springs Canyon, and Little Coyote Creek. Tributaries don't provide adequate conditions for eggs, however, so the main creek is still crucial. As it turns out, both Coyote Creek and its tributaries are vital, but the role of tributaries may be overlooked. When people seek to protect habitat, they concentrate on main stream breeding sites, often ignoring the vital role of tributaries.

The study revealed yet another threat to the beleaguered frog: marijuana farms, which were discovered on three tributaries in Coe Park. Those farms not only siphoned precious water from the tributaries; growers dumped pesticides and fertilizers into the waterway and increased siltation and erosion by clearing off ground cover for their gardens.

The study gauged population size by counting egg masses. Since adult females lay one egg mass annually, counting egg masses during the spring breeding season gives a good idea of the size of the female population as well as the population in general. The stream was divided into three sections. The upper section ran from just inside Coe downstream to Hunting Hollow; the middle section ran from Hunting Hollow down to the CAL FIRE station; the lower section flowed from the fire station to Coyote Lake. During the study, plenty of egg masses were found at both the upper and lower sections. The middle section was barren, probably because the stream there dries too early. However, the population along the lower section inexplicably crashed shortly after the survey—where once fifty egg masses were counted, now only half a dozen were turning up. And even though the upper section showed no decline, it was still alarming. Was this due to the drought?

\*\*\*\*\*

Last week, I decided to see for myself how things were upstream from the study area in Coe Park. I walked Coyote Creek from China Hole down to the Gilroy Hot Springs bridge. I wasn't expecting much, yet what I saw was very encouraging: 29 frogs and 121 egg masses. And because I could cover only a portion of the habitat, those figures are surely on the low side. With numbers like that, Coyote Creek, despite the two dams and disturbing population collapse just upstream of Coyote Reservoir, may contain the most robust Foothill Yellow-legged Frog population anywhere south of San Francisco Bay. And almost all of that population is found in Coe. One more reason among many why the park is not only a special place, but a significant one as well.



Foothill Yellow-legged Frog underwater.



Foothill Yellow-legged Frog.

Photos by Joseph Belli.

# PRA Annual Meeting

By Barbara Bessey

The annual meeting of the Pine Ridge Association was held in Morgan Hill on January 30, 2016.

## Board of the Pine Ridge Association

PRA board president Dan Benefiel opened the meeting, introduced the members of the board of directors, and reported on the results of the election of officers. The officers and members of the board for 2016 are:

Dan Benefiel, president  
 Ron Erskine, vice president  
 Steve McHenry, secretary  
 Cynthia Leeder, treasurer  
 Ken Howell  
 Mark Maderos  
 Peter Coe Verbica  
 Manny Pitta, Chair of the Volunteer Committee

- Fundraising is underway to repair the white barn, which needs a new roof, support structure, and windows. A grant of \$10,000 has been received from California State Parks, along with a matching grant of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor.
- The board is working to increase outreach, including a greater presence on Facebook. To this end, Michael Hundt organized an outdoors meet-up group, which has more than 400 members. Leaders for walks, talks, and hikes are being recruited to offer on more than 70 activities during the year.

## Volunteer Committee Meeting

The meeting of the PRA uniformed volunteers followed. Chair Manny Pitta introduced the other members of the uniformed volunteer committee: Ken Howell, Michael Hundt, Allene Liebenberg, John Thatcher, and Dave Waldrop.

There were twelve new volunteers in the fall training class; the total number of uniformed volunteers now numbers 131 individuals. These people volunteered 17,437 hours during 2015.

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

George Cooper	Art Pon
Adam Escoto	John Rinaldo
Kathy McBride	Daniel Scott

Continued on page 5....

---

# Update on the White Barn

By Teddy Goodrich

A heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed to the restoration of the white barn at Coe Park. The materials to repair the roof and support structure have been delivered and are stored in the barn. Construction will begin when final details are worked out with the contractor; until then the barn doors will remain locked. In addition to many individuals, both the State and the Pine Ridge Association have contributed to the cost of the repairs. We thank all of you.

## PRA Annual Meeting, continued....

Thirty-seven volunteers received the visitor service award, which was a special insulated picnic pouch 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	Teddy Goodrich	Lois Phillips
Chere Bargar	Sue Harwager	Don Savant
Dan Benefiel	Don Holmes	Bill Schloetter
Jim Brady	Michael Hundt	Rob Sinclair
Ann Briggs	Jodie Keahey	Lynne Starr
Winslow Briggs	Linda Keahey	Susan Stillman
Victor Bubbett	Gary Keller	Carolyn Straub
David Cartwright	Cynthia Leeder	Kitty Swindle
Dale Combs	Allene Liebenberg	Bev VanderWeide
Mark Deger	Paul Liebenberg	James Wong
Sue DeKalb	Jim Mason	Dean Yon
Bill Frazer	Margaret Mary McBride	
Patrick Goodrich	Steve McHenry	

Eleven volunteers received special recognition for all the hours they have spent on Coe Park volunteer activities over the years. Between them, they have donated 28,174 hours to the park! Patrick Goodrich, Manny Pitta, Dave Raiman, and Diane Scariot volunteered at least 1,000 hours of service. Darryl DuBois, Cynthia Leeder, Daniel Lewis, and Paul Liebenberg volunteered at least 2,000 hours of service. Rob Glover volunteered at least 3,000 hours of service. Dick Rawson volunteered at least 4,000 hours of service. And Kitty Swindle volunteered more than 9,000 hours of service!

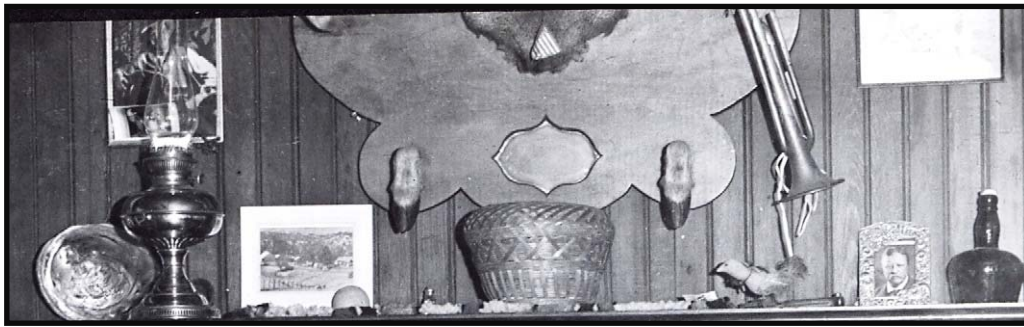
A special silver pin with the PRA logo was presented to four people who have participated in the uniformed volunteer program for ten or more years: Mark Deger, Ken Hulick, Diane Scariot, and Rosemary Schmidt. A special gold pin with the PRA logo was presented to four people who have participated in the uniformed volunteer program for twenty or more years: Ann Briggs, Winslow Briggs, Margaret Mary McBride, and Matt Pauly. And two people received a special bronze pin to honor their more than thirty years as uniformed volunteers: Ruby Domino and Jim Mason.

Ranger John Verhoeven presented annual passes to California State Parks to 35 volunteers who had donated 200 hours or more within the past year and to couples whose combined number of hours totaled 200 hours or more. The hours include the time spent by some uniformed volunteers who volunteered time at other state parks, and the time that some non-uniformed individuals volunteered at Coe Park:

Heather Ambler	Dan Healy	Martie Sinclair
Chere Bargar	Ken Howell	Rob Sinclair
Dan Benefiel	Michael Hundt	Lynne Starr
Ann Briggs	Bob Kass	Carolyn Straub
Winslow Briggs	Jodie Keahey	Kitty Swindle
David Cartwright	Linda Keahey	Ted Tawshunsky
Sue DeKalb	Cynthia Leeder	John Thatcher
Laura Dominguez-Yon	Allene Liebenberg	Dave Waldrop
Larry Fitterer	Paul Liebenberg	Dean Yon
Bill Frazer	Steve McHenry	
Paul Gillot	Dick Rawson	
Patrick Goodrich	J. J. Sasaki	
Teddy Goodrich	Eric Simonson	

# The Roosevelt Connection

By Teddy Goodrich



For almost half a century, it resided on the ranch house mantel—a small photograph of Theodore Roosevelt. It kept company with a shell collection, a kerosene lantern, an Indian basket, several empty wine bottles, a cavalry bugle from World War I, and other small items of sentimental value.

The photograph looked out of place. Why would a photograph of President Roosevelt sit on the ranch house mantel?

Enter Charles Willard Coe, Henry Coe's younger brother and, for a time, his business partner. At the time, Charles was very involved in the social and political scene in San Jose, and counted among his friends Andrew P. Hill, artist, photographer, and the father of California State Parks. In 1911, Charles, believing the originals had been destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, donated a portfolio of photographs taken by Andrew P. Hill to the California State Library. Among these photographs are two that solve the Roosevelt mystery.

One shows Charles among the other distinguished guests who greeted Theodore Roosevelt in San Jose in May, 1903, when he visited California. The other is of him dressed as a Rough Rider. It is pretty obvious that the President made a favorable and lasting impression on Charles.

Ever afterward, until it became a park, a photograph of Theodore Roosevelt resided on the mantel of the ranch house on Pine Ridge. In memory of Charles, and also in memory of Theodore, who was, after all, one of the biggest advocates of parks, his photograph has been placed in the living room display in the visitor center.



Theodore Roosevelt in San Jose

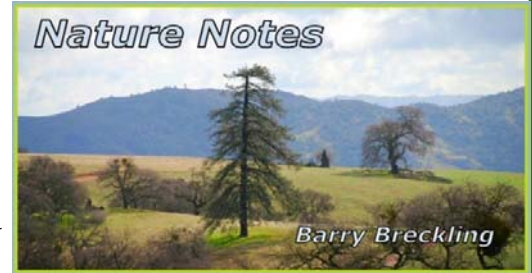


Charles Coe, Rough Rider

Photographs taken by Andrew P. Hill.

# The Gray Fox

The sun has set and the pale shades of dusk are slowly fading into the grays of early evening. Splitting the stillness is a strange sound: “Aowww!” It sounds like someone responding to a nasty pinch. Then, out from under an oak tree’s moonlight shadows crept a creature with a long fluffy tail. It’s a fox, and if you’d seen it during the day you would have noticed its red-trimmed gray coat. The Gray Fox is a common mammal in Coe Park, and its range extends from Southern Canada all the way south to Venezuela and Columbia. Its scientific name is *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*; *Urocyon* means tailed dog and *cinereoargenteus* means silver gray, for the fox’s grizzled gray coat. Gray Foxes also have rusty red on their underparts and on the backs of their ears, enough red that they’re sometimes mistaken for Red Foxes. Red Foxes are not native to California but have been introduced here and are seen at lower elevations, including in the Santa Clara Valley. (The rare and threatened Sierra Nevada Red Fox is found in higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and north into Oregon). Red Foxes have a predominantly red coat and a white-tipped tail; Gray Foxes have a black-tipped tail. A species related to the Gray Fox, *Urocyon latoralis*, lives on six of the eight Channel Islands off the Southern California coast. It’s much smaller than its mainland cousin.



Gray Foxes might be called “omnivoracious” carnivores. They eat a wide variety of animals and plants, including rodents, rabbits, birds, bird eggs, snakes, lizards, insects, carrion, berries (which at times make up 70 percent of their diet), nuts, and seeds. They den in hollow logs, rock piles, heavy brush, underground holes, and even in trees.

Gray Foxes, by the way, can climb trees, and they’re the only member of the dog family in North and South American that can do so. I’d read that Gray Foxes were tree climbers and I imagined seeing one someday scampering up a slanted tree trunk. One night when I was driving along East Dunne Avenue on my way home I was amazed when I saw a fox climb straight up a vertical oak tree trunk and then turn around and climb straight down! These acrobatic foxes have hooked toenails that have allowed them to master the art of tree climbing, which they do probably more for egg thievery and such than for the fun of it.

Female Gray Foxes have two to seven kits in a litter (though the average is four kits). They typically give birth in April, and by late summer the kits have matured enough to set out on their own.

Gray Foxes are preyed upon by Golden Eagles, Great Horned Owls, Coyotes, and occasionally Bobcats. They can get distemper, rabies, parvovirus, and heartworm. We found many dead foxes at Coe Park some years back. What was causing the die-off was never determined, but it was several years before the foxes made a comeback.

Foxes are mostly nocturnal and crepuscular (active at dawn or dusk), and I often saw them trotting along the road when I was driving up or down Dunne Avenue in the evening. They’d scurry off the road as soon as they heard my vehicle and I just assumed they kept on running, which is what coyotes usually seem to do. One night, I pulled over at a spot where I’d seen a fox leave the road thinking that I just might get one last glimpse of him as he hurried off but there he was, hunkered down a few feet off the road, looking up at me. I think this wise little guy was waiting for me to be out of there so he could get back to hunting rodents along the road.



Photos by Barry Breckling.



# Some Coe Park Fun Events

By Chere Bargar

## Fun Fungi Hike

Chris McIntosh led this hike on the Timm's Trail where she pointed out around a dozen different fungi. It was amazing to see so many shapes, sizes and colors once you learned where to look.

Reservations for this hike filled to capacity quickly. We will invite Chris to come again next winter.



Bird's Nest Fungi.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.

## Raincoats and Rubber Boots

Around 80 people braved the predicted rainy weather and came to enjoy a day playing in the creek. Except for one brief shower, the skies were clear. Kids raced their rubber ducks and boats downstream. Some brought their own homemade boats, a few brought boogie boards and floated with the current. It is fun to watch the kids all dressed up in their raincoats and rubber boots when they first go in the creek. Their boots are short, and after a few steps, the water runs over the top. The kids look down when they feel the water invading and just stand still and watch until the boots fill up. Then they get an "oh well" look on their faces and charge in. They also enjoyed making bracelets out of beads while learning about the water cycle and going on a scavenger hunt and finding out some fun facts about some of Coe's plants and animals.

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.

### National Trails Day; Anza Trail celebration

Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5

For this special event to celebrate the National Park Service (NPS) 100th anniversary, we will be hiking the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail that travels through Henry W. Coe State Park. Saturday camp overnight at Manzanita Point and enjoy a fireside chat presented by NPS Ranger Hale Sargent. Sunday, hike the Anza trail. All details, times and alternatives are on the Coe Park website, [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net).

### Hunting Hollow 5K/10K Fun Run and Walk

Saturday, June 11, 9:00am.

Hunting Hollow is the location for the Henry Coe 5K/10K Fun Run and Walk again this year. With high ridges on both sides, the relatively flat dirt trail passes through late spring flowers such as California roses, lupine, and clarkia, with glimpses of farewell-to-spring blooms scattered through the grasses. Sycamore, bay, and oak trees shade Hunting Hollow to the turnaround at the end of the hollow for the 10K. The 5K follows the same route and turns around half way.

The winter rains have added water to several creek crossings. Occasionally along the way local residents such as deer, coyotes, and bobcats might be sighted. Golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, or turkey vulture could be gliding on the warm air currents overhead as you travel the route.

The course is mostly flat from the start to the turnaround point. It is an out and back course with both the 5K and 10K starting at 9:00 a.m. at the gate from the parking lot.

For registration details:

<http://coepark.net/pineridgeassociation/pra-event-list/details/45-henry-coe-5k10k-fun-run-and-walk>.

### Moonlit Ride

Saturday, September 17

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

### Fall Tarantula Fest and BBQ

Saturday, October 1

More details will be available at [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net) in September.

### Henry Coe State Park Outdoors Meetup

Join this group for guided hikes, talks, and much more.

<http://www.meetup.com/Henry-Coe-State-Park-Outdoors-Meetup/>.

### The Dowdy Visitor Center

The Dowdy visitor center is now open. It will be open Fridays from noon to sunset and Saturdays and Sundays 8am to sunset.

For more details visit the Coe Park website, [www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net).

## PRA Annual Meeting, continued....

Ranger John Verhoeven presented free annual passes to State Parks within the Monterey District to 50 volunteers (uniformed and non-uniformed) 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):

Joseph Belli	Sue Harwager	Lori Oleson	Buddy Schwabe
Jim Brady	Judy Hayamizu	Sam Parker	Greg Scott
Liz Brinkman	Don Holmes	David Perrin	Mitsi Shine
Victor Bubbett	Ken Hulick	Tina Peterson	Heike Stabenow
Dale Combs	Gary Keller	Lois Phillips	Rainer Stabenow
Thomas Conrad	Irwin Koff	Manny Pitta	Dick Stone
Mark Deger	Janet Koff	Karen Pogue	Lourdes Stone
Olga Eames	Daniel Lewis	Art Pon	Philip Strenfel
Ron Erskine	Ed Martini	Bruce Rideout	Bev VanderWeide
Adam Escoto	Jim Mason	Rosemary Rideout	Jim Wright
Ron Fischler	Kathy McBride	Don Savant	Ligaya Yrastorza
Debbie Frederick	Margaret Mary McBride	Diane Scariot	
David Godkin	Mike Meyer	Bill Schloetter	

### Golden Bear Award

The uniformed volunteer committee's Golden Bear Award for exceptional service was given to Paul Liebenberg who joined the volunteer program in 2012. In 2015, Paul volunteered over 700 hours and has volunteered almost 2,300 hours since he joined the volunteer program. He has been a very active member of the springs committee, monitoring the water in each spring and updating its status on the Coe Park website. He is also very involved with trail work, especially the Jim Donnelly trail. And to everyone's delight he was able to fix the windmill at Hunting Hollow.

### 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 was given to Patrick Goodrich. Patrick joined the uniformed volunteer program in 2010 and has volunteered over 1,000 hours since joining the program. He has also served as a park aide at Coe Park. Over the past several years, Patrick has become very interested in working to make the store at the visitor center more attractive to visitors. His vast knowledge of the park serves him well when describing trails and backpacking sites to visitors.

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

Congratulations to everyone!

## 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.

Scott Brenner, San Jose CA  
Jason Herr, Morgan Hill CA  
John Kenny, Berkeley, CA

Matt Morley, Gilroy CA  
Jim Nguyen, Sunnyvale CA

Jain Shaffer, San Jose CA  
Sandie Silva, Gilroy CA

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



## News from Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs

By Laura Domínguez-Yon

California State Parks Foundation Park Champions had their first-ever volunteer work day at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (GYHS) on April 23, 2016. Fifteen Park Champions worked with GYHS volunteers and docents to cut overgrown grass along the roadway and to remove built-up dirt against the wooden walls of an historic structure. Many thanks to Ranger Jen Naber and California State Parks Foundation Park Champions program consultant Stacy Beard for coordinating this collaboration. We were able to get much-needed work done and the Park Champions program provided lunch, insurance, some supplies, and tools and handled all publicity and enrollment. Volunteers came from Sacramento, Fresno, San Francisco, Capitola, and the South Bay area. Like Henry W. Coe State Park uniformed volunteers, these people are dedicated individuals who want to support State Parks. They differ from Coe Park uniformed volunteers in that they help in a variety of parks rather than just one. In turn, they see new places, sometimes camping on site as a perk for volunteering. They are not trained park representatives but they provide the extra hands and labor for specific projects. Please visit the Park Champions website for more information and for opportunities to volunteer at other State Parks: <http://calparks.org/help/park-champions/>.



Moving dirt away from a wooden structure.

We are honored to have the California Genealogical Society (CGS) volunteer to transcribe the 1938-1942 GYHS guest register into a searchable database. CGS President, Linda Harms Okazaki, will lead this project and welcomes volunteer help. Linda will be at our event Saturday May 28th if you have questions about researching your own family genealogy. GYHS volunteer Komo Gauvreau will work with Linda to ensure that the database is comprehensive and functional. Why, you may ask, do we want to transcribe the guest register? We're learning about the people who visited GYHS. Take, for example, the August 1941 signatures of Peter Doyle (of St. Joseph's Military Academy), Rosaleen Doyle (of New York), and Alice Phelan Doyle (Jeezel Beezel). First, we see the humor—research reveals that Alice was also from New York. Further research shows that these young people were the nephew and nieces of Senator and San Jose Mayor James Phelan who, when the Hot Springs was owned by Roop and McDonald, spent time here.

To answer a recent question about the fees and donations collected at GYHS events and our statement that “all the monies go toward GYHS restoration efforts,” note that “restoration efforts” include the “protection, preservation, and restoration of public access” to GYHS. We want our efforts to be long-lasting and effective. Protection—security cameras, fence repair, surveillance, events on site—is important to protect preservation and physical restoration.



Park Champions and Coe uniformed volunteers hard at work.



Park Champions, Coe volunteers, and the GYHS team at the end of the day's work. Photos courtesy of CSPF.



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Morgan Hill, CA  
Permit No. 160

Pine Ridge Association  
Henry W. Coe State Park  
9100 East Dunne Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

408-779-2728

---

### **PRA Board of Directors**

Dan Benefiel, President  
Ron Erskine, Vice President  
Steve McHenry, Secretary  
Cynthia Leeder, Treasurer  
Ken Howell  
Mark Maderos  
Peter Verbica  
Manny Pitta, Chair of the Volunteer Committee  
Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger

### **PRA Volunteer Committee**

Cameron Bowers, Volunteer Coordinator  
Manny Pitta, Chair  
Ken Howell  
Michael Hundt  
Allene Liebenberg  
John Thatcher  
Dave Waldrop

### **Contributors for this issue**

Heather Ambler, publisher  
Libby Vincent, editor  
Chere Bargar, author  
Joseph Belli, author, photographer  
Barbara Bessey, author  
Barry Breckling, author, photographer  
Sue Dekalb, photographer  
Laura Dominguez-Yon, author, photographer  
Teddy Goodrich, author

### **Mailing & Distribution**

John Thatcher  
Heather Ambler, 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](mailto:mannypitta@gmail.com).

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

**Deadline for the next issue: July 31, 2016**

© 2016 The Pine Ridge Association