

The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Coe's Charms

By Ron Erskine, President, PRA Board



Summer 2009

A Favorite Spot

All of us who have had the good fortune to grow familiar with Henry Coe State Park have favorite places there that speak to us. Perhaps it's by one of the lakes or ponds. Maybe it's a prominent place like Bear Mountain or Robison Mountain where views stretch for miles. Or maybe it's down below in San Antonio Valley or Mustang Flat where the hills recede and there's a wonderful sense of spaciousness.

These are great candidates for favorite places and there are many, many more. But if I had to pick just one special place in the park to visit again and again, I think I would pick Eric's Bench atop Pine Ridge.

First, the ponderosa pines. Their very presence there is unlikely, yet they are monarchs, not runts. "Whispering" is a terribly overused word to describe the wind moving through pines, but whatever you call that rustle-less whirr, it sounds like peacefulness and transports a person.

The oak. I can't think of a more majestic tree in the park. And what is it? It is massive and spreading like a valley oak but has smaller, less deeply incised leaves like a blue oak. Barry Breckling always felt it was a hybrid of the two. If it is, it's a fine testament to interspecies hanky-panky.

The bench. Is there a finer, more dignified memorial anywhere? In an earlier issue of *The Ponderosa*, Libby Vincent beautifully described the story of the tragic loss of Eric David May on Mt. Shasta in 1988.

(You can read that story now at <http://www.coepark.org/cultural-history/erics-bench.html>.)

Eric would be pleased with such a simple but elegant remembrance. I'm sure his spirit rests often at the bench.

The outlook. Near and far, each compass point offers a different and wonderful sight. In the distance to the west and south, the Hollister Hills and the full extent of the Santa Clara Valley. To the east and south, the peaks of the San Carlos range south of Highway 152—Mariposa, the Henriettas, Santa Ana. Closer, open, oak-studded grasslands fall away to the southwest, while madrones, oaks, and pines densely cloak the northeast slope down to the Little Fork of Coyote Creek.

These things come together on Pine Ridge in such an artistic way that they create a faraway feeling like nowhere else in the park. As a young man coming of age, the idea of sitting alone in a peaceful setting would have seemed to me like some kind of punishment. Now, it's nearly my favorite thing to do—and there is no better place to do it than on that bench.



View from the bench looking southwest, photo by Heather Ambler

Inside this issue:

<i>Coe's Charms</i> by Ron Erskine	1
<i>News from FOGHS</i>	2
<i>Stock Ponds</i> by Teddy Goodrich	3
<i>Poker in the Park</i> by Chere Bargar	4
<i>Park and PRA news</i>	5
<i>5k/10k race update</i>	6
<i>PRA calendar</i> Must read notices	7
<i>Mounted assistance unit (MAU) happenings</i>	8
<i>Squirrels of Coe</i> by Barry Breckling	9,10
<i>Volunteer committee news</i>	10,11
<i>HQ visitor center news</i>	11

News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

August celebration of the first full year for Friends Of Gilroy Hot Springs

After 47 years, Gilroy Hot Springs was once again open to the public for a special "Walk Through History" on May 16, 2009. The event was successful beyond anything we imagined! While the majority of the over 200 visitors were locals who had never been to Gilroy Hot Springs before, we also enjoyed seeing people who had frequented the hot springs between 1920 and 1967. Almost all visitors were unaware of the rich history of this mineral resort, so it was an extra treat for them to become a part of its continuing legacy.

Many thanks to many, many people for contributing to the success of our May event:

- Eddie Guaracha for providing guided van tours to our limited mobility guests, plus providing resources and crew from State Park staff.
- Mitsi Shine for the inspirational idea for the event, coordinating and leading tours.
- Matt Bischoff for planning, coordinating, and leading tours.
- FOGHS members for behind-the-scenes preparation and publicity, and for on-site hosting duties.
- John Verhoeven for guiding tours, encouraging PRA uniformed volunteers, and setup.
- Gilroy Historical Society volunteers for lending us the costume aprons.
- PRA uniformed volunteers.
- The Tarantulas jug band.
- Many friends who jumped in to lend a hand.
- Special acknowledgement to Connie Rogers (Gilroy Historical Society), Susan Voss (Gilroy Historic Museum), Kathleen Jarvis (Valley of the Hearts Delight Meet-Up Group), Tim Peddy (Santa Clara County California Pioneers), and Chris Bone (Gilroy Dispatch) for word-of-mouth, print, and online dissemination of information about Gilroy Hot Springs and the May event.

We welcomed many tours in spring this year. Many thanks to Russ Mabery for accompanying me in presenting to these groups, and to John Verhoeven, Cameron Bowers, and PRA uniformed volunteer Teddy Goodrich for leading groups. If you have a group that would like a tour, contact us to make reservations at info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org or (408) 314 7185.

FOGHS is very appreciative of the support provided by California State Parks Gavilan Sector Superintendent Eddie Guaracha. With his vision, leadership, initiative, and prudent management of resources, Gilroy Hot Springs has received more positive media attention, more volunteer interest, more safety and preservation preparation, and more inquiries about tours and future planning. Eddie's agreement with Anzar High School is continuing to contribute labor to protect some of the buildings, he's overseeing an Eagle Scout fire abatement project on site, and paperwork has been initiated to rebuild a septic system, pending fundraising.

You are invited to participate in future events, and invite others:

September 5, 2009, a western BBQ benefiting FOGHS. For more information, see our website <http://www.FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org>

Check the website for more information about the following:

- Photographer's tour. Join this sunup-to-noon tour with other photographers.
- Bus tour from Japantown San Francisco and Japantown San Jose to Gilroy Hot Springs, a side trip to San Juan Bautista or the outlet stores, on-board Gilroy Hot Springs history presentation, and a box lunch included.
- Dramatic adaptation of H.K. Sakata's biography
- Photo exhibit and auction



3rd graders enjoying a field trip to Gilroy Hot Springs

Reading the Landscape

By Teddy Goodrich

Stock Ponds

Stock ponds are the most visible remnant of Coe Park's cattle-ranching past. More than one hundred of them, all historic, dot the landscape. Water has always been one of the most important resources in shaping Coe's history; early homesteaders made their claims on land with viable, year-round springs. The creeks—Coyote, Pacheco, Robison, and Orestimba—may once have provided enough water to support wild game, water fowl, and a small prehistoric human population, but their water can be seasonal and almost nonexistent during periods of drought. Stock ponds allowed Coe's historic ranchers to provide a reliable water source for their cattle and horses.

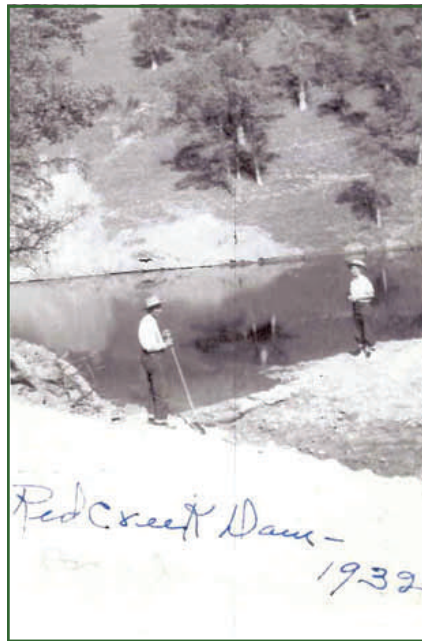
Why are there so many stock ponds? So the cattle would not bunch up and gather at only one water source. A herd that is spread out does not eat all the available feed in one area.

The earliest stock ponds were built with a mule team and Fresno scraper. James Porteous, a Fresno area farmer, invented the Fresno scraper in 1883. The Fresno scraper was essentially a C-shaped bucket with a scraper along its bottom front edge. The scraper was supported by runners and was pulled by either a two-horse or four-horse (or mule) team. Earth was scraped into the bucket and moved to a new location. Valley farmers used the scrapers to construct ditches and canals for irrigation. Between 1884 and 1910, thousands of Fresno scrapers were produced by Porteous's company, the Fresno Agricultural Works. The scraper was used all over the world and has been recognized as one of the most important agricultural and civil engineering machines ever made. The scrapers played a vital role in the construction of the Panama Canal, and in 1941 they were attached to the front of a Caterpillar tractor and called "a bulldozer."

John and Robert Snodgrass, proprietors of the 40,000 acre Orestimba Ranch from 1921 until 1947, built many ponds. In a 1985 interview, Garzas rancher Bill Miller recalled "Snodgrass ... had 40 some odd dams up there. They were all made with teams." Today one of the dams they built, Paradise Lake, is a remote but popular destination for park visitors.

With adequate feed and available water, the Snodgrasses were able to maintain a year-round "cow-calf" operation. The ponds also provided recreation for their families and friends. A young visitor recalled swimming in one of the ponds, but only after a large sheet of canvas had been put down on the bank so she didn't have to walk through mud to get to the water. The ponds were also stocked with fish, and fishing was a popular pastime. A diary entry by John's daughter, Marigene, reads "Last night we went up to Ryan Dam

where the game warden stocked it with fish. We got no fish, though there were plenty jumping."



During World War II meat was rationed and cattlemen did everything they could to increase production. At this time the Brem family built many of the stock ponds on the Dowdy Ranch using a Fresno scraper. They even made their own

"bulldozer." With arms fashioned in the metal shop at Gilroy High School, they attached the scraper blade to the front of their tractor and continued to build ponds.

Today the ponds are a source of life-giving water in an often unforgiving climate. They abound with wildlife: wood ducks, mallards, coots, black phoebes, kingfishers, lesser yellow legs, California newts, western pond turtles, blue gill, and green sunfish along with red-legged frogs and tiger salamanders. Along the banks of the ponds, the footprints of all the park's large mammals can be found—deer, mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, and wild pigs.

Many of the smaller ponds are popular visitor destinations: Mustang Pond, Jackrabbit Lake, Redfern Pond, Rodeo Pond, Frog Lake, and tiny Fish Pond just off the road down Hunting Hollow. Stock ponds no longer provide water for cattle but are quiet places to camp, fish, and watch birds and wildlife. Check out a pond on your next visit to the park!

Poker in the Park

By Chere Bargar

Saturday May 16th was HOT. Still, a number of hikers, bikers, and equestrians came to Hunting Hollow to participate in the Poker in the Park event. Hikers and equestrians followed the trail down Hunting Hollow and back while the bike route went through the Coyote Creek entrance and made a loop on the Anza Trail.

Participants picked up playing cards at card stops along the way. Everyone met back at Hunting Hollow where tables were set up under the trees in welcome shade. After a BBQ lunch, prizes were handed out; the person with the best hand got to choose first prize from a large selection of items. There were so many prizes that every hand won a prize and there were even some prizes left over.

We received several thank you notes, this quote from one participant.

"I just wanted to give feedback on the Poker Ride held this last Saturday, May 16 at Hunting Hollow. My husband and I both rode our horses, and we both enjoyed the day very much. The entire event was organized very well by efficient, effective, and friendly people. Very well done! The food was plentiful and good, the atmosphere congenial and fun. We really appreciated the knowledgeable, experienced people stationed along the trail, and the catch [safety] rider was a great addition. Everything ran [on time] and efficiently, but in a very relaxed manner. There was also a really nice selection of prizes and raffle items.

"Nicely done, great ride and location, great people. Would love to see it happen again! Thanks to all involved for the great effort!"

This year's Poker in the Park Ride was hosted by the Coe volunteer mounted assistance unit, but many other Coe volunteers and friends came out to help. Their support is greatly appreciated. We would like to make this an annual event; it's a great way to bring a variety of park users together to enjoy the park. Look for the signup sheet at the next annual meeting. We'll need lots of help!



Searching for cards, photo by Jim Swartz

New Members

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

Dawn Anderson, San Jose
 David, Maria & Sada Bruhns, Gilroy
 Marnie Dunsmore, San Francisco
 Stephen Lovas, Hollister
 Rey Morales, Morgan Hill
 Tim & Barbara Peddy, San Jose
 Manny Pitta, San Jose
 Dennis & Melinda Watts, Gilroy

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

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

Park News

By Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger

As I write this edition of the park news, the governor has signed the budget for fiscal year 2009-2010. Despite this good news, it appears that the amended budget has given our department an increased budget reduction of \$14.2 million. This increased budget reduction comes as an unexpected blow to our park operations, both at Henry W. Coe and across the state.

At this time, it has not been determined how many parks will be forced to close, but the possibility remains that Henry W. Coe may be among them. While the department is sure to face difficult times for the rest of the year and into 2010, it appears that most parks, but not all, will remain open. If Henry W. Coe remains open, we will need the help of the volunteers to help to continue to provide some services to the public.

In an effort to keep the park open, please consider privately soliciting both private and corporate donations that could go directly to supporting park



operations at Henry W. Coe and supplement the reduced budget the park will receive. These donations would be earmarked specifically for Coe Park and would not be available to the state for any other purpose. Please contact me personally for more information at (408) 842 9249.

I would like to thank the many volunteers and Pine Ridge Association members who took the time to write and speak to their legislators on behalf of the California State Park System and let them know just how important our parks are to you and to the public. With your support, the State Park system will be able to weather these difficult economic times and continue to protect the valuable natural and cultural resources entrusted to it.

News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

In this and future issues of *The Ponderosa* we'll provide a summary of agenda topics and actions taken at Pine Ridge Association board meetings. This is a brief summary of our meeting on Wednesday July 29, 2009.

- Bonnie Stromberg was welcomed to the PRA board in her capacity as the new chair of the volunteer committee.
- Diana Maloney was also welcomed as a new board member to complete the term of Ross Campbell.
- Treasurer Dan McCranie reported that net income of \$6,039 through June 30, 2009 is down about 20% from previous years, due mostly to a drop in visitor center sales.
- Eddie Guaracha reported that over five weeks beginning in mid-June a series of three-day interpretive programs at the park was provided for approximately 1,000 children in the Gilroy School District.
- The PRA's contract with the state is up for renewal. The board resolved to establish a new contract that will be virtually the same as the existing contract.
- Many raffle winners at last year's Tarantulafest never received their prizes. Barbara Bessey reported on progress to identify these people, correct this terrible snafu, and ensure it won't happen again.
- Barbara Bessey also reported on progress on the new Coe Park website, www.pineridgeassociation.org. She hopes to have the content of www.coepark.org transferred to the new site by January 2010.
- An anthology of Sada Coe's writings that has been beautifully edited by Carolyn Straub is being printed and will be available soon.

The next meeting of the board will be held on September 23 at 7.00pm at MHPD. All PRA members are welcome to attend. Contact number: (408) 779 5335

Ron Erskine
President, Board of the Pine Ridge Association

News from the 9th Annual Hunting Hollow 5k/10k Race and Fun Run

By Ken Howell



Saturday June 13th was a glorious day for the ninth annual Henry Coe 5K/10K fun run and walk in Hunting Hollow. It was cool in the morning, a temperature of 64 degrees but lots of sunshine, perfect running and walking weather. Race preparations had started the evening before when volunteers gathered in Hunting Hollow to stuff runners' packets with racing numbers and T-shirts for the event. Volunteers put up a tent and set up tables for registration, timing, posting results, and food and water for the runners, and set up the two turnaround stations on the race course.

Bright and early at 6:30am on race day, the volunteers arrived to finish preparations for the runners. By 7:30am cars were being squeezed into the Hunting Hollow parking lot as runners and walkers arrived to pick up their registration packets or register when they arrived.



Registration, photo by Dave Raiman

At 9:00am, the run started with 229 folks charging through the gate and on the course down Hunting Hollow. Soon, the cry of "first male 5K runner" was heard and Ruben Collins crossed the finish line steps ahead of second-place finisher Anthony Alfier, both with a time of 18:37. Shortly afterward, Anjelica Collins became the first-place female 5K runner with a time of 24:34. Yes, both Ruben and Anjelica are not only siblings but also repeated their victories of last year. Ruben is 13 and Anjelica is 11. Derec Pesta led the rest of the 10K runners and Alana Henrickson brought home the first-place trophy for the women's 10K.

We had a great run and walk this year. The only disappointment was the lack of water in Hunting Hollow Creek. However, I have asked the runners to do their favorite rain dance again this fall so we'll have lots of water to splash through next year.



They're off! Photo by Dave Raiman.
Please visit www.coe.org for many more photos and news regarding the run.

The PRA Calendar

Saturday, September 5, 2009, a western BBQ benefiting FOGHS. For more information, see our website <http://www.FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org>

Saturday, October 3, the annual *Tarantulafest*. Mark your calendars for the fun-filled day. More information is available at www.coepark.org **including** ticket sales.

Saturday, November 7, fall trail day. Contact Rob Glover at wrglover@yahoo.com or Ranger Cameron Bowers at cbowe@parks.ca.gov

Saturday, February 6, 2010, PRA Annual meeting.

Upcoming horse-related events

Saturday, September 5, Coe Park history ride, Hunting Hollow

Saturday, September 19, Moonlight ride and potluck, Hunting Hollow

For more information contact: Bonnie at bonniestromberg@yahoo.com

Important notices, please read...

- **The Dowdy.** The Bell's Station entrance and the Dowdy Ranch visitor center are now **CLOSED**.
- **T-Fest Raffle Snafu.** A number of raffle winners at last year's Tarantulafest never received their prizes. We have not been able to identify all of those affected. If you are one of those who didn't receive their raffle prize, or if you know the name of anyone who did not receive their prize, please email Ron Erskine at ronfoxtail@msn.com or call him at (408) 779 5335.
- **Your *e-ponderosa* in color**
Please consider the environment and if you haven't already done so, send your email address to membership@coepark.org so we can inform you when your *e-Ponderosa* is ready to be read online.
- **Park closure information.** If you'd like to receive current updates on the park closure battle, please notify John Wilkinson at johnfw1@mac.com and he will add you to his list.

Please note that tickets for the **Tarantulafest** will be available on line at

- www.coepark.org



MAU Happenings

By Bonnie Stromberg

What it takes to be a great MAU horse

This is the first of a series of articles about the horses used for Coe Park's mounted assistance unit (MAU). This article is not about any particular mount; rather, I'll describe what it takes to have a great MAU horse. You don't just throw a saddle on any horse, take it to the park, and expect it to perform with confidence and have an even temperament. A horse is as much a representative of the park as a uniformed volunteer is, and needs to be trained for conditions in the park. It is critical that the horse behave in front of the public and while on patrol; not all horses are suited for this role.

Training for the conditions encountered in the park is broad and varied and can take several months or even years. Often times when training a horse you take it in steps, just like a baby learning to crawl before it walks.

One of the most common things to confront a horse is "scary things." Things that are scary to a horse are completely different from things that are scary to a human. There are things that scare horses that *move*, for example, flapping plastic bags, waving flags, ribbons tied to trees, moving bicycles, fire hoses being dragged, hikers with backpacks, or, even worse, fishermen carrying inflatable rafts, or horse-drawn carriages. Then there are the scary *animal things* such as deer or pigs, cattle or llamas, or even miniature horses.



And there are also the scary things that *don't move*: big rocks, parked earth-moving equipment, bridges, feed buckets, and any confined space. And then there's *water*: in a trough, flowing, rushing, or just standing. Over the years I've shared my life with horses, all of these things have scared one or more of my horses.

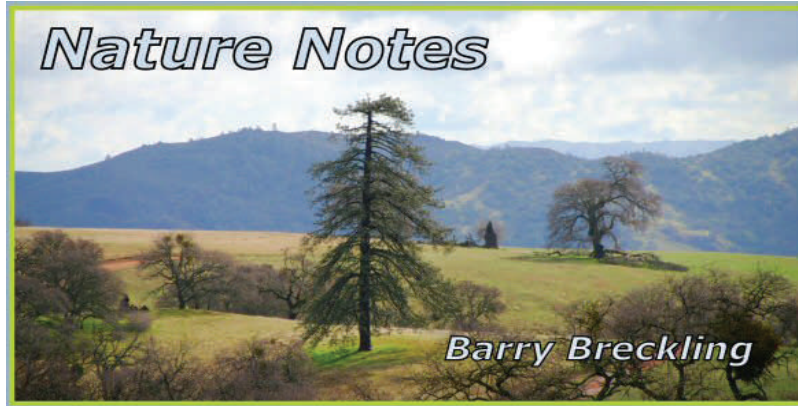
Not all horses are scared of things that move or other animals or water, etc., but it would be the rare horse that's not scared of any of them. Being a prey animal, their survival depends on it. Horses are as individual as their human counterparts. The good news is that most horses can be trained to accept these "scary things." A good MAU horse should be able to handle all of them.

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

If you would like to read about the horses lost in Coe Park, follow this link: <http://mysite.verizon.net/bls3/coepark/coelosthorses.html>

Upcoming horse-related events

September 5: Coe Park history ride, Hunting Hollow
 September 19: Moonlight ride and potluck, Hunting Hollow



The Squirrels of Coe

Three species of squirrels live in Coe Park. Two of them, the California ground squirrel and the western gray squirrel, are natives. The other species, the fox squirrel, is an import from the eastern U.S.

California ground squirrels are common in the park. They live in open areas, usually in small colonies, and build long burrows in the ground with multiple entrances. They feed on vegetation near their burrows but also eat insects, carrion, and bird eggs. Although they spend most of their time on or below the ground, they will climb trees in search of food. They store plant material in their burrows for winter food.



The California ground squirrel

Ground squirrels will over-populate areas where the ground cover has been removed, such as in fields that have been overgrazed by cattle. The squirrels have become a nuisance around park headquarters in areas that are mowed for fire

protection. When ground cover is tall, the squirrels have difficulty spotting their predators and their numbers are kept in check. One ground squirrel will often act as a sentinel. It will produce a single loud chirp if it sees an aerial predator, such as a hawk, and all the squirrels will dash to the nearest burrow. If the sentinel spots a land predator, such as a coyote or snake, it will face the predator and chirp repetitively.

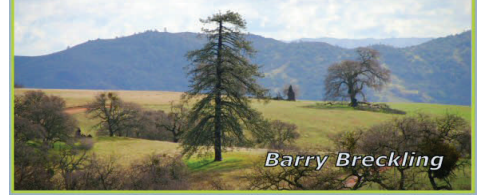
Rattlesnakes and ground squirrels have a close relationship. One of the major foods for rattlesnakes is young ground squirrels; adults are too large to be eaten and are immune to rattlesnake venom. If a coyote or other predator is hot on the trail of a ground squirrel, the squirrel will puff up its tail, giving the predator a non-vital target to go after.

Since ground squirrels have been known to harbor the flea that carries plague, people have used various methods to control their numbers.

Western gray squirrels are easily distinguished from ground squirrels by their noticeably larger tail.



The Western gray squirrel

Nature Notes**Squirrels of Coe continued....**

Gray squirrels often hold their tail over their bodies for protection from predators. They're at home in trees but spend a fair bit of time searching for food on the ground. Their major foods are pine nuts and acorns, which they bury and retrieve later when food is scarce. Unretrieved nuts often sprout into new trees. The squirrels build nests in tree cavities or make stick nests high up in trees.

About 40 years ago gray squirrels were common on the west side of Coe Park, where there is good habitat for them. Now they're seen only rarely and only on the east side of the park in marginal habitat. What could cause such a strange shift? Likely it was the invasion of the non-native fox squirrels, also a type of tree squirrel. They can be distinguished from gray squirrels by their rusty red under parts. They were released into city parks such as San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and then gradually spread out into most of the Bay Area.

The fox squirrel is an example of problems that occur when non-native species are introduced into an area.



The fox squirrel

News from your Volunteer Committee

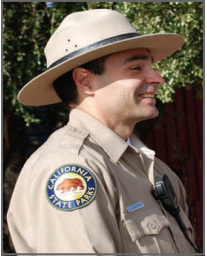
By Bonnie Stromberg Chair

Lots of things are happening with the volunteer program and the volunteer committee. First, we have been without a chair. I wish I could tell you that we have gone through an extensive worldwide recruitment process to find a chair, but I can't. Since no-one would step up to the plate, I'm it, and since Bill Frazer flinched at the meeting, he's vice chair! That being said, I hope any and all will pass along your concerns, observations, and comments to me directly. I want to know how we can make the volunteer organization the best it can be.

We have a new committee member, Jim Swartz. Jim has kindly agreed to take on the subcommittee position for retention and morale. There will be more to report about this in the next newsletter.

New volunteer recruiting has been down significantly the last two years. This year we put in place a number of initiatives to support our recruiting efforts. I hope all of you will take a look at our new brochure, "Application to Join the Uniformed Volunteer Group"; copies are available at the visitor center. If you are working there, please make sure there is a supply available to the public. You can also wear one of our new

Continued on page 11.....



News from the Headquarters Visitor Center for volunteers

By John Verhoeven

Hello, Henry Coe volunteers. Summer is here and I want to put a thank-you out to those of you helping at the visitor centers. Your work is much needed. The volunteer program at Coe has been changing to meet the current demands at the park and encourage volunteerism at the park. The biggest news is that the 20-hour requirement for volunteers to staff the visitor center is not required any more. The 50-hour requirement per year is still in effect.

The other change that is being discussed at the volunteer committee meetings is having all volunteers at Coe be uniformed. As it is right now, there are uniformed volunteers and then there are non-uniformed trails, springs, equestrian, bicycle, Gilroy Hot Springs, and specialty volunteers. Eddie and I are working on creating uniform options for all volunteers so every volunteer will be easily recognizable by the public.

Those of you who are current uniformed volunteers will keep your current shirts since you have the most training you can have as volunteers at the park. Some of the other uniform options being discussed are vests that have a volunteer patch and some kind of volunteer type identification on them (for example, maintenance, docent, patrol). Details will be coming soon, hopefully.

The training this fall will change to be more flexible for new volunteers who want to work at the park. Every volunteer will attend four days of training, two of which will be the ride-along. There will be several categories of uniformed volunteers—maintenance, interpretive and visitor contact, and patrol. Each of the specialties may require more training. If a new volunteer attends all the training they will have the same training that a current uniformed volunteer has attended.

If a volunteer attends only the four days of training, they are essentially a trainee who can still work alongside an experienced volunteer, pending further training. I will share more information as changes are decided on. The current reward structure will remain in place in terms of district and system-wide passes, volunteer to senior volunteer advancement, and the volunteer service award.

Thank you for your continued support of Coe. I hope to continue working with you going forward.

John Verhoeven
Ranger
Henry W. Coe State Park
(408) 842 9249

Volunteer committee news continued...

badges, “Why Volunteer?” while working the desk, standing below our volunteer banner, with the volunteer poster at your side. Ranger John has a supply of pins and brochures. You may also refer potential volunteers to this website which has current information about our volunteer program including applications and who to contact: www.volunteermatch.org and search for “Coe Park” or www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp443661.jsp.

All our recruiting efforts have paid off. I am extremely happy to report that we have received 35 applications for our 2009 uniformed volunteer class. I hope you read Ranger John’s article, (above) which describes the changes being made in the volunteer hour requirements and the training.

Lastly, I want to invite all uniformed volunteers to our ride-along this year. As in past years, all uniformed volunteers are invited but I have heard that some volunteers have felt this is only for newbies. All uniformed volunteers are welcome to join the actual ride-along to view all the locations in the park or just come directly to Pacheco Camp and help out with setup and logistics. If you haven’t been on a ride-along in some time, I promise you that the dinner will be a delicious surprise. And there is ample time to socialize with other volunteers, enjoy a campfire talk, and fall asleep under starry skies. Please put October 10-11 on your calendar and look for the sign up in September. (Uniformed volunteers only.)



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Jim Brady
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Jim Swartz

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The Ponderosa is a publication of the Pine Ridge Association with four issues per year. The PRA's mission is to enhance and enrich the public's experience at Henry W. Coe State Park through education and interpretation. Articles and artwork relating to the natural history, history, and management of the park are welcome. Also, interested in volunteering? Email bonniestromberg@yahoo.com

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

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