

# The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter  
Henry W. Coe State Park

## Coe Park Preservation Fund News

### COE PARK PRESERVATION FUND CALLS ON THE LEGISLATURE TO RETURN HIDDEN FUNDS TO STATE PARKS

Group says state must act before end of next legislative session or risk losing private donations supporting Henry W. Coe Park  
Morgan Hill, Calif. (July 26, 2012) --

The Coe Park Preservation Fund (CPPF), which donated more than a quarter of a million dollars to save Henry W. Coe Park from the budget axe, says that the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) used inaccurate financial data when it negotiated the rescue plan with the non-profit CPPF.

The inaccuracies were made clear after the recent discovery that nearly \$54 million in cash had been hidden by DPR accounting staff, forcing the resignation of the agency's chief last week.

The discovered funds include \$20 million from entry and concession fees and \$34 million from an off-road vehicle account intended for motorcycle and dune buggy parks.

In light of the incorrect assertions by the DPR about its dire financial situation, CPPF is calling upon the Legislature, during its next scheduled session, to allocate \$20 million of the hidden funds back to their original intended use -- the operation of the California State Park system.

"There is no doubt that many of these funds were collected by the DPR from California citizens visiting and enjoying our beautiful state parks," said Daniel McCranie, CPPF treasurer and board member. "It is both logical and morally correct that these discovered funds be allocated to the department from which they were collected -- the California State Parks."

CPPF believes Coe Park rangers and superintendents and the former DPR director had no knowledge of this deception and negotiated in good faith. Nevertheless, both negotiating parties were deceived by those responsible for the hiding of these funds. As a result, fundraising efforts launched in 2011 by the CPPF were unnecessary for the current fiscal year.

"These funds were available even as we were being informed that a lack of money at the DPR, coupled with reductions in state revenues, would result in the closure of dozens of state parks," McCranie said.

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Summer 2012

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## Coe Park Preservation Fund News continued....

In response last year to the state's decision to place Coe Park on the closure list, CPPF was established as a 501(c)(3) organization with the immediate goal of securing private funding sufficient to keep Coe Park open and fully staffed. CPPF was successful in raising enough money to pay for Coe Park employees' salaries and benefits through June 30, 2013.

The payment represented the first year of a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) between DPR and CPPF signed on December 6, 2011.

"The Legislature convenes next week and will remain in session until the end of September," McCranie said. "That's more than enough time for the state to direct these funds, collected by the DPR, back to state parks."

If the Legislature does not act, the CPPF will move to dissolve the 2011 MOU between the CPPF and the California DPR, and will demand the immediate return of the \$279,000 provided on May 25, 2012 to the DPR.

### About CPPF:

The Coe Park Preservation Fund brings together corporations, foundations and individuals dedicated to preserving Henry W. Coe State Park, and ensuring that the park remains open and accessible to all in perpetuity. To fulfill its mission, it has successfully obtained sponsorships from corporations, conservative-minded foundations and concerned individuals ensuring that the basic financial needs of Henry W. Coe State Park – park staff salaries and basic maintenance – will be supported for a minimum of three years. Now, its objective is to create an endowment fund to ensure that Henry W. Coe State Park can be kept open in perpetuity – immune to future economic fluctuations and with continuous public access guaranteed.

### About Coe State Park:

Henry W. Coe State Park is the largest state park in Northern California, with over 87,000 acres of wild, open space. There is year-round enjoyment for hikers, mountain bikers, backpackers, equestrians, picnickers, and those seeking the quiet escape that only nature can provide. Coe Park is the "wilderness next door" for more than six million people in the San Francisco Bay Area. The park is located in the Diablo Range, south of Mount Hamilton.

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## Important Links to Your Legislators

Please write, call, and/or email your legislators as often as you can in the next few weeks to make sure they do the right thing for State Parks:

- <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> and enter your zipcode to find your local senators and assembly members.
- <http://govnews.ca.gov/gov39mail/mail.php> to contact Governor Brown.
- <http://resources.ca.gov/contacts.html> to contact John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources.
- [jbeland@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jbeland@parks.ca.gov) to contact Janelle Beland, Acting Interim Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/d1/Pages/Supervisor-Mike-Wasserman.aspx> to contact Mike Wasserman; the western half of Coe Park lies within his district, District 1.
- <http://www.stancounty.com/board/bosbios/district5.shtm> to contact Jim DeMartini; the eastern portion of Coe Park lies within his district, District 5.
- Or <http://coeparkfund.org/content/write.html> for more detailed information about contacting your state and county government representatives.



## News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

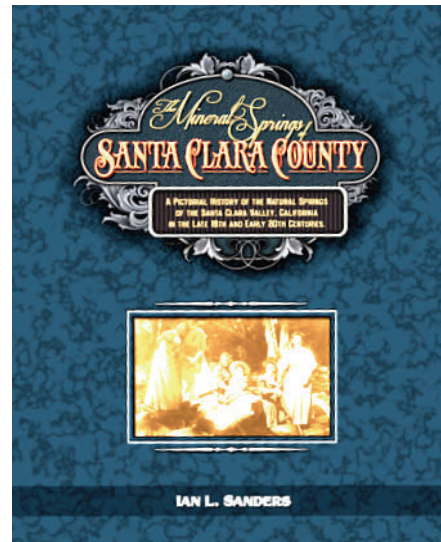
Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs (FOGHS) is transitioning again. After more than ten months without a contract between State Parks and the California Foundation for Architectural Preservation (CalFAP), the FOGHS board, in cooperation with Coe Park staff, decided that FOGHS will disassociate itself from CalFAP and apply to become a separate State Park cooperating Association. CalFAP continues with historic restoration projects in the park because its expertise is valued and appreciated.

In order to maintain continuity and momentum for Gilroy Yamoto Hot Springs (GYHS), FOGHS anticipates a brief return to the Pine Ridge Association acting as fiduciary while paperwork and application forms are completed and approved. Yes, this means reorganization and careful selection of a new board of directors and officers. Would you like to join us? Do you know someone who would be ideal to help guide and positively contribute to the organization? Please let us know your thoughts and recommendations. Contact [info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org) or call me at 408-314-7185. We are looking for people who understand the importance of GYHS both as a portal to Coe Park and because of its historical and cultural significance. Current FOGHS memberships will continue to be recognized.

Have you seen this 2012 book, *The Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County: A Pictorial History of the Natural Springs of the Santa Clara Valley, California in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries* by Ian L. Sanders? It features 30 pages of wonderful images of Gilroy Hot Springs, more of Madrone Springs and much, much more about all the springs you may or may not know in Santa Clara Valley.

*California's Santa Clara Valley is synonymous with the electronics revolution of the second half of the twentieth century. But before the arrival of the inventors, entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists and the frenetic enterprises they build, the valley was home to a more sedate lifestyle.*

*In The Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County, author Ian L. Sanders relates the history of the region's mineral spas, resorts, parks, and springs during their heyday in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Using images from postcards and original photographs, the book takes a nostalgic look back into the springs' elegant traditions, to a time when the valley was a mass of prune and apricot trees and the moniker "Silicon Valley" had not yet been dreamt...*



Order your copy through FOGHS and \$5 of the purchase price will go to the protection, preservation, and restoration of GYHS. Use the form on page 6 and send it to FOGHS, c/o 1236 Miller Ave. San Jose, CA 95129 or email to [info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfGilroyHotSprings.org).

## Bill Levey, 1939-2012

On July 9, 2012 Bill Levey passed away at home after a brief battle with cancer. Bill is survived by his wife, Penny, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

A native of Wisconsin, Bill's love of Coe Park began with weekend camping trips with his young daughters and then his grandchildren. Bill was active for many years with the park's springs committee and trail advisory committee, working to maintain and improve backcountry springs and also trail planning and construction. Bill gave countless hours working with the Landmark Volunteers who spent several summers working at Coe Park.



Bill on Osos Ridge. Photo by Bob Patrie.

In 2000 and 2001, Bill walked nearly every trail in Coe Park as part of the effort to collect the high quality GPS data that was used to create the park's award winning 2002 trail and camping map. His explorations continued as he helped relocate more than one hundred Public Land Survey corners that were placed by the U.S. Government between 1850 and 1881. The rediscovery of these original survey markers helped document the rapidly fading evidence of these surveys, and refine the park's boundaries. Bill also participated in documenting the recovery of Coe Park's ecosystems after the 2007 Lick fire.

Bill loved the outdoors, and cherished his annual backpack trips in Arizona's Tonto National Forest, but his heart was always in Coe Park. The park and all those who knew him have lost a great friend.

"I met Bill while working on Live Oak Spring (Pacheco Camp water system); he was hiking and we started talking and I invited him to join the springs committee. We became friends immediately and shared our love of the park. Bill contributed so much energy to springs projects and developed a website of maps for park visitors. What a delight he became to the committee. He printed a great songbook and played his guitar at all our functions; the music time was the highlight of many springs work weekends. We shared so much joy and the mountain lion sightings were such a treat! What a treasure to have spent time with him." Ruby Domino.

"Bill was such a wonderful spirit. I can see his smile, hear him singing and adding words to the songs as we sang around the campfire, and the maps he created for each area of the park. I remember when GPS systems came out. Bill was so excited about them and he would do mini-lessons—creating a geocache at Pacheco camp to share in the discovery of how to use the then-new devices. His wonderful stories of his backpack trips, his grandchildren. I miss his slow methodical voice describing the springs and materials we would need at each spring box. We have his videotapes documenting the springs and the work we did at each one of them. An incredible family man who loved his wife, children, and grandchildren." Celia McCormack.

"Bill and I made lots of tracks in Coe Park—hiking all of the park's roads and trails collecting GPS data for the 2002 park map, retracing the footprints of the government surveyors who subdivided the land in the late 1800s, and rediscovering the section corners they placed; mapping and photographing the springs and stock ponds scattered across the backcountry. I once took a bad tumble half way down Coon Hunter's Gulch, hitting my head on a rock, leaving me dazed and groggy. Bill guided me across several rock falls and finally to the safety of Hunting Hollow. Without his help that day, I'd probably still be where I fell. I'll miss you, Bill." Bob Patrie.

Continued on page 5....

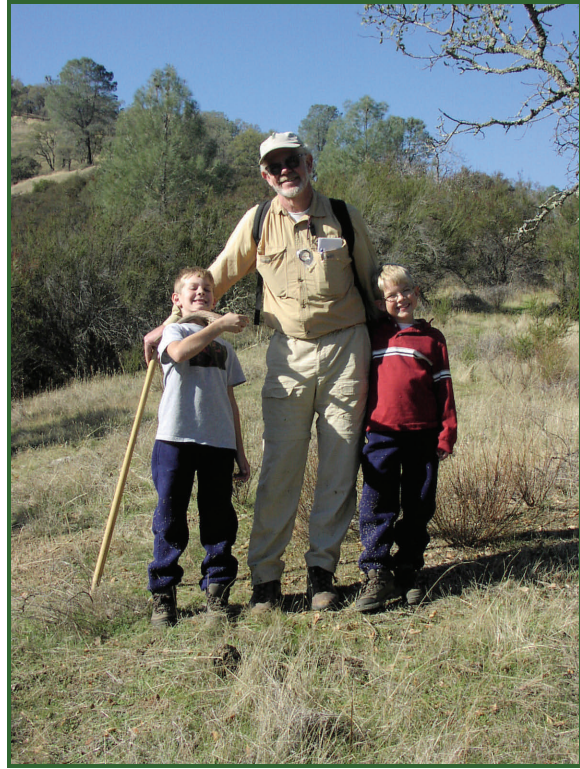


## Bill Levey, 1939-2012, continued....

"The trail advisory committee is where I came to know Bill. We worked together on many projects in Coe Park. In recent years Bill and I hiked almost every week in Coe Park and Santa Clara County parks. These days are some of my fondest memories. I will truly miss Bill; he was a great friend and a fine person. I never spent a day with Bill that I didn't feel better because of his company." Dave Hildebrand.



Bill and one of his favorite trees known as the "headless dancing lady" along Orestimba Creek.  
Photo by Bob Patrie.



Bill enjoying a hike with his grand children.  
Photo by Bob Patrie.

## New Members

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

Beth Harrison & Peter Hartzell, San Carlos  
Carol Hoffman, Aptos  
Erica Pinigis, Alameda

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 questions regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of address, please contact us:

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

## News from the Uniformed Volunteer Committee

By Jim Wright

First of all (and we can't say this enough), thank you to each and every volunteer for your dedication to Henry W. Coe State Park and for helping the public appreciate and enjoy this unique resource.

It would be impossible to rank, in terms of importance, the countless contributions made by all uniformed volunteers. However, it's certainly appropriate to especially thank everyone who has served in the visitor center this year. The demands have been great, and volunteers have responded. Whether it's selling a park map, recommending a special hike, assisting with overflow parking, or—as has happened more than once—receiving an emergency call requiring immediate ranger attention, work in the visitor center remains a vital and rewarding service to the park and its visitors. Thank you!

Once again this year, we look forward to meeting a new class of volunteers and beginning the annual training. The first two training dates are Saturday, September 8th and Saturday, September 15th. The work and the fun continue with the annual ridealong scheduled for the weekend of October 13-14. Whether or not you've helped out in the past by transporting items to Pacheco Camp, driving, assisting on the trail, or cooking, your participation this year will be most welcome. Please contact Manny Pitta if you can assist.

This year, CoeEd Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th. Here's yet another opportunity to share your knowledge and special interests with fellow volunteers and PRA friends.

Rick Leonard has stepped forward to coordinate this year's Tarantulafest on October 6th. You'll soon be hearing more about this event. Thank you, Rick!

### Order here your copy of *The Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County* by Ian L. Sanders

Yes! I want to order *The Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County* by Ian L. Sanders (\$27/copy)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I want \_\_\_\_\_ copies Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For delivery: \_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my order in Morgan Hill / Gilroy / San Jose, or \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pay extra for the order to be mailed to me (Amazon shipping rate, ~\$3.99/copy)

For payment: \_\_\_\_\_ I will mail a check (payable to Design Factory Graphics), c/o 1236 Miller Ave., San Jose, CA 95129, or

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pay cash when I pick up the order, or

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: charges will show *Design Factory Graphics*, the publisher that is contributing \$5/book to FOGHS)

Purchase price includes tax. FOGHS will set up in-person delivery on specific dates to locations.

## Coe Park Events and Information

Mark your calendars—important dates and other announcements

See Coe Activity Calendar at <http://www.coepark.org/calendar.html>

**Saturday October 6**, the annual *Tarantulafest*.

More information including ticket sales is available at [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org)





# Little Apples

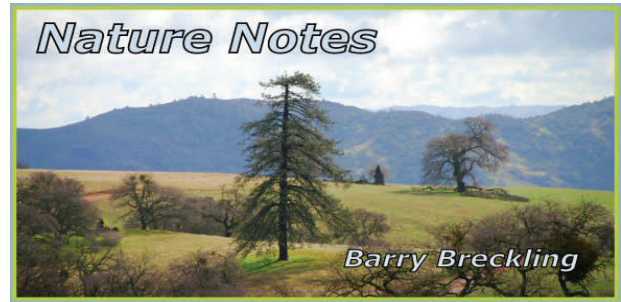
When the Spanish first came into northern Mexico and California, they found a shrub with little fruits that looked like miniature apples, so they called the plant manzanita, “little apple.” There are over 60 species (and numerous subspecies) of manzanita in California but only three grow in Coe Park.

The most common one is Big Berry Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*). The genus name *Arctostaphylos* means “bear and bunch of grapes” in Greek, and the fruits are relished by bears. Manzanitas are generally shrubs but some are tall enough to be called trees. Big Berry Manzanitas can be quite large and at Coe, some plants have grown exceptionally tall. The Jepson Manual of California plants says they can grow up to 26 feet tall, but some at Coe are over 30 feet tall. One enormous specimen split into several large pieces a few years ago. It was close to campsite 8 at Manzanita Point (the Point of course is named for the Big Berry Manzanitas that are common in the area).

You can find a less common species, Eastwood Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*) on Blue Ridge. It’s a shrub that’s usually 3 to 6 feet tall and can be distinguished from Big Berry Manzanita by its hairy young stems. Another difference is that it has a basal burl, which allows it to stump sprout after a fire.

The least common manzanita in the park is Common Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*). It’s known from only one plant on Blue Ridge, along with a few close-by hybrids with Big Berry Manzanita.

Manzanitas have little hanging bell-shaped flowers that bloom mostly in winter. Many different animals visit the flowers to collect nectar and pollen. Anna’s hummingbirds, the only hummingbird species found in Coe Park in the winter, visit the flowers, and a winter walk under a grove of Big Berry Manzanitas can be quite noisy with the hum of these little birds. Butterflies and even flies can pollinate the flowers, but bumblebees probably do the best job of pollination. They use a technique called buzz pollination to get the pollen. They hang from the flowers and vibrate their wing muscles, which have been disengaged from their wings. The vibration causes the anthers to drop pollen much like salt from a salt shaker.



Big Berry Manzanita

Who can pass a manzanita limb without running a hand across the smooth rich red surface or later in the year rubbing off a bit of the loose curly bark? Most shrubs and trees add a new layer of bark each year. Manzanitas do things differently. As they grow a new layer of bark, the previous year’s bark is shed. With only a single layer of bark, manzanitas are prone to being killed by even light fires around their bases, but their smooth slippery bark contains tannins and other chemicals that deter insects, bacteria, fungus, and other organisms that could damage them.

Indians ate the berries raw, but also ground them into a meal which could be eaten raw or cooked into mush or cakes. They also made a cider by mashing berries and pouring hot water over them.

Photo by Barry Breckling.



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Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger

### **Contributors for this issue**

Heather Ambler, publisher  
Libby Vincent, editor  
Bob Patrie, author and photographer  
Barry Breckling, author and photographer  
Laura Dominguez-Yon, author  
Jim Wright, author

### **Mailing & Distribution**

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

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Jim Wright, Chair  
Liz Brinkman  
Ken Howell  
Cynthia Leeder  
Mike Meyer  
John Thatcher  
John Verhoeven, Ranger

*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 Jim Wright, jimtina@yahoo.com

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

**Deadline for the next issue: October 31, 2012**

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