

The Ponderosa ~ Winter 2019

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter
Henry W. Coe State Park

Kingsnakes

By Joseph Belli



Kingsnakes may, after rattlesnakes, be the most familiar snakes to the general public. Many species feature attractive patterns, usually bands of several colors. Yet that's not what they're known for. Kingsnakes are famous for eating other snakes, especially rattlesnakes, whose venom they're immune to.

That's where the name comes from—what better title to bestow upon a snake that eats rattlers than the king of snakes? Then again, Budweiser was once known as the king of beers, and that crown hasn't worn well over time. Kingsnakes, though, continue to enjoy a lofty reputation, getting the thumbs-up even from people who otherwise have no use for snakes.

Far be it from me to besmirch the goodwill extended toward kingsnakes, but their rattlesnake-killing prowess is overrated. A friend living in Gold Country called me up excitedly last spring. He'd just seen a kingsnake on his property and was wondering if that meant the rattlesnakes would disappear. I told him not to hold his breath. Kingsnakes occasionally eat rattlesnakes, but they have a wide and varied diet consisting of lizards, amphibians, all sorts of snakes (including their own kind), birds, eggs, and small mammals. In short, they don't single out rattlesnakes.

California kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis californiae*), the banded, two-toned snakes found throughout most of the state, were until recently considered a subspecies of common kingsnake, one of a handful of snake species found coast to coast. Recent DNA analysis has shown that they're distinct enough to be considered a separate species. Thus, the California kingsnake—which ranges north into southern Oregon and east into Nevada and the Four Corners region of the Southwest—is the new name for the snake we once called the common kingsnake in Coe.



California kingsnake

California kingsnakes are medium-sized snakes which grow to lengths of four feet. While the dark bands range from light brown to black, the light bands are far from uniform—they can appear from white to cream and pale yellow, and can number anywhere between 21-44. Some may be incomplete. I've often wondered if kingsnake patterns are as unique as human fingerprints. Some individuals lack bands altogether, featuring instead a whitish stripe down the back, like a large, dark garter snake. It was once thought that such specimens represented yet another subspecies, but that notion was put to rest when one hatched among a batch of banded siblings.

California kingsnakes are frequently observed, and can be found in all the park's habitats, especially in spring and early summer, when they're most active. As summer temperatures soar, California kingsnakes become increasingly nocturnal.

California kingsnakes are but one of two kingsnake species in the park. The second, the California mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata*), is less well known, and, due to its color pattern—red, black, and white bands—is sometimes mistaken for the venomous coral snake, which doesn't occur in California.

While mountain kingsnakes aren't habitat specialists, they generally avoid grasslands and dry, open areas, preferring woodlands, canyons, and boulder outcrops near streams. They're encountered much less frequently than California kingsnakes, even where they may be abundant, for they are active for only a short period of time each year, typically in spring, and spend much of their lives concealed in rock crevices or other hideaways. They're seen more often in the Santa Cruz Mountains than in Coe, and the mid-elevation Sierra Nevada, with its forests, extensive granite outcrops, and streams, probably constitute the finest habitat in the state for the species.

Continued on page 3...

Kingsnakes, continued...

In contrast, the dry, hot inner coast ranges don't register a lot of sightings. They've been seen in Alum Rock Park east of San Jose, and are well known from the Mt. Hamilton/Smith Creek area, but beyond that, reports have been sparse—a few from Pacheco Pass, and some as far south as Parkfield, yet absent from Pinnacles. It could well be that the area around Pine Ridge has the most robust population in the entire region, for mountain kingsnakes are often reported not far from headquarters.

Their cryptic habits have given mountain kingsnakes an aura of mystery that has become irresistible to snake enthusiasts. Part of that allure also stems from the sheer beauty of the species, which some proclaim to be the most dazzling snake in North America. As a result, in some areas, over collecting has become a concern.



California mountain kingsnake

DNA research has also influenced how we classify mountain kingsnakes. The California mountain kingsnake was formerly considered a single species comprised of a number of subspecies ranging from the Columbia River gorge in the Northwest to Southern California. Now, the species has been split: coastal populations south of Monterey Bay are known as Coast Mountain Kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis multifasciata*) while the rest of the complex retains the California Mountain Kingsnake designation. We tend to think of San Francisco Bay as a major barrier to animal movement, but the bay is a relatively recent phenomenon, taking its current form after the last Ice Age. Monterey Bay was actually a more lasting and substantial barrier millions of years ago, inundating the Salinas Valley and keeping many reptile and amphibian species separate.

Another evolutionary puzzle surrounds their color and pattern. Some researchers have wondered if California mountain kingsnakes evolved to mimic coral snakes in order to deter predators. Coral snakes aren't found in California, though; they're present in Arizona, where they coexist with other species of mountain kingsnakes that look a lot like those in California. The jury is out on that; kingsnake coloration may be coincidental after all, especially since coral snakes are red, black and yellow, while mountain kingsnakes are red, black, and white.

California mountain kingsnakes do show some regional variation in color, though. Some in the Sierra Nevada have more black on them than those found elsewhere, and it's not unusual to come across individuals that lack red altogether. With just black and white bands, they strongly resemble common kingsnakes. Perhaps the increase in black is to allow more and quicker sunlight (heat) absorption, which would come in handy in spring at 6,000-foot elevation. That wouldn't explain the California mountain kingsnakes on Todos Santos Island just off the coast of Ensenada in Baja California. Found only on the island, this rare subspecies lost its red color altogether, though not to increase sunlight intake.

Those in Coe, though, don't exhibit any unusual patterns, and perhaps that's just as well, for California mountain kingsnakes are among the most dazzling snakes you could ever hope to lay eyes on. With some persistence, good timing, and a little bit of luck, you might just come across one on a hike in Pine Ridge, and see for yourself.

California Sisters

Such a Good Sister

"Yuck!" the young scrub Jay announced to his sibling as he spit out a mangled black, white, and orange butterfly. "Why are you spitting out that butterfly?" his sister remarked as she flew up to the top of a nearby oak tree. "I just had one down by the creek and it was delicious." Well, sis, I'm not going to touch a butterfly that looks like that ever again.



Mimicking a revolting relative can be to your advantage. The California Sister (named for its black and white markings on the wings that resemble a nun's habit) is yucky tasting. Their caterpillars feed on oaks which are loaded with nasty tasting tannins and the taste gets passed on to the butterflies. The similar looking and good tasting Lorquin's Admiral has caterpillars that are mostly found feeding on willows, cottonwood, and wild cherries.

A sweet tasting Lorquin's Admiral (*Limenitis lorquini*) looks close enough to a nasty tasting California Sister (*Adelpha californica*) that predators learn quickly to avoid both species. The two are actually rather easy for us humans to tell apart (and we don't even need to do a taste test). The Lorquin's Admiral's orange patches are in the form of narrow crescents that reaches all the way to the front of the wing. The California Sister's orange patches are roundish in shape and don't reach the front of the wing. Habitat can help in identification. California Sisters are most often found around oak trees where they glide gracefully here and there around tangled tree limbs and other obstacles. Lorquin's Admiral butterflies are usually found near their caterpillar's food plants and can have aggressive flight when intruders are near, even chasing birds many times their size.

Unlike many butterflies which unfurl their long proboscis to obtain nectar deep inside flowers, the adult California Sisters suck on rotting fruit, sap, mud, and animal droppings (sounds like another good reason not to eat these guys). They do occasionally feed on flower nectar, especially in the fall.

Mimicry is a complicated but very interesting subject. Lorquin's Admirals have evolved to have a similar appearance to the California Sister because it gives them an advantage in survival. Mimicry takes form in appearance, behavior, sound, or scent. When gopher snakes, which look a bit like rattlesnakes, are threatened, they often, flatten their heads, shake their tails, and make a loud hissing sound. All this imitates the head shape, the rattling motion, and sounds of a threatened rattlesnake, another example of an adaptation for survival, and a hissing, tail-shaking gopher snake can be pretty convincing.

Not much bothers yellow jackets with their potent sting. Once stung, predators learn to avoid anything with bright yellow and black coloration. Some hover flies, with colors and patterns similar to those of yellow jackets, try to fool everyone into thinking they are dangerous animals that should be avoided. If you're sure it's not a yellow jacket, it's fun to play with the hover flies by holding out your hand--they often will land on your hand and lick up a bit of sweat.

There are many types of mimicry and one of the most interesting is the deception used by the Malaysian orchid mantis. It doesn't look or sound like an inedible or dangerous animal. It just looks like part of an orchid flower that must be full of sweet nectar...and when an insect comes to get some of the sweet nectar, it becomes the mantis's lunch.

"Hey sis, is that a yellow jacket or is it one of those tasty flies that look like a yellow jacket? Well bro, you can try it, I'm not touching it."

Continued on page 5...

California Sisters, continued...



California Sister



Lorquin's Admiral

In search of the perfect Coe sunrise

By Michael Ingrassia



The park has a multi-faceted, ever-changing terrain. Areas have a completely different feel depending on the time of year, weather conditions, and time of day. Over the years I have found many amazing places to watch sunset, but what about sunrise? I am not a morning person, but my curiosity about Coe surpasses my desire to sleep late. Over the holiday break I decided to take some time off and find the perfect ridge tops for enjoying sunrise to prepare for the Meetup backpacking trip I would be leading in January.

I woke up at 2am so I could start hiking out of Hunting Hollow at 3:30am. This gave me the time I needed to get where I wanted to be for sunrise before the blue hour began.

In early December mornings in Hunting Hollow are cold, hovering around 30°F. Bundled up in multiple layers to stay warm, I grabbed my pack and headed towards Grizzly Gulch.

The moon was full this day and almost directly overhead. It backlit the fog that filled Grizzly Gulch and eliminated the need for artificial light.

One of my favorite things to do when hiking by moonlight is to identify the trees based on just their silhouette. It's also a fun game to play with folks when leading hikes. California bay laurel, sycamore, oak, gray pine, madrone, manzanita, they all have distinct shapes. Even without color and texture, they are still incredibly beautiful in the dark.

This early in the morning the countryside is alive with wildlife rarely seen during the day. Coyotes howling in the distance. Owls hooting and fluttering in the trees overhead. A white barn owl in flight, especially in the moonlight, is truly a majestic thing. I almost feel a need to apologize for invading their space.

As I made my way up the ridge, the moon was my primary method of keeping on schedule. I chose this day not just because it was a full moon, but because the timing of moonset and sunrise was exactly what I wanted.

I eventually climbed above the fog and got a clearer view of the night sky. I stopped for a moment to admire the stars, identify a few constellations, and enjoy the quiet peacefulness of it all. The city lights off in the distance were a faint reminder of a totally different world.

Once on top of Wasno Ridge, the moon was hugging the horizon. As I made my way along the ridge top, the moon slowly hid itself from sight and everything dimmed just a bit. There was a brief period of time after moonset and before sunrise when hardly any light from the sun was reflected back to our side of the planet. The sky was an amazing deep shade of blue dotted with stars.

The spot I chose for sunrise was a bit off trail, but provided amazing views in all directions. I could see Grizzly Gulch, Steer Ridge, Wasno Ridge, Burra Burra, and even Mariposa Peak off in the distance.

Once I reached my destination, I stopped for breakfast and waited for the show to begin.

There's something amazing about watching the vastness of the sky transition through the color spectrum while standing ridge top. As the morning progresses everything moves from a deep shade of blue, through purples, oranges, and reds. It is an explosion of color that the sky barely seems able to contain. The clouds amplify the depth and chaos of the colored light.

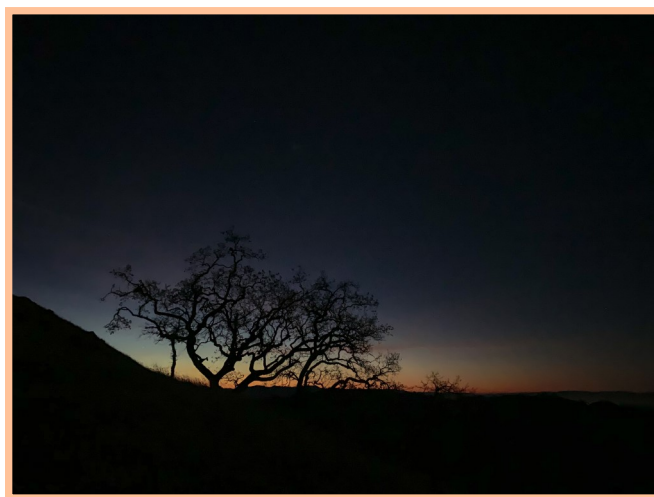
Continued on page 7...

In search of the perfect Coe sunrise, continued...

When the sun begins to peek over the horizon there's an amazing shift in color. Everything transforms from a sleepy blue to vibrant shades of gold. The landscape slowly comes to life as the sun reveals the detail and greenery of the rolling hills below.

As the morning progresses things begin to warm up. The fog slowly burns off in the canyons below revealing details of the landscape that were hidden moments before.

After the morning's show, it's time to pack up and move along. There are other ridges to visit and canyons to explore.



Welcome to GeoCorner

By Anne Sanquini



Hello Ponderosa readers! I'm a new uniformed Volunteer at Henry W Coe State Park. I'm also a geologist, and I plan to write about the rocks here, and about research and interpretive activities.

Today, I'd like to talk with you about one of my favorite rocks. There is a spectacular rock outcrop (see photo) within steps of Headquarters, along Manzanita Point Road.

Have you ever wondered what this is?

Its surface feels waxy, like a candle. When broken, shell-shaped edges form. These two characteristics together (how it feels and how it breaks) suggest this rock is chert. Our chert at Coe is commonly a rusty red or translucent green. But it can be almost any color, so don't count on color alone for identification.

Some of the chert in Coe Park has been examined and found to contain the silica skeletons of radiolaria, a zooplankton that lives in the ocean.

The thin intervening layers are shale, a compacted mud. A source for this was likely wind-blown dust coming from the continent.

We call this rock "ribbon chert" due to its layering and bending.

So, after being formed at the bottom of the ocean, how did this chert end up, folded and tilted, here, near the top of a hill??

Ah, the magic of plate tectonics. In a future post, I'll describe how this powerful mechanism shaped and continues to shape Coe Park.



Photo by Anne Saquini

Henry W Coe State Park - 60th Anniversary

By Patricia Clark-Gray, RIS Monterey District

We celebrated Henry W. Coe State Park's 60th Anniversary with two events. We had a Volunteer Recognition event on November 3rd to honor our volunteers. They have done an incredible job on painting the Visitor Center and cleaning up the grounds for the 60th Anniversary.

Our second event was the VIP event on November 10th. We were pleased that so many descendants of the Coe family attended because their legacy endures on the land. Thomas Upton Coe gave the park a Charles Harmon oil painting of the park that will be displayed in the house museum in the Visitor Center.



Henry Willard Coe Sr. began ranching on the San Felipe Ranch east of San Jose in 1874. It was here that his young sons, Henry, known to his friends as Harry, and his brother, Charles, fell in love with ranch life. In 1892, they purchased Pine Ridge Ranch.

Harry married Rhoda Dawson Sutcliffe in 1905 and the newly constructed ranch house became their first home. In 1907 their son, Henry Sutcliffe, was born in Oakland, and their daughter, Sada, was born in San Jose in 1910. She fell in love with the hills at an early age.

In 1932, Sada married Charles Robinson, and for a few years they managed Pine Ridge Ranch until they purchased their own ranch in Gilroy. Harry Coe died in 1943, willing the ranches at San Felipe and Pine Ridge to his son, Henry Sutcliffe Coe. Sada purchased Pine Ridge from Oliver Beach in 1949 and lived on the ranch until 1953 when she deeded the property to the people of Santa Clara County to be used as a park in memory of her father. In 1958, Santa Clara County gift deeded Pine Ridge to the State of California.

Barry Breckling who was a Ranger for 30 years at the park shared his stories about his time working. As he spoke and talked about his memories tears came to his eyes. This park was an important part of his life. We were pleased that other, retired Rangers Kay Robinson and Nedra Martinez, attended.

Our current Coe Rangers John Verhoeven, Cameron Bowers, Jen Naber and Supervising Ranger Stuart Organo have protected the people of the park. Our park maintenance staff Rick Hentges, and sector staff Randy Neufeld, and Monterey District Maintenance Chief John Hiles work hard to keep the facilities in shape. Patrick Goodrich works in the Visitor Center and he and the volunteers are so helpful to the park visitors. District Curator Kris Quist and Dave Mueller maintain the collections in the Visitor Center and in the buildings. Rae Schwaderer, District Archeologist, protects the parks cultural resources. And, our administrative staff, Maria Avelino and Carlos Vallin, helped with purchasing and with anniversary related tasks.

The Pine Ridge Association, Coe's cooperating association, funded the Anniversary event and has funded interpretive projects for many years. Sue Harwager did a great job on the refreshments and all enjoyed the home-made biscotti.

Many staff and volunteers made the park's 60th Anniversary a great success!

Continued on page 10...

Henry W Coe State Park - 60th Anniversary, continued...



Nonprofit profile: Pine Ridge Association is a key to Coe Park's Success

By Marty Cheek

Published in the December 5 – 18, 2018 issue of Morgan Hill Life

Gilroy resident Teddy Goodrich grew up on a Northern California ranch. After her family sold it, she missed the rural life of wandering its rolling hills.

Years later, she took a hike at Henry W. Coe State Park. That experience changed everything for her. She started volunteering with the nonprofit Pine Ridge Association at Coe in 1980.

Since then, Goodrich has put in more than 7,453 hours making the 87,000-acre wilderness a welcoming experience for the visitors who seek its rugged splendor. At a volunteer appreciation party held Nov. 3 inside the big white barn at the park's entrance, the retired teacher was honored with the prestigious Poppy Award from the park district's staff for her many years of service leading interpretive programs as the park's historian.



Photo by Sue Harwager

"I realized when I started hiking up here, this is exactly what I knew as a child," she told the gathered group after being presented with the award. "I told a friend of mine that I was going to volunteer. She thought I was crazy because Patrick (her son) was little and I was a single parent and working."

The love of the land was a shared experience. Patrick grew up at Coe, backpacking and camping in the park since he was 5, Goodrich said. He continued the volunteer tradition and spends time staffing the Visitors Center, guiding people on trail options they might wish to explore.

Ranger Barry Breckling got Goodrich interested in the Indian tribes that, long before American settlement, hunted here. She started taking classes at Gavilan and the interest in these natives grew so much that she spent five years working on her master's degree in anthropology at San Jose State University. She worked for five years with the National Park Service in Yosemite, spending three months in the summer helping visitors learn about the history. That job inspired her to work on a history project on Coe to share the stories of the various pioneers who settled the land. The book she wrote is called "Names on the Land: A History of Henry W. Coe State Park." It's filled with tales of the colorful characters who helped shape South Valley ranching in the 19th and 20th centuries.

"When I started volunteering here, it was like going back to my childhood," she said. "I've been very fortunate because many of the people I knew growing up I was able to interview about the history of this area. I've been very blessed. I couldn't ask for anything more being the volunteer historian."

Goodrich also has an eye to the future of the park and served as the voice for the 60th anniversary celebration held Nov. 10. That event motivated about 30 Pine Ridge Association uniformed volunteers to work on making much needed repairs and renovations to the Visitors Center building, which after more than half a century of service became a bit worn from weather and use. She envisioned the timeline of the park's history and created new exhibits for visitors to learn about the park's past, providing all the text and the photos for the display. She also developed a history brochure of the park available at the Visitors Center.

Continued on page 12...

Nonprofit profile: Pine Ridge Association is a key to Coe Park's Success, continued...

"Her vast knowledge and her willingness to share what she has learned has been invaluable to the district's archaeologist in interpreting the scattered remnants of native villages and homesteads and the ranching landscape," said park ranger Patricia Clark-Gray. "She has been able to tie names to places and weave them together into stories that demonstrate the significance of Henry Coe and its resources and its rich history in California."

Jen Naber, a state park ranger at Coe, said that the Pine Ridge Association and its team of volunteers do much to help the five rangers and two maintenance staff members keep the wilderness open. The renovation of the Visitors Center could not have been done without the nearly 30 people who worked on it, she said.

"We don't have a lot of paid staff, so to get these anniversary projects done, that requires a lot of labor and we need extra bodies," she said. "And the volunteers are passionate. They meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays to come here and dedicate their time to putting the new windows in and getting the siding done and getting everything ready for our big VIP event."

The park's staff truly appreciates the work the volunteers do and that's why they put on the annual event to thank them, said state park peace officer/ranger John Verhoeven.

"They're the lifeblood of the park. They're invested and have that passion and love," he said. "For most, a simple thank you is sufficient, they're not expecting anything big. But when you're thinking of a person like Teddy who has been volunteering for nearly 40 years ... we have to recognize that. We're lucky to have volunteers like Teddy."

Bay Area Barns and Trails grant to Springs Committee

By Paul Liebenberg

Henry W Coe State Park's Springs Committee received a generous grant from the non-profit Bay Area Barns and Trails group in the amount of \$1,434.

This will be used for the following:

New redwood spring boxes for: Bowl Spring and Sturla Dormida Spring

New redwood spring box lids for: Bear Spring (2), Caviata Spring, Woodcutters Spring and Willow Tree Spring

New 100 gallon water troughs for: Sturla Dormida Spring and Black Oak Spring

Three yards of 3" crushed drain rock and three yards of 3/4" base rock to cover pipe line trench rutting on Coit Springs Road between Coit Spring and Coit Horse Camp



Coit Spring pipeline

Visit <http://bayareabarnsandtrails.com/> for more information on this group. They also have a Face Book page.

Thank you, BAPT!!!

Anniversary Project Work at Coe HQ

By Sue Dekalb

Coe's 60th Anniversary has come and gone, and many of the maintenance projects that needed to get accomplished before the big party were completed. There are still many maintenance projects left undone, and there may be future work days where volunteers can help get some of those projects completed.

The most important maintenance project was replacing the windows on the west, south, and east walls of the visitor center. We also installed Tyvek and replaced all the heavily damaged flat boards and battens. Everything got a new coat of paint, including all the fencing around the Ranch House. Many volunteers spent two days a week working on the visitor center project. With a lot of long hours and some special volunteers, we managed to finish the repairs and painting the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, one day before the rains came.

The garage and blacksmith shop also got a lot of caulking and fresh paint. The final paint was done the last week before Thanksgiving. There were many other projects to clean up brush and remove items that had been lying around for years. Some broken fence boards and broken boards on the campground ramadas were repaired.

For years volunteers talked about how bad everything looked around the headquarters area. Many of those volunteers came up all summer long to paint, caulk, and install siding. The repairs would not have been completed without that help.

My hope is that the maintenance work will continue to be done at HQ area to fix all the problems that have existed for years, and the volunteers can play a part in getting that done.

If you have free time and you enjoy doing repairs, you should contact Rick Hentges at HQ and see if he has any work you can help him with.

Last Day of Anniversary Project Work - 11/20/2018 (photos by Sue Dekalb)



Coe family, residents celebrate 60 years of wilderness state park

By Marty Cheek

Published in the December 5 – 18, 2018 issue of Morgan Hill Life

The 60th anniversary celebration of the founding of Henry W. Coe State Park served as a family reunion of sorts for about a dozen descendants of the pioneer rancher whose name graces the South Valley region's 87,000-acre wilderness recreation area. Many recalled fond memories of Coe's daughter, Sada, who had the vision of the property being turned into a park for all to enjoy.

At the Nov. 10 event held at the park's head-quarter entrance, many of the Coe family talked about their pride in the park and how it reflects the glory days of California ranching history. Their saga starts in 1892 when brothers Henry and Charles Coe purchased the Pine Ridge Ranch, located in the Diablo Mountain Range about 15 miles east of the then-village of Morgan Hill. In 1907, Henry's wife, Rhoda, gave birth to a boy named Henry Sutcliffe. In 1910, daughter Sada was born. As a child, she learned to rope and ride and tend the cattle on the family ranch — and developed a deep love for the land.



Photo by Marty Cheek

From left to right: Tammy Coe, Joy Coe, Charles Wolf Coe, Thomas M. Coe, Thomas U. Coe, Norma Coe, Peter Coe Verbica, Tiffany Verbica and Pearle Coe Verbica Salters surround a painting of Pine Ridge Ranch from the late 19th century

Henry W. Coe died in 1943 and the Pine Ridge Ranch was sold. Eventually, Sada purchased the property from the buyer and lived on the ranch until 1953. That year, she deeded the park to Santa Clara County to be used as a public park in memory of her father. The county had a difficult time managing the 12,230-acre wilderness property and the land was sold for \$10 to California, which took ownership Nov. 10, 1958. Over the decades, various ranches were absorbed and Coe Park is now the second largest state park in California.

Sada had a loving connection with Henry W. Coe and the California ranching life he brought her into at Pine Ridge, said Peter Coe Verbica, Sada's great nephew who attended the 60th anniversary celebration.

"She really had a great appreciation for her dad," he said. "One thing that's she remarked about her dad was her dad's marksmanship. That's one of the many things that she really admired about her dad. Another thing she admired about her dad is that he had extraordinary penmanship."

Henry stayed a cowboy at heart, distrusting some of the early 20th centuries technologies, Verbica said.

"He didn't really warm up to the automobile right away," he said. "He would always have his horse saddled whether he went on it or not every day. It took him some time to adapt to cars."

Morgan Hill resident George Thomas's family owned a 2,000-acre ranch next to Pine Ridge and recalled that as a boy he sometimes met Sada Coe when he spent time working with his father on the Thomas Ranch. He remembered how she liked dogs and enjoyed working the ranch.

"She was very proper, but she was always friendly. She lived here alone, I don't know how long, but I was about 10 or 11 and we'd come up and see her," Thomas said.

Continued on page 15...

Coe family, residents celebrate 60 years of wilderness state park, continued...

She had a man's hat that had the brim cut off but was pulled down over her head all the time to make her look like a man.... She was a very nice person and she worked physically a lot."

Verbica's sister, Pearle Coe Verbica Salters, recalled visiting as a child the elderly Sada who then lived on a house surrounded by an orchard on Mount Hamilton Road east of San Jose.

"When we were kids, we'd have lunch with her," she recalled. "And we'd bring Kentucky Fried Chicken and she'd be dressed in the buckskins. She smoked a cigarette with this cigarette holder. She was really unassuming."

When Salters was a student at Live Oak High School, she was given the honor of driving Sada's old two-door Cadillac to school from the family's San Felipe Ranch on Mt. Hamilton. She had fond memories of how gracious her great aunt was, even in her last days.

"When she was dying, I visited her in the hospital," Salters recalled. "She was just very thoughtful and she was thinking of us. And she asked, 'Have you had your lunch yet?' and she wanted to give us money and get some food. She was just a very dear person and very thoughtful. She was just very easy-going."

Verbica hopes to see Henry W. Coe State Park increasingly highlight the old ranching culture in the future and serve as a lesson of personal independence and respect for all people. They are values the Coe family has always abided by, he said.

"Having grown up on a cattle ranch, we had cowboys and wranglers of different ethnicities and I feel anyone who has studied cowboy culture knows cowboys are multi-ethnic. They included Swedes, Mexicans, black Americans, native Americans," he said. "My hope is the park will continue to play a role as a place that has a wonderful outdoor experience but also encouraging sort of this multi-cultural and multi-ethnic connection. The education could strengthen the park's appeal to the Bay Area's diverse population. That's my dream."

New PRA 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.

Roger and Lisa Schrag, Oakland CA
Emily Leonard, Vancouver WA
Phil Bowers, Morgan Hill CA
Daniel Zen, Morgan Hill CA
Peggy Prendergast, Mountain View CA
Ric Smith, Morgan Hill CA

Chris Howard, Gilroy CA
Diana Hall, Mountain View CA
Kerry Carlson, Morgan Hill CA
Maciek Smuga-Otto, Santa Cruz CA
Jennifer and James Nelson, Pleasant Hill CA

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

Mystery Solved!

By Teddy Goodrich, PRA Historian

This was obviously a photo of a painting, but where was the original?



Thomas Coe, grandson of Charles Coe, solved a long standing mystery when he donated the original oil painting to the park at the Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration. It had hung for years on his grandfather's office wall.



Some of us had assumed it was a representation of Henry Coe's homestead at Cold Flat because the cabin in the painting is the same cabin in this photo by Andrew P. Hill. Charles Harmon, the artist, as employed in the same studio as Hill.



Continued on page 17...

Mystery Solved, continued...

The problem is the cabin was not located in the scene Charles Harmon depicted in the photo. The cabin was located up this little draw.



There are other odd components. The horse, rider, and dog shown on the lower left of the painting are copied from a photograph by Andrew P. Hill. Walk to the tack room and look on the wall to the left. That is a copy of the original photograph.



The round corral looks very much like the round corral that once existed on the Miller Field where the Coes and their neighbors gathered their cattle.



Conclusion: the painting is a product of artistic license; a collection of scenes blended together to show what life was like in these hills in the 1890s.

Continued on page 18...

Mystery Solved, continued...

Playlist (for the confused)

Charles Coe: Henry Coe's younger brother. Originally partners: the partnership ended in 1907.

Cold Flat: Henry Coe's original homestead was at Cold Flat. It is outside the park boundary on private property.

The cowboy and cattle dog: Gilmer "Gillie" Gruwell and Henry's cattle dog, Bruce.

Charles Harmon: Born in Ohio in 1859, he came to California with his family in 1874. He served an apprenticeship with Louis Lussier, a portrait painter and also retouched negatives at the photography studio of Andrew P. Hill. He began painting landscapes in Santa Clara Valley in 1883, and by 1900 he was recognized as one of California's foremost painters. His works are held at the San Jose Civic Auditorium, Clarke Museum (Eureka), California State Library, Denver Public Library, California Historical Society, Santa Fe Railway, Artists of the American West, and the San Jose Mercury Herald. And after restoration Henry W. Coe State Park!

Andrew P. Hill: Artist, photographer, and the man responsible for the creation of California's first state park, Big Basin. He used artistic license as well. The painting in the visitor center that shows Coe cattle about to cross Coyote Creek has three figures in the front; to the far left, Henry Coe, far right, Charles Coe, and in the middle, Daniel Murphy who died long before the Coes drove any cattle across Coyote Creek.

Miller Field: In the 1890s, cattle baron Henry Miller had his employee, Henry Schafer and his wife, Mary act as entrymen and file homestead claims on the East Fork of Coyote Creek. Miller, along with other men, was interested in building a dam on Coyote Creek.

Henry's homestead cabin at Cold Flat: to further confuse the issue, the cabin actually was on Samuel Sizer's homestead claim. Henry's claim was on adjacent property. Sizer died an untimely death in 1886 and the cabin was abandoned.

Daniel Murphy: Cattle baron, father of Diana Murphy Hill (in Andrew P Hill photo)

Coe Connections is getting a makeover!

By Jennifer Naber

We are excited to announce that Coe Connections program is getting a makeover. As many of you who have been involved at Henry Coe for some time are aware, we have a wonderful education program for school aged kids called Coe Connections. The goal of the program is to provide kids with quality environmental education while giving them hands-on experience at the park. Unfortunately, over the past few years and due to several reasons, Coe Connections programs have not been occurring often. We hope to change that with a re-development of the program.

Over the past six months, park staff and volunteers have spent many hours re-evaluating how Coe Connections worked in the past. Based on the differences in both staffing levels and time, along with feedback from volunteers, we have made a few changes:

- Limiting programs to 1 – 1.5 hours in length
- Programs will begin at 10:30 am
- Offered only October-November and February-May
- Programs will be Tuesday-Friday (except by specific request if we can accommodate)
- Programs will be separated into specific categories: Plant/Animals, Stream Studies and People of Coe
- Unless specifically requested, all programs will occur at Hunting Hollow
- Pre-designed lesson plans will be developed for the specific categories (Stream studies, plants/animals, People of Coe)
- Lesson plans will be separated by age group or grade (K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th)

Our hope is that these changes will provide a more organized, structured program that will meet Common Core and other State education standards while at the same time providing support for participating volunteers.

In a time when too many of us are attached to a device, Coe Connections provides the opportunity to introduce kids to the wonder of nature and the amazing State Park located in their backyard. We are thrilled to be bring this program back and look forward to once again seeing the smiles on kids' faces and they explore, splash and learn in a place we have all grown to love – Henry Coe.

As with all of our interpretive programs at Coe, Coe Connections cannot happen without volunteer support. If you are interested in helping with this program on an occasional or regular basis please contact Ranger Jen Naber.

Pine Ridge Association Preliminary Financials, 2018

(Strong increase in Available Cash despite reduced revenues)

By Cynthia Leeder, PRA Treasurer

The following is a PRELIMINARY 2018 financial report. The numbers will change but the changes should be relatively small.

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018, as compared to December 31, 2017:

(Note that numbers in parentheses are negative)

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Bank Accounts:	\$303,845	\$274,572	\$29,273
Inventory	\$60,757	\$60,373	\$384
Stocks/Bonds	\$138,034	\$138,161	(\$127)
Total Assets	\$502,496	\$473,107	\$29,389
Total Gross Profit	\$101,996	\$140,971	(\$38,975)
Total Overall Expenses	\$71,733	\$92,339	(\$20,606)
Total Net Profit	\$30,263	\$48,632	(\$18,369)

Other notable numbers:	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Donations	\$37,778	\$71,259	(\$33,481)
Membership Dues	\$5,460	\$5,135	\$325
Visitor Center Sales	\$33,729	\$43,594	(\$9,865)

Program Activity, 2018

<u>Event</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Profit/Loss</u>
Mother's Day Breakfast	\$4,141	\$3,097	\$1,044
5K/10K Fun Run	\$4,445	\$3,724	\$721
Backcountry Weekend	\$24,722	\$7,103	\$17,619
T-Fest	\$1,909	\$1,239	\$670
GYHS Programs	\$3,170	\$2,622	548
Ranch Days	\$259	\$200	\$59
Coit Camp Weekend	\$2,395	\$692	\$1703
Coe Outings, Backpack*	\$1,190	0	\$1,190
Visitor Center Sales	33,729	\$17,596	\$16,133

*The Coe Backpack outing is scheduled for 2019, booked in 2018

Even though we had less revenue in 2018 than 2017, our expenses were also less and our assets, especially our bank accounts, continue to grow. We are in good shape to fund our interpretive programs, including new ideas for interpretive projects. If you have a good idea for a new project, please let the PRA Board know. There is a good chance it could be funded.

Follow Us On Social Media!

Henry W Coe State Park now has an official presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

- like and follow HenryWCoeSP for the latest updates
- check into the park and tag the photos you share
- mention @HenryWCoeSP in your posts about the park
- like our posts and share them with your friends
- give the park a rating and recommendation



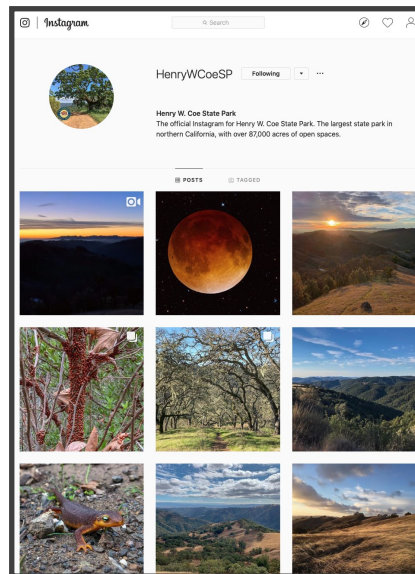
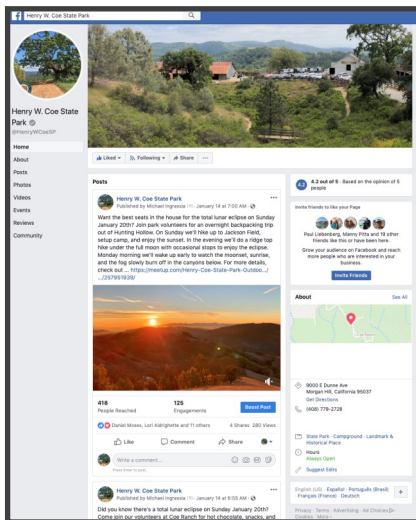
facebook.com/HenryWCoeSP



instagram.com/HenryWCoeSP



twitter.com/HenryWCoeSP



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



PRA Board of Directors

Paul Gillot, President
Adam Escoto, Vice President
Steve McHenry, Secretary
Cynthia Leeder, Treasurer
Dan Benefiel
Sue Harwager
Ken Howell
Michael Ingrassia
Manny Pitta, Chair of the Volunteer Committee
Stuart Organo, Supervising Ranger

PRA Volunteer Committee

Jen Naber, Volunteer Coordinator
John Verhoeven, Volunteer Coordinator
Manny Pitta, Chair
Ken Howell
Michael Hundt
Kathryn Levine
Allene Liebenberg
John Thatcher
Dave Waldrop

Contributors for this issue

Sue Harwager, publisher
Patrick Goodrich, co-editor
Teddy Goodrich, co-editor, author
Joseph Belli, author, photographer
Barry Breckling, author
Liz Brinkman, new membership, mailing list
Marty Cheek, author, photographer
Patricia Clark-Gray, author, photographer
Sue Dekalb, author, photographer
Michael Ingrassia, author, cover photo & article
Cynthia Leeder, author
Paul Liebenberg, author, photographer
Jen Naber, author
Anne Sanquini, author, photographer

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: PRAnewsletter3@gmail.com

Deadline for the next issue: April 30, 2019

© 2019 The Pine Ridge Association