

Barry Breckling's Retirement Party

After almost thirty years at Henry W. Coe State Park, Ranger Barry Breckling is saying good-bye, and moving away this May. Naturally, we're going to have a wonderful party to send him off, and we'd like to get a good-bye present for him that will say, "Thanks," in a heartfelt way... something he wants and will use, and that will remind him often of his friends. This letter is your invitation to be part of these efforts.

Our farewell dinner will be held June 9, 2007, 3:00 PM, at Coyote Creek Golf Club, 1 Coyote Creek Golf Drive, San Jose 95037 (turn west at its exit off 101 to get to the clubhouse). All Barry's friends are welcome to come, though it is recommended you sign up early, since seating is somewhat limited. Coe Park Ranger Cameron Bowers, cbowe@parks.ca.gov, (408) 846-8164, P.O. Box 1686, Gilroy 95020, is in charge of the party. Tickets are \$35.00, and can be ordered in the same letter with your contribution for the gift. The details on how to do all this are below. It would help us keep track if you would send two checks, marked "Gift," and "Dinner," they go in separate accounts.

The present is a Nikon D80 camera body, a 105mm Nikkor VR macro lens with an on-the-lens R1-C1 flash (for close-ups of wildflowers), a Nikkor 18-200mm VR lens (for everyday use), and an SB-800 flood flash. Battery, data card, charger, etc. are included. It wasn't realistic to keep something so personal, and important, as a secret and a surprise, but Barry researched available models and picked this camera as one he can use for projects in retirement, such as a book on wildflowers.

outside back side

There are no envelopes; the cards will be presented in their own gift box.

Your Name
Mailing Address
City, State, Zip

outside front side



The presentation card is something that Barry asked for, since he wants something to remember people by, not just a box from a store. The bottom half of this page, front and back, is a mock-up of what a card from each person, to be included with the gift, might look like. Your shining face will be on the front, a short personal message inside, and your address on the back. All this information will be treated in a confidential manner, as if it were personal mail. These cards are of a standard type, a half-page folded. If you cut the bottom of this sheet off and fold it so that the picture is on the front, you'll see how it works. The photos will be printed on glossy paper and attached to the front of the card.

Raising the money is being handled by Larry Haimowitz, 7031 Santa Teresa Blvd., San Jose 95139, (408) 375-3783, misnomer9@aol.com. Victor Bubbett, 130 Baroni Ave., No. 34, San Jose 95136, (408) 340-8532, vbubbett@rift-zone.org, is preparing the cards to go with the gift. Please make checks payable to Larry Haimowitz, marked "For: Barry /gift or /dinner." We have the kind cooperation of Pine Ridge Association, Coe Park's supporting organization, but funds must be raised separately, since this sort of observance is beyond the scope of PRA's mission as a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Larry, Victor, or Rosemary Rideout, (408) 847-5729, rideout@garlic.com, will gladly take your picture, if you don't have one you would like to use. You can hand-write your card at the same time your photo is made, or mail in your message. If you use e-mail, your message will be printed on the card. Please include your mailing address so that photos can be returned, and so that Barry will be able to thank you. If you are at the park, you could leave these materials for us there in our volunteer mailboxes. One letter to any of us will reach the right person. There are blank cards at the Visitor Center, the photographers and Cameron have them, and if you got this message by mail, a blank is included.

The occasion is very special, and everyone's help is greatly appreciated. As Larry said, "It is an honor."

You could use this space for a longer message, or leave it blank. It is the back side of the picture when the card is opened.

Dear Barry,

Thanks for everything that you've done for all of us, and for the park. I hope you enjoy your retirement and your new home, and that you have wonderful success with your book. We will miss you!

Your Name