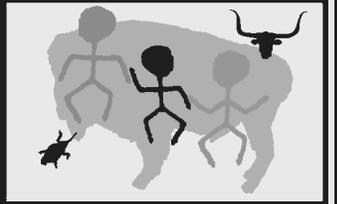


# Friends of San Angelo State Park



VOL. 19

SPRING 2021

NO. 2

## JARRETT MILLER IS SUPERINTENDENT



Photos by Cheree Watts and John Talley

“I am proud to be the new Superintendent of San Angelo SP,” commented Jarrett from this new office.

“My duties officially started April 1, 2021, though I have been doing the job since last September when former Superintendent Jim Cisneros moved to Brazos Bend SP.

I am very humbled by the trust TPWD and the Regional Director have afforded me with this opportunity.

In the best interests of the property, visitors and volunteers and its constituents, I look forward to working with each of you to promote the mission of TPWD and State Parks for years to come.”

*See more comments from Jarrett inside.*

*Friends has made it a custom to provide new office chairs for staff, replacing raggedy leftover ones. We are happy to provide this new seat for Jarrett in his new office.*



*Comfy enough for a lunch break nap*

## SAN ANGELO BLUEBONNET DAYS

Held annually since 2003, the Free-to-Seniors morning out in the park was held differently 2021. Avoiding large group gathering and observing social distancing, the senior citizens had self-guided driving tour of the park followed by a picnic lunch.

“We enjoyed the drive, but missed the hayride,” said a smiling visitor who reported that she comes every year.



## Silver Bluebonnet Day Sponsors

Bryant Better Hearing

Chick-fil-A

Friends of SASP

## San Angelo Gives!



Our Goal of \$4,000 was met and exceeded. Thanks to all who contributed.

Especial thanks to Amanda Razani, board secretary, who spearheaded the event.

The world is full of willing people;  
some are willing to work,  
the rest willing to let them.

~ Robert Frost



## Friends of San Angelo State Park

### Board of Advisors 2019-2020

The Board of Directors is elected by the members to a three-year term.

Directors meet every two months to plan and coordinate activities and provide oversight of funds.

Linda Ashton	Sandy Pedersen
Sarah Howell	Amanda Razani
Ruth Jordan	Brownie Roberts
Gail Metcalfe	Marilyn Russell
Larry McMurtrey	Laurel Scott
Cindy Middleton	John Talley
Deola Mitts	Terry Wallace
Steve Nelson	Deborah Watson

The Newsletter is a quarterly publication produced by Friends of San Angelo State park, a non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of

- ensuring the future of the park by preserving it for future generations
- enhancing the quality of educational, interpretive and recreational opportunities in the park
- recruiting volunteers
- promoting regional support
- soliciting finances and resources for the perpetration of the park and
- soliciting and receiving gifts for endowments for the benefit of the park.

Ruth Jordan - Editor

**Friends of SASP**  
**3900-2 Mercedes**  
**San Angelo, TX, 76901**  
**ruthjordan@suddenlink.net**



Published by Qs Printing and Design

# From the Park Superintendent

By Jarrett Miller – Superintendent



This is my first time writing to you as the Superintendent of San Angelo State Park and I'm sort of at a loss for words.

I started this adventure in February of 2016. If you would have told me at any point in those first couple years that I would be Superintendent one day, I would have just laughed and called you crazy.

Beginning as an Operations Ranger with additional duties in Interpretation, I have since officially held the positions of Additional Duty Safety Officer, Lead Ranger, Assistant Superintendent and held interim positions of Custodian, Customer Service Representative, Assistant Office Manager, Office Manager, and Herd Manager.

I applied at the park because it was close to the house, had great benefits, and a good retirement system. I wanted to work outside. The park afforded me that opportunity.

I did not even have intentions of staying long term, but something happened. I fell in love with the park, the job, and the people. So much so that even after working ten hours a day, six or seven days a week, I still go home, pick up my wife and son, the bikes or fishing poles. We come right back out here to hike, ride, fish or just drive around and look at the wildlife. There is always something that they haven't seen.

I am here if you need anything, have a question or maybe a suggestion to improve the park. Give me a call or stop by the office.

See you in the park!

## Ranger Jade Begins a New Chapter with TPWD

From Jade Carter

I look forward to beginning my career as a Texas Game Warden. As I turn the page and begin a new chapter, I know that San Angelo State Park will still have a place in it. I'm grateful to have been able to work here and give thanks to the friends I've made along the way.

Being a team member of San Angelo State Park has been a great experience. I have done things that I wouldn't have been able to do at any other state park.

As I look back and think through my experiences starting in 2016, I wonder "Wow, that was only five years?" While I've been here a short time, I feel deep down that I've worked here for much longer.

Even before becoming a 'State Park', this area provided a great get-a-way for people of Texas and many other states who stop here while just traveling through, come to visit family that live in San Angelo, or stop here just to visit one of many Texas state parks.

For me, like some others, it has been a stone used to strengthen my foundation in a long career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. I have cherished my time here and working with many people that have come and gone. I've worked among a great group of people including our park hosts and the Friends group.

I believe that San Angelo State park will continue to improve, grow, and retain its unique ability to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling and, and horse riding. There are not many parks out there that support all of these.

I would like to thank everyone for the support and guidance that they have given me while this chapter of my life ends and another begins.

# Hello Friends,

I'm John Emler, a new ranger at San Angelo State Park. I started in February and love it so far.

A little bit about me.

I grew up right here in San Angelo. I'm a graduate of Lake View High School. Go Chiefs! With my wife, I am raising our three children here. I am a member of Grape Creek VFD as a Firefighter and EMT. I enjoy fishing, hunting, and, really, anything outdoors. To be outside is part of the reason I applied for the position.

I never knew much about what SASP had to offer until I started working here even though it opened when I was a freshman in high school. Working here, I get to learn about the park every day. I think that is one thing that keeps me wanting to come to work.

I love to come out and see the abundance of wildlife every morning. Now that it's spring, I love seeing the different wildflowers blooming and the life that they bring.

I never knew how many people really enjoy coming to the park on a daily basis. People from every walk of life come out to enjoy the trails, whether hiking, biking, or horse back riding. Folks from all over the country have been here numerous times and keep coming back.

I hope I can add something to everyone's experience here at SASP and make everyone's stay what they hope it will be.

I look forward to meeting new faces every day.

Find me working and introduce yourself on your next visit.



## STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Jarrett Miller</b> <b>325-277-3258</b>
<b>Asst Superintendent</b>	<b>Vacant (should post soon)</b> <b>325-277-6348</b>
<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>ChereWats</b> <b>325-947-2687</b>
<b>Lead Ranger</b>	<b>Vacant (posting closes mid-May)</b> <b>325-949-4757</b>
<b>Interpreter</b>	<b>Bonnie Wallace</b> <b>325-949-4757</b>
<b>Asst Office Manager</b>	<b>Kari Carreon</b> <b>325-949-8935</b>
<b>Operations Ranger</b>	<b>Mike Sharpsteen</b> <b>325-949-4757</b>
<b>Operations Ranger</b>	<b>Matthew Geisel</b> <b>325-949-4757</b>
<b>CSR</b>	<b>LaFonda Birdcreek</b> <b>325-949-4757</b>
<b>CSR</b>	<b>Vacant (should start June 1<sup>st</sup>)</b> <b>325-949-4757</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>John Emler</b> <b>325-949-4757</b>
<b>Park Police</b>	<b>Vacant (should be here in August)</b> <b>325-277-6086</b>

## Board notes

Because of Covid restrictions the Board of Directors did not hold the March meeting. However, emails have allowed business to be carried on as needed:

- Fish pond stocked with trout on schedule.
- Gift shop sign replaced
- Outdoor vending, drink machines and gift shop sales revenues were received.
- Birds were fed on schedule.
- Playground repair was investigated and accomplished.
- Memberships were renewed
- New chair purchased for Jarrett Miller as he moved into the superintendent's office.
- Expenditures were approved for gifts for departing staff.
- Silver Bluebonnet Day was held as a drive-through with a picnic lunch.

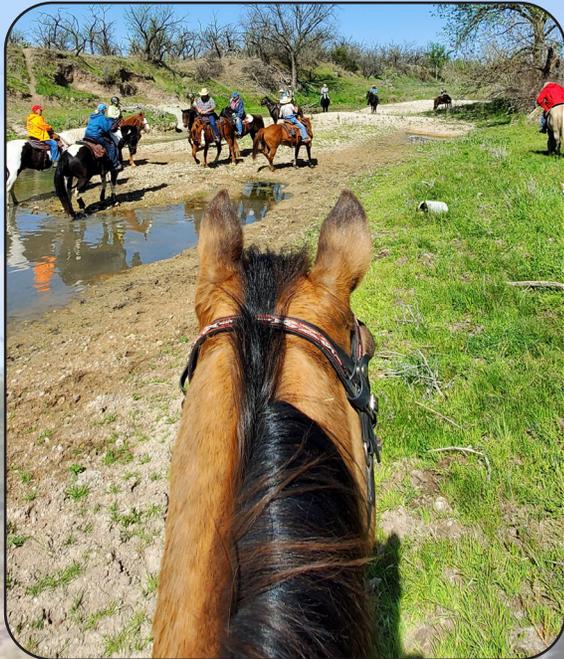
Regular meeting scheduled for May 18 will be held face-to-face with some catching up to do including:

- Plans for repairing the Wildlife Viewing Station.
- Review of financial status after the long Covid-forced closing.
- New projects in the park.

# VIEW BETWEEN THE EARS!

by Cindy Middleton

SASA equestrians hosted the riders from Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Assoc (TETRA) recently for a guided ride, potluck supper and a silent auction. benefiting our Friends group.



Riders watered their horses in the North Concho River and splashed around a bit.



Fearless leader, Linda Ashton, led 17 riders through the park, by blazing her own trails in the area across RR2288 known as Area 6-7.





Lunch and rest break was at Brown's Crossing, a natural ford on the North Concho River where the Butterfield Stage crossed in days gone by.



Last stop was a visit to respects to Dave Macey at his 1847 gravesite on the ridge above the river. Linda told Macey's as much as is known about the mysterious site. She also explained how the Native Americas used the site to stampede bison over the steep ridge for slaughter.



Everyone had plenty of good eats and visiting at the potluck supper. Bidding wars on the silent auction items amazingly raised \$436.00 donation to FOSASP.

Volunteers owed a big thanks are Linda Ashton, organizer extradinair; Sharon Olson, food maestro; and Cindy Middleton for "pulling drag" leading the Sundays ride.

Thanks also to all the visiting TETRA riders who came to support this ride.



# New Sign Invites Shoppers into Gate House Store

Thanks to Steve Nelson who has done the ground work, a bright new sign invites visitors to come inside the gatehouse to shop from the array of SASP related items. The new sign replaces the old unattractive one.



The array of SASP-related items includes shirts, patches, caps, visors, mugs, pins, magnets, walking sticks, nature booklets, toys, bandanas, earrings, postcards and more.

*Proceeds from the store benefit FoSASP and provide support for this park.*

FoSASP members can take a 10% discount on items purchased at the gift shop.



A recently added item is the new SASP Bumper sticker.

# OVER THE BARS

By Steve Nelson



Random bicycle racing on park trails is typically frowned upon. However, as an organized event, a race can bring hundreds of people to the park and the city of San Angelo.

The Texas Police games held the bike race here June 2016. The Chaparral pavilion was the center of the action.

In September 2018 the Texas Mountain Bike Racing Association (TMBRA) held a race here. Riders and family members stayed overnight



in the park. Friend's volunteers assisted with the event. I was asked to help with the expected rush as the park opened at 6 a.m. After the things slowed down I went to watch races. Jerry Middleton cooked over two hundred burgers. I tried to help him.

San Angelo Bicycle Association (SABA) holds the Six hours of the Dinosaur bicycle race in the fall. Racers do nine mile laps in teams or as solo riders.



Groups seeking to hold organized races must submit applications at safety plans and proof as insurance in advance.

The rest of the time take it easy, wear a helmet and enjoy the ride.

# FRIENDS OF SASP

Linda Ashton  
 Steven Baer  
 Ray and Judy Benton  
 Lea Beyerlein  
 Robert Bluthardt  
 Arelle Brininstool  
 Cary Brown  
 FG and Joan Brown  
 David Busker  
 Sean Buss  
 Jim Crawford  
 Charlie and Marsha Crabtree  
 Christopher Daniel  
 Martha Dolliver  
 Mary Ellen Douthit  
 Esther Douthit  
 Dorothy Douthit and Lisa Truesdell  
 Mary Noel Golder  
 Frank Gully  
 Laurie and Mike Hampton  
 Jackie and Judy Hight  
 Patricia Hines  
 Sarah Howell  
 Jana Jenkins

Liz and Jeanne Jones  
 John and Ruth Jordan  
 Jake Landers  
 Kathy (Walker) and Russ Libby  
 Patrick Malloy  
 Dean and Lisa McInturff  
 Larry McMurtrey  
 Travis and Irene Meitzen  
 Gail Metcalf and Wade Potts  
 Jerry and Cindy Middleton  
 Deola Mitts  
 Ed and Cat Nelson  
 Steve Nelson  
 Rick and Velma Ogan  
 Sharon Olson  
 Katherine Osborne  
 Dee Osteen  
 Pete and Sandy Pedersen  
 CV and Marguarite Pickett  
 Jackie and Kenneth Prescott  
 Amanda Razani  
 Shirley and Bob Reid  
 Jeanette Kay Reviere  
 Brownie Roberts

Marilyn Russell  
 Laurel Scott  
 Sandra Seifert  
 Terry Shaner  
 John Talley  
 Bertha Darlyne Vieter  
 Terry Wallace  
 Polly Waterhouse  
 David and Deborah Watson  
 Rebecca Young

## Sponsor Members

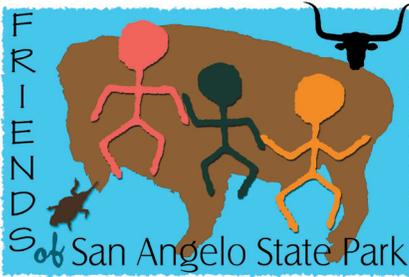
Bryant Better Hearing  
 Chick-Fil-A  
 Concho Valley Electric Coop  
 Copeland Nationwide Insurance  
 DeCoty Coffee  
 Market Street  
 Jody Gentry / Mediajaw Web Design  
 San Angelo Garden Club  
 Shelburne Financial Services  
 Texas State Bank  
 Western Vet  
 Zesch and Pickett Insurance

## FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Member (\$25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Member (\$20)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Organization (\$35)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Business Bronze (\$50)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Business Silver (\$100)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$40)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Family (\$30)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student & Military (\$15)
- Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
**Friends of SASP**  
**3900-2 Mercedes**  
**San Angelo, TX 76901**



## FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK

3900-2 MERCEDES  
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76901

# TOURS IN THE PARK

- Saturday May 15 Longhorn & Bison Viewing – 10:00 AM  
Permian Track Hike - 2:00 PM- Gate 8-3  
Permian Track Hike -4:00 PM - Gate 8-3
- Sunday May 16 Wildflower Hike- 2:00 PM-Chaparral Pavilion
- Saturday May 22 Longhorn & Bison Viewing- 10:00 AM  
On The Right Track – 2:00 PM - Chaparral Pavilion  
On The Right Track - 4:00 PM- Chaparral Pavilion
- Sunday May 23 Trail of the Month Hike – 2:00 PM - Riverbend Camp-  
ground
- Saturday May 29 Longhorn & Bison Viewing - 2:00 PM
- Sunday May 30 Wildflower Hike - 2:00 PM - Burkett Trailhead

For more information contact  
Bonnie Wallace  
Interpretive Ranger  
325-949-8935

Information for future tours and evens can be found on these following media:

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE-SAN ANGELO STATE PARK  
<https://www.facebook.com/SanAngeloStatePark>

**Friends of San Angelo State Park**

**[https://m.facebook.com > friendsOfSanAngeloStatePark](https://m.facebook.com/friendsOfSanAngeloStatePark)**

**San Angelo State Park (@sanangelosp)**

**[https://www.instagram.com > sanangelosp](https://www.instagram.com/sanangelosp)**



## PROUD PAPA

Newest member of the Texas  
State Longhorn Herd at SASP

*Photo by John Osterhout*



Donations to Honor  
the following were received through San  
Angelo Gives.

Kent and Mary Shelton

Ruth Jordan

Laurel Scott, the birds

Eric Nagel

## More Visitors Enjoy SASP

In the last twenty month, 43,526 visitors have been checked into SASP  
During the fiscal year 2020-2021 the total increased almost five percent  
over the previous year.