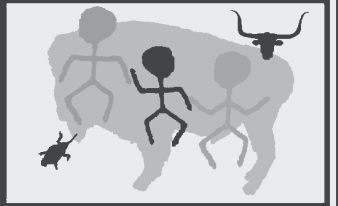


Friends of San Angelo State Park



VOL. 19

WINTER, 2021

NO. 1

WILDLIFE VIEWING CENTER IS OPEN FOR VISITORS

By Laurel L. Scott

Those who remember the 70-80 mile an hour winds that demolished the older building at the Wildlife View Center last June will be happy to know the site is open to visitors.

Park Staff led by Assistant Superintendent Jarrett Miller, cleared away the tree branches, scraps of wood, broken glass and more. He then located a piece of fencing to fill in the hole left by the missing building and placed a high bench for a viewing point. Meanwhile, the open structure built in 2019 by the Downtown Lions Club is intact and provides shade.

Most important, after Covid-related closures were lifted, the volunteers who fill the bird feeders have been busy keeping the wildlife happy, fed, and visiting the site.

There often are lot to see. Regular visitors have spotted a wide variety of birds but also javelinas, porcupines and raccoons.

Plans are in the works to replace the old structure with something better. Discussions have included accessibility and solar power. But don't wait. Spring is on the way and the birds are flocking to the feeders.

Note: Laurel organizes a team of volunteers and keeps the supply of bird feed ready for daily feeding.



Photos by
Jana Jenkins

THE PARK IS OPEN

After months of closings, partial closings and limitations, visitors are welcomed through the gates again on an almost normal basis.

Bikers, hikers, riders, birders, fishers, campers, everyone can enjoy the outdoors again.

WITH SOME RESTRICTIONS

Mandates from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will apply until further notice.

- **Interpretive programs (group sizes limited to 10).**
- **Groups must be within limits set by the Governor's Office.**
- **Staff and visitors must maintain social distance from individuals outside their households.**
- **Face coverings are strongly encouraged for visitors.**

For more specific information go to:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/keeping-you-healthy?utm_campaign=getaways&utm_medium=email&utm_source=feb2021%2C11%3A30a

You can also call the Customer Service Center at (512) 389-890

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

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From the Park Superintendent

By Jarrett Miller - Assistant Superintendent

THANKS, FRIENDS

We are thankful to have such a great group of individuals willing and able to help with the needs and interests of the park.

Thank you for volunteering your time and funds to help repair the bunkhouse. It was damaged in the storm last year. Steve Nelson repaired the cracks in the ceiling and he, along with Friends members, Terry Wallace, Gail Metcalf, and Deola Mitts did some painting. The brown trim looks great and makes the place feel bigger!

Thank you for funding the stocking of Javelina Draw fishing pond. We were able to stock almost a thousand fish in September that will be catchable size come spring-time. The funds also allowed us to have nine hundred trout put into the pond. Both kids and adults are having a blast fishing here. Visitors were even down there trout fishing while it was snowing recently. The only time I've driven by and not seen anyone fishing is in the dark.

Thank you for funding the purchase of deer corn for some of our hunts. The corn aided in the success of the two youth hunts and in the adult beginner mentored hunt. Multiple people were able to harvest their first deer and made memories to last a lifetime.

Thank you for funding decorations and Santa's visit for the "Holly Days" event. And, for volunteering your time to help setup and staff the event. I heard all compliments and no complaints for the biggest event in the five years that I've been here. The kids loved it.

Y'all, as a group and individually, do great things for the park and I look forward to many years of a great partnership that benefits the visitors of San Angelo State Park.

NEWS

Visitation for 2020 was up almost 30% compared to the same time in 2019. From September 2020 to January, 2021, thirty-six thousand people passed through our entrance gates!

Some park business updates. By the time you are reading this, interviews for the new Park Superintendent will have been conducted and hopefully an individual selected. Will update the board members as we receive information on this.

We are almost at full staff for the first time in a couple years. Several new people hopefully will find a home working at SASP for a long career.

Covid-19 is still proving to be a pain for operations. With great protocols from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, we have witnessed very little impact compared to other parks. We will continue to do all we can to keep the gates open and allow access to beautiful San Angelo State Park.

See you on the trails!
Jarrett Miller

WEBSITE

FRIENDSOFSANANGELOSTATEPARK.ORG

FACEBOOK PAGE

[FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK](#)

MEET THE CREW By Cheree Watts

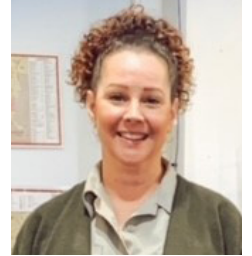
With a history of operating understaffed, SASP is currently almost fully staffed. With the exception in the superintendent's position which remains open after Jim Cisneros left for a position at Brazos Bend SP, most vacancies have been filled

Friendly faces you might see include:



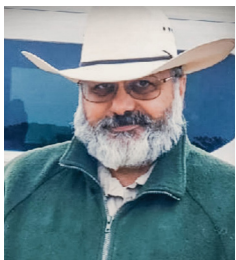
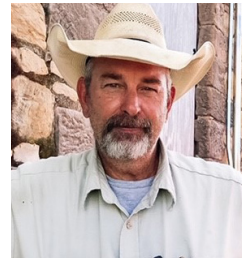
Jarrett – Assistant Superintendent Jarrett has loved working at the park for the past five years. He even spends time at the park with his family when off duty. Known for his positive attitude, Jarrett has measured up to all the challenges of the past year, often working with short staff.

Kari – Assistant Office Manager In her third month, she is very excited and thankful for the opportunity to work at SASP and looks forward to many years. She loves spending time outdoors with her two kids.



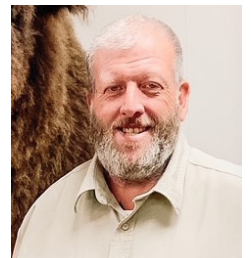
Cheree – Office Manager Cheree joined the staff last fall and has loved learning all about the park especially the Bison and Longhorn. She thoroughly enjoys seeing them at their feeding times. In her free time she loves bass fishing with her husband.

Mike – Maintenance Ranger In his two years at the park he has become known as 'the quiet one.' Mike enjoys helping prepare SASP for youth hunt. A fisherman himself, he likes being a part of the kids first fishing experience.



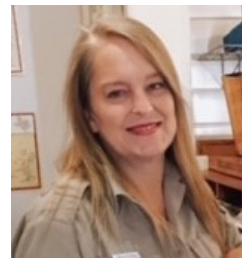
KC – Lead Ranger Joining the staff just over a year ago, KC loves the uniqueness of SASP. He thinks it is special place and loves coming out in his free time.

Matt – Maintenance Ranger Has really enjoyed his six months in the park and is looking forward to making this his life-long career. He enjoys trout fishing with his wife every chance he gets.



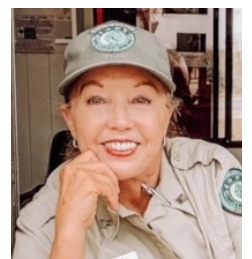
Bonnie – Interpretive Ranger After four years on staff, Bonnie was assigned to her present position which includes planning and carrying out tours and promoting visitation. She likes being a source of information about the park which she shares during her interpretive events and sharing what the park has to offer. She says she has loved her time here and looks forward to many more years.

Donnia – In her seven months at the park, she thoroughly enjoys getting to know the visitors and assisting them any way that she can. She is passionate about conserving our natural resources and looks forward to many years at SASP.



Jade – Park Police Officer In his fourth year, Jade enjoys serving the community and being a part of SASP. From boater rescues to wildlife management, he is an asset to the staff.

LaFonda In her first year she enjoys being a part of SASP. She loves hunting, fishing, and simply being outside.



John – Custodian Recent addition to the staff, he looking forward to learning more and being a part of the success at SASP.

VIEW BETWEEN THE EARS!

by Cindy Middleton

There is just something special about riding the trails on your pony with good friends. It just refreshes your soul. No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle out on the trails with friends.

Last November, we had a request from an out of town rider for a guided ride. So I put out a text to all my riding friends to see if any of them wanted to join me in showing the trails to this visiting rider. Much to my surprise, all but three of my "gang" jumped at the opportunity and joined us. TEN riders! had a fantastic ride, visiting and enjoying each other's company.

Our guest got an opportunity to get her horse used to stepping into water.

Earlier in the autumn, Kathleen Proffitt and I went off-trail to do some exploring. We came upon a huge area just covered in the purple blooms of Gayfeathers. It really just took our breath away. I took several trips to the area as everyone wanted to see them. It was an excellent area for a photo shoot. Judy Hight on her horse Juice pose for a shot amid the brilliant colors; purple Gayfeathers and the yellow Snakeweed mixed with Beargrass, Yucca, and Mormon Tea shrubs.

Our winter weather is good for riding the trails. Gather up some friends, load your ponies, and ride our park trails.

LIFE IS BETTER OUTSIDE.
Especially on a horse and with friends.





TRAIL RIDERS

WE ARE CLOUD CHASERS,
EAGLE TRACKERS, STREAM STOMPING,
FOREST FOLK,
WE ARE WIND TALKERS,
MEADOW DANCERS, CLIFF GAZERS,
CAMPFIRE COFFEE DRINKING SUNRISE GREETERS,
LEATHER LUSTERS, HAT WEARING
BLUE JEAN SPORTIN' BOOT FLASHING,
HAS IT GOT SOME RAWHIDE OR SOME
CONCHOS TO GO WITH THAT?

WE LOVE A SADDLE SQUEEK,
A NICKER NEIGH, A MANE TOSS,
A SAUCY TAIL FLAG AND A SNORT,
EARS PERKED FORWARD, MOVIN' OUT,
CLIP OF HOOF CLOPS IN YOUR HEAD,
FEEL THE REIN,
FOOT IN THE STIRRUP,
OH THE SWAY SWAY OF A SLOW LOPE
THAT YOU ARE SITTIN' JUST RIGHT.

TRUST. FREEDOM. JOY.

SO MANY MOMENTS, SO MANY MILES,
SO MANY TRAILS, SO MANY SMILES.

JUST YOU, AND SOME VERY SPECIAL
FRIENDS.



SAN ANGELO Gives



DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

- Election of officers: Vice President Linda Ashton was reelected to a two- year term. Amanda Razani was elected secretary for two -year term. Continuing in their second year of two- year term are Ruth Jordan, President, and Cindy Middleton, treasurer.
- Treasurer’s Report: Current cash balance, approximately \$48,000.
- Wildlife Viewing Stand: Construction on hold will be accomplished by volunteers of the Downtown Lion’s Club, financed by FoSASP.
- Events: Silver Bluebonnet Day will be held May 5 with a new format to comply with Cov-Id restrictions. Holly Days, Christmas event, had almost a thousand visitors. Monarch Trail Ride plans are on hold.
- Membership in Texans for State Parks will be renewed.
- Nominations to fill vacancies in board members can be sent to Deborah Watson, Nominating Committee Chairperson.
- Volunteer hours: 819 hours reported by Friends during September-December
- Next board meeting: March 16.

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

OVER THE BARS

By Steve Nelson

Group rides.

One big draw to Texas state parks, especially San Angelo State Park, is a large system of trails.

Some trails are multi-use. Some are designated for bikes. Some for hiking. Others are for horse riders and/or hikers.

Hiking trails are usually the easiest.

Thanks to volunteers and park rangers, SASP has new trail signs and maps. The maps are available at the gate house and are displayed on kiosks in the park.



A group of cyclists gather for a photo after a ride on the trails at San Angelo state park.



Even with good maps and signs, it can be daunting to ride in a 7,000 acre park. Getting lost is a possibility. Areas can be rocky. Everything has thorns.

A group ride is a good way to learn about the trails while staying on the safe side. By contacting San Angelo Bicycle Association you can make arrangements to meet with one person for a companion rider or to join a group ride. On the group rides, usually a leader steps up to set the pace, and to stop often enough for people to catch their breath. And to keep the group together. These are called 'no drop rides. If they notice a rider isn't with them, someone can go back for them. Someone in the group will have an air pump. Someone will know how to fix a chain. Bike repair stands provided by the Friends club are located at three sites on the bike trails.



Contact S.A.B.A. at Angelobike.org, or Facebook-San Angelo Bicycle Association.

These people are friendly. Be ready for fun and maybe some teasing for a cheap bike.

Come prepared with a helmet and water. I think that you will have as good a time as I have.

G'day.

Beautiful scenery of the north end of the park.





FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK

3900-2 MERCEDES

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76901

PARK TOURS ON DEMAND

For the foreseeable future San Angelo SP, will be offering tours as requested for groups of ten or fewer in compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.

- Visitors can request tours selected from the following programs:
- Permian Tracks Hike
- Rollercoaster Hike (Moderate level)
- Birding 101
- Cougar Outlook Hike (Moderate)
- Animal Tracks ID Hike (Easy)

Please email Ranger Bonnie at Bonnie.Wallace@tpwd.texas.gov with the date, time, number of people in the group, and the program selected. If she is unable to lead the program on the time and date requested, she will work with you to select an open time.

Please try to request a program at least two weeks ahead.

There will be a minimum requirement of 4 people.

Daily entrance fees still required.

The Longhorn & Bison herds or routinely fed for public viewing on Saturdays around 11:00AM weather permitting.

SAVE THE DATE



Silver Bluebonnet Day AT SAN ANGELO STATE PARK

May 5, 2021 9:00 AM -1:00 PM

PICNIC AND TOUR FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

FREE

This traditional and favorite event will have a new format in keeping with Covid restrictions

Presented by

Friends of San Angelo State park

Sponsored by

BRYANT
BETTER HEARING

San Angelo—Brady—Sonora