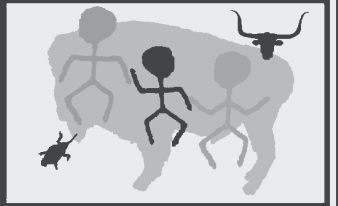


# Friends of San Angelo State Park



VOL. 21

WINTER

NO. 1

## SWEEPSTAKES

WE WON IN ALL FOUR CATEGORIES.

“Let’s spread the word that SASP is the place to be in 2023,”

“This outstanding achievement is something we should all be very proud of and celebrate this recognition for our State Park. I am honored to be a member of this team and look forward to the continued success of our future endeavors, remarked Jarrett Miller.

Texas for State Parks annually selects and honors outstanding service. Nominations are received and judged for winners. Honorees are recognized at the TFSP Annual Conference. TFSP is a state-wide association supporting all state park endeavors and improvements. Ruth Jordan and Sally Scott are board members. It is supported by membership fees and donations.

**Butch Street**, Assistant Superintendent, nominated the Friends group for the Outstanding Group Award. He wrote:

“The Friends of San Angelo State Park are an amazing group of people. They come from all different backgrounds but work diligently together for the benefit of the park. There is no aspect that they will not help with.

It is inspirational to see how they come together from so many backgrounds to support our needs and our park.”

SAVE THIS DATE  
SATURDAY, March 18  
**FREE DAY**  
State Parks Centennial  
SEE P. 8 FOR ACTIVITIES

**Region I Winners**  
**Outstanding Superintendent**  
**Jarrett Miller**

**Outstanding Staff Member**  
**Amanda Schraeder**

**Outstanding Volunteer**  
**John Talley**

**Outstanding Friends Group**  
**Friends of San Angelo State Park**



Picture by Steve Nelson

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 2022-2023

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	Amanda Razani
Jana Jenkins	Brownie Roberts
Ruth Jordan	Laurel Scott
Gail Metcalfe	Sally Scott
Cindy Middleton	John Talley
Deola Mitts	Terry Wallace
Steve Nelson	Deborah Watson
Sandy Pedersen	
Jarrett Miller - Park Superintendent	

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 Superintendent

Jarrett Miller

## Texas celebrates the 100 year anniversary of State Parks this year!

San Angelo became a State Park in 1995 but, regardless, we are going to help celebrate. For those that don't know, TPWD leases the park from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. They operate the dam and we run the land surrounding the lake.

We had a decent hunting season this year. Overall harvest numbers were down but the smiles were as big as ever. Many memories were made. Thank you to the FoSASP for purchasing corn to assist us with conducting successful hunts. It no doubt made a difference in the youth harvest. More than thirty of them harvested a deer. For ten of them it was their first ever deer! The corn also assisted in conducting a successful Adult Mentored Hunt in mid-January. We had six beginner adult hunters out into the field to attempt to teach them everything they wanted to know about hunting. Most places in Texas offer youth mentored hunts, but San Angelo State Park tapped the niche market on adult beginner hunters. The number of applicants keeps rising year after year!

We also offered two separate adult drawn rifle hunts and two additional youth drawn rifle hunts with a parent or guardian. A turkey hunt will be in the spring!

As is customary in Texas State Parks these days, we are short staffed. By the time you are reading this we hope to have a new Customer Service Representative greeting you at the gatehouse window. We are holding out for a well rounded and qualified Lead Ranger since Stan retired. We are still seeking a Custodian for helping to keep all the facilities clean. We will also be seeking a new Maintenance Specialist III with additional duties in safety. Our two seasonal maintenance positions should also be posted soon. Keep an eye on our social media for any and all local career opportunities. Feel free to give the park a call if you have any questions about any of the positions.

## So...ready or not...2023 here we come! See you on the trails!

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## BOARD NOTES

The board of Directors met in regular sessions in November and January. The following issues were addressed:

- Approved funds for gatehouse drive-up window.
- Volunteer hours for September through December were reported 665
- Linda Ashton was elected president effective in March. Cindy Middleton will be treasurer
- Seeking volunteers to paint and tile restrooms
- Heard report for Holly Days. Cookies were purchased for over 500 guests.
- Volunteer assistance needed for TPWD Centennial event in March
- Appointed Deborah Watkins to By-Laws review.



# Spotlight

# Tara Fattouh

## San Angelo State Park

## Interpreter Ranger

San Angelo native Tara Fattouh was named the San Angelo State Park’s interpreter ranger in October.

“Conservation is extremely important to me and as the park interpreter, I hope to expand my knowledge and abilities to help better serve our community by educating and providing as much information as possible,” Tara said in a Facebook posting at the announcement.

Tara earned a Bachelor of Science in geology at a San Antonio College and was hired in April at the San Angelo Park as a customer

service representative. Then the park interpreter position became available. The ranger in this position does everything from scheduling activities to leading hikes and other park activities for visitors, handle social media and make public appearances to promote the park.

“This was the perfect opportunity to grow and move towards a long-term career with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, and it is in a park that has grown to be a very special place to me,” she said. “I’ve spent many years hiking the trails here at the park. I love seeing the sunset from the Highland Range Overlook, one of my favorite spots.”

Her primary goal is to raise awareness in the local community of the resource they have in a state park so close to the city. She hosts a monthly opportunity to meet the bison and longhorns that are special residents of the park. Tara displayed furs and antlers and other objects from nature at an education tent on the parade grounds at Christmas at Old Fort Concho. She also was in charge of organizing the annual Holly-Days event held Dec. 10, a free opportunity for a drive-through view of holiday decorated campsites.

“I look forward to putting on events that teach about our natural resources and what we can all do to help protect them to ensure our future generations have access to these amazing public lands,” she said. “SASP is a unique park, from our bison and longhorn herds to having almost 60 miles of trails to explore.”

“There’s something out here for everybody!”

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>:

**Bison and Longhorn with a Ranger**

– 10am Viewing area

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>:

**Valentine’s Card Crafting**

– 2pm Chaparral Pavilion

– All ages

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>:

**Women’s Hike**

– 2pm Playground Parking Lot

– Approx. 2.75 miles Moderate

**Tara Fattouh | Park Interpreter**

(325) 949-4757



## Challenges on Equestrian Trails

A challenge event consists of a marked trail ride with obstacles stationed on the route. Judges evaluate skill of the horse and rider to maneuver each obstacle.

Texas Trail Challenge Club held a challenge event at SASP assisted by Friend's members.

- Cindy Middleton, with help from Ilene Cooper, planned a nine-mile route.
- John Talley mowed the trails which made them easy to see.
- Linda Ashton and Sharon Olson assisted setting up obstacles and drove the judges to the stations.

Lisa Freeman, Ilene Cooper and Cindy Middleton also participated as competitors.

After the event, two senior judges gave a learning moment to some young girls about safety around horses that would go towards their horsemanship badge.

Ride participants also had a learning experience when a horse panicked going up a deep banked trail and flipped over backward. The saddle dug into the trail and prevented the horse from getting back on his feet. The rider came off safely, stayed calm, evaluated the situation, and used her knife to cut the cinch billet, which allowed the horse to slide out of the saddle and safely regain its footing. Lesson: carry a sharp knife on your person. You never know when you might need it!



# LIONS SERVE

The San Angelo Downtown Lions Club in November put a final touch on two structures at SASP. Led by Lion Keith Perrine, the crew protected the wood, first cleaning with water and bleach, then spraying a stain approved by park Superintendent Jarrett Miller. The structures were the stage at the northside pavilion and a shelter at the Wildlife Viewing Center. FoSASP provided the funds for the supplies. Sprayers were donated by Bes-Tex Supply.

Laurel Scott, FoSASP board member, arranged a thank-you picnic for the Lions.



Sally Scott donated funds for oak trees that were planted at the cabins and the playground.

THANK YOU, SALLY

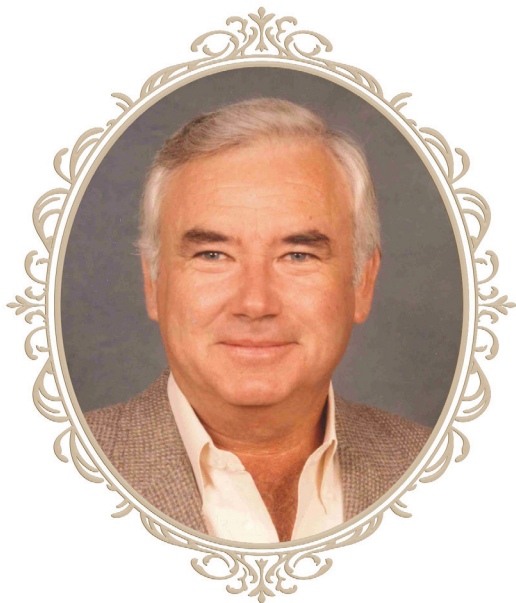
# BRAGGING RIGHTS

SASP made the TOP TEN out of the 83 state parks that participated in First Day Events. It was the only one in Region 1 in Top Fifteen, outnumbering much larger parks, like Garner and Inks Lake."

"Pretty exciting!" remarked Tara Fattouh, Interpreter Ranger. "We had 275 participants and 22 dogs participating in hiking, biking, horse riding. Nine hundred miles were covered.

Volunteers assisting were Laurel Scott and John Talley.

The event is encouraged by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on January 1 each year.



**Not Forgotten**

**John Jordan**

Twenty-Five-year Volunteer  
Trees will be planted in his honor



# Donnia Robles

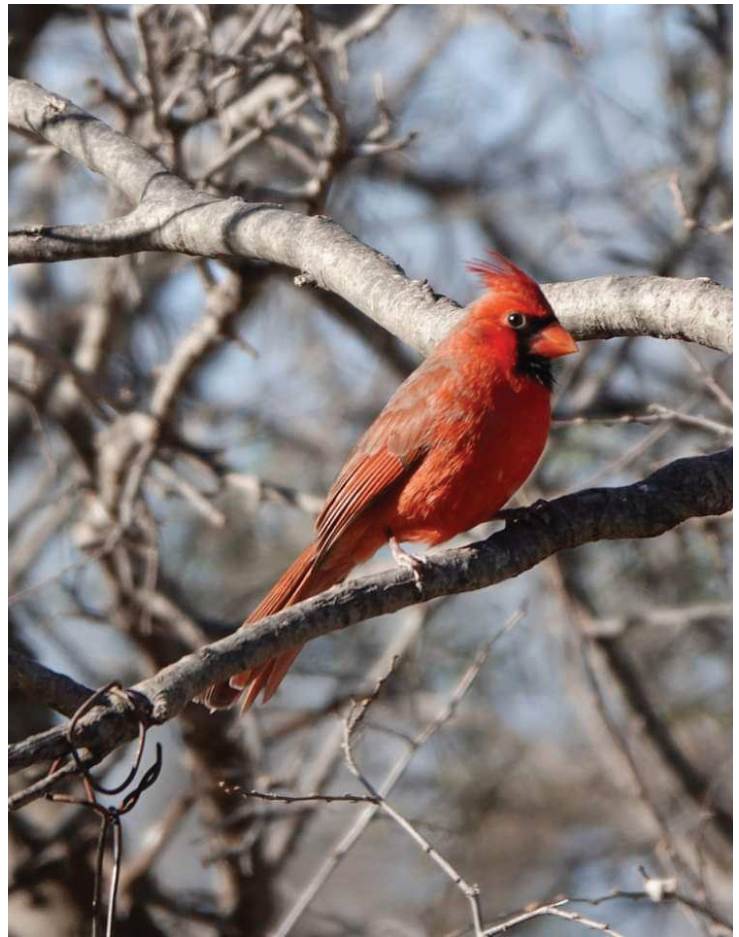
We would like to welcome back our newest team member to San Angelo State Park Donnia Seely Robles.

Donnia Robles is the new Customer Service Representative at the South Shore Gatehouse. She looks forward to meeting and getting to know all the SASP regu-

lars and assisting the first time visitors. Donnia was raised in a family who was passionate about conserving our natural resources as her grandfather was instrumental in supervising the fish hatchery with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department here in San Angelo for 32 years.

Before coming to the SASP, Donnia worked as Commander's Support Staff at the 312th Squadron at Goodfellow Air Force Base. Donnia also was a sign language interpreter with Small Schools Cooperative for over 15 years before retiring due to kidney failure. However, thankfully she received a kidney transplant from her very good friend, Joyce. Donnia was very sad to retire from working with her students but is extremely proud that most of them keep in touch with her to keep her up to date of their accomplishments.

Donnia has been married to her husband, Juan, for 22 amazing years. She has a daughter, Brianna, who is married to Sebastian and their sons, her grandsons who are the lights of her life, Sebastian and Lucian!



Above Northern Cardinal  
Below Northern Mockingbird  
Photos by: Jana Jenkins

## SAN ANGELO STATE PARK STAFF DIRECTORY

### PARK HEADQUARTERS STAFF:

**Jarrett Miller**

Park Superintendent  
325.949.4757 / #5 → #1

**Butch Street**

Asst. Park Superintendent  
325.949.4757 / #5 → #2

**Vacant**

Lead Ranger  
325.949.4757 / #5 → #6

**Rolando Chavez**

Park Police Officer  
325.949.4757 / #5 → #5

**Tara Fattouh**

Park Interpreter  
325.949.4757 / #5 → #7

**Mike Sharpsteen** – Maint. Specialist III

**Vacant** – Maint. Specialist III

**Vacant** – Maint. Specialist I

**Christian Martin** – Maint. Specialist I

**Vacant** - Custodian

### SOUTH SHORE GATEHOUSE STAFF:

**Cheree Watts**

Office Manager  
325.949.4757 / #5 → #4

**Kari Carreon**

Asst. Office Manager  
325.949.4757 / #5 → #4

**Amanda Schraeder** – Cust. Service Rep.

**Donnia Robles** – Cust. Service Rep.

**South Shore GH** – 325.949.4757 / #2



**In 2022 with your membership dues and contributions we were able to:**

- Feed birds and wildlife almost every day • Stock the fish pond
- Supply corn for the deer hunters • Support Holly Days in the Park
- Hold Silver Bluebonnet Day picnic for senior citizens
- Purchase solar lights for a restroom
- Finance emergency aid training for the staff • Publish quarterly newsletter
- Treat members and staff with a free fish fry dinner
- Pay for hay for the bison when it didn't rain.

**THANK YOU**

**With your continued support we anticipate an even bigger, better 2023.**

**FRIENDS OF SASP**

Roger and Annamargaret Anderson  
 Linda Ashton  
 Pat Bales  
 Carrie Beasley  
 Ray & Judy Benton  
 Lea Beyerlein  
 Robert Bluthardt  
 Terri Bomberger  
 Gary Bowers  
 Arelle Brininstool  
 Wanda Brothers  
 Cary Brown & Sue Wetzel  
 Joan & FG Brown  
 David Busker  
 Theresa Cain  
 Caroline & Bob Carpenter  
 Jerry and Christi Chambers  
 Ilene Cooper  
 Charlie and Marsha Crabtree  
 Jim Crawford  
 Christopher Daniels  
 Laurie Dicello  
 Laurie Jean Dickmeyer  
 Martha Dolliver  
 Mary Ellen Douthit  
 Esther Douthit  
 Dorothy Douthit & Lisa Truesdell  
 Rebecca Duncan  
 Shane Dunlap  
 Lisa Freeman

Dennis & Glenna Friedrich  
 Jody Gentry / Media Jaw  
 Mary Golder  
 Frank Gully  
 Dennis & Holly Hall  
 Laurie & Mike Hampton  
 Jackie & Judy Hight  
 Patricia Hines  
 Sarah Howell  
 Jana Jenkins  
 MS Jernigan  
 Liz Jones  
 Ruth Jordan  
 Sheryl Kanaga  
 Jake Landers - H  
 Kathy & Russ Libby  
 Patrick Malloy  
 Dean and Lisa McInturff  
 Larry McMurtrey  
 Travis & Irene Meitzen  
 Gail Metcalf  
 Jerry & Cindy Middleton  
 Deola Mitts  
 Bette Mulley  
 Ed & Cat Nelson  
 Steve Nelson  
 Rick & Velma Ogan  
 Sharon Olson  
 Dee Osteen  
 Pete & Sandy Pedersen

CV & Marquarite Pickett  
 Jason Pierce  
 Kay Pierce  
 Jackie & Kenneth Prescott  
 Amanda Ranzani  
 Jeanette Kay Reviere  
 Brownie Roberts  
 Marilyn Russell  
 San Angelo Garden Club  
 Laurel Scott  
 Sally Scott  
 Sandra Seifert  
 Terry Shaner  
 Debra & Robert Shannon  
 John Talley  
 Thomas Taylor  
 Rick & Shae Temple  
 Lisa Tumlinson  
 Bertha Darlyne Vieter  
 Terry Wallace  
 Polly Waterhouse  
 David & Deborah Watson  
 Joe & Linda Weaver  
 Linda White  
 Jerry Wilkins  
 Robbie Wilson  
 Martha Yarbro  
 Rebecca Young

**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**

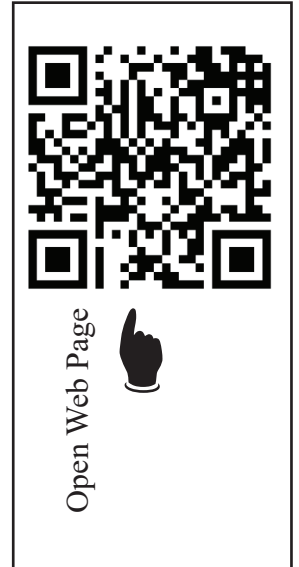


**FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK**  
 3900-2 MERCEDES  
 SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76901

**TEXAS STATE PARKS  
 100-YEAR CELEBRATION  
 AT SAN ANGELO STATE PARK  
 March 18, 2023  
 10:00am – 2:00pm  
 Entrance fees waived**

Activities are continuous unless otherwise noted

- Self-guided Tour of the South Side of the Park** Handouts available
- Archery** All equipment provided
- Wildlife Viewing - Bird watching** Wildlife Viewing Blind
- Nature Hikes** Roughly 1 mile  
10:00 m, 11:30 am & 1:00 m
- Canoeing** All equipment provided  
Bring your own life jacket if you have one
- Water, Skins & Skulls Display** Chaparral Pavilion Area
- Longhorn / Bison Viewing and information** Pasture Fence
- Fishing with a Ranger** Javelina Pond  
Limited number of rods, reels & tackle provided or bring your own
- Permian Tracks Tour** Gate 8-3 on Hwy 2288  
Leaves at 10:00 am, 11:30 am & 1:00 pm  
¾ mile round-trip hike
- Intro to mountain biking** Burkett Trailhead  
10:00 am, 11:30 am & 1:00pm  
Bring your own bike and helmet
- Nature Hike** Bell's Trailhead  
10:00 am, 11:30 am & 1:00 pm
- Macey's Grave Horseback Ride** Area 6 gate on Hwy 2288  
10:00am Bring your own horse



Information for future tours and events 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 >](https://m.facebook.com/FriendsofSanAngeloStatePark)  
 San Angelo State Park (@sanangelosp) [https://www.instagram.com >](https://www.instagram.com/sanangelosp) [sanangelosp](https://www.instagram.com/sanangelosp)

**ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION DEPENDANT UPON WEATHER/CONDITIONS**