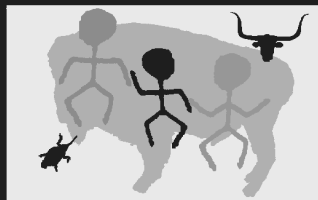


# Friends of San Angelo State Park



VOL. 19

SUMMER 2021

NO. 3

## GATE SYSTEM IS MORE USER FRIENDLY

*"Now we are hands-free," commented Jarret Miller, Park Superintendent.*

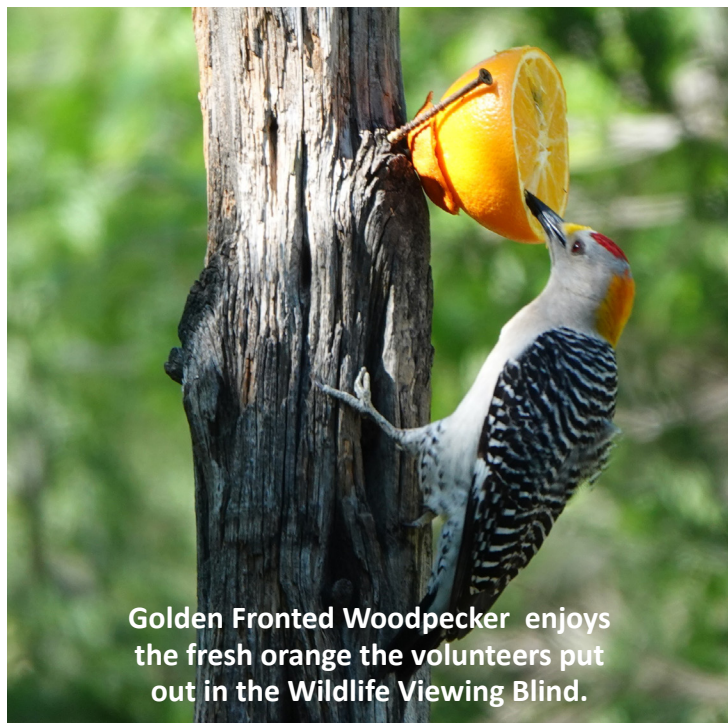
Newly installed electric gate opener will make it easier to enter or leave the park after regular hours.

Gates are closed from 10 PM until 7AM daily. Formerly they were secured with a chain and coded pad lock. The code was changed weekly. Staff, campers and others with the code could enter, but had to get out of their vehicle and enter the

code on the padlock. Not always an easy task.

"This mitigates the issue of us having to assign personnel to close the gate every night at 10 o'clock 365 days a year," Jarrett said.

FoSASP contributed to the cost of installation.



**Golden Fronted Woodpecker** enjoys the fresh orange the volunteers put out in the Wildlife Viewing Blind.

### **Volunteers Feed the Wildlife Viewing Blind Every Day of the Week**

The birds and animals and FoSASP appreciate the following volunteers

Greg Gregerson, Paula Downer, Glynn Strom and Jan, Jana Jenkins, Linda White and Becky Chandler, Matthew Johnson, Kay Raviere and Darlene Dieter. Special thanks to Laurel Scott, coordinator and bird seed stocking.

### **TOURS AND EVENTS RETURN WITH PIZZAZ**

**Want to hunt a rabbit,  
build a bird feeder,  
try your hand at archery, and tie a knot?  
How about tracking some critters?  
Or hiking a new trail?  
Throw a cowboy lasso?**

With the loosening of restrictions, Interpretative Ranger Bonnie Wallace has prepared an exciting array of activities for youngsters and not-so-youngsters.

See the list on page 8 of this newsletter. Tours are free with gate admission. 12 year old and under are free.



### **SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING AND FISH FRY DINNER**

Sunday Sept. 12 • 6:00 • North Shore pavilion

Members and their guests will enjoy a meal, receive a report of the past years accomplishments, elect board members, visit with Friends and park staff and enjoy an evening in the park. Invitations with RSVP information will be mailed.

*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 2021-2022*

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	Laurel Scott
Larry McMurtrey	Sally Scott
Cindy Middleton	John Talley
Deola Mitts	Terry Wallace
Steve Nelson	
Jerrett 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 DESK OF THE OFFICE MANAGER**

*By Cheree Watts*

We are wrapping up Fiscal Year 2020-21. It has been extremely busy here at SASP Headquarters. There is a lot to do and little time to do it. It seems as though Jarrett and I blink and another week has gone by closing the window that much more.

But we will get through it! We have a great team manning the field while we crunch the numbers and meet the deadlines. It's a great feeling to know that the team that Jarrett has built prior to my coming on board is as solid as it is. With the new ones that have come on more recently, both he and I have been able to handle the fiscal portion and still feel confident that we can easily delegate other priorities that come up every day as they tend to.

I'm proud to be part of a team with such an awesome leader

**Speaking of team updated.**

**Jarrett Miller — Superintendent**

**Cheree Watts — Office Manager**

**Kari Carreon — Asst. Office Manager**

**Stan Tinnin — Lead Ranger**

**Bonnie Wallace — Park Interpreter**

**Rolando Chavez — Probationary Park Police Officer**

**Adam Saucedo — Customer Service Rep.**

**Amanda Schraeder — Customer Service Rep.**

**Mike Sharpsteen — Park Ranger**

**Matt Geise — Park Ranger**

## **BOARD NOTES**

Regular meeting of the FoSASP Board of Directors was held July 20.

Progress was reported on projects funded by FoSASP including the order and upcoming delivery of twenty burr oak trees; purchase of fertilizer and watering gators for the trees; installation of solar recirculation pump for the water feature at the Wildlife Viewing Blind; two new horse pens ordered for equestrian campground. Projects in progress discussed included, water well and solar pump to supply water for Javelina Pond; building new structure at the Wildlife Viewing Blind with volunteers from the Downtown Lion's Club, and hat racks for the cabins.

Sally Scott was elected to fill a vacancy on the board.

Dates for Monarch Trail Ride, Oct. 15-17 and Annual Meeting and Fish Fry (Sept.12) were approved.

FoSASP will participate as a vendor at the Air Race Oct. 30-31.

Nominations for positions on the board are open to members. Election will be held in September. Send nominations to Deborah Watson, nominating committee chairman at 325-262-5646

# MEET THE NEW STAFF

**Amanda Schraeder is one of the new Customer Service Representatives. She started work on June 7 at SASP.**

I'm originally from San Antonio and moved to Sterling City about two months ago to start a new chapter in life. I have worked many of jobs including bank teller, press operator, hat shaper just to name a few. My older brother has been with TPWD for five years. He suggested that I put in for a position knowing that I would love the job.

I enjoy being outdoors and meeting new people. Some of the things that I like in life are fishing, hiking, and hunting. I really enjoy working for SASP and feel like I have found a long term career with TPWD."

**Adam Saucedo is a new CSR. He started with SASP on June 14.**

I was born and raised in West Texas. I moved to San Angelo in 2011 to attend ASU where I earned a Bachelor's in Mass Media and a Masters in Education. I worked several years as a multimedia journalist. I love to write and take photographs.

I've been hunting and fishing with my dad since I was a kid but fell in love with mountain biking, kayak fishing, backpacking, and trail running as a young adult. I've been a regular visitor to San Angelo State Park for years and am very excited to work in a place where I've found health, peace, and passion.

**Stan Tinnin is the new Lead Ranger. He came to SASP on June 2.**

I was born in Bagdad, Arizona, the first child born in the hospital there. I went to various schools in the area and graduated from Salome High School in Salome, Arizona. I worked in a copper mine and then enlisted in the Army. I served my country for over 27 years and was stationed in locations all across the world. Upon retirement from the Army and wanting to work in an outdoor setting, I applied for a job with TPWD and have been the lead ranger for Lake Whitney State Park for the last seven years.

My wife and I have wanted to live in the West Texas area for some time so when the opportunity arose, we both were excited to make the move. We both enjoy outdoor activities and have hunted in the area on several occasions. My favorite pastime is fishing and hopefully one day I will catch a record.





# VIEW BETWEEN THE EARS!

by Cindy Middleton

## RIDING BUDDIES for FUN AND SAFETY

Not only is it just more fun to experience our beautiful state park with good riding buddies, but it is also smarter and safer to ride with a friend or two.

Riding with my group of friends, we have met up with some "surprises" on the trail: a rattlesnake, a crazed squirrel, turkey, buzzard, and javelina. Even a hiker/biker surprise has caused some unscheduled dismounts. When riding out in the "wild", you never know when something might spook your horse. Having friends to help pick you up, dust you off, or pull out some prickly pear spines is a good thing. Or, (I

hate to even think about it) call for help if you're damaged and busted up.

Summer is here. We have been blessed with several rains and hardly any hundred-degree-plus days. Mornings are a great time to enjoy the trails.

So gather up your friends and load up your ponies. Go ride our state park, have fun and stay alert for those "surprises". Take pictures and share what you see out there. Check us out and share your experience with us on our San Angelo State Park Equestrians Facebook group page.



Seen between the ears of Cindy's horse – Linda Ashton, FoSASP vice-president.



Equestrian Friends Linda Ashton and Judy Hight



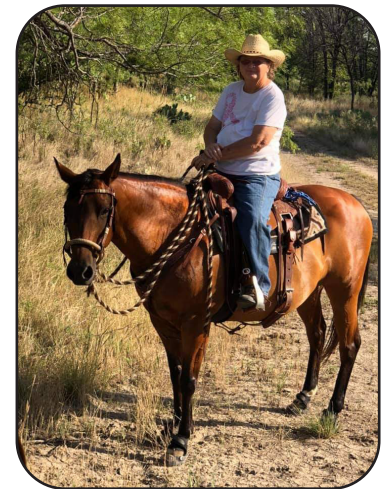
Trail Buddies Sharon Olson, Gail Metcalfe and Lisa Tumlinson are members of FoSASP



Buddies Liz Jones and Gail Metcalfe



Sheryl Kanaga



Lisa Freeman



# Get a Bike and Ride the Best Trails in Texas

By Hayden Whittington



It is a crystal clear spring morning at San Angelo State Park. Your heart is racing as you climb a hill on the mountain bike trail through green-leafed mesquite and brightly colored wild flowers. The sky is vivid blue with a scattering of puffy white clouds.

You are not sure if you can make the crest of the hill, but the thrill of accomplishment and the anticipated joy of the downhill coming keep you going.

Mountain biking has several benefits. By starting slowly, following safety rules, it is one of the best and most enjoyable ways to get physically fit.

Progressing from short rides with numerous rest stops to being able to go for miles up the biggest hills gives a sense of accomplishment. It is a confidence builder. Your everyday problems seem more manageable when you know you can tackle whatever comes.

Mountain biking can refresh your spirit. Being out in nature and enjoying its gifts, you receive a renewing lift not found anywhere else.

San Angelo State park offers the best biking opportunities in all of Texas.

**Get a bike. Ride. Enjoy.**

*Editor's note: This article was written in 1999 by Hayden Whittington, FoSASP member, board secretary and avid biker. Hayden has moved away, but his words hold in 2021. Many improvements have been made to the trails Hayden rode in 1999. **It is still the best bike park in Texas.***

## MONARCH TRAIL RIDE PLANS OCTOBER 15, 16 AND 17, 2021

By Linda Ashton

Monarch Trail Ride 2021 will be a little different. Folks will get to experience the trails on the south side of the SASP.

Camping will be around the Chaparral Pavilion with participants assigned to one of the fourteen electric/water sites. There are no horse pens at these sites. Participants can use their own pens or tie to their trailers. Other camp sites can be reserved by going to TPWD website.

Guided rides will begin at 9:00 Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday night there will be a potluck dinner with Friends group providing the meat and participants bringing side dishes. Silent auction will be held Saturday evening. Everyone is invited to donate anything they want to be rid of.

All proceeds from the ride will be used to improve and help maintain the park.

Details are still in the works so stay tuned.

For more information and to RSVP please contact:

Linda Ashton: 325-656-4322, [linda.ashton@gmail.com](mailto:linda.ashton@gmail.com)

Judy Hight: 325-656-4323, [hight@wcc.net](mailto:hight@wcc.net)



Ginger, a very talented artist.. She presented her sketches before beginning painting.



Ginger Porter, granddaughter of former Park Ranger Bruce Grosshan, volunteered her time and talent to renew the decorations on the trailer used to carry park guests to and from points of interest..



# Spotlight on a Volunteer

## Cindy Middleton

By Laurel L. Scott

South Dakota native, Cindy Middleton came to San Angelo State Park, thanks to the U.S. Air Force and a passion for horseback riding. She and Jerry, her husband of 33 years, also of the Air Force, were stationed at Goodfellow Air Force Base in 1984 and began riding at the park when it was still in federal hands.

"I rode out there before it was a state park, when it was Army Corps of Engineers land," Cindy said. "There were no trails. Jerry and I would bushwhack our way around. The Air Force wanted to move me several times. I wanted to stay in a place where I could ride."

"I just took off the uniform one day and came in as a civilian," Cindy said. She retired from the Air Force after 21 years, then joined the civil service and retained her job in the base legal office.

As a rider, she got to know other riders, including Ruth Jordan, the founding president of the Friends of San Angelo State Park. She joined the board of the park support group about 2000.

"Hayden Whittington was already secretary and I'd fill in for him when needed," she said. "In 2001 he decided he didn't want to do it anymore, I became secretary of the board."

She retained that position until 2019 when the board needed a treasurer. She was elected to that position and served jointly as acting secretary until another member was elected secretary in 2021.

Over the years, Cindy participated in a number of Friends events. "Most of the years, I was with the horses at events," she said. "Jerry's horse was good with kids, so I'd lead Scout around with kids on his back."

One year, we were just getting into bicycles, so we put together a little mountain bike ride for kids on really easy trails."

Cindy coordinates the annual fish fry for Friends members. She is a regular contributor to the Friends quarterly newsletter.

She often guides rides for people who come to the park with their own



horses. Among her favorite routes is the Badlands Trail on the north side of the park. "It's rough and it reminds me of the Badlands of South Dakota, a tamer version," Cindy said.

She has often served as the outrider bringing up the rear at the annual Monarch Trail Ride at the park, making sure everyone is OK.

Cindy has three horses currently. Chula, a quarter horse, is her main trail horse.

"She's a very moody mare, grouchy," Cindy said. "She does not ride well with others."

The other two are rescues with lameness issues. Cisco, also a quarter horse, has led a guided ride or two. Walker is a 25-year-old black Tennessee walker.

"Everybody loves Walker," Cindy

said. "He's had his share of photos taken with a cell phone 'between the ears.' Photography is another passion that brings her to the state park."

"I love to take pictures of the wildflowers, and then I post them on my equestrian rider page on Facebook. I will say 'This is my favorite.' Then, 'this is my favorite.' All the different flowers come out at different times," Cindy said. She has entered her photos in contest, including at the San Angelo Stock Show and has won on occasion. In addition to flower photos, which she said is a very competitive category, she has shared her photos of "horny toads, bugs, scenery, my horses, my friends and their horses."

**"Any view between the ears."**

# FRIENDS OF SASP

Roger and Annamargaret Anderson  
 Angelo Radio Controlled Airplane Club  
 Linda Ashton  
 Steven Baer  
 Ray and Judy Benton  
 Lea Beyerlein  
 Robert Bluthardt  
 Arelle Brininstool  
 Cary Brown  
 Joan and FG Brown  
 David Busker  
 Maggie Cox  
 Jerry and Christi Chambers  
 Charlie and Marsha Crabtree  
 Jim Crawford  
 Christopher Daniels  
 Martha Dolliver  
 Mary Ellen Douthit  
 Esther Douthit  
 Dorothy Douthit and Lisa Truesdale  
 Forty-Something Cowgirls (Shelly Borg-  
 stedte)  
 Mary Golder  
 Frank Gully  
 Laurie and Mike Hampton  
 Jackie and Judy Hight  
 Patricia Hines

Sarah Howell  
 Jana Jenkins  
 MS Jernigan  
 Liz and Jeanne Jones  
 John and Ruth Jordan  
 Jake Landers  
 Kathy and Russ Libby  
 Patrick Malloy  
 Dean and Lisa McInturff  
 Larry McMurtry  
 Travis and Irene Meitzen  
 Gail Metcalf and Wade Potts  
 Jerry and Cindy Middleton  
 Deola Mitts  
 Ed and Cat Nelson  
 Steve Nelson  
 Sharon Olson  
 Katherine Osborne  
 Dee Osteen  
 Pete and Sandy Pedersen  
 CV and Marquarite Pickett  
 Jackie and Kenneth Prescott  
 Amanda Ranzani  
 Jeanette Kay Reviere  
 Brownie Roberts  
 Marilyn Russell  
 San Angelo Garden Club

Laurel Scott  
 Sally Scott  
 Sandra Seifert  
 Terry Shaner  
 Debra Sterling  
 John Talley  
 Bertha Darlyne Vieter  
 Terry Wallace  
 Polly Waterhouse  
 David and Deborah Watson  
 Joe Weaver  
 Rebecca Young

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 Fyzical Therapy & Balance Center  
 Jody Gentry Media Jaws  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Member (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Member (\$20)

\_\_\_\_\_ Organization (\$35)

\_\_\_\_\_ Business Bronze (\$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Business Silver (\$100)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$40)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Family (\$30)

\_\_\_\_\_ Student & Military (\$15)

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK

3900-2 MERCEDES

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76901

# TOURS IN THE PARK

August 7: 10 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing 2 PM- Gyotaku Fish Prints 4 PM- Gyotaku Fish Prints	September 11: 10 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing 2 PM- Habitat Bingo 4 PM- Habitat Bingo
August 8: 9 AM	Trail of The Month Hike 2 PM- Sun Prints of the Wild	September 12: 9 AM	Trail of the Month Hike 2 PM- Mammals of the Park
August 21: 10 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing 2 PM- On the Right Track 4 PM- On the Right Track	September 18: 10 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing 2 PM- Texas Legends (Charles Goodnight) 4 PM- The Great Beefalo
August 22- 9 AM	What's Bugging You? 2 PM- Knot Today	September 19: 10 AM	Archery 101 2 PM- Rabbit Stick Hunting
August 29: 9 AM	Trail of the Month Hike 2 PM- Cowboy Roping	September 25: 10 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing 2 PM- Build Your Own Bird Feeder 4 PM- How would a woodpecker peck?
September 4: 10 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing 2 PM- Permian Track Hike 4 PM- Permian Track Hike	September 26: 10 AM	Primitive Hunting with Atlatl 2 PM- Rabbit Stick Hunting
September 5: 9 AM	Bark Ranger Hike 2 PM- Right at the "Buzz"ard		

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/friendsOfSanAngeloStatePark>

[San Angelo State Park \(@sanangelosp\)](https://www.instagram.com/sanangelosp)

<https://www.instagram.com/sanangelosp>

## Homemade Mosquito Spray

14 drops lavender essential oil  
4 tablespoons vanilla  
1/4 cup vinegar  
Water to fill 16 oz. spray bottle

Shake and spray

"If you are like me and prefer something without DDT, this works," remarks Sally Scott.

Sally, newest member of the FoSASP Board of Directors Parks, recently moved to San Angelo from Austin where she has long been active in outdoor endeavors. She is a board member for Texans for State Parks.

*Welcome, Sally, and thanks.*