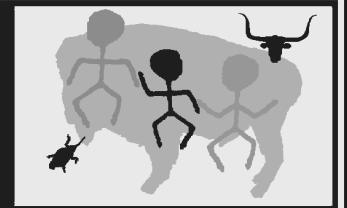


Friends of San Angelo State Park



VOL. 17

FALL, 2019

NO. 2

A plethora of PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, PARTIES

The summer months of 2019 have been very productive. Several new project and programs are completed or are in progress.

Programs

Archery program had its kickoff event August 17. Using equipment borrowed from TPWD, a Girl Scout troop and visitors at Kids Eat Free enthusiastically enjoyed the sport. FoSASP has provided funds to purchase the equipment that will be kept and used here. Several of the staff have attended training to lead visitors through Archery 101.

Hunter Safety Sessions were held sponsored by FoSASP and taught by park rangers. The August session had fifteen participants.



Projects

Remodeling of the gift shop area in the south side gate house is completed with FoSASP funding the materials and volunteer Terry Wallace and staff teaming up for the job.

Volunteers organized by Steve Nelson **painted the framework** at the North Concho Pavilion.

Two corrals will be added to the campsites at the Equestrian Campground bringing the total of sites with pens for visitors' horses to thirty-one.

Replacement of the damaged flooring and back drop at the

stage at the North Concho Pavilion was done by volunteers from the San Angelo Downtown Lion's Club, Keith Perrine, Pal Stipanovic, William Henly, Theresa Cain,



Rodney Floyd, and Laurel Scott. SASP paid for lumber and supplies at donated discount at City Lumber.

Landscaping plants were added to the Wildlife Viewing area by bird feeding volunteer Jana Jenkins with

FoSASP providing funds for plants at Master Gardeners' sale.

New shredder attachment for the tractor has greatly improved volunteer John Talley's trail mowing work.

Bicycle Repair Station number three will soon be in place to



assist cyclists on the trails

Parties

FoSASP volunteers partnered with **Kids Eat Free of Texas Hunger Initiative** and park staff to provide volunteers and food for their Tenth anniversary and summer kickoff.

Smokey the Bear celebrated his 75th Birthday with a fun day at the park. FoSASP provided volunteers and refreshments to the event.

Retirement of Ranger Bill Guffey was celebrated with a barbecue dinner partially funded by FoSASP and attended by many of Bill's associates and friends.

*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	Amanda Razani
Sarah Howell	Brownie Roberts
Ruth Jordan	Marilyn Russell
Gail Metcalfe	Laurel Scott
Larry McMurtrey	John Talley
Cindy Middleton	Terry Wallace
Deola Mitts	Jim Cisneros,
Steve Nelson	Park Supt.
Sandy Pedersen	

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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Published by Qs Printing and Design

From the Park Superintendent *Jim Cisneros*

Park Trails Improvement



I am certain that some of you have noticed the new visitor orientation panels in the park. This is the second step in getting our trails marked with adequate signage.

The first step was getting our trail maps up to date. The trails have been a concern for me and the staff since before my arrival. I knew the park trail signage was definitely an issue when I was receiving calls from the local law enforcement dispatcher concerning lost hikers.

John Talley (Friends of San Angelo State Park) and Cassie Cox (Region 1 Interpretative Specialist) worked together to update the trail maps. Turns out that our trail system was so large that we had to actually put the trails on two maps to incorporate the details required.

Once that was completed Cassie and her team set out to replace the orientation panels on the trails and throughout the park. After months of work by various teams I am proud to say that the new orientation panels have been fully installed. Austin was gracious enough to send us a two man team to help install all the signs. With the help of our new assistant superintendent all the signs were installed in one day.

The next phase, and probably the most difficult part of the project, will be installing the actual trail signs. As you can imagine digging and placing the signs on some of trails will be challenging especially on some of the rockier areas.

Please stay tuned as we continue to push forward on this worthwhile improvement project.

See you on the trails

HONORARY DONATIONS

Donations made through
San Angelo Gives honor the following

Charles Camp
Richard Osteen – A Good Friend
Rusty Carter
Kent and Mary Shelton
All Volunteers
Jim Cisneros

Jarrett Miller

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



After an arduous process of selecting new assistant superintendent from a plethora of highly qualified and skilled candidates, the committee selected Jarrett Miller for the position.

Jarrett was serving as the Lead Ranger at San Angelo State Park. He brings with him a multitude of skills and a wealth of knowledge. He officially started as Assistant Superintendent on July 1.

"We look forward to seeing what great things he will help us achieve here at the park and within the agency," said Jim Cisneros, Park Superintendent.

Jarrett was born in Brownwood and grew up in Abilene. He graduated from Wylie High School in 2001. He moved to San Angelo to attend college at Angelo State University in 2002. Working full time and paying his own way, he graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's in Business Administration.

He met his wife Donalle in 2007 on a blind date. He married her in 2010 and is helping to raise her daughter, Raven. Two years later, his son Scout was born.

Since Jarrett was about four years old, every free minute has been spent outdoors hunting, fishing and playing. If he is not chasing whitetails and quail in the winter, turkey in the spring or dove in the fall, he is on the dock, boat, bank or kayak trying to catch a fish!

He started at San Angelo State Park in early 2016 as a Maintenance Ranger with additional duties in interpretation. He took over as Additional Duty Safety Officer in late 2016. In 2017 he became the Lead Ranger. He spends as many hours a week at the park with his family hiking, biking, fishing and hunting as he does working.



Smokey, Sparky and Granny . What could be more fun for a young park visitor??

park staff aided by FoSASP volunteers. Popcorn and drinks were provided by SASP, snacks by Johnsons Funeral Home and Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens, ice cream from Blue Bell and cake from Texas Forest Service. Young and old alike enjoyed games, and displays of some of the park's wildlife.

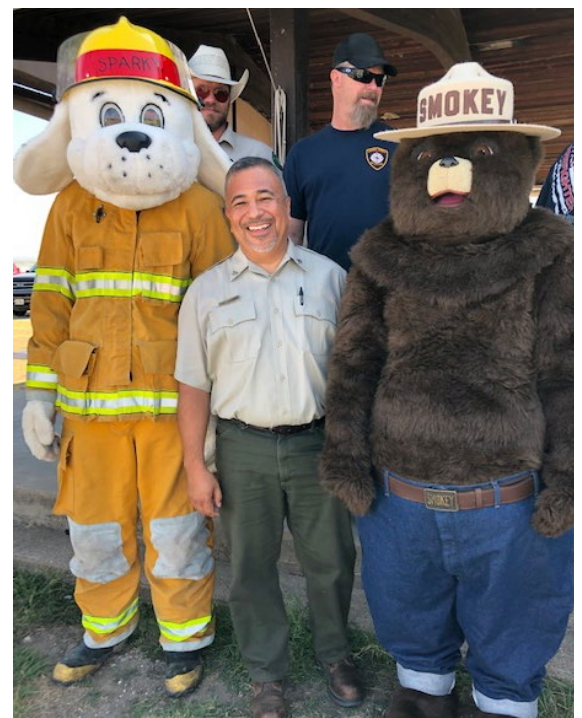
Grape Creek Volunteer Fire Department brought out a fire truck for the visitors to see.

Happy Birthday

SMOKEY

Smokey, the Bear, is seventy-five this year. He celebrated with friends and fans at SASP. Sparky, the Firehouse Dog, appeared and joined in singing the birthday song and posing for photos with Smokey and visiting families

The crown of several hundred gathered at the Chaparral Pavilion for an afternoon of goodies and games arranged by



VIEW BETWEEN THE EARS!



In June, we did a guided trail ride for the Forty-Something Cowgirls a riding club based in Stanton, Texas. The group camped over on Area 6/7. The group camped over the weekend at the north shore equestrian campground, enjoying the many shade trees as well as the horse pens which the Friends of San Angelo State Park have donated over the years.

Larry McMurtrey was trail boss and he spent many hours preparing the trail, even carrying a weed eater on his horse Max so he could blaze trails in some pretty difficult areas to make the way easier for our guest riders. He even “mowed” a private relief spot where we stopped for lunch break. He is always watching out for us ladies!



Gail Metcalfe and I pulled up the rear to make sure no one fell behind or to take someone back to camp if necessary. I unwittingly provided comic relief at the North Concho River crossing, getting a cowgirl baptism when my horse fell in the river. It did cool me off for the rest of the ride, but wet jeans and water-logged boots are not comfortable. Photo courtesy of Gail Metcalfe.



The three of us enjoyed our time with this courteous group of excellent riders and hope they will come ride our park again. Several of us with the Friends group have held guided group rides at the park. Please watch the park's event page on either the website or on Facebook, for planned dates. If you would like to request a guided ride, contact the gatehouse and they will reach one of us to get in touch with you to plan your ride.

by Cindy Middleton



**Y'all gotta
come ride our
state park!**

FLIGHT OF THE MONARCHS

"Mini" TRAIL RIDE

October 12 – 13, 2019

San Angelo State Park



Hitch up your horse and mosey on over to the north side of the park for the Friends of San Angelo State Park's fifteenth annual sponsored trail ride! This year's annual event is scaled down a bit because this is the second ride of the year the first being in April with catered meals, wagon rides, prizes and such. The April ride was a make-up ride for last October's rained out "Flight of the Monarchs".

Riders along with their horses are invited to come and campout that weekend at the beautiful north end of the park, enjoy guided trail rides, good food, and a "used horse tack" auction. A brisket dinner will be available to riders and guests as they gather at the north pavilion on Saturday night. Participants are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Cost for this event is \$45 per rider for the weekend or \$35 for one day. For further information or to reserve a camp sites call Judy Hight at (325)656-4323. Chairman for the event is Linda Ashton (325)656-4322.

by Judy Hight



KIDS EAT FREE



A large crowd of kids and parents came to eat and play in the park to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Kids Eat Free program in San Angelo. Part of the Texas Hunger Initiative, the non-profit provides meals for kids.

The celebration included a hot dog and watermelon lunch, games, crafts and archery provided by Friends of SASP, volunteers from Kids Eat Free, a Girl Scout troop and park staff Bonnie Wallace.

"Ya'll are amazing," said Mary Herbert, director of Kids Eat Free. "Everything was planned perfectly and ran like a well-oiled machine 'with personality'. The families had a wonderful me. Lunch was delicious."



SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

Bill Guffey

Retiring San Angelo State Park Herd Manager

By Laurel L. Scott

Standing tall on a flatbed trailer, Bill Guffey has been describing the biology and history of San Angelo State Park's herds of bison and longhorn to enthralled visitors for more than two decades.

Those who have been fortunate enough to hear him share his knowledge come away from his tours with a new respect and understanding for the park's largest mammals.

That era is ending as Guffey retires from his job as the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's herd manager.

His know-how springs from his roots growing up on a ranch near Breckenridge. "I've been in the agriculture business all my life," Guffey said. "I've been doing what I like to do." He was hired in 1995, the year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made a deal to hand the 8,000 acres around O.C. Fisher Reservoir to the state of Texas to become a state park.

"Our longhorn herd came from Oklahoma in the 1970s," Guffey said. The bison went first to Abilene State Park, then to Caprock Canyons State Park, then to the new San Angelo State Park and into the care of Guffey.

"When you 'day work' as a cowboy, you don't get retirement or health insurance," Guffey said. "I mostly came to Parks & Wildlife looking for those."

While based in San Angelo, his job has included everything from working wild cattle at Big Bend Ranch State Park to special projects across the state. He started as a ranger, then was promoted to lead ranger, then herd ranger. About 14 years ago, he was named the TPWD's herd manager. "I've been to parks all over the state," Guffey said. "I've met a lot of good people over the years."

Jim Cisneros, superintendent of San Angelo State Park, said "Guffey has been a vital part of the park "since Day 1. Bill is



well liked by the entire staff and has never met a stranger," Cisneros said. "We are thankful for the path he has laid before us and hope to be able to make him proud by continuing the work he has started. He will be missed but not too much as I am certain we will be calling him for years to come about something or other. Thank goodness he lives just across the street from the park."

Guffey isn't giving up on ranch work.

"I work cattle and I work deer when I'm not working for the state," he said. "I'll mostly be working with deer, capture and relocation, breeding programs and, of course, hunting, working for other ranchers. But I'll have more time for my grandkids and I need to do a lot of work on my own little place, a few hundred acres."

The park job has had its challenges, from drought to learning how to deal with the public.

"The only advice I would give would be to enjoy your job and be open to meeting new people," Guffey said.



"Come see the upgrade to the Friends of SASP gift shop," invites Terry Wallace, sales committee volunteer.

The renovation team of Ranger Mike Sharpsteen, Larry McMurtrey, Liz Jones and Terry put up the new slat board display wall.

Amada Razini organized the merchandise. Clearly displayed are SASP souvenirs, t-shirts, caps, coffee mugs, postcards, earrings, stuffed animals, hiking sticks, bandanas, water bottles and more. Proceeds from sale of items helps the Friends support the park.

The gift shop is located in the South Entrance gate house.



LARRY McMURTREY RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Larry McMurtrey is Volunteer of the Year. President Ruth Jordan presented him with the customary 'Horny Toad' key chain. Created by member Gail Metcalf, the toad has become a symbol of dedicated volunteerism at SASP.

Larry, in addition to attending meetings board meeting as a director, spends hours, even days, at the park with his horse, Max. Often he guides visiting equestrians on the trails and generates good will as well as some substantial donations to FoSASP. Always present to help with events, he cooks. Larry is part of the team who assemble the panels to create horse pens at the equestrian camp sites. To keep the horse trails clear, he can be seen carrying a weed-eater on his horse as rides. Repairs to the concession trailer? Call Larry. He even reads a Texas cowboy story to the kids who come to the park's Christmas event.



FRIENDS OF SASP

Roger and Annamargaret Anderson
Linda Ashton
Ray and Judy Benton
Lea Beyerlein
Robert Bluthart
Wando Brothers
FG and Joan Brown
David Busker
Sean Buss
Theresa Cain
Jerry and Christi Chambers
Carol Ann Chidlaw
Jim Crawford
Laurie Dicello
Charlie and Marsha Crabtree
Martha Dollivar
Mary Ellen Douthit
Esther Douthit
Dorothy and Lisa Douthit
Hugh Edmonston
Shsirley Foxcroft
Lisa Freeman
Dennis and Glenna Friedrich

Mary Noel Golder
Holly Green
Norma Green
Dolores and Frank Gully
Gail Heathington
Jackie and Judy Hight
Sarah Howell
Liz Jackson
M S Jernigan
Liz and Jeanne Jones
John and Ruth Jordan
Jake Landers
Patrick Malloy
Jack and Frances Matthews
Laura McCabe
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
John Olson
Sharon Olson
Katherine Osborne
Dee Osteen
Pete and Sandy Pedersen
Gail Metcalf and Wade Potts
CV and Marguarite Pickett
Kay Pierce
Jackie and Kenneth Prescott
Amanda Razani
Shirley and Bob Reid
Jeanette Kay Reviere
Brownie Roberts
Marilyn Russell
San Angelo Garden Club
Laurel Scott
Saundra Seifert
John Talley
Lisa Tumlinson
Bertha Darlyne Vieter
Terry Wallace
Polly Waterhouse

David and Deborah Watson
Joe Weaver
Jerry Wilkins
Martha Yarbrow

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Shelburne Financial Services
Texas State Bank
Western Vet
Zesch and Pickett Insurance

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FRIENDSHIP**

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

FRIENDS OF SASP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND FISH FRY

Seventy FoSASP members, park staff and guests gathered at North Concho pavilion recently for the annual meeting of the non-profit corporation. President Ruth Jordan presented a report of annual activities, finances, and achievements.

Terry Wallace, Sandy Pedersen, Brownie Roberts, Deola Mitts and Sarah Howell were reelected to continue as directors for a new three-year term. Marilyn Russell was elected to join the board replacing out-going director Liz Jones.

Steve Nelson, Linda Ashton, Ruth Jordan, John Talley, Larry McMurtry, and Cindy Middleton were recognized for the most hours of volunteer's service. All the board members were presented with a token gift. Also honored for their service were Jerry Middleton, Juan Gomez, Terry Wallace and Laurel Scott. Kay Reviere, Darlyne Vietor, and Jana Jenkins, volunteers who feed birds at the Wildlife Viewing Stand, received a thank you gift.

Everyone lined up to fill plates with Fish and hushpuppies expertly cooked by Juan and Ivy Gomez and their friend Brian. Pot luck dishes and desserts rounded out a lovely evening and a great sun set.



HUNTING IN THE PARK

Hunting is allowed in SASP. Deer, dove, quail and other species of wildlife can be harvested according to schedule and season.

For information on dates, species and licensing, contact Asst. Superintendent Jarrett Mill at 325-277-3258

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Choose

FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK
to receive a donation.

2019 SCHEDULE EVENTS

Sept. 28- Texas Outdoor Family Camping

Learn the absolute basics of camping. We supply you with a tent, kitchen equipment, sleeping mats, and will have a day filled of activities. Just call (512) 389-8903 to register for the event, and ask for the San Angelo TOF event. \$75 includes the campsite, the day use fees, and covers up to 6 people per family. More information (325) 949-4757.

Oct. 12-13 – FLIGHT OF THE MONARCHS "Mini" TRAIL RIDE – See flyer on page 4.

Oct. 12-13 Learn the absolute basics of camping.

Learn the absolute basics of camping. We supply you with a tent, kitchen equipment, sleeping mats, and will have a day filled of activities. Just call (512) 389-8903 to register for the event, and ask for the San Angelo TOF event. \$75 includes the campsite, the day use fees, and covers up to 6 people per family. More information (325) 949-4757.

Oct. 12 – Volunteers work on trails. 8:00 AM

Location to be announced.

Oct. 26 - Hunter Education Course 8:00 AM

Classroom and field course for hunters starts at 8:00 AM, will have a one hour lunch break (lunch will NOT be provided), and will end with a multiple choice question test. To register go to TPWD webpage and click Hunting tab > next select Hunter Education > then select classroom course> and lastly search for San Angelo area. The course will cost \$15. For more information call 325-949-8935.

Nov. 9 – Trail work day.

Dec. 19 – Trail work day

For additional events see
San Angelo State Park on Facebook