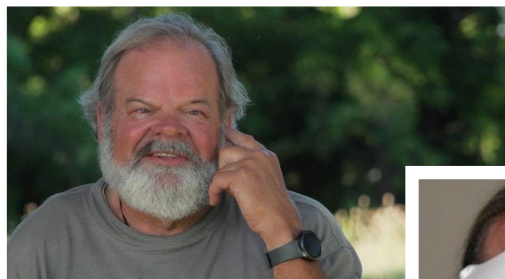


## THE BALLAD OF JOHN TALLEY



John Talley, our TROUBADOUR OF TRAILS, stars in a PBS video. The eleven-minute sketch features John in his role of volunteer extraordinaire at SASP and includes snippets of information about his many other talents.

Did you know he is a European Automobile mechanic, a piano tuner, keyboard man, singer, cyclist, and a kayaker? He can tap dance in cowboy boots!

Scenes of "A little bit of heaven right outside of town," as John calls San Angelo SP show Bison, longhorns, flowers, running water in Little Foot Draw, equestrian visitors (Cindy Middleton, Linda Ashton and Gail Metcalf), the lake and the trails.

Facebook comment from Juliette Talley, John's niece brags, "My uncle John is truly a legend. He is a humble, selfless, capable, talented man who has been a source of inspiration for me all my life. He truly can do anything. PBS put together this tribute to him for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"It is absolutely beautiful!" she declares. "I urge you to give it a watch if you want a smile or a little peace."

Find the sketch on YouTube or PBS. Google John Talley, Troubadour of Trails

Find this Renaissance man on his bike or tractor enjoying his Zen in the park.

**"As long as I'm playing music and riding my mountain bike, I'm nineteen."**

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

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 – Assistant Superintendent

**Proposition 5** – Proposition 5 passed with an overwhelming majority vote! Though we will not see immediate results and improvement here at SASP, rest assured San Angelo State Park is in line to benefit from the constitutionally dedicated funds of the Sporting Goods Sales Tax. This is a huge win for not only State Parks and Historical Sites, but for recreation and conservation work overall. Generations of Texans will enjoy the benefits of the now- assured funds dedicated to the beauty, splendor and serenity of these parks and natural areas.

**Park Trails Improvement** – The trail marker signage project is slowly coming together. With the addition of KC, the new Lead Ranger, completion of projects in progress is promising. We have set a goal to have Roadrunner Trail and Strawberry Trail completed with new signs by the end of January. So be looking for that.

**Holly-Days in the Park** – The Christmas event was a great success that could not have been accomplished without the FoSASP volunteers and funds. Four hundred and fifteen guests came out to enjoy the festivities. That is about 100 more than last year's event. Thank you to the volunteers, FoSASP and SASP staff for all your hard work, planning and dedication to make this event possible.

**New Year's Day Events** – We hosted four different "First Day" events this year: an easy hike, a moderate hike, a horse ride and a bike ride. Over 100 people came out to take part in these events and they travelled a little over 500 trail miles that day. Thanks to all who planned, led or participated!

## Welcome KC Bailey, Lead Ranger

The position of Lead Ranger was vacated when Jarrett Miller was moved to Assistant Superintendent. Recently KC Bailey was hired to fill the spot.

KC comes to San Angelo from Monahans Sandhills SP where he served four years as Maintenance Supervisor and Lead Ranger. KC and his wife Sherry, a Principal Planner for the City of San Angelo, are excited about joining the San Angelo State Park family.

Kenneth (KC) Bailey grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas. After graduating from Mary Carroll High School he joined the Navy, served just under eight years in the Navy and two years in a National Guard Engineering Combat Battalion.

After leaving the Navy he worked as a contract welder, building a heat exchanger for natural gas ship, pipeline welding and iron construction. He was the construction, restoration Foreman and Safety Manager for a copper ore reclamation, mining and processing plant that is listed on the National Register out of Arizona. He and his team designed a gold reclaiming process facility, a water and waste processing treatment process, a facility reconstruction and maintenance process and management of over 250 acres of the historic smelter land. The partners in this process were the City of Clarkdale, the State of Arizona and the Yavapai Indian Reservation.

KC left Arizona in 2013 to return to Waco, Texas. He went back to College for two years before going to Monahan's.



### WEBSITE

**FRIENDSOFSANANGELOSTATEPARK.ORG**

### FACEBOOK PAGE

**FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK**



# FIRST DAY EVENTS

First Day Hike is a TPWD statewide endeavor to get visitors into parks on New Year's Day. It is a work holiday and many are focusing on new fitness resolutions.

"We had over one hundred people participate in our First Day events and covered over 500 miles," reported Jim Cisneros, Park Superintendent. "The attendance for this event has grown exponentially over the last three years. I saw several new faces as we were checking people in and several were first time visitors. We even had a special visitor from Austin HQ attend one of our events. I spoke with him later and he was very impressed with the attendance and loved the event."

Special thanks to all those that led a hike, a bike ride, or trail ride including volunteers Cindy Middleton, Laurel Scott, and Amanda Razani.

## LIFE IS BETTER OUTSIDE.



## Terrific Texans

Jim Cisneros, our park superintendent (third from right) recently served as coordinator for the Texas delegation at the National Association of State Park Director Leadership School in Wheeling, WV.

"Day two of the program was team spirit day," he said, "Texans all wore blue jeans and our matching pull-overs. Over the years, the Texas crew has gained quite the reputation and are looked up to."

Ensuring this tradition continuation, Jim asks Friends to provide the funds for the pullovers for the 2020 conference. Splitting the cost with Friends of Government Canyon, FoSAP outfitted the Texas delegation.

Jim reported that the Texans were complemented for the excellence of its "Terrific Texas" representatives.

## Operation Ranger Claus

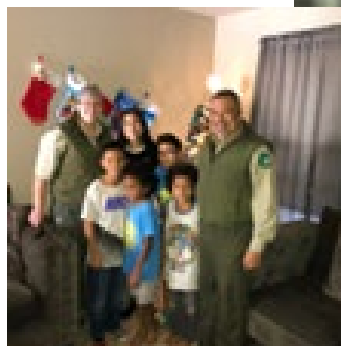
(Year 2)

is a success!

With donations raised by the Friends of San Angelo State Park, we were able to help some families in our area this holiday season. Park Rangers from San Angelo State Park were able to take members of three special families shopping for the holiday gifts.

Galilee Community Development Corporation volunteered to wrap the gifts that were then delivered to the selected homes by the Ranger(s) Claus Jarrett Miller, Jim Cisneros, and Bonnie Wallace.

"We love our Friends group and all the good they do for us at the park and for the community at large," said Ranger Assistant Superintendent Jarrett Miller. "Their willingness to work with other organizations warms me to my very core. San Angelo has a great heart and is a great community. Thank you, San Angelo, for letting us be part of this great city."





# VIEW BETWEEN THE EARS!

by Cindy Middleton

We had beautiful weather for our Flight of the Monarchs trail ride the 2nd weekend in October. But sadly, a cold front had pushed the Monarchs further south on their migration.



Had an awesome turnout of 80 riders! Take a look at the line of ponies on the horizon in the pics.

## Monarch Trail Ride Sponsors

Nationwide Insurance  
Zesch and Pickett Insurance  
Western Veterinary Hospital  
Texas Bank  
Mary Golder

*Thank You*





Lunch was at the cattle pens where riders and ponies rested and snacked amongst the Longhorns.



At trails end, with Larry making sure we all made it back.

Walmart Grants

**\$2,000**  
to FoSASP

"It's not what you gather, but what you scatter  
that tells what kind of life you have lived."  
-Mrs. Helen Walton

The Walmart Community Grants Team recently announced approval of a \$2,000.00 grant to Friends of San Angelo State Park. The funds are coming through Walmart Facility # 1249, San Angelo north-side store, and can be utilized to benefit the park in any project selected by the Board of Directors.

"We are thrilled to support your work in the communities and share your desire to provide local impact,

*Thank You*



**NOT FORGOTTEN**

1948-2020

Mickey Lanty will be remembered for  
his beautiful photographs of the park.

# SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

## Ruth Jordan

Friends of San Angelo State Park President

By Laurel L. Scott

A short time after San Angelo State Park opened in 1995, first Superintendent John Culbertson reached out to early fans of the park to create a Friends of San Angelo State Park organization.

Ruth Jordan was one of those regular visitors, riding the trails on horseback with friends and organizing llama hikes as fundraisers for a 4-H youth.

"About twelve of us showed up, an eclectic group of people who were using the park," Jordan said. "We were given no directions. I could see there was a need to publicize that the neglected Corps of Engineers property that had become a new Texas state park. We planned and staffed events to get people into the park."

Jordan, who had recently retired as a campus counselor from Grape Creek ISD, was elected president of the Friends. She has remained the organization's only president for nearly 25 years.

"There's never been enough money from the state so I could see we needed to raise money for improvements and emergency needs like light bulbs and toilet paper."

The first request from Culbertson was for the Friends to donate taxidermy costs to preserve the head of the park's beloved Bison herd bull. Solomon had died. Jordan and the Friends team raised \$500 and also got a discount from the taxidermist. Solomon remains a familiar face in the park headquarters' conference room.

The group opened a gift shop in the South Shore Gatehouse right away, selling T-shirts and other items. Members organized fundraisers, including equestrian trail rides and wiener dog races. Jordan launched a newsletter in 1998 to help get the word out about park events and to keep Friends members informed. She remains editor of the newsletter.

"We were the show," Jordan said. "We did the tours, we did the gift shop. We started making money and could buy things to support the park. I was the one doing the Longhorn-Bison tours with (former herd manager) Bill Guffey. Silver Bluebonnet Day for senior citizens began with my idea."

One of Jordan's favorite projects was an annual summer day camp named R.A.N.G.E. Outdoors. "We got a grant to provide canoes and bicycles, binoculars." We called on a lot of local people to lead nature hikes, teach disc golf and archery. We offered canoeing, mountain biking and fishing. From the day camp, we could see that people just needed to be introduced to the park's possibilities."

Her most proud accomplishment was in saving the park's Bison herd when the TPWD had decided to sell them off. She led a publicity drive to get the decision reversed. The park continues to have a small herd of the iconic animals, the largest mammals native to West Texas.

Her joy is in connecting the park to people.

"I hung in there because I could see the potential," Jordan said. "I realized that we had the ability to provide the funds for the park needs, that we could have an impact on the park. It is our own little piece of wilderness."



**A LOOK BACK**

*In 2008, Friends who reached one hundred hours volunteering at the park were awarded logo jackets.*

*Ruth Jordan, center, and five others (Brownie Roberts, Cindy Middleton, Judy Hight and Gail Metcalf) remain active members of the support group.*

### 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)

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



# STARS IN OUR PARK

The Stars in Our Parks recognition program is an elite Texas State Parks program that recognizes staff and volunteers across the state of Texas who go above and beyond in their volunteerism and work ethics while caring for State Parks.

Three SASP volunteers were recognized by TPWD for their service. Certificates were presented by Jim Cisneros at the FoSASP Christmas party.

## Charles Rudd

Charlie has been a park volunteer for almost seven years accumulating more than 5,500 hours as a volunteer doing grounds keeping, maintenance, and custodian cleaning. He has always been willing to step up and go above and beyond his normal responsibilities; coming in on days off to help the staff, or picking up other volunteer's duties when they have left, Charlie has always supported the park and its mission, has been here to see it go through many changes, and has welcomed and been willing to change with them. He can be depended on through times at the park accepting additional responsibilities with a positive attitude.



Charlie Rudd, a "Star in our park" is presented with a plaque by Jim Cisneros, during the staff and volunteer Christmas dinner.

## Linda Ashton

Linda has been a member of the Friends of San Angelo State Park for almost two decades, and is the current Vice President. As a volunteer, she promotes park events on local TV, radio and public appearances. As a trained Volunteer Guide, she has led hikes and rides.

She is the coordinator of two of the park's biggest events each year: the Monarch Trail Ride, a weekend campout and ride for equestrian visitors, and the Silver Bluebonnet Day, a free event for seniors who come out to the park to enjoy interpretive programs, and lunch donated by the Friends group. She assists as a facilitator in Hunter Education instruction. Linda's

efforts are responsible for the purchase and installation of the horse pen in the Equestrian Campground.

Linda is the type that rarely ever says the word no, is always game to take on new tasks and challenges and will try her best to lend a helping hand no matter how small or large. At all times she is thinking or doing things that will benefit the park.

## Larry McMurtrey

Larry is a true asset not just to San Angelo State Park, but to Texas Parks as a whole. He has dedicated time and passion to the mission of Texas Parks and Wildlife to see San Angelo State Park succeed in its quest for community outreach and involvement. He is always willing to assist in special event programs helping to set up before and cleaning up after. He will assist visitors/campers in a kind and gracious manner, hosting as an interpretative volunteer, especially the one of our biggest events at the state park- the Monarch Trail ride

Larry can be found in the park out fixing a fence or horse pen by using materials he donated. He is an important member of the Friends of San Angelo State Park. He holds Hunter's Education instructor certificate and helps with that educational program. His involvement as an interpretative volunteer and Friends member enables the park to present many programs or special projects. Truly appreciated is Larry's "can do" attitude, his willingness to help in any way as a part of our team helping to make San Angelo SP a shining star among Texas parks.

## FRIENDS OF SASP

Arele Brinstool  
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  
Shirley Foxcroft  
Lisa Freeman  
Dennis and Glenna Friedrich  
Mary Noel Golder  
Holly Green  
Norma Green

Dolores and Frank Gully  
Gail Heathington  
Jackie and Judy Hight  
Patricia Hines  
Sarah Howell  
Liz Jackson  
M S Jernigan  
Jana Jenkins  
Liz and Jeanne Jones  
John and Ruth Jordan  
Jake Landers  
Patrick Malloy  
Jack and Frances Matthews  
Laura McCabe  
Dean and Lisa McInturf  
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  
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  
Terry Shaner  
John Talley  
Lisa Tumlinson  
Bertha Darlyne Vieter  
Terry Wallace

Polly Waterhouse  
David and Deborah Watson  
Joe Weaver  
Jerry Wilkins  
Martha Yarbro  
Sponsor Members  
Bryant Better Hearing  
40 Something Cowgirls  
Concho Valley Electric Coop  
Copeland Nationwide Insurance  
Jody Gentry Media Jaws  
Shelburne Financial Services  
Texas State Bank  
Western Vet  
Zesch and Pickett Insurance

**Can't find your name?  
Oops  
PLEASE RENEW OUR  
FRIENDSHIP**



STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Q'S PRINTING & DESIGN

## FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK

3900-2 MERCEDES  
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76901



Come visit the Friends of San Angelo State Park gift shop located in the South Shore gate house. We have caps, earrings, shirts, stuffed animals and State Park souvenirs. Proceeds are used toward projects benefiting our State Park

## HOLLY-DAYS IN THE PARK

Gwen Watkins, teen volunteer and popcorn popper-girl, assures Santa that she has been good.

Over four hundred visitors came to see Santa and enjoy the annual Holly-Days event. A hayride to view the campsites decorated for the season was a popular feature. Guests also enjoyed S'Mores, hot chocolate popcorn, singing carols, roping reindeer, and making ornaments.

Sponsors for Holly-Days  
Friends of SASP  
DeCoty Coffee  
Market Street  
Johnsons Funeral Home.



## 2020 SCHEDULE EVENTS

Feb. 8 - On the Right Track - Learn how to identify wildlife footprints. Learn what the tracks look like and interesting facts about the animals. Make a track mold to decorate and take home. The one-hour program will start at 10:00 AM. Please wear clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. Enter at the South Side Gatehouse located on 362 S FM 2288. Free with regular park admissions. For more information call (325) 949-4757.

Feb. 8 - Trail Clean Up - Volunteers, aged 15 and up, help to keep the trails in good shape by cutting brush and branches and clearing loose rocks. 8:00 AM Lunch provided. Call Steve for location

Feb. 15 - Galentine's Hike - Bring your best girl friend, mom, daughter, or someone you want to get to know better out for our first Galentine's Hike. Enjoy an outdoor adventure on the park's trails. The moderate- to- challenging level hike will be roughly 2.5 miles and about two hours. Meet at 10:00 AM at Burkett Trailhead. Enter at the South Gatehouse. Free with regular purchase of park admissions. For more information or questions please call (325) 949-4757.

Feb. 29 - Public Firewood cutting - Contact gatehouse at 325-949-4757 for additional information. Additional details on our SASP Facebook page.

March 14 - Trail clean Up - Volunteers, aged fifteen and up, help to keep the trails in good shape by cutting brush and branches and clearing loose rocks. 8:00 AM Lunch provided. Call Steve for location 277-3351

March 17 - Board of Directors Regular Meeting - Park Headquarters 3900 Mercedes. 6:30 Visitors welcome.

April 11 - Trail Clean Up - Volunteers, aged 15 and up, help to keep the trails in good shape by cutting brush and branches and clearing loose rocks. 8:00 AM Lunch provided. Call Steve for location 277-3351

For additional events see  
San Angelo State Park on Facebook  
or follow us on Instagram.