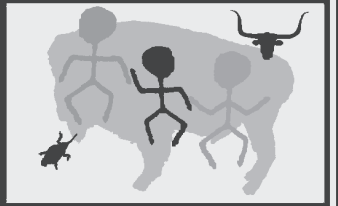


Friends of San Angelo State Park



VOL. 20

WINTER

NO. 1



IN THE PARK AIMS TO RESTORE NATURAL LANDSCAPE

By Jarrett Miller

A prescribed burn event was carried out recently. A burn perimeter was set around about 1,800 acres. Roughly seventy-five percent or 1,350 acres of the park's over 8,000 total acreage actually burned.

San Angelo State Park should be a very open mesquite savannah dominated by grasses. Absence of natural burning has resulted in succession toward a woodland habitat dominated by Redberry Juniper and Honey Mesquite.

Fire is a normal, natural, and essential occurrence in grasslands. Fire frequency within the park and surrounding areas has dramatically declined during the past century due to land use practices and fire suppression actions.

A lofty Goal! Intentional (prescribed) burning has the long-term goal to restore natural plant communities by reducing both brush and cacti density and to increase the diversity by the reduction of juniper, mesquite, and prickly pear. Invasive plants, both native and exotic, are hard to control once they become established.

Improved diversity will be beneficial to a suite of grassland birds of conservation concern including Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow and Cassin's Sparrow. Invasive mesquite and prickly pear benefit none of these

species. Many species of birds were adversely affected in the transition of dense woodland to open grassland in the treatment areas; however, habitat is still abundant for those species in untreated areas of the park and in the surrounding lands. The immediate effects of a prescribed fire on bird populations are negligible as they are highly mobile and quickly take advantage of these areas when fresh vegetation sprouts after the release of nutrients into the soil.

The effort to restore natural plant communities within the park started by the Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Upper Colorado River Authority with the implementation and funding for aerial mesquite spraying that was quickly followed by prescribed fire actions. Quick strides were made toward reaching the goal.

It is anticipated two to five year fire intervals will be needed to restore degraded vegetation communities at the park. Once restoration objectives are achieved a longer fire return interval may be implemented.

Many thanks to those who assisted us in December's burn operations: TPWD Fire, Texas Forest Service of San Angelo and Fort Stockton, San Angelo Fire Department and, Texas Intrastate Mutual Aid System Crew.



*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	Amanda Razani
Sarah Howell	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

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San Angelo, TX, 76901
ruthjordan@suddenlink.net



Published by Qs Printing and Design

Youth and Adult Hunters Hold Successful Harvest

During designated hunting days in the park, youth and adult hunters harvested ninety-one white tail deer. Seventeen javelina and five feral hogs were also taken.

Twenty-two youth hunters accounted for at least twenty-eight deer, fifteen javelina and one feral hog.

Adult Mentored Hunt was also successful despite the wind and cold. Some animals were harvested and memories made.

"Big shout out to all our mentors who made this hunt possible! Clay Roberts with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Butch Street from San Angelo State park," Jarrett comments .

"Tom Hewitt, Annaliese Scoggin, from TPWD and Jason Huebner from Texas Game Wardens."

"Also thanks to the mentees for braving the elements in their quest for knowledge about the outdoors and all that the great state of Texas has to offer in hunting opportunities," he adds. "Erik Maki, Connor Parrott, Angela Moore, Rene & Matthew Romero, and Steven Farren."

Hunting is allowed on specific dates for target species. Managed by Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists and staffed by park rangers, the hunts provide management of game in view of available resources to prevent over-population.

Interested hunters register and are selected by a lottery system for 'drawn hunts'.

"See you in the field!"



BOARD NOTES

Board of Advisors met in regular session Nov.16, 2021.

Annual Budget was discussed and adopted with expected funds raised and spent for park programs and projects at \$15,000.

Funding for Holly Days Christmas Event and for Annual Meeting/Christmas Party was approved.

Jana Jenkins was nominated to fill a vacancy on the board.

Almost five hundred volunteer hours were reported for September and October.

Regular scheduled meeting for January has been postponed because of Covid. Date will be announced.

Holly Days in the Park 2021!

Just over six hundred people participated in the drive-thru Christmas light tour. Campers decorated campsites and trailers! Santa posed for photographs with visitors. FoSASP members handed out cookies, hot chocolate and ice cream.

Volunteers from Goodfellow Air Force Base and park hosts helped decorate, guide traffic, and did many other jobs to help make this event a success.

"Thank you to all! We hope to see you again next year!" declares Bonnie Wallace, Interpretive Ranger who planned and coordinated the event.

A very special thank you to donors for making this year's event extra special.

H.E.B
Lowes
Home Depot
DeCoty Coffee Company
Mayfield Paper Company
Blue Bell Ice Cream
Friends of San Angelo State Park



San Angelo State Park Staff Directory

Jarrett Miller – Park Superintendent

Carey "Butch" Street –
Assistant Park Superintendent

Cheree Watts – Office Manager

Kari Carreon – Assistant Office Manager

Stan Tinnin – Lead Ranger

Bonnie Wallace – Park Interpreter

Rolando Chavez – Park Police Office

Adam Saucedo – Custodian

Amanda Schraeder –
Customer Service Representative

Mike Sharpsteen – Park Ranger

Matt Geisel – Field Ranger

To telephone any of the staff, call

325-949-4757

Listen for extension numbers.

NOTES FROM THE BLIND



White-Crowned Sparrow



Spotted Towhee



the deer also come by the blind.

VIEW BETWEEN THE EARS!

by Cindy Middleton

First Day Ride at the state park!

What better way to start 2022!

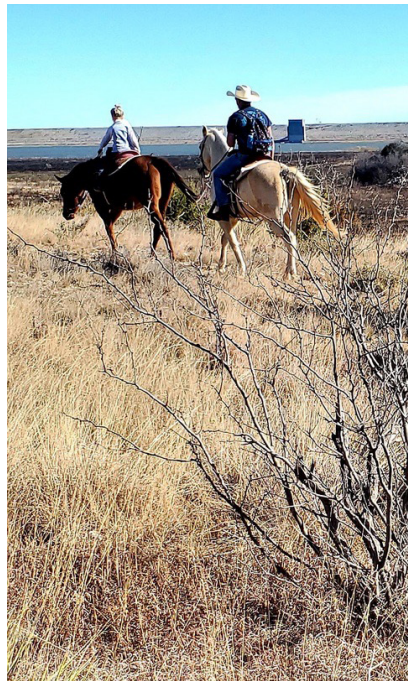
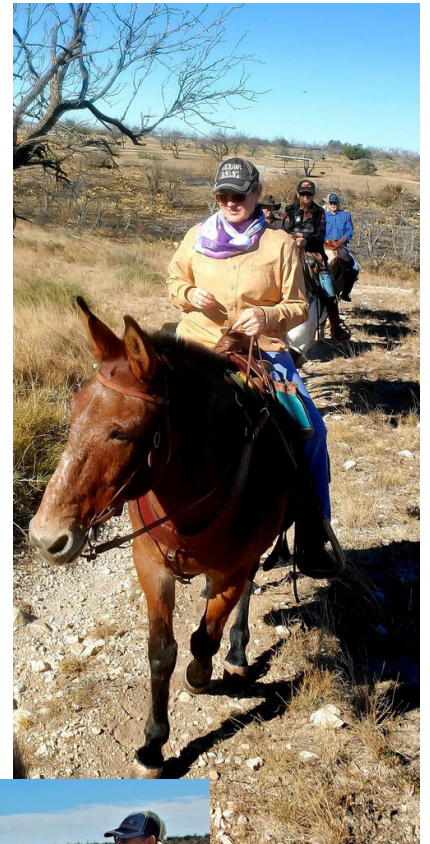


Fifteen riders, guys and gals, seniors and youth, saddled up horses and mules at Isabel Harte campground.

With riders, including me, taking photos between our horses' ears, we headed out on Chaparral trail by way of the Red Dam Loop.



We headed on to Burkett Trailhead on Lanky Lackey trail.



After a break at Burkett Trailhead we headed back on Winding Snake Trail to the trailers.



The annual New Year's Day event was planned and led by FoSASP Board members Linda Ashton and Cindy Middleton.

OVER THE BARS

By Steve Nelson

HELP WANTED



When I began coming to San Angelo State Park I would bump into people working on its many miles of bicycle trails.

Not all were park personnel. The local bike club, San Angelo Bicycle Association (SABA), had organized a monthly event for volunteers to work on the more difficult trails. On some trails, a tractor is used to mow, but on others, people on foot are required to trim brush, fill holes and move rocks.

About five years ago I was asked to coordinate the volunteer crew and keep the tradition alive by **choosing dates, identifying target work areas and recruiting volunteers**. Park rangers were providing tools, safety equipment, and oversight.

FoSASP provided funding for drinks, tools, gloves, and a free lunch. We made sure to feed our crews pizza or homemade meals brought to us in the park by volunteers.

People came from Goodfellow Air Force Base and Angelo State University. They were from all over the country and for some this was their first time in Texas.

There were days when almost no one came. Other times we had thirty volunteers.

We need someone to take over as planner and leader of the effort to keep the trails maintained for cyclists.

Time involved averages eight Saturday mornings a year. Once a month.

If you are interested, please contact FoSASP at ruthjordan@suddenlink.net or me at sarcsteven57@yahoo.com.



DONATIONS

Katherine Olson is honored by friends and family with a \$100 memorial donation

Ruth Jordan was honored with a \$100 donation as Christmas gift by Polly Vaughan

Sally Scott

San Angelo Garden Club

Arlell Brinintool

Wanda Brothers

Over 40 Riders Club

Esther and Mary Ellen Douthit

Donations from individuals and groups accounted for thirty percent of FoSASP income in 2021.

THANK YOU

Talley on the Trail

John Talley, super volunteer, cyclist and all-round good guy, is pictured in the January-February edition of the Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Magazine of Texas with an article about Playground Trail. Written by our own CSR - Adam Saucida.

Diagram, description and photos of the two-mile hike feature Burkett Trailhead and Bell's Point. John has been influential in the planning, marking and maintenance of all the trails in the park



Spotlight on a Volunteer

KAY REVIERE

By Laurel L. Scott



The Wildlife Viewing Area at San Angelo State Park is designed to be a place park visitors can go for an enhanced opportunity to enjoy a variety of wild creatures but it wouldn't work so well without dedicated volunteers like Kay Reviere.

The viewing area was created sometime after the park came under the control of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the mid-1990's when a small building on the property was converted by park rangers into what is commonly dubbed the 'Bird Blind.' A concrete trough was added by a volunteer with running water. A variety of bird feeders went up. By 2010, the president of the Friends of San Angelo State Park, Ruth Jordan, had begun recruiting volunteers to go to the site and fill the feeders on a regular basis.

Kay has been doing that essential chore since that time and is the Wildlife Viewing Area's longest serving volunteer.

"It's so peaceful out there," Kay said. "Guess I'm just country at heart."

Kay grew up in Dallas but lived with family in Miles before settling in San Angelo with her husband Robert, who she met here. Her favorite job before retiring was driving a bus for special education students, a job she did for 15 years.

"Those were my babies," she said.

She has been volunteering at the Wildlife Viewing Area nearly as long. She asked her close friend Darlyne Vietor to join her just a few months after she started.

The two friends are regulars on Saturday mornings. Other volunteers are committed to other days in the week to keep the local and migratory birds visiting. The volunteers put out seed provided by the Friends of SASP and often bring their own donations of oranges, suet seed blocks and even dried mealworms. Frequently seen species include quail, northern and desert cardinals, woodpeckers, native sparrows and doves. But that's not all.

"We get to see the javelinas," added Kay, a grandmother and great-grandmother. "When I first went out there, I saw one just standing there. Darlyne isn't afraid of anything so we spread a little seed on the ground for it, too."

Other mammals seen at or near the viewing area include porcupine, deer, rabbits, and foxes. Volunteers find evidence of raccoons in tumbled feeders and paw prints.

When Kay isn't available, Darlyne will go out with her daughter, Connie Vietor.

"I like doing it," Darlyne said. "They're out there in the trees waiting for us. They're not afraid of us at all."

"I enjoy getting to go out that way, seeing what's there," Kay said. "The birds will be in the trees when we get there and I'll say, 'OK babies, we're here. You can come on down.' They know our voices. That's how long I've been coming."



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 SASP

*Roger and Annamargaret Anderson
Angelo Radio Controlled Airplane Club

Linda Ashton

Steven Baer

Ray and Judy Benton

Lea Beyerlein

Robert Bluthardt

*Gary BowersArelle Brininstool

Cary Brown

Joan and FG Brown

David Busker

Jerry and Christi Chambers

*Ilene Cooper

Charlie and Marsha Crabtree

Jim Crawford

Christopher Daniels

Martha Dolliver

*Mary Ellen Douthit

*Esther Douthit

*Dorothy Douthit and Lisa Truesdell

Rebecca Duncan

Forty-Something Cowgirls (Shelly Borgstedte)

*Lisa Freeman

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

*Sheryl Kanaga

Jake Landers

Kathy and Russ Libby

Patrick Malloy

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

John Olson

Sharon Olson

Katherine Osborne

Dee Osteen

Pete and Sandy Pedersen

CV and Marquarite Pickett

Jackie and Kenneth Prescott

Amanda Razani

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

*Linda White

Rebecca Young

*(*indicates current membership thru 2022)*

Sponsor Members

Bryant Better Hearing

Chick-fil-A

Concho Valley Electric Coop

Copeland Nationwide Insurance

DeCoty Coffee

Fyzical Therapy & Balance Center

Jody Gentry Media Jaws

San Angelo Electric Motor Repair

Shelburne Financial Services

Texas State Bank

Western Vet

Zesch and Pickett Insurance

Annual Membership fees for 2022 are currently due and payable.

- Members can submit payment by mailing a check with the application or on-line at friendsofsanangelostatepark.org. To easily access the website, scan the code on page eight
- Overdue members will receive a notice by mail in a few weeks.
- Membership income accounts for a large part of the funds used to support the park.

Benefits to Members

- Annual one-time free pass to the park
- 10% discount in the park store
- Quarterly newsletter
- Free dinner with annual meeting



FRIENDS OF SAN ANGELO STATE PARK

3900-2 MERCEDES

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76901

TOURS IN THE PARK

Saturday February 12	9 AM	Make Your Own Valentine Card
	11 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing
	2 PM	On the Right Track
	4 PM	On the Right Track

Sunday February 13	10 AM	<i>Galentine Hike</i>
	3 PM	S'mores with your Valentine

Saturday February 19	9 AM	Compass Orienteering 101
	11 AM	Longhorn & Bison Viewing
	2 PM	Skins & Skulls Trunkshow
	8:30 PM	Moon Gazing Hike

Sunday February 20	10 AM	Poetry in the Park Hike
	3 PM	Roping with a Ranger

Sunday February 27	3 PM	Jr. Ranger LNT Hike
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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) ›

FriendsofSanAngeloStatePark

[San Angelo State Park \(@sanangelosp\)](#)

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



Silver Bluebonnet Day
AT SAN ANGELO STATE PARK

May 4, 2022

Driving Tour of the park
and picnic lunch

FREE

for Senior Citizens

Open Web Page (

