

Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation

On the Edge!



After the Storm

Photo by Eddie Tubbs



**Joseph Allen
Park Superintendent
Partnerships and Appreciation**

At Palo Duro Canyon State Park, one thing is certain—it takes a village to take care of this wonderful place. We are always looking to grow our relationships and add to our partnership. As one of the busiest state parks in Texas, we know we cannot do this alone

One of these amazing partnerships is with our local TxDot maintenance crew, led by Devine White. Devin started at the Canyon office about the same time I did several years ago, and he and I have been working together ever since to make sure visitors, volunteers, and staff can travel to and through the Park safely.

No matter what the needs, TxDot has answered the call. They provided the digital message board at the intersection of Park Road 217 and Washington St. at the start of the Covid 19 restrictions. Devin’s crew has also provided the Park staff with rock to help with filling holes in areas, such as the Lighthouse parking lot and Soapberry Day Use area. They can also be found regularly removing silt from recently flooded roadways after heavy rains.



**Devin White and Joseph Allen
Stars in Our Parks Award
Photo by Joseph Allen**

And just last week [May 17-22] with the heavy rains returning, they came to the rescue with heavy equipment to remove the rockslide that was blocking much of the width of the road to the bottom. The crew was able to remove the debris and had traffic flowing again before lunchtime.

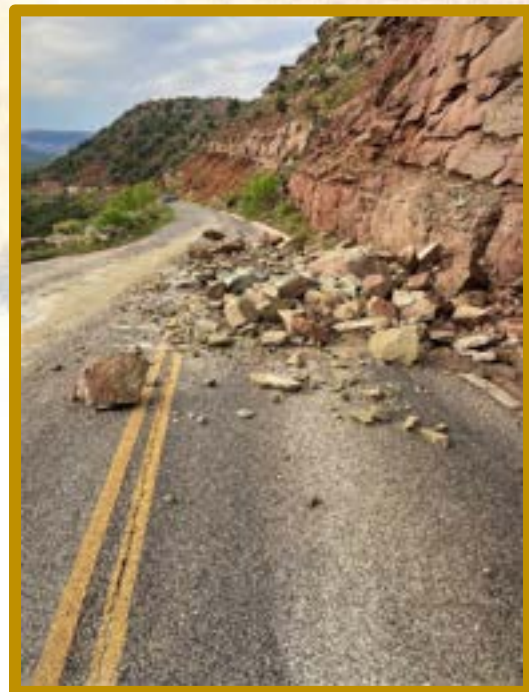


Photo by Joseph Allen

I was lucky enough to be able to present Devin with a Stars in Our Parks Award for service to state parks. We are lucky to have TxDot as partners to keep the roads open and traffic flowing safely. If you happen to see them working in the area, please be sure to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the mission of state parks. *Ja*



And the Water Flowed

**The following pictures are courtesy of
Eddie Tubbs
Flash Flood**



**Laramie Estel
Park Police Officer
Photo by Editor**



Photo by Eddie Tubbs

During the height of the flash flood in Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Laramie Estel, Park Police Officer, waded into waist-deep water to rescue a woman from this flooded automobile.

As is the nature of flash floods, the water caught the woman by surprise, and she had no chance to escape before the flood had entrapped her vehicle.

Officer Estel demonstrated the dedication of all state parks to the public's safety.



Then Comes the Work



Trail Team



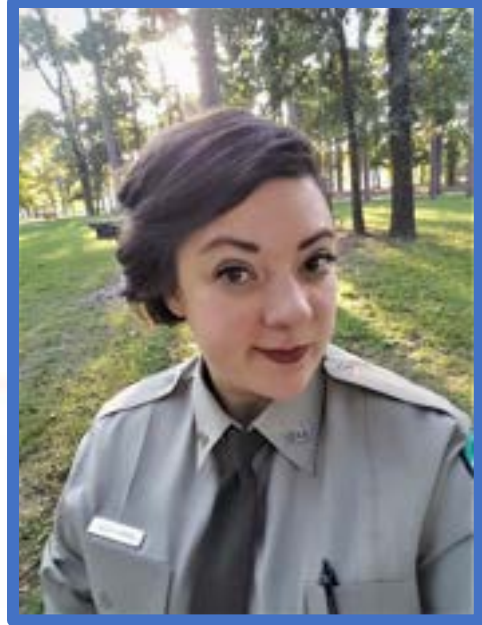
Photos by Eddie Tubbs

Almost all trail foot bridges were washed out by the flood. Those bridges which weren't tied down with cables traveled several hundred yards downstream. (Information provided by Rodney Hess, trail worker.)





**And the Work Goes On
(Until the Next Flood)**



**Lindsay Pannell
Park Interpreter**

A unique and cherished aspect of working at Palo Duro Canyon State Park is the volunteers. Truly, it is the people, not the place who make our Park amazing. As the Park Volunteer Manager, I have been lucky to work with hundreds of amazing people, people whose experiences make them a blessing to our Park and a constant source of wisdom and learning for myself and other staff members.

Some volunteers are in our lives briefly, touching the Park like the delicate wings of a moth. Others, for years, leave an indelible mark on us. Bob Caraway was one such volunteer who touched our hearts and gave many seasons of service to our agency and Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

Robert “Bob” Caraway and his wife, Ann, touched the lives of many in our state park system. They park-hosted at Goliad SP, Colorado Bend SP, LBJ SP and historical site, Brazos Bend SP, Resaca de la Palma SP, Pedernales SP, Dinosaur Valley SP, and, of

course, Palo Duro Canyon SP. In each place, they touched the lives of those who worked and visited there We at PDC feel particularly lucky the Caraways chose us as their main hosting site for much of each year.



Bob Caraway
Photo by Lindsay Pannell

Bob gave his life in service to country, family, and more. He served during the Vietnam War and, later, as a teacher. He was a patient and kind man with a wonderful sense of humor. Bob and Ann continued their life of service by becoming park hosts. Here at Palo Duro Canyon, Bob and Ann were the glue that made our small Park-host operation a family, holding pot lucks and game nights in or Tasajillo Pavilion.

Thanks to the Caraways, many park hosts, guests, and staff members experienced a special time in the Canyon. We are grateful for the time we all had with Bob.

Thank you for your service. *Lp*

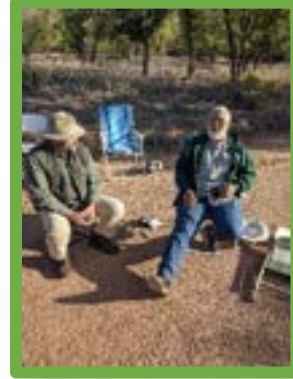


Photo by Lindsay Pannell



Editor's Notebook

My first trip to Palo Duro Canyon was in 1935. Recently carved into the Canyon wall in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) an unpaved road was sufficient to transport a school bus carrying the graduating class of Rhea, Texas, on an end-of-year trip. I was four years old.

Rhea, Texas, is approximately fifteen miles west of Friona, Texas. Rhea is a farming community that at the time had a schoolhouse (no longer there) which accommodated grades one through either eight or eleven. At the time, Texas had no twelfth grade and no kindergarten. My widowed mother taught first and second grades at Rhea, so I was allowed to join the trip with her and the other teachers of the school accompanying the students.

I remember two incidents from that trip. I remember a pit, lined with concrete much like a cellar. At the bottom of the pit was a trapped skunk. The boys threw rocks at the animal until it died. I have no idea where the pit might have been. In my adult years, I have never seen it. Where were the park police? I doubt they existed.

The second incident: One of the boys, so the story was told, had fallen near a cliff. He had rolled to the edge and been stopped from going over by a large rock. When I saw him, he had streaks of blood covering his face, blood which remained until the bus returned to Rhea late that evening. I suppose the blood was his idea of a red-badge-of-courage.

Ten years later when I was fourteen-years-old, I made my second trip to the Canyon. At the time my mother had remarried and we had moved to Ft. Worth. One day, an aunt of mine came from a small town, Santo, Texas, to pick me up for a war-time trip to Amarillo. She had a railroad pass.

It was 1945. The war in Europe was over, but not the Pacific war. The train was filled with soldiers going to that war. This was before the bomb. Soldiers were playing poker and sleeping in the overhead luggage racks. My aunt was given a seat, but I had to sit on the floor—eight hours. At the time I didn't appreciate my patriotic contribution.

During our visit with my aunt's brother, my uncle Guy, he took us to Palo Duro Canyon. He bought me a Tru-Vue viewer, much like an old-time stereoscope in which pictures could be viewed through a lens and seen in 3D. My Tru-Vue required a roll of film which I could scroll through and view in 3D. My first roll of film was of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. I remember mostly a picture of a cowboy sitting in his saddle, staring out over the Canyon.

I don't know what happened to my Tru-Vue.

After graduating from high school in Ft. Worth, I "relocated" to Amarillo to live with my uncle. On my next visit to the Canyon, I and a couple of friends decided to walk to the Lighthouse. This was the early 1950s, and no trail to the Lighthouse existed. We headed in the general direction of the iconic formation. It was tough going.

In a dry gully, we found an old car buried halfway in what was once mud. Still, I suppose, there were no park police. I've often wondered whether that old car was ever dragged out of the Park and whether there were others. We never found the Lighthouse.

Later, back in Ft. Worth, I served as an apprentice Glazier until I became a journeyman Glazier. Then I was drafted into the army during the Korean War in which I spent my time in Germany working on army aircraft. After the army, I attended college on the G.I. Bill which resulted in a job at Amarillo College that lasted for 31 years.

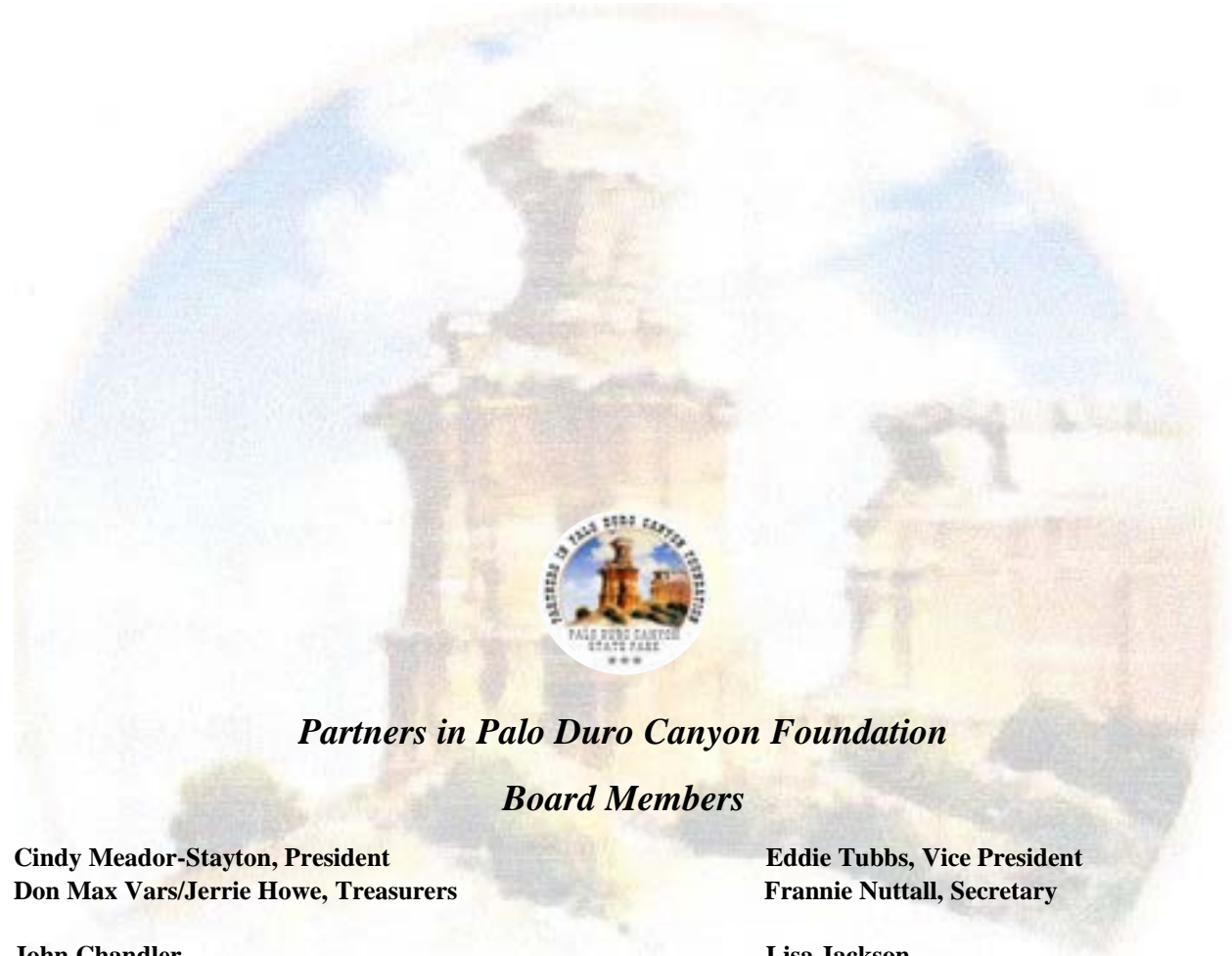
I retired in 1997. In 1999, I was asked to join Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation as a board member. At the same time, I was asked to be a volunteer in what was then known as the "Gift Shop." I have been in both positions for twenty-two years.

And this is how you fill up empty space in a newsletter.



NON-PROFIT ORG
US Postage
PAID
Amarillo, TX
Permit No. 664

**Partners in
Palo Duro Canyon
Foundation
11450 Park Road 5
Canyon, TX 79015
806.488.2227**



Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation

Board Members

**Cindy Meador-Stayton, President
Don Max Vars/Jerrie Howe, Treasurers**

**Eddie Tubbs, Vice President
Frannie Nuttall, Secretary**

**John Chandler
Dr. Ann Coberley
Pebbie Comer
Richard Douglas
Carl Fowler
Dave Henry
Eric Miller**

**Lisa Jackson
Charles Munger
Lea Nelson
Mel Phillips
Art Schneider
Susan Smith
Carol Williams**

On the Edge!

June 2021, Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation, Editor: Carl Fowler