

**Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation**

***On the Edge!***



**Gathering at Medicine Mound  
Comanche Strong, June 2021  
Photo by Eddie Tubbs**

## Comanche Nation Meeting at Medicine Mound

Approximately ten miles south of Quanah, Texas, is a geological formation known as Medicine Mound. Anyone traveling between Amarillo and Dallas/Ft. Worth on U.S. Highway 287 can see the formation from the highway. In what is slated to be an annual event, the Comanche Nation held its first gathering at the site. One can see Medicine Mound in the background of the cover page.

Medicine Mound is one of the most sacred sites of the Comanche, dating back to the time when the Comanches ruled the Panhandle plains of Texas. Eddie Tubbs, Partners in Palo Duro Canyon board member, and David Townsend, Gallery manager, were guests at the first annual meeting. Following are images of this historic event. Photos by Eddie Tubbs. *Cf*



Picture taken at Medicine Mound Courthouse



**Medicine Mound Courthouse**



**Medicine Mound Sunset**



**Ronnie Parker and David Townsend  
Medicine Mound Breakfast**



**Medicine Mound Courthouse**

The history of the Comanche Nation and Palo Duro Canyon as well as the history of the Llano Estacado and its other native peoples are closely interwoven. Near the entrance to Palo Duro Canyon State Park is a giant arrow implanted to mark the travels of the Comanche throughout the Panhandle and South Plains, especially that of Quanah Parker, the most well-known of the Quahadi Comanches. *Cf*





**Many Hands Make Great Partnerhips**  
**Joseph Allen**  
**Park Superintendent**

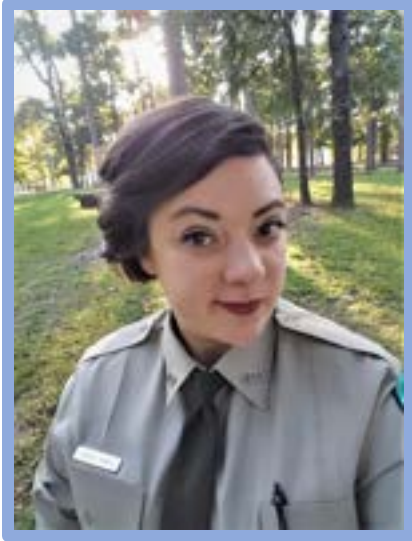
The Texas Forest Service is a diverse team with a broad set of responsibilities, one of which is assisting landowners and state property managers with managing lands in a way that encourages a healthy ecosystem. To accomplish this, they use a variety of tools, from hand crews with hand tools to sawyer teams, heavy equipment, and prescribed fire burns.

Ashley Johnson is our Regional Fire Coordinator for our area. Ashley is assisted by Jason Calvet, our local Task Force Coordinator. Together, with their teams, they have made a tremendous impact on our park operation, my team's morale and motivation, and our visitors' safety and experience. From helping to forge long-time dream projects forward, to helping organize interagency training, to facilitating outreach and habitat projects, Ashley and her team have improved Palo Duro Canyon State Park far beyond agency to agency cooperation. They have helped make the Equestrian Camp Loop begin to come to fruition. They jumped at the chance to help facilitate an interagency wildland fire training academy.

Ashley and her team regularly, without a second thought, reaches out to see what they can help with. The team has helped maintain ranch roads and critical infrastructure as well as areas in the back country. They regularly offer training and assistance to our operation team and our wildland firefighters.

The Palo Duro Canyon staff and Park would not be the same without Ashley and her team's willingness to go above and beyond with service to Texas Parks and Wildlife. I was lucky enough to be able to present Ashley with a Stars in our Parks Award for service to state parks. Everyone at Palo Duro Canyon State Park looks forward to working with Ashley, Jason, and the rest of the Panhandle TFS team in the coming months and years on our habitat improvement projects at the Park. *Ja*





**Lindsay Pannell**  
**Park Interpreter**

### **Thank You**

How can a heart soar while it feels like breaking?

In eight years we have been through flood and fire, rockslides and rescues, programs and promotions. I got to work in the most pristine and treasured natural spaces in this great state. More importantly, this beast of an agency and the beautiful people behind it taught me

loyalty,  
expertise,  
tenacity,  
perseverance,  
kindness, love.

I received some advice that hit home today. They said, “Remember, you are not your job. Celebrate the successes and own the failures, but don’t take it home. It is not who you are.” Great advice...And truly a goal to work on. Right now, it seems impossible to extricate my Self from what I do and those who help

me. Words like “job” and “career” seem paltry compared to the powerful experiences we have had together. Palo Duro Canyon State Park has left an indelible mark on my soul.

After all, my coworkers have been with me through everything.

They held me while I lost a loved one, showed up to fill the room for my thesis defense...

adopted me into their tribe wholesale with love and acceptance...

helped me move across the state of Texas.... One even wed my husband and me.

And now, they’ve supported and encouraged me to take the next step, even at 7 months pregnant.

After all that, the chances and mentoring, training and opportunity, how can I not BE my “job”? I’ll work on it, but in the meantime,

Thank you.

Thank you.

**THANK YOU!**

September 1<sup>st</sup> I start a new adventure in the Texas Historical Commission family. I will be the first site manager of the Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight historical home. I couldn’t ask for a better birthday present. I will miss Palo Duro Canyon and Texas Parks & Wildlife like a person misses a limb.

**Editor’s Note:** I’m certain I speak for all Partners and Park Staff, Lindsay. We will miss you as well and wish you well. What a wonderful opportunity for you and your family. I asked you once if I could buy some of your enthusiasm. “It’s not for sell!” you said. What a pity! Happy birthday!

## May You Fare Well

(Photos by Eddie Tubbs)

In this issue of goodbyes, Partners laments the departure of Jeanna Lilley, assistant manager of the Canyon Gallery. So quickly did you assimilate into the position, Jeanna, that hardly any training (if any at all) was required. You brought to the position experience, acumen, cheerfulness, and enthusiasm—adjectives that are seldom found in any one person. When the new computer program was purchased for the Gallery, you spent many hours, including several nights when you were the only one in the Gallery, ironing out the glitches and smoothing out the transition from the old system to the new. And then you and David conducted training sessions for the volunteers.



I wonder, as you burned the late-night hours, did you happen to see Jack? In the event that you don't know, Jack is the resident ghost. I don't know if anyone has ever seen him, but Maggie Johnson used to tell him when she opened the store in the mornings to go about his business. It was time for her to go to work. Jack is not Jack Sorenson. Jack and Jeanne just built a new house.

When Partners gave you a going-away dinner at Feldman's, you displayed who you are as you accepted your remembrance gifts with your glorious smile.



We will miss you and hope that you miss us just a little as you follow your heart to your new venture. And, of course, we expect to see you from time to time. After all, you are still a partner of Partners.

One last thing: You may be a Lilley at home, but in the Canyon Gallery, you were a morning glory. Just look at that smile. May you fare well. *Cf*





**David, Brian McSpadden (Tennessee), Chuck Waltrip (New Mexico), Dev Hebb, (Alabama) Quanah Parker Society**



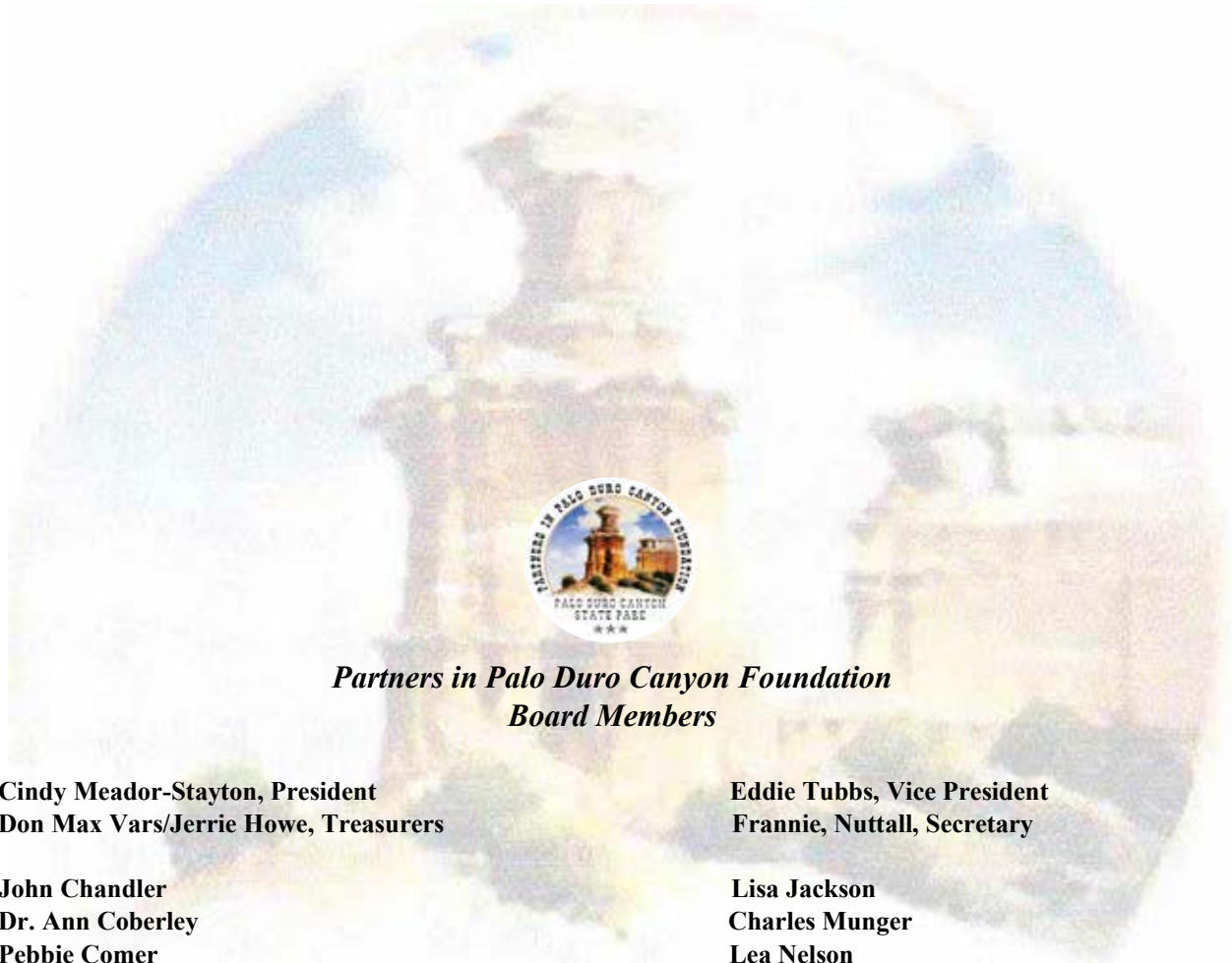
**David, Larry Gatlin, Mark Woommavovah, Comanche Chairman**

**Photos by Rick and CJ Boales**



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**Volunteers Needed in Canyon Gallery. Call David Townsend, (806) 488-2506**

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