



Partners in Palo Duro
Canyon Foundation

On the Edge!



Water Crossing #2

Artist: Amy Winton

12 by 18 Original Pastel

Painted in 2016

Editor's Note: The image of the painting on the cover was created by Amy Winton, well-known local artist, whose work “hangs in collections in Austria, Canada, Russia, Mexico, Canada, Texas, and on both coasts.” Amy has received numerous awards, has held several teaching positions, and has several publications. Her work is displayed locally in The Colony in Amarillo and in the Winton Studio and Gallery in Canyon. Her work can be found also in the Canadian River Art Gallery, Canadian, Texas, and the Davis and Blevins Gallery in St. Jo, Texas. For further information, contact www.amywinton.com.

The following is Amy's explanation of her painting, Water Crossing #2.



Amy Winton and Grandson Andrew

My grandson, Andrew and I enjoy hiking and exploring all aspects of the Palo Duro Canyon. Our favorite hike is exploring near the water of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River [the stream paralleling the paved Park road].

After the spring rains last year [2015], a large rock had been moved to the middle of the river at Water Crossing #2. I saw in microcosm the power that sculpted the Canyon. While Andrew played downstream,

I was fascinated with the movement of the ripples around the rock and the light on the small rocks underneath the surface. Nevertheless, I sensed the light was not right and vowed to return on another day.

I returned to the site early on a clear sunshiny morning and saw that another flood had moved the rock I went in search of another rock and placed it in the water on the same spot as the other rock had been. I waited for the muddiness to clear, hunched down (actually sat down in the water), and captured the scene with my camera. The rock diverting the onward stream, the grasses bent over from the previous torrent, the erosion, and the sparkling light on the water inspired me.

On that spring morning, in the silence, except for the rush of the water and birds calling, I felt the rhythm of the Canyon being carved over millennia.

Back in the studio, using my sketches and photographs and recalling the feel of the water, I tried to replicate that moment in time.

Aw

Editor's Note: (Water Crossing #2 hangs in a private collection.)



Rare Visitor



Two bird enthusiasts, (ornithologists), commonly called “bird watchers,” entered

the Visitor Center recently enthralled that they had seen a rare visitor to the Park, the Golden Crowned Sparrow.

Seldom seen in Texas, the Golden Crowned Sparrow's principal range is in California. The bird was spotted in the Wildlife Viewing Blind adjacent to the Trading Post and has brought bird enthusiasts from around the area hoping to spot one. Keep a look out! *Cf*



Shannon Blaylock
Park Superintendent

The continuous trend of late has been substantial visitation and revenue increases for Palo Duro Canyon State Park. For the year, the Park continues to show an increase of about 18% and shows no sign of slowing down. As Superintendent, I constantly evaluate the operation and try to hone in on

where I believe the operation shines and where it can improve.

Obviously, there will always be room for improvement, but what I want to cast some light on is this fact: visitation and revenue are increasing for a multitude of reasons, but the most significant reason is that the Park Staff are true professionals, motivated by a love of the outdoors and a pride in their work that is unmatched.

The Park Staff's creativity and dedication to the mission of Texas State Parks has created new partnerships with organizations, such as the Texas Archeological Society, the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society, and the Deaf community to name a few.

The openness of the Staff has led to diversity in user groups and an expansive new list of programming and outreach efforts. Their perseverance has led to continuous improvement of Park facilities and the long overdue repair of critical infrastructure. Their bravery and selfless service has led to safer, more enjoyable outdoor experiences for Park visitors. Their smiles and tireless efforts have led to new memories, not soon forgotten, for countless families. It is the work ethic and fearless gumption of the Palo Duro Canyon State Park Staff that leads the growth we are experiencing; and, for that, they deserve limitless praise.

They are truly inspirational, and I am proud to serve them each day. Please join me in giving thanks for the work they do, for without them, Palo Duro Canyon State Park would not be as magical. *Sb*



Zuni Eagle Dancers to Appear



Gilbert Owaleon

The Zuni Eagle Dancers from Zuni Pueblo in New Mexico will appear at the Visitor Center Friday, June 10th and Saturday June 11th at the Visitor Center. There will be two performances each day at 11:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. on the patio in front of the Visitor Center. The Owaleon family, will perform the dances.

In addition to Native American Dance, the family specializes in creating Zuni fetishes and jewelry, as well as other works of Native American art. Items will be available for purchase. Do not miss this extraordinary event. *Cf*



Lucy Owaleon

Down Memory Lane



John and Betty Dietz

Editor's note: John Dietz was a founding member of Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation. He and his wife Betty were volunteers in the Canyon Gallery (Gift Shop) for a number of years. Betty also volunteered in the Gallery and recruited other volunteers for several years. A picture of John and Betty is displayed in the Visitor Center commemorating their long dedication and volunteer service to Partners. The following is Betty's partial memoir of the early years of the state park.

Palo Duro Canyon: A Splashing Memory by Betty Dietz

I returned quite recently to Canyon, Texas, with one of my granddaughters to visit old

friends, relatives, and Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Many memories began to well up as I recalled my first taste of this wonder of nature when I was a young girl seven years of age.

My parents had nearby friends, the Curries, owners of the Currie Ranch, and asked if we could picnic in the part of the Canyon that was on their ranch. The ranch was in the northern end of the Canyon which, today, is not a part of the state park. Eventually, my Grandmother Simon bought or had a cabin built there, and eighty-one years ago it was there, in those surroundings, that I encountered what is known as Devil's Kitchen and the Palisades.

We enjoyed many family gatherings there when I was a child. Most striking of all, the experience seemed so dauntingly huge to a little girl, like walking into a huge boulder, damp and cool, and a wondrous place to play.

The years passed. I married my husband, John, in 1944. Soon we were a family of five, and the gates of Palo Duro Canyon were opened wide to us.

There were no designated campgrounds in those early years, so we, our family, and often our friends, camped wherever we wanted, hiked the worn trails, had the creek for a pool and Devil's Slide for our playground.

As the years wore on, our children grew up and left home to make lives of their own. John and I began bringing our grandchildren to the now established and aptly named campgrounds, spending many days and nights at #10, #15, or #17 in Hackberry. The children enjoyed the same playgrounds, splashing in the creek, hiking the trails, and learning names of wildflowers and birds.

More years passed, finding John and me as lone campers. We could still make our

way into the Rock Gardens across from Sunflower Picnic Area and to the bluffs near Cottonwood Picnic Area. There once, quite high up, we discovered a small cave where I thought I found salt water. It proved to be the drippings of budding limestone formations.

On the trek back from the cave, we came upon a spotted egg in loose sand among the rocks. The egg was that of a night hawk. I think back now and wonder if you have ever heard a night hawk dive

I have another memory of hiking the creek in back of the old horse stables, meeting two coyotes head on and affording them wide berth. We found water there teeming with good-sized catfish. We came upon some beautiful Dutch Iris in bloom in the wild.

Once we found Night Blooming Cereus just budding when we hiked to a bluff just off the Alternate Road. Later, after dark, we walked there again with flashlights, watched, waited, and were rewarded with seeing every petal open into a beautiful, fragrant flower.

My memories are endless of this wonder of nature, Palo Duro Canyon. I have watched the moon rise over a great boulder. I saw there my first painted bunting. I have made the arduous trek to the Lighthouse, watched a golden eagle soar above me, and watched a bull snake make a meal of an unfortunate blue jay.

My memories are endless. The grand canyon of Palo Duro taught me so much from its inherent beauty, countless real-time moments spent there from my childhood days to my aged years. In all that time, I learned to responsibly love and care for this wonder of nature and respect its pristine vastness and wildness.

I am so very proud of the Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation volunteers

who give their time and talents to teach those who come to this place that holds a warm and dear space in my heart.

As my granddaughter and I drove away, my granddaughter remembered out loud the cars driving through the creek at each water crossing and splashing the kids as they played there. She was saddened, she said, by the modern bridges at the crossings

now, signs of more pressing needs. She will have that splashing memory forever. **Bd**



Betty, Her Sisters and Cousins
Betty is on the left, Photo taken in 1932
Courtesy of Betty Dietz



Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation Board of Advisors

Frannie Nuttall, President; Cindy Meador, 1st Vice President; John Chandler, Recording Secretary; Don Max Vars, Treasurer

Dr. Ann Coberley; Lynda Barksdale; Richard Biggs; Henrietta Doss; Carl Fowler; David Hutson; Georgia King; Eric Miller; Lea Nelson; Dan Norman; Mel Phillips; Art Schnieder; Carol Williams



Water Crossing #2 with Bridge: Necessary for Flood Evacuation
Photo by Editor



Wildlife Viewing Blind: Located Near the Trading Post
Photo by Editor



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

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



Owaleon: Zuni Eagle Dancers
Photo Courtesy of David Townsend

On the Edge!

June 2016, Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation: Editor, Carl Fowler