

Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation

On the Edge!



Poetic Vision

By Ann Coberley

History Day in Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Photos and Text by Mary Fowler

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then surely walking into an interactive history day with characters and scenes from the 1800's creates indelible images for children of bygone days.



Tom O'Neill, from the Plum Creek Brigade, dressed in the garb of an 1800 mountain man. Tom has made 36 Cheville muskets, Fuselage de Chasse French Rifles. He starts with raw wood and a band saw. Uses a farrier rasp to carve out and smooth the stock. His telling of the process was most intriguing.



Nine-year-old Corbyn Swift, a direct descendant of Quanah Parker, dances in his father's Regalia that Corbyn's grandfather made for his father when he was a boy. Corbyn's father made his colorful bustle.



Young girl trying her hand at blacksmithing



Children playing games from the 1800's.



A Season of Change By Joseph Allen Park Superintendent

Fall is a season of many great changes. From trees, to cooler weather, to hunting, to holidays and to much more, fall is a wonderful time of year. Change is true for Palo Duro Canyon as well. Not only do we have cooler temperatures, but also have changes in visitation. The Park is host to many running races and biking races and serves dozens of school groups coming to learn more about the environment and the Park's history.

This fall, changes continue with our team. As many know, our very own Travis Forrest was promoted to Sergeant of the State Park Police in September. He still calls Palo

Duro Canyon home base but now serves the region in a higher-level leadership role. The position he vacated was filled by Laramy Estel who transferred from the Park's Assistant Superintendent role to the dedicated park police officer position.

We also have a new Maintenance Specialist III, Christopher Looney, who joined us in October. Chris graduated from Tascosa High School in Amarillo in 2012. He went into the U.S. Army in 2014 and has been in the Army Reserves and head of maintenance at Ridgewood Apartments for several years. Chris has a great deal of experience and has jumped right into his role on the Park Field Operations Team.

We have already begun the process of searching for the Park's next assistant superintendent. This position is critically important to the Park, as all of our positions are, in that the position oversees the day-to-day operations.

We are also preparing to interview for two full-time maintenance positions and post several seasonal maintenance and customer service positions.

As I write, we are forecasted to have our first big snow this weekend (November 4-5), and the soapberry and cottonwood trees are in full yellow. If it's one thing for sure in this world, it's change. And that's especially true for parks. ***Ja***

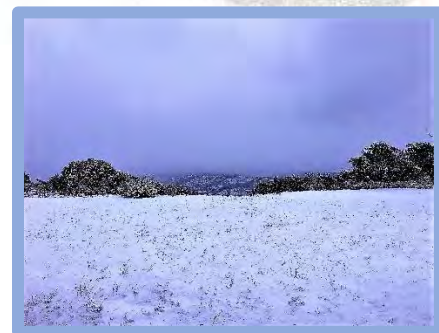


Photo by Joseph Allen



Photo by Mary Fowler

Teddy Draper, Jr. Navajo Warrior and Artist

Teddy Draper, Jr. was the guest speaker at the annual meeting and dinner of Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation.

The topic of Draper was that of the Navajo Nation tradition of warriors in which he cited his father as representative of that tradition. Draper himself is also a part of that tradition, having served in the Marine Corp in several tours of Afghanistan.

Draper's father, Teddy Draper, Sr. was a Navajo Code Talker during World War II and was wounded in the battle of Iwo Jima for which he received the purple heart belatedly sixty years later. The Navajo Code Talkers confounded the Japanese, because they couldn't decipher the language in attempts to break the code.

A warrior in the Navajo tradition is an honorable calling. Draper, who is also an artist, describes his personal belief in the following statement:

Although I have been painting for the last 10 years, it has been my voluntary duties in the Marine Corps that have kept me from seriously chasing my Artistic calling. Following and sharing in the traditions of my father, Navajo Code Talker Draper Sr. has been a great honor. Having this connection with him has instilled in me a great respect. Seeing the horrors of war and knowing the strength, love and courage of the warriors on the front line and the warriors supporting them here at home, has opened my mind and has inspired my work. I believe we are all warriors and we have a divine purpose. Protecting that sacred gift, our beliefs, our thoughts and our dreams makes us all Warriors, PROTECTION WARRIORS.

Nothing more need be said. Cf



**American Warrior by
Teddy Draper Jr.**



New Park Rescue Vehicle

Laramy Estel, Dedicated Park Police Officer, off-loads the new Park rescue vehicle purchased from the Gurley Foundation funds donated to the Park each year through Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation.



*Road
By
Ann Coberley*



*On the flat prairie
above the canyon,
a ruler straight road
runs east
toward the darkening sky,
a hard-packed ribbon
of caliche,
stark and white
against the gathering storm.
It marks the edges
of champagne colored fields,
and plays hide-and-seek
in the clouds of dust
that follow a bright green pickup
Running
toward the cold gray horizon,
toward the flashes of lightning
and the slanting rain,
it drops suddenly from sight,
vanishes for good
in the thick white dust
that settles like snow
behind
the bright green pickup.*



Carl Fowler
Photo by Mary Fowler

Open house was held October 27, 2018, in the Canyon Gallery/Visitor Center. Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation hosted the event, which included book signings by Ann Coberley, Eddie Tubbs, and Carl Fowler. Artists Mike Lafleur and David Townsend were present also to greet personally those in attendance and to autograph their works.

Dr. Coberley has two books of poetry sold in the Gallery, *Meditations on Palo Duro* and *Texas*. The poem *Road*, which appears above, is from *Meditations on Palo Duro*.

Eddie Tubbs has published two books of his photographs, also sold in the Gallery. One shows images of Palo Duro Canyon and is entitled, *Welcome to Palo Duro*. The other is entitled, *Palace on the Plains*, and contains images of the restored Charles Goodnight house located approximately a quarter mile south of U.S. 287 at Goodnight, Texas.

Fowler has self-published a small book, *These Old Heavenly Houses: Mansions in Paradise*, with a whimsical, semi-autobiographical text, and photos of old houses taken by the author in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado. It, too, is sold in the Gallery.

Mike Lafleur and David Townsend have several paintings for sale in the Gallery as well, most already displaying their signatures.

And, as always, the Gallery has posters, puzzles, mugs, and, sometimes, an original oil by Jack Sorenson. Jack was unable to attend the open house, but many of his posters are already signed. The Gallery has, as well, Leann's Tree postcards created by Jack

As many of you know, Jack's work is sold in the Joe Wade Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but he has a personal fondness for Palo Duro Canyon, having grown up on the rim of the Canyon.

Keep an eye out for future open houses in the Gallery. Cf



Partners Honorees
Photo by Jeanna Lilley

Rick Aldridge, Mary Splawn, and Betty Rathjen were honored at Partners' annual meeting and dinner for serving the longest number of years as volunteers in the gallery. They are shown here with David Townsend, Gallery manager.





A Representative from the Plum Creek Brigade Displays Artifacts During Palo Duro History Day



Jeff Davis, Park Interpreter and Comanche Dancer at Palo Duro History Day



Jack Sorenson and Painting at Palo Duro History Day

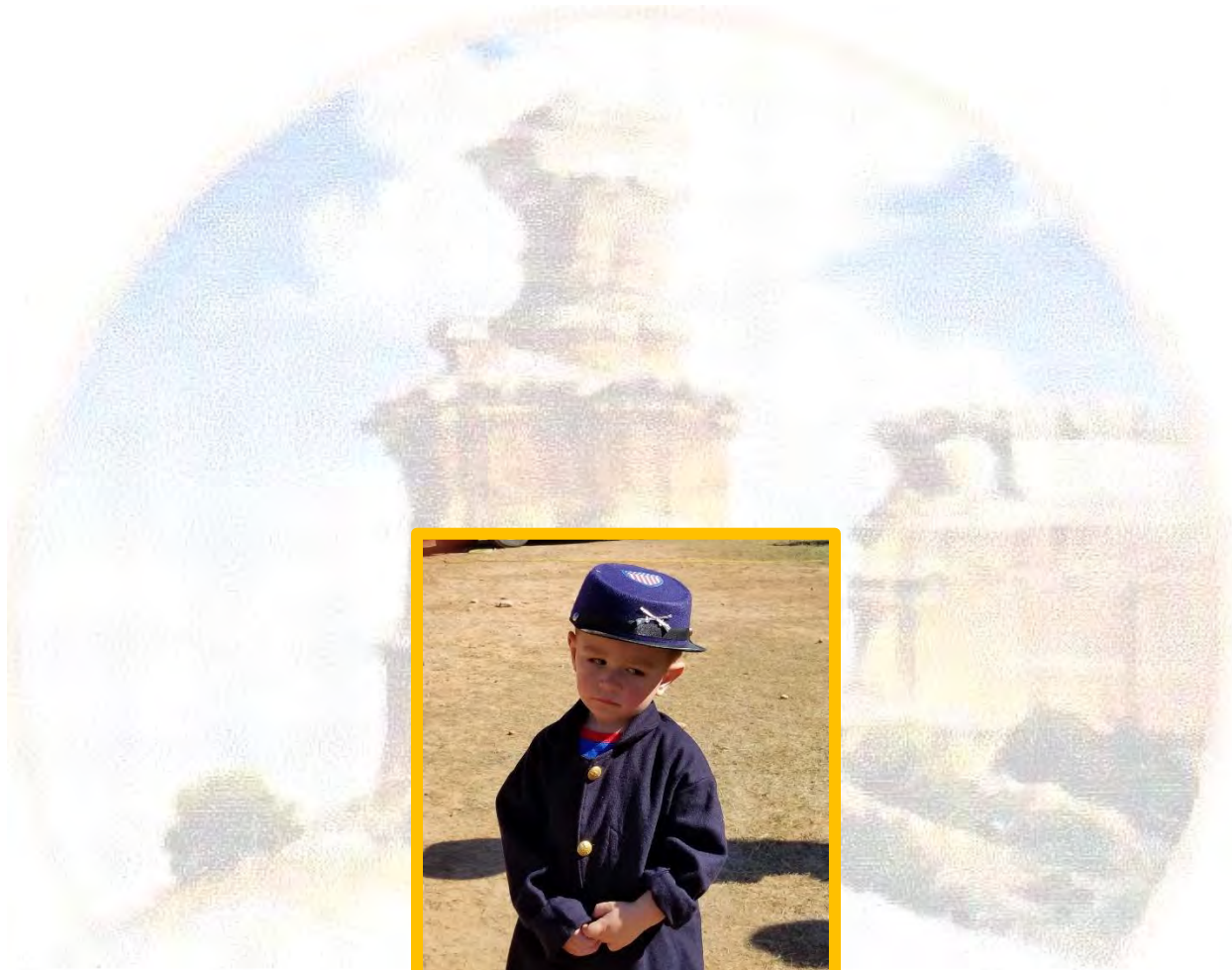


**Comanche Dancer
(Photos by Editor)**



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Foundation
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**Reluctant Warrior
Victor Corbyn Sherman**

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