

## Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation

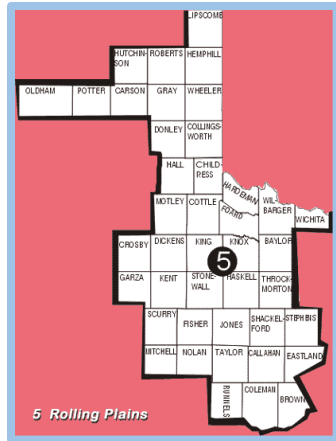
### *On the Edge!*



**David Fischer, Region 5  
Ranger of the Year**

**Jake Voight, Region 5  
Police Officer of the Year**

**Photo by Eddie Tubbs**



**Region 5, Rolling Plains**  
**Picture provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife**

Both the Region 5 Ranger of the Year and the Region 5 Officer of the Year are on the staff of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. David Fischer and Jake Voight have been recognized by Texas Parks and Wildlife for their excellent performance for the Park, the Region, and TPWD.

As shown above, Region 5 encompasses much of the Texas Panhandle and spreads well into the South Plains. The region extends from Lipscomb County in the north, to Oldham County in the west, to Wichita County in the east, to Coleman County in the south.

Region 5 is one of nine ecological regions throughout the state. The boundaries of the other eight regions may be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation extend our congratulations to the two for their exceptional contributions to Palo Duro Canyon State Park and to the citizens of Texas, the nation, and the world.

If this tribute seems somewhat overblown, it isn't. Those who work as volunteers in the Visitor Center/Canyon Gallery can attest to the admiration of the Park from visitors, such as Russians,

Australians, Japanese, etc.—and even Brooklyn.

Congratulations, again, David and Jake. You represent all of us well. *Cf*



**Spring Has Sprung**  
**by**  
**Joseph Allen**  
**Park Superintendent**

Although we have finally begun to get some snow, the signs of spring are upon us. In between storm-producing Park closing snow, we have had some really nice weather, and people are coming to your favorite Texas state park.

Currently, visitation numbers for this fiscal year are sitting at about ten percent higher than average, thus setting the stage for another very busy season. We had one recent Sunday that saw almost 3000 people come through the gate.

Despite being many positions short, the Palo Duro team is pulling together to serve the visitors. Between remodeling cabins and the Mack Dick Pavilion to looking at ways to streamline the entry line, the team



is getting things done. Park leadership has also been hard at work to fill those vacancies and hopefully will be introducing several new team members soon to everyone.

Several other projects on the horizon include the start of construction for our new water treatment facility, continued work towards obtaining a modernized wastewater treatment facility for the Park, continued work to construct and improve the entrance station and administration areas as well as our equestrian camping areas, and ADA trail work to improve accessibility for everyone who wants to enjoy the outdoors. Mesquite camp loop is also slated to receive some attention with some campsites and restroom remodels coming in April.

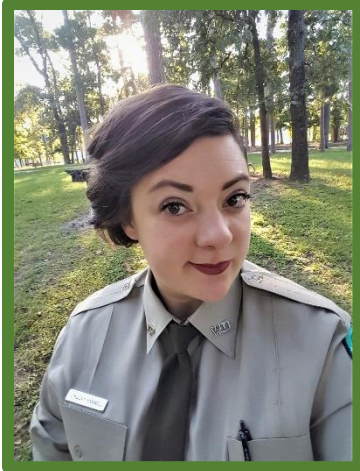
As we continue to facilitate partnerships, we have Texas Forest Service and a few contractors helping us to prep the Park for some habitat restoration. We have

eagle scouts working on projects, such as replacing and upgrading shade shelters along the Lighthouse Trail and improving the bird blind area. We are working to expand and repave the Lighthouse parking lot to better serve visitors and make the area safer for first responders. We are also working with a variety of internal and external sources to help us modernize our aging fleet of vehicles and utility vehicles, especially those used by our growing volunteer force.

The Park is loved by many, and we are seeing more new visitors to the Park every day. We are continually looking at ways to improve the experience they have while here through physical and procedural means. The future is looking great for the Park and the army of folks who help to steward its many resources. This work could not be done without our many Partners such as you. ***Ja***



**A Sunday with Almost Three Thousand Visitors**  
**Photo by Joseph Allen**



**Lindsay Pannell**  
**Park Interpreter**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**

**“Without volunteers we’d be a nation without a soul.” Rossalyn Carter**

The Panhandle of Texas is quite unlike anything else. It is a unique, beautiful, and utilitarian land; local people are much the same, made out of tough times and tougher love. Their passion drives our community to prosper with each passing year. Palo Duro Canyon State Park benefits greatly from the dedication of local volunteers. It would take up far more space than available to expound on the truly amazing people this Park works with; however, we want to shine a light on the diversity of our volunteer program.

We are lucky to have a full contingent of Park hosts who volunteer a certain number of hours each week and stay in a campsite. Some of the more visible contributions by those volunteers are consistently clean bathrooms and firepits, new camp awnings, and Petey the Prairie Dog signs seen throughout the Park.

Day volunteers are often in and out of the Park, doing good with unwavering consistency. Their actions cannot be

acknowledged enough. These individuals provide the most varied volunteer work in the Park. Some volunteer at the Canyon Gallery and Visitor Center; others provide trash pickup, assist in trail maintenance, heat safety booths, and assist in interpretive programming.

No matter the type of volunteer, they all have a certain characteristic in common: a passion for preserving our parks for posterity. Decidedly, their drive and dependability make our dedicated do-gooders a delight to deal with. But most importantly, our volunteers are like family. Without them, the Park would be incomplete. A hearty thank you to our tough, unique, and passionate volunteers of Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

*Lp*



Panhandle Chapter Texas Naturalists and day volunteers gather for an interpretive training class. With this training, many of our volunteers go on to provide much needed programming for PDC’s many visitors.





One of our youngest volunteers, Emily is a recent high school graduate and has been volunteering with us for over a year now. She is gaining experience in the parks system and boosting her resume by helping her local state park.



Volunteers unfailingly assist hundreds of thousands of guests each year at the Civilian Conservation Corps-built El Coronado Lodge and Visitor Center/Canyon Gallery. This is where visitors experience the essence of the Park for the first time.

**Photos by Lindsay Pannell**



**Oasis Indian Market**

### **Photo Taken by Eddie Tubbs at the Oasis Indian Market in Phoenix January 20-25**

David Townsend, Canyon Gallery Manager, made his annual trip to the Oasis Indian Market in Phoenix. Accompanying him were board members Cindy Meador-Stayton, Ann Coberley, and Eddie Tubbs. Below is a brief account of the trip by Ann Coberley. **Cf**



**Ann Coberley**

What a trip! How exciting to meet vendors and artists and to have a look at how the Canyon Gallery is stocked with authentic Native American pottery and jewelry. The landscapes of New Mexico and Arizona are beautiful, even in winter; and it's easy to imagine how the shapes and colors have inspired native artists. It was a privilege to go into the homes of Hopi and Zuni artists and to meet their families.

The Oasis market in Phoenix was overwhelming with rows and rows of booths and vendors. David Townsend has many contacts there, as well as at the pueblos and the small towns that surround them. His experience and expertise in selecting merchandise for the store is evident in its success.

I'm grateful to have the experience of this trip. Many thanks to David and Partners for memories that will last forever. **Ac**





**Oasis Indian Market, Phoenix**  
**Photo by Eddie Tubbs**



**David Townsend**  
**Photo by Eddie Tubbs**



**Cindy and Ann**  
**Photo by Eddie Tubbs**



## **Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation, Board Members**

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**Susan Smith**  
**Eddie Tubbs**  
**Carol Williams**



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**Eddie Tubbs**  
**Photographer and Other Things**



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## ***On the Edge!***

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