

Ryan Thornton
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Education

- May 2015 - Texas A&M University- Bachelors of Science in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences with a focus in Parks and Conservation
- December 2018 - Texas A&M University - Master's of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences

Work Experience

Texas A&M University – Assistant Lecturer – Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences Department – Jan. '19 - Present

- Preparing and delivering lectures for 90 students
- Grading written assignments, exams, and in-class assignments
- Managing the class grade book
- Scheduling guest lectures
- Assisting students with course materials as needed
- Recording classroom attendance and participation
- Supervising two Graduate Teaching Assistants, including scheduling their work hours and responsibilities for the course

Texas A&M University- Graduate Teaching Assistant – Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences Department - Jan. '18 – Dec. '18

- Prepared and delivered in-class lectures for 100+ undergraduate students
- Graded essays, exams, and other assignments for 100+ students
- Kept track of class attendance and participation for in class activities
- Held exam review sessions for students
- Proctored exams
- Maintained all course materials, grades, and assignments on TAMU online service, eCampus
- Held office hours to assist students with their course work

Diamond S Ranch – Recreation and Land Manager Jan. '17 – Nov. '17

- Provided hunting guide services for Diamond Star Ranch Members and their guests for elk, deer, bear, and other non-game species. Service was provided via horseback, UTV, or on foot.
- Maintained Ranch trail system, duties included: keeping all trails open and clear year round, mowing all trails in the summer, grooming all trails in the winter, maintaining all trail signs, building new trails dependent on Ranch Manager and Management committee coming to a consensus on design and placement.

- Provided snowmobile guide services for Diamond Star Ranch Members and their guests, duties included: guiding all snowmobile rides, verifying fuel delivery for snowmobiles, servicing all snowmobiles.
- Provided horseback guide services for Diamond Star Ranch Members and their guests, duties included: guiding horseback rides, verifying Member proficiency, ensuring Member safety, ensuring horse health, safety, and soundness. Duties were performed with assistance of Barn Manager
- Maintained Ranch Sledding Hill, duties included: grooming sledding hill and verifying all sleds and warming hut in good working order.
- Maintained Ranch fishing system, duties included: keeping all ponds stocked and feeding the fish, building and maintaining fishing access to ponds and river, managing pond algae, keeping all fly rods and fishing gear up to date
- Maintained Gravel Pit, duties included: cleaning the Gravel pit, building and maintaining trap shooting range, building and maintaining rifle range, building and maintaining archery range, building and maintaining new snowmobile/snow cat building
- Provided camp prep and teardown service for all requested Member camping
- Performed restoration on Ranch Buildings and provided interpretive services to Ranch Members and their guests. Performed and assisted former Ranch Manager Jack Oleson with restoration and general ranch activities.
- Provided assistance with setup and teardown on all catered Member events.
- Assisted other Ranch employees with agricultural activities, including but not limited to: haying, irrigation, snow plowing, snow shoveling, snowmobile rides, horseback rides, and moving cattle.
- Maintained Ranch road system, duties included: maintain smooth crowned road at all times; continuously add gravel, magnesium chloride, water & compact; keep road signs maintained; monitor and clean road bar ditch and culverts, keep rocks, trash and debris out of the road; ice removal in dangerous locations on ranch roads
- Performed and coordinated snow removal on Ranch, duties included: snow plowing, shoveling & roof snow removal
- Responsible for range management, duties included: coordination of Ranch cattle and sheep rotational grazing; maintenance of internal and boundary fence; spring and stock tank maintenance and development
- Responsible for boundary management, duties included: maintenance of Ranch boundary fencing and signage; keeping update locks and logs on external gates; coordination of surveying, marking, and new fence building
- Responsible for weed management, duties included: spraying the range, roadsides and all areas except hay meadows; coordination of 3rd party contractors to spray, maintains all spraying records
- Responsible for hay sales, duties included: Brokerage of hay sales and delivery to clients
- Responsible for water accounting: collection of water accounting assigned by the Ranch Manager

Big Bend Ranch State Park – Park Ranger/Interpreter

May '16-December '16

- Planned, wrote, coordinated, and conducted interpretive programs such as hikes, walks, wildlife programs, astronomy programs, guided runs, mountain bike rides, birding tours, and 4x4 tours.
- Managed park volunteers and coordinated/scheduled projects with them to best meet the goals of the park's operations.
- Provided both formal and informal interpretation in the park visitor center, as well as in the field.
- Operated the park visitor center point of sale system.
- Taught Leave No Trace Principles in a backcountry setting.
- Provided customer service to park visitors for camping and day use.
- Used TPWD software to make visitor reservations and ensure correct check-in procedures were followed.
- Logged and recorded park weather and climate data using department weather instruments and software.
- Performed essential maintenance duties such as cleaning restrooms, campsite checks and other various facilities, vehicles, and grounds maintenance.
- Conducted monthly safety meetings on various topics with park staff and volunteers.
- Complied with TPWD fiscal control policies on a daily basis.
- Operated state vehicles within the park's boundaries and surrounding areas.
- Engaged visitors regarding park rules and regulations, as well as safe practices while visiting the park.
- Operated park radios and communication devices, such as satellite phones and two-way radios.
- Managed and operated the park's Instagram account and other social media services.
- Performed light husbandry duties such as feeding horses, and trail patrols via horseback.
- Assisted in the response of emergency situations and search and rescue efforts.
- Provided quality outdoor recreation experiences in a backcountry recreation setting.
- Updated and operated the park's online calendar of events.
- Routinely performed trail and road maintenance and monitored over 248 miles within 311,000 acres of park property. Included leading volunteer groups in trail/road maintenance duties.
- Coordinated and implemented community outreach programs and events.
- Led the Tierra Grande chapter Texas Master Naturalists field trips and workshops.
- Performed archeological site monitoring.
- Operated and performed tasks using various vehicles- including UTV, horseback, and 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Good Bull Pedicab Co. – Manager/Driver

May '15-May '16

- Provided transportation within the city of Bryan/College Station via pedicab.
- Performed routine maintenance on the cabs including, washing, tune-ups, charging the cabs' batteries, test-driving cabs, and restocking needed supplies.
- Connected potential/new drivers with the City of College Station Police Department to become permitted to drive the cabs.

- Trained new drivers on overall pedicab operations, maintenance, rules and regulations, and practices.
- Reached out to local College Station businesses for advertising opportunities with GoodBull Pedicab.
- Supervised and created schedules for approximately sixteen drivers during weekends, sporting events, and other special occasions using online scheduling software.
- Communicated with drivers regarding upcoming events, schedules, and weekly activities.
- Operated the GoodBull Twitter page and social media marketing campaigns.

**Texas A&M University – Graduate Teaching Assistant
January ‘15 – May ‘16**

- Graded students’ assignments and exams for RPTS 201 – Foundations of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences.
- Performed teaching assistant tasks for Mrs. Susan Scott with RPTS 307- Environmental Methods of Interpretation Lab sections and Dr. John Crompton with RPTS 403 - Finance and Marketing Parks and Recreation.
- Critiqued students’ oral presentations and thematic talks.
- Led class field trips and workshops to historic sights and museums.
- Available for students as a resource for help regarding any class assignments, tests, and oral presentations.
- Graded students’ written assignments and tests.
- Held and scheduled office hours to assist students with their written assignments, tests, and oral presentations.
- Tutored student athletes enrolled in the Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences department through the NCAA.

**Burdett and Son Outdoor Adventure Shop – Sales/Gunsmith/Safe Delivery
June ‘12- August ‘15**

- Worked as a salesman of outdoor and hunting gear including firearms and firearms accessories.
- Operated store cash register/POS system.
- Sold Texas hunting and fishing licenses, and made license recommendations to customers based on Texas Parks and Wildlife rules and regulations.
- Organized youth hunter’s safety day camp each summer to allow local youth to become qualified to participate in hunts. Duties included: supervising firearm and archery range practices, familiarizing youth with tracking skills, led classes about wildlife conservation and field safety, and led classes about classroom safety.
- Assisted with concealed handgun courses and firearm safety courses monthly.
- Received and priced store inventory.
- Input inventory into store POS and computer systems.
- Perform gunsmith tasks such as cleanings, repairs, parts installations, and refurbishes.
- Led a safe delivery team of 2-5 men during home safe installs.

- Delivered and installed safes on a frequent basis to residences as well as businesses in the College Station and surrounding areas.
- Was in charge of all home safe inventory and ordering with a budget of up to \$20,000.
- Worked closely with customers to meet their wants and needs for outdoor recreational experiences.
- Maintained and remodeled shop storefront, including bathroom remodels, ceiling and drywall remodeling, drywall installation and repair, and electrical and plumbing maintenance.

**Colorado Bend State Park – Interpretation/Natural Resource Mgmt. Intern
May '14-August '14**

- Worked as the park's Natural/Cultural Resource Management, and Interpretation Intern.
- Guided interpretive, wild, crawling cave tours, and other expeditions.
- Led interpretive hikes and walks for groups of 2-35 visitors covering various topics relating to conservation, park history, park geology, park wildlife, park flora/fauna, and park resources.
- Organized and led family kayak races for the Lampasas Spring Ho Festival.
- Performed routine maintenance on park equipment- including fishing rods, reels, and tackle, fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, park kayaks, caving equipment, and climbing equipment.
- Created and implemented interpretive programs for children and families.
- Trapped Brown Headed Cowbirds in an effort to keep them from nesting with the endangered Black Capped Vireo.
- Maintained hiking and biking trails using machinery and herbicide applications.
- Built and maintained campsites.
- Renumbered over 50 campsites in the campground and reinstalled new signage throughout the entire park.
- Operated large and small machinery such as tractors, shredders, weed eaters, and chainsaws.
- Constructed multiple parade floats for the Lampasas Spring Ho Festival.
- Drafted a Backcountry Permit Plan for future implementation in the park.
- Conducted visitor surveys regarding visitor satisfaction/experience.
- Assisted in conducting interviews between the park's volunteer coordinator and potential park hosts and other volunteers.
- Cleaned and maintained campground restroom facilities.
- Cleaned and maintained portable restroom facilities.
- Assisted park visitors in various ways to ensure they had a positive recreational experience.

**The Lanier Law Firm – Clerk/Research
August '07-December '11**

- Performed document review in the cases of *Rochester Medical v. Bard* and *Daniels Sharpsmart v. Tyco*.
- Organized and analyzed document production in the case of *Brown Family*

- Organized and analyzed document production in the *Partnership v. Land O'Lakes Purina Feed, LLC* case.
- Researched client jobsites within the U.S. Military.
- Reconciled data between local and online Firm Databases.
- Processed Asbestos cases online with bankrupt Asbestos Trusts.
- Traveled with attorneys to court to assist with document processing and review.

Becky's Land Development – Laborer

June '07-August '07

- Aided in the land development of Mark and Becky Lanier's property.
- Dug drainage ditches as well as irrigation and sprinkler systems.
- Broke up old concrete and laid new concrete.
- Executed general landscaping work and manual labor tasks.

Bayer Engineering and Technical Services Company (BETSCO) – Laborer

May '06-August '06

- Assembled, repaired, and maintained piping and skids (including but not limited to: painting, welding, and sand blasting) for oil fields and refineries.
- Transported Skids to different locations throughout South East Texas.

Awards, Honors, and Certifications

- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society – Blinn College
- Golden Key Honor Society – Blinn College
- Judge Marvin Jones Scholarship – Texas A&M University
- Golden Key Honor Society – Texas A&M University
- Rho Phi Lambda Honor Society – Texas A&M University
- Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences Silver Chaparral Award – Texas A&M University
- Wilderness First Aid certified through Longleaf Wilderness Medicine
- Hunter Safety Education/Certification Instructor – Texas Parks and Wildlife

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Posses a valid Texas State Drivers Licenses (Class C)
- Experienced with Leave No Trace Principles instruction and implementation
- Experienced working in Texas State Parks
- Ability to work in a variety of adverse weather conditions- including rain, snow, and extreme heat
- A sound understanding of park operations and maintenance practices
- Worked with natural and cultural resource management in State Parks
- Effective writer and can efficiently communicate with others
- Familiar with the operations of ATVs and UTVs
- Familiar with various tools, light and heavy machinery, such as mowers, tractors, shredders, weed eaters, chainsaws, garden tools, posthole diggers, Gators, ATVs, power tools, chop saws, etc.
- Skilled and experienced in interpretation, interpretive methods, and creating interpretive programs

- Comfortable with handling money and point of sale systems/cash registers
- Works well with other individuals in a team setting
- Ability to confidently handle complaints, emergencies, and stressful situations
- Wilderness First Aid Certified
- Ability to provide positive and beneficial recreational experiences
- Experience with maintaining records of sensitive and non-sensitive nature
- Experience with multi-day camping and backpacking excursions
- Familiar with search and rescue techniques, ropes rescue, and climbing hardware, equipment, and techniques
- Knowledge of agricultural and livestock operations in a ranch setting
- Confident speaking in front of others and leading large and small groups
- Experience using Microsoft Office

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References:

Sean Dugan

Ranch Manager/Former Park Superintended
 Diamond S Ranch/Big Bend Ranch State Park
 979-328-7757
sdugan@diamondscolorado.com

Worked under Mr. Dugan at both Diamond S Ranch and Big Bend Ranch State Park

Dr. Scott Shafer

Department Head/Professor of Recreation Park and Tourism Sciences
 Texas A&M University
 (979) 845-3837
sshafer@tamu.edu

Studied under Dr. Shafer during multiple courses while at Texas A&M

Jason Hairston

Cultural/Natural Resource Manager & Interpretive Ranger
 Colorado Bend State Park
 PO Box 118
 Bend, TX 76824
 (325) 628-3240
Jason.hairston@tpwd.texas.gov

Worked directly under and with Mr. Hairston while at Colorado Bend State Park

Mrs. Susan Scott

Lecturer and Undergraduate Studies Coordinator

Texas A&M University

(979) 845-5411

Susan-g-scott@tamu.edu

Worked as Mrs. Scott's TA for RPTS 307 – Environmental Methods of Interpretation