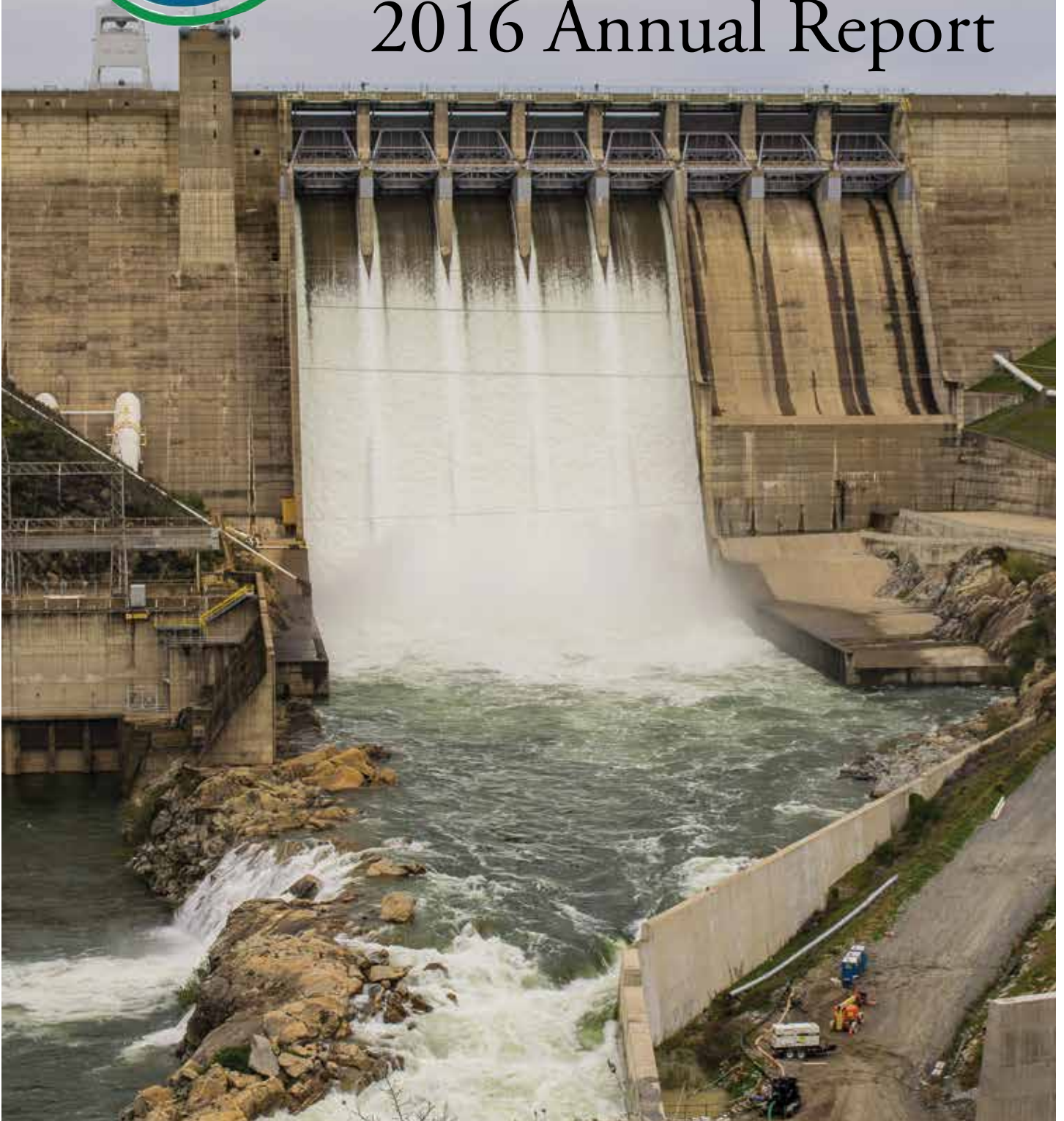




# FOLFAN

Friends of Lakes Folsom & Natoma

## 2016 Annual Report



# 2016 Annual Report President's Message

What a difference a year makes! We've gone from those sunny dry days exploring historic remains of gold rush settlements at the bottom of Folsom Lake to one of the wettest winter seasons in decades. I hope that all of this rain brings a long and abundant summer boating season on Folsom Lake in 2017. It should make the wildflowers and wildlife flourish, too.

The down side to all this rain comes in the form of erosion, landslides, downed trees and infrastructure damage. FOLFAN will continue to work with State Parks to keep visitors informed about closures and repairs—and pitch in with funding when possible.

There is never a shortage of potential projects that help our State Park. In 2016, we allocated funds to expand education and interpretation in the park, through wayfinding signage and maps. This project should materialize in 2017. And, thanks to our all-volunteer Board of Directors, we hosted our annual clean-ups, guided hikes, education activities and community outreach booth.

Two of our board members, former Secretary Peggy Dalton and former member-at-large Michael Fox, finished their terms in 2016. They both moved on to new adventures and I want to say “thank you” to them both for years of dedication and inspiration. I could say “hard work,” but I think we all agree that what we do for FOLFAN is a labor of love.

FOLFAN is transitioning from a start-up non-profit to a sustainable organization. We currently have six board members and we are in the process of working on a board recruitment plan to implement in 2017. We intend to focus recruitment on individuals who:

- Love the park
- Enjoy helping others
- Take pride in making a difference in our community
- Understand and are committed to California State Parks
- Take initiative as well as support others
- Have time, passion and talent to be part of fulfilling FOLFAN's mission

I am optimistic about the future of FOLFAN and look forward to meeting more terrific people who enjoy giving back to Folsom Lake SRA.



FOLFAN President Linda McDonald kayaking with husband Vince

## Who We Are

Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma (FOLFAN) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with Folsom Lake SRA (which includes Lake Natoma), a unit of the California State Parks System.

FOLFAN is managed by a volunteer board of directors whose mission is to enhance education and recreation opportunities for the public and protect the wonders and resources of Lakes Folsom and Natoma.

Additional information about FOLFAN, including its strategic plan, upcoming events and membership is available at:

[www.FOLFAN.org](http://www.FOLFAN.org)

P.O. Box 257 Orangevale, CA 95662

Find us on 

FOLFAN keeps its members, fans and friends informed of events and happenings affecting the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area through regular posts on our Facebook page. We post status reports on trail repairs, announce clean-up events and guided hikes, offer information about Folsom Lake water levels, and highlight our participation in educational events, among other things.

Often our posts are picked up and shared by other organizations and individuals, resulting in exposure of our organization to many hundreds of people. Please help us expand our use of social media to reach the widest possible audience. As the saying goes, please ‘Like Us’ on Facebook!

## FOLFAN Helps Save Kids Who Don't Float

Every year since 2011 FOLFAN has supported the "Kids Don't Float" program at Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma. After co-sponsoring the initial signs, our annual contribution has been to purchase replacement lifejackets at the current locations:

- Negro Bar on Lake Natoma
- Nimbus Flats on Lake Natoma
- Beal's Point on Folsom Lake
- Folsom Point on Folsom Lake
- Granite Bay on Folsom Lake

This year FOLFAN helped expand the program to five more popular swimming locations, including Brown's Ravine and an additional site at Granite Bay.



## 2016 Adopt the Parkway Financial Sponsors

- McDonald Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning
- The Tailgaters
- Michael and Sandra Holman
- Aerojet/GenCorp Foundation
- 3QC enlightened buildings
- Jeff Schmitt & Deric Treon

## FOLFAN Board Assessment Underway

The California State Parks Foundation has awarded FOLFAN a Park Enrichment Grant for a Board Assessment and Recruitment Plan. We have hired Blue Oak Consulting to work closely with FOLFAN to evaluate the Board and develop a plan that will facilitate building a stronger organization into the future in a sustainable way.

## AmazonSmile Helps FOLFAN

If you shop Amazon you can help FOLFAN through their charity program. AmazonSmile is an automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, plus Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, wish list, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you select a charitable organization before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and every eligible purchase will result in a donation.



For the third year FOLFAN participated in this nationwide effort for the public to support their favorite nonprofits. FOLFAN was one of 570 organizations in the Sacramento region that benefitted from this 24-hour event to make donations where your heart is—to organizations you care about.

The Big Day of Giving for 2017 is coming on May 4th. Mark your calendars!

## Park Champions Remove Invasive Species



On several occasions during the summer of 2016, FOLFAN volunteers joined with the Park Champions program, which is sponsored by the California State Parks Foundation, to assist in the removal of invasive plants found within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Volunteers focused on removing water hyacinth, milfoil, star thistle and stinkwort. Their efforts were extremely helpful to our parks, as well as enjoyable for the participants.

## Earth Day Xeriscape Project

Through a grant provided by PG&E, Oracle and Subway, the California State Parks Foundation, in conjunction with FOLFAN, hosted volunteers who renovated the xeriscape (drought-tolerant landscape) at the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area Sector Office. We had a great group that removed weeds, dead vegetation and broken irrigation lines. With the landscape cleared, they added local river rocks and bark.



## Great American River Clean-up



A few of the day's volunteers

We at FOLFAN send our heartfelt thanks to the 120 people who picked up trash on September 17th at Negro Bar and vicinity. We gathered over 500 pounds of trash, including three shopping carts! You made a difference as part of a worldwide effort to clean our waterways!

## Earth Day Kayak Klean-up

FOLFAN's annual Earth Day Kayak Klean-up Sunday, April 24th was a fun combination of work and play! Twenty people borrowed tandem kayaks from the CSUS Aquatic Center. Others brought their own kayaks or picked up trash on the shoreline. Thirty-six volunteers pitched in to pick up trash and debris from the shoreline of our beautiful Lake Natoma.



# FOLFAN's Guided Hikes

Each year FOLFAN board members lead hikes through different areas of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. The hikes are free, open to the public and on most we encourage parents to join us with their children.

The board members leading the hikes are quite knowledgeable about the area's flora and fauna, whether heading out to Avery's Pond near Rattlesnake Bar or rambling through the Mississippi Bar area or walking along some of the many miles of paved bike trails.

In April former Board Member Peggy Dalton led a 2-hour guided hike to view wetlands and wildflowers in the Mississippi Bar area of Lake Natoma (in the Folsom Lake SRA).

Throughout the year FOLFAN led additional hikes to some of the less visited treasures along Folsom Lake's shoreline. In 2016, FOLFAN President Linda McDonald led the 2.8-mile round trip hike from Rattlesnake Bar to historic Avery's Pond.

Rancher and farmer Ira Avery built his pond in the 1880s as part of an irrigation system for his orchards and other operations. The pond sits about 20-feet above Folsom Lake's North Fork high water mark.

Along the way, wildflowers, deer and many birds are likely to be seen. Various species of ducks and other water birds can be seen in the pond, along with non-native turtles often sunning themselves on logs and rocks.



Mississippi Bar wildflowers

# New Trail Opportunity

The founders of FOLFAN initially came together with a strong interest in trails. We are trails advocates who have helped coordinate the Adopt-the-Parkway program and supported State Parks financially on some trails projects. We also contributed to the Trail Management Plan (in progress) for the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. But we haven't had the volunteer capacity to take on a larger trails project, other than providing financial support. However, that could change in 2017.

During 2016 leaders from FOLFAN began discussing with leaders from FATRAC (Folsom-Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition) how our two organizations could work together on trails projects in the Folsom Lake SRA. And those discussions have now led us to at least three potential trail projects that our two organizations could collaborate on in 2017 and 2018 (along with State Parks, of course). While it's too early to describe those prospective trails projects, we can say that FOLFAN and FATRAC have common interests in building, rehabilitating and maintaining multi-use trails and amenities such as wayfinding signage, interpretive signs, view/rest areas, and trail maps and brochures.

We also share the goal of expanding recreational opportunities while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the park, through high-quality, well-maintained trails. And we eventually would like to connect a network of trails that go around the entirety of Folsom Lake (approximately 50 miles).

We will keep our members and fans informed (via our monthly newsletter) as our Trails Program evolves. And we will ask for volunteers to come out and help with the trail work when the opportunities arise.



Volunteer trail repair crew. Photo courtesy of FATRAC.

# FOLFAN's First Photo Contest

FOLFAN's first photo contest brought out the best in amateur photography at our local State Park! We were pleased to receive over 50 photo entries from 13 photographers. Those who attended our Wild Night event at the Granite Bay Activity Center enjoyed viewing all the great photos, and a panel of five judges voted for first and second place winners in each category. The night's big winner was Jim Cunningham, who took first place in all three categories with his photos, Blue Heron, Foggy Sunrise, and Drifting on a Cloud.



One of Jim Cunningham's 2016 award winning photos.



Another 2016 photo contest entry.  
Image by RJM

# Partnerships

The American River Parkway Coalition is an affiliation of Parkway stakeholder groups, neighborhood associations and interested members of the public who meet monthly to discuss issues concerning the Parkway. The group's mission is to provide a forum for continuing communication, collaboration, and coordination in order to protect and preserve the natural and recreational resources of the American River Parkway and to monitor and implement the American River Parkway Plan.

Peggy Dalton, one of our past Board members, regularly participated in the Coalition as a representative of FOLFAN. Although the Coalition's sphere of interest does not directly include lakes Folsom and Natoma, we share many issues and concerns with the Lower American River, including resource protection, illegal camping, recreational use and misuse, and law enforcement activities. This "upstream" representation provides State Parks and FOLFAN with useful regional information.

# Folsom Farmer's Market

Several times during 2016, FOLFAN board members joined the 40-plus vendors at the Folsom Historic District Farmers Market that is held every Saturday. FOLFAN's photo-filled exhibit provides visitors with park information, including maps and brochures, and a sign-up for FOLFAN's e-mailing list to receive information about park events and activities. The outreach also results in new FOLFAN members, but best of all, it gives FOLFAN board members a chance to talk about our park with local and regional residents and visitors!



Free park maps and information for everyone interested in Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

# Fun-raiser at Pete's Restaurant and Brewhouse

FOLFAN hosted our second annual fun-raising event on October 4th on the beautiful back patio at Pete's Restaurant & Brewhouse in Folsom. The patio courtyard overlooking Hinkle Creek was ours for the evening, bringing together FOLFAN friends and families for a great time! As usual, Pete's donated to FOLFAN a portion of the evening's purchases of food and beverages. Thanks to all who participated!

# Folsom Powerhouse Electricity Fair

Once again FOLFAN participated in the Folsom Powerhouse Electricity Fair. The annual event featured free activities for children, including solar cooking and making crafts with solar energy, water exhibit activity, face painting, a photo booth, electric automobiles on display, tours of the Powerhouse with stations of self-discovery, interactive exhibits in the Visitors Center/Museum, and fun with Mr. Electricity.

FOLFAN featured our watershed booth that actively involved children in discovering how rain and water run-off affects their homes, communities and regional farms, rivers and lakes.

New for 2016, was a parade on the park grounds to commemorate the fifth year of this event.



The FOLFAN booth is always a favorite for kids (and their parents) with our hands-on watershed demonstration!

# FOLFAN BALANCE SHEET

Beginning Balance January 1, 2016 \$ 23,045.64

## 2016 Income

### Sponsored Programs

- Adopt Parkway Sponsors	3,600.00
- Earth Day Fund Grant	2,300.00
- State Parks Foundation Grant	5,000.00
Total Sponsor Program Income	\$10,900.00

### General Income

- Bike Trail Donations	-
- General Donations	2,448.63
- Memberships	2,468.67
Total General Income	\$4,917.30
Total Income	\$15,817.30

## 2016 Expenditures

	Expended	Encumbered
Adopt the Parkway		
- Admin./Insurance (5%)	180.00	
- Bike Trail Improve	15.42	
- ATP Training	-	
- Wayfinding Sign Project	-	6,000.00
- Supplies	12.88	
Total ATP	\$ 208.30	\$6,000.00

## General Operations

- Dues & Membership Fees	50.00
- Board Development	800.00
- Insurance 1,120.00	-
- Postage, Mailing	216.36
- Training & Conferences	-
Total General Operations	\$2,186.36

## Programs & Events

- Kids Don't Float	-	900.00
- Earth Day	2,197.80	
Total Programs & Events	\$ 2,197.80	\$ 900.00

## Education & Outreach

- Outreach (Newsletter)	187.00	
- Printing	216.78	
- Social Media & Website	75.00	
- Wild Nights Event	844.58	
Total Publicity & Outreach	\$1,323.36	
Totals	\$ 5,915.82	\$6,900.00

**Ending Balance** \$ 32,947.12

- Less Encumberences -6,900.00

**Balance Available for 2017** \$26,047.12

# 2017 FOLFAN Board of Directors



Linda McDonald, President  
president@folfan.org



Ken McKowen, Vice President



Beth Graybill, Treasurer



Paula David, Member-at-Large



Jim Cassio, Member-at-Large  
Communications Coordinator  
Trails Coordinator



Crystal Tobias, Secretary  
and Membership Coordinator

**We invite you to join us in helping improve  
the outdoor recreational and educational opportunities at  
Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma.**

For information about volunteer opportunities  
or becoming a FOLFAN member visit [www.FOLFAN.org](http://www.FOLFAN.org) today!