



FOLFAN
Friends of Lakes Folsom & Natoma



FOLFAN December 2018 Newsletter

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Meet FOLFAN Member Jim Cassio



Jim Cassio with his wife Deborah Moreno-Cassio at Montgomery Woods State Natural

FOLFAN has many active members who are dedicated to caring for Lakes Folsom and Natoma and the wildlife making this area their home. This month we're profiling Jim Cassio. Jim is on FOLFAN'S Board of Directors as our Vice President who oversees and co-ordinates our communications, trails and recreation opportunities. Learn more about Jim below:

What community do you live in? How long have you lived there?

I've lived in Folsom now for 25 years with my wife, Deborah, who is a college history professor. Our two daughters, Marina and Isabelle, went through the Folsom school system and now live elsewhere in California. It was the schools that brought us to Folsom, but it's the natural beauty of the area and its proximity to the Sierras that keep us here.

What do you do for a living? If you are retired, what did you do for a living?

I'm a consultant who works in the field of workforce development. I conduct labor market studies to look for worker shortages, skill gaps and new education and training opportunities. I work closely with industries and employers, education and training providers, and all the other entities involved in the labor market to ensure that communities have effective programs that prepare people for the workforce in careers that lead to economic self-sufficiency. I choose to be a consultant because I like working on projects where there is a beginning and an end, and then you move on to a new challenge.

How did you hear about FOLFAN? What is your favorite thing about our organization?

Several years ago, my wife read an article about FOLFAN in the Sacramento Bee newspaper. She thought I would be interested in a young nonprofit that serves as the Cooperating Association for

the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, which is basically five minutes from our house And I was interested. I joined immediately and proceeded to get involved as a volunteer.

What do you like most about our park and how do you use the park?

We like to hike, kayak and observe nature. What's not to like about a beautiful state park with 100 miles of shoreline and 100 miles of trails? And Lake Natoma is perhaps one of the best lakes for recreational kayaking in California! It's also very accessible for people throughout the region, not to mention the many communities that surround the park. But easy access is also a double-edged sword, as we generally have more trouble in our park with vandalism and graffiti than state parks that are more remote. So easy access is nice, but it's a bit of a trade-off.

What would someone be surprised to know about you?

For those who don't know me, they might be surprised to learn that I'm currently the Vice President of FOLFAN. My roles include communications, trails and recreation, among other things. I have always been a nonprofit volunteer enthusiast. But FOLFAN is perhaps my first volunteer experience where I wished it were my day job!

What would you like to add? Please let us know something else about you.

People might also be surprised to learn that I used to be a park ranger. It was the best job and the worst job I ever had. The best because I loved doing conservation work in beautiful places. The worst because I hated doing law enforcement work. But, live and learn.

New Lineup for FOLFAN Board of Directors

At FOLFAN's October Board of Directors meeting, the following Directors were unanimously approved:

President - Linda McDonald

Vice President - Jim Cassio

Secretary - Crystal Tobias

Treasurer - Paula David

Year-end Donations



Wild Cucumber Tendril by Jay Chamberlain

As 2018 winds down, many people choose to donate to charities that are doing important work in their local community. FOLFAN is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) and your donation goes directly to supporting Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, including clean-ups, special events and the Kids Don't Float program. We hope you will consider making a year-end donation to FOLFAN by mail or via PayPal at <http://www.folfan.org/HelpUs/Contribute.aspx>

Volunteer Opportunities

Farmers Market December 15th

FOLFAN will have a booth at the Folsom Farmers Market on Saturday, December 15th. This is a great opportunity to meet friends and neighbors and let them know about what's happening in the park. We provide maps and brochures, answer questions and get the word out about FOLFAN. If you'd like to volunteer and be paired up with one of our board members, we'd love for you to join us. Shifts are: 7-9:30 (set-up), 9:30-11:30 and 11:30-1:00 (take-down). Please contact member@folfan.org if you would like to volunteer. Don't have time to volunteer for a shift?

Come on down to the Farmer's Market and just say hello. Please stop by and introduce yourself as a FOLFAN member, fan or park enthusiast. FOLFAN memberships make a great holiday gift and if you join or purchase a membership at the Farmers Market, you will receive one of our beautiful new reusable tote/grocery bags.

Adopt-the-Parkway Volunteer Stewardship - FOLFAN manages the Adopt-the-Parkway program in a partnership with California State Parks. There are 15 miles along the paved trail identified around Lake Natoma and along the river up to Beal's Point. For many years we have had a waiting list for Volunteer Stewardships. Lately, that list has been getting shorter and new opportunities have become available. If you are interested in volunteering 20 hours per quarter to pick up trash and perform minor maintenance - or want more information, please contact Linda McDonald at president@folfan.org.

Membership



Membership and Donations: Your support is vital to FOLFAN's ongoing mission. Follow the link to join or renew membership - or donate - online. You can also download a form that you can send by mail. <http://www.folfan.org/HelpUs/Contribute.aspx>

Leadership: If you are interested in attending a meeting of the Board of Directors please contact Linda McDonald at president@folfan.org.

The mission of FOLFAN is to enhance education and recreation opportunities for the public and to protect the wonders and resources of Lakes Folsom and Natoma.

We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3).

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