



**FOLFAN**  
Friends of Lakes Folsom & Natoma



## **October 2018 FOLFAN Newsletter**

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## Meet FOLFAN Board Members Maryellen Blackburn and MaryAnn Williams



MaryAnn and Maryellen on Pete's Restaurant Patio overlooking Hinkle Creek

FOLFAN has many active members who are dedicated to caring for Lakes Folsom and Natoma. This month we introduce you to two members who have recently accepted seats on FOLFAN'S Board of Directors. Meet and learn more about Maryellen Blackburn and MaryAnn Williams.

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

Maryellen lives in Lake Natoma Shores, AKA The Preserve. After living in El Dorado Hills for about 15 years, in 2011 she moved to Folsom. Mary Ellen loves her neighborhood and its proximity to the parkway where she serves the Adopt-the-Parkway program as a Volunteer Steward.

MaryAnn lives in Rollingwood in Fair Oaks, on a greenbelt, near the trails and Lake Natoma. She moved back to the area about 22 years ago after living in San Francisco and the Bay Area for many years. MaryAnn enjoys living with wildlife in her "backyard" and was one of the first to discover the bald eagles in the area in 2016.

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

Maryellen is retired after 38 years in the insurance industry, most recently as a director of leadership development. She enjoyed her work, found it rewarding but is happy and having fun in her retirement.

MaryAnn spent 20+ exciting years in the furniture and design industry in most every level of sales, management, marketing and training. As travel and the industry changed, she went into real

estate in 2001. Working as a full-time Realtor, MaryAnn does not see retirement in her near future and loves working with her clients.

***How did you hear about FOLFAN?***

Maryellen was looking for a local group that supports the Folsom parks when she met Crystal Tobias (FOLFAN co-founder) on a lake trail. Not long after their meeting and Crystal's invitation for Maryellen to look into FOLFAN, she became an active member and found a natural fit with FOLFAN'S mission.

MaryAnn doesn't recall how she heard about FOLFAN but started joining the group for hikes along Lake Natoma, Mississippi Bar and Rattlesnake Bar. She enjoyed the people and loved learning more about our area from these guided hikes. MaryAnn joined FOLFAN and continued the walks, hikes and attending social events. She is honored to have been invited to join the board and is still learning.

***What is your favorite thing about our park and how do you use the park?***

Maryellen loves everything about the park, especially the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in every season. She's seen almost all varieties of wildlife, including a mountain lion...and loves them all! Maryellen may be found out on the trails or on the lake in her kayak. She also works at cleaning the park; with trash bag in hand, she's ready to clean land and water.

MaryAnn is a lifelong nature lover having grown up in several "wild" areas when not in Sacramento living with her grandmother to attend school. She's secure and unafraid if a snake or a wild creature crosses her path. She knows these wild ones mean her no harm and she wants the best for them. MaryAnn is grateful to live so near the parkway and believes it a unique gift we must protect.

***What would someone be surprised to know about you?***

Wow... Maryellen went skydiving with her son on her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! That's an experience we'd all like to hear more about at our next board meeting.

Years ago, every morning, MaryAnn ran the hills in Orinda with her loyal Doberman. In addition to her two grandsons, she has a great love for art. Cole, Kyle, wildlife and art make her happy...oh, and a good spy novel!

## **Project Updates - Trail Repairs**

**South Side Paved Trail** - Portions of the multi-use paved trail on the south side of Lake Natoma have been repaired. This project was made possible by FOLFAN, thanks to a generous donation of \$10,000 from Jay and Cindy Freeman, along with \$10,000 in matching funds from FOLFAN's Adopt-the-Parkway program. Root bumps have been removed, graded and patched. Additional repairs, including a new overlay and striping, will be completed later in the year.

## Lake Natoma Kayak Tour October 14<sup>th</sup>



Join author and retired state park ranger Ken McKowen for this kayak tour exploring Lake Natoma's backwater channels in the Nimbus Flat/Mississippi Bar area. This is an easy 2.5 hour paddle through the large bike-trail culvert and into the narrow water passageways in what's known as Mississippi Bar. Launch time is at 2:00 pm from Nimbus Flat, at the west end of Lake Natoma. View our event flyer at [www.FOLFAN.org](http://www.FOLFAN.org) for more info.

QUESTIONS? READY TO RSVP? Please call Jim Cassio at (707) 975-5376 or email:

[Jim7@cassio.com](mailto:Jim7@cassio.com).

## Guided Hike: Rattlesnake Bar to Avery's Pond October 28th



Join FOLFAN President Linda McDonald at 9 AM for an easy 4-mile round-trip on the Pioneer Express Trail, stopping to explore the history of Native Americans, the Gold Rush, and early agricultural settlements. See what remains of the North Fork Ditch (flume) and learn about Ira Avery's settling pond-aka Avery's Pond, one of the hidden gems of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

The hike begins at the Rattlesnake Bar area which is about 3 miles North of Granite Bay. Specific instructions for the meet-up will be sent to those who RSVP.

Linda has worked as a State Park tour guide at Hearst Castle and the Governor's Mansion. She loves to bring history to life at State Parks!

For more info, please view our event flyer at [www.FOLFAN.org](http://www.FOLFAN.org). To RSVP, please email Jim Cassio at [jim7@cassio.com](mailto:jim7@cassio.com) with the names, cell phone numbers and email addresses of the hike participants. We will send each person a park pass and information on parking and the exact meet-up location.

### Share Your Ideas

FOLFAN's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - We are gearing up to commemorate 10 years since FOLFAN was founded in 2009. If you have ideas for promoting our mission and accomplishments, including special events and/or themes, please share them by emailing Linda McDonald at [president@folfan.org](mailto:president@folfan.org). We also welcome participation on our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee - just let us know via email.

## Volunteer Opportunities



**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](mailto:president@folfan.org).

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## 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](mailto:president@folfan.org).

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*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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