FOLFAN ANNUAL REPORT 2018
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Linda McDonald

Nature’s beauty is a gift that cultivates appreciation and gratitude.
-Louie Schwartzberg

As FOLFAN enters our 10th year in 2019, I reflect on the many steps we’ve taken and particularly our community participation in 2018. Thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors, last year we actively supported efforts to address water quality, trash and homelessness in the American River watershed. We supported the efforts of Save Hinkle Creek. We provided input into the general planning process for the City of Folsom, including the Folsom River District. After all, part of our mission is “to protect the wonders and resources of Lakes Folsom and Natoma.”

Several of our Board members attended a statewide conference by the California League of Partnership Associations – which took place at Folsom’s Lake Natoma Inn. With dynamic speakers and workshops, our Board learned about increasing diversity, engaging with partners, new technology for self-guided tours, and much more.

While 2018 brought us out into the community, we also had the pleasure of deepening our appreciation for Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. In early May, with bright purple lupine in full bloom along the shoreline, our Board of Directors held our first Board Retreat at Peninsula Campground. We had a remarkable weekend experience. It’s about an hour drive from Folsom via the town of Pilot Hill and down the long winding road to the peninsula where the North and South Forks of the American River become one. Across the water we could see Granite Bay, while feeling a world away. Boat rides, hikes and eagle sightings were absolutely delightful – inspiring us to appreciate and protect the treasures of the natural world.

I couldn’t be more grateful that our 6-member Board of Directors are engaged, enthusiastic and genuinely care about making the world a better place. Our board members include:

- Linda McDonald, President
- Jim Cassio, Vice President
- Crystal Tobias, Board Secretary and Membership Coordinator
- Paula David, Treasurer
- Maryellen Blackburn, Member at Large
- MaryAnn Williams, Member at Large

I also appreciate our growing membership and generous donors – all of whom make it possible to continue our mission. But my thanks wouldn’t be complete without mentioning our partners at State Parks, particularly Park Superintendent Rich Preston, who participates in our meetings, coordinates projects, and supports our efforts to navigate the bureaucracy.

ABOUT FOLFAN
Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma (FOLFAN) is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization that supports the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA). The park includes Lake Natoma, Folsom Lake, and the American River Parkway between the two lakes. Our park includes 100 miles of trails and 100 miles of shoreline!
FOLFAN’s mission is "to enhancing education and recreation opportunities for the public and protect the wonders and resources of Lakes Folsom and Natoma."

We have approximately 500 donors and fans. Most donors pay an annual membership fee to help support FOLFAN’s mission. That fee can range from $10 to $100 or more per year. Some donors are Financial Sponsors of our Adopt-The-Parkway program. Donors, of course, can make donations of any amount and at any time. In 2018 we received our first bequest from a very generous donor who strongly believes in what we do.

FOLFAN was co-founded ten years ago by Linda McDonald and Crystal Tobias, both of whom continue to work tirelessly to fulfill our mission. As the designated Cooperating Association for the Folsom Lake SRA, our job is to support the park with volunteers and resources that the park itself would otherwise have to do without. All National Parks and many State Parks throughout the U.S. have a Cooperating Association. Their exact missions may vary, but all support their parks in important ways.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Kids Don’t Float

FOLFAN believes in and is proud to sponsor the Kids Don’t Float program at both Lake Natoma and Folsom Lake. This program saves lives and has been a focus for FOLFAN since 2011.

Signage is placed at strategic beaches on both lakes and loaner life vests are hung from the signs for ANY child who comes to the park for water recreation but does not have a life vest.

It’s impossible to know how many lives have been saved by this program, but we firmly believe it has saved lives.

Adopt-the-Parkway Program

2018 brought new enthusiasm for the Adopt-the-Parkway program in the form of new Financial Sponsorships and the first phase of a major trail repair project on the south side of Lake Natoma.
New Financial Sponsors in 2018 include Terrie Hunt of River Ridge Realty and the Dyer Family Foundation, both of which sponsored two miles each, along with one mile each sponsored by the Bodacious Biking Babes and Ernest Tschannen. Other existing Financial Sponsors include McDonald Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, The Tailgaters, Michael and Sandra Holman, and 3QC Enlightened Buildings.

FOLFAN and State Parks began coordinating the Adopt-the-Parkway program in 2009. The program stretches from Hazel Avenue/Nimbus Dam at the western end of Lake Natoma to Beal’s Point at Folsom Lake. Financial Sponsors and Volunteer Stewards are recognized by signage which marks each mile of the parkway. Stewards are assigned a specific mile of the parkway to pick up litter, trim vegetation, and do minor trail maintenance for (a minimum of) 20 hours per calendar quarter.

Thanks to Jay and Cindy Freeman’s generous donation, a major trail repair project was initiated on the south side of Lake Natoma. This included removing root bumps and repairing the asphalt. Using Adopt-the-Parkway Financial Sponsorship funds, FOLFAN matched their donation to fund the trail repair project.

Guided Hikes and Kayak Tours

FOLFAN hosted several guided nature hike and kayak tours in 2018, including some new events and special presentations. All were well received by participants and resulted in some new members and fans.

April 8 – Spring Wildflower Hike
FOLFAN Co-Founder Crystal Tobias led a group of 20+ members and fans on a wildflower hike along the south side of Lake Natoma. Wildflowers were prolific, including California poppies, sticky monkey flowers, and lupines. Our resident bald eagles were on their nest of two eggs, and there were many other songbirds and waterfowl, Cooper’s hawks, and gray and ground squirrels. Several people from the hike joined Crystal and Jim Cassio for lunch at the new Out of Bounds Brewery in Folsom.

October 14 – Kayak Tour to Mississippi Bar
Former State Parks Ranger and FOLFAN board member Ken McKowen led a kayak tour into the Mississippi Bar area of Lake Natoma. About 20+ members and fans launched their kayaks at Nimbus Flat and paddled across the lake, through the culvert that goes under the bike trail, and into the water channels of Mississippi Bar. Emerging on the other side, one notices the area is much different than the main lake. The water is very slow moving and is home to many turtles, otters, waterfowl and even a Peregrine falcon. The fall colors were just starting to pop.
October 28 - Rattlesnake Bar to Avery’s Pond Hike
Linda McDonald led a group of 20+ members and fans from Rattlesnake Bar to Avery’s Pond, in the North Fork area of Folsom Lake (between Granite Bay and Auburn). It was a lovely fall day and the hike participants enjoyed Linda’s presentation on the cultural and natural history of the area. When the lake is high, Rattlesnake Bar is a great place to launch a kayak and head upstream to where the North Fork of the American River flows into Folsom Lake. The rock formations along that part of the lake are stunning, and you are quite likely to see a bald eagle, grebes, and other wildlife.

October 26 – CALPA Conference Attendee Hike
As part of the 2018 California League of Partnership Associations (CALPA) Conference, Crystal and Linda led a tour of the Waterfront Trail for conference participants. Crystal shared her knowledge of the area, including the native and non-native fauna that is proliferating there. Over the years, individuals have planted ivy and other non-native plants, while birds and the wind have brought in seeds from other non-native plants, including privet, palm trees and ailanthus (Chinese Tree of Heaven).

Trails and Heritage Interpretation Plan
In 2018 FOLFAN began developing a Ten-Year Trails and Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA). The plan, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2019, will help FOLFAN identify and prioritize trails projects and initiatives within the Folsom Lake SRA, including heritage interpretation and other important trail-related amenities.

A taskforce comprised of volunteers who represent key stakeholder groups was created to assist with the plan’s development. Taskforce members met many times throughout 2018 to discuss issues and build consensus. Most will be participating in on-site trail surveys in 2019 to help assess our trails and their respective conditions. The final Ten-Year Trails and Heritage Interpretation Plan will be subject to approval by the FOLFAN Board of Directors. Then it will be submitted to State Parks.
Wild Night Event

Wild Night with FOLFAN is an annual "mixer event" for FOLFAN members and fans. But it is much more than a social mixer. It gives us a chance to report to our members on our activities from the past year, and our plans for the following year, as well provide interesting and informative speakers, a great photo contest, plus food, beverages and entertainment. And prizes!

For several years now, the Wild Night event has been held each spring at the Granite Bay Activity Center within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. The theme for our 2018 Wild Night with FOLFAN event was "Bald Eagles." The California Raptor Center, an educational and research facility, was there with a hands-on exhibit, and our featured speakers were Joleen Maiden and Kathy Kayner. Joleen represents the Raptor Center and has many years of experience with the American Eagle Foundation. Kathy is the lead docent for our Bald Eagle nesting site at Lake Natoma.

Amateur Photo Contest

Our Amateur Photo Contest has become one of our signature annual events, showcasing an impressive talent pool of photographers among FOLFAN’s members and fans!

Each year we invite our members and fans to enter up to three (digital) photos in the no-entry-fee contest. The photos must be taken within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Contest entries are then presented (as a slide-show) at our Wild Night event for that year, with the winners and prizes announced and celebrated at (near) the end of the event. Needless to say, photographers need to be present to win.

All photos submitted to the contest are used by FOLFAN for FOLFAN promotional purposes - with appropriate credit given. This gives us a great library of beautiful photos to use as the need arises (website, Facebook, newsletter, flyers, etc).

1st Place in 2018: ‘Hoping to Capture the Super Blue Blood Moon’ by Sally Cullen

Kathy Kayner (top) and Joleen Maiden (bottom)
Images by RJM
Bells on Bikes

Have you ever biked around a curve on a trail only to find yourself barreling down on a walker, or a slower rider, or an equestrian? Trail protocol is to signal when overtaking and any time you can’t see what is ahead on the trail. To make that easier, FOLFAN has co-sponsored a new safety program initiated by the Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition (FATRAC) called Bells-on-Bikes.

The Bells-on-Bikes program goal is to reduce conflicts and accidents. Wearing a bell, whether you are riding a bike or a horse, or walking or running, will make it easier to let other trail users know where you are and to avoid surprise encounters since others will be able to hear you long before they can see you.

How the Bells-on-Bikes program works:
1. Grab a bell from one of the strategically located bell boxes in the park
2. Strap the bell to your handle bars, saddle, pack or belt loop
3. Let it ring!
4. Return the bell to any bell box OR keep the bell and donate $5 at: www.fatrac.org/donate

Park Clean-Ups

In addition to the park clean-up work done by our Adopt-the-Parkway Volunteer Stewards, FOLFAN also organizes volunteers for two annual clean-up events. One is our Kayak Klean-Up event each April (for Earth Day), and the other is our Great American River Clean-Up (GARCU) event each October. We also organize periodic clean-up events for youth and youth groups.
VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

FOLFAN is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization that exists to support both the recreation and resource protection needs of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Without our volunteers, FOLFAN wouldn’t exist! That volunteer spirit has driven every activity and event for which FOLFAN has had a role, including in 2018. Here is a list of FOLFAN volunteer experiences. In the past, we refer to them as activities. In the present and future, we call them opportunities!

- Eagles Nest Area (Educational) Support
- Administrative Support
- Membership Drive Support
- Newsletter or Annual Report Assistance
- Website Development or Maintenance Assistance
- Writing, Editing or Proofing Assistance
- Sales or Marketing Assistance
- Youth Education or School Programs Assistance
- Public Relations or Outreach Assistance
- Interpretation Assistance (Cultural or Natural Resources)
- Social Media Assistance
- Trail Monitoring/Maintenance
- Park Clean-Up Assistance
- Adopt-the-Parkway Steward (ongoing role)
- Special Event Assistance
- Event Photographer or Photojournalist
- Board Member or Officer

MEET RICH PRESTON, FOLSOM SECTOR SUPERINTENDENT FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

What is your job and how would you describe what you do?

I am the Folsom Sector Superintendent for California State Parks. My sector includes two park units, the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and the Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park. I am responsible for the overall management and operations of both parks, which includes facility maintenance, public safety and law enforcement, revenue generation, interpretation and education, and special events. Of course, I cannot do this alone. I have a permanent maintenance staff of 7 that are responsible for the huge workload of maintaining all the park facilities, including: restrooms, water systems and sewer systems; campgrounds; entrance stations; administrative offices; day use areas; grounds; hazard buoy system; launch ramps and docks;
roadways and parking lots; and trails. Our peace officer staff of 3 supervisors and 16 officers, both State Park Rangers and Lifeguards, patrol the park to protect the visitors from the park, the park from the visitors and the visitors from the visitors. Our officers respond to approximately 5,000 calls for service annually. We have a small administrative staff of 3 permanent employees and 2 seasonal employees that assist with revenue and visitation reporting, selling park passes, provide reception services for the sector and district offices, as well as administering our very robust special events program. During the peak season, we employ about 80 additional workers, including maintenance staff, visitor services staff, and lifeguards.

**What do you like most and least about your job?**

The favorite part of my job is the diversity of work and the passionate park professionals that I work with. There are no two days alike. Each day is filled with challenges associated with operating and maintaining a 20,000-acre park. The least favorite part of my job is dealing with personnel issues.

**What is your role with Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma (FOLFAN)?**

I am the CAL or Cooperating Association Liaison. This means I am the principal representative for the Department in all business between the Department and the Association. I attend the Association’s monthly board meetings, maintain constant communication with the Board to ensure the funding priorities and activities of the Association are consistent with those of the Department and generally ensure the Association’s activities are compliant with their agreement. More importantly, I work with the Association to ensure they have a venue for the interpretive and educational events and programs they conduct in support of the park. I also work with the Association on the production of interpretive items and services for the public.

**From your perspective, what does FOLFAN do for your park?**

FOLFAN is invaluable in the role they play to advocate for the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and their ability to solicit donations to help support projects and programs that the Department would otherwise be unable to fund. The Association also plays an incredible role in administering the Adopt-the-Parkway program that provides a tremendous service in keeping the trail system clean of trash and debris. This program is also a source of revenue through its financial sponsors to assist with needed trail repairs. Through their events and programs, FOLFAN also helps to introduce new visitors to the park.

**What is your favorite thing about FOLFAN?**

It has to be their unrelenting passion for the park. The FOLFAN Board and their membership have a true passion for the park, the trail system and helping to ensure these incredible resources remain for future generations.

**What do you like most about the Folsom Lake SRA?**

What originally drew me to Folsom was the size of the park and the diversity of activities available in the park. Geographically we are one of the largest and busiest parks in the 280-park system. Folsom offers everything from motorized boating activities, mountain biking, fishing and white water rafting. To the more passive recreational activities of kayaking, hiking, bird watching and learning about the incredible history that surrounds the park. Despite our proximity to the large metropolitan populations of the Greater Sacramento area, we have some very remote locations for our visitors to escape to.
**FOLFAN BALANCE SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Balance January 1, 2018</strong></td>
<td>$38,162.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018 INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt the Parkway Sponsors</td>
<td>$8,965.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Improvements – Directed Donations</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Donations</td>
<td>$22,653.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>$507.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>$2,586.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$46,812.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018 EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt the Parkway Program (ATP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Admin/Insurance (5%)</td>
<td>$448.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ATP Signs</td>
<td>$557.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Trainings &amp; Meetings</td>
<td>$111.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Materials/Supplies</td>
<td>$210.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total ATP</strong></td>
<td>$1,328.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dues &amp; Membership Fees</td>
<td>$89.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Insurance</td>
<td>$1,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Postage/Correspondence</td>
<td>$186.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Training/Conference</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Transaction Fees</td>
<td>$60.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Operations</strong></td>
<td>$2,386.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs/Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Kids Don’t Float</td>
<td>$888.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Southside Trail Repair</td>
<td>$9,131.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Programs/Events</strong></td>
<td>$10,019.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Outreach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Printing</td>
<td>$375.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Social Media/Website</td>
<td>$168.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Outreach Items</td>
<td>$579.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Special Events</td>
<td>$1,343.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Education &amp; Outreach</strong></td>
<td>$2,465.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$16,199.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDING BALANCE 12/31/18</strong></td>
<td>$68,775.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESERVED FOR UPCOMING PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Repairs</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayfinding Signage</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bells on Bikes</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR 2019</strong></td>
<td>$52,275.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cover photo courtesy of Jim Cunningham*