Newsletter for November/December 2019

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News and Information

Lake Natoma Orangevale Bluffs Landslide Repair
The work continues on, but is almost done. Finally! The big job (besides all the prep and planning) has been the “scaling of the bluffs” to prevent or minimize the possibility of future landslides. Once that work is done, the repairs to the asphalt trail should be completed fairly quickly. Weather permitting, look for announcements of the trail re-opening in December.

photo courtesy of Kathy Kayner

FOLFAN Elects New Officers
- President – Jim Cassio
- Vice President – Linda McDonald (also Membership Coordinator)
- Secretary – Maryellen Blackburn
- Treasurer – Paula David

Most noteworthy here is Linda stepping down after ten years as the FOLFAN President. We profiled our two co-founders (Linda and Crystal Tobias) in our two previous newsletters, so if you didn’t get a chance to read about them, please do!
FOLFAN’s Fall Membership Drive
Thank you all for your past support of Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma!

As 2019 is winding down it is time to renew your membership donation, allowing FOLFAN to continue our mission. For 10 years we have coordinated with California State Parks on the Adopt-the-Parkway program, Kids Don’t Float, annual clean-up events, and education/recreational programs. We are looking forward to the next 10 years of even greater impact and benefit to Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

Suggested Annual Gift Levels:
- Acorn (Student): $10
- Otter (Senior): $20
- Deer: $25 - $49
- Eagle: $50 - $99
- Oak: $100 - $499
- Granite: $500 and above
- Adopt-the-Parkway Financial Sponsor: $1200 and above

Please use this link to renew online: https://donate.keela.co/friends-of-lakes-folsom-and-natoma/paypal-form

Fan of California State Parks?
Check out their latest Weekly Digest e-newsletter:

https://t.e2ma.net/webview/3ddxnc/9d080fe2d9a1f1c84de2a47cc00b9a8a

Mark Your Calendar!
- November 7, 2019: Adopt-the-Parkway Volunteer Stewards Meeting*
- January 1, 2020 - First-Day Nature Photography Hike
- March 21, 2020 - Wild Night Annual Event and Photo Contest

* The Adopt-the-Parkway Volunteer Stewards Meeting is for current Adopt-the-Parkway Volunteer Stewards and for those who have expressed interest in the program. The meeting is from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Email Linda McDonald <mcdonald.l@comcast.net> if you would like to attend, or would like more information.
Supporter Profile

Meet Ken McKowen – One of FOLFAN’S Original Board Members

FOLFAN has many active members and fans who are dedicated to caring for Lakes Folsom and Natoma and the wildlife making this area their home. This month we’re introducing you to another of our interesting and talented members, Ken McKowen. Learn more about Ken in his own words.

What community do you live in? How long have you lived there?
I grew up in Sacramento, living behind Arden Fair Shopping Center when Arden Way was two lanes and there was nothing but a big field between it and the American River (no CalExpo or stores or restaurants, just a few hundred sheep). But, for the past 18 years I have lived with my wife Dahlynn in Orangevale.

What do you do for a living? If you are retired, what did you do for a living?
Following several years in Army Intelligence - I know, an oxymoron - and four more years in college, I managed to get a job with California State Parks. I spent 10 years as a ranger, then 20 years working in different divisions and programs, from managing the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program to being the head writer in the Public Information Office. There I did everything from traveling the state writing stories about parks and shooting photos of nearly every state park for newspapers and magazines to writing speeches for several directors, resource agency secretaries, and a couple of governors. I finished my career managing the Statewide Trails Program.

After “graduating” from State Parks I spent eight years substitute teaching, mostly middle school kids. Many people thought me teaching middle school kids was insane, but I loved it. My wife insists it was because my sense of humor never advanced beyond the middle school level, so the kids loved me.

For the past two years I’ve worked as the Northern California Field Consultant for the California State Parks Foundation, planning and managing volunteer projects at a couple dozen state parks from Monterey to the North Coast Redwoods.
How did you hear about FOLFAN? What is your favorite thing about our organization?

I have known Linda MacDonald (FOLFAN’s co-founder) for a few decades, originally meeting when we both worked for State Parks. When I heard she was starting FOLFAN, I contacted her and quickly volunteered to be one of the early Board Members.

One of my favorite FOLFAN projects is the free life jacket (Kids Don’t Float) program for kids and adults at several Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma swim beaches. As a boat patrol Ranger at Folsom Lake many years ago, I recovered too many bodies including one young child, none of whom were wearing life jackets. I resigned my FOLFAN Board position a couple of years ago and soon afterward began working with the California State Parks Foundation. I continue to support FOLFAN.

What do you like most about our park and how do you use the park?
What’s not to like about having such a great natural recreational resource 10 minutes from my home, and that’s by bicycle. Kayaking on Lake Natoma and cycling the bike trails are two of my favorite park activities.

What would someone be surprised to know about you?
In our three-quarter-acre or so backyard we keep two dogs, eight chickens (unless our local hungry hawk has lunched on another one), bizarre metal sculptures, a western theme town and my wood shop. That’s my escape where I go to build everything from laminated wood cutting boards and cheese slicers to guitars, kayaks and furniture, selling a few pieces to help support my need for more tools and more wood.

What would you like to add? Please let us know something else about you.
Ah, something else… my wife Dahlynn and I have written numerous books over the years including two national award-winning California travel books and several Chicken Soup for the Soul titles coauthored with Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen.
Volunteer Opportunities

Bells-on-Bikes Program Needs a Few Volunteers

If you regularly pass by one of the Bells-on-Bikes boxes (within Folsom Lake State Recreation Area), would you be willing to take responsibility for ensuring that the boxes are stocked with bells?

You would be provided with the bells. All you need to do is check the boxes and re-fill them with bells as necessary so we don’t end up with empty boxes!

If interested, please contact Jim Cassio <President@folfan.org>

Are you in our Volunteer Registry yet?

FOLFAN started a Volunteer Registry about a year ago. The idea of the registry is so we know what kind of volunteer activities interests each of you. The registry then gives us the ability to reach out to those individuals who are most likely to say YES when we need volunteers for a specific project or task. (But it's always your choice to say YES or NO when we call or email you about a volunteer opportunity.)

Some of the areas for which we have current needs for volunteers include:

- Eagles Nest Area Educational Support (next round begins in early 2020)
- Annual Report Editor/Publisher (early 2020 project)
- Assist with ‘FOLFAN/Park Info’ Outreach Activities
- Website Assistance
- Social Media Assistance
- Adopt-the-Parkway Volunteer Stewards
- Volunteer Coordinator (please contact Jim Cassio <President@folfan.org> directly if you may be interested in this role)

The online Volunteer Registry form takes about 4 minutes to complete. And we promise to keep your registry information confidential. Please click on this link to get started: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FolfanVolunteerRegistry

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