News and Information

January 1 'First Day' Nature Photography Hike

FOLFAN members Kathy Kayner and Gene McKinnon led a “First Day” hike at Lake Natoma with a great group of nature photographers and nature enthusiasts. The idea of a First Day Hike is to start off the new year fresh, with a sense of renewal, a connection to nature, and inspired photography! Kathy and Gene led an easy 3-hour hike along the south shore of Lake Natoma, within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Chances are that some of the photos taken on this hike will end up being entered in FOLFAN’s Wild Night Photo Contest.
Trail Etiquette
by Jim Cassio, FOLFAN President

Trail safety has recently become more important to me than it used to be. Part of the reason is personal; knowing how easily someone can be hurt when trail users do not use good etiquette on the trail.

You may have heard about a civil court jury that recently decided how to assign responsibility for a 2014 bike trail accident that occurred within the state park at Lake Natoma. The accident involved two couples: two pedestrians on a date, and a married pair of cyclists on a tandem bicycle. One of the pedestrians (a teen girl at the time) was on the wrong side of the trail when the bicyclists approached, and it resulted in a crash with three injuries. Both bicyclists were knocked unconscious, but the woman cyclist was in a coma for three days, followed by several months in a hospital intensive care unit, and then forced retirement from work with permanent injuries. The jury concluded that the girl pedestrian was 60 percent responsible for the crash as a result of being on the wrong side of the trail, and that the two bicyclists are due $10.2 million in damages. Practicing some of the trail etiquette outlined below surely would have prevented the whole mess.

Bicyclists:
• Keep to the right side of the trail
• Yield to pedestrians
• Pass on the left side of oncoming pedestrians/runners
• Ride at a safe speed
• Ride single-file in congested or reduced visibility conditions

Pedestrians:
• Keep to the left side of the trail (facing oncoming cyclists)
• Watch for other trail users
• Walk single-file in congested or reduced visibility conditions

All:
• Be friendly and show courtesy to other trail users at all times
• Respect the environment
• Respect the rights of property owners
• Keep dogs on a 6’ leash (rein them in when stopped along a trail)
• Leave no trace (including pet waste)
• Be sure you can hear what’s going on around you
• If you need to stop on the trail, be sure to move off to the shoulder

Wild Night Event and Amateur Photo Contest

This year’s Wild Night event and Amateur Photo Contest will be on March 21, 2020 at the Rotary Clubhouse at Lew Howard Park in Folsom. SAVE THE DATE NOW!

Wild Night is an annual "mixer event" for FOLFAN member/donors and fans. But it is much more than a social mixer. It gives us a chance to report to our member/donors 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, entertainment, and prizes!

Our Amateur Photo Contest has become one of our signature annual events, showcasing an impressive talent pool of photographers among our FOLFAN community. Each year we invite our member/donors and fans to enter up to three (digital) photos in the no-entry-fee contest. The photos must be taken within (or of) the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, including Lake Natoma, Folsom Lake, and the parkways that surround and connect these two bodies of water. Contest entries are then presented as a slide-show at our Wild Night event, with the winners receiving both recognition and prizes. Needless to say, photographers need to be present to win. (Photos submitted to the contest are used by FOLFAN for FOLFAN promotional purposes - with appropriate credit given.)

Orangevale Bluffs Landslide/Trail Repair Project

The work on stabilizing the bluffs is now finished. WHAT??? That's right, that portion of the repair project has finally been completed!!! What's left before the long-awaited re-opening of the trail is to re-pave about 60' of
trail. That will require a stretch of good weather to help dry things out. We have no date for the re-opening, since we can’t predict what the weather will bring. But we will send out a notice when the re-opening date is set.

**Next Big Trail Projects**

The next large trail project coming up in 2020 is the repair of the trail from Beals Point to Granite Bay. This project has to be completed by December 2020 to support the additional use it will receive as a result of Dikes 4-6 being closed for up to two years while the US Army Corps of Engineers completes the dam raise project. There is also significant work that needs to be done on the south side trail of Lake Natoma and the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail on the lake’s north side. Other trail priorities for FOLFAN include repairing the Pioneer Express Trail from historic Negro Bar to the Orangevale Bluffs, and building a connector trail to help Folsom and Orangevale residents safely enter Negro Bar from Greenback Lane. We also have plans to rehabilitate the Doton's Point Accessible Trail which starts at Beek's Bight, near Granite Bay.

**Eagle Scout Service Project Complete**

Robert VanMil completed an Eagle Scout Service Project in November 2019. The project involved the removal of a wrecked and abandoned vehicle in the Snipes-Pershing Ravine of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, near Lake Natoma.

In all, Robert had 18 youth and adult volunteers helping him with the project, which was a great leadership experience for him.

Because of the remote location of the vehicle, removing it required removing pieces of the vehicle, one at a time. For Robert, part of the project was raising the money needed for the necessary tool rentals. He first raised $250 from a donation by FOLFAN. Then he raised an additional $350 using a GoFundMe account that he promoted on Facebook and on the Troopmaster website. The money raised in excess of what was actually required for the project was then donated to FOLFAN.

For Robert VanMil, this project was a great learning experience. For FOLFAN, this project meant the removal of a junked and rusting vehicle from one of our freshwater streams. A cleaner and healthier environment for all to enjoy. Thank you, Robert!

**Mark Your Calendar!**

- February 21, 2020 | *Birding, Wildflower and Local History Hike* with Katie Rian, Denali Beard, Jenifer Padgett and Sally Walters
- March 21, 2020 | Wild Night Annual Event and Photo Contest
- April 4, 2020 | Lake Natoma Spring Wildflower Hike with Crystal Tobias
- April 19, 2020 | Kayak Kleanup at Lake Natoma (free kayaks available)
- June 6, 2020 | Kayak Tour with Crystal Tobias

Look for event e-flyers approximately one month before each event.

Supporter Profile

Meet FOLFAN Member and Volunteer, Joleen Maiden
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 another of our interesting and talented members, Joleen Maiden. Following is more about Joleen, in her own words.

What community do you live in? How long have you lived there?
I currently live in Fair Oaks and have lived here for the past 3 years.

What do you do for a living? If you are retired, what did you do for a living?
I am retired from ATT where I worked as a communications Technician for over 33 years. I have done volunteer Raptor Rehab off and on for the past 38 years. I currently volunteer at the California Raptor Center at Davis where I have been for the past 7 years. I also volunteer at the Lake Natoma Eagles nest for FOLFAN several days a week and for The American Eagle Foundation based in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I remotely run cams on live Bald Eagle nests in Tennessee and Florida. Who said retirement is boring!

How did you hear about FOLFAN? What is your favorite thing about our organization?
FOLFAN asked the California Raptor Center to do a talk on Bald Eagles for their Wild Night event and I was the spokesperson. I was very impressed with the organization and decided to join.

What do you like most about our park and how do you use the park?
I love the outdoors and wildlife and the trails are so clean and easy to use.

What would someone be surprised to know about you?
I love to work jigsaw puzzles!

What would you like to add? Please let us know something else about you.
I have really enjoyed all the FOLFAN activities that I can participate in. So many nice people!

Volunteer Opportunities
**Eagles Nest Volunteer Program**

FOLFAN coordinates a seasonal volunteer program that serves to protect an active Bald Eagle nest site. Our volunteers work under the direction of Kathy Kayner, the lead docent assigned by the US Bureau of Reclamation. After some basic training, the volunteers monitor the nest area and offer information and educational support to park visitors who seek out or stumble upon the nest site. If you may be interested in volunteering for this program, and if you haven't already been contacted by Kathy, please take 4 minutes now and add yourself to our online Volunteer Registry. Be sure to indicate your areas of interest as a volunteer! The registry can be found at: http://www.folfan.org/Help-Us/Volunteer

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**About FOLFAN**

Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma (FOLFAN) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and a State Park Cooperating Association for the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Our mission is to "Enhance education and recreation opportunities for the public and protect the wonders and resources of Lakes Folsom and Natoma." Visit us at folfan.org to learn more!