Newsletter for February 2020

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Mobile Interpretation Station Initiative

The FOLFAN Board of Directors wants to give serious consideration to exploring this new and exciting initiative. It would be a mobile unit (aka trailer) that could be parked in a different area of the park each weekend, or used at community and school events. The station and its docents would serve to provide interpretive information to park visitors, such as maps, brochures, field guides, junior ranger booklets, and other useful information, and also answer whatever questions the park visitors have. With the mobile unit and a small team of (trained) docents, we could engage in a very positive way with thousands of park visitors each year, one weekend at a time. The mobile unit would be similar in function to the popular “Information Station” at Point Lobos State Park (see photo), but built on a towable trailer.

The unit could also include 2-3 small interpretive exhibits, such as on the subjects of water, fire, and oak woodlands habitat.
What we need to do now is organize a “Planning Group” for the Mobile Interpretation Station Initiative. This group of volunteers would research and discuss the initiative. If they conclude that the initiative has promise, they would then prepare a brief proposal that outlines how the station would be designed and operated. Then they would present the proposal to the FOLFAN Board.

If you are interested in serving on our Planning Group, please contact Jim Cassio by phone or email: 707-975-5376 | President@FOLFAN.org

Reopening of the Bike Trail at Orangevale Bluffs/Negro Bar

As reported last month, the work on stabilizing the bluffs following dangerous landslides a few years ago is now complete. What’s left before the trail can re-open is to replace about 60’ of damaged/missing trail. State Parks is scheduling a heavy equipment operator to prep the trail area. They have to remove the soil, add road base, and compact it. Then pave it. Paving requires dry and relatively warm weather (about 60 degrees). It feels like it is taking forever, doesn’t it? But we are getting close!

Wild Night 2020 with FOLFAN

Saturday, March 21, 2020 | 5:00 to 8:00 pm
Robert H. Miller III Rotary Clubhouse at Lew Howard Park in Folsom
Registration Required

Don’t miss this year’s Wild Night event with FOLFAN!

Event features include:
• Kate Marianchild, naturalist and author of Secrets of the Oak Woodlands
• Updates from FOLFAN and Folsom Lake State Park
• 5th Annual Amateur Photo Contest (see FOLFAN.org for contest info)
• Food and Beverages
• Prize Drawing

Wild Night is FOLFAN’s annual mixer and appreciation event for our members and donors, fans, volunteers, and partners. Anyone who is interested in FOLFAN, or our state park, is welcome to attend as long as seats are available. The event is free, but registration is required and space is limited. Please register today using this Eventbrite link: https://folfanwildnight2020.eventbrite.com
Or see our Wild Night event flyer at FOLFAN.org for more information.

Amateur Photo Contest
Our Amateur Photo Contest has become one of FOLFAN’s 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 lakes. Contest entries are then presented 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 promotional purposes - with appropriate credit given.)

Our photo contest submission deadline is March 1, 2020.

See our Photo Contest flyer at FOLFAN.org for more information and contest rules.

Mark Your Calendar!

- February 21, 2020 | Birding, Wildflower and Local History Hike with Katie Rian, Denali Beard, Jenifer Padgett and Sally Walters (NOTE: This hike is filled up and an extensive wait list has been established.)
- 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)
Supporter Profile
Meet FOLFAN Member Deborah Moreno Cassio

Deborah with family: daughters, Isabelle and Marina, and husband, Jim Cassio

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, I’m thrilled to profile one of our longtime and very interesting members, Deborah Moreno Cassio. Deborah is someone you’d like to sit with and discuss everything from environment, history and women’s rights to raising two amazing daughters. Learn more about Deborah in her own words.
-MaryAnn Williams, FOLFAN Board Member

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

I’ve lived in Folsom since 1992. We moved here from Davis when I began teaching full-time at Folsom Lake Community College.

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

I’m a history professor and historian. I chaired the Folsom Lake College History Department for 27 years. I was the first elected President of the FLC Academic Senate and am considered one of the “Founding Faculty” of the college. When I
began, I published an article in California History magazine titled “Here the Society is United: ‘Respectable Anglos’ and Intercultural Marriage in Pre-Gold Rush California” and spoke about 19th century California history at nearby libraries and historical societies. I started FLC’s Women’s History Month and then co-founded the college’s Heritage Interpretation Program. I’ve just completed 8 local history interpretive panels to initiate the long-sought FLC Heritage Interpretation Trail on the Folsom campus.

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

I read about FOLFAN, which had recently formed, in a brief paragraph in the local newspaper. I encouraged my husband to get involved and he is now the FOLFAN Board President.

FOLFAN supports, protects, and promotes our park. The park protects our oak woodlands, our waterways, and the wildlife which depend upon these natural and manmade habitats. FOLFAN and the park educate people to respect, protect and appreciate the importance of this. I especially enjoy FOLFAN’s guided hikes and the Wild Night presentations and photography. I’m very excited that Kate Marianchild, author of Secrets of the Oak Woodlands, will speak at the next Wild Night event.

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

We live just minutes from the park and visit nearly every week. I spend most of my time exploring, listening, appreciating and photographing nature. As Kimberly “Shining Star” Petree, Tume'lay Nisenan Miwok “Culture Keeper” (and my former student), said at last year’s Wild Night event: “We are walking in beauty.”

My husband and I especially enjoy kayaking and walking. We had a ski boat for a few years and enjoyed water sports, but I prefer the quieter trails and places. I prefer to hear the acorn woodpeckers and to spot an egret or the elusive grebe. I enjoy watching the bald eagles tend to their young each year, but I also really miss the heron rookery. We wonder where most of the otters and beavers have gone. We’d like to see more interpretive panels and more collaboration with local Native American communities.

As a family, we tune in to the changing seasons. For example, we followed the sunshine this (Feb 1st) morning, to see the buckeyes beginning to bloom. We follow migration cycles, welcoming the return of salmon and cranes. This is how we raised our daughters, both of whom are dedicated to protecting the environment. This is also how we nurture our dogs, who love the park and its lakes.

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

We love to travel as a family, especially with “house-swaps.” We’ve been to nearly every U.S. state and to several countries. With our two young daughters and my mom, we took an RV trip across the country to New York--for an anniversary celebration of the first Women’s Rights Convention, which included Betty Friedan and Hillary Clinton! We gave ourselves 6 weeks to see as many historic and natural sites as possible along the way.

*What would you like to add? Please let us know something else about you.*
I am a 1970s-style feminist; I came of age during the optimism of “manned” space exploration and progressive reform. I am very family-centered; I love being a mom and now a grandma to 18-month old Clara. I love being a teacher; informed and engaged citizens are crucial to our future. At this moment, I am especially concerned about our democracy. My favorite presidential candidate is and was a woman.

Volunteer Opportunities

By Jim Cassio, FOLFAN President

Here are the volunteer leadership roles we need to fill this year. If you are interested in any of these roles, send me an email (or call me) and let’s schedule a 20-minute meet-up at Coffee Republic to discuss the role, your interest, and your availability. It’s not a job interview; it’s a discussion! 😊

Volunteer Coordinator
Need someone to be our lead for organizing our volunteers and ensuring that we have volunteers to support our activities and events. Also to show our appreciation to our volunteers for their service. This role can also be shared between two co-coordinators.

Promotional/Outreach Coordinator
Need someone to be our lead for promotions, public relations and outreach (outreach = engaging with the public both inside and outside the park). This role can
also be shared between two co-coordinators. Ideally, our Promotional/Outreach Coordinator would also function as our Social Media Coordinator; however, that could be a separate role, depending on the skills and preference of the volunteers.

**Fundraising/Donor Coordinator**
Need someone to be our lead in coordinating our fundraising and donor relations efforts. It would be ideal to have one lead for fundraising and one lead for donor relations. So, depending on the volunteer(s), the roles could be consolidated into one volunteer’s role, or split into two volunteer roles. It is also possible that the FOLFAN president can do the donor relations role.

**e-Newsletter Editor**
Need someone with writing/editing experience who can join our Newsletter Editor Team (we currently have two board members who produce the monthly newsletter). There is also room for other volunteers to function as occasional contributors to the newsletter.

**Publications Coordinator**
Need someone to be our lead in coordinating our publications, including our Annual Reports (which you can find on FOLFAN.org). Additional publications may include the following: 12-Month Photo Calendar (to be updated annually); Field Guide; Junior Ranger Guide; Kids Coloring Books; and various interpretive documents including maps, trail guides, brochures and flyers. Ideally the Publications Coordinator would also research and propose new publications and interpretive material.

**Webmaster**
Need someone to be our lead in coordinating our FOLFAN.org website, including platform and hosting choices, site design, development and maintenance.

**Education/Recreation Coordinator**
Need someone to be our lead in coordinating and promoting our education/recreation events and activities, including our guided hike and kayak tour program. This role can also be shared between two co-coordinators.

**Trails Coordinator**
Need someone to be our lead in coordinating FOLFAN’s advocacy and support for various trail and related projects. This role may include trail surveys, trail guide development, identifying the need for and installation of trail signage, and working with volunteers/groups and State Parks staff on trail maintenance projects. This role can also be shared between two co-coordinators.

**Clean-Up Coordinator**
Need someone to be our lead in coordinating at least three annual park clean-up events, plus additional small event clean-ups with interested volunteers/groups. Ideally the Clean-Up Coordinator would also get youth involved in park clean-up activities. This role can also be shared between two co-coordinators.

In addition to the leadership roles described above, we are also looking for volunteers to provide support in four specific areas:
1. Providing **Event Set Up and/or Clean-up Assistance** at our March 21 Wild Night event (see Wild Night event flyer at FOLFAN.org).
2. Providing **Social Media Promotion Assistance**.
3. Providing **Public Outreach Assistance** to adults and/or youth. This usually
includes staffing our FOLFAN/Park Info exhibit at park events, community events, or farmer’s markets, but can also include doing presentations for civic, industry and education groups.

4. Providing **Eagles Nest Area Support** which is a seasonal volunteer program that serves to protect an active Bald Eagle nest site at Lake Natoma. 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 any of these volunteer or leadership roles are of interest to you, send me an email or call me and let me know what you may be interested in doing!
Jim Cassio: 707-975-5376 or President@folfan.org

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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.