



P.O. Box 2433  
Martinez, CA 94553

February 8, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NATURE'S BELOVED SON—CELEBRATING JOHN MUIR**

MARTINEZ—John Muir the botanist is often overlooked in light of his other towering accomplishments. But he found “pleasure so deep, so pure, so endless” in plants, and he collected specimens throughout his life from many far-flung places. His collections are stored in locations throughout the country, including his home of 24 years in Martinez.

In a first-ever collaboration, the Yosemite Association, the John Muir Association and the National Park Service will showcase some of the plant specimens Muir collected with his own hands, along with presentations by the creators of the book *Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy*. The book celebrates Muir the botanist with stunning photographs of Muir's collected plants. Author Bonnie J. Gisell, and photographer Stephen Joseph joined forces to track down these collections, something of a treasure hunt in itself.

The public is invited to the celebration on February 28, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. Learn how Gisell and Joseph worked to find Muir's plant specimens to create the book's beautiful images. Copies of the book and enlarged prints of collection images will be on display.

At the Muir House, a National Parks Archivist will show and interpret some of the specimens that John Muir himself collected. Docents will conduct guided tours of the historic 1882 home.

At the Visitor's Center, docents will lead tours of the California Native Plant Garden on the grounds, and two short films will be shown: one of John Muir's Life and another of the images from the book. Light refreshments will be served.

Please join us at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Hwy 4), Martinez ([www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu)). The event is free, but the \$3.00 park entrance fee for adults will apply (children are free). Free parking is available. For more information, call Igor Skaredoff at (925) 229-1371.

###