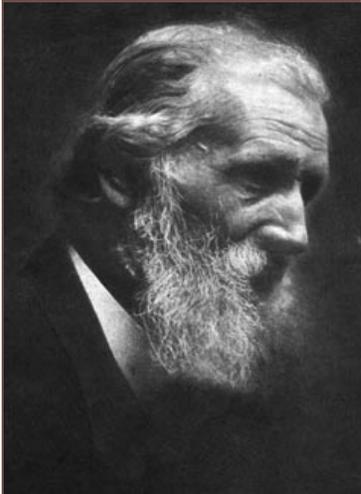




The View

SPRING 2010

Another glorious Sierra day in which one seems to be dissolved....This is true freedom—a good practical sort of immortality.
—John Muir,
My First Summer in the Sierra, June 13



The mission of the John Muir Association is to celebrate the life, share the vision, and preserve the legacy of John Muir through education, preservation, advocacy and stewardship, in partnership with the National Park Service at the John Muir National Historic Site.

Join Us on April 17th for Our Best Ever John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration



Muir Association and the National Park Service.

Don't miss our dynamic speaker, Brock Dolman, renowned biologist and permaculture expert, who will talk about "Thinking Like a Watershed." Brock is Director of the Water Institute, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center.

Enjoy a day on our beautiful "blue marble" at *your* local national park. The 172nd birthday of John Muir and the 40th anniversary of Earth Day coincide to remind us to appreciate the wonders of our planet and the importance of protecting them.

Plan to bring friends and family to the John Muir National Historic Site on April 17 to enjoy many delights for all ages, and discover how to be a better steward of your natural heritage.

Admission is free!

The John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration is presented by the John

Live music, loads of activities for children, dozens of informative exhibitors, and two silent auctions will provide fun for everyone. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council will lead a two-hour hike, and a Nature Walk by Doc Hale will feature a stroll on Muir's grounds. And don't forget to tour the Muir house—an 1882 Italianate Victorian—and the 1849 Martinez Adobe.



Brock Dolman

John Muir, portrayed by National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling, will share stories and his delicious birthday cake. Michael Muir, great grandson of John Muir, will greet guests with a magnificent Access Adventure horse.

(Continued, next page)

Visit our redesigned website!

Explore what's new at
www.johnmuirassociation.org



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Website:
johnmuirassociation.org

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Our Partner:

John Muir National Historic Site
National Park Service
www.nps.gov/jomu

Martha Lee, Superintendent

Printed on 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper.

See our schedule on the opposite page for details on events and times.

We appreciate the support of our generous sponsors, who make this event possible: Allied Waste; Bay Area Air Quality Management District; City of Martinez; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #302; Martinez Community Foundation; and Shell Oil Products, US Martinez Refinery.

Lunch and beverages will be available for purchase. Bring your own reusable water bottle!

The John Muir National Historic Site is located at 4202 Alhambra Avenue at Highway 4 in Martinez. For directions to the Muir Site, visit www.nps.gov/jomu. For public transportation information, visit <http://511.org>. Free parking is available at the Alhambra High School and the Martinez Adult Education parking lot. Convenient, free shuttles to the event will be available.

Special Thanks to Our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration Sponsors . . .

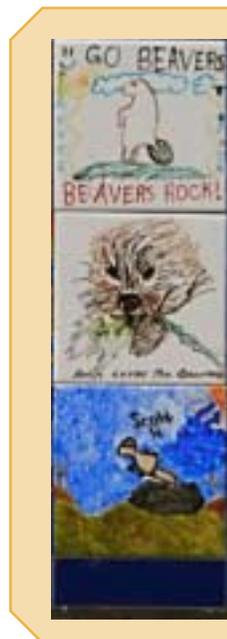


JMA Board Transitions

We are pleased to welcome Kelly Davidson as a new board member. Kelly is an Environmental Education Specialist with Epona Environmental Consulting. She is also an Environmental Education Coordinator for Mt. View Sanitary District. Kelly has joined the Membership Committee and we know she will be a valuable asset to the Board.

Also, we welcome Kathi McLaughlin to the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day planning committee—we appreciate her assistance.

With reluctance, we accepted the resignation of Steve Pardieck as a John Muir Association Board Member. Yet we are pleased Steve has stayed on to Co-Chair our annual John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration with Board Member Igor Skaredoff. Steve chaired the event last year, and we thank him for his hard work on the board and as a valued committee member.



John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration Program Schedule

April 17, 2010 • 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue in Martinez

Please check our website before the event for the final schedule and program: www.johnmuirassociation.org.
Sprinkles are OK, but heavy rain cancels. Call the JMNHS the day of the event if you're not sure: (925) 228-8860.

- Early walk! Bay Area Ridge Trail Council two-hour saunter—meet at High School. For details, visit www.ridgetrail.org.
- 10.00 a.m. Gates Open at John Muir National Historic Site
- 10:00 a.m. First Silent Auction Opens ~ bidding closes at 12:30 p.m.
- 10:30 a.m. Front Gate ~ Bagpiper Procession
- 11:00 a.m. Stage ~ Piedmont Highlanders Drums & Pipes Band
- 11:30 a.m. Stage ~ WELCOME ~ Richard Elliott, Master of Ceremonies
John Muir (NPS Ranger Frank Helling)
- Noon Stage ~ Music by Extended Roots
- 12:45 p.m. Stage ~ Recycled Fashion Show presented by
John Swett Elementary School
- 1:00 p.m. Second Silent Auction Opens ~ bidding closes at 3:00 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m. Stage ~ Piedmont Highlanders Pipe Band
- 2:00 p.m. Stage ~ **Guest Speaker Brock Dolman**
- 2:30 p.m. Stage ~ **John Muir Birthday Celebration**
Martha Lee, NPS Superintendent
John Muir stories (Ranger Frank Helling)
Muir family members
Other dignitaries
John Muir birthday cake
- 3:15 p.m. Stage ~ Music by Spinning Wheel



Tom Zamaria



Please bring your own refillable water bottle!

Other Activities

- Exhibitors and children's activities
- Junior Ranger Program activities
- Collect stamps for a chance to win a National Parks pass!
- Food and beverages for purchase

At the Muir House

- Self-guided tours with
Patty Helling at the piano
- Live music



At the Visitor Center

- Bookstore
- California Native Plant Garden

At the Adobe

- Self-guided tours of the exhibit

Free Parking

- Park at the Alhambra High School or Martinez Adult Education (Alhambra Avenue at D Street and F Street). Shuttles will be available.

Mountain Day Campers' Art Tiles Beautify Bridge

By Heidi Perryman, Ph.D.

Are the beavers in Martinez worth public art? Last summer's young artists from the John Muir Mountain Day Camp thought so. After attending a presentation by Worth A Dam, they were invited to paint ceramic tiles showing "what lives in Alhambra Creek." Other tiles were made at last summer's Beaver Festival in Martinez. More than 100 tiles were created in all.

In March, the City of Martinez agreed to allow installation on the cement portion of the Escobar Street bridge, which crosses Alhambra Creek—home to the city's resident beavers. The tile installation is a permanent tribute to the dynamic presence of the beavers in the historic city. For more information, visit www.martinezbeavers.org.

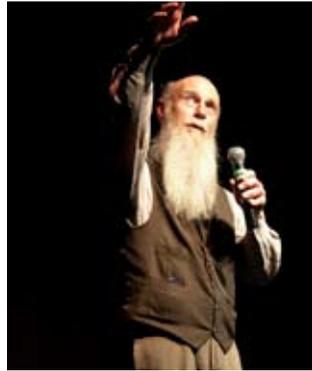
Heidi is a John Muir Association Board Member and President of Worth A Dam





John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration Fetes Winners

Renowned actor and Muir scholar Lee Stetson delighted the audience with lively tales from John Muir himself, gleaned from his many writings. The 32nd Annual John Muir Conservation Award Celebration also brought intriguing stories to light of those working today—in the spirit of John Muir—for a better planet.



Lee Stetson

Held at the Campbell Theatre in Martinez, the evening included memorial tributes to two individuals who made a difference, and who were taken from us too soon: Brian O'Neill, General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area; and Roger Epperson, Park Supervisor, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

The 2009 John Muir Conservation Award recipients are:

Conservationist of the Year

Jeff Alvarez

Jeff was recognized for his lifelong advocacy for wildlife and habitat conservation. Alvarez is the owner and Chief Biologist for The Wildlife Project. His prodigious volunteer work on behalf of wildlife and the environment influences others to care about the natural world around them.

Business Conservation Award

T. Marzetti Company

Ohio-based T. Marzetti Company, maker of salad dressings, dips and other food items, was recognized for working to shrink its carbon footprint by reducing energy, waste and water consumption. These efforts support both the company and the environment, and are a model for a sustainable future.

Nonprofit or Public Agency Conservation Award

East Bay Regional Park District

The East Bay Regional Park District received its award for 75 years of protecting and stewarding land, and its outstanding recreational and educational opportunities for the public. Created in 1934 during the Great Depression, the park district is now the largest regional park district in the nation.

Environmental Education Conservation Award

David Loeb

David is the founder and driving force behind accessible, high-quality publications about our regional environment. Since 2001, he has served as Editor and then Publisher of *Bay Nature* magazine and Executive Director of the nonprofit Bay Nature Institute. The impact of providing accurate—and

interesting—environmental information to policy-makers, agencies and individuals is profound.

The evening was made possible by our generous sponsors, Shell Oil Products, US Martinez Refinery; Muir-Hanna Vineyards; and the Best Western John Muir Inn in Martinez. In addition, we owe special thanks to the Willows Theatre Company and the National Park Service.

Be sure to join us for this year's Celebration on Saturday, November 13th at the Campbell Theatre in Martinez. More information about the Celebration will be available on the website. Also, check our website for information on nominating an individual, organization or business. Nominations are open!



JMA President JoAnne Dunec with Lee Stetson (left). JoAnne with JMNHS General Superintendent Martha Lee and Jeff Alvarez (above).

Photos this page by Tom Zamaria

Nature Walks on Mt. Wanda

"You wander from garden to garden enchanted, as if walking among stars...each and all apparently doing their best with eager enthusiasm, as if everything depended on faithful shining." (about wildflowers) —John Muir, Our National Parks

All walks are free. For more information, please call: (925) 228-8860.

Bird Walks

All Bird Walks begin at 8:30 a.m.

April 3
May 8

Wildflower Walks

All Wildflower Walks begin at 9:00 a.m.

April 10 and 21
May 1

Now Enrolling for John Muir Mountain Day Camp Outdoor Adventures and Naturally Good Times!

Registration is now open for our 8th wonderful John Muir Mountain Day Camp. Sign up now for one—or both—of our one-week sessions.

August 2 through August 6
August 9 through August 13

Camp is Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Children from 8 to 12 years of age are welcome, and scholarships and discounts are available. Sign up your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews—and tell their friends. Space is limited, so register early.



John Muir Mountain Day Camp is sponsored by the John Muir Association and the National Park



Service, and is held in the orchards of the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Highway 4), Martinez 94553.

Visit www.muircamp.org for more information, or contact Camp Director Jill Harcke at (925) 680-8807 or by e-mail: info@muircamp.org.

“Once again my daughter had a great time at John Muir Camp! After her third year, she is still motivated for the goal she set after her first year: to be a John Muir Mountain Day camper every year until she is old enough to be a Junior Counselor!”

New John Muir Mural—Donations Needed

A mural representing John Muir’s legacy awaits further funding before it will become a part of the Martinez landscape and a welcoming enhancement to the John Muir National Historic Site.

The mural will be created under the guidance of Rona Zollinger of the Environmental Studies Academy (ESA), the ESA students and artist Christopher Castle.

The project will be the second such mural completed—the first depicts John Muir and a parade of animals on a John Muir National Historic Site retaining wall on Alhambra Avenue near the Alhambra Valley Road intersection. The proposed mural is slated for retaining walls along Franklin Canyon Road, and will provide a welcoming display surrounding the tunnel, which connects portions of the East Bay Regional Park District trail system and leads to the Canyon Way entrance to John Muir NHS.

ESA students will research the source material and assist Castle in its design and installation. The Environmental Studies Academy, a program of the Martinez Unified School District, offers an alternative learning experience for high school students. ESA students have participated in numerous environmental projects in the region to

garner hands-on experience while working with a community-based network of partners.

Castle is an environmental artist who, alongside his paintings and prints as an individual artist, has coordinated a series of public art works in the Bay Area. According to Castle, “The mural will be a celebration of the energy of life, nature and a positive environment in keeping with John Muir’s spirit.”



Mural (detail) by Chris Castle

The National Park Service and John Muir Association (JMA) are partners in the project, providing support and funding of \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. With assurances of matching funds from several sources, other grants and donations are currently being sought to support the work, which will cost \$11,000. The project is to begin in October, with completion expected by June, 2011.

Please—your support for the project is needed. Send your contribution to the John Muir Association using the form on page 7, and check the box for the mural donation. For contributions of \$20.00 or more, JMA will acknowledge your gift in this newsletter (unless no acknowledgement is preferred).



Superintendent's View

By Martha Lee

The power of imagination makes us infinite.
— John Muir

I am writing this column from Yosemite Valley, looking out over new-fallen snow and mists swirling around the cliff walls to alternately hide and reveal Yosemite Falls. Our National Park Service (NPS) management team for our four parks in the East Bay has just concluded a multi-day planning retreat here. Our meetings were initiated by viewing the park's moving film at the visitor center and then punctuated, augmented, and inspired by experiences in the Valley: taking a walk through the snow with Master Interpreter Bob Roney to the site of Muir's sawmill at the base of Yosemite Falls; visiting the newly redesigned visitor center (where Muir has a pivotal role); taking a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum collections and library; having lunch at The Ahwahnee; and auditing a meeting of Yosemite's senior staff. Each member of our team also had the opportunity to spend a morning with their cohorts in Yosemite to compare notes and generate ideas. Of course, we also worked on long-range goals and prioritizing our work. It's been a great week and the Yosemite staff, led by interim Superintendent Dave Uberagua and incoming Superintendent Don Neubacher, have been generous and accommodating. We all look forward to fostering an even closer relationship between John Muir National Historic Site and Yosemite National Park.



As I look back on 2009, I reflect on all that we have accomplished at John Muir National Historic Site in collaboration with the John Muir Association (JMA). Together we hosted the largest John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration ever; two sessions of John Muir Mountain Day Camp engaged kids at the site; special

events for members of the Yosemite Association and the Yosemite Fund brought focus on Muir's home to many who had never been here before; John Muir took center stage in the landmark PBS series, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* and we hosted a preview event in the community with the Chamber of Commerce. We were honored in November by a visit from John Muir himself, played by Lee Stetson, who led a walk up Mt. Wanda before providing the keynote speech at the JMA's John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration. What a great year of spreading Muir's legacy for future generations! And the National Park Service could not have accomplished all of this on our own. The support of the John Muir Association has made all this happen. We are both grateful for past support and excited about what we have in store together for this year.



Two really exciting changes are coming to our site in 2010. For the first time in many years, John Muir's home will be available to the public SEVEN DAYS A WEEK (we are currently closed on Mondays and Tuesdays). An increase in our budget allocation for interpretation will make it possible for us to staff the visitor center and house every day of the week to accommodate many more school groups as well as other visitors. We will be hiring new NPS staff to accomplish this, so look for new faces along with the ones you've come to know. And later this year, we will be installing exhibits for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in the Martinez Adobe. We have been working with the Anza Trail folks on these bilingual exhibits for some time and are looking forward to a ribbon cutting toward the end of the summer.

Martha Lee

Yes! I want to continue John Muir’s legacy as a member of the John Muir Association.

Your donation to the John Muir Association supports our mission to celebrate and share the life, work and spirit of John Muir through education, preservation, advocacy, and stewardship of the John Muir National Historic Site.

The John Muir Association is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization; donations to JMA are tax deductible.

- | | | | |
|---|---------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Joint | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$ _____ for the John Muir mural enclosed (see p. 5) | | | |

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Method of Donation

- Check (Please make check payable to the John Muir Association)
- Visa
- MasterCard



Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Please mail this form and your tax-deductible donation to:

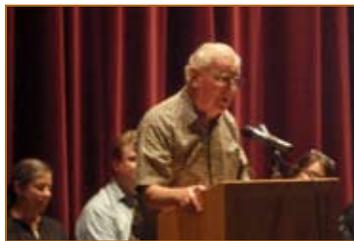
**John Muir Association
P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553**

A Great Idea—Ken Burns Film Comes to Martinez

A few days before the initial PBS airing of the Ken Burns series, *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*, last September, an exclusive East Bay preview of the film was presented at the Alhambra High School Performing Arts Center.

The event was sponsored by the John Muir Association; the Martinez Chamber of Commerce; Shell Oil Products US, Martinez Refinery; the Martinez Unified School District; the City of Martinez; KQED Public Media; the Muir Heritage Land Trust; and the National Park Service.

The one-hour preview film highlighted John Muir’s story and influence, which is also featured prominently in the six-part Burns



Ross Hanna

series. Muir descendants were in the audience, and the special guest speaker was John Muir’s grandson, Ross Hanna. Hanna, the son of Muir’s eldest daughter, Wanda, grew up in Martinez.

As reported in the *Contra Costa Times*, Hanna entertained a rapt audience: “‘I could’ve listened to him all night,’ said Jimmy Hughes, 17, of Martinez.”

The filled-to-capacity auditorium heard Hanna’s stories, such as the

time he and two brothers left home on horseback for a whole summer in Yosemite. “My parents were broad-minded,” he said. “They let me do what I wanted.”

Other speakers included Cynthia Murdough, Executive Director of the Martinez Chamber of Commerce; Steve Leshner, Public Affairs Manager of Shell Oil Products US, Martinez Refinery (underwriters of the event); Leslie Rule, Director of KQED’s Center for Community Media; and JMA President JoAnne Dunec.

A reception followed the film, which was praised by the attendees. The *Times* quoted 15-year-old Cheyanna Washburn of Martinez: “It’s awesome,” she said.



P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553

Mark Your Calendar—Don't Miss these Great John Muir Association Events and Programs



John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Featuring Brock Dolman

Saturday, April 17, 2010

See cover article for more information.



The Illuminated Landscape Book Signing

On May 22nd, join the editors of this much-anticipated book at the John Muir NHS. Details to be announced soon—check our website for information.



John Muir Mountain Day Camp

Starting August 2nd

John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez

Sign up now! See page 5 for more information.

Check out our updated website at
www.johnmuirassociation.org



33rd Annual John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Campbell Theatre in Martinez

Read about the 2009 awards on page 4.