

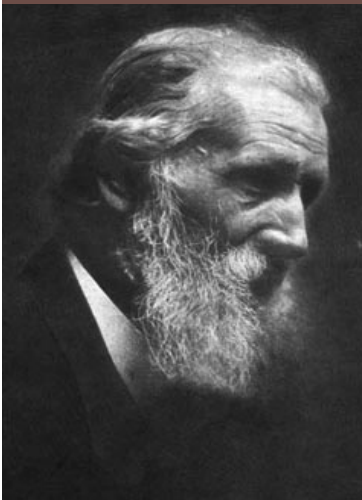


The View

SPRING 2014

One Hundred Years of Legacy John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration

*Writing is like the life of
a glacier; one eternal
grind.—John Muir*



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.

Instead of spending hours indoors laboring over articles and books, John Muir would have much rather been sauntering across a grassy meadow or climbing an icy peak. The task of writing could be excruciating for him, yet he devoted much of his life to it because he knew it was the best way to let people know about the exquisite beauty of nature and that they needed to protect it. Many of his famous and influential works were penned in his “scribble den” in his Martinez home, and from this book-filled room came words heard around the world.

This year marks 100 years since John Muir died on Christmas Eve in 1914. His death did not diminish his influence. His amazing writings bring powerful and prescient messages, as well as spark the “love of wild nature” within people everywhere. This centennial celebrates a century of Muir’s immense legacy since his passing, and reminds us that each of us

must continue his crucial work in our own way.

Join us for a special John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. Remembering John Muir is not enough, we need to both heed his words and steel ourselves to do something—even though it may feel like “an eternal grind”—to better the world. He said it best: “Lie down among the pines for a while, then get to plain pure white love-work ... to help humanity and other mortals...” Our destiny—our health and quality of life—is hitched to the health of our planet. Our Celebration exhibitors will have information on how to help planet earth, as well as fun activities for all ages. *(Continued, next page)*



Don Homewood



**Saturday, April 26th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**John Muir National
Historic Site**





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Tom Leatherman,
 General Superintendent



Piper Scott Parker leads a procession (left). The photos below show fun booth activities and music. NPS Ranger Frank Helling as John Muir is shown with and Keynote Speaker Gary Bogue. Students (lower right) show their creation in the Recycled Fashion Show., and "John Muir" shakes hands with emcee Igor Skaredoff (bottom left).

John Muir was the founder of the Sierra Club in 1892, and Sierra Club Deputy Executive Director Bruce Hamilton will be our Keynote Speaker. National Park Service Horticulturalist Keith Park will present information about the giant sequoia that Muir planted 130 years ago near his Martinez house. Muir carried the seedling from his beloved Sierra. Photo opportunities with the tree will include "John Muir." Learn about planting drought-tolerant native plants and visit our California Native Plant Garden at the Visitor Center.



Come and participate for a chance to win a National Parks Pass for a full year.

This event is made possible by our wonderful sponsors: the City of Martinez, Shell Martinez Refinery, IBEW Local Union 302 and Republic Services.

Come rain or shine! Food and beverages are available for purchase. The Celebration is at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Highway 4) in Martinez. Free parking is available at the Martinez Adult School, 600 Alhambra Ave. at "F" St., with shuttles to the Site.



For information, visit www.johnmuirassociation.org, or call the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860 ext. 0.

John Muir Association at the Beaver Festival 2013

By Heidi Perryman



Worth A Dam’s sixth annual Beaver Festival was a great success, and both the John Muir Association and Mountain Day Camp joined the event to offer popular exhibits.

Over 40 environmental displays from five Bay Area counties highlighted the celebration. In addition, special treats included a hard-working troop of Junior Keepers from Safari West, the delightful San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers, a team from Silicon Valley helping the newly discovered San Jose beavers, and a Whitman College film crew working on their “Beaver Believers” documentary.

In a festival of wonders and education, children earned charms for a “Key-stone species” necklace by learning how beavers help other species. Last year, four states were encouraged by our success to hold beaver festivals of their own!



Photos courtesy of Worth A Dam

Transitions

The John Muir Association welcomes new Board Members Raj Hajela and Mark Thomson.

Raj Hajela

Raj is the Foundation Administrator for the Regional Parks Foundation in Oakland, where he manages the grants program, assists with the development efforts of the board, and is responsible for accounting and financial reporting. He has more than 25 years of experience working in diverse industries from nonprofits to Fortune 100 companies. He has a Masters of Business Administration degree in Finance from the Eli Broad Graduate School of Management at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.



Raj and his wife have lived in the East Bay since 2000, and he has been a staunch supporter and advocate for parks and open spaces. In his free time, Raj enjoys hiking, biking and volunteering.

Mark Thomson

Born in Missouri, Mark received a degree in Computer Science from Kansas State University before moving to the Bay Area. Once on the West Coast, he backpacked the same mountains that John Muir

did and continues to do so. Muir’s book *Mountains of California* was one of the first books he read after his trip west.

Mark is recently retired from Shell Oil as IT Manager of the Martinez and Puget Sound refineries. Over the years, he has worked with a variety of nonprofit groups, including the Mt. Diablo Peace Center, the scouting program, Friends of Franklin Hills and Keep Our Open Space. He is active on the Cabinet of the First Congregational Church and is Music Committee Chair. He has also worked on many Shell-sponsored volunteer activities.

Mark is a member of the Martinez General Plan Task Force, and has served on the Computer Science Advisory Boards at Diablo Valley and Los Medanos colleges since their inception.

Moving On...

Matt Parks

Matt joined the John Muir Association Board of Directors in September of 2010 as a student representative from the New Leaf Academy. His work was a great contribution to our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration each spring. He left the Board in March to focus on work. The Board thanks him for his service.



John Muir Mountain Day Camp—Registration Now Open!

Our 12th year of John Muir Mountain Day Camp will be another great summer experience for young campers featuring hands-on crafts, activities, adventures and special guests.

New this year: children from age seven to twelve may attend, so children who can't quite wait until they are eight are now welcome.

Two one-week sessions of camp will be held:

July 28 through August 1
August 4 through August 8

Camp hours are from 8:30 to 3:30. The camp is held at the John Muir National Historic Site and includes tours of the Muir home and the Martinez Adobe, as well as an excursion on Mt. Wanda following the footsteps of John Muir and his daughters Wanda

and Helen. Campers paint, keep a journal as Muir did, and bake sourdough bread. Registration is open—sign up your kids for a camp experience they will never forget! Tuition is \$275; scholarships and discounts are available.



John Muir Mountain Day Camp is presented 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 Hwy 4), Martinez 94553.

Visit www.muircamp.org for more information and an online registration form. Contact JMA at (925) 229-3857 or by e-mail: jma@muircamp.org.

Thanks to our 2014 Camp Sponsor
Shell Martinez Refinery



In Memoriam

“Glenn” Robert Fuller

Former National Park Service General Superintendent “Glenn” Robert Fuller, 67, died on September 10, 2013 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

Glenn moved to Nevada County in 2007 following retirement from a 31-year career with the National Park Service. He served on the South Yuba River Park Association Board, bringing his long interest in the philosophy of America’s Conservationist, John Muir.

Muir was never far from Glenn’s thoughts. He and his wife, Bev, managed an orchard at their Nevada City home patterned from those of the Muir home in Martinez, sharing its abundant fruit with friends and Board members. Muir books hold pride of place in their home.

Glenn was proud to wear the grey and green uniform of the National Park Service, last serving as Superintendent of John Muir National Historic Site, Eugene



O’Neill National Historic Site and Port Chicago National Memorial. His passion for Muir’s work began when he was a Site Manager at Muir Woods National Monument, leading to his management of Muir’s home, regarded as ground zero for the conservation movement in this nation. Through his guidance at

these national parks, communities saw increased tourism from around the world, economic stimulus, and an appreciation for these men and women and our national history.

Glenn served as a Park Ranger at Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain National parks, Cape Cod National Seashore, and also for the US Corps of Engineers as a patrol ranger. He first rafted on the Stanislaus River and became one of the finest raftsmen around. For 40 years, he captained the oars of 14-foot rafts without accident.

Besides his wife, Glenn is survived by brother, Don, and sister-in-law Nancy, cousins, and many, many friends throughout the conservation world who will

Poetry at the Muir House

Come celebrate the legacy of John Muir at the first annual Ecopoetry Festival in Martinez, California.

The Muir Poetry Project, a joint effort of the John Muir National Historic Site and Alhambra High School's Creative Writing Program, presents poets Lynne Knight, Murray Silverstein, John Oliver Simon and Ellery Akers on Saturday, April 19th at 4:00 p.m. in the orchards next to Muir's house.

The poets will read from their work and discuss how poetic language can help evolve mankind's environmental consciousness. For more information, contact the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860 or Eliot Schain at: eschain@martinez.k12.ca.us

New Chief of Interpretation

Kelli English is the new Chief of Interpretation at the four East Bay parks, including the John Muir National Historic Site. Kelli was recently the Community Outreach Specialist for Golden Gate National Recreation Area. She and her staff worked with community



organizations and a wide variety of park partners to engage urban youth with national parklands and the outdoors. Kelli replaces Morgan Smith, who has moved on to the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Originally from the South Side of Chicago, Kelli earned a B.A. in Biological Anthropology from Harvard University and a M.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She is the 2005 Outstanding New Interpreter national award winner for the National Association of Interpretation. Kelli is married and has a 14-month old son.

Kelli started her new post in late March. We are all happy to welcome Kelli and the great expertise and experience she brings.

Superintendent's View

By Tom Leatherman

Countless new activities around the site and beyond were the highlight of last year. John Muir Mountain Day Camp, archeological surveys, fruit harvesting, campfire programs, full moon hikes, family days and the annual Fresh Aire Affaire were just a few of the things keeping the Site bustling with activity.



In 2014, we plan to continue these offerings and maybe throw a few new things in the mix, so keep your eyes out for press releases about upcoming events.

One of the most exciting new activities was the collaboration with CyArk and Historic Scotland on the digital scanning and recording of historic sites in both countries. Over the course of three days, the CyArk team set up several hundred laser scanning sites around the park in order to accurately record the interior and exterior of Muir's 1882 Victorian mansion. Similar work is being performed at John Muir's birthplace in Dunbar, Scotland during September.



CyArk will share the scanning data with NPS staff and conservators at Muir's Dunbar home to improve interpretation and management at both sites. Once the project is finished, the data can be used to produce

mobile apps and information kiosks, and visitors can access 3D models and site descriptions at CyArk's website (<http://archive.cyark.org/>). The completed project, available for the public in April 2014, will be released in conjunction with the opening of a John Muir Way trail in Scotland (around John Muir's Birthday on April 21).

CyArk's technology allows our small urban park to promote John Muir's legacy across the globe. Much the same way that the John Muir Association has made it possible to improve the visitor experience at the site through changes in the Visitor Center and exhibits, this partnership opens new opportunities for us that we could not accomplish alone.



2013 John Muir Conservation Award Recipients

The John Muir Association congratulates the following recipients of the 2013 John Muir Conservation Awards. The awards will be presented at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 26 (at the stage; see cover article for event details). This year’s recipients hail from California, Florida, North Carolina and Dubai. Please join us in celebrating the achievements of our honorees.

Tom Rusert and Darren Peterie Conservationists of the Year

Tom and Darren co-founded Sonoma Birding based in Sonoma Valley, California in 2004 as a volunteer “citizen science”-based conservation organization. Sonoma Birding established sustainable bird and nature-related activities and programs for all ages through a variety of partnerships in the United States and Canada. Tom and Darren hosted the California Western Burrowing Owl Consortium in 2010 and have created numerous science-based, bird-related programs for children, including Pt. Reyes Bird Festival Birdathon for Kids. In 2012 and 2013, they presented the Wine Country Optics and Nature Festival, attracting more than 1,000 people each year.

Malcolm Sproul

Conservation Legacy Award (Special Award)

Malcolm Sproul is a lifelong conservationist and naturalist who has been active in Golden Gate Audubon, Preserve Lamorinda Open Space, Save San Francisco Bay, and in 1993 joined the Board of Save Mount Diablo. Malcolm was elected president in 1998 and for 12 years presided over the organization as it became a leader in land conservation in Contra Costa County. He also served as an advisor for the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan and is a leading expert on predatory birds. Malcolm works for LSA Associates, where he focuses on endangered species and wetlands issues.

South Brunswick High School Aquaculture Program

Environmental Education Conservation Award

The South Brunswick High School Aquaculture Pro-



The recipient of a special Youth Conservation Award for 2012, Pavan Raj Gowda receives his award and a special commendation from Congressman George Miller (right). Also pictured are John Muir Association President JoAnne Dunec (left) and JMNHS General Superintendent Tom Leatherman.

Photos by Don Homewood

gram in Brunswick County, North Carolina is a salt-water and freshwater hatchery program that provides students with hands-on experience with fisheries management science, environmental awareness and community support. Under Byron “Barry” Bey’s leadership, the students rose to the challenge to “go green” by using solar energy to power the aerators for fish production ponds. Students plan to use pond waste water to fertilize an eco-friendly putting green, pitching and driving range on the fish farm. The program prepares students to succeed in post-secondary education in aquaculture and related fields.

The Regal Swan Foundation Nonprofit Conservation Award

The Regal Swan Foundation, Inc., based in Florida, is recognized as a world leader in swan research, veterinary care and conservation. The goal is to provide humane treatment and veterinary care of swans through research, education and swan product development. An all-volunteer team of veterinarians, scientists, college professors and other professionals have made strides in medical research and care of swans, developed handbooks and educational curricula, and unique veterinary swan products, such as slings and temporary, fold-up pens for the care of sick or injured swans, and created a 24-hour website for swan consultation.

(Continued, next page)

Simran Vedvyas

Youth Environmental Conservation Award (Special Award)

Simran, who lives in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, established the youth group SynergY to provide opportunities for young people to participate in environmental events, such as clean up drives and tree-planting initiatives. In 2011, she was a speaker at the Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi and has since promoted the Eye on Environmental Education. In 2013, she was the youngest panelist at the United Nations headquarters to celebrate International Youth Day 2013. Simran was also selected to be trained by former Vice-President Al Gore at the Climate Reality Corps in Chicago in 2013.

The recipients of the 2012 John Muir Conservation Awards were:

Lee Stetson, Conservationist of the Year

Dr. L Martin Griffin, Jr., Legacy Conservation Award

Divya Karnad, Environmental Education Award

Pavan Raj Gowda, Youth Environmental Award

Mt. View Sanitary District, Public Agency Conservation Award

Muir Glen Organics, Business Conservation Award

Learn more about them at www.johnmuirassociation.org



Pictured are the 2012 Conservationist of the Year Lee Stetson (far right), and Legacy Award recipient Dr. "Marty" Griffin (second from right). Also pictured (left to right) are NPS Ranger Frank Helling as John Muir, General Superintendent Tom Leatherman and Congressman George Miller.

Join us John Muir Birthday–Earth Day for the 2013 Award Presentations

John Muir Mural Project Completed

The John Muir National Historic Site is now more welcoming, thanks to the completion of the mural project located on the retaining walls along Franklin Canyon Road. The mural surrounds the tunnel entrance leading to the Canyon Way entrance to the park. The project took about four years to complete from inception, including raising the needed funds. The project was a collaboration of the National Park Service (NPS), the New Leaf Academy and the John Muir Association (JMA).

NPS and JMA provided the initial support and funding of \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. Additional monies were donated by the individuals, businesses and organizations listed. In addition to the students, community support helped with painting.

The mural was created by artist Christopher Castle, under the guidance of Rona Zollinger New Leaf students. The students researched the source material and assisted Castle in its design and installation. New Leaf is a program of the Martinez Unified School District that offers an alternative learning experience for high school students.

Thank you to all who provided financial and volunteer support for this great project. We encourage you to see the results!

(If you have been left off the list in error, we apologize; please let us know.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>National Park Service</i> | <i>Carol Wiley</i> |
| <i>John Muir Association</i> | <i>Lara Delaney</i> |
| <i>Michael F. Hughes</i> | <i>Mary V. Grim</i> |
| <i>Hulet Hornbeck</i> | <i>Marlene G. Haws</i> |
| <i>Sherida Bush & Tim Platt</i> | <i>R. Mitch & Carolyn</i> |
| <i>Mary Ann Gaebe</i> | <i>Avalon</i> |
| <i>Anonymous</i> | <i>JoAnne Dunec</i> |
| <i>Friends of Alhambra Creek</i> | <i>Carol Adams</i> |
| <i>Robert Schroder</i> | <i>Brian & Vicki Holben</i> |
| <i>Jamie Menasco</i> | <i>R. W. & B. A. Barker</i> |
| <i>Tom & Cynthia Peters</i> | <i>Lynn & Cedric De Vries</i> |
| <i>Linda J. Young</i> | <i>Catherine Ivers</i> |
| <i>Doug Burgess</i> | <i>Frank & Sandra Hall</i> |
| <i>Igor & Shirley Skaredoff</i> | <i>David & Rami Muth</i> |
| <i>Jerry M. Travis</i> | <i>Jerry Roe</i> |
| <i>Frank & Debbie Kluber</i> | <i>Kim Y. Eriksen</i> |
| <i>Nancy Perry White</i> | <i>Cassandra Campbell</i> |
| <i>Susan Randall</i> | <i>City of Martinez</i> |
| <i>Laura Febus</i> | <i>Foundation for Youth</i> |
| <i>Lee & Dawn Sutherland</i> | <i>Investment</i> |
| <i>Gay Gerlack</i> | <i>Mark Gross</i> |
| <i>Suzanne L. Erikson</i> | <i>Equilon Enterprises LLC</i> |
| <i>Frank Scott Metz</i> | <i>Valarie Caldwell</i> |



P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553

Great Upcoming Events at the John Muir National Historic Site



John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration & John Muir Conservation Awards

Saturday, April 26th
10 am to 4 pm

Family Fun!
See cover story for details.



Ecopoetry Festival at the Muir House

Saturday, April 19 at 4 pm
In the Orchards

John Muir Mountain Day Camp

July 28 to August 1 and
August 4 to August 8

Camp for children ages 7 to 12
Register now!

See page 4 for details.

