

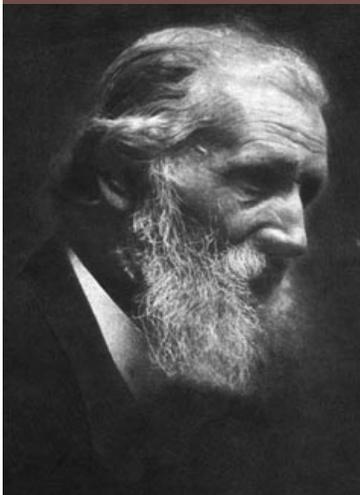


# The View

SPRING 2015

## “Wild” Times at Muir’s House John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration

*I have always befriended animals and have said many a good word for them. Even to the least-loved mosquitoes I gave many a meal, and told them to go in peace.*  
—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.



**T**he need to leave daily cares behind and refresh our spirits in natural landscapes is as strong today as it was in John Muir’s time. Thanks to Muir’s life-long work to both protect nature and entice people to appreciate the outdoors, we have many great places—both near and far—to find beauty, comfort and solace.

Come celebrate Muir’s contribution to a better world and have fun learning more about caring for nature and our great planet at this year’s John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration.



Exhibits, entertainment and activities for all ages combine nature, history and conservation for a fun-filled and informative day.

Enjoy our Keynote Speaker, Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, California Director of the National Wildlife Federation, and tales from John Muir himself, portrayed by National Park

Service Ranger Frank Helling. Mr. Muir will be happy to share his birthday cake.

We will also present the 2014 John Muir Association’s John Muir Conservation Awards—our 38th year. Retired Congressman George Miller will receive a special Legacy Award, along with four other recipients (see article, page 6): Conservationist of the Year, Camilla Fox; Nonprofit Conservation Award, River Otter Ecology Project; Environmental Education Award, Redwood Valley Outdoor Education *(Continued, next page)*

**Saturday, April 18th  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**John Muir National  
Historic Site**



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Tom Leatherman,  
General Superintendent

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The opening procession (left) is led by a piper from the Piedmont Highlander Pipe & Drum Band. Other photos show the Highlander band dancers and moments at the Celebration. In the second photo are JMA President JoAnne Dunec, emcee Igor Skaredoff, JMNHS Superintendent Tom Leatherman and Congressman George Miller. In the last photo, New Leaf students present a ribbon cutting for a new mural.

Program; and Youth Conservation Award, Abby Bloomfield.

The Schedule of Events is on page 3 (note that times are subject to change). The final program will be available at the Celebration. Activities and entertainment provide enjoyment all day. The Muir home is available for self-guided tours, along with the Martinez Adobe and its bilingual exhibit of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission, parking and shuttles are all free of charge.

The John Muir Association would like to thank our generous sponsors of this event: the City of Martinez; Shell Martinez Refinery; IBEW Local Union 302; and Republic Services. Our sponsors allow us to present this popular Celebration.

Visit the John Muir Association booth (#1) and learn how to participate in a drawing to win a National Parks Pass for a full year.

Come rain or shine! The Celebration is at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Highway 4) in Martinez. Park at the Alhambra High



School parking lot on Alhambra Avenue at "D" Street. Shuttles will be available to the event.

For information, visit [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org) or call the JMNHS at (925) 228-8860 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Scenes from the 2014 John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. At left is Keynote Speaker Bruce Hamilton, Deputy Executive Director of the Sierra Club. Students strut their creations for in the Recycled Fashion Show, and Conservation Award recipient Byron “Barry” Bey shows off his award. Above, at right, the sky astounded the crowd with a multi-hued light show. At right, the grandson of John Muir, the late Ross Hanna with NPS Ranger Frank Helling as John Muir.

**Thank you to our sponsors for making the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration possible:**



## John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration Schedule for the Main Stage

- 10:00 Gates Open with Bagpipe Procession
- 10:30 Music by the Piedmont Highlander Drum & Pipe Band
- 11:00 Welcome with John Muir and the National Park Service
- 11:30 Recycled Fashion Show
- 12:00 JMA’s Mountain Day Camp Director Jill Harcke & friends present a sourdough starter award
- 12:15 Songs from the musical *Mountain Days* with “John Muir” Lee Strawn & other cast members
- 12:30 John Muir tells stories from his life (National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling)
- 12:45 Keynote Speaker Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, California Director of the National Wildlife Federation
- 1:15 Music by the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers
- 2:00 Happy Birthday, John Muir! Join him for birthday cake!
- 2:15 John Muir Conservation Awards presented & more  
Tom Leatherman, Superintendent, John Muir NHS  
John Muir Association Welcome and Special Guests
- 3:15 Music by Ancestral Waters
- 4:00 John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration Ends  
(Gates Close at 5:00 p.m.)



John Muir Mountain Day Camp Directors Susan Barry and Jill Harcke present a “Sourdough Award” to deserving campers.

### At other locations on the Site:

- Youth activities with National Park Service Rangers
- Self-guided tours of Muir’s 1882 Victorian home
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail exhibit at the Martinez Adobe
- Piano music at the house by Patty Helling



## Transitions

### New Officers

**M**ary Ann Gaebe has accepted the position of Vice President on the John Muir Association Board of Directors. She has served as Treasurer for many years. Raj Hajela has assumed the position of Treasurer, and George Turnbull is the Board's new Secretary.

### New Board Members

#### George Turnbull

**G**eorge has had a long career in the National Park Service, which he joined in 1980. Just a year later he was selected as the Western Region's first chief of information management, and he worked in that position for 13 years.



In 1994-95, George worked for the successful merger of the Pacific Northwest and Western Regions.

He transitioned into a new position as system support office superintendent for the Pacific Great Basin Support Office, and worked with staff on technical and administrative support for parks in California and Nevada.

In addition to his regional office responsibilities, George was involved in a series of park-specific assignments, including acting superintendent at San Francisco Maritime NHS, acting superintendent and deputy superintendent at Golden Gate NRA.

In 2003, George had an important role in the Pacific West Region's strategic organizational review, which led to the consolidation of park and regional office

staff supervision under four deputy regional directors. George became the deputy regional director for business practices, the position he held for his final nine years of federal service. During this time, George had a series of special assignments, and is especially proud of his role in creating and managing four new National Park units in Pacific West Region: Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front NHS, Port Chicago Naval Magazine NM, Valor in the Pacific NHS/Tule Lake Segregation Center Unit and Cesar Chavez NM.

Now retired, George has continued his passion for visiting national parks (nationally and internationally). He pursues his interests in literature, current events and everything active, especially outdoors. George and his wife Sandy have lived in the East Bay since 1980.

#### Bruce Campbell

**B**ruce has been a lifelong devotee of the great outdoors and has enjoyed many treks to the High Sierra. Upon moving to Martinez over 30 years ago, he was delighted to discover the town's connection to John Muir, whom he has always admired. Bruce has years of involvement in volunteer work and nonprofit organizations. For five years, he served on the Board of Directors for the California Bluegrass Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with approximately 2,600 members worldwide.

He brings energy and focus to his volunteer endeavors, along with skills in marketing methods, strategies and analytics. He looks forward to being a part of the board, developing ideas and helping to bring them to fruition. Both Bruce and his wife Cassie are very involved in events in Martinez. On a vacation to Scotland last year, they made a point to stop by John Muir's home town of Dunbar and "really enjoyed learning more about the roots of the man who changed history with his actions and ideas."

## Celebrating the Centennial of John Muir's Legacy

The John Muir Association hosted a reception in September to honor 100 years of John Muir's Legacy since his death on New Year's Eve in 1914. A capacity gathering assembled in the patio of the Visitor Center of the John Muir National Historic Site for wine, food and a sun-filled visit with members of the John Muir Association and other friends of John Muir. An exclusive tour of the Muir House, with special exhibits, was presented by the National Park Service staff. The event was followed by a well-attended camp fire gathering, open to the public, highlighted by tales from John Muir, portrayed by NPS Ranger Frank Helling.



The National Park Service also held a commemoration of Muir's death on Christmas Eve day at the Muir House. Speakers discussed his life, legacy and passing a century before. Muir's funeral service was held in the south parlor, where the centennial tribute took place. A hundred years before, his body lay by the room's bay windows.



Many attendees also shared their thoughts about the meaning of Muir, both to the world and in their

lives. The touching event was covered in local newspapers and television.

The Contra Costa Times article, "The allure of John Muir endures, 100 years after his death" is available to read online (dated 12-24-14) at [www.contracostatimes.com](http://www.contracostatimes.com) (type in the article name in the Search field).

## Superintendent's View

By Tom Leatherman

There is much in store for 2015 at John Muir National Historic Site and we are excited to be open seven days a week again for the upcoming spring season. More days open mean more time for people to visit the Site, learn more about the legacy of John Muir, and hopefully take some of what they learn and apply it in their own lives. Whether it is through our education programs, full moon hikes, or just talking around the campfire, we are working closely with our partners to offer engaging and fun activities for people of all ages and interests.



Our annual celebration for John Muir's Birthday and Earth Day will provide another opportunity to visit the Site and enjoy more than 50 information booths, food, music and kid's activities. If you are looking for a smaller gathering, our campfire programs and full moon hikes offer monthly opportunities to interact with our ranger staff and learn a little more about the place where John Muir lived, farmed and advocated for the preservation of protected lands. Rotating exhibits in the house allow visitors, both returning and those who have never visited, to see artifacts and papers belonging to Muir and his family. The large number of items in our collection cannot all be displayed simultaneously, but by rotating these tangible connections to the past we are able to share more than just by having static, permanent exhibits.

We are engaged in a number of planning efforts which we hope to have completed in 2015. The environmental assessment for the management of the John Muir Gravesite will be released for public comment this spring. In addition, the park staff has been working on the park's Foundation Document, a document being prepared for all 405 National Park sites around the country. These documents define the purpose and significance of a park, identify fundamental resources and values, document existing studies that have been completed, and make recommendations on additional data needs to help manage and preserve the resources and values fundamental to the park. We hope you will take some time to review and provide comments on these documents when they are available and thank the John Muir Association and all of its members for helping us to maintain and preserve this special place.



## 2014 John Muir Conservation Award Recipients

We are pleased to announce the recipients of our 2014 John Muir Conservation Awards, to be presented at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. Come and cheer them on!

### Camilla Fox

#### Conservationist of the Year

Camilla is the Founder and Executive Director of the Coyote Project, a nonprofit organization based in Marin, California. Her nomination described her as a “passionate crusader” promoting compassionate conservation and coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science and advocacy.

Project Coyote, a North American coalition of wildlife scientists, educators, predator-friendly ranchers and community leaders, works to change negative attitudes toward coyotes, wolves and other native carnivores.

### U.S. Congressman George Miller

#### Conservation Legacy Award

The John Muir Association has bestowed this award in honor of Congressman Miller’s 40 years of public service and his role as a champion of the environment and conservation in our great country.

One of the last bills he introduced during his long career was H.R. 5699 (113th): John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act. He was just 29 years old when first elected in 1974. The John Muir Association is pleased to bestow this award in honor of his distinguished career.

### River Otter Ecology Project

#### Nonprofit Conservation Award

The mission of the Project is to illustrate the linkages between the recovery of local river otter populations and healthy watersheds, and foster public and organizational participation in restoration and conservation.

The volunteer-driven organization’s goal is to secure a viable future for river otters in Central California through ecological research, environmental education and strategic restoration partnerships. Through research, the group is determining the conservation status, ecology and basic health information for river otter popu-



Photo by Tom Zamaría

Pictured are recipients of the 2013 John Muir Conservation Awards (left to right): Darren Peterie of Sonoma Birding, Legacy Award recipient Malcolm Sproul, “John Muir” (NPS Ranger Frank Helling), Sheila Bolin of The Regal Swan Foundation, Tom Rusert of Sonoma Birding, JoAnne Dunec (President, JMA), Angi Perretti of Regal Swan, Byron “Barry” Bey of the South Brunswick High School Aquaculture Program, and Tom Leatherman (Superintendent, John Muir NHS).

lations in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Project fosters its goals through research, education and the citizen-science “Otter Spotter” program.

### Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project

#### Environmental Education Conservation Award

The Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project (RVOEP) is a program of the Ukiah Unified School District, and each year more than 2,000 students (1st through 6th grade) visit the program’s 45-acre woodland site for nature-based learning.

RVOEP is not funded by the district, but is supported by the Ukiah community. All of the project’s classes tie to California State Science Standards. Students work with scientists, birding experts and other environmental educators. Fun and exciting activities connect children to nature and echo throughout the year.

### Abby Bloomfield

#### Youth Conservation Award

Abby is a junior in high school who has made significant environmental contributions to her community in Boulder, Colorado. As president of Fairview High School’s Net Zero environmental club, she has led and completed numerous projects, such as: leading an initiative to support new regulations for oil and gas production as proposed by the Air Pollution Control Division of Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, leading efforts to obtain water bottle refilling stations at her school, educating others about bees, writing a grant for fruit trees for her school, and others.

## National Park Service Centennial

By Sue Fritzke  
Deputy Superintendent  
John Muir National Historic Site

The National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday on August 25, 2016. This legacy of the conservationists of the 19th century, including our own John Muir, consists of an amazing array of 407 parks across the country.

The NPS Centennial goal is to “Connect with and Create the Next Generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.” We are gearing up to create activities and opportunities for the public—you! —to learn more about the parks here in Contra Costa County, the San Francisco Bay Area and across the country.

Staff around the country is loading information into a new park website format that is more mobile-friendly.



We will be working to reach out to the younger generation—the people who will carry us into our second century of what is “America’s Best Idea.”

One way you can help as a John Muir Association member is to provide us with your ideas about ways to connect with our local communities. We’ll have a table at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration on April 18th, so please stop by help us make this celebration a success!

*Sue Fritzke is Deputy Superintendent of the four East Bay parks: Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site, John Muir National Historic Site, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial and Rosie the Riveter/ World War II Home Front National Historical Park.*

Contact Sue at [sue\\_fritzke@nps.gov](mailto:sue_fritzke@nps.gov) or (510) 232-1542, ext. 6601.

## Register Now for John Muir Mountain Day Camp!

We are pleased to announce that John Muir Mountain Day Camp will now accept children as young as six years of age. Register your child, grandchild or extended family for this great experience infused with nature and lively fun. Camp will again feature a unique blend of hands-on crafts, activities, adventures and special guests. Join us for our 13th year!



and Helen. Campers paint, keep a journal as Muir did, and bake sourdough bread. Sign up today for a camp experience they will never forget!

Two one-week sessions of camp will be held:

- July 6 through 10
- July 13 through 17

Camp hours are from 8:30 to 3:30. Children ages 6 to 12 are welcome. The camp is held in the orchards of 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

Camp is presented by the John Muir Association and the National Park Service, and is held at the

John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Hwy 4), Martinez 94553.

Visit [www.muircamp.org](http://www.muircamp.org) for more information and an on-line registration form. For questions, contact Camp Director Jill Harcke for camp information at (925) 680-8807 or by e-mail: [jma@muircamp.org](mailto:jma@muircamp.org).

Thanks to our 2015 Camp Sponsors:  
Shell Martinez Refinery  
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**John Muir**  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2433  
Martinez, CA 94553

## Great Upcoming Events



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

Saturday, April 18th  
10 am to 4 pm

Family Fun!  
See cover story for details.

### **John Muir Mountain Day Camp**

July 6 to 10 and  
July 13 to 17

Register now!

See page 7 for details.



**2016**  
National Park Service.  
CENTENNIAL

See article, page 7.