

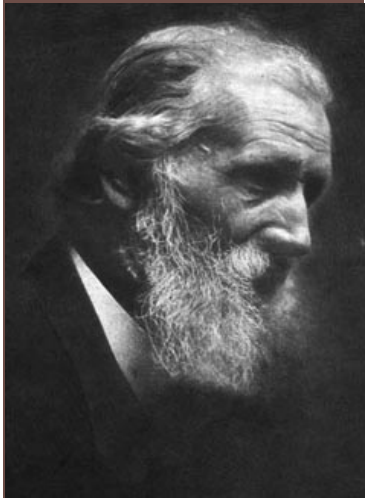


# The View

FALL 2008

...I was naturally extremely shy and had been taught to have a poor opinion of myself, as of no account, though all our neighbors encouragingly called me a genius, sure to rise in the world.

—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.

## John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration

**J**MA will present its 31st annual John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration on November 15 at the Campbell Theatre in Martinez. We are excited to announce this year's winners, one in each of four categories:

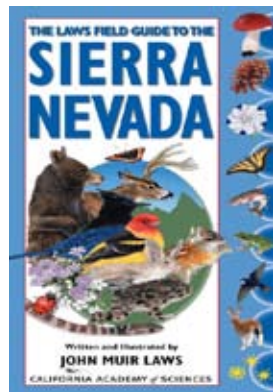
Conservationist of the Year  
Amy Meyer

Nonprofit Conservation Award  
John Muir's Birthplace

Environmental Education Award  
Brent Plater

Business Conservation Award  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Each of the winners has an inspiring story to tell of their work on behalf of the environment—endeavors that echo John Muir's efforts to preserve what's best about our planet.



Our featured speaker for the evening will be John Muir Laws, who is a well-known author, artist, naturalist and educator. He will speak on "Finding

Connection in Nature." Laws is the author of the much-praised *The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada* and *Sierra Birds: A*



John Muir Laws

*Hiker's Guide*. The former contains more than 2,700 watercolor illustrations by Laws that the *San Francisco Chronicle* has called "stunning." Laws has spent years exploring, studying, illustrating and writing about nature, and we are fortunate that he will share his enthusiasm for the outdoors with us.

We are pleased that Jo Moulin, Manager of John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar, Scotland and Dave Berry, Leader of the East Lothian Council, will be present to accept the Nonprofit Award. We hope you will be with us to give them a warm welcome.

Join us for an exciting evening with sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, Muir-Hanna wines and other beverages. All proceeds are vital to help fund the John Muir Association's important work, including community events and summer day camp for children. Tickets are just \$45 per person. The Celebration will be an opportunity to have fun and be inspired.

(Continued, next page)



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**31st Annual John Muir Conservation  
Awards Celebration  
Saturday, November 15, 2008  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Campbell Theatre  
636 Ward Street (at Estudillo)  
in Martinez, 94553**

For tickets, call Nancy at (925) 370-7158 or e-mail [info@johnmuirassociation.org](mailto:info@johnmuirassociation.org). Reservations are required; tickets will be held at the door.

A portion of each ticket (\$20.00) is tax deductible in accordance with contributions to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## JMA Welcomes Visitors from Muir's Boyhood Country

"I've always wanted to see this and here I am." Such were the words of Adam Gillingham, a visitor from Edinburgh, Scotland as he approached the entrance to John Muir's historic home. The visit was the fulfillment of a long-time goal.

Adam is a Trustee for the John Muir Birthplace Trust in Dunbar, Scotland and is a partner in law firm that does work for the John Muir Trust in Scotland. He was accompanied by his wife Susan and their children Tom (age 19), Holly (age 17) and Emily (age 14).

The John Muir Association and the National Park Service welcomed our Scottish visitors at an informal reception in the pecan orchard on the John Muir National Historic Site in July. Adam and Tom also participated in a moonlight hike on Mt. Wanda, and were serenaded with the yips and howls of a pack of coyotes.



The Gillinghams at Muir Woods, led by kilt-clad docent Doug Sides.

In November, the board will be pleased to welcome Scottish visitors Jo Moulin, John Muir's Birthplace Manager, and Dave Berry, Leader of the East Lothian Council. They will be here to accept a John Muir Conservation Award (see p. 1). Though separated by many miles, JMA and John Muir's Birthplace both embrace the goal of sharing John Muir's legacy, and what that means for a better world.

Special Thanks to the

**Willows Theatre**

and to our Sponsors

**Shell Oil Products US Martinez Refinery**

**Muir-Hanna Winery**

who made our Awards Celebration possible



The Gillinghams (left to right): Emily, Adam, Susan, Tom and Holly, with Ranger Ron Good.



Holly (in red) talks with Gladys and Ross Hanna (Ross is John Muir's grandson).

## Muir Home on the Martinez Historical Museum Home Tour

John Muir's 1882 Italianate Victorian home in Martinez was one of the homes featured on the Martinez Historical Museum Home Tour on October 11. Especially for the event, portions of the Muir home that are normally off limits to visitors were open, and new exhibits were presented.

More than 250 home tour participants visited the Muir Home. Thanks to the park service staff, docents and all the volunteers who made the event a great success.



## John Muir Camp a Lifelong Experience

Not unlike getting into the "wild," as John Muir would call it, some things have to be experienced to be truly appreciated. John Muir Mountain Day Camp is one of those experiences—one that fills the hearts and minds of young people throughout their lives.



This year, about a third of the campers returned from past years. Camp Directors Jill Harcke and Susan Barry engage children from eight to twelve in a variety of electronic-free experiences. Campers learn to enjoy life and activities in which they are not merely observers, but essential participants.



Painting, baking, singing, creating and acting in a skit, sauntering, discovering plants and animals—describing what the children learn and do pales in place of being there.

So, next year, encourage your child, grandchild or friend's child to be there.

In 2009, camp will be expanded to three one-week sessions with longer hours. Camp is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on these dates:



July 27 to July 31  
August 3 to August 7  
August 10 to August 14

**Register now for discounts!**  
Call Jill Harcke at (925) 676-6925  
or visit [www.muircamp.org](http://www.muircamp.org)

Be sure to join us for a special Camp Open House to learn all about camp and get a taste of the great experiences campers will enjoy next summer (see article at right).

## New! Muir Camp Open House

Plan to attend the John Muir Mountain Day Camp Open House on February 7, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the John Muir National Historic Site.

Camp Directors Jill Harcke and Susan Barry will be on hand to present a sample of camp activities and provide a taste of camp for children eight to twelve. Former campers and counselors will also present activities and answer questions.

Admission to the John Muir NHS and Open House is free for children under 15 (adults pay a nominal admission fee of \$3.00). The Open House will be held in the pecan orchard next to the historic Martinez Adobe.

Registrants who are members of the John Muir Association receive a \$25 discount per camper off of the \$250 fee for each child per session.

Mark your calendars—and tell friends and family to come and have some fun.



**Saturday, February 7**  
**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
John Muir National Historic Site  
4202 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez

Call Jill Harcke for information:  
(925) 676-6925.





## The View from the President's Window

By JoAnne Dunec

John Muir understood connections. As he famously wrote, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe" (*My First Summer in the Sierra*). The John Muir Association values connections as well. Along those lines, we have been strengthening familiar ties and reaching out to form new connections.

We are expanding our horizons to find ways to connect our activities with others to advance our efforts with the National Park Service to heighten the awareness of John Muir and his work, together with life at his home in Martinez. With those goals in mind, we are pleased that this year John Muir's home was part of the Second Annual Martinez Historic Home Tour on October 11. Portions of the home not usually open to the public were opened to the tour, and about 250 visitors enjoyed the experience.

Last Fall, we connected with the Farmer's Market in downtown Martinez. On a beautiful autumn day, Michael Muir—John Muir's great grandson, a John Muir Association Board Member, and the founder of Access Adventure—loaded his horse-drawn wagon with produce at the John Muir National Historic Site, just as John Muir might have done with produce from his ranch. Michael then headed to town to the Farmer's Market. Once there, he received more goods from the Martinez Farmer's Market, and headed to the waterfront. Awaiting at the dock was the *Alma*, an historic scow schooner owned and operated by the National Park Service as part of the collection of the National Maritime Museum, located at the San Francisco National Historic Maritime Park. The crew of the *Alma* received the goods for transport—just as might have occurred in John Muir's day.

Last Spring, we strengthened our connections with the community with our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. It was our fourth year of combining John Muir's Birthday celebration with Earth Day and the event drew a record-breaking 1,800 visitors to the park. The purpose of the celebration is to inspire all generations to continue in John Muir's legacy of appreciation of nature, conservation and, increasingly, sustainability. Mark



John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration 2008, with JMA President JoAnne Dunec (left), John Muir NHS Superintendent Martha Lee (center), and "John Muir," portrayed by Frank Helling.

your calendars—planning has already begun for next year's event, which will be held on April 18, 2009. Plan to come and celebrate John Muir's special day, as well as his legacy.

This Summer we continued our highly successful John Muir Mountain Day Camp, led by our Camp Directors Jill Harcke and Susan Barry, for children aged 8-12. This year, 50 children participated in the camp, which was held for two weeks in August. The day campers enjoyed activities with National Park Service staff, including a hike up Mt. Wanda (named after one of John Muir's daughters), as well as with Access Adventure. Fully one-third of the campers had attended previously and came back for more. Environmental education remains a top priority of the National Park Service

and the John Muir Association. Our collective goal is to inspire our youth with John Muir's life and legacy.

We also strengthened our ties with the first home of John Muir—Dunbar, Scotland. JMA and the National Park Service hosted Adam Gillingham, his wife Susan and their three children for a visit to the John Muir NHS. Adam is a trustee for the John Muir Birthplace Trust in Dunbar, and works as a solicitor with the John Muir Trust. Enjoy the photos on page 2.

JMA celebrated its publication of *The John Muir National Historic Site California Native Plant Garden Coloring Book and Garden Guide* on October 24. The *Guide* was published in memory of Susan Holland and Ray Egbert. Many of the *Guide*'s artists and the garden's volunteers came together to sign books and enjoy the evening.

We are very excited that our John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration will be held soon—on Saturday November 15, 2008 (see article on the front page). At our last presentation for the 2007 awards, it was a moving and uplifting experience to hear the accomplishments of the award recipients. In addition, we are pleased that artist, author and naturalist John Muir Laws (no relation) will be our featured speaker for the Celebration. Please join us for a wonderful evening—and plan to be inspired.

Our thanks again to all our sponsors and volunteers, who are invaluable in helping to make our events and programs successful, and our enduring thanks to all of our members for their enthusiasm and support. Please continue to participate in "hitching John Muir's legacy to everything else in the Universe"!

# The John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration 2008

An enthusiastic 1,800 visitors enjoyed this year’s Earth Day event, presented by the John Muir Association and the National Park Service. This year’s theme, “Healthy Planet, Healthy You,” emphasized the connection between the state of our planet and the state of our own well being.

Highlights included a visit from “John Muir,” as portrayed by Ranger

Frank Helling, and JMA Board Member Michael Muir’s Access Adventure horses. Entertainment, visits to the Muir home, hikes, a run, and a slice of birthday cake added to the festivities. Exhibitors provided information and activities for all ages. The Recycled Fashion Show was a hit for participants and the audience. The event is free, and planning is already under way for next year’s event.

Thank you to our sponsors for making the Celebration possible: Martinez Community Foundation, Shell Oil Products US Martinez Refinery, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 302, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Whole Foods and Allied Waste. Save the date and plan to join us next year!



Michael Muir

Photos these pages by Tom Zamaria

## Help Us Present John Muir Birthday–Earth Day 2009

Presenting a large event is gratifying, but it also takes time and effort. The more who help, the easier it is for everyone. Share your skills and time with JMA and help us with this great community event for 2009.

Help with organization, choose a specific task, or just help out the day of the event. Whatever you can do will be appreciated.

Please call the John Muir Association at (925) 229-3857 or e-mail [info@johnmuirassociation.org](mailto:info@johnmuirassociation.org) if you can help.

Save the Date!  
Saturday, April 18, 2009  
for another great John Muir Birthday–Earth Day





## Superintendent's View

By Martha Lee

We've seen a year of changes, as 2008 has seen two staff members move on, and three new employees join our great team.

Deputy Superintendent Rick Smith retired last June, capping 33 years with the National Park Service.



Tom Zamaria

Chief of Cultural Resources Lucy Lawliss moved to her new position as Superintendent of George Washington Birthplace National Monument, in Virginia, and the Thomas Stone National Historic Site in Maryland.



Tom Zamaria

Rick Smith

We miss both of them and wish them luck in all their life pursuits.

I am delighted to welcome those who have recently joined us, and are already hard at work learning the numerous responsibilities of running our four parks—John Muir National Historic Site, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, and Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial.



Tom Zamaria

Lucy Lawliss

Tom Leatherman came to work with us as our new deputy superintendent, filling Rick Smith's shoes. Tom transferred from Manzanar National Historic Site in Independence, California, where he has been superintendent since 2005. Manzanar protects and interprets the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as highlights a cultural resources program that looks at the long human history of the site.

In October, Tom was recognized as the 2007 Superintendent of the Year for Cultural Resources stewardship in our Region.



Tom Leatherman

Ric Borjes has joined us as our new Chief of Cultural Resources. With his wealth of experience, his knowledge of the preservation world and his contacts throughout the area and the state, we are truly lucky to have lured him across the Bay.



Ric Borjes

Ric was formerly the Federal Preservation Officer for the Presidio

Trust in San Francisco, where he was involved with major historic building rehabilitation projects. From 1989 to 2005, he worked at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, advancing to the position of Chief of Cultural Resources and Museum Management. Ric has a degree in architecture from the University of Colorado.

The last of our recent hires to join the management team is Ralph Bell. He will be our new four-park Chief of Facilities Management. Ralph will join us in November. Ralph has worked for the National Park Service for 25 years. For the last two years, he has been serving as the Facility Manager at Manzanar NHS. Prior to Manzanar, Ralph worked for 20 years at Mount Rainier National Park. He is a Critical Incident Stress Management team leader for the NPS.

Please join us in welcoming them.

**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 programs focusing on 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.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Benefactor</b>   | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family/Joint</b> | \$50 |
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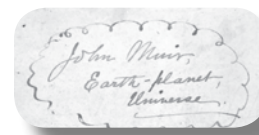
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- Check (Please make check payable to the John Muir Association)
- Visa
- MasterCard



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**

## New Book Helps Bring California Natives Home

The John Muir Association is proud to present the *John Muir National Historic Site Coloring Book and Garden Guide* for those curious about native plants. The book identifies and describes the characteristics for the plants in the California Native Plant Garden at the John Muir NHS visitor center.

in memory of Egbert and long-time JMA Board Member Susan Holland.



Pick up a copy of the Coloring Book and Garden Guide at the John

Muir NHS visitor center bookstore. The book is available for a small donation (suggested amount: \$5.00). The proceeds will go toward the John Muir Association.

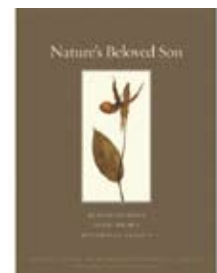
The John Muir NHS and visitor center are open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For bookstore information, phone (925) 228-8860.

The *Guide* will give visitors a way to learn about the plants, their names and how to use them to enhance their own home gardens. Children will enjoy coloring and drawing plants in the book as well. The interpretive book was published in part with funds collected in tribute to the dedicated John Muir volunteer gardener, Ray Egbert. The book is produced

## Nature's Beloved Son Book Signing

Bonnie Gisel and Stephen Joseph will present and sign copies of their lovely new book, *Nature's Beloved Son, Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy* at the Muir Heritage Land Trust's Annual Celebration. Plan to drop by and enjoy complimentary wine and appetizers.

November 13th  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
McMahon-Telfer Building  
604 Ferry Street  
Martinez 94553



Please RSVP to:  
ellen@muirheritagelandtrust.org  
For more information, call the Land Trust at (925) 228-5460.

The book is also available at the John Muir NHS bookstore.



P.O. Box 2433  
Martinez, CA 94553

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## A Special Bird Program for Children—Sign Up Now!

The John Muir National Historic Site will be hosting an educational program about birds for children ages 6 to 12 on November 8 at 10:00 a.m. The program will be presented by Diana Granados of Native Bird Connections. Diana is a former JMA Board Member and a former Lindsay Wildlife Museum employee. She founded the nonprofit education organization, Native Bird Connections, in 2000. This organization rescues and rehabilitates injured wild birds. Just this last spring, Diana came to the Site to rescue an injured red-tailed hawk found in the orchards.

Rescued birds that are not releasable become “partners” for the organization and are used in educational programs. Through these presentations, people not only learn about birds, but also about environmental appreciation.

Diana Granados has been very active in the work of conservation for many years. She has been recognized with numerous awards including JMA’s John Muir Conservation Award and the Al McNabney Environmental Distinction Award.

Please bring your children to this



wonderful event. Not only will they see live birds, but they will also get a chance to see and touch bird feet, feathers, wings, and skulls. The program is free. Seating is limited to 30 children so please call the John Muir NHS to make a reservation at (925) 228-8860. —Cheryl Abel

Plan to Join Us at the John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration  
Saturday, November 15, 2008