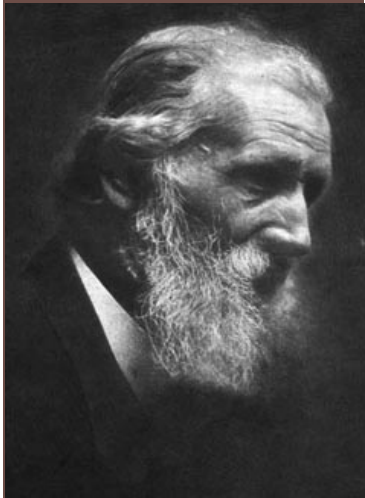




The View

SPRING 2009

Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.
—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.

Gary Bogue to Join Us for Our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration



Columnist Gary Bogue is our featured speaker at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration on April 18. His friend is an acorn woodpecker.

Learn how to conserve every day to help protect the planet and lessen the strain on your

A day of fun is just what is needed to welcome the renewal of spring. Enjoy some great outdoor activities and entertainment at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration on April 18th.

We are delighted that this year the much-beloved Pet and Wildlife Columnist Gary Bogue (for the *Contra Costa Times* and other Bay Area News Group papers) will be our featured speaker. He will chat with us about “Animals in the Urban Wilderness.”

Don't miss Gary, enjoyable live music and many other fun activities for children and adults. You'll also meet Michael Muir, John Muir's great grandson, along with the magnificent horses that are an integral part of his work with Access Adventure. Our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day invites as exhibitors public agencies and nonprofit organizations that help the earth be a better place to live for all of us.

pocketbook. Take a tour of the 1882 Muir Home, stroll up Mt. Wanda, and visit the 1849 Martinez Adobe. More than 50 booths will offer activities for children and adults. John Muir himself, as portrayed by National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling, will tell true tales and share his birthday cake with guests.



Judy Potter

The John Muir Association (JMA) presents this popular event in conjunction with the National Park Service each year, and everyone is welcome. We are able to offer this event for free due to the generous support of our sponsors. So far this year, they are: Allied Waste, the Bay Area Air

(Continued, next page)



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www.nps.gov/jomu

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Quality Management District, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 302. Our silent auctions also help to support this event and the JMA's other events and programs, so please bid generously on your favorite items! If you have an item to donate, call JMA at (925) 229-3857.

Lunch and beverages will be available for purchase. Bring your own reusable water bottle! Each year, an estimated 80 percent of disposable plastic water bottles end up in the landfills and the ocean's huge waste "islands." This year, we decided to encourage the earth-happy habit of refilling your own bottles, and will not be selling bottled water. Two water fountains are available on site.

As always, admission and parking are free. Bring your children, parents, distant cousins and friends. See the Program Schedule (opposite page) for more details.

Magical History Tour a Success

John Muir's home in Martinez was the oldest among the homes on the Martinez Historical Home Tour last October, and more than 250 visitors enjoyed seeing areas of the home not usually open to the public.

John Muir Association Board Member Michael Muir (John Muir's great grandson) was on hand with his wheelchair-accessible, horse-drawn carriage.

John Muir's seventeen-room late Victorian home (Italianate style) at the John Muir National Historic Site was considered one of the most elegant houses in the county when it was built. Dr. John Strentzel and his wife Louisiana, John Muir's parents-in-law, had the two-story house constructed in 1882. Muir and his wife Louie moved into the home in 1890, after Dr. Strentzel's death.

The 10,000 square-foot house's basic structure has remained largely unaltered since Muir's time. Muir's "scribble den" is furnished with his original desk, where he penned many works that paved the way to preserve our nation's most beautiful natural lands, or "wild places," as Muir might say.

In the 1950s, the Muir Home was saved from destruction by two courageous and dedicated individuals, Faire and Henry Saxe. The John Muir Memorial Association (now JMA) was founded in 1956 to aid them in saving the house.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

Allied Waste

**Bay Area Air Quality
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Electrical Workers Local Union
302**



Historic photo of the
Muir Home

John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration Program Schedule

April 18, 2009 • 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue in Martinez

The following schedule is subject to change. Please check our website a week before the event for the final schedule and program: www.johnmuirassociation.org. Grey skies and a few sprinkles won't stop us, but heavy rain cancels. Call the John Muir NHS the day of the event if you're not sure: (925) 228-8860.

- 10.00 a.m. Gates Open
- 10:00 a.m. First Silent Auction Opens ~ bidding closes at 12:30 p.m.
- 10:30 a.m. Front Gate ~ Horse-Drawn Carriage and Bagpiper Procession
- 11:00 a.m. Stage ~ Piedmont Highlanders Pipe Band
- 11:30 a.m. Mt. Wanda Nature Walk ~ led by NPS Ranger Cheryl Abel (meet in front of the Adobe)
- 11:30 a.m. Stage ~ WELCOME ~ Igor Skaredoff, Master of Ceremonies
Martha Lee, Park Superintendent, John Muir NHS
JoAnne Dunec, President, John Muir Association
John Muir (NPS Ranger Frank Helling)
- Noon Stage ~ Recycled Fashion Show presented by John Swett Elementary School
- 12:45 p.m. Stage ~ Music by Extended Roots
- 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 ~ John Muir Birthday Celebration
Guest Speaker Gary Bogue
John Muir stories (Ranger Frank Helling)
Muir family members
Martha Lee, NPS Superintendent
Other dignitaries
John Muir birthday cake
- 3:15 p.m. Stage ~ Music by Extended Roots
- 4:00 p.m. Event Ends



Photos this page except Muir House by Tom Zammaria

Other Activities

More than 50 environmental exhibitors with children's activities

Collect stamps for a chance to win a National Parks pass!

Food and beverages available for purchase



At the Muir House

Self-guided tours with
Patty Helling at the piano
Spinning Wheel musical group

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 lot (Alhambra Avenue at D Street) or the Martinez Adult Education lot (600 Alhambra Avenue at F Street). Shuttles will be available.

Please bring your own refillable water bottle!



John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration an International Event

The 31st annual John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration last November was a sparkling, amusing, heart-filling evening. Well-known naturalist, author, artist and educator John Muir Laws spoke on "Finding Connection in Nature." **Jill Harcke** and **Susan Barry** received special recognition for their work with the John Muir Mountain Day Camp. Two representatives from John Muir's hometown of Dunbar, Scotland attended, to make the event even more memorable. Nominations are open for the 2009 awards; check our website. Please join us for our 32nd Annual Celebration on November 7! The 2008 recipients:

Amy Meyer, Conservationist of the Year for her work establishing the Golden Gate National Recreation Area as a founder of People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area

John Muir's Birthplace, Nonprofit Conservation Award for inspiring people worldwide to follow in John Muir's footsteps

Brent Plater, Environmental Education Award for founding and directing the 2007-08 Golden Gate National Recreation Area Endangered Species Big Year

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Business Conservation Award in recognition of PG&E's Environmental Stewardship Program



Clockwise from top left:

John Muir Laws (right) with guest **Elaine Jackson**; JMA President **JoAnne Dunec** (left) with **Amy Meyer**; Camp Director **Jill Harcke**; **Peter Brastow** accepting for the honeymooning **Brent Plater**; **JoAnne** with **Diane Ross-Leech**, accepting for PG&E; **David Berry**, Leader of the East Lothian Council, Dunbar; **Jo Moulin**, Manager of John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar, Scotland; Muir Camp Counselors **Caitlin** (left) and **Megan**. We were delighted that our Scottish representatives traveled "across the pond" to attend!

Award photos by Robert Perry

Spring at the John Muir National Historic Site

Wildflower Walks

Join a National Park Service ranger for a free early morning wildflower walk. The two-hour walk will be a gentle saunter up Mt. Wanda to look for wildflowers as they awaken in the morning sun. More than 82 species of native plants have been identified on Mt. Wanda, such as shooting stars, California buttercups, purple Chinese houses, mule's ears and the Butterfly Mariposa lily. Wildflower Walks begin at 9:00 a.m. on:



March 28
April 11
April 25
May 2

Bird Walks

Come join a NPS ranger for a morning bird walk up Mt. Wanda. From soaring raptors to brightly colored songbirds, a variety of animals of the feathered kind live on Mt. Wanda. See, hear and enjoy them on this saunter in the morning air. Bird Walks begin at 8:30 a.m. on:



March 21
May 9—International Migratory Bird Day

Bringing Back the Natives Tour

On May 3, John Muir NHS will feature the California Native Plant Garden for the first time in Bringing Back the Natives Tour, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Garden is located in front of the John Muir NHS Visitor's Center.



Bring your children to participate in a native plant scavenger hunt and to make native plant journals.

For the walks on Mt. Wanda, meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4). Bring water and binoculars (if you have them). Wear good walking shoes because the trail is steep. Heavy rain cancels.

For more information on any of these events, go to www.nps.gov/jomu or call (925) 228-8860.

Register Now for John Muir Mountain Day Camp—New Hours!

At the John Muir Mountain Day Camp, kids have a great time while they learn about John Muir, and how his legacy is still helping the earth be a healthier, more beautiful place to live. Each week is packed with fun and informative activities, such as exploring nature trails, painting, baking sourdough bread, journaling as Muir did, and discovering local plants and animals.

New this year is extended hours! Although tuition is only a few dollars more than last year, campers will



enjoy nearly three more hours of camp each day. Camp is Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 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...

John Muir Mountain Day Camp is sponsored by the John Muir Association and the National Park Service, and is held in the pecan orchard at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Hwy 4), Martinez 94553.



For more information or to register, call Camp Director Jill Harcke at (925) 676-6925 or visit www.muircamp.org.

Registration is open now. This year, we are offering three sessions, each a week long:

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

Nature's Beloved Son—Celebrating John Muir

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.



Photographer Steven Joseph

In a first-ever collaboration, the Yosemite Association, the John Muir Association and the National Park Service showcased 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 and his notes about them. Author Bonnie J. Gisel, and photographer Stephen Joseph joined forces to track down these collections—no easy feat.



Author Bonnie Gisel

The Celebration's attendees were astounded at the beauty and condition of the actual botanical specimens Muir collected in the 1860s. They learned what a painstaking labor of love the creation of *Nature's Beloved Son* was for both author and photographer. The event was held on February 28, and the JMA Board Members and guests enjoyed the collaboration and camaraderie with our friends at the Yosemite Association.



Nature's Beloved Son is available in the John Muir NHS bookstore and at Heyday Books.



Superintendent's View

By Martha Lee

Left to exist as it is, in its own seasonal rhythms and cycles, the wild land is truly an incalculable resource.
—Lady Bird Johnson



Tom Zammaria

As I write this column, I am on the coast of central Oregon, watching a surf scoter diving under breaking waves and an oyster catcher searching for tidbits along the rocks. The last several days I have been driving north along the California and Oregon coasts — and I spent the day yesterday in Redwood State and National Parks. In the heart of the Lady Bird Johnson Grove, John Muir and William Kent are recognized in the text of a wayside exhibit. Their early work to preserve wild places was cited as a precursor to the establishment of Redwood National Park in 1968. My short hikes through magnificent, primeval redwood forests (did you know that less than four percent of old growth redwood forests remain today?), stops in visitor centers, and walks along a series of deserted beaches over the last couple of days have again reminded me of how lucky we are to be the beneficiaries of visionaries like John Muir! I am also humbled, honored, and energized by the responsibility and opportunity we have in our park to promote the legacy of John Muir as inspiration and call to action for us all.

Here at John Muir National Historic Site, as we work in partnership with the John Muir Association, we are excited about the many wonderful possibilities ahead for us in 2009. The first of these already happened, as the John Muir Association, Yosemite Association, and National Park Service hosted our first joint event on February 28 (details on page 5 in this newsletter). We hope this is just the first of many opportunities to explore and strengthen the connections

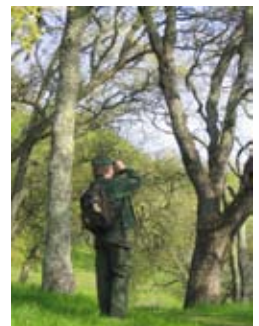


Naomi Torres

between Yosemite National Park and John Muir National Historic Site—two places that were at the center of John Muir's life and heart.

There have been more staffing changes for the National Park Service in recent months. In early 2009, Naomi Torres, our Chief of Interpretation, Education and Outreach, was selected to be the new Superintendent of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. While Naomi was only with our parks in the East Bay for a little over a year, we are most appreciative of her contributions in helping move the division of interpretation forward and modeling collaborative relationships. We are delighted, too, that we will still be working with her in the coming year, as the John Muir National Historic Site is going to be host to new exhibits about the Anza Expedition in the Martinez Adobe. We will miss her day-to-day smiling presence and know she will be a great leader with the NPS. We are working on hiring a new Chief of Interpretation and hope to have someone here by early summer.

Ranger Cheryl Abel participated recently in the Great Backyard Bird Count at John Muir's home, as she has done for the last several years. In little over an hour, she saw 24 different species in the orchards, including flocks of cedar waxwings and robins. As I look forward to a day of coastal birding and walks in wild places, I encourage all of you to go outdoors and spend some quiet time with nature. Whether it is on Mt. Wanda, at Redwood State and National Park, or in your own backyard, make a connection, breathe deep, and see what you see!



Cheryl Abel

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.

- | | | | |
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| <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_____ | |

Name(s)

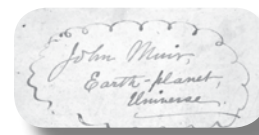
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Please mail this form and your tax-deductible donation to:

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

Changes in John Muir Association Board

Last fall, John Muir Association (JMA) Board Member Mark Westwind left the Board of Directors to concentrate on business pursuits. We appreciated his three years of service, especially his work with last year’s John Muir Mountain Day Camp, his efforts with the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Festival, and assistance with our database. We wish him well.

Steve Pardieck joined the Board last year, and we welcome his active participation. Steve is retired from a career at the Environmental Protection Agency, and his expertise and skills will be a great asset to JMA.

Steve jumped in by offering to organize this year’s John Muir

Birthday–Earth Day Celebration, taking over from JMA Vice President Nancy Schaefer. We are grateful for his willingness to take on this important event, and look forward to working with him for a long time to come.



Pick up a copy of our *California Native Plant Garden Coloring Book and Garden Guide* in the John Muir NHS bookstore!

Ken Burns’s *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*

Ken Burns’s new documentary, a twelve-hour, six-part series entitled *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*, will be aired this fall on PBS. The series prominently features John Muir, who, according to the PBS website, was a “mountain prophet who found inspiration in Yosemite and then inspired generations of parks enthusiasts.”

“Over six years in the making,” according to PBS, “The National Parks is a visual feast, featuring some of the most extensive, breathtaking images of our national park system ever captured on film.”

Be sure to watch this stunning series. Check your local listings for air dates and times.



P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553

Mark Your Calendar for these Great John Muir Association Events and Programs



Gary Bogue Joins Us for John Muir Birthday–Earth Day

Saturday, April 18, 2009

10: 00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez

See cover article for more information.



John Muir Mountain Day Camp

From July 27 to August 14

NEW: Extended hours!

John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez

Sign up now for this remarkable day camp for children.

See page 5 for more information. (Photo: Ross Hanna, John Muir's grandson, with camper.)



32nd Annual John Muir Conservation Awards Celebration

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Campbell Theatre in Martinez

An evening to remember. . .

Don't miss the article about the 2008 awards on page 4.