

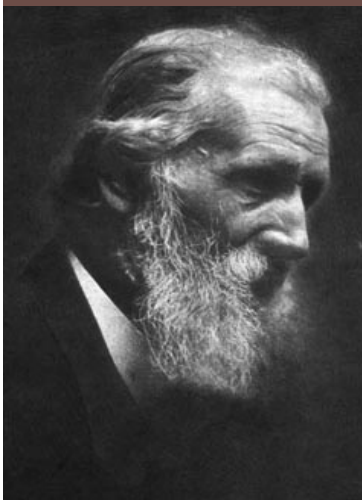


The View

FALL 2011

*Civilization and fever and
all the morbidness that has
been hooted at me have
not dimmed my glacial
eye, and I care to live only
to entice people to look at
Nature's loveliness.*

—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.

Spotlight Muir! Celebrates our 34th Annual John Muir Conservation Awards

Nature provides refuge from the dispiriting struggles we face every day, a place to “wash your spirit clean,” as John Muir said. Yet people today—and their children—spend less time outdoors.

When a generation fails to find a connection to nature, the desire to protect our wild places can also be lost. What becomes of our beautiful natural lands, the wildlife that depends on them and the healing power of the outdoors is dependent on us now—on the seeds we plant to bring people and nature together.



Robert Perry

The good news is that many individuals and organizations are working, as John Muir did, to ensure that nature has a place in our lives now and in the future. For more than three decades, the John Muir Association has recognized some of them with the John Muir Conservation Award.

To understand what people can accomplish when their passion serves nature and the planet, please join us for Spotlight Muir! This is an evening like no other, one that elevates your spirit in difficult times, one that inspires

a bit of hope and enlightenment. And we have fun, too. Our featured speaker is **David Loeb**, Executive Director/Publisher of Bay Nature magazine and a past John Muir Conservation Award recipient.



David Loeb

Your participation supports the John Muir Association and our mission to help people understand the relevance of John Muir's message in today's world.

Enjoy sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, tasty wines and an inspiring evening. Tickets are \$40. Special thanks to the Willows Theatre and to our sponsor, Shell Oil Products, US Martinez Refinery.

For tickets: Call Mary Ann at (925) 228-1210 or visit our website, www.johnmuirassociation.org. Reservations are required by October 31st; 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.

Reserve your tickets now!
Saturday, November 5, 2011
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Campbell Theatre
636 Ward Street (at Estudillo)
Martinez 94553



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Tom Leatherman,
General Superintendent

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JMA Welcomes New Board Member

Gay Gerlack

We are pleased Gay has joined the JMA Board of Directors, because she personifies the phrase, “to get something done, ask a busy person to do it.” She owns two businesses: Sewabration and Gay Gerlack Designs, and is the former owner of Encore Gymnastics. She is very active in the community and serves as a Commissioner on the Park, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission as well as on the Board of Directors for several organizations. She is the newsletter Editor for Martinez Historical Society and Kiwanis of Martinez and volunteers with many local groups. Gay has been married to her husband Ken for 47 years, and has two grown daughters and five grandchildren. She loves to dance, travel and design. She has visited every state in the union except for North Dakota.



Scott Follows His Passion

Scott Artis is following his passion and has accepted the position of Development and Communications Director at the Sequoia Rangeland Trust. His new job and move to Central California means he is leaving our board, and he will be missed. We wish Scott luck and success as he embarks on this new adventure.

In Memorium

Mildred Irene “Millie” Stanley

Millie Stanley—a Muir scholar and Wisconsin historian—passed away last February at the age of 90 in Montello, Wisconsin. She was the author of the well-known book about John Muir’s life entitled *The Heart of Muir’s World: Wisconsin, Family & Wilderness Discovery*. The book was first published in 1995, and had a second printing in 1996. A local John Muir historical preservation organization published a special limited edition in 2010.



Millie moved to Wisconsin from her native Chicago in 1962. She lived in the Pardeeville area for 40 years—only about a mile from John Muir’s home. She researched his life, analyzed original documents and conducted scores of interviews for the biography.

According to the John Muir Exhibit, Millie shows the human side of Muir in her book. She noted that “Wherever he went, this man of personal magnetism made lasting friendships with people from all walks of life. He carried on a voluminous correspondence with his legions of friends, colleagues, fellow scientists, fellow activists, and his family.” Millie’s scholarly illumination of Muir’s life and family relationships is an important addition to the body of knowledge about the influential man.

John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration



The 2011 John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration was another hit with nearly 2,300 children and adults of all ages. They enjoyed a talk about wild cats by Zara McDonald of the Felidae Conservation Fund, who also brought puma ambassadors (costumed bipeds, below) to delight the crowd. Guests also enjoyed John Muir’s birthday cake; Muir was portrayed by National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling.

Each year, the John Muir Association presents this event in partnership with the John Muir National Historic Site. Visitors not only learn about how to be “green,” we hope they are inspired by John Muir’s life and thought-provoking views, such as: “After a

whole day in the woods, we are already immortal.” Photographs are by Tom Zamaria.



A big THANK YOU to our sponsors:

- Allied Waste
- Cal Organics
- City of Martinez
- Shell Oil Products, US Martinez Refinery



Martinez Home Tour Featured John Muir NHS

The Muir home and Martinez Adobe were both included on the Martinez Historical Society Home Tour on Saturday, October 8th. The 1882 Muir home is in the Italianate style of late Victorian architecture. The 1849 adobe is the oldest home in Martinez. Seven other lovely homes were included on the tour. Information about the tour is available at www.MartinezHomeTour.com.



Photos this page by Tom Zamaria

Tom Zamaria



Superintendent's View

By Tom Leatherman

We are OPEN! The newly renovated Visitor Center was dedicated on September 24th with a ribbon cutting attended by more than 60 people. In addition to the amazing changes to the building (see box), we also celebrated being open seven days a week with no entrance fee. Now everyone can visit the site, free of charge, any day of the week to learn about, and be inspired by, John Muir and his legacy.

In the coming months, we will focus on exterior accessibility improvements, repaving the parking lot and replacing the adjacent fence and exit gate. These improvements will make our park both more accessible and welcoming. We hope that all of you will take the opportunity to stop by—especially those who have not visited lately—to see the changes and gain new inspiration from John Muir. Consider a lunch break visit. John Muir NHS is the perfect place to get away for an hour or a day.

John Muir National Historic Site Visitor Center Remodel

Sustainable, Green, & Environmentally Friendly Equipment & Products

- Energy Efficient LED Lighting
- Occupancy Sensor Switches
- Solar Light Tubes and Skylights
- Point Of Use Water Heaters
- Timed Faucets
- Dual Flush Toilets
- High Efficiency Electric Hand Dryers
- High Efficiency Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System
- Non Electric Dual Height Water Fountain
- Bamboo Wood Flooring
- Carpet Tiles
- Linoleum flooring
- Low VOC Paint
- Formaldehyde Free Insulation
- Fiber Cement Lap Exterior Siding



Luther Bailey

John Muir National Historic Site General Superintendent and John Muir Association President JoAnne Dunec cut the ribbon to re-open the newly remodeled Visitor Center. Numerous dignitaries attended, along with the general public. The Visitor Center was dedicated on September 24, 2011.

Mural Project Donors Needed

In cooperation with the National Park Service, New Leaf students and muralist Christopher Castle are raising funds to create a mural depicting John Muir that will enhance the John Muir National Historic Site. We thank following individuals who have contributed to date; additional donors are welcome:

Anonymous, Sherida Bush and Tim Platt, Friends of Alhambra Creek, Mary Ann Gaebe, Hulet Hornbeck, Michael F. Hughes, Robert Schroder, Jerry M. Travis

If you would like to contribute, please send your check (payable to the John Muir Association) to: John Muir Association, P.O. Box 2433, Martinez, CA 94553

John Muir Mountain Day Camp To Return in 2012

With great regret, the John Muir Association Board of Directors had to cancel John Muir Mountain Day Camp this year due to unforeseen circumstances. Our camp directors are all the more eager to plan an exciting camp for next year. For general information about the camp, visit www.muircamp.org.

John Muir's Birthplace Goes from Strength to Strength

By Will Collin, Trustee

In July, Dunbar welcomed Frank and Carol Walsh, Goodwill Ambassadors from Martinez. Appropriately, a reception was held in John Muir's Birthplace, felicitations and gifts were exchanged and the visitors were shown round the three-story building. "We were very, very impressed with what they've done," Frank told the Martinez-News-Gazette. 'They' are the Birthplace trustees who took over ownership in 1998.

Before then, the top story housed a 1970s recreation of what the interior might have looked like in Muir's time. Its appeal was limited as was the space available. Faced with a choice of presenting his life and modern relevance, looking back to his time in Dunbar, or a bit of both, the trustees chose the first of these. Sadly, that meant removing the museum but it was felt that it had served its purpose.

The small 18th century town house was converted into a 21st century interpretative centre telling the story of Muir's life and legacy. It opened



An exhibition to celebrate Year of the Homecoming at John Muir's Birthplace.

on August 23 2003. Annual visits, averaging 1,500 before the makeover, now exceed 12,000. August 2011 visits totalled 2,331.



Prince Charles leaves the Birthplace, accompanied by Manager Jo Moulin and Trustee Liz McLean, June 2009.

Repeat visits, rare in the old museum, are now much more common. Visitors' book comments (following) have been hugely complimentary, as were the visits of HRH Prince Charles in 2009 and HRH Prince Edward in 2008.

The use of modern technology allows hands-on experiences for all ages and is particularly attractive to young people. Technology also dramatically increases the amount of information which can be presented. The house's small garden is now an education/



A drop-in workshop at John Muir's Birthplace.

exhibition room capable of accommodating a school class. Its walls are in regular use by local art groups and for mounting special exhibitions. Its flexible space allows workshops for young people on Friday afternoons and during school holidays, and visits by school and other groups throughout the year.

Birthplace trustees and staff are thinking ahead to 2013, the centenary of the publication of *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* and the 10th anniversary of John Muir's Birthplace. There will be exhibitions and special events. If you are coming to the UK that, or any, year pay Dunbar a visit. We will be delighted to welcome you.

More information on the work of John Muir's Birthplace is on www.jmbt.org.uk and www.muirbirthplacefriends.org.uk

- SE, 8.2.11, "So wonderful to get a deeper sense of John Muir's life and legacy. Thank you."
- CA, W Yorks, 8.22.11, "Very enlightening. What a man!"
- GS, London, 8.23.11, "Excellent – learnt loads!! What an amazing man!!"
- AG, Edinburgh, 9.8.11, "Absolutely wonderful museum. Will come again and make sure the family come along. Thank you."
- MC, San Francisco, 9.4.11, "Fine presentation. May he become better known everywhere."
- G McG, Livingston, "Great exhibition. Need to come back another day. So much to see."
- Sacred Heart Primary School, W Lothian, 9.7.11, "Students found out lots of interesting facts. Thank you for your patience. Excellent facility!"



Visitor Center and Collection Acquisition Campaign Donors

John Muir realized the power of uniting people in a common effort. By combining our resources, the John Muir Association and the National Park Service have accomplished a first-ever renovation of the Visitor Center at the John Muir National Historic Site.

The John Muir Association's contribution would not have been possible without generous donations from individuals, organizations, foundations and businesses. We honor the following donors who contributed to the Visitor Center and collection acquisition campaigns:

Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) (\$10,000 and above)

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Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) (\$5,000 up to \$10,000)

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Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) (\$500 up to \$1,000)

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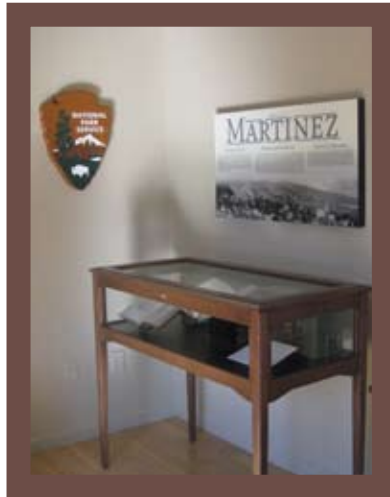
¹ Per a letter dated February 3, 1998, the donation was made in memory of his mother-in-law Jean Hanna Clark, granddaughter of John Muir, and his wife Isabel de Lipkau Gainss, great-granddaughter of John Muir, and on behalf of his children: Camille Anderson, great-great-granddaughter of John Muir, her children Connor and Sean Anderson, great-great-grandsons of John Muir; Leonard Gaines, great-great-grandson of John Muir; Renee Fisher, great-great-granddaughter of John Muir; and Robert Gaines, great-great-grandson of John Muir.

**California Buckeye
(Aesculus californica)
(\$100 up to \$500)**

John and Cheryl Abel
Maclan and Alice Alderette
Scott and Heather Artis
Stephen Brown, FastFrame
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Sherida Bush and Tim Platt
John and Barbara Capener
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Edward, Norma, Andrea and Juliet
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P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553

The View from the President's Window

By JoAnne Dunec

The power of imagination makes us infinite.—John Muir

On September 24, 2011, National Public Lands Day, we literally cut the ribbon to celebrate the Grand Opening of the newly renovated Visitor Center. By combining forces, the John Muir Association and the National Park Service were able to accomplish what neither could accomplish alone—a true public/private partnership. The National Park Service was able to procure federal appropriations and the John Muir Association was able to contribute the generous donations made through the capital campaigns related to the Visitor Center. We will continue to work collaboratively with the National Park Service on interpretive exhibits and other matters which illuminate the life and legacy of John Muir.

And speaking of John Muir's legacy, be sure to join us for this year's **Spotlight Muir!**, where we will present the 34th annual John Muir Conservation Awards, to be held on November 5, 2011 at the Campbell Theatre in Martinez. John Muir advocated the protection of places

of spectacular beauty and wildness and his actions have inspired generations to continue his work. The mission of the John Muir Association is to support the National Park Service in making the John Muir National Historic Site a center for education, inspiration, and advocacy of the legacy of John Muir. In keeping with this mission, each year since 1978, we have honored those who continue John Muir's legacy of environmental stewardship and preservation.



JMA President JoAnne Dunec speaks at the Visitor Center Dedication; to her right is John Muir NHS General Superintendent Tom Leatherman.

Spotlight Muir! will commence with this year's guest speaker, David Loeb, Executive Director/Publisher of Bay Nature magazine, followed by presentations by each award recipient (*see page 1*). It is always an inspiring evening and not to be missed!