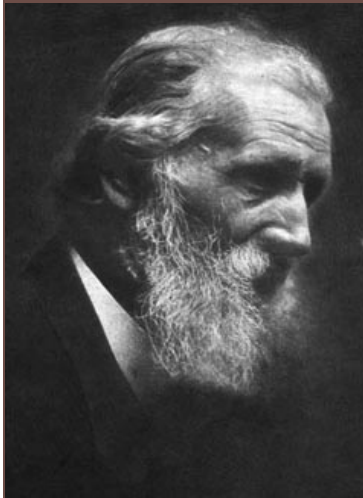


## Get Your Muir On

*Most wild animals get into the world and out of it without being noticed.*

*Nevertheless we at last sadly learn that they are all subject to the vicissitudes of fortune like ourselves.*

—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.

**C**elebrate our beautiful planet on April 21st, John Muir's 174th birthday. Bring your family and friends for a festive day outdoors at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. Admission is free.

Enjoy live entertainment, self-guided tours of the 1882 Victorian Muir home, a nature walk with Doc Hale and National Park Service Junior Ranger activities. Our Keynote Speaker this year is Rona Zollinger, co-founder of the New Leaf: A Sustainable Living Collaborative at the Martinez Unified School District.

So much is new at the John Muir NHS; if you haven't visited in awhile, you'll experience our renovated Visitor Center and expanded California Native Plant



Garden (the John Muir Association is proud to have made significant contributions to these great projects). In addition, the Muir Home features new exhibits, including a series of special rotating exhibits that include artifacts from the park's extensive collection. On display now is "John Muir the Inventor" (*see article, page 7*).

The Celebration includes live music played by Spinning Wheel, The Hopeful Romantics, Extended Roots, Cal Revels and Ancestral Waters. Two silent auctions will offer a variety of items, and the proceeds will benefit the John Muir Association, which is hosting the event in partnership with the National Park Service. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

**Saturday, April 21st**  
**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**at the**  
**John Muir National Historic Site**  
**in Martinez**  
**Free! Come rain or shine!**

*(Continued, next page)*



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

Phone: 925-229-3857

Website:  
johnmuirassociation.org

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JoAnne Dunec, President  
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Newsletter

Editor: Sherida Bush

Contributors:

Christopher Castle  
JoAnne Dunec  
Tom Leatherman  
Heidi Perryman

Photos:

Sherida Bush  
Robert Perry  
Heidi Perryman  
Tom Zamaria

Our Partner:

John Muir National Historic Site  
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General Superintendent

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## Special Thanks to Our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration Sponsors



The event is made possible by this year’s sponsors, including the City of Martinez, Shell Martinez Refinery, Allied Waste and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #302. The Celebration hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org) or call 925-228-8860 ext. 6422.

John Muir National Historic Site is located at 4202 Alhambra Avenue at Highway 4 in Martinez 94553. For directions, visit [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu). Parking at the Visitor Center parking lot will be reserved for vehicles with a state-issued disabled person placard or plate; free general parking will be available at the Alhambra High

School and Martinez Adult Education (Alhambra Avenue at “D” and “F” streets—follow signs). Free shuttle transportation will be provided from these parking areas, but we encourage travel on public transportation. For public transportation information please

see the directions page for the park at <http://www.nps.gov/jomu/planyourvisit/directions.htm>



### In Memorium Hulet Hornbeck 1919 - 2012

Hulet Hornbeck was a fearless advocate for nature, parks, open space and trails. During his tenure as Acquisitions Chief of the East Bay Regional Park District, he protected 50,000 acres of open space. He also developed a regional trail network of more than 200 miles. He was tough, tenacious and a friend to many. He was also a member of the John Muir Association and a staunch supporter of community efforts, such as the mural project (*see opposite page*). He will be missed.



Photos by Tom Zamaria

## JMA Board Transitions



### Cathy Ivers

We are pleased to welcome Cathy Ivers to the Board of Directors of the John Muir Association. Cathy has long been a volunteer for many projects and organizations in Martinez. She is the Community Environmental and Social Performance Coordinator for the Shell Martinez Refinery.

Cathy has already jumped in to help with the planning and sponsorships for the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration and other tasks. We appreciate her spirit and helpfulness in support of this organization.

### Robert Hanna

When Robert Hanna (John Muir’s great, great grandson) heard that many of the California State Parks are slated to be shut down July 1 due to lack of funds, he felt he had to do something about it. He had recently been laid off from his job and felt it was unacceptable for so many state park personnel to face that happening to them. So, he has spent much of his time the past few months in traveling from park to park to work with government, parks and organizations to help keep them open. And he has been successful. For example, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve will remain open due in part to his help.

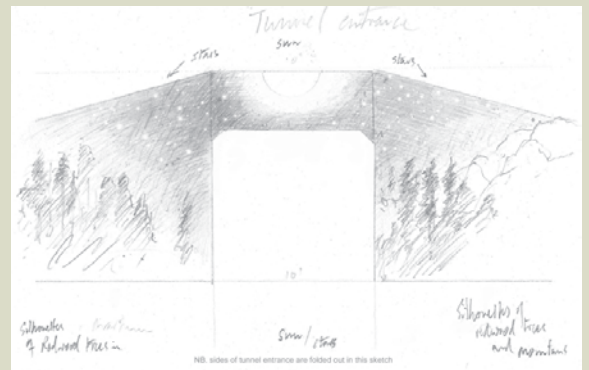
Because Robert feels strongly about his mission, he has reluctantly resigned from the board of the John Muir Association to continue his work. He also needed more time to spend with his wife and two young children. We’ll miss his enthusiasm and wish him well.

## Proposed Franklin Canyon Mural Project

Plans remain under way to install a mural that will be a welcoming entry way to the John Muir National Historic Site. The proposed mural will be located on the tunnel entrance and retaining walls along Franklin Canyon Road, which connects portions of the East Bay Regional Park District trail system and leads to the Canyon Way entrance to John Muir NHS. The mural will be created under the guidance of Rona Zollinger of New Leaf, New Leaf students and artist Christopher Castle.

Castle has drawn sketches for the mural design—see illustration of center portion. The National Park Service and John Muir Association are partners in the project.

If you’d like to support the mural project, please send your contribution to the John Muir Association using the enclosed envelope; check the box for Special Project and write in “mural.” Donations of \$20.00 or more will be acknowledged in this newsletter. We thank the following, who contributed since our last newsletter: Doug Burgess, Jamie Menasco, Tom and Cynthia Peters and Linda J. Young.



**Come to the fundraiser on May 2nd!** The event will be at Roxx on Main in Martinez and features live music, food and drinks, a silent auction and original student art. Tickets are \$35.00. To purchase tickets, contact Lorena Castillo: (925) 228-9232, ext. 293 or lcastillo@martinez.k12.ca.us. All proceeds will benefit the mural.



## John Muir Mountain Day Camp—Our Tenth Year!

**A**nother great camp is planned to celebrate our 10th year! Two one-week camps will be held:

July 30 through August 3, and  
August 6 through August 10

Children ages eight to twelve will have a summer adventure at John Muir's home and ranch, encompassing more than 300 acres of orchards and open space.

Activities will include exploring nature literally in Muir's footsteps, learning about the flora and fauna, painting and keeping a journal as Muir did, and even baking sourdough bread. Sign up your kids for a camp experience they will never forget!

Camp is Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Some scholarships are available. John Muir Mountain Day Camp is sponsored 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. Camp is made possible by a generous donation from the Martinez Community Foundation.

Visit [www.muircamp.org](http://www.muircamp.org) for more information. An online registration form will be available soon. Contact JMA at (925) 229-3857 or by e-mail: [jma@muircamp.org](mailto:jma@muircamp.org).



### Tell Us about Your Experience

**W**e invite all former campers and parents/guardians since our first camp in 2003 to write and tell us about your most memorable experience at John Muir Mountain Day Camp. And, did camp influence your life? Send to [info@muircamp.org](mailto:info@muircamp.org) or by mail: Muir Camp, 9 Lone Oak, Pleasant Hill CA 94523.

## Spotlight Muir! Hosted 34th Year of the John Muir Conservation Awards

**S**potlight Muir! celebrated our 34th annual John Muir Conservation Awards last November. Keynote Speaker David Loeb highlighted the strong commitment needed to fight for a healthier, sustainable planet.

The 2011 John Muir Conservation Awards recipients are:

### Conservationist of the Year

**Clifford Dzidonu** has been a leader for conservation projects—chiefly in reforestation—in his native Ghana for eight years, and he's only 16 years old.

### Business Conservation Award

**Back to the Roots** developed a way to use one of the largest waste streams in America—the tons of coffee-ground waste generated daily—as a medium for a nutritious and popular food product: specialty mushrooms.

### Nonprofit Conservation Award

**Wild at Heart** is an all-volunteer raptor rescue organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of Arizona's native wildlife.

### Environmental Education Conservation Award

**KIDS for the BAY** targets low-income, underserved elementary schools in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties for hands-on, action-oriented environmental education.

Please read more about these worthy recipients on our website: [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org). The evening was made possible by our generous sponsors: Shell Oil Products, US Martinez Refinery; Muir-Hanna Vineyards; and the Best Western John Muir Inn. In addition, we owe special thanks to the Willows Theatre Company and the National Park Service.



JMA President JoAnne Dunec with award winners from KIDS for the BAY (below, left) and Back to the Roots (below, right). Guests Paul Craig and Kay Cox (left).



## Superintendent's View

By Tom Leatherman

It has been over six months since we opened our newly remodeled Visitor Center, stopped charging an entrance fee, and opened our doors to the public seven days a week—and we are excited about the positive impact these changes are making in our local community and for visitors from beyond the East Bay area. With the advent of rotating exhibits and exciting new programs, we hope to entice visitors to return on a regular basis.



General Superintendent Tom Leatherman speaks at the 2011 John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. Below: Deputy Superintendent Sue Fritzke.



The other exciting change for the Site is the addition of a new Deputy Superintendent. Sue Fritzke joined the staff of the four National Park Service sites in Contra Costa County (including John Muir NHS) in early November and is learning the ropes quickly. Sue comes to us most recently from Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where she served as the Supervisory Vegetation Ecologist. Although here in the East Bay we consider Golden Gate to be one big park, there are actually four parks the staff has to manage in cooperation with partners—Muir Woods

National Monument, Fort Point National Historic Site, The Presidio of San Francisco, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Sue has also worked at Yosemite National Park, Redwood National and State parks, and Mount Rainier National Park in her 27-year career.

Hopefully you will see her wandering around the Site at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration this year, and if you do, please welcome her.

## President's View

By JoAnne Dunec

What better way to take a walk with nature than to visit the John Muir National Historic Site on April 21! The John Muir Association, together with the National Park Service, will host the eighth annual John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration at the park that day. Not only will you be able to stroll through the park, but you will also be able to directly share John Muir's environmental legacy with over 50 exhibitors who will showcase information and activities related to sustainability, conservation, and environmental values and concerns. No doubt John Muir himself would be fascinated with not only the amazing environmentally conscious work so many continue to do, but also the technological advances toward sustainability. The event has become one of the premier Earth Day celebrations in the Bay Area!



But that's not all. We also celebrate John Muir's birthday—complete with a birthday cake!

Muir was born 174 years ago on April 21, 1838. Earth Day, founded on April 22, 1970, embodies the legacy of John Muir. His writings and advocacy inspired a grassroots movement which reached presidents and congressmen and enabled the preservation of large natural areas. Still widely read today, Muir's words continue to inspire new generations to appreciate and cherish the natural world, embrace environmental concerns, and strive toward balance and sustainability.

We are pleased to announce that our popular John Muir Mountain Day Camp will return to the park this year (*see article, page 4*). The Camp activities will be better than ever! Children will have a great time as they learn about the life and legacy of John Muir at his home and ranch, where he raised his own family. Sign up your kids for a camp experience they will never forget!

So take a walk with nature—every day if possible. As Muir wrote, “The world is big and I want to have a good look at it before it gets dark.”



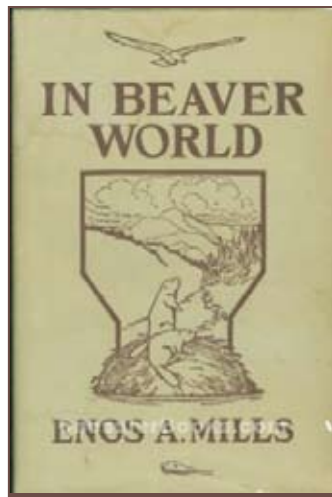
## Friends of Muir

# John Muir, Enos Mills and Beaver History in Martinez

By Heidi Perryman

As a board member of the John Muir Association and the founder of the beaver advocacy group “Worth A Dam,” I am often asked how Mr. Muir would have felt about beavers. Historically, no beavers lived in Alhambra Creek when Muir was here. California was truly the last resource exploited by the voracious fur trade, but by the time gold was discovered in the Sierras, the once-ubiquitous ‘beaver gold’ was mostly gone.

Thinking about the evolution of our attitudes towards beavers, I was drawn to the writings of Enos Mills (1870–1922). His famous book, *In Beaver World*, has remained the single best record of beaver ecology and behavior for nearly 100 years. Mills was born in Kansas but moved to Colorado as a child after a bout with tuberculosis. A life outdoors eventually made him an observer and naturalist of the first order. Mills had this to say about the beaver:



*The beaver's conservation work is accomplished by means of the dams he constructs across streams of flowing water and the ponds that are thus formed. These dams and ponds render a number of services: first, they save soil; second, they check erosion; third, they reduce flood damage; fourth, they store water and help to sustain stream-flow; fifth, they provide water-holes for fish; and sixth they are helpful in maintaining deep waterways by reducing the extremes of both high and low water, and also by reducing the quantity of sediment carried down into river channels.*

The Sierra Club recognizes Enos Mills as the “John Muir of the Rockies.” The younger man met Muir on a beach in San Francisco in 1889. He credits Muir’s inspiration for his own transformation to a tireless advocate for conservation. His work led to the eventual establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park. Thanks to the archives at the University of the Pacific (UOP), I was able to review their correspondence.



In 1907, Mills wrote Muir that he was planning a speaking trip to California and asked if he could visit. Muir wrote back at once saying he should definitely come; unfortunately, there was no record of whether or not that visit took place. Did the father of our understanding of beavers actually come to Martinez 100 years ago to visit the Father of our National Parks? The question deserved an answer.

I contacted the curators at UOP, the Rocky Mountain National Park and Mills Cabin Museum. No one knew whether he had made the trip or not. I was told that Muir’s invitation was one of a few important papers saved in Mills’ top desk drawer when he died, but still no one could say for sure if he had accepted the offer.

Then an archived copy of the San Francisco Call newspaper showed me what I was looking for. In a 1908 March issue, an article described a speech Mills delivered to the California Club and noted that

he would be Muir’s guest during his visit. Nearly a century before the famous beavers set paw in Alhambra Creek, this man who referred to the species as the “original conservationists” took the train to Martinez and

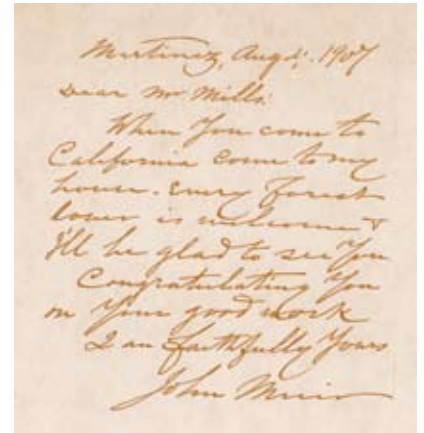


across that very creek to be the guest of our own John Muir. That’s what I call destiny! We can only

*(Continued, next page)*

(continued) speculate on what Muir and Mills conversed about that day in 1908, and neither could have known the eventual role beavers would play in Martinez history. But Mills’ extensive research on the animals led him to profound conclusions about their role in the world:

*A beaver colony gives to the wilds a touch of a romance and rare charm. The works of the beaver have ever intensely interested the human mind. Beaver work may do for children what schools, sermons, companions, and even home sometimes fail to do, - develop the power to think.*



Enos Mills (center) leads the National Library Association on a beaver walk.

Text of Muir’s letter to Enos Mills (above):

Martinez, Aug 4, 1907  
 Dear Mr. Mills:  
 When you come to California come to my house. Every forest lover is welcome & I’ll be glad to see you.  
 Congratulating you on your good work.  
  
 I am Faithfully Yours  
 John Muir

## New Exhibits Reveal Stories about John Muir

In one of the upstairs bedrooms of John Muir’s Victorian home at the John Muir National Historic Site, a new exhibit illuminates an important facet of Muir’s life and work.

“John Muir the Inventor” is first in a series of rotating exhibits scheduled to change twice a year. Artifacts from the park’s museum collection, including objects once owned and used by Muir and his family, are used to tell the story of this important figure in environmental history.

The current exhibit showcases the mechanical devices invented by Muir during his time as a factory worker in Wisconsin, prior to his famous thousand-mile trek to the gulf. “We’re excited to have a space that will now feature many objects that have not been on display

before,” says Supervisory Curator Isabel Ziegler. “The objects reveal multiple aspects of Muir’s life.”

Don’t miss these fascinating exhibits, offering visitors the opportunity to examine Muir’s life in closer detail.

**February 6 - July 2012**  
**John Muir the Inventor**  
 This exhibit showcases Muir’s innovative creativity through his sketches of inventions, and includes an interactive feature that allows visitors to analyze Muir’s devices for themselves.



National Park Service

Muir’s Scythe Clock

**August 2012 - January 2013**  
**Muir’s Literary Legacy**  
 This exhibit will focus on the influence of Muir’s views on the writings of his contemporaries and those who would carry on his legacy. Muir’s own unique writing process and style will also be highlighted.

**February 2013 - July 2013**  
**Muir in the Wild**  
 John Muir traveled extensively in the United States and around the world. His trips to Arizona, Alaska, Africa, and South America expanded his first-hand knowledge of botany and his worldview. This exhibit will feature objects, correspondence, plant specimens, and photographs from various locations.

*Note: Dates and exhibit themes are subject to change.*



P.O. Box 2433  
Martinez, CA 94553

## Walk among the Wildflowers of Mt. Wanda

*Flowers are born every hour.  
—John Muir, April 1870*



Enjoy the first days of spring by walking in the footsteps of John Muir in Martinez on beautiful Mt. Wanda, a 326-acre open space of oak woodlands and grassland that is part of the John Muir National Historic Site (NHS). Mt. Wanda is named after Muir's eldest daughter, Annie Wanda Muir.

The two-hour walks will begin at 9:00 a.m. with an easy saunter up Mt. Wanda to look for wildflowers. Over 82 species of native plants have been identified on Mt. Wanda, and hikers may spot the colorful blooms of California buttercups, purple Chinese houses and mule's ears.

For fresh air and fun, meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, in Martinez (at the Alhambra Avenue exit off Highway 4). Bring water and wear good walking shoes because the trail is steep. If it rains heavily, the walk will be cancelled. For more information call the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860.

Join a National Park Service ranger for a free, early morning wildflower walk on three Saturdays in April:

April 7th  
April 14th  
April 28th

Hikes begin at 9:00 a.m.