

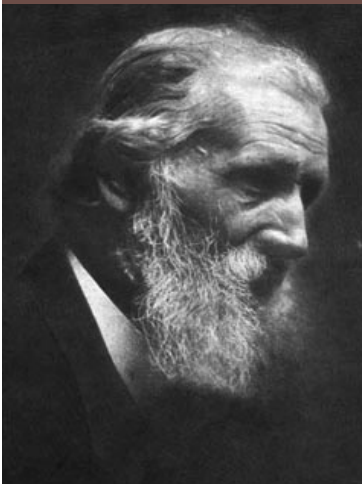


# The View

FALL 2014

*I had a wonderful opportunity to study the three rare trees and plants I went in search of and saw many beautiful and strange things, but when it comes right down to beautiful and grand scenery, California leads the world.*

*—John Muir, circa 1911 on his return from South Africa*



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 NHS Celebrates 50 Years

More than 50 years ago, the home where John Muir married, raised his two daughters, and penned some of his most influential books was in imminent peril of being destroyed.



This priceless treasure would be gone today if it weren't for the hard work of local citizens, who were determined to save the house and permanently protect it as a national park.

Faire and Henry Sax purchased the then-dilapidated house and began the

enormous task of restoring it on their own. Then a handful of community members formed the John Muir Memorial Association (our founding name) in 1956,

and petitioned the government to protect the home and nine surrounding acres until President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the law establishing the John Muir

National Historic Site. Read more in the President's View and on our website: [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org)>About Us.



*(Continued, next page)*

## Join Us for a 50th Anniversary Celebration

*Members and friends of the John Muir Association are invited to a very special 50th Anniversary celebration after the park closes.*



*Saturday, September 20th  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

*Home Tour with rarely seen exhibits from the John Muir NHS Herbarium and the William and Maymie Kimes Collection*

*50th Anniversary Twilight Reception  
Wine & appetizers*

*A special Campfire at 7:00 p.m.! See Page 2 for details.*



John Muir Association  
 P.O. Box 2433  
 Martinez CA 94553  
 Phone: 925-229-3857

Website:  
[johnmuirassociation.org](http://johnmuirassociation.org)

Board of Directors

JoAnne Dunec, President  
 Mary Ann Gaebe, Treasurer  
 Sherida Bush  
 Juliet Don  
 Gay Gerlack  
 Raj Hajela  
 Marlene Haws  
 Cathy Ivers  
 Heidi Perryman  
 Mark Thomson

Emeritus Board Member  
 Michael Muir

Editor:  
 Sherida Bush

Contributors:  
 JoAnne Dunec  
 Tom Leatherman  
 Heidi Perryman

Photos:  
 Jill Harcke  
 Don Homewood  
 Heidi Perryman  
 Tom Zamaria

Our Partner:

John Muir National Historic Site  
 National Park Service  
[www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu)

Tom Leatherman,  
 General Superintendent

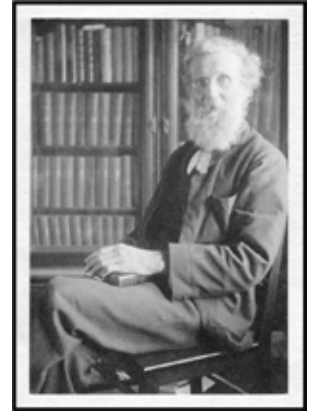
Printed on 100 percent post-  
 consumer recycled paper.

This year marks the **50th Anniversary** of the John Muir National Historic Site, which became a part of the national park system in August of 1964. We want to celebrate with you! Reservations are required--see below.

John Muir is today known as the Father of our National Park System, and his home is still a place of influence for people all over the world. Just as ordinary citizens battled to save his historic home so many decades ago, it's up to each of us today to continue the work of enticing others to appreciate—and protect — nature.



*The battle for conservation will go on endlessly. It is the universal warfare between right and wrong.*  
 —John Muir



This photo of Muir in his scribble den taken by his friend S. L. Willard (circa 1914) may be one of the last photos of him. Muir died 100 years ago this Christmas Eve.

## 50th Anniversary Events Saturday, September 20th

**5:00 to 5:30 p.m.**

*Muir Home Tour with one-time, rarely viewed exhibits of plant specimens collected by John Muir from the John Muir National Historic Site Herbarium and items from the William and Maymie Kimes Collection*

**5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

*50th Anniversary Twilight Reception on the Visitor Center patio.  
 Tasty appetizers, wine and nonalcoholic beverages will be served.*



*Reservations are required for the private Reception and Home Tour  
 Please reserve by September 15th  
 Call Mary Ann Gaebe at (925) 228-1210 or email  
[jimgaebe@comcast.net](mailto:jimgaebe@comcast.net)  
 Reserve early—attendance is limited.*

**7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

*The park will re-open to the public for a gala Campfire Program of skits, stories, s'mores and a visit from John Muir. Call the John Muir National Historic Site for more information at (925) 228-8860.*

## John Muir Association at Beaver Festival VII



Members of the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers entertain (above) and a young guest paints a beaver tail (right).

The natural kinship between conservation and beaver habitat was celebrated at Worth A Dam’s seventh annual Beaver Festival in downtown Martinez on August 2nd. The John Muir Association (JMA) was proud to be among 45 wildlife and conservation organizations with wonderful booth displays and activities.

JMA Board Members JoAnne Dunec, Sherida Bush and Raj Hajela explained to attendees how folks could get involved and handed out popular John Muir Association tattoos.

Festival organizer and JMA Board Member Heidi Perryman

described the event as “the most successful festival yet, with better attendance, a guided rail car from Oakland and, for the first time, a portable solar panel powering amplified music all over the park.”



Photos courtesy of Worth A Dam

John Koss, who usually donates his sound system expertise for the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration, volunteered to handle the solar-powered beaver stage as well. At the other end of the park, there was even a mechanical beaver who slapped his tail in a pool for everyone to enjoy! Children “sewed” and painted their own beaver tails, and they eagerly earned animal charms by explaining how beavers helped other species. Later that night, many attendees returned to see the Martinez beavers in person. Besides being a great place to learn about wildlife and conservation, attendees agreed later it was a “dam” good time!

## The Martinez Historical Society Home Tour Saturday, October 11, 2014

The Home Tour this year features five homes new to the tour, as well as an “alumni” home that was on the first Home Tour in 2007. The home was featured in issue of American Bungalow magazine. An added feature this year is a tour of the historic Masonic Hall.



John Muir’s 1882 Italianate Victorian home is one the tour, along with the 1849 Martinez Adobe and other public buildings. The tour begins at the Shell Clubhouse, with its intact Craftsman era interior, and the adjacent Shell Oil Museum. The tour also includes the 1890 Borland House, a Carpenter Gothic building, which is the home of the Martinez Museum.

The homes feature vintage interior features and attractive gardens. Many of the homeowners will be on

hand to speak to visitors, to answer questions and talk about their homes, including their experiences in renovating and furnishing their older homes.

Shuttles with tour guides will entertain visitors with stories of historical Martinez. The tour will take place rain or shine.

No children under 12 years of age (infants may be carried in arms or a belly carrier). The private homes are not wheelchair accessible.



Photos courtesy of Martinez Historical Society

Tickets are \$30 at the door and \$25 when purchased in advance. Tickets will go on sale the first week in September and are tax deductible. The website will offer online purchase at that time. For more information please visit the Home Tour website: <http://www.MartinezHomeTour.com>.



## John Muir Mountain Day Camp Touched Hearts, Lives

**J**ohn Muir Mountain Day Camp was filled to capacity this year, with more than 60 campers enjoying a unique, Muir-infused time.

We thank our great Camp Directors Jill Harcke and Susan Barry, Camp Manager Connie Strand, Counselors and Junior Counselors. All contributed to making memorable experiences that have changed minds and hearts; read the wonderful comment by one camper that brought tears to the eyes of his grandmother in the Superintendent's View on page 5. Our Directors received many thanks, including the following from one parent:

*My son had a great time. We'll be back again next year for*



*sure...thank you for ALL you do for the kids.*

Indeed, many of our campers have returned each year, and some later become



counselors. Children not only learn a lot about Muir, nature and a time gone by, they have lots of outdoor fun.

We also thank our sponsors: Shell Martinez Refinery, Kiwanis Martinez and Emma Kennerley for contributing to camp and scholarships. Your support is invaluable. Check our website next year for information on next summer's camp: [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org).



Photos by Tom Zamarra



## President's View

By JoAnne Dunec

**T**his year has been filled with activity! In April, we held John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration, which drew nearly 2,400 participants to the John Muir National Historic Site. Featured were a host of environmental exhibitors, music and dance, and story-telling by John Muir (aka Frank Helling). Bruce Hamilton, Deputy Executive Director of the Sierra Club was our keynote speaker. While this year is the 100th anniversary of John Muir's death, we prefer to celebrate his birthday, life and legacy. We served birthday cake and regaled Muir with a resounding Happy Birthday song! Please mark your calendars for next year's Celebration to be on April 18, 2015.



Don Homewood

We also presented our 2013 Conservation Awards at the Celebration. The recipients came from far and wide to receive their awards and it was a wonderful, synergetic opportunity for each award winner to share their experiences and goals with each other as well as the audience. Congressman George Miller presented a certificate to each of the Conservation Award winners. Nominations are now open for the 2014 Conservation Awards—please see the article on page 5.

Our John Muir Mountain Day Camp, led by our Camp Directors Jill Harcke and Susan Barry, was filled to capacity. The campers, ages 7 to 12, learned about John Muir's home, life and legacy through hands-on, outdoor activities at the park. Please see the article on this page.

Our next event to be held on September 20, 2014, is a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the park on August 31, 1964. The John Muir Memorial Association, organized on April 27, 1956, was instrumental in its creation. According to Justice A. F. Bray at an early annual meeting of the Association, "For some years the original group of Muir admirers was a loose fellowship of nature lovers, Sierra Club members and others, who gathered annually at the family plot in Alhambra Valley where Muir is buried to signalize the great public service he had rendered to the nation and to the world through his writings, his nature studies and his conservation effort." However, he continued, "When Henry and Faire Saxe in 1955 purchased the Muir Manor with the avowed purpose of holding it for any public entity or group that would maintain it as a Muir Memorial for the benefit of future generations" the group galvanized to action to save Muir's home and surrounding ranch. With the help of Congressman John Baldwin, Congress set aside funds and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the creation of the John Muir National Historic Site. Please join us for the 50th Anniversary celebration honoring those efforts and learning anew about the life and legacy of John Muir.

## Nominations Open for 2014 John Muir Conservation Awards

The John Muir Association is accepting nominations for its 37th annual John Muir Conservation Awards in four categories:

Conservationist of the Year, Environmental Education Conservation Award, Nonprofit or Public Agency Conservation Award, and Business Conservation Award. Send us your nomination!



Photos this page by Tom Zamaria

Since 1978, the John Muir Conservation Awards have honored significant contributions in environmental action, education/advocacy, preservation, restoration and other outstanding work. See our website for a list of our distinguished past honorees.

The John Muir Conservation Awards will be presented at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration on April 18th, 2015 at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez.

For nomination information and forms, visit [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org) or call (925) 229-3857. The nomination packet must be received no later than December 31, 2014.

### In Memoriam: Jay Holcomb

International Bird Rescue Executive Director Jay Holcomb, prominent in the world of wildlife rehabilitation and a pioneer in oiled wildlife care since the 1970s, died last June. Holcomb was the recipient of the John Muir Association’s Conservationist of the Year Award in 2010.

Under his direction, IRB grew into a preeminent wildlife organization, caring for animals affected by large-scale oil spills such as Exxon Valdez in 1989 and the Gulf Spill in 2010.

“I’ve devoted my career to wildlife rehabilitation,” Holcomb wrote in his organization’s 2013 annual report. “...the challenges in the work are many. But I can’t think of anything more rewarding I could have done with my life.” Holcomb was an inspiration.

## Superintendent’s View

By Tom Leatherman

Here in Contra Costa County we are experiencing one of the driest years since before many of us were born, and we continue balancing conservation with maintaining our landscape and orchards at the John Muir Site. Even with these challenges, we had good crops of apricots, plums and peaches in our historically replanted orchards. Interns from the local high schools and dedicated volunteers helped us maintain and harvest our orchard trees and we are grateful for the stewardship efforts that are building in the community to carry on John Muir’s legacy.



General Superintendent Tom Leatherman

Connecting with the next generation continues to be a strong emphasis for the park, with the John Muir Mountain Day Camp and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew learning about John Muir and helping us to preserve the Site. This year we had five high school students on the YCC crew who accomplished a great amount of work at both John Muir and Eugene O’Neill National Historic Sites. In collaboration with the trail and YCC crews from Pt. Reyes National Seashore, we were able to rehabilitate, to natural conditions, nearly all of an illegal bike trail on Mt. Wanda. The crew assisted with landscaping, meadow restoration, painting, and archeological and maintenance projects throughout the summer.



The day camp participants continue to learn and reflect on their experiences. My favorite quote came from Fredrick Ogston, a 10-year-old from the first week of camp who said, “Humans seem to have stuffed the surface of the world with artificial things, and we need the park service to protect the few wild places left. I’ve always wanted to go out and have adventures in the wild forest and I was inspired by the camp because it seems more possible to have adventures like that than I previously thought.” I found this quote when I returned to work from a two-week vacation, some of which I spent in the high Sierra. It is a reminder to me why I do what I do and why it is so important for us, as the National Park Service and as individuals, to preserve these places of history and inspiration for future generations. Thank you all for helping the John Muir Association and the park. We couldn’t do it without you.



## In Memoriam

# Ross Hanna

*The following tribute is by Ross' granddaughter, Elizabeth Hanna. Ross was the youngest and last living grandchild of John Muir. He was a former member of the John Muir Association and often participated in our events, particularly John Muir Mountain Day Camp and Birthday—Earth Day. We will miss him.*

—John Muir Association Board of Directors

Ross Erwin Hanna (“Pops”) passed peacefully on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 after 91 years of life well lived. He was surrounded by his wife, all of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be remembered as a loving husband, family man, band leader and friend to all.



Ross and Gladys

Ross was born in San Francisco, CA, on October 20, 1922 as the youngest of six children to Tom and Wanda Hanna. He grew up in the Alhambra Valley with his four brothers and sister. He spent his childhood roaming the hills around his home and enjoyed spending summers in the Sierras. His love of the outdoors was a legacy from his grandfather, naturalist John Muir. An injury in junior high school postponed his involvement in high school sports, but prompted his interest in playing music. He played the trumpet faithfully for the next eighty years.

Soon after graduating from Alhambra High School in Martinez, Pearl Harbor was bombed. He enlisted in the California Coast Guard and served with the Navy in numerous landings in the South Pacific. WWII sent him to the Pacific for four years, but built friendships that continued to grow for seven decades.

After the war he went to Stockton, CA to attend the College of the Pacific (now University of the Pacific) where he graduated with a degree in business, and was a fraternity man and President at Archania Fraternity. Music was still a major part of his life and he led the Ross Hanna Orchestra during college. There he met a young Gladys Ann Stoeven who would later become his bride. They married in San Mateo, CA in June of 1948.

Over the next 66 years they had much to celebrate. A year to the day after they were married, they welcomed their first son, Hal. They moved to Dixon soon after his



Photos courtesy of Jill Harcke

birth and two years later welcomed son Michael. Four years after their two boys, they welcomed a sweet daughter, Lynne. Ross and Gladys enjoyed raising their children in Dixon.

He moved to Dixon to work for Stoeven Brothers Meat Packing, becoming a partner in the 1960s. He worked for Stoeven Bros. until his retirement in the early '80s. Ross imparted his love for nature to all of his children and grandchildren. Pack trips in the mountains, fishing in streams and lakes, hiking and enjoying nature are all a part of their memories. They enjoyed trips with their family to Hawaii while their children were

growing up, and later, after retirement, chose to live on the island of Kauai. There, he was Church of the Pacific Choir Director and he also directed the



Kauai Chorale. They Ross at John Muir Mountain Day Camp enjoyed time there for more than a decade and then returned back to their Dixon home to be closer to family and friends.

Ross was a man of great faith. He was a long-standing member of the Dixon Community Church where he served as Volunteer Choir and Music Director for more than 50 years. For the last ten years, he and Gladys have been members of

(Continued, next page)

the Dixon Methodist Church. Ross loved to entertain, and started a jazz band in 1959. He led the Phabulous Phirehouse Philharmonics to Hawaii, Canada, Mexico and Europe. His music touched many lives and reached many places. He was Dixon’s Citizen of the Year in 1972.

He left this life to join his parents Tom and Wanda Hanna, brothers Strent, John, Dick and Bob, his sister Jean and numerous family and friends who have gone before him. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Gladys; son Hal and wife Kathleen, son Michael Muir and daughter Lynne Hanna-Lincoln; grandchildren Tim Hanna and wife Jamie, Liz Fuller and husband James, Allison Theubet and husband Jerry and Mei-Lin Hanna. He lived to see eight great grandchildren join his family; Kilian, Stephen, Natalie, Timmy, Gabby and Kolbe Theubet and Ross and Matthew Fuller. He will be missed by immeasurable friends and family members and his love and music will play in their hearts forever.

*Editor’s Note: A music-filled celebration of Ross Hanna’s life was held in Dixon on June 21st.*



Ross and Elizabeth

*We were pleased that Ross Hanna (pictured below in two pictures in beige hat) and his wife Gladys attended our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration this year. He was a regular at our events and will be greatly missed.  
—JMA Board of Directors*

## John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration 2014

The pictures speak for themselves: our tenth annual John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration held at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez was a fun-filled success. Our thanks to emcee Igor Skaredoff, Keynote Speaker Bruce Hamilton and our sponsors: City of Martinez, Shell Martinez Refinery, Republic Services and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 302. Plan to join us for next year’s Celebration on April 18th, 2015.



The Celebration featured the Piedmont Highlanders Pipe & Drum Band (above), John Muir (Frank Helling), the Recycled Fashion Show, mural ribbon-cutting by New Leaf (left) and so much more!



Photos by Tom Zamaria



**Join us for John Muir Birthday–Earth Day on April 18, 2015**



P.O. Box 2433  
Martinez, CA 94553

## Upcoming Events & News



### 50th Anniversary Twilight Reception and Home Tour and Special NPS Campfire Program Saturday, September 20, 2014

Join us for an after-hours Reception and Home Tour open only to John Muir Association members and special guests at the John Muir National Historic Site  
See cover article for more information. Space is limited—RSVP today!

### 37th Annual John Muir Conservation Awards Nominations Are Open

Nominations in four categories are open. Nominate a deserving individual, public agency, nonprofit organization or business. See page 5 for more information.

### Martinez Historical Society Home Tour

Saturday, October 11, 2014

The Muir house, historic homes and public buildings. See page 3.

### John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Save the Date!



2013 John Muir Conservation Award Recipients  
John Muir–Birthday Earth Day Celebration