



# The View

SPRING 2016

## NPS Centennial Highlighted at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration



The John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration at the John Muir National Historic Site honors Muir’s legacy with a Centennial celebration with the hope that future generations will value the outdoors and experience a Muir-like determination to protect them.

Tom Zamaria

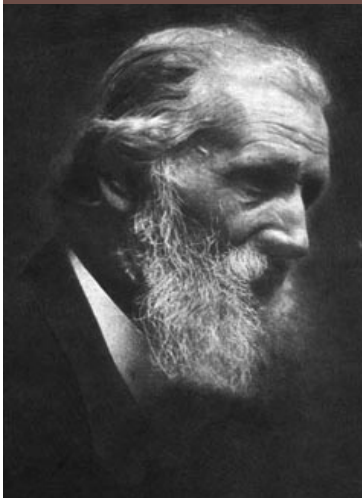
After Muir’s death in 1914, his friend Robert B. Marshall had this to say about the man and his legacy:

*I cannot write a line worthy of the man we wish to honor. One cannot describe Mount Rainier, one cannot describe the*



*Grand Canyon, one cannot describe his beloved Yosemite: humanity is silent in their presence. So it was with John Muir to all who knew him; so has his influence affected mankind, and so will his life and work impress generations to come. This most wonderful of men, lifted above death and time* (Continued, next page)

*Inventing and whittling faster than ever, I made another hickory clock, shaped like a scythe.... and, though made more than fifty years ago, is still a good timekeeper.*  
—John Muir, in *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*



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.

This year’s National Park Service Centennial asks each of us to “Find Your Park” and explore the many joys—and, as Muir would say, the necessity—of getting out in nature. Awaiting each of us is the opportunity to discover the public lands and natural resources in your own backyard as well as in faraway regions.

At the heart of it all is John Muir, who is known as the Father of Our National Park System. His lifelong advocacy for our treasured natural lands influenced the movement to forever protect the beautiful open spaces we enjoy today.

**Saturday, April 23rd  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**John Muir National  
Historic Site**





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

Phone: 925-229-3857

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

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Tom Leatherman,  
General Superintendent

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Photos show moments at the 2015 Celebration, including dancers and musicians of the Piedmont Highlander Pipe & Drum Band (left), and (top to bottom): Students from New Leaf with the "Bag Monster," some of the day's exhibits, "John Muir" (NPS Ranger Frank Helling) with Gladys Hanna (wife of the late Ross Hanna, John Muir's grandson), and two cowgirl participants in the Recycled Fashion Show.

*by his human sympathy no less than by his genius, will forever influence the world, and it will be the better for his example and his inspiration.*

Join us for the special day of activities, informative exhibits and entertainment for all ages. John Muir, portrayed by National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling will share tales of his adventures. Mr. Muir will also share his birthday cake. Lee Strawn and other cast members from *Mountain Days* will sing songs from the popular musical.

The Muir home is available for self-guided tours, along with the Martinez Adobe and its bilingual exhibit of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The second floor of the Muir home has a special NPS Centennial Exhibit—don't miss it.

The John Muir Association is also celebrating our 60th Anniversary! We will present the 2015 John Muir Association's John Muir Conservation Awards—our 38th year. The recipients are: Rex Burress, Conservation Legacy Award; John H. Hartig, Conservationist of the Year; Worth A Dam, Environmental Education Award; Vineyard Team, Nonprofit Conservation Award; Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, Conservation Initiative Award. (See article, page 6.)



Visit our website for a Schedule of Events (note that times are subject to change): [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org). The final program will be available at the Celebration.

The John Muir Association would like to thank our generous sponsors of this event: the City of Martinez; Shell, Martinez Refinery; IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers); and Republic Services. Our sponsors make this great Celebration possible.

*(Continued, next page)*

Food and beverages are available for purchase. Come rain or shine!

The Celebration is at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Highway 4) in Martinez. Park at the Alhambra High School parking lot on Alhambra Avenue at “D” Street. Shuttles will be available to the event. Public transportation information is available at [www.511.org](http://www.511.org). Admission, parking and shuttles are all free of charge.

For more information, visit [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org) or call the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860 (from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).



Scenes from the 2015 John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. Clockwise from top left are: student participants in the Recycled Fashion Show sporting their creations (two photos), the audience enjoys the show, Emcee Igor Skaredoff talks with “John Muir” portrayed by NPS Ranger Frank Helling, young members of the Scottish Fiddlers, exhibitors Shirley Skaredoff and Jane Moore working the Friends of Alhambra Creek exhibit, and the opening procession is led by a piper from the Piedmont Highlander Pipe & Drum Band.

**Thank you to our sponsors for making the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration possible:**



## The “Spirit of John Muir” Takes to the Sky

A new air tanker named “Spirit of John Muir” made its debut at the Aerial Firefighting International 2016 conference in Sacramento, CA on the 22nd of March, 2016.

The firefighting Boeing 747 large tanker aircraft was introduced by Global SuperTanker Services, LLC, who dedicated the aircraft to John Muir because “we deeply respect the John Muir legacy.”

According to Andrea Avolio, Vice President of Contracts and Planning,



“we strongly believe that our aircraft will be the game changer in fighting forest fires and will save countless acres of forests and natural areas, as well as help protect the lives of our first responders.”

John Muir Association Board Member Bruce Campbell had this to say about the plane’s debut: “I got to go out on the tarmac and see this massive plane up close and personal. I’ve never been able to wander around directly under a 747 before—incredible!”



## Transitions

### Lynn Quinones

The John Muir Association is pleased to welcome Lynn Quinones to the Board of Directors. Lynn is an educator of both music education and language development for the Mount Diablo Unified School District, where she has worked for 29 years. She says she rarely misses an opportunity to stress environmental awareness and responsible stewardship to her students.



Lynn's area of special interest is traditional music and she is also the founder of the Alhambra Valley Band.

For 22 years, Lynn lived on the John Swett Ranch in the Alhambra Valley. Swett was a friend and neighbor to John Muir. During those years, Lynn became a close friend of Margaret (Peggy) Swett Plummer (the late granddaughter of John Swett). Lynn had many discussions with her "about both the Swett Ranch and Muir Site (where Peggy was a docent) and the preservation and perpetuation of the Muir legacy."

Lynn says she looks forward to helping promote and preserve "the Muir legacy of open space and self-sufficiency, and the education and empowerment of citizens, young and old, to understand and celebrate John Muir and his vision."

### Heidi Perryman, Raj Hajela and George Turnbull

Our Board lost three valuable board members recently. We thank all of them for their service.

Heidi Perryman has been a Board Member for five years. Her skills contributed a lot to our special events and operations, and she was always willing to help.

Raj Hajela was a Board Member and served as Treasurer. We appreciate his taking on that challenge and will miss his willingness to pitch in whenever it was needed.

George Turnbull made significant contributions to our John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration coordination, as well as establishing connections with our Scottish friends and kindred organizations.

## Ecopoetry Festival Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial

*"Most people are on the world, not in it..."*  
—John Muir

The Muir Poetry Project announces the third annual Ecopoetry Festival, presented by Alhambra High School's Creative Writing Program and the John Muir National Historic Site. Celebrated poets Robert Hass, Brenda Hillman and Matthew Zapruder will read from their work, as well as discuss how poetic language can improve our relationship with the natural world. In addition, Alhambra High School students will give short readings.

This event is part of an ongoing celebration of the National Park System's 100th Anniversary. Admission is free. The Festival will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21st on the grounds of the John Muir National Historic Site at 4202 Alhambra Avenue in Martinez (at the Alhambra Avenue exit from Highway 4).

Reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call 925-228-8860. For more details, contact Jim MacDonald of the John Muir National Historical Site at 925-228-8860 (extension 6431) or Eliot Schain at [eschain@martinez.k12.ca.us](mailto:eschain@martinez.k12.ca.us).

## National Park Service Volunteer Receives Award

The National Park Service created the George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to honor volunteers' hard work, draw attention to their vast skills and contributions, and to stimulate development of innovative projects and volunteer involvement.

The John Muir National Historic Site and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail submitted a joint nomination and are pleased to announce that their nominee was chosen as one of five recipients in the Pacific West Region.



Congratulations to Sandra Candanosa, who is the lead organizer of the Anza Trail's bilingual holiday celebration, Las Posadas. She is keeping a centuries-old tradition alive and sharing it with diverse national park visitors in the San Francisco Bay Area. Sandra brought many partners and resources

together, volunteering weeks of her time. She has been driven by love for her cultural traditions and the chance to share them with the next generation. Her work is helping the National Park Service connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates at the John Muir National Historic Site and along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

## Superintendent's View

By Tom Leatherman

The Centennial year for the National Park Service has arrived, and we are excited for the opportunities to connect new audiences with the legacy of John Muir, and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates. The John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration this year is shaping up to be an exciting event in celebration of Muir and centennial milestones, so we hope you can come on April 23rd to celebrate with us. In addition, we are continuing to offer our full moon programs, campfire programs and nature walks through the spring, summer and early fall. We are moving forward on our planning for the management of the Strentzel/Muir Gravesite, with a revised Environmental Assessment due out in the late spring.



Through all of the events and activities, we have been focused on finding opportunities to engage local youth in learning about the work we do, hoping that some might choose the National Park Service as a career opportunity. Our efforts to provide meaningful, and paid, opportunities for local youth over the last few years have led to recognition from within the community. At their annual awards breakfast, Earn & Learn East Bay presented us with, along with other organizations and businesses, an award for these efforts. It was great to learn about what others in the community are doing and to realize the value and importance we all place on youth engagement and employment. Together with our partners, like the John Muir Association, we hope that we can make a difference in these young lives so that they can help us make our community, state, country and world more environmentally aware and a more just place to live for this and future generations.



*Denise Amador, Biological Science Technician hired through the recent graduate pathways program, holds the Earn & Learn East Bay Champions of Action Award in front of the Muir House.*

Be sure to visit the second floor of the Muir home at the John Muir National Historic Site for a special exhibit featuring the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service.





## 2015 John Muir Conservation Award Recipients

JMA will honor the following recipients of the 2015 John Muir Conservation Awards, to be presented at our John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23rd.

### Rex Burress

#### Conservation Legacy Award

A lifelong conservationist, John Muir was Rex Burress' inspiration. Rex's mission became "to entice others to look at nature's loveliness with understanding" through nature walks, writings and art. He worked as Refuge Naturalist/Bird Keeper/Program Facilitator at the Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge/Rotary Nature Center until 1993. Retiring to Oroville, Rex continues to give nature walks and programs, write nature columns and pursue his art. He authored and illustrated two books, *Of a Feather* and *Life On No Creek*. A gifted wildlife artist, he also painted a portrait of John Muir, which hangs in a Green Bay, Wisconsin, museum.

### John H. Hartig

#### Conservationist of the Year

Dr. John Hartig, a limnologist, has over 30 years of experience in advocacy, environmental education, restoration, the environment and other conservation efforts. He currently serves as Refuge Manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and serves on the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Board of Directors. He has authored or co-authored over 100 publications on the environment, including four books: *Bringing Conservation to Cities: Lessons from Building the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge*; *Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban Industrial Rivers that Caught Fire*; *Honoring our Detroit River*; *Caring for Our Home*; and *Under RAPs: Toward Grassroots Ecological Democracy in the Great Lakes Basin*.

### Worth A Dam

#### Environmental Education Conservation Award

Founded in 2008 by Heidi Perryman, Worth A Dam is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to the value, importance and contributions of beavers in the ecosystem. Heidi, through Worth A Dam, focuses her educational approach on the fact that co-existing with beavers insures the strength of the overall ecosystems of creeks and surrounding areas. Worth A Dam's co-existence model has been ad-



Pictured are recipients of the 2014 John Muir Conservation Awards (clockwise from top left): Abby Bloomfield (Youth Conservation Award) with JMA President JoAnne Dunec, Camilla Fox (Conservationist of the Year), Retired U. S. Congressman George Miller (Legacy Conservation Award), representatives from the River Otter Ecology Project (Nonprofit Conservation Award), and recipients of the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project (Environmental Education Award).

opted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, most recently in Napa, California. Heidi has co-authored numerous published articles regarding beavers. Worth A Dam founded the Martinez Beaver Festival, now in its 8th year, featuring a wide breadth of wildlife and conservation groups. The Festival helps raise awareness for protecting wildlife and preserving healthy environments and ecosystems.

### Vineyard Team

#### Nonprofit Conservation Award

For over 20 years, the Vineyard Team worked with growers to help them be more sustainable. The Vineyard Team developed a Sustainability in Practice (SiP) Certification, which is "a sustainable vineyard and wine certification with strict, non-negotiable standards based on science and expert input, independent verification, transparency and absence of conflict of interest." They focus on the "3 P's of Sustainability—People, Planet, Prosperity." They measure ten areas of practice: 1) conservation and enhancement of biological diversity; 2) vineyard establishment and management; 3) soil conservation and water quality; 4) water resources and conservation;

5) energy conservation and efficiency; 6) air quality; 7) social equity; 8) pest management; 9) continuing education; and 10) product assurance and business sustainability. Vineyard Team has won numerous awards; the most recent is the Green Industry Hall of Fame Inductee (2016).

**Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful Conservation Initiative Award**

Since August 2014, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (KCCB), has mobilized the San Jose, CA community to clean up Coyote Creek. It reached the goal of 50 tons of trash removal (the equivalent of 50 small cars) in October 2015. The feat was accomplished through bringing “related community groups and public agencies affiliated with Coyote Creek to take action towards restoring the creek through cleanups and plantings, recreation and cultural activities, and educational partnerships. It is funded by a partnership grant from the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.” According to Deb Kramer of KCCB, the focus is not just on the initial cleanup, but also the maintenance

and restoration afterward. Environmental, as well as historic, education about the creek is part of KCCB’s educational program. Monthly events are planned, to which a multitude of volunteers has responded. Partner organizations include dozens of South Bay high schools, San Jose State University students and faculty, De Anza College faculty, the Coyote Creek neighborhood association, Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council, US Marine Corps, and the Downtown Streets Team. Watershed tours and organizations offering expertise and organization significantly expand the active partnerships.



*Commemorative coins celebrating the NPS Centennial are now available. One of the designs features profiles of John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt with Yosemite’s Half Dome. The National Park Service logo is on the reverse. The \$5 gold proof coin sells for \$400.45 at [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov).*

**Summer’s Coming—Sign Up Now for John Muir Mountain Day Camp**

By Mark Thomson

Oh to be a kid again! The John Muir Mountain Day Camp is back for 2016. This highly regarded camp is splendidly fun and educational at the same time. Two one-week sessions start on July 18 and July 25 and will be held at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez.



Tuition is \$295 a week, with discounts offered for John Muir Association members, second family member signups or for attending both weeks. Scholarships for those with financial need are also available.

At the John Muir Mountain Day Camp, children age 7 through 12 have a great time while they learn how Muir’s legacy is still helping the earth be a healthier, more beautiful place to live. Kids enjoy a relaxed, non-competitive and electronics-free outdoor environment. 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.

Camp is presented 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.

Check out our website at [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org) for more information and to register online. For questions about camp, contact Camp Director Jill Hareke at (925) 680-8807.

**Thank you to our 2016 Camp Sponsors:**

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**John Muir**  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2433  
Martinez, CA 94553

## Upcoming Events



*Cake by Jane Moore*

### John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 23rd  
10 am to 4 pm

Family Fun!  
See cover story for details.

### John Muir Mountain Day Camp

July 18 to 22 and  
July 25 to 29

Register now!

See page 7 for details.



### Ecopoetry Festival Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial



Saturday, May 21st  
See article, page 4.