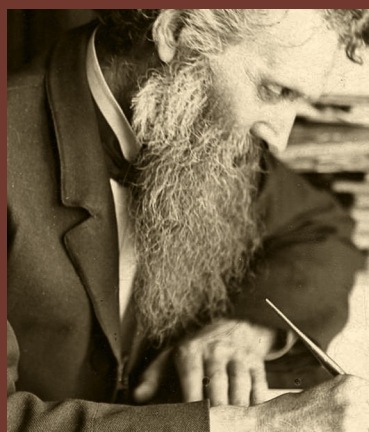


2018 John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration: A Beautiful Day!

There is a love of wild nature in everybody, an ancient mother-love showing itself whether recognized or no, and however covered by cares and duties.

- 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.

More than 2,500 guests attended this year's John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration held at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. They were greeted by the best weather one could hope for – sunny, but not hot. No wonder John Muir lived here!

The perfect weather no doubt contributed to the attendees' enjoyment of a variety of attractions, including live music, a silent auction, food, beverages and of course, birthday cake – always a big hit.



There were dozens of booths hosted by organizations from near and far that displayed their wares, or simply provided information to interested visitors.

National Park Service Ranger Frank Heller portrayed John Muir himself, to the delight of onlookers, lending a distinct air of authenticity to the

event. One could easily imagine the event taking place 150 years ago.

For the first time, the event also included a shuttle to the John Muir gravesite and quite a few people took advantage of this opportunity to get



close to this historic place – opened to the public just this year.

John Muir himself would have been entranced by the Scottish musical performers – the grounds were awash in the soul-stirring sounds of bagpipes. On this day, in these place, we were all Scottish!

The 2017 John Muir Conservation Award winners were announced, and most of the deserving recipients were able to attend this event and receive their awards in person!

(continued next page)



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John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration *(from page 1)*

The John Muir Association wants to thank the scores of people who have been working on this event for months, and their incredible efforts to make this annual event happen. It takes a village, and our village consists of volunteers, JMA Board members, NPS personnel and generous sponsors.

Next year's John Muir Birthday-Earth Day celebration will be held April 20, 2019 at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez.

The 2018 Beaver Festival Report *By Heidi Perriman*

The 2018 Beaver Festival was remarkable in many ways. Located in historic Susana Park, the John Muir Association, Mountain Day Camp and John Muir National Historic Site displays all nestled under the tall trees there. They were joined by some 50 environmental exhibits including NOAA fisheries, the Forest Service, the EBRP fish mobile, and the pipevine swallowtail project from the Academy of Sciences. Co-president Bruce Campbell and board member Lynn Quinones lit the stage with the popular Alhambra Valley Band to start the day of music and festivities. Beaver tours of the new habitat near the park delighted guests, and children were encouraged to earn wildlife stickers and create their own memorable "Beaver pond" to take home.



For the first time, the event featured dynamic chalk artist Amy G. Hall of Napa who spent two days crafting a giant mural of a beaver pond and the wildlife it supports in the center of the plaza. A final dramatic first featured acclaimed environmental author Ben Goldfarb, who launched his new book by signing copies and reading aloud the Martinez chapter on stage. In addition to earning praise in National Geographic, Ben's work has captured the attention of Science magazine, NPR, Audubon and the Washington Post, meaning the story of the Martinez beavers coming to *John Muir's home town* has been proudly carried alongside its wake.

If there were ever a better way to celebrate beavers, we sure don't know what it could be.

"Heidi is a child psychologist who didn't know much about beavers until 2007, when beavers showed up in downtown Martinez, California... the former home of John Muir. She now organizes an annual beaver festival in downtown Martinez"

August 2018 **National Geographic** Review of Ben Goldfarb's *"Eager: The secret and surprising life of beavers and why they matter"*.

Call for Nominees for 2018 John Muir Conservation Awards

For the 41st consecutive year, the John Muir Association will present our annual John Muir Conservation Awards at our Birthday / Earth Day event in 2019.

The John Muir Association supports the National Park Service in sustaining 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, the John Muir Association has honored those who continue John Muir's legacy of environmental preservation.

The winners of these awards over those years have included conservation groups, governmental agencies, select individuals of all ages, and local businesses. The point is, everyone – people, groups, and companies – can contribute to conservation efforts, and we want to showcase those who are committed to conservation.

Do you know of a business that strives to ensure that its operation uses energy and resources in a sustainable fashion? Do you know of a community group that has conservation initiatives that help keep our planet, and its wild areas, healthy?

Do you know of some individuals who are devoted to conservation, and educating others about the principles of conservation?

Chances are you do, and the chances are also high that these organizations and people are more concerned about conservation than getting awards, but we think they deserve some recognition.

Nomination forms can be found at <http://www.johnmuirassociation.org/php/conserv-award-submitnom.php>. There are links at the bottom that page in both pdf and Word formats.

Entries must be received by December 31st, 2018. You can choose to nominate anyone you might feel is worthy, and you can nominate your own business or organization if you like, as well.

Questions? Contact the John Muir Association by email: jma@johnmuirassociation.org



John Muir Trivia: Did you know?

How tall was John Muir?

That depends on who you ask! According to an 1872 description, John Muir was five feet nine inches tall, and he referred to himself as having been stunted by his harsh childhood. The film shown at the Muir House Historical Site says he was "about six feet tall."

Inside the visitor center at the National Park Service Muir House Historical Site, there is a statue of Muir which looks to be life-sized, and it appears to be under 6 feet - an average height for a man of that period.



The View from the Presidents' Desks

By Bruce Campbell & Mark Thomson

Last issue of the John Muir Association's newsletter (The View), we wrote about an upcoming hike that would be reconstructing the last few days of Muir's historic trek from San Francisco to Yosemite Valley, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of that hike.

We co-presidents of the JMA thought it would be interesting to go meet those intrepid hikers, and chat with them before and after the hike and report back to our JMA members on what insights we gained.

So, as the appointed dates approached, JMA Co-President Bruce Campbell, accompanied by JMA Board Member Tom Mathews, journeyed up to Groveland to meet the hikers on the morning of their departure from Crane Flat.

Simultaneously, JMA Co-President Mark Thomson headed for Yosemite for his planned rendezvous with the historic hikers at the end of their journey.



Ah, but nature has a way of reminding us that we can only pretend to plan – especially when heading to the high country – a notion that John Muir himself might have warned us about.



The week of this commemorative hike just happened to coincide with the horrific Ferguson Fire. This fire broke out on July 13th, and wasn't fully contained until August 19th. It ended up burning 96,901 acres in Sierra National Forest, Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park. Think about that – hundreds of firefighters fought this blaze night and day for a month before it was contained. 2 of them lost their lives in the effort.

None of this was on our minds (yet) as we drove our nice modern vehicles up nice highways to our "wilderness" destinations. But we were all affected by it. The commemorative hike was called off, for obvious reasons.

Yosemite Valley was closed to visitors, and the Sierras wore a smoky veil.

Tom, Mark and Bruce changed their plans and enjoyed some time in the high country. It was a vacation, but we were always mindful of what was happening in the mountains around us.

As John Muir would tell you, the mountains, the wilderness, will recover. It will recover on its own timetable, of course, but the wild places have the time. Visitors to the area will see the scars for at least a couple of generations, but fire is a natural part of the forest.

We all came home with a renewed appreciation for the awesome beauty and power of nature, in a way that would probably not been achieved with a couple of interviews with hikers. So, in a way, we got what we came for - just not in the way we expected.

Superintendent's View

By Tom Leatherman

The busy spring and summer months are behind us, but there is still time to get outside and enjoy those last few clear and warm days in the bay area – now that the smoke from the various fires seems to have cleared away. Although our campfire programs and full moon hikes are done for the year, we will be having some winter programming in December, including a special program at the Muir Gravesite on the anniversary of his death, Christmas Eve. Our website, www.nps.gov/jomu, has all of the announcements about our new and upcoming programs so check it out.



Fall is a great time to reflect on the busy year, and this year we had a variety of projects to help share the legacy of Muir as well as maintain the house and landscape. The shake roof on the Muir house was replaced, and should be good for another 10 to



Photo by Carter Wilson

bathrooms, which had water damage, has been replaced. As many of you know, we began tours of the Strentzel/Muir Gravesite in December and have had opportunities for weekly tours since then. Counting August, we have had nearly 400 people visit the gravesite, including over 100 visiting during our 2018 Earth Day/John Muir Birthday Event. Guided tours of the Gravesite will continue weekly, with funding to complete the new fencing and gates coming in 2020, allowing for more regular open hours in the future.

Another big milestone in 2018 was the start of our comprehensive Mt. Wanda/Strentzel Meadow planning



process. Three draft concepts for management of the area were shared at our 2018 Earth Day/John Muir Birthday Event, and a number of comments were received.

Over the winter the park planning team will be working to develop the draft alternatives, which will be shared in the late winter or early spring



when we officially launch our public scoping process for the plan. Ultimately we will develop a plan that outlines our long-term

management and use of the Mt. Wanda/Strentzel Meadow area, facilitating habitat restoration and providing visitor services.

We hope that you all will be involved in helping us to shape the future of this this amazing urban wild



2018 Martinez Historic Home Tour

Martinez's 2018 Martinez Historic Home Tour will take place on Saturday, October 13th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and will demonstrate once again that this is a town that revels in its proud history.

This year's Tour will be on October 13th. Please save the date! During the Tour, you will visit 6+ private homes -- most of which were constructed in the 1920s. You will also visit the St. Catherine of Sienna Church & School which were constructed in 1940 -- plus the four museums in town. The Tour will also include the Diablo Regional Concert Band plus other musicians at the homes, and includes exhibits, antique cars & shuttle buses.

People who visit Martinez cannot fail to notice the mixture of architectural styles in the homes -- often within a single city block. There are Craftsman-style homes, charming cottages and stately Victorians. Often, the residents display a finely-honed design sense and decorate their homes to accentuate the beauty that was built in, generations ago.

The houses on this year's Tour are located in two clusters. The first is near the Martinez Junior High School, a Spanish Revival structure built in 1931. The second grouping of homes is to the Southeast -- located in the area around the 70 acres upon which was situated the Christian Brother's Novitiate and Winery prior to 1932 when the order moved to Napa.

You'll see homes in a variety of architectural styles: French Norman, Tudor Revival, Story-book and more!

Once you have your ticket, you can choose to drive to each house, or ride the shuttles which will depart from the Shell Clubhouse every 15 minutes or so.



The 2018 Martinez Historic Home Tour

Date: Saturday, October 13th, from 10:00am to 4:00 pm

Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 on the day of the Tour

Where to get Tickets:

- **Online, from the event's website at**
martinezhometour.com/index-2C.html

- **At these local Martinez Merchants**

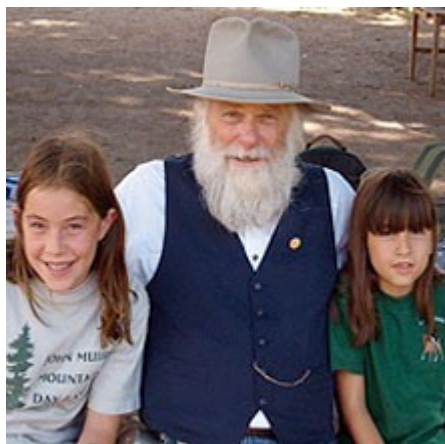
I've Been Framed (411 Ferry Street)
 Char's Flowers (625 Main Street)
 The UPS Store (155-C Arnold Drive)
 Peirano Jewelers (510 Center Ave)

- **Tickets at the gate on the day of the Tour**
 go to the Shell Clubhouse (1635 Pacheco Blvd)

Questions? See <http://martinezhometour.com> or call 925-864-8457

The 2018 John Muir Mountain Day Camp– Tons of Fun in 2018

The 2018 John Muir Mountain Day Camp was an unqualified success. Dozens of kids, aged 7 through 12 attended the two weeklong camps and had a great time learning how Muir’s legacy continues to help the earth be a healthier and more beautiful place to live. They all enjoyed the relaxed, non-competitive (and electronics-free!) outdoor environment.



Each week was packed with fun and informational activities, such as exploring nature trails, painting, baking sour-dough bread, journaling (as Muir did) and discovering local plants and animals, and there’s no better way to help a child embark on a lifetime of appreciation for the outdoors, history and nature.

This camp has earned a reputation as being both abundantly fun and educational at the same time. The two one-week sessions began in mid-July, and were held at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez.

The Camp is presented by the John Muir

Association and the National Park Service, and is held at the John Muir National Historic Site at 4202 Alhambra Avenue (at Hwy 4), Martinez, CA 94553.



We have every expectation that next year’s camps will just as fun and we hope parents will begin setting aside time in mid-to-late July in 2019 to enjoy next year’s camp, too!

The John Muir Association would like to extend thanks to the organizations that sponsored the John Muir Mountain Day Camp in 1018: The Martinez



Community Foundation, Shell Martinez Refinery, Martinez Kiwanis and Clayton Rotary.

The dates for the 2019 John Muir Mountain Day Camp will be: July 22-26 and July 29-Aug 2. To learn more about the John Muir Mountain Day Camp, see

www.johnmuirassociation.org/muircamp



Clayton Valley Concord
Sunrise Rotary Club



MARTINEZ
KIWANIS CLUB



Upcoming Events



John Muir Birthday - Earth Day Celebration

**Saturday, April 20, 2019
10 am to 4 pm**

**Family Fun all day!
Don't miss it!**

2018 Martinez Historic Home Tour

**October 13th - 10am to 4pm
See page 6 for more details**

