



**Mission in Action**

**SEPTEMBER'S RANCH DAYS TAKE US BACK TO MUIR'S ROOTS IN THE ALHAMBRA VALLEY**



Muir Heritage Land Trust

*Frank Helling performs as John Muir*



Muir Heritage Land Trust

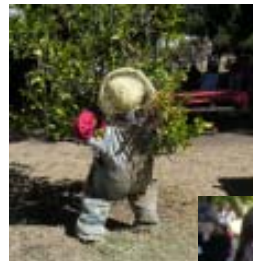
*Park tours by horse and carriage*



*New World Scottish Dancers*



*Spinning Wheel Band*



*Scarecrows, raffles, picnics, and more -- fun for all ages!*



*Square Dancers of Contra Costa County*

The View

from John Muir's Window

Photos courtesy Igor Skaredoff except as noted

## THE VIEW FROM THE PRESIDENT'S WINDOW

C. Mack Shaver

Reflecting on the past year, and looking ahead to those to come, there have been several successes and accomplishments for members of the John Muir Association to be proud of with plenty left to do.

The events we sponsor jointly with the National Historic Site continue to grow, both in number of people attending and revenue generated. The association ended the fiscal year with a profit! Combining Earth Day with the John Muir Birthday celebration, Muir's conservation ethic and legacy were highlighted last April. Historic ranching implements, horse-drawn wagon rides, live entertainment, and numerous activities drew over 800 visitors to Ranch Days in September. These events raise awareness of John Muir and this special place.

The long needed rewrite of our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation was completed, allowing our name change, new committee procedures and new board structure without compromising our purpose to support the activities of John Muir National Historic Site. Six new board members bring energy, ideas and excitement to our operation.

The most recent new members are Mark Westwind of Martinez and Glenn Fuller of Walnut Creek. Mark, with a Masters of Public Administration, has been active in the founding of over a dozen community organizations, leads kayak expeditions, and also serves as a business consultant. Glenn is the retired Superintendent of

Eugene O'Neill and John Muir National Historic Sites and Port Chicago National Memorial. He spent over 30 years as a national park ranger and park superintendent.

With strong leadership in place, there is much for members and volunteers to do to support the park. The primary services your association provides to the historic site are raising funds for projects that would otherwise not be accomplished and supporting educational events and activities.

The board will hold a retreat in mid-November to set goals and draft a strategy to better accomplish our purpose in the coming years. We will focus on how to better meet our goals and objectives by exploring ways to:

- increase our staff's time;
- increase our membership;
- work more effectively within the surrounding communities and with the John Muir Festival Center;

- increase revenue from donations and foundation support; and
- engage the regional community in volunteer projects.

Whatever the Board plans will require member support and involvement. The Association will continue to grow only with your help. Get involved!

*Attend the upcoming events described in this newsletter.*

*Our board is still growing—you can participate on the board or a committee.*

*Volunteer for an event, for daily activities at the site, or to support our staff and board work.*

*Tell your friends and family about us and encourage them to become members.*

Thank you for all you have done for the Association, and for your interest in John Muir. Please join us in making the coming years even more fun and successful!

### GREAT GIFT IDEAS FROM JMA

- ◆ Treat yourself or those who also care about John Muir's ideas to a gift membership good throughout 2006, with member's discounts on special activities
- ◆ Add \$10 to the membership fee of \$40 and your subscription includes a 2005 Muir California quarter and gift card signed by Garrett Burke, the designer
- ◆ Purchase the John Muir Tribute CD for \$15 plus \$3.50 postage and handling and enjoy songs and stories about John Muir from many talented musicians, authors, researchers, and descendants of John Muir, with photos by Galen Rowell -- you will also be supporting the new Education and Visitor Center



**NEW EXHIBIT SHOWCASING  
JOHN MUIR THE BOTANIST  
OPENS JANUARY 28, 2006**

Muir's passion for botany will come alive in an exhibit based on an upcoming book by Dr. Bonnie Gisel, with photographs by Steven Joseph. More information will be available soon.

**HELP US CELEBRATE THE MAN WHO  
CELEBRATED THE EARTH  
APRIL 22, 2006**

Get involved in the planning for John Muir's Birthday / Earth Day. We need volunteers to perform on stage, recruit exhibitors, lend a hand setting up, and much more. Get in touch with your ideas, contacts, or skills to share.

Liz Eckstein: 925/229-3857 or [jmassoc@yahoo.com](mailto:jmassoc@yahoo.com)

**CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Guidelines are available on our website ([www.johnmuir.org/martinez](http://www.johnmuir.org/martinez)) for the 2006 John Muir Conservation Award. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2006.



*Table grapes, Zinfandel wine grapes, pears, cherries, peaches, and apricots were the primary cash crops grown on the Strentzel/Muir ranch*

**RANCH RAMBLINGS  
FROM THE  
JOHN MUIR  
NATIONAL  
HISTORIC SITE**

**Join us for a festive  
Victorian Christmas  
Saturday, December 10,  
11-4**

Share stories around the traditional Muir family tree as the Muir house shines with its new paint and holiday decorations. Special entertainment and holiday treats!



The National Park Service has just received an award from the California Preservation Foundation for its cultural landscape report. The report includes documentation of the historical landscape during the Strentzel/Muir era, a description of the current conditions, and a plan to manage and restore the landscape (where possible) to what it looked like circa 1910.



Igor Skarecic

*Park Superintendent Martha Lee with Board Member Glenn Fuller at Ranch Days*

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