

**January 20, 2010**

**DATE OF EVENT: April 17, 2010**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration**

MARTINEZ—The John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration will highlight Muir’s contribution to the planet and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. The event—which drew nearly 2,400 participants in 2009—will be held April 17<sup>th</sup> at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez.

The Celebration presents exhibits and fun activities for all ages. Our featured speakers include Brock Dolman, Director of the Water Institute, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. Michael Muir, great grandson of John Muir, will greet guests with his magnificent horses. Participants will also enjoy live entertainment, tours of the historic home and grounds, nature activities, self-guided tours of the California Native Plant Garden, and much more. Admission is free to this regional event, which draws participants from all over the Bay Area.

Live music is by Extended Roots, Spinning Wheel, and The Black Irish Band of Sonora. Patty Helling will play the piano in the parlor of the Muir Home. Two silent auctions offer fun items to bid on, with the proceeds benefiting the John Muir Association, which presents the Celebration along with the National Park Service. The event is made possible by this year’s sponsors, including the City of Martinez and the Martinez Community Foundation.

John Muir Birthday–Earth Day (*Continued*)

“John Muir” will celebrate his birthday (as portrayed by National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling) by telling tales and sharing his birthday cake. Lunch and beverages will be available for purchase.

Bay Area residents of every age are invited to attend this action-filled John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration. “The home where John Muir lived and worked is a center for learning about Muir’s life and his efforts to conserve our nation’s most beautiful lands. Many of Muir’s ideas and writings are as relevant and timely today as when he asked each person to ‘keep close to nature’s heart.’” said John Muir NHS General Superintendent Martha Lee. Known as the “Father of the National Park System,” Muir’s writings were key in preserving many of the stunning wild lands—mountains, rivers, canyons, shorelines, meadows, lakes and giant trees—that we enjoy today.

The Celebration hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information, visit [www.johnmuirassociation.org](http://www.johnmuirassociation.org) or call 925-229-3857.

The John Muir National Historic Site is located at 4202 Alhambra Avenue at Highway 4 in Martinez. For directions to the Muir Site, visit [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu). Shuttles from free, off-site parking will be provided throughout the day. Using public transportation is encouraged; visit <http://511.org> for information. Heavy rain cancels; call the John Muir National Historic Site if the weather is uncertain at (925) 288-8860.

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