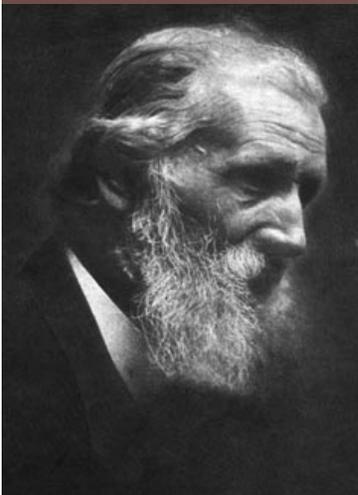




The View

FALL 2012

*How strange seem these
untamed solitudes of
the free wild bosom
of the Alaska woods.
Nevertheless, they are
found necessarily and
eternally familiar. Go
where we will, all over the
world, we seem to have
been there before.*
—John Muir, 1879



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.

JMA Donates Part of Kimes Collection to National Park Service

The John Muir Association donated a portion of its William and Maymie Kimes Collection to the National Park Service at the John Muir National Historic Site to provide a better home for these historic items. The Kimes Collection is a significant asset of JMA that contains nearly 2,000 Muir-related items.

The donation generally consists of books of historical interest—many signed by Muir—and manuscript editions of his writings. Among the first editions of Muir’s books are *My First Summer in the Sierra* and *The Yosemite*. In addition to 15 individual books and a ten-volume limited edition of Muir’s work, the donation includes Muir’s own *Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, comprised of 22 small, leather-bound volumes with Muir’s markings and notes.

“The John Muir Association continues to demonstrate leadership in the

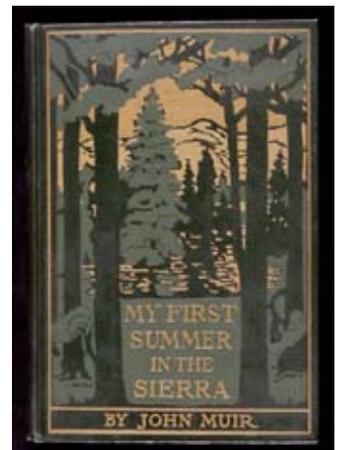


preservation of Muir’s legacy,” said Tom Leatherman, General Superintendent of John Muir National Historic Site. “We are excited to add these

new items to our collection and hope that they will be part of one of our future rotating exhibits in the house, so that all can learn and gain inspiration from them.”

When John Muir Association purchased the William and Maymie Kimes

Collection from the Kimes in 2000 and 2001, the appraised value was more than \$100,000. The donated items are valued at more than \$40,000.



The John Muir Association retains the remainder of the collection, which includes original Muir letters, books, articles and various other items.

Highlights of the donation include books that Muir inscribed and gave to his friends. Among the books donated to the National Park Service are:

An edition of *The Mountains of California* that Muir inscribed to a close friend, a publisher in Edinburgh:

To my friend David Douglas with kind regards of the

(Continued, next page)



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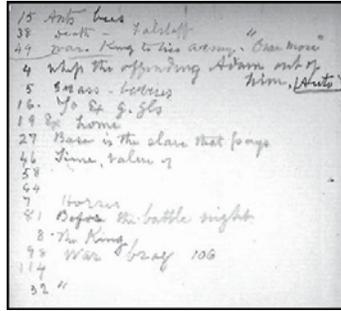
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John Muir National Historic Site
National Park Service
www.nps.gov/jomu

Tom Leatherman,
General Superintendent

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author John Muir Martinez, California, Oct. 30, 1894.

Our National Parks, inscribed:

To my dear friend Mrs. Henry Fairfield Osborn "Our Parks," corrected copy recalling happy book-work days in leafy Woodsome Lodge. Summer of 1911, John Muir.

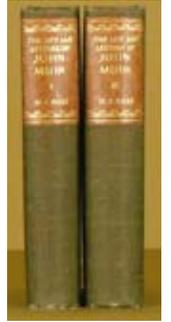
Tucked inside a first-edition copy of *My First Summer in the Sierra* was a letter written by Muir to friend A.C. Vroman about his impending visit to Pasadena. Written in Martinez and dated January 18, 1909, the letter concludes:

Here is a Hetch Hetchy pamphlet explaining the fight now on in Congress. Help us if you can.

The Bill and Maymie Kimes Collection represents only a portion of the items collected by the couple over a lifetime. Bill, with the assistance of his wife Maymie, began collecting books, magazines articles, and letters by John Muir in the 1950s. Their collection includes signed copies of the books published in Muir's lifetime. The couple also collected books, articles, and other publications about Muir, along with extensive memorabilia, which they catalogued in "John Muir, A Reading Bibliography," published

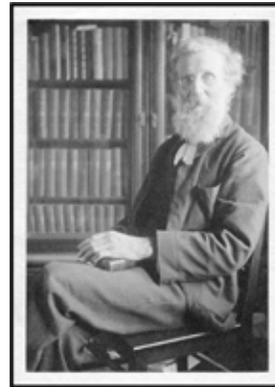


Muir's 22-volume set of Shakespeare (above) and Muir's notes in one volume (left). The two volumes (right) of *The Life and Letters of John Muir*. The photo of Muir in his scribble den taken by his friend S. L. Willard (circa 1914) may be one of the last photos of him.



in 1977 and 1986.

The bibliography was their masterwork, and identified and described all of John Muir's writings from his first article in a Boston newspaper. At the University of the Pacific, the John Muir Papers collection is organized and numbered in correspondence with the bibliography.



The William and Maymie Kimes Collection forms a unique resource of Muir's literary efforts. In the course of the research, the Kimes contacted libraries, private collectors, and Muir descendants. They interviewed many who had known Muir, and/or the Hanna and the Funk families (the married

names of Muir's daughters Wanda and Helen, respectively). Bill Kimes and John Muir's daughter Helen Funk corresponded extensively.

"The John Muir Association is proud to have been the custodian of these priceless items from John Muir's life," said JoAnne Dunec, President. "The Board of Directors is pleased to donate them to the National Park Service, where they can be forever protected, and where the public will have opportunities to view and enjoy them."



Bagpiper Joyce Macpherson-Newport entertains the crowd.

JMA at the Martinez Beaver Festival

This year both the John Muir Association and Mountain Day Camp joined the Martinez Beaver Festival as popular displays. The young camper below helped her sister make the “keystone species charm necklace” she had learned about in camp the week before. Children earn charms by learning how beavers and their dams help other species.

Other firsts of the day included the giant inflatable beaver and displays by the Marine Mammal Center, the Occidental

Arts and Ecology Center, and the River Otter Ecology Project. This year’s festival was another resounding success, sealing the link between beavers and the environment by highlighting the essential work of the animal that John Muir’s colleague Enos Mills once called “the original conservationist.”



Photos courtesy of Worth A Dam

Go Back in Time at the Martinez Historical Society Home Tour

Enjoy a tour of eight private homes representing the architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in historical Martinez along with John Muir’s 1882 Italianate Victorian home and the 1849 Martinez Adobe. The Martinez Historic Home Tour will be on Saturday, October 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

John Muir’s home was among the grandest of its time, costing \$20,000 to build, an extravagant amount in its day. An article in the *Martinez Gazette*, written while the house was being built, said “with but one or two exceptions, it will be the finest and most complete private residence in the county.” The Martinez Adobe was built in 1849 and is the oldest residence in the city, perhaps the county.



The tour begins at the Shell Clubhouse at 1635 Pacheco Avenue, notable for its original Arts & Crafts interior. Also on the tour are the Shell Oil Museum and the 1890 Borland House, which is the home of the Martinez Museum.

This year’s tour features an exhibit of historical photographs and vintage camera equipment, live musicians at several locations, craft demonstrations,

displays of art and refreshments. Also included is a side tour of the Nature’s Way Doll Centre with its collection of historical Dolls.



Proceeds from the tour will benefit the Martinez Historical Society’s effort to restore and reopen the Old Train Depot in downtown Martinez. Though it has been altered through the years, the original building dates back to 1877.

Shuttles with tour guides will entertain you with stories of historical Martinez. The tour will take place rain or shine. No children under 12 years of age (in-



Photos courtesy of Martinez Historical Society

fants may be carried in arms or a belly carrier). The historic homes are not wheelchair accessible. Photography inside the homes is not allowed.

Tickets are \$25 and are tax deductible. Tickets can be purchased at various business locations and online. For more information or to buy tickets online using a credit card, please go to the Home Tour website: <http://www.martinezhometour.com> or to <http://www.eventbrite.com>.



John Muir Mountain Day Camp—Our Tenth Year Was Magnificent!

With a closing ceremony attended by their parents and guardians, campers completed another great year of camp—our 10th. Each child received a Junior Ranger badge, sang songs learned at camp and shared the sourdough bread they made from 143-year-old starter.



I said to my younger daughter this evening, “What’s my little camper up to?” She replied, “I’m going to make a difference.” “How?” I asked. “I’m not sure yet,” she replies. “And what’s the inspiration for your desire to make a difference?” I asked. “John Muir Camp!”

The John Muir Association appreciates the support of the Martinez Community Foundation, which allowed us to grant partial or full scholarships to 23 children this year.

As I write, she is walking around the backyard with her nature journal and colored pencils, looking for the perfect plant to sketch.

Thanks for hosting this camp!



We also thank our great Directors Jill Harcke and Susan Barry, Camp Manager Christine Elder, Counselors and Junior Counselors. All contributed to making a memorable experience that just might change lives. Our Directors received the following e-mail from the mom of one camper:

Consider enrolling your child, grandchild, niece or nephew next year. Details on next year will be on our website in the spring of 2013. For general information, visit www.muircamp.org.

President’s View

By JoAnne Dunec

*Another glorious day, the air as delicious to the lungs
as nectar to the tongue.*

—John Muir, *My First Summer in the Sierra*, 1911

Although John Muir was writing about the Sierras, his thoughts could have easily applied to our eighth annual John Muir Birthday—Earth Day Celebration held at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. It was truly a gloriously beautiful day. The National Park Service counted 2,501 (yes, and one) visitors to the event! This year it was held on April 21, 2012, which coincidentally was also “John Muir Day” in California. According to California Government Code Section 6714, “the Governor annually shall proclaim April 21st to be ‘John Muir Day.’” In addition, Section 37222 of the California Education Code encourages public schools and educational institutions to:

conduct suitable commemorative exercises stressing the importance that an ecologically sound natural

environment plays in the quality of life for all of us, and emphasizing John Muir’s significant contributions to the fostering of that awareness and the indelible mark he left on the State of California.

The John Muir Association in partnership with the National Park Service, together with exhibitors involved in environmental endeavors, speakers, and 2,501 participants did just that—moreover at Muir’s home, where he penned many of his writings in his “scribble den” and raised his family. No doubt John Muir himself would have thoroughly enjoyed the day! The event continues to be one of the premier Bay Area Earth Day celebrations. However, our event is unique as we also celebrate John Muir’s birthday. Muir was born on April 21, 1838. His life, vision and work continue to inspire countless people, not only in California, but also around the globe, to appreciate and preserve the natural world. His life and legacy are celebrated year-round at the John Muir National Historic Site, estab-

(Continued next page)



JMA President JoAnne Dunec (left) with Deputy Superintendent Sue Fritzke at the John Muir Birthday—Earth Day Celebration.

lished to preserve his home, Mt. Wanda (named for one of his daughters), and his gravesite, as well as Yosemite National Park, which he was instrumental in establishing in 1890.

Our ever-popular John Muir Mountain Day Camp celebrated its tenth year! Campers, aged eight to twelve enjoyed learning about nature literally in Muir’s footsteps at his home and ranch. And as one participant wrote, campers learned that they too can “make a difference.” Each of the two weeks was an experience not to be missed.



Robert Perry

Next year we plan to announce the 2012 John Muir Conservation Awards winners at the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration to be held on April 20, 2013. As a result, we have extended the application deadline to December 31, 2012. Please encourage worthy individuals and groups to apply. Details, including the application forms and past award recipients, can be found at: www.johnmuirassociation.org.

John Muir’s Literary Legacy

The John Muir National Historic Site is featuring a new exhibit, *John Muir’s Literary Legacy*, in the Study Annex of John Muir’s Victorian home.

The exhibit places John Muir in a larger world of nature writers, including Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, Edward Abbey and Dr. Seuss. This exhibit will run through January, 2013.

All five writers used their pens to push the United States forward toward more preservation and protection of our natural resources. The exhibit shows that Muir helped fuel a fire that would burn through the environmental movement of the 1960s and ‘70s, and continues today. First editions of Muir’s own writings are on display.

The new exhibit is part of a rotating series of exhibits that will change every six months.

For directions and hours, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/jomu> or call (925) 228-8860.

Superintendent’s View

By Tom Leatherman

John Muir Mountain Day Camp was back again in 2012, after a year off, and it was so nice to see a new batch of young naturalists on the Site. Day camp is a great way to inspire the next generation to carry on John Muir’s legacy. It was also exciting to continue our Campfire program the



General Superintendent Tom Leatherman. Below: Park Guide Leah Duran.

first Saturday of the month from June until September. Not only did we get great participation in this program, with over 100 people attending the August and September offerings (I brought my kids in August), but we saw unprecedented attendance on our Full Moon Hikes as well. We hope to continue all of these programs, and more, in 2013, so check out our website and my Facebook page if you want information about upcoming events. (www.facebook.com/4parksuperintendent)

To help manage all of these exciting programs, we have a new staff member who just started at the end of July—Leah



Duran. Leah’s interest in nature was first kindled on hikes in the Connecticut woods. After graduating from Arizona State University with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a minor in parks management, she served with AmeriCorps and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) for two years. Her introduction to the NPS began with an SCA internship at Montezuma Castle

National Monument in Arizona and continued with positions at Grand Canyon and most recently at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leah reflects, “I admire John Muir’s adventurous spirit and poetic words, which inspired the protection of some of America’s most spectacular natural resources.” We are certainly lucky to have her on staff.

Remember, we are open seven days a week from 10:00 until 5:00 and it is FREE!! Saunter through the orchards and walk in Muir’s footsteps—it could change your life.



Travels with Muir

Exploring Glacier Bay with John Muir

By Sherida Bush

“...a solitude of ice and snow and newborn rocks, dim, dreary, mysterious.”

—John Muir on his first view of Glacier Bay, Alaska

My first impression of Glacier Bay in Alaska, ringed with snow-capped, flinty peaks, echoed Muir’s, though it was 133 years later.

Muir was viewing the bay in 1879 from a cedar canoe accompanied by his friend, missionary S. Hall Young, and Indians Toyatte, Kadachan, Sitka Charley and Stickeen John. My craft was a bit different; I stood on an upper deck of a luxurious cruise ship.

As my ship maneuvered close to the Muir-named Grand Pacific Glacier, I held an item that became the key to unlocking the mysteries of the bay: the book *John Muir: Letters from Alaska*. The slender volume contains his serially published missives to a San Francisco newspaper and other writings, from his Alaska trips of 1879 and 1880.

The small act of bringing the book was crucial. Experiencing the icy tableaux through Muir’s eyes—without the ability to touch the water, step on shore, or explore the land—made the spectacular place real. “The wealth of the landscape” came alive with his descriptions.

John Muir went to Alaska for the first time to see glaciers and was ecstatic to find so many beautiful “ice rivers,” or tidewater glaciers, meeting the waters of the bay. Most would describe what Muir and his companions encountered as they explored the bay as nerve-rattling hardship, but not Muir. “The weather was stormy, cold rain fell fast,” and his companions wanted to turn back. “They seemed to be sinking deeper into dismal dumps with every howl of the storm, when I reminded them that storms did not last forever, and the sun would rise again; that with me they need fear nothing, because good luck followed me always...in far wilder storms...” All agreed to continue.

With calm assurance, Muir describes situations we might think of as unsettling, such as probing the iceberg-laden water in the pitch-black night to find a



small spot to land the canoe and camp for the night. He leaves out of his reports the greeting they received at one village—a hail of bullets (described in Young’s book much later). Muir notes that icebergs, prone to breaking apart or suddenly flipping over, often killed seal-hunting Indians and that his party was in similar peril: “We were too near several large ones that fell as we passed, and our canoe had narrow escapes.” But Muir does not dwell on the difficulties and dangers—he is much too excited about the magnificence.

Difficulties and dangers were not part of my experience. Even so, I could imagine myself on a tiny island of a canoe as booming claps of a calving glacier filled the air—the same sound Muir described as “loud, resounding thunder” more than a century ago. I took heed of his observation that “Alaska is full of food for man and beast, body and soul...”

We entered the glassy waters of Glacier Bay at 6:00 a.m. The cruise line brought a National Park Service ranger aboard who described the history, geology, wildlife, Muir’s legacy and more. But reading Muir’s own words made the exploration more meaningful. And exploration it was—for me and for each of the 2,000 or so passengers discovering this piece of wilderness for the first time.

(Continued, next page)

Even though I was surrounded by a huge ship as we glided into the bay instead of navigating a rough-hewn canoe, the sense of wonder was undiminished. For those of us who are most likely not going to explore Glacier Bay in a canoe, this is adventure enough if you seize it. “The power of imagination makes us infinite,” said Muir, and tearing off a morsel of infinity is possible.

With the famous explorer’s thoughts and descriptions at my fingertips, I felt as if I knew the secrets of the place. But most of all, I could appreciate its majesty and feel the beauty of its subtle colors and cool embrace. With guidance from words true and clear, the vast landscape was mine.

The book’s editors, Robert Engberg and Bruce Merrell, agree with the power of Muir’s words: “His descriptions let us imaginatively board the canoe with Young and the Indian guides to feel the roll of berg-waves and to enjoy the sight of a grand glacier ‘lying at home in its massive granite valley...glowing in the early sunshine.’” And you can do it now, in a cozy chair. Have a grand adventure.



Though Muir had written journals, letters and notebooks on his Alaska travels, he did not concentrate on writing the book *Travels in Alaska* until 1913. One of the 36 different versions he had written lay next to his hospital bed the night he died. The book was published posthumously.

John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration a Smash Hit

Our eighth annual John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration held at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez broke attendance records, with 2,501 visitors, as recorded by the National Park Service. Our thanks to emcee David Faustina, speaker Rona Zollinger and our sponsors: City of Martinez, Shell Martinez Refinery, Allied Waste and Kiwanis of Martinez. Enjoy the photos by Don Homewood, and plan to join us for next year’s Celebration on April 20th!



Photos by Don Homewood

The opening procession (above) featured Igor Skaredoff as John Muir and Scott Parker, bagpiper. JMA Emeritus Board Member Michael Muir addressed the crowd (upper right). Deputy Superintendent Sue Fritzke (right) accepts a gift from the Martinez Historical Society.



Save the Date: John Muir Birthday–Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, 2013



P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553

John Muir Conservation Awards

Nominations Now Being Accepted for 2012



Send us your nomination for a hard-working individual, organization, agency or business!

The John Muir Conservation Awards honor significant contributions in environmental action, education/advocacy, preservation, restoration and other outstanding work. Self nominations are accepted.

Since 1978, the John Muir Association has honored those who work to continue John Muir's legacy of

environmental preservation. 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 20th at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez.

For nomination information and forms, visit www.johnmuirassociation.org or call (925) 229-3857. The nomination packet must be received no later than December 31, 2012.

Support your local national park and the enduring conservation legacy of John Muir!

The John Muir Association invites you to become a committee member or volunteer. If you can lend a few hours a month, please contact us at info@johnmuirassociation.org or call (925) 229-3857.