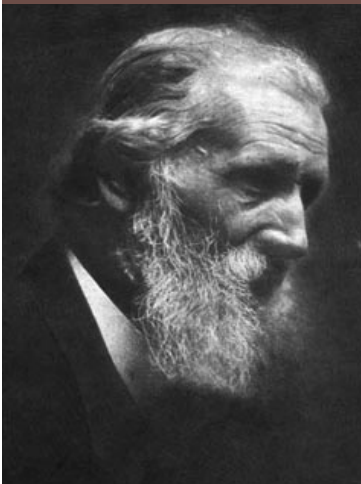




The View

FALL 2015

*To-day I reached the sea...
I caught the scent of the
salt sea breeze, which
conjured up Dunbar, its
rocky coast, winds and
waves; and my whole
childhood, that seemed to
have utterly vanished in
the New World, was now
restored amid the Florida
woods by that one breath.*
—John Muir in 1867 (age
29) in A Thousand-Mile
Walk to the Gulf



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.

John Muir Association in Scotland

By George Turnbull

In May, six members of the John Muir Association (JMA) Board of Directors travelled to Edinburgh and Dunbar, Scotland to meet with various Scottish Muir-related entities. The goal for the trip was to re-engage in relationships with our colleagues in Scotland that had fallen dormant over time. The timing was fortuitous, given the National Park Service Centennial in 2016 and the opportunity to celebrate John Muir's signature role in creating that organization and numerous national park units.

The first activity of the trip took place on May 19, when the delegation toured the Scottish Parliament and met with Parliament Member Iain Gray. Mr. Gray was very interested and supportive of efforts to increase Muir-related tourism between Scotland and the United States. After the meeting, he engaged the Minister of Tourism to assign a staff person from VisitScotland, the Scottish tourism bureau to survey U.S. Muir-related organizations and sites to pursue closer tourism relationships.

The main meetings of the visit took place on May 21-22 in Dunbar. Our delegation made the same journey from Edinburgh that John Muir made by train in July 1893 on his return to



High Street in Dunbar, Scotland. John Muir's Birthplace (white building) and the home where he grew up (next to it, right) are shown.

Dunbar, and we walked the same route into town. Central Dunbar has changed very little since John Muir left. Most of the stone structures on the High Street, Dunbar's main road, are centuries old and many have a Muir family connection. The wild and beautiful coastline is dominated by a harbor and the ruins of Dunbar Castle. It is easy to see how this rustic and bucolic landscape shaped Muir's early love of nature.



A variety of Scottish organizations affiliated with the John Muir Birthplace Trust participated, including but not limited to senior representatives of the Dunbar Community Council, East Lothian Council, Central Scotland Green Network, Friends of John Muir Birthplace, Dunbar History Society, Dunbar Primary and Middle Schools and John Muir Country Park. These individuals took

(Continued, next page)



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time out of their busy schedules to meet with us. They are as passionate about the Muir story as we are and are making great strides in incorporating Muir themes into the education system, tourism and the Scottish character. Numerous members of the JMA delegation commented on the warmth, friendliness and generosity of our counterparts in making our meetings and visit a memorable one.

On the morning of May 21, a plenary session was convened where JMA and



our Scottish partners gave presentations on their respective organizations, partners, finances, community outreach efforts and deployment of technology. After that, small-group breakout sessions were held on these subjects. In the afternoon, the JMA delegation toured an elementary and middle



The delegation and spouses at Scottish Parliament. Left to right: George Turnbull, Mary Ann and Jim Gaebe, Cathy Ivers, Sudha and Raj Hajela.

school in Dunbar, followed by a tour of the John Muir's Birthplace visitor center. On May 22, the JMA delegation hiked a section of the newly designated

JOHN MUIR ASSOCIATION in SCOTLAND

JMA Board Members who visited officials in Dunbar and Edinburgh discussed ways in which our Muir-related organizations may coordinate our efforts. These include:

- Look at the potential for staff exchanges between the National Park Service (NPS) and the John Muir Birthplace Trust.
- Exchange Muir-oriented educational curricula between Dunbar and Martinez schools, especially at the elementary- and middle-school levels.
- Share, exchange and display park and tourism brochures between Scotland and the US (NPS, Dunbar, Martinez, John Muir Birthplace Trust, John Muir Way).
- Build a tighter connection between the above listed sites on websites and social media.
- Sell Muir-oriented Scottish books in John Muir NHS Visitor Center.
- More broadly exchange newsletters between Muir-oriented Scottish and American groups.
- Work on an exchange of music culture between Dunbar and Martinez.
- Videoconference between Martinez and Dunbar schools to share John Muir educational content.
- Renew and rejuvenate the existing sister city agreement between Martinez and Dunbar.
- As part of the NPS Centennial in 2016, work with other Muir-related NPS sites to broaden their connections with Scottish entities.

—George Turnbull

John Muir Way with Birthplace Trust staff, partners and John Muir Country Park staff. In the afternoon, the delegation took a walking tour of John Muir's Dunbar led by Will Collin, a passionate Muir advocate, Birthplace Trustee and our main point of contact on the visit.



Kilted Tour Guide Robert Russel escorting JMA Board Members JoAnne Dunec and Mary Ann Gaebe, on John Muir Way.

Next came a viewing of a performance entitled "Thank God for John Muir." Written and performed by Scottish playwright Andrew Dallweyer, it was an avant-garde monologue of John Muir quotes and situations as he thought back on his life.

will soon brief the Martinez City Council on our trip with the intent of reinvigorating the sister city relationship between Martinez and Dunbar.

Editor's Note: No John Muir Association funds were used for Board Member travel. All paid their own expenses.

A wrap-up session was held at the end of the day to brainstorm a list of potential collaboration opportunities (please see sidebar, page 2).



Since then, JMA Board Members have begun working on the list of collaboration opportunities. We



JMA Board Members who made up the delegation to Scotland are pictured in front of John Muir's Birthplace museum with their tour guide and host, Will Collin (right). Left to right are: Raj Hajela, JoAnne Dunec, Mary Ann Gaebe, Mark Thomson, Cathy Ivers and George Turnbull.



John Muir Mountain Day Camp Brought Nature to Young Lives

Once again, John Muir Mountain Day Camp was filled to capacity this year. The two sessions were held this summer for children as young as six to age twelve.



One of our campers this year (in pink hat) shared some of her wonderful knowledge of birds—and her amazing ability to imitate the calls of different species.

We thank our great Camp Directors Jill Harcke and Susan Barry, Camp Manager Connie Strand, Camp Director Marla Parada, Counselors and Junior Counselors. All worked hard to create a fantastic camp and life-changing experiences for our campers.

We also thank individual contributors to our camp scholarship fund.

Check our website next year for information on our 2016 camp: www.johnmuirassociation.org.

Campers interacted with "John Muir," as portrayed by National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling, learned about Nature, took a walk on Mt. Wanda, baked sourdough bread and so much more. At the closing ceremony, campers sang songs and were presented with Junior Ranger badges from the National Park Service that they earned during camp.



Top, left to right: Camp Director Sue Barry, Camp Director Marla Parada and Camp Manager Connie Strand with a camper.



Walking John Muir Way

by Mark Thomson, JMA Board Member

On a recent visit to Scotland with other John Muir Association Board Members, I had the opportunity to walk portions of the John Muir Way. This trail was commissioned in 2014 and stretches from the west coast of Scotland to the North Sea on the east coast. Starting in Helensburgh, in the west, where Muir departed for America, the trail meanders across central Scotland passing through beautiful countryside, past the historic city of Edinburgh and through Dunbar where John Muir was born.

The trail is becoming quite popular. Hiking, biking and horseback riding are the three ways to experience the trail.

Walking the trail takes from seven to ten days, and biking takes about half that time. You can easily find lodging and food along the way.

My first experience on the trail was led by Robert Russel, a kilted tour leader, who has written and published a trail guide. He graciously gave Board Members a taste of Scotland's growing appreciation of John Muir. Robert led us down the trail from a lovely stream crossing where University students were busy with a fish migration study. We worked our way west through forest, farmland, parks and seashore to Dunbar, where Muir spent his early years.

That hike only whetted my appetite. When our meetings with Scottish officials were over,

my wife Lorna and I decided to hike portions of the 134-mile trail. Starting in Helensburgh, where we looked over the Firth of Clyde at 11:30 p.m. in the waning hours of the summer day, we moved steadily eastward, sampling interesting sections of the trail. When the hikes for the day were done, we found lodging at inns along the way and sampled Scottish fare, including haggis and some fine single malt whiskey.

The quaint village of Balloch, along Loch Lomond, is a particularly scenic part of John Muir Way. The trail through town follows the River Levin as it flows into Loch Lomond with dramatic peaks in the distance. Balloch Inn was a charming inn along the river with a rustic pub below and rooms above.

We moved eastward and found the trail along a creek on a rainy day. The green hillsides and wildflowers were quite the contrast



JMA Board Members walking John Muir Way. (above). Left to right are: Raj Hajela, Mary Ann Gaebe's husband Jim, JoAnne Dunec and George Turnbull. Below: Loch Lomond.

to California's parched landscape. Swans were plentiful in the waterways along the trail with their cygnets following closely behind. A cup of espresso in a pub belied the need for Starbucks in the Scottish countryside.

As we hiked along the John Muir Way on the banks of the Firth of Forth near Linlithgow, we found the Blackness Castle. This 15th-century castle is striking in its prominence along the water and has a history that lives up to its name. Linlithgow, on the other hand, is a friendly little town with good accommodations and food and worthy of a stop.

Now that we have a taste of the John Muir Way, I am hankering to get back on the trail and experience the entire route. It's a great way to see Scotland, muse on the philosophies of John Muir and get some good exercise to boot.



National Park Service Centennial

By Sue Fritzke
Acting General Superintendent

The National Park Service just celebrated our 99th anniversary as an agency, and we're gearing up for a year of events and activities leading up to the 100th anniversary on August 25, 2016.

The key goals of our Centennial are to create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. With that in mind, we have developed a San Francisco Bay Area "Find Your Park" brochure, available in the Visitor Center. The brochure identifies all of the National Park sites in the Bay Area, including contact information and locations.

We will also be focusing on the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative aimed at providing an opportunity for each fourth-grade student across the country (approximately four million) to experience federal



lands and water in person throughout the 2015-2016 school year. The goal is to have an ongoing, yearly commitment so that within eight years all 4th graders will have the opportunity to build a connection to public lands and parks.

And of course, our staff continue to hold innovative and inclusive programs at the park, including family-friendly campfires, full moon hikes, and stargazing. Come on out and help us celebrate!

Superintendent's View

By Sue Fritzke

We have been in transition this summer with some temporary staffing changes. General Superintendent Tom Leatherman has been detailed to the Pacific West Regional Office through the end of October as acting Deputy Regional Director while Martha



Lee is temporarily detailed as the Regional Director. I have filled in behind Tom as acting General Superintendent of the four national parks in Contra Costa County, and Ralph Bell, our Facility Manager and management team liaison to the John Muir Association, is filling in as acting Deputy Superintendent. Paul Scolari, Chief of Resource Management, is on a detail to the Washington Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. Isabel Ziegler, Supervisory Museum Curator, has stepped up to guide the Cultural and Natural Resource division while Paul is gone, and Kirsten Kvam from San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is temporarily filling Isabel's shoes.

On a more permanent note, Ann Roos has been hired as the Museum Technician, and will be taking on the bulk of work with the John Muir Site museum collections. Kelli English, our Chief of Education and Interpretation is now back from maternity leave. Jim MacDonald continues at the helm as the Lead Park Ranger, with Nate, Stephanie, Matt, and our volunteer staff assisting with interpretive programs. We hope to get back to normal staffing by the end of November.

The park continues to offer many activities. After a very successful John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration in April and school group tours ending with the completion of the school year in June, the Interpretation staff has been focusing on campfire programs, full moon hikes, Junior Ranger activities, and developing the climate change exhibit (thanks to funding, in part, from the John Muir Association), which will be installed in the house attic.

We had a bumper crop of peaches again, which were shared with visitors, other parks and local nonprofit organizations by our horticulturist Keith Park.

Work continues on the Strentzel/Muir gravesite environmental assessment, which should be coming out for public review this fall. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the park this fall.



2014 John Muir Conservation Award Recipients

JMA honored the following recipients of the 2014 John Muir Conservation Awards, presented at our John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration.

Congressman George Miller
Conservation Legacy Award (Special Award)
 Congressman George Miller served for 40 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. His many accomplishments include establishing public lands for conservation in national parks, national trails and wilderness areas. He was instrumental in the creation of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial. He worked to expand the John Muir National Historic Site to encompass Mount Wanda and on additional park expansion during his final days in Congress.

Camilla Fox, Executive Director, Project Coyote
Conservationist of the Year
 Camilla Fox founded Project Coyote in 2008 to alter the traditional approach to predator control of coyotes and wolves in local communities and across the nation. Her educational programs encourage coexistence between humans and predators. Her work has led to well-coordinated efforts to reduce carnivore extermination and restore ecological communities for a healthier future for us all. In 2014 alone, Project Coyote has assisted over 100 agencies, rehabilitation centers and communities with adopting the effective coexistence models.

Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project
Environmental Education Conservation Award
 How do you get a child who has never ventured into the woods to find what John Muir noted, that when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe? Retired Director Helen Menasian says lure them in with fun and hook them on nature. This unique outdoor environmental education program of the Ukiah Unified School District has served over 2,000 first- through sixth-grade students.

River Otter Ecology Project
Nonprofit Conservation Award
 The River Otter Ecology Project is the first project in Central California to investigate river otter populations,



Award recipients pictured (clockwise from top left) are: Congressman George Miller, Abby Bloomfield, River Otter Ecology Project representatives, Camilla Fox, and representatives from the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project.

abundance, health, behavior and ecology within our watersheds. ROEP's philosophy is that nonprofits should partner with as many local organizations, businesses, and agencies as is practical, and outreach as much as possible on a local level. Among its programs are the Citizen Science "Otter Spotter" program, designed to track and document river otter recovery; research in the coastal bay, estuary and riverine area of Marin County; and field study internships for high school and college students.

Abby Bloomfield
President, Net Zero Environmental Club
Youth Conservation Award

Abby is a high school student in Boulder, Colorado, who has made significant environmental contributions to her community. As President of Net Zero, Abby reaches out to other students to engage them in environmental issues. For example, she led an initiative to support new regulations for oil and gas production as proposed by the Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. For another project, she procured a grant to plant fruit trees at her school.

To learn more, visit our website at:
www.johnmuirassociation.org.

The application for the 2015 John Muir Conservation Awards will soon be posted on our website. We invite you to nominate a person, organization or agency deserving of recognition.

Martinez Historic Society Home Tour

Classic homes, vintage cars and period costumes—and stories from the past—are highlights of the 2015 Martinez Historic Home Tour on Saturday, October 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. John Muir’s 1882 Italianate Victorian home and the Martinez Adobe, located at the John Muir National Historic Site, are again featured on the tour.

This year’s Tour includes eight private homes—most in the Craftsman style—clustered in a compact downtown area. Visitors can admire timeless features, such as tile work, vintage appliances, built-in cabinetry, original fixtures, and period furniture and decor.

One of the Tour’s homes was built by Joe DiMaggio’s uncle in 1937 (pictured). Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe spent the night there soon after their wedding in 1954, and a copy of their marriage license will be on display. Another home has a Prohibition-Era surprise: a speakeasy door and secret room.

Home locations provide a great walking experience, but shuttles will also be available to all locations.

The 1849 home of Don Vicente Martinez is the oldest home in Martinez. Other buildings on the Tour include: the 1890 Borland Home, the 1927 Veteran’s Memorial Building, the 1937 Shell Clubhouse and the Shell Alumni Museum. The Tour begins at the Shell Clubhouse.



Photo by Carter Wilson

Classic cars, representative of the period of the houses, will be on display at each home as well as antique and classic cameras.

Tickets are \$30 at the event, or \$25 in advance. Learn more at www.MartinezHomeTour.com. Purchase tickets online at: www.tinyurl.com/mtztour, or from the following Martinez merchants (cash or check only, please): I’ve Been Framed (411 Ferry Street), Char’s Flowers (635 Main Street), Martinez Museum (Court & Escobar Street), Romain’s Jewelry (510 Center Avenue) and The UPS Store (the Lucky Shopping Center).

John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration 2015

More than 2,400 guests enjoyed this year’s John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration held at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. Our thanks to emcee Igor Skaredoff, Keynote Speaker Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, California Director of the National Wildlife Federation (lower right), and our sponsors: City of Martinez, Shell Martinez Refinery, Republic Services and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 302. Plan to join us for next year’s Celebration on April 23, 2016.



Photos by Tom Zamaria



Join us for the John Muir Birthday–Earth Day Celebration on April 23, 2016



P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553

Upcoming Events

2015 Martinez Historical Society Home Tour



Saturday, October 10th
Visit the John Muir
1882 Victorian home
and the 1849 Martinez Adobe
Please see the article on page 7.

John Muir Birthday– Earth Day Celebration



Saturday, April 23, 2016
Save the Date!

The 8th Annual Beaver Festival



The John Muir Association and Mountain Day Camp were proud to participate in the eighth annual Beaver Festival, presented by Worth A Dam. The event was held on August 3rd

adjacent to Alhambra Creek, home of the Martinez beavers. The crowd enjoyed exhibits and activities from many conservation organizations, as well as live music.

New this year was the keystone species wildlife badge project, in which children earned badges from various exhibits by learning how beavers and their dams help other animals. The girls above display their badges.

John Muir's good friend Enos Mills once famously wrote that beavers were "The Original Conservationists" because their dam building was so important to wetlands, wildlife and water storage. Conservation was the major theme and focus of the Festival.