



**THE PRACTICAL  
JOHN MUIR:  
A SYMPOSIUM**

**MARCH 23 - 24, 2018**

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

# 61<sup>ST</sup> CALIFORNIA HISTORY INSTITUTE

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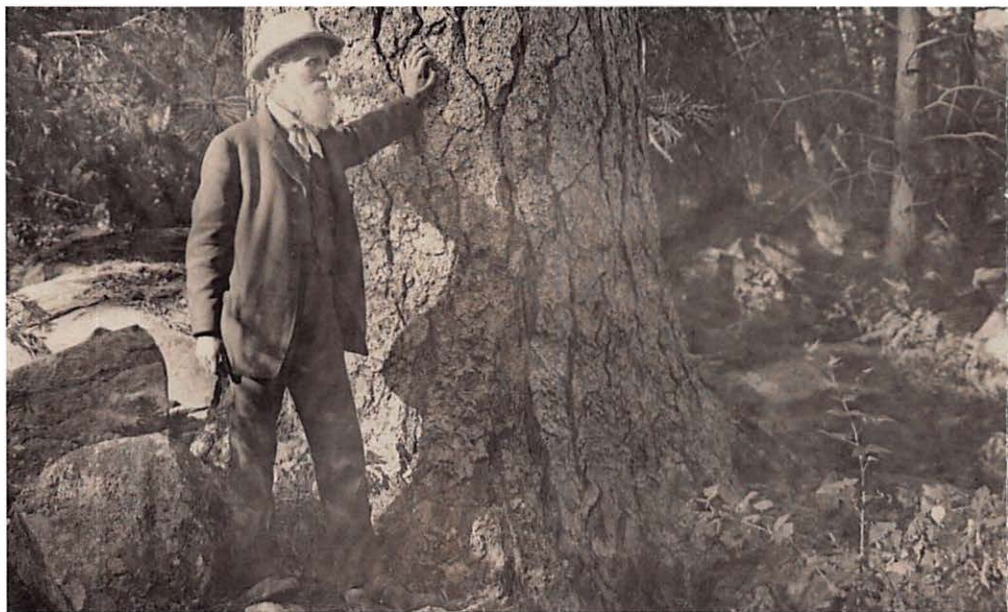
Wisconsin Historical Society

John Muir Geotourism Center

National Park Service

Media X, University of the Pacific

Bon Appetit



Late in March 1868, John Muir stepped off a ship in San Francisco and began a journey that led him first to Yosemite Valley. From that introduction to California, up to his death on Christmas Eve 1914, John Muir applied direct observation, intuitive reasoning, and critical thinking, as well as a passion for Nature, as he came to understand and write about the environment.



On this 150th anniversary of Muir's first visit to the Sierra, we celebrate *The Practical John Muir* for his: inventions, power of observation, artistic ability, way with words, many publications, life as family man, rancher, orchardist and businessman; and perhaps most importantly, dedication to preserving the environment through practical and rational solutions driven by his deep respect for all living organisms and natural wonders.



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## JOHN MUIR'S CONNECTION WITH UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

Following his death in 1914, Muir's papers remained scattered among family members and his publishers. In time, some of these collections made their way into various institutions, including the Bancroft Library, the Huntington Library and the University of Wisconsin. Several of Muir's descendants and their spouses attended University of the Pacific beginning in the 1930s. In 1970, the heirs of John Muir entrusted University of the Pacific with the majority of Muir's manuscripts and personal papers. This led to additional acquisitions, including most of Muir's library and a portion of his office furniture from his home in Martinez, California. In 1986, with publication of a microfilm edition of Muir's Papers and a guide to the collection, the scholarly world at last possessed a tool to access the private and public John Muir.

In 1989, the John Muir Center was created at Pacific to foster a closer academic relationship between the university and the larger community of scholars, students and citizens interested in Muir's life and work, and in regional studies. The center's first director, Ronald Limbaugh described the center's broader purpose "to promote the study of California and its impact upon the global community." Limbaugh's vision for the center was built upon the rich legacy of the Muir family's bequest, as well as institutions at Pacific dating back to the presidency of Robert Burns during the late 1940s and early 1950s. These institutions included the California History Institute, founded by historian/librarian Rockwell D. Hunt in 1948 as an annual conference at which scholars and students would assess a single major issue in the state's development. The Conference of California Historical Societies was founded in 1954 by President Burns, Dr. Hunt and Dr. Richard Coke Wood to create a central organization for local historical societies, museums, libraries and individuals across the state of California devoted to the promotion of state and local history. A quarterly journal, *California Historian*, was published at Pacific and a central administrative office was set up at the Stockton campus. Jedediah Smith Society was founded at Pacific in 1956 to promote the study of Western American history through scholarship and community awareness of explorer, cartographer and mountain man Jedediah Strong Smith (1799-1831), some of whose personal effects are curated by Holt-Atherton Special Collections.

Today, the California History Institute remains the primary public platform for the John Muir Center.

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## CALIFORNIA HISTORY INSTITUTE CONFERENCES SINCE 1948

In the early years of the California History Institute, faculty and students from Pacific and other universities met to share papers and ideas about the state's development. The first thematic conference was in 1951, billed as A Golden Century Crowns Pacific. The next year, the conference focused on The Heritage of California and the School Room. Other themes permeate the record of the 1950s, including First Crops of the San Joaquin in 1959. By the mid-1960s, the program committees chose themes that promoted both an understanding of California and the discipline of history. In 1964, the conference focused on The Lessons of History, followed by The Trends of History in 1965, and The Biographical Approach to History in 1966.



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In response to the nation's Civil Rights Movement, the conference focused on Ethnic Contributions to California History and Culture in 1967. The following year, during the turmoil of the conflict in Vietnam, the focus turned to world history. Regionalism returned as the main purpose in 1971 with California Biography. Thereafter, topics included Man and Nature in California: A Historical and Literary Perspective (1972), California's Pioneers, Pathfinders and Poets (1973), Indians and Other Immigrants (1974), The California Story: Social and Cultural Heritage (1975), California: The Jack London Years: 1870-1916 (1976), Maritime California (1977), and California's Grape and Wine Industry (1979). The first Muir conference was held in 1980.

### Conferences held since are listed below:

- 1980 "John Muir"
- 1981 "California's Educational Heritage"
- 1982 "California's Water Industry"
- 1983 "The Great Depression in California"
- 1984 "Women in California"
- 1985 "John Muir"
- 1986 "California in National Politics"
- 1987 "Hispanics in California History"
- 1988 "The Film Industry in California"
- 1989 "Japanese-Americans in California"
- 1990 "John Muir"
- 1991 "California's Gold Rush"
- 1992 "California Immigrants: People, Plants, and Animals"
- 1993 "Law and Disorder in California"
- 1994 "The Pacific Rim"
- 1995 "California Transportation"
- 1996 "John Muir in Historical Perspective"
- 1997 "California and Pacific Northwestern Literature"
- 1998 "Pacific Centuries"
- 1999 "Explorers and Traders in California History"
- 2000 "Religion and Education in California"
- 2001 "John Muir: Family and Friends"
- 2002 "Artists' Impressions of the California Landscape"
- 2004 "Spanish and Mexican California: History & Cultural Legacies"
- 2006 "John Muir in Global Perspective"
- 2008 "John Sutter and His World"

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- 2010 "John Muir: Naturalist and Scientist"  
2012 "Women as History-makers in California"  
2014 "What We Have Saved; What We Have Lost: John Muir's Legacy, 1914-2014"  
2018 "The Practical John Muir"

## MUIR-HANNA FAMILY AT PACIFIC:

On November 7, 2009, University of the Pacific Alumni Association honored the John Muir family with the Outstanding Family Award. The following descendants attended Pacific:

**Virginia (Young) Hanna '34**  
*College of the Pacific (wife of John Muir Hanna [grandson])*

**Ross E. Hanna '49**  
*Eberhardt School of Business (grandson)*

**Gladys (Stoeven) Hanna '47**  
*Conservatory of Music  
(wife of Ross E. Hanna)*

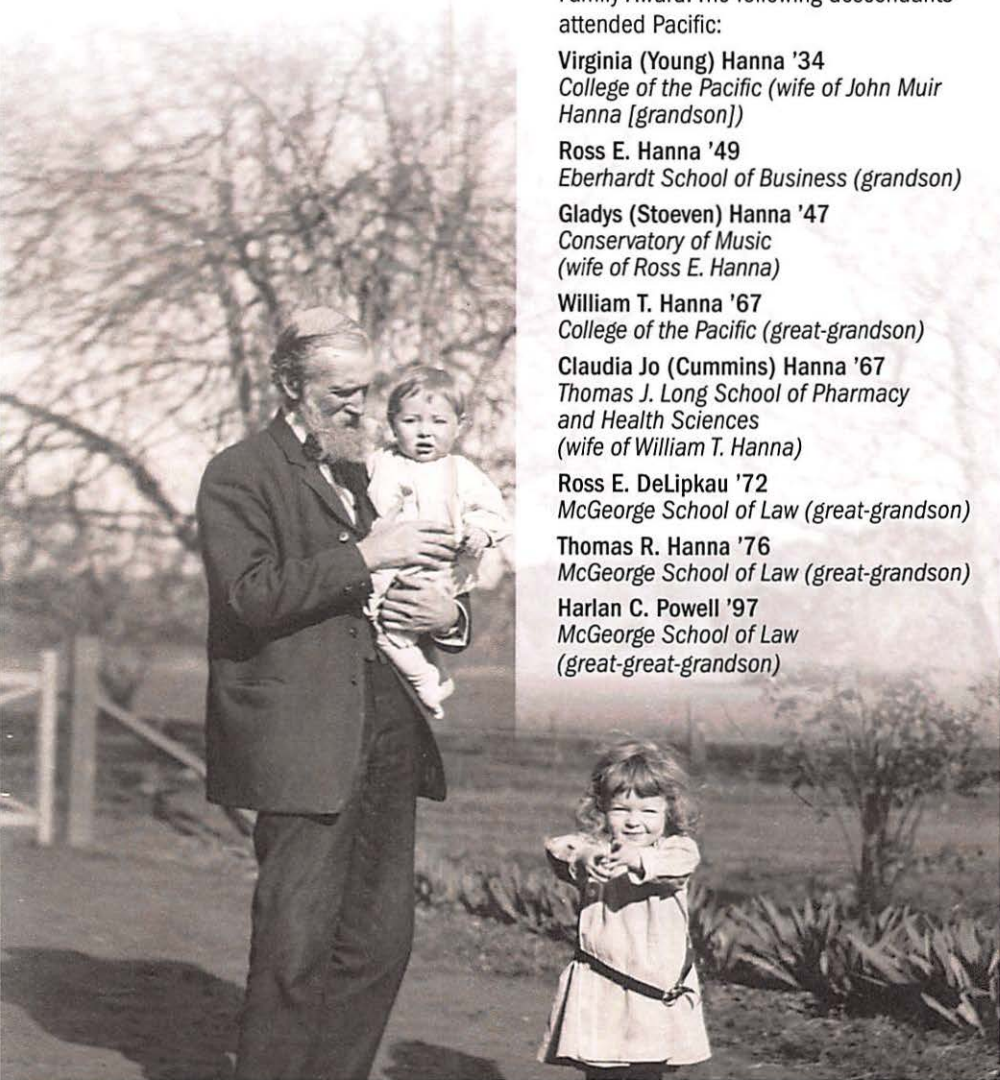
**William T. Hanna '67**  
*College of the Pacific (great-grandson)*

**Claudia Jo (Cummins) Hanna '67**  
*Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy  
and Health Sciences  
(wife of William T. Hanna)*

**Ross E. DeLipkau '72**  
*McGeorge School of Law (great-grandson)*

**Thomas R. Hanna '76**  
*McGeorge School of Law (great-grandson)*

**Harlan C. Powell '97**  
*McGeorge School of Law  
(great-great-grandson)*



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## PROGRAM

### Friday, March 23 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

All-day bus trip that will follow Muir's approximate route to Yosemite. Muir enthusiast and reenactor Frank Helling will regale participants with stories of the history, natural history and geology of the Central Valley, Sierra Nevada and Yosemite. Within the park, Helling will give a special tour of the Yosemite Falls area where Muir worked, lived and explored during his first seven years in California. Lunch provided.

#### 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Opening Reception in the University Library (home of the John Muir Papers)  
Demonstration of *Virtual Hetch Hetchy* and future Muir museum.

### Saturday March 24 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

#### John Muir Symposium, Grace Covell Hall

**8:00** Registration check-in. Coffee and scones.

**8:30** Welcome from University of the Pacific  
President Pamela Eibeck

**9:00** **Robert Hanna: *The Many Sides of John Muir*.** Muir's great-great-grandson gives us an up-close and personal look at Muir's life as can only be told by his family.

**9:45** **Matt Blessing: *The Inventions, Though of Little Importance, Opened All Doors for Me*.** Wisconsin Historical Society State Archivist offers a visual presentation of John Muir's wizardry wooden contraptions—some of which dazzled visitors at the 1860 Wisconsin State Fair.

**10:30** Break

**10:45** **Peter and Donna Thomas: *A Month in Yosemite for Only About Three Dollars - The Story of John Muir's First Trip to Yosemite in 1868*.** The Thomas', known for their fine press and artist's books share a close look at Muir's first year in California and how they discovered the story.

**11:30** **Lunch with Lee Stetson: *John Muir Live*.** World-renowned Muir reenactor, Stetson takes us back in time to meet Muir during a Strentzel-Muir Martinez-home themed buffet.



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**1:00**     **Bob Hare: *Following John Muir into Wild Yosemite: Up the Merced and Down the Tuolumne*.** Hare, a retired curator, ranger and biologist saunters with Muir up the Tuolumne Canyon where he has re-photographed many of Muir drawings from his 1873 and 1895 trips to those areas.

**1:45**     **Dean King and Langdon Moss: *An Ecstasy of Water & Ice*.** Award-winning author King and writer Moss focus on Muir and his intimate link to water—the giver and shaper of life.

**2:30**     **Student Presentations**

**Sara Segantin, University of Trieste: *THE RANGE OF LIFE from Words to Steps: Sauntering with Muir through Creeks & Crags from Yosemite to the Dolomites***

**2:45**     **Film, “*Legacy: The People Inspired by John Muir*,”** produced by Samatha Solorzano, Jess Hess, and Bianca López, University of the Pacific Media X students, fall 2017.

**3:00**     **Break: Poster Session and Exhibits in Tiger Lounge**

Students from *John Muir’s World: The Origins of the Conservation Movement* will offer a poster session of their research along with informational booths from individuals and organizations in the Tiger Lounge, adjacent to Grace Covell Hall.

*John Muir Trail*, Marla Stark

*John Muir Rambles* by Peter and Donna Thomas

*John Muir Exhibit*, Wisconsin Historical Society, Matt Blessing

*Tapestries of Yosemite*, John Muir Geotourism Center, Monty Thornberg

Delta-Sierra Chapter of Sierra Club, Margo Praus

Media X, University of the Pacific, students from Pacific’s new program

**4:00**     **Film, “*The John Muir Trail*”** presented by Marla Stark. Promotion of effort to protect the trail.

**4:15**     **Bill Youngs: “*I Should Like to Invent Useful Machinery*.” **John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, and Alexander von Humboldt—Wilderness Appreciation and Practical Mechanics.****

Youngs, Eastern Washington University professor of history, takes one last look at Muir and sums up the day’s presentations.

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## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**Matt Blessing** is the state archivist and administrator in the Division of Library, Archives and Museum Collections at the Wisconsin Historical Society. He is also a member of the Society's senior management team, chair of the Wisconsin Public Records Board, coordinator of the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board, and a member of the executive committee of the Council of University of Wisconsin Librarians. He earned his B.S. degree in history at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, his M.A. in history at University of Montana, and his M.L.I.S. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His publications include "Reuben Gold Thwaites and the Historical Resurrection of Lewis and Clark" and "The Inventions, Though of Little Importance, Opened All Doors for Me': John Muir's Years as an Inventor," both in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*; "An Anniversary Opportunity: Digitizing Student Year-books," co-authored with James Lowrey; and "Digitization, Donor Relations, and Undergraduate Instruction," both in *Microform & Imaging Review*.

**Ronald Eber** is historian for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. He has held many Sierra Club positions, including national campus coordinator in 1971 and chair and wilderness coordinator of the Oregon Chapter from 1980 to 1985. He has written two previous essays for this conference: "John Muir and the Pioneer Conservationists of the Pacific Northwest" and "Wealth and Beauty - John Muir and Forest Conservation," which were published in the conference proceedings. He currently lives near Port Gamble, Washington.

**Frank Helling** adopted John Muir as his "Zorba" in 1972 and has performed "A Visit with John Muir: The Scootcher of a Lifetime" since 1981. As an educator for 38 years, Helling helped start Pleasanton Unified School District's successful environmental education program and led the Association for Outdoor and Environmental Education workshops for teachers. He also led the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program. Helling has been an adjunct faculty member in environmental education for Prescott College, taught backpacking at Fresno City College, served as lead wilderness instructor for Summit Expedition and Harmony Expeditions, and currently teaches for the "Road Scholar" program in Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. He also has served as a seasonal ranger/naturalist in Kings Canyon National Park. Helling has performed as Muir for schools, universities, and Earth Day, the California Wilderness Convention, Defenders of Wildlife and Appalachian Wilderness Conferences, the John Muir National Historic Site and the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace in New York. He is featured on the *John Muir Tribute* CD and has appeared on the Discovery Channel and Nevada Public Television. He and his wife, Patti, live in Fresno and have six children and six grandchildren.

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**Bill Hanna** a great-grandson of John Muir, graduated from University of the Pacific in 1967, earning a B.S. degree in chemistry with an emphasis in geology. His active duty Air Force assignments included nuclear research at McClellan AFB, rocket propellant research at Edwards AFB and chief of the USAF Environmental Chemistry Laboratory in Wiesbaden, Germany, until the late 1970s. He also served as a rocket propellant researcher at Edwards AFB and as chief of an environmental laboratory in Germany until the mid-1970s. Today, Hanna and his wife Claudia, a 1967 graduate of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, own Muir-Hanna Vineyards, continuing a grape-growing tradition begun in 1853 by John Muir's father-in-law, John Strentzel. Bill's father, John Muir Hanna, moved the family to Napa in 1950 and was instrumental in establishing the nation's first agricultural preserve. The family farms are certified by the California Land Stewardship Institute's Fish Friendly Farming program and Hanna continues working to help maintain and strengthen the ag preserve. They spend as much time as they can roaming the eastern Sierra near their family cabin at Lundy Lake.

**Bob Hare** studied at the San Francisco Art Institute before earning his B.S. in conservation of natural resources at UC Berkeley and an M.S. in wildland resource science between 1972 and 1976. He has been a seasonal naturalist in Redwood National Park, a black bear researcher in Yosemite National Park, a wildlife biologist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and general project plan manager for California State Parks. He also is a wildlife artist and photographer. Hare has curated numerous exhibitions. His awards and recognition include election to Phi Beta Kappa's Alpha chapter at UC Berkeley in 1974, election to the Taos Art Association in 1977, Director's Commendation from the National Park Service (1981), Director's Achievement Award from the California Dept. of Fish and Game (1993), and Deputy Director's Achievement Award from the California State Parks (2002). In retirement, his work focuses on following John Muir in California.

**Dean King** is an award-winning author of nine nonfiction books. His national bestseller, *Skeletons on the Zahara*, was translated into 10 languages, made into a History Channel documentary, and optioned by Steven Spielberg. King tells stories of adventure with great dedication to searching out the truth. The *Wall Street Journal* calls his most recent book, *The Feud: The Hatfields & McCoys: The True Story*, "popular history the way it ought to be written," and USA Today gives it four stars (out of four). King's groundbreaking biography, *Patrick O'Brian: A Life Revealed*, was serialized in the *Daily Telegraph*, which named it a book of the year. King's storytelling ability shines through on the page and at the dais. He is the chief storyteller in two History Channel documentaries and is a producer of its unscripted series—*Hatfields & McCoys: White Lightning*, which aired in 16 episodes in 2013. King, who frequently speaks on his writings, explorations and the vital lessons learned from some of history's most epic journeys, has appeared on NPR, ABC World News Tonight, BBC Radio and TEDx. His writing can also be found in *Outside, Garden & Gun*, *Granta*, *Men's Journal*, and the *New York Times*. King is currently at work on a

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selective retelling of the life of John Muir, focusing on his environmentalism. A fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, he serves on the advisory board of James River Writers and on the executive committee of BIO, the world's foremost literary organization devoted to the art of biography.

**John “Langdon” Moss** describes himself as “an unknown nobody in the world.” In truth, he is an avid writer, backpacker, photojournalist and student of history, and he has spent years exploring and researching the remote landscapes of America. In 2008, he worked on a ranch in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming, where he spent his free time hiking alone through the Cloud Peak Wilderness. In 2009, he spent a year backpacking through Australia and New Zealand, eventually making his way to the California Bay Area. In the years that followed, he spent countless hours backpacking into and photographing California parks and forests, reading copious historical books, and developing his writing through classes at The Writer’s Grotto. After leaving his job in the Bay Area in 2015, he used the last of his savings to purchase a used car and camera, then spent two months driving alone across America, backpacking into 11 national parks and documenting the journey through his website, mossywander.com. He is currently working on a book on John Muir’s life, an autobiography about his time in Wyoming and a screenplay about San Francisco during the Gold Rush.

**Sara SagantIn** earned her B.A. in foreign languages and literatures from the Humanities Department at Università degli Studi di Trieste, Italy, and is currently pursuing a graduate degree. She describes herself as curious, risk-taking, creative, eclectic and open-minded. She has a passion for writing and speaking, “spiced and flavored by a deep interest in exploring and traveling.” Her motto is “Be the change you want to see in the world,” made famous by Ghandi. She studied one semester at Montana State University as an international exchange scholar, where she developed a deep interest in John Muir, which she shares through her scholarship and travels.

**Marla Stark** attended Stanford University as an undergraduate and earned her law degree at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Stark is the founder, executive director and member of the board of advisors of the John Muir Trail Foundation. As an experienced attorney in the Silicon Valley, she was the general counsel of Wind River Systems, Inc. and the managing director of intellectual property at Applied Materials, Inc. She has been involved in several land conservation efforts, most recently for the Peninsula Open Space Trust and the Northern Sierra Partnership. After hiking parts of the John Muir Trail (JMT) in 2016 and 2017, Stark saw the need for private foundation support of this historic trail and began organizing the effort. She has worked in the legal profession focusing on property management and vineyard development. Her hobbies include singing in the Stanford Symphony Choir, Searsville Cycling (road cycling), backpacking the JMT, alpine and Nordic skiing, fine cooking, baking and wine collecting.

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**Lee Stetson's** career includes founding and managing the Hawaii Performing Arts Company, being the artistic manager of both the Hawaii Theatre Festival and the Antique Theatre Festival of Idaho, and freelance directing throughout the Northwest and in Los Angeles. Stetson has a master's degree in American Studies and a certificate in arts administration from Harvard University. As an actor he has performed more than 50 major roles from Shakespeare to Simon, and his television credits include a dozen episodes of *Hawaii Five-O*. His many original dramatic productions include four one-person shows based on the life of John Muir, and two other productions where President Theodore Roosevelt joins Muir, all of which have been presented in Yosemite National Park since 1983 to hundreds of thousands of visitors. The Muir shows also have toured throughout the country to universities, parks, museums and wilderness and environmental organizations, and throughout Scotland, Canada and Japan as well. In 2009, Stetson was featured as a Muir scholar and the voice of Muir in Ken Burn's PBS series *The National Parks, America's Best Idea*.

**Peter and Donna Thomas** are book artists who work both collaboratively and individually. When they began in 1977, their aim was to create limited edition fine-press books made of the finest materials and produced to the highest standards of quality. They made their own paper, did the type-setting, printing and illustration, and also bound their books in full size and miniature format. This aesthetic guided their work as they began exploring non-traditional book structures and shaped book objects. In 2002, they wrote *More Making Books by Hand: Exploring Miniature Books, Alternative Structures and Found Objects*, a manual for making the structures they had developed. Since 2010, they have intermittently traveled the United States as the "Wandering Book Artists" giving talks, workshops and demonstrations to both academic and community-based audiences. Their 2017-18 trip will mark 40 years of making books by hand.

**J. William T. "Bill" Youngs** has taught United States history at Eastern Washington University in a variety of areas, including Colonial and Revolutionary America, the New Nation, American Environmental history, History of the American National Parks, History of Disease, Historical Writing and Editing, and Historical Research. His publications include *God's Messengers: Religious Leadership in Colonial New England, 1700-1750* (1976), *American Realities: Historical Episodes from the First Settlements to the Present* (1981, 8th ed., 2010), *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Personal and Public Life* (1985), *The Congregationalists* (1990), and *The Fair and the Falls: Spokane's Expo '74, Transforming and American Environment* (1996), which won the Washington State Governor's Writers Award.

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## JOHN MUIR'S WORLD CLASS STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS, 2018

**Mallory Alorro**, The influence of Yellowstone National Park on John Muir

**Melanie Pio**, The science of John Muir through the lens of correspondence with Jeanne and Ezra Carr.

**Jonathan Teixeira**, Preservation over conservation: John Muir versus Gifford Pinchot

**Natalia Gevara**, The role of Mount Tamalpais in the creation of Muir Woods National Monument.

**Andrew Johnson**, Contradictory Views: John Muir's views on the Central Valley in contrast to his views on other regions.

**Ashley Landin**, John Muir's fight for National Parks in the later years of his life.

**Cindy Davis**, How the first botanist influenced the mountaineer: an analysis of the correspondence of John Muir and Asa Gray.

**Katelyn Getchel**, Myosotis: John Muir and his relationship with flowers.

**Leila Valencia**, John Muir's drawing style.

**Sarah Hess**, "Breaking the Ice": the significance of John Muir's glaciation studies.

**Rukhsar Shiraz**, John Muir and the water features of Yosemite.

**Savannah Dughi**, John Muir and wildlife.

**Carrina Knowles**, Hetch Hetchy and the power of nature.

**Herman Kaur**, John Muir—businessman.

**Oscar Lopez**, John Muir as family man.

**Samantha Solorzano**, John Muir and the wondrous beauty and expansion of Yosemite.

**Alma Tinoco**, John Muir's views of the feminist movement of his time.

**Fernando Torres**, *Araucaria imbricata*: John Muir's journey through Chile.

**Mario Tosqui**, John Muir the geologist: glacial studies in Alaska and California

## POSTER GROUP PROJECTS:

John Muir's Inventions

Fruits and Nuts Grown on the Strentzel-Muir Ranch in Martinez

Places in California Named for John Muir

Natural Areas and Parks Preserved During and Shortly after Muir's Lifetime

## SPECIAL THANKS:

**Program Committee:** Steve Whyte and Linnie Lechich

**Registration:** Ivy Halog, Hannah Tvergyak, Maria MacDonald

**Posters:** Josh Salyers



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## **Program Committee**

W.R Swagerty, Mike Wurtz, Debbie Kinyon

## **Dean Rena Fraden, College of the Pacific**

**University Librarian Mary Somerville, University Libraries**

## **Muir-Hanna Trust**

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