



# California HISTORIAN

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*43rd California History Institute  
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**INSIDE: A Preservation Primer**

# History Institute Explores Muir's Legacy

The life and legacy of renowned naturalist-writer John Muir will be the focus of the 43rd annual California History Institute on April 19-22. The conference will include two days of academic discussions and presentations at the University of the Pacific's Stockton campus, and a two-day field trip to Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the Yosemite Valley. The spring Board Meeting of the CONFERENCE of California Historical Societies will meet in the Holt-Atherton Room from 4:00-5:30 on Friday, and resume from 2:00-4:00 on Saturday.

Approximately 250 to 300 people are expected to attend the Institute, which will also commemorate the centennial of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, two of the parks Muir helped establish and preserve through his writing and lobbying efforts. The Institute proceedings will also explore environmental issues affecting California's past, present and future.

The conference is sponsored by University of the Pacific's newly-established John Muir Center for Regional Studies. The University's Holt-Atherton Center for Western Studies is the repository of most of Muir's private papers and personal library, including 50,000 pages of Muir holographic material contained in 80 volumes of journals, 5,000 letters and about 500 original manuscripts. The materials were deposited with the University in 1970 by Muir's family.

UOP has served as headquarters for the California History Institute and hosted the organization's annual conference since 1948. This is the third institute in the past decade which has focused upon Muir.

The first two days, April 19-20, will feature presentations of academic papers, panel discussions and audio-visual displays submitted by students, scholars, and environmentalists, artists and others who have researched various aspects of Muir's life.

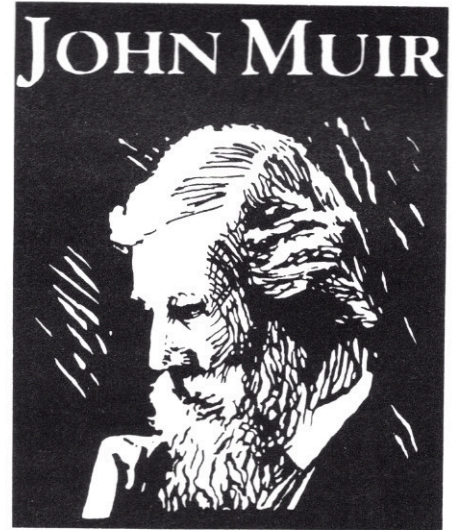
Environmental issues relating to California will also be the topics of several presentations.

Several publishers of environmental books and other related publications will exhibit their materials.

On Sunday, April 21, the 152nd anniversary of Muir's birth—Institute participants will be invited to visit and stay overnight at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the northern part of Yosemite National Park. The group will spend the fourth day in Yosemite Valley. Several speakers will present various programs on Muir's involvement with Yosemite. There will also be an anniversary observance of EARTH DAY, an event that began on April 22, 1970, which helped usher in the modern conservation movement.

Space for the Yosemite field trip (which will cost \$58.00 and includes bus ticket, park entry fee, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast) will be limited, so CCHS members are urged to reserve their places as soon as they receive their registration forms in the mail.

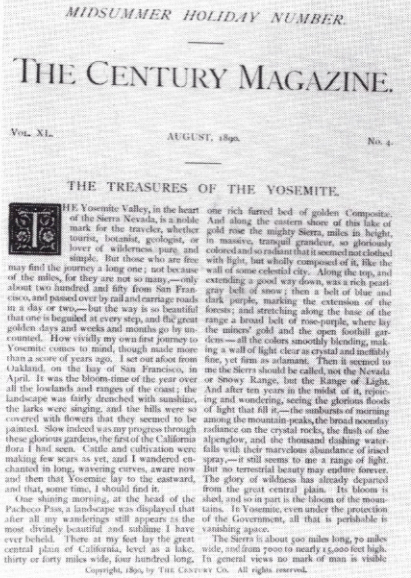
For more information, contact the Office of Academic Vice President, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA 95211, (209) 946-2551.



## John Muir

John Muir is perhaps best known as the father of the American national park system. A pre-eminent scholar, botanist, geologist, and writer, Muir lobbied for legislation to create the national park system. Before this, though, he spent many years exploring and studying the Sierra Nevada, and advanced the theory that glaciers created the deep valleys. His nature studies furthered his desire to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of the wilderness of America. Muir was the founder of the Sierra Club, the oldest and one of the most influential environmental organizations.

Because of Muir, the nation began to think of its resources, not as something to be tamed, but something very dear and special, worthy of preserving for future generations. The entire country and California especially owes a great deal to John Muir.



*Muir's articles in the August and September, 1890 issues of Century helped persuade members of Congress to designate Yosemite as a national park.*



*Tourists to Mariposa Grove in Yosemite Park, passing under a giant tree, circa 1890. (Photo courtesy of the Holt-Atherton Center for Western Studies, University of the Pacific.)*