John Muir
Nature’s Apostle
The Early Years

“An adventure-loving boy...quick to accept a challenge...high spirited, irrepressible...uncontainable..”
The Bar-oak Shanty, Wisconsin
our first American home
FOUNTAIN LAKE FARM figure 4
Marquette County, Wisconsin
Muir farmhouse with Sarah (Muir) Galloway, her children and John Muir
Photographer unknown, c. 1863
Barometer, drawn by John Muir circa 1860.
View from University Heights looking south across open fields towards barns and fences of the Fairground.
The Wanderer

“Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world.”
JOHN MUIR AT CEDAR KEY

John Muir, noted naturalist and conservation leader, spent several months in Florida in 1867. He arrived at Cedar Key in October, seven weeks after sailing out from Indiana on a “thousand-mile walk to the Gulf.” Muir’s journal account of this adventure, which was published in 1916, two years after his death, includes interesting insights into the quality of life in the post-Civil War South. “The traces of war,” he wrote, are not only apparent on the broken fields and worn-out cattle, but also on the countenances of the people. Florida clearly impressed the twenty-nine-year-old Muir.
His Adventures

“Books....are but piles of stones set up to show coming travelers where other minds have been...or at best smoke signals to call attention...No amount of word-making will ever make a single soul know these mountains.”
...”many of Nature’s finest lessons are to be found in her storms, and if careful to keep in right relations with them, we may go safely abroad with them, rejoicing in the grandeur and beauty of their works and ways....”

Stickeen
by John Muir
The Geologist/Ecologist

“John the Baptist was not more eager to get all his fellow sinners into the Jordan than I to baptize all of mine In the beauty of God’s mountains.”
Joseph LeConte
Professor, Univ. of CA

Merrill Moores
US Representative Indiana

John Tyndall
Director, British Royal Institution

Asa Gray
Botanist, Harvard
The Family Man
Louisa Wanda Strentzel Muir
“Don’t pity me. Pity yourselves. You stay at home, dry and defrauded of all the glory I have seen. Your souls starve in the midst of abundance.”
TRAVELS IN ALASKA (1915).

John Muir
God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.
Robert Underwood Johnson
Associate Editor
Century Magazine
Teddy Roosevelt And John Muir

Camping Trip of May 1902
John Muir
Born Dunbar Scotland
April 21, 1838
Died Dec. 24, 1914
His Legacy

“Few places in this world are more dangerous than home. Fear not, therefore, to try the mountain passes. They will kill care, save you from deadly apathy, set you free, and call forth every faculty into vigorous, enthusiastic action.”
Ice Front, Muir Glacier.
“Drinking this champagne water is pure pleasure,” Muir revealed while exploring the Sierra in 1869 as a shepherd of a flock of sheep he called “hoofed locusts.” Here, 40 years later, he surveys the Merced River in Yosemite Valley, by then part of the national park. Muir had helped found the conservationist Sierra Club in 1892. He lost a heartbreaking battle in 1913 when a dam for Yosemite’s Hetch Hetchy Valley was approved to provide fresh water for San Francisco. Conceived by Sierra Club charter member Theodore S. Solomons and begun a year after Muir’s death in 1914, the trail ascends from Yosemite Valley, hugs the Sierra crest, and ends on 14,494-foot Mount Whitney. En route nearly a dozen peaks exceed 14,000 feet.

Even before the trail was completed in 1938, hikers had begun to take to the wilderness en masse, a tradition continued by this 1951 Sierra Club group. “The people had become Muir’s sheep,” says the author. Mules packed wood-burning stoves and iceboxes, later filled with snow in camp. This site became part of the Minarets (now Ansel Adams) Wilderness after the Wilderness Act of 1964, which protected places “where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Today the trail passes through three national parks, one national monument, and four wilderness areas. But backpacking no longer holds as much magic for the young generation, and only a few hundred people a year hike the entire trail.
Muir Writings

- *Studies in the Sierra* (1950 reprint of serials from 1874)
- *Picturesque California* 1888
- *Stickeen: An Adventure with a Dog and a Glacier* (1897)
- *Our National Parks*. 1901.
- *My First Summer in the Sierra*. 1911.
- *Edward Henry Harriman* 1911.
- *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* 1913.
- *A Thousand-mile Walk to the Gulf* 1916.
- *Steep Trails*, 1918.

**Essays online**

- "Alaska. The Discovery of Glacier Bay"
- "The American Forests"
- "Among the Animals of the Yosemite"
- "Among the Birds of the Yosemite"
- "The Coniferous Forests of the Sierra Nevada"
- "Features of the Proposed Yosemite National Park"
- "The Forests of Yosemite Park"
- "Fountains and Streams of the Yosemite"
- "In the Heart of the California Alps"
- "Living Glaciers of California"
- "The New Sequoia Forests of California"
- "A Rival of the Yosemite, King's River Canyon"
- "Snow-Storm on Mount Shasta"
- "Studies in the Sierra: The Glacier Meadows of the Sierra"
- "Studies in the Sierra: The Mountain Lakes of California"
- "Studies in the Sierra: The Passes of the Sierra"
- "The Treasures of the Yosemite"
- "The Wild Gardens of the Yosemite Park"
- "The Wild Parks and Forest Reservations of the West"
- "The Wild Sheep of the Sierra"
- "The Yellowstone National Park"
- "The Yosemite National Park"
Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

*Our National Parks*, 1901, page 56.

*John Muir*
Primary Source for this presentation:

The Life and Adventures of

John Muir

James Mitchell Clarke, 1979
The Word Shop, Inc.
also

John Muir Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/JMBirthplace/

Noble conference information:
https://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2019/