

John Muir and his Conservation Legacy

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Muir was a man that made a lot of differences in people's lives and a man a lot of people will never forget. His legacy is left behind today and his messages still resonate. There are a lot of different things people can remember him by. His work and drive ethic was something to be noticed. His passion for nature and natural beauty was undoubtedly amazing and a lot of people respected him because of that.

Muir left behind a bunch of books and articles that he published that told his story of his adventures and true love of nature. "California and Alaska, will be here a long time after we are all gone; but your books must be got ready for the long life that awaits them, for they must live as long as the country remains safe from the final clash of things (Worster, 2009 pg. 458). A New York publisher and editor Walter Hines Page wrote that about more and that sums up the fact that a lot of people wanted and needed to hear about his stories and his adventures. Muir will be greatly remembered and his conservation legacy will live on because of the fact that he wrote books and published material about his entire life. People wanted to hear about it and know what want on. There are five book-length classic for nature lovers, *The Mountains of California (1894)*, *Our National Parks of My Boyhood and Youth (1901)*, *My First Summer in the Sierra (1911)*, *The Yosemite (1912)*, and *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth (1913)* (Worster, 2009 pg. 462). The fact that he wrote all of these books and they are still popular today shows the kind of writing ability he had and just how interesting his stories actually were. According to the *Times* "Although he was not a maker of many books, John Muir achieved for himself an enviable place in our prose literature, simplicity and elegance are admirably mingled in his descriptions of the scenery he loved" (Worster, 2009 pg. 462). The fact that so many people went out of their way to talk about Muir and the work he did is unbelievable. Even

though he was not a maker of many books the ones he did publish were amazing and have gotten a lot of attention.

Muir's legacy is remembered in other ways as well. According to Worster (2009 pg. 464) remembered not his accumulated wealth that he had but they remembered his love for the outdoors. In honor of the love they had for him they made him the most famous and ubiquitous name in their states history. The name Muir began to appear on buildings, signs, and natural features all over the place. It was in schools to real-estate companies in parklands. In the year of 1915 the state legislature appropriated an initial \$10,000 to construct the John Muir Trail through one of the most spectacular mountain vistas in the nation (Worster, 2009 pg. 464). The fact that he has so many things named after him and people continue to read his books even to this day goes to show the kind of person he was and the fact that he valued so much what he did. His passion for nature is amazing and it goes to show with all of the trails and different things that are named after him.

“Nature loves man, beetles, and birds with the same love” (Worster, 2009 pg. 466). That was Muir's philosophy and something he really lived by. He loved nature and nothing in his mind compared to it. He wanted to make the parks and nature settings better. He led many times some conservation movements that people will not forget. He proposed some parks with Robert Underwood Johnson and tried to get many famous figures on his side with different things . The Hetch Hetchy project and his love for Yosemite will never go unnoticed. Yosemite is a wonderful thing and we are apt to see it as a wonderful creation; as in the only valley of its kind in the world, but nature is really poor as to only have one of anything (Muir, 810). The Hetch Hetchy project was one of his main ideas. He did not want it to be destroyed and wanted the natural beauty to always stay in magnificent places. His conservation movements began to

attract many women as well as other men too, some male conservationists actually began to kind of feel anxious about their place in society as whole (Worster, 2009 pg. 433). He also had a huge love of forests. He states that the forests of America, however they are slighted by that of man, must have been a great delight to God, because they were the best he ever planted (Muir, pg. 701). He had such a love for them and for him looked like a garden and the natural beauty was unbeatable. He loved explaining all of the trees and vegetation in the forests.

He worked with President Roosevelt with his conservation movement and Roosevelt really helped Muir with this. A quote by Roosevelt, “The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our National life. Unless we maintain an adequate material basis for our civilization, we can not maintain the institutions in which we take so great and so just a pride; and to waste and destroy our natural resources means to undermine these material bases” (Worster, 2009 pg. 430). I think this quote sums up the type of movement Muir was trying to lead and make his mark on things.

He was a man that truly didn't want anything better more than leaving his legacy with Nature. He wanted our natural resources to be used the right way and to really lead people to see the beauty of the nature around us. In his mind nothing was more beautiful than the natural world and it not getting destroyed by humans or anything else. If there is one thing Muir I believe taught a lot of people is if you really have a passion for something and love something just as he loved nature, you have to go out and make your mark and not worry about what other people at the time think of you and the type of passion you have. He will forever remain one of the most talked about nature lovers and someone who helped with the conservation movement

and his legacy will remain on because of his dedicated passion to nature and that of writing to tell his stories.

Works Cited

Worster, Donald. 2009 *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0199782245

John Muir : *Nature Writings: The Story of My Boyhood and Youth; My First Summer in the Sierra; The Mountains of California; Stickeen; Essays*. Library of America 1997. ISBN: 1-883011-24-8

John Muir, one of the central figures of the early 20th-century American environmental movement, has been celebrated for his many contributions, particularly in California. His name adorns schools and redwood forests, and he was among the voices that advocated for the establishment of some of the first national parks in the United States, including Yosemite, Sequoia, and the Grand Canyon. But as the Sierra Club, an organization he co-founded 128 years ago, wrote in a statement today, Muir's legacy, and that of a number of early leaders of the conservation movement, is marred by a record of racism. John Muir and His Legacy by Stephen R. Fox. Other editions. Want to Read saving €! Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Rate this book. Clear rating. There's a myth that the Republicans used to be more into nature and its conservation, but I found out from this book that it was largely always tainted by involvement with the gun and railroad lobbies. The author also claimed that since the New Deal all environmentalists have been Democrats. I also liked that the author described the childhoods of many of the first conservationists as rather lonely and steeped in nature experiences. His legacy, however, lives on. Muir's books are still widely read and loved and present among the most passionate and eloquent descriptions of nature in the English language. The conservation movement that he helped found has profoundly transformed human awareness of the natural world and the need to protect its wonders. Remembering their travels together, Theodore Roosevelt wrote of John Muir. The John Muir Trail, the John Muir Wilderness, the Muir Woods National Monument, John Muir College (a residential college of the University of California, San Diego), and John Muir Country Park in Dunbar are named in his honor. An image of John Muir, with the California Condor and Half Dome, appears on the California state quarter which was released in 2005. Quotes. Similar books and articles. John Muir and His Legacy: The American Conservation Movement. Conservation and No-Conservation Rules as a Function of Transformations and Induced Set. Vito Modigliani - 1973 - Journal of Experimental Psychology 97 (2):261. Defending God's Strong Conservation. Louis A. Mancha Jr - 2003 - Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association 77:145-157. Analytics.