

Finding Connection in Nature

By Jack Muir Laws



Naturalist, educator and artist John (Jack) Muir Laws delights in exploring the natural world and sharing this love with others. For six years, John Muir Laws backpacked the Sierra Nevada to research and illustrate *The Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, a richly illustrated (2,710 original watercolor paintings), pocket-size field guide to over 1,700 species found in the Sierra Nevada. This guide helps visitors or residents of the Sierra understand and appreciate the biodiversity of the region.

Laws will present an illustrated lecture about the natural history of the Sierra Nevada, and the process of creating a field guide. This engaging program will highlight some of the beautifully and amazing species in the Sierra and the relationships between them. Laws will also discuss some of the conservation challenges in the Sierra Nevada and what stewards of nature are doing to confront them.

Tuesday July 21, 2009

San Diego, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104

7:00 PM

For a Balboa Park map see www.balboapark.org/nav.html

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About CNPS-San Diego Monthly Programs;

Chapter meetings are open to the public; there is no charge
Our programs are the 3rd Tuesday of the month, excluding August and December.

7:00-7:30 PM is a time for discussion, camaraderie, and visiting the book sales table. The program starts at 7:30 PM. Come early and browse our books. Stay after the program for conversation and refreshments.

We meet in Balboa Park, in the Casa del Prado, Room 101 or Room 104, which can be reached by car from Village Place off of Park Boulevard (served by the #7 bus). The Casa del Prado is immediately west of the Natural History Museum. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

7-7:30 pm: Mystery plants identified! Bring your unknown plant and we will help you learn to identify it

Biography

Naturalist, educator and artist John (Jack) Muir Laws delights in exploring the natural world and sharing this love with others. For six years, John Muir Laws backpacked the Sierra Nevada to research and illustrate *The Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, a pocket size field guide to over 1,700 species found in the Sierra Nevada. The guide includes 2,710 original watercolor paintings was reviewed by educators, naturalists, and scientists throughout the country, and was intensively field tested by adults and youth. This guide helps visitors or residents of the Sierra understand and appreciate the biodiversity of the region. This comprehensive and easy to use guide allows botanists to identify the insects that come to their flowers, birders to identify the trees in which the birds perch, or hikers to identify the stars overhead at night.

Laws is deeply committed to stewardship of nature and collaborates with organizations throughout the state to this end. He is currently coordinating efforts to create a standards based sixth through eighth grade curriculum to help teachers convey a love of nature and an understanding of biodiversity to their students through field studies and nature sketching. As a part of this project, he is working secure funding to donate sets of field guides to every middle and high school in the Sierra Nevada.

Laws has worked as an environmental educator for over 25 years in California, Wyoming, and Alaska. He teaches classes on natural history, conservation biology, scientific illustration, and field sketching. He is trained as a wildlife biologist and is an associate of the California Academy of Sciences. His illustrations capture the feeling of the living plant or animal, while also including details critical for identification. In the summer of 2004, Laws published *Sierra Birds: a Hiker's Guide*. He is also a regular contributor to *Bay Nature* magazine with his "Naturalists Notebook" column