



Wildlife Book Club: The Wilderness World of John Muir By John Muir

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

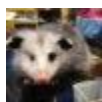
Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Hi, AA and Chapin! Where's Raina?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

She will be here shortly!



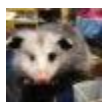
Raina Krasner, WCV:

Hello!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

See! What did I tell you!?!?! :)



Raina Krasner, WCV:

(hi other phebe photo)



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Love your avatar, Raina!

Comment From Lacy

Good evening, everyone! I'm the worst! I have only barely gotten started on the book :(But I'm looking forward to reading it. I'm sure this discussion will inspire me to get cracking on it :)

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Hi Amanda, Chapin, Raina and CN Book Clubbers ~ I'm ready for a fun and informative evening!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:
Lacy!!!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:
Hi Lacy! Glad to have you with us!



Raina Krasner, WCV:
Yes! Very inspiring book, Lacy.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia
Hey, Lacy!

Comment From CK in Pa
Ready for book club!

Comment From rejoyce
Book club time!!!

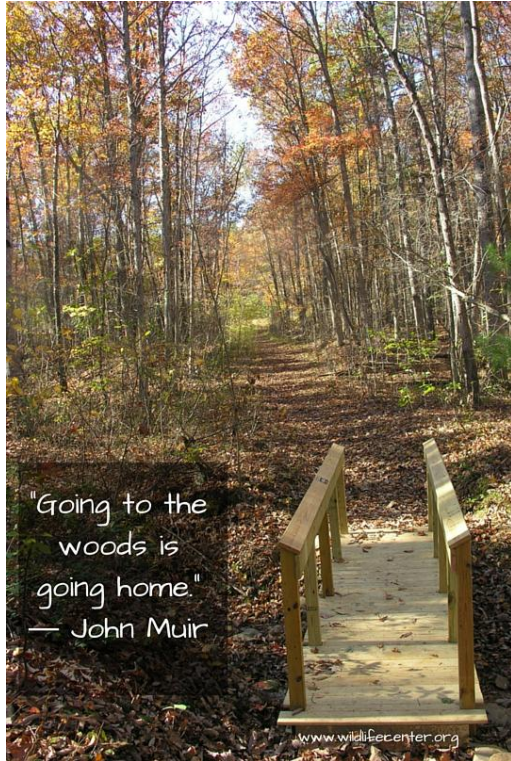
Comment From Lacy
Well I couldn't very well miss book club, could I? Even if I didn't do my homework!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:
Let's set the stage, shall we ...

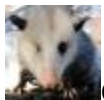


Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So, a couple of questions to kick things off -- and then we will organize the answers "behind the scenes".



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Lots of great quotes in this book. Very inspiring!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Did you guys enjoy the format of the book – the collected stories from different publications of Muir's?

What passage did you enjoy the most?

Comment From Lacy

Hey! I know that bridge. And what a beautiful quote.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

We'll organize, so if your comment isn't posted right away, we'll most likely get to it (until CIL throws us some curveballs).

Comment From rejoyce

I did enjoy the format very much!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

He has such a vast collection of written works (somewhere around a dozen books and a couple hundred articles!). It was nice to see a collection of curated selections.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I really liked the format. It kept it fresh and it was fun to read short bits about his travels.

Comment From BarbG

I liked the format it then made me eager to read more of the stories

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

I loved the anthology format. My favorite section is "Any Fool Can Destroy a Tree."

Comment From rejoyce

I especially liked his reverence for trees.

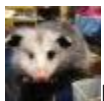
Comment From Jay

Hi! Jay McLaughlin from Richmond, VA.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

He certainly did seem to revere trees. And all of the outdoors!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Hi Jay!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Hi Jay!

Comment From BarbG

I loved his frequent use of word glorious

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Muir paints beautiful pictures with his words- So inspiring! It's amazing, considering his harsh childhood, how even as a child he found beauty in Nature.

Comment From Jay

Sorry I'm late; I was THRILLED with this book - what a joy. I'm noticing a lot more outdoors as a result of reading it.

Comment From rejoyce

His sheer delight of everything in nature was wonderful :)

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes! He really was delighted. Good way of putting it.

Comment From Lydia PA ༄༄༅༄༅

Well we know Muir depended on Teale to ridt and assemble Muir's writings, get them into orfder. I like the way the chapters were laid out

Comment From Jay

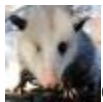
I believe perhaps it is BECAUSE of his difficult childhood he found so much solace in nature.

Comment From BarbG

I agree Jay

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

It seemed like every time he saw something, it was like he was seeing it for the first time. Beautiful way to look at life and nature.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

It was almost childlike.

Comment From Jay

There was zero cynicism, ever.

Comment From Jay

He was also so SMART. The section at the beginning about his inventions was all new to me.

Comment From rejoyce

The least little thing did not escape his notice, and he was amazed by things that most would just overlook. I loved that!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

His ability to describe everything in such exquisite detail puts readers right there in nature with him.

Comment From Susan from NJ

There was something very innocent and pure about his view of nature.

Comment From Mary E in NC

It was amazing to me that he could be so rugged and self sufficient and yet write so beautifully. He obviously had received a pretty good education before he came to America.

Comment From Jay

I too admired his ruggedness and self-sufficiency.

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

Also love chapter VI: Muir's true story of what happened on an Alaskan glacier with a dog named Stickeen, in 1880, is one of Muir's best-known writings, and is now considered a classic dog story. Although it can be read as a straight adventure story, it is much more than that. Muir's story is most compelling because it revealed to Muir that man and dog were not so unlike each other. Stickeen was at first an unfriendly little dog, but after surviving a perilous journey across a glacier by crossing an ice bridge, Stickeen's aloofness is replaced by rapturous emotion, revealing to Muir the fact that our "horizontal brothers" are not that much unlike us.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Lots of favorite stories ... let's chat about that one!

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

Muir wrote, "I have known many dogs, and many a story I could tell of their wisdom and devotion; but to none do I owe so much as to Stickeen. At first the least promising and least known of my dog-friends, he suddenly became the best known of them all. Our storm-battle for life brought him to light, and through him as through a window I have ever since been looking with deeper sympathy into all my fellow mortals."

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I can tell why his most popular/known story is the most popular – I also really enjoyed “Stickeen”. It was very dramatic, and Stickeen sounded like an amazing dog! Of course, he had me at “... sharp eyes with cunning tan-spots above them.”



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I found myself worrying more about the dog than John Muir.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



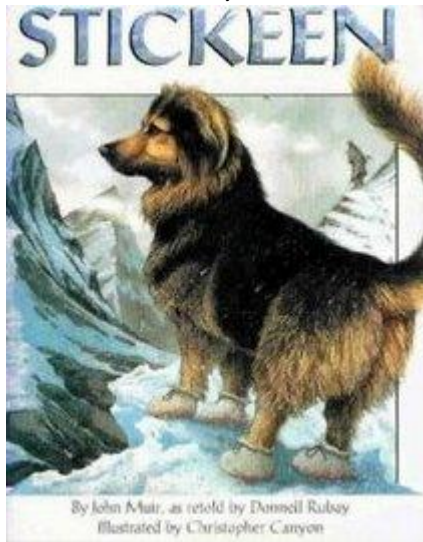
Property of Sierra Club



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I thought of you at that part.

Amanda Nicholson, WCV





Raina Krasner, WCV:

Eyebrows!

Comment From Mary E in NC

Although his beginning was fascinating, I really enjoyed the end of the book most - the story of Stickeen the dog was exciting and his philosophy at the end was beautifully written!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

The Stickeen story actually made me a bit sad... seemed a little reckless on his part regarding the dog's welfare.

Comment From BarbG

I loved his astonishment at what the dog could do



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

"His strength of character lay in his eyes. They looked as old as the hills, and as young, and as wild."



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So sweet.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Melting!

Comment From Mary E in NC

So glad to see a picture of Stickeen!

Comment From Lydia PA 🐶🐶🐶

Love the Strikeen stories....best part of the book for me



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

It was definitely an intense chapter too -- well told!

Comment From Jay

I don't feel he treated Stickeen any more recklessly than he treated himself - he was a very, very tough man.

Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And, Stickeen did sound like a tough dog!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

John didn't even want him to come along at first ...



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I was really impressed at both of their determination and that they were so brave.

Comment From Susan from NJ

He did make me nervous when he was being so daring (walking on ledges by waterfalls, chasing big bears). Nothing seemed to phase him.

Comment From CK in Pa

I loved the Stickeen story, he sure bonded with that dog.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I find it interesting that we all find this chapter as moving/interesting as those when the article was first published.

Comment From Lydia PA ☺☺☺

And I agree...that whole philosophy chapter of the book was my fav.

Comment From rejoyce

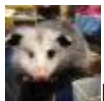
Nothing seemed to phase him!!

Comment From Mary E in NC

I couldn't believe he would go out in storms and climb trees to see nature at its wildest - he was so adventurous and luckily survived all the rough conditions!

Comment From Jay

True story- I was reading his section about climbing trees during storms. As I read, we had a tornado watch here in RIC. My next door neighbors called & asked if I wanted to have dinner in their basement. Thinking of Muir in a tree in a storm, I declined.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I love that!

Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So hardcore!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Woah!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I just talked about that with my husband this morning -- my husband was going to camp on Saturday night (night of the really strong winds) and didn't. I couldn't resist pointing out that John Muir would've done it ...

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

He had a deep inner connection to nature that gave him total confidence in his ability to be in it safely. Some of his adventures scared me to read, especially those dangerous treks he undertook alone.

Comment From BarbG

same with the wildfires he stayed by



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

He really did just seem like a person who belonged outdoors.

Comment From Jay

We evaluate risk much differently in 2016 than they did in the mid-1800's.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So true!

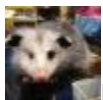
Comment From rejoyce

I loved the chapter where he put the bear, the grasshopper, and the fly as equally impressive :)



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Though many of his friends wouldn't follow him. He was the most extreme. Reading about his journey down to Florida was pretty crazy.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh, I liked that too rejoyce!

Comment From Jay

I believe his intuition about the natural world was so uncannily accurate that he avoided true danger.

Comment From rejoyce

I don't see how he made it on those long stretches when he didn't know if/what he would eat! And just sleeping anywhere!!!!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Muir's joyful enthusiasm was definitely paired with recklessness...

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I thought it was kind of sad reading about his interactions and visit with Emerson – basically, John wanted Emerson to come camp out, and it sounded like he wanted to, but Emerson's "people" thought it was too dangerous, and that Emerson was too old for camping!

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Yes, that was sad. It was a total let down and depressing.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

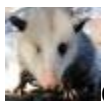
The fact the Emerson didn't get to camp out with Muir saddened me too. Emerson was so close to nature himself.

Comment From rejoyce

I kept thinking that he would've enjoyed some time on Walden Pond with Thoreau :)

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Sent too soon... Though there are people still like that today, you only hear of them if they survive and write a book!

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

You would think of all people, Emerson's people would understand.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

You'd think!

Comment From Jay

His scale for what constitutes true hardship is calibrated much differently than mine. I've been thinking about that a lot. Like when I sleep with my head on a pillow or eat chocolate. Or go to Starbucks.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Ha ... yes, I feel pretty soft and needy since I need more than just crusty bread every day ... :)



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I actually worried about his nutrition haha.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Can you get scurvy from just eating bread?

Comment From CK in Pa

I felt his disappointment in Emerson's people not allowing him to camp with Muir.

Comment From Susan from NJ

How did he survive on only old bread?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I think he lived to be 76 though ... and had the strength to keep up with all those adventures! Hmmm ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Comment From Lacy

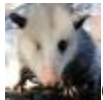
His adventures sound so exciting! I'm looking forward to reading it!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Can you imagine jumping over the back fence with dry bread and tea, no coat, and plan on staying in the mountains and woods for a while?!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Can you imagine jumping over the back fence with dry bread and tea, no coat, and plan on staying in the mountains and woods for a while?!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

NOPE!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I'm always cold and hungry.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

It seems that Muir didn't see his adventures as reckless. He had faith that he and nature were connected and all would work out for the best. He showed respect for nature's power though. I loved his comment that "earthquakes make everybody earnest."



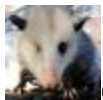
Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Kathy brought up another passage that deserves some time ...

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

I loved his description of the Water Ouzel as "...the hummingbird of blooming waters."

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/american-dipper>



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I had to look it up



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Me too!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Audubon.org

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/american-dipper>



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Sounds like a mockingbird in a way.

Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Okay, so no wonder they were his favorite ... they are seriously cool!

Comment From BarbG

wasn't familiar with that bird either

Comment From Jay

I saw one once years ago when I was camping out west. It was in a creek like that, everything. But I wasn't the outdoorsperson I am now so I didn't appreciate it as much as I should have. I loved reading Muir's description.

Comment From rejoyce

What a beautiful call they have!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So "water ouzels" (oo-zel) are American Dippers.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Dipper/id



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I have a video too ... they are so cool ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV6IDY1TSCO>



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

They are like forest penguins!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

It's like a duck-passerine. I had no idea!!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Dippers have fascinated me since seeing them on a nature program many years ago. Comical when they walk, but amazing around and under water. How they cling to those slick rocks is beyond me.

Comment From BarbG

totally cool!!!

Comment From Lacy

Fascinating birds!

Comment From rejoyce

Really cool!!

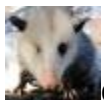
Comment From Susan from NJ

He had unbelievable patience. He could spend days watching one bird.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Definitely a trait to be admired.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I think I could watch that bird for hours too!

Comment From Jay

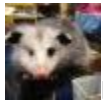
He was so undistractable - he never lost focus. No sports, no TV, no politics.

Comment From Mary E in NC

I loved the way he convinced the Alaskan natives that he was lucky so that they would keep going! He was clever as well as smart!

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໓?

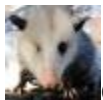
Right Brenda and Kathy: Edwin Teale states: "The founder of the Sierra Club and its president until his death, as well as the discoverer of Glacier Bay and the largest of Alaska's tidal glaciers, Muir was a spirit so free that all he did to prepare for an expedition was to "throw some tea and bread into an old sack and jump over the back fence." As the world confronts the deterioration of the natural environment and an ever-quicken pace of life, the attraction of Muir's writings has never been greater " I cannot even imagine me doing thid

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes, his time in Alaska was a very interesting chapter in his life it seems.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Ironic that he ended up dying from pneumonia contracted in the California desert.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

I've always wanted to go to Alaska and now I really want to go!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Muir's writings are definitely timeless.

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໓?

Yes, it surely is Kathy

Comment From Jay

I've bought a couple other books of his because of this one. Looking forward to reading them. This is one of my favorite books I've read with this book club - and otherwise I never would have read it! Great choice.

Comment From rejoyce

I definitely want to read more of his writings after reading these excerpts!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I'm joining late! I'm like Lacy, only read a few stories in the beginning, but really liked the format. I was tempted to skip around but decided not to.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Another reason I thought this format was so appropriate - I read something his daughter Wanda said about him. She said that you could ask everyone who knew him what John was like, and each person would have a different view of him. He was apparently very multi-faceted and complex. So having this variety of stories, looking at different times in his life and different landscapes ... that seems very fitting.

Comment From Susan from NJ

Considering that a lot of this was written more than 150 years ago, it was easy to read (even if the world is a very different place now.)

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

He spent time not only observing live critters, but also took the time to discover that the tracks in the sand were from lizards and grasshoppers - such focus!

Comment From BarbG

I really enjoyed the section about the Douglas Squirrel



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Phil Myers (photographer; copyright holder), Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Comment From Mary E in NC

Congo's going to love this part - lol!

Comment From BarbG

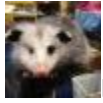
It was interesting to read how they ate the cones of all sizes

Comment From Jay

I read up on a lot of stuff while I read - Douglas Squirrels, water ouzels, etc. Even redwoods. He was a natural teacher.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Who else but Muir would even think of climbing the highest tree, on the highest ridge during a storm just to experience it?!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Maybe a squirrel? :)

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

LOL Raina. I think even the squirrels would know to hunker down!

Comment From Lydia PA 🐿🐿🐿

Very impressive to me, and I greatly admire him: During John Muir's extraordinary life as a conservationist, he traveled through most of the American wilderness alone and on foot, without a gun or a sleeping bag. In 1903, while on a three-day camping trip with President Theodore Roosevelt, he convinced the president of the importance of a national conservation program, and he is given major credit for saving the Grand Canyon and Arizona's Petrified Forest. Muir's writing, based on journals he kept throughout his life, gives our generation a picture of an America still wild and unsettled only one hundred years ago. Edwin Way Teale has collected here the best of Muir's writing, selected from all of his major works

Comment From rejoyce

I know I couldn't just curl up in the nearest cemetery and sleep like he did!

Comment From CK in Pa

My favorite passage was Professor Butler. So strange how John Muir sensed the professor's presence and came to the hotel to meet him.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Brenda brought up a topic we haven't covered yet ...

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

I had no idea Muir was an inventor. He was a wonder of nature himself.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I was amazed by his inventions too!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

His thermometer was super cool!

Comment From BarbG

I never realized all the stuff he invented either-very interesting



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I thought his inventions sounded amazing! I could use a bed that kicks me out in the morning sometimes, although I guess my dog Zoe also does that job ...

Comment From BarbG

that bed just raised right up lol



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Also -- a desk that arranged books and changed them when time was up. How is that not a thing today? I might need a version of that for 2016 ...

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

He was truly a Renaissance Man.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I didn't get to the inventions part!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

That was early in the book!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

He could learn so much in such a short time, like those five minutes each night he managed before his father realized he was still up.

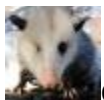


Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And getting up in the middle of the night to steal more time to make stuff ...

Comment From GN

Sounds like yet another book I should read.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Interesting he had to hide them from his father

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

If you truly haven't read it GN, you really ought to.

Comment From Jay

The inventions were in the beginning of the book. It was fascinating - really set up a lot of what followed, at least for me.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I was wondering if there is another individual who had as great an impact on our parks, conservationism, etc. as Muir.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

My favorite early conservationist has been Aldo Leopold, but I had never read John Muir somehow! Now I really appreciate the role both played in our environmental ethos today ... mine at least!

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

We read one of Aldo Leopold's books a few months ago as well.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

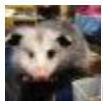
Well then I guess I'll be getting to the inventions stories real soon! :)

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

I knew Muir was from Scotland but didn't know what a harsh childhood he had. He never allowed it to make him bitter or slow him down though.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Though only a brief mention of it was in this book, some here might want to read more about Muir's involvement with the Hetch Hetchy dam project in the early 1900's. It was about providing water for San Francisco. I always felt that that project broke his heart...

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Oh yes! I think it did ... it made it through one and a half presidents though! Still, very sad for him.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

I thought of Leopold as I read Muir's work. I'm grateful that WCV selected this book for us to read. I am happy to have learned so much more about Muir.

Comment From BarbG

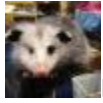
Both men had large impacts on the environment

Comment From Jay

I'm a voracious reader primarily of outdoor stuff. I don't know how this one escaped me. Thrilled to find it.

Comment From Jay

He seemed to get by on very little sleep - AND on very little coffee. I can do one or the other but not both.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Agreed!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I kind of loved the section where he talked about the people he met on his 1,000 mile hike.

Comment From BarbG

Consider walking through the South right after the Civil War--scary to me



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, and he seemed so unworried!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

And a quick thinker too!

Comment From Jay

Interesting about him sleeping in the cemetery, though - nobody was going to bother him. Shrewd choice of lodgings, really.

Comment From Mary E in NC

That's a beautiful cemetery - I've been there to see a friend's grave. (but I'm sure it was buggy!)

Comment From BarbG

He did say his mother told him to get a bed to sleep in so he tried

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I'm wishing that some of Muir's writings were required reading in school for our kids. I wonder how many would have the appreciation for nature and ability to focus (like on one bird or insect!) the way he did.

Comment From Susan from NJ

If he were alive today, how would he be viewed? Could someone like that exist today?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

That's an interesting thought.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

He would definitely be an anomaly ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Ooh, that also kind of ties into something Jay said earlier ...

Comment From Jay

The exquisite detail you mention is I'm afraid getting lost since we photograph so much. It's possible I just think that since I do a lot of outdoor photography. But his descriptions were wonderful.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I love this thought!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And something I worry about too. Sometimes we get so hung up on capturing the moment, we don't actually experience the moment.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Very different in 2016 when we are so hung up on photos with our phones, ipads, etc.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

He would be "on the fringes" of society.

Comment From Lydia PA ☹️❓

Susan, sadly, he probably would be committed to a mental health hospital

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

And every photo seems to only have ourselves in it...

Comment From Lydia PA ☹️❓

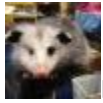
(sorry for the RAK)

Comment From Jay

I'm reading H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald now. Brilliant book. Her father was a photographer. She's a falconer, but she talks a lot about the positives of quality photography. It all cuts two ways.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I just picked up my book - Inventions is my next chapter. :)



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I hope you get to finish it!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Could end up being my beach book this summer!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

That is a good point about seeing things via technology rather than reading descriptions. I think we need both.

Comment From Mary E in NC

We have an exhibit of Ansel Adams photos at our local museum - they're beautiful, but it's a totally different approach to nature from Muir's.

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

I had to laugh as I sat reading this book that had chapters from the numerous books that Muir himself had written, to see his quote: "I have a low opinion of books; they are but piles of stone set up to show coming travelers where other minds have been, or at best signal smokes to call attention."

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

He certainly was a clever man, and he had a good sense of humor. I really got a good laugh from the adventure of Jack, "The Amorous Dog," and the way he got where he wanted to go despite being anchored to the lid of the Dutch oven.

Comment From Lydia PA ☺☺☺

oh, and I found his statement on bears quite profound " Thoughts on finding a dead Yosemite Bear: Muir said "But savage desserts and beasts are and storms are expressions of God's power inseparably companioned by love.. ,We depreciate bears' 'but grandly they blend with their native mountains. There are not companions of men. But children of God. And his charity is broad enough for bears"

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Ansel Adams was in my head as I was reading...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Yosemite Valley from wikipedia.org



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Pretty!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Stunning! I wouldn't know how to put that into words.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Easy to understand why he loved that ...

Comment From Susan from NJ

I wish I could take John Muir on a walk with me so that he could slow me down and point out everything that I am not seeing.

Comment From Jay

He was frugal but he had everything he wanted. What a terrific way to live. On my calendar I put "think of John Muir" every morning for 2 weeks, just to be in the habit.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

That's awesome.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, good point! We should all think of Muir more often ... channel him a little!

Comment From BarbG

I love that idea

Comment From Lydia PA ☺☺☺

READ THIS TOO BY tEALE 'only by going alone in the silence, without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness all other is mere dust and hotel and baggage and chatter' I cannot imaginr doing this myself. But Amanda's husband JJ would do it

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Maybe John Muir's birthday should show up on the next Eagles calendar....



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oooh!

Comment From Jay

We often see Thoreau's "simplify" slogan. John Muir lived as simply as a human being can live. What a role model.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

April 21, 1838



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ahhhhh



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Right around Earth Day!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

How fitting.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Indeed!

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

good idea!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

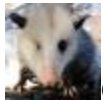
Earth Day is the 22nd! I still don't understand how he traveled on just a crust of bread.

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

**** Loved this line "There is a love of wild nature inside everybody, an ancient mother love ever recognized or no, and however covered by cares and duties" I love this line and find it to be especially true. The older I get the more I seem to find this true for me

Comment From Jay

Although it's true that "the world is a very different place now", I suspect John Muir would encourage us to focus on what is the same as it was then - wind, trees, rivers, storms, rocks, birds, dogs, plants - a lot has changed, but a lot is timeless. We forget that at our peril. It is also incumbent on us to keep the good parts good, e.g. clean rivers, etc.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Well said, Jay!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I grew up with a dad who had a tremendous focus on birds and trees and sometimes wish I had more time to focus like he did...

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Muir's message in "Any Fool Can Destroy a Tree" still applies.

Comment From GN

His father was very strict, worked him hard on their farm and would not allow him to waste daylight hours on reading.

Comment From Mary E in NC

I loved it when he made snow boots for Stickeen out of a handkerchief!

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

What an amazing mane! I also read this "Muir used domestic language to describe his scientific observations, as when he saw nature as providing a home for even the smallest plant life: "the little purple plant, tended by its Maker, closed its petals, crouched low in its crevice of a home, and enjoyed the storm in safety." Muir also saw nature as his own home, as when he wrote friends and described the Sierra as "God's mountain mansion." He considered He often used not only the mountains as home, however, as he also felt a closeness even to the smallest objects: "The very stones seem talkative,

sympathetic, and brotherly. No wonder when we consider that we all have the same Father and Mother."

Comment From SAH

Very true Jay!!

Comment From CK in Pa

Many years ago I picked up one of John Muir's books in a library and then another but couldn't decide which to read. This was a great selection, but now I'm still not sure which book I want to read. Guess it may have to be more than one.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I did really like Teale's packaging of the excerpts ... they were set up well.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Everyone here has pointed out some wonderful quotes!

Comment From Lydia PA ຖ້າຂໍ?

Chapter. VII. The Philosophy of John Muir was my fav

Comment From Lydia PA ຖ້າຂໍ?

A quote---and it show how asept Muit could paint pictures and feelings with his words: "An excerpt from the chapter First Glimpse of the Sierra ...Looking eastward from the summit of the Pacheco Pass one shining morning, a landscape was displayed that after all my wanderings still appears as the most beautiful I have ever beheld. At my feet lay the Great Central Valley of California, level and flowery, like a lake of pure sunshine, forty or fifty miles wide, five hundred miles long, one rich furred garden of yellow composite. And from the eastern boundary of this vast golden flowerbed rose the mighty Sierra, miles in height, and so gloriously colored and so radiant, it seemed not clothed with light, but wholly composed of it, like the wall of some celestial city. Along the top and extending a good way down, was a rich pearl-gray belt of snow; below it a belt of blue and dark purple, marking the extension of the forests; and stretching along the base of the range a broad belt of rose-purple; all these colors, from the blue sky to the yellow valley smoothly blending as they do in a rainbow, making a wall of light ineffably fine. Then it seemed to me that the Sierra should be called, not the Nevada or Snowy Range, but the Range of Light..." Can you picture the scene in your mind? His words pull me in, and I can imagine standing there experiencing it for myself.

Comment From Jay

Teale's introduction was superb - makes me want to read more by him too. It was an excellent setup for the book.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Is there another collection of his writings?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Hmm .. I don't know that there's another collection, but lots and lots of writings ...

Comment From Lydia PA ☺☺☺

I read that . The Philosophy of John Muir - excerpts from many scattered sources focusing on Muir's views on mankind's relationship to Nature. For many, this is the favorite part of the book, the part one returns to again and again for inspiration.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So! I think it's time for our rating!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Remember Goodreads scale -- 1-5 (5 being high)

Comment From Jay

If you read on a kindle, go on amazon and type "john muir free kindle". There are many free titles.

Comment From Lacy

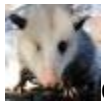
Great discussion! I can't wait to read it and learn about him. He sounds like a remarkable guy who lived a remarkable life.

Comment From Jay

Automatic 5 from me - I loved it.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Am I allowed even though I just started it?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

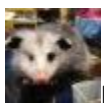
sure!

Comment From CK in Pa

Rating 5

Comment From BarbG

5



Raina Krasner, WCV:

5!

Comment From Lydia PA 🐼🐼?

I say 5 too

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

5! I'm glad that I bought this book - it's a keeper!

Comment From Susan from NJ

I've only read the first half, but that would definitely get a 5.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Sounds like the 5s have it.

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Muir's writings are worthy of no less than a 5 as far as I'm concerned.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I give it a 5. And I can go back to it now that March Madness is done. :)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And before we leave this book and announce the next ...



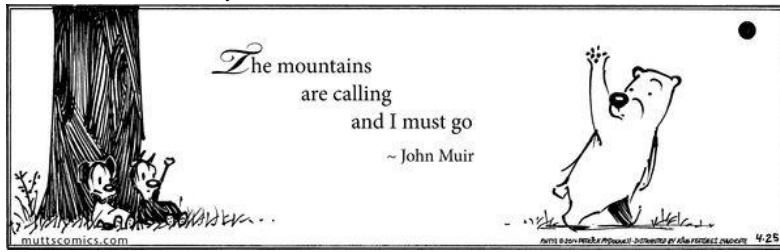
Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Comment From Susan from NJ

Great choice! Thanks for giving me a chance to read this!

Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Comment From SAH

5 It is a book I can pick up and open a chapter and start reading anytime!! A classic!

Comment From GN

If the book club was longer, Lydia would have posted the entire book. We could have read it here.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So, next book club ... will be in June ... date to be announced ... but ...

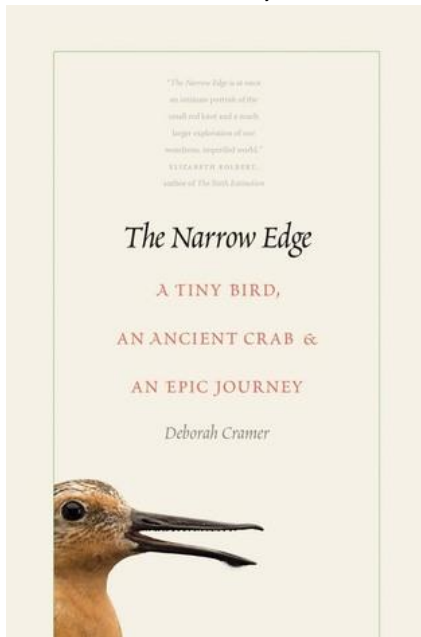


Chapin Hardy, WCV:

drum roll!



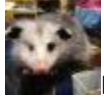
Raina Krasner, WCV





Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

yay!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, An Ancient Bird, and an Epic Journey



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Good choice!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

by Deborah Cramer!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

This book was recommended to us last year ... but we hope to have Deborah join us for book club too. Ed Clark recently went to a book award presentation of hers!

Comment From BarbG

sounds interesting

Comment From Jay

Although you can't judge a book by it's cover, that cover sure looks terrific. Looking forward to it!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Chapin, will you come back in June to join us? Pretty please?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I will do my best :)

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

Sounds interesting - looking forward to reading it!

Comment From Lydia PA ☺☹☹?

That is the meme I want to copy and frame for the mountain (8:18)/. Amanda I think you could print and frame as a housewarming gift (hint hint)

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

Oh some said they wanted to read more of Muir's work: I found this: "To obtain a whole picture of Muir, the reader will need to also read another work about Muir's conservation campaigns, such as Roderick Nash's chapter on "John Muir: Publicizer" in Wilderness and the American Mind, Stephen Fox's "John Muir and His Legacy: The American Conservation Movement, or John Muir and the Sierra Club: The Battle for Yosemite" by Holway R. Jones."

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I want to know when Lydia has time to type all that in!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Good one, GN!

Comment From Lacy

GN!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

The next book sounds intriguing.

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Must be shore birds!

Comment From Jay

SNP is beautiful too!

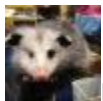


Raina Krasner, WCV:

It is!

Comment From BarbG

One of my favorite things about Book Club-being introduced to all these new books



Raina Krasner, WCV:

That makes me so happy to hear!

Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Mine too. I've definitely read books this way that I don't think I would've otherwise.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Agreed!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Also, I find that many books remind me of other book club books!

Comment From Jay

I just (this minute) bought The Narrow Edge on kindle from Amazon. So un-John Muir-like but what can I say. At least no trees were harmed.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ha.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Love it!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Who knows what Muir would say about that!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

I'm positive about that. And when I read them I think about who I would most want to read them next!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Thanks everyone, for coming to book club!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

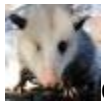
Don't forget your Amazon Smile...

Comment From BarbG

thanks everyone-another great discussion

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

I knew that this would be a great book club tonight, and it was! Thanks Amanda, Chapin, Raina and CN Book Clubbers for another wonderful evening!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Yes! Thank you to all who attended!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Great discussion, everyone!

Comment From Brenda from Virginia

Thank you AA, Chapin, and Raina! This was a great discussion.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And Chapin's last official book club ... :(



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Thanks for joining us! It's so much fun.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Awww!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Good night book club, good night bears.

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

Amazon Smile...here i come!

Comment From Jay

Chapin can join us any time she wants!

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

Amazing what time you have to research when you retire and cannot use you rigt /arm...LOL



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Awww! Thanks Jay!

Comment From CK in Pa

Thanks everyone! Great book club!

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

Thanks Amanda, Raina and Chapin, Now time to go to Amazon Smile :)

Comment From Lydia PA ໕໒໕໖?

SBD's (Sweet Bear Dreams)



Chapin Hardy, WCV:
Good night, everyone!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:
Night!

Comment From Mary E in NC

Thanks Amanda, Raina and Chapin for a great book club discussion! I really enjoyed this book and look forward to the next one!