

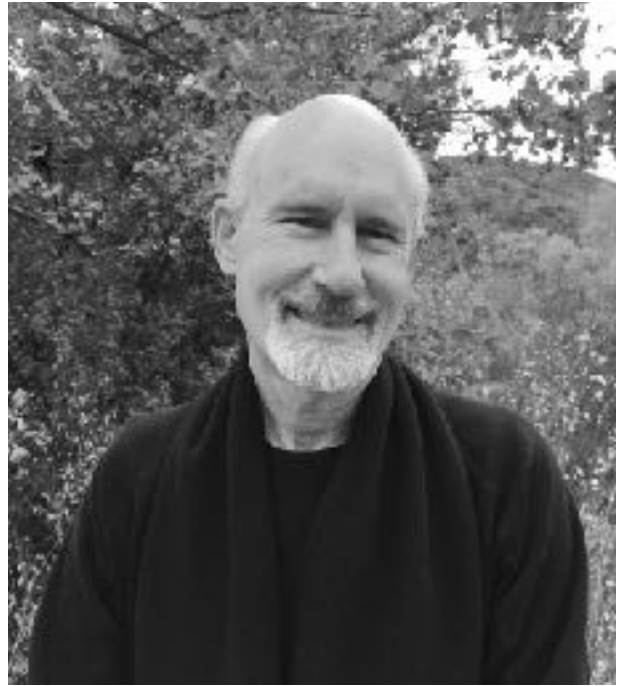
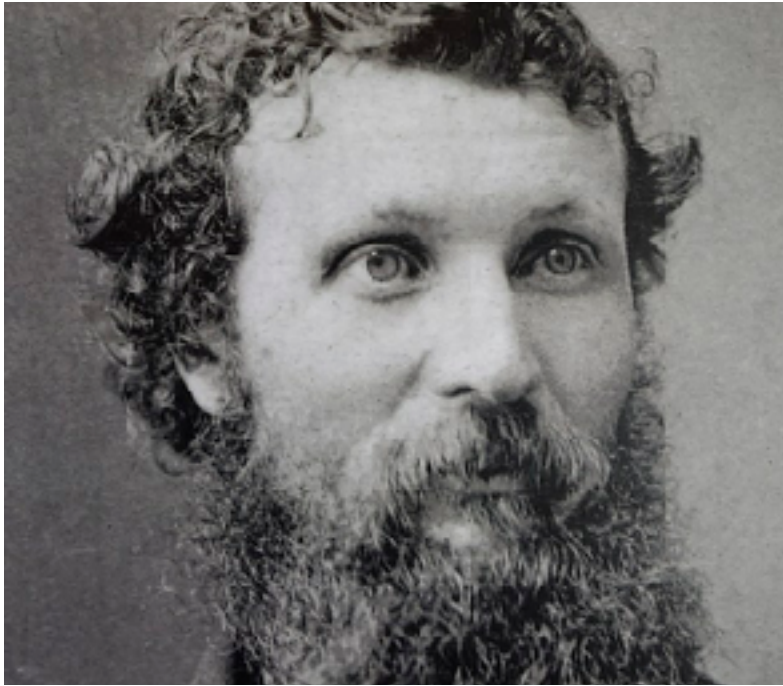
# John Muir

## Natural Freethinker, Secular Saint

A Presentation by Chris Highland

January 15, 2018

Asheville, NC



“Voice in the Wilderness” preaching the preservation of our National Parks, founder of the Sierra Club and author of over a dozen books, **John Muir** (1838-1914) left his footprints on trails still open for exploration. His wild, secular (this-world) spirituality and his incisive critique of orthodox religion, place him in the naturalistic tradition of Freethinkers traced back to Thomas Paine, Frances Wright and other voices of reason. Chris will reveal the remarkably heretical side of Muir, inviting engagement with this innovative view of the great naturalist.

**Chris Highland**, author of *Meditations of John Muir: Nature’s Temple* and the novella *Jesus and John Muir*, teaches classes on Freethought at the Reuter Center (OLLI) and writes the weekly “Highland Views” column for the Asheville Citizen-Times. He is a Humanist Celebrant and former Interfaith Chaplain, married to the Rev. Carol Hovis, a Presbyterian Minister. They resettled in Asheville in 2016 from the SF Bay Area. See [www.chighland.com](http://www.chighland.com)