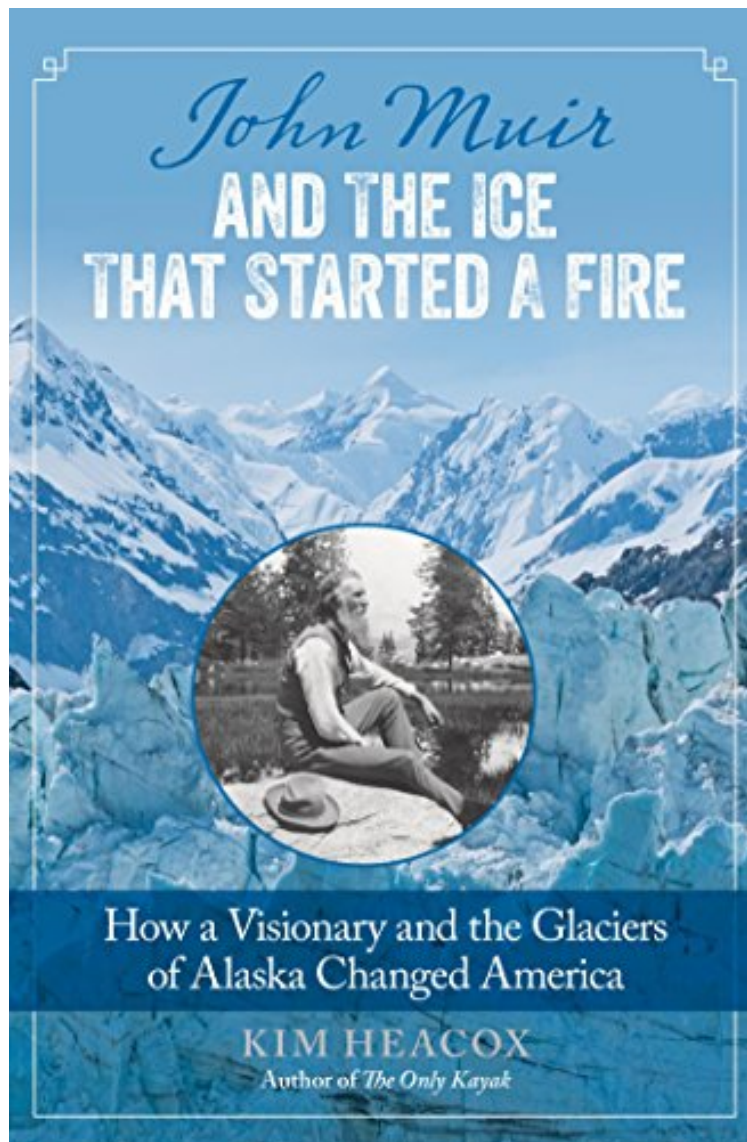


[PDF] John Muir and the Ice That Started a Fire: How a Visionary and the Glaciers of Alaska Changed America

John Muir and the Ice That Started a Fire: How a Visionary and the Glaciers of Alaska Changed America

Kim Heacox

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Kim Heacox : John Muir and the Ice That Started a Fire: How a Visionary and the Glaciers of Alaska Changed America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Muir and the Ice That Started a Fire: How a Visionary and the Glaciers of Alaska Changed America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Love Affair with IceBy NancyAdairBI bought John Muir and the Ice that Started a Fire on Kindle after watching Ken Burns' National Parks on PBS. I wanted to know more about

Muir. Although I read this ebook over many months, mostly in waiting rooms, I enjoyed it and found it informative, moving, and inspirational. Heacox offers a wonderful biography of a man who could have had a lucrative career but gave it up for his love of nature and the wild. Muir dared to stand against a country worshipping wealth, a nation that had lost its vision of the sublimity of America's unique landscapes. Dedicating himself to research, educating and writing and pushing for policy to protect his beloved lands, Muir had a mystical belief in the healing property of the environment which today is becoming recognized as truth. The book's particular focus is on Muir's enraptured love of Alaska's glaciers. I appreciated that the book does not end with Muir's death, but continues to the present day, addressing how climate change is affecting the glaciers (which were already diminishing during Muir's lifetime.)

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A perceptively written, and compelling read. By Douglas A. Pfeiffer

With the title, "The Iced That Started a Fire," one gets a hint at how different this story is from a typical biography. Woven into the well-established facts about John Muir's life are delightful details about the man, his family, friends, allies, and foes. More importantly, it weaves a story about how his voice and writings played a major role in awakening America's perception of wilderness. Kim Heacox had a catbird seat with his long association at Glacier Bay and the National Park Service as well as a deep knowledge and research of his subject. For me, this book was significant in understanding how the conservation movement developed in America with the hope that future generations will never let that ice fire burn out.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good introduction to John Muir, visionary conservationist, author, and activist. By Kindle Customer

Author Kim Heacox has penned a good introduction to John Muir, one of the central figures in the beginning of the American conservation movement. Book jackets have called this a biography of Muir. I don't think this qualifies as such. Although Muir's life is central to the book and you learn a lot about John Muir, this is more a book about John Muir's relationship to the wilds and glaciers of Alaska, his passion about conserving wild places (in California, Alaska, and elsewhere), his role in starting the conservation movement, and his influence on other important figures in this movement, both then and after his death (especially Teddy Roosevelt and William Taft). I am an Alaskan and as such, have heard a lot about John Muir over the years. I confess that although I have intended to, I've not read John Muir to this point. This book will spur me to correct that deficiency and I suspect it will spur lots of others to do likewise. For that, I owe Kim Heacox a debt of gratitude. John Muir was an amazing and visionary man, and this book attempts to point that out.

A dual biography of two of the most compelling elements in the narrative of wild America, John Muir and Alaska. John Muir was a fascinating man who was many things: inventor, scientist, revolutionary, druid (a modern day Celtic priest), husband, son, father and friend, and a shining son of the Scottish Enlightenment -- both in temperament and intellect.

Kim Heacox, author of *The Only Kayak*, brings us a story that evolves as Muir's life did, from one of outdoor adventure into one of ecological guardianship--Muir went from impassioned author to leading activist. The book is not just an engaging and dramatic profile of Muir, but an expose on glaciers, and their importance in the world today. Muir shows us how one person changed America, helped it embrace its wilderness, and in turn, gave us a better world.

December 2014 will mark the 100th anniversary of Muir's death. Muir died of a broken heart, some say, when Congress voted to approve the building of Hetch Hetchy Dam in Yosemite National Park. Perhaps in the greatest piece of environmental symbolism in the U.S. in a long time, on the California ballot this November is a measure to dismantle the Hetch Hetchy Dam.

Muir's legacy is that he reordered our priorities and contributed to a new scientific revolution that was picked up a generation later by Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, and is championed today by influential writers like E.O. Wilson and Jared Diamond. Heacox will take us into how Muir changed our world, advanced the science of glaciology and popularized geology. How he got people out there. How he gave America a new vision of Alaska, and of itself.

From Booklist **Starred** Alaska writer Heacox (*The Only Kayak*, 2005) delves deeply here into the impact his states' glacial beauty had upon wilderness advocate John Muir. With a deft touch, the narrative wanders with ease from natural history, to biography, to travelogue and an exploration of how Muir's adventures in Alaska infused his later literary and conservation accomplishments. Muir is hardly an unknown figure, but Heacox finds much in his Alaska experiences worthy of further examination. The states' conflicted past with its native inhabitants comes alive as the author recounts Muir's interactions with Tlingit guides, determined men of God, desperate gold miners, and the denizens of the much-lauded 1899 Harriman Expedition. Heacox presents Muir at his most restless, curious best, heavily engaged in the environmental politics of California while never leaving far behind his northern glacial adventures. There are a dozen different aspects of this study that will strike deep chords with readers, most notably the climate implications revealed by glacial movements that Muir recorded. Long a highly regarded member of Alaska's literary establishment, Heacox is at the top of his game here. The science is fascinating, the prose is poetic, and the story weaves a long-lasting geographic spell.

--Colleen Mondor [This] subject certainly found its match in Kim Heacox of *Gustavus*. There's no writer living today better suited to telling the story of -- as the book's subtitle promises -- "how a visionary and the glaciers of Alaska changed America." . . . He brings to life in this well-crafted narrative a complex and compelling character in the context of his times -- and now,

in ours. (Alaska Dispatch News) This is a fascinating biography of John Muir, the 'father of America's environmental movement.' The author uses Muir's many trips to Alaska, exploring and studying the glaciers, to form the framework for his life story. Muir was already enchanted with nature, but glaciers ignited his passion. Glacier Bay was a focus of his early efforts to save nature from exploitation. Readers get to meet the man with all his enthusiasms and foibles, a man who needed wild untrammelled nature as much as he needed air. This biography feels more personal than Donald Worster's *A Passion for Nature* and other biographies. It captures the romance and passion of Muir's life. The author's writing style is poetic, making the book a joy to read. . . . This excellent biography can stand alone or serve as a companion to Muir's *Travels in Alaska* (1915). The extensive bibliography and 16 pages of endnotes enhance its usefulness for students. Valuable for both pleasure reading and research. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All academic and general environmental studies collections. (CHOICE) "Fascinating...A wonderfully personal biography of Muir.....The book is an engaging and informative look at Muir and his lifersquo;s work, as well as a timely call to action that poses difficult questions to the reader and the philosophies that underpin modern life." --Publishers Weekly [Starred]ldquo;A gripping biography of "a gentle rebel, a talkative hermit, an enthusiastic wanderer, a distant son of the Scottish Enlightenment, inspired by ice." --Kirkus s [Starred]"Long a highly regarded member of Alaskarsquo;s literary establishment, Heacox is at the top of his game here. The science is fascinating, the prose is poetic, and the story weaves a long-lasting geographic spell." --Booklist [Starred]ldquo;In a graceful coda noting the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act and other conservationist legislation, Heacox transfers Muirrsquo;s mind-set into the present day.rdquo;- The Boston Globe "Stunning...Heacox is a literary companion Muir would certainly endorse." --Alaska Dispatchldquo;In this compelling narrative, Kim Heacox brings us the man the Tlingits called the ldquo;great ice chiefrdquo; and shows that Alaska was an equally powerful force in shaping Muirrsquo;s views and igniting the passion ndash; part religion, part science ndash; that burned so brightly in his soul. Itrsquo;s a welcome corrective. As Muir himself said, lquo;A man who neither believes in God nor glaciers must behellip; the worst kind of unbeliever.rquo;rdquo; - Dayton Duncan, author of *The National Parks: Americarsquo;s Best Idealdquo;There couldnrquo;t be a more gifted or qualified writer than Kim Heacox to tell the story of John Muirrsquo;s travels to Alaska and his passion for glaciers. This beautifully crafted and meticulously researched book chronicles Muirrsquo;s journeys with the kind of detail that puts readers beside him in a rain-drenched canoe, paddling into an ice-cold, unknown land where glaciers are sages, 300-foot-tall ancients telling the story of where wersquo;ve been and where wersquo;re headed. Muir realized more than one hundred years ago that the planet was warming. Ice never lies, Heacox shows us. If only we would listenrdquo; - Debra McKinney, coauthor of *Beyond the Bearldquo;Kim Heacox has sculpted for us the pure John Muir, the passionate high priest of Nature, out scaling his beloved glaciers, far from the spiritual contaminations of the madding modern world. Heacoxrsquo;s storytelling is a delight. His portrait of Muir is indelible. For lovers of the outdoors, his new book is a rare treasure, limned in prose vivid enough to chew and to paint with.rdquo; - Hedrick Smith, author of *Who Stole the American Dream?ldquo;Kim Heacox - one of Americarsquo;s finest outdoor writers - has brought the majestic beauty of Alaska alive in *John Muir and the Ice That Started a Fire*. Itrsquo;s elegantly written, brilliantly researched, and illuminating in fifty different ways. Highly recommended.rdquo; Douglas Brinkley, historian and author of *The Wilderness Warrior* and *The Quiet World* Praise for *The Only Kayak* "A tender chronicle of a miracle in process." Kirkus s "Kim Heacox has outdone himself. This book is funny, sad, erudite, and beautifully written, and an important contribution to Alaska literature. Itrsquo;s a rarity ndash; a book that manages to convey an important environmental message without sliding into self-absorbed intellectualismhellip; As a student of Alaska literature and a professional writer, Irsquo;m grateful for this book. " - Nick Jans, author of *A Wolf Called Romeo* About the Author Kim Heacox is the author of several books on biography, history, and conservation, plus a novel, *Caribou Crossing*, about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. His Alaska memoir, *The Only Kayak* (Lyons Press), a PEN USA Literary Award finalist in creative nonfiction, is now in its seventh printing. Kim was a writer-in-residence at Cambridge Universityrsquo;s Scott Polar Research Institute in 1998, and in Denali National Park in 2012. He has written feature articles for many national magazines and opinion-editorials for the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, and Anchorage Daily News. He lives with his wife, Melanie, in the little town of Gustavus, near Glacier Bay in Alaska. Visit him at kimheacox.com. Visit him at www.kimheacox.com.***