



Wild Places
discover - explore
conserve - share



26 November 2008

PRESS NOTICE

East Lothian man Gavin Buglass receives John Muir Award

East Lothian man Gavin Buglass will be presented with a John Muir Award by Jo Moulin of the John Muir Birthplace Trust in Dunbar tomorrow. **(Thursday 27 November).**

He had to fulfil the four challenges of the John Muir Award which are to discover and explore a wild place, do something to help conserve it and share his experiences with other people.

Gavin, who lives in Haddington, discovered and explored three local wild areas for his John Muir Award - the river Tyne in Haddington, the river Esk at Musselburgh and the three Lochs of Holyrood Park in Edinburgh. His interest in swans linked all these areas.

His conservation work included completing a British Waterways 2008 Wildlife Survey on the river Tyne in Haddington and working with a Ranger from the Historic Scotland Ranger Service monitoring swans in Holyrood Park.

He shared his experiences by putting together a stunning collection of over 200 photographs of wildlife which culminated in a week-long exhibition in Haddington Library in June this year, which was well received by the public.

Gavin, who has a learning disability, was encouraged to work towards the John Muir Award by Capability Scotland's Local Area Co-ordination (LAC) Service in Haddington.

He said: "A few years ago I would not have believed I could have done this award. But anything is possible if you really want to do something even if you have a disability. Hopefully more people will get involved in the John Muir Award and help conserve nature."

Capability Scotland's LAC service supports disabled people of all ages in the Haddington area to access the independent advice and resources that they need in any area of their life. The service aims to increase choice and reduce some of the difficulties that can be experienced by disabled people in their day to day lives

LAC co-ordinator Sue Green commented: "It is great to see all Gavin's hard work come together in this well-deserved award."

Rebecca Logsdon, East Scotland Manager for the John Muir Award commented: "The John Muir Award helps people of all ages to connect with, enjoy and care for the natural world. Gavin has certainly helped to put something back to care for the local wild places that he has discovered and it is with great pleasure that the John Muir Trust recognises Gavin's achievement by awarding him a John Muir Award".

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. You are invited to send a reporter/photographer along to John Muir Birthplace Trust, 126 High Street, Dunbar at 10am on Thursday 27 November. For further information contact Carol Stewart, Capability Scotland on 0131 3471052/ 07944 060322 or Sue Greene on 01620 825937.

2. Capability Scotland is one of the leading Scottish disability organisations and has over 60 years experience of providing services to disabled people of all ages in Scotland. To find out more visit www.capability-scotland.org.uk or contact 01620 82 5937 for further information on the LAC service.

3. The John Muir Trust is the UK's leading wild land conservation charity. The Trust owns and safeguards eight iconic areas of wild land including parts of Ben Nevis, the Red Cuillin in Skye, Schiehallion, Quinag and Sandwood Bay. The Trust works closely with the communities on its own land and with the community bodies that own and manage land in Knoydart, North Harris and Assynt. For more information go to www.jmt.org.

4. The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme, run by the John Muir Trust, that focuses on wild places. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. For more information go to www.johnmuiraward.org.

5. The John Muir Birthplace Trust was formed in September 1998 as a partnership project involving East Lothian Council, the John Muir Trust, Dunbar's John Muir Association and Dunbar Community Council. The aim of the JMBT has been to secure the future of John Muir's birthplace in Dunbar and develop it as an interpretative centre focused on Muir's work. www.jmbt.org.uk/content/

