

## ***Narration that precedes “Stroll of the Summerling”***

*John Muir co-founder of the Sierra Club. On May 28, 1892, in San Francisco, the Sierra Club was incorporated "to explore, enjoy, and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast; to publish authentic information concerning them," and "to enlist the support and cooperation of the people and government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada." These three purposes, recreational, educational, and conservationist, constituted the Club's motives, means, and final object.*

*In an effort to boost public involvement, the Sierra Club began sponsoring hikes. These early trips often included an expert to lecture on forestry, another on biology, another on the history of Yosemite and Muir speaking on geomorphology. On one such Sierra Club Outing, author Albert Palmer tells of a conversation he had with John Muir on the trail. He asked Muir, "someone told me you did not approve of the word hike Is that so? His blue eyes flashed, and with a serious tone he replied:*

*Narrator:*

*" I don't like either the word or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not hike! Do you know the origin of that word 'saunter?' It's a beautiful word. Away back in the Middle Ages people used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages through which they passed asked where they were going, they would reply, 'A la sainte terre,' 'To the Holy Land.' And so they became known as sainte-terre-ers or saunterers. Now these mountains are our Holy Land, and we ought to saunter through them reverently, not 'hike' through them."*