

# MUTER OUTDOOR FUND

ENGAGING NEW AUDIENCES WITH MICHIGAN'S  
RICH OUTDOOR HERITAGE

[www.muteroutdoorfund.org](http://www.muteroutdoorfund.org)



## Meet Our 2020 Scholarship Recipients

The Muter Outdoor Fund is pleased to announce its third annual cohort of John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship recipients. The scholarship program, launched in 2018, recognizes college undergraduates who are committed to engaging new audiences and new generations with Michigan's natural resources and rich outdoor heritage.

The three winners were selected from a highly-qualified pool of 27 applicants, representing ten Michigan colleges and universities. Recipients were selected for their clear passion for Michigan and its outdoor opportunities as well as their demonstrated commitment of introducing others to those opportunities such as: fishing, hunting, camping, boating and wildlife watching. The winners each received a \$1,000 scholarship to support their 2020-2021 academic expenses.



### GRACE MACOMBER

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN · SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Grace is a senior at Saginaw Valley State University working towards her bachelor's degree in biology. She has a passion for research and has conducted projects on topics ranging from invasive species and biodegradable materials to animal behavior. She also loves to share her passion for science and research with others. Grace has worked with SVSU's Mobile Laboratory, the research schooner Appledore V, and Michigan United Conservation Club's Michigan Out-Of-Doors Youth Camp. Grace plans to attend graduate school and aims to improve the ecological health of global systems through her work.



### BENJAMIN SHORT

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN · LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

Benjamin is a junior at Lake Superior State University pursuing a degree in Parks & Recreation Management. Growing up near Saginaw Bay, he has made it a point to give back to his local community. Most recently, Benjamin spent the past two summers working at Bay City State Park where he helped conduct youth fishing programs and collaborated with various community groups on vital maintenance and building projects in the park. At Lake State, he volunteers his time as the treasurer of the Fish & Wildlife Club. Benjamin plans to use his degree to work in either the state or national parks system.

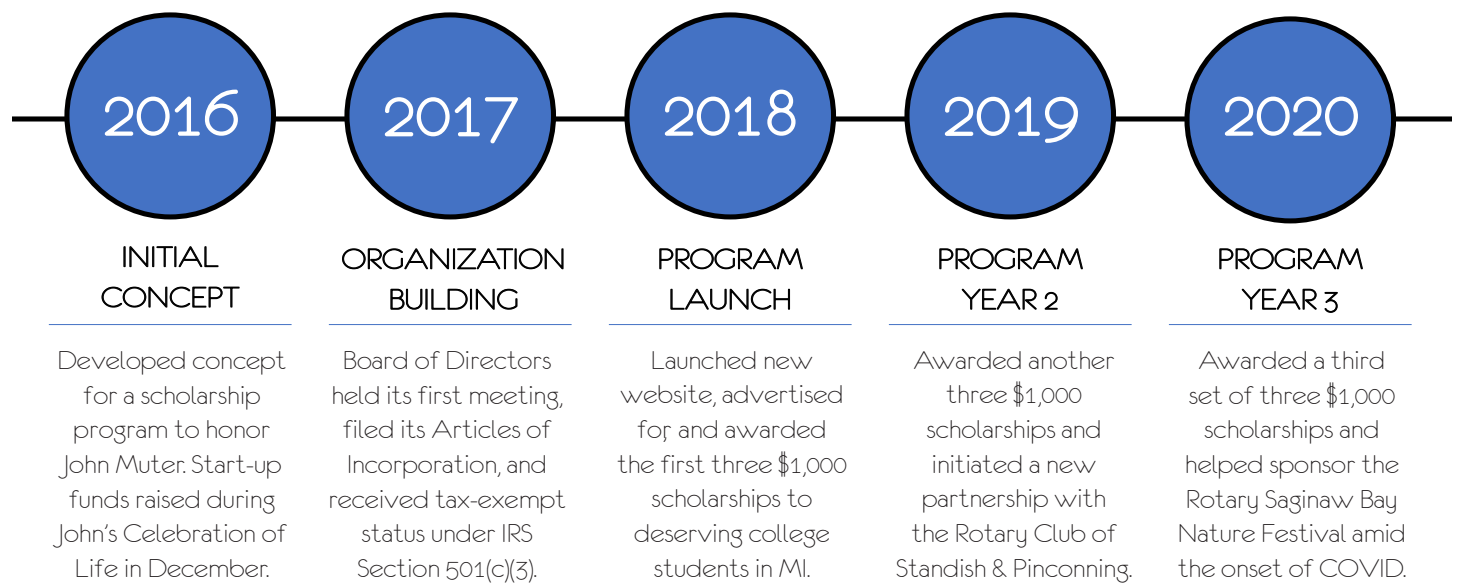


### CHRISTIAN STEVENS

ALPENA, MICHIGAN · MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Christian is a third-year student at Michigan Technological University and is double majoring in Forestry and Wildlife Ecology & Management. He helped establish the university's Mushing Club, a student organization that inspires hard work and dedication through the sport of sled dog racing. Personally, he has mushed in four races ranging from 30 to 150 miles in length and has assisted at races throughout the Midwest. Christian also works part-time for the Isle Royale Wolf and Moose Project, the world's longest-running predator and prey study.

# A Timeline of Our Accomplishments



## John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship



The John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship was the foundational program of the Muter Outdoor Fund and was established to honor the late John Muter, an avid Michigan sportsman, who passed away in 2016 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. John loved to hunt, fish, camp and share his outdoor experiences with family, friends, and others. He was always taking new hunters and new anglers under his wing, passing on his knowledge and enthusiasm as he introduced them to his favorite pastimes around the Great Lakes State.

This award recognizes college sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated a commitment to engaging new audiences and/or new generations with Michigan's natural resources and rich outdoor heritage, including but not limited to fishing, hunting, camping, boating, and wildlife watching.

Check out our website to see biographies of all of our scholarship recipients and to access the 2021 scholarship application.

### SINCE ESTABLISHING THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN 2018 WE HAVE:

RECEIVED

**71**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
from students across 13 Michigan  
colleges & universities

SELECTED

**9**

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS  
representing 7 Michigan  
colleges & universities

AWARDED

**\$9,000**

IN SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS  
to support those 9 students with  
their educational expenses



# Rotary Saginaw Bay Nature Festival

The Muter Outdoor Fund began partnering with the Rotary Club of Standish and Pinconning in 2019 to help support their annual Saginaw Bay Nature Festival.

The festival seeks to connect people of all ages and backgrounds to our land and water and highlights the rich natural resources and recreational opportunities available to those in the Saginaw Bay Region. From March through May each year members of the Rotary Club host dozens of public outreach events ranging from classroom presentations, fishing clinics, school field trips, public tours, and arts activities for Saginaw Bay youth and their families.

## THE IMPACT OF OUR INVOLVEMENT

### 2019 FESTIVAL

The Muter Outdoor Fund supported transportation expenses for nearly **100 4th grade students** from Standish-Sterling Elementary School to attend field trips to Pinconning Park where they explored and learned about Michigan's birds. At the Rotary's annual banquet in May 2019, the Muter Outdoor Fund pledged **\$1,000** to help sponsor the 2020 Festival.

### 2020 FESTIVAL

The sponsorship funds pledged in 2019, along with an additional **\$670** contribution from the Muter Outdoor Fund in 2020, helped the Rotary Club purchase **12 digital camera kits** to support the addition of youth and family nature photography programs to the Festival's 2020 activities. While most of the 2020 Festival's in-person activities were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary carried out a successful youth art contest and distributed tree seedlings to approximately **3,000 elementary and middle school-students** throughout Arenac and Bay Counties.

We look forward to continuing and deepening this important partnership with the Rotary Club and hope to support 2021 Festival programming in whatever format it may take. Check out the Rotary Saginaw Bay Nature Festival on Facebook for more great photos and updates.

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#### Photo Captions:

TOP & MIDDLE: Fourth grade students from Pinconning Elementary visit Pinconning Park where they hiked and went on a guided bird walk with enthusiastic naturalists from the Rotary Club.

BOTTOM: Bob Johns, one of the directors of the Muter Outdoor Fund, visits with members of the Rotary Club of Standish and Pinconning during one of their monthly meetings.



# Our Digital Footprint



## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

The Muter Outdoor Fund's website is the best place to learn about our work. Here are just a few of the things you can find on our website:

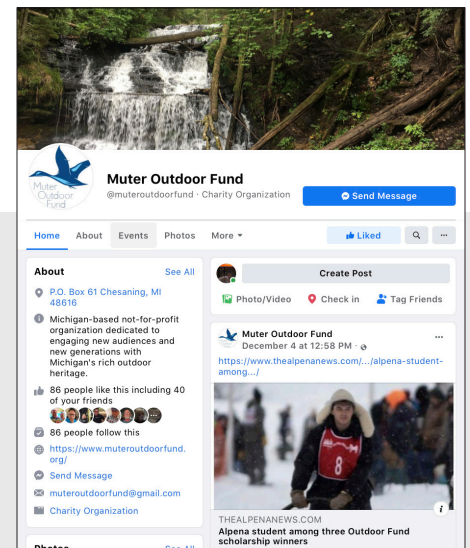
- Annual stakeholder reports and financial information
- Photos and biographies for all of our scholarship recipients
- Application & instructions for the 2021 scholarship
- Easy-to-use tools to donate to support our mission
- Updates on our work, news clippings, and a whole lot more

Visit us online at  
[www.muteroutdoorfund.org](http://www.muteroutdoorfund.org)

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Are you on Facebook? If so, be sure to like and follow our Facebook page. We launched this page in fall 2018 and will be ramping up our use of the social media platform in 2021. In addition to sharing news about our work, we will also be highlighting news articles, links, resources, and other media related to our mission and shared passion for Michigan's outdoor opportunities.

Follow us [@muteroutdoorfund](https://www.facebook.com/muteroutdoorfund).



# Support Our Work

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION.

Thanks to the support of our friends, family, and generous donors like you, our young organization has had a very successful start. Here are some easy ways you can help us engage new audiences with Michigan's rich outdoor heritage:

- **DONATE.** You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Muter Outdoor Fund online at [www.muteroutdoorfund.org](http://www.muteroutdoorfund.org) or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 61, Chesaning, MI 48616.
- **FOLLOW & LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.**
- **SPREAD THE WORD.** Help us spread the word about the scholarship program to college students in Michigan who may be interested.
- **VOLUNTEER.** We are a completely volunteer-run organization. Join us in carrying out, and expanding, our mission.

Contact us via e-mail at [muteroutdoorfund@gmail.com](mailto:muteroutdoorfund@gmail.com) or by phone at 989.284.0976 if you would like to learn more.



Friends & Family -  
Do you have photos of John enjoying the outdoors? Share them with us at [muteroutdoorfund@gmail.com](mailto:muteroutdoorfund@gmail.com).