

MUTER OUTDOOR FUND

ENGAGING NEW AUDIENCES WITH MICHIGAN'S
RICH OUTDOOR HERITAGE

www.muteroutdoorfund.org



Meet Our 2019 Scholarship Recipients

The Muter Outdoor Fund is pleased to announce its second annual cohort of John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship recipients. Now in its second year, the scholarship program 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 21 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 to introducing others to those opportunities such as fishing, hunting, camping, boating, and wildlife watching. The winners received a \$1,000 scholarship to support their 2019-2020 academic expenses.



JACKLYN LENTEN

NEGAUNEE, MICHIGAN • NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

As a senior at Northern Michigan University, Jacklyn has a "special pride" for the natural beauty of northern Michigan. She is actively involved with the NMU Conservation Crew as well as the school's Environmental Science Camp which engages high school students with scientists to explore how technology and field experiences are used to study the environment. She was also recently accepted into MSU Extension's prestigious Lake & Stream Leaders Institute. Jacklyn plans to attend graduate school to pursue her interests in wetlands and amphibian conservation.



MAGKENA SZEMAK

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN • CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Magkena is a third-year honors student at Central Michigan University majoring in environmental science and minoring in community health. By bringing these two fields of study together, she hopes to address environmental health concerns impacting marginalized communities in Michigan and elsewhere. At Central, Magkena conducts research and outreach with the Institute for Great Lakes Research. She volunteers as a counselor for the 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp and serves as the Vice President of Scouting & Youth Services for the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity.



JACOB ZONA

ALBION, MICHIGAN • SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Jacob is entering his final year at Saginaw Valley State University where he is studying both biology and chemistry. He currently serves as the president of The Biology Club at SVSU and in his tenure has helped the organization become more engaged with the local community. In addition to outreach, Jacob is passionate about research. He has conducted research projects on topics ranging from animal behavior to environmental health of the Saginaw Bay watershed. After finishing his degree, he plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in conservation research.



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Updates from Our 2018 Scholarship Recipients



JENNIFER DINGMAN

ALPENA, MICHIGAN • NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY

Since receiving the John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship last year, Jennifer has graduated with her bachelor's degree from Northwood University. She continues working passionately at the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena as a Unit Director. Jennifer credits her degree for expanding her capacity to inspire and enable youth in her community. She took the summer off to adventure and spend time with her husband and son but is now exploring internship opportunities to apply and build upon the skills she developed through her studies.



SAMANTHA LOBDELL

HARRISON, MICHIGAN • CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Samantha just completed a summer internship as a Recreation Technician for the Tongass National Forest in Yakutat, Alaska! She had the incredible opportunity to work on trails, remote cabins, and airstrips in one of the most isolated parts of the United States and enjoyed being a steward for this beautiful landscape! Samantha just completed her bachelor's degree at Central Michigan University and is currently applying for positions within the U.S. Forest Service and with the Department of Natural Resources.



MALLORY VERCH

WATERFORD, MICHIGAN • MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Mallory just completed a summer internship program in the Upper Peninsula working with the Michigan Predatory-Prey Project which focuses on white-tailed deer mortality and carnivore research. She worked on population estimates using black bear hair snares, radio-telemetry, coyote howl surveys, and much more. Mallory is now working at Michigan State Bird Observatory as a mist-net extractor where she gathers information on migratory birds and does outreach with the public on the importance of bird banding research.

2019 Rotary Saginaw Bay Nature Festival

The Muter Outdoor Fund was thrilled to help support the 2019 Saginaw Bay Nature Festival spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Standish and Pinconning.

The Festival aims 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, members of the Rotary Club hosted dozens of public outreach events ranging from classroom presentations, fishing clinics, school field trips, public tours, and arts activities.

In spring 2019, the Muter Outdoor Fund provided \$300 to support the transportation expenses for nearly 100 fourth 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, the Muter Outdoor Fund presented a \$1,000 check to help sponsor the 2020 Festival. We look forward to continuing and deepening this important partnership. To learn more about the Festival, visit <https://www.facebook.com/saginawbaynaturefest>.

