



Au Sable Institute

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2018 ANNUAL REPORT





## Au Sable Institute

### *Dear Friends Who Care for God's Creation,*

The work of conservation, part of the greater effort of the care of God's creation, is an inspiring work of eternal significance. It should also be a hopeful work, because God Himself is working with us and through us in these efforts to serve, protect, and restore all that He has made. Unfortunately, there are many who work in conservation who suffer discouragement, despair, and hopelessness, believing that their efforts will make no difference in the long run, that endangered species will not be saved, natural areas will not be preserved, and no one will even care when they are gone. The problem of hopelessness in conservation is so widespread and pervasive that even professional journals and scientific societies are trying to take steps to combat it.

At Au Sable, we recognize the reality of this problem, but we also embrace and thrive on the solution God Himself has provided. As the Apostle Paul testified in his own words, "For the anxious longing of creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God...in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Romans 8:19,21). All of God's creation is included in His redemptive plan and purpose with us. What we do today to deliver Au Sable's mission to serve, protect, and restore God's earth is work aligned with His eternal and redemptive purposes for it. Because we know that our work has significance, we can continue to do that work in hope.

This hope affects all we do. In this Annual Report, you will read about and see how your gifts to Au Sable supported a near-record enrollment in our College Program in 2018, with over 100 students from 34 colleges and universities learning how to apply the knowledge and skills needed to care for creation in practical ways. Your gifts supported research to reforest abandoned oil pads, learn how a river can be restored when a dam is removed, and create habitat for an endangered species of bird, the Kirtland's warbler. This research is not only doing new things in conservation, it is changing the policies of agencies that do conservation. You are not only helping to discover new things, but to find new ways to get good things done. And all around us in neighboring cities and towns, your gifts have provided support for thousands of local K-12 students to learn about creation care on Au Sable's Great Lakes Campus, to see firsthand the wonder and beauty of living things and all they do in God's good creation.

Thank you for all you have done to advance this mission. Read on, read well, and read hopefully. This Annual Report will give you a clear picture of all you are accomplishing, the reason to hope for even greater things ahead, and the ways you can support them.

Dr. Fred Van Dyke, Executive Director

### Board of Trustees

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# 5 WAYS to deepen your engagement & expand our impact

We are growing a community of Christians who are committed to caring for the created world.

## 1 PRAY

We are a community that believes in the power of prayer, and we welcome prayers for our students and the role our Institute plays in advancing God's Kingdom.

## 2 LEARN MORE

Sign up for our monthly email updates by going to the main page of our website and looking for the sign-up form.

## 3 DONATE

More students means more demand for tuition support. All of our K-12 programs are subsidized and 75% of our college students receive some sort of financial assistance that comes directly from our donors and supporters.

## 4 VISIT AU SABLE

Please visit our northern Michigan campus during the summer. You can have a tour of the campus and share a meal with us.

## 5 SHARE

Tell your friends about Au Sable or invite us to speak to your church or small group about the biblical mandate of caring for God's earth.

We would love to have you become even more involved in our mission.

To get started, contact Jon Terry at

[jon.terry@ausable.org](mailto:jon.terry@ausable.org)

# Inspiring and Educating COLLEGE STUDENTS to serve, protect, and restore God's earth



In 2018, 102 students from 34 different colleges and universities studied at one of our four campuses. Many of these students first arrived discouraged by the lack of concern given by the broader Christian community to caring for God's good earth. Their time at Au Sable filled these students not only with greater knowledge and skills, but with greater faith, purpose and hope.



102

College students who studied at one of our campuses in 2018

51

Colleges in the United States and Canada with partnership agreements with Au Sable

100%

Of class days that students spend outdoors and directly engage with God's creation



At Au Sable, I've learned that God expresses Himself through His creation. I love imagining God as a gardener and knowing He is working on the gardens of our hearts. The entire community here, including faculty, staff and other students, was supportive and provided a safe place to learn and grow. I also benefited from being around students from other Christian colleges and seeing how they approached worship and incorporated their faith into their lives. I am so thankful for this unique experience.

— Brianna Prada, Oral Roberts University





# Inspiring and Educating RESEARCHERS to serve, protect, and restore God's earth



Au Sable participated in three research projects in 2018. One project investigated the impact of dam removal on the Boardman River; another studied the breeding habitat of the endangered Kirtland's warbler; and a third project studied reforestation of vacated oil and gas pads.

6

Undergraduate students who served as research assistants in 2018

50,000

Oil pads across Michigan that will benefit from our research on effective reforestation practices

92%

Of former Au Sable research assistants secured employment or were accepted into graduate programs in the conservation-related science field



The methods and protocols used on the oil pad research translated very efficiently to my current position. I believe this experience, along with the recommendation from Dr. Van Dyke, helped tremendously in being hired by The Great Basin Institute.

— *Dave Rowley, 2018 Research Assistant in Au Sable's Well Pad Reforestation Study. Dave was hired immediately after graduation from Northwestern College (Iowa) as a Research Associate for the Great Basin Institute of the University of Nevada.*



# Inspiring and Educating K-12 STUDENTS to serve, protect, and restore God's earth



Kids today are spending less time outdoors, have high amounts of screen time, and are not benefitting from meaningful engagement with nature. We help solve this problem by providing environmental education programs to 24 school districts in northern Michigan, offering a variety of outdoor learning experiences to children from kindergarten to 12th grade. These experiences play a critical role in instilling a lifelong appreciation and respect for the natural world.

With funding from the Worthington Family Foundation, our Restoration Ecology for Young Students (REYS) program expanded in 2018 and now serves five schools. The program culminated in May 2018, when the five 5th grade classes conducted habitat restoration projects in their local watersheds.

2,600

K-12 students  
served by Au Sable  
in 2018

5,000

Native plants used in habitat  
restoration projects by  
5th grade students involved  
in the REYS program

40

Years of service to  
local K-12 schools  
(1978 to 2018)



In this digital age we live in, kids are surrounded by technology and many don't get the chance to get outdoors and get their hands dirty. Kids need an opportunity to plant a garden or learn about nature and spend time outdoors. Au Sable programs like REYS help kids who normally don't get these kinds of experiences and can open a path for them that wasn't there before.

— Mr. Dee Prahbaker

5th grade teacher at Mill Creek Elementary School, Elk Rapids, MI





Inspiring and Educating

# THE COMMUNITY

to serve, protect, and restore God's earth



In 2018, we served the surrounding community through a variety of programs and services such as working with eight local lake associations to measure water quality, organizing a trash clean-up of the Manistee River and hosting a free “Community Trails Day” for the public to use our cross-country ski equipment and groomed trails. We welcomed 12 groups and churches to our property in 2018 for retreats.

4

Miles of the North Country Trail we adopted in 2018 and will now regularly maintain and protect

375

People who participated in a retreat at Au Sable in 2018

80

Pairs of cross country skis available for use by the community to enjoy God's creation during the long winter



Au Sable is a place where the local community feels welcome and can come and enjoy God's creation. I love cross country skiing and am thankful that Au Sable maintains safe, groomed trails for all ages and skill levels.

— Mary Nothstine, neighbor of Au Sable



# 2018 FINANCIALS

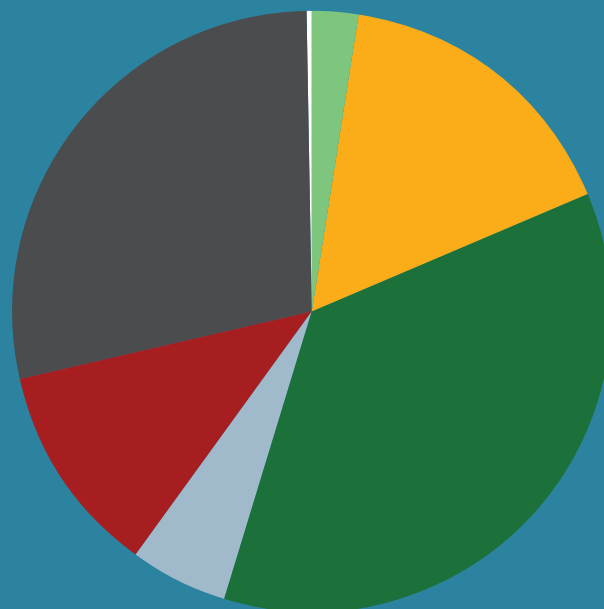
OCTOBER 1, 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

## REVENUE

Retreat Program Income	32,626
General Program Income	197,730
Academic Program Income	441,914
Sustaining Partner Colleges	66,000
Contributions and Grants	140,303
Trust Income and Transfers	344,968
Miscellaneous	2,573

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<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,226,114</b>
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## EXPENSES

Personnel	628,226
Academic Support	326,200
Operations	256,585

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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,211,011</b>
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<b>FINAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$15,103</b>
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## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Under the supervision of Eric Bond, our Director of Support Services, we completed multiple improvement projects on our building and grounds in 2018. The largest project was construction of a new septic system for our housing on Big Twin Lake. This was a long-overdue update and necessary to protect our local watershed. We also installed new carpet in the lodge, bought an industrial walk-in refrigerator for our dining hall and gave a face-lift to our study hall. All of these projects are to better serve our students and are made possible through your donations. **Thank you!**



# SAVE THE DATE

**LET'S CELEBRATE!**

Join us on  
**Friday, August 2, 2019**  
for a dinner to honor our  
founder, Dr. Harold Snyder.

Additional details will be posted to our website at [www.ausable.org](http://www.ausable.org)



## Individual Donors

Thank you to the following individual donors who provided a gift between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018. We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to serving, protecting and restoring God's earth!

Nathan & Mayumi Aaberg	Paul DeYoung	Lauren Kramer	Harold & Ellen Snyder
Glenn Aley	David Dornbos	Jessi Kramer	Christi Sobel
Phyllis Andersland	Paul Drew	Samantha Kruguer	Frederick Sprague
Brent & Kathryn Applegate	Eugene Dunkley	Norm & Pat La Croix	Chuck & Deann Stankey
William Ashworth	Mary Lou Dye	Dave & Brenda Lamb	Michael Staples
Brian & Kelly Aukema	Robert Dykstra	Vernon & Anna Laninga	Luanne Steffy
John Ausema	Eric & Carolyn Elder	James & Mary Lantz	Dale & Carol Stephenson
David & Mary Baker	Marvin Elenbaas	David & Diane Laughlin	Charles & Jean Stiehl
Matthew & Erica Bakker	Charles & Susan Emmerich	Eric & Dora Lindgren	John & Tanneke Streefkerk
Elza Ballew	Jared & Juliane Evans	Lisa Lopatin	Louis Systma
Lindsay Barden	Eric & Rebecca Everman	Mark Magnuson	Wesley Tamkin
Robert & Rebecca Barr	Kathleen Fackler	David & Julia Mahan	John Taylor
Kathryn Bauhof	Patricia Fagg	Susan Matthews	Jonathan & Kristen Terry
Melissa Beeg	Michael Ferber	Sarah McCormack	Steve & Bethany Thompson
Michael Berger	Patricia Fisher	Art & Lori McGregor	Stanley Thompson
Gregory Berger	Larry & Marianne Fisk	Barbara Mengebier	Edwin & Susanna Tobias
Michelle Bergman	Robert & Andrea Ford	Timothy Mervak & Sheila Marcus	Marjory Tobias
Susan K. Betz-Nelson	David Foster	Jocelle Meyer	Steve & Amy Tongue
Dean & Denise Biggins	Nathan & Rebecca Friebe	Miranda Miller	Mark Tournell
Laurie Bobbitt	Andrew & Jody Fritz	Matthew Miller	Mary Evelyn Tucker
Edgar Boeve	Bertel Froysland	Steve Morgan	Jesse Turner
Philip Bom	Bernard & Susan Froysland	Elizabeth Morrison	David Unander
Terry Boone	Brandon & Erin Froysland	Matt & Katrina Mouser	John & Susan Van Dyk
Brian Bosgraaf	Geof & Carole Gaiser	Marvin Mullet	Tricia VanDyke & Benjamin Groenewold
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Rolf & Sandra Bouma	Dale Gentry	Jason & Michelle Neumann	David & Rebecca Vandyke
Steven Bouma-Prediger	Kathy Gillin	David & Barbara Nyenhuis	Nicole VanEe
Lynn Braband	David & Jeanette Gladstone	Ryan & Kara O'Connor	Pamela Veltkamp
John & Emily Brittenham	Brenda Gordon	Char Olmstead	Art & Donna Veltman
Caroline Brock	Kristine & Arie Griffioen	Ken Peress	Ronald Vos
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Stan & Betty Burden	Tina Hay	James E. Preston	Wendell & Jolene Weaver
Timothy & Carolyn Burkholder	Terry & Ruth Heath	Rudy Prins	Lauren Westerman
George & Nancy Buth	Rebecca Heidkamp	Charlene Quint	Jeff & Amy Wharton
Brenda Card	John & Loraine Heim	Brian & Kristyn Quist	Gloria Whelan
Michael F. Carl	Timothy & Barbara Hesselink	Mozhgon Rajae	Mark & Cynthia White
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Stephen R. Carnegis	David Hoekman	Taylor Reed	Richard & Ellen Wicks
Scott Carr	John & Sue Hofer	Jeff Regier	Paul Wiemerslage
Patrick & Helena Cicero	Mary Huisman	Todd & Cheryl Riggs	Paul & Sheila Wiemerslage
Robert & Louise Conradi	Dan Ippolito	Ronald R. Rogers	Gladys Wierenga
Samuel Cowell	Tom & Ellen Kalt	Kristi Rosema	Ruth Wierenga
Garrett Crow	Brian & Angie Keas	Jim Ross	Brook & Emily Wilke
Jon Dahl	David & Karen Kimble	Kristin & Ben Rudenga	Beverly Winslow
Allison De Jong	William & Betty Kimble	Daniel Rupke	Jeffrey Wiska
Jeanette De Jong	Bruce & Carol Kingsley	Henry Schaefer	James Wolfe
James & Janice Decker	Robert Kistler	Ralf & Emily Scharnowski	Joyce Wood
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William & Janet Deutsch	Steven Konings	Rebecca Sizelove	Robert Zwier
Calvin & Ruth DeWitt	John & Sally Korstad	Erik & Melissa Snyder	

We strive for accurate record-keeping. If we missed something, please email [shirley@ausable.org](mailto:shirley@ausable.org) so we can correct our database. **Thank you.**



## Other Supporters

Thank you to the supporters of our research:

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Shell  
ConocoPhillips  
Conservation Resource Alliance

Thank you to foundations and organizations that supported our mission in 2018:

Art and Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation  
Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation  
Fresh Earth Peace Project  
Snyder Foundation  
Worthington Family Foundation  
Manistee Lake Association  
Bear Lake Association

## Tributes

**In Memory of Nancy Sobel:** Christi Sobel

**In Memory of Allison K. Yee:** Mozhgon Rajae

**In Memory of Marlene Fowler:** David and Jeanette Gladstone

**In Memory of Jeff Dye:** Mary Lou Dye

**In Honor of Harold and Ellen Snyder:** Stanley Thompson

### In Memory of Mae Froysland

We are grateful for the outpouring of gifts in memory of Mae Froysland. Donations will be used to support our environmental education programs & establish a memorial garden on our Great Lakes campus.

Brent & Kathryn Applegate

Bob & Becky Barr

Kathryn Bauhof

Melissa Beeg

Michael Berger

Edgar Boeve

Philip Bom

Terry Boone

Roger & Connie Brummel

Timothy & Carolyn Burkholder

George & Nancy Buth

Patrick & Helena Cicero

Jeanette De Jong

Douglas Denboer

Dona DenBoer

Paul DeYoung

Paul Drew

Patricia Fagg

Larry & Marianne Fisk

Robert & Andrea Ford

Bert Froysland

Bernard & Susan Froysland

Brandon & Erin Froysland

Dan & Magee Gordon

Michael Guebert

Susan Hall

John & Sally Korstad

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Susan Matthews

Art & Lori McGregor

Steve ,Natalie & Frankie Murphy

Ryan & Kara O'Connor

Char Olmstead

James E. Preston

Mozhgon Rajae

Kristin & Ben Rudenga

Henry Schaefer

Harold & Ellen Snyder

Michael Staples

John & Tanneke Streefkerk

Louis Systma

Jon & Kristen Terry

Mark Tournell

Fred & Linda Van Dyke

Nicole VanEe & Zeeland Lumber



Art & Donna Veltman  
Richard & Mary Walker  
Richard & Ellen Wicks  
Gladys Wierenga  
Ruth Wierenga  
Jeffrey Wiska  
Joyce Wood  
Deborah Young

We invite you to become an Au Sable Legacy Member. A Legacy Member shares in the mission of the Au Sable Institute and has committed to making a future legacy gift through wills or estates. Legacy gifts have a profound impact on our ability to serve, protect, and restore God's earth. No gift is too big or too small. To learn more about becoming a Legacy Member or to share that you have included Au Sable in your estate plans, contact Jon Terry at 231.587.8686 or [jon.terry@ausable.org](mailto:jon.terry@ausable.org)



Au Sable Institute  
*of Environmental Studies*

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Au Sable inspires and educates people  
to serve, protect, and restore  
God's earth.



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