



Au Sable Institute

A GRATITUDE REPORT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friend of Au Sable,

I am so grateful for your steadfastness.

Even while a pandemic raged, **you were unwavering in your commitment to serving, protecting, and restoring God's earth.**

The following pages will show you what your steadfastness accomplished last year, in spite of everything.

I hope these pages will also show you that you are not alone in your care of creation. **You are a part of the Au Sable community.**

And you are a part of a global network of Christians who are committed to solving the earth's toughest environmental problems.

THANK YOU for being a steadfast friend to your Au Sable Institute in 2020.

Jon Terry, Executive Director

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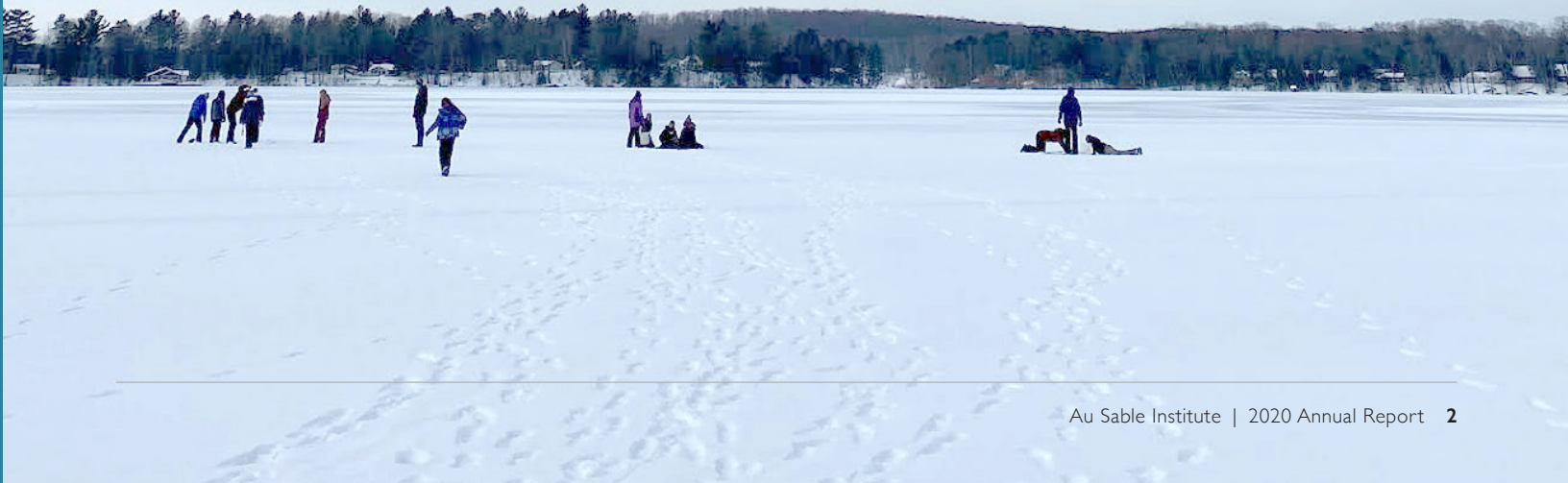
Friend,

You and I both know that God has called people to care for the Earth and everything in it.

But how can people care for what they don't know or understand?

Knowledge and skills are needed in order to properly care for the Earth.

In the following pages, you'll see the knowledge and skills that you provided through your support of the Au Sable Institute in 2020.





You educated children and restored habitats in the lakes, woods, and communities surrounding the **GREAT LAKES CAMPUS.**



10,000 NATIVE PLANTS WERE GROWN in Mae's Greenhouse (and planted throughout northern Michigan!)

We helped **STUDENTS FROM THREE LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS** design and build native plant gardens at their homes

We provided **OVER 9,000 CONTACT HOURS TEACHING STUDENTS** about the natural environment



QUOTES FROM 5TH GRADE STUDENTS
Participants in Au Sable's *Restoration Ecology for Young Students program*

"We planted 1,000 native plants around our pond. Wow!"

"I just want to say that nature is important!"

"I think the program was amazing because it helped me learn a lot of environmental skills."

"Outdoors is worth it. If you do good things to it, it will help save the earth."



▲ Students who enrolled in our online Field Techniques in Wetlands course learned to evaluate soils, hydrology, and vegetation of local wetlands.

You inspired and educated students from Christian colleges ACROSS THE US & CANADA.



COVID-19 prevented regular in-person classes in 2020, but over 50 college students benefited from six online courses, including:

- Land Resources
- Environmental Law & Policy
- Field Techniques in Wetlands
- International Development & Environmental Sustainability
- Environmental Applications for GIS
- Environmental Change & Infectious Disease

“ AU SABLE COLLEGE STUDENT

“God is the ultimate Creator of all of the world and He has developed and imagined every process that works and every organism that works together in an ecosystem. By studying those processes and ecosystems here at Au Sable, I believe that I am getting closer to the heart of God by studying His creation.”

True to the hands-on nature of an Au Sable class, each course offered students the chance to apply the knowledge and skills needed to care for creation in practical ways. As an example, students in the Environmental Law & Policy course interacted (virtually) with policy makers, land managers, and researchers. They came away with knowledge of how sound science can successfully guide and shape policies.



You trained **COLLEGE STUDENTS** to conduct important environmental research.

THE NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL

These small brown snails were brought to the Great Lakes unintentionally. They reproduce so quickly that they can quickly dominate an ecosystem. A single female can produce a colony of 40 million in one year. Unfortunately, they do not have nutritional value for native fish. Rainbow trout that subsist on them actually lose weight!

One Au Sable student this past summer, supported by Michigan Sea Grant funding, evaluated new sites along the Boardman River to more fully document the spread of the snails in the river system. This is very important because early detection is critical to stopping the spread.

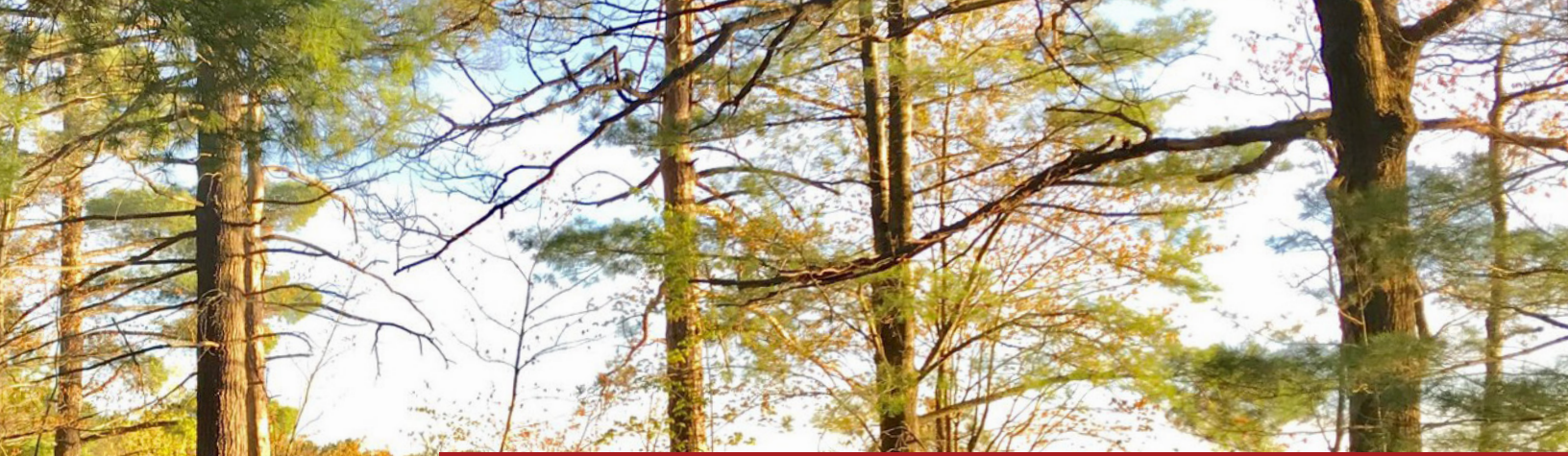
DAM REMOVAL ON THE BOARDMAN RIVER

160 miles of the Boardman River now run free after three dams have been removed in the past seven years.

The native brook trout are already increasing in number.

Seeds that had lain dormant for decades have sprouted and helped create lush habitats along the banks and in new wetland areas.

Au Sable research students studied how the macroinvertebrates, a key component of the food web in the river, are responding to the removal of the dams. Their work will help educate scientists about the potential impacts of dam removals in other locations.



You grew the
GLOBAL COMMUNITY
of Christians who are committed
to caring for the Earth.



**AU SABLE
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT**

“The church is called to care for and protect the Earth. I am leaving Au Sable with a stronger foundation of who I am, who God is, and what He is calling me to do.”



Over 4,000 alumni from Au Sable are now spread out across the globe. They are following God’s calling by caring for the created world in big and small ways.

You are an important member of this community.

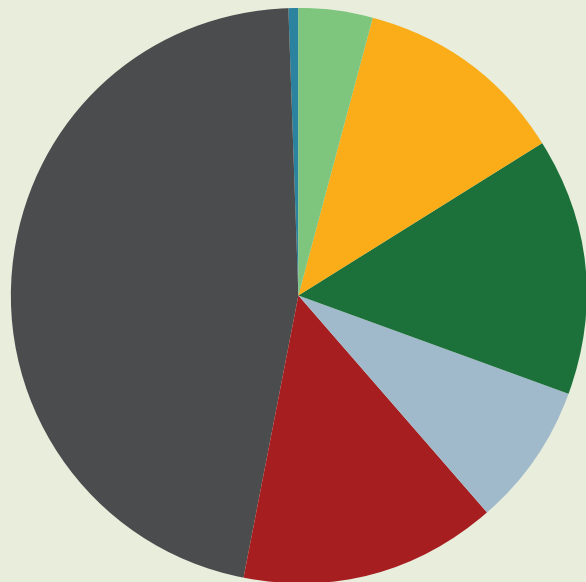
2020 FINANCIALS

OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

REVENUE

■ Retreat Program Income	42,412
■ Paycheck Protection Program	114,600
■ Academic Program Income	139,372
■ Sustaining Partner Colleges	76,000
■ Contributions and Grants	138,903
■ Trust Income and Transfers	446,591
■ Miscellaneous	4,512

TOTAL REVENUE **\$962,390**

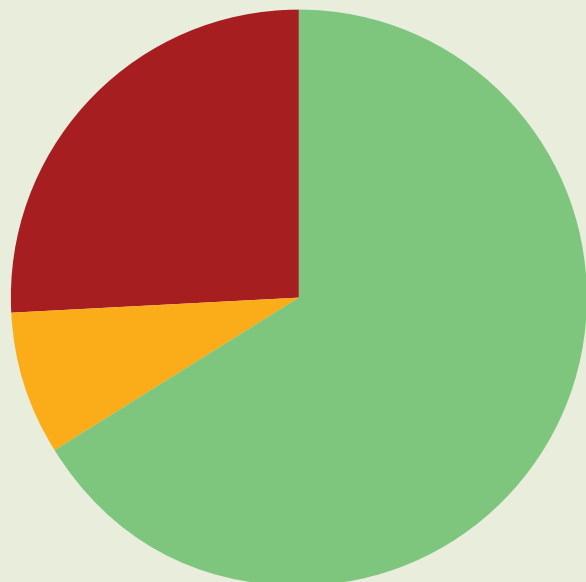


EXPENSES

■ Personnel	565,018
■ Academic Support	67,506
■ Operations	218,612

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$851,136**

FINAL NET INCOME **\$111,254**



Throughout 2020, we were so grateful for the generosity of our donors who supported us through such a challenging and uncertain year. Additional financial information, including our latest Form 990, is available on our website. We are committed to high standards of financial integrity and are accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



Individual Donors

Thank you to the following individual donors who gave a gift between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2020. You kept the lights on and the coneflowers planted. The butterflies thank you!

Nathan & Mayumi Aaberg	Eric & Carolyn Elder	Barbara Mengebier	Fred & Sharon Sprague
Kevin & Kay Aardema	Gary Emberger	Jocele Meyer	Chuck & Deann Stankey
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We strive for accurate record-keeping. If we missed something, please email shirley@ausable.org so we can correct our database. **Thank you.**



AU SABLE DONOR

"I support Au Sable because of its authentic striving to restore God's world through hands-on environmental education and creation care stewardship. In our polarizing world, Au Sable reminds us that faith and science need not be considered at odds, and that we can each play a valuable role in loving our neighbors through restoring Creation."

Other Supporters

- 100+ Women Who Care - Kalkaska
- Amazon Smile
- Anonymous Family Foundation
- Art and Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation
- Blue Lake, Coldsprings Township Civic Association
- Calvin Institute of Christian Worship
- Christ Presbyterian Church
- Conservation Resource Alliance
- Covenant College
- EnGedi Insurance Services
- Ferrysburg Community Church
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
- Illinois Tool Works
- Kalkaska Conservation District
- Mancelona United Methodist Women
- Manistee Lake Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Neland Avenue Christian Reformed Church
- Paddle Antrim
- PayPal Giving Fund
- RMB Capital
- Rotary Charities of Traverse City
- Snyder Foundation
- Thrivent Choice
- Weyerhaeuser
- White Foundation
- Worthington Family Foundation

Tributes

In Honor of Aaron Weber

- Jaime & Elvis Le

In Honor of Dr. Chris Newhouse

- David Sellers

In Honor of Dr. Fred Van Dyke

- Andrea & Walter Duda
- Duane Grobman

In Honor of Harold & Ellen Snyder

- Shawn Stoskopf
- Joyce & David Wood

In Honor of Jon Terry

- Lisa & Jeffrey Schra

In Honor of Lynn Braband

- Community of the Savior Church

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In Memory of Mae Froysland

- Terry & Janice Boone
- Molly Guillaume
- Char Olmstead

In Memory of Nancy Sobel

- Ted Sobel

In Memory of Orlando Andersland

- Phyllis Andersland

Your steadfast support is what keeps Au Sable going!

Create a Lasting Legacy

Have you ever thought about how much you love God's creation and want to make sure this work continues long into the future?

Do you value Au Sable and our mission to serve, protect, and restore God's earth?

If so, you can ensure this work continues for generations to come by making a gift through your will or estate plan. You can also assign Au Sable as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or donor-advised fund.

For more information about leaving a legacy or making a major gift, contact:

JON TERRY
231.881.6402
jon.terry@ausable.org



FUN FACT!

Of the 51 current monthly donors, 25 requested to receive the blue mug, 25 requested to receive the brown mug, and one requested not to receive a mug.

When you become a monthly donor, which one will you choose?

Become a Monthly Donor

Monthly donations are a way to make donations simply, automatically, and securely. Fifty-one people are monthly donors to Au Sable, making gifts ranging in size from \$5 to \$100 each month.

Monthly donations are easy for you, and also incredibly helpful to Au Sable because they provide a steady stream of support.

When you join this club of committed Au Sable supporters, you'll receive an Au Sable mug made by a northern Michigan potter.

It's easy to join. Just go to www.ausable.org/donate and click on "monthly." It's safe and secure and you'll be able to log in and change your monthly donation any time you need to. Looking for another way to give monthly? Set up a monthly donation directly from your checking account



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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