



We Are The John Muir Scholarship

October 2017



Greeting friends of the John Muir Scholarship,

Our 2017 John Muir Scholarship recipients are well into their freshman year of college, beginning a new chapter in their life on their way to a career in environmental stewardship. As we look back at the completion of another successful year and award season we are hopeful and enthusiastic about our programs future. This past spring our program awarded three scholarships in total, one each to Catoclin High School, Governor Thomas Johnson High School, and our first at Oakdale High School.

Today's challenges facing our environment are unprecedented. Our public lands and national parks are under assault by the energy industry, mining industry, logging industry, and our own government. The deregulation of environmental protections and reversal of the Obama Administration climate initiatives threatens our communities and our way of life. Our departure from the Paris Climate Accord has signaled to the rest of the world that the United States is no longer a leader in climate science. Scientists with the Environmental Protection Agency are regulated to the bench as climate deniers take over leadership positions at the agency. The 1972 Endangered Species Act faces an uncertain future as the Department of Interior refuses to enforce the laws undercutting its mission of saving critically endangered species and increasing the odds of a major extinction event in the coming decades.

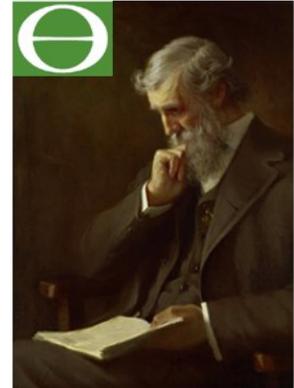
The John Muir Scholarship faces these challenges head on! Our mission is to encourage and support young leaders, preparing them to take on the environmental challenges facing our world in the coming decades. From local organizations like Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Clean Water Frederick to non-governmental organizations and non-profits such as Rios to Rivers, Panthera, Conservation International, and the World Resources Institute. At the John Muir Scholarship we know it is our young people who will lead these organizations and face the challenges head on.

Once again, a sincere thank you goes out to members of our own Catoclin Group who have donated their time and personal finances to support this program, to the hard working teachers and school administrators at the schools where we offer this scholarship, and to community members who have supported and championed this program on behalf of their local students.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our scholarship award students in this newsletter as they are truly inspiring. To our 2017 recipients, I hope you have a great freshman year and once again, congratulations and best wishes as you embark on fulfilling your passions!

Onward!

Lee S. Popkin
Director, The John Muir Scholarship



The John Muir Scholarship
No Boundaries | Pursue Your Passion!



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ 2017 Message from the Scholarship Director
- ◆ Our 2017 John Muir Scholarship Award Winners
- ◆ Alumni Corner
- ◆ Find Us On Facebook
- ◆ Theta

EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET





OAKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

KENNY YERARDI



Kenny is our first John Muir Scholarship recipient at Oakdale High School and is a freshman at the University of Maryland this fall. He was Oakdale’s senior class president and a member of the National Honor Society. During the Summer of 2016 Kenny was accepted and participated in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program Scholarship/Internship through Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Kenny writes in his essay, “I’ve chosen an Environmental Science program because I want to learn how to make protective legislation and also how to move through the system to make changes. The field of Envi-

ronmental Science is large and varied. But before all the formal education, I love and appreciate the world around me. There are innumerable ways my career could go and change with this degree. But I do know that the natural world around us needs protection and reverence.”



Yes it does Kenny, and with young leaders like yourself the world will be in good hands! Best of luck to you no matter what direction your studies and career take you!

EMILY KELLER



CATOCTIN HIGH SCHOOL

Emily Keller graduated at the top of her class at Catoctin High School. She is a member of the Science, Math, and Social Studies National Honor Societies and the fourth recipient of the John Muir Scholarship at Catoctin High School. Outside of her academics Emily participated in girls lacrosse and girls basketball.

Emily is interested in studying Environmental Engineering at the University of Maryland. She writes in her essay, “I have always been very considerate of the environment and in my career I hope to make a difference in the world. I would be interested in working on projects that develop ways to reduce air and water pollution from factories, search for alternative energy resources, and find ways to increase the world food production, without losing our biodiverse rainforests.”

Emily says she is planning on taking classes that focus on the physics of water movement, preparing herself for developing solutions to reduce water pollution.



Emily is an outstanding example of a young leader passionate about making a difference in the world! Given her accomplishments thus far there is no doubt she will have a positive impact on our world. Best of luck to you Emily!

Governor Thomas Johnson High School



Nomongo's story begins more than 6,000 miles from Frederick County. Her academic achievements include maintaining a perfect 4.0 throughout her high school career while taking advanced placement classes. Nomongo is planning on majoring in biological engineering and conduct research to improve agriculture in the tundra like conditions of Mongolia while attending the Johns Hopkins University.

She writes in her essay, "My dreams parallel the goals of the Sierra Club, as I really desire to retain the beautiful grassland steppes of Mongolia, and the noble lives of the Mongolians. The Sierra Club's environmental preservation focus really resonates with me as I have seen first hand the kind of damages underdeveloped nations are forced to inflict upon their treasure trove of nature. Just as the Sierra Club educates the public on environmental issues, I wish to similarly draw awareness to the suffering of the lands in Mongolia.

Nomongo, the connection you have to your heritage is inspiring! Best of luck to you at JHU and safe travels!



NOMONGO DORJSUREN

John Muir Scholarship Alumni Corner



Stephanie Letourneau is a 2016 John Muir Scholarship recipient from Middletown High School. We caught up with Stephanie after she completed her freshman year at Juniata College in Huntington Pennsylvania. Stephanie shares her accomplishments and experiences during her freshman year below.

"This past school year at Juniata College was successful and rewarding. I was awarded the Dean's list each semester, which requires a 3.6 GPA or higher. While continuing my involvement with cheerleading, I also worked in the Admissions Office as an Admission Counselor Student Assistant. Next year, I'm also going to be working as a Tour Guide.

My environmental classes were fun and very hands on. We went on many outdoor trips and gained experience in skills such as electro fishing, macroinvertebrate identification, and various stream testing. Two of my favorite projects in class were exploring the Acid Mine Drainage site and assisting with stream restoration. I'm proud to announce that this summer I have an internship with the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase, MD as an Environmental Education Intern. I will be working there all summer and assisting with the summer camps!"

Well done Stephanie and congratulations on making the Dean's list! We can't wait to hear about your sophomore year!



Theta

THETA, NOT JUST A GREEK SYMBOL

Have you noticed the ecology symbol now part of our official program logo? The John Muir Scholarship is helping to revive the seventies iconic symbol representing the coming of age of the modern environmental movement. The symbol was designed by cartoonist Ron Cobb and first published in 1969. It marked the end of the decade in which the environmental movement came of age.



Environmental activism gained strength in the 1960s after Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was first published on September 27, 1962. Like two book ends, the decade would be defined by the publishing of *Silent Spring* at the beginning of the decade and the creation of the ecology symbol at the end giving environmentalists, not just a cause but, a flag to rally under.

As a result of the movements momentum the following decade would see the passing of the most significant environmental legislation to date. The Clean water Act would pass in 1972 and the Endangered Species Act would become law the following year in 1973, both with bipartisan support. Unfortunately both laws and many similar laws are now facing deregulation, undercutting the scope and mission of the original legislation.

Now is the time for environmentalists to find a purpose and rally once again under one symbol. The ecology symbol and flag are currently in the public domain.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The JMS is working closely with Sierra Club national staff to create a website complete with a crowd funding source for the collection of donations. The dedicated JMS web page will only be accessible through a link provided on the Sierra Club Catoctin Group webpage and the crowd funding source will be linked to a restricted John Muir Scholarship account at the Sierra Club Foundation.

This project, initiated in October of 2016, will improve the tracking and accounting of donations made exclusively to the scholarship. It will allow us to capture data on donors that will assist in creating a reliable donor database. Once fully implemented, donors will be able to make a secure gift to the scholarship program using a debit or credit card. We anticipate an increase in donations being made to the scholarship program given the convenience of making a secure payment online rather than sending a check.

Completion is anticipated just in time for the holiday season. Follow us on Facebook for updates on this project and other scholarship news.

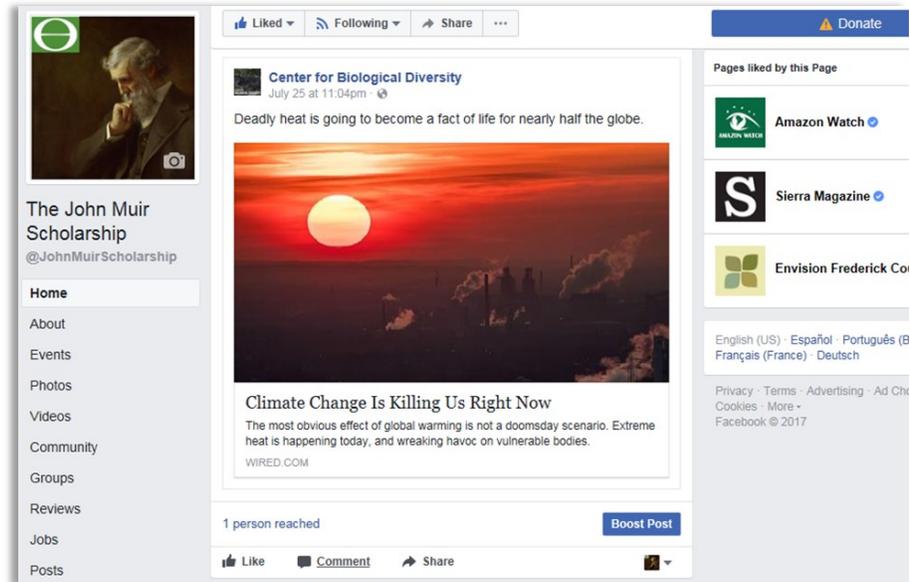


SOCIAL MEDIA

- ◆ Community Out Reach
- ◆ Content
- ◆ Fundraising

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Social media has become the primary tool for sharing information and ideas. Its reach is limitless and its impact immediate. The John Muir Scholarship now uses Facebook to help support our mission.



Social media helps us to meet three primary goals for our program. Our first objective is to connect a community of like-minded environmentalists, such as students, teachers, administrators, and community members. Second, we provide engaging content from scholars, environmental organizations, journals, colleges, and universities. Last, we need to increase our donor base in Frederick County and beyond in order to make our scholarship program sustainable for the future.

Please consider following us by clicking the following link: [The John Muir Scholarship](#)

Or by entering in the Facebook search, *The John Muir Scholarship*.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?



Please consider making a donation to The John Muir Scholarship

If you would like more information on The John Muir Scholarship or would like to make a contribution please, contact Lee Popkin:

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or visit us on our website at:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group>