Place-Based Stewardship Education During A Pandemic

As school districts across the region are closing out the academic year in the new world of online learning, the NEMIGLSI network wants our educators to know that we are here to help support you. We will continue to share updates from around the region as classrooms wrap up their place-based stewardship education projects, as well as share resources and opportunities from our network of partners. We have been brainstorming creative ways to continue to connect community partners with classrooms, support teachers through professional learning opportunities, and rethink what place-based education looks like during a worldwide pandemic. This spring, fish raised from eggs in classrooms are being released into local watersheds, teachers from across school districts have met virtually for content training and project planning, and what would have been field visits are turning into virtual tours. Let’s use this time outside of the classroom to help youth continue to explore and be inspired by the abundant natural resources of Northeast Michigan.

Volunteers and Community Partners Needed!

Are you a retired teacher or natural resource professional? Do you want to help youth become stewards of the Great Lakes? Sign up to be a volunteer with NEMIGLSI! We are looking for volunteers that are available in the spring and fall during the school day. Training provided.

NEMIGLSI volunteer, Rick Burke (far right), with students from Sanborn Elementary looking for macroinvertebrate in the Devil’s River.
On April 2, teachers from across the region met virtually to begin planning their NOAA B-WET (Bay Watershed Education & Training) projects. These place-based projects are diverse but fall into three main themes: native plant biodiversity, school forests and public lands stewardship. As part of this 18-month effort, partners from NEMIGLSI and Huron Pines will support these teachers and their classrooms through projects like mapping threatened plant species at Michigan State Parks and propagating native plants using a greenhouse. Connecting land and water, students will learn how their efforts in terrestrial systems have an effect on their local watershed and the larger Great Lakes ecosystem. With support from this NOAA B-WET grant, over the next year, participating educators will receive content training and funds to bolster their stewardship projects.

Why is clean water important? Students from Sanborn Elementary School answered that question through art that was to be featured during the Young Artist Exhibit at Art in the Loft in Alpena. With the exhibit put on hold, we took to social media to share the amazing student pieces. Over the next few weeks on Facebook and Instagram we will be highlighting several works from third and fifth graders that showcase the importance of clean water in our Great Lakes.

Students from Sanborn Elementary and their art pieces about water

Questions or comments? Contact us at northeastmichiganGLSI@gmail.com
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