



News Photos by Krista Tacey

Aniket Arora, left, and Emily Howard, Alpena High School seniors and advanced biology students in Pete Doubek's class, collect insects from the Thunder Bay River on the shore off Island Park. Doubek's students will collect sample insects to classify them by name and characteristics. All the data collected will be used in a class project to determine the water quality of the Thunder Bay River.

Learning outside the classroom

By KRISTA TACEY
News Staff Writer

Alpena High School advanced biology students were on the hunt for ophiogomphus susbebecha, rana clamitans, and annelids on their trip to Island Park. Ask anyone of Pete Doubek's advanced biology students what these names mean and they will promptly tell you a dragonfly, frog and worm.

"We are collecting land and aquatic insects to help us study the water quality (on Island Park), Pete Doubek, Alpena High School advanced biology

instructor.

Doubek said his advanced biology class from last year began an in-depth biology project collecting data to study the water quality of the Great Lakes region, more specifically gathering data from Island Park. He said his current students are in the process of progressing the project further.

The project Doubek's class is participating in is partly funded by the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, which is a group that focuses on passing on



Pete Doubek, AHS advanced biology instructor shows his students how to put a frog to sleep. "All you do is rub his belly and he will chill out," Doubek said. Doubek's students did not believe him until the frog went motionless.

knowledge and collecting information about the Great Lakes. GLSI's goal is to have students be interested

in and learn about the Great Lakes.

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"We have 40 students from two different classes," Doubek said.

Doubek said his students not only will collect insects, they also will run water tests like a dissolved oxygen test, which determines how much oxygen is in the water at Island Park. He said the students will take samples of the amount of carbon dioxide in the water, a flow test to determine how fast the water is moving, and a turbidity test which tells what type of particles are in the water.

Doubek said his students also will look at biodiversity, which is the variation of species in an area. He said generally the more species in an environment the better the water quality is.

He said going to Island Park is another way of teaching his students other than teaching from a textbook. He said his students like having the chance to participate in field work.

"(I like) just having the chance to get out of class and collect bugs. I like having hands-on education and not just sitting in a classroom," Aaron Senchuck, AHS senior and advanced biology student said.

Senchuck said he now has 10 or 11 insects in his collection and Doubek said Senchuck will take his collection back to the lab and figure out the scientific names and describe their characteristics.

Brandon Schroeder of Michigan Sea Grant said the students will learn more than just how to classify their insects, they will learn about community based projects and local natural resources.

"My goal is to have them be excited about local natural resources in their backyard," Schroeder said. He said his other goals for this project is to keep the students excited about learning about natural resources and passing their knowledge on to younger students.

Schroeder said during the summer some of the students will be recruited to help lead tours that will teach younger students about the natural resources in the area. Schroeder said passing on what the students have learned through their studies to younger students is important because it gives them a sense of community involvement.

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