



SEVENTH-GRADERS from Rogers City Middle School presented their findings about the Trout River Watershed last week at the Northeast Michigan Youth Watershed Summit in Alpena. From left are Phil Grambau, Sydney Purgiel, Hannah Fleming, Zane Grzesikowski and teacher Matt Barsen with the students presentation material. (Courtesy Photo)

RCMS students present at youth watershed summit

by Angie Asam
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Rogers City Middle School students traveled to Alpena last week to present information on their studies of Trout River. Nearly 200 students from across northeast Michigan gathered at the Northeast Michigan Youth Watershed Summit to showcase and share their water science studies and stewardship projects with one another.

Seventh-graders from Rogers City discussed the differences in macro-invertebrates above and below the Trout River dam and found the quality of the river to be very good.

The sixth-graders from the school also recently released hundreds of classroom-raised salmon in the river in hopes that they will spawn and maintain a healthy fishery in the area.

Students across northeast Michigan having spent the past year studying water quality and water-related human impact within their re-

spective watershed, gathered to celebrate the diverse attention that our rich Great Lakes and freshwater resources are receiving through place-based education in northeast Michigan. Each class gave a presentation on the methods and contribution of their individual stewardship project, shedding light on how the issue of water quality extends to all schools and communities.

The programs at the various schools are studying watersheds through a partnership with the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI). They also work with organizations such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Sea Grant, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Huron Pines, 4-H and others.

"The value of events like the Youth Watershed Summit," says Daniel Mofatt, school liaison with the Northeast Michigan GLSI, "is that these experiences

provide real-world learning opportunities for students and introduce them to the community as valid partners who address important environmental stewardship issues." Through their projects, students are fostering a better understanding on the social, economic, and environmental importance of Michigan's water resources, and also realizing how the Great Lakes and people are inextricably interconnected.

Funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through a grant secured by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments and the Great Lakes region of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Education's B-WET Program, 11 schools across seven counties attended the summit, all representing the growing network of watershed education efforts connected regionally through the Northeast Michigan GLSI. See more about the initiative at www.nemiglsi.org