

Students install signs at Negwegon

On Sept. 22, a group of students from Alcona Community Middle and High School's environmental science class installed five interpretive signs at Negwegon State Park. The installation of these signs was the outcome of a multi-year project of the class in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, supported by the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative.

The project was made possible with help from numerous community partners. Dan Mullen, unit supervisor of Negwegon and Harrisville state parks, three DNRE employees, Brandon Schroeder, Michigan Sea Grant extension educator, Jack Guy of Sprinkler Lake Education Center, Sue Keller of

Friends of Negwegon State Park, Christina Carson of Huron Pines AmeriCorps, and the agriscience teachers Brian Matchett and Russ Champagne were present for the installations.

The project began with Matchett's 2008-09 environmental science class, when they took a trip to the park to learn about its history and unique natural features before being challenged to create a project to enhance visitors' experience in the park. After deciding to design informational signs, two years were spent in the process of designing, editing, and finally ordering those signs. The topics include park history, Great Lakes aquatic life, tree identification, wildlife identification, and shoreline and dune information.

This year, with a little help, the new environmen-

tal science students were able to get outside and have a hands-on experience of installing the signs. They dug holes, measured to be sure everything was accu-

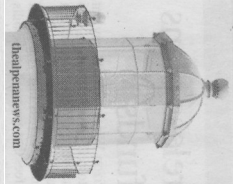
rate and poured concrete. After the morning's work was done, they had their own introduction to the park from attending natural resource professionals.

They were given ideas for projects to adopt as their own and soon will get started with whatever project they are most passionate about.



From left to right, Alcona Community Middle and High School environmental science class student Nick Godi, teacher Brian Matchett, student Roddy Forsythe and student Warren Wilke install one of five interpretive signs at Negwegon State Park on Sept. 22.

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