



# KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST

October, 2014

This fall two classes of Whitewater High School students had the unique experience of spending a day immersed in hands-on learning and scientific investigation at Bluff Creek State Natural Area.

A ten minute bus ride was all the time it took for the students to discover a natural area teeming with plant and animal diversity. Not only did the students see how land managers foster plant and animal species diversity and resiliency, they joined in and learned by doing.

The field day fostered an understanding of global environmental challenges, and gave the students a meaningful way to make a positive difference by acting locally. The Kettle Moraine Land Trust works to connect youth to their local natural resources in a manner that inspires them to be thoughtful leaders.

This environmental education program was sponsored by We Energies Foundation and The Coburn Company, Inc.

*“Honestly I learned a lot the whole day! I learned about the water bugs and the procedures to check if the water was livable for creatures. I also learned about seed picking and harmful plants, and how to protect the land...” (student participant)*

Under the direction of conservation professionals, land stewards and teachers, the students worked hard to cut and remove invasive shrubs, collect seed from threatened plants to help establish new populations, and sample Bluff Creek’s water to determine its quality. Learning by doing is very effective and results in long lasting impressions for the students. The work accomplished during this field day was inspiring and will help improve wildlife habitat and speed the recovery of native plants.



Thanks go out to our volunteers Ginny Coburn, Herb Sharpless, Sue Heffron, Don Henderson and Nancy Sheehan – we couldn’t have done it without you! Thanks also to the Wisconsin DNR crew of Jared Urban, Alex Wenthe, Eric Tarman-Ramcheck and Mike Spaight.

KMLT is also grateful for our partners, Whitewater High School, We Energies Foundation, The Coburn Company, Inc., Wisconsin DNR and the Rock River Coalition.

