

Elkhorn Fund Helps Elkhorn High School Science Classes

Thirty-three Elkhorn High School science students spent the day in the woods on Monday, April 25th. The sophomore, junior and senior AP students worked at Petersen Island Woods Preserve on Lauderdale Lakes. Under the direction of teachers Deanna Brunlinger and Bridget Trewyn, the students took turns at four stations in the Preserve.

One task was spreading wood chips on the Three Kettle Trail, which involved carrying bags of chips up steep slopes and distributing them along the trail to make the trail more visible and easier to walk.

Another station planted new white and burr oak trees at various locations in the Preserve to replace some destroyed by Oak Wilt disease. Logs also needed to be hauled out of the woods to street level to be used for fish cribs.

Two experienced volunteers, Rev. Gerald Petersen and Paul Mozina, used chain saws to clear brush and buckthorn and the students helped by dragging the cuttings to a large pile. Volunteer Ginny Coburn taught students how to apply herbicide to the cut shrubs to prevent new growth.

Water sampling was demonstrated from a pontoon boat at the most fun workstation. The students also learned about Lauderdale geology and water conditions.

Maggie Zoellner, Executive Director of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, and Melissa Hunter, Program Assistant were on hand to provide expert knowledge. Other volunteers helping were Herb Sharpless, Dave DeAngelis, Jerry Petersen and Sue Heffron from Kettle Moraine Land Trust; Floyd Pokowski and Debbie Ferrari, Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association, and Ed Sadler. The annual event is organized by the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association and Kettle Moraine Land Trust and funded by the Elkhorn Fund.



The day begins with an orientation and safety talk by Herb Sharpless, KMLT Stewardship Chair



Shoveling chips into bags to carry up the trail.



The bags of chips are spread onto the trail to make it more visible and easier to walk on.



Stacking logs on the roadside for pickup. These were downed ash or oak trees cut into logs in the woods.



Planting young oak trees.



Millipede uncovered during tree planting.



Students hauling brush after chain-saw removal.



Group photo at the end of the day