



**Keweenaw
LAND TRUST**

*a community partner protecting land, water and quality of life
through conservation, stewardship and education*

NEWS

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Family Night at Paavola Preserve with Hancock Students

By Heather Bradway— Science and Self & Community Teacher-Hancock Middle School

Hancock Middle School students hosted a family night at Paavola Wetlands Preserve for Hancock Elementary students for two hours during the evening of September 27th. The Preserve is ideally located just north of Hancock about 1.5 miles down the No. 9 Road off of US Highway 41.

Eighteen 8th grade students from the Hancock Middle School Self & Community II class were split into smaller teams throughout the two miles of trails found at the Preserve. The students served as guides for the visitors, helping Hancock Elementary students and their parents and grandparents decide which trail to walk, identifying trees, and teaching about the cultural history surrounding the site.

After the family night at the Preserve, Erich Walter, an 8th grade student said, "I have learned to respect the outside and enjoy where we live. I have also learned about lots of trees." Shannon Anderson, another 8th grade Self & Community student said, "I learned that

the woods aren't bad, they are actually fun." Some of the sites to see at these wetlands are two beaver lodges, a quarter mile rock wall and an old Finnish Farmstead. Ty Smith, 8th grader stated, "I liked to help people know about the beaver lodges."

Students from Hancock Middle School have been going out to Paavola Wetlands since the Fall of 2008. During this time, students have been learning

about the soil, water quality, and flora and fauna found at the site. Last year's 8th grade students developed a walking trail tree identification guide to be available at the kiosk found at the Preserve's trailhead along the No. 9 Road. The previous 8th grade



KLT Executive Director Evan McDonald, quizzes students on their knowledge of the preserve.

KLT Photo

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(Paavola—continued from page 1) students also researched and wrote the interesting tree facts signs located throughout the trail system at the Preserve.



Students and teachers discussed the needs of the Preserve with

Land Trust staff and volunteers. Students are empowered as they actively meet those needs through field trips, making signage and seeing it in use, as well as by communicating their experiences to other community stakeholders like the school board, Hancock Rotary, and to the Hancock City Council. Student learning experiences at Paavola Wetlands Preserve have been funded by the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative.