



# E.B. Holman Takes Education into the Woods

## Place-Based Education in Stanton Twp.

Students are learning about the scientific method while comparing a hardwood forest (Stanton Township Forest) to a wetland ecosystem (Marsin Center). Many community partners are enriching their learning: MTU Forestry students (FERM) and the Keweenaw Land Trust.

**4th grade** - salamander counts used as bio-indicators of ecosystem health.

**5th grade** - bird counts to determine which species live in each plot or habitat.

**8th grade** - survey of two forest ecosystems, identifying and measuring tree species and canopy cover.

Team-building activities were conducted with students in grades 4, 5 and 8 on four Fridays in the fall and included two nature walks and a scavenger hunt that investigated the concepts of community and biomes. Students participated in 3-person teams (one student from each grade).

On-going historical research of the community will help students develop a sense of history and place. Information on Oskar's and Liminga's history has been gathered through interviews with area residents, giving a picture of past agricultural and industrial activities. This will be included in a display created each year for the Marsin Center, so community members will see the importance of the area, recognizing the project as a meaningful, hands-on way for students to learn.



### Mission Statement

Knowledge of the land's past and present inspires passion, appreciation, and stewardship for the future.

## Community Partners

- MTU Forest and Environmental Resource Management (FERM)
- MTU Revisions Class
- Keweenaw Land Trust
- Stanton Township Board



## E.B. Holman School

2008-09 School Year:

- 3 teachers
- 3 classrooms (grades 4, 5, 8)
- 33 students



EB Holman students present to the community at the Marsin Center.



*The students have grown up here playing in the woods. We want to take this love of the forest to the next level, the scientific level.*

- -Teacher



### What does community-based education look like?

- Plot studies, salamander boards, bird studies, tree identification
- GPS mapping and geo-caching
- Adopt-a-Beach (collecting, sorting, and counting trash)
- Hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing
- Discover new places
- Students mentoring students
- Interviewing elders
- Teacher professional development
- Learning about community, working with community partners
- Student-led community presentations



*I like going outside. Instead of reading about science indoors you can learn by doing.*

- - Brianna (4th grade)

*Wilderness is better than a textbook.*

- -Luke (5th grade)

*What I like about this project is going on field trips & learning how to use GPS. I also enjoyed making the slide show presentation.*

- - Kiara (8th grade)



## Timeline of Activities

