

Holland BPW sponsors
Adopt-a-Stream Program
For Holland East Middle School 6th Grade Classes

Dan Parker, Adopt-a-Watershed Coordinator for the Muskegon Conservation District, conducts field education for schools in the Holland area, highlighting how to measure the quality of streams in the Macatawa Watershed. The HBPW has sponsored the classes held at Maplewood Creek behind Trinity Reformed Church on Apple Avenue, for the East Middle School 6th grade classes. *(This activity supports the education component of the Source Water Intake Protection Plan (SWIPP) recently prepared by the Water Treatment Plant.)*

The classes walk to the site in the Fall and in the Spring, and "sample" the stream with a dip net and identify the living "creatures" found according to an Isaac Walton League form for determining water quality. They send their results in to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment. The Fall event occurred on Thursday, October 21, 2010. They will be back to take more samples in the Spring. Classroom education on water quality and the importance of taking care of our streams accompanies the field work.

An interesting sidenote of the visit to the Apple Trail: *the trees the Holland BPW planted in the late 1990's to preserve the Maplewood Stream banks from erosion are thriving and doing their job!*



Sign in front of Trinity Reformed Church



Teacher Bill Thomas leading a 6th grade class from East Middle School



Dan Parker ready to begin the program



Dan and his tools (dip nets and sorting trays)



Dan explaining what they are going to look for in the sample



Sampling Maplewood Creek with dip net



Sorting the "creatures" found in the sample



Sign at front of each trailhead

If you have chance during a lunch hour, take a walk on the Apple Trail --- it is a refreshing half-mile through woods and along the Maplewood Stream! *Check out the trees we planted on the stream bank!*