Redberry Lake
Biosphere Region

Testing the water of Oscar Creek with Hafford Students

June 10, 2013

Students of Grades 5, 9 and 10 came out to Oscar Creek, a fresh water creek that feeds into Redberry Lake, to test the water quality and to learn about the parameters that determine its health. The students tested the water for dissolved oxygen, phosphates and nitrogen. They discovered that Oscar Creek's water is high in dissolved oxygen and low in nitrogen and phosphates which are indicators for a healthy ecosystem.

Iain Philips, Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Ecologist at Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, equipped the students with dip nets to catch water bugs. Together with the students he examined the macroinvertebrates and showed them how these bugs also indicate the water quality of a stream, river or lake.

This year we combined the water monitoring field trip with another project: Creating a short film that showcases how UNESCO ASPNet Schools like Hafford Central and UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves work together, build capacity through this partnership and therefore – and most importantly – empower youth in embracing nature as part of their culture.

The short film will be launched at the EuroMAB Conference in October 2013 where up to 284 Biosphere Reserves representing 52 countries will be present. The video will also be sent to other UNESCO Associated Schools to encourage them in working with partners and benefiting from one another.
For the future, we are hoping to offer field trips like the water monitoring to Hafford Central and other schools on a regular basis.

Watch our video "Building Linkages between UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Associated Schools – A Saskatchewan Best Practice".