



Trout in the Classroom 2022 Update

STUDENTS RESUME PLANTING TROUT IN STONY BROOK

SUBMITTED BY JOE BACH, FRIENDS OF STONY BROOK

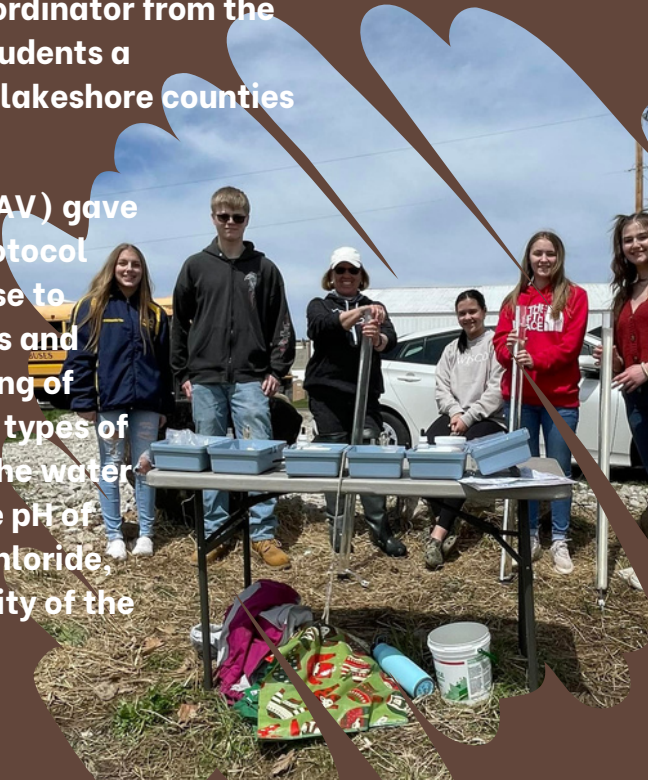
On May 6th, students who raised trout in their classrooms resumed planting trout in Stony Brook. This year there were three schools that participated in the trout plant. Planting their young of the year trout were Chilton High school, Chilton Middle School, and Merrill Elementary School from Oshkosh. Brad Bowman, the counselor from Merrill, was able to secure funds so his elementary school students could experience and learn how to raise trout in the classroom.

As in years past, the day not only included the planting of trout but also learning much about streams and rivers. There were 6 learning stations along the banks of Stony Brook led by specialists.

The first learning station was led by Natalie Dorler-Hyde from the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership and Joe Bach from Fox Valley Trout Unlimited. There was a live demonstration of the macro-invertebrates that live in Stony Brook. The students enjoyed seeing and touching the creatures in Stony Brook that are the food source for the trout they plant.

Chris Acy, the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator from the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance,, gave the students a presentation on the invasive species in the lakeshore counties of Central Wisconsin.

Judy Hartl from Water Action Volunteer (WAV) gave a presentation of the stream monitoring protocol that WAV volunteers all around the state use to monitor the quality of the water in our rivers and stream. This protocol includes the monitoring of dissolved oxygen, along with flow rate, the types of macro-invertebrates living in the stream, the water and air temperatures, the water clarity, the pH of the water, the amount of phosphorus and chloride, weather conditions, and specific conductivity of the water.



The monthly reports also contain the status and condition of the streamside habitat. The data is recorded and stored on a WDNR database for future analysis and comparisons.

Danielle Santry, the Water Quality Specialist of Calumet County, gave the students a presentation on the habitat parameters of our stream.

Norm Christnacht, a skilled trout fisherman from Fox Valley Trout Unlimited, gave a demonstration of fly casting for trout which included giving students a chance to personally experience the art of fly casting.

One of the highlights of the day was the electro shocking demonstration by Angelo Cozzola, Fish Biologist with the WDNR, and his crew who demonstrated electro fishing, a means of stunning fish so they can be measured and scanned for PIT tags that tell the WDNR when and where the fish were planted and other data. To the student's surprise in the short section of stream there were many sizable trout. Of the 13 netted and measure 11 were in the 11"-16.8" range

The second and most important highlight of the day was the planting of Brook Trout in Stony Brook by each student. One could tell, by the look on their faces, they were proud to have played a part in restoring the natural reproduction of trout in Stony Brook.

Stats for the day were approximately 180 students present, 220 trout planted by the students and another 30+ adults that included reporters, county officials, neighbors, and members of Friends of Stony Brook.

The Friends of Stony Brook (FOSB) would like to thank all the students that raised Trout in the Classroom and their teachers, Tracy Bartels, Brittany Mayer, Greg Sromek and Brad Bowman for the exceptional extra effort they have put forth in this endeavor that has enhanced their students learning experience and our environment. Without the teacher's collective effort, the current and future physical improvements being made to Stony Brook, would not have been possible.



Friends of
Stony Brook