Members of the Outdoor Education Club recently joined Mrs. Terry's Global Environment (SUNY ESF - EFB 120) class on a winter field trip to the Outdoor Classroom on Apulia Road. The focus of the hands-on lesson was geo-caching: an activity using handheld GPS units. Students placed their geo-cache containers at various locations in the woods and recorded the waypoints for others to later use in relocating the geo-caches. Each location was chosen for its surroundings and environmental application, which students recorded in their containers.

Neil Patterson, a graduate student from ESF, works closely with Mrs. Terry’s class, which bears college credit for students upon successful completion. Neil also gave “mini-lessons” throughout the morning on topics including animal track identification, beaver signs and activity along Butternut Creek, tapping Maple trees for syrup, tree identification, and wildlife ecosystems present at the Outdoor Classroom.

The trip was both educational and recreational as the group was lucky enough to choose a rare February day that had both sunshine and a temperature above 40 degrees Celsius. Students will return in the spring to the Outdoor Classroom to complete their geo-cache projects, which will provide an application of the class curriculum.

Stream shocking will be another spring activity that was very popular last year, thanks again to a partnership with ESF that LaFayette has been part of for the past few years. Neil will again provide use of the necessary equipment for our students to electroshock fish living in Butternut Creek and Stebbins Brook for study and subsequent release.

Next year’s class is currently being recruited! Student schedules are being set for next year. Don’t miss out – talk to your guidance counselor now!