



Reeths-Puffer Elementary

Community Partners

- Joel Darling
- Judy Clark-Oakes
- Muskegon Township
- Carol LasPres-Beyer "Mim"
- GLSI

A class of first graders and a class of second graders, along with the help of a team of 6th graders, worked to improve bluebird habitats and establish a butterfly garden at neighboring Riverside Park in Muskegon.

The first graders planned and built bluebird boxes in the classroom with the guidance of Joel Darling and the "Bluebird Lady" Carol LasPres-Beyer. The first graders then went on to teach the sixth graders how they made these amazing bird houses. A total of 6 birdhouses were made and then placed at specific points at Riverside Park.

While all of this was

going on, the second graders were busy designing and preparing materials for a butterfly garden. Specifically, they wanted the garden to attract and be the perfect habitat for the Blue Karner butterfly, which is endangered. They worked to tear up the existing sod, prepare the soil, plant the appropriate bushes, and then to spread the bark. Each student had a hand in the garden, whether it was digging up the ground or planting.

In the meantime, sixth graders were on hand to assist and also kept busy to an overall "clean up" of the park. They picked up garbage, raked, and more.

Reeths-Puffer Elementary 2012-13

School Year Team:

- 100+ Students
- 3 Teachers
- 3 Classrooms

"I liked getting outside and working on the garden"

Taylor, 2nd grade

"When can we go check on our garden again?"

Leo, 2nd grade

"Just because we're little doesn't mean we can't help our world."

Michaela, 1st grade

Preparing the soil

