

# Dr. Bob talks swamp with HMS students at library



Dr. Bob Collier discusses the Beaver Creek Watershed with Halls Middle School students from the window of the new Halls Branch Library. HMS students toured the library, heard from Dr. Bob and did a "wind shield" and walking tour of Beaver Creek as part of an eight week service project.

The Shopper's own "Dr. Bob," Bob Collier, was talking swamp with Halls Middle School students at the new Halls Branch Library last week. A group of 180 HMS sixth graders toured the library, heard from Dr. Bob

and toured Beaver Creek as part of an eight week service project with the Beaver Creek Watershed.

"They will be planting about 800 seedlings," said Knox County Adopt-A-Watershed coordinator Ruth Anne Hanahan. "They will be learning over the eight weeks what a watershed is, why they should protect Beaver Creek and will help design where the seedlings will be planted."

The students toured the new library and Beaver Creek in 45 minute rotations, hearing from Collier about the watershed while gazing through the library's windows at the creek. Halls Branch librarian Sally

Dill also gave a tour of the new library and signed kids up for library cards if they didn't previously have them.

"We're just overjoyed," Dill said of the new library. "We've still got a few things to do, like hanging up Mrs. (Geneva) Smith's picture and we've got some great art to put up. At our old building, we had a view of a parking lot. Now we're glad we can look out and see trees. We just saw a beautiful blue heron this morning."

Collier was telling the students about the wetland and why it is important to conserve it. He spotted the heron and pointed it out to the students.

"There's a great blue heron out there just waiting on a frog," Collier said. "That is one of your typical wetland animals down there. Isn't that cool?"

Students will be planting the native seedlings on Saturday, March 6. Hanahan said the project is being sponsored by the Knox County Adopt-A-Watershed program, AmeriCorps,



Halls Branch Library head librarian Sally Dill tells Halls Middle School students about the new library and library services. Dill gave a library card to students who did not previously have one.

Knox County Parks and Recreation, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which is paying for the seedlings; Knox County Soil Conservation, the Beaver Creek Association, Hallsdale Powell Utility District, the Halls Business and Professional Association and the UT Water Resources Research Center.

"They will be doing this service project to improve the health of the watershed," Hanahan said.

— Jake Mabe