



Jonathan Burr, TDEC aquatic biologist, shows a blue gill to Tyler Baker, Tati Silvas, Lauren Trent and Sadie Yinger.



Hannah Smith pours a water sample for testing.

Kids in the Creek in Karns

On Monday, 60 sixth graders from Karns Middle School participated in the annual Kids in the Creek day conducted by the Beaver Creek Task Force. Students from the classes of science teachers Jane Buckner, David Hawkins, Peggy McGivney and Vinita Williamson descended on a tributary of Beaver Creek in the Westbridge Industrial Park.

Kids in the Creek is a program designed to give students an opportunity to study water quality and stream health in a hands on manner. It is a part of the curriculum of the Adopt a Watershed program. Divided into groups, the students go through four rotations. In one they put on waders and get in the creek with nets and buck-

ets, stir up the bottom with their feet to capture aquatic insects, and identify them with the help of experts from the UT Water Resources Research Center, the CAC AmeriCorp water quality team and TVA. The more bugs, the better the health of the stream.

Aquatic biologists from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and from TVA shock fish in another rotation. The fish are then counted and examined for health. The final two rotations are land use, where students learn about the effects of polluted runoff, and water chemistry, where students conduct tests on a creek water sample to determine if the water is healthy.

Representatives from the

Water Quality Forum including Knox County, UT Water Resource Research Center, TVA, TDEC, West Knox Utility District, and the Beaver Creek Watershed Association helped plan, fund and run the Kids in the Creek event.

Jane Buckner, lead teacher in this project said, "This is wonderful. It's an experience the kids will never forget."