

# Creek conservation effort

OCTOBER 10, 2005

Knox County Watershed coordinator Roy Arthur made the announcement in the first meeting of the Beaver Creek Watershed Association since June. The meeting was held at Powell Presbyterian Church last Thursday (Oct. 6).

"We're getting a really good relationship going," said Arthur. "We're really pleased with the response we've gotten."

According to Arthur, EPA representatives approached the Beaver Creek Task Force last spring. Vivian Doyle, the EPA's Tennessee watershed coordinator, asked if the agency could partner with the BCTF in its efforts to protect and restore the watershed.

"They have offered us their expertise and their resources," said Arthur.

Apparently, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation brought Beaver Creek to Doyle's attention.

In a flurry of meetings, including a BCTF trip to Atlanta to make presentations to the EPA's Water Management Division, plans for the partnership were finalized. The EPA may even use Beaver Creek Watershed restoration efforts as a nationwide strategy model.

A week-long visit and watershed tour is planned for Doyle and other EPA representatives in the upcoming months.

Arthur discussed Beaver Creek's past and future. One timely aspect of his presentation touched on low-impact de-

velopment recommendations.

The upcoming Village at Bell Meadow town center, developed by Dr. Jim and Kelly Sternberg and Kenna and Larry Stephens, on Emory Road will be a model.

"This is true low-impact development," said Arthur. "They're doing this because it's the right thing to do and because they want the best development they can have."

Some BCWA members voiced concerns that the town center concept for the development will take business away from traditional community hubs.

"I think the worst thing we can have is abandoned buildings," said BCWA member and Powell resident Dr. Bob Collier. "Why isn't there a plan to preserve historic Powell?"

Arthur emphasized that developments like Bell Meadow will accommodate population growth while still preserving green spaces for natural corridors.

BCWA president Tim Ezzell announced that the association has been nominated for a Knox County environmental achievement award. Association members will attend a banquet and awards ceremony.

Ezzell also announced a TDEC public meeting at Powell High School on Monday, Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m. The meeting will feature hands-on demonstrations of technology used in preservation of the Lower Clinch Watershed, of which Beaver Creek Watershed is part.

Barbara Boeing said the association's new Web site will be online within the next two weeks. The Web address is [www.beavercreekwatershed.org](http://www.beavercreekwatershed.org).

The association will meet on Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Halls Kroger community room. Jill Wolverton of the Smart Trips program will be the featured speaker.

## *Clean up your creek!*

The 11th annual Commu-

nity-Wide Creek Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to noon. Seven locations around Knox County will be cleaned, including one in Halls and one in Fountain City.

Volunteers will meet by Beaver Creek by Food City in Halls or by First Creek behind Kmart on Broadway to help remove trash from the creeks.

Over the last 10 years, 1,665 Creek Clean-Up volunteers have removed 335 tons of garbage, tires, old furniture and other junk from Knox County waterways. The program is sponsored

by CAC AmeriCorps members and partners such as Ijams Nature Center and Knox County Solid Waste.

This is a fun way to get some fresh air and exercise!



Lee Robbins and Dr. Bob Collier discuss Beaver Creek's future.