



Karns students Adam Fortune, Kate Sexton and Mary Kate Slaughter present creek monitoring findings to the BCWA.  
(Photos by S. Carey)



Margaret Massey Cox outlines Beaver Creek's marketability to the Beaver Creek Watershed Association.

Mia Akagoi, presented findings from a recent watershed assessment.

Students in Doug Lakin's AP environmental science class performed tests on water samples collected from 16 sites throughout Beaver Creek Watershed. Students performed the same tests during the fall semester.

Samples from one site showed high levels of chlorine during the autumn tests. The recent tests showed no chlorine present. This supports the theory that a nearby homeowner emptied his or her swimming pool into the creek last fall.

Chlorine in creeks kills aquatic wildlife.

Tests for phosphorus revealed two sites with high levels: Cunningham Road just east of Beaver Brook Country Club and Harrell Road near Bonneville Estates.

Phosphorus can enter creeks through runoff containing fertilizers or detergents. Phosphorus in a creek can contribute to algae growth and reduce habitat for wildlife.

The students recommended the installation of vegetative buffers, including trees and shrubs, along the creek to help filter phosphorus out of runoff. Also, limiting application of fertilizers along the stream's edge can reduce phosphorus levels.

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## Beaver Creek can bring bucks

"Environmental conservation" and "economic asset" aren't typically heard in the same sentence. Some would even call them mutually exclusive terms.

When Massey Cox first moved to Powell, she didn't know Beaver Creek existed.

"There was this line of trees, and I didn't know what was beyond the line of trees," she said.

Then, she started hearing people talk about flooding problems, property damage, and other negative aspects of the creek.

Tom McDonough of TVA and Knox County watershed coordinator Roy Arthur changed her mind about the creek.

"I'd go, 'Wow! Really? You mean there are real beavers down there?'" she said.

She began to see Beaver Creek as an important link binding North Knox communities together.

"What does Gibbs have in common with Powell? You know what they have in com-

mon? Beaver Creek," Massey Cox said.

"It's a resource," she said. "It's not only a resource. It's a resource we could leverage."

Massey Cox pointed out that a recent Beaver Creek Watershed public meeting brought an observer from Alabama.

"He came to see what you guys are doing in Beaver Creek," she said. "The creek brings people and real dollars and real jobs."

Massey Cox pointed to Arthur as a job fueled by the watershed.

Finally, Massey Cox spoke about Dr. Bob Collier's proposed bird sanctuary behind the new Powell library. She said that an estimated 51.3 million Americans are involved in birdwatching.

"What if we turned our greenway system into something

that allowed people to come from other areas for birdwatching?" she asked.

The benefits to creek conservation, she said, are real. Environmental conservation has the potential to bring new residents, tourists and economic growth.

### Creek monitoring results

Karn's High School students Adam Fortune, Mary Kate Slaughter and Kate Sexton, led by AmeriCorps volunteer



Shannon Carey

Knox County Commission candidate Margaret Massey Cox doesn't agree. She told the Beaver Creek Watershed Association why during the group's June 1 meeting.

Beaver Creek Watershed, she said, has the potential to become an economic asset to North Knox County. She started with her own story.