

Volunteers tackle Beaver Creek trash

AmeriCorps volunteers and Halls and Powell high schools were slipping and sliding up and down the banks of Beaver Creek Dec. 7.

Mindy Savage, a member of the AmeriCorps Water Quality Team, spoke at length about the importance of keeping the creeks in Knox County clean.

"Halls residents get their drinking water from Beaver Creek," she said. "And Beaver Creek is the largest water shed in Knox County, going from Gibbs to Solway."

According to Savage, a water shed is the low area between two high areas where rain and wind will push trash.

The volunteers had quite a trash pile early Saturday morning and they still had several hours before their planned time ended. They were working within about a 200 yard area behind Food City.

Savage was quick to state that the trash was not Food City's.

"This is all non-point source pollution," she said. "It's mostly trash that has been left in the parking lot and has blown into the creek."

Non-point source pollution can not be attributed to one point, she said.

"This is everybody's problem. It's not Food City's or the county's. We all pollute and it's everybody's job to clean it up. It takes such a short time to make such a big difference."

AmeriCorps is a nonprofit volunteer group.

— Stan Mitchell



Volunteers carry trash that came from Beaver Creek during a cleanup Dec. 7. Pictured are Mindy Savage, Halls High ecology teacher Kerrie Coley, Jillian Moreland, Kerrie Simmons and Megan Vaught.