

Ruritan gets Beaver Creek thank you

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The Gibbs Ruritan Club got a return on their investment Tuesday. Organizers and participants in the Kids in the Creek program formally thanked the group for supporting the program in Gibbs Elementary School.

Last month, Gibbs fifth graders visited B.F. Dalton's farm on Beeler Road to learn about Beaver Creek. Led by water quality and wildlife experts and the CAC AmeriCorps Water Quality Team, the kids put on waders to examine the creek's critters, conducted water quality experiments and had a great day outdoors.

Program leader Ruth Anne Hanahan said Kids in the Creek prepares elementary students for the more advanced Adopt-A-Watershed program offered to middle and high school students.

"It's hands-on science," Hanahan said. "The kids are out there, they're doing the work."

AmeriCorps volunteer Khann Chov presented a slide show of the event.



Alex Berry, Autumn Berry, Ruth Anne Hanahan of the Water Resources Center and AmeriCorps volunteer Khann Chov thanked the Gibbs Ruritan Club for its involvement in the Kids in the Creek program. (Photo by S. Carey)

"They had a blast," she said. "They are some of the most eager kids I've ever worked with."

She showed the group pictures of the day's activities. The students used a model to learn about land uses' impact on water quality. They sprinkled "pollutants" like chocolate sprinkles and Kool-Aid powder

onto the model and used spray bottles to simulate rain.

The biggest hit, she said, was definitely getting in the creek. TVA biologist John Justice led the students in collecting and identifying fish and other wildlife from the creek.

"What lives in the creek tells us a lot about what's going on in the creek," Chov said.

Participants Autumn and Alex Berry spoke about their experiences. Autumn said she enjoyed the day and learned a lot.

"We need to keep our creek clean, or all our fish are going to die," Autumn said.

Alex, a student at Halls Middle School, is Dalton's grandson. He took the day off to help the Gibbs kids. Hanahan said Alex was a big help.

"I pretty much stayed in the creek all day. I like that," he said. "It was educational, and the kids had fun."

The Gibbs Ruritan Club donated transportation money for the event.

Sponsors include the Beaver Creek Watershed Association, Hallsdale-Powell Utility District and Patterson Trucking.