



Symmes Creek Restoration Committee Cleans Up at Timbre Ridge Lake

Annual cleanup sees longterm benefits.



Symmes Creek Restoration Committee with the litter they collected.

The Symmes Creek Restoration Committee (SCRC) held their annual Timbre Ridge Lake Clean-up and Campout on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 & 15th. Five members of the SCRC spent Sunday morning cleaning up the shoreline and dispersed campsites at Timbre Ridge Lake. The group gathered 10 garbage bags of litter, as well as one tire and several pieces of scrap metal.

The group braved cool temperatures and a windy day, but were rewarded with a relaxing evening of camping and beautiful views of the fall foliage and wildlife. Kari Kirschbaum saw a spike buck, a beaver, several great blue herons, and many geese and other waterfowl while taking a sunset kayak ride on Saturday evening. Chad Kirschbaum, Ironton District Botanist, noted

several invasive species populations at the campsite and on the lake shore. One of the worst forest invaders, Tree-of-Heaven, was pulled from around the campsite area. Chad also collected seeds from 14 native plant species, which he will use to re-vegetate other project areas on the Forest.

This is the third year that the SCRC has held a clean-up and campout at Timbre Ridge Lake. Grayson Thornton, SCRC Chairman, noted that the amount of trash to be collected has decreased each year. "I think people take notice of what we're doing, and respect the areas more when they are clean and free of litter" he said. A local boyscout troop had also planned to join the group, but were turned away by high winds on Saturday afternoon.

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