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THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

ENQUIRER LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

Sunday, November 07, 1999

Tons of trash cleared from river banks

Volunteers devote time and energy

BY KRISTINA GOETZ
The Cincinnati Enquirer

PETERSBURG — A river sweep at the Petersburg boat dock on Saturday was on a much smaller scale than the annual spring sweep, but volunteers still managed to pick up about eight tons of trash.

"We all met down here at the boat dock and we'll spread out until we fill the Dumpster, run out of bags or decide to eat," said Matthew Burris, Boone County solid waste coordinator.

It was the second annual fall Ohio River Sweep sponsored by Boone County Solid Waste Management.

About 40 people from Boone County came out from about 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help make the riverbank a little cleaner.

A group of elementary school-aged kids gathered tennis balls, basketballs, a baseball bat and plenty of fishing hooks.

"It's nasty because a lot of people just throw stuff down here because they're careless and lazy," said Allison Goessling, 10, of Petersburg. "They don't respect this cool river."

Her friend, Heidi Boden, also 10 of Petersburg, agreed.

"It's interesting because a lot of people don't think a lot of the river when there's really stuff down here," she said.

"If everyday somebody came up here and everybody picked up it would be like a clear ocean."

Some of the parents and other volunteers handled the larger objects like swing

sets, rusted lawn mowers and a stove.

Boone County Water Rescue helped haul away an

abandoned boat filled with trash.

And the Salvation Army brought hot dogs, chips and drinks for all those who helped.

"This is the second year for the fall cleanup," Mr. Burris said. "This all started last year. They have the annual spring river sweep that's sponsored by ORSANCO (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission).

"In Boone in '98, though, two of the locations were under water and they decided to reschedule in the fall."

The group then decided to continued the fall sweep this year.

Alice Book, a site coordinator for the river sweep, said she thought it was successful.

"The river is lower in the fall, usually," she said. "You don't have the bugs, you don't have the heat."

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