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Madmen cleaning up watershed

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Approximately 12 bags of trash and litter – and illegal dumping of tires – were discovered Sunday by area members of Trout Unlimited during its water quality monitoring efforts.

The “Madmen” chapter of Trout Unlimited annually clean up the river area at access points near U.S. Route 36 just outside Urbana, and state Routes 29 and 296, Trout Unlimited “Madmen” Executive Director and Ohio State Council chair Tom Allen said. The group discovered the illegal dumping of tires, TV sets and other bulk items near state Routes 29 and 296, where Kings Creek comes into the

Mad River.

“The litter has gotten so bad, and we want to bring attention to it,” he said. “We have seen an escalation of litter and open dumping. Trout fishing is important to us, but to many of us our real goal is to sustain the quality of the watershed and its water resources for the overall benefit of the community.”

The Madmen had some helpers drop by from the Buckeye United Fly Fishers from Cincinnati.

The group is part of a nonprofit created to conserve, protect and restore North America’s cold water fisheries and their watersheds. Its main focus is to study, protect and restore the Mad River, the principal trout stream in Ohio, according to its website.

The group also takes part in a project called Trout in the Classroom, a national education program of Trout Unlimited. Students study the biology of growth of trout development from egg to fingerlings, and at the end, students get to release their trout into the local watershed. Graham Elementary, Graham High School, West Liberty-Salem High School, Urbana University, Riverside Elementary in DeGraff, Bellefontaine Middle School, and Benjamin Logan Elementary, Middle and High schools all are sponsored by the “Madmen” chapter for this program.

Allen said his group will be working with area Soil and Water Conservation officials, the sheriff’s office and Ohio Department of Natural Resources officials to attempt to find who is responsible for the litter and illegal dumping.

For more information about the “Madmen” and Trout Unlimited, visit the group’s website at www.tumadmen.org.

Link:<http://www.urbanacitizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20141023/news/310239997/>

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