

UGWA's scrap metal collection a success

By Matthew Hill
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

If anything was left uncrushed in Mullens last week, it was Kelly Jo Drey's hopes for a successful event.

For three days from Thursday to Saturday, nearly 300 people made more than 300 visits to the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association to drop off more than 100 tons of scrap metal to be recycled, Drey said.

"More than a few people made repeat visits and several came four or five times," UGWA's watershed coordinator explained.

"One guy brought 28 weed-eaters with him. Another man brought an old cast-iron bathtub. It was so huge that I don't know how they got it on the trailer they were hauling. There was also a trailer load of soda machines."

Some of the most common items hauled to Mullens were refrigerators, bicycles, vehicles, water heaters and lawn mowers. And simply odds and ends.

"A lot of people just brought in pick-up trucks filled with indiscernible pieces of scrap metal. Much of that consisted of parts of sheds, trailers and pipes."

The materials collected were crushed into bales, and Drey said volunteers only finished cleaning up the leftovers from last week's activities Monday afternoon.

"Our goal in organizing the event was to keep these items from being illegally disposed of."

KELLY JO DREY,
coordinator, Upper Guyandotte
Watershed Association

The success of the three-day event has inspired more collections. UGWA plans to host another next fall, and the Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority in Pineville is hoping to crush metal even sooner, next spring.

"Our goal in organizing the event was to keep these items from being illegally disposed of," Drey said.

"Not only did we accomplish that, but I was really pleased with the overwhelming support of all who participated. People got excited about cleaning up their junk. They were happy and positive about it, despite having to wait in line for a long time.

"It was a very positive experience for everyone who participated."



For more information on either of next year's events or proper disposal of items, contact Drey at 294-6188 or the Wyoming County SWA at 732-8000.

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