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**For Immediate Release**

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**LAKE ERIE VISITORS AND RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO  
PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING COASTWEEKS EVENTS**

Many beach cleanups slated for Saturday, September 16

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is encouraging both visitors and local residents to help with projects aimed at cleaning up recreational areas along Lake Erie as part of the 2006 Coastweeks observance, September 7-22.

More than nine beach clean ups are slated for International Coastal Cleanup Day this coming Saturday, September 16, with another three scheduled for Sunday, September 17. Ohio's Coastweeks is part of a nationwide effort to educate the public about protecting coastlines around the country. More than 14 events are scheduled along Lake Erie in the next 10 days, including beach walks, nature programs, shoreline conferences and cleanups.

**Upcoming 2006 Coastweeks Events Include:**

Tenth Annual Clean Your Streams Day, 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Highland Park Shelter House and Ottawa Park Shelter House in Toledo; Washington Township Fire Station in Toledo; Olander Park Shelter House in Sylvania; and Oregon Municipal Building in Oregon. Lunch is included when you register at 419-373-3010.

Old Woman Creek Barrier Beach Cleanup - 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Old Woman Creek Dormitory, 2005 Cleveland Road East, Huron. Old Woman Creek Reserve staff will lead a local effort to clean up the estuary's barrier beach. For information, call 419-433-4601.

Coastweeks Beach Cleanup – 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve presented by the City of Mentor. Meet at the Lagoons Marina office (8365 Harbor Dr.).

Registration is requested; call the City of Mentor's Public Works division at 440-974-5780.2

Friends of Magee Marsh – 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16. Meet at 13229 W. State Route 2 in Oak Harbor to help clean up this important Lake Erie marsh beach. Call 419-898-0960 for information.

Huron To Vermilion Coastal Cleanup – 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16. Meet at the West Marine Express Store, 406 Cleveland Road East in Huron. Call 419-433-1800 for information.

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Euclid Creek Day! 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16. Come out and enjoy the day at Wildwood State Park, Euclid Creek, MetroParks Reservation. Activities include not only a beach cleanup, but also a nature hike, volunteer water monitoring and watershed scavenger hunt. Meet at Wildwood State Park, 16975 Wildwood in Cleveland.

Maumee Bay State Park Cleanup – 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16. Join the staff of Maumee Bay State Park Nature Center for this park-wide clean up. Meet at the Nature Center, 1400 Park Road in Oregon. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Register by calling 419-836-9117.

Barrier Beach Cleanup at Sheldon Marsh – Noon on Saturday, Sept. 16. Meet at the Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve parking lot, 2715 Cleveland Road West, Huron. Volunteers will walk the beach and pick up litter, recording the finding as they go.

Maumee Bay Coastal Campout On The Beach – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16. Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon. Pitch a tent on the beach and enjoy a potluck dinner, storytelling and campfire sing-a-long. Registration fee: \$15 at the Campground Office. Call the park's Nature Center at 419-836-9117 for information.

Gordon Park Cleanup – 9 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17. Meet at Gordon Park, 8701 Lakeland Boulevard N.E. and help AquaMasters of Lakewood clean up the park's boat ramp area.

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Black-backed Gull Watch – 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Sept. 17. Meet at the main street observation platform in Vermilion's Harbortown Section to watch for all of Lake Erie's winged creatures. Gulls, osprey, eagles and even migrating monarch butterflies may appear. Call 419-625-7783 for information.

Root Beer Canoe Float on the Huron River – 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17. Reserve a space on a MetroParks canoe or bring your own and join naturalists as the canoe the Huron River looking for wildlife. Meet at the canoe landing in the Coupling Reserve on State Route 13. Root beer floats will be served following the event. Registration requested at 419-625-7783.

Put-In-Bay Harbor Cleanup! 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 18 at the Put-In-Bay municipal marinas and docks. Meet at the Miller Boat Line dock on the mainland for transportation to South Bass Island. Call 419-285-2213 for information.

Sunset Hike At Dupont Marsh – 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21 at Dupont Marsh State Nature Preserve on the River Road in Huron. Join preserve naturalists for an evening stroll around the marsh. Call 419-625-7783 for information.

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