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For Immediate Release

September 7, 2007

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

Many beach cleanups slated for Saturday, September 15

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 *2007 Coastweeks* observance, September 5-22.

The Commission is Ohio's coordinator for the *Coastweeks* program, which is part of an annual nationwide effort to educate the public about protecting coastlines around the country. In Ohio, the focus is cleanup events along Lake Erie's shoreline and within its watershed.

A total of eleven cleanup events are scheduled along Lake Erie in the next two weeks beginning this weekend on Saturday, September 8 at Euclid Beach State Park and Sunday, September 9 at Edgewater Park. Additional beach cleanups are slated for International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 15, followed by the Annual Put-In-Bay Underwater Cleanup on Monday, September 17 in Put-In-Bay's harbor.

Upcoming 2007 Coastweeks Events Include:

Saturday, September 8

10 a.m. *Euclid Beach Clean-up!* Help make the park more enjoyable by pitching in and collecting the litter that has gathered on our beach. Meet at the pavilion in Euclid Beach State Park, 8701 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland. Questions: clsp.naturalist@dnr.state.oh.us Sponsor: Cleveland Lakefront State Park

Sunday, September 9

10 a.m. - *5th Annual Great Lake Erie Round-up!* AquaMasters of Lakewood takes pride in Lake Erie and wants to help make a difference! Certified scuba divers will clean up a short distance offshore, while land volunteers will clean up along the shoreline. This event will take place at Edgewater Park, Cleveland. For additional information visit: <http://www.aquamastersoflakewood.freeservers.com> or call the "clean-up" guy at 216-651-0747. Sponsor: AquaMasters of Lakewood

Saturday, September 15 – International Coastal Cleanup Day

8 a.m. - *Annual Clean Your Streams Day!* Are you tired of seeing trash along our streams? Volunteer to remove litter and see what you can find. All volunteers must attend an 8:30 a.m. orientation meeting to receive cleanup information. Meet at Highland Park Shelter House, South Toledo; Olander Park Shelter

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House, Sylvania; Ottawa Park Shelter House near Toledo Hospital; Washington Twp. Fire Station in Point Place; or Oregon Municipal Bldg, Oregon. Appreciation picnic and t-shirts for all volunteers when you register by calling: 419-936-3751. Sponsor: Partners for Clean Streams & Maumee RAP - Additional information at <http://www.maumeerap.org/CYS.html>

8:30 a.m. - Roll up your sleeves with the litter lady at **Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve** and pick up litter washed in from Lake Erie. Meet at Mentor Lagoons Marina office, 8365 Harbor Dr., Mentor, OH. Lunch included when you register by calling: 440-974-5780. Sponsor: Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve

9 a.m. - Old Woman Creek Barrier Beach Clean-up! Join Old Woman Creek Reserve staff and others from around the world to clean up our coasts on *International Coastal Cleanup Day!* Meet at the Old Woman Creek Dormitory, 2005 Cleveland Rd. E, just west of Old Woman Creek on the north side, Huron, OH. Wear old clothes and old shoes, dress for the weather. Questions: heather.elmer@dnr.state.oh.us or call: 419-433-4601 Sponsors: Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve and ODNR Division of Wildlife

9 a.m. - Euclid Creek will need volunteers at various locations along their watershed to "get the trash out" of the streams and creeks. Location details will be posted at <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org>. Sponsors: Cuyahoga SWCD, Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Friends of Euclid Creek.

10 a.m. - Join the staff at the **Maumee Bay Nature Center** and volunteer in the park-wide cleanup. Meet at Maumee Bay Nature Center, 1400 Park Rd #1, Oregon, OH. Wear old clothes and old shoes, dress for the weather. Lunch included when you register by calling: 419-836-9117. Sponsor: Maumee Bay State Park

10 a.m. - Sheldon Marsh Barrier Beach Clean Up! Get involved in this clean-up and you will see your results that day. We will walk the Barrier Beach and pick-up litter and record our findings. Wear old clothes and old shoes, dress for the weather. Meet at the Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve parking lot, 2715 Cleveland Rd., Huron, OH. Questions: steve.harvey@dnr.state.oh.us or call 419-433-4919 Sponsor: ODNR-Div. of Natural Areas & Preserves

10 a.m. - Join the **Friends of Magee Marsh** and help clean up the Magee Marsh beach and make it safe for people and wildlife! Meet at the Wildlife Beach, 13229 W. SR 2, Oak Harbor, OH. Wear old clothes and old shoes, dress for the weather. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Please register by email: mary.warren@dnr.state.oh.us or call: 419-898-0960 Sponsors: ODNR and Friends of Magee Marsh

10 a.m. - Be part of **East Harbor's Trash Attack** team. You can see for yourself what washes up at our state park shoreline! The trash will be documented and disposed of properly. Meet at the camp store parking lot, 1169 N. Buck Rd., Lakeside, OH. Please register by email: dave.ferguson@dnr.state.oh.us or call: 419-734-4425 Sponsor: ODNR.

Monday, September 17

8:30 a.m. Dive! Put-in-Bay Harbor Clean-up! Be part of the solution by helping us clean-up Put-in-Bay's downtown harbor. Wear old clothes and old shoes, dress for the weather. Meet at the Miller Boat Line for transportation to island. Questions: 419-732-1728 or sheschel@hotmail.com Sponsors: Miller Boatline, DeRivera Park Trust, Divers Inc., Stone Lab, New Wave Dive Center, Patixs Scuba, Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Council of Skin & Scuba Divers, Village of Put-in-Bay.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is a state agency created to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, enhance its water quality and promote economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio

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Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the departments of transportation, development, health, agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The commission oversees the Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is the source of grant funding supported by Ohioans each time they purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or renewing their Toledo Harbor Lighthouse plate, both designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond.

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