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OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION NAMES PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

TOLEDO, OH - The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) has announced the winners of a photography competition that encouraged camera buffs to photograph the essence of Lake Erie life. The winning images provide snapshots of one of Ohio's most valuable and dynamic natural features. Lake Erie, and will be displayed as part of a traveling exhibit and in an online photo gallery.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Sean Logan, who also serves OLEC chairman, today announced the winners of the 2009 "Life on Lake Erie" photo contest. Top honors for the amateur photography contest went to the following Ohioans:

- Dale L. Sadowsky of Sandusky, OH, for his picture taken at Battery Park Marina, Sandusky, entitled "Lyman "Mabel" at Sunset" and also the Judges' Choice/Overall Favorite
- Gabor Balazs of Toledo, OH, taken at Toledo Botanical Gardens entitled "Gotcha"
- Dena Kraft of Oregon, OH, taken on the East Side of Maumee River, Toledo, OH entitled "What A View"
- Maggi Dandar for her two pictures entitled "Blue Erie Reflections" taken at Colley Canal, Curtice, OH and "Photo Op" taken at Maumee Bay
- Tom Greene of Tipp City, OH, taken at South Bass Island entitled "Don't Give Up The Ship II"
- Therese Ryan Russell of Bay Village, OH, taken at Huntington Beach, Bay Village entitled "Pier Out"
- Monnie Ryan of Niles, OH, taken at Put-in-Bay entitled "You Can Get There From Here"
- John K. Spears of Oregon, OH, taken in Grand Rapids, OH entitled "Great Fishing Under the Dam"
- Jimmy Trares of Maumee, OH, taken by Put-in-Bay, OH entitled "Island Paradise"
- Candice Vlcek of Parma, OH, taken by Huntington Beach entitled "Duck Family Enjoying the Beach"
- Devin A. Ward of Jefferson, OH, taken at Cleveland Harbor entitled "Cleveland Rocks!"
- Lorie A. Wilber of Oberlin, OH, taken at Marblehead, OH entitled "Patriotic Sunrise"

Submissions portray sustainable use, development or protection of Ohio's Lake Erie coastal resources. They incorporate shoreline landscapes, wildlife, plants and people enjoying various coastal activities.

Winning photographs are featured on the OLEC web site, www.lakeerie.ohio.gov and will be part of the Commission's traveling photo gallery. The display will appear at prime Ohio shoreline locations throughout the year, including University of Toledo's Lake Erie Center in Oregon, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Oak Harbor, the Lake Erie Shores & Islands Welcome Centers in Port Clinton

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pg. 2

and Sandusky and the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. The outstanding images may also be used to promote Lake Erie through environmental and educational programs and publications.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established for the purpose of preserving Lake Erie's natural resources, protecting the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

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