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For Immediate Release

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**LAKE ERIE COMMUNITIES ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING
COASTWEEKS EVENTS**

Beach cleanups slated for Saturday, September 13 and Monday September 15

TOLEDO, OH – Lake Erie and its watershed is a precious resource for Ohioans. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is encouraging its residents and shoreline communities to help with projects aimed at cleaning up recreational areas along Lake Erie as part of the *Coastweeks 2008* observance, September 12-21. *Coastweeks 2008* gives all of us the opportunity to celebrate, educate and participate in protecting Ohio's Great Lake.

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 ten cleanup events are scheduled along Lake Erie in the next two weeks beginning this weekend on Saturday, September 13 along Maumee Bay and seven locations near and around the Ottawa River and Swan Creek areas in northwest Ohio, as well as sites in Crawford County and Magee Marsh in Oak Harbor. Additional beach cleanups are slated for the following weekend as part of *International Coastal Cleanup Day* on Saturday, September 20 which includes five locations along the Lake Erie shoreline including Mentor Lagoons, Arcola Creek, Old Woman Creek, East Harbor State Park and Sheldon Marsh Nature Preserve.

Visit the Commission Web Site for all up-to-date cleanup information and to contact the individual coordinator for the cleanup of your choice at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/cw/events08.html>

Upcoming Coastweeks 2008 Events Include:

Saturday, September 13

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- **8 a.m. – 12th Annual Clean Your Streams Day!** Are you tired of seeing trash along our streams? Volunteer at one of seven locations to remove litter and see what you can find. Volunteers will receive cleanup information at the site selected, you must attend the 8:30 a.m. orientation to receive your cleanup location assignment. Location choices are: Highland Park Shelter House, 1865 Finch St, Toledo; Olander Park Shelter House, 6930 Sylvania Ave., University of Toledo Library, Toledo; Ottawa Park Shelter House, 2200 Kenwood Blvd, Toledo; Washington Township Fire Station, 2469 Shoreland Ave, Toledo; Oregon Municipal Bldg, 5330 Seaman Rd, Oregon; or Lake Township Friendship Park Shelter House, 27975 Cummings Rd, Millbury, OH. Additional information can be found at <http://www.PartnersForCleanStreams.org> Your watershed will be cleaner and healthier with your effort! Come out and make a big difference!

Saturday, September 13

9:00 a.m. Crawford County River Clean Sweep! Clean litter from waterways and calling attention to the importance of clean water. Be part of the solution and not the pollution and help Lake Erie and its watershed! Meet at one of the following locations: Aumiller Park, Bucyrus; Harmon Field, Bucyrus; Kelly Park, Crestline; Heilse Park, Gallon; Sandusky Wildlife Area, River Road, Bucyrus. For more details or directions contact: bfisher@crawfordparkdistrict.org or call 419-683-9000.

10 a.m. – Maumee Bay State Park! Last year 315 pounds of uninvited items were picked up and hauled away. Come out and make a difference. Meet at Maumee Bay Nature Center, 1400 Park Rd #1, Oregon, OH. Wear old clothes and old shoes, dress for the weather. Lunch provided for all volunteers. Pre-registration required: Call 419-836-9117. Sponsor: Maumee Bay State Park

10 a.m. – Magee Marsh, Oak Harbor! Come and make Magee Marsh beach a safer place for people and wildlife! Meet at the wildlife beach to receive your cleanup materials. Lunch provided for all volunteers. Pre-registration required: Call 419-898-0960 x.31 or via email: mary.warren@dnr.state.oh.us Sponsors: ODNR and Friends of Magee Marsh

Monday, September 15

9:00 a.m. - Put-in-Bay - Wanted: Scuba Divers and Land Volunteers for Dive! Put-In-Bay 2008. Lots to do on the island after a great summer. Be part of the solution by helping us clean up Put-in-Bay's downtown harbor. Meet at the Miller Boat Line 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. located at 178 Water St for transportation to the island. Once on the island, the island tour train will transport volunteers to DeRivera Park, then head for the white gazebo where you will register and receive additional information. Last year divers plucked nearly 1350 pounds of trash from our waters while our land volunteers recorded

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what was collected. Additional info at: <http://www.diveputinbay.com>

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 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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