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**OHIO'S COASTWEEKS 2008 OBSERVES
INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY SEPTEMBER 20**

*World's largest one-day volunteer effort to clean up coastlines and waterways slated for
this Saturday*

TOLEDO, OH – Last year more than 1100 volunteers plucked 25,000 pounds of trash from beaches and tributaries along Lake Erie's shoreline during *Ohio's Coastweeks program*. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission, again, is encouraging individuals to participate this year at cleanup events taking place this Saturday, September 20 during *International Coastal Cleanup Day*, which is the world's largest one-day volunteer effort to cleanup coastlines and waterways.

The Commission is Ohio's coordinator for the cleanup program and, in Ohio, the focus is cleanup events along Lake Erie's shoreline and within its watershed.

Five cleanup events are scheduled this coming weekend along Lake Erie at Mentor Lagoons Beach in Mentor, OH; Arcola Creek MetroPark in Madison Township, OH, Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Huron, OH; East Harbor State Park at Lakeside-Marblehead, OH and at Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve Barrier Beach, Huron, OH.

Please read below for information on these cleanup locations. Also, visit the Commission Web Site for 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>

This weekend's Coastweeks 2008 Events Include:

Saturday, September 20

8:30 a.m. Mentor Lagoons and Beach Cleanup! Clean up activities will take place along the shores of Lake Erie. Volunteers can choose to cleanup areas along the shoreline, the Lagoons or the Nature Preserve along the bluffs or the pathways.

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Volunteers should park near the trail head for the nature preserve & meet us in front of the Mentor Lagoons & Nature Preserve park office (8365 Harbor Drive, Mentor) anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. After that the sign-in will be at the west end beach. For questions, contact Bonnie Rice via email: rice@cityofmentor.com

9:00 a.m. Arcola Creek MetroPark. Volunteer and help make Arcola Creek's beach and Estuary park litter-free. Meet at Arcola Creek MetroPark, North end of Dock Road in the parking lot. A picnic lunch provided for all volunteers. Pre-registration required: 440-466-8722 or via email: avocet@roadrunner.com

9:00 a.m. International Coastal Cleanup at Old Woman Creek! We will clean up our waterway and record our findings. Last year we made a big difference and picked up almost 600 pounds of interesting items. Help make our waterways cleaner. Meet at the Old Woman Creek Dormitory at 2005 Cleveland Road E, by the boat house, Huron or call 419-433-4601 for directions.

10:00 a.m. East Harbor Trash Attack! Come out and see for yourself what washes up at this state park shoreline! Last year nearly 77 pounds of trash was picked up and disposed of properly. Be part of our trash attach team, meet at the East Harbor State Park, 1169 N. Buck Road, at the camp store parking lot, Lakeside, to register and receive cleanup materials.

NOON: Sheldon Marsh Barrier Beach Cleanup! Hey you late risers, still time help out the shoreline and stamp out an environmental footprint. Last year a group of 10 volunteers picked up more than 120 pounds of unfriendly items on this beach. Be part of this cleanup and meet at the Sheldon Marsh Preserve parking lot, 2715 Cleveland Road West, Huron. For questions contact Steve Harvey via email: steve.harvey@dnr.state.oh.us

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 also 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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