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**Ohio Lake Erie Commission Seeking Nominations for 2007 Ohio Lake Erie Awards**

TOLEDO, OH – Individuals and organizations from Ohio that have shown exceptional dedication to preserving Lake Erie as the state's premier natural resource are eligible to receive the 2007 Ohio Lake Erie Award.

Each year, the commission honors one person and one organization that have worked to protect and restore Lake Erie and its watershed. Since 1995, 12 individuals and 12 organizations have been recognized for their efforts to enhance Lake Erie. Nominating a person or organization for this award shows special appreciation for those who work to improve the lake's watershed and support the goals of the Lake Erie Protection Fund.

Nominations forms for this year's awards are available by calling 419-245-2514, or on the Commission's web site at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo>.

All nominees must comply with established award criteria. Elected officials and state employees are not eligible, and work to benefit Lake Erie should not be a part of nominee's regular employment. A nomination should represent efforts in Ohio performed by Ohioans.

Nomination forms must be completed and returned to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission offices by 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 in order to be eligible for consideration. Winners will be announced at the Commission's annual meeting on September 5.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was 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.

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*The Lake Erie Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

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