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TWO UNIVERSITIES AWARDED GRANTS THROUGH LAKE ERIE LICENSE PLATE PROCEEDS

TOLEDO, OH – The Lake Erie Protection Fund was established to help finance research and implementation of projects aimed at protecting, preserving, and restoring Lake Erie and its watershed. Recipients of grant money include universities, park districts, local governments, and nonprofits throughout Ohio. The fund is supported by Ohioans through the purchase of the “Erie...Our Great Lake” license plates, which displays the Marblehead Lighthouse, as designed by noted Lake Erie artist Ben Richmond. Fifteen dollars from the sale or renewal of each plate is invested in the Lake Erie Protection Fund grant program.

Citizens wishing to help fund projects that protect and restore Lake Erie and its watershed can also send a donation directly to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission office at One Maritime Plaza, 4th Floor, Toledo, Ohio 43604. All donations and proceeds from the sale of the Lake Erie plate go toward funding grants.

On September 15, 2011, the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) approved the following two Lake Erie Protection Fund grant awards:

The Ohio State University, Ohio Sea Grant (Joseph Lucente) was awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to analyze economic information from a previous shoreline creel survey to determine the value anglers place on the fishing experience along Ohio’s Lake Erie shore. The project will help managers communicate the importance of angling to Ohioans.

Bowling Green State University – Firelands Campus (Linda Cornell) was awarded \$15,000 to establish stream height to flow volume relationships in three streams within the Sawmill Creek watershed. The project will help the Firelands Coastal Tributaries Watershed Program expand the type and use of data collected through the volunteer monitoring program and to communicate watershed changes to the public and local decision makers.

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.

For information on the Lake Erie Protection Fund, or to read about past grant projects, please visit:
<http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/>.

The Lake Erie Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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