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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL FAMILY FUN ABOUND

Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands Full of Autumn Activities; Shore Savings Card Offers Still Available

LAKE ERIE SHORES & ISLANDS, OHIO, August 24, 2009 – Long, hot days have been more the exception than the rule this summer, but there's still plenty of time to enjoy Ohio's Lake Erie Shores and Islands. With temperate weather stretching through much, if not all, of October, it's a fantastic time to visit and enjoy food, fun and colorful fall scenery.

Many area attractions are in full swing until early November, and autumn-themed events are as plentiful as the fall harvest. And, with many of the new Shore Savings Card offers valid year-round, a Shores and Islands visit has never been more affordable.

Harvest and Historical Happenings

Confusing corn mazes. Delicious Ohio wines. Bountiful fruits and vegetables. Food and fun for the family is for sure at the fall harvest and historical happenings at Lake Erie Shores & Islands:

- *Down on the Farm* – Kick back with an abundance of farm markets and pick-your-own orchards. Pumpkins and apples are at prime picking, and other fresh-picked produce is available. Many farms host special fall activities, including: tractor shows, hayrides, apple-butter and scarecrow making, corn mazes and children's activities.
- *Wines and Vines* – There's no better time than fall to visit Ohio vineyards and sample the state's best wine. The Lake Erie Shores & Islands® Wine Trail's twelve wineries offer wine tastings, gifts, tours and entertainment.
- *Island Oktoberfest* – Visit Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island on October 10 – 11 for an extra festive Oktoberfest with German-style food, fun and festivities.
- *Fall Festivals Galore* – Enjoy a multitude of harvest festivals including the Lakeside Fall Festival, Marblehead Lighthouse Festival, Milan Melon Festival, Perch, Peach, Pierogi and Polka Festival, and Oak Harbor Apple Festival.
- *White House Pets: Ambassadors at Large and White House Horses* – The Hayes Presidential Center explores feathered and four-footed former White House occupants through a pair of special exhibits. On display August 25, 2009 through January 10, 2010.
- *Sound of Music Festival and Workshop with Elisabeth Von Trapp* – Acoustic music will inspire the listener including original compositions, poetry set to music, ballads of heroes and heroines and melodies of love. The musical workshop reflects on the style of the Von Trapp Family Music Camp of many years ago. Enjoy group sing-alongs, folksongs, and great memories. October 17 and 18 at the Sandusky State Theatre.

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Thrills and Chills, Ghosts and Goblins

If Halloween is your favorite time of year, there's no better place to be than Ohio's Lake Erie Shores and Islands. With events beginning as early as September, Halloween transcends its traditional day-long celebration.

- Ghostly Manor Thrill Center – Recognized as one of the best walk-through attractions in the nation by a leading funhouse enthusiasts' organization, Ghostly Manor Thrill Center boasts the area's best in haunted technology. This spooky center offers an eerie experience from the moment you pull in the parking lot – just look for the roaring dragon emerging from the castle on Route 250.
- HalloWeekends at Cedar Point September 18 through November 1 – The world's best amusement park celebrates 13 years of haunts for the entire family with “spooktacular” entertainment, haunted houses, eerie walk-through attractions and special areas for kids – plus all the thrills of Cedar Point's 17 coasters and rides. Celebrating 13 years of haunts for the entire family! Runs Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays only.
- 10th Annual Halloween Campout - East Harbor State Park in Marblehead: Have a ghoulish time with a bonfire, dance, scarecrow building contest, campsite decorating contest, a cookout, a seriously spooky haunted house, kid's crafts and games, hayrides and more! October 2 – 3 and October 9 – 10.
- Beyond Midnight Haunted Attraction – Weekends in October, the Midnight Haunters Society presents a haunted attraction at the Erie County Fairgrounds with a haunted house, hayrides and much more!
- Terror in the Field - The Haunted Corn Maze presented by the Old Haunted State Street School at Vermilion's Novotny Farm Market is the perfect place for our bravest visitors. Enter if you dare.
- Sandusky State Theatre – Catch the Halloween spirit with Enchante' Cabaret "Witches Brew" (October 12 – 14) and A Rockin' Halloween Adventure with Wendy Witch (October 24). Ghoulish fun is guaranteed at Frankenstein's Wacky Wedding on Halloween eve (and again at 2 pm on October 31). Don't miss the theatre's Ghost Hunt with Psychic Travis Sanders on Halloween night. End your Halloween celebrations by showing off your ghostly moves at the Monster Bash.
- Tombstone Derby Motorized Casket Racing – Live bands, a hearse and car show, magic show, games, kid's activities and head-to-head casket races. There's something for everyone Oct. 25 in the Village of Elmore.

The attractions families have come to know and love remain open through the fall or are open year-round.

Our four indoor water park resorts make it feel like summer all year long. Castaway Bay, Great Wolf Lodge, Kalahari Resort, and Rain offer amazing indoor water parks along with family-friendly accommodations, restaurants, shops and arcades. Discover outer space together at the Sidney Frohman Planetarium, showing an hour-long program every Sunday afternoon. African Safari Wildlife Park and Lagoon Deer Park are open through the end of October, allowing you to still get up close and personal with the exotic animals.

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Don't miss the Merry-Go-Round Museum, several maritime and historical museums and the Thomas Edison Birthplace; many of the museums are open year-round. The Bellevue Society for the Arts, Harlequins Theatre and Sandusky State Theatre present many theatrical productions, musical productions and more throughout the season....leading up to holiday spectaculars!

With so many attractions to explore, your family will want to stay for the weekend at Lake Erie Shores & Islands. Lodging options range from quaint bed & breakfasts to rustic campgrounds and full-service hotels. Start planning your fall getaway today! For event information updates, lodging packages, Shores Savings discount offers and information on all of the area's family attractions visit SHORESandISLANDS.com.

About Lake Erie Shores & Islands

Lake Erie Shores & Islands, located in north central Ohio, is a destination for family fun and entertainment. From seasonal events to year-round attractions, the area is rich with history and activities for the whole family, including the Lake Erie Islands, Cedar Point amusement park, seven water parks, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, a wildlife safari and much more. Lake Erie Shores & Islands has been ranked in the top twenty family vacation destinations by Disney's Family.com and is the only Ohio destination to receive this prestigious designation. More information is available at www.shoresandislands.com.

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