

March 24, 2004

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT:

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***Lakes Hefner, Thunderbird Focus  
Of Volunteer Clean-up Effort***

Volunteers will comb the shores of two Oklahoma City lakes this spring as part of Oklahoma Lake Sweep, a volunteer-driven beautification effort aimed at various state lakes of particular recreational importance. Local citizens are encouraged to attend the two weekend events, which will be held at Lake Thunderbird on March 27 and at Lake Hefner on April 24. Both will begin at 9 a.m.

Each year, more than 100 volunteers respond to Lake Sweep's appeal for beautification in the metropolitan Oklahoma City area. Oklahoma Lake Sweep fosters citizen pride and public awareness while accentuating the recreational and related benefits of Oklahoma's reservoirs and municipal lakes. The effort is a component of Oklahoma Water Watch, a community-based volunteer water quality monitoring program directed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

The Thunderbird Lake Sweep will kick off at the Thunderbird Boat House and wrap up by noon with a hot dog lunch provided by Country Boy Market. Volunteers from the University of Oklahoma's annual "Big Event" will be on hand to assist with the clean up. Big Event is Oklahoma University's official day of community service, where volunteers including students, faculty, and staff disperse to hundreds of job sites in central Oklahoma to perform various types of community service. Official sponsors of Thunderbird Lake Sweep include the OWRB, Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association (OCLWA), Thunderbird Sailing Club, and Thunderbird State Park.

In addition to picking up litter and other refuse, the Hefner Lake Sweep will feature a fishing clinic for both adults and children, a water-based obstacle course, and a short-course on boating safety provided by the Oklahoma City Police Department's Lake Patrol. In addition, door prizes will be given away courtesy of Tracker Marine and Bass Pro Shops. The event will culminate at 1 p.m. with a hot dog lunch provided by local sponsors, which include the OWRB, OCLWA, City of Oklahoma City Parks, Water and Public Works Departments, Oklahoma City Beautiful, Tracker Marine, and Bass Pro Shops.

All Oklahoma Lake Sweep participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves, a trash pick-up stick, insect repellent, sunscreen, and bottled water. For more information or to volunteer for either Oklahoma Lake Sweep event, contact Juli Ridgway, OCLWA President and Lake Sweep Coordinator, at 405-530-8800.

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