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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Explore the Outdoors Activities Available in Canal Winchester

CANAL WINCHESTER – In correlation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Village of Canal Winchester will provide events for children and their families to participate in the ‘Explore the Outdoors’ program. The ‘Explore the Outdoors’ program features 10 fun activities to complete through September 1. Children participating in each event will receive a code to enter online for a printable certificate signed by Governor Ted Strickland.

There are three types of certificates available, depending on how many codes have been entered. The certificate levels are:

- Beginner Explorer (enter 2 to 4 activity codes)
- Intermediate Explorer (enter 5 to 7 activity codes)
- Advanced Explorer (enter 8 to 10 activity codes)

The first 100 children to become an Advanced Explorer will receive a GreenBird birdhouse, and all participants will be entered to win a grand prize camping trip. In addition, those completing the Get Caught Up in a Clean Up and Recycle Ohio activities will earn a recycling patch. Children and families can join Canal Winchester’s Urban Forester, Dick Miller, to complete different activities throughout the summer. These events are:

Spot a bird at Walnut Creek Park (7155 Parkview Drive)

Thursday, June 11, 2009 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Other activities at Walnut Creek Park: Hike a Trail, Explore a Wetland and Get in a Clean Up

Catch a Fish at Howe Pond (Howe Industrial Parkway)

Thursday, June 18, 2009 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Other activities at Howe Pond: Spot a Bird, Explore a Wetland (end of Dove Parkway) and Get in a Clean Up

Explore a Wetland at Walnut Creek Park (7155 Parkview Drive)

Thursday, June 25, 2009 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Other activities at Walnut Creek Park: Spot a Bird, Hike a Trail and Get in a Clean Up

Discover a Stream’s Inhabitants (downstream of the Covered Bridge at James H. Kelley III Preserve at Ashbrook Road and Washington Street)

Thursday July 2, 2009 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Other activities downstream of the covered bridge: Spot a Bird, Hike a Trail, Catch a Fish, Splash in a Stream and Get in a Clean Up

Hike a Trail at Walnut Creek Park (7155 Parkview Drive)

Thursday, July 9 2009 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Other activities at Walnut Creek Park: Spot a Bird, Explore a Wetland and Get in a Clean Up

The codes for the activities completed can be found at the following locations, on clipboards mounted to posts:

- Trail head markers at Deitz Drive and Washington Street, James H. Kelley III Preserve
- East entrance to the covered bridge, James H. Kelley III Preserve
- Walnut Creek Park entrance, north of the new middle school
- Southeast corner of Howe Pond, at Howe Industrial Parkway.

For more information about Explore the Outdoors, log onto www.exploretheoutdoorsohio.com to download a resource guide, which provides additional instruction and suggested activities. For further questions, please contact Dick Miller at (614) 834-5100 ext. 110 or dmiller@canalwinchesterohio.gov

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