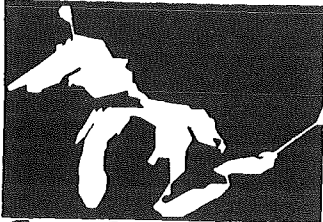


RECEIVED AUG 14 1992 *sm*



**GREAT LAKES UNITED**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Monday, August 3, 1992*

*For more information:  
Bruce Kershner  
GREAT LAKES UNITED  
(716) 886-0142*

## **NEW DIRECTOR TAKES HELM OF GREAT LAKES UNITED**

**BUFFALO, NY & WINDSOR, ONTARIO --** Terry Yonker, environmental and Great Lakes leader, is the new Executive Director of Great Lakes United.

Yonker was selected from a large number of applicants from both the U.S. and Canada after an international search effort. He succeeds GLU's previous director, Philip Weller, who moved to Austria.

Great Lakes United (GLU) is an international coalition of almost 200 organizations, including environmental, angler and hunter, city and village, labor union and business groups, from across the Great Lakes Basin. GLU's collective membership totals more than 600,000. GLU is dedicated to the protection and perpetuation of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem.

GLU's President Dick Kubiak stated, "We are pleased to welcome Terry Yonker as Executive Director of Great Lakes United. He brings to GLU a wealth of experience in a wide range of issues that affect the Great Lakes, as well as organization building and fundraising. After having lived in Michigan, the "heart of the Great Lakes," and served as a respected leader there, GLU is looking forward to his expanded role as a leader for the whole Great Lakes Basin."

During the past five years, Terry has been the executive director of the Michigan Audubon Society, an organization with 44 chapters, 10,000 members and 14 wildlife sanctuaries with 5,000 acres and two nature centers. Under his direction, his society raised nearly three quarters of a million dollars for environmental research and wildlife habitat protection.

As Michigan Audubon director, he was one of the co-authors of Michigan's Biological Diversity Conservation Act, signed into law this summer. He instituted a state-wide "wetlands watch" program to watch-dog wetland permit applications, and he led the fight against a bill that would have repealed key parts of Michigan's Wetland Protection Act. He played the lead role in forming the Great Lakes Regional Corporate Environmental Council, which devises ways for industry and environmentalists to work cooperatively to

*An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River*  
State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222  
(716) 886-0142  
Canadian Address: P.O. Box 548 Station A • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6

improve the environment. He also serves on the International Joint Commission Water Levels Study Board committee to ensure that the Great Lakes and their wetlands are not adversely affected by unwise dams and structures. Recently, he obtained a major grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to study the feasibility of establishing a regional specimen bank to store human and wildlife tissue samples for use in research on the impact and fate of toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes.

GLU and the Audubon Society have had a long and beneficial partnership that goes back to GLU's 1982 founding meeting. GLU's first director, Dave Miller, moved on to become National Audubon Society's Northeast Region Vice President.

Yonker's background includes an understanding of the workings of politics as related to the environment. In 1970, he joined the Administration of Michigan Governor William Milliken as an environmental advisor. In this capacity, he wrote the first major policy paper advocating a human ecosystem approach to management of natural resources in Michigan and the Great Lakes. In 1972, Terry was involved in drafting the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and was present at its signing.

Since GLU is a binational (Canadian - American) coalition, it is important to note that Terry is well-known for his work in basin-wide issues, and he is very familiar with both the people and the politics of Canada, where he spends a significant part of his business and personal time.

Yonker is a native of Grand Haven, Michigan and earned a B.S. degree in human ecology from the University of Wisconsin. He is the past president of the National Association of Environmental Professionals. He previously served as executive secretary of the Governor's Council for Environmental Quality, administrator for environmental programs for the Michigan Department of Commerce, and executive secretary of the Michigan Environmental Review Board.