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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Hosts 2026 Symposium
and Honors Cleveland State University's Dr. Julie Wolin
as 2025's Champion of the River**

Cleveland, OH - The Cuyahoga River Area of Concern's (AOC) Advisory Committee is hosting their 2026 Symposium on Thursday, March 12th from 9:30am-3:00pm at the Slovenian National Home (6417 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH). The day will conclude with celebratory happy hour at Goldhorn Brewing Company (1361 East 55th St., Cleveland, OH) immediately following the formal program.

Registration for the symposium is required and includes a continental breakfast and lunch: <https://2026CuyRiverAOCSymposium.eventbrite.com>. Cost is \$5 and there is a 'Pay it Forward' option to provide the opportunity for others to attend this event, and an "Honorary Admission" ticket option for those for whom cost is a barrier.

Community partners and members of the public are invited to attend this biennial gathering to learn how the AOC's work flows from local history, culture, and community action, as it continues to shape the future of the Cuyahoga River and impact communities across the Great Lakes. The program will feature updates on Areas of Concern at every scale and include presentations from community leaders, researchers, and advocates whose stories and efforts flow across the Great Lakes. The Advisory Committee will also present the 2025 Champion of the River award to Dr. Julie Wolin from Cleveland State University.

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“We are thrilled to highlight local projects and progress on the Cuyahoga River, Doan Brook and Euclid Creek,” shared Jennifer Grieser, Chair, Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee and Director of Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks. “And we look forward to featuring a tribal perspective from the Saint Regis Mohawk tribe as well as a creative perspective of a children’s book author and illustrator. The day is really shaping up to be one of our most interesting symposiums yet.”

The Cuyahoga River was designated an Area of Concern in 1987 due to its history of significant environmental harm from human activities, preventing people and wildlife from fully using or enjoying the local waterways. Through coordinated efforts among local, state, and federal partners, significant progress has been made toward restoring water quality and habitat. The Advisory Committee, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC), will continue working toward the ultimate goal of delisting the Cuyahoga River as an Area of Concern.

This event is made possible through the generous support of Davey Resource Group, Ohio Sea Grant, Cleveland Water Alliance, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Interlake Maritime Services, and the Ohio Environmental Council.

The Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee is composed of local stakeholders representing agencies, park systems, watershed groups, businesses, and residents who advocate for healthy water and restoration. The Committee’s role is to develop strategic priorities for removing Beneficial use Impairments (BUIs) and implementing Management Action Projects (MAPs), and to advise Ohio EPA on measures necessary to delist the AOC. Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is the facilitating organization that staffs the Advisory Committee. www.cuyahogaoc.org

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