



TALL SHIPS® RACE SERIES PROMOTES GREAT LAKES WATER CONSERVATION

Great Lakes United Partners with Rare Gathering of Tall Ships in 2010

Green Bay, Wisconsin – Against the backdrop of the official tall ship of Wisconsin, the *S/V Denis Sullivan* on the Fox River, Great Lakes United and the America Sail Training Association announced they will be working together to bring a fleet of tall ships to the Great Lakes. Over the summer of 2010, Great Lakes United, a binational coalition working to protect the Great Lakes, and the American Sail Training Association will work together alongside a rare gathering of international, Canadian and American tall ships to encourage water preservation.

The partnership will be showcased as part of the Great Lakes United TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® 2010, a port-to-port tall ships race series. The ships will be sailing the world's second largest source of fresh surface water. As the vessels race from port to port, they will help Great Lakes United bring a message of conservation and preservation to the millions of people who will travel to see the tall ships. While the American Sail Training Association trains young sailors in the tradition of a rich maritime history, Great Lakes United will stress the importance of protecting the waters that these ships, sailors and residents of the Great Lakes depend upon.

“This is a race to protect the Great Lakes. Despite their immensity, the lakes are especially vulnerable to degradation. These tall ships represent one of the most sustainable forms of transportation, making this one of the most environmentally friendly races on the planet,” said Derek Stack, “Executive Director of Great Lakes United. “Throughout the summer, we’ll be stressing how water conservation is the foundation to any long-term effort to protect these vital waters.”

The Great Lakes United TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® 2010 will carry the message of freshwater conservation through port visits in all five Great Lakes. Led by the *S/V Denis Sullivan*, the ships will start in Toronto, Ontario, June 30 – July 4th, followed by Cleveland, Ohio, July 7 -11, Bay City, Michigan, July 15 – 18,

Duluth, Minnesota, July 29 – August 1, Green Bay, Wisconsin, August 12 – 15, culminating with a final stop in Chicago, Illinois, August 24 – 29.

“This is the first time the race series has taken place in all five Great Lakes, five American states and one Canadian province,” said Bert Rogers, Executive Director, American Sail Training Association. “Every sailor knows that a successful voyage requires thoughtful management of limited resources, especially fresh water. We are proud to sail with Great Lakes United as our partner, to carry this important message to the people and communities of the Great Lakes. “

The S/V *Denis Sullivan* of Discovery World in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has her own message of water preservation and education. Poised to be the signature vessel of the race series and the water conservation message, the *Sullivan* will participate in each race leg, and visit each Port city.

Over 42 million people live within an hour of the Great Lakes watershed. Throughout next summer, the Great Lakes United TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® 2010 will carry a message of freshwater conservation in celebration of waters worth protecting.