

THE WILDSIDE

A newsletter for the supporters of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

SUMMER 2012



Photo: Jerry Jourdan

IN THIS ISSUE: Visitor Services News • Refuge Gateway Update • Upcoming Events • ...and more!

ABOUT DRIWR & IWRA



The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) is located along the lower Detroit River and western shoreline of Lake Erie. Established in 2001 as the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America, it includes islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of shoreline. Its unique location in a large urban area allows significant opportunities for the public to experience fish, wildlife and plants in their natural habitat. The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization- a "Friends" group that works to support the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the development of the DRIWR. We invite you to become a supporter of IWRA.

Visit iwralliance.org, fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver and facebook.com/DetroitRiverIWR for more periodic updates.

IWRA Email: iwr_alliance@yahoo.com
IWRA Office: 734.692.7671

FWS Email: jamie_lanier@fws.gov
FWS Office: 734.692.7649

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Staff

Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager
Steve Dushane, Assistant Refuge Manager
Jamie Lanier, Visitor Services Manager
Greg Norwood, Biologist
Anna Cook, Biological Technician
Allison Krueger, Landscape Designer

IWRA 2012 Board of Directors:

Richard G. Micka
Chair
Ryan Werder
Vice Chair, Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Tim Bowman
Treasurer, Monroe Bank & Trust
Jack Liang
Secretary, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Fred DeLisle
Liaison, BASF Corporation
Mary Bohling
Michigan Sea Grant
Gary Kirsh
ITC Holdings Company
David Shefferly
Ducks Unlimited
Anita Twardesky
Riverside Kayak Connection
Roberta Urbani
DTE Energy
Dick Whitwam
Pte. Mouillee Waterfowl Festival
Joann Van Aken
Office Manager

Blue Goose Sponsor

BASF Foundation

Eagle Sponsors

DTE Energy Foundation
ITC Holdings
ERB Family Foundation

Design: By Design Graphic Arts & Marketing

Message from the Alliance Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. John Hartig for his contributions to America's WILD READ. Dr. Hartig's book, "*Burning Rivers*", was featured as part of an online discussion from February 12 through March 25, 2012. Dr. Hartig was moderator for the discussion on the Next Generation of Conservationists and Urban Refuges. You can review his commentary at:

<http://wildread.blogspot.com/2012/03/next-generation-of-conservationists-by.html> - Scroll down to Links > March > Changing Public Perception of Burning Rivers

Richard Micka, Chair

International Wildlife Refuge Alliance Board



Visitor Services News

You are invited to join our group of dedicated volunteers - take part in America's Great Outdoors! Refuge staff has been working hard to streamline the volunteer program and focus on individual volunteer's interests, while addressing the needs of the refuge. Position descriptions have been developed specific to volunteer opportunities available at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge within four program categories:

Resource Management:

- Biology Assistant
- GPS/GIS Technician
- Habitat Restoration Technician
- Maintenance
- Hunt Work Group

Education and Visitor Services:

- Visitor Services Assistant
- Environmental Education Program Leader
- Recreation Program Assistant
- Media Specialist Assistant

Administration:

- Office Student

Refuge Outreach:

- Community Outreach Assistant (facilitated through the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance)
- Gibraltar Bay Recreation Assistant (facilitated through the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy)

The written position descriptions can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/volunteers.html>

We are optimistic to build a dedicated cadre of enthusiastic volunteers ready to donate time and energy to the new and exciting recreational activities, programs and events we'll be offering for visitors this year. We encourage you to join us and experience the wonder of nature in your own backyard. For more information regarding program dates and times, visit www.iwralliance.org or call Jamie at the Refuge office 734.692.7649.



Jamie Lanier, FWS

From the Refuge Manager...

John H. Hartig
Refuge Manager



America's Great Outdoors

In 2010, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda. America's Great Outdoors builds on our nation's long history of actions taken to conserve our natural heritage. This Initiative takes as its premise that lasting conservation solutions should rise from the American people.

In 2011, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and many senior Interior officials held 50 meetings with Governors and other state officials to solicit ideas on how to best implement the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in each state. U.S. Department of the Interior then prepared a 50-state report outlining two locally-supported outdoor projects per state that will protect special places and increase access to outdoor spaces. Each project identified represents what states believe are among the best investments in the nation to support a healthy, active population, and create travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation jobs across the country.

In Michigan, both America's Great Outdoors' projects focus on the Detroit River: improving public access to the Detroit River through parks and trails; and engaging youth in Detroit River restoration. This is a great honor and very heartening that both Michigan priorities focus on our Detroit River. In 2012, we will see much emphasis on celebrating America's Great Outdoors along the Detroit River and throughout our nation.

-John Hartig, Refuge Manager

Green Fire Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic For Our Time

The City of Trenton, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, with the U.S. Forest Service hosted a screening in May of a new film called **Green Fire**, the award winning documentary made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold.

The film explores the life and legacy of the famed conservationist in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today. Probably best known as the author of the conservation classic, **A Sand County Almanac**, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and a wilderness advocate.

The free event attracted over 100 guests to the theatre who also enjoyed a facilitated discussion following the showing with Lisa Brush, Executive Director of the Stewardship Network, Orin Gelderloos, Professor at the University of Michigan Dearborn, and Jamie Lanier, Visitor Services Manager with the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, USFWS. Watch for announcements of a second showing this fall in Monroe, MI (www.iwralliance.org > Events). **Green Fire** is a joint production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, The U.S. Forest Service and the Center for Humans and Nature.

Green Fire
ALDO LEOPOLD AND A
LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME

Showing at Trenton Village Theater!
Thursday, May 17th 7:00 p.m.
Public Discussion and Reception
following movie

Greenfire is a joint production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. Greenfire explores the life and legacy of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold, and the many ways his land ethic philosophy lives on in the work of people and organizations all over the country.

Thursday, May 17th 7:00 pm
Trenton Village Theater
2447 W. Jefferson Ave
Trenton, MI
Jamie Lanier, US FWS 734.692.7649
Joanna Perna, City of Trenton
734.675-7300

Sponsored By:

Refuge Gateway Summer 2012

The DRIWR welcomed the Navy Seabees from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 26 to the Refuge Gateway. The Seabees expertly completed the placement of over 1,000 cubic yards of soil in order to restore the eroded berm in the Monguagon wetland system. Their work laid the foundation for a future bike and pedestrian pathway across the berm that will allow for visitors to access the site and view the restored wildlife habitat.

The restoration of the Refuge Gateway has been described as transformational to the region as it showcases sustainable redevelopment of a former industrial site into a world-class destination that will offer exceptional outdoor recreational opportunities for the region's visitors and residents. The long-standing partnership between the DRIWR and U.S. Navy has resulted in the Seabees return to the site to complete valuable 'on-the-ground' training while completing vital restoration of high quality coastal wildlife habitat.

We thank the troops for their hard work they put into this project.

The Refuge Gateway continues to develop a dramatic landscape transformation. Earthworks and seeding will restore over 41 acres of forest, prairie, and wetland habitat this summer. Credit is given to all who participated in the planting of 115 trees this spring - we thank you all for your labor and dedication to seeing the first piece of upland forest on the Refuge Gateway planted! Funding for the 2012 project comes from the U.S. EPA and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (through the U.S. Forest Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation). Additional tree funding provided by the DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Program with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest Resources Division.

Funding has allowed the project to benefit further with a Restoration Work Crew of five to remain on site April through October. The crew is composed of a wetland ecologist and four graduates from the Greening of Detroit's Landscape Industry Training Certification. The crew has worked on a variety of tasks including erosion control by installing silt fencing, coir matting, and planting 1000 live stakes that will eventually grow into small shrubs and trees to stabilize the soil.

A big part of their restoration efforts include planting trees on both upland and wetland areas. They assisted with the volunteer plantings offering excellent guidance and knowledge to those who have never planted a tree before, and they continue to monitor the success rate of the trees and live stake plantings. One of the biggest reward for the crew has been to witness the variety of wildlife utilizing the Refuge and watching the changes in the landscape as the Refuge Gateway for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge continues to develop.



CN Supports School Ship Boat Dock and World-Class Fishing Pier



Construction of a boat dock for the Great Lakes school ship and world-class fishing pier is on the horizon at the Refuge Gateway as continued support comes in. CN, *North America's Railroad*, recently donated \$200,000 for the project. As the future site of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (DRIWR), the Refuge Gateway will welcome and educate hundreds of thousands of projected annual visitors to the DRIWR and the region's natural resources. Plans include a boardwalk extending 775' into the deep waters of the Detroit River with a width of 15' . . . a floating dock for the Michigan Sea Grant School Ship 100' long by 15' wide . . . and a fishing pier 225' long and 15' wide, able to accommodate up to 100 fisherman at once!

It will be free to the public and anglers of all skill levels. The design includes a boardwalk, fishing pier, floating

dock, seating areas, shade pavilions, and interpretive signage. Shallow waters rich with panfish will provide an opportunity for youth and family fishing and the deep water access will allow walleye fishing for the more experienced fisherman. Everyone will be offered a world-class shore fishing experience for a trophy walleye without the need for a boat.

Planned educational programming by the many project partners bolsters the high activity expected at the site. Wayne County Community College plans to conduct fishing classes on the pier as part of their continuing education program. Michigan Sea Grant Extension plans to base its school ship here to provide vessel-based education on the Detroit River and Lake Erie, and local fishing organizations have expressed interest in hosting fishing tournaments. The facility will be a core component of the DRIWR's interpretative program and will facilitate hands-on learning activities that focus on adjacent river shoreline restoration, wildlife conservation, and sustainability of the Detroit River region.

The project has considerable support for this \$2.8 million investment in our community: \$600,000 from The Great Lakes Fisheries Trust, \$500,000 Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund, \$500,000 from Wayne County and now \$200,000 from CN, totaling \$1.8 million raised to date and leaving \$1 million more needed to begin construction. Some funds raised to date are in challenge grants, requiring the additional \$1 million to be committed by December, 2012.

Interested in Supporting this Project?

As enthusiasm for the project continues to build, we are asking for your support. Would you, your family or business like to partner in this transformation of the once industrial brownfield site into a stage for exceptional, close-to-home, outdoor recreation and environmental education?

Benches:

Twenty benches located along the boat dock and fishing pier are available to be purchased to help reach our goal. Sponsors will be recognized through an artistic name plate inscribed with a personalized message for your donation of \$2,500. Dedications and group sponsorships are welcome!

Shade Pavilions:

Are you able to support a greater donation? Three shade pavilions will be located at the family fishing area, the deep water access fishing pier, and at the entrance to the school ship dock. Aesthetically pleasing and functional, these structures will provide sheltered areas for fisherman and visitors alike. Each pavilion will have a uniquely designed plaque recognizing the sponsor for the \$35,000 donation. Dedications and group sponsors welcome!



IWRA 7th Annual Benefit Dinner

IWRA 7th Annual Benefit Dinner was held May 5, 2012. A special thank you to BASF for hosting a second year on historic Fighting Island in LaSalle, Ontario, Canada in support of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The Diamond Belle of Diamond Jack's River Tours brought aboard many of the 300 visitors as an additional feature to this year's event.

The celebration on the historic island, also known for its certification as an official Wildlife Habitat amongst the pheasants, wild turkeys, deer, coyotes and nesting bald eagles, was an outstanding success. Guests lined the north-eastern shoreline of the island as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brought up a four-foot Lake Sturgeon to showcase the significance of the sturgeon spawning reef below and how it has brought back increasing numbers of the fish to the Detroit River.



Dinner, silent and live auctions brought excitement to the evening as did the presentation of the "John D. Dingell Friend of the Refuge Award" given to three outstanding people and organizations in recognition of leadership and dedication to conservation on the Detroit River and western Lake Erie Basin. This year's honorees included:

- **ITC Holdings Corporation** for their continued support and dedication to the mission of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and their assistance with the management of invasive species control
- **Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy** for their contribution to the Gibraltar Bay Unit, a 40.5 acre marsh in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge located on the south eastern tip of the island of Grosse Ile
- **Gabrielle Herin** for her tireless dedication as a Refuge Volunteer. A sophomore at Trenton High School, she has already contributed over 300 hours working in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge on a variety of conservation projects and outreach events.



It has been through these partnerships, along with so many others, that we celebrated amazing accomplishments in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in 2012, a refuge just ten years young.

Thank you everyone for your time and donations in support of IWRA to help the USFWS deliver the mission of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge:

"The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

2012 Annual Benefit Dinner Sponsors

Blue Goose

BASF

Eagle

DTE Energy Foundation

ITC Holdings

American Lotus

Consumers Energy Foundation

Muskrat

Congressman and Mrs. John D. Dingell

Kathryn and Karl Schroeder

Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival

Richard & Jeanne Micka

Mallard

By Design Graphic Arts

Congressman & Mrs. John D. Dingell

Dick & Bob Whitwam

Downriver Web Builders

Ford

J & J Marine, Ltd.

KSP Insurance

La-Z-Boy, Inc.

Mannik & Smith Group, Inc

Mary & Roy Bohling

Mercy Memorial Hospital

Michigan Ducks Unlimited

Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Milken's Jewelers

Monroe Bank & Trust

Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau

Monroe County Intermediate School District



We also thank the many individual contributors of the 7th Annual Benefit Dinner

Auction Donors

BASF

Burdett Milkins, Milkins Jewelers

Congressman John D. Dingell

Dennis Fijalkowski

Dick & Bob Whitwam/ Lake Erie

Adventures

Downriver Web Builders

DTE Energy Green Team

DTE Energy Monroe Power Plant

Floreine Mentel

Gander Mountain

Gibraltar Bay Alpacas LLC

Jim & Karen Boase

Joann Van Aken

John Hartig

La-Z-Boy, Incorporated

Mary & Roy Bohling

Michigan Ducks Unlimited

Michigan Wildlife Conservancy

Pointe West Golf Club

Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival

(Sept 8 - 9, 2012)

Quality Inn & Suites

Richard & Jeanne Micka

Riverside Kayak Connection

Roberta Urbani and John Leon

Rodney Laura

Roy & Mary Bohling

Steve and Terri Dushane

The Henry Ford

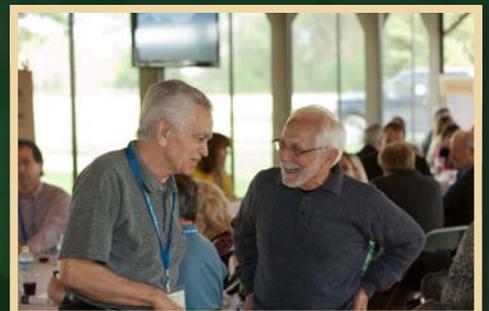
America's Greatest History

Attraction

Tim Moran

Tom O'Hara

Tracy & Marsha Oberleiter



Stewardship in the Refuge

2012 Youth Conservation Corp (YCC)

The Youth Conservation Corps is a challenging, educational, and fun eight-week program giving four youth (ages 15 – 18) and their crew leader the chance to participate in an active role of protecting the nation's precious resources. Participants gain hands-on conservation work experience completing priority management projects in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

This year's crew members include **David Locher**, recent Michigan State University Fisheries and Wildlife Management graduate giving guidance to four youth members:

Youth Leader **Drake LaFleur**, age 16 from South Rockwood attends Airport High School - "I am looking forward to getting the satisfaction of knowing I am making a difference in the community."

Courtney Cunningham, age 15 from Southgate attends Southgate Anderson High School - "I applied for this position because it's something I knew I would enjoy."

Kamaria Mickies, age 17 from Detroit will be a freshman at Florida A & M University - "I applied for the position to gain new experiences and to have a means of saving money for college expenses. I'm most looking forward to going beyond my everyday routine, to go above and beyond my comfort zone."

Quinton Forman, age 18 from Southfield will be a freshman at Bowling Green State University - "I applied for this job to try something new. I plan to make a lot of money this summer," so says a finance major.



2012 Refuge Biological Surveys

-Greg Norwood, FWS Wildlife Biologist

The Refuge will be conducting the following inventories and monitoring in 2012 which provide critical information to prioritize and guide restoration, herbicide, mowing, water level management, and prescribed fire activities or provide critical data for long-term monitoring of species in decline (amphibians) or where the Refuge is particularly suited (raptors). The latter involve volunteer citizen groups. Volunteers interested in participating in any of the projects below should send their resume or descriptions of relevant experience to Greg_Norwood@fws.gov.

1. Eastern Michigan University and the Institute for Geospatial Research and Education coupled remote sensing and biological monitoring in support of Phragmites control activities
2. Inventory and characterization of wet meadow communities in support of preserving coastal marsh zonation
3. Fine-scale mapping and prioritization of upland invasive species
4. Ground-truth of remote sensing and permanently marking established transects in the field
5. Intensive pre-restoration plant community data for Ford Marsh Unit
6. Marsh Bird monitoring across a variety of wetland plant communities
7. Common tern breeding productivity
8. Detroit River Hawk Watch (in partnership with the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance)
9. Frogs and Toads in conjunction with Frogwatch



Keeping An Eye on an Imperiled Habitat

-Greg Norwood, FWS Wildlife Biologist

Most units of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge exhibit small patches of blue-joint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) in wet meadows where trees do not readily grow due to the dramatic difference in moisture from spring to late August. They are a relic of an abundant habitat of the western Lake Erie shoreline before extensive human alteration. These blue-joint patches are repositories of species and interactions that are essential to preserve. As small as they are, we should keep invasive species out of them, ensure the communities exist where hydrology and soil is appropriate, and we will be doing our job to conserve all of the elements of our natural heritage. Here is a quote from “Between Land and Lake: Michigan’s Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands” by Dennis A. Albert who takes the reader on a journey to the western basin 150 years ago: “We could also be in a canoe, paddling through shallow, meandering channels at the mouth of the River Raisin, gliding through an open bed of wild rice, with broad meadows of blue-joint grass and bulrush surrounding us in all directions”.

Refuge Planned Fire a Success

Firefighters from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked in partnership with volunteers from the Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department May 11, 2012 on a successful prescribed fire at the Strong Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and adjacent land owned by Great Lakes Aggregates, both located in Berlin Township.

More than 200 acres of *Phragmites australis* were burned as part of a restoration plan for the coastal land off western Lake Erie. The fire was successful at removing 90 percent of the invasive aquatic plant that has degraded the quality of coastal wetland ecosystems in the lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie over the last few decades. The plant can destroy native aquatic plants and can degrade the value of wetlands for the majority of fish and wildlife, and to the fishermen, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts that depend on healthy wetlands.

The use of fire is a proven, well-tested management tool that improves the quality of habitat for fish and migratory bird populations while improving the habitat wildlife depend on. This was the first prescribed fire undertaken in the refuge after fall treatment of the *Phragmites* with a selective herbicide by helicopter spraying, killing it and laying the foundation for the prescribed fire.

“Prescribed fire is one of the important tools in our natural resource management toolbox to restore coastal ecosystems, protect our natural capital, and enhance outdoor recreation,” said Greg Norwood, USFWS Wildlife Biologist.



Ford MODEL Teams Volunteers Get Their Hands Dirty For a Better World On Ford Accelerated Action Day

Thirteen Ford Motor Company employees from the Dearborn IT facility came with an inspiring enthusiasm to volunteer in the Refuge. Their day long labor included the planting of twelve large native trees along the shoreline of the Monguagon wetland, constructing a 100% recycled, Michigan-made bike rack to provide a polite welcome to our bike riding visitors to park their bikes before heading on the trails of Humbug Marsh, and worked to improve the trail crossing in the old-growth oak-hickory forest to preserve the soil structure and minimize disturbance to the area. The challenge of building a fixed-planed boardwalk over a shallow, perennial stream to provide a dedicated crossing was a task enjoyed by all involved. With the help of master carpenter, Richard Mills the project went smoothly on a glorious spring day in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.



Volunteer, Bill Olson

Bill considers himself “one of the very senior” volunteers on the Stewardship Committee of IWRA for the DRIWR. He talks of following the “Detroit River people” and then the “Humbug people”, but did not become involved with IWRA until his daughter-in-law, Beth, thought he might use his talents to help a growing local conservation organization with some of their projects. Being a bird enthusiast and wildlife advocate, he has no problem volunteering to the harvesting of the invasive garlic mustard, honeysuckle or buckthorn. Along with building daubers, signs, etc., he says “It’s probably one of the things that prevents these old bones from atrophying!!!”

“The talent in this group, both volunteer and staff, is awesome and a real pleasure to work with. We are lucky to have such a lovely setting and the caring staff to watch over it,” he wrote us as he spent his winter in Florida wishing he was back in Michigan with the group instead of soaking up the Florida sunshine – well, *almost*. Now, Bill is back and in full swing helping repair broken tools, planting trees in the Refuge Gateway and sharing his smile with all of us once again. Be sure to say hello to our Volunteer, Bill Olson, when you visit any of our upcoming events or Humbug Marsh Unit Open Houses. He is sure to make you feel welcomed as he is always eager to introduce everyone to “*take a walk in our little pocket of wilderness.*”



Upcoming Events

Open Houses in the Humbug Marsh and Gibraltar Bay Units, along with Stewardship dates, are now posted - see Calendar of Events. Please visit the IWRA website www.iwralliance.org often for more events not yet announced.

Hawkfest

Mark your Calendars for the 2012 Hawkfest Saturday, September 15 and Sunday, September 16 in the Lake Erie Metropark. The 23rd annual Hawkfest will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Marshlands Museum and Nature Center located at 32481 W. Jefferson Avenue, Brownstown Township.

This two-day celebration of annual fall migration of birds of prey, including hawks, eagles, falcons and vultures, will allow you to experience live birds of prey brought in for you to experience up close. For more information, please call the museum at 734-379-5020. A Metropark vehicle entry permit is required to enter Lake Erie Metropark: \$5 daily, \$25 annual or \$15 senior annual pass.

For updated information on the Detroit River Hawk Watch, visit www.drhawkwatch.org

Frequent Twitter posts are provided to help you track the fall migration. All previous reports and count data are readily available under the “Resources” tab of the website. Please consider volunteering for the hawk watch program in outreach or counting duties by contacting Greg_Norwood@fws.gov (734-692-7611).

Waterfowl Festival

The 65th annual Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9 at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, 37205 Mouillee Road located in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The event includes tournaments and contests with outdoor-related demonstrations and displays. Admission is free to this two-day event that is filled with family friendly fun. Watch the Huron River Jump Dogs, Retriever demonstrations along with many children activities. For more information, please visit www.miwaterfowlfest.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Updated program information can be found at www.iwralliance.org or www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver

Sundays through October • 1 pm – 4 pm

Gibraltar Bay Unit Open House

June through October with the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy (entrance on East River Road, half mile south of Groh Road in Grosse Ile, MI)

JULY 24, Tuesday • 4 pm – 8 pm

Humbug Marsh Open House

with special guests, Wyandot of Anderdon Nation in the Education Shelter

JULY 29, Sunday • 1 pm – 3 pm

Water, Water Everywhere!

Learn about water plants, water animals, and water conservation, and play some fun water games at the Gibraltar Bay Unit with Natalie Green (entrance on East River Road)

AUGUST 4, Saturday • 11 am – 3 pm

Humbug Marsh Open House

The Refuge Gateway has gone through amazing transformation, come see what has changed in the summer of 2012

AUGUST 11, Saturday • 9 am – Noon

Humbug Marsh Unit Stewardship

Volunteers needed the removal of the woody invasive Buckthorn. Wear closed toe shoes or boots and bring a water bottle.

AUGUST 12, Sunday • 1:00 and 2:30 pm

Lovely Lotus – Gibraltar Bay Unit

Take a walk down to the American Lotus bed to learn the rich natural and cultural history behind this beautiful flower (entrance on East River Road, half mile south of Groh Road in Grosse Ile, MI)

AUGUST 22, Wednesday • 4 pm – 8 pm

Humbug Marsh Open House

with “Butterfly Lady”, Karen Hofman and her Monarch butterflies – you’re sure to walk away with some new knowledge of these common butterflies

SEPTEMBER 8, Saturday • 8 am – 5 pm

Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival 2012

Visit www.miwaterfowlfest.org for details on the weekend events at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Brownstown, MI

SEPTEMBER 9, Sunday • 8 am – 5 pm

Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival 2012

SEPT 15, Saturday • 10 am – 5 pm

Hawkfest at Lake Erie Metropark

See hawks in the sky and meet a few at this two-day celebration of birds of prey – hawks, eagles, falcons and vultures!

SEPT 16, Sunday • 10 am – 5 pm

Hawkfest at Lake Erie Metropark

Each September, tens of thousands of broad-winged hawks pass over one of the premier hawk watching sites in North America.

SEPT 20, Thursday • 4 pm – 7 pm

Humbug Marsh Open House

OCTOBER 11, Thursday • 2 pm – 4 pm

Humbug Marsh Unit Stewardship

Volunteers needed for the removal of the woody invasive Buckthorn. Wear closed toe shoes or boots, and bring a water bottle.

OCTOBER 13, Saturday • 11 am – 3 pm

Humbug Marsh Open House

Visit the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge as part of the National Wildlife Refuge Week

OCTOBER 25, Thursday • 2 pm – 4 pm

Humbug Marsh Unit Stewardship

Volunteers needed for the removal of the woody invasive Buckthorn. Wear closed toe shoes or boots, and bring a water bottle.

4 pm – 7 pm

Humbug Marsh Open House

NOVEMBER 9, Friday • 7 pm

OWL PROWL in Humbug Marsh

Guided walk through the trails of Humbug Marsh - Whooooo might you see?!

NOVEMBER 29, Thursday • 4 pm – 7 pm

Humbug Marsh Unit Stewardship

Volunteers needed for the removal of the woody invasive Buckthorn. Wear closed toe shoes or boots, and bring a water bottle.

DECEMBER 21

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge!

11 years old today.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Experienced, novice, or just someone lucky to have captured *the most amazing* photo of an insect, a sunset, a memory of time spent in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR), **we need your photos!**

This is your opportunity to be featured in the 2013 DRIWR calendar with photos taken by you in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Take a look through your cameras, your SD card or phone and forward it on to iwr_alliance@yahoo.com (all photos will be given photo credits). Please include where and when the photo was taken with names of anyone in your photos. Feel free to add a caption or describe the moment or feature in your picture frame.

ALL PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED by AUGUST 18, 2012. Enjoy **America's Great Outdoors** at the next Humbug Marsh or Gibraltar Bay Unit Open Houses to get that perfect shot! Visit www.iwralliance.org for upcoming events.

Photo: Susan Purvis



International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
9311 Groh Road
Grosse Ile, Michigan 48138
iwralliance.org

US Postage
PAID
Nonprofit
Organization
Permit #153
Wyandotte, MI