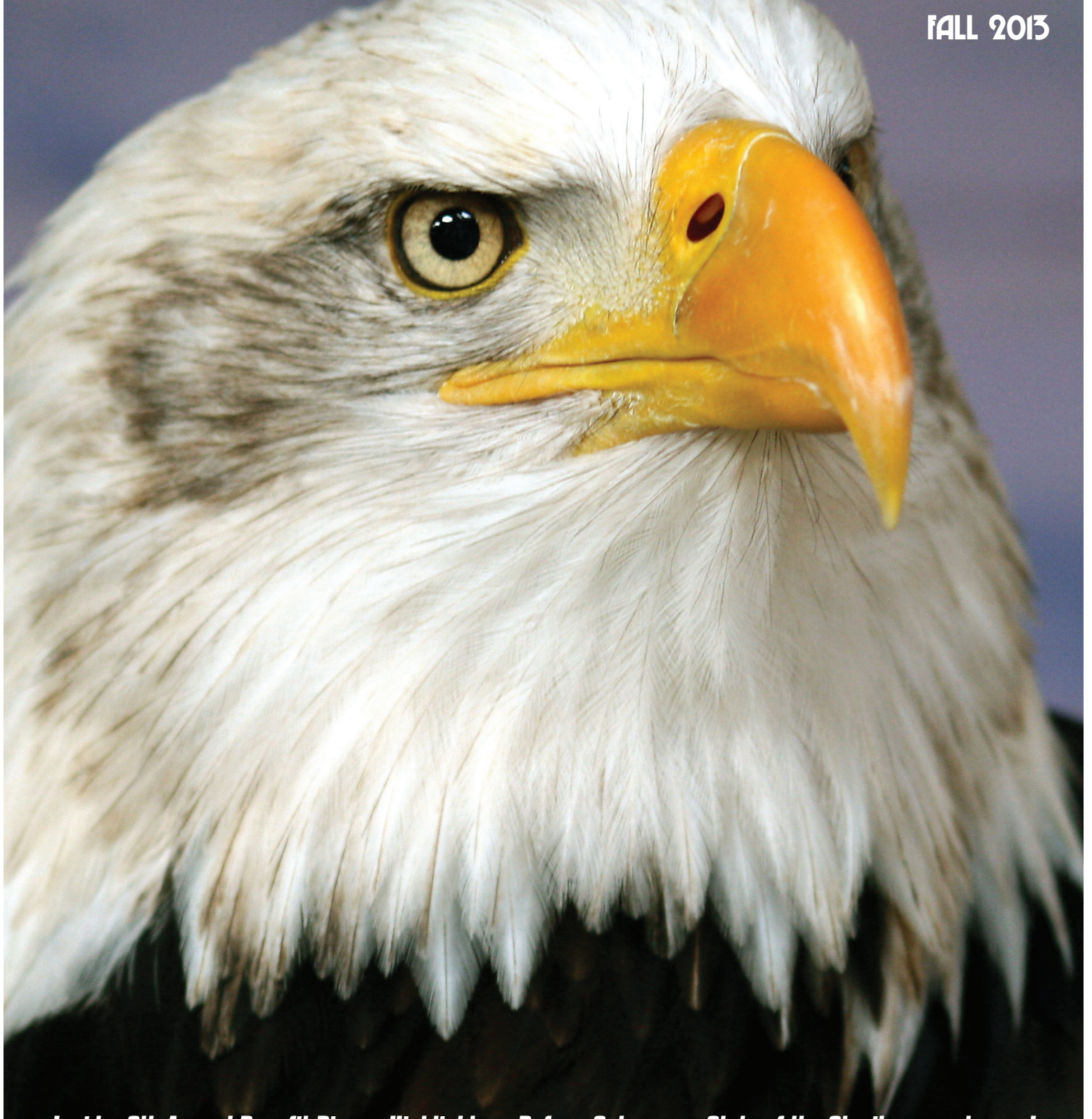


THE WILDSIDE

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

FALL 2013



Inside: 8th Annual Benefit Dinner Highlights • Refuge Gateway • State of the Strait • ...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, www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river and www.drhawkwatch.org for more periodic updates.

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Steve Dushane • Assistant Refuge Manager
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Anna Cook • Biological Technician
Allison Krueger • Landscape Designer

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Message from the Alliance Chair

On May 18, 2013, the Alliance ventured into new territory for its Annual Benefit Dinner. We hosted the event at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House on the shores of Lake St. Clair. People came from far and wide to tour the magnificent home that brought memories of yesteryear. But, more importantly, everyone had a wonderful experience and contributed to the cause. Thanks to Congressman Dingell and Senator Levin for anchoring the event. With dedicated donors and volunteers, the Refuge is sure to succeed.



Richard Micka

Richard Micka, Chair

International Wildlife Refuge Alliance Board

Visitor Services News

-Jamie Lanier, Visitor Services Manager

Youth Work Crew In The Refuge

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge welcomed four local teenagers to its ranks to take part in the 2013 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), a federally funded youth employment program facilitated by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture. The employment of students and young adults as YCC crew members enables the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete projects that could have otherwise been delayed due to a lack of funding or available staff and fulfills a significant component of the President's priority to engage local youth in river restoration work.



Crew members selected to participate in this exciting Refuge program were chosen randomly from a pool of more than 80 eligible applicants. The 2013 team included **Devin Lang** (Gibraltar, MI) Youth Leader, who assisted in the supervision and management of three other crew members: **Alexis Gundick** (Trenton, MI), **Grant Read** (Grosse Ile), **Bristol Rose** (Rockwood, MI) as a dedicated team to conservation projects on the Refuge lands.

Refuge staff was also excited to welcome Adult Leader, **Jim Slinker** to the crew who oversaw the youth employees as they took part in the completion of tasks incorporating general refuge operations, wildlife research, trail maintenance, environmental education and recreation programs, and basic grounds upkeep and repair. Jim has honorably served in the United States Navy and is currently a student at Wayne State University.

The Youth Conservation Corps program is challenging, educational and fun, offering individuals the chance to play an active role in protecting the nation's precious resources. Crew members were taught about career opportunities in the conservation field, gained valuable work skills, and developed lifelong friendships with other young adults.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov

From the Refuge Manager...

This year's Annual Benefit Dinner was a major success and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like to thank the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance and all sponsors and donors for their significant contributions to building the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and helping develop the next generation of conservationists. At this dinner we celebrated another amazing year of refuge accomplishments, including 83 stewardship and outreach events held in 2012 for invasive species removal and habitat management, 42 open houses, and the logging of over 18,000 volunteer hours in support of the refuge. Please take some time and think about how significant this is for delivering our mission in this major urban area.



John H. Hartig, Refuge Manager

Also highlighted at the Annual Benefit Dinner was how Wayne County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and over 100 partners completed nine years of work to transform the Refuge Gateway from an industrial brownfield to an ecological buffer for Michigan's only "Wetland of International Importance" (Humbug Marsh) and the future home of the refuge's Visitor Center. This project included: restoration of 16 acres of wetlands in an area that has lost 97% of its coastal wetlands; the restoration of 25 acres of upland habitats; the control of invasive *Phragmites* along 2.5 miles of shoreline; and the control of invasive species on 50 acres of upland habitats. This project is now being described as transformational for Metropolitan Detroit because it is helping change the perception of the Detroit River from that of a polluted "rust belt" river to one of an international wildlife refuge that reconnects people to nature, improves quality of life, showcases sustainable redevelopment, and enhances community pride.

At the Annual Benefit Dinner it was announced that:

- All major restoration work at the Refuge Gateway is now complete;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed and received approval for an Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act for a Visitor Center at the Refuge Gateway;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has let a contract to design a LEED-certified Visitor Center for the Refuge Gateway;
- Architecture and engineering work required for the design of this LEED-certified Visitor Center is complete; and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received funding for construction.

Many people still view the Refuge Gateway as a paradox of heavy industry and internationally-recognized wildlife refuge. But it is not. It is a strategically-planned destination of choice consistent with the philosophy of Abraham Lincoln who said: *The best way to predict the future is to create it!*

Thank you so much for helping make this possible!

-John Hartig, Refuge Manager

Kids Free Fishing Fest a Major Hit!

On June 8th over 200 kids and over 200 adults participated in Detroit's Kids Fishing Fest in Milliken State Park along the Detroit River Walk. This event was sponsored by Rivertown Detroit Association, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Detroit River Front Conservancy, United Methodist Retirement Communities, Absopure Water, Lakeside Fishing Shop, IHOP, Michigan State University Extension, The UPS Store, and META-Web, LLC. Many of the children fished for the first time and numerous prizes were given out. This Kids Fishing Fest is an annual event to reconnect children with nature.



Refuge Gateway

-Allison Krueger, Landscape Designer

Have you noticed the 'greening' across the Refuge Gateway? Over the past few years, partners have been working on reshaping the landscape to restore forests and wetlands. During fall 2012, the final native prairie, wetland, and forest seed was planted. This seed is now sprouting, producing a lush green carpet of young seedlings. In total, 14 acres of coastal wetlands and 25 acres of riparian buffer habitat have been restored at the Refuge Gateway. In total, the Refuge Gateway and Humbug Marsh now protect 454 acres of Great Lakes coastal habitat.



In the Monguagon wetlands we now see pickerel weed and river bulrush along the water's edge. In the hills surrounding the Monguagon wetland, brown-eyed susan and boneset will be seen flowering during summer 2013. Along the shoreline of the Detroit River willows and dogwoods are growing where abandoned infrastructure and debris used to be discarded. These plants will continue to thrive to provide shelter and food for wildlife.

Another 'greening' at the Refuge Gateway is the result of a growing canopy. Last year, over 300 large, native trees were planted. A survey completed in late fall 2012 estimated nearly 95% of all trees planted survived. This spring, volunteers assisted in the planting of an additional 120 trees across the Refuge Gateway. Volunteers included Boy Scouts, employees from Ford and DTE Energy, students from Summit Academy, and the general public, with the Monroe County Community College MASS group for a tree maintenance day. This growing canopy includes species of oak, walnut, hickory, maple, and serviceberry (amongst others). In the near future, the canopy existing in Humbug Marsh will merge with the growing canopy at the Refuge Gateway to form a seamless transition in habitat. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the planting, and please watch for more volunteer opportunities to help care for the trees.

Ecological Restoration Technicians

Two Ecological Restoration Technicians are working this summer in the Refuge. **Jake Bonello** (Flat Rock, MI), current Eastern Michigan University student, and **Sarah Hodges** (Livonia, MI), recent graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, are working to build quality habitat at the Refuge Gateway through native tree and shrub plantings, wetland restoration, soil erosion control, and ensuring the ongoing health of previous plantings. They also participate in public outreach and lead volunteer events in and around the Refuge. These positions are funded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Community Forestry Grant.



Jake Bonello (top) and Sarah Hodges (right)



-Anna Cook, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On October 28, 2013 a tradition between the United States and Canada will continue with the biennial State of the Strait Conference. This year, the fifth year, the conference will be held at the University of Windsor. The U.S and Canada alternate hosting the conference every two years. The theme of the 2013 conference is "Setting Ecological Endpoints and Restoration Targets". Over 300 people, including Canadian and U.S. high school and college students, are expected to attend the event. The 2006 State of the Strait Conference compiled available data on 50 candidate indicators for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie. This conference was very well received and recommended that greater emphasis should be placed on quantifying ecological endpoints and restoration targets. It has now been seven years since that meeting. The 2013 conference will focus on progress in setting ecological endpoints and restoration targets for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie. Talks will focus on candidate indicators that are data rich and have a sound scientific rationale for identifying quantitative targets and desired endpoints.

For more information about the State of the Strait conference, including registration and location, please visit www.stateofthestrain.org. Display space is available for conference sponsors and vendors.



Fix Unit Burn

-Steve Dushane, Assistant Refuge Manager

On May 13, 2013, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) conducted a prescribed burn at the Fix Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR). The burn, which was in the planning stages for several months, was performed to reduce dead plant material from areas of the Fix Unit where invasive *Phragmites australis* had been previously treated with herbicide. Prescribed fire is one of the many tools that refuge staff use to combat invasive species as well as reinvigorate areas of native vegetation. Planning for the burn involved coordination with local fire and law enforcement officials, neighbors and DTE Energy due to the proximity to DTE's Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Station.



Nine FWS firefighters from four different duty stations cooperated to conduct the burn. Wind and weather conditions on the ground, as well as the atmospheric conditions above the burn unit, were near perfect with almost all of the smoke dissipating before it left FWS property. Any of the smoke that did drift away from the burn unit, dissipated high over Lake Erie. The large areas of *phragmites* all burned nearly 100% complete, with other small isolated patches that burned 75% to 80% of the dead plant material.



All of the detailed planning was rewarded with a near perfect burn day. This burn was a tremendous success thanks to our Burn Boss Gary Lindsay for his leadership, and thanks also to the assistance provided by crews from Seney and Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuges, Michigan Private Lands Office. Special thanks to DRIWR Biologist Greg Norwood for all of his hard work and dedication to complete this burn, especially for returning from leave just after he and his wife Terry had just had a new baby boy!

Did You Know?

... 22 active Bald Eagles nests are in the watersheds of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge? Eighteen active nests are known to be in Monroe County and four in Wayne County.

On May 29, staff and volunteers from the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the East Lansing Ecological Services Field Office and Michigan Out-of-Doors Television ventured out to one of the Eagle nests on the refuge to conduct some field work involving the banding of a recently hatched eaglet.

As anyone would guess, this is no minor task. It involved having a certified climber climb the tree containing the nest, carefully retrieve the eaglet, place it in a bag, and lower the delicate cargo safely down into the gentle hands of the ground crew. While on the ground, the eaglet was banded, weighed and checked for general health. Several measurements were also taken to determine age and sex of the bird. The procedure also involved taking a blood sample to be analyzed for potential contaminants. All of this occurred while both the parents flew around above the nest chattering away, likely thinking that their young offspring was probably being eaten. Once all of the measurements (and photos) were taken and all of the data recorded, the bird was placed back into the bag for its quick ride back up to the nest. When all disturbance was over, both parents returned to care for the eaglet as if nothing happened. Be sure to watch in the coming weeks for a segment on Michigan Out-of-Doors Television documenting the entire trip!



8th Annual Benefit Dinner

On behalf of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA), **thank you** to all who joined us on the shore of Lake St. Clair at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Saturday, May 18. The evening was picture perfect as friends of old and new shared an evening together in support of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Dinner, raffles and live auction, along with the design unveiling of the LEED-certified Visitor Center in the Refuge Gateway, brought excitement to the evening. As did the presentation of the “John D. Dingell Friend of the Refuge Award” given to three outstanding organizations and people in recognition of leadership and dedication to conservation on the Detroit River and western Lake Erie Basin. This year’s honorees:

Ford Motor Company (Corporate Award) a long-term supporter of the Refuge, Ford Motor Company was involved in the preservation of the Humbug Marsh, donated the 240-acre Ford Marsh in Monroe to the Refuge, and their Ford Model TEAMS Volunteer Corps have volunteered many hours over the past few years with habitat restoration efforts.

Friends of the Detroit River (Nonprofit Award) have played an important role in pollution prevention, environmental cleanup, and conservation of habitats in the watershed of the Detroit River. FDR played critical roles in saving Humbug Marsh from development, restoring habitat along the Frank and Poet Drain, restoring habitat along the Detroit River shoreline at USS in Ecorse, restoring wetlands and deep water habitat in Blue Heron Lagoon on Belle Isle, restoring nursery habitat at the South Shore Fishing Pier on Belle Isle, and raising public awareness of stewardship for the Detroit River.

Dorothy McLeer (Individual Award) an interpretive naturalist at the University of Michigan-Dearborn by career, “Humbug Marsha” as known by those who have experienced her many creative and educational talents in the Education Shelter of the Humbug Marsh Unit and beyond, in the Refuge. Her ongoing, personal, dedicated volunteer support for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is admired and appreciated.

It is with the help of these partners, along with so many others, that we celebrated more accomplishments in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge over the past year. Thank you everyone for your time and support to help further the mission of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (#20-3318708) dedicated to helping the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service deliver the mission of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, North America’s first international wildlife refuge – *working through partnerships to protect, conserve, and manage the Refuge’s wildlife and habitats; and to create exceptional conservation, recreational, and educational experiences, to develop the next generation of conservation stewards, thanks to you!*



2013 Annual Benefit Dinner Sponsors

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MUSKRAT

Richard and Jeanne Micka
Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival
(Sept 14 – 15, 2013)

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By Design Graphic Arts
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Meet Dorothy McLeer, Volunteer

Some may recognize Dorothy McLeer as “Humbug Marsha” often found in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and neighboring communities. Dorothy has been a valuable source of knowledge and an incredible volunteer bringing to the Refuge an expertise in many things natural.

By day, she is an interpretive naturalist at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (for some twenty years). She enjoys being a mentor and training University students in natural science as well as conduct science-based educational programming for the 15,000+ schoolchildren who participate in the many program offerings at the University’s Environmental Interpretive Center as the Program Coordinator.



Her interests in natural history and ecology have led her to research projects in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula as well as southwestern Ontario, Canada, and the tropics of south India. Of great interest to Dorothy are the interactions between humans, the landscape, and the flora and fauna found there, particularly in more urbanized areas. “The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the perfect intersection for these interests and why I enjoy volunteering at the Refuge.”

“The people and the partnerships formed to support this Refuge add yet another unique aspect to this international treasure, the first of its kind in the entire Refuge system. I don’t have lots of money; I have no political or social clout; but I do know how to

open my mouth and talk about things I love, whether as Dorothy, Rachel Carson, Marie Bouchard, or my alter ego, “Humbug Marsha.” I am humbled and proud to be part of this diverse team of people who welcome visitors to explore this gem in our backyard along the Detroit River and share with them the natural wonders found within. It is a bright spot that Detroit River communities on both sides of the border can celebrate. “

Tuesday, August 27 Humbug Marsha will be leading the program, **SPIDERS!**, in the Humbug Marsh Unit, 8:30 – 10:30 pm. 5437 W. Jefferson Avenue, Trenton, MI. Join us!

Ford Marsh Unit Spring Clean-up

The beaches of the Ford Marsh Unit became a better habitat thanks to the Ford MODEL Teams volunteer corps who came out Friday, May 31. One of four annual work days Ford employees are encouraged to volunteer in the community with mini-grant funding, the environmental focused day brought more than fifteen people ready to create a better world through wetland preservation and habitat restoration in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The Ford Marsh Unit is a contiguous 240 acres of historic wetland adjacent to the River Raisin, Lake Erie, and habitat at Sterling State Park – a significantly large wetland on the western Lake Erie landscape. The marsh, once a favorite hunting spot for Henry Ford II, was donated by Ford Motor Company/Automotive Components Holdings to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2009. Currently dominated by white water lily and approximately three feet of water, hundreds of waterfowl have been seen including shoveler, teal, American black ducks, and gadwall. Migratory populations of waterfowl, shorebirds, and landbirds rely on the remaining coastal wetlands along the shores of the Detroit River and Lake Erie between the United States and Canada to fuel fall and spring migrations en route to breeding and wintering ranges. Thank you to all who spent hours in the sun, who worked hard to ensure a safer resting area for all who rely on it.





Why Should You Spend \$15 For The New Migratory Bird Stamp?

Federal Duck Stamps are for birdwatchers, photographers, outdoor enthusiasts, true. But it is also your direct way to contribute to conservation – 98 cents of every dollar goes directly to buying or leasing wetland and grassland habitat for wildlife!

Great reasons to love the new stamp suggested by the Round Robin from the Cornell Blog of Ornithology:

\$850 million for conservation and counting! The first stamp was issued in 1934. It cost \$1 (about \$18 in today's dollars) and sold 635,001 copies. By law, the funds raised go directly to habitat acquisition in the lower 48 states. By now, stamp sales have surpassed \$850 million and helped to protect 5.5 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat.

The Migratory Bird Stamp is an artistic tradition. Since 1949, the design of each year's duck stamp has been chosen in an open art contest. This year's stamp, featuring a Common Goldeneye, is by Robert Steiner.

98 cents of every dollar spent on a stamp goes directly to land acquisition for national wildlife refuges. A \$15 purchase is perhaps the simplest thing you can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds.

It's more than ducks. Waterfowl hunters have long been the main supporters for the program – the stamps are a requirement for anyone over 16 who hunt. But the funds benefit scores of other bird species, including shorebirds, herons, raptors, and songbirds, not to mention reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies native plants, and more.

Save wetlands; save grasslands. Since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has used stamp revenue to protect “waterfowl production areas” – to the tune of 3 million acres – within the critical Prairie Pothole Region in the northern Midwest region of the United States. The same program also protects declining prairie-nesting birds in the face of increasing loss of grasslands. As a result, refuges are among the best places to find grassland specialties such as Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Clay-colored Sparrows, Sedge Wrens, and others.

The benefits are gorgeous. Some of the most diverse and wildlife-rich refuges across the Lower 48 have been acquired with stamp funds, including 700 acres in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Though it has long been a fixture in hunting circles, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is one of the best-kept secrets in all of bird conservation. Have you bought a stamp? Buy two and share with a family member, as a birthday or holiday gift and know you have done more than just made a purchase.

Recent Happenings In The Refuge



Wyandot of Anderdon Nation at the Refuge Gateway

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance are proud to have a strong relationship with the local Wyandot of Anderdon Native American Nation. The local Wyandot are part of the larger Wyandotte Nation, who include over 5,000 members with headquarters located in Oklahoma. Recently, local Wyandot members hosted youth and tribal leaders from Oklahoma on a tour of Michigan and Ontario to showcase lands meaningful to their collective history. IWRA and Refuge staff were happy to welcome these visitors to the Humbug Marsh Unit and Refuge Gateway. During their visit, the chief of the Wyandot Nation, Billy Friend, performed a smudging ceremony to bless the restoration, along with John Hartig, Refuge Manager, giving a brief presentation showcasing the habitat restoration in progress on the Refuge.

Update on the Boardwalk, Schoolship Boat Dock and World-Class Fishing Pier

Can you imagine a fishing pier that reaches 775' from shore into the deep waters of the Detroit River to provide a world-class shore fishing experience at your backdoor? We can.

The school ship dock and world-class fishing pier will be constructed at the Refuge Gateway in Trenton, Michigan. As the site of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) Visitor Center, the Refuge Gateway will welcome thousands of projected annual visitors to the DRIWR. This project is led by Wayne County, the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and numerous partners.

Located just south of a warm water discharge and adjacent to DRIWR's Humbug Marsh, Michigan's only 'Wetland of International Importance' designated by the Ramsar Convention and the last mile of undeveloped shoreline along the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River, the Refuge Gateway's unique location boasts of high biodiversity and is famous for walleye fishing in the Great Lakes. Indeed, the national record for the Professional Walleye Trail was caught in this reach of the Detroit River.

The site is in the heart of the Downriver community and is easily accessible to seven million residents in the Detroit metropolitan region. For these reasons, project partners developed a design to build a fishing pier that reaches deep waters to provide a world-class shore fishing experience and a dock for the Great Lakes school ship. This facility will increase high quality sportfishing and vessel-based educational opportunities for the region's residents and visitors.

To date, \$2.15 million has been raised of the needed \$2.85 million. Most recent partners include: Carl's Foundation, Praxair, Inc., Quicken Loans, in addition to CN Rail, Consumers Energy, DTE Energy Foundation, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Wayne County and the many community businesses and individuals supporting the benches on the pier.



A few who helped make the summer of 2013 great!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays 1-4pm

Gibraltar Bay Unit Open House

28820 East River Road, Grosse Ile, MI
With The Grosse Ile Nature Land Conservancy

September 8, 2pm

Kids Discovery: Incredible Insects!

Gibraltar Bay Unit

With Natalie Ray and the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

September 14 & 15 9am-5pm

65th Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival

Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Brownstown, MI

Enjoy a Michigan tradition of games, raffles, food, and prizes – Goose & Duck Calling, “Jump Dogs”, Midwest Decoy Contest, Wildlife Art & Craft show are just a few features of the two-day event.

www.miwaterfowlfest.org

September 18

Volunteer Thank You Dinner

September 21 & 22 9am-5pm

Hawkfest

Lake Erie Metropark

A two-day celebration of the annual fall migration of birds of prey – hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures. The event will be held at the Marshlands Museum and Nature Center of Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown Township. (A Metroparks vehicle entry permit is required to enter Lake Erie Metropark \$5).

www.metroparks.com

September 23-25

Urban Academy

Sheperdstown, WV

An Urban Refuge Summit

October 13-19

National Wildlife Refuge Week

October 16, 1pm

Visitor Center Groundbreaking

Refuge Gateway

5437 W. Jefferson Avenue, Trenton, MI

October 28, 8am-4pm

State of the Strait

University of Windsor

The biennial conference between the United States and Canada.
<http://www.stateofthestrat.org>

November 8

Owl Prowl in Humbug Marsh

A night hike in the woods to listen for the hoots, wails and shrieks of owls. Dorothy McLeer, University of Michigan Dearborn Naturalist, will be there to teach us more about these fascinating nocturnal birds.

December 21

Happy Birthday, DRIWR

12 years old!

Hunting in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

View the Hunt brochure at www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River/visit/visitor_activities.html

State of Michigan Regulations www.michigan.gov/dnr

September 1

Opening Day Early Goose

September 15

Opening Day Small Game

October 1

Opening Day Archery, Deer

October 12

Opening Day Regular Goose, Duck Season

November 15

Opening Day Firearm Season, Deer

For more information, please see iwralliance.org, fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river, or contact IWRA at iwr_alliance@yahoo.com or 734-692-7671

Hunting On The Refuge

-Allison Krueger, Landscape Designer

The Refuge will continue to allow hunting in the units that were opened in 2012. Large rivers, bays, and lakes in urban areas in major migration corridors provide world-class waterfowling and the Refuge is a case in point. Waterfowl numbers in the continentally important breeding areas of the prairies and boreal forest remained strong with abundant moisture in 2013. Furthermore, habitat conditions on the Refuge will be wetter than last year and should be conducive to hunting a variety of species. Waterfowlers will see abundant emergent cover and open water/mud in all units, but most *Phragmites* has been treated and cut or burned, allowing easier access to more areas (e.g., Plum Creek Bay, Fix, Strong Units). The managed hunt in the Brancheau Unit will continue to be conducted as part of the draw at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTHVHK4Sy04> for a video). Deer and upland game hunters will continue to have access to Humbug Island, Calf Island, Sugar Island, Strong Unit, and the Fix Unit. Hunters are responsible for following the regulations in the Refuge's Hunting maps and Regulations brochure. Hunting is a priority public use of National Wildlife Refuges and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge offers high quality habitat and hunting close to metro-Detroit.

View the Hunt brochure at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River/visit/visitor_activities.html



Brancheau Unit as it appeared in late summer 2012 (opened to a managed hunt) at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. Conditions should be similar in 2013 with some reduction in narrow-leaved cattail. Photo by Joe Robison, Michigan DNR.



International Wildlife Refuge Alliance

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