

# THE WILDSIDE

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

FALL 2011/WINTER 2012

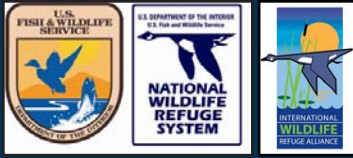


## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- **Upcoming Events!**
- **State of the Strait!**
- **Big Changes at the Refuge Gateway!**
- **...and more!**

*Photo: Jerry Jourdan*

## 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](http://iwralliance.org), [fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver](http://fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver) and [facebook.com/DetroitRiverIWR](http://facebook.com/DetroitRiverIWR) for more periodic updates.

IWR Email: [iwr\\_alliance@yahoo.com](mailto:iwr_alliance@yahoo.com)  
IWR Office: 734.692.7671

FWS Email: [jamie.lanier@fws.gov](mailto: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 2011 Board of Directors:

**Richard G. Micka**  
Chair  
**Andrea Kline**  
Vice Chair, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.  
**Thomas O'Hara, Jr.**  
Treasurer, MBT Investment Services  
**Jack Liang**  
Secretary, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority  
**Jamie Kryscynski**  
Liaison, ITC Holdings Company  
**Steve Beachum**  
Consumers Energy  
**Mary Bohling**  
Michigan Sea Grant  
**Tim Bowman**  
Monroe Bank & Trust  
**Fred DeLisle**  
BASF Corporation  
**Bruce Jones**  
Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy  
**Molly Luempert-Coy**  
DTE Energy  
**David Shefferly**  
Ducks Unlimited  
**Anita Twardesky**  
Riverside Kayak Connection  
**Ryan Werder**  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters  
**Dick Whitwam**  
Pte. Mouillee Waterfowl Festival  
**Joann Van Aken**  
Office Manager

### Blue Goose Sponsor

BASF Foundation

### Eagle Sponsors

DTE Energy Foundation  
ITC Holdings

## Message from the Alliance Chair:

The topics of **Urban Refuges** and **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives** came up at the FWS Visioning Conference, "Conserving the Future": *Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation* held in Madison, WI this past July. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Dan Ashe, directed his staff to convene a forum on these matters within 30 days and mandated a refined final vision document be published by National Wildlife Refuge Week in mid-October. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge plays a key role in this process and deserves our undivided attention.

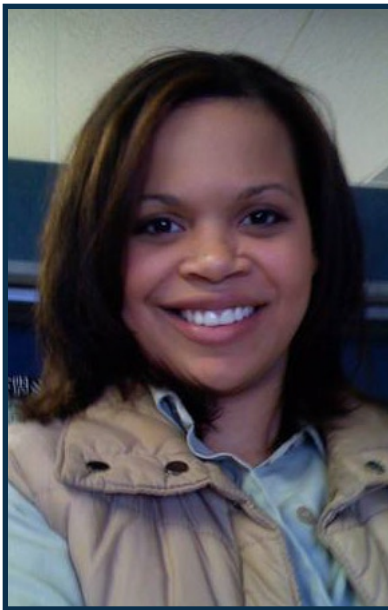
To learn more, visit: <http://AmericasWildlife.org/conference> or <http://youtube.com/AmericasWildlife>

**Richard Micka, Chair**

*International Wildlife Refuge Alliance Board*



## Welcome the New Park Ranger!



A new Visitor Services Manager has arrived! Jamie Lanier joined the Refuge staff in mid-June and will oversee the Refuge's entire public use program. Lanier holds a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from Purdue University and has worked exclusively with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the National Wildlife Refuge System since 2006. She has enjoyed a diverse career with stints at multiple refuges, including Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, and most recently, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

A self-proclaimed "city kid" from Chicago, she considers herself lucky to have been given the opportunity to join the US Fish and Wildlife Service family and spends her days working to foster a love of the natural world and a sense of stewardship for the earth in today's urban youth.

Lanier resides in Brownstown with her mini poodle, Tangles Lynn, and her cat, Barack. During her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, skydiving, reading, and shopping. She is thrilled to return to the Midwest and looks forward to the many exciting challenges she will encounter as the Refuge continues to flourish and grow. Jamie can be reached at 734-692-7649 or at [Jamie\\_Lanier@fws.gov](mailto:Jamie_Lanier@fws.gov).

## Corrections:

Page 7 of the Spring/Summer Issue photo credit of aerial picture of Humbug Marsh should have been Rick Johnstone.

# From the Refuge Manager...

**John H. Hartig**  
Refuge Manager



## Reflections from Madison, Wisconsin

On July 11-15, 2011, Dick and Jeannie Micka, Jamie Lanier, Joann Van Aken, and I attended the National Wildlife Refuge System conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference was titled “Conserving the Future: *Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*.” Over 1,200 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees, Friends Group representatives, and refuge partners attended. A vision document was prepared to guide and aid current and the next generation of Service employees to help administer the Refuge System during the coming decades. What an opportunity to be part of that!

For me, I think the draft vision statement says it all:

*We are caring stewards of the world’s premier system of lands and waters dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the healthy, resilient habitats that sustain them. We will continue to be leaders in fish and wildlife conservation, who are known and trusted for scientific excellence, professionalism, and commitment to partnerships and public service.*

It was truly an inspiring conference with outstanding motivational speakers and practical breakout and discussion sessions. Some of the key conference messages included:

- Using science to ensure that we are doing the right things in the right places;
- Practicing adaptive management that assesses, sets priorities, and takes action in an iterative fashion for continuous improvement;
- Ensuring that land acquisitions are based on clear priorities and rigorous biological monitoring;
- Elevating the priority of inventory and monitoring of wildlife and habitats to inform management;
- Developing and nurturing community partnerships;
- Working beyond the boundaries of refuges;
- Creating an urban refuge initiative that defines and evaluates excellence in urban refuges;
- Developing a comprehensive communications strategy to promote the Service’s mission; and
- Supporting and enhancing appropriate recreational opportunities on national wildlife refuges.

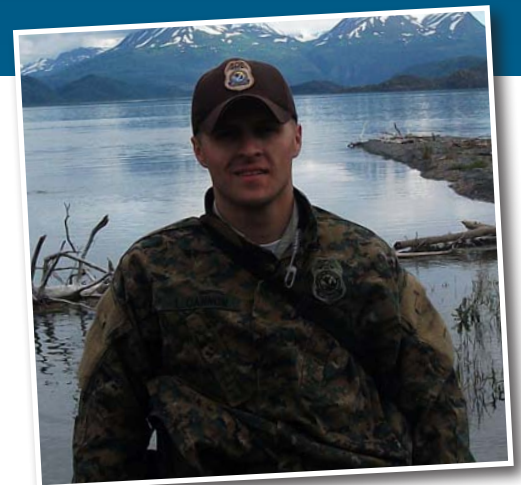
It was indeed heartening for me to realize that we are already doing many of the things that the new vision calls for. I want you all to know how proud I am of the work you do and to be part of this team. I encourage each of you to visit the Conserving the Future website and experience some of the excitement for our new vision (<http://americaswildlife.org>).

With much gratitude for your significant contributions to conservation,

*-John Hartig, Refuge Manager*

## Meet DRIWR’s Law Enforcement Officer:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Logan Cannon helps ensure visitors to the refuge are safe and in compliance with all federal and state regulations while recreating on Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. If you have any questions or would like to report a violation please contact the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge office or email Logan at [logan\\_cannon@fws.gov](mailto:logan_cannon@fws.gov)





# IWRA 6th Annual Benefit Dinner

was held May 21, 2011 on beautiful Fighting Island, thanks to BASF of Wyandotte. John D. Dingell Friend of the Refuge Awards were given to U.S. Steel, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition and Dr. Michael Zarull.

Announcing the 7th Annual IWRA Benefit Dinner will return to BASF Fighting Island May 2012 – watch [www.iwralliance.org](http://www.iwralliance.org) for details!

## ABD Donors:

### Blue Goose

BASF

### Eagle

DTE Energy Foundation

ITC Holdings

### American Lotus

Consumers Energy Foundation

CN Railroad

### Muskrat

AT&T

Congressman & Mrs. John D. Dingell

Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc

Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital

Monroe Bank & Trust

Richard & Jeanne Micka

Nova Construction

Solutia

Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival

### Mallard

By Design Graphic Arts

Cheryl McIntyre

Downriver Web Builders

Ford

KSP Insurance

La-Z-Boy, Inc.

Lake Erie Adventures

Mannik & Smith Group, Inc

Mercy Memorial Hospital

Michigan Ducks Unlimited

Monroe County Intermediate School District

Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau

## Auction Donors:

Andrea Kline

Burdett Milkins, Milkins Jewelers (Monroe)

Comcast Communications

Congressman John D. Dingell

Dennis Fijalkowski

Detroit Zoological Society

Dick & Bob Whitwam

Downriver Web Builders

DTE Energy Green Team

Eppinger

Floreine Mentel

Fred Hoitash/Fanta C. Sailing

Ventures, LLC

Gander Mountain

Huron-Clinton Metroparks

Jan Leonard

Jim & Wilma Alban

Joann Van Aken

Joe Crachiola

John and Carol Sayles

La-Z-Boy, Inc.

Lake Erie Adventures

Marine Pollution Control

MDNRE Wildlife Division

Michigan Ducks Unlimited

Michigan Wildlife Conservancy

Monroe County Community College

Pointe West Golf Club

Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival

(Sept 10 - 11, 2011)

Quality Inn & Suites

Raisin river Jazz Festival

Richard Micka

Robert Stewart

Roberta Urbani and John Leon

Rodney Laura

Roy & Mary Bohling

State Senate Majority Leader

Randy Richardville

State Representative Dale W. Zorn

The Henry Ford,

America's Greatest History Attraction

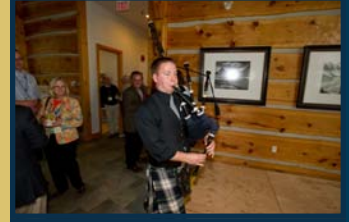
The Resorts of Tullymore & St. Ives

Tom O'Hara

U.S. Forest Service

Utility Lines Construction Services

William Huntley





## Big Changes at the Refuge Gateway

Restoration activities continue to move forward at the Refuge Gateway. By early September we expect to announce the completion of the shoreline restoration and a second access road. These projects will connect visitors to the shoreline for an absolutely outstanding view of the Detroit River and Lake Erie. Even more important, these two projects are restoring vital coastal wildlife habitat.

The Shoreline Restoration project has been an ambitious effort to remove human-placed fill along the shoreline and create a wetland shelf. Also completed were the second access road and adjacent upland habitats. In an area that has lost 97% of previous wetland habitat, the Refuge Gateway project will result in a net gain of 16 acres of coastal wetlands. When all work identified in the master plan is completed, 25 acres of upland buffer habitat will be restored.

### Guided tours are planned September 22, 4:00pm-8:00pm.

We welcome you to take in the view of the amazing shoreline and witness for yourselves the transformation. Questions? Please contact Allison Krueger, 734-365-0218 or [Allison\\_krueger@fws.gov](mailto:Allison_krueger@fws.gov)



Photo: USFWS



Photo: Karen Hofmann



Photo: Jerry Jourdan

**The Detroit River Hawk Watch** begins its fourth year of raptor migration monitoring on September 1, 2011 at the mouth of the Detroit River, contributing to a total of 29 years of data. Priorities for the 2011 season were the completion of a scientifically sound monitoring protocol consistent with the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Other recent accomplishments were the completion of a report with the summary statistics of the count data prior to 2008, a new website, and enhanced outreach through a volunteer program with the Lake Erie Metropark. **The count will run each day at the Lake Erie Metropark Boat Launch from September 1st to November 30th staffed by Jonathan Stein (2011 contractor) and volunteer observers.** These data contribute to our knowledge of raptor population trends and ensure the remarkable migration through the corridor continues to be well documented.

Two major events will take place during the 2011 season: the first is the **Annual Hawk Fest, hosted by Lake Erie Metropark on September 17th and 18th.** The second will be a public program overviewing the **Detroit River Hawk Watch program on October 1st** with Refuge staff and volunteers on hand to teach visitors the basics of raptor identification, with guest visitors from the Kalamazoo Nature Center. More details will be available at [www.drhawkwatch.org](http://www.drhawkwatch.org).

All data can be accessed on the website and are updated daily during the season, and frequent Twitter posts are provided to help people track the 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](mailto:Greg_Norwood@fws.gov) (734-692-7611).

-Greg Norwood, SCEP Biologist





By: Anna Cook, Biological Technician

On November 2, 2011 a tradition between the United States and Canada will continue with the **biennial State of the Strait Conference**. This year the conference will be held at the Eastern Michigan University. The U.S and Canada alternate hosting the conference every two years. The theme of the 2011 conference is “**Use of Remote Sensing and GIS to Better Manage the Huron-Erie Corridor**”. Over 300 people, including Canadian and U.S. high school and college students, are expected to attend the event. Topics that will be presented include innovative techniques to map *phragmites* and wetlands, remote sensing- and GIS-facilitated biological monitoring of DRIWR wetlands, and using technology to quantify storm water benefits of green infrastructure.

For more information about the State of the Strait conference, including registration and location, please visit [www.stateofthestrait.org](http://www.stateofthestrait.org). **Display space is available for conference sponsors and vendors.**



## 2011 Youth Conservation Corps Season

By: Anna Cook, YCC Crew Leader and DRIWR Biological Technician

A Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew was stationed at the Refuge for the third year in a row. The YCC is a program for students ages 15-18 to work, earn and learn during the summer. The participants carried out conservation work on our refuge, such as trail clearing, bird banding and invasive species removal. This year's crew members were Mariah Chinavare, John Carter, Marissa Cloutier, Drake LaFleur and Mike Brancheau, a YCC participant from last year who returned to be a YCC Youth Leader. They all worked hard to help guide our refuge forward while at the same time understanding and appreciating the natural environment. **Thank you YCC Crew!**



**DRIWR 2011 YCC Crew:** (From left to right: Anna Cook, YCC Leader and DRIWR Bio Tech, Drake LaFleur, John Carter, Mariah Chinavare, Marissa Cloutier, and Mike Brancheau, YCC Youth Leader.)

Photos: USFWS

DID YOU KNOW?....

### Lake Erie Metropark is part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has a cooperative agreement to manage 680 acres of unique coastal habitats at Lake Erie Metropark. And now, a completed 1.5 mile section of greenway finishes the 3 mile greenway connecting Lake Erie Metropark to the Humbug Marsh Unit and the Refuge Gateway. *You are now able to ride a bike to visit the important coastal habitats protected in these units!* This greenway is part of 50 miles of continuous greenway trail developed through the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative.

The trail is protected from vehicles and follows a flat landscape - perfect for bikers of all ages. Connecting the units offers the benefit of having a variety of outdoor recreational activities from hiking, swimming, and environmental education programs in the metropark to wildlife observation areas, and a ride along the Humbug Marsh Unit, all in one day. In the future, the greenway will be extended into the Refuge Gateway to connect with the planned Refuge Visitor Center.

USFWS and IWRA will be partnering with other organizations to plan for biking events to celebrate the completed greenway - *we hope to see you on the trail!*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Updated program information can be found at [www.iwralliance.org](http://www.iwralliance.org) or [www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver)

## October 1

Wayne County Conservation Stewards Volunteer Expo at Marshland Museum, Lake Erie Metropark  
11:00am

## October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Open House at Gibraltar Bay Unit  
1:00pm-4:00pm

## October 8

Buckthorn Removal at Humbug Marsh  
9:00am-12:00pm

## October 9

Open House at Humbug Marsh  
12:00pm-4:00pm

## October 9-15

National Wildlife Refuge Week  
Check websites for current events  
[www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver)

## October 12

Open House at Brancheau Unit  
5:00pm-6:30pm  
6590 Brancheau Road, Newport, MI

## October 12-14

"Healing Our Waters" Conference  
Registration required  
[conference.healthylakes.org](http://conference.healthylakes.org)

## October 15

Bike n' Hike  
Celebrating a Greenway Trail linking Humbug Marsh to Lake Erie Metropark - See website for details

## October 20

Honeysuckle Removal at Humbug Marsh  
5:00pm-7:00pm  
5437 W. Jefferson Ave, Trenton

## October 22

"Bald Eagles Today" with Matt Stuber, FWS  
7:00pm  
Lake Erie Metropark Marshland Museum

## November 2

Biennial State of the Strait Conference at Eastern Michigan University  
Info and registration at [www.stateofthestrail.org](http://www.stateofthestrail.org)

## November 12

"Bird Photography on a Budget" with Jerry Jourdan  
7:00pm  
Lake Erie Metropark Marshland Museum

## December 21

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is 10 years old!  
Birthday Celebration TBA

## January 28

Eagle Tour  
Watch website for registration

## February 2

World Wetlands Day at Gibraltar Carlson High School  
3:30pm-4:30pm  
Open to the public

## February 8

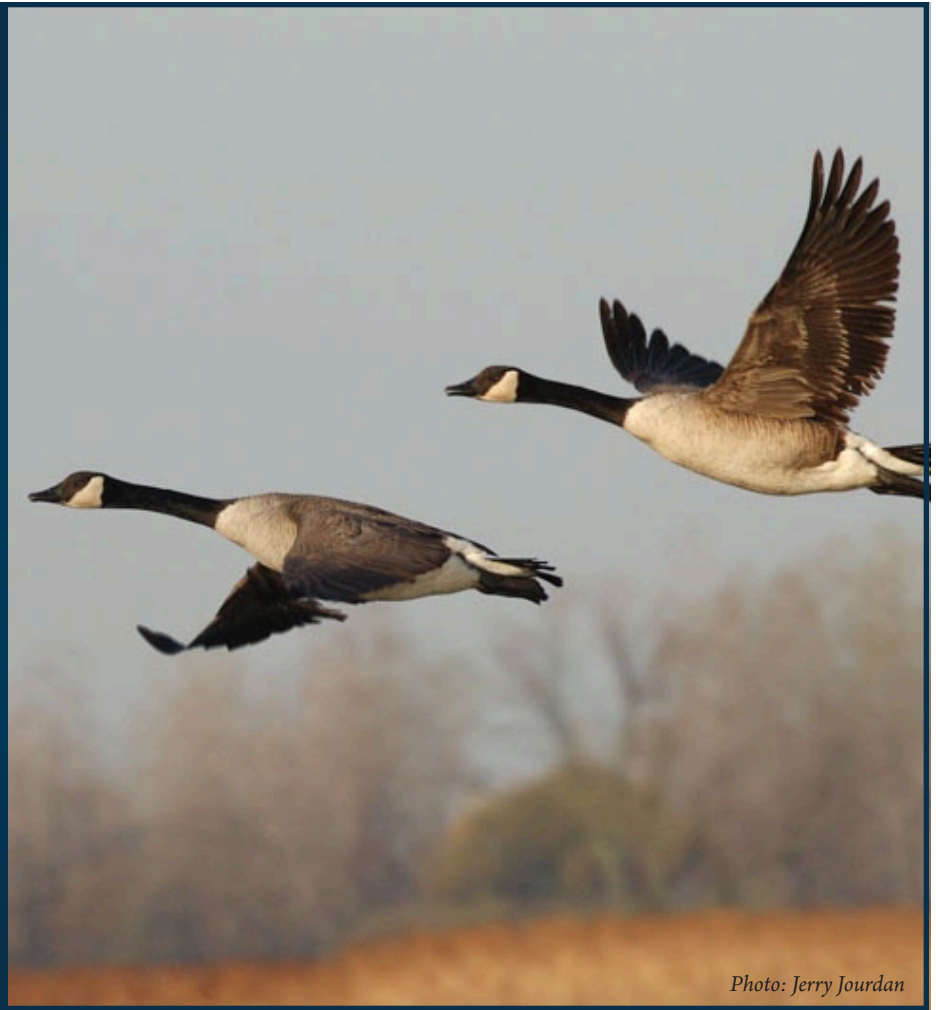
Volunteer Workshop at Westfield Center, Trenton  
6:00pm-7:30pm

**THANK YOU** to all who were a part of the over 5,000 volunteer hours given to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge this past year. Perhaps you maintained a trail, planted a tree, helped put up the new sign on the Refuge, volunteered at an Open House or Stewardship event - *please know, we appreciate you!* It is with your dedication we can continue to support North America's first international wildlife refuge and develop the next generation of conservation stewards.

# HUNT PLAN UPDATE

*Steve Dushane, Assistant Refuge Manager*

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge hunting plan and environmental assessment was made available for public comment in 2011. Many of the comments from the public have been addressed and the plan is undergoing final revisions needed. The next step will be to work on the exact language to be placed in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is our hope that the hunting plan will be published in the CFR in early 2012 and that hunting on the refuge will be approved by fall 2012. The Refuge is very excited and looking forward to offering hunting as an approved public use in the near future.



*Photo: Jerry Jourdan*



International Wildlife Refuge Alliance  
9311 Groh Road  
Grosse Ile, Michigan 48138  
[iwralliance.org](http://iwralliance.org)

US Postage  
PAID  
Nonprofit  
Organization  
Permit #153  
Wyandotte, MI