



New Release

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ALLIANCE

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BASF Provides Support to the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Trenton, Michigan – Members of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA) and staff from the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) today joined BASF Corporation to receive a check from them for \$10,000 to support the refuge’s important work of building the refuge through public-private partnerships. BASF Corporation has been a strong supporter of the refuge since its creation in 2001. Examples of its commitment to the refuge include:

- BASF has restored a 1,200-acre island (i.e., Fighting Island) in the Detroit River for wildlife habitat that has been recognized with Wildlife Habitat Council certification;
- BASF has been a key partner in building the successful Fighting Island sturgeon reef that represented the first ever fish habitat restoration project in the Great Lakes funded with both U.S. and Canadian dollars;
- BASF has worked collaboratively with many partners to restore shoreline habitat using soft engineering techniques (i.e., use of ecological principles and practices to reduce erosion and achieve the stabilization and safety of shorelines, while enhancing wetland habitat, improving aesthetics, and even saving money) at BASF Park in Wyandotte, Michigan, and on Fighting Island.
- BASF has been a consistent supporter of strengthening the science-policy linkage for the refuge through support of biennial State of the Strait Conferences convened between the United States and Canada;
- BASF contributed to the environmental education shelter and trails in the refuge’s Humbug Marsh Unit to offer a world-class environmental education and interpretation experience; and
- BASF constructed nearly one acre of habitat for walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, and lake sturgeon in the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River near the company’s Riverview property.

“BASF has been one of the important early leaders of cooperative conservation that enhances close-to-home outdoor recreation and improves quality of life for nearly seven million people living within a 45-minute drive,” noted Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. “BASF is truly an international leader in pollution prevention, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development.”

“The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is honored to have BASF’s support to further assist in delivering our mission to support the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge,” noted Dick Micka, IWRA Chairman. IWRA, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, will be using this money to further strengthen partnerships to protect, conserve, and manage the Refuge’s wildlife and habitats, and to create exceptional conservation, recreational and educational experiences that will inspire and help develop the next generation of conservationists.

Greg Pflum, Vice President and General Manager of the Midwest Hub for BASF North America, commented, “BASF is committed to responsible environmental stewardship as part of our sustainable development goals. We’re happy that we have the opportunity to make such a contribution right in our own backyard.”

The DRIWR represents a new model for conservation -- restoring habitats for wildlife in an urban area through public-private partnerships and becoming a blueprint for bringing conservation to cities across the nation. DRIWR extends along 48 miles of lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie, and focuses on conserving, protecting, and restoring habitats for 30 species of waterfowl, 117 kinds of fish, and over 300 species of birds. Unique habitats being managed in the refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and riverfront lands. To date, 3,797 acres of Essex Region Conservation Authority lands and 981 acres of City of Windsor lands have been added to the Canadian registry of lands for the refuge, and 7,897 acres of Michigan Department of Natural Resources lands have been added to the U.S. registry of lands that already includes 5,787 acres of lands owned and/or cooperatively managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. When totaled between Canada and U.S., 18,462 acres of land in southwest Ontario and southeast Michigan are now being managed collaboratively for conservation and outdoor recreation in the spirit and intent of the 2001 Conservation Vision and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

More than 80 percent of Americans live in urban or suburban communities and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service values the role that urban refuges play in bringing conservation to urban areas and in providing innovative educational programming and volunteer opportunities.

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