



Contact: Allison Krueger, Landscape Designer of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (734.692.7672; Krueger.ali@gmail.com); Steven Lewis, father of Eagle Scout candidate Nathan Lewis (313.549.5717)

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BOY SCOUTS HELP TO RESTORE HABITAT AT THE REFUGE GATEWAY IN TRENTON, MICHIGAN

Trenton, Michigan – The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge will welcome Boy Scout Troop # 802 of the Huron District within the Boy Scouts of America Great Lakes Council to undertake a shoreline habitat restoration project at Wayne County’s Refuge Gateway in Trenton. Local scout Nathan Lewis has organized this restoration project in order to obtain his Eagle Scout badge. Nathan has been raising money to fund the project, which will be matched by funds donated by the Downriver Walleye Federation.

The project will use live stakes and fachines to restore the shoreline of the Monguagon wetland system at the Refuge Gateway. Live stakes are twigs from native shrubs and fachines are bundles of live stakes. When installed in the ground, the live stakes and fachines grow roots to stabilize the shoreline and prevent erosion. These shrubs will eventually produce a canopy that will support habitat for migratory birds and will help provide stream bank cover to encourage cooler water temperatures for native fish and amphibians.

The Monguagon wetland system at the Refuge Gateway is a restored wetland created through the process of daylighting a former storm drainpipe. Historically, the pipe would move rainfall from local impervious surfaces (roads and parking lots) directly into the Detroit River. Now that the pipe has been daylighted (i.e., brought above ground), water moves through the

Monguagon wetland allowing sediments to settle out and plants to remove nutrients before the water is discharged into the Detroit River. This project will improve the environment at a local scale while, also helping increase water quality for the overall region.

The project will take place Saturday March 26th, 2011 at the Refuge Gateway, located at 5437 W. Jefferson Avenue in Trenton, Michigan. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run through 3:00 p.m. Attendees will include members of all partnering organizations and over 20 boy scouts from local troops.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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