



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUTHOR, WILDLIFE REFUGE MANAGER TO SPEAK THURSDAY ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

MONROE, Mich. – In honor of Earth Week, Dr. John Hartig, manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, will give a presentation on his award-winning book , “Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers that Caught on Fire,” at the La-Z-Boy Center on the campus of Monroe County Community College.

The presentation will take place on Thursday at 7 p.m., and is free and open to the public. It is being presented in conjunction with the Math and Science Society of MCCC.

“Burning Rivers” was a 2011 Green Book Festival winner in the “scientific” category and a finalist in the “science/nature/environment” category of the 2011 Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

The book explores how four rivers in the Great Lakes Basin caught on fire because of oil pollution, including the Rouge River in southeast Michigan; the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio; the Buffalo River in New York, and the Chicago River in Illinois.

Today, however, each of these rivers is experiencing substantial environmental improvement and some surprising ecological revival.

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“Burning Rivers” was written to help teach the lessons of the past, celebrate the environmental progress and help convince people of the urgent need to address the remaining environmental challenges in order to avoid another tipping point. The book was written for a lay audience.

Hartig is trained as a limnologist with 30 years of experience in environmental science and natural resource management. From 1999 to 2004, he served as river navigator for the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative, which was established by presidential executive order. Prior to that, he spent 12 years working for the International Joint Commission on the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications on the Great Lakes,

“This book ably covers what one must learn from the past tragedies, the successes we must celebrate and the importance of the plans we must make for the future of all our waterways so that our children and grandchildren may love and enjoy them as we do,” said Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Dearborn). “The lessons highlighted in this book are important reading for anyone wishing to protect and preserve rivers for future generations.”

Earth Day is held on April 22 each year to inspire awareness and stewardship for the Earth’s natural environment. Earth Day was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in that was first held on April 22, 1970. Earth Day is now coordinated internationally by the Earth Day Network and is celebrated in more than 175 countries every year.

For more information, contact Joshua Myers, coordinator of development and external affairs, at (734) 384-4214 or jmyers@monroecc.edu.

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