



## News Release

**For immediate release September 19, 2008**

### **Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Hosts Children's Patch Contest**

Trenton, MI – The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance will be hosting a children's patch contest to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). The winning submission will be the official patch for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge's 2009 IMBD event.

International Migratory Bird Day began in the early 1990s as the brainchild of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC). The SMBC staff recognized that a public program would enable thousands of people to learn about migratory birds, their migrations, and their conservation. Coordination of IMBD at the international level was turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 1995. Environment for the Americas (EFTA), a non-profit organization that works throughout the Western Hemisphere to share information about birds and their conservation, has been coordinating IMBD since 2007.

The official date for IMBD in the U.S. and Canada is the second Saturday in May each year. In preparation for this year's May 10<sup>th</sup> celebration, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is hosting a patch design contest for all Michigan children in grades K-5. A winner from each grade category will be recognized, and from the group an overall winner will be chosen. The winning submission will be made into the official patch for the refuge's 2009 International Migratory Bird Day Program.

For more information, contact Kristi Thiel at 734 692-7649 or visit [www.iwralliance.org](http://www.iwralliance.org) or [www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver).

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