



For Immediate Release: November 20, 2009

## Wildlife Observation Platform and Learning Stations Added to Humbug Marsh Unit

**Gibraltar and Trenton, Michigan** – This fall a wildlife observation platform and three interpretive learning stations were constructed in the Humbug Marsh Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Both projects were created out of public-private partnerships, with funding from DTE Energy Foundation and Praxair.

The wildlife observation platform, funded by DTE Energy Foundation, is constructed out of reclaimed urban wood and stainless steel, showcasing sustainable reuse of materials and providing views overlooking the Monguagon Delta and an eagle nesting platform on Humbug Island. The three learning stations, funded by Praxair, are located along accessible and rustic portions of the trail network and create teachable moments about native wildlife for visitors.

“DTE Energy strives to support projects that restore the environment and enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve or are home to our facilities,” says Paul Fessler, DTE Energy vice president, Fossil Generation. “We hope that this wildlife observation platform will attract community members to the Refuge for recreation, education, and enjoyment of our region’s natural areas.”

“The learning stations at the Humbug Marsh Unit are consistent with the environmental benefits Praxair’s products and technologies bring to customers in a wide variety of industries,” says Mike Twardesky, facilities superintendent of Praxair’s Ecorse plant and volunteer with the Wildlife Refuge. “We hope that this project will engage thousands of children in this area and teach them stewardship of the region’s wildlife habitat and natural resources.”

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is striving to become a leader in place-based environmental education and sustainability. These public-use features, built out of public-private partnerships, are integral to the master plan and vision for this site to become a regional center for outdoor recreation and environmental education.

"I would like to particularly thank Praxair and DTE Energy for their financial support of the new learning stations and wildlife observation deck in the Humbug Marsh Unit,"

notes Congressman John D. Dingell. "This is one more example of the remarkable outcomes that are possible when government and industry work together to conserve and showcase our beautiful state, an effort in which the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge continues to lead both regionally and nationally. These new public use features at Humbug will help us teach the next generation about the values of stewardship and outdoor recreation."

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the Detroit River and western Lake Erie ([www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/)). The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 30 species of waterfowl, 117 kinds of fish, and 300 species of birds. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the first international refuge in North America. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and riverfront lands.

For more information, contact Rebecca Robinson, Landscape Designer of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (voice: 734.692.7672; [Rebecca\\_Robinson@fws.gov](mailto:Rebecca_Robinson@fws.gov)), Mike Twardesky, Praxair (voice: 313.849.4205; [Mike\\_Twardesky@praxair.com](mailto:Mike_Twardesky@praxair.com)), or John Austerberry, DTE Energy (voice: 313.235.8859).

**Event information:**

November 20, 2009 at 2 pm

Humbug Marsh Unit, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge  
5437 West Jefferson Avenue, Trenton, Michigan 48183

**Directions:**

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This event will begin in the Refuge Gateway. The Refuge Gateway is located on the east side of West Jefferson Avenue, between the intersections with Van Horn and Vreeland, in Trenton, Michigan.

The property is enclosed by a chain link fence and is directly south of a Solutia plant. There is a large Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway sign attached to the fence. We will have a kiosk sign in front of the gate as well. Cars may park inside the property - simply turn in the gate and follow the gravel road to a grass parking area.

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