



2016 Volunteer Opportunities

Department of Interior/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
9311 Groh Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48138
Telephone 734-692-7608/FAX 734-692-7603

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge represents a new model for conservation – one that both restores habitats for fish and wildlife in an urban area through innovative public-private partnerships and that provides a blueprint for bringing conservation to cities across the nation. We are proud to help connect the public to the wealth of natural resources in the Detroit area!

To apply: Contact Visitor Services Manager Jody DeMeyere at (734) 692-7649 or jody_demeyere@fws.gov
(If emailing, in the subject line, type in your name followed by the position you are applying for.)

1. **Special Event / Community Outreach Volunteer** (mostly off-site of refuge lands) - During special events volunteers are needed to: staff a variety of educational booths, children's craft activities and information tables to acquaint event attendees with the refuge. Dependability and ability to handle assignments required. Shifts are usually two to four hours in length.

Upcoming events include:

Saturday, February 6 - Shiver on the River (Belle Isle)
Thursday, March 10 - Volunteer Outreach Event
Saturday, April 23 - Monroe County Earth Day Expo
Tuesday, April 5 – Film Screening at the Trenton Village Theater
Saturday, April 23 - Lower Detroit River Litter Clean Up
Saturday, May 14 - Open House at Humbug Marsh
Friday, May 20 - Guided Birding Program (Grosse Ile)
Saturday and Sunday, May 20-22 - Grosse Isle Island Fest
Saturday, June 4 - Guided Forest Program (Grosse Ile)
Saturday, June 4 - Taste of Stewardship Volunteer Work Day
Saturday, June 4 - Open House at Humbug Marsh
Saturday, June 11 - Kids FREE Fishing Day
Monday, July 4 - City of Gibraltar Fourth of July Parade

Saturday, July 9 - Taste of Stewardship Volunteer Work Day
Saturday, July 9 - Open House at Humbug Marsh
Thursday, July 14 - Guided Lotus Hike (Grosse Ile)
Saturday, August 6 - Wildlife Skills Event (Grosse Ile)
Saturday, August 6 - Taste of Stewardship Volunteer Day
Saturday, August 6 - Open House at Humbug Marsh
Saturday, August 13 - Gibraltar/Rockwood Rotary Duck Race
Sat and Sun, Sept 17/18 - Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival
Saturday and Sunday, September 17 & 18 – Hawkfest
Saturday, September 24 - Monarch Event (Grosse Ile)
Saturday, September 24 - Open House at Humbug Marsh
Tuesday, October 4 – Film Screening Trenton Village Theater

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2. **Marketing Assistance Volunteer** – These volunteers establish and maintain contacts with the media to enlist support through media coverage. Assisting with tours for media and community representatives to acquaint them with the refuge. Extraordinary skill in dealing with people and enthusiasm for the refuge units, mission, and programs. Knowledge of social media and marketing techniques is a plus.
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3. **Gibraltar Bay Unit Greeter** – Meet and cheerfully greet visitors to the Gibraltar Bay Unit of refuge on Grosse Ile. Provide unit orientations and share your joy for the natural world with visitors. Work period is 1:00PM to 4:00PM on Sundays (May through October weather permitting).
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4. **Stewardship Crew** – Volunteers are invited to assist with a variety of habitat management activities including forest rehabilitation (assisting with selective tree removal with hand saws and loppers, herbicide

application, brush management and stacking, and site evaluations), preparation for prescribed fire (*stacking and cutting brush inside the burn unit and clearing control lines*), invasive species control (*mowing, herbicide application, tree and brush cutting with hand saws and loppers*), and seed collecting/handling/broadcasting (*hand collect specific species, process, store and hand broadcast under the direction of the leader or refuge staff or adding to the refuge's seed mixes*). This type of work requires heavy physical labor in natural areas and in challenging environments. Participants must be in good physical condition. The work periods are 9:00 AM to noon on Wednesdays and Fridays at Humbug Marsh and Mondays from 9:00AM to noon at the Gibraltar Bay Unit. The necessary tools will be provided.

5. **Detroit River Hawk Watch Raptor Volunteer** – If you are an experienced birder and want to put your skills to work, this volunteer position is for you!! During the autumn months, the lower Detroit River becomes a corridor for the passage of migratory birds, and has gained international recognition for the annual volume of birds of prey. Hundreds of thousands of migrating hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures are concentrated at this location where it is possible to systematically count them each year. Detroit River Hawk Watch utilizes trained volunteers to conduct a standardized count of the fall migration of raptors at the lower Detroit River. A minimum time commitment of at least once per week (*8-10 hours per week*) is required September 1 – October 30, each year. Prospective volunteers must be highly motivated to learn field identification of distant migratory birds of prey.

 6. **Volunteer Scout Counselor** – We are looking for a few talented volunteers to assist us in creating and leading a variety of interactive programs based on boy/girl scout requirements for badges, pins, loops and patches. Perhaps you are a former scout parent or councilor or maybe you just have an interest in connecting youth to the outdoors. Either way, we could use your help in researching the requirements, developing and leading the programs and perhaps even becoming certified as a counselor through the scouts.

 7. **Volunteer Speakers Bureau** – These volunteers present programs promoting the refuge in response to community organization requests. Presentations are in PowerPoint format and are usually one hour in length, in the evening within the local commuting area. Exceptional public speaking skills, dependability and ability to independently handle assignments required.
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UPCOMING VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

We are starting contact lists for the following opportunities:

8. **Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer** (*Coming soon – 2017*) - The refuge's interactive visitor center will be standing in the dark without YOUR assistance! As a Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer, you will help visitors connect to refuge lands through a variety of recreational opportunities. The visitor center will be located in Trenton, MI at the Refuge Gateway property off West Jefferson. If you like interacting with people, both young and old, this is the volunteer position for you!! Volunteer duties include: meet and cheerfully greet visitors; provide area and refuge recreation opportunity information; give orientations to the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System; assist visitors with refuge rules and regulations; answer telephones; answer visitor questions; respond to visitor correspondences; distribute brochures; and restock brochures. These duties provide volunteers with the opportunity to reach diverse groups of people with a knowledge and appreciation of the environment and the National Wildlife Refuge System.
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9. **Volunteer Photographer** (*Coming soon– 2017*) - Using volunteer's own equipment, take photographs of native flora and fauna, special events and refuge staff working in the field. Close ups/Macro photos are preferred. Photographs will become property of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and may be used for specific outreach materials.

10. **Photo Historian Volunteer** (*Coming soon – 2017*) - Using volunteer's own equipment, find a location on the refuge and take a photo once a week or once a month of the view. Compile these photographs into a yearly snapshot of the refuge. Your contribution will be profiled on refuge social media sites.

11. **Volunteer Landscaper/Trail Maintenance** (*Coming soon – 2017*) - Assistants will perform light to moderate maintenance work. Duties may include nature trail maintenance, mowing of existing parking lots and around visitor center, light construction or carpentry, and general upkeep of refuge property. Volunteers with surveying experience are needed to assist with sign posting and maintenance. Good physical condition and familiarity in using power tools is preferred. Positions will be available year round.

12. **Volunteer Gardner** (*Coming soon – 2017*) – Maintain the flower beds/pollinator garden around the visitor center. Research care of native plants, pull weeds, install plant ID tags, beautify the area, and provide interpretation of the garden(s) to visitors. This is a perfect opportunity for garden clubs.

13. **Group Project Work** (*Coming soon – 2016*) – Soon we will begin working with larger groups of volunteers. Potential projects could include litter pickups, removal of chain link fencing and Refuge Gateway tree maintenance. Please provide group details to the Visitor Services Manager to schedule a volunteer workday.
