

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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DTE Energy



THOUSANDS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND WORLD WETLANDS DAY EVENT AT GIBRALTAR'S CARLSON HIGH SCHOOL

GIBRALTAR, MICHIGAN -The 6th Annual celebration of World Wetlands Day will take place on Monday, February 2nd 2015 at Oscar A. Carlson High School in Gibraltar, Michigan, from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. An anticipated 1,500 students from around Wayne County will participate in the event, featuring a number of interactive activities, presentations and demonstrations, as well as a Wetlands Exposition slated to showcase over 20 displays dedicated to wetland conservation. The celebration will be open for public visitation beginning at 9:00AM to 11:45AM and then again from 12:30PM to 3:00PM.

Each February, World Wetlands Day (WWD) is observed worldwide in recognition of the date the international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands was signed at the Ramsar Convention in 1971. The Ramsar Convention maintains a list of wetlands across the globe that have been deemed worthy of international importance; a list totaling nearly 2,000 sites, including southeast Michigan's own Humbug Marsh.

As the last mile of natural shoreline along the U.S. mainland portion of the Detroit River and a celebrated unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Humbug Marsh has been the driving force behind the popular World Wetlands Day event hosted each year at Carlson High School since its designation as Michigan's only "Wetland of International Importance" in 2010.

Located a mere two miles downriver from the marsh, Oscar A. Carlson High School sits adjacent to the Gibraltar Wetlands Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This proximity to nature helped cultivate a long-standing relationship between the refuge and school, known throughout the region as a leader in conservation education, who now work together to provide special educational access to the site's wetland ecosystem. WWD Event Coordinator Crystal Fowler has played a significant role in the development of this meaningful partnership. Her role as the lead wetland ecology instructor at Carlson HS prompted her interest in the establishment of the annual WWD event; "We work hard to develop meaningful experiences to engage our students in science, nature and environmental stewardship. Hosting the World Wetlands Day event each year gives us new

opportunities to provide kids with more hands-on activities and lessons focusing on the sustainability, restoration, and conservation of our natural resources.”

Jody DeMeyere, Detroit River IWR’s new Visitor Services Manager stated, “The US Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to be part of an event that exposes local students to a variety of conservation experts and organizations. We hope students will not only gain knowledge about the importance of wetlands, but also learn about future career paths they could follow to be involved with wetland and habitat management.”

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. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, and dedication and commitment to public service.

The 2015 World Wetlands Day celebration will take place on Monday, February 2nd at Oscar A. Carlson High School located at 30550 W. Jefferson Avenue in Gibraltar, Michigan from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. The event is open to the public from 9:00AM to 11:45AM and 12:30PM to 3:00PM. All school visitors *must* enter the building at the front entrance and sign in at the office.

This event is subject to cancellation in the event of inclement weather. Please contact Crystal Fowler at Carlson High School for event status at 734-379-7100.

For more information about this and other Refuge events, contact the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge at 734-362-7736, jennifer_braatz@fws.gov or visit: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River.

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