

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Large Lakes Research Station
9311 Groh Road
Grosse Ile, MI 48138
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River

News Release



Joann Van Aken, Executive Director
International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
734-690-7671; iwr_alliance@yahoo.com

Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
734-692-7608; john_hartig@fws.gov

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CELEBRATES MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN – 2013 was a banner year for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, with substantial conservation accomplishments that protect natural resources, enhance outdoor recreation, improve quality of life, and are a gift to future generations. Highlights of 2013 accomplishments include:

- Involving 697 volunteers in 10,357 hours of conservation work, representing a value of over \$229,000;
- Hosting 32 outreach events and 65 interpretive programs, including 27 open houses;
- Involving over 1,800 students in World Wetlands Day at Gibraltar Carlson High School;
- Undertaking active habitat restoration on nine refuge units through innovative partnerships;
- Adding 4,778 acres to the Canadian registry of lands and 7,897 acres of State of Michigan lands to the U.S. registry of lands as part of the Refuge; and
- Breaking ground on the Visitor Center at Wayne County's Refuge Gateway, which is projected to attract tens of thousands of annual visitors.

More information on these and other accomplishments can be found in the Refuge annual report, available online at: <http://iwralliance.org/2013report.html>

The Refuge is “a model for bringing conservation to urban areas in the 21st Century,” noted Congressman John Dingell. “I encourage each of you to share our story of how we are inspiring the next generation of conservationists by building an urban wildlife refuge in America’s industrial heartland.”

The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and western basin of Lake Erie. It stretches from southwest Detroit to the Ohio-Michigan border. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 300 species of birds, including 30 species of waterfowl, 23 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds, and for 117 species of fish.

We invite you to help celebrate these accomplishments at the annual benefit dinner hosted by the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance on Sunday, May 18th from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Silver Shores Waterfront of Wyandotte, at 1 James Desana Dr. in Wyandotte, Michigan. The benefit dinner will include the presentation of the “John D. Dingell Friend of the Refuge Awards” for exceptional contributions to the refuge this year, as well as silent and live auctions and a raffle to win a five-day Great Lakes Freighter Adventure. Tickets can be purchased at www.iwralliance.org.

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. The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is the Refuge’s friends group and a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. The Alliance’s mission is to support the first international wildlife refuge in North America by working through partnerships to protect, conserve, and manage the Refuge’s wildlife and habitats, and to create exceptional conservation, recreational, and educational experiences to develop the next generation of conservation stewards.

For more information, contact: Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (734-692-7608; john_hartig@fws.gov), Katie Dennis, Refuge Landscape Designer (734-365-0218; catherine_dennis@fws.gov), or Joann Van Aken, IWRA Executive Director (734-692-7671; iwr_alliance@yahoo.com).

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