

***DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE***

9311 GROH ROAD

GROSSE ILE, MI 48138

www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/index.html



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: October 5, 2009

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week

Gibraltar and Trenton, Michigan – The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge will celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week from October 11th to October 17th with events and activities. Established in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt designated the three-acre Pelican Island in Florida as the nation's first wildlife refuge, the National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, today encompasses 547 National Wildlife Refuges and more than 3,000 waterfowl production areas spanning nearly 100 million acres.

With national wildlife refuges in every state and within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas, nearly all of us can find unsurpassed opportunities to take photographs, watch wildlife, participate in interpretive programs and otherwise enjoy our nation's wild places during Refuge Week and throughout the year. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, established in 2001, is located in a watershed that supports over 6 million people and is less than an hours' drive from all communities in the Detroit and Windsor metropolitan areas.

The week begins on October 11th with “The Big Sit,” an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. This is the third year a “Big Sit” will take place at the Humbug Marsh Unit of the refuge. Visitors are welcome to visit Humbug Marsh Unit between the hours of 6 AM and 5 PM to walk trails, view wildlife from the observation deck, and record the different bird species they observe.

On October 14th, Downriver Community Conference's Brownfield Consortium will tour the brownfield cleanup and wetland restoration at Refuge Gateway. On the evening of October 15th, the American Society of Landscape Architects will be getting a narrated boat tour of the Detroit River and the Refuge. The week will conclude on October 17th with a Humbug Open House from 9 AM to 3 PM and a bird walk at 9 AM.

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, and 31 species of shorebirds, and for 117 species of fish.

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.

For more information, contact Kristi Thiel (734-692- 7649) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DIRECTIONS: From I-75 either going north or south, exit at West Road heading east toward Trenton. Take West Road east for approximately three miles through Trenton to Jefferson Avenue (the main road along the Detroit River). Turn right on Jefferson Avenue and head south. You will first jog around Wayne County's Elizabeth Park and then pass the Trenton Channel Power Plant and Solutia (both on the east side of Jefferson Ave.). Immediately south of Solutia is the Refuge Gateway with a sign on the fence stating the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Center. Immediately, south of the Refuge Gateway is the north gate to Humbug Marsh. Limited parking is available along Jefferson Avenue in front of the north gate.

Discover Our Wild Side

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