



For Release on May 20, 2008

Refuge Support Group Offers Unique Island Trip – “*Adventure in the Refuge*”

On June 7th, the public has a special opportunity to visit a private island retreat in the Detroit River through a fundraising event organized by the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance.

Departing from Bishop Park in Wyandotte, the “*Adventure in the Refuge*” event includes a Detroit River cruise with appetizers on the Diamond Belle narrated by Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. He will discuss significant features and history of the river along with highlights of the wildlife refuge.

The boat will dock on Fighting Island for a dinner Bar-B-Q to include steaks, chicken, potato, salad and dessert in an outdoor pavilion on a picturesque campus. The Bar-B-Q will be complimented by music from Steelin’ Time – a local Blues Rock Band whose members include folks from U.S. Steel’s Great Lakes Steel Works in Ecorse. A short program will commemorate the occasion. Walking tours of the campus and nature areas will be available.

Fighting Island has a long and colorful history that spans from the Ice Age to the Space Age. Located in the Detroit River about six miles south of Detroit & Windsor, Fighting Island is part of Sandwich West Township in the Province of Ontario. The size of the island has varied throughout the years due to the effects of currents and water levels, but currently it consists of 1,500 acres and is about five miles long. Today there is a world-class hunting resort-style lodge & conference center on the island owned by BASF Corporation. The campus includes many log-cabin buildings which lend the island retreat a distinctive “Up-North” feel in the heart of metropolitan Detroit.

The purpose of the event is to raise funds to complete construction of an Environmental Education Shelter and handicap accessible trail at the Humbug Marsh Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The shelter and trails will be built in the summer of 2008 by Navy Seabees. Sponsorship opportunities are available and include name recognition on a permanent plaque for the shelter. Tickets are \$100 per person; each ticket includes a trip aboard the Diamond Belle with appetizers and narrated tour; dinner, music, and program on Fighting Island; and cruise back to port.

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that builds the capacity of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deliver the mission of the

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Major Alliance funding partners in 2008 include General Motors Corporation, DTE Energy, ITC Holdings, and BASF Corporation.

For more information and a registration flyer, please call Lisa Appel of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance at (734) 692-7671 (lisa_appel@fws.gov).

DISCOVER OUR WILD SIDE!