

# FRIENDS of the DETROIT RIVER

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International  
Wildlife  
Refuge  
Alliance



FOR RELEASE ON TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2007

## **Detroit Free Press Outdoor Writer Eric Sharp to speak on Key Great Lakes Issues that Affect Boaters**

GROSSE ILE, Michigan – Friends of the Detroit River (FDR) and International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA) will hold a forum on water quality issues for boaters featuring a talk by Detroit Free Press Outdoors Writer Eric Sharp on Thursday, August 9, 2007, 7 pm to 9 pm, at the Grosse Ile Centennial Farm.

Attendees will have an opportunity to hear Eric Sharp speak and learn about initiatives to preserve habitat and protect water quality in the Detroit River. The forum will include short presentations by Robert Burns, Detroit Riverkeeper, David Howell, Chair of the Friends of the Detroit River, George Mans, Chairman of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance and John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The event is an effort to gain interest and connect citizens to local conservation efforts.

As an outdoors writer for the Detroit Free Press for the last 17 years, Eric Sharp is a well-known voice among hunters and anglers. He began his career with the Buffalo Evening News in 1968, followed by seven years with the Associated Press in Miami, Florida. He also spent two years in graduate school in the history department at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

His first work with the Detroit Free Press was from 1977 to 1980, including a few years as the environmental writer in the Lansing bureau. He went back to Florida in 1980, and as the Miami Herald's outdoors writer, he watched the politicians and developers put some of "the final nails in the coffin of paradise" over the next decade.

Eric enthusiastically returned to Michigan in 1990, and has lived in Grayling for the last 17 years. His main interest now is "to try to convince traditional outdoors people, the hunters and anglers, that preserving the environment and natural resources are crucial to preserving the things they like to do." Eric is known to speak passionately and knowledgeably about environmental issues. The FDR and IWRA are pleased to bring this notable environmental writer to the island.

The forum is open to the public. Meeting room space is limited, so attendees are asked to RSVP if possible by August 1, 2007 by e-mail at: [river@detroitriver.org](mailto:river@detroitriver.org), or by phone at (734)

675-0141. Off-Island attendees who RSVP by August 1 will be provided with complimentary round-trip toll fares for the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge to the Island and turn right at Meridian Rd. (first traffic/intersection light). Travel south on Meridian for approximately three miles and make a left on to Bellevue (first street past the entrance to the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club). Drive on Bellevue for just over 1/2 mile and turn right on Third St. (there will be a sign for the Centennial Farm). Third St. ends at the Centennial Farm. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Centennial Farm and in the field along the entrance driveway.

**EVENT INFORMATION:**

Presentation by Detroit Free Press Outdoors Writer Eric Sharp  
August 9, 2007, 7pm to 9 pm

Grosse Ile Centennial Farm Recreation Building  
25797 Third Street, Grosse Ile Township

Cost: No Charge

To reserve space: [river@detroitriver.org](mailto:river@detroitriver.org), or by phone at (734) 675-0141 up to August 8<sup>th</sup>

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