



**FOR RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2007**

**Fall Nature Programs Announced for Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge**

**Grosse Ile, MI** – The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA), in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will host fall nature programs for the public at the Humbug Marsh Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The offerings will give visitors an opportunity to experience the beauty of autumn in a prized natural area along the Detroit River. The fall programs are open to the public and free of charge.

Guided programs will give insight to the wildlife found at the marsh, topics include birds and trees. Registration is required. All ages welcomed and encouraged to participate!

In celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week, Humbug Marsh will be open to the public for self-guided tours from 1 to 5 pm on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. During the open house, visitors can enjoy the fall colors, as well as the spectacular view of the marsh and Humbug Island from the new wildlife observation deck, complete with spotting scopes.

The Humbug Marsh Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is a 410-acre natural area that harbors the last mile of undeveloped shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River. Great blue herons, egrets and numerous species of hawks are a common sight within the coastal marsh. The old-growth oak-hickory forest has 300 year old oaks nearly six-foot in diameter. The Humbug Marsh Unit is located in the cities of Trenton and Gibraltar off Jefferson Avenue.

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a non-profit 501(3)(c) 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 2007 include ITC Transmission, BASF Corporation, DTE Energy Foundation, General Motors Corporation, and Praxair.

The fall programs are open to the public and free of charge. Registration is required for all events with exception of the Open House on October 13th. Please contact the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance to register or for more information – (734) 692-7671 or [lisa\\_appel@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_appel@fws.gov).

**Fall Program Schedule:**

Saturday September 22	9 am to 11am	Bird Walk	Humbug Marsh Unit
Saturday, October 13	1 pm to 5pm	Open House	Humbug Marsh Unit
Sunday, October 21	2 pm to 3pm	Fall Tree Walk	Humbug Marsh Unit
Saturday, November 17	10am to 11am	Waterbird Tour	Humbug Marsh Unit

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