



## **University of Toledo's Gard Island added to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge**

*Toledo, MI*, - The University of Toledo and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) officially announce the addition of Gard Island to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. A cooperative management agreement has been signed between the University and U.S. FWS representatives that allows for the continued management of Gard Island for wildlife and wildlife compatible uses, including for archeological, scientific and educational purposes.

"I commend the University of Toledo for demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship and welcome them as partners in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge," said Congressman John D. Dingell (MI-15). "In the finest traditions of our institutes of higher learning, UT is making a positive difference not only in the lives of those they educate, but just as important, in the community in which we live. Gard Island will serve as a living laboratory for cooperative conservation throughout our region."

Gard Island has been owned by the University of Toledo since 1981 and consists of a 17 acre sand island located in north Maumee Bay, Erie Township, Michigan. The island provides high quality fish and waterfowl habitat. "This agreement provides an excellent opportunity for the University of Toledo to enhance many activities related to its mission of education, research, and community outreach in the environmental field says Dr Patrick Lawrence, University of Toledo".

The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge was established through the leadership of Congressman John D. Dingell and covers an area of 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and the western basin of Lake Erie (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/>). The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 kinds of fish and 300 species of migratory birds. The Detroit River International Refuge is the first international refuge in North America. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and riverfront lands.

An official ceremony for this event will be held on Tuesday January 17th, 2006 3:15 p.m. at the University of Toledo Lake Erie Center, 6200 Bayshore Road, Oregon, Ohio

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