



News Release

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week

For Immediate Release: October 6, 2008

Trenton, MI- Whether it's taking a walk among the fall colors, spotting a rare bird species, or learning about the cultural resources that are part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's conservation mission, National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 12-18, 2008, celebrates the diversity and resources of America's 548 national wildlife refuges.

National wildlife refuges are dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. They also offer a wide range of wildlife-dependent recreation--from hunting and fishing to wildlife observation, wildlife photography, nature interpretation and environmental education. The Refuge System includes 2,500 miles of land and water trails, and there is at least one national wildlife refuge in every state and one within an hour's drive of most major cities.

"America's wildlife refuges offer great places to teach our children the importance of making a lifelong commitment to our nation's natural resources," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall. "Exploring the outdoors and learning how all living things are connected to one another is what National Wildlife Refuge Week is all about."

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge will be celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week with special events on during this week. The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. Teams participate in locations across the globe and the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge will be participating and will be observing from the Humbug Marsh Unit on Sunday, October 12th. The event runs from 5 AM until 8 PM and the public is invited to join the birding team to record as many species as

possible. If you would like to participate, you must register for a time slot ahead of time. Shifts will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis and a maximum of six people per shift.

On Saturday, October 18th, the Humbug Marsh Unit will be open from 9 AM until 4 PM. Enjoy a hike on your own or participate in some of the children's activities. Activities are geared towards ages 6-12, though all are welcome. Participants will learn about the natural world, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the Detroit River and western 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.

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 on The Big Sit! go to: www.birdwatchersdigest.com. To register for the Big Sit or for more information on National Wildlife Refuge Week please contact: Kristi Thiel, Park Ranger at (734) 692-7649 or kristi_thiel@fws.gov. To learn about the expectations of Birding Team members contact: Greg Norwood, Biological Technician at (734) 692-7611 or greg_norwood@fws.gov.

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