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The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance announces its 3rd annual Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Alliance benefit dinner “*Springtime in the Refuge*” on Friday evening, April 18, 2008. The benefit dinner will be held in the GM Wintergarden overlooking the Detroit River at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, MI.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge connects communities and wildlife along 48 miles of the Detroit River and western Lake Erie. This yearly benefit dinner celebrates the accomplishments and progress of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which has a national reputation for public-private partnerships.

The Honorable Congressman John D. Dingell, long-time supporter of the Refuge, looks forward to the Annual event. “This event has become a favorite of mine. I get the chance to celebrate our beautiful, growing refuge with friends who truly care about conservation and protecting our natural heritage,” Dingell said. “I want to thank all our partners personally for their ongoing interest in the Refuge. I look forward to spending the evening with the good people of Southeast Michigan and showing my appreciation for all those who continue to build and grow the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.”

Building upon General Motors Corporation’s commitment to sustainability and improving the quality of life for metropolitan Detroit residents, it will be the premier Blue Goose sponsor of this year’s event. GM is also sharing the spectacular riverfront Wintergarden area for the dinner and cutting edge GMNext showroom for the VIP reception. Beth Lowery, GM’s Vice President for Environment, Energy and Safety Policy, notes, “GM’s partnership with the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge supports our commitment to actions to restore and preserve the environment. The Renaissance Center, a certified wildlife habitat site, is a perfect venue of this premier event and an excellent example of GM’s commitment to the next 100 years.”

The program will feature Helen Taylor, State Director of The Nature Conservancy of Michigan. Ms. Taylor will highlight the tremendous value and benefits of building North America’s only International Wildlife Refuge in the metropolitan Detroit area and TNC’s role as a partner, “People often forget how important this part of the world is to our global environment, particularly to freshwater ecosystems and species like migratory birds. Protecting places through partnerships like the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge helps to preserve nature and sustain the health of our ecology for plants, animals and people” says Taylor.

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The Alliance board looks forward to sharing accomplishments with supporters. Chairman Dick Micka comments, “We are indeed fortunate to be a part of visionary process that restores the natural splendor of the environment in which we live. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge not only enhances the quality of life in Southeast Michigan, but reaches across the border to enhance heritage resources in Canada.”

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a non-profit 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.

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