

Congressman John D. Dingell

Serving Michigan's 15th Congressional District



NEWS ADVISORY
Friday, April 15, 2005

Contact: Adam Benson or Michael Robbins
(202) 225-4071 / (202) 271-8587

Dingell: Wildflower Tour “a Great Way to Learn About Refuge”

Join Experts on Saturday, April 23 for Special Tours

Dearborn, MI - Earth Day falls on Friday, April 22 this year, but the commitment to the environment goes on all year long. There is a terrific opportunity to show that commitment the day after Earth Day at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Congressman John D. Dingell (MI-15) is inviting visitors to the Refuge to enjoy a Spring Wildflower Tour of the Humbug Marsh Unit on Saturday, April 23, 2005.

“Only at Humbug Marsh can visitors see Trout Lily, Marsh Marigold, Dutchman's Breeches, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Trillium, May Apple, and more,” Dingell said. “Tour guides will lead nature aficionados right to these amazing scenes. I believe this will be a great way to learn about the Refuge, a destination that will become one of Michigan's greatest attractions in the years to come.”

“The old growth, oak-hickory forest in our Humbug Marsh Unit has five foot diameter oaks that are over 200 years old,” notes John Hartig, Refuge Manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. “This is the first opportunity for the public to see the tapestry of spring wildflowers in this amazing resource that exists right in our backyard.”

Wildflower experts from across Michigan will lead groups from the DRIWR Center (on the east side of Jefferson Ave. immediately south of Solutia in Trenton) every hour beginning at 9am, with the last tour leaving at 2pm. Parking will be available at DRIWR Center and all walking tours will leave there and enter the Humbug Marsh Unit immediately to the south to discover for the first time the spring wildflowers in North America's only International Wildlife Refuge. Interested nature lovers can call (734) 676-6657 for more information. All wildflower experts and volunteers will be recording the names and locations of unique wildflowers to be able to produce a "Synoptic Survey of Spring Wildflowers of the Humbug Marsh Unit." This survey will help lay the foundation for trail design in Humbug and environmental education programs

for children and families in the future. All are invited to be part of this unique opportunity to catalogue the spring wildflowers of Humbug.

The Spring Wildflower Tours are sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Botanical Club, the Wildflower Association of Michigan, the Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy, Friends of the Detroit River and the Wild Ones.

###