

International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
P.O. Box 91
Trenton, MI 48183
iwr_alliance@yahoo.com



NEWS RELEASE: January 26, 2007

International Wildlife Refuge Alliance's Paddle By Your Refuge Committee Receives Michigan Recreation & Parks Association's 2007 Community Service Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TRENTON, MI – The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA) announces that its Paddle By Your Refuge Committee has received the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association's 2007 Community Service Award for the September 17, 2006 Paddle By Your Refuge event. At this event over 250 kayakers discovered world-class water and wildlife within our International Wildlife Refuge, including Elizabeth Park, Humbug Marsh, Calf Island, Gibraltar Bay, and more. This award was received by several Committee members at a special ceremony held on January 10, 2007 at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing Michigan. This state-wide recognition provides further evidence of the quality of life benefits found in southeast Michigan.

IWRA partners in the event included: Riverside Kayak Connection, LLC, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Trenton Parks & Recreation, DTE Energy, Wayne County Parks, Michigan Sea Grant, Huron Clinton Metro Parks, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All event proceeds benefited IWRA.

Commenting on this project, IWRA Chairperson George Mans noted, "This is an outstanding example of a true partnership project that connects people to the natural beauty, wildlife, and rich history found in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Such outdoor recreation events are helping people rediscover world-class water, wildlife, heritage, and recreation right in our backyard."

Paddle By Your Refuge has become an annual event, with the next one planned for September 2007. Such events enhance community pride and further Michigan's No. 2 economy – outdoor recreation. The significance of this was recently highlighted by the Outdoor Recreation Foundation that showed that paddle-based recreation contributed \$36 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

The mission of the IWRA is to support the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America by working through partnerships to protect, conserve and manage the refuge's wildlife and habitats, and to create exceptional conservation, recreational and educational experiences to develop the next generation of conservation stewards. Major IWRA funding partners in 2006 included DTE Energy Foundation, BASF Corp., DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company/AutoAlliance, General Motors Corp., ITC Transmission, Hamilton Anderson Associates, Praxair, and Wade Trim.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and the western basin of Lake Erie. It focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for waterfowl, fish and migratory birds, see <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/index.html>.

CONTACTS: Ms. Anita Twardesky, Riverside Kayak Connection, Vice-Chairperson of International Wildlife Refuge Alliance 734-626-5465 or Ms. Mary Bohling, Michigan Sea Grant, Secretary of International Wildlife Refuge Alliance - 313-410-9431

DISCOVER OUR WILD SIDE