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Article published May 13, 2007

Wildlife observation deck dedicated at Humbug Marsh

TRENTON — Conservation officials dedicated a new wildlife observation deck at Humbug Marsh on Saturday to mark "International Migratory Bird Day."

The observation deck, within the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, provides views of Humbug Island and the Marsh and includes a spotting scope, an educational kiosk and interpretive panel about the area's wildlife.

The ceremony Saturday morning also commemorated the completion of the "ByWays to FlyWays" bird driving tour map of Southeast Michigan and Southwest Ontario.

About \$100,000 financed the project and the money was contributed by Wild Birds Unlimited, Inc.'s Pathways to Nature Program in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"This wildlife observation deck and bird driving tour map are an excellent example of what we are doing through public-private partnerships to provide an exceptional outdoor recreation and conservation experience to improve the quality of life of people in metro Detroit," said U.S. Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Dearborn. "This project demonstrates our commitment to reconnecting children and families to nature and to helping develop the next generation of conservationists."

The deck was built by Lincoln Park High School's Agriscience Program. The kiosk was constructed by DTE Energy's Trenton Channel Power Plant and Green Team, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters — Local 687, Laborers' International Union of North America — Local 499, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers — Local 17, and U.W.U.A., Local 223, AFL-CIO.

The ByWays to FlyWays map was created by avid birders, interested citizens, and Hamilton Anderson Associates. The map is available online at www.mac-web.org/DiscoverOurWildSide.

Among contributing partners to the project were the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Michigan Sea Grant, Stoneco of Michigan; Hoppert Farms; Snow's Nursery; Davey Tree Service; Gibraltar Department of Public Works; Monroe Fence; and Mans Lumber and Millwork.

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