



Hooded Merganser (male). Photo credit: Roy Churchill

Merganser Monday

Three species spotted at Blue Water River Walk last week

Sometimes referred to as "sawbills," [the birds we call mergansers](#) are diving ducks that use their long, serrated bills to catch and consume fish. We typically see three different species in our region, and thanks to Roy Churchill, all three were photographed in Port Huron on the same day last week. The males and females of a species can look different, which is why it seems like there are more types. The Hooded Merganser (pictured above) is not in the same genus as the others but is closely related.



Monday Morning River Walking

According to Michael Coughlin, one of our regular River Walkers, the walk doesn't count unless you make it all the way to Tenth Street! Wear your warm clothes and appropriate footwear and join us every Monday morning at 10 a.m. We meet at the arch at the north entrance to the Blue Water River Walk and hit the trail for about an hour. Contact [Kirsten Lyons](#) at BlueWaterRiverWalk@gmail.com or [810.294.4965](tel:810.294.4965) if you have questions about Monday Morning River Walks.





Common Merganser pair (left=female). Photo credit: Roy Churchill

The Common Merganser male lacks the shaggy crest and has a very sleek appearance compared to his mate and to other mergansers.



Red-breasted Merganser yawning (female). Photo credit: Roy Churchill

The Red-breasted Merganser photo above shows that birds do yawn. [It's not entirely clear why animals yawn](#), but it may be to regulate brain temperature.

Speaking of birds...

Mark your calendar! The Winter Bird Blast is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2016 in Port Huron. We'll spend the morning with local experts learning how to identify the many unique birds that call the Blue Water area home or are passing through this time of year. Then we'll learn some bird and nature painting techniques at Studio 1219 in the afternoon. No experience is necessary for these activities. Contact Sheri Faust at info@scriver.org or 810.987.5306 for more information about Winter Bird



Stewards' resource manual meeting

Wed., Jan. 27 @ 12:30 p.m.
St. Clair County Health Dept.

The time for the Stewards' resource manual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 27 has changed. **We will meet at 12:30 p.m.** (instead of 11:30 a.m.) at the St. Clair County Health Dept. on 28th Street in Port Huron. Contact Kirsten at BlueWaterRiverWalk@gmail.com or [810.294.4965](tel:810.294.4965) if you'd like to hear more about this project.



PoHo Hot Cocoa Race Expo & Race Day

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 30-31, 2016
McMorran Auditorium & Downtown Port Huron

This year the Friends of the St. Clair River will have an information booth at the Race Expo on Saturday, January 30 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Race Expo offers us an opportunity to chat with the public and area runners about our work. On Race Day early in the morning we are looking for volunteer course marshals to help keep the runners safe and on the right path. Contact Kirsten at BlueWaterRiverWalk@gmail.com or [810.294.4965](tel:810.294.4965) if you're able to assist us one or both days.

[Chilly Fest is coming this weekend!](#)

Blast.



Upcoming events at a glance:

- Mon. Jan. 18 @ 10 a.m. River Walking at Blue Water River Walk in Port Huron
- Fri.-Sat. Jan. 22-23 Chilly Fest in Downtown Port Huron
- Mon. Jan. 25 @ 10 a.m. River Walking at Blue Water River Walk in Port Huron
- Tue. Jan. 26 @ 6:30 p.m. Binational Public Advisory Council for the St. Clair River Area of Concern meeting in Port Huron
- Wed. Jan. 27 @ 12:30 p.m. Stewards resource manual meeting in Port Huron
- Wed. Jan. 27 @ 6 p.m. Freshwater Mussels in Port Huron
- Wed. Jan. 27 @ 7 p.m. Friends of the St. Clair River stewardship steering committee meeting in Port Huron
- Sat. Jan. 30 @ 10 a.m.-8 p.m. PoHo Hot Cocoa Race Expo
- Sun. Jan. 31 @ 7:30 a.m. PoHo Hot Cocoa Race Day

Friends of the St. Clair River is a grassroots environmental non-profit providing fun, educational activities that connect our community to our water resources.



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