



Huron River Watershed

2012

community calendar



# celebrating h<sub>2</sub>o heroes in 2012



## Welcome to your 2012 Huron River Watershed Community Calendar.

**What is the Huron River watershed? It is all the land, creeks, and streams that drain into the Huron River. It includes lakes, wetlands, groundwater and your neighborhood. The Huron River watershed is part of the much larger Lake Erie watershed.**

When you help protect the Huron River and its tributary streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater with simple steps taken right in your own home or back yard **you are an H<sub>2</sub>O Hero.**

Washing your car on the lawn, picking up pet waste, mulching fall leaves, using a rain barrel, choosing phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer—all of these help to prevent water pollution.

Today, most of the pollution entering our rivers, streams, and lakes arrives with the rainwater that runs off hard surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops. The polluting culprits are dirt, oil and toxic auto fluids, pesticides and fertilizer, and bacteria from pet waste and failing septic systems.

We depend on storm drains and sewers, drainage ditches, and culverts to keep our streets from flooding during storms. Yet, these devices also direct polluted and untreated rainwater straight into our local waterways, including the Huron River.

Every month of this Watershed Community Calendar features a simple step toward creating a healthier watershed **showing how your everyday actions can be heroic!**

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)



# Resources

To report a hazardous spill, call your local fire department 9-1-1

To report illegal dumping or other environmental pollution concerns, call the MDEQ Pollution Emergency Alert System 800-292-4706

## Livingston County

[www.co.livingston.mi.us](http://www.co.livingston.mi.us)

Department of Public Works  
517-546-7150

Drain Commissioner  
517-546-0040

Home Toxics Reduction/  
Solid Waste Program  
517-545-9609

MSU Extension Horticulture Hotline  
517-546-3950

Recycle Livingston  
[www.recyclelivingston.org](http://www.recyclelivingston.org)  
517-548-4439

Road Commission  
[www.livingstonroads.org](http://www.livingstonroads.org)  
517-546-4250

## Washtenaw County

[www.ewashtenaw.org](http://www.ewashtenaw.org)

Environmental Health Department  
734-222-3800

Water Resources Commissioner  
734-222-6860

Home Toxics Reduction Program  
734-222-3950

MSU Extension Garden Hotline  
734-997-1819

Road Commission  
734-761-1500

## City of Ann Arbor

[www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

Recycle Ann Arbor  
734-662-6288

Solid Waste Information  
734-994-2807

Water Utilities Customer  
Service Center  
734-994-2666

## City of Brighton

[www.brightoncity.org](http://www.brightoncity.org)

Department of Public Services  
810-225-8001

## City of Ypsilanti

[www.cityofypsilanti.com](http://www.cityofypsilanti.com)

Department of Public Services  
734-483-1421

## Huron River Watershed Council

[www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org)

734-769-5123

## Village of Barton Hills

[www.vil-bartonhills.org](http://www.vil-bartonhills.org)

Forest Butterwick, Chair  
Environmental Impact Committee  
[fbutterwick@ameritech.net](mailto:fbutterwick@ameritech.net)  
734-665-3876

Jan Esch, Deputy Clerk  
[bhvclerk@comcast.net](mailto:bhvclerk@comcast.net)  
734-222-5209

## Village of Dexter

[www.villageofdexter.org](http://www.villageofdexter.org)

Department of Public Works  
734-426-8530

Utilities Department  
734-426-4572

Wellhead Protection Coordinator,  
Allison Bishop  
734-426-8303 ext. 15

Village of Dexter, Village Offices  
734-426-8303

## Marion Township

[www.mariontownship.com](http://www.mariontownship.com)

517-546-1588

## Village of Pinckney

[www.villageofpinckney.org](http://www.villageofpinckney.org)

734-878-6206

## Pittsfield Charter Township

[www.pittsfield-mi.gov](http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov)

Information  
734-822-3101

Utilities Department/  
Water and Sewer Emergencies  
734-822-3105 (business hours)  
734-822-4911 (evenings/weekends)

Parks and Recreation  
734-822-2120

## Charter Township of Ypsilanti

[www.ytown.org](http://www.ytown.org)

Office of Community Standards  
734-485-3943

## Charter Township of Brighton

[www.brightontwp.com](http://www.brightontwp.com)

Sewer Emergency 866-806-1718  
Supervisor 810-229-0550

## Ann Arbor Public Schools

[www.aaps.k12.mi.us](http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us)

## Eastern Michigan University

[www.emich.edu](http://www.emich.edu)



**Ice Storm at Highland Recreation Area** TED NELSON

1



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
New Year's Day 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 16	17	18	19	20	21
22	Chinese New Year 23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	Groundhog Day 2 World Wetlands Day	3	4

Volunteer for Winter Stonefly Search January 28. Hundreds of people team up to collect and count riverbugs that are sensitive to water pollution and changes in habitat. Communities use the information to help manage activities that impact the Huron.

Using water wisely saves money on your utility bills, saves the energy that goes to pump, treat and heat water, and reduces your greenhouse gas emissions. Smart use of hot water has an even bigger impact. Replace showerheads that have a flow rate greater than 2.5 gallons per minute. Take shorter showers. Install efficient faucet aerators and faucets that use a maximum of 1.5 gallons per minute. Turn off the water when soaping hands, shaving, or brushing teeth. The average reduction in hot water use for households installing efficient fixtures and appliances is 10.8 gallons per day, or approximately 20%.



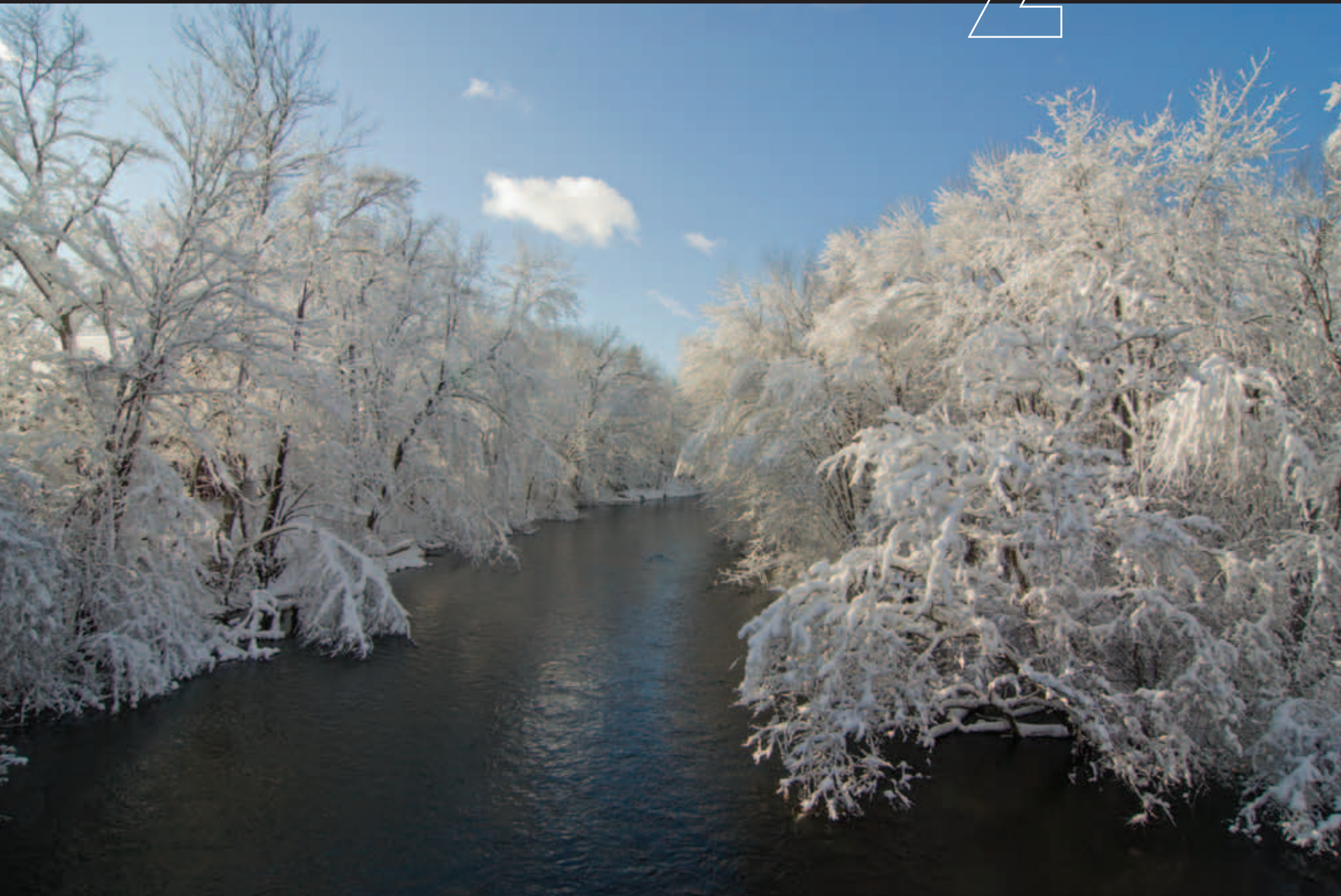
h2oheroes  
tap into  
savings

January 2012

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

**Huron River at the Zeeb Road Bridge** KEITH MATZ

2



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day 2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lincoln's Birthday 12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16	17	18
19	President's Day 20	21	Ash Wednesday Washington's Birthday 22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	1	2	3

Dumping waste into storm drains, ditches or waterways contaminates drinking water supplies, recreational areas, and wildlife habitat. Plus, it is **ILLEGAL!** Cleanup efforts cost millions of tax dollars each year. If you see illegal dumping, report it right away. You will help prevent further water contamination and reduce potential cleanup costs. Call the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Emergency Alert System 800-292-4706 to report illegal dumping. For suspected hazardous or flammable spills call 9-1-1 immediately.

**h2oheroes**  
**report jerks**

**February 2012**  
Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

**Intrepid Kayaker, Delhi Metropark** KEITH MATZ

3





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Savings Time Begins 11	12	13	14	15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17
18	19	Vernal Equinox 20	21	World Water Day 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Picking up pet waste keeps the yard clean and the neighbors happy. It also protects local waterways. Pet waste left on the ground washes into creeks, rivers, and lakes through the storm drains. Bacteria in pet feces compromise water quality, reduce recreational opportunities, and contaminate drinking water supplies. Take a minute to pick up after your dog and dispose of pet waste properly.

h2oheroes

scoop poop

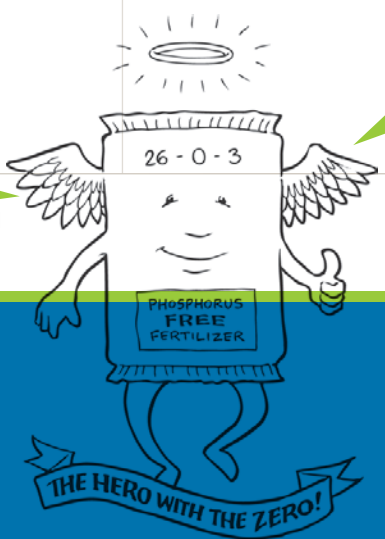
Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

March 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April Fool's Day 1 Palm Sunday	2	3	4	5	Good Friday 6	Passover 7
Easter Sunday 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Tax Day 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Earth Day 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Consider volunteering on April 21 for River RoundUp. Join other h2o heroes to help the Huron River Watershed Council collect and identify riverbugs that indicate the quality of our river.



Choose phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer, the kind with "0" as its middle number. Phosphorus is naturally abundant in the soils of southeast Michigan. Excess phosphorus washing into our waterways promotes rapid and severe algae growth that kills fish and beneficial plants. Phosphorus-free products are readily available at local retailers. Starting in 2012, Michigan prohibits the application of phosphorus fertilizers to lawns with limited exceptions.

h2o heroes **use only phosphorus-free fertilizer**

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

April 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	May is American Wetlands Month   1	2	3	4	Cinco de Mayo 5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mother's Day 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	Memorial Day 28	John F. Kennedy's Birthday 29	30	31	1	2

Put rainwater to work in your yard. Catch rainwater with gardens that use deep-rooted native plants. The plants act like sponges, trapping and filtering polluted runoff, and preventing it from washing into our rivers. A natural low spot in your yard could be the perfect place for a rain garden. Learn more at [www.ewashtenaw.org/raingardens](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/raingardens).

Make use of your house, garage, or shed by directing roof-top runoff into a rain barrel. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that watering your garden and lawn consumes 40% of your household water during the summer. By using a rain barrel you save water and money and help to reduce the enormous volume of dirty runoff that flows into our rivers when it rains.

h<sub>2</sub>oheroes  
plant  
Michiganders

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)



May 2012

**Morning at Pickerel Lake** MARC AKEMANN

6



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	World Environment Day 5	6	7	World Oceans Day 8	9
10	11	12	13	Flag Day 14	15	16
Father's Day 17	18	19	Summer Solstice 20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, oil, paint, and other potential toxics in ways that protect your family and your drinking water. Never pour them down storm drains, into sinks, or onto the ground. Contact your county for disposal guidelines and drop-off locations: Livingston 517-545-9609; Monroe 734-240-7900; Washtenaw 734-222-3950; Wayne 734-326-3936. In Oakland County, call your city or township or go to [www.oakgov.com/waste/nohaz](http://www.oakgov.com/waste/nohaz) for information.

h<sub>2</sub>o heroes

know toxics

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

June 2012

**Waiting Kayaks at Kent Lake, Kensington Metropark** KEITH MATZ

7





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	Ramadan 20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Wash your car on the lawn to keep dirty water out of the storm drain. Your lawn will gladly soak up the water and your grass will break down the soap, absorbing any phosphate it contains. If you cannot wash your car on the lawn, use a commercial car wash. Commercial car wash facilities are required by law to treat their wastewater.

h<sub>2</sub>oheroes

do it on the grass

July 2012

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

**Angler on Pickerel Lake**    MARC AKEMANN

8



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Save water as the summer heats up. To reduce evaporation, water your yard early in the day. Direct sprinklers into the yard and away from paved surfaces. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean your sidewalks and driveway.

h<sub>2</sub>o heroes **sprinkle when the sun don't shine**

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

**August 2012**

**Kent Lake Sunrise, Kensington Metropark** MARC AKEMANN

9



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	Labor Day 3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	Patriot Day 11	12	13	14	15
16	Rosh Hashanah 17	18	19	20	21	Autumnal Equinox 22
23	24	25	Yom Kippur 26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Use a broom to clean up spills and keep storm drains for rainwater only!

Understand the storm drain connection. Storm drains are underground pipes that transport rainwater and melting snow directly into area creeks, lakes, and rivers. Garbage, pet waste, dirt, fertilizers, antifreeze, and motor oil — these are just a few of the contaminants that hitch a ride. Whatever is on the ground washes into our waterways.



**h<sub>2</sub>o heroes**  
**watch**  
**runoff**

**September 2012**  
 Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

Leaves Over River, Lower Huron Metropark MARC AKEMANN

10



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Columbus Day 8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	United Nations Day 24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Halloween 31	1	2	3

Consider volunteering October 6 for River RoundUp. Join other h2o heroes who help the Huron River Watershed Council collect and identify riverbugs that indicate the Huron's health. Details at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org).

Instead of raking your fall leaves into the street, where they can wash into the storm drains, consider using your mower to mulch them into your lawn as a natural fertilizer. Or compost them for next spring. If your community's guidelines for curb-side pick-up direct you to put your leaves into the street, wait until just before collection day to do so.

h2o heroes

mulch  
more

October 2012

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

**Kent Lake Morning, Kensington Metropark** TED NELSON

11





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	Halloween 31	1	2	3
Daylight Savings Time Ends 4	5	Election Day 6	7	8	9	10
11	Veterans Day 12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	Thanksgiving 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

Do not flush prescription or over-the-counter medications down the toilet or sink. Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to "filter out" drugs and personal care items. Protect your drinking water by keeping these products out of our rivers, waterways, and groundwater. Dispose of them through a "take back" program or by wrapping containers in duct tape and several layers of plastic bags before putting them in your trash. Go to [www.dontflushdrugs.com](http://www.dontflushdrugs.com) for details.

h<sub>2</sub>o heroes

don't  
flush

November 2012

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

Winter Huron River, Lower Huron Metropark TED NELSON

12



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	Hanukkah 8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	Winter Solstice 21	22
23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	Kwanzaa Begins 26	27	28	29
30	New Year's Eve 31	New Year's Day 1	2	3	4	5

Help keep rivers healthy in the winter. Shovel snow and ice early and often to limit your use of sand, salt, and deicing chemicals. When safety requires it, try an alternative to salt. Deicers, such as magnesium chloride, have fewer adverse environmental impacts and are not as corrosive. Check labels to choose a deicer that fits your conditions and apply it early and sparingly.

h<sub>2</sub>o heroes

salt less

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

December 2012

January 2013

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	



tap into savings

Turning off the tap to brush teeth, soap hands or shave saves water and the energy used to heat it.

February 2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				



report jerks

Stuff that is illegally dumped into curbside storm drains and ditches pollutes our water. Call to report it 800-292-4706.

March 2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	



scoop poop

Be your dog's best friend. Scoop poop to keep it out of storm drains and help your dog protect water quality.

April 2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		



use phosphorus free fertilizer

Michigan law requires it and your nearby river or lake will appreciate it.

## May 2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

h<sub>2</sub>oheroes

## plant local

Native plants with deep roots filter polluted runoff and keep water clean.

## June 2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

h<sub>2</sub>oheroes

## know toxics

...and put them in their place. Home toxics don't belong in our water supply. Take 'em to your county collection site.

## July 2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

h<sub>2</sub>oheroes

## do it on the grass

Wash your car on the lawn to keep the suds out of storm drains and give your grass a drink.

## August 2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

h<sub>2</sub>oheroes

## sprinkle less

Sprinkle when the sun don't shine. Water your lawn in the morning when the midday sun won't dry it up. You'll use less to get the job done.

**September 2013**

Learn more at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

*h2oheroes*

**watch runoff**

A storm drain carries everything that enters it right to our rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources, no filters, no cleaning. Lck.

**October 2013**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

*h2oheroes*

**mulch more**

Turn your lawn into a locavore. Mulch fall leaves from nearby trees with your mower. Keep em out of storm drains and feed your lawn.

**November 2013**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

*h2oheroes*

**don't flush**

Keep rivers, lakes and drinking water sources drug free. Check for a county "take back" program, or wrap and trash leftover prescriptions and over the counter medications instead of flushing them.

**December 2013**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

*h2oheroes*

**salt less**

Shovel your driveway early and often and use environmentally friendly deicers. Keep rivers and lakes healthy with less salty runoff.



**Marc Akemann**  
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mnakemann@mac.com  
Jun/Aug/Sep/Oct



**Ted Nelson**  
734-776-2423  
nelsonsted@aol.com  
Jan/May/Nov/Dec



**Keith Matz**  
734-449-4974  
kmatz@umich.edu  
www.keithmatzphoto.com  
Feb/Mar/Apr/Jul

### About this calendar...

The Watershed Community Calendar is produced in even numbered years. For another year of spectacular Huron River watershed photos, reuse your calendar for 2013! Get pdfs of the months and dates to tack into your 2012 calendar at [www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes](http://www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes).

The communities that partnered to produce the 2012 Huron River Watershed Community Calendar want to show you how you can help to protect water quality. Some of these communities are required by federal law\* to educate residents regarding individual impacts on rivers, streams, and lakes. Some are not. But each recognizes that in working together we can secure our watershed as a permanent source of natural beauty, diverse recreation, and clean drinking water for future generations.

Engaging vendors that are local to the watershed and containing costs—both are priorities at every stage in the process of creating the calendar.

The Huron River Watershed Council lends expertise on watershed pollution prevention issues, and manages the overall production. Acclaimed local photographers Marc Akemann, Keith Matz, and Ted Nelson provide the featured photography. Christianson Design of Ann Arbor provides graphic design services and the calendar is printed by Goetzcraft Printers, a partner in Washtenaw County's Waste Knot Program.

We invite all of the communities in the watershed to participate in the calendar program. Together we will distribute 40,000 calendars to watershed residents. This large print run, made possible by pooling our resources, reduces printing costs. A direct-mail format minimizes mailing costs for those communities sending them directly to residents.

\* Phase I and II Federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit



Huron  
River  
Watershed  
Council

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**Illustration:** Eric Miller  
**Photography:** Marc Akemann, Keith Matz, Ted Nelson

Printed on recycled paper  
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## A Message from the Huron River Watershed Council

Did you know that the Huron River is the cleanest urban river in Michigan? Since 1965, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) has been protecting the river and its tributary streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater. HRWC coordinates programs and volunteer efforts that include pollution prevention, hands-on river monitoring, wetland and floodplain protection, public outreach and education, and natural resources planning.

HRWC is the only environmental organization dedicated

solely to the health of the Huron River. Individuals, local businesses, and more than 40 communities support our work through voluntary membership. With your help, we can ensure the health of the Huron River for future generations.

To learn more about the programs and volunteer opportunities of the Huron River Watershed Council, and what you can do to support our work, please go to our website at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org), or call any member of our professional staff at 734-769-5123.