

# Lake Views

## Attention Seasonal Campers

- As a reminder - all seasonal camping lotteries will be held on March 21.
- Notices and directions regarding changes in the lottery process and new payment due dates were mailed in January.
- Payments are due in full on March 13th
- Contact your park office for more information if needed.

## Did you know...

...The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is the second largest tree farmer in the State of Ohio?

...Over 3.6 million people use our parks and campgrounds every year?

...The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District covers all or part of 18 counties?

...Camping and cabin reservations can be made online at [mwcd.org](http://mwcd.org)?

**Hiring Full Time and  
Part Time Positions.**  
Check us out at  
[mwcd.org](http://mwcd.org)

## Implementation Stage Commences for Master Plan Park Improvements

Make way for the implementation of the Park Improvement Master Plan! It is with great anticipation and excitement that the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) moves into the master plan implementation phase. Implementation of the overall master plan will be phased to minimize impacts to our park users and major events such as Independence Day. Projects that will commence in 2015 include the following:

Park	2015 Construction Activity
Pleasant Hill Atwood	Activities Center Office and Deck Welcome Center Phase 1 Trail Amphitheatre Trail Lighting
Piedmont	Marina Dock Access Drive Water Supply Building
Tappan	Handicapped Accessible Restroom

These projects are just the beginning of the Master Plan program which includes 300 projects spanning our five parks which will update and modernize our facilities to enable the MWCD to better serve the 3.6 million visitors per year.

In addition, over \$11.6 million has been incurred since 2011 on 50 deferred maintenance and preliminary Master Plan projects throughout the MWCD's five parks. The groundwork has been laid for the Master Plan upgrades, enhancements and improvements to move full steam ahead.

In the meantime, during the course of 2015, consultant selection for each park and final designs will be initiated. Construction of the \$160 million Master Plan program will be completed over the course of the next 5-6 years. Funding for these much needed improvements is through revenues generated by oil and gas leases. Details of master plan projects will be launched soon on our website at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org).

### Rendering of Atwood Welcome Center -

Construction of this facility will commence Spring of 2015. The design concept will be used throughout the Master Plan implementation at all five MWCD parks



**Muskingum Watershed**

**Conservancy District**

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Call, write or e-mail  
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**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon-Thurs 7 am - 5 pm

Friday 8 am - 5 pm

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

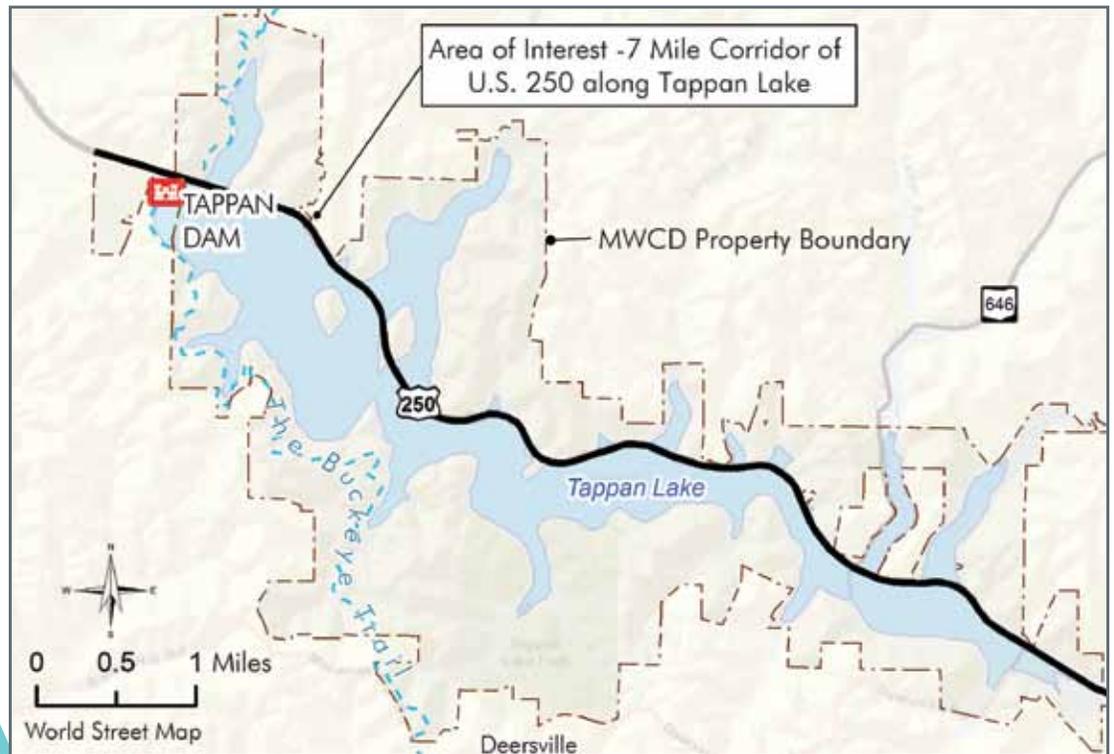
Responsible stewards  
dedicated to providing the  
benefits of flood reduction,  
conservation and recreation  
in the Muskingum River  
Watershed.

# 2015 Goals Approved by MWCD Board of Directors

In January, the Board of Directors reviewed and approved a set of six goals for 2015. The main goals and a summary of some of the highlights the MWCD staff will pursue and implement include the following:

- 1. Oil and Gas Development** - Ensure emergency preparedness and fiscal compliance procedures are followed.
- 2. Master Plan Implementation** - Focus on final design and construction for the multi-year \$160 million Master Plan for park improvements.
- 3. Dredge Program** - Initiate the multi-year lake dredge operations according to the 2014 comprehensive plan and develop a plan for a navigational dredge program in 2015.
- 4. Fiscal Management** - Due to fluctuations in the oil and gas market, closely monitor oil and gas revenues and adjust future plans for expansion and development activities if needed.
- 5. Human Resource Development** - Develop management succession programs including leadership training and education for the MWCD staff.
- 6. Tappan/Leesville/Clendening/Trails Plans** - Initiate the process to develop master plans for the Tappan/Route 250 Corridor, Leesville Lake, Clendening Lake and a general plan for trails. Input from our partners, customers and public will be garnered. A draft report and several concepts for consideration will be developed by the end of this year.

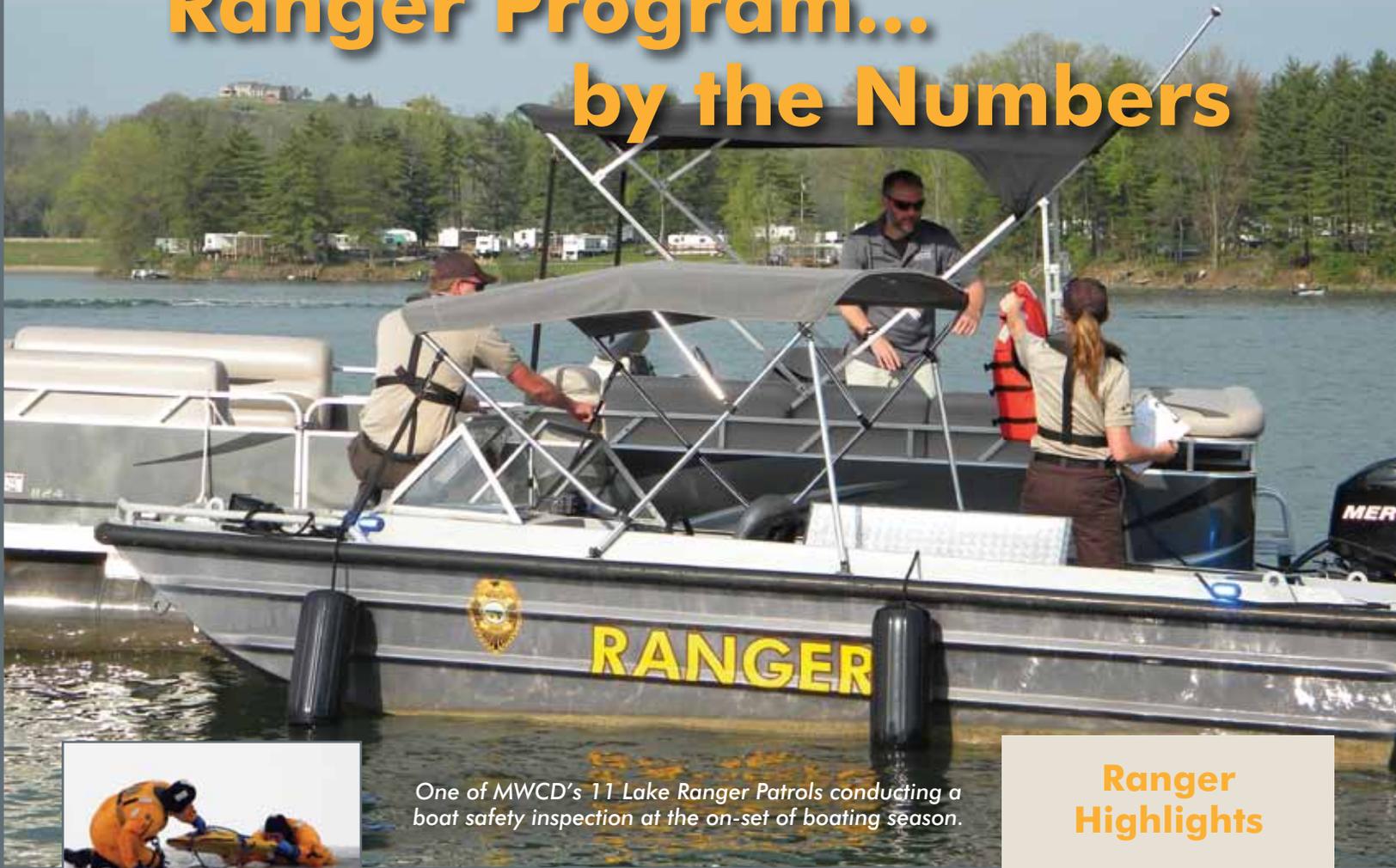
The last goal is a new initiative which is a response to our customers' interest in trails and the opportunities Tappan Lake presents along the Route 250 corridor. This initial step will consider the MWCD's resources and how to maximize the benefit to the public.



The high visibility of Tappan Lake is a living billboard along Route 250 and presents great opportunities to enhance and promote the MWCD facilities and public benefits.



# Ranger Program... by the Numbers



*One of MWCD's 11 Lake Ranger Patrols conducting a boat safety inspection at the on-set of boating season.*



MWCD Rangers and Park Managers coordinated and completed ice rescue training conjunction with local EMS forces. Ranger Patrols are active all year round at the MWCD facilities.

Did you know the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has its own police department? You may know our police force as Rangers. A robust and modern law enforcement, or Ranger program, is vital to ensure the safety of the 3.6 million visitors that choose the MWCD's parks, lakes and campgrounds as their recreation destination each year. At peak season during the summer months, 50 Rangers patrol and assist the five parks, ten marinas and eight lakes that comprise the MWCD's recreational facilities.

MWCD's Rangers are extremely busy in the off season not only in patrol but also in attending training in order to augment their skills in law enforcement and as first responders. All of the MWCD Rangers are trained in marine and land services. In addition, the District is committed to the acquisition and use of state-of-the-art equipment. This type of training and modernization of equipment enhances the safety factors in response and assist time when services are required.

As a response to interaction and concerns with boaters, the MWCD Rangers created and instituted a Dock Watch program which was acknowledged with the Park Law Enforcement Award through the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. The Dock Watch program is a creative way boaters can support each other and assist in more timely communication with law enforcement if needed.

So next time you see a Ranger while you are out and about, thank them for their diligence, think safety, and enjoy the MWCD facilities as our Rangers are present to serve and protect you!



*A typical sign posted to promote the Dock Watch program which enhances timely response by law enforcement if needed.*

## Ranger Highlights

- 50 Rangers are employed at peak season
- Lake Rangers are deployed 7 days a week during boating season.
- All Rangers are equipped with modern equipment including body cameras and multi – agency radio communications
- The MWCD created and implemented the award winning Dock Watch program

## Lake Ranger Program in 2014...

### ...by the Numbers

- 3,700 Patrol hours
- 13,000 boater contacts
- 244 persons assisted
- 145 vessels assisted
- 55 hours teaching boat safety





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[mwcd.org](http://mwcd.org)

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## New Executive Team Members Announced

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District announces the recent employment of Barbara H. Bennett to fill the newly created position on the executive management team as Director of Administrative Services. Ms. Bennett holds a B.S. Degree from the University of Notre Dame in Civil Engineering. She is both a Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor in the State of Ohio and also holds certifications as a Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, Professional in Storm Water Quality and as an Accredited Professional in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED-AP). For the last 25 years, Barbara has been employed with a private civil engineering and surveying consulting firm where she was a Partner and on the Board of Managers which entailed directing an 80-employee engineering firm with five offices. She served as past chairman of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival and currently serves on nine community volunteer boards including The Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition, Aultman Health Foundation, the Ohio Rail Development Commission, and Walsh University among others.

Ms. Bennett is responsible for overseeing business operations, public information, records management and IS/IT for the District's main office and five parks.

Ms. Bennett will serve as the primary spokesperson to the public and to the media for the MWCD.

Mary C. Burley has also been assigned to fill the newly created position of Director of Human Resources as part of the executive management team. Ms. Burley is responsible for overseeing hiring, employee benefits, policies and safety for the 100 full time and 200 seasonal staff positions in the District.

Mary C. Burley, began her career with the District 17 years ago as a Human Resources Coordinator, and has also served in the capacity of Human Resources Manager and Administrator. Ms. Burley is a graduate of Florida Southern College with a B.S. degree in Personnel Administration and Marketing. Her career also includes time spent working in human resources management and training at a national bank branch in Dover, Ohio and the Roscoe Village Foundation in Coshocton, Ohio.

Ms. Bennett and Ms. Burley join Boris E. Slogar, P.E.- Chief Engineer, James B. Cugliari -Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Scott Barnhart - Chief of Recreation and Theodore R. Lozier, P.E. - Chief of Conservation on the MWCD executive management team led by John M. Hoopingarner, its executive Director/Secretary.



**Barbara H. Bennett, P.E., P.S.**  
*Director of Administrative Services*



**Mary C. Burley**  
*Director of Human Resources*