



Muskingum Watershed  
Conservancy District

# Lake Views

SUMMER 2009  
Volume 28, Issue 2

## Return to the skies



*A bald eagle found injured at Piedmont Lake last fall prepares to fly away as it is released this spring following extensive rehabilitation.*

### Healed eagle gains release at Piedmont

It was one of the more unusual calls for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) lake patrol rangers.

And it didn't "officially" end until nearly seven months later.

Last fall residents and visitors at Piedmont Lake were surprised to find a bald eagle hopping around the shore. It appeared to have an injured leg and was unable to fly.

Shawn Tharp, an MWCD ranger specialist out on patrol on the lake, received a call for assistance for the eagle.

"It turned into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when you talk about being able to help one of America's symbols," Tharp said.

The ranger contacted Mike Cable, another MWCD ranger specialist, and they arrived to watch over the eagle, which was in no mood to cooperate with anyone.

"We called for help and advice from a lot of sources, and that eagle watched our

"It turned into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when you talk about being able to help one of America's symbols."

- Shawn Tharp, MWCD ranger specialist

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**MWCD to update website at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org) - See Page 8!**



## Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Lake Views

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### Mission Statement

*Responsible stewards dedicated to conservation, recreation and flood control in the Muskingum River Watershed, striving to enhance the quality of life in the region.*



*This aerial photograph shows the area inside Atwood Lake Park that is being prepared for the stage for the Alive Festival. The location is highlighted near the top of the photo.*

# Alive at Atwood Popular event on way in 2010

Atwood Lake Park will be even more "Alive" than usual in June 2010.

The park has been selected as the new host site for the Alive Festival, a popular multi-day summer Christian music event that is more than 20 years old and attracts thousands of people from around the country each year.

Earlier this year, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) Board of Directors approved an agreement with Alive Festival organizers to bring the event to Atwood Lake Park. Included in the plan is creation of an outdoor amphitheater area inside the park, for which site preparation is under way.

The festival will hold its first event at Atwood Lake Park in, 2010.

"The Alive Festival is one of the premier events in the Midwest each summer and hosting it at Atwood Lake Park offers an incredible opportunity to showcase the lake, park and campgrounds to a whole new audience," said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive

director/secretary.

Originated in 1988, the festival's mission is "to bring individuals together from various churches, denominations and backgrounds to enjoy four days of music, worship, teaching, camping, swimming and recreational fun!" The festival has been held in Stark County since its inception and organizers said they are "thrilled" about the event now being held at Atwood Lake Park in a custom-designed amphitheater.

"With the beautiful lake, a full-service park and an amphitheater that will be second to none, the festival will thrive in the hills around Atwood Lake," said Bill Graening, executive director and co-founder of the festival with his wife Kathy. "Our guests will no doubt count down the months, days and weeks until the festival arrives each year as they eagerly await their return to Atwood Lake

■ See ALIVE ... Page 3

# Updates at Seneca, Tappan

Boaters at Seneca and Tappan lakes may notice a few updates while on the water at Seneca and Tappan lakes this year.

A few changes based on public feedback from several meetings held over the past two years have been implemented for the 2009 boating season.

Lake rangers from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft will be at both lakes throughout the boating season to assist visitors and answer questions.

The horsepower limit for boat motors on both lakes is 399 hp as established by the Division of Watercraft. According to state law, the Division of Watercraft has the authority to establish horsepower limits for boats on Ohio's waterways, including the lakes of the MWCD.

Changes implemented at Seneca Lake include the following:

1. 300-foot and 100-foot shore zones
2. New channel marker buoys.
3. A change at the east end of the lake from a no-wake zone to a 6 mph speed limit zone.

At Tappan Lake, the updates include the following:

1. 100-foot shore zone.
2. New channel marker buoys in front of Tappan Marina.
3. Move east line of the no wake zone near Tappan Marina.
4. Addition of a new boater swim area.

## Hearings held on requests for Clendening, Piedmont

Public hearings were held this spring to gather feedback on a public petition request to increase the horsepower limits for boat motor engines on Clendening and Piedmont lakes.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft holds jurisdiction for horsepower limits on the state's waterways, including the lakes of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD). In 2008, a petition from boaters requesting to increase the horsepower limit on Clendening and Piedmont lakes from 10 hp to 25 hp was presented to both agencies.

No decisions have been made about the request and a timetable for a decision has not been announced by the Division of Watercraft. The horsepower limit on both lakes is 10 hp.

Two meetings to receive comments about the request were held at locations at each lake, and a demonstration of boats with varying horsepower engines was held at Clendening Lake by the Division of Watercraft.

Both lakes are managed by the MWCD in partnership with the Division of Watercraft.

Comments on the request can be sent in writing to Chief, ODNR Division of Watercraft, 2045 Morse Rd., Building A, Columbus, OH 43229.

Public meetings to discuss the updates and changes were held earlier this year and visitors received copies of maps that provided details.

"The series of public meetings that were held to receive feedback from boaters at Seneca and Tappan lakes and to discuss the proposed changes were very successful," said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary. "We want to thank and acknowledge the work of the Division of Watercraft for

the open manner in which it conducted this process to allow for input from the boaters who use and know these lakes.

"We also want to thank all of the participants who took the time to attend the meetings, provide written comments and offered some excellent suggestions that are incorporated in these updates. It is apparent that all of us want the same thing - to ensure that the lakes are safe and enjoyable for visitors."

## Alive

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Park and the Alive Festival."

The Alive Festival features an array of musical acts, speakers and other events held virtually around the clock during the four-day session. Popular acts appearing in 2009 include Switchfoot, Skillet and Newsboys, with speakers such as former pro football stars Todd Blackledge and Mark Murphy, along with many others. The festival also offers other interactive and vendor areas for guests to enjoy.

Visitors also will have plenty of opportunities to take advantage of the lake and surrounding attractions in the Atwood Lake Region, as well as in Carroll and Tuscarawas counties, Graening said.

The MWCD and Atwood Lake Park also will be able to use the amphitheater for other events when it is not being used by the Alive Festival, Hoopingarner said.

"I anticipate the busy campgrounds

at Atwood Lake Park will host numerous events at the amphitheater and that it will become one of the focal points for campers and visitors to the park," Hoopingarner said. "We are very fortunate to have an event of the magnitude of the Alive Festival to become a permanent part of the summer at Atwood Lake Park."

For more information about the Alive Festival, including how to purchase tickets and details about the 2010 event, visit [www.alive.org](http://www.alive.org).

## Summer 2009 at the MWCD lakes

### Lakes made for summer and families

With summer at hand, there's no better place to be than the lakes, parks and facilities of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

The MWCD lakes and reservoir regions, constructed as part of a comprehensive flood-reduction plan enacted in the 1930s, are well known for the recreational opportunities that they provide.

Boating, fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, biking and more are popular activities at the MWCD lakes.

During the traditional summer recreation season – from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend – the five lake parks operated by the MWCD also offer regular and special activities. The lake parks are located at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca and Tappan lakes.

Camping is available at all of the lake parks and reservations are accepted by contacting the lake parks via telephone or e-mail at the following:

- Atwood Lake Park – (330) 343-6780 or [atwoodpark@mwcd.org](mailto:atwoodpark@mwcd.org)
- Charles Mill Lake Park – (419) 368-6885 or [charlesmillpark@mwcd.org](mailto:charlesmillpark@mwcd.org)
- Pleasant Hill Lake Park – (419) 938-7884 or [pleasanthillpark@mwcd.org](mailto:pleasanthillpark@mwcd.org)
- Seneca Lake Park – (740) 685-6013 or [senecapark@mwcd.org](mailto:senecapark@mwcd.org)
- Tappan Lake Park – (740) 922-3649 or [tappan@mwcd.org](mailto:tappan@mwcd.org)

Camping also is available at Clendening Lake (at Clendening Marina), Leesville Lake (at Clow's Marina and Petersburg Marina) and at Piedmont Lake (at Piedmont Marina). In addition, the MWCD also operates a campgrounds located on the North Fork of the Kokosing River in Knox County.



*Water skiing is a popular activity for many visitors to the lakes of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).*



*There's not much that compares to a sunset at an MWCD lake.*

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Summer 2009 at the MWCD lakes

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# Plenty of events at MWCD parks

The heart of summer is the best time to get away to one of the five lake parks of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

Besides busy campgrounds with plenty to do for all members of a family, numerous special events are planned in the parks during the summer of 2009.

Following is a list of some of the major events at the five lake parks for the rest of summer. Events are planned all week long and on the weekends.



*Relaxing beside the lake can be a refreshing way to spend a day.*

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## Atwood Lake Park

- July 10 - Karaoke with Randy Rowls
- Aug. 15 - Game Show Mania
- Sept. 5 - Fireworks
- Sept. 26 - Game Show Mania
- Oct. 2-4 - Atwood Area Fall Festival

## Charles Mill Lake Park

- July 10-12 - Night in Italy Weekend
- July 24-26 - Winter Wonderland/Christmas in July
- Aug. 9 - Jim Pitney Car Show
- Aug. 14-16 - Carnival Weekend
- Aug. 21-23 - Hog Roast Weekend
- Sept. 4-7 - Labor Day Weekend Celebration
- Sept. 12 - Ohio State football tailgate party

## Pleasant Hill Lake Park

- July 10-12 - Kids Fun Weekend
- July 18 - Fireworks

July 31-Aug. 2 - Casino Weekend

Aug. 7-9 - Hog Roast Weekend

Sept. 4-7 - Labor Day Weekend Celebration

Sept. 12 - Ohio State football tailgate party

## Seneca Lake Park

July 11 - Campers Yard Sale and Auction

July 24-25 - Christmas in July Weekend

Aug. 1 - Car Show with Spike Man

Aug. 8 - Family Fun Day

Aug. 28 - Country Dance

Sept. 4-5 - Halloween Weekend

## Tappan Lake Park

July 18 - Christmas in July

July 25 - Tappan Idol tryouts

Aug. 8 - Disc Jockey

Aug. 15 - Camper Yard Sale

Aug. 29 - Tappan Idol Finale

Sept. 5-7 - Labor Day Weekend Celebration

## Eagle

from Page 1

every move," Cable said. "You could tell it was not happy with us, being there or anything that was going on around it."

Eventually, the rangers were able to secure the bird and work out arrangements to transport it to the Medina Raptor Center, which specializes in healing injured birds and routinely treats 200 to 300 each year.

According to the experts at the Medina Raptor Center, the bald eagle found at Piedmont Lake became entangled in discarded fishing line and one of its legs was "degloved." The injury was severe and required numerous surgeries.

However, the Raptor Center professionals were successful in having the eagle regrow skin cells on the injured leg, and eventually it was able to regrow feathers.

The result was a successful release of the bird from Piedmont Lake in April.

Tharp and Cable participated in the release of the bird and said it was very gratifying to watch the bird fly away.

"It was nice to be able to see that eagle back to full health," Tharp said. "It was a completely different feeling from when we were with it last fall and it was injured and scared.

"It looked so strong and majestic when it flew away."

Cable said the eagle was not



*MWCD ranger specialists Shawn Tharp (R) and Mike Cable stand next to the rehabilitated eagle shortly before it is released.*

forgotten by the many Piedmont Lake residents and visitors who were at the lake on the day it was found injured and assisted the rangers.

"We received a lot of calls from people who were concerned about how the eagle was doing, and how quickly it

would heal," Cable said.

"That shows how much people do care and how they are part of this story, too."

*For more details on Medina Raptor Center, visit its official website at [www.medinaraptorcenter.org](http://www.medinaraptorcenter.org).*

## Did you know? All about eagles in the U.S.

The American bald eagle gained unofficial recognition as the national bird of the United States when the country's great seal was adopted in 1782. Official recognition came six years later.

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Bald eagles are found from throughout most of North America, from Alaska and Canada to northern Mexico. About half of the world's 70,000 bald eagles live in Alaska, making the northwest coast of North America as their stronghold.

Bald eagles officially were declared an endangered species in 1967 in all areas of the United States south of the 40th parallel.

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On June 28, 2007, the U.S. Interior Department took the American bald eagle off the endangered species list. The bald eagle continues to be protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which prohibit specific activities without a permit.

Male bald eagles weigh from 7 pounds to 10 pounds with wingspans of more than 6 feet. Females weigh up to 14 pounds with wingspans up to 8 feet.

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Female eagles lay two or three eggs each year, which hatch after about 35 days. Within about three months the young eaglets are capable of flight and quickly learn to hunt and feed for themselves. Bald eagles have about a 30-year lifespan.

# Fund set to develop dog park

Butch Heavilin was one of the best-known residents in the Atwood Lake region.

One of the many reasons was because of his best friends, his Standard Poodles, named Taz and Sadie. The dogs went with Butch nearly everywhere and probably were as well-known as Butch himself. Butch died in an accident in December 2007.

In his memory, Butch Heavilin's family and friends have established The Butch Heavilin Atwood Lake Dog Park Fund for the development and operation of a fenced park area. The park will be devoted to dogs and their handlers as a way to exercise, relax and play beside Atwood Lake.

All contributions donated to the fund will be exclusively earmarked for development of the dog park. Potential sites for the park are being identified.

The Butch Heavilin Atwood Lake Dog Park Fund is a component fund of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation and all contributions are tax deductible. Various donation payment methods are available.

For more information, contact John Olivier at the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation toll-free at (877) 363-8500 Ext. 2255, or via e-mail at [jolivier@mwcd.org](mailto:jolivier@mwcd.org). The foundation website is [www.muskingumfoundation.org](http://www.muskingumfoundation.org).



*Butch Heavilin and his Standard Poodles were familiar to residents and visitors to the Atwood Lake region.*

# Marina offers session for women boaters

For some new boaters, a day on the lake can be very intimidating, especially if a person is making their first attempt at getting behind the wheel of a boat.

Atwood Lake Boats, which operates both marinas located on Atwood Lake, offered a course this year specifically tailored to women who want to learn about operating a boat safely and successfully.

"Women Making Waves" is a three-hour course that offered basics for operation of a pontoon boat, including safety skills, docking and securing a boat and on-the-water instruction.

Marina staff members presented information along with Ranger Specialist Shawn Tharp of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), who provided an overall review of boating and safety regulations.

"Women Making Waves is an event developed to acquaint women with the sport of boating and designed to provide them with the education needed to get behind the wheel of a boat with confidence," said Brian Valot, owner of Atwood Lake Boats. "One goal of

the Women Making Waves event is for women to be able to plan time on the water, either with friends or children, without being intimidated by the process of getting on and off the water."

The course offered several breakout sessions to provide practical advice about water safety and learning how to dock and drive a boat.

Information about Atwood Lake Boats also is available online at the website [www.atwoodlakeboats.com](http://www.atwoodlakeboats.com).

## **Marinas at MWCD lakes**

Atwood Lake Boats East and West  
Charles Mill Marina  
Clendening Marina  
Leesville Clow's Marina  
Leesville Petersburg Marina  
Piedmont Marina  
Pleasant Hill Marina  
Seneca Marina  
Tappan Marina

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## Updated logo

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*The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has updated its logo for uses on official correspondence, public information and education materials (including future issues of LakeViews), and other uses. The logo is designed to acquaint viewers with the location of the MWCD and the Muskingum River Watershed within the state of Ohio. It also shows the primary rivers that flow through the watershed - the Tuscarawas and Walhonding rivers meet at Coshocton to form the Muskingum River, which flows south and empties into the Ohio River at Marietta.*

## MWCD website now 'under construction'

For several years, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has maintained two websites on the Internet.

The original site, [www.mwcdlakes.com](http://www.mwcdlakes.com), primarily is devoted to the recreational opportunities available at the MWCD reservoirs. The other site, [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org), concerns itself with the history, operation and Amendment to the Official Plan of the MWCD for the continued safe and effective operation of the reservoirs and dams in the Muskingum River Watershed.

By the end of this summer, the sites will merge at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org) for ease of finding information about the MWCD.

The MWCD has identified the presentation of effective public education and information as one of its primary goals for 2009. A key tool to offering up-to-date information and resources for public review is a website that is easy to navigate and offers visitors information and methods to reach the MWCD for additional details.

The current websites offer plenty of content and opportunities to contact the MWCD, but the updated site will consolidate the material into one website that is easy to navigate and graphically appealing.

Be sure to visit [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org) for more details later this summer after the update website is unveiled.