

# Views

## In This Issue...

Major Construction  
Continues.....1,4,5

\$464,328 in  
Grants Approved .....2

Bat Habitat Mitigation .....3

214-Mile  
"Tour de MWCD" ..... 3

And the Award  
Goes to ..... 6

James M. Gresh  
Appointed to  
MWCD Board of  
Directors ..... 7

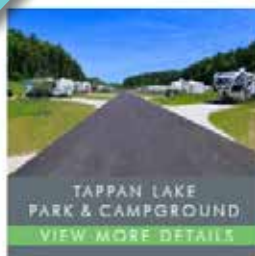
Look Who's  
Celebrating ..... 7

Upcoming  
Fall Events ..... 8

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



## Major Construction Continues at All MWCD Parks



For more details of parks and projects visit <https://www.mwcd.org/planning>

The \$120 million capital improvement plan is in full construction mode. Completed projects are found at all parks while construction on infrastructure and camp site improvements continues. This year an astounding \$25 million was budgeted for construction. However, projects have progressed ahead of schedule and therefore another \$10 million has been approved by the board for allocation for construction in 2018. Completion of all projects designated in Phase I of the original \$120 million budget of the Master Plan are expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

~ Major Construction Continues, continued on page 5

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# **\$464,328 in Grants Approved by MWCD Board**



***PWM grant funding has supported various watershed educational programs since 2009. Shown here, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife personnel provide hands-on experiences as part of the watershed education program at the Lake and Land Festival held at Atwood Lake in 2017.***

The Board of Directors of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) approved a total of \$464,328 in grants to six organizations located in five different counties in 2018. The Partners in Watershed Management (PWM) grant program provides assistance to local communities, agencies, and non-profit organizations in implementing water quality, conservation, flood reduction, and watershed education projects. The grant program is funded with revenue collected through the MWCD maintenance assessment. Since its inception in 2009, this highly successful program has provided over \$7.1 million in grants for 106 projects. Funded projects are located in each of the 18-counties in the MWCD jurisdictional boundary.

Grant applications for each round of funding are due September 1 of every year. Details of the PWM program and application guidelines are found at the MWCD website at <https://www.mwcd.org/flood-reduction-and-conservation-stewardship/conservation/pwm-grant-program>. Inquiries regarding potential projects, the application and the selection process can be made to Nick Lautzenheiser at 330-556-4831.

The six projects approved for PWM grant funding in 2018 include the following:

Applicant	County	Project Title	Project Cost	Grant Approved
Camp Roosevelt - Firebird	Carroll	Wastewater Treatment Plant – Phase 2	\$16,813	\$14,203
Rural Action	Coshocton	Walhonding River Mussel Study	\$55,370	\$46,770
Knox County	Knox	Howard Wellfield Kokosing River Streambank Stabilization	\$420,017	\$150,000
City of Newark	Licking	Log Pond Run Main Channel Easement Plan	\$410,674	\$184,795
Rural Action	Tuscarawas	Middle Tuscarawas River Watershed Education	\$47,283	\$32,400
Sandy Township	Tuscarawas	Sandy Creek Riparian Stabilization Project	\$43,268	\$36,160
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$993,425</b>	<b>\$464,328</b>



# MWCD Partners to Provide Bat Habitat Mitigation

In order to obtain final permits for construction projects in Ohio, an energy company was required to provide mitigation for disturbed potential bat habitat. The permit required mitigation of woodlands, which would eventually grow into summer habitat for the threatened species of the Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and for the endangered species of Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) partnered with this company in a mutually beneficial project. The goal of this project was to accommodate the requirement to create bat habitat while also providing improved lands and ecosystems on MWCD's property.

MWCD identified 130 acres of reclaimed strip mine ground at Wills Creek Reservoir which could be prepared to eventually grow into a thriving forest. The existing acreage was covered with poorly formed trees and Autumn Olive, an invasive species that chokes the growth of natural hardwoods. As part of the agreement, the energy company provided the funding for the project while MWCD provided the project site, planning, design and contract administration.

The conversion was to be accomplished by clearing the shrubby material, applying

herbicide, ripping the compacted soils and then planting native tree species throughout the site. The project began in 2016 with the clearing of shrubby material. Herbicide treatments were applied in 2017 by ground crews and by helicopter. Earlier this year, the ground was ripped by a D-9 bulldozer to a depth of three feet which loosened the densely compacted soil in order to prepare for the plantings. The last step in the project was completed as 88,000 hardwood seedlings were planted. Hardwood species planted included white oak, northern red oak, black oak, chestnut oak, black locust, black cherry, sugar maple, red maple, hickory, yellow poplar, persimmon, eastern redbud, and dogwood.

The work does not stop with the planting as MWCD foresters will continue to monitor the site to control invasive species as the young trees mature and eventually provide summer roosting opportunities for these threatened and endangered bat species.



*The 88,000 newly planted indigenous trees will provide potential bat habitat and many other expected environmental benefits in the ecosystem over the 130-acre site at Wills Creek Reservoir.*



*The MWCD Forest Operations Manager, Clayton Rico, leans on an Autumn Olive in the dense shrubby undergrowth of the bat mitigation site before work commences.*

**MWCD owns and manages over 54,000 acres of land and water in 13 different counties in eastern Ohio. Those interested in partnering opportunities to accommodate endangered species habitat, wetland and stream mitigation sites should contact the MWCD Chief of Conservation, Brad Janssen at 877-363-8500.**

## 214-Mile "Tour de MWCD" Completed in One Day!



Nick Lautzenheiser, an avid cyclist and development coordinator with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), completed a 214-mile bicycle ride around eastern Ohio to raise awareness and funds for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation's (Foundation) Bike & Hike Fund. This was the third year for the charity bike ride, dubbed the "Tour de MWCD." He completed the ride on July 8 and raised over \$2,700.

The route journeyed through nine counties with stops at the six MWCD lakes located east of Interstate 77. Travelling north to south, Nick made stops at Atwood, Leesville, Tappan, Clendening, Piedmont and Seneca lakes. The ride was completed in just under 13 hours, beginning near Mineral City at 6am and ending at the MWCD main office in New Philadelphia at 8pm.

"200 miles sounds like a lot, but the route only traveled through nine of the 27 counties that are within the 8,000 square mile Muskingum River Watershed. I commute daily to work by bicycle, and enjoy doing longer rides on the weekend. I want to use my love of cycling to help support more people getting outside and biking and hiking," shared Lautzenheiser.

The Bike & Hike Fund was established by Nick and his wife, Marissa, in 2016 and is managed by the Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization. The Foundation manages 16 separate funds that support various conservation and recreational initiatives in the Muskingum River Watershed.

Donations to the Foundation can easily be made online at [www.muskingumfoundation.org/donate](http://www.muskingumfoundation.org/donate), or by check made payable to MWCF, P.O. Box 349, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663. All donations are fully tax-deductible.



*Nick Lautzenheiser, MWCD's Development Coordinator makes a stop at Seneca Lake and takes in the view of the Big Muskie during his 13-hour, 214-mile Tour De MWCD bike and hike fundraising event.*



*This year's 214-mile Tour de MWCD traversed through nine counties with stops at the six MWCD lakes located east of I-77.*



# Major Construction Continues ~ continued from page 1



*The Charles Mill water tower is complete as the Charles Mill main campground redevelopment is underway. (shown above)*

**PARDON  
OUR  
DUST!**



*Contractors will install trees and shrubbery screening in and around the new camper pads now that the infrastructure is installed at the new Seneca Lake Parkside campground.*



*Contractors maneuver the pre-fabricated CXT restroom onto its foundation at Piedmont Lake campground.*



*Progress is made on the new shower house at Parkside Seneca Lake campground.*



## Projects Released or Under Construction

### ATWOOD

- Main Campground Improvements Phase 1
- Main Lift Station Generator

### CHARLES MILL

- Water and Wastewater Utility Improvements
- Main Campground Redevelopment Phase 1
- Site's Lake Effluent Flow Meter

### CLENDENING

- Marina Campground Paving

### PIEDMONT

- Campground Redevelopment Phase 1
- Water Tower and Distribution

### PLEASANT HILL

- Seasonal Campground Redevelopment Phase I
- Park Beach Regrade and Drainage
- Cabins Roadway and Infrastructure Phase I
- Cabins Construction Phase I
- Idlewood Cottage Area Chip and Seal

### SENECA

- Parkside Transient RV Campgrounds
- Sewer System SCADA/Bass Lane Electric
- Owl's Nest WWTP (Noble County)
- Maintenance Dredging
- Bass Lane, Margo Lane and Sunset Drive
- Welcome Center Drainage Improvements
- Secrest ADA Accessible Fishing Dock
- Parkside WWTP Demolition

### TAPPAN

- Campground Renovation Phase 1
- WWTP Infrastructure and Force Main

### Wills Creek

- Guernsey T365 Bridge Replacement
- Wills Creek Road Bridge Removal

## Projects Completed

### ATWOOD

- Trail and Bridge Phase I and II
- Beach Seawall
- Welcome Center
- Amphitheater Trail Lighting
- Sanitary Sewer Upgrade
- Campground Area 20
- Special Events Parking Lot
- Pines Cottage Area Walkway
- East Marina Parking Lot Paving

### CHARLES MILL

- Boat Storage and RV Lot

### LEESVILLE

- S. Fork Marina Shoreline Wall Restoration
- S. Fork Marina Campground Office and Storage

### PIEDMONT

- Dock Access
- Electric Utility Improvements
- Marina Renovation
- Sanitary Sewer Improvements

### PLEASANT HILL

- Activities Center Addition
- Area 22 RV Campground
- Sanitary Improvements – Force Main and Pumps

### SENECA

- Beach Concession Building
- Marina Fuel System Upgrade
- East Shore/Hickory Grove Shoreline Stabilization
- Sanitary Sewer Parkside to Senecaville
- Marina Fuel System Upgrade

### TAPPAN

- West Campground Culvert Replacement
- East Campground
- East Campground Sanitary Sewer Improvements
- East Campground Shower and Restroom Building
- Highland Area Shoreline Stabilization
- Beach Courtesy Docks

**Completion of all projects listed here in Phase I are expected to be completed by the end of 2020.**

## Projects in Design

### ATWOOD

- Park Peninsula Shoreline Stabilization
- North Shore Connector Trail

### CHARLES MILL

- Dock Abutment Replacement (1)

### CLENDENING

- Marina Septic System Replacement

### LEESVILLE

- N. Fork Dock Abutments
- N. Fork Pit Toilet Restroom Restoration
- S. Fork Marina Shoreline Stabilization/RipRap

### PIEDMONT

- Water Supply Building
- Campground Redevelopment Phase 2 and WWTP

### PLEASANT HILL

- Seasonal Campground Redevelopment Phase 2
- Shoreline Debris Removal

### SENECA

- Marina Point Campground Redevelopment Phase 1

### TAPPAN

- Marina Dock Abutment Replacement (1)
- Campground Renovations Phase 2



## Vacancy on MWCD Board of Appraisers

The Board of Directors of the MWCD is seeking qualified applicants for appointment to the Board of Appraisers. The duties of the Board of Appraisers are to appraise the lands or other property to be acquired by the Conservancy District, and to appraise all the benefits and damages accruing to all lands by reason of the execution of the Official Plan of the Conservancy District. The preferred candidate must have real estate appraisal experience, however, real estate appraisal certifications are not required. The Board of Appraisers meets at the request of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Appraisers are compensated at the rate of \$250.00 per meeting and are reimbursed for travel expenses. A letter of interest and resume may be submitted directly to the MWCD Board of Directors at 1319 Third Street NW, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663 or through [info@mwcd.org](mailto:info@mwcd.org).

The process of appointments and additional duties of the Board of Appraisers is found in ORC 6101.27 at <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/6101.27v1>. Questions regarding the Board of Appraisers can be directed to Jim Pringle, Chief Legal Counsel at 330-343-6647.

# And the Award Goes To...

## #1 Best Campground

Congratulations to Pleasant Hill Lake Park who received the **#1 Best Campground** award through the Ashland Times-Gazette Community Choice Awards. Thank you to all who voted and much thanks and appreciation to Pleasant Hill Lake Park staff members.



*The Pleasant Hill Lake Park Staff members celebrate their Best Campground Award given through the Ashland Times-Gazette Community Choice Awards.*



## Tourism Award of Excellence

And ..... the winner of the Destination Mansfield - Richland County **Tourism Award of Excellence** goes to Pleasant Hill Lake Park! This award recognizes major contributions made to Richland County's tourism industry while educating the public how their contribution plays a significant role in strengthening area tourism.

**PICTURED AT LEFT:** *Pleasant Hill Lake Park Manager, Bill Martin (l) and Park Naturalist, Louis Andres (r) proudly display the Tourism of Excellence award from Destination Mansfield-Richland County.*

## Auditor of the State

The Auditor of the State of Ohio recently recognized the MWCD's exemplary financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for the year 2017. This is the fifth year in a row the Auditor of the State has recognized the MWCD with this award. The complete financials are found in the 2017 Annual Report of Operations which is available on the MWCD website at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org).

**PICTURED AT RIGHT:** *Jim Cugliari, MWCD Chief Financial Officer, holds the 2017 Annual Report of Operations, which includes complete 2017 financials recognized by the Auditor of the State for exemplary reporting and acknowledges financial procedural compliance throughout the organization.*



## Conservancy Court Appoints James M. Gresh to MWCD Board of Directors

James M. Gresh, a Stark County resident, was appointed in June to the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) Board of Directors by twelve judges who attended the annual Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Court. Gresh fills the unexpired term of Steven Paquette (expiring July 18, 2022), also of Stark County, who unexpectedly passed away in April.

Owner of Boone Road Enterprises LLC, James Gresh, is engaged in timber investment, forestry management research, and creative wood products. Previously, Gresh has served as the Executive Director of the Timken Foundation of Canton following his retirement from The Timken Company, where he worked for 33 years. During his time at The Timken Company, Gresh served in several capacities including Financial Controller of Timken's global bearing business, President of Timken China, and Vice President of Strategy of Marketing at Timken Steel. He brings numerous years of experience regarding operations, business,



*John Hoopingarner, MWCD Executive Director/Secretary (l) and newly appointed board member, James Gresh (r) prepare for the July Board meeting.*

strategy, marketing, and international business.

In addition to his extensive work experience, Gresh has also served on numerous nonprofit board positions including: Timken Foundation (Secretary),

Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Western Academy of Beijing, CommQuest Recovery Services (Chairman - 2 years), and the Stark County Board of MRDD (Chairman - 2 years). Currently, Gresh serves on the board of the Stark Education Partnership, where he is the Chairman.

Gresh earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. Gresh and his wife, Heidi, have four children and currently reside in Stark County, Ohio.

The court also approved Joanne Limbach, of Tuscarawas County, for her second term on the board (expiring July 12, 2023). Other members of the MWCD Board of Directors are Robert S. Moorehead, Jr. of Guernsey County who is the current Board President; Gordon T. Maupin of Wayne County; and Clark E. Sprang of Holmes County.

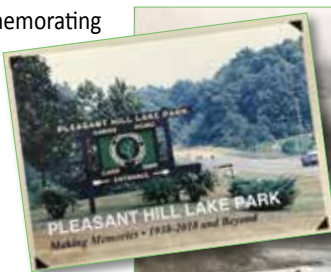
## Look Who's Celebrating 80 Years!

It has been a wonderful year for Pleasant Hill Lake in commemorating the first 80 years of operation. In preparation of this benchmark anniversary, Pleasant Hill Lake Park Naturalist, Louis Andres, along with local wildlife enthusiast, Irv Oslin, compiled what they refer to as a "casual history, scrapbook of photos, news clippings and recollections of Pleasant Hill Lake" covering the course of the past 70 years.

The 42-page pamphlet was made possible through a grant from the RichHistory Alliance, Inc., in Richland County, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and through many individuals both inside and outside of MWCD who provided material and oral accounts of memories and events.

A few fun facts about Pleasant Hill Lake include the following

- An airstrip once occupied land next to the lake and southwest of the public boat launch ramp
- The morning glory spillway at the dam is the only one of its kind in Ohio
- A paddle wheel boat once cruised the waters of the lake in the mid 1960's
- Pleasant Hill Lake is the only MWCD lake with unlimited horsepower and the only MWCD lake to accommodate horse camping and equestrian trails



*Historical photos and memories are included in the booklet Pleasant Hill Lake Park, Making Memories 1938-2018.*

Learn more fun facts through Pleasant Hill Lake Park Making Memories 1938-2018 and Beyond available for \$10 at Pleasant Hill Lake Park and local libraries in the Ashland and Richland areas. Also, check out the local history tab on the Pleasant Hill Lake website at <https://pleasanthillpark.mwcd.org/park-info/park-history-1938-2018>.



*Atwood Yacht Club's present and former Commodores celebrate the club's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

## And Look Who's Celebrating 70 Years

Happy 70th Anniversary to the Atwood Yacht Club! The club celebrated with a dinner party on June 30 in which 15 of the past Commodores attended. The evening was capped off with a dedication ceremony of the Yacht Club's patio honoring founding member, Gary Spahr.





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# UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

MORE DETAILS AT [MWCD.ORG](http://MWCD.ORG)

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR**  
TAPPAN LAKE PARK | HELD ON AUG. 31ST-SEPT. 3RD

**PRINCESS IN THE PARK**  
CHARLES MILL LAKE PARK | SEPT. 22ND

**CAR SHOW AT THE BEACH**  
SENECA LAKE PARK | SEPTEMBER 29TH

**ATWOOD FALL FESTIVAL**  
ATWOOD LAKE PARK | OCT. 5TH - 7TH

**HALLOWEEN CAMPOUT**  
PLEASANT HILL LAKE PARK | OCT. 12TH - 14TH