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# Lake Views

Spring 2011

Volume 30, Issue 1

## 'Ambitious' offseason



*More than 20 projects have been completed to stabilize eroded shorelines at several MWCD reservoirs. The photos above depict a project at Charles Mill Lake prior to work (on left), and after work was completed (on right). See Page 3 for more details.*

## Shoreline stabilization, debris cleanup keep crews busy

It's been a very busy few months at the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) reservoirs.

As the calendar moves toward summer and the hot days and fun-filled hours on and around the lakes, plenty of work has been completed to ensure the continued effective performance of the reservoirs and dams in the Muskingum River Watershed.

Here are some of the highlights:

- \* More than 1,500 tires and other debris – including furniture and appliances – have been removed from the reservoirs.

- \* The MWCD completed work to restore nearly two miles of shoreline. The 26 individual projects cost more than \$1.2

million and included work performed by MWCD staff members and private contractors. "The shorelines have been eroding for many years and this winter the MWCD began the most ambitious program in the conservancy district's history," said Boris E. Slogar, MWCD chief engineer.

- \* Through its "Partner in Watershed Management" program, the MWCD will provide an estimated \$200,000 in grants to assist projects throughout the watershed.

- \* An early flood warning system soon will assist the residents and business owners of the Duck Creek Watershed with reliable and timely information during heavy rainfall events, thanks to funding assistance from

the MWCD.

- \* And speaking of heavy rainfall, the dams and reservoirs did their job this spring as they have for more than 80 years now in reducing the effects of flooding and potential injuries and property damage.

The MWCD mission statement reads: "Responsible stewards dedicated to conservation, recreation and flood control in the Muskingum River Watershed, striving to enhance the quality of life in the region."

It is not only our mission – it also is our pledge to you day in and day out.

For more details, check out the MWCD website at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org), visit our page on Facebook or follow the MWCD on Twitter.

**Questions about the MWCD - Go to [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org) 24 hours a day!**



## 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.*



*Tires gathered during the cleanup operation at the MWCD reservoirs were disposed of through the cooperation of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.*

# Tires, other debris pulled from lakes

Plenty of trash and debris was pulled from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) reservoirs when the lakes were drawn down to winter depth levels this winter.

More than 1,500 old tires and 20 dumpsters full of trash have been removed from the MWCD reservoirs.

Staff members from the MWCD have been removing tires and other trash and debris from inside the reservoirs and along the shorelines at Atwood, Clendening, Charles Mill, Leesville, Piedmont, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, Tappan and Wills Creek reservoirs.

The MWCD has partnered with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) for the removal of the tires for recycling. John Bird, MWCD's lake ranger supervisor who oversaw the work, said that the winter months offer the ideal setting for the cleanup projects since the lake levels have been reduced as usual.

"This was a complete team effort with MWCD staff members from our parks and other facilities working together to remove the old tires and the trash," Bird said. "Tires in the lakes that we find usually have either been discarded illegally or were part of old boat docks that fell into disrepair or were abandoned."

Some of the items removed from the reservoirs and around the shorelines include:

- Metal posts, pipe, wheel rims and other discarded metals that will be recycled.
- Car seats, chairs, household furniture, televisions, bed mattresses and plastic drums.
- Old tools
- A car engine

In addition, thousands of feet of discarded monofilament fishing line (this can be extremely harmful to fish, waterfowl and other wildlife, as well as presenting problems for boats when caught around propellers) also were removed during the cleanup effort.

Bird said that the work also has helped MWCD staff members identify areas where dumping occurred that now will be gated off for more limited access for such illegal activities.

Work will continue on a routine basis, Bird stressed.



# Taking back the shoreline

## Crews restore nearly 2 miles during winter

As spring and summer arrive at the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) reservoirs, visitors will notice that shoreline projects at many lake locations have been completed over the past few months.

Nearly two miles of shoreline has been protected and restored at four reservoirs this winter after the completion of more than 20 individual stabilization projects that cost more than \$1.2 million, according to Boris E. Slogar, MWCD chief engineer.

“The shorelines have been eroding for many years and this winter the MWCD began the most ambitious program in the conservancy district’s history to protect the shorelines,” Slogar said. “Even more important, this is an ongoing program that is part of the routine maintenance of the reservoirs to ensure their continued effective performance for years to come.”

The MWCD projects were completed at:

- Atwood Reservoir –  
11 projects at \$399,157
- Charles Mill Reservoir –  
4 projects at \$201,300
- Seneca Reservoir –  
7 projects at \$365,957
- Tappan Reservoir –  
4 projects at \$255,795

Some of the projects were completed by MWCD staff members and others were completed by private contractors that were awarded contracts for the work through the public bidding process.

The MWCD also removed more than 1,500 tires, furniture and other debris from all of its reservoirs during the winter months.

The MWCD announced last year that nearly 500 individual sites are in need of varying amounts of shoreline improvements. A team of MWCD engineering staff members has been using innovative mapping and aerial photographic technology to review



*This section of shoreline work was completed at Seneca Reservoir. The top photo was taken prior to the beginning of the project and the bottom photo shows the completed project. Boaters and visitors to several MWCD lakes will notice improvements have been made to the shorelines as part of regular maintenance of the reservoirs. Projects at other reservoirs are planned in upcoming years.*

# Let the (summer) fun begin!

Winter is officially over.

The calendar has reflected that fact for quite some time now, but as anyone who lives in Ohio in 2011 can attest: it sure seems like the longest, wettest winter on record up until a few weeks ago.

All of that, though, is history now.

Sunshine, warm temperatures, lazy days at the lake, camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, biking and more are back at the lakes and recreational facilities of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

The five MWCD lake parks officially open for a full slate of summer events and fun on Friday, May 27. The lake parks are located at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca and Tappan lakes. Admission for a day's visit is only \$5 per vehicle and season passes are available, too.

For the camper, the MWCD lake park campgrounds are open all year long and probably are the most "fun" during the summer. The MWCD also operates campgrounds at Leesville Lake, Piedmont Lake and at North Branch Kokosing Lake. Visitors to Clendening Lake can camp at Clendening Marina.

All of the lakes and parks offer plenty of diverse activities and events. For example:

- A portion of the Pleasant Hill Lake Park campground is designated for horse owners, with riding trails in and around the reservoir region.
- Atwood Lake Park again will host the Alive Festival, a Christian music and event festival, June 22-25. For details, go to [www.alive.org](http://www.alive.org).
- Charles Mill Lake Park will host its own salute to racing when the park observes "NASCAR Weekend" in July.
- Tappan Lake Park has lots of talent – and you can see it on stage during the "Tappan Idol" contest held over a multi-week period in July and August.
- At Seneca Lake Park, the shelter at one of the most beautiful spots on the lake – Picnic Point – has been upgraded. Picnic Point is the site of numerous weddings each year.

For more details, check out the MWCD website at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org), visit our page on Facebook or follow the MWCD on Twitter.

## Events galore at MWCD lake parks in 2011

### Atwood Lake Park

**June 4** - Welcome Back Hot Dog Roast

**June 11** - Disc jockey, cornhole

**June 18** - Ice Cream Social

**June 19** - Father's Day covered dish

**June 22-25** - Alive Festival

**June 27-July 1** - Swimming lessons

**July 2** - Kids' Carnival

**July 3** - Bike Safety and Parade

**July 4** - FIREWORKS

**July 9** - Kids' "Lock-In"

**July 16** - Family Casino Night

**July 22-23** - Christmas In July

**July 30** - Atwood Idol tryouts

**August 6** - Back to School;

Atwood Idol; Disc jockey

**August 13** - Atwood Idol; Disc jockey; "Light the Beach Night"

**August 20** - Atwood Idol

**August 27** - Atwood Idol Finale; Tropical Weekend

**September 3** - Halloween



*The campgrounds are a great way to enjoy a visit to an MWCD recreational reservoir.*

Spooktacular

**September 4** - Band; Adult Costume Parade

**September 5** - Atwood Olympics

**September 10** - Dog Day at beach; Dog Olympics

**September 17** - Campers' Farewell Picnic

### Atwood Area Fall Festival

The 28th Annual Atwood Area Fall Festival is scheduled Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2 at Atwood Lake Park. Complete details about the festival are available online at [www.atwoodfallfest.org](http://www.atwoodfallfest.org).

# Fun, games this year at MWCD lake parks

## Charles Mill Lake Park

**June 3-5** - Camper/Boater Appreciate Weekend  
**June 10-12** - Winter In June  
**June 17-19** - Pets Rule Weekend; Lions Club Car Show  
**June 24-26** - Las Vegas Weekend  
**July 1-4** - Independence Celebration  
**July 2** - FIREWORKS  
**July 8-10** - Western Weekend  
**July 22-24** - Christmas in July  
**July 29-31** - Carnival Weekend  
**August 5-7** - Wet Weekend  
**August 12-14** - Jungle/Pirate Weekend  
**August 19-20** - Back to School Weekend  
**August 26-28** - South of the Border Weekend  
**September 2-5** - Labor Day Weekend  
**September TBA** - Tailgate Party TBA  
**October 7-8** - Spooky Scarecrow Weekend and Chili Cookoff

## Pleasant Hill Lake Park

**June 10-12** - Wet & Wild Weekend  
**June 11** - Safe Boating & Fishing Festival  
**June 17-19** - Father's Day Weekend  
**June 24-26** - Carnival Weekend  
**July 1-4** - Fourth of July Weekend  
**July 8-10** - The World of Magic  
**July 15-17** - Christmas in July  
**July 16** - FIREWORKS  
**July 22-24** - Old Fashion Fun Weekend  
**July 29-31** - Casino Weekend  
**August 5-7** - Earth Appreciation Weekend

## Need more information?

**www.mwcd.org or e-mail parks at:**

Atwood Lake Park: [atwood@mwcd.org](mailto:atwood@mwcd.org)  
Charles Mill Lake Park: [charlesmill@mwcd.org](mailto:charlesmill@mwcd.org)  
Pleasant Hill Lake Park: [pleasanthill@mwcd.org](mailto:pleasanthill@mwcd.org)  
Seneca Lake Park: [seneca@mwcd.org](mailto:seneca@mwcd.org)  
Tappan Lake Park: [tappan@mwcd.org](mailto:tappan@mwcd.org)

**August 12-14** - Celebration Weekend  
**August 19-21** - Back to School Weekend  
**August 26-28** - Sports Fun Weekend  
**September 2-5** - Labor Day Weekend  
**October 14-16** - Halloween Weekend

## Seneca Lake Park

**June 3** - Kids' Games  
**June 10-11** - Kids Bingo; Safety Day  
**June 18** - Car Show  
**June 19** - Father's/Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast  
**June 25** - Campfire and S'mores  
**July 2** - FIREWORKS  
**July 9** - Camper Wash Day; Scavenger Hunt  
**July 16** - Camper Fun Day at Beach  
**July 23** - Christmas in July  
**July 30** - Litter Day; Karaoke  
**August 6** - Pirate Show  
**August 12-13** - Kids' Bingo; Super Bingo  
**August 19-20** - Halloween Weekend  
**August 26** - Campfire and S'mores  
**September 3** - Yard Sale; Auction; Karaoke

**September 11** - Camper Appreciation Dinner

## Tappan Lake Park

**June 4** - Welcome Back Hot Dog Roast  
**June 11** - Disc Jockey; Adult Cornhole games  
**June 13-17** - Basketball Camp  
**June 18-19** - Ice Cream Social; Camper Fishing Tournament; Father's Day Covered Dish  
**June 25** - Tappan Talent Show  
**June 27-July 1** - Swimming Lessons  
**July 2** - FIREWORKS; Joe Zelek Band  
**July 9** - Kids' "Lock-In"  
**July 16** - Adult Bingo; Video Game Night  
**July 22-23** - Christmas in July; Santa on Jet Ski; Santa Breakfast  
**July 30** - Tappan Idol Tryouts  
**August 6** - Back to School; Tappan Idol  
**August 12** - Tappan Idol  
**August 20** - Tappan Idol; Light the Beach Night  
**August 27** - Tappan Idol Finale  
**September 3-4** - Halloween Spooktacular  
**September 5** - Family Fun Scavenger Hunt  
**September 17** - Campers' Farewell Picnic



# 'Partners' grants to assist projects

Several projects around the communities of the Muskingum River Watershed will feature improvements in flood reduction, water quality and watershed education through grants from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

The MWCD's "Partners in Watershed Management" grant program will provide an estimated \$200,000 this year to assist with projects that were considered through a competitive application process. The Partners in Watershed Management program was developed in 2009 by the MWCD to assist local groups, organizations and communities in implementing water quality projects, flood reduction and mitigation programs, and watershed education efforts throughout the 18-county MWCD region.

Project awards approved for this year by the MWCD include:

- \* Muskingum County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), \$50,000 as part of an \$89,981 project for the development of a mobile watershed and conservation education trailer that can be transported to various locations. Other partners involved in the project include Zane State University, Cincinnati Museum Center and Union Terminal, Guernsey County SWCD, Coshocton County SWCD, Perry County SWCD and the City of Zanesville.

- \* Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership in Carroll and Tuscarawas counties, \$10,475 as part of a \$23,355 environmental education project that includes a field trip series, watershed awareness community festival, watershed tours, environmental children's club and newsletters. Other partners involved in the project include the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Mineral Resource Management, Carroll and Tuscarawas County SWCD offices, Norma Johnson Center, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Tuscarawas County Health Department and Sunday Creek Watershed Group.

- \* Friends of Lower Muskingum River (FLMR), \$28,000 as part of a \$140,000 watershed management plan development for the region including Morgan, Muskingum, Noble and Washington counties. The MWCD grant will provide the required matching funds for FLMR to obtain a grant of \$112,000 from ODNR.

- \* FLMR, \$20,000 as part of a \$45,000 project to cap two leaking orphan oil wells along Cabin Run in Morgan County, a tributary of the Muskingum River. The U.S. Coast Guard has agreed to award the remaining \$25,000 for this work, which will stop the flow of oil directly into the stream.

- \* Muskingum Valley Park District in Muskingum County, \$47,000 as a portion of a \$103,531 project to implement stormwater runoff best management practices in a highly visible urban residential development at Zanesville. Other partners involved in the project are the City of Zanesville and the Muskingum County SWCD office.

- \* YMCA Stark County, which operates Camp Tippecanoe on a portion of property owned by the camp and a portion owned by the MWCD at Clendening Reservoir in Harrison County, \$25,000 as part of the \$249,000 cost to replace an aging and poorly functioning wastewater treatment plant that discharges directly into the lake. The camp, which opened in 1958, offers a wide variety of camp and outdoor educational programs. Other partners involved in funding the project are the Hoover Price Foundation, the Northern Ohio Golf Charities and Foundation, and the Game Reserve Association.

- \* Ohio Lake Management Association, \$24,600 as part of a \$56,036 water quality monitoring program that includes testing at several MWCD reservoirs. The MWCD also participated in the program in 2010 by providing funding and personnel to conduct testing.

## Duck Creek flood warning system OK'd

Potential flood warnings and information will be easier to obtain and much more accurate for residents and business owners in the Duck Creek Watershed in portions of Monroe, Noble and Washington counties.

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) is a partner in the development of an early flood warning system for the Duck Creek region. The \$376,000 project kicked off earlier this year with a signing ceremony in Marietta.

The project is the result of a study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the MWCD is serving as the local cost-share sponsor by contributing 35 percent of the overall cost - \$78,341.

The flood warning system, along with data from the National Weather Service, will monitor stream levels and rainfall within the Duck Creek Watershed and electronically provide real-time data, enabling emergency management personnel in the counties to make decisions about evacuations and related issues in the event of an emergency.

The flood warning system will consist of two stand-alone rain gauges, three stand-alone stream gauges and two stream/rain combination gauges, computer monitoring equipment, transmitters and associated equipment enclosures.

The Duck Creek Watershed covers an area of 287 square miles and experiences periodic flash floods along minor tributaries and headwater flooding on major streams.

## Shoreline

from Page 3

the 300 total miles of shoreline at the reservoirs. The work that has been identified would cover about 24 miles worth of shoreline at the 10 MWCD lakes.

The work is paid for through the MWCD's funds collected from property owners in the Muskingum River Watershed who receive identified benefits from the Amendment to the Official Plan of the MWCD that calls for maintenance and rehabilitation in the system of flood-reduction and water conservation reservoirs and dams in

the region. Two of the projects – one each at Seneca and Tappan reservoirs – received grant funding from the State of Ohio's Clean Ohio Grant Fund program.

Planning already is under way for projects for the 2011-12 winter season, with the goal of another 20 to 30 projects to be completed. Projects likely will include work at Clendening, Piedmont and Pleasant Hill reservoirs, as well as work at other reservoirs to be done by MWCD crews.

# Charles Mill public meeting set

## Session on June 17 to discuss lake management strategies

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) are seeking additional public input about lake management plans for Charles Mill Lake.

A public meeting to discuss the possible revision of watercraft regulations for the lake will be held June 17 at 7 p.m. in the activity center at Pleasant Hill Lake Park at 3431 Rt. 95, Perrysville.

No rule changes have been made to the current 10-horsepower limit for boat motors operated on the lake, which remains in effect for 2011 and will be enforced by officers

from the Division of Watercraft and lake rangers from the MWCD.

The Division of Watercraft and the MWCD received a petition requesting that the horsepower limit on Charles Mill Lake be increased from 10 horsepower to 30 horsepower. A public meeting was held last fall and the Division of Watercraft and the MWCD reviewed the comments and determined that further meetings and input are needed.

The agencies are considering several management strategies for the lake and seeking input from area residents, boaters and other who utilize the lake as part of

the management planning process. Public comments and recommendations, along with public safety, recreational opportunities, regional economics and environmental factors are some of the key components considered during the development of a lakewide management plan.

The public forum provides an opportunity for area residents and lake users to offer suggestions regarding the current and future management of the lake. Written comments also will be accepted and additional opportunities for public input will be provided prior to the implementation of any regulatory changes.



## Alive 2011 at Atwood Lake Park

*Alive 2011, the Christian music and event festival, will come together June 22-25 at Atwood Lake Park. The festival, now in its 24th year, will be held at the park for the second consecutive year. Featuring the largest and most diverse lineup in its history, the festival hosts concerts, seminars, children's programs, food vendors and much more. And it all takes place inside Atwood Lake Park! The theme of the festival in 2011 is "REVIVE." A complete lineup, ticket information, details about camping at the park as part of the festival and much more is available on the Alive website at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org).*

## 'Butch Heavilin' dog park opens at Atwood Lake

Dog owners have an opportunity to exercise their pets off leash in a fenced-in environment at Atwood Lake Park thanks to those who honored well-known area resident Butch Heavilin.

The grand opening of the Butch Heavilin Memorial Dog Park recently was held.

The dog park, which is located next to the gate entrance to Atwood Lake Park, is named in honor of Heavilin, a former Atwood Lake area resident. A former employee of Atwood Lake Boats, Heavilin also was normally seen in the company of his two standard Poodles, Sadie and Taz. Heavilin died after a tractor accident in December 2007.

With the assistance of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation (MWCF), Heavilin's family established a memorial fund to be dedicated to the development of a dog park. More than 100 individual donors contributed to the fund.

Set aside for dogs to exercise and play off leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners, the Butch Heavilin Memorial Dog Park is completely free. Parking is located near the dog park and there is no admission fee necessary to enter the park in order to exercise dogs.

More information about the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation is available at [www.muskingumfoundation.org](http://www.muskingumfoundation.org).



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# Fireworks again above lake skies

It's a tradition that everyone loves – whether they regularly visit a Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) lake or not.

The MWCD again has a full schedule of fireworks planned at its lakes over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend, along with a fireworks show later in the summer at Pleasant Hill Lake Park.

Fireworks shows planned this summer at the MWCD lakes are scheduled as follows (all shows are held at dark):

Atwood Lake – Monday, July 4  
Charles Mill Lake – Saturday, July 2  
Pleasant Hill Lake – Saturday, July 16  
Seneca Lake – Saturday, July 2  
Tappan Lake – Saturday, July 2

The MWCD parks, lakes and campgrounds offer much more than fireworks, too. For a listing of events at the five lake parks, see Pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

It is shaping up to be another great summer at the MWCD lakes, parks and campgrounds. For updates and more, visit [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org), too.

## Water Education on Wheels

For the second consecutive year, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) will offer free kayak lessons at several lakes. Through a cooperative boating education grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft, the MWCD is able to take the class right to the water. Participants are able to learn the basic techniques about a kayak through a trip at an MWCD reservoir that is instructed by a certified MWCD lake ranger. Complete details, class schedules and other information are available at [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org), including registration instructions. Class size is limited to 10 participants.

