

Lake Views

**MUSKINGUM
WATERSHED**
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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Providing adequate marina services are an integral part of the boating and recreation experience on the 10 MWCD lakes. There are currently 10 marinas on the MWCD lakes of which 5 are now owned by MWCD. These marinas are Seneca, Piedmont, Clendening, North Fork on Leesville Lake and Tappan Marina, MWCD's newest acquisition. MWCD has enhanced services and facilities since taking ownership of these marinas while also realizing the added benefit of increased revenues.

This past year, boaters may have noticed a change and a familiar face at the Petersburg, North Fork Marina at Leesville Lake. Keith Ott, who owns the South Fork marina and provides service at Seneca Marina as Ohio Valley Boats, LLC, recently took over operations at Petersburg through a lease with MWCD. Ott's customers are very complimentary of his skills, training and knowledge as he has certifications to service a wide range of marina engines with his 30 years of experience operating marinas on Portage Lakes, Lake Erie and even in South Florida on the Atlantic Ocean.

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MWCD Marina News



mwcd.org

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Brad Janssen Appointed Chief of Conservation

Bradley P. Janssen was named Chief of Conservation for the MWCD in February by the Board of Directors. Brad has been with the Conservancy District since 2016 serving in roles as Oil and Gas Coordinator and Interim Chief of Conservation. Before joining the MWCD Brad completed 16 years in the oil and gas industry for several private companies, serving as Senior Landman/Land Coordinator of Field Operations, Land Manager, Prospect Coordinator and Senior Land Man. This experience lends itself well to property and legal issues as part of the MWCD team managing the 54,000 acres of property holdings in 9 different counties.

Janssen earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geology at Dennison University and holds a certificate of GIS from Pennsylvania State University. "Brad's contribution to MWCD's management of resources in our conservation efforts are already evident through his familiarity with oil and gas leasing. These revenues will continue to be a major source of funding for recreational improvements", stated John Hoopingarner, Executive Director of MWCD.

Janssen will manage the MWCD Conservation Department which includes the following areas:

- Water Quality Programming
- Watershed Programming
- Water Resources Management
- Forest Management
- Oil & Gas Stewardship

Chief Counsel Brought In-House

In April of 2018 the Board of Directors approved James J. Pringle as chief counsel serving on the executive team. Jim has represented MWCD as outside legal counsel for over 25 years with the Law firm of Kyler, Pringle, Lundholm and Durmann, LPA where he was president, shareholder and director. Jim is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association and the Tuscarawas County Bar Association. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Kent State University Tuscarawas and Cleveland Clinic-Union Hospital.

Jim holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in education and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the University of Cincinnati where he also earned his Juris Doctor Degree.

"Jim is the foremost expert in conservancy law in the state as MWCD is one of the most active of the 23 Conservancy Districts in Ohio. We are extremely fortunate to have his expertise and knowledge in our organization," stated John Hoopingarner, MWCD Executive Director/Secretary.



**MWCD's Chief Counsel, Jim Pringle (standing),
reviews MWCD boundary and leasing issues with
Chief of Conservation, Brad Janssen (seated).**

2018 Free Tree Give A-Way Deemed a Success

MWCD foresters manage 23,500 acres of hardwood forests on MWCD properties. Management includes updating the inventory of forest types, harvesting mature or damaged trees, invasive species control, creating young forest habitat and crop tree release. Crop Tree release is thinning of forests less than 25 years in age which facilitates better and healthy growth of trees.

Aside from these activities on MWCD's public access lands, the conservation group is also interested in healthy trees on MWCD cottage site lease properties. This year a tree giveaway program was planned to coincide with cottage site lease meetings held at Charles Mill and Pleasant Hill in April.

850 native trees and tree shelters were distributed to 88 cottage site lessees. Each individual was given instructions on proper planting techniques as well as tree shelter maintenance and set-up instructions. Tree types distributed included:

- Dogwood
- Redbud
- Paw paw
- Persimmon
- Sugar and red maple
- Red, pin, and white oak
- Bitternut hickory
- Tulip Poplar
- Bald Cypress
- Black Gum
- River Birch

The forestry department will conduct similar events with the remaining cottage site lessees at Atwood, Leesville, Piedmont, Seneca, Tappan and Wills Creek over the next couple of years.

***Top Right:** MWCD foresters, in grey shirts, give directions to Charles Mill and Pleasant Hill cottage site lessees in proper planting and tree shelter installation techniques*

***At Right:** Clayton Rico-Forest Operations Coordinator, Kaylynn Kotlar – Forest Resources Specialist and Evan Ryan – Forest Operations Coordinator separate and bundle the 850 trees in preparing for the free tree giveaway.*



MWCD Loses a Friend



**Stephen Paquette,
MWCD Board Member
2017-2018**

In early April MWCD received news that board member, Steve Paquette, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. With heavy hearts MWCD said goodbye to a gentleman and friend.

"On behalf of the MWCD Board of Directors and the entire MWCD team, we send our heartfelt sympathies and prayers to Steve's family as they manage through this very difficult time," stated John Hoopingartner, the Executive Director of MWCD.

"Although somewhat new to the Board, Steve made an immediate impact through his guidance on the MWCD capital improvement plan based on his many years of economic development experience. He will most certainly be missed as he was always genuine and a gentleman."

Mr. Paquette was appointed to the MWCD Board of Directors by the 18-member panel of judges of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Court in June 2017. He was in his first year of a five-year term.

The MWCD Board members and staff remember and thank Steve for his guidance and friendship.

FIREWORKS DATES

**June 30, Saturday
Seneca and Tappan**

**July 6, Friday
Atwood**

**July 7, Saturday
Charles Mill**

**July 21, Saturday
Pleasant Hill**



MWCD Master Plan Updates



Progress continues on the new 107 full hook-up campsites at Seneca Lake Park main campground.

Marina Master Planning

The recreation department will proceed with master planning of the three MWCD owned marinas in 2018. This planning will focus on Tappan, Clendening and North Fork Leesville marinas. These marinas were not part of the original master plan conducted in 2012 as they were not part of MWCD assets. It is expected the marina master plan will uncover great opportunities for improvements in facilities and services based on stakeholder feedback. Stay tuned for more details by the end of the year!

Pardon our Dust!

Construction is in progress at every park with almost \$25 million budgeted for 2018 construction and design services. We appreciate the patience of our customers through this time of transition and improvements. We trust it will be worth the wait!

MWCD Master Plan Projects Under Construction		
Park Location	Project Description	Number of Campsites
Atwood Lake Park	Area 20 RV Campground Area 4 and 8 Main Campground Improvements Special Events Parking Lot	142 lots 55 new lots, 51 renovated lots
Charles Mill Lake Park	Water and Wastewater Utility Improvements Area 2a Main Campground Redevelopment Phase 1	79 lots
Piedmont Marina	Area 10 N Marina Campground Renovation	43 lots
Pleasant Hill Lake Park	Area 22 RV Campground Sanitary Collection Improvements Area 10S and 9 RR Campground Redevelopment	59 lots 38 lots
Seneca Lake Park	Areas 13, 9 and 21 Main Campground Sanitary Sewer Main	111 lots
Tappan Lake Park	Area 2 Campground Renovation Phase 1 Area 23, 24 and 29 East Campground	75 lots 77 lots

Bolivar Dam Awarded Best Safety Rating

Today, those in Tuscarawas County located downstream of the Bolivar Dam can rest easy that the dam is secure and safe. In fact, the good news is that the dam received the highest and best safety rating available known as a Dam Safety Action Classification of 5 or a DSAC 5. Only four out of 714 dams in the US Army Corps of Engineers portfolio are rated a DSAC 5.

This best safety rating is the result of the partnership between the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) committing resources to properly maintain the 80-year old flood reduction system. The Bolivar Dam maintenance project included construction of a 3-foot-wide x 140 deep x 4,500-foot-long concrete seepage barrier wall installed at the base of the dam along

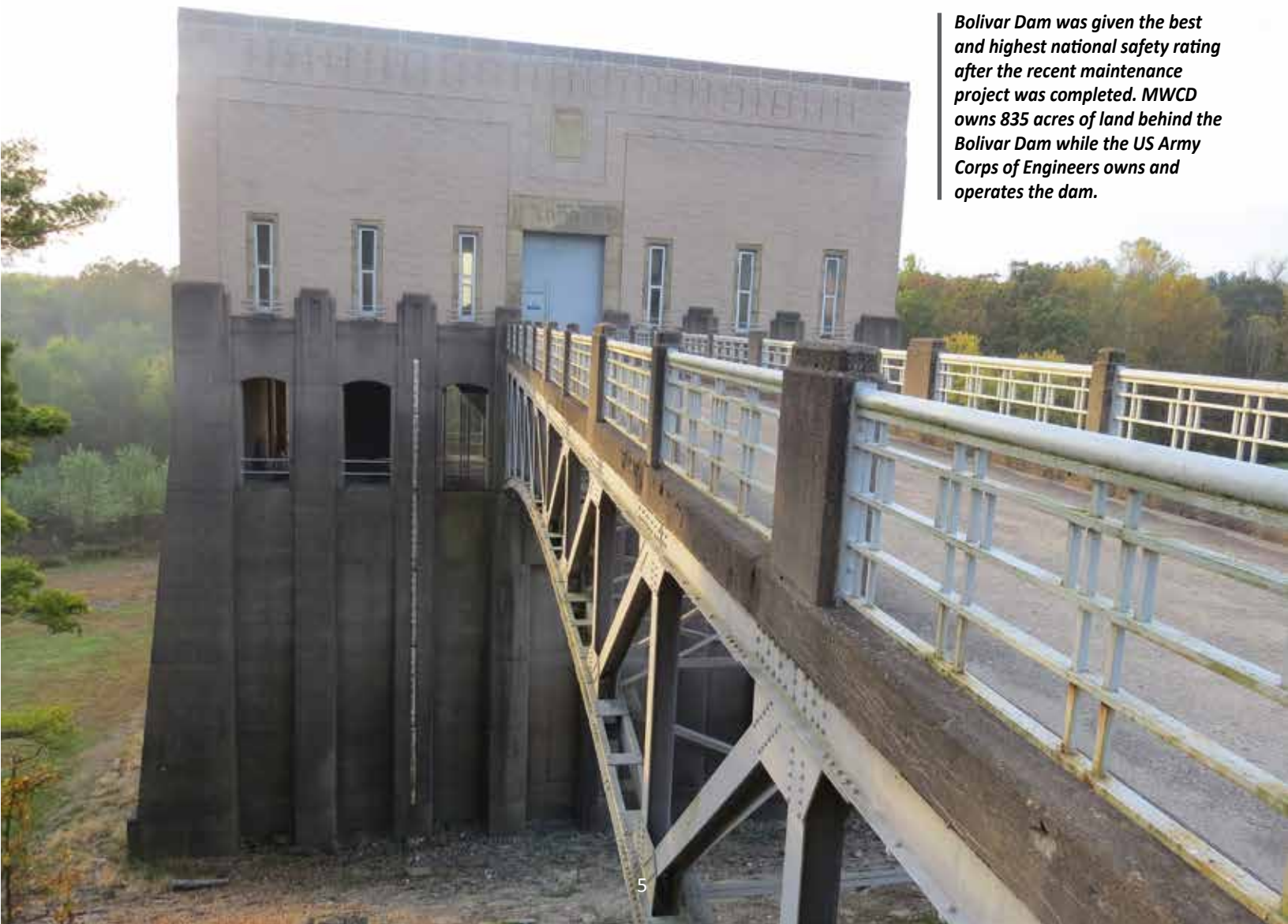
with installation of new control gates. The 2018 spring rains tested the dam and it performed with flying colors.

MWCD contributed \$25 million to the Bolivar Dam project through revenues collected through the maintenance assessment while the federal government contributed \$109 million. Boris Slogar, MWCD Chief Engineer, stated, "MWCD has a great partnership with the Huntington District of US Army Corps of Engineers. The significance of this project is that it was completed on-budget, ahead of schedule, and was also awarded the best dam safety rating. This is quite an accomplishment considering the complicated nature of the project."



Officials celebrating the completion of the project and the DSAC 5 rating include John Hoopingarner, MWCD Executive Director/Secretary; Col Phillip M. Secrist, III from the US Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District; and Congressman Bob Gibbs.

Bolivar Dam was given the best and highest national safety rating after the recent maintenance project was completed. MWCD owns 835 acres of land behind the Bolivar Dam while the US Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates the dam.



Stepping up for Safety Communications

Safety of customers and staff members is a top priority within the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD). A key component in responding to emergencies is robust inter agency communications. And fortunately, the MWCD and the non-profit Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation (Foundation), stepped up to ensure proper infrastructure was installed to provide this critical service not only to MWCD Rangers but also to surrounding law enforcement agencies, fire departments and other first responders.

Along the US Route 30 corridor, adjacent to Charles Mill Lake Park in the Richland/Ashland County boundary is an area just out of reach of wireless signals. A remedy to boost public safety communications was found due to coordinated efforts with the MWCD, the Foundation and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services to install a

Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) tower. MARCS provides Ohio's first responders and public safety providers with state-of-the-art wireless digital communications, and promotes interoperability, to save lives and maximize effectiveness in both normal operations and emergency situations. The tower became active in March.

"This is a much-needed expansion of the MARCS services in the region", said John Maxey, MWCD Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement. "It will allow for enhanced communication within the region, eliminate 'dead' spots and enable multiple agencies to communicate better together. It will benefit all of the first responders in the region, improve officer safety and services to the community."

MWCD provided land for the tower location and \$30,000 for required survey work, environmental assessments, cultural review, engineering plans, bidding and construction management. The Foundation contributed \$5,000 and the MARCS vendor provided \$200,000 for construction and installation of the tower.

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Charitable Endowment Fund was established in 1996 through generous donations of patrons and interested parties as a means to support the mission of the MWCD. In 2001, the Foundation was officially incorporated as a 501(c)3 charitable non-profit organization providing financial resources to enhance facilities, programs and conservation efforts on or adjacent to MWCD lands and waters. Information regarding the non-profit Foundation including membership and tax-deductible charitable giving is found at www.muskingumfoundation.org.



The newly installed MARCS tower provides critical safety communications and was constructed on MWCD property. The tower serves not only MWCD.

Event Schedules Available for 5 Parks

Looking for a variety of outdoor family fun? Check out the MWCD park event schedules found on each park website. Activities at each park include moonlight kayaking, crafts, beach parties, concerts, Explorers of Nature, movies at the lake and many other family fun events!

atwoodparkohio.org

charlesmillparkohio.org

pleasanthillparkohio.org

senecaparkohio.org

tappanparkohio.org



Frequent Water Quality Testing Conducted at MWCD Lakes

Those who enjoy the 10 Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's (MWCD) Lakes must find comfort in knowing the MWCD has a robust and enhanced water quality monitoring program. This program is built on strong partnerships with federal, state, local, academic and private sector organizations. These partnerships were formed to ensure coordination of data collection, sharing of results, and coordinated efforts if action is needed to mitigate less than desirable water quality conditions.

Partner agencies conducting water quality data collection and monitoring at the MWCD lakes include:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Geological Survey
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Lake Management Society
- County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Village of Cadiz



MWCD staff conduct water quality testing throughout the summer at the MWCD public beaches.

This past year MWCD hired an environmental scientist to serve as the Water Quality Coordinator to augment the monitoring program and enhance public education opportunities. Partner agencies have seized upon the skill set of MWCD staff. New water quality initiatives have already been organized and met with great enthusiasm.

One new collaborative effort organized by MWCD is the Tappan Lake Nutrient Reduction Initiative. Initial meetings were well attended and have spurred interest with other watersheds and lake owners to assemble similar collaborative efforts.

Brad Janssen, MWCD's Chief of Conservation stated, "Water is one of the most precious resources on the planet and we view the MWCD lakes as one of the most precious resources in eastern Ohio. Water quality monitoring of the lakes and tributaries has been and continues to be a high priority for MWCD as this coincides with safety for those who use and enjoy the lakes."

Some water quality testing results on the MWCD lakes are found on the Ohio Department of Health's website at <http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/beachguardpublic/> and also on the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's website at <http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/beachguardpublic/>

~ MWCD Marina News *continued from page 1*

Changes are also happening at the Tappan Lake Marina. MWCD purchased this facility last year upon the retirement of the longtime owners. Keith Ott once again submitted the successful proposal to provide boat and motor sales and services to MWCD customers at Tappan Marina.

Customers at Tappan Lake will also enjoy the new restaurant service provided by a local well known name, Dino Pangrazio. MWCD is working with both Keith and Dino to evaluate the existing facilities and plan improvements in the coming years.

At Right: *The long-time Tappan Marina operators in Harrison County transferred ownership to MWCD in October of 2017. MWCD installed new docks and upgraded electrical services at Tappan Marina in late spring of 2017 which was a welcomed upgrade by customers.*



Marinas on MWCD Lakes include:

Marina	Phone	Website
Atwood Lake Boats (Marina West)	330-364-4703	atwoodlakeboats.com
Atwood Marina (East)	330-735-2323	atwoodlakeboats.com
Charles Mill Marina	419-368-5951	charlesmillmarina.com
*Clendening Marina and Campground	740-658-3691	clendeningmarinaohio.org
**Leesville North Fork Marina & Campground	330-627-4270	leesvillelake.com
Leesville South Fork Marina	740-269-5371	leesvillelake.com
*Piedmont Marina and Campground	740-658-1029	piedmontmarinaohio.org
Pleasant Hill Marina	419-938-6488	pleasanthillmarina.com
**Seneca Marina	740-685-0015	senecamarinaohio.org
**Tappan Marina	740-269-2031	tappanmarinaohio.org

For a listing of services contact each marina separately as services vary for each location. Services provided may include the following: full service boat sales and service, fuel, fishing supplies, dock rentals, courtesy docking, snacks, dine-in restaurants, gift shop and rentals of pontoons, kayaks or canoes.

*Designates marina facilities owned and operated by MWCD

**Designates marina facilities owned by MWCD with some or all operations leased to private entities



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