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Lake Views



Message From Craig Butler

One word comes to mind as I reflect on what is happening across the Conservancy. "Change."

The first change is the continued substantial investment in our parks and marinas. From new infrastructure you cannot see, to new marina buildings, welcome centers, campgrounds, and amenities, MWCD continues a long-needed transformation and restoration. We have seen an estimated 10.5% increase in lake attendance since renovations began, and a 57% increase so far this year in cabin occupancy, as well as a 12% increase in campsite occupancy. Thank you for your investments. We feel fortunate to have you as our guests and hope you make long-lasting relationships that keep you coming back.

We have made changes internally to ensure we are operating efficiently, beginning with the recent promotion of Aaron Stump to Assistant Deputy Chief of Parks and Marinas. He brings leadership, decisiveness, and coordination among our park and marina programs and staff.

We have heard from you that we need better trails and more of them. With this in mind, we recently promoted Dylan Sayre as the first MWCD Trails Coordinator.



Tappan Marina Open House Coming this Fall

Finishing touches are being applied to the nearly \$6 million Tappan Lake Marina and Restaurant renovation project! On the inside, trim is being installed, walls are being painted, and furniture is being delivered and assembled. On the exterior, the parking lot will be finished, landscaping planted, and soon the long-awaited project will be complete.

Jeremy Hoffer, MWCD's Tappan Lake Marina Manager, is looking forward to closing the door to the job trailer he and his staff have called their office for the last year for the final time. In early September, they will move to a much more efficient space on the lower level of the marina where they will be able to better serve guests. "Currently, the staff is very spread out", said Hoffer. "We have boat rental guests being served from a temporary structure on the US Route 250 side of the building, while staff assisting our dock rental customers and fuel dock attendants are stationed on the lake side of the building. Once we can all be in the same area, we will be able to provide better, more efficient service."

Tappan Lake draws anglers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia among other states and boating clubs and private groups host more than 100 fishing tournaments from April through October. The marina will feature pontoon and fishing boat rentals, boating supplies, gifts, bait and tackle, fuel sales, snacks, docking rentals, restrooms, and showers all under one roof.

"It has been amazing to see what began as blueprints transform into a beautiful facility," said Boris Slogar, Chief Engineer for MWCD. "This is one of the most visible projects within the MWCD, located along US Route 250." But it has not come without a few hiccups. "A variety of factors have caused delays and left the project a few months behind schedule."

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Message From Craig Butler (cont'd)

Dylan will soon begin this important job and focus on partnering with other organizations and agencies to design, build, and fund trails across our region.

Changes often occur as an organization matures, like the recent retirement of Jim Cugliari, our Chief Financial Officer. After three decades of service to MWCD, Jim is enjoying a well-deserved retirement. As a result, we have promoted Jim Crandall to be our new CFO.

Sometimes change occurs on a regular schedule, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Change of Command ceremony in Huntington, West Virginia. This time we said farewell to Colonel Jason Evers and congratulations to Colonel Jayson Putnam. MWCD has a unique and positive relationship with the USACE that manages the dams, while MWCD manages the reservoirs and recreational lands.

It is a privilege to congratulate the Buckeye Trail Association on its recent Cardinal Award from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This prestigious award recognizes organizations that promote the wise use of natural resources to benefit Ohioans.

Finally, the MWCD Executive Team recognized our staff during National Parks and Recreation Month in July. We provided lunch and had some fun as we thanked our staff for the work they do to make your experience enjoyable. I encourage you to thank our staff when you see them cleaning, mowing, or maintaining our facilities. They deserve it.

We have a lot of great activities and events coming this fall. We encourage you to join us as the weather becomes cooler and the leaves turn brighter.

Have a great fall season!

Fall Events at Our Lakes

The summer season has been packed with exciting events at each lake and we are planning to continue the fun into the fall. The parks and marinas are the perfect place to enjoy time with your friends or family, learn something new, and explore nature.

Reserve a campsite or cabin to snuggle near a blazing campfire, enjoy the crisp air, and enjoy the fall colors around the lakes, or come for the event and then head home. Events are for campers, daily visitors, and community members!

Atwood Lake Park

- ◆ Poker Paddle: September 11
- ◆ Moonlight Kayak: September 18
- ◆ Fall Equinox Hike & Campfire: September 22
- ◆ Halloween Weekend & Trick-or-Treat: September 25
- ◆ Princess in the Park: September 26
- ◆ Atwood Area Fall Festival: October 1-3
- ◆ Movie at the Lake
The Nightmare Before Christmas: October 9
- ◆ Bounty on the Bridge: October 14



Charles Mill Lake Park

- ◆ Halloween Weekend & Trick-or-Treat: October 1 & 2
- ◆ Movie at the Lake
Hocus Pocus: October 2
- ◆ Christmas Comes Early: October 16
- ◆ Hunter Education Course: October 30 & 31



Pleasant Hill Lake Park

- ◆ Poker Paddle: September 12
- ◆ Moonlight Kayak: September 18
- ◆ SpunFest Music & Art Festival: October 1-3
- ◆ Hayride Pontoon Tours: October 2
- ◆ Halloween Campout & Trick-or-Treat: October 9
- ◆ Movie at the Lake
Kong Skull Island: October 16

Seneca Lake Park

- ◆ Movie at the Lake
Hocus Pocus: September 25
- ◆ Halloween Weekend: October 29 & 30
- ◆ Adam Calvert Concert: October 30



Tappan Lake Park

- ◆ Movie at the Lake
United 93: September 11
- ◆ Hunter Education Course: September 25
- ◆ Haunted Trail: October 2 & 9
- ◆ Movie at the Lake
The Nightmare Before Christmas: October 16

MWCD Commitment to Trail Development Affirmed

Dylan Sayre Named Trails Coordinator

MWCD began offering trails for recreational use with the development of its facilities in the 1950s. Eventually, all MWCD parks offered trails near or adjacent to their campgrounds. Today, with nearly 40,000 acres of land, much of which is open for public access, MWCD offers nearly 128 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, and access to over 280 miles of designated water trails.

In January of this year, MWCD contracted Environmental Design Group (EDG) from Akron, OH to conduct an online survey and virtual focus groups to determine what amenities are most important to guests when visiting a MWCD facility. Over 3,800 people took the survey and over 100 people participated in the online live focus groups. The results found that over 87% of the people who took the survey feel trails are important as an amenity.

At their March 26, 2021, meeting the MWCD Board of Directors affirmed MWCD's commitment to trail development with the creation of a Trails Coordinator position. This new position will fall under the leadership of the Deputy Chief of Planning and Projects.

"Trail development on all MWCD properties is an important amenity to continue to develop now, and in the future," said Eric Stechschulte, MWCD Deputy Chief of Planning and Projects. "As a trail user myself, I am excited to lead and be part of the trail development moving forward at MWCD."

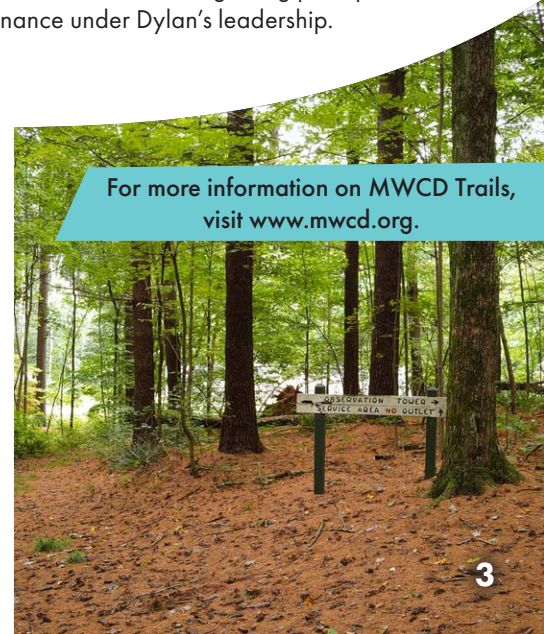
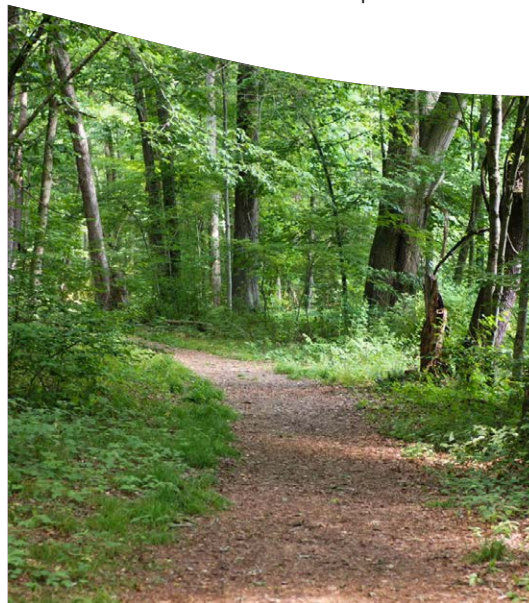
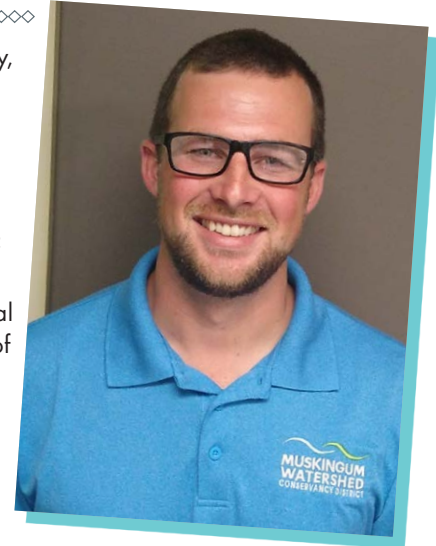
In August, Dylan Sayre was named the inaugural Trails Coordinator for MWCD. Dylan started working for MWCD in 2012 as a seasonal employee at Seneca Lake Park and has taken advantage of several advancement opportunities since then. After two seasons as a park attendant and a season as park naturalist, Dylan became the Assistant Manager of Seneca Lake Marina in 2016. Most recently he served as the Assistant Manager of Seneca Lake Park where he was instrumental in rehabbing the park's existing trails.

"I am excited for this opportunity, not only for myself, but for the organization," said Sayre. "MWCD has a large number of trail users who enjoy the trails we currently have, but I believe improvements and expansion of our current system is something that is much needed. It is my goal to make our trails a focal point of parks and surrounding areas."

Dylan will be responsible for the planning and fieldwork duties for trail development, maintenance, and restoration projects throughout MWCD. Additionally, he will work collaboratively with stakeholders, volunteers, and MWCD staff to effectively administer a robust trails program.

"Dylan has done an excellent job at both Seneca Lake Marina and Seneca Lake Park. I am very pleased that he has accepted this promotion to be the first ever MWCD Trails Coordinator," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "Our current and future visitors place an increased emphasis on access to trails to improve their outdoor experience and we believe having a dedicated individual working to improve our current trails and design and build new trails with our partners will be a great asset to MWCD and the region."

In recent years, as trails have become increasingly popular within the watershed, staff from the existing departments have collaboratively and passionately led the charge for MWCD. Their work included the creation of a Trails Blueprint which has served as a guide for Master Plan trail projects and will continue to serve as the guiding principles for trail development and maintenance under Dylan's leadership.



For more information on MWCD Trails, visit www.mwcd.org.

Aaron Stump Selected to Fill New Assistant Deputy Chief of Parks and Marinas Position

Recreational opportunities have always been, and continue to be, a cornerstone of the MWCD mission. In 2020, an estimated 3.9 million guests visited MWCD Parks and Marinas, which was approximately 380,000 more guests than 2019. Though COVID-19 played a significant role in the 10.8% increase in attendance, trends show that people are discovering, or in many cases rediscovering, a new love of the outdoors. MWCD is no stranger to this trend. Whether you prefer hiking, boating, swimming, camping, bird watching, horseback riding, kayaking, or canoeing, MWCD parks and lakes have something to offer individuals of all ages.

To increase positive interaction with the public, enhance guest experience, and ensure administrative duties associated with the operations of the parks and marinas are carried out efficiently, the MWCD Board of Directors approved the Assistant Deputy Chief of Parks and Marinas position earlier this year.

After a statewide search, MWCD had to look no further than Atwood Lake to find the best individual to fill this role. Aaron Stump, who has served as the Park Manager of Atwood Lake Park since 2009, was selected to fill the Assistant Deputy Chief of Parks and Marinas position.



"Aaron has been a great asset to MWCD as manager of Atwood Lake Park and I am confident he will do an excellent job helping lead our Parks and Marinas team," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "He brings years of experience to park operations and management."

As we see continued growth in visitors, and continue to upgrade our parks and marinas, Aaron will be an asset to the leadership team to help provide great customer service and support."

Aaron will assist the Chief of Recreation and the Deputy Chief of Parks and Marinas with the daily operations of the five parks, nine campgrounds and four MWCD-owned marinas located on eight MWCD lakes.

"We have dedicated and passionate employees," said Stump. "It has been an honor to work alongside, and now lead this group of men and women to provide upgraded facilities along with new and unique recreational opportunities for our guests. With the guidance and leadership of our executive team, the future of MWCD looks very bright and I am extremely happy to be part of it."

For more information on MWCD Parks and Marinas, or to make a reservation, please visit www.mwcd.org.



National Park and Recreation Month Celebrated With Staff Lunch

Since 1985, Americans have celebrated each July as National Park and Recreation Month to recognize the importance of parks and recreation and the positive impact it has on the quality of life, maintaining strong mental and physical health, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of communities.

In 2020, under the leadership of Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director, the MWCD recognized National Park and Recreation Month by providing a free lunch to all park and marina employees. The lunches were delivered by executive staff members, along with words of encouragement and appreciation for all the hard work put forth to provide a great experience to park and marina guests throughout the summer. Additionally, each park and marina recognized one employee that had gone above-and-beyond to ensure visitors had a wonderful experience.

"Guests choose to return to the MWCD Parks and Marinas again and again in part because of the positive experience they have with our staff," said Adria Bergeron, Director of Marketing & Communications. "Customer service begins the moment they enter our facilities, and whether they are helping guests at the gate, or ensuring the restrooms and shower facilities are clean, the staff works hard and takes pride in what they do, and it shows. Park and Recreation Month is about recognizing this hard work and saying thank you for a job well done."

This year, the tradition continued on July 28, when executive staff once again delivered a total of 200 lunches to MWCD parks and marinas to thank staff for all of their hard work. Though the hard work year round does not go unnoticed, this is just a small way to say "thank you."



MWCD PARTNERSHIPS HONORED

Buckeye Trail Association Recognized With ODNR Cardinal Award

MWCD and the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) have enjoyed a strong partnership since its inception in 1959. To honor that partnership, officials from MWCD were present as the BTA was recognized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) at this year's ODNR Hall of Fame Induction and Cardinal Award Ceremony.

"On behalf of the MWCD Board of Directors, I want to congratulate the BTA on receiving the Cardinal Award," said Gordon Maupin, President, MWCD Board of Directors. "The BTA has long been a valuable partner of MWCD as both organizations strive to provide trails for the health and enjoyment of Ohioans."

The BTA was one of three recipients of the prestigious ODNR Cardinal Award for 2021. Created in 1971, the Cardinal Award honors individuals and organizations that demonstrate exceptional awareness and concern for ideals reflected in ODNR's mission to ensure a balance between the wise use and protection of our

natural resources for the benefit of all. To date, 229 Cardinal Awards have been presented to partners in conservation.

"MWCD is happy to see the BTA be recognized by ODNR for their excellent contributions to Ohio recreation," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "We are proud to be a BTA partner."

The Buckeye Trail is a nationally known 1,444-mile, long-distance trail that circles Ohio and includes connections near Atwood and links between Seneca, Piedmont, Clendening, Tappan, and Leesville Lakes. Additionally, Tappan Lake is home to the BTA's Century Barn – a popular location for trail activities and camping opportunities.

MWCD continues to work with the BTA to develop additional trail connections between MWCD parks and lakes, as well as trails within the Watershed.



Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director (L) and Gordon Maupin, MWCD Board of Directors President (R) stand with Steve Walker, BTA President at the recent ODNR Hall of Fame Induction and Cardinal Award Ceremony.

MWCD Officials Attend USACE Change of Command Ceremony

On July 15, 2021, officials from MWCD attended the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Huntington District, change of command ceremony as Colonel (Col.) Jason Evers transferred command of the District to Col. Jayson Putnam.



"MWCD has had a great partnership with the USACE for nearly a century," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "We are excited to build on this historic relationship with Col. Putnam as he assumes

command of the USACE's Huntington District. We also want to thank Col. Evers for his commitment to the MWCD-USACE partnership and wish him great success in his retirement."

Col. Putnam assumes command of the Huntington District and will now be responsible for carrying out the District's mission within the Ohio River Basin, which covers 45,000 square miles spanning parts of five states

including Ohio and the Muskingum River Basin, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina.

"We were honored to attend the Change of Command Ceremony in Huntington and to witness this proud tradition," said Boris Slogar, MWCD Chief Engineer. "MWCD enjoyed a strong working relationship with outgoing commander Col. Jason Evers, and we look forward to working with Col. Jayson Putnam and welcoming him to the Muskingum Basin as our partnership continues in the important work of upgrading and maintaining the Muskingum Flood Control System."

MWCD has had a strong and productive partnership with the USACE since its founding in 1933. The USACE owns and maintains the 16 dams while MWCD owns and maintains the 14 reservoirs in the Muskingum River Watershed flood reduction system. Over the nearly nine decades that have followed, MWCD and the USACE have supported countless initiatives to enhance public safety and increase water quality. Close coordination is required to properly manage lake levels, protect the flowage easement at each reservoir, practice emergency preparedness, and address a host of many other coordination issues.



Tappan Marina Open House — (cont'd)

The new restaurant — Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar — will be operated by Matt Donahoe and Shari Lewis, operators of the Dennison Yard in Dennison, who are looking forward to opening. "We are very excited and have been planning for the opening of the restaurant for several months," said Matt Donahoe. "The restaurant will be a full-service restaurant and bar where boaters and visitors will experience a delicious meal in a beautiful and relaxing setting, with a spectacular view of Tappan Lake. In addition to dine-in service, we will offer carry-out menu items that boaters can order and enjoy from the comfort of their boat."

"Unfortunately, due to the construction delays we have decided to hold off on opening the restaurant until spring, 2022," Donahoe said.

"Considering that the boating season is nearing its close, along with the difficulty in hiring staff, only to turn around and close for the season, has led us to decide to wait and open with a bang in the spring to ensure we do things right."

An open house is currently being planned to allow the public to tour the new facility this fall. The MWCD plans to open the facility from October through February for private, catered events such as holiday parties, baby showers, or wedding receptions. Reservation requests will be available beginning September 7 by calling 330-556-4838.

CFO Transition Announced

James L. Crandall, CPA, has been named Chief Financial Officer for the MWCD. Appointed by the Board of Directors in July 2021, Crandall had previously served as Senior Staff Accountant for MWCD since 2012. Crandall's promotion comes after the retirement of Jim Cugliari on June 30, 2021. Cugliari served the MWCD for more than 36 years, 26 of which he headed the MWCD's finance and budget operations as Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer.

"I want to thank Jim Cugliari for his dedication, service, and leadership to MWCD over the past three-plus decades," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "With Jim's retirement, I could think of no one more qualified to assume the role over MWCD's fiscal responsibilities than Jim Crandall. We are extremely fortunate to have Jim's knowledge and skill, and are excited to promote him to our executive team as Chief Financial Officer."

Crandall, a graduate of Kent State University with majors in business management and accounting, manages and directs the finances of the MWCD, including planning and preparation of the annual budget, conducting audit functions and related items. Prior to joining MWCD, Crandall worked with a regional accounting firm.



JIM CUGLIARI



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Lake Views

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