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# Lake Views



### Message From Craig Butler

I know most of you love the dog days of summer, but I cannot wait for fall to arrive. Cooler temperatures, fall leaves, hot chocolate, and s'mores are on my mind!

The autumn season provides a great time to experience our parks and lakes with family and friends! Whether you are attending one of our many programs and special events like Movies at the Lake and Princess in the Park, fishing on the lake, hiking our trails and enjoying the changing colors of leaves, or making memories around a campfire, we have something for everyone.

We are looking forward to our second annual Bounty on the Bridge fine-dining experience at Atwood Lake Park. The event is a great opportunity to showcase our partnership with the Buckeye Career Center, highlighting their Culinary Arts, Floral Design, and Woodworking programs. 100 guests attended the inaugural event last year and we hope to see those of you that joined us last year, as well as those joining us the first time for this exclusive dining experience.

We recently signed a contract with Encino Energy for Utica Shale development, leasing 7,300 acres at Tappan Lake. The land lease is the largest in Ohio and continues our very successful partnership with Encino Energy. The lease provides benefits to local communities and the region and ensures the financial security of MWCD for generations.

However, despite obtaining financial security from oil and gas development, our Maintenance Assessment remains a valuable necessity. As the local cost-share partner of the U.S. Army Corps of

## MWCD's Stewardship of Maintenance Assessment Yields Solid Results

By David Lautenschleger, Deputy Chief of Surveying/GIS

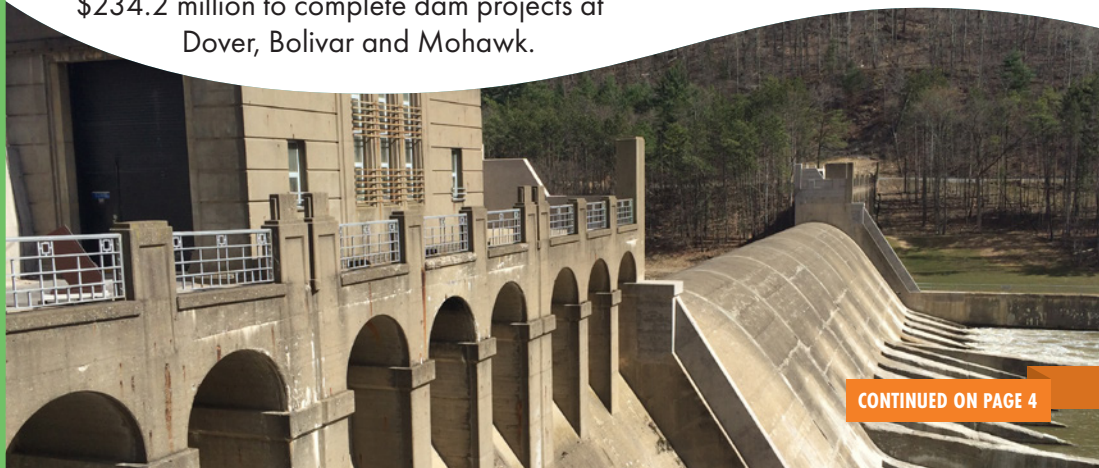
It has been over 100 years since the Great Flood of 1913 and nearly 90 years since the MWCD was established to reduce flooding and conserve water for beneficial public uses in the Muskingum River Watershed. Since then, MWCD has remained committed to its partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the operation of dams and reservoirs within the watershed. This commitment is most evident in MWCD's cost-share sponsorship of the valuable infrastructure responsible for over \$8 billion in flood damage prevention. Funding for these projects is made possible through MWCD's Maintenance Assessment.

### WHAT IS THE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT?

This year marks the 14th year that the MWCD Maintenance Assessment has been collected. In accordance with state law, the Maintenance Assessment was created through an amendment to MWCD's Official Plan in 2005 and collection began in 2009. The Assessment began as \$12 per year for agricultural, residential, and vacant properties. Properties developed as commercial, industrial, or institutional were assessed on impervious areas by using GIS calculations. The MWCD Board of Directors reduced the annual fee by 50% to \$6 per year starting in 2016. The Assessment now generates \$5.8 million annually.

### HOW ARE FUNDS USED?

The majority of Assessment monies finance a portion of dam projects identified by the USACE. To date, MWCD has contributed \$25.6 million toward the total \$234.2 million to complete dam projects at Dover, Bolivar and Mohawk.



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## Message From Craig Butler (cont'd)

Engineers (USACE), MWCD is obligated to provide funds to upgrade the nearly 90-year-old dams and levees owned by the USACE. Per Ohio law, Assessment monies are placed in a restricted fund and are solely used for these rehabilitation projects and other related flood control and mitigation projects, and water quality improvements. To date, MWCD has contributed nearly \$30 million to projects totaling \$247.5 million. Moreover, Assessment funds ensure oil and gas revenue can be dedicated to upgrading our parks and marinas, and other public facilities.

Speaking of water quality, our Conservation Department once again kept a watchful eye on our 10 lakes over the summer months. As anglers, boaters, and swimmers enjoyed another record season, our Water Quality Program regularly monitored the lakes to ensure all recreational users were safe from potential hazards.

We have added new faces to our parks to ensure excellent customer service is provided to visitors. Park Security Services staff are now active at our five major parks and are available to help our guests with directions, reservations, and other needs, while also helping our Rangers maintain safety within the parks. We hope this group will enhance your positive experience!

Lastly, I am happy to share that MWCD has a new Board member. Ron Dziedzicki was appointed by the Conservancy Court at its hearing on June 3 in Tuscarawas County. Ron has been an active member of our Development Advisory Committee since 2020 and is a cottage site lessee at Atwood Lake. We are honored to have his leadership.

As fall descends upon us, I look forward to seeing you at a campfire.

## Newly Formed Park Security Services Assists Park Guests

Park Security Services has been added as a new position in 2022 to assist guests at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lake Parks. Spending considerable time performing public relations activities and public education, these new employees help ensure excellent customer service is provided to all guests visiting our five major lake parks.

Recreational opportunities are a cornerstone of the MWCD mission. Ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience is a priority for us. To increase positive interaction with the public and enhance guest relations, this growing force of nine employees assists the public with directions, reservations, locating and preparing campsites, and general information about MWCD facilities and points of interest. Additionally, the Park Security Services personnel educate boaters, communicate safety requirements, and are accessible to visitors who have questions or need assistance.

For decades, MWCD Rangers have provided safety to the millions of



patrons that have chosen MWCD's five parks, eight lakes, and 10 campgrounds as their recreational destinations. Park Security Services will work in coordination with Rangers. In addition to monitoring parks, beaches, and recreation areas, these individuals provide building security and are trained to assist Rangers and the appropriate authorities should an emergency occur.

As we see continued growth in visitors, and continue to upgrade our parks, these individuals will be an asset to help deliver great customer service, support, and safety. If you or someone you know has an interest in joining our Park Security Services, visit [www.MWCD.org](http://www.MWCD.org).

## Fall is upon us which means a new Adventure BINGO Challenge!

Each season a new BINGO board with a list of outdoor activities is released. All you have to do is complete five activities from the board, in any order, to be entered for a chance to win a MWCD adventure package. If you complete all four seasonal challenges, you will be entered to win an ultimate adventure package.

The Fall Adventure BINGO Challenge begins September 22. Review the board to the right and make your plans to get outside. Challenge a friend to join you!

Register and submit completed activities online at [www.MWCD.org/AdventureBINGO](http://www.MWCD.org/AdventureBINGO) by the deadline. Winners will be randomly selected and contacted.

#MWCDadventureBINGO





# Enjoy Fall with MWCD Lake Park Programs

As the warm summer days transition into the cooler days of fall, the parks and marinas are the perfect place to enjoy time with family and friends! Programs and special events are offered throughout the season and are open to campers, community members, and daily visitors.

**Some programs require preregistration.**

**Program details can be found online at [www.MWCD.org](http://www.MWCD.org)**



**Go Hiking.** MWCD Lakes offer a variety of hiking trails perfect for beginners and experienced hikers. Spend time outside and enjoy the crisp autumn air and fall colors around the lake. Hike on your own or join a guided hike scheduled throughout the fall. Make it a weekend and reserve a cabin or campsite and end your day around a warm campfire.

View hiking maps at [www.mwcd.org/trails](http://www.mwcd.org/trails)

**Halloween Weekends.** Join us for a spooky, fun-filled weekend! Dress up in your favorite Halloween costume and bring the family out to the park for trick-or-treating, crafts, games, hikes, and a Halloween-themed movie on the BIG screen!

Visit [www.mwcd.org/events](http://www.mwcd.org/events)



**Princess in the Park.** Dress in your royal finest and enjoy an enchanted day at Charles Mill Lake Park! Each princess will participate in a craft, royal tea party and snack, face painting, and horse-drawn carriage ride through the park. Space is limited and registration is required. Make your princess dreams come true at the lake!

Visit [www.mwcd.org/events](http://www.mwcd.org/events)

**Watch a Movie at the Lake.** Bring your family or friends to watch a movie on the BIG screen outdoors at the lake. Movies are scheduled throughout the fall. Due to copyright restrictions, movie titles are posted at each park, or message the park on Facebook.



**Bounty on the Bridge: October 5, 2022.** The second annual Bounty on the Bridge returns to Atwood Lake Park! Experience an exclusive fine-dining opportunity prepared by the Culinary Arts Program from Buckeye Career Center on the pedestrian bridge near the Welcome Center. Tickets may be purchased at [www.MWCD.org/bounty](http://www.MWCD.org/bounty).

## Maintenance Assessment — (cont'd)

Rehabilitation of the Zoar Levee is currently underway with an estimated cost of \$13.2 million. MWCD will contribute \$3 million to the project.

In addition to upgrading the Muskingum Flood Control System, the Assessment helps preserve and protect MWCD's reservoirs behind the dams as well as keeping the Muskingum Watershed healthy through the Partners and Watershed Management (PWM) grant program.

Dredging has been part of MWCD's Long-Term Maintenance Program since 2014. While the benefits are difficult to see, dredging increases storage capacity and can improve water quality. MWCD reservoirs are in low areas with limited open space which makes it difficult to relocate the sediment. Despite this

obstacle, MWCD has dredged a total of 446,000 cubic yards of sediment at Seneca and Tappan Lakes (reservoirs) alone. How much is that? If the material was placed on a regulation football field, it would be 218 feet high, equivalent to a 20-story building. MWCD also has completed several smaller dredging projects during the winter while the lakes are lowered. This work has been done utilizing MWCD's heavy equipment crew as well as contractors. MWCD has spent approximately \$13.2 million on dredging projects since 2016.

Shoreline stabilization is imperative to managing erosion. In 2010, a study of 350 miles of shoreline was conducted to identify stabilization needs at 8 reservoirs. An inventory of nearly 500 projects was assembled and rated to determine construction

priority. Criteria such as erosion near buildings, roads, or utilities were taken into consideration. Location was also a key factor with so much of the shoreline being undeveloped and difficult to access. As a result, over 10.6 miles of shoreline stabilization work has been completed over the past 11 years at a cost of \$12 million.

MWCD's PWM grant program was initiated in 2009, the first year the Assessment was collected. Under the watchful eyes of MWCD staff, this program allows local government agencies to apply for grants to be used for conservation programs, flood reduction and mitigation, water quality, and watershed education projects. The PWM program has funded over \$12.1 million to more than 160 projects in all 18 counties in the watershed.

### Projects Benefiting From Assessment

**Dover Dam** .....2011-2015  
**Bolivar Dam** .....2014-2018  
**Mohawk Dam**.....2019-2021

Total: \$234.2 million  
**MWCD Contribution  
 from Assessment: \$25.6 million**

**Zoar Levee  
 Rehabilitation** .....In Progress

Total: \$13.2 million (est'd.)  
**MWCD Contribution  
 from Assessment: \$3.0 million**

**Dredging** ..... \$13.2 million (Since 2016)  
**Shoreline Stabilization** ..... \$12.0 million (Since 2011)  
**PWM Grants** ..... \$12.1 million

**160 Projects  
 18 Counties**



## RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF FUNDS

As the largest conservancy district in Ohio, MWCD is committed to providing a positive impact on the quality of life for residents living within the district and beyond. The Maintenance Assessment has made a huge contribution to preserving the aging infrastructure built in the 1930s. Without reliable flood reduction and water conservation benefits, there would be a devastating impact on business, the future of jobs, and the well-being of families. MWCD is committed to the future, and we look forward to continuing our stewardship so that future generations can live and enjoy the benefits available within the Muskingum River Watershed.

For questions regarding the MWCD Maintenance Assessment please contact the MWCD Engineering Department by calling 330-343-6647.





# MWCD Conservancy Court Appoints New Member to the Board of Directors



In June, the fourteen judges attending the MWCD Conservancy Court session appointed Retired Major General Ronald (Ron) E. Dziedzicki, to fill a vacancy on the five member MWCD Board of Directors. Dziedzicki, of Medina County, was appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Directors during the Court's session held Friday, June 3, in the Tuscarawas County Courthouse at New Philadelphia. Dziedzicki fills the unexpired term of Clark E. Sprang of Holmes County who is relocating out of the area. Sprang has served on the MWCD Board since June of 2015.

Dziedzicki, a cottage site lessee at Atwood Lake, graduated from Ursuline College in Pepper Pike with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1981. He received his Master of Business Administration degree from John Carroll University in 1992, graduated from the U.S. Air Force War College in 2003, and received his master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2010.

Ron came to University Hospitals (UH) of Cleveland, now University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (UHCMC), as the Vice President of Medical Surgical Nursing in 2001. After numerous promotions, Ron

became the Chief Operating Officer at UHCMC in January 2013. In November of 2014, he also assumed the position of Chief Operating Officer of University Hospitals Physician Services. He retired from his position at the end of 2019. Prior to coming to UH he was the Regional Vice President of Operations for CIGNA Health Care, Midwest Region.

Ron served in the United States Army Reserve for 32 years attaining the rank of Major General and retired in 2016. His last duty position was as the Commanding General for the 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support). His military awards include the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal, U.S. Army Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (4 OLC), Army Commendation Medals (4 OLC). In addition, he is a Member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Since his retirement, he has been performing independent work for a variety of consulting firms in the areas of healthcare operations, physician practice management, leader development and strategic planning, both in the United States and abroad.

Ron is married to Mary Ann Dziedzicki. They have three sons; Matthew (Jessica),

Christopher, and David (Sarah), and four wonderful grandchildren; Brendan, Abby, Eli, and Anna.

"I congratulate Ron on his appointment to the Board of Directors," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "Ron has been an active member of our Development Advisory Committee and is committed to assisting MWCD grow and make positive impacts to residents and the area as a member of the board."

Other members of the MWCD Board of Directors include Jim Gresh of Stark County who was recently appointed to a second term; Gordon T. Maupin of Wayne County; Joanne Limbach of Tuscarawas County; and Robert S. Moorehead, Jr., of Guernsey County.

The Conservancy Court appoints Members of the Board of Directors to oversee the operations and business affairs of the MWCD, which manages more than 57,000 acres of land and water dedicated to public use. Board members meet once a month in open, public session.

## An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure How Limnology Keeps our Lakes Healthy

By Matt Thomas, Chief of Conservation

Limnology is the study of inland waters including lakes, rivers, wetlands, and streams. To better understand the health of a lake, a limnologist will often look to the plankton population – algae, bacteria, and microscopic animals – in the water. Because plankton provide a lot of information as to what is happening in the lake and the surrounding watershed, a limnologist can

tell quite a lot from a drop of lake water, just as a doctor can tell a lot about a person's health with a blood sample.

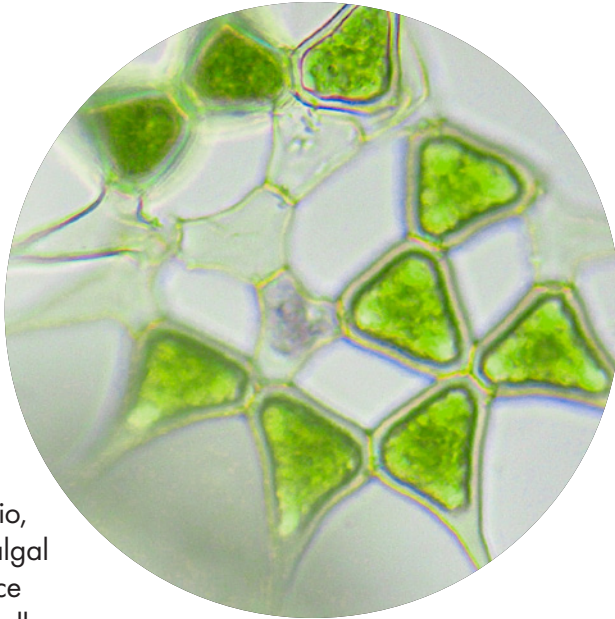
A planktonic lifestyle is one that is free floating and moves with the currents. Plankton live their entire lives floating in the water and often have tiny oil droplets, fins, or wing-like structures that help them catch the currents and

stay afloat. The more types of plankton in a lake the healthier it is. MWCD lakes are home to dozens of different types of plankton. Most are harmless and fascinating to view under the microscope. This is the base of the lake's aquatic food chain and without this diversity of life, our lakes would essentially be dead.

A lake dies when all the energy and nutrients are consumed by one or two algae species like bluegreen cyanobacteria. Bluegreen cyanobacteria are very efficient in gathering sunlight and nutrients and can easily overwhelm a lake. Cyanobacteria, under certain conditions, can produce toxins. Unfortunately, some lakes in Ohio, including Lake Erie, suffer from algal blooms that occasionally produce toxins. This is what limnologists call a "harmful algal bloom" or HAB. The mechanisms for a bloom to produce toxins are not well understood. It may be external environmental stresses, levels of nutrients, or micronutrients that cause these bacteria to produce toxins. The toxins are then released into the environment and become problematic for people and pets. Some scientists think this may be an effect of several populations of cyanobacteria, some producing toxins and some not, swirling around in one lake.

Our reservoirs support a rich diversity of algae, including bluegreen cyanobacteria. All types of plankton, including diatoms – plankton with thin silica glass shells that shimmer under the light of a microscope – live in our lakes which hold different algae populations.

Phytoplankton, the plant-like plankton, are organized into large groups, or clades, based on shape and color. We often hear about bluegreen algae, but green, gold, and armored algae are also in our lakes. It is the plankton living in the lake that gives the water its color. Every MWCD lake is different and holds its own unique combination of different populations of plankton, thus



Plankton photo caption: Every MWCD lake has a unique population of plankton, giving it a distinct color. Pediastrum is a green algae that gives Atwood Lake its unique color.

giving each lake its own distinctive color. For example, Charles Mill is golden brown because of the golden algae that call that lake home. Atwood is light green, and Tappan is dark green in the summer months.

The Muskingum Watershed has more forest cover than any other major watershed in Ohio, which serves as the best protection against the influx of sediment and nutrients that fuel algae blooms. Clean water provides boundless opportunities. Recreation, tourism, cottage communities, healthy wildlife, groundwater, and even industry all depend on clean water. It serves us all and we need to protect this resource for future generations. Clean water is a unique characteristic of this part of the state, and we owe much of that thanks to our healthy watershed.

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### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 7 am - 5 pm  
Friday 8 am - 5 pm

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*President*

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James M. Gresh  
Joanne Limbach  
Gordon T. Maupin

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New Philadelphia, OH 44663



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## *Lake Views*

### CATCH A LINE ON MWCD EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has a variety of full-time and seasonal employment opportunities. Whether you are in high school, home from college, looking for a summer job, or advancing your career, we have opportunities for everyone.

Types of positions include: marina staff, law enforcement and security services, engineering, program specialist, maintenance/grounds keeping, gate attendant, cleaning staff, and beach attendant.

For more information, please visit [www.MWCD.org](http://www.MWCD.org).