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Lake Views



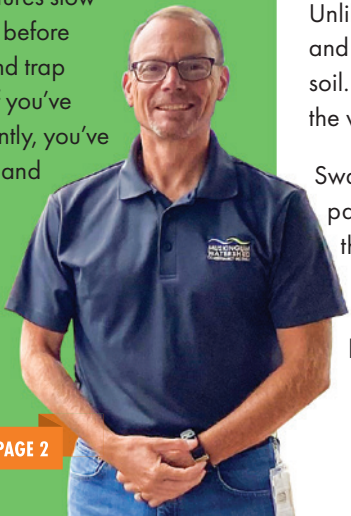
Message From Craig Butler

Punxatawney Phil saw his shadow! Six more weeks of winter? Oh no!

If you're tired of the cold and snow, then this is the edition of LakeViews for you. Just weeks before camping season is upon us, we are excited to welcome our friends and family back to enjoy our parks, lakes, and marinas, as well as the trails, beaches, and other amenities.

In this edition we look back into the history of the Conservancy to help us plan how we go forward. I hope you enjoy reading about how and why the Conservancy planted millions of pine trees in the 1930s and 40s around our new lakes. These trees were critical to the success of the Conservancy's mission of improving water quality. Many of these towering beauties are over 80 years old and are still helping improve soil and water quality today.

We continue to focus on lake drainage and siltation by building engineered structures called bioswales. Many of our cottage site lessees are doing this as well. These bio-engineered structures slow runoff, hold sediment before it reaches the lake, and trap unwanted nutrients. If you've visited the parks recently, you've probably seen areas and signage indicating where we are not mowing the grass to allow native plant species to once again flourish.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Feed the Flowers. Not the Algae. Help us help the lakes.

By Matt Thomas, Chief of Conservation

Controlling soil loss and conserving the surrounding foothills from the effects of erosion is one of the foundational missions of MWCD. Soon after the dams were built in the 1930s, millions of trees were planted to help hold the soils in place and prevent the flow of sediment and nutrients into the newly formed lakes.

These trees were the pioneer species on this new landscape. Plantings of white pine and other conifers have amended the soils and created the ecological opportunity for the succession of our re-emerging hardwood forests over time.

This has created an ecosystem and beauty that is uniquely familiar to Southeast Ohio. It is easy to forget that this is the result of a highly engineered system primarily designed to hold flood waters and dampen the disastrous effects of sudden heavy rains and intense storms.

Home owners around the lake not only have a front row seat to this beauty, but they can also play an active role as stewards for a cleaner lake and clearer water. There are several simple ways property owners can help keep sediment in check, and nutrients out of the lake and on the land where it belongs. Consider incorporating more natural features into your landscape. Focus on areas that experience short, intense periods of flooding but remain dry for most of the year. These areas can be transformed into swales that actively improve water quality rather than just hold it temporarily.

Unlike a ditch which just collects and moves water away, swales are designed to slow the flow and capture runoff by spreading it out across the landscape, thereby increasing filtration into the soil. At its simplest form, a bioswale is creating slight bends with rocks and select plantings to make the water twist and turn and meander as it flows.

Swales and bioswales are becoming a more common feature around city parks, streets, and parking lots and can be thought of as a municipal "green" infrastructure. If designed well, these features are effective in filtering out nutrients, sediment, and trash before entering the main waterway. This passive technology works day and night, and without a lot of maintenance. These same concepts can be scaled down and incorporated into the landscaping at the homeowner level.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Message From Craig Butler (cont'd)

This is done to provide pollinator habitats for bees, butterflies, and other insects. These areas also provide more habitats for wildlife and help us manage runoff. Not mowing these areas reduces our carbon footprint as well! Be on the lookout for these areas and stop to enjoy their beauty, but also consider how they help improve water quality. If you would like to learn more about how you can build a bioswale or pollinator habitat, let us know.

As always, our programming staff has been actively planning all winter for fun things to do when you return. Doesn't matter if you are 8 or 88, we have something for everyone to enjoy. From helping us keep the parks and lakes clean during the Earth Day 2022 Cleanup Challenge to the new seasonal Bingo programs that invite you to do a variety of activities and offering a chance to win an adventure prize package, this spring is going to be a blast!

Let me close with my recommendation to read about our Rangers. Our excellent team of professional law enforcement officers do it all. They patrol all our lands – from our camping areas and cottage sites to our more remote camping and hunting grounds. Additionally, our Rangers are excellent at community engagement. From formal activities like Ranger Days and Hunter Education, to everyday positive interactions with our guests, these professional men and women quietly protect you and our lands. I am proud of them! We owe them our gratitude and I encourage you to thank them for their service.

Spring has sprung! See you soon!



Spring Means More Progress at the Lake

SENECA MARINA UPDATE

Work continues on the Seneca Lake Marina project that features the reconstruction of the existing deck and a new permanent pavilion structure for outdoor dining. A 500-foot-long seawall has been completed. Forms for the sidewalk that will run along the shoreline have also been placed. Once completed, the lighted sidewalk will provide better access to the docks, and four new dock abutments. Construction is scheduled for completion this spring.



CEMETERY BAY TRAIL IS COMPLETE

The Cemetery Bay Trail is now complete! The trail is a 1.34-mile long gravel path that is perfect for hikers and bikers. This 8-foot-wide path provides a connection from the existing trails within Atwood Lake Park to a new trailhead parking lot at State Route 542.

The trail offers several scenic lake views, features approximately 400 feet of boardwalks that cross environmentally sensitive areas, and connects to Big Springs Cemetery. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 23.



TAPPAN MARINA ANNOUNCEMENT

Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar | Opening Wednesday, April 6

HOURS:

Monday/Tuesday: Closed
 Wednesday/Thursday: 11a-8p
 Friday/Saturday: 11a-9p
 Sunday: 11a-8p

NOW HIRING – visit

dennisonyard.com/employment

Grand opening/ribbon cutting in May



Recycled Christmas Trees Provide Homes For Fish

Aquatic wildlife will find new homes in Atwood and Seneca lakes when live-cut Christmas trees, leftover from the holidays, are strategically placed in the lakes. MWCD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are working in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) on the project.

As the ice-covered lakes thaw, over 1,500 trees are being placed in the lakes to create fish habitats and help support the overall health of the lakes and fish within the lakes. ODNR's Division of Wildlife worked with MWCD to identify the best locations to promote fishing opportunities and healthy fish growth. Careful consideration is being taken to not interfere with docks or with USACE operations or safety plans.

"The ODNR Christmas Tree Recycling Program is a great opportunity to highlight the efforts of the Division of Wildlife in cooperation with the MWCD and the USACE to place fish structures in Atwood and Seneca

Lakes," said Mark Swiger, MWCD land administrator. "The trees attract fish by providing cover and improving habitats which is positive news to the fishing community."

The recycled trees are donated to the Division of Wildlife through a community recycling and drop-off program. The live-cut trees are bundled together and weighted down so they sink to the bottom of the lake. According to the Division of Wildlife, species that are typically attracted to the newly created habitat include, bluegill and other panfish, saugeye, largemouth and other bass, and particularly, crappie.

GPS coordinates for where trees are placed as fish attractors are recorded for each location and the information is available on the Division of Wildlife's website. To access interactive lake maps, visit www.wildohio.gov

Feed the Flowers — (cont'd)

Swales mimic the natural movement of water over the land and incorporate a wide variety of plants, rocks, and woody debris. It is these tiny barriers that break up the water surface and it is the bubbling action that mixes the water with the air giving it time to release nitrogen and absorb oxygen.

Prevention of mud and sediment flowing into the lake is one of the main goals of a bioswale. If muddy water flows into the lake, it will undoubtedly carry with it excess nutrients. Once in the lake, these sediments settle to the bottom and build up over time until removed by dredging. Sediment prevention (filtration) will always be easier to manage and less expensive than the sediment treatment (dredging). MWCD spent over \$1.44 million on dredging last year alone! As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Unfortunately, we now live in a nutrient rich world, and sediment brings with it excess nitrogen and phosphorus. These two essential nutrients not only feed the rooted plants that provide fish habitats, but they also fuel the unwanted algae growth.

Another consideration is to mow less frequently. This can cumulatively have large beneficial impacts over time. Remember, the goal is to mimic a natural landscape as much as possible. MWCD is doing just that by mowing less and incorporating "No Mow Zones" throughout our park system. Additionally, we are planting more long-stemmed and fibrous-rooted plants in critical areas. Select prairie pollinator plants add value to the land above and below the surface. They not only help hold the soil in place, but they also provide the needed food and habitats for birds and insects. These areas also help break up the landscape and provide a diversity of blooms and visual interest year round.

Millions of people per year travel to our lakes every year to enjoy their simple beauty and the clean waters provided by the surrounding natural landscape. Help us help the lakes and let these natural systems keep doing the hard work for us by feeding the trees, flowers, and bees, and not the algae.



Abundance of Pine Trees on MWCD Lands is no Accident

By Clayton Rico, Forest Operations Coordinator

MWCD has a long history of managing forests. To this day, MWCD maintains stewardship over the lands acquired in the 1930s. At that time, poor farming practices caused significant erosion of the lands, triggering water quality issues both locally and downstream. Beginning in the 1940s, and for the next 30 years, MWCD foresters, with help from the Civilian Conservation Corps, Soil Conservation Service, and National Youth Administration planted over 12 million trees covering over 7,000 acres for watershed protection in critical areas to mitigate these inadequate farming practices. Additionally, farmers were educated on best management practices so that the dilapidated grounds could be restored.

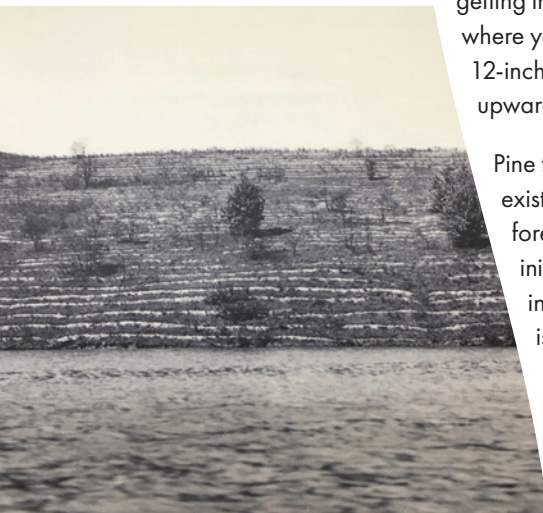
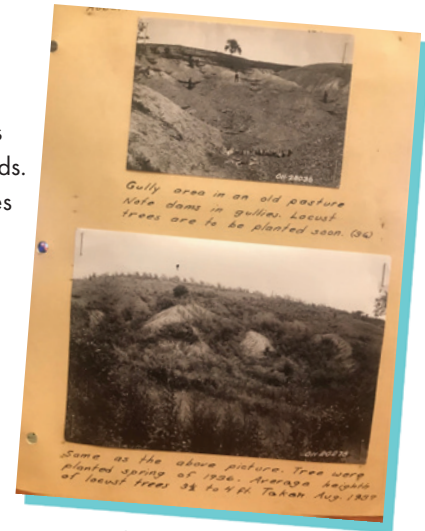
Initially, pine trees were hand planted, but foresters found a more efficient way to plant them by using mechanical means. A dozer was utilized to plow the soil into distinct ridges on the contour, and in most cases a double plow would be used that contoured the ground into ridges and built a double layer of topsoil. The next time you walk MWCD lands, especially in a pine forest, you will still see these ridges that were created over 70 years ago. Once the ridge was formed, a dozer would come back through pulling a mechanical tree planter. The tree planter was custom built specifically for MWCD and could self-level which was important as plantings occurred on steep hills. The planter would open a hole in the ground allowing a single person riding the planter to physically place a pine seedling into the soil. The machine would then close the hole behind the tree once planted.

Winter and spring are the perfect time to look back and see the efforts of previous generations and the hard work they put into managing the lands. The primary trees of choice to plant were evergreens, including white pine, pitch pine, shortleaf pine, red pine, and Norway spruce. These evergreens really stand out in the winter and spring against the surrounding hardwoods. Early MWCD foresters considered planting hardwoods but had difficulties getting them to survive in the conditions of the landscape. Every location where you see pine on MWCD lands were once farm fields upon which 12-inch-tall seedlings were planted. Today, those seedlings are now upwards of 120-foot-tall pine trees.

Pine trees have significantly improved the poor soil conditions that existed long ago when the intent of foresters was to manage the forests for the best results in the future. However, many of those initial pine plantings are now overcrowded and becoming increasingly over mature. One of the greatest principles of forest management is to limit the number of forests that contain one species. The susceptibility of mono-cultured forests to insects, diseases, and other forest pathogens is incredibly high. Wildlife diversity also thrives with more non-homogeneous forests. Adding a multitude of tree species that can provide much needed nutrition at different times of the year is crucial for wildlife diversity.

Today, MWCD foresters manage these pine plantations to help diversify the landscape. The intention is not to remove every pine from the land, but to manage the pine, primarily where there are no effects on the overall aesthetics of the lakes, campgrounds, or other significant viewsheds. Certain species of trees and wildlife depend on the habitat that is created through the management of these pine forests. In fact, an abundance of oak, hickory, and other keystone tree species take the place of the pines as they are properly managed. Wildlife diversity flourishes by creating much needed habitats in the form of young forests. Grouse, woodcock, deer, bobcats, and many species of non-game birds thrive in these young forests.

MWCD recently purchased 144 acres of land in the Tappan Lake region. This land, much like the land of the 1930s, had been highly grazed by livestock leaving the soils compacted and highly acidic. MWCD will plant over 22,000 trees to repurpose this ground. Additionally, the trees will create great thermal cover for wildlife and aid in enhancing the water quality. It is our hope that the trees will survive into the future and improve the soils just as previous generations knew they would.



To Serve and Protect

Did you know MWCD has its own law enforcement division? MWCD Rangers are vital in ensuring the safety of over 4 million visitors who choose MWCD's five parks, eight lakes, and 10 campgrounds as their recreation destination each year. Rangers also oversee the safety of MWCD's 1,204 cottage sites.

In 2021, MWCD Rangers entered 10,744 calls and completed 100 incident reports. To maintain a consistent and professional response, the department relies on comprehensive, up-to-date policies. Recently, MWCD Rangers were recognized by the Lexipol Connect program for achieving Gold-level status for consistently and effectively disseminating policies to Rangers, issuing timely policy updates as laws change, and ensuring Rangers are trained on policies. Lexipol is the nation's leading provider of policy, training, and wellness support for first responders and public servants.

At peak season during the summer months, Rangers patrol and assist the parks, campgrounds, marinas, and lakes that comprise MWCD's recreational facilities. To enhance community relations, MWCD began hosting Ranger Days in 2020 and the program has quickly become a popular activity at MWCD locations. Ranger Days provide an opportunity for MWCD Rangers and partner law enforcement agencies to engage with the community, especially children, and build positive relationships. MWCD Rangers also provide Ohio Boater and Hunter Education Courses, and complete vessel safety inspections for the community.

MWCD's Rangers are extremely busy in the off season, not only on patrol but also attending trainings to augment their skills as law enforcement officers and first responders. All MWCD Rangers are trained in marine and land services. Additionally, MWCD is committed to the acquisition and use of state-of-the-art equipment. All Rangers are equipped with body cameras and multi-agency radio communication systems. This type of training and modernization of equipment enhances the safety factors in response and assist time when services are required.

Next time you see a Ranger while you are out and about, thank them for their diligence, think safety, and enjoy the MWCD facilities as our Rangers are present to serve and protect you. If you or someone you know has an interest in becoming a MWCD Ranger visit www.MWCD.org.



Earth Day 2022 Cleanup Challenge

To celebrate Earth Day 2022, MWCD is once again sponsoring a Cleanup Challenge at all parks and campgrounds to raise awareness for litter prevention. Walkers, hikers, and boaters are encouraged to grab a pair of gloves and a few trash bags to pick up litter from Saturday, April 16 through Sunday, April 24.

To be entered into a drawing for a cooler filled with MWCD prizes and gift certificate, participants are asked to post photos of their efforts to the MWCD Facebook and Instagram pages using [#MWCEarthDay2022](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/MWCEarthDay2022) and tag the park or marina where they cleaned. We are offering additional cleanup opportunities to earn coupons for a free night of camping. For additional cleanup dates and locations, visit www.MWCD.org.



Get Ready for Spring Activities and Programs

As spring approaches, we can all look forward to warmer weather and more programs at the lake. Did you know that programs and events are open to everyone, not just our campers? We invite those who live around the lake or anyone looking for a day trip to look at our schedule

of events. Keep an eye out for trail-related events, including a ribbon cutting at Atwood Lake's Cemetery Bay Trail and Hit the Trails Challenge information.

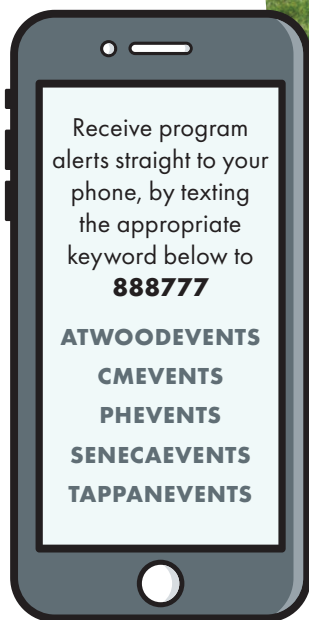
April is the start of the 2022 recreational season

April 2 marks the beginning of the official camping season and will be featured as Welcome Back Weekend. Make your plans to meet the Easter Bunny and go on an Easter Egg Hunt April 16. Then, take part in the Earth Day Challenge April 16-24 and pitch in to help clean up the lake areas for the season.

Mohican Wildlife Weekend at Charles Mill and Pleasant Hill Lake Parks is celebrating its 20th Anniversary April 22-24. The event was created to highlight the Greater Mohican Area located in Ashland and Richland Counties. Special programs at 10 program sites feature the area's rich heritage, abundant wildlife, vast recreational opportunities, and diverse natural resources. This year's theme is Mohican Under the Stars and will feature astronomy-related programs.

This event is for those who love the outdoors to discover what the area has to offer. For details visit www.MohicanWildlifeWeekend.com.

May will bring flowers and the start of regular weekend programs at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lake Parks. These programs will include a variety of crafts, sporting events, socials, nature education, and live music. Memorial Day Weekend will be May 27-30 with a full schedule of events for the first time in two years! For full event details, visit www.MWCD.org and make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Now is the perfect time to start preparing for boating season

Make sure to renew your registration through ODNR, purchase a new MWCD docking decal, if needed, and take the Ohio Boater Education Course. While this course is required for those who will operate a boat over 10 horsepower and were born after January 1, 1982, it is a great course for all boaters. There are many ways to complete the course – online, home study, or in-person classes. MWCD Rangers will be offering in-person courses at the following locations:

Tappan: March 26

Atwood: April 2

Pleasant Hill: April 30, and June 27-28 for kids

For details and to register, visit www.MWCD.org.

Explore the Outdoors. Take the MWCD Adventure BINGO Challenge.

Each season a new BINGO board with a list of outdoor activities will be 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.

Register and submit completed activities online at www.MWCD.org/AdventureBINGO by the deadline. Winners will be randomly selected and contacted. #MWCDadventureBINGO

Review the Spring Adventure BINGO board to the right and make your plans to get outside. Challenge a friend to join you!



Development Advisory Committee Update

The Development Advisory Committee (DAC) was created by the MWCD Board of Directors in 1992 to provide advice and guidance to the MWCD Board of Directors and staff. In December 2021, the Board of Directors dissolved the DAC as a function of the Board and reestablished the committee under the leadership of the Executive Director. This organizational change allows for greater participation by allowing the committee to conduct meetings utilizing virtual platforms. The DAC consists of 21 members who volunteer their time and provide an organized public support system for responsive and effective economic development, conservation, and recreation programs.

Appointments to the DAC reflect broad geographic representation and a diversity of interests that support the mission of the MWCD. Members serve staggered three-year terms and are eligible for two consecutive terms which commence and end on a calendar-year basis.

2022 members of the DAC include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bob Alsept, New Philadelphia | John Lofgren, Uniontown |
| Tom Arbour, Tallmadge | Doug McLarnan, Gambier |
| Scott Arnold, Mansfield | Luke Messinger, Gahanna |
| Norm Blanchard, Senecaville | Jerry Nolder, Zanesville |
| Paul Briggs, New Albany | Joy Padgett, Coshocton |
| Mark Davanzo, Senecaville | Dave Pilcher, Sr., New Philadelphia |
| Trevor Dunlap, Perrysville | Terry Pugh, St. Clairsville |
| Ronald Dziedzicki, Medina | A. Bruce Robinson, Scio |
| Keith Fulton, St. Clairsville | Jackie Stewart, Louisville |
| Karl Gebhardt, Westerville | Steve Walker, Navarre |
| Corianne Kocarek, Bolivar | |

In 2021, four subcommittees met between each quarterly meeting. The subcommittees were instrumental in providing feedback and advice on tasks related to trails, revenue opportunities, marketing initiatives, and legislative matters. 2022 will bring a reconfiguration of subcommittees as well as new subcommittees to serve the needs of the MWCD.

DAC meetings are held quarterly on the last Friday of the quarter. Public participation is welcome at each meeting.

Questions regarding the DAC may be directed to Ethan Zucal, Engagement and Outreach Coordinator with the MWCD by emailing ezucal@mwcd.org.

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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, engineering, program specialist, maintenance/grounds keeping, gate attendant, cleaning staff, and beach attendant.

For more information, please visit www.MWCD.org.