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Lake Views



Message From Craig Butler

Summer is here!

With these longer, warmer, blue-sky days, we welcome you —our campers, boaters, and park guests — to our wonderfully updated parks, lakes, and marinas.

As you visit our parks and marinas, you will see that we continue to invest in projects that improve your experience – from updating the restroom and showerhouse at Atwood, to building new cabins at Clendening, to a new wastewater treatment facility at Leesville — we continue rehabilitating critical infrastructure and adding new facilities that provide a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable atmosphere for your family to gather and make memories. But we are not done yet! We are deep in planning to add millions of dollars of recreational amenities to each park location. We are also in the planning stages for several large construction projects, including upgrading the Atwood Activity Center which will continue to make us stand out among our peers.

We recently had a ribbon cutting for the Cemetery Bay Trail at Atwood. This trail is beautiful, running parallel to the lake for 1.34 miles, continuing our quest to have a trail that will eventually circumnavigate Atwood Lake. I encourage you to hike this trail and enjoy the serenity of the walk through the woods as you hear and see the lake lapping at the shoreline.

We also held a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Tappan Lake Marina.



MWCD Actively Engaged in Restoring Legendary Status of the American Chestnut

By Matt Thomas, Chief of Conservation

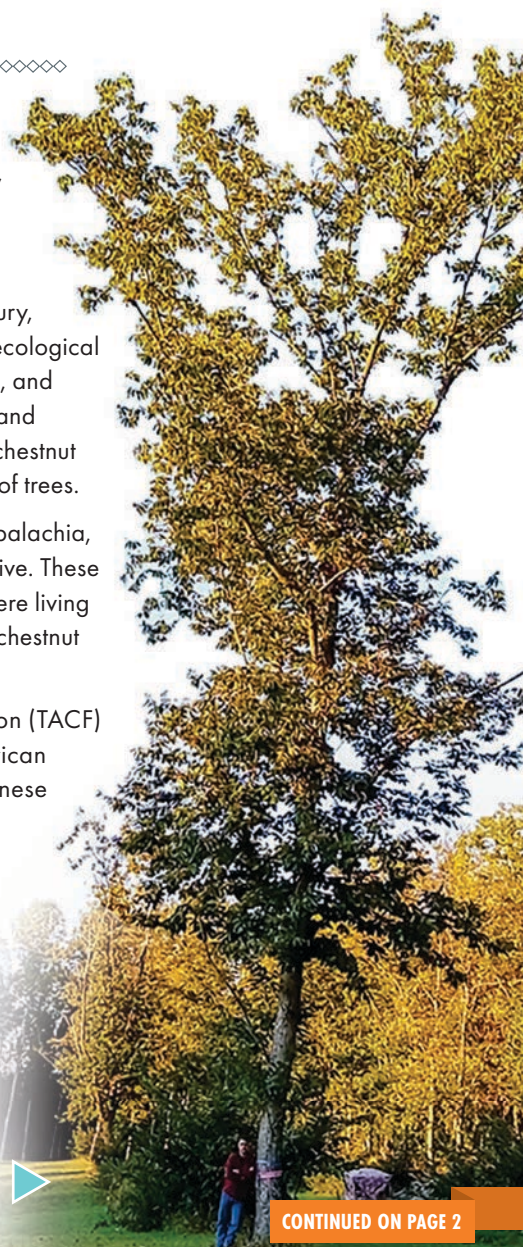
The American chestnut was once the dominant economically and ecologically important tree species in eastern North America. Among the tallest, largest, and fastest-growing trees, and often found in both urban and rural settings, nearly four billion American chestnut trees covered the region. Facing extinction from a fungal blight in the early 20th century, it has become the embodiment for landscape-level ecological disasters. By the 1930s, entire ecosystems collapsed, and economies shifted dramatically. The local traditions and culinary history that centered around the American chestnut faded into the past along with the deaths of millions of trees.

In the aftermath of the disease that swept across Appalachia, there still were some remnant trees struggling to survive. These trees, more of a scrubby bush than an actual tree, were living genetic stock that offered hope of reintroducing the chestnut into our landscape.

Since the 1980s, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) has been working to create a blight-resistant American chestnut tree by crossing it with blight-resistant Chinese chestnut varieties. Carefully controlled pollination and selection of trees that exhibit blight resistance, nut quality and timber producing characteristics have brought us to the point of experimental reintroduction into forested areas.

Developing trees with good characteristics in isolation is only half the battle. The other half is studying how these seedlings survive in a more natural landscape.

Matt Thomas, MWCD Chief of Conservation
with one of Dr. Miller's hybrid American
chestnut trees in Carroll County



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Message From Craig Butler (cont'd)

This new marina is stunning, and we hope you enjoy stopping by for all your fishing needs like bait, tackle, snacks, fuel, as well as stopping back for a meal at Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar. Maybe even sit on the deck and watch the sunset!

Everyone knows having a great team is the backbone of any great business. Please read about two of MWCD's finest in our Employee Spotlight. Both Randy and Gretchen are wonderful employees who make us who we are. Randy has had a long and positive career behind the scenes making sure our facilities and vehicles are well cared for and maintained. If you have been to Atwood, you will know Gretchen is the glue that keeps the administrative wheels spinning. My sincere thanks to Randy and Gretchen and to all MWCD staff!

Lastly, you may recall that Matt Thomas recently became our new Chief of Conservation. Matt is already having a positive impact at MWCD, spearheading efforts such as the planting of over 200 American chestnut trees at Tappan Lake. This once noble and prominent tree has since been wiped out by a blight. However, there are many who are working to develop blight-resistant hybrid strains of the tree so they can be reintroduced. It is nice knowing that our reforestation efforts can include this project and be part of the research and long-term work to reestablish these mighty giants to nearby forests. This is one of many conservation projects we intend to do in the coming years and invite you to follow our progress.

See you in the parks and on the water!

New Cemetery Bay Trail is Open

A ribbon cutting was held on Saturday, April 23 for the new 1.34-mile Cemetery Bay Trail at Atwood Lake Park. The \$635,000 trail provides a connection from the Big Spring Trailhead located on State Route 542 to the existing trails within Atwood Lake Park for a total of 6.54 miles inside the park. This beautiful trail offers several scenic lake views to some remote portions of the park and

features 400 feet of boardwalks that cross environmentally sensitive areas. The crushed limestone surface is great for hikers, bikers, runners, and bird watchers. Dogs on leashes are also welcome!

For information about the trails at Atwood Lake, and all MWCD trails visit www.MWCD.org/trails.

American Chestnut — (cont'd)

The Ohio chapter of TACF has participated in this national effort and has also conducted independent chestnut breeding research with Dr. Greg Miller of Ohio TACF and Empire Chestnut Company, Carroll County. Miller has been breeding and selecting chestnut trees with tall timber-type growth form, blight resistance, and other beneficial characteristics for over 40 years.

MWCD has the unique ability to plant, monitor, and manage test plantings within the watershed. These small plots help managers assess tree survival and growth and is an important first step in better understanding how they can be part of Ohio's forests once again.

In April 2022, MWCD planted 200 chestnut trees – 100 from TACF's backcross breeding program, and 100 from Empire Chestnut Company. These trees were planted near Tappan Lake in Harrison County.

MWCD's Conservation Department, in partnership with TACF, Empire Chestnut Company, and researchers from The Ohio

State University will be monitoring the growth and survival of the trees as they start to fill the canopy. When these trees reach nut-bearing age (approximately five years), MWCD will survey the surrounding forests and fields for evidence of natural regeneration.

These renewed chestnut trees have quite a lot to offer beyond timber, wood products, and food. By reintroducing the chestnut into the forest, we make our forest ecosystems more resilient, more biodiverse, and able to withstand future challenges. MWCD is proud to participate in this critical research and long-term forest management for the greater good of our Ohio landscapes, wildlife, and people.

These trees and their seedlings will become part of our diverse Ohio forests filling that ecological niche once lost. MWCD is making the important first steps needed to achieve sustainable chestnut timber harvest in Ohio. This will ultimately return chestnut wood products to local markets for the first time in over 100 years.

Make Plans Now for Fun at MWCD Lake Park Programs

Programs are offered each week throughout the season — May through September — at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lake Parks. Additional programs are scheduled at Clendening and Piedmont Lakes. Programs are open to campers, community members, and daily visitors.

Some programs require preregistration.

Program details can be found online at www.MWCD.org



Go Kayaking. Choose from a variety of programs at MWCD lakes. Try kayaking for the first time, or explore a lake on a guided tour, all while learning to be safe. Compete for a chance to win a kayak at one of our Poker Paddles, or paddle under the light of the full moon at a guided Moonlight Kayak.

Find the perfect kayak event to float your boat!

Attend a Day Camp. Get the kids outdoors this summer. Day camps are designed to provide a fun and safe place for kids ages 5-16 to explore nature, have fun and learn a new skill. Each camp is one or two days long with a special theme and age-appropriate activities for a full day at the lake. Day Camp themes include Adventure Camp, Messy Play, Nature Art, and Outdoor Cooking.



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 summer at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lakes. Due to copyright restrictions, movie titles are posted at each park, or message the park on Facebook.



Look for Other Special Events. Follow our parks and marinas on Facebook to stay up to date on the latest special events. Each year, we offer events such as Swim with a Mermaid, Bounty on the Bridge, Princess in the Park, and more.



Don't Miss Fireworks Over the Lake!
July 2: Atwood, Tappan, Seneca, and Charles Mill

July 16, September 3, October 8: Pleasant Hill

Fireworks shows begin at dusk and can be viewed from land or water!

Tappan Marina Takes a Major Step Forward

The nearly \$6 million renovation to the MWCD's Tappan Lake Marina is complete and Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar is open! To commemorate the project's completion, the community was invited to a ribbon cutting on Friday, May 27.

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 newly renovated area serves as a hub for the community by offering marina services, a restaurant, boat sales and service, and an EV charging station.

The marina, located on the lower level, offers pontoon and fishing boat rentals, boating supplies, gifts, bait and tackle, fuel sales, snacks, docking rentals, boat and fishing licenses, restrooms, and showers all under one roof.

"With the completion of this project, we can now serve our guests more efficiently," said Jeremy Hoffer, Tappan Lake Marina Manager. "The marina operation is on the waterfront level, which allows us to keep an eye on the water. We can also handle transactions out on the fuel dock, making that process much quicker."

Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar, located at the marina, is operated by Matt Donahoe and Shari Lewis, operators of the Dennison Yard in Dennison. "We are very excited to be open and serving the community," said Matt. "The full-service restaurant and bar is a beautiful setting for boaters and visitors to enjoy a delicious meal with an unbeatable view of the lake. The seating on the outdoor deck has been a huge draw for guests."

Ohio Valley Boats, operated by Keith Ott is located next door to the marina and provides boat sales and service.

EV Charging Station Keeps Drivers Moving

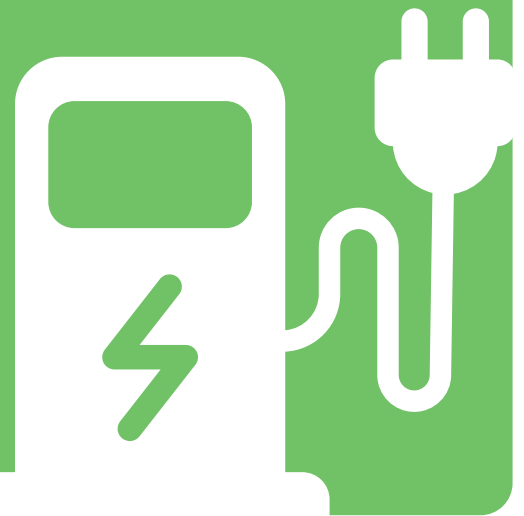
SR 250 now has a place for drivers to charge their electric vehicles at the marina. This dual port, Level 2 EV charging station is open to the public seven days a week. Users must have the ChargePoint app, which is free to download.

The charging station was installed with planning support from Clean Fuels Ohio and funding from AEP Ohio, and is a step toward necessary infrastructure to support connecting rural areas.

"With the installation of a Level 2 EV charging station at Tappan Marina, MWCD is taking on a leadership role in helping build the infrastructure rural drivers need to access the economic and clean air benefits of electric vehicles," said Brandon Jones, Consulting Services Manager with Clean Fuels Ohio.

According to ChargePoint, Level 2 charging adds about 25 miles of Range Per Hour. The time to fully charge an EV with a 100-mile battery is four to five hours. Typically, most drivers charge their vehicle from empty to full at home and "top off" during the day.

Currently, MWCD is offering this service free of charge, but will be evaluating usage to determine if it becomes necessary to switch to a pay-per-charge model in the future.



Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar Hours:

Wednesday – Thursday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday: Closed

Tappan Marina Hours

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend:

Sunday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday – Saturday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Ohio Valley Boats Hours:

Monday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday – Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday and Sunday: Closed



Employee Spotlight

How long have you worked for MWCD?

Randy: I am proud to have worked at MWCD for 24 years!

Gretchen: I have been part of the MWCD team for 7 years!

What position do you hold at MWCD? What are some of your duties?

Randy: I am currently the building and fleet technician for the District. I make sure everything runs smoothly from vehicle and building maintenance to ensuring our buildings and grounds are welcoming for guests and staff.

Gretchen: I am the Atwood Park administrative assistant. I often get to interact with many of the visitors of Atwood Park, greeting campers and customers as they arrive or stop by the Welcome Center. I also assist guests with making reservations. I prepare Park Reports for the Finance Department and handle new-hire paperwork to be processed, among many other things.

Which MWCD location(s) do you work at? What do you like about working at the location?

Randy: I work out of the MWCD main office in New Philadelphia. I enjoy working with all the different departments that report to this location – the short drive from my house is also nice.

Gretchen: I am a proud member of "Team Atwood!" Atwood does a great job working together as a team and that is what I enjoy the most.

What do you like most about working for MWCD?

Randy: I get to work with a lot of different people, and I get to do a lot of different things that make working for MWCD so fun and enjoyable. It is a great place to work.

Gretchen: The staff I get to work with is fantastic. Being in the Recreation Department, 99.9% of the customers are at the parks to make family memories and we provide an amazing place for that.

Favorite food? Favorite vacation spot?

Randy: I like almost anything. A few years ago, my wife and I went on a cruise to the Bahamas and that was a lot of fun!

Gretchen: My favorite foods are anything Mexican, spaghetti, or pizza. I love Geneva-on-the-Lake!

Favorite movie? Favorite quote?

Randy: I am a fan of the Fast & Furious movies.

Gretchen: Grease is my favorite movie, and my favorite quote is "a positive attitude goes a long way."

Do you have any hobbies? What do you like to do in your spare time?

Randy: I enjoy fishing and I dabble in making homemade wine.

Gretchen: I enjoy spending time with my family and my two dogs Abbie and Dale.

Family?

Randy: I have been married for 35 years and have two children and three grandchildren.

Gretchen: I have been married for 30 years to my husband, Mike and we have two sons, Chase and Tyler. Tyler is married to our beautiful daughter-in-law, Randa.

Fun fact about yourself?

Randy: I have held three positions at MWCD. When I first started working for the District, I was on the carpenter crew. Later, there was an opening on the equipment crew, so I transferred there. Now, I am the building and fleet technician.

Gretchen: I am a proud mother of my two amazing boys, Tyler and Chase, but I am also a mom of a racecar driver, Chase. I get so nervous when he is on the track at Midvale, but it is so fun to watch him race!



Randy Canfield



Gretchen Burky

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.

The Summer Adventure BINGO Challenge begins June 21. 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 by the deadline. Winners will be randomly selected and contacted. #MWCDadventureBINGO





When it Comes to Boating Safety, Be Sure to Know the Ropes

While you are out enjoying one of the MWCD lakes this summer, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- Always wear a life jacket
- Do not drink and boat
- Swim with a buddy and in designated areas
- Remain seated while the boat is in motion
- Do not sit on the bow
- Make a float plan and keep in touch
- Watch the weather and your surroundings
- Use common sense and make sensible choices

For more information regarding Ohio Boat Operating Laws and Operator's Guide, visit ohiodnr.gov



Master Plan Continues With Significant Improvements Throughout the District

ATWOOD LAKE PARK

Atwood West Marina Restroom/Showerhouse Renovation - This completed project renovated the existing public restroom and separate restroom and shower areas for dockers located at the West Marina. A major facelift was given to the building including new siding, roof structure, heating and cooling systems, tile, and restroom fixtures. A new ADA-compliant addition for a public restroom and separate restroom and shower for dockers completes the project.



Atwood Activity Center - The existing building's interior and exterior will be renovated, including new siding, roof structure, an addition to give more room to the central gathering area, and a covered outdoor patio. The existing kitchen, retail area, and Nature Center will be reorganized and renovated. Pending an awardable bid, construction of the building will take place from summer 2022 to summer 2023.

CLENDENING

Cabin Construction - The existing motel has been demolished, and the area will be redeveloped, adding new cabins and a laundry building to the area. Construction will start in fall 2022 and continue through summer 2023.

Marina Building - A new marina building will be constructed, providing a new space to continue existing marina services including docking, fuel, boat rentals, retail items, live bait, and snacks. The new building will have restrooms which will be accessible from the outside for the public and seasonal dockers. The building will also have office space for staff. The existing marina building will be demolished, and the space will provide better access to the docks and fuel area. Design is anticipated to be completed by spring 2023 and the new marina will open in 2025.

LEESVILLE

Wastewater Treatment Plant - A new wastewater treatment facility will be constructed at Leesville North Fork Marina and will serve as the basis of infrastructure needed to tie-in the existing buildings located at the marina and construction of a new restroom/shower building. Construction will start in fall 2022 and continue through spring 2023.

PIEDMONT MARINA

Dock Access and Parking Lot Improvements - This substantially completed project will provide additional parking for seasonal dockers and improved stair access from the enhanced parking lot to the docks. A floating boardwalk will connect the marina to the seasonal docks to the east.

Reynolds Road Boat Launch Parking Lot

Project - Additional parking for both cars and boat trailers at the boat launch will be provided. Parking will be a combination of a paved surface lot and a gravel surface overflow lot. A total of 49 boat trailer parking spaces and 16 car parking spaces will be provided. The project will include a restroom, a new location for the accessible fishing dock, and better access for pedestrians using the site. Construction will start in summer 2022 and continue through fall 2022.

PLEASANT HILL LAKE PARK

Boat Storage Lot - This completed project includes a new 134 boat storage lot at the northeast corner of SR 95 and Covert Rd. Boats that were previously stored in the park area will now be stored in the newly constructed lot, allowing the area to develop future amenities near Campground Area G.

Area G: Activity Area Amenities - A mister pad, seating area, shade structure, small playground, and basketball and pickleball courts will create an active recreation area at the center of the campground. The intersection at the end of the entrance drive will be realigned, and a gateway node and drop-off area will be added to the south parking lot to improve wayfinding and safety for both vehicles and pedestrians. Pedestrian access between the Cabin Area, Campground Area G, the proposed gateway node, overlook and community fire pit, and the Welcome and Activity Center will include both asphalt and concrete walkways. Design is anticipated to be completed by fall 2022. Opening of the new amenities will be in summer 2023.

SENECA LAKE PARK & MARINA

Marina Shoreline and Site Improvements Project - This completed project reconstructed an existing deck and added a new permanent pavilion structure for outdoor dining. A new concrete, sloped, accessible walking path to the lower-level marina was also included. The 500-foot shoreline project included a concrete-block retaining wall, a lighted concrete sidewalk for dock access, and four new dock abutments.

**Beach Amenities and Improvements -**

Beach improvements extend both passive and active recreational activities along the shoreline, create new entry points, and address stormwater drainage and erosion. The beach improvements include a destination-sized splashpad, seating areas, shade structures, basketball and pickleball courts, and space for lawn games. At the courtesy docks, a new abutment will be constructed to support relocation of an existing dock to this area. Pedestrian access between the courtesy docks and the beach will include an asphalt trail and boardwalks with a curbed concrete sidewalk separating the lawn and beach area.

Marina Point Splashpad - At Marina Point, a small splashpad and seating area will provide guests an opportunity to cool off and complement the recently constructed playground and basketball court. Opening of the new amenities will be in summer 2023.

TAPPAN LAKE PARK

Welcome Center Project - A new Welcome Center will provide an iconic view when entering the Tappan Lake Park. Similar to the Atwood Lake Welcome Center, the building will house the administrative and Ranger staff and will include a retail area. The project will be tentatively rebid in summer 2022. Construction will tentatively start in fall 2022.

Beach Restroom / Concession Building Upgrade Project - Upgrades to the existing structures that house beach concessions, restrooms, and changing areas will be made. The concessions building will be upgraded with a new roof and exterior siding. Still in design, the bathhouses may be renovated to provide private changing areas, upgraded restrooms and lavatories, or rebuilt like the facilities at Seneca Lake Park. Outdoor showers will allow guests to rinse off beach water and sand before leaving the area. Design is anticipated to be completed by fall 2022. Opening of the new amenities will be in summer 2023.

TAPPAN LAKE MARINA

Marina Parking Lot and Shoreline Improvements - This nearly completed project includes new asphalt driveways and a 126-space parking lot, a new concrete sidewalk along the shoreline, two sets of steps for dock access, three new dock abutments, 350 feet of shoreline improvements, and lighting for the parking lot and steps.

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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.

Are you in law enforcement and need a fresh take on your career? Join our OPOTA certified Ranger team working in the fresh air at our lakes, parks, and campgrounds!

For more information, please visit www.MWCD.org

