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Lake Views



Message from Craig Butler

Greetings friends! Summer is here and we are ready to party! Temperatures are on the climb, boats are on the water, and the parks are filling up with guests. Thank you for thinking of us as you plan your summer — we cannot wait to see you.

We look forward to having both new and old friends return, visit, and relax, and are excited to be bringing back several events and attractions that were cancelled last year, like fireworks! We're also happy to host the Alive Music Festival and the Fall Festival once again at Atwood Lake Park. A full slate of other programming opportunities are also being offered throughout the summer at all our parks, including Movies at the Lake, sunset kayak tours, golf cart poker runs, and crafts for kids and adults.

New to the activities lineup this year is WhoaZone! Located at both Atwood and Pleasant Hill Lake Parks, we have partnered with Empire Recreation Management, LLC to offer inflatable water toys at the beaches. Kids are already flocking to WhoaZone despite the early season cold water temperatures. We believe this will be a great long-term amenity at these, and possibly other parks, in years to come.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CELEBRATE 2021 WITH A BANG

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Atwood, Charles Mill, Seneca, and Tappan Lakes

SATURDAY, JULY 17

Christmas in July at Pleasant Hill Lake

(Fireworks start at dusk)



Park Visitors Fight Dirty

To acknowledge Earth Day and raise awareness for litter prevention, MWCD sponsored our annual Cleanup Challenge at all the parks and campgrounds in April. Boaters, walkers, and hikers were encouraged to grab a pair of gloves and a few trash bags and pick up litter from April 17 through April 25.

Participants shared photos of their good deeds on MWCD Facebook and Instagram pages using #MWCDEarthDay2021, tagging the park or marina where they cleaned. Six lakes and campgrounds were represented in the posts. Contributors to the litter cleanup earned a coupon for a free night of camping, and those who posted photos were entered in the grand prize drawing for a cooler filled with MWCD prizes and gift certificate.

"All of us at MWCD sincerely appreciate the efforts of those who helped," said Craig Butler. "And Remember: Fight Dirty – Keep our Parks and Lakes Clean!"



Grand Prize winner, Mark Edie, displays a sampling of his contribution.



Additional pictures of participants using the #MWCDEarthDay2021 from Facebook and Instagram

Message from Craig Butler (cont'd)

Construction of the Tappan Marina continues and we are expecting to announce a grand opening this summer. We expect the restrooms and showers to be open before the end of June. Also, Matt Donohoe and Shari Lewis, who own the Dennison Yard, will be the operators of the new Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar. Operations will be starting soon, and their menu looks great!

Take a moment to read the short article on how we monitor the water quality in all our lakes for your safety. We, along with our volunteers, take thousands of readings a year so you can have confidence in the water quality, or so you know what precautions may need to be taken, if necessary. Access to this information is always available on our website.

As we head into summer, why not take some of that vacation time that went unused last year and head to one of our parks or lakes – we've all deserved it.

See you out there!

KAYAK ADVENTURES



Relax on the water during a guided kayak tour! Try kayaking for the first time or explore a MWCD lake. Find the perfect kayak event to float your boat! Registration required online at www.MWCD.org/kayak

Now Open for Summer Fun

WhoaZone inflatable obstacle courses debuted at Atwood and Pleasant Hill Lakes on Memorial Day weekend and will remain open throughout the summer. Designed to ensure every guest has an amazing experience, WhoaZone is the perfect attraction for those seeking over-the-top adventures, mind-blowing acrobatic thrills, and safe, yet fun, athletic challenges.

Buy tickets, or book your group event or birthday party at www.gowhoazone.com



Know the Ropes When it Comes to Boating Safety

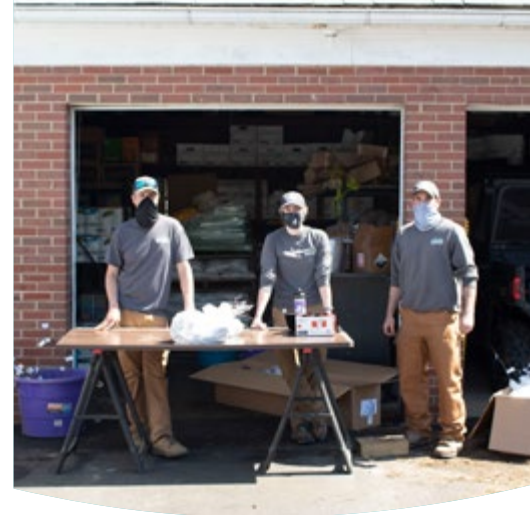
While you are out enjoying summer on the MWCD lakes, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- ◆ 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

Let's make all our boating adventures good ones this year!

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





MWCD Forestry Continues Proactive Forest Management in 2021

Over the last four years, tree giveaways for cottage sites have been conducted throughout the district. Forestry held the 2021 Tree Giveaway for MWCD Atwood, Piedmont, and Seneca Lake cottage lessees on April 10th. The event had 80 participants and resulted in a total of 775 trees planted around the lake areas. Additionally, 9,500 trees were planted at the former Atwood Golf Course. The planting covered 22 acres and was completed in less than two days. To help with the growth of the trees, hunting is now allowed in the area.

Native trees either distributed or planted included:

- ◆ Dogwood
- ◆ Redbud
- ◆ Paw Paw
- ◆ Persimmon
- ◆ Sugar and Red Maple
- ◆ Red, White, Pin, and Swamp White Oak
- ◆ Bitternut Hickory
- ◆ Yellow and Tulip Poplar
- ◆ Black Cherry
- ◆ Blackgum
- ◆ River Birch

MWCD foresters manage 34,000 acres of forests on MWCD properties. Management of the forests includes: maintaining an extensive inventory, controlling invasive species where needed, monitoring forest insects and pathogens, planting trees, and achieving wildlife habitat and silvicultural goals through a proactive forest management approach.



Fishing Line Disposal Bins Installed

Visitors will now find fishing line disposal bins located at all our Lakes and Parks. MWCD Rangers, Park and Marina staff worked hard over the spring assembling and installing disposal bins uniquely designed to collect fishing line only. A total of 35 bins have been strategically installed at high-volume fishing areas throughout the district to provide an easy and convenient way for anglers to discard old, excess, or severed fishing line in areas where trashcans and dumpsters may not be found. This new initiative is one example of MWCD's efforts to engage our visitors and mitigate a fraction of the overall litter issue found at MWCD Lakes and Parks.

"Keeping our waterways tangle free ensures healthier wildlife habitats, increases water quality, and prevents injuries and potential accidents," said Ethan Zucal, MWCD Engagement and Outreach Coordinator. "The fishing line disposal bins are a simple way for fishermen and women to discard line that can no longer be used rather than dropping it in the lakes or leaving it on the shoreline."

Visitors are encouraged to use the disposal bins, trashcans, and dumpsters when they dispose of fishing line.



MWCD Water Quality Program: Summer 2021

In May, MWCD Water Quality Coordinator, Matt Thomas, worked with Kent State University students as part of their Environmental Studies course. Their field work focused on the study of linkages between local land use and water quality. Students traveled to several lakes and streams around Carroll County to explore different habitats and gain hands-on experience of tools and techniques that limnologists (water scientists) use to assess water quality. The trip culminated in meeting staff with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and learning the functions, engineering, and mission of the Leesville Dam.

The annual kick-off meeting for our Citizen Lake Awareness and Monitoring (CLAM) Program was held June 7. This is a long-standing partnership with the Ohio Lake Management Society which provides the logistics, training, and assistance for our group of citizen scientists. We truly value the service these volunteers provide every summer, as they play a large role in our sampling efforts. In 2020, the group collected over 100 samples for E. coli and 54 samples for cyanotoxin. Aside from taking frequent samples and recording data, they essentially become the eyes and ears for many of the lakes within the District, helping us maintain current lake conditions in real time.

Water quality is important for recreational users to know and understand, especially anglers, boaters, and swimmers. The MWCD Water Quality Program monitors the lake waters regularly at all 10 MWCD lakes during the recreational season. This information, as well as other helpful tips and any warnings are posted on www.mwcd.org/water-quality.

Only by working together can we keep our cherished lakes clean and healthy!



HFP Races Cancelled

Like many of you, we were excited to partner with HFP Racing to offer several high-level and family friendly triathlons in 2021. Unfortunately, HFP Racing has cancelled all events for 2021. We apologize to all of you who have been training. Stay tuned, though, as we are currently seeking a new race organizer for future racing events at MWCD Lakes which offer great venues to test your fitness. In the meantime, we invite you to hike the trails, picnic in the park, and enjoy nature at your own pace.

Staff Participates in Encino Energy Tour

MWCD maintains an oil and gas drilling program which includes experienced staff who oversee contract operators and operations ensuring we are responsible stewards of our environment. Members of our general and executive staff recently had the opportunity to participate in a Drilling, Completions, and Production Tour hosted by Encino Energy. The tour provided insight into the daily operations of our leased operations and increased our knowledge in the development of oil and gas.



Tappan Marina and Restaurant Opening Slated for Summer

While construction continues on the \$4.4 million Tappan Marina and Restaurant building renovation project, the grand opening is planned for later this summer. Travelers on State Route 250 have had a front-row view to the construction progress, which features a new 250-seat restaurant on the main floor of the marina, including seating for over 100 guests on a covered deck overlooking the lake.

Matt Donohoe and Shari Lewis, owners of the Dennison Yard, Dennison, Ohio, have been selected to operate the restaurant and are anxiously awaiting to announce the grand opening of Waters Edge Kitchen + Bar. "We are very excited to provide a full-service restaurant and bar where boaters and visitors will enjoy a delicious meal, in a comfortable, relaxing environment – with a spectacular view!" said Shari Lewis. "We also plan to offer carry-out menu items that boaters can order and enjoy while relaxing on the water."

The lower level of the marina will be home to MWCD's Tappan Marina operations. It will also feature pontoon and fishing boat rentals, boating

supplies, gifts, bait and tackle, fuel sales, snacks, and docking rentals. Despite construction, marina operations are currently open. Pontoon rentals, gas, and seasonal docking is available for the 2021 season. Boat rental reservations are encouraged and can be made online at www.MWCD.org.

"The renovations to Tappan Marina have not only beautified the facility, but more importantly, allow us to better serve our guests," said Ryan McCleaster, MWCD Chief of Recreation. "Tappan Lake is very popular for boating and fishing, and draws guests from Ohio and surrounding states. The new design will provide a premier destination that will offer an inviting gateway to the Tappan Lake region."

A date will be announced for a ribbon cutting and community open house for the restaurant and marina operations later this year. Follow us on social media for updates.

"The new design will provide a premier destination that will offer an inviting gateway to the Tappan Lake region."





MWCD Rangers Receive Ohio Collaborative Certification

MWCD Rangers have joined the ranks of nearly 75 percent of Ohio's Law Enforcement officers by receiving the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification – a program developed by the State of Ohio to improve community-police relations and find solutions to the tensions and concerns between community members and the police that serve them.

"We hold our Rangers to high standards and offer the most up-to-date training to make certain they know how to handle a wide variety of situations they may face."

MWCD received final certification for Group One standards which includes Use of Force, and Recruitment and Hiring. MWCD will continue to pursue certification for Groups Two, Three and Four.

To obtain the certification, agencies must meet statewide standards set by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, and the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification Program. The Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board was formed in 2015 to strengthen community and police relations.

"Our Rangers work countless hours to ensure the safety of not only the guests who visit the MWCD lakes, but also the surrounding communities," said John Maxey, MWCD Chief Ranger. "We hold our Rangers to high standards and offer the most up-to-date training to make certain they know how to handle a wide variety of situations they may face."

It can range from opportunities to educate the community about our natural resources, all the way to de-escalation of a tense situation or providing mutual aid to nearby departments. Achieving this certification shows the community the level of service we aim to provide."

MWCD Rangers are required to be certified police officers within the State of Ohio and have full police powers on MWCD property and adjacent property. To become a certified Police Officer, they must go through intensive training to complete the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy. The MWCD employs 34 Rangers who are guided by professional policies that are written by Lexipol, which are nationally recognized as Best Practices for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Job duties for a MWCD Ranger can vary daily from patrolling camp areas, cottage areas, and lakes, to providing Ohio Boater or Hunter Education Courses to the community. They also conduct safety checks, respond to noise complaints, criminal violations, and assist other nearby agencies. Lake Rangers complete vessel inspections, investigate boating accidents, and patrol the waterways to ensure safety.

"I am very proud of the MWCD Ranger Department for this accomplishment," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "Throughout the year, our Rangers receive many hours of education and training to ensure that we are adopting the most up-to-date policing standards, and this certification validates the efforts we have made. We strive to develop relationships within our communities to ensure a safe atmosphere within our parks, cottage areas, and beyond."



Ranger Day, held at each park, provides the opportunity for the public, Rangers, and area law enforcement officials to engage in a very positive way.

Partnership With OWDA to Improve Water Quality in MWCD Region



A core mission of MWCD is maintaining good water quality in our lakes and rivers for the benefit and enjoyment of the community. "We are excited to announce a partnership with the Ohio Water Development Authority to invest \$5 million to improve community wastewater treatment in the MWCD region," said Craig Butler, MWCD Executive Director. "This new program builds on the current commitments to invest in the vitality of our parks, marinas, and communities. Having excellent water quality is what is responsible for attracting millions of visitors to our parks, lakes, and marinas annually."

The latest estimates (2012) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are that over \$271 billion are needed to fully fund necessary community wastewater improvement needs nationally. Ohio's needs are staggering at over \$14 billion, with small communities reporting needs of over \$1.5 billion. This is despite having programs that have already invested billions of dollars to build, enhance, and replace critical infrastructure.

The MWCD Board of Directors recently approved a partnership with the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) to invest \$5 million in the existing Freshwater Loan Program to assist communities within our jurisdictional boundary to build and improve wastewater treatment systems.

For qualifying communities, MWCD will "buy" or subsidize the interest from any OWDA Freshwater Loans to defray or lessen overall project costs.

"We feel strongly about investing in our communities and protecting the waters within the conservancy district. This is a way for us to do both and we are proud to be a partner with OWDA in this important program," says Butler. The OWDA program is one funding source communities use to finance expensive wastewater/stormwater upgrades, often required by Ohio/US EPA because of poor performance and negative impacts to water quality.

Eligible borrowers include departments, divisions, or other units of state government, watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, municipal corporations, counties, townships, and other political subdivisions, special water districts, including county and regional sewer and water districts, conservancy districts, sanitary districts, sewer districts, or any other public corporation or agency having the authority to acquire, construct, or operate wastewater or water management facilities.

Interested applicants can submit an application through the portal at www.OWDA.org.

Guidelines and instructions for applying can be found there as well. An application will be presented to the OWDA Board for approval after it has been determined that the local government is able to repay the loan. MWCD will also complete a review to ensure it meets its eligibility requirements during this time.



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Lake Views

CATCH A LINE ON SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District hires seasonal employees for a variety of positions each year at our Parks and Marinas. Whether you are in high school, home from college, or looking for a summer job, we have opportunities for everyone.

Types of positions include: activities leader, cleaning staff, gate attendants, maintenance/grounds keeping, and beach attendant.

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