

## In This Issue...

New Executive Director.....	1
Statement from Craig Butler .....	2
Master Plan Project Status.....	2
Coshocton Forest.....	3
Hoopingarner Receives Medal ...	3
Earth Day Cleanup .....	4
Reforestation Projects.....	4

# Lake Views



## MWCD Board of Directors Announces Next Executive Director

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Craig W. Butler as the organization's next Executive Director. Butler began his duties with the MWCD on May 1, 2020. Butler replaces Executive Director John M. Hoopingarner, who retired May 29, 2020, after more than 30 years of service to the MWCD.

Butler recently served as the Executive Director of the Power Siting Board for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. In 2014, Governor John Kasich appointed Butler as Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a position he held until 2019. Prior to serving as the Director of the EPA, Butler served as the Assistant Policy Director for Energy, Agriculture and the Environment in Governor Kasich's administration. Prior to his service in the Kasich Administration, Butler served in various positions in the Ohio EPA and is regarded as an innovator and national leader in balancing environmental protection, conservation, public health and economic development issues.

"I am very thankful to MWCD Board President Joanne Limbach and members of the board for their consideration and trusting me with the responsibility of leading MWCD," said Butler. "I look forward to working closely with the Board and leading the team of talented MWCD professionals and staff. It is truly an honor and I am very excited to be a part of this extraordinary organization. I look forward to using my experience to support the critical mission of the MWCD and exploring new opportunities to assist communities in the Muskingum River Watershed. I also am appreciative of Governor DeWine's support of me taking on this new role."

Butler holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, and a Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Ohio University.

"We're exceptionally pleased that Craig has taken on this leadership role," said Joanne Limbach, MWCD Board President. "Craig's broad knowledge of environmental issues coupled with his years of experience working in the public sector make him well-positioned to lead the organization going forward. His experience in working with the public and business community as well as his track record of being a trusted leader to local, state and federal officials positions him well to hit the ground running and lead the organization," Limbach added.

As Executive Director of MWCD, Butler will serve as the chief executive officer and secretary of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), performing employment duties as prescribed by law under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6101, as well as advising the Board of Directors on matters related to Chapter 6101 of the Revised Code. The MWCD Executive Director oversees the effective and efficient operation of the organization and ensures that enhanced services and facilities are offered to the public. The Executive Director is responsible for the overall planning, operation, staff leadership, and development and fiscal management in accordance with the organization's mission, vision, values and goals.





## Statement from Craig Butler:

Greetings MWCD! I am excited and thankful for the opportunity to work with you and represent you as the Executive Director. Tammi, my wife, and Hanna, our daughter, are also excited as we make the move to the New Philadelphia area, which, as you can imagine, has been an interesting process in a pandemic! Let me also express my thanks to John Hoopingarner and the MWCD Board of Directors and staff for your help and guidance thus far as I learn the ropes and get up to speed. Living up to the proud legacy of the Conservancy and charting an equally proud future is a responsibility that I look forward to.

There is no doubt that we are experiencing significant challenges because of the pandemic and subsequent closures ordered by the Ohio Health Department. It is impacting us all at home and work. From teleworking, to altering when and how we open to the public as the summer season progresses, to significant impacts to our budgets, the pandemic is altering our operations. It is true that no one can predict when we will be able to resume some sense of normalcy, or what this will actually look like. However, I've already experienced the "can-do" spirit of MWCD staff and am confident we are up for handling every challenge with enthusiasm and an eye towards protecting our staff and customers.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you as we meet these challenges head on.

## MWCD Master Plan Project Status

Work on major upgrades and improvements to MWCD facilities has been moving right along, and evidence of progress can be seen at all of our facilities. Heading into 2020, over \$109 million has been invested in design and construction throughout our parks, with an additional \$32 million underway this year.

- ◆ **Atwood Lake Main Campground Improvements Phase 2:** Sitework is continuing on the reconstruction of 72 full-hookup RV campsites with concrete pads in existing Camp Areas B and C. Renovation of the existing restroom/shower building continues, as well as construction on a new picnic shelter, playground, walking paths and abutments for cluster docks. Substantial completion is scheduled for Fall 2020.
- ◆ **Atwood Camp Area 4 Restroom Improvement:** The building foundation and waterline work is complete for the new restroom. The contractor is currently working on plumbing connections and electrical improvements, and waiting on delivery of the prefabricated CXT restroom.
- ◆ **Charles Mill Lake Park Main Campground Redevelopment Phase 3:** Sitework is wrapping up and utilities are being installed for the reconstruction of the existing southern section of the main campground, with 51 full-hookup RV campsites with concrete pads, a prefabricated CXT restroom with laundry and a new pre-engineered restroom. Substantial completion is scheduled for Fall 2020.

- ◆ **Piedmont Campground Redevelopment Phase 2:** Construction has been completed on the 34 full-hookup RV campsites with concrete pads. A playground and shelter were also constructed. Final paving will be completed shortly, weather permitting.
- ◆ **Piedmont Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Construction is almost complete on the new wastewater treatment plant, which replaces the existing deteriorating package plant.
- ◆ **Piedmont Water Treatment Plant and SCADA:** Construction is beginning on the facility that will be part of the new water supply and distribution system being installed at the marina and campground. The expected project outcomes include improved drinking water quality at the marina and campground, and consistent water pressure throughout all facilities. Substantial completion is scheduled for Fall 2020.
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill Horse Camp Electric Upgrade:** Construction has been completed for the installation of new electric pedestals with 50A, 30A and 20A receptacles at each of the 38 existing campsites in the Horse Camp area. The electric pedestals are designed to be easily removed in the event of flooding.
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill Campground Area G:** Earthwork operations are underway on construction of a new campground on the site of the former cabin neighborhood. The project will provide 49 full-hookup RV campsites with concrete pads, a new pre-engineered restroom/shower building, and a picnic shelter. Substantial completion is scheduled for Fall 2020.
- ◆ **Seneca Lake Marina Point Campground Redevelopment Phase 2:** Sitework is wrapping up and utilities are being installed for the reconstruction of the existing northern section of the Marina Point campground. The project will provide 102 full-hookup RV campsites with concrete pads, two pre-engineered restrooms/shower houses, two picnic shelters, boat ramp, volleyball court, and key card gate entrance. Substantial completion is scheduled for Spring 2021.



- ◆ **Tappan Lake Park Campground Renovation Phase 2:** Construction is almost complete on the reconstruction of 43 RV campsites with concrete pads in existing Camp Area 1. A new restroom/shower house with laundry facilities was constructed as part of the project. Completion of final landscaping was delayed due to Tappan Lake water surface elevation covering the lower portion of the campground.
- ◆ **Tappan Lake Park Deersville Road RV and Boat Storage Lot:** Construction is wrapping up on the new RV and boat storage lot on Deersville Road opposite the park entrance. This lot is fenced and includes security lighting.
- ◆ **Tappan Marina Fuel Upgrades:** A new fueling and courtesy dock were installed this spring for boaters at the marina.
- ◆ **Tappan Marina Sanitary Sewer and WWTP Improvements:** Construction is just beginning on the new wastewater treatment plant that will serve the marina. Substantial completion is scheduled for Spring 2020.





# 1,800+ Acres of Coshocton Forest Preserved

## Property to be Managed for Preservation, Conservation and Recreation

American Electric Power (AEP), Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Ohio Public Works Commission and Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) worked together to preserve 1,827 acres of forestland in Linton Township. The permanent conservation of the forest, part of the Conesville Public Recreation Area and open to public use for many years, will ensure recreational use for community members and visitors, and contribute to the local economy with tourism revenue.

"The acquisition of this property will forever preserve a massive stretch of forests and waters, provide increased park and recreational opportunities for the public, and encourage tourism that benefits the Coshocton economy," said Mike Williams, AEP real estate supervisor.

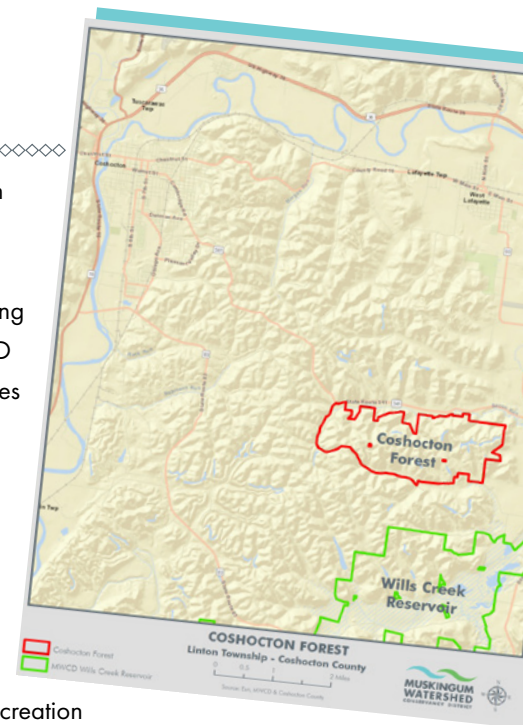
Utilizing Clean Ohio funding, the MWCD and Western Reserve Land Conservancy acquired the property from AEP. The area will be open to the public for hiking, bird watching, nature study, fishing, hunting and more. The property offers immense community benefit, adding to the \$56.5 million tourism industry in Coshocton County.

"The Land Conservancy is proud to help maintain this important recreation area," said Alex Czayka, Senior Vice President for Conservation Transactions at Western Reserve Land Conservancy. "It's a huge win when we are able to create harmony between conservation, recreation and economy."

The acquisition of Coshocton Forest will preserve 86 acres of ponds, 161 acres of wetlands, and more than 28,000 linear feet of streams located on the property. It will protect the integrity of these valuable natural resources and sustain their capacity to provide high-quality plant and animal habitat, storm water mitigation, and water quality protection within the Muskingum River watershed.

The Coshocton Forest habitat supports diverse wildlife, such as the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, multiple migratory bird species, and a variety of avian focal species for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the cerulean warbler, Henslow's sparrow, bald eagle, and grasshopper sparrow. Hickory trees are dominant on the property, as are ash, red and white oak, cottonwood, aspen, elm, and sycamore.

The MWCD will own and manage the property moving forward. "By acquiring this property, MWCD will have opportunities to implement conservation and recreation measures in line with our mission that will further enhance the preservation, conservation, and recreation of the property for generations to come," said John Hoopingarner, former Executive Director for the MWCD.



## John Hoopingarner Recognized with Meritorious Public Service Medal

John Hoopingarner, recently retired Executive Director of the MWCD, has been officially recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, for outstanding dedication and service.

Throughout his distinguished career Mr. Hoopingarner provided leadership to the MWCD and fostered a strong and productive partnership with the Huntington District US Army Corps of Engineers. Under his guidance, the MWCD supported countless initiatives to enhance public safety, increase water quality and expand recreational opportunities throughout the Muskingum Basin.

Mr. Hoopingarner served as the Executive Director of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District from



September 1, 1989 to May 31, 2020.

Throughout his career he served the State of Ohio on many executive Boards of the Water Management Association, the Ohio Water Resources Council Advisory Group, the Ohio Conservancy District Conference Board, and the Ohio Water Advisory Council. He was a strong proponent of the

United States Army Corps of Engineers partnering with the Huntington District (LRH) on countless initiatives. More notably, Mr. Hoopingarner pushed forward

a levy throughout the basin which allowed the MWCD to generate revenue for much-needed Dam Safety Modification projects throughout

the basin. During his tenure as Executive Director, the MWCD partnered with LRH by providing nearly thirty million dollars' worth of investments in dam safety projects and watershed assessments.

In 2014 John was honored by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) as only the third recipient of the prestigious Jack Hanna Resource Conservation Award, which is one of the highest honors bestowed on members of OPRA. The award acknowledges an individual's dedication to natural resources through leadership in conservation in parks and recreation, and in other efforts that have a positive effect on the community. Mr. Hoopingarner's efforts have greatly enhanced public safety, and increased water quality and recreational opportunities throughout the Muskingum Basin.





## Earth Day Cleanup Challenge

In February, MWCD employees throughout the district picked up trash around the lakes. Items collected included tires, carpet, and construction debris. At Piedmont Lake, staff picked up approximately 12 yards of trash in total!

To acknowledge Earth Day 2020 and raise awareness for litter prevention, the MWCD sponsored a Cleanup Challenge at all parks and campgrounds. Boaters, walkers and hikers were encouraged to grab a pair of gloves and a few trash bags and pick up litter from Monday, April 20 through Sunday, May 3. Participants

posted photos to the MWCD Instagram and Facebook pages using **#MWCDEarthDay**, tagging the park or marina where they cleaned. Photos were posted from Atwood, Charles Mill, Clendening, Piedmont, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan lakes and campgrounds. Five winners received a coupon for free camping at one of the facilities and a swag bag containing outdoor guides and MWCD gear!

The MWCD sincerely appreciates the efforts of those who helped. Fight Dirty — Keep Our Parks Clean!

## Lakeside Reforestation Projects

Forestry recently completed four reforestation projects around the district, to reforest areas that have lost trees due to disease, storm damage, natural decline, or park renovations. Tree shelters (tubes) were employed to help protect the young trees from deer browse and lawn maintenance equipment. The shelters also promote growth by acting like a mini greenhouse. Tree shelters at Atwood and Pleasant Hill parks are

labeled with the name of the tree planted, so that visitors can identify the younger trees.

Close to 2,000 total trees were planted:

- ◆ Approx. 350 trees planted and sheltered at Tappan Lake Park's dredge disposal site: oak, hickory, yellow poplar, black cherry, and others
- ◆ Approx. 1,000 trees planted at Charles Mill Lake's abandoned "Mifflin Ballfield": swamp white oak, river birch, sycamore, and others
- ◆ Approx. 350 trees planted and sheltered at Atwood Lake Park: dogwood, redbud, and pawpaw
- ◆ Approx. 250 trees planted and sheltered at Pleasant Hill Lake Park: dogwood, redbud, oak, hickory, river birch, and others





New Philadelphia, OH 44663



SPRING 2020 | VOLUME 39 - ISSUE 1

## Lake Views

PUBLISHED BY

**Muskingum  
Watershed  
Conservancy District**

*Call, write or e-mail for  
free subscription*

### MAIN OFFICE

1319 Third Street NW  
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663  
(330) 343-6647  
TF: (877) 363-8500  
MWCD.org  
info@mwcd.org

### ANNEX OFFICE

2050 Reiser Avenue SE  
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663  
(330) 343-6647

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs 7 am - 5 pm  
Friday 8 am - 5 pm

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne Limbach  
*President*

### MEMBERS

James M. Gresh  
Gordon T. Maupin  
Robert S. Moorehead, Jr.  
Clark E. Sprang

### ADMINISTRATION

Craig W. Butler  
*Executive Director/Secretary*

James B. Cugliari  
*Chief Financial Officer  
/Treasurer*

Mary C. Burley  
*Director of Human Resources*

James J. Pringle  
*Chief Counsel*

Boris E. Slogar, P.E.  
*Chief Engineer*

Scott D. Barnhart  
*Chief of Recreation/Chief Ranger*

Bradley P. Janssen  
*Chief of Conservation*