



Annual Report 2015



MISSION STATEMENT

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District by providing financial resources that enhance facilities, programs and conservation efforts on or adjacent to District lands and waters.

Photo: Kids Conservation Camp, Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District
Cover Photo: Improved Lake Access, Atwood Junior Sailing Program

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Dear Friends,

2015 was another great year for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation. The Foundation funded six projects throughout the watershed, including rescue equipment for the Carrollton Village and Tappan Lake Volunteer fire departments, support for the 2015 North Central Ohio Safe Boating and Fishing Festival at Pleasant Hill Lake and Charles Mill Lake Boat Parade, a bridge replacement on the Buckeye Trail in Tappan Lake Park, and new benches at the Butch Heavilin Memorial Dog Park. Since 2004, the Foundation has funded 70 grant projects totaling over \$300,000. Without the support from our generous donors, none of this would be possible.

Membership is also up from last year. Since 2014, our membership has increased by 144% and membership dues are up 159%.

The 17th Annual Golf Outing, held on August 13, 2015 at Oak Shadows Golf Club in New Philadelphia, was the Foundation's largest fundraiser ever. The event was sold out with 36 teams participating and included two platinum sponsors, three gold sponsors, 13 silver sponsors, and 45 hole sponsors. The Foundation raised over \$25,000 from this event, greatly surpassing last year's record-breaking fundraising event! Because of this tremendous support, the Foundation will be able to fund even more grant projects next year and make a bigger impact on conservation and recreation in our watershed. We cannot thank our sponsors enough for making the 2015 outing so successful!

The Foundation also held a second fundraiser on November 6, 2015. The Annual Meeting – the first ever for the Foundation – was a wonderful evening of celebrating and sharing the accomplishments of the Foundation with our members and donors. With 185 attendees at this inaugural Annual Meeting, this event was a great success and a true testament to how important our work is.

We are excited to announce the proceeds from the Annual Meeting will go toward the establishment of a new Mini Grants Program open to the thirteen youth camps along Conservancy District lakes. The program will support natural resource conservation and outdoor education projects. We believe the Mini Grants Program will have a big impact on environmental education and reach hundreds of youth campers. We look forward to honoring the grant recipients and highlighting their projects at next year's Annual Meeting.

We sincerely thank all of our members and donors for their generous support and look forward to furthering our mission and celebrating our 15th Anniversary in 2016!

Sincerely,



James R. Schoch
Chairman , MWCF
Board of Trustees



Nick L. Lautzenheiser
MWCF Development
Coordinator

2015 GRANTS

2015 North Central Ohio Safe Boating and Fishing Festival

North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council

\$500

Charitable Endowment Fund



2015 Safe Boating and Fishing Festival

Charles Mill Lake Boat Parade

Charles Mill Lake Park

\$750

Messerly Recreation Center Fund



Charles Mill Lake Boat Parade

Buckeye Trail Bridge Replacement

Boy Scout Troop 5084

\$910

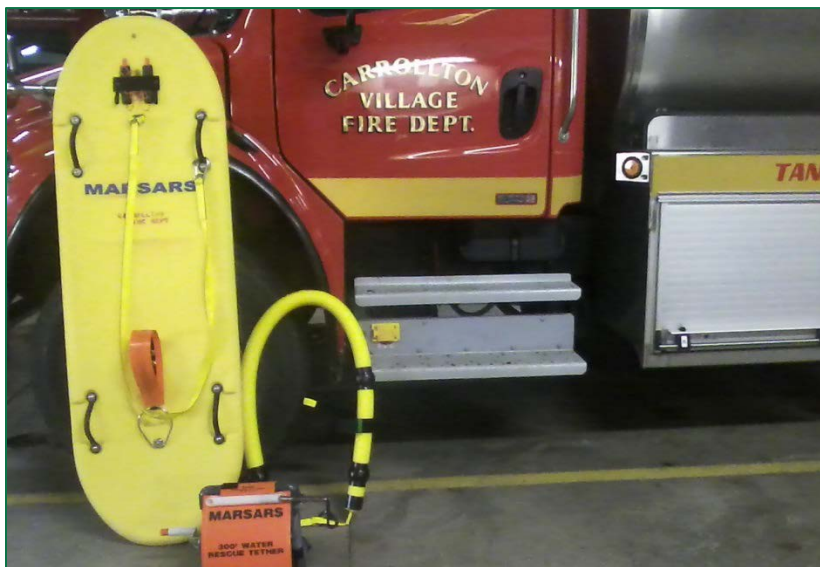
Charitable Endowment Fund



Buckeye Trail Bridge Replacement



2015 GRANTS



Ice Rescue Sled

Ice Rescue Sled

Carrollton Village Fire Department

\$2,106

Charitable Endowment Fund



Benches at Butch Heavilin Memorial Dog Park

Benches for Heavilin Dog Park

Atwood Lake Park

\$1,057

Butch Heavilin Memorial Dog Park Fund



Project Lifesaver: Automated CPR Device

Project Lifesaver: Automated CPR Device

Tappan Lake Volunteer Fire Department

\$3,000

Charitable Endowment Fund

GRANT PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

2015 Safe Boating and Fishing Festival

Over 500 people attended the 11th Annual North Central Ohio Safe Boating and Fishing Festival on June 13, 2015 at Pleasant Hill Lake Park. This free event is open to the public and includes kayaking, pontoon boat rides, fishing opportunities, and water safety displays. The event is hosted by the North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, which aims to promote safe boating and fishing.

“The North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council is built on partnerships,” said President George Christ. “This event partners with the Pleasant Hill Marina, Knox Marine, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, the Mansfield Sailing Club, Mansfield Power Squadron, Intercity Radio Club, Mansfield Noon Optimist Club, Fin Fur and Feather, Kent Sporting Goods, and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. These partners work together to make the festival successful by supplying volunteers, donating door prizes, and advertising the event. We are grateful for the Foundation’s support, which helped fund the pontoon boat rental,” added Christ.

“This event is really great, and I’m happy that the

Foundation was able to help support it,” said Foundation Development Coordinator Nick Lautzenheiser. “The children really benefit from this event, as they learn fishing and kayaking. Most of these kids do not have the opportunity to ride on a pontoon boat out on the lake. Because of this event, they get this chance.”



Children enjoying free pontoon boat ride on Pleasant Hill Lake



Children learning fishing at Pleasant Hill Lake



GRANT PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

2015 Safe Boating and Fishing Festival



Children enjoying a kayak ride on Pleasant Hill Lake

17th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

August 13, 2015 | Oak Shadows Golf Club, New Philadelphia



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



17th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

August 13, 2015 | Oak Shadows Golf Club, New Philadelphia

1st Place: Team WesBanco



2nd Place: Team Byrom



3rd Place: Team Bible



4th Place: Team Whitaker-Myers



Proximity Contest Winners

Long Putt, Hole 1: Todd Kramer
Closest to Pin, Hole 8: James Mitchell
Longest Drive, Hole 10: Jason Karlowicz
Closest to the Pin, Hole 15: Eric Snodgrass

Skins Winners

Team Byrom (2 Skins)
Team W.E. Quicksall & Associates (1 Skin)
Team Whitaker-Myers (1 Skin)



2015 ANNUAL MEETING

November 6, 2015 | Performing Arts Center, New Philadelphia

The Foundation held its first Annual Meeting on Friday, November 6, 2015 at the Kent State University at Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center in New Philadelphia. Nearly 200 people attended the event, which included a dinner and program featuring keynote speaker Dr. Jeffrey Reutter of The Ohio State University.

Regarded as the state and Great Lakes regional expert on water quality issues facing Lake Erie, Dr. Reutter spoke about the causes and solutions to harmful algal blooms in Ohio. Dr. Reutter has over 40 years of professional experience working on Lake Erie, and was the former director of The Ohio State University F.T. Stone Laboratory, the Ohio Sea Grant Program, the Center for Lake Erie Research, and the Great Lakes Aquatic Ecosystem Research Consortium. An aquatic biologist and limnologist, Dr. Reutter is a member and officer of many State, Regional, and Federal boards and



Dr. Jeffrey Reutter

commissions, and he is a prolific author and lecturer on water quality issues facing Lake Erie and Ohio.

Although the Foundation began nearly twenty years earlier in 1996, this was the first annual event of this kind for the organization. "This was a great success for the Foundation," said Development Coordinator Nick Lautzenheiser. "The Annual Meeting was really our way to say thank you to all of our generous donors and celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of the Foundation. The impressive attendance reinforces just how important our work is," Lautzenheiser added.

Board of Trustees Chairman Jim Schoch thanked all of the generous event sponsors, which included AECOM, Environmental Design Group, GPD Group, ms consultants, and Tucson. In addition to the event sponsors, there were a number of table and program sponsors. "We could not host an event like this without the support from these sponsors," Schoch explained.

Schoch also announced that the proceeds for the event will go toward the establishment of a new mini grants program, which will be open to the thirteen youth camps along the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lakes to support natural resource conservation and outdoor education projects.



Annual Meeting attendees enjoying the dinner



Trustees Belle Everett (R) and David Parham with his wife Nancy





Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Executive Director John Hoopingarner speaks at the Annual Meeting



James Pringle (L), Jim Houghan, and MWCD Board of Directors President Joanne Limbach



Meeting attendees enjoying dinner at the Annual Meeting

Event Sponsors



CHARITABLE FUNDS

MWCF Charitable Endowment Fund

Established to support projects and programs throughout the entire Conservancy District that further the mission of the Foundation.

Thomas W. Hudson Endowment Fund

Established in memory of Thomas W. Hudson, an avid sailor on Atwood Lake, this fund supports conservation projects at Atwood Lake.

Crossroads RC&D Conservation Fund

Established to continue the legacy of the former Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Council, this fund supports natural resource conservation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation projects.

Atwood Lake Park Fund

Established through an agreement with the Atwood Area Fall Festival, this fund supports capital improvements to Atwood Lake Park.

Boating Safety and Education Fund

Established to support programming for boating education and safety at Atwood Lake. Donations to this fund support programs such as the Junior Sailing Program.

Butch Heavilin Memorial Dog Park Fund

Established in memory of Butch Heavilin, this fund supports the development and operation of a dog park at Atwood Lake Park.

James R. Pitney Law Enforcement Fund

Established in memory of former MWCD Ranger, James R. Pitney, this fund supports training and education for MWCD rangers and peace officers in Ashland and Richland counties.



Charitable Endowment Fund



Boating Safety and Education Fund



Butch Heavilin Memorial Dog Park Fund



CHARITABLE FUNDS



Atwood Lake Park Amphitheater Fund

Atwood Lake Park Amphitheater Fund

Established to support the development of and improvements to the amphitheater site at Atwood Lake Park.

Regis Wissler Endowment Fund

Established in memory of Regis Wissler, this fund supports improvements and enhancements at Seneca Lake Park.

Piedmont Lake Fund

Established by the Belmont Better Hunting and Fishing Club, this fund supports improvements at Piedmont Lake, particularly increasing fish populations.

Messerly Recreation Center Fund

Established by respected Ashland University professor and current Charles Mill Lake Park Activities Leader, Donna Messerly, this fund supports the development and operation of the Messerly Recreation Center at Charles Mill Lake Park.



Messerly Recreation Center Fund

Joey Moffitt Tappan Lake Park Fund

Established in memory of Joey Moffitt, this fund supports projects at Tappan Lake Park in appreciation of all of the memories made at Tappan Lake for Joey and many generations of the Moffitt family.

Pleasant Hill Equine Fund

Established to support equestrian trail development and maintenance in and around Pleasant Hill Lake Park.

General Fund

Established to support projects throughout the Conservancy District.



Pleasant Hill Equine Fund

2015 DONORS

Thank you to our 2015 Donors!

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\$500 and greater

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Rex Carper and Leslie Hudson-Carper
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Thank you to our 2015 Donors!

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ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

EVENT SPONSORS (\$1,000)

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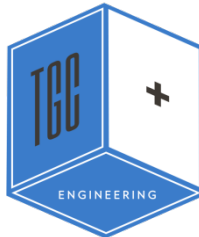


CORPORATE MEMBERS

\$500 Level Corporate Members

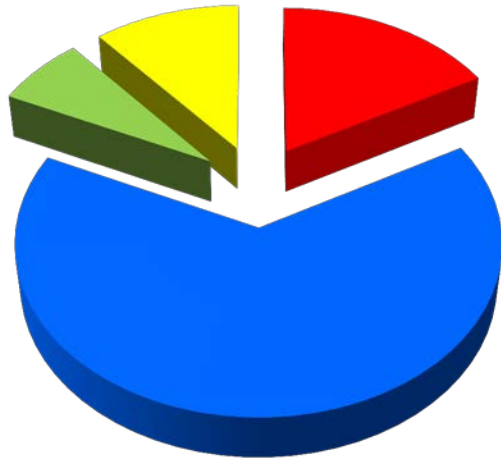


\$250 Level Corporate Members



2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUES



- Memberships - 16.9%
- Fundraisers - 65.1%
- SCF Reimbursement*** - 6.9%
- Other Contributions - 11.1%

EXPENSES



- Fundraiser Expenses - 30.4%
- Professional Fees - 6.7%
- Insurance - 2.1%
- Office Expenses - 5.9%
- Grants - 19.6%
- Asset Transfer - 35.4%

FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets*

Checking	\$90,122.46
High-Yield Savings	\$46,447.17
Total Current Assets	\$136,569.63

Investments**

Charitable Endowment Fund	\$177,168.98
Thomas W. Hudson Fund	\$231,319.59
Crossroads RC&D Fund	\$109,457.04
Total Investments	\$517,945.61

Total Assets **\$654,515.24**

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$36,142.10
Temporarily Restricted	\$616,873.14
Permanently Restricted	\$1,500.00
Total Net Assets	\$654,515.24

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUES

Memberships	\$15,525.00
Fundraisers	\$59,960.31
SCF Reimbursement***	\$6,333.62
Other Contributions	\$10,217.50
Total Revenues	\$92,036.43

EXPENSES

Grants	\$12,692.96
Fundraiser Expenses	\$19,620.85
General Administration	\$9,460.76
Asset Transfer	\$22,857.97
Total Expenses	\$64,632.54

*Balances as of December 31, 2015; unaudited.

**Endowment funds held by the Stark Community Foundation (SCF). Totals through 3rd Quarter 2015.

***Reimbursement from Stark Community Foundation for grants awarded from Charitable Endowment Fund, Hudson Fund, and Crossroads RC&D Fund.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

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Staff

Nick Lautzenheiser
Development Coordinator
nick@mwcd.org

About the Foundation

The MWCD Charitable Endowment Fund was established in 1996 as a component fund of the Stark Community Foundation to provide donors an opportunity to make tax-deductible contributions to support the mission of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD). In February 2001 the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation was officially incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization with the mission of providing financial resources to enhance facilities, programs, and conservation efforts on or adjacent to Conservancy District lands and waters.

There are currently 14 charitable funds within the Foundation, which support conservation, water quality, recreation, and environmental education projects throughout the Muskingum Watershed. Since 2004, the Foundation has funded 70 projects totaling over \$300,000.

In addition to supporting worthwhile conservation and recreation projects, the Foundation was created to help donors meet their charitable goals. The Foundation has helped a number of individuals realize dreams and honor loved ones by establishing charitable funds in their memory.

If you are in need of assistance in developing a charitable contribution plan or establishing a new charitable fund, please contact Nick Lautzenheiser, MWCF Development Coordinator, at 330-556-4831 or nick@mwcd.org. For more information, please visit www.muskingumfoundation.org.





Photo: 2015 North Central Ohio Safe Boating and Fishing Festival



Photo: 2015 North Central Ohio Safe Boating and Fishing Festival



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