

# Mill Cove Inc

## Winter 2024 Newsletter

Caring for the Environment/Investing in our Region

“The Earth is what we all have in common.”

**MISSION STATEMENT:** "To facilitate the enhancement of the Mill Cove Environmental Area for recreation and environmental education."

Mill Cove's Mission Statement remains the same.

The Board of Directors meeting in their Annual Strategic Planning Session reaffirmed the mission of Mill Cove with emphasis on the recreational potential of the site. More & more visitors to the area are involved with hiking, fishing, hunting, picnicking, kayaking, pet walking, wildlife viewing and much more. Come on out and enjoy this unique

outdoor treasure.

### President Messages

David Flesch is the new President of Mill Cove. Fred Lavancher is stepping down.

**Fred Lavancher Message** - I have stepped down as President of Mill Cove, Inc. after serving for a year and 3 months following the passing of our founding member, Charlie Fox. Reflecting on my time as President, the most rewarding part of the job is working with such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of Directors. My interest in Mill Cove goes back to my youth in spending time along Mill Creek swimming and fishing. I've been involved with most of the construction of the physical improvements to the site, including: the development of the overall Master Plan for Mill Cove, the Large 40 X 80 Pavilion and 8 smaller pavilions, the Shooting Range and Storage Building, the Kinder Morgan Trail, The Growing Greener Streambank Restoration Project, the reconstruction of the Cabin Run Bridge, the site work, collection pond, roadway and parking area together with the new Charles E. Fox Environmental Education Pavilion. I will continue on the Board and serve as a member-at-large on the Executive Committee.

**David Flesch Message** - First I would like to thank Fred LaVancher for his great leadership as President of Mill Cove, Inc. and his many years of service and dedication to the success of Mill Cove. I will be relying on Fred for advice and guidance during my time in office. My first priority is the completion of the Charlie Fox Environmental Education Pavilion project. I plan to focus on ways to attract more visitors to Mill Cove through expanding recreational activities and educational programs. I will work hard to attract additional funding to provide financial security for the long-term health of Mill Cove. Lastly, I invite everyone from near and far to visit the outstanding outdoor playground that we affectionately refer to as The Cove.



# Mill Cove Inc

## Capital Campaign - Charles E. Fox Educational Pavillion

The crowning element of the major improvements at the Mill Cove Environmental Area has been the Charles E. Fox Environmental Education Pavilion. Charlie Fox was the founding member of Mill Cove and served as the Board President for 23 years. His vision and inspiration have been the guiding light for the Mill Cove project since 1999.

The pavilion named in his memory is located in the upper portion of the Mill Cove site. Site work for the project was completed in 2020-21 by Gas Field Specialists (GFS) and involved grading of the roadway and parking lot, drainage facilities and the resulting collection pond. Architectural drawings for the pavilion were prepared by Anne Hersh Architect, AIA during the winter of 2021-22.

The Pavilion itself is being completed in phases as funding for construction becomes available. A bid-proposal for initial aspects of the construction was received from Matt Neal Construction of Mansfield during the spring of 2022.

Phase I of the building included the basic construction site grading, foundations, support posts, rafters, concrete floor and metal roof and was completed in the fall of 2022. Phase II consisted of framing the exterior walls, sheeting the gable ends with OSB, finish the fascia and soffits, window placement and the installation of exterior siding (stained ash lumber milled from the Mill Cove site). Phase III consisted of framing the interior walls, apply ash siding as needed, installation of 4 steel doors, OSB sheeting on all interior walls, rough wiring ceiling lights/outlets/control box, and installing metal ceiling to the porch area. Phase II & III work was completed in the fall of 2023. To date the total investment in the pavilion is \$289,932.00.

The following items of work are planned as funding becomes available: Finish electrical work and provide a 26kw generator; Complete Stonework and Fireplace; finish interior walls in kitchen and restroom areas; Interior plumbing & restroom fixtures; Septic Tank and Leach Field in compliance with existing No. Central Sewage Agency permit; develop water well and connect to pavilion; Landscaping and exterior finish grading; new picnic tables & benches. It's estimated that these remaining work items will require an additional \$155,500.00 in contributions to implement.

The primary use of the pavilion will be for environmental education functions. It can be used for an outdoor-learning classroom for Mansfield University students, science and environmental studies classes of the School Districts within the Northern Tier, and Boy & Girl Scout and other youth oriented outdoor groups. The pavilion may also be scheduled on a fee basis for social activities such as weddings, family reunions or business retreats. At present, water supply and restroom facilities must be provided via porta-johns and self-contained water methods. To reserve the pavilion, call 570-418-3593





# Mill Cove Inc

## Earth Day 2023

Mill Cove was pleased to announce that the Annual Earth Day at Mill Cove returned in 2023!

The Environmental Education/Marketing Committee was able to organize the event in only 4 months.

Earth Day was held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 10AM-4PM at the Mill Cove Environmental Area.

This was a FREE event that was open to the public, which featured a full day of new and returning activities!

Fishing, Kayaking, Archery, and Hiking were just some of the activities included on Earth Day. Local Vendors also setup to showcase their products.

### Thank you to the sponsors of Earth Day!

- Ward Manufacturing LLC
- AJ's Outdoor Equipment
- Bass Anglers
- Tri County Electric
- Dave Flesch

Thank you to all the vendors. A great turnout was experienced, and an even bigger turnout is expected for Earth Day in 2024!

- Mansfield Kiwanis Club
- Beekeeping - Bee Happy Honey
- Penn State Master Gardeners
- Boy Scout Troop 106
- Game Commission
- PA Wilds Astronomy Club
- US Army Core of Engineers
- PA Bureau of Forestry
- Audobon Society
- Mansfield Free Public Library



# Mill Cove Inc

## Information and Upcoming Events

Earth day is fast approaching, make sure to mark your calendars for April 20, 2024!

Vendor Registration and a schedule of events will be available in February. Check out the Mill Cove Inc website and Facebook!

## Facts about Mill Cove:

Interested in hiking and getting out into nature? Mill Cove offers hiking trails. The Kinder Morgan trail is a peaceful hike full of nature and wildlife.

Want to have a picnic with family and friends? Mill Cove has 10 pavillions. The rental form is on the website.

Did you know there is a kayak launch and a shooting range at Mill Cove?

### Board Officers

David Flesch - President  
Chuck Colby - Vice President  
Dina Henninger - Secretary  
Rob Carleton - Treasurer  
C. Fred LaVancher - Executive Committee, Member at Large

### Board Members

Melvin Cummings  
Phyllis Curren  
David Lamphier  
Leo Parchesky  
Steve Steinbacher  
Lee Stocks, Jr.  
Wendy Aumick  
Dawn Hull  
Charles Ouellette  
Angela Staudt  
Sam Vanloon

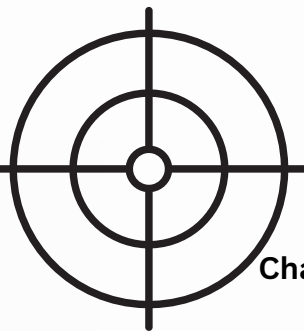
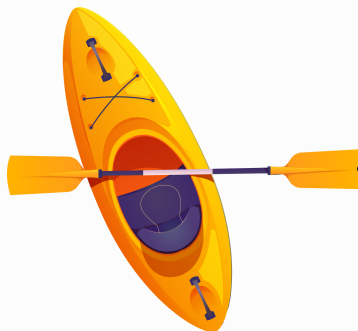
### In Memoriam

Charles Fox - President (1933-2022)

### Advisory Members

Chuck Dillon, Senator Gene Yaw's Representative  
Molly Wilson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mark Hamilton

Have a question or comment?  
Email: [millcovepa@gmail.com](mailto:millcovepa@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.millcoveinc.org](http://www.millcoveinc.org)





# Mill Cove Inc

**Interested in becoming a Member of Mill Cove**

**The Mill Cove Annual Membership Campaign is underway now.  
Join us and help enhance this unique environmental area.  
Mill Cove, Inc. is working to enhance the Mill Cove area for recreation  
and environmental educational purposes. Join us in this very  
worthwhile quest!**

## **Membership Categories**

**Landmark Partner ..... \$1,000+**  
**Benefactor.....\$500 to \$999**  
**Conservator.....\$250 to \$499**  
**Sustaining.....\$100 to \$249**  
**Supporting .....\$51 to \$99**  
**Family .....\$50**  
**Individual .....\$35**

**Checks should be made payable to Mill Cove, Inc.**

**Mill Cove, Inc. is a 501-(c)-(3) organization and is registered with the  
Pennsylvania Charitable Commission.**

**Contributions are tax deductible.**

**Memberships can be mailed to:**

**Mill Cove, Inc.**

**P.O.Box 262**

**Mansfield, PA 16933**

**\*Membership Applications are available on the website\***



**Have a question or comment?**

**Email: [millcovepa@gmail.com](mailto:millcovepa@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.millcoveinc.org](http://www.millcoveinc.org)**