

# Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



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October 14, 2008

## Construction near Chestnut Ridge

Visitors to Chestnut Ridge Metro Park will not be able to access the park from the Diley road exit off U.S. 33 for the next seven weeks due to construction. Winchester Road will be closed between Mason and Waterloo roads. Take the Winchester Road exit via Rt. 33 at Carroll. This exit is about 5 miles southeast of the Diley Road exit.

## Slideshow from Highbanks

Park visitor Cheryl Grice sent a slideshow to Metro Parks of images she'd taken while enjoying a day out at Highbanks Metro Park. Our thanks to Cheryl, and here is a link to the [slideshow](#) file for you to enjoy also. Please note: some of you may need to download the latest version of Windows Media Player to view the file.



If you have a question about some aspect of nature or about a Metro Park, the naturalists at Blendon Woods Metro Park can help. Email your question to [enaturalist@metroparks.net](mailto:enaturalist@metroparks.net). Most questions will be answered by the end of the next business day.

## More on your Metro Parks

website: [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net)

Infoline: 614.508.8000

Telephone: 614.891.0700

## We're here for you in troubled times

by John O'Meara, Executive Director

We are currently experiencing a substantial economic downturn and many of us are facing stress from our financial concerns ... [\(more\)](#)



## Fall fun at Slate Run

by Andrea Haslage, Slate Run Hub Naturalist

A rhyming review of upcoming events at Slate Run Metro Park ... [\(more\)](#)

## Nicky caught the big one

by Norm Jones of Pickerington

Several weeks ago we took our six grandchildren fishing at Chestnut Ridge ... [\(more\)](#)



## "Kids say the darndest things"

Nearly 4,000 students from schools throughout Franklin County enjoyed a field trip to either Blacklick Woods or Three Creeks ... [more](#)

## Darby Creek Greenway Trail opens at Battelle Darby Creek

The first 1.7 miles of the new Darby Creek Greenway trail is now open for joggers, hikers and cyclists ... [more](#)

## Boo to the Flu

If you're 50 or over, you can get your flu shot at Blacklick Woods Metro Park on Monday October 27 ... [details](#)

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## We're Here for You in Troubled Times

by John O'Meara, Executive Director

We are currently experiencing a substantial economic downturn and many of us are facing stress from our financial concerns. The country is reeling with a housing and credit crisis, rising unemployment and high gas prices, while retirement savings are disappearing as banks and brokerages collapse. The negative aspects of the economy are touching almost everybody's lives.

What does all this have to do with Metro Parks? Metro Parks can't solve the economic situation, but the parks do offer a soothing retreat in troubled times. Many people come to the parks to gather their thoughts, calm their troubled spirits amongst the beauty of nature, and to find refuge from stress in their daily lives. A walk among the towering oaks of your favorite park provides great therapeutic value, keeping you healthier in both body and mind.

Metro Parks are free to visit and close to home. We offer great, inexpensive options for your recreation, health and fitness and fun family activities. With trails connecting from neighborhoods to many of the Metro Parks, you may not even need to get in a car to enjoy a day of fresh air and exercise. More trails are being built, so more people will be able to enjoy outdoor fun without relying on an automobile in the years to come. We have playgrounds for kids, programs for seniors and educational activities for all ages.

When distressing economic conditions hit close to home, remember that your Metro Parks are close to home also. Let's all hope and work for improving economic conditions, but let's not forget to take care of our bodies and minds as we are dealing with the stress. The Metro Parks provide a great place to find that balance in your life.

See you in the Metro Parks.

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## Fall fun at Slate Run

by Andrea Haslage, Slate Run Naturalist

If you're looking for some natural, fall fun  
You've got a few options in October at Slate Run

You won't have to travel too far or too wide  
Join us on October 18 for bluegrass music and a hayride

We're offering up our first HAYRIDE AND HOEDOWN  
"Loosely Strung" will provide the music - you'll want to dance around

Also enjoy a 1-mile hayride along a wooded trail  
A good time had by all will prevail

October 26 is when we showcase our best  
Visit this day to take part in our 10th annual FALL FEST

Try to shoot a bow and arrow - you need a steady hand  
Listen to folk-funk music from "Great Mad Hoax," a local band

Try a scavenger hunt, crafts, and games you might win  
Doing a number of these will reward you with a pumpkin

Meet animals from Ohio Wildlife Center that are live  
Also touch furs and skulls and take a tram ride

Learn all about bats, squirrels and trees  
It's a day of learning and fun - plus, it's all free

Finish your day with some cider and popcorn for a treat  
From 2-5 pm at Buzzard's Roost is where to meet

See you there!

**HAYRIDE AND HOEDOWN**

October 18, 2008

4-7:30 p.m.

Buzzard's Roost Picnic Area

**FALL FEST**

October 26, 2008

2-5 p.m.

Buzzard's Roost Picnic Area

[Directions to Slate Run](#)

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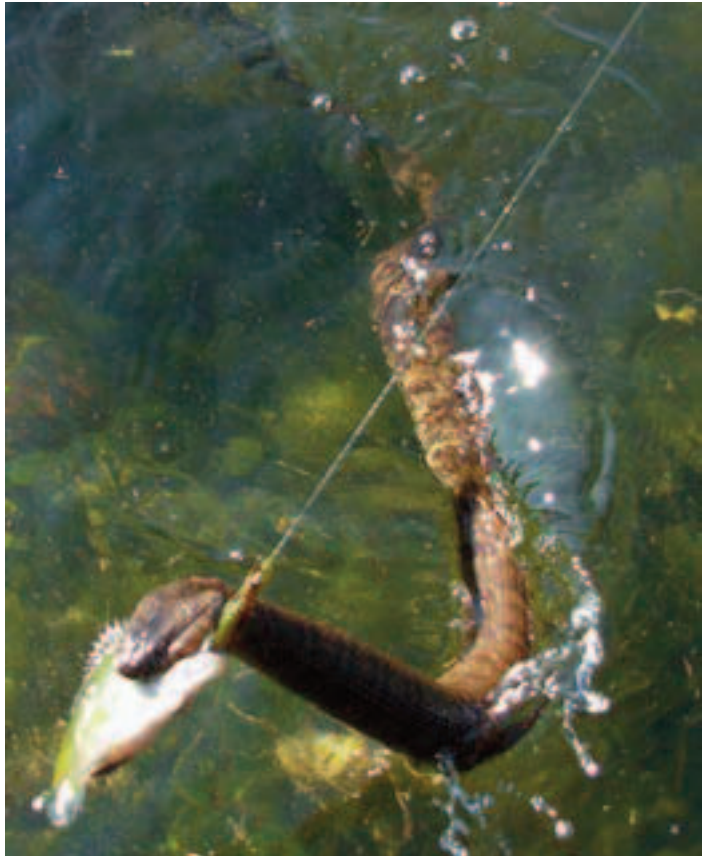
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## Nicky caught the big one

by Norm Jones of Pickerington

Several weeks ago we took our six grandchildren fishing at Chestnut Ridge. Grandson Nicky Kuziak was reeling in a bluegill and had it almost to the dock when a large snake (I'm guessing about 3 to 4 feet long and probably 1.5 inches in diameter) grabbed the bluegill. I told Nicky to continue to reel it in, thinking that when the snake was pulled up out of the water it would let go of the fish. It didn't.

When we got the fish and snake's head up to the dock it still wouldn't let go, so we cut the line. The snake swam away with the bluegill, part of our line and our bobber in tow. It went over to the shoreline near the dock where we were able to spot it because it was still towing our bobber. The snake was still there trying to eat the fish when we left for the day. We went back the next day and the bobber was still there but the snake was long gone.



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## “Kids say the darndest things”

Nearly 4,000 students from schools throughout Franklin County enjoyed a field trip to either Blacklick Woods or Three Creeks in September and October as part of Metro Parks SEED (Students Exploring Ecosystem Dynamics) program. And just like some of the youngsters on Art Linkletter’s “House Party,” a show that ran for more than 20 years on television and the Bill Cosby series “Kids Say The Darndest Things,” our naturalists heard lots of amusing comments during the field trips and classroom visits.

Blendon Woods Naturalist Sarah Dalton was asked this question by a third-grader after a class discussion of the science behind the falling leaves. "If you duct-tape the leaf to the branch, does it still die?"

Another naturalist was asked, "If there was water on the moon would there still be a watershed area since there isn't gravity to make it run downhill?"

Education Administrator Tanya Taylor overheard a student asking the teacher if she would see lions, bears or tigers on the field trip to the park.

Blacklick Woods Naturalist Diana Morse was teaching students about how opossums survive by “playing possum” and also give off a bad smell to keep prey away. One little boy told her that they should take baths and that when he grew up he would make it a law that opossums have to bathe.

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## **Darby Creek Greenway Trail opens at Battelle Darby Creek**

The first 1.7 miles of the new Darby Creek Greenway Trail at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park is now open for joggers, hikers and cyclists. The trail begins near the Cedar Ridge Lodge and continues up to the intersection of Broad Street and Darby Creek Drive. The trail passes through a large savanna and a couple of wetlands. Eventually the trail will link Battelle Darby Creek and Prairie Oaks Metro Parks.