

# Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



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November 17, 2008

## Celebrate the holiday at Slate Run Farm

Learn about some of the traditions of Thanksgiving in the 1880s at Slate Run Living Historical Farm Sunday, Nov. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn about the kinds of foods that were harvested and how they were prepared. Be sure and check out the slate turkeys and other animals.

## Budget for 2009

Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners will be holding a budget meeting later this month to establish priorities and funding for 2009. To see a copy of the budget, go to [www.metroparks.net/finance](http://www.metroparks.net/finance)



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

## Rare bird visiting at Schrock Lake

A female long-tailed duck has been visiting at Sharon Woods Metro Park's Schrock Lake since early November... [\(more\)](#)



## Fall 2008 prescribed burn program

The Resource Management Team, with the assistance of several park personnel worked together on the Fall 2008 Burn Team to complete prescribed burns at Slate Run and Pickerington Ponds wetlands... [\(more\)](#)

## Passport program a success with visitors

Nearly 500 people completed the program that involved visits to various Metro Parks to unearth clues and discover just how diverse all the parks are. ... [\(more\)](#)

## An update on the Petzinger Road crossing on the Alum Creek Greenway Trail

The removal of concrete islands and replacement with level paving has been completed on Petzinger Road, connecting the two parts of the Alum Creek Greenway Trail... [more](#)



## Rare bird visiting at Schrock Lake

Hundreds of birding enthusiasts have stopped by the lake at Sharon Woods Metro Park to see the female long-tailed duck swimming and diving along the western edge of the pond. As of Sunday, Nov. 16, the bird was still on the lake.

Formerly known as oldsquaw, the long-tailed duck breeds in the Arctic and winters along both coasts of North America. The long-tailed duck is one of the deepest diving ducks, and can dive as deep as 200 feet to forage.



If you are interested in finding out where to find unusual birds and waterfowl that are visiting the Metro Parks or other locations throughout the state you may want to subscribe to the [Ohio-birds mailing list](#), a service of the Ohio Ornithological Society.

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## Fall 2008 prescribed burn program

The Resource Management Team, with the assistance of several park personnel worked together on the Fall 2008 Burn Team to complete prescribed burns at Slate Run and Pickerington Ponds wetlands. The team worked on five consecutive days and burned over 90 acres, the most fall burning Metro Parks has ever completed.

Each year in spring and fall, Metro Parks conducts prescribed burns at various sites throughout the park system. Managing prairies with fire benefits habitat by eliminating non-native invasive wetlands and woodlands plant species, promoting growth of native species, replenishing nutrients and maintaining habitat for various groups of wildlife species.



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## **Passport program a success with visitors**

Congratulations to all the winners in Metro Parks Passport Program. Nearly 500 people completed the program that involved visits to various Metro Parks to unearth clues and discover just how diverse all the parks are. Thanks to the following sponsors:

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium  
Franklin Park Conservatory  
Donatos  
Ohio State Parks Resorts  
WBNS-10TV  
The Wilds

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## **An update on the Petzinger Road crossing on the Alum Creek Greenway Trail**

Demolition work has been completed at Petzinger Road and concrete ramps and asphalt paving have been constructed. This work connects the two parts of the Alum Creek Greenway Trail that run from the Confluence Trails area of Three Creeks Park in the south, up to Livingston Avenue in the north, a total of 7.3 miles. Although this work opens the way for walkers and cyclists to cross Petzinger Road, Metro Parks advises using due caution while more work continues. Pedestrian crossing signals will be installed, crosswalk striping and other roadway markings will be made and road and direction signs will be erected.