

Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



feel free!

August 29, 2008

Take the tram at Blendon Woods

The Metro Parks tram will be at Blendon Woods from September 9 to September 21. Youth, senior and other groups can schedule one-hour rides on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to tour the Walden Waterfowl Refuge and the blooming fields of the Sugarbush Day Camp. On the weekends of September 13 and 20 the tram will run hourly throughout the day for the general public. We'll view nocturnal wildlife during two special twilight tram programs on September 11 and 18. Please call 614.508.8111 to register in advance for the twilight rides.



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. Most questions will be answered by the end of the next business day.

More on your Metro Parks

website: www.metroparks.net

Infoline: 614.508.8000

Telephone: 614.891.0700

Monarch Day

Bring your family to Blendon Woods Metro Park's 24th Annual Monarch Day on September 13 and celebrate the fascinating life cycle ... ([more](#))



photo by Eugene Barnes



Marbled godwit at the Glacier Ridge Honda Wetlands
photo by Jeff Maass

Fall migration

As summer begins to fade and we slowly move toward fall, thousands of birds will be passing through Central Ohio as part of fall migration. Many birds began migrating in August ... ([more](#))

Metro Parks Photo Exhibit opens at High Road Gallery

Join us for the Reception and Awards Ceremony of the Metro Parks Photo Exhibit on Sunday September 7, 2008 at 2 p.m. at the High Road Gallery in Worthington ... ([more](#))

Metro Parks offers workshops for educators

Metro Parks is offering a series of educator workshops at Highbanks Metro Park this fall, and is accepting registrations now... [more](#)

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Monarch Day

Bring your family to Blendon Woods Metro Park's 24th Annual Monarch Day on September 13. We celebrate the fascinating life of the monarch butterfly during this daylong celebration. Tour the Monarch Mansion with butterflies flying from flower to flower. Learn how to catch and tag monarchs in the fields with the help of our volunteers.

Childrens' activities commence at 1 p.m. with hourly showings of the puppet show "Isabel's House of Butterflies." Make monarch crafts with your child. Experience the hazards of migration in an interactive game.

Naturalist Sarah Dalton will explain the intricacies of the monarch's life cycle and migration during a talk at 2 p.m. and discuss how teachers can integrate monarchs into classroom curriculum at 3 p.m. We'll run monarch videos during spare moments. At 4 p.m. we'll begin preparations for the mass release of butterflies at 4:30 p.m.

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Fall migration

As summer begins to fade and we slowly move toward fall, thousands of birds will be passing through Central Ohio as part of fall migration. Many birds began migrating in August, but you can still see plenty of avian activity well through October. You'll observe a nice variety of shorebirds, warblers, waterfowl and other birds at many of your Metro Parks, some lingering while others just stay for a few short days.

The 118-acre Walden Waterfowl Refuge with its 11-acre Thoreau Lake at Blendon Woods Metro Park provides a sanctuary for hundreds of birds and other wildlife. The refuge is open year-round and features two elevated observation shelters with spotting scopes. Call the Waterfowl Hotline at 614.895.6222 for a daily list of birds spotted at the refuge and within the park.

Join park naturalist Bruce Simpson for a morning walk around the Blendon Woods trails to look for migrating birds on September 20 at 8 a.m. Meet at the Nature Center.

A nice variety of waterfowl can be seen at the wetlands at Slate Run Metro Park during the fall migration including ring-necked duck, northern pintail, wood duck, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and American coots according to Jim McCormac, president of the Ohio Ornithological Society. Last year, park naturalist Andrea Haslage counted more than 200 killdeer sitting on one of the mudflats one afternoon. She said that a great egret has been hanging around the lake at Buzzard's Roost.

Pickerington Ponds Metro Park offers a wide variety of birding experiences throughout the year, however spring and fall migration provide the best times to view the highest diversity of birds. Since 1970, over 260 species of birds have been recorded for this Ohio Audubon-designated Important Bird Area. Join park naturalist Scott Felker in search of migratory shorebirds on September 14 at 2 p.m. Meet at the Glacier Knoll Picnic Area off Bowen Road.

Last week at the Honda Wetlands at Glacier Ridge Metro Park visitors were lucky enough to see a marbled godwit and Virginia rail.

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Metro Parks Photo Exhibit opens at High Road Gallery

Join us for the Reception and Awards Ceremony of the Metro Parks Photo Exhibit on Sunday September 7 at 2 p.m. at the High Road Gallery in Worthington. Meet the artists and share in the fun, with refreshments and great photography on display. More than 60 Central Ohio photographers are featured in the exhibit, with photographs from the 15 Metro Parks.

High Road Gallery is located in the Buttlers/Brown Historic Register building at 12 East Stafford Avenue in Worthington. The exhibit opens to the public a few days earlier, on Wednesday September 3. The gallery is open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

In addition to the great photographs, The Central Ohio Woodturners will display handcrafted vessels, bowls, tops and smaller objects and a full range of wood turned treasures.

The Exhibit runs until Saturday September 27.

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Metro Parks offers Workshops for Educators

Metro Parks is offering a series of educator workshops at Highbanks Metro Park this fall, and is accepting registrations now.

DIG IN! HANDS-ON SOIL INVESTIGATIONS

Friday October 17 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fee \$25

PROJECT WET

Saturday October 18 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fee \$30

ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORATION

Saturday November 1, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fee \$20

SCIENCE THROUGH STORIES

Saturday December 6, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To register, email Elizabeth Fields at fields@metro_parks.net or call Highbanks at 614.846.9962.

[Workshop details](#)