



*The Sassafras Leaf* took a bit of a break. Board Director Shannon Lancia (who is the computer maven of the SL team) and her husband are the proud parents of a beautiful boy who joined this world on the Ides of July.

It has been an up and down summer; high heat combined with spotty cloudbursts. Parts of Ohio are parched while others are experiencing torrential rains. We have been given a week or so of moderate temperatures that hold the promise of fall and all its glory. The sunsets have been spectacular and the insects are winding down their summer songs.

**The Stewards Board is Growing:** **Josef Keglweitsch** of Schottenstein, Zox and Dunn Co. LPA has joined the Stewards Board of Directors. He brings a wide range of experiences to the Stewards Board. Welcome Joe!!

**Upcoming Event:** **Breakfast with the Bison on Saturday, October 15, at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.** Come and enjoy stories from veteran naturalist Tim Taylor who has been part of the reintroduction of the bison to the Battelle Darby Creek area from the beginning of the planning, to becoming an authority on bison reintroduction and care. This is also the weekend that just might be the height of the fall color. It will be an early start time (8:00 a.m.), but a continental breakfast will be provided before we take a hike to see Big Momma and her crew. And, there will be a surprise when we return. This is a member event and we hope you will bring a friend or two who wish to see the bison and join the Stewards.

#### Metro Parks News:

**Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park** was listed as one of the best places in Ohio to visit in the fall (see event above ☺).

**Walnut Woods**, the newest Metro Park, quietly opened its “doors” on July 25. If you want to take a web-look check out: <http://www.metroparks.net/ParksWalnutWoods.aspx>

**Scioto Audubon** is growing. First, a huge **Thank You** to the **Columbus Rotary** who helped clean up auto parts (anyone need old tires, used spark plugs?) and various types of debris that builds up over the years in a city impound lot. Now, the ground work begins and soon there will be another area to explore in this popular urban park.

For those Mountain Bikers out there: a new trail is opening at **Chestnut Ridge** after Labor Day. This park is another destination for observing fall color with its sugar maples, red oaks and mature American beech trees.

#### And, now a word about our sponsors:

A non-profit organization cannot survive without business and corporate sponsors. We are fortunate to have **Greenswell** <http://www.greenswell.com/> as one of our partners. To date, **Greenswell** has donated just under \$2,000 from proceeds from the races that are being held in the Metro Parks.

We also have two new corporate sponsors: The **Unwin Company** and **Paragon Technical Services**.  
*Thank you for your support of the Metro Parks and the Stewards!*

**Garden Tip:** With the approach of fall, it is time to think about garden clean-up. For the most part, you do not want to bare the soil. Let nature be your guide. When did you see a bare forest floor in the fall and winter? Prairies are “cleaned” by fire, but the ash and plant residues are left in place. We rob the soil of nutrients when we “clean” our gardens, and we leave crowns of plant susceptible to winter damage.

So... be judicious. Remove any plants or leaves that are diseased, but watch for eggs and egg cases. Leave those behind. Spare seedheads of the daisy family as they are often food for your winter resident birds. Remove all weeds that have gone to seed. One weed “in seed” equals hundreds of winter and spring seedlings.

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**Touch a Park!** Stewards of Metro Parks supports and furthers the work of our Metro Parks  
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