



Autumn has arrived with the month of September - the meteorological start of fall. In years past, September has been unusually warm and it has felt more like a continuation of summer. But, this year, thus far, September feels like the beginning of fall. It is difficult to predict our weather in the midst of hurricanes and tropical storms, but it feels good to turn off the AC and open the windows.

Breakfast with the Bison, Saturday, October 15, Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park: We are actually going to eat out in the park next to the bison enclosure - weather permitting. The hike will start from the Naturalists building which is at the Cedar Ridge main entrance at 8:30AM. A continental breakfast will be waiting for us, hopefully along with great photo opportunities of Big Mama and her herd. As an enticement to bring friends to this event, there will be a **special family membership fee of \$10 that is available only at this event**. This would also be an opportunity to give gift memberships. Please join us for a beautiful fall morning breakfast with distant cousins of the bison that once roamed Ohio. To get directions to and see a map of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, please visit: <http://www.metroparks.net/MapBattelle.aspx>

More news from Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park: You probably saw the article in *The Columbus Dispatch* on the Nature Center that will be built overlooking the bison areas. Ground breaking will have already started by the time you read this Sassafras Leaf. The Nature Center is scheduled to be open in September 2012 in time for the 4th Annual 2012 EcoSummit that is happening in Columbus, September 30 to October 5, 2012. If you want to know more about the EcoSummit, please visit: <http://www.ecosummit2012.org/>

Our Mission: A large part of the Stewards mission is to support the mission of Metro Parks. This can take many forms, but as with all endeavors, money is what makes programs and projects happen. At the Metro Parks Board of Commissioner's meeting on September 7, the Stewards presented the Board of Commissioners with two checks: \$2,000 from the proceeds of the two bison bowls and \$6,000 from our generous corporate sponsors, **The Unwin Company** and **Paragon Technical Services**.



Garden Tip: **Bulb Planting:** don't rush this. We have had extended warm fall temperatures the past several years which promotes early shoot growth. Wait until mid to late October to plant your spring bulbs. **Garden Clean-up:** always clean up diseased plant parts, but try not to clear-cut your garden. Many perennial plants do not overwinter well if their crowns are exposed to cold winter air. If we have snow, then the plants are insulated, but we can't always depend on that in Ohio.

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