



The **Chinquapin**

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Tenhave Woods, The Detective Story

By Bob Muller

Tenhave Woods with its small size along with being an area that was never completely clear cut, makes it a perfect place to study. In an effort to get people to look more closely at our park, the Nature Society in 2008, invited Dr. Orin Gelderloos, a Professor of Environmental Studies from U of M Dearborn, to come and tour Tenhave. He agreed with us that it would be an excellent place for student research projects. At the time, little did I realize that in the near future, I would become a student at U of M Dearborn. And, in the summer of 2011 under Dr. Gelderloos direction, I would be the first student to do a research project in Tenhave Woods.

Dr Gelderloos suggested that I stake out a hectare, the metric equivalent of the English acre, and survey the forest. I said it would have to be two hectares as the upland forest in the southern part of Tenhave is oak and the north is beech-maple. Although, this is great for teaching, we have wondered since doing the nature programs in the 1970's, why one part is a beech-maple forest and the other is oak? So in June of 2011, with tape measure and compass in hand, I spent time figuring out where the hectares (see p. 3 for location) should be. The next step after that was to measure every tree in each hectare over four inches in diameter and identify its species. And along with this, I needed to pick 10 random plots of 10 meters square and measure and identify every tree less than four inches in diameter and at least five feet tall. In July and August of 2011, the fun began.

When each tree was measured, a yellow chalk mark was placed on it. It took about three weeks to complete the fieldwork and then the organizing and studying the data to see what we could learn, began.

As stated above, the diameters of the trees were measured. This gave us the basal area of each species in each of the hectares. The basal area is cross-sectional area of a tree's trunk about 4 ½ feet off the ground. What this gives us is not only how many of each species we have, but the size of the forest each species occupies. For example, in the South hectare (the oak forest) we had 57 Red Maples and 56 Red Oaks. At first glance, this look

like a forest of equal amounts of oaks and maples. When the basal area is looked at, we find the Oaks are 111,142 square centimeters and the maple 46,344 square centimeters. This shows that the oaks were large and old and the maples were small, young trees. We also found that we do not have any oaks smaller than four inches in diameter and over five feet tall in either hectare. During the past 30 years, it doesn't look like any acorn has lived long enough to become a tree in Tenhave. Knowing this, the question has become, "what is happening to oak regeneration?" If the forest is in an area that contains a plenty of moisture, then maples and beech will grow and eventually produce too much shade for oak seedlings to survive in. Tenhave Woods and Oakland County have this type of habitat. What must happen here is a disturbance of the woods for an oak forest to be maintained.

At this point, I looked at an aerial photo of Tenhave in 1949 and noticed the forest in the south section had a canopy that was not as tall as the one in the northern part of the park. Maybe around the early 1900's, most of the trees in the south part of Tenhave were cut down. This creates a disturbance that allows oaks to grow. A sunny location is not good for maples. What we have in Tenhave then, is a younger level of succession in the south section of the park as compared to the north section.

In the past, fire is what naturally caused the disturbance in the forest around here. Oakland County was named back in the 1800's because of all the oak forests we had back then. These forests would not have existed if it were not for the natural fire disturbances that allowed these oaks to flourish.

Oaks live for hundreds of years, but they are not replacing themselves here. So within the next hundred years all the old oaks will die and they are not being replaced. So, maybe we need to change the name of Oakland County to Mapleland County and the City to Royal Maple, as our grandchildren's children will wonder about why we have the oak name.

****PLEASE NOTE**** : Our June speaker program will be held at the Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) and not at the Royal Oak Middle School. Please see page 3 for details.

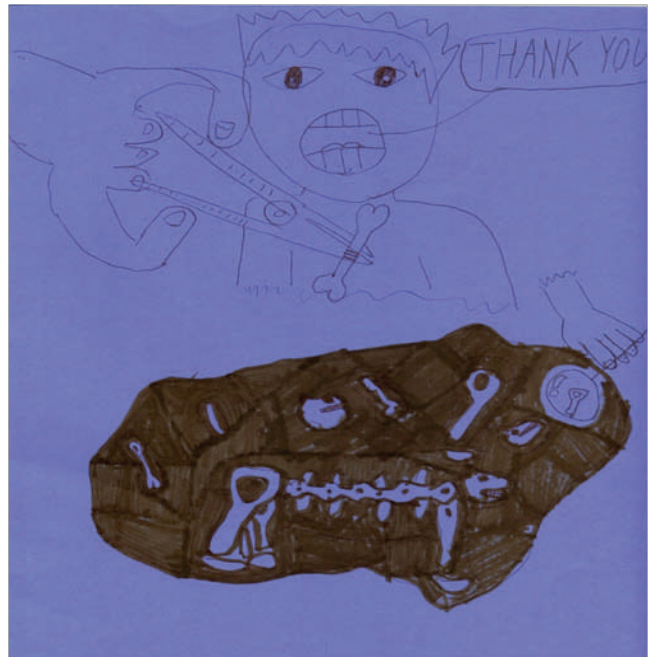
Addams Elementary School Field Trip to Tenhave Woods & the Royal Oak Senior Center
by Chris Ethridge

On a crisp, beautiful fall day in November, 2012, the Royal Oak Nature Society hosted the 3rd graders from Addams Elementary School. Spearheaded by 3rd grade teacher Kristin Smith, staff from the Nature Society worked with Ms. Smith to plan an owl outing for all the Addams Elementary nine and ten year olds at the Tenhave Woods Nature Preserve.

Cars full of eager and energetic young minds arrived at the Royal Oak Senior Center to start the day of exploring. Students were broken up into groups of 15-20 students. One group would get the opportunity to go hike into Tenhave Woods and talk about the forest, several native trees in the forest, and the owls that made their homes in these trees. The other group went to the Royal Oak Senior Center and got to dissect sterilized owl pellets (regurgitated bones and fur from owls) to observe the bones of the creatures these magnificent winged creatures feed on. Mr. Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist, assisted in helping the kids identify bones of mice, shrews, and voles. He spoke about the unique

adaptations owls have to hunt at night. I assisted by leading children thru the forest at Tenhave. I gave the groups of children some quick and easy ways to identify native trees in the woods, including black cherry trees and shagbark hickories. I also played different owl calls on a tape player for people to hear, from the high pitched winny of a screech owl to the low and menacing call of a great horned owl. The groups of students even got to try their voices at making a barred owl call. "Who cooks for you, Who cooks for ya'aaaaaaaaaaaaalllllll."

All in all, it was a terrific outing with over 80 students and parents participating in the owl program with staff from the Nature Society. The students even sent along personalized thank you cards (see pictures below) for Mr. Bob and Mr. Chris as a show of appreciation for time well spent in Tenhave Woods learning and exploring everything related to Michigan owls. We look forward to hosting future school aged children for more fun, yet educational, outdoor programming.



Artwork done by 3rd graders at Addams Elementary School

Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM) Grant

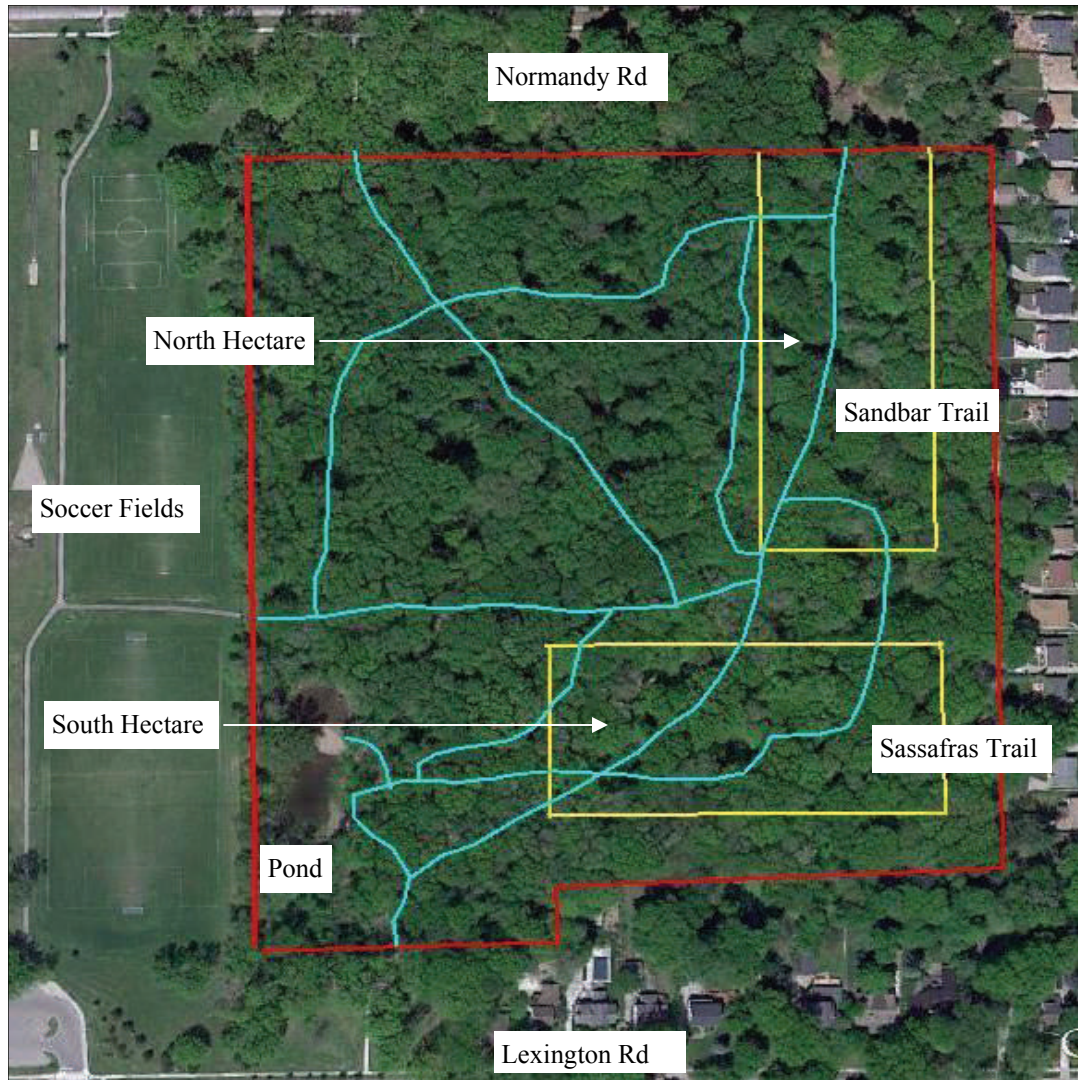
The area where we have our Native Tree Collection was devoid of ground-layer vegetation after we removed invasive species from there. In early 2012, the Nature Society received a \$500 grant from WAM. With that money, we purchased shrubs, forbs, grasses, sedges and rushes that were planted in that section. We also used that money to purchase native grasses and wildflowers that were planted in our Oak Savanna area. Planting in both areas took place in May, 2012. Currently, everything planted back then is growing quite nicely.

We sent a letter to WAM last December thanking them for their generous grant along with a report on what we did with the grant money. Check out our website for all of the plants purchased with the WAM grant.

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

June's general meeting/speaker programs will be held at the **Senior/Community Center** (3500 Marais- north of 13 Mile Rd between Crooks and Main). At our monthly **Wednesday** meetings from September to June, we present speaker programs that are usually slide shows focusing on various natural history topics. If you watch nature programs on PBS or the Discovery Channel, this is better because you can meet with the speakers afterwards and ask questions. The general meeting begins around **7:25 pm**, with the speaker program following several minutes later.

"Nature Society Year in Review" is being held on **June 5th**. This year, our June program will be held at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) instead of at the Middle School. We will talk about what has been going on with the Nature Society, Tenhave Woods, Cummingston Park, and our arboretum in Worden Park East. A photo show will depict some of those activities. We will finish off the evening by talking about some things we are planning to do in the future.



Location of the two hectares (within the two areas lined in yellow)
that were part of Bob Muller's Tenhave project

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: Park in Marais/Lexington lot and meet at the Lexington entrance (300 feet east of parking lot). For the Owl Hoots & Full Moon walks, park and meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

ARBORETUM: Park and meet on the north side of the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais)

Wearing boots while in the parks is recommended in the winter & spring months. Using insect repellent and dressing appropriately is advised from late spring to the end of summer.

"Late Spring" Nature Walk is being held on Saturday, **June 8th, 10:00 am** at **Tenhave Woods**. Join us and see what is happening in the woods. during the late spring and beginning of summer.

"Meadow of the Arboretum" walk is being held at the Royal Oak Nature Society Arboretum beginning at **7:30 pm** on Wednesday, **July 17th** and Wednesday, **August 21st**.



View of our arboretum in September of 2012

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR NATURE SOCIETY SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2012/13 Supporting Members for their financial contribution to us:

Doris Applebaum

Pat & Ray Coleman

Laurine Cybulski

Pat Dwyer

Cindy Gunnip

Colleen & Frank Hilzinger

Ray & Vivienne Kell

Jack Kerby

Alice & Arthur Marotti

Jim & Laura Rogers

Ann Schoss

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Don & Diane Diehl

Laura Gogola

Kathleen Hawthorne

Jill, Scott & Rainah Howell

Melville Kennedy

Glen Latinen

Abra Quintero

Robert & Susan Schneider

Caryle Spence

Michelle Watson

Nature Night for 2013

Our only nature night for this year was held on Friday, February 1st, at Royal Oak's Helen Keller Elementary School. We had a good turnout with a total of 140 family members attending. Next year, we are currently scheduled to have two nature nights. One will be at the Royal Oak Public Library and the other at Oakridge Elementary School.

The Nature Society wants to thank Deanne Haenke, Helen Keller's PTA President, for coordinating Keller's Nature Night with us.

A special thanks goes out to all of our Keller exhibitors:

Kristine Hill & Dean Olkowski-Birds
Nancy Vickers & Joyce Drife-Crafts
Don Drife-Owl Pellets
Dena Serrato-Seed Planting
Bob Muller-Skulls & Skins
Leo Long -North American Native Fish
Amanda Felk-Bats
Troop 1627-Tree Rings
Edi Sonntag-Reptiles

Looking For Dream Cruise Volunteers

The Woodward Dream Cruise is only a few months away. Try something different and sign up to volunteer to help us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park on Saturday, **August 17, 2013**. The park located at Hampton & Chester, is just a few blocks north of Memorial Park and one block east of Woodward. Our day begins around 8 am and finishes up around 8 pm. Shifts are only about 3 hours long.

Our main responsibility is to collect parking fees and direct drivers to open parking spots. It can get extremely busy in the early afternoon, so, we could use all of the help that we can get. When your shift is over, you can keep your car at Gunn Dyer Park while you walk on over to the Dream Cruise. It is only a block away.

If you volunteer for us at Dream Cruise, you are invited to our annual pre-Dream Cruise picnic. It will take place on the Friday (16th) evening, the day before the actual Dream Cruise. Time is from 6:00 to and 8:30 pm. The Nature Society supplies the burgers. This is a pleasant way to sit back and enjoy the pre-Dream Cruise atmosphere. While we are there, we collect money from people who park their cars at Gunn Dyer.

If you have some free time on the 17th and would like to give us a helping hand, please give Ted Vickers a call at 248-549-5366 or e-mail him at naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us.

Please check out our Facebook page & become a fan of the Royal Oak Nature Society.

Page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society/228095233882566>



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Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check payable to: **Royal Oak Nature Society**
MEMO: **Membership**

Mail completed form & check to:
Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Names (household members): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

1 year Household Membership
(September-August)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ General (free) | Receive newsletter |
| ☐ Associate (\$5) | by: |
| ☐ Supporting (\$10 & up) | ☐ Regular mail OR |
| ☐ Patron (\$50 & up) | ☐ E-mail |

NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of our teams:

Stewardship: Maintains a trail system and enhances the overall park experience at Tenhave Woods, Cummingston Park and the Arboretum.

Communications: Publicizes organizational activities to the general membership and public through various mediums and performs any other forms of communications required by the board.

Education: Provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

Fundraising: Is responsible for the fund-raising efforts of the Nature Society, which includes the coordinating and organizing of the Annual Spring Fundraiser & other fund-raiser programs approved by the board.

Programming: Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum.

Ways & Means: Investigates means of grant solicitation and then follows through accordingly.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-528-0479)

Vice President & Arboretum Stewardship: John DeLisle (248-672-7611)

Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost (248-549-9423)

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers (248-549-5366)

Communication & Newsletter: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

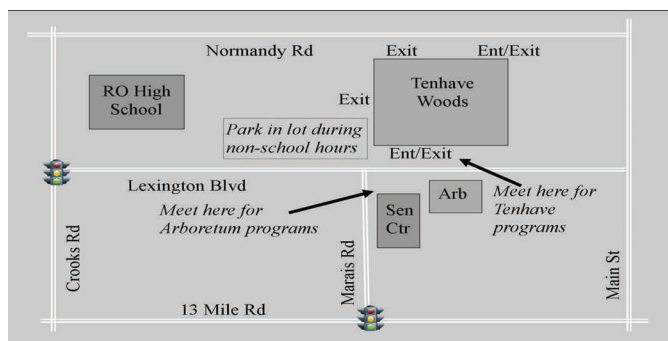
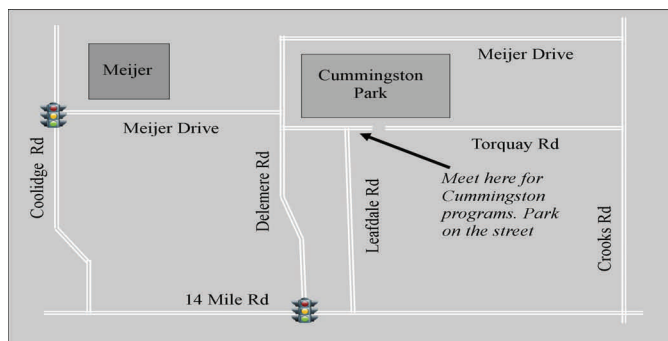
Tenhav Woods Stewardship: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

Troop/Pack 1627 Representative & Engineer: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



Traffic Light



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (listed below under our tree logo), link on to "Park Locations" and then "Map for park trail locations"

6

The Royal Oak Nature Society is a nonprofit education and stewardship group working within the city of Royal Oak's two nature parks, Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park. Our mission is to foster awareness and usage of these two natural areas. We accomplish this by providing stewardship for the continuing improvement and maintenance of them. In addition, we are in the process of creating an arboretum in Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs.

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www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature



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