



# The Chinquapin

VOLUME 15 Issue 2

/ˈchi[nq]-ki-ˈpin/

Winter 2015-16

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## FINAL NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

**To continue receiving our newsletter “The Chinquapin” (beginning with the Spring 2016 edition), you need to be a paid-up Associate, Supporting or Patron 2015/16 Nature Society member.**

There are four membership levels. General Membership is free and with it, you get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month. Associate Membership cost \$5 per year and gets you the above benefit along with four newsletters, “The Chinquapin”, e-mailed to you quarterly. If you want, we can mail a hard copy to you instead. **With e-mail, the print quality of the newsletter is better and the photos are in color.** Supporting Membership is \$10 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus being listed a supporting member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits, listed as a patron member in our newsletter, an invitation to our pre-Dream Cruise picnic at Gunn Dyer Park and one free ticket to our annual fundraiser. If you

*(Continued on page 2)*

## What We Have Been Doing 2014/15

by Bob Muller

Great things and troubling things happen every year, but we keep moving forward. Our Nature Walk program has grown with the addition of Mary Fredricks and her mushroom club and fungus walks. Cummington Park has lost a great deal of its plant diversity over the decades, because of flooding caused by the development around it. Over the years the Nature Society has worked on Cummington’s drainage. From this work, the park has gradually returned close to its natural condition. Unfortunately, the seed base didn’t survive the years of flooding so the wildflowers do not seem to be returning. In addition, the fences at Cummington cannot keep out the deer. What little that was coming back has now been grazed. With that said, Mary has found Cummington to have a much better diversity of fungus than Tenhave. Because of that, many of her fungi walks are now taking place at Cummington. In the fall of 2016, we plan on doing major work on the Cummington trail system and hopefully that will produce the type of general public use that we see in Tenhave.

When we restored Dragonfly Pond back in 2005, American Toads were the only amphibian species we had in Tenhave. When you take courses in ecology, educators talk about fragmentation. Fragmentation takes place when small unconnected pieces of nature lose their species as the plants and animals cannot travel through developed area to get to other natural locations. Tenhave should be the poster child for fragmentation, but we have had four species of amphibians find their way to Dragonfly Pond and use it to reproduce. One of these, Green Frogs, I would guess are escaped pets

finding the water source they require. The other three, Spring Peepers, Western Chorus Frogs and Grey Tree Frogs puzzled us, as these small frogs showed up in great numbers. How could they move to the park? If you look at aerial photos of the area around the park in the 1960’s, there were houses and almost no trees. Over the years, shade trees filled the neighborhoods and these frog moved through trees. As far as the frogs are concerned, Tenhave is no longer fragmented.

In 2012, we worked for a full year with volunteers putting in hundreds of hours and we spent thousands of dollars to create a fence in Tenhave that would keep the Whitetail Deer out. They were close to permanently destroying the wildflower collection that has been on this land since before European settlement. What we didn’t recognize was that the fence did not reach the ground in some locations. There were two does in 2013 that managed to crawl under the fence and produce four fawns. Even with the presence of these deer, the wildflowers were still beginning to recover. The does left in the fall but the



Dragonfly Pond– Spring 2015

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

fawns grew up in the park and couldn't get out. They reproduced and the number of deer increased to seven in 2014. We left the gate open during the winter of 2014/2015. The deer wandered out and we closed the gates. Finally, we were deer free. In 2015, the wildflowers made great strides in recovery. But this past summer someone cut the lock off the gate and opened it. We now have several deer back in Tenhave. After the leaves have fallen, we will attempt to see how many of them are still in the park. Hopefully, we can repeat the gate opening idea this winter and have these unwanted guest leave.

As mentioned in our Fall 2015 newsletter "Message from the President", a habitat restoration company has been attacking invasive species in the Arboretum. During the fall of 2015, we will be cutting down a number of dead elms and lining arboretum trails with those logs. We will be brush cutting areas of the Arboretum that have dead buckthorn as well as the meadow area in order to help keep down the number of woody plants growing there. In nature, fire would do this but that is not an option here in the city. Afterwards, the trails will get a good coating of wood chips that will help the Arboretum look great next summer.

### Frog Watch USA Revisited

Frog Watch USA is program sponsored by The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) which monitors the diversity and distribution of frogs and toads in the United States. In our [Winter 2013/14 newsletter](#), Laura Gogola and Laurine Cybulski (Nature Society members) wrote how they got involved with this program and their monitoring of Tenhave's Dragonfly Pond during the

Spring of 2013. Since then, Laura and Laurine have continued to monitor Dragonfly Pond during the spring. The results of their findings for the last three years can be found below. By looking at the below table, you can begin to see trends for the different frogs/toads that inhabit the pond in the spring. For further information, please be sure to check out our Frog USA [webpage](#).

| Period          | American Toad | Copes Gray Tree Frog | Gray Tree Frog | Spring Peeper | Western Chorus Frog |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 (Apr 8-9)     |               |                      |                | 3, 3, 3       | 1, 1, 1             |
| 2 (Apr 15-16)   |               |                      |                | 3, 0*, 1      | 0, 0*, 1            |
| 3 (Apr 21-24)   |               |                      |                | 3, 3, 3       | 0, 3, 1             |
| 4 (Apr 26-29)   | 2, 0, x       |                      |                | 3, 1, x       |                     |
| 5 (May 2)       | 3, x, 3       |                      | 2, x, 0        | 3, x, 3       |                     |
| 6 (May 6)       | 0, x, 2       |                      | 1, x, 2        | 3, x, 3       |                     |
| 7 (May 13-14)   |               |                      |                | 1, 2, 1       |                     |
| 8 (May 20-21)   |               | 1, 0, 0              | 0, 2, 0        | 1, 1, 0       |                     |
| 9 (May 27-29)   |               | 2, 0, 1              | 0, 2, 3        | 2, 0, 0       |                     |
| 10 (June 3-5)   |               |                      | 0, 2, 3        |               |                     |
| 11 (June 10-11) | 1, 0, 0       | 2, 0, 0              | 0, 1, 0        | 1, 0, 0       |                     |
| 23 (June 19)    |               | x, x, 1              |                |               |                     |

\* Temp 38 degrees; "x" Did not survey the pond for frogs/toads that year during that time period  
Under the frog/toad columns shown above, the 1<sup>st</sup> number (from left to right) for call intensity is for 2013, 2<sup>nd</sup> number is for 2014 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> number is for 2015.

Call Intensity: **0**-No frogs or toads heard calling.; **1**-Individuals could be counted; there was space between calls. **2**-Calls of individuals could be distinguished, some overlapping of calls. **3**-Full chorus, calls were constant, continuous and overlapping

(Continued from page 1)

want to be an Associate, Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society. Please list other household members you want included as Nature Society members (no extra cost).

Through your donation (tax deductible), you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail us the information asked for on our membership form (page 5) & send that information to: [naturesociety@romi.gov](mailto:naturesociety@romi.gov).

Non-members are still welcome to come to our monthly speaker programs as well as our nature walks. Those programs and walks are, and always will be, free to anyone who enjoys learning about nature

## SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (September to May) is held at the **Royal Oak Middle School** which is located at 709 N. Washington. We meet in the auditorium or the "Gathering Place", both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. Our June program is usually held at the Senior/Community Center located at 3500 Marais. At our monthly Wednesday meetings, 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 **7:30 pm**, with the speaker program following several minutes later.

**"Great Smoky Mountains National Park"** speaker program is being held on **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Great Smoky Mountains National Park welcomes more visitors in a year than any other national park. Located on the Tennessee-North Carolina border, this park has become well known for its biodiversity. Join Gordon Lonie, retired Sterling Heights naturalist, for a look at the park in April - spring wildflowers are at their peak, waterfalls and streams are running full blast, and of course, there are always plenty of salamanders. Come enjoy a visit to the 'Land of Blue Smoke'. **\*NOTE\* December's program is being held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.**

**"Your Backyard Feeding Station"** speaker program is being held on **January 6<sup>th</sup>**. Millions of people enjoy watching & feeding birds. What better way to do that than setting up a place nearby that attracts several different

kinds of birds. LuAnn Linker, from Royal Oak Wild Birds Unlimited, will talk about setting up a backyard feeding station in your yard, including how you go about creating it, what foods should you feed the birds and their need for water.

**The Milkweed Community: More Than Monarchs (but Monarchs are cool!)"** speaker program is being held on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Everyone knows about the Monarch Butterfly and its need for milkweed plants in order to survive. But many other insects and some non-insects also make their home in the Milkweed community. Join Nature Society botanist Don Drife as he presents a program on the many organisms which feed on and among the different species of milkweeds, and those that make passing visits.

**Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi** is a group that promotes the understanding of, and an appreciation for, fungi in general and those fungi found in Tenhave, Cummingston, and other local urban woods. This group is open to anyone who wants to learn more about fungi which also includes mushrooms. During the winter, the group meets one Wednesday a month (November, January, February & March) at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) beginning at **7:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome. There is usually a specific topic that is being talked about at each of these meetings. Mary Fredricks heads this group. Check out the Nature Society's website for more information.

On **January 13<sup>th</sup>**, Mary Fredricks will present a slide show featuring the various fungi found in our local woods during the past year. Is climate change affecting our fungi populations? Come and find out.

On **February 10<sup>th</sup>**, our special guest is Chris Wright. Last year, Chris did a program for us about poisonous mushrooms. This year he is back once again and will discuss growing edible mushrooms at home.

Photo on the right is an Artist Conk, a common fungus in our woods. This one is unusual because at first glance it appears to be growing on the ground, which these don't do. If you look closely, you will see that it is growing on another Artist Conk, which is firmly attached to the log.





## NATURE WALKS

**CUMMINGSTON PARK:** Park is just east of Meijers. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay

**TENHAVE WOODS:** Park is just east of Royal Oak High School. 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)

**"Mammals of Tenhave"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **December 12<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Come and learn about the mammals that live in Tenhave Woods. We will look for signs of these mammals and have skulls and skins with us to help describe them and how they live.

**"Winter Birds"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **January 9<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

**"The Forest in Winter"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **February 7<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

**"Owl Hoot Schedule"** (all programs begin at **7:30 pm**)  
At **Cummingston**: Saturday, **December 19<sup>th</sup>** and Saturday, **February 13<sup>th</sup>**

At **Tenhave**: Saturday, **January 16<sup>th</sup>**

We will walk into either Cummingston or Tenhave and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

### Royal Oak Arboretum Accomplishments for 2015

by Karen Pettke

The Royal Oak Arboretum, which is located behind the Senior Center, continues to be a great "work in progress." Our goal this past summer was to make sure that all of the paths were cleared. We tidied up the Butterfly Garden, the Memorial Garden and the Rain Garden (photo on your right). Then we decided to uncover the trees that were being smothered by grape vines. We found a lovely six foot evergreen that somehow survived under the vines. The invasive buckthorn shrubs have been treated in parts of the arboretum. Next spring, we will be able to chop down all of these plants that have been completely killed. The Arboretum will then begin to really flourish.



### ROAK Brewing Company September Fundraiser for the Nature Society

"Raise a Glass to The Royal Oak Nature Society" was our call-out during the month of September. The ROAK Brewing Company of Royal Oak, came to us in late August and asked us if they could do a fundraiser for us because "they have been hearing about the great work that we have been doing in the community". They came up the idea of giving us a percentage of the proceeds from the selling of their Melonfest Cantaloupe Wheat Ale during the month of

September, 2015. We let our members know about it throughout the month. The results were given to us at our October speaker program in the form of a check made out to us for \$1,000. We were very excited to receive this very generous donation from ROAK Brewing Co. We want to take this time to thank them wholeheartedly for putting on this fundraiser for us.



## 2015 Dream Cruise Wrap Up

It is hard to believe, but this 4th year in a row where we had almost perfect weather for the Woodward Dream Cruise (August 15). The temperature was in the upper 80's but no rain. This year, we made over \$1,100 for 2 1/2 hours of work on the day before Dreams Cruise plus 12 hours on Dream Cruise Day.

Just like in the previous three years, we had to close the park down between 12:30 & 3:30 in the afternoon because we ran out of parking spaces. As soon as a car was driven out of the park we were able to let another one in.

The Nature Society wants to thank the following people for volunteering their time at this year's Dream Cruise: **Bob Muller, Carol Bradshaw, Ted Vickers, Don & Joyce Drife, Richard & Pat Stoll, Pam & Mike Brady, Mitzi Hoffman, John Semchena, Mary & Cathy Kleiss, Andrew Bartley John Herrgott, Ed Snyder and Carolyn Ludwig.** Also, a big thanks goes out again to **Greg Rassel** and his crew for getting the park ready for us.

Once a year, this becomes an easy way for the Nature Society to make some extra money. The City of Royal

Oak sets everything up and all we have to do is collect the \$10 entry fee and direct people to available parking spots.

Hopefully, when Dream Cruise comes along next year, you might consider joining our volunteer crew for a few hours to help the Nature Society collect a few bucks that will help pay for future expenses/projects. Photo at right was taken in 2013.



## NATURE SOCIETY'S 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Our next annual fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, **April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016** at the Royal Oak Elk's Club. Please **SAVE THE DATE** and get more details in our next newsletter

(Spring 2016) and also from our website beginning in early 2016.

Please check out our Facebook page & "like" the Royal Oak Nature Society.

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



4934 Fernlee  
Royal Oak, MI 48073



**DIGITAL PUBLISHING & PRINT SERVICES**  
[www.heathpress.com](http://www.heathpress.com)

Phone: 248.288.5580  
Fax: 248.288.1430  
[printdoctor@heathpress.com](mailto:printdoctor@heathpress.com)

### 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)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General (free)         | Receive newsletter                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$5)        | by:                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$10 & up) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular mail OR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50 & up)     | <input type="checkbox"/> 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, Cummington 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.

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

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-892-3380)

Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

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

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

Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

Stewardship-Tenhave: John Semchena (248-549-1362)

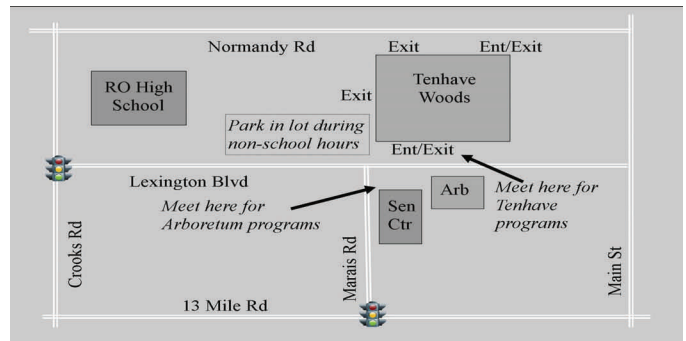
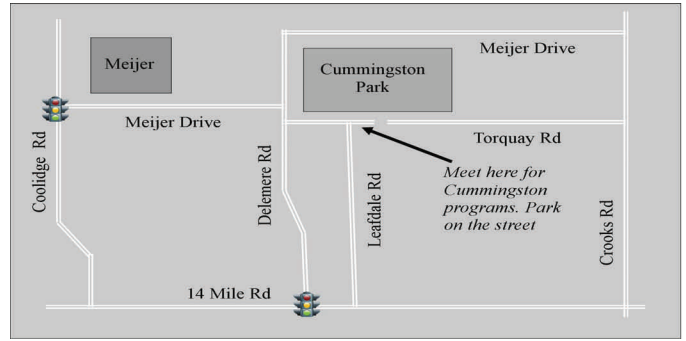
Stewardship-Cummington: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

Troop 1627: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

At Large: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

At Large: Mary Kleiss (248-399-6679)

## Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummington 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"

*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 Cummington 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 developing an arboretum in Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.*

The Royal Oak Nature Society  
1600 N. Campbell  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-246-3380  
naturesociety@romi.gov  
www.romi.gov/nature



FIRST CLASS MAIL