



FALL 2006

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Royal Oak Nature Society membership dues for the 2006/07 season (September to August) are now payable. Please check your address label to see if you are already paid-up through August 2007. If not, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society or give the form and check/cash to a Nature Society board member.

A membership entitles you to have our newsletter, *The Chinquapin*, mailed to you four times a year. The mailing begins with the Fall 2006 issue and ends with the Summer 2007 one. Your membership will help to cover the cost of printing and mailing of our newsletter and will also assist in funding educational programs that we provide.

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.

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VOL. 6 ISSUE 1

THE Chinquapin

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY



Our First Fundraiser The Royal Oak Nature Society had a Great Year

BY TIM TURNER, President

Last fall marked the completion of the Dragonfly Pond project at Tenhave Woods. With the generous help of volunteers and professionals willing to donate their time and services, we proved that we can accomplish great things! Now only nine months after completion we have seen dramatic differences in both plant and wildlife activity in the pond area.

Plans are also underway to add two more turnstiles at Tenhave Woods. These will allow better access to the park during the wet spring weather and provide additional exit points for safety.

Yet, even with the generous help of volunteers and occasional donated labor from the Department of Parks and Recreation, these projects cost money. Since the Royal Oak Nature Society receives no money from the city, we need to raise the funds for projects like these ourselves.

With this in mind, the Board of Directors began planning our first fundraising event. As novices, we were sometimes overwhelmed by the number of decisions to be made, but overcame them one-by-one, learning some lessons along the way. Enthusiasm turned into hard, honest work, but everyone

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MEMBERSHIP continued from page 1

Donations are tax deductible.

If your membership is a Family Membership, please be sure to record your total number of family members in the space provided on the membership form.

FALL STEWARDSHIP WORKDAYS

The Beautification and Restoration committee will be scheduling workdays in Tenhave Woods and Cummings Park starting in mid-September and continuing into December. We will be ridding the parks of invasive shrubs such as buckthorn and honeysuckle. The events will be scheduled on Saturday mornings, and possibly some weekday mornings also. Check the Nature Society website for dates or contact Dena Serrato at 248-542-2820 or dserrato@ford.com for more info.

RETIRING

The Nature Society regrets to announce that Bob Guymer has recently retired from the Board. We will miss his contribution to the Society and wish him the best of luck in the future.

POSITION OPENINGS

The Education Committee focuses its efforts on education outreach programs that promote understanding and

Joyce Drife picking out Nature Society t-shirts to give as gifts



FUNDRAISER continued from page 1

pounded the pavement towards a successful event. I thought I'd take the opportunity to congratulate the board and share a bit of our process with you.

Let's set a date! What time of year would work best? Not too close to the holidays! It can't interfere with summer vacations! After all the suggestions and reasoning we finally picked the 28th of April.

Location, location, location? Plenty of ideas here as well: local churches, meeting halls, the Royal Oak Women's Club, etc... Some were too expensive, some locations were already booked. Finally, we realized that everyone already knew they could find us at the Leo Mahany/Harold Meininger Senior/Community Center, and the date and time worked for them, too. Whew!

So, what about food? The kitchen at the Senior Center was off-limits, so we had to cater the event ourselves. Again, with some help from friends and family members, we managed to come up with a pretty good menu, including meat balls, mini quiche, pizza, pita roll ups, and cookies. You name it, we had a great spread.

How many tickets could we sell? How much should we charge? We decided on a

modest ticket price of \$9 since it was our first year, and the room would comfortably hold about 150 people. The small quantity of tickets ruled out having them professionally printed, so we printed them ourselves.

Things were starting to fall into place. Every member of the board was stepping up to do what they could. Physical arrangements were in place and we were going to have an event! But, hey, this is a fundraiser, so how were we going to raise funds?

Live auctions, silent auctions, maybe just leave a donation jar out and hope someone drops a check for 8 or 9 thousand dollars in it. Since a check from thin air seemed unlikely, we opted for a silent auction. Now we needed STUFF, lots of stuff, good, high-quality stuff, stuff that people want! I must admit, I was very impressed and pleased with the donations received, plants, artwork, jewelry, clothing and services from all over the area. Many local retailers contributed generously. Please note the list of donors at the end of this letter, and when you stop in their stores, do let them know how much their participation in events like

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Fall Speaker Programs

Sept. 6th Learn about the trees that make up the forests of Cummingston and Tenhave Woods from Bob Muller, a Royal Oak Nature Society naturalist. The diversity in our parks is great; we have 41 of the 52 species of deciduous trees that can be found in Oakland County. The forest, although it looks constant to us, is always changing. How did the trees get here after the ice age and where did they come from? What did the first settlers do to change the forest make up? Invasive fungus and insects have altered the forest in major ways three times in the 20th century. If this had happened in the 19th century would the impact been different? What can tree rings tell us about the trees life history? Trees are far more than what shades your yard and causes you to have to rake each fall. Come and learn about these major life forms that define the environment we live in.

Oct. 4th Humpback whales can be found in all of the world's oceans. Each fall, the whales migrate from their summer coastal feeding grounds in high latitudes to winter breeding grounds near islands or shallow banks at low latitude waters. The

ALL SPEAKER PROGRAMS AND NATURE WALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.
PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.

General Meeting with Speaker Programs

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - Leo Mahany/Harold Meininger
Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais)

Date	Program
Sept. 6th	<i>Trees, Trees, Trees</i>
Oct. 4th	<i>Hidden Habits of Humpbacks</i>
Nov. 1st	<i>Eastern Massasauga Projects in Southeast Michigan</i>

Nature Walk Programs Meet at the park

Date	Day	Time	Location
Sept. 24th	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Tenhave Woods
Oct. 8th	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Cummingston
Oct. 21st	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Tenhave Woods
Oct. 29th	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Tenhave Woods
Nov. 11th	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cummingston

Nature Walk Descriptions

Sept. 24th *Mushrooms* - lead by Dianne Pruden. We will survey the park and attempt to identify the mushrooms and fungus we encounter.

Oct. 8th *Beginnings of fall* - See the changes that are starting to take place within the forest.

Oct. 21st *Fall Color* - This is the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

Oct. 29th *Fall Color* - This is the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

Nov. 11th *Fall Color* - This is still the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

Hawaiian Islands are the major reproductive grounds for North Pacific humpback whales. Chris Zimmel is a volunteer-participant in the The Dolphin Institute (TDI) whale program. He will give us a peek (in sight and sound) into the hidden habits of humpbacks as they spend the winter months off Maui. Under the direction of Dr. Louis Herman and Dr. Adam Pack, The Dolphin Institute (TDI) has conducted scientific

study of humpbacks in Hawaii since 1975. This is the longest, continuous scientific study of humpbacks in the Hawaiian Islands.

Nov. 1st Andy Snider, Curator of Reptiles at the Detroit Zoo Institute, has been a speaker for us on two other occasions. He will be talking about several initiatives with which the Detroit Zoo is involved with the eastern massasauga

rattlesnake. A two-year educational program that was completed with a grant from the U.S. EPA in a 4-county region in southeast Michigan, will be discussed. The soon-to-be-completed Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) will be touched on, as well as a new head-start project for captive-reared animals from the Grayling population.

POSITIONS *continued from page 2*

appreciation of the environment by involving children with our local parks and nature programs.

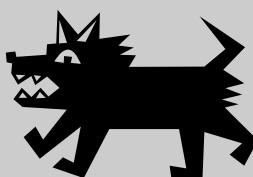
Treasurer keeps a proper set of books that must be available for a yearly audit. The treasurer must collect and disburse all funds, sign receipts, pay all bills and present the Treasurers report at board meetings.

The Fundraiser Committee has just been recently created. It's goal will be to plan everything that goes into a fundraiser, including where to have it, getting donations for auctions, and selling tickets.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Ted Vickers at either 248-549-5366 or tgv1121@sbcglobal.net.

PARK PROBLEMS

If you are near or in one of our two nature parks and see or hear suspicious or unlawful behavior, please call the Royal Oak Police Department's non-emergency number, 248-246-3500 and inform them of the problem.



Dogs are not allowed inside either Tenhave Woods or Cummingston Park.

FUNDRAISER *continued from page 2*

this means to you as members of the Royal Oak Nature Society.

With over 100 tickets sold, the pressure was on. Again, folks helped set up tables and arrange the displays. Auction closing times were set. Food was hot and ready for the onslaught of hungry participants that would be attending this exciting event in just a few minutes.

A final walk around the room, every thing looked great, and the doors were opened. The board had put countless hours of time into this event, would enough people stop by? Was a Friday evening the right choice of time? Needless to say, we were all more than a little nervous. As people filtered in it soon became apparent we were in for a tremendous evening.

Except for a slide show running in one corner, there was not much of an agenda. Food, good fellowship, and time for filling in your name on the silent auction sheets made up the evening's program. We passed out a few door prizes to the excited recipients, and proceeded to close up the silent auctions.

Overall, we had a great event with about one hundred people in attendance. That alone would have made the event a complete success, but we also raised a little over two thousand dollars in one evening. With several remaining donated items to be put up for auction on eBay, we are hoping to raise even more funds for our projects.

I would like to take the time to thank and congratulate the Royal Oak Nature Society Board of Directors for all of their time and effort for this fundraiser. For our first attempt, we can certainly call this an extremely successful event. And to the many volunteers who have helped us with this and other events, we also extend our deepest gratitude.

We are now ready to start planning next year's event. With this in mind we're looking for volunteers to help. We would like the committee to meet once a month for about an hour to begin working out the details. If you are interested in working with us on this project please contact me at timturner@comcast.net. Many Thanks!



Ann Holcomb checking out her new auction acquisitions

LIST OF DONORS

Anita Keefer Sane

Ann Cline of Royal Rainbow Iris Garden

Ann Williams & Frank Edwards

Beverly Kent Goldenberg

Billings Outdoor Power Equipment

Bob Muller

Button's Rent it

Carol Turner

Chim Jewelry Inc.

Don and Joyce Drife

Doug Brown Packaging

Dr. John Bloodworth of Great Lakes Chiropractic

English Gardens

Global ReLeaf

Incognito, Mary Topous

Jack Kerby

Janet Kelman

Jeanne S. Servis

Joe Keyes/Donna Vance of the Park Hotel

Krystyna's European Spa

Ladybug Shoppe

Laura Bodary & Belinda Amner of Playaway

LuAnn Linker of Wild Birds Unlimited

Mark Bertrand

Mount-N-Repair

Pamela Brady

Paperback Trade Inn

Rick and Teresa Andrusz

Stephanie & Marc Comptois of Tastefully Simple

The Aquarium Shop

Trader Joe's

Van Every Family Chiropractic Center

Royal Oak's Wild Side

REPORT AND PHOTO BY BOB MULLER

On the last day of spring I took a walk through Tenhave Woods. Just into the forest on the Goodwin Trail, I spotted a quarter inch long toad. The polliwogs in Dragonfly pond had changed into adults. When I got to the pond's edge, they were everywhere. This is the first time this has occurred in the park in about fifteen years. Dragonflies were everywhere patrolling the pond's surface. I guess we gave the pond a good name. We have also identified the crayfish in Tenhave. They are digger crayfish, the same species we identified in Cummingston last spring. Dozens of new aquatic insects have shown up in our pond surveys that we have not seen in Tenhave before and the mosquito's population seems to be almost non-existent.

Five days later I met Don Drife in Tenhave to begin surveying the new plants we are finding along the pond.



Just into the woods off the ponds edge we noticed three deer, one of which was a six-point buck in velvet.

Digger crayfish

Fifteen minutes later while checking out the parks ferns, I stepped over a log and almost stepped on a fawn. Breeding deer in Royal Oak—amazing! I hope they find some place they like better than Tenhave as they will eat all of our wildflowers. We were only in the park an hour and in that time we saw a deer, gray and fox squirrels, a chipmunk

and a raccoon coming down a tree. Five mammals in an hour in the middle of Royal Oak!

I know any time you walk through our Royal Oak forest, there will always be something new to discover. Become an explorer; find something you have never seen before. Escape the developed world, take a breath, feel the stress fade away and take a walk in the woods. Check out Royal Oak's wild side.



Wild Birds Unlimited®
Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

28558 Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Owners: LuAnn & Steve Linker
Phone: 248-548-2424
Fax: 248-548-0917
Email: wburoyal oak@aol.com

Want to Join The Royal Oak Nature Society?

Please make checks out to:

**CITY OF ROYAL OAK
MEMO: ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY**

Mail completed form and donation check to:

**Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067**

Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Total Number of Family Members _____

1-year membership rates: (Sept-Aug)

Individual: \$5 Family/Supporting: \$10 and up

Donations are tax deductible

NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

Please contact us to become actively involved in one or more of our Teams.

Beautification: Tackles tasks as surveying the parks, defining & maintaining a trail system, park clean up & removing invasive species.

Communications: Provides publicity about organizational activities to the general membership & the public. It is also responsible for publishing this newsletter.

Education: Focuses its efforts on education outreach

programs that promote understanding and appreciation of the environment by involving children in our local parks and nature programs.

Program: Coordinates and schedules nature walks & nature oriented speaker programs, develop programs for outside organizations and catalog plants, trees & birds.

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

Board of Directors

President: **Tim Turner** 248-320-4819

Vice President: **John DeLisle** 248-585-9002

Treasurer: **Open**

Beautification & Restoration: **Jack Kerby [Cummington]** 248-879-8010

Dena Serrato [Tenhave Woods] 248-542-2820

Communications: **Ted Vickers** 248-549-5366

Education: **Open** • Fundraising: **Open**

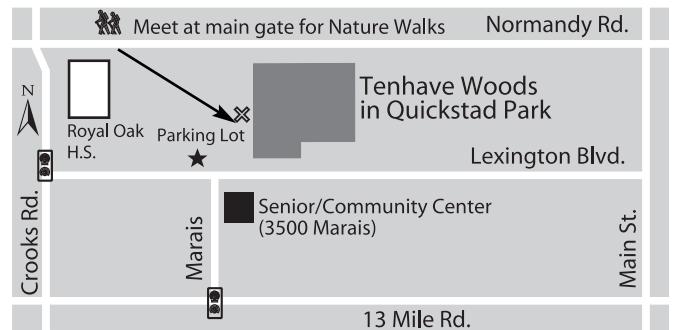
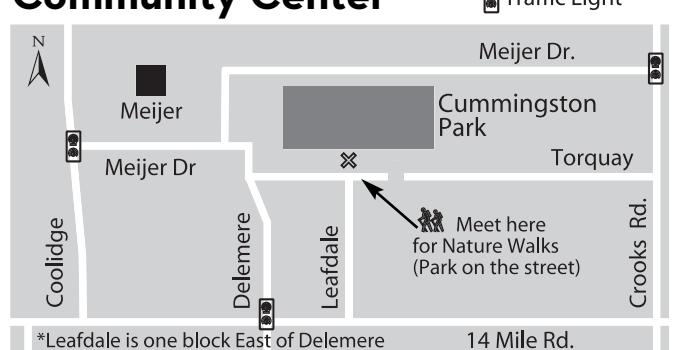
Program: **Bob Muller** 248-398-0195

Ways & Means: **Helen Cost** 248-549-9423

Newsletter: **Ted Vickers** tgv1121@sbcglobal.net

Ann Williams ann.m.williams@comcast.net

Our Nature Parks & Senior Community Center



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (bottom of p.5), link on to Park Locations and then Map for park trail

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ROYAL OAK MI 48067
1600 N. CAMPBELL ROAD
The Royal Oak Nature Society

