



The Chinquapin

VOLUME 8 Issue 1

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Fall 2008

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Royal Oak Nature Society membership dues for the 2008/09 season (September to August) are now payable.

Please check your address label to see if you are already paid-up through August 2009. If not, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society. **If a family membership, please be sure to LIST ALL family members.**

A membership entitles you to have our newsletter, "The Chinquapin", mailed to you four times a year. The mailing begins with the Fall 2008 issue and ends with the Summer 2009 edition. 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. It also helps show your support for our two nature parks, Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park.

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

Donations are tax deductible.

With the Help of Eagles

by Bob Muller

The staff and active workers in the Royal Oak Nature Society number about one dozen. When it comes to work in the parks, it is usually done by a group of less than four people. But, we would never have developed the trail system in both parks, lined trails, added bird houses, moved very large logs off trails and built Dragonfly Pond without outside help. All of this extra support has come from Boy Scout troops and some of it has just been the scout troops doing service projects. But, we get a very special kind of assistance from Eagle Scout candidates when they do their Eagle Scout projects. These projects show the boy's leadership ability. The undertaking can not be done by him alone. He must find a group of people willing to help him. Projects should take about an accumulation of about 100 hours to get them done. The Scout must write management plan for the project by himself and have it approved by a committee outside of his own troop. This may take some time and occasionally the boy fails to get approval. The upcoming Cummingston Pond project (similar to the Tenhave Dragonfly Pond project) took the scout over a year to get it approved.

Since the time the last newsletter came out, we have completed three projects. In early April, Nikolas Hoye from Troop 1629 (based at Jane Adams) had a project that was unusual in that it encompassed many small jobs instead of a single large task. This project which took place in Tenhave Woods, added two benches at Dragonfly Pond, removed a large fallen ash from the Pond Trail and used it for trail lining, cleared brush from the fence (west of Dragonfly Pond) and used the material from this to make a brush pile blocking a trail we wished to have closed, moved the large wooded sign from the old west entrance to the new Lexington entrance, and added two new wood duck houses. I

have seen many people use these benches to look out at the pond and surrounding area.

In late April, Nolan Tillis from Troop 1627 (based at Helen Keller) began the first major work on our Arboretum (behind the Senior/Community Center) by clearing a massive amount of buckthorn. This was going to be an all day job of cutting and dragging the buckthorn trees into piles for chipping. Nolan knew this would be heavy/hard work and scheduled people to come throughout the day so there were always fresh people to do the work. There was always at least a dozen people working and even we were amazed at what was accomplished.

In June, Matt Lewan, also from Troop 1627, built the new Fern Trail inside Tenhave. At the beginning of the day we simply had a



Helpers from Troop 1629 putting up a wood duck box

route marked out with surveyors tape. By late afternoon we had a trail lined with large logs, some weighing close to 900 pounds. This trail is supposed to be a teaching trail, so it was made to our new specifications (four to eight feet in width) to facilitate larger nature walk groups. None of the other trails in

(Continued on page 3)

Thank you to everyone who donated something to our 2008 Annual Fundraiser:

6 Salon
American Laser Centers
Annette's Hair Studio & Spa
Aquarium Shop
Athens Coney Island
Batteries Plus
Biggby Coffee
Billings Lawn Equipment
Carol Bradshaw
Briggs Gallery
Dana Catania
Cathy & Company
Chinn Jewelry
Al & Winnie Chrzanowski
Kim Ciolek
City of Royal Oak
Ann Cline
Brent Clover
Pat & Ray Coleman
Helen Cost
Dale and Thomas Popcorn.
Emily Damstra
Decades Estate Liquidation
Designed By You- Diana Schatzman
Doug Brown Packaging
Don & Joyce Drife
Jay Dunstan
Priscilla Eggen
English Gardens
Ewe-nique Knits
Fitness Unlimited
Four Seasons Garden Center
Frittata
Christy & Brian Gehringer
Diane Hawkey
Raymond Hill
Colleen Hilzinger
Ann Holcomb
Holiday Market
Incognito
Jan's Pottery
Karen Dargo Massage=Relief
Jeff Knaggs
Lady Bug Craft Shoppe
Glen Latinen & Leslie Keys
Leon & LuLu
Rick Lieder
Marcia Hovland Gallery
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Stephen Miller
Miner's Den
Mirepoix Cooking School
Moosejaw
Bob & Kelly Muller
Nth Degree Fitness Studio
Outback Steakhouse
Paesano Pizza
Paperback Trade Inn
Perennial Enhancements
Personalized Books Plus
Rec Diving
Redz Upscale Barber House
Royal Oak Brewing Co.
Royal Oak Golf Club
Royal Oak Historical Society
Pat Savotte
Dena Serrato
Shearlock's Hair Salon

Nature Society's 3rd Annual Fundraiser

Our 3rd Annual Fundraiser took place on April 18, 2008 and once again was held at the Royal Oak Elks Club. Every year, attendance at this event continues to rise. From an initial 85 people in 2006, to 105 in 2007 to the 180 Nature Society supporters who came out this year. There were great hors d'oeuvres and desserts that were provided by some of the area's great food establishments (see sidebar), a slide show presented by Bob Muller on Royal Oak's two nature parks and a return visit by the folk music trio, Theresa, Phyllis & Jack. Around 7:45, awards were handed out to individuals/groups (see sidebar for award winners) who have contributed to the Society's mission. For the balance of the evening, everyone had the opportunity to bid on over 140 items, including Detroit Tiger baseball tickets, Detroit Zoo Family Membership, Comedy Castle, Stagecrafters, Royal Oak Historical Tours & a host of others.

A great time was had by all! When you get your 2009 calendar, be sure to pencil us in for Friday, April 24. If you have never been to this event, you need to come & see what you have been missing and if you already have, please come again in 2009.



Attendees having a good time at our 3rd Annual Fundraiser

Thank you to these fine establishments for donating food to our 2008 Annual Fundraiser:

Costco
Hermanns
Hollywood Market
Lilly's
Pasquale's
Pronto's
Sangria's
Smoke House
Ya Yas
Zumba's

DIRECTOR POSITION OPENINGS

The **Fundraiser Director** coordinates and organizes the Annual Spring Fundraiser and other fund-raiser programs approved by the board.

The **Education Director** is responsible for provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these positions, please contact Ted Vickers at either 248-549-5366 or naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us

ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS:

Ted Vickers was the winner of our **Lifetime Achievement Award**. It is awarded to a person who has consistently worked for the maintenance and well being of the Royal Oak natural areas for at least five years. The **Woman's Club 7/Woman's Club** received the **Presidents Award**. This award is to be given annually by the President of the Nature Society to the individual or group who has made the greatest contribution toward the Society's mission the previous year. **Richard Stoll & Boy Scout Troop 1627** received the **Chinquapin Award**. This award is given to an individual or group for recognition of notable contributions towards achieving the goals of the Society in any given year.

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PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN OUR GENERAL MEETING/ SPEAKER PROGRAM VENUE

Beginning in September 2008, our monthly general meeting/speaker program will be held at the Royal Oak Middle School (formerly Dondero High School). The school is located on Washington, between 11 Mile Road & Catarpalpa (11 1/2 Mile). The meeting/program will be held in the "Commons Area" which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. 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. See page 5 for more information about the new venue & why the change is being made.

September 3rd: "Fall Hawk Migration Thru Lake Erie Metropark & Point Mouillee"

Paul Cypher, of Southeast Michigan Raptor Research, will talk about the fall hawk migration that passes through this area each year. Although you may see several hawks at a time here in Royal Oak, in Lake Erie Metropark and Point Mouillee, hundreds or even thousands can be seen as they make their journey south. Come learn about this migration and get enough information to go out and see for yourself in the weeks that follow

October 1st: "The Lives and Times of the Emerald Ash Borer"

The Emerald Ash Borer is a serious pest of quarantine significance. Larvae feed in the phloem and outer sapwood, producing galleries that eventually girdle and kill branches as well as entire trees. This invasive pest has had a devastating impact on landowners, businesses, municipalities and entire United States. Public Affairs Specialist, Sharon Lucik from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide an update about the USDA's Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Program and the future of our nation's ash resource.

November 5th: "Butterflies and Controlled Burns"

Among other things, controlled burns are a tool commonly used in conservation to control woody plant growth in prairies.

Dwayne Badgero, Avocational Lepidopterist, will talk about pros and cons of this practice as it pertains to butterflies and moths. This is a controversial topic as there are those who are either in favor or opposed to burns. Inevitably, some species will be lost completely. One species that should never have its site burned is the Swamp Metalmark Butterfly. It is very intolerant of fire and because its populations normally have an extremely low density, it is easy to burn them out of a site with one burn.

December 3rd : "Floodplain and Mesic Forests in Dearborn: An Analysis of Species Composition and Age of Trees"

Floodplain forests in urban areas show variations in species composition with subtle changes in elevation. The composition of the forest habitats along the Rouge River in Dearborn has some interesting qualities due to natural and cultural history. Jens Jensen, the landscape architect hired by Henry Ford, had plans to develop a mesic forest (has moderate or well balanced supply of moisture). Come and find out from Orin G. Gelderloos, Professor of Biology/Environmental Studies and Director of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center, if Jan Jensen's vision of an early ecological restoration project was fulfilled on the Henry and Clara Ford Estate.

(WITH HELP OF EAGLES continued from page 1)

Tenhave Woods passed by ferns. and Don Drife, our fern expert botanist, wanted a fern teaching area. This is one of the best wildflower areas in the park and there are eight different species of ferns along this trail. It provides a dry path skirting the edge of the wettest part of the swamp forest. Fern Trail completes the trail system we have been working on for the last eight years.

Our trail system gives us the ability to start a walk at the Lexington entrance, wind thru all three of our forest types and go to



Troop 1627 Fern Trail builder volunteers

Dragonfly Pond while staying on dry trails without any backtracking.

As you can see, without the help of Boy Scout Troops and especially Eagle Scout Projects, the Royal Oak Nature Society would not be able to put on the programs we do. When it is just Nature Society workers, I am often the youngest - and I'm sixty. The Scouts bring strong boys and younger adults to do the work. In fact on the Fern Trail project I didn't lift a single log, a goal I had set for myself. If you know a Scout looking for an Eagle Project please tell him to contact us. I can't see us running out of things to do in either park, ever!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

The Royal Oak Nature Society would like to thank the following individuals/families for either recently becoming new members or renewing their membership.

Ilene Beninson
Corey Bordine
Dennis & Andrea Cowan
Kelly Daniels
Wendy Ernzen
Barbara Gleason
Joe & Marilyn Grazioli
Gretchen & Patrick Greenwood
Nigel & Anita Heap
Judy Jacques
Sharie Kavanagh
Anne Kuzma
Bill & Ruth McPhee
Diane Milner
Patty Mogk
Elmer Morehouse
Betty Nanos
Anne Pyciak
Jim & Laura Rogers
Eunice Skilton
John & Valery Smith
Therese Tierney

PROBLEMS IN THE PARK?

If you are near or in one of our two nature parks (Tenhave Woods or Cummingston Park) and see or hear suspicious or unlawful behavior, please help by calling the Royal Oak Police Department's non-emergency number, 248-246-3500 and inform them of the problem. Dogs are not allowed in either of our nature parks.



(Continued from page 2)

Shining Moment LLC
Southeastern Oakland
County Water Authority
Spectrum Yoga
Stagecrafters
Richard & Patty Stoll
Bill Sullivan
The Flower Co.
John Topor
Roberts Restaurant
Carol Turner
Julie Turner
Ted & Nancy Vickers
Westin Southfield-Detroit
Hotel
Wild Birds Unlimited

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park & meet at Leafdale & Torquay
TENHAVE WOODS: Park in lot at Marais & Lexington Blvd.

Meet at Lexington Entrance (300 feet east of parking lot).
For the Moon Walks, park & meet at the Marais/Lexington Blvd lot

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.

September 21st (Sunday) 2:00 pm

“Mushroom Walk” at Tenhave Woods.

Diane Pruden, an active member of the North American Mycological Association, will lead a mushroom survey of the park in the attempt to identify the mushrooms & fungus that we encounter.

October 14th (Tuesday) 7:30 pm “Full Moon” Walk at Tenhave Woods.

Experience the woods at a time of day when the park is normally closed. You never know what you may hear and see when the light levels are low. Bring a small flashlight.

October 18th (Saturday) 10:00 am:

“Beginnings of Fall Nature Walk” at Cummingston Park. See the changes that are starting to take place within the forest.

October 26th (Sunday) 2:00 pm “Fall Color Walk” at Tenhave Woods: This is the most

beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

November 1st (Saturday) 10:00 am “Fall Color Nature Walk” at Tenhave Woods.

This continues to be the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

December 12th (Friday) 7:30 pm “Full Moon Walk” at Tenhave Woods. Experience the woods at a time of day when the park is normally closed. You never know what you may hear and see when the light levels are low. Bring a small flashlight.

December 13th (Saturday) 10:00 am

“Late Fall Nature Walk” at Tenhave Woods. The leaves are gone. Come see what has been revealed in the forest and Dragonfly Pond.

Nature Society's 2nd Annual Open House

Even though it was not the most pleasant of days weather wise, we had nearly 100 people come out on Saturday, May 3, to participate in our 2nd Annual Open House.

Early in the day, Doris Applebaum from Oakland Audubon led a group through Tenhave Woods and behind the Senior/Community Center, looking for birds. In addition to finding birds that are commonly found in residential areas, the White Throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Red Breasted Woodpecker, House Wren, Black & White Warbler, Red Tail Hawk, Flicker, Northern Water Thrush, White Bellied Nuthatch, and a Hairy Woodpecker, were also either seen/

heard. At 10 am, Bob Muller led a morning wildflower walk and John DeLisle followed up with one in the afternoon. The walks were dominated by White Trillium and Mayapple that carpeted the forest floor. In the afternoon,



Bob Muller Leading a Wildflower Walk

Kristine Hammond led a small group of young children through the woods looking for animals and evidence of their existence. Jimmy Kipps & Bob Muller's grandson, Logan, showcased animal life that lives in Dragonfly Pond while Elmer Morehouse explored life that is found underneath leaf litter. Bob Muller talked about the Goodwin Family who owned the farmland in the 1800's (included the woodlot that is now

known as Tenhave Woods) and how important the woodlot was for the 19th century farm. Pat & Ray Coleman, who are professional photographers, passed on their expertise about how to capture nature through photography. Dena Serrato, Oakland County Master Gardner, was available to talk about techniques that are used to keep an urban forest healthy.

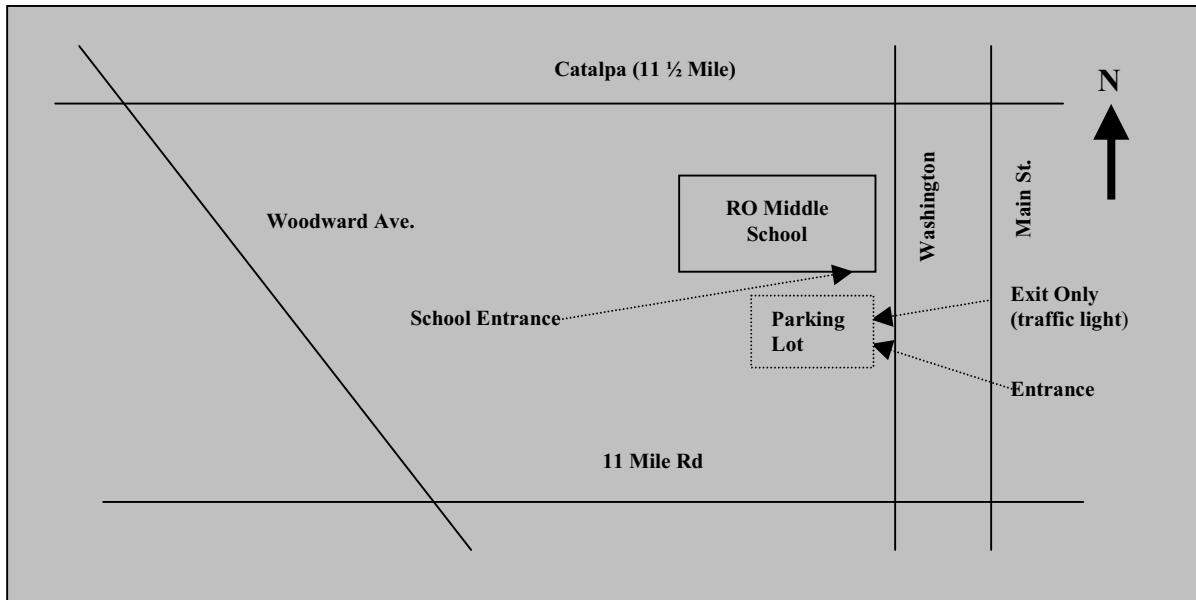
We hope the weather turns out for the better at next year's open house which will be held on May 2, 2009. Please join us then.

Nature Society Speaker Program Venue Change

Beginning in September 2008, the Royal Oak Nature Society will be holding their board meetings, general meetings and monthly speaker programs at Royal Oak Middle School. The move to the Middle School will be beneficial for several reasons. There will be more seating space, the viewing screen will be easier to see and there will be fewer outside distractions. Along with this move, we will be working more closely

with the Royal Oak School system in teaching environmental education to children and the community.

Below, you will find a map showing the location of Royal Oak Middle School. Washington is just two blocks west of Main Street. Note, the only vehicle entrance to school grounds off of Washington is on the south side of the parking lot. The school traffic light on Washington is an exit only.



Map Showing Location of Royal Oak Middle School

 **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

4934 Fernlee
Royal Oak, MI 48073

HEATH PRESS

DIGITAL PUBLISHING &
PRINT SERVICES
www.heathpress.com

Phone: 248.288.5580
Fax: 248.288.1430
printdoctor@heathpress.com

Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make checks out to: **Royal Oak Nature Society**
MEMO: Membership

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

Names (individual/family members): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

1 year membership rates (September-August)

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

Donations are tax deductible

NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

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

Beautification & Restoration: Maintains a trail system and enhances the overall park experience at Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park.

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 and Tenhave Woods.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tim Turner (248-320-4819)

Vice President: John DeLisle (248-585-9002)

Treasurer: Jeanne Sarnacki (248-548-1149)

Beautification & Restoration: Cummingston: Don Drife (248-528-0479) & Tenhave Woods: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

Education: Ted Vickers (Interim)

Fundraiser: Open

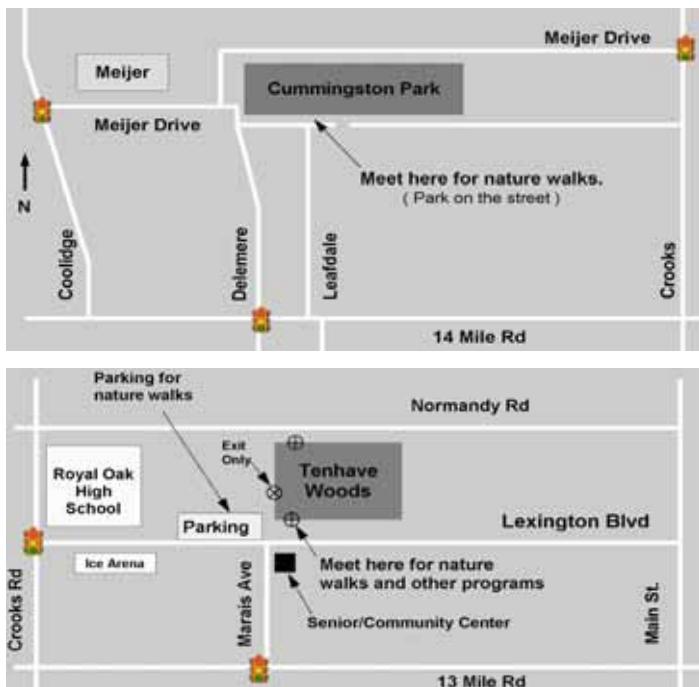
Ways & Means: Helen Cost (248-549-9423)

Newsletter: Ted Vickers

Engineer: Richard Stoll

Our Nature Parks & Senior/Community Center

 Traffic Light



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature/), link on to "Park Locations" and then "Map for Park Trail Locations".

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The Royal Oak Nature Society is a non-profit 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 of natural areas, Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park. Our mission is to foster awareness and meet and maintainance of them plus we offer a wide range of natural history educational programs.

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

nature@ci.royal-oak.mi.us

248-246-3380

Royal Oak, MI 48067

1600 N. Campbell

The Royal Oak Nature Society

FIRST CLASS MAIL

