



The Chinquapin

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Fall 2012

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2012/13 season begins now and ends in August, 2013. To see what your status is for the 2012/13 season, please check either your address label or e-mail subject line.

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 plus two private nature walks a year, 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.

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On Friday, April 20th, we held our 7th Annual Fundraiser at the Royal Oak Elks Club, and like last year the festivities began at 7 pm and were over by 10.

Food was again made and brought in by Nature Society volunteers. We want to thank everyone who helped us out with the food. There were appetizers & scrumptious desserts along with a cash bar. At 7:45 we had our awards ceremony. Award winners are listed on the next page. After the ceremony, our guests continued to bid on 155 various silent auction items. The Nature Society wants to thank everyone who donated an auction item this year. A list of these donors can be found on the next page.

All 10 of our guest tables had sponsors. Our table sponsors included **Royal Oak**

Nature Society's 7th Annual Fundraiser

Garden Club, Rasoar Law Firm, Doug Brown Packaging, OUR Credit Union, Emagine Theatre, Four Seasons Garden Center, Fifth Avenue, Miner's Den, Royal Oak Historical Society and Play & Stay. We want to thank all of our sponsors for their generous donations and support.

Summing it all up, we had another successful fundraiser. There was a smaller crowd attending this year, probably because of the inclement weather. But, we still made almost as much as we did last year.

Please be sure to pencil us in for Friday, **April 19, 2013** for our **8th Annual Fundraiser**. It will be held again at the Royal Oak Elk's Club. Hope to see you there.

Message From the President

by Don Drife

On July 10, 1972, I identified a Daisy Fleabane at Tenhave Woods. This was my oldest dated record from the park. In the last 40 years I have seen many changes to this rare gem of a woodlot. My notes currently include 307 vascular plant species from Tenhave. Recently, I found Cleavers, a bedstraw not noted in the park since the 1970s and a Grey Tree Frog. Spring Peepers (a small frog species) returned in mass to Dragonfly Pond this past spring.

The value of Tenhave has increased over time. Many natural areas in Southeast Michigan have been degraded in recent years due to invasive species and an overabundance of White-tailed Deer. A group from Seven Ponds Nature Center near Metamora recently visited Tenhave to see the wildflowers because they have lost the tens-of-thousands of Trillium that once grew in their woods. They have fenced in small sections to preserve a remnant of that glorious woods but it is like studying wild animals in a zoo.

White-tailed Deer have occurred in

Tenhave regularly since 2006 and in the last few years they started to heavily browse our Trillium and Solomon's Seal. I think it is neat to find a grandfather showing his five-year-old granddaughter her first deer in a city park, or to find an 86-year-old man, a former hunter, sitting on a rolling walker, looking at deer, after he thought he would never see a live one again. However, the damage that the deer are doing to this unique ecosystem is too great to offset these benefits. Bob Muller, John DeLisle, Joyce Drife (Nature Society members), and I censused the trillium population in Tenhave and found 8,400 plants with 1,150 of them being browsed. That's 14 percent and more have been eaten since our count. Some of the small trillium had large rhizomes (rootstalks) indicating that they were mature plants that had been browsed last year. Trilliums will survive being browsed for several years. If the browsing continues though, we will eventually we will lose this population of Trillium. We

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2012 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The President's Award is given annually by the Nature Society President to the individual or group who has made the greatest contribution toward the Society's mission the previous year. This year's recipient of the President's award is **Chris Ethridge**. He is our Education Director. Chris was involved in developing and putting on several programs for homeschoolers and he put on an educational program for the whole student body at Addams Elementary School. He also helped set up a pond program for all of the 5th Grade students at Addams on the last day of school in June, 2011. His efforts have enhanced our goal of reaching out to educate young people about the natural world.

The Chinquapin Award is given to an individual or group. The award recognizes notable contributions toward achieving the goals of the Society in a given year. The winners of this year's Chinquapin Award are **Sandy Wilkins and Jeanne Sarnacki** for all of their hard work in planning to make sure that there was plenty of great food available for our guests at our annual fundraisers. Jeanne was in charge from 2008 to 2010 and Sandy took over in 2011 & 2012. We could not have put on our fundraisers without their help.

See page 5 for a picture of this year's award winners.

Thank you to all of our 2012 Annual Fundraiser Auction Donors:

American Roots Nursery	Anton Anderssen	Annette's Hair Studio & Spa
Aquarium Shop	Baconfest Michigan	Batteries Plus
bd's Mongolian BarBQ	Billings Lawn Equipment	Black Lotus Brewing Company
Briggs Gallery	Button's Rent-It	Café Muse
Mary Ann Carmichael	City of Royal Oak	Pat & Ray Coleman
Emily Damstra	John & Theresa DeLisle	Detroit Institute of Arts
Detroit Tigers	Dos Manos	Don & Joyce Drife
Duggan's Irish Pub	English Gardens	Bernadette Ethridge
Ewe-nique Knits	Frentz & Sons Hardware	Frittata
Barbara Gleason	Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival	Gustafson Morningstar Dentistry
Mitzi Hoffman	Holiday Market	Hollywood Super Markets
Hopeakuu, holistic massage	Dianne Howey	Jan's Pottery
Jazzercise Fitness Center of Royal Oak	Judge Dan Sawicki	Mary Kleiss
Winnie Kowalski	Laldybug Shoppe	Leon & LuLu's
Rick Lieder	Michael Lillis	Lily's Seafood
Manzo Eye Care	Marcia Hovland Studio	Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Mayor Jim Ellison	Moosejaw	Motor City Auto Spa
Bob & Kelly Muller	Norm's Field of Dreams	Outback Steakhouse
Paint Party Royal Oak	Pet Supplies "Plus"	Pronto!
Quay Street Brewing Company	Reds Salon & Barber	Royal Oak Brewery
Royal Oak Garden Club	Senator John Pappageorge	Jeanne Servis
Stagecrafters	The Avenue	John Topor
Town Tavern	Van Every Family Chiropractic Center	Nancy Vickers
Vinsetta Grill	Denise Vultee	Westin Southfield-Detroit Hotel
Whole Foods	Wild Birds Unlimited	Willemijn Chiropractic Center

(Membership continued from page 1)

If you want to be an Associate, Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (p.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, you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide. Donations are always tax deductible.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail

us the information asked for on our membership form (p.5) & send that information to: naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us.

Your membership whether General, Associate, Supporting or Patron, will help to strengthen this organization.

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) are now held at the **Royal Oak Middle School** (formerly Dondero High School) which is located at 709 N. Washington. We meet in the auditorium or "Gathering Place", both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. Our June program is held at the Senior/Community Center 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 **7:25 pm**, with the speaker program following several minutes later.

"Grow Native with the Nature Society Arboretum, and Bring Nature Home!" is being held on Wednesday, **September 5th**. The area where the Nature Society Arboretum is now located (behind the Senior/Community Center) has gone from an old-field prairie/farm remnant, to an invaded buckthorn thicket, to what is currently becoming a native plant community garden. This area has been turned into an Oak Openings Prairie Habitat (Rain Garden/Butterfly Garden/Bird Biohedge/Wildlife Sanctuary). Come and learn from John DeLisle, Nature Society Arboretum director and owner of Natural Community Services, more about the arboretum, how native plants support wildlife food webs, how to plant natives on your own, and how to bring nature home!

"The Late Glacial Period in Oakland County" is being held on Wednesday, **October 3rd**. Join Cranbrook Institute of Science and Wayne State University Geologist, John Zamiskie, for an engaging examination of the local surface geology of Oakland County and what it reveals regarding the retreat of the great ice sheets in this region 14,000 years ago and the subsequent development of proglacial lakes and beaches as the earth warmed. John will also review the evidence from his research at the Shelton and Adams Road mastodon sites on how life returned to this region following the

northward shift of polar desert, permafrost and tundra, with the focus being on the arrival of the first remarkable spruce forests and associated Mastodon community type.

"Providing Food and Shelter for Winter Resident Birds" is being held on **November 7th**. Winter resident birds can use your help in order to prepare for the upcoming frigid temperatures and scarcity of natural food sources that they will face during winter. Join LuAnn Linker of Royal Oak's Wild Birds Unlimited, and learn valuable information about migration and overwintering and how you can provide for the extreme nutritional and shelter needs of these birds.

"Utah's Canyonlands" is being held on **December 5th**. The American southwest is one gigantic outdoor museum of geology. Nowhere, are the beautiful sedimentary layers and rock formations more prominently displayed than in Utah. Join Gordon Lonie, retired Sterling Heights naturalist, on a brief tour of Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Zion national parks. In addition, you will also see Dinosaur National Monument and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Come and explore the natural wonders of Utah with us.

Nature Society's 6th Annual Open House

Our 6th Annual Open House was held on Saturday, May 5th. For the second year in a row, the weather cooperated. The temperature was mild and the skies were clear.

The day began at 9 am with a bird walk. We walked the trails of Tenhave and spent time in the Arboretum looking for birds. The walk was lead by Doris Applebaum, an Oakland Audubon birder. We saw or heard, quite a few warblers. Included were a Black & White, Yellow Rumped, Nashville, Magnolia, Chestnut Sided, Black Throated Green, and a Tennessee Warbler. Other birds seen or heard were a Scarlet Tanager, Red Eyed Vireo, Northern Flicker, Great Crested Fly Catcher, Tufted Tit Mouse, Catbird, and Ovenbird.

At 10 am, Bob Muller, our resident naturalist, lead the morning wildflower walk where White & Red Trillium, Blue and Yellow Violets, Spring Beauty, Trout Lilly, Foam

Flower, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wood Poppy, Dwarf Ginseng, Mayapple, and Dutchman's Britches were found.

At 11:30, Bob Muller began a Pond Study by sampling the water in Dragonfly Pond.

Viewing trays were available to examine and identify what was found.
Clam
Shrimp,
Crawfish,
Spring



Looking up in the trees for birds

(Continued on page 4)

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park & meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: Park in lot at Marais & Lexington Blvd. and meet at the Lexington Entrance (300 feet east of parking lot). For the Owl Hoot, park & meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

ARBORETUM: Park & meet on the north side of the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center building (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.

"**Arboretum in Early Fall**" is being held at the Royal Oak Nature Society **Arboretum** on Sunday, **September 23rd**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Take a tour of the meadow in our developing arboretum (behind the Community Center) and see what fall wild flowers are blooming

Fall Color" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Saturday, **October 20th**, beginning at **10:00 am**. This is the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

"**Fall Color**" is being held at **Tenhaye Woods** on Sunday, **October 28th**, and again on Saturday, **November 3rd**. Both programs begin at **2:00 pm**. This is the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

"**Geological Features**" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Saturday, **November 10th**, beginning at **10:00 am**.

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

"**Owl Hoot**" is being held at **Tenhaye Woods** on Friday, **December 14th**, beginning at **7:30 pm**. We will walk into Tenhaye and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

(Continued from page 3)

Pepper tadpoles and American Toad tadpoles, Mayfly larva, adult Mayfly (1st ever seen at the pond), Giant Water Bug, Back Swimmer, Fingernail Clam, Pouch Snails, Gilled Snails, Water Mites, Water Spider and Painted Turtles sunning on logs were on display.

In the afternoon, Jimmy Kipps, a college entomology student, took over the Pond Life program. Kristine Hill, a middle school science teacher, lead a small group of young children through the woods looking for animals and evidence of their existence. Pat & Ray Coleman,

professional photographers, lead a walk where they gave tips on to capture nature through photography. Bob Muller lead a group through the woods, identifying the many type of trees that can be found in Tenhaye. John DeLisle, Nature Society naturalist, wrapped things up by leading another wildflower walk through the park.

Total attendance for all of our Open House programs this year was around 60.

Next year's Open House will be held on Saturday, **May 4, 2013**. When you get next year's calendar, please pencil us in and join us for an enjoyable day and to learn new things about nature.

(Continued from page 1)

recently discovered that the deer have eaten our entire population of Wood Poppy. I think this occurred late enough in the season that the plants will not be affected next year but they were not able to produce any seeds this year.

We are proposing to repair the main fence (in the area where there are no houses) and raise the shorter fence along the section of the park where there are adjoining houses. We want to cage the park to keep out the



Browsed trillium in Tenhaye

deer. Using spray deer repellent is not practical for manpower reasons (and many do not work).

Imagine what Tenhaye would look like without its carpet of spring wildflowers. The problem is urgent and we are looking at how to best alter and repair the fence. Contact me (see Board of Directors on page 6) if you are willing to help with this important project.

Tenhaye Woods is a valuable, unique woodlot and it is worth preserving for future generations.



From left to right: Don Drife (President) and 2012 award winners, Jeanne Sarnacki, Chris Ethridge and Sandy Wilkins

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)
- Associate (\$5)
- Supporting (\$10 & up)
- Patron (\$50 & up)

Receive newsletter
by:
 Regular mail OR
 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.

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: 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)

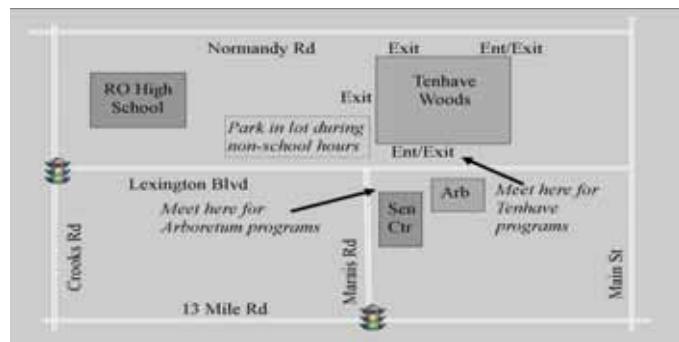
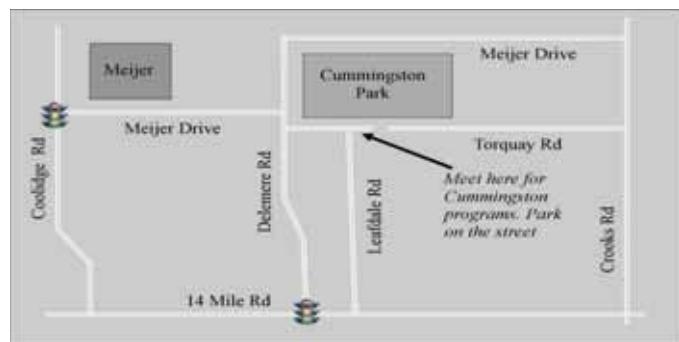
Tenhave Woods Stewardship: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

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

Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



Traffic Light

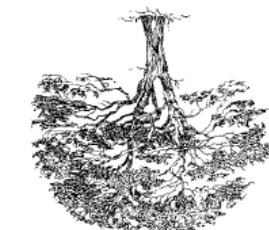


To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (listed below under our tree logo), link on to "Park Locations" and then "Map for park trail locations"

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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 of natural areas. In addition, we are in the process of creating an arboretum in Worden Park and maintaining it. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL