



VOLUME 7 Issue 3

THE Chinquapin

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Spring 2008

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Membership

If you would like to become a Royal Oak Nature Society member for the 2007/2008 season (September 2007-August 2008), 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. If a family membership, please be sure to list all of your 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 issue and ends with the summer 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.

Tenhave Woods' New Entrance & Exit Only Turnstiles

It's official. Tenhave Woods finally has a new turnstile location. The concrete foundation for the new Lexington Blvd entrance was poured last September and a turnstile was installed there at the end of

October. The sidewalk that was put in about a year ago by the City and went to the fence and stopped, finally goes somewhere! The turnstile manufacturer moved

(Continued on page 2)



First nature walk (November 3) using the new Lexington Blvd Turnstile



New "exit only" turnstile adjacent to the soccer fields

A VOLUNTEER GROUP WORKING TO PROTECT ROYAL OAK'S NATURE PRESERVES...

Membership Renewals & New Members

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

Ruthann Bajorek
Ann Bobiney
Joyce Bowen
Margaret Bresnan
Winnie Chrzanowski
Helen & Connie Cost
Mr. & Mrs. Karl DeLisle
Aaron Dorn
Darlene Ellis
Robert & Marylin Gasiorowski
Barbara Grinke
Diane L. Gurzick
Ruth Hart
Jane & James Hoyle
Donna Kuchapsky
Jim Langhammer
G. Mayer
Kerrie McMillen
Bonnie Michalak
Patty Mogk
Joy & Tim Reade
Jeanne Sarnacki
Leslie & Ila Schonberg
Charles Svalya
Ken Taylor
Kathleen Thomson
Paul Veselenak
Beth & Todd Vince
David & Jackie Wiltse
Michael & Katherine Woodford

Director Opening

The Education Committee provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

If interested, please contact Ted Vickers at either 248-549-5366 or naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us



Richard Stoll driving the Bobcat out of the park to pickup some more dirt to lay down on the path leading up to Sandbar Trail.

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the old turnstile (next to the soccer fields) to the Lexington Blvd location and put in its' place, the newly purchased "exit only" turnstile.

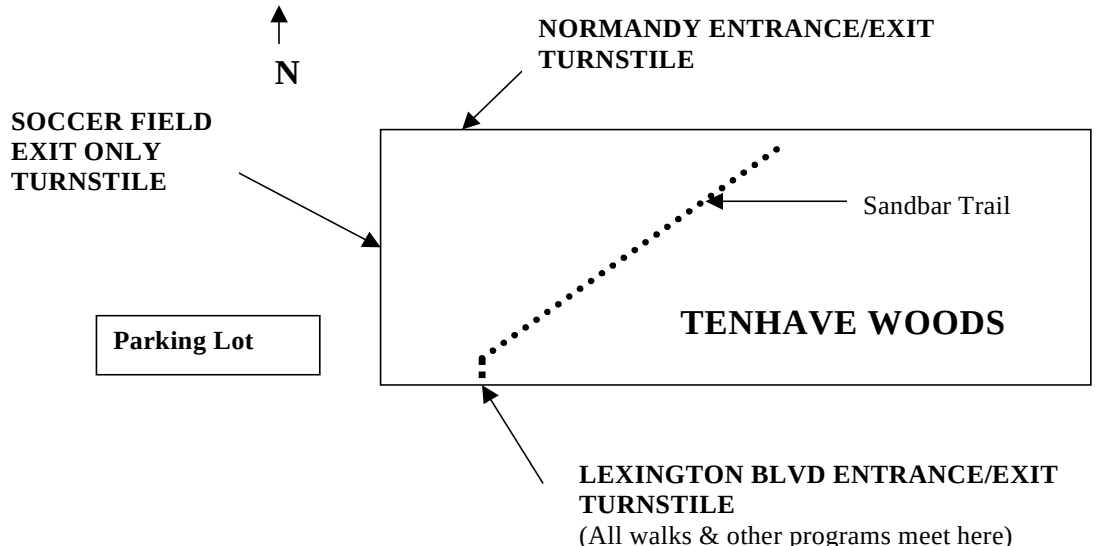
A short path from the new Lexington entrance leads to the Sandbar Trail. That trail is usually dry almost all year round, but the ground between the fence and the Sandbar Trail can become quite muddy in the spring. So early last November, Bob Muller, Richard Stoll and Ted Vickers took dirt that the City dropped off and raised the level of the path. Richard moved the dirt with a Bobcat loader rented from Button Rental while Bob and Ted finished leveling the dirt with shov-

els and rakes. By three o'clock, the trail was looking pretty good and they called it a day. The path should now be high enough in elevation to keep the entryway dry most of the time.

The only work left to be done is to take signs that still remain just inside the fence at the soccer field turnstile and move them to the Lexington Blvd entrance.

The Turnstile Project is now half completed. The last half involves installing a new turnstile on the Normandy side of the park. We are hoping that we will raise enough money soon so we can complete the project within the next year or two.

CURRENT TENHAVE WOODS' TURNSTILE STATUS



General Meeting with Speaker Programs

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

March 5th “Mammals of Michigan: Finding the Furry Without Going Too Far”

Matt Hackett, Madison Heights Nature Center Naturalist, will talk about his adventures with mammals found in the northern suburbs of Detroit. Included in his presentation will be a feature called “Mammals to the Max”. Matt will help us find ways to remember the number and kinds of mammals found in the Great Lakes Region. He’ll also share with us, a collection of skins and skulls of some native furry residents of Michigan.

April 2nd “Wildflowers of Royal Oak”

Join Bob Muller & Don Drife,, Royal Oak Nature Society Naturalists, for a look at the wildflowers of both Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park. When many of us think of wildflowers we think of the spring woodland wildflowers. We will cover these, for within days

their yearly display will explode in the Nature areas. But these are not the only wildflowers. We will look at the pond plants, trees, shrubs and meadow wildflowers that continue to bloom until the fall frosts come.

May 7th “The Night Skies of Spring”

Springtime weather is always changing, but May skies can bring clear nights full of stars. The constellations of spring reflect the season, like Boots the herdsman and Virgo, the maiden of spring. Learn about the bright objects in the sky, from the moon and planets to the constellations. Astronomer Carrie Zaitz will answer your night sky questions and help you become familiar with the evening sky.

June 4th “Everglades” is being presented by Rodger Bajorek, a retired naturalist from Stony Creek Metro Park.

Nature Walk & Owl Hoot Programs (Meet at the Park)

March 4th (Tuesday), 8:00 pm at Tenhave Woods
Owl Hoot (We will attempt to lure in or have the screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls)

March 12th (Wednesday), 8:00 pm at Tenhave Woods
Owl Hoot (see March 4th description)

March 20th, (Thursday), 8:00 pm at Tenhave Woods
Owl Hoot (see March 4th description)

March 22nd (Saturday), 2:00 pm at Tenhave Woods
Spring has just started to show some of the changes that we will see in the next few weeks.

April 12th (Saturday), 10:00 am at Tenhave Woods
The spring explosion is happening. Come take a look at the dramatic changes that happens this time of year. Early Spring Wildflowers – spring beauty, trout lily, bloodroot, & spicebush and more.

April 20th (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Tenhave Woods
Spring Wildflowers – Looking for trillium, blue & yellow violets, spring beauty, Wood Poppy, jack-in-the-pulpit, & wood anemone and more.

April 26th (Saturday) 10:00 am at Tenhave Woods
Pond Life – We will be sampling the vernal pond for what is living in it. We will have viewing trays to examine what we find. For those interested, small aquarium nets will be available for you to catch your own pond life and have us identify. Come and learn about the interesting aquatic wildlife of Dragonfly Pond.

April 26th (Saturday) 12:00 noon at Tenhave Woods
Spring Wildflowers – Looking for trillium, blue & yellow violets, spring beauty, wild geranium, jack-in-the-pulpit, spice bush, & wood anemone and more.

May 3rd (Saturday), 9:00 am at Tenhave Woods
Bird Walk-- Join us for a look at the resident birds and some that are just passing through.

May 3rd (Saturday), 10:00 am at Tenhave Woods
Spring Wildflowers – Looking for wild geranium, foamflower, jack-in-the -pulpit, trillium, & wood poppy and more.

May 3rd (Saturday), 11:30 am at Tenhave Woods

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Pond Life-- see April 26th 10 am description

May 18th (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Tenhave Woods
Pond Life – see April 26th 10 am description

May 3rd (Saturday), 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Tenhave Woods
Open House-Come and check out the nature park, as we will have several programs running continuously throughout the afternoon.

June 21st (Saturday), 10:00 am at Cummingston Park
Late spring & the beginning of summer- Come see what is happening in the woods.

Second Saturday Workshop Schedule

These workshops are geared toward "budding" naturalists/nature photographers, but will provide a good review for the more experienced. Where there are multiple classes listed for a given subject, each class will build upon the lessons learned in the previous class. The Classroom Sessions will begin at 1:00 pm and last for approximately two hours. April's workshop will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Classes will be held at the Senior/Community Center, which is located at 3500 Marias. Pre-registration is not required.

March 8th We will begin with a presentation about 30 minutes in length on the basics of photography. Topics include: exposure, depth of field, background control, lighting, close-up work, etc. We will then look at and discuss participant's photographs. Each person is invited to bring no more than 10 nature images in each of the following categories: Slides, prints, and electronic images. Each slide or print should be marked with the maker's name. The electronic images should be JPG or Tiff with JPG preferred. They can be brought on a CD, DVD, or flash drive. The flash drive is normally the most reliable device. If you are bringing electronic images please come 15 minutes early to give us time to process the images. Please include your name in the image file name (example DonDrifeImage1.JPG). The workshop is for both film and digital users. A "fancy" camera is not needed. There is no charge for this experi-

mental workshop. It is the intention of this workshop to share tips and techniques. This will be more informal than our other workshops with plenty of time for questions. Bring your camera if you have one. Don Drife is the leader for this program and it is FREE.

April 19th (Spring Flowering Plants I) & **May 10th** (Spring Flowering Plants II). Learn how to identify common flowering plants using the key in Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Common terms used to describe flowers and leaves will also be covered. We will begin in the classroom. After the classroom session is over and the weather permits, the group will walk over to Tenhave Woods and be given the opportunity test their newly learned skills. Don Drife is the leader for both programs and they are FREE.

ANN WILLIAMS IS LEAVING THE CHINQUAPIN STAFF

In the fall of 2003, Ann Williams volunteered to take over the layout & graphic design of the Chinquapin. Beginning with the Winter 2003/04 issue, our newsletter took on a more professional look. Because of her busy schedule, Ann will no longer have the time to continue work on the newsletter. The Winter 2007/08 issue was her last one. We want to thank Ann for the great job she has done with the Chinquapin and we wish her all the best.

TENHAVE WOODS STEWARDSHIP WORKDAYS

The Beautification and Restoration committee will be scheduling workdays in Tenhave Woods during the spring. We will be ridding the parks of invasive shrubs such as buckthorn, garlic mustard and honeysuckle. These events are usually scheduled for Saturday mornings, with some possibly some held on Sunday afternoons. Check the Nature Society website for dates or contact Dena Serrato at 248-542-2820 or dserrato@ford.com for more info.

DIRECTOR POSITION FILLED

Don Drife, our Nature Society botanist, has agreed to become our Cummingston Park Beautification & Restoration director. Don has helped us out in so many other ways in the past, that it is great to finally have him on the Nature Society Board of Directors. If you are interested in volunteering to help with beautification at Cummingston, please contact Don at 248-528-0479 or e-mail him at joyceanddon@comcast.net.

Royal Oak Nature Society's 3rd Annual Fundraiser

- **WHEN:** April 18 (Friday), 2008
- **WHERE:** Royal Oak Elks Club (2401 E. 4th Street at Stephenson Hwy, Royal Oak)
- **TIME:** 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- **TICKET COST:** \$10 advance; \$12 at the door
- **WHERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:** speaker programs, nature walks, any Nature Society board member or just send a check by mail.
- **MAILING CHECKS:**
 - Write check out: \$10/person
 - Payable to the "Royal Oak Nature Society"
 - MEMO: Annual Fundraiser
 - Mail check to:

Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
 - Ticket (s) will be waiting for you at the door
- **FOOD & DRINKS:** Hors d'oeuvres, dessert & a cash bar
- **ACTIVITIES:** silent auction, slide show, an awards

ceremony and music by the folk trio, Theresa, Phyllis & Jack.

- **PAYMENT FOR AUCTION ITEMS:** Cash, check or credit card (Visa or Master Card only)
- **PURPOSE OF FUNDRAISER:** To raise money for Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park improvement projects.

AS A ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY SUPPORTER, WE COULD USE YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Know of a business that would donate hors d'oeuvres or desserts
- Know of someone or a business that would donate items used for our auction such as goods, services or gift certificates

If you can help us out or need further information, please contact us at 248-246-3380, naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us or go to our website at www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature.

Nature Society Open House

A few weeks after our 3rd Annual Fundraiser, be sure to come and join us for our 2008 Open House (Saturday, May 3rd) at Tenhave Woods. Check our website for more information.



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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 (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: Defines and maintains a trail system, and enhances the overall park experience .

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: Leads 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 Interim: Ted Vickers

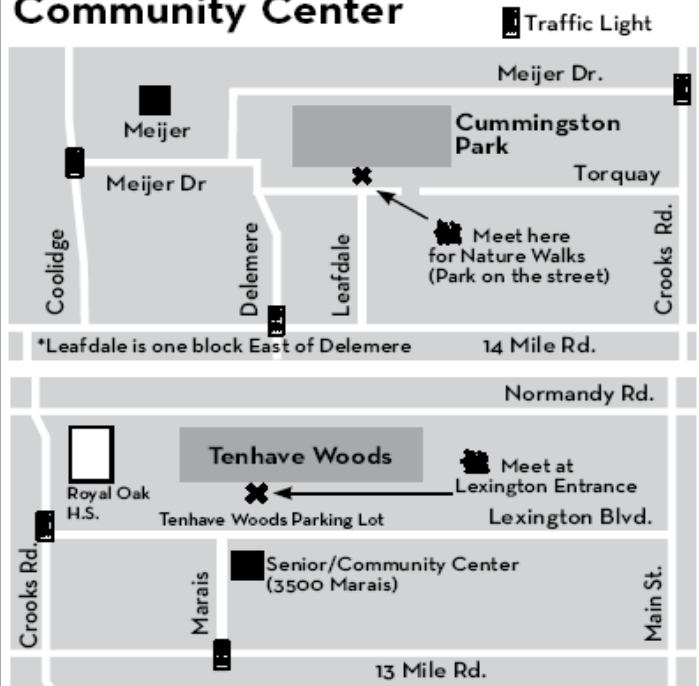
Fundraiser: Open

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

Newsletter: Ted Vickers

Engineer: Richard Stoll

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 locations**.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

