



The Chinquapin

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Summer 2017

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Nature Society's 12th Annual Fundraiser

Our 12th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser was held during the evening of Friday, April 28th, at the Royal Oak Elks Club. We began our program a little after 7:30, welcoming everyone to our soiree/fundraiser. After that, this year's three award winners (page 2) were introduced. Then we had our live auction which included Shag Nasty Hickory Bark Liqueur, a baseball signed by Tiger manager Brad Ausmus, an Interurban rail dug up during downtown pavement replacement project on Washington, and a Dream Cruise All Day Reserved Parking Space.

For the balance of the evening, our guests continued to bid on over 150 silent auction items, eat scrumptious food, purchase reasonably priced drinks from the cash bar, and enjoy the company of friends, members of the community and other Nature Society supporters.

A special thank you goes out to our eight sponsors. They included the **Royal Oak Garden Club, Fifth Avenue, Miner's Den, Royal Oak Historical Society, Bright Side Dental, Hotel Royal Oak, Jordan and Ashley Siegel Scholarship Fund and Michigan**

Schools and Government Credit Union. We also want to thank all of our guests for coming, our fundraiser volunteers and auction, food and cash donors. If it wasn't for them, we could not keep putting on this event every year.

We are also very grateful for help this year from four National Honor Society students from Royal Oak High School. Their volunteer assistance though out the evening was greatly appreciated. The students were Layne Bader, Meg Veryser, Joni Kendall, and Olivia Metcalfe.

This year's fundraiser was very successful, as over 150 people attended this event. If you haven't been to any of our previous fundraisers, you should come out to our next one and see for yourselves what you have been missing. Tickets are only \$10 per person and this event is as much of a soiree as is it a fundraiser.

Next year's event is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2018 at the Royal Oak Elks Club once again. Hope you can make it.

Winter 2016/17 Tenhave Woods and Arboretum Stewardship Report

From December thru March, the Tenhave and Arboretum birdfeeders were filled up again this year by Priscilla & Cole Hawkins along with their grandchildren, Nate and Elliot Sachs. This year, the locks used to secure the birdseed in the storage shed and feeders, kept freezing up. The problem was resolved by installing special locks that keeps moisture from getting into the key slots. If you visited the feeders during the past winter, you would have seen mostly mourning doves, cardinals, nuthatches, and blue jays.

As you could imagine, the March 8th windstorm caused several trees and large branches to fall on some of our trails in Tenhave & Cummingston. A large section of the Pin Oak located on the west half of the Scout Trail in Tenhave was one of them. The removal of all of these trees/branches was taken care of in just a few days.

Invasive species removal continues in the arboretum with Buckthorn, Canada Thistle, and Sow Thistle control. After much discussion, several dead or dying elms were removed from the native tree collection site. Standing dead trees are good for wildlife; however, they eventually fall and we did not

want one to crush a planted tree. We removed three live Silver Maples from the Oak Savanna planting in April. These were left on the edge during the initial clearing in 2007 so the field would not appear bare. They were producing too much shade so they needed to be removed. Pin Oaks that are less dense and part of the Oak Savanna ecotype we are recreating will replace these maples.



Nuthatch at the Tenhave birdfeeder

2017 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The Robert Gasiorowski Lifetime Achievement winner for 2017 is Nature Society President, Don Drife

Don Drife has been active in the Nature Society since its inception. Don was the first person called by Bob Muller, when Bob was studying the feasibility of reviving the Royal Oak nature program that was active back in the 1970's. Don and Bob provided the Society's first trial speaker programs and nature walks. People showed an interest and the Royal Oak Nature Society was born. Don continues to provide new programs as a speaker almost every year. Don has served as the Society's botanist and freely shares his knowledge of all aspects of Nature by leading nature walks covering plants and birds, as well as doing owl hoots. He has helped with all of our fundraisers and has served as Nature Society president since 2010. Our newsletters often have articles written by Don. He also helps with many of the work projects in the nature parks and the arboretum. It is also fitting for him to receive this award as Robert Gasiorowski was Don's high school environmental science teacher back in the 1970's. Don can be seen below giving out awards & wearing a Hawaiian shirt.

The President's Award winner for 2017 is the Hawkins family, Nature Society members

The Hawkins family, Cole & Priscilla plus their two grandchildren, Nate and Elliot Sachs, have faithfully maintained the bird feeders in Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum. This activity adds to the enjoyment of winter visits to these areas. They also helped us with park patrol, checking for Tenhave fence breaches and looking for trail blockage. Cole and Priscilla have also been involved with some of our work projects. It is contributions such as these that keep the Society functioning.



The Chinquapin Award winner for 2017 is Nature Society member, Doris Walters

Doris has assisted the Royal Oak Nature Society in many different ways. When she is not at her place up north, she answers our call when there are work projects that need to be done. She has been involved with our garlic mustard pulls in Tenhave Woods, gardening and helping to keep trails clear of weeds in our arboretum, Tenhave fence patrol, our annual fundraiser, and with the cleanup of the never ending trash that ends up in the arboretum. We are always in need of volunteers like Doris in order to make sure that our three parks (Cummington, Tenhave & Royal Oak Arboretum) stay in good shape.



SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (October to May) are held on Wednesday's at the Royal Oak Middle School (ROMS) at 709 N. Washington. We meet in either the auditorium or the "Gathering Place", both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. The general meeting begins at 7:30 pm, with the speaker program commencing several minutes later. The program is usually a slide show that focuses 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.

““What’s Going on at the Royal Oak Arboretum” is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 at 7:30 pm. We will talk for a short while about what is going on in the

arboretum and future plans there. Afterwards, there will be an arboretum walk. Meet at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) parking lot-north end.

This is the list of all of our fundraiser volunteers, auction & food donors plus those who donated cash to this year’s fundraiser. We could not have not had a successful 2017 fundraiser without their help.

Leon & LuLu's	Deb Anderson	Andiamo
Doris Applebaum	Joe Ballor	The Art of Custom Framing
Friends of the Royal Oak Library	Black Lotus Brewing Company	Jan's Pottery
Joyce Bowen	Carol Bradshaw	Briggs Gallery
Lockharts BBQ	Buttons Rent It	Don Calder
Sharon's Salon, Geri & Brenda	Kim Ciolek	Water Works Theatre Company'
Clawson Steak House	Pat & Ray Coleman	Helen Cost
Crispellis's	Laruine Cybulski	Don & Joyce Drife
Carl Drife	Black Finn	Jodie Ellison
Representative Jim Ellison	Bernadette Ethridge	Annette's Hair Studio & Spa
Debbie Ferguson	Mayor Michael Fournier	Mary Fredricks
Frentz & Sons Hardware	Kim Gibbs	Gibran Jabborri
Laura Gogola	Susanne Greenlee	Barbara Grinke
Gustafson Morningstar Dentistry	Pet Supplies "Plus"	Ladybug Shoppe
Priscilla & Cole Hawkins	Moosejaw Mountaineering	Kristine Hill
Mitzi Hoffman	Great Lakes Chamber Music Fest	Marcia Hovland Studio
Katherine & Larry Howell	Dianne Howey	Nora Iverson
Mary Kleiss	Cathy Bartley	Royal Oak Garden Club
Betty LeMay	Motor City Auto Spa	Deborah Lobring
Motor City Gas	Buffalo Wild Wings	Olga's Market Fresh Grille
Holiday Market	Sandy Manssur	Alice & Arthur Marotti
bd's Mongolian Bar BQ	Judge Derek Meinecke	Bonnie Michalak
Paperback Trade Inn	Lilly's Seafood Grill	Cathy Mueller
Bob Muller	Batteries Plus	Emily Nietering
Rock on Third	O'Tooles Irish Grill & Bar	Nicolle Parker
Royal Oak Brewery	Five 15	Stagecrafters
Karen Pettke	Pieology	Mary Pruneau
Royal Oak Golf Center	City of Royal Oak	Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
River Rouge Brewery	Val's Pet Supplies Plus	Town Tavern
Jim & Laura Rogers	Food Geek	Ted & Nancy Vickers
Royal Tropical	Jeanne Sarnacki	Nancy Schermerhorn
Stephanie Schneider	John Semchena	Decades
Bastone Brewery	Whole Foods	Kristin & Derek Smith
Ray's Ice Cream	Richard & Pat Stoll	Noodles & Company
Dos Manos	Kim Tamola	Sherry Toggweiler
Dynamic Flowers of Royal Oak	Miner's Den	Denise Vultee
Doris Walters	Jean Watson	Hollywood Super Markets
Joyce Wiswell	Green Toe Gardens	Sandy Wilkins

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

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park is just east of Meijer. 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 and Full Moon walks, park and meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

ARBORETUM: Park is just behind the Senior Center (3500 Marais). Park and meet on the north side of the Senior Center.

For our nature walks, wearing boots is recommended in the winter and spring months. Using insect repellent and dressing appropriately is advised from late spring to the end of summer. You can go to our website to find a parks location [map](#).

Summer "Mushroom Walks":beginning at **10:00 am:**

Saturday, June 24th, at **Cummingston Park.** Park & meet at Leafdale & Torquay.

Saturday, July 22nd, at **Tenhaye Woods.** Park at the Marais/Lexington lot & meet at the park entrance.

Saturday, August 26th, at **Cummingston Park.** Park & meet at Leafdale & Torquay.

Mary Fredricks, a member and botanist/mycologist of the Royal Oak Nature Society, will lead the walks. Anyone with an interest in learning more about mushrooms and other fungi of the urban woods is welcome.

"Forest Ferns" walk is scheduled for Wednesday, **July 12th**, at **Tenhaye Woods** beginning at **7:30 pm.** Park at the Marais/Lexington lot & meet at the park entrance. Ferns are an important component of the summer forest understory. Learn how to identify the ferns found in Tenhave Woods.

"Meadow of the Arboretum" is being held at the **Royal Oak Nature Society Arboretum** on Wednesday, **August 2nd**, beginning at **7:30 pm.** Meet at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) parking lot-north end.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to the following 2016/17 Supporting Members for their support and financial contribution to us:

Brenda & Vince Cianciolo

Krystn Aversa

Laurine Cybulski

Barbara Gleason

Mariana Hernandez

Donna Kuchapsky

Tom & Joyce Miller

Mary Pruneau

Robert & Susan Schneider

Charles Svalya

Susan & Mark Walton

Doris Applebaum

Carol Bradshaw

Gerry DeLong

Laura Gogola

Ray & Vivienne Kell

Joan Larson

Peter & Cindy Motzenbecker

Jim & Laura Rogers

Kristin & Derek Smith

Alan & Peggy Van Kerckhove

Celeste Watts

Rebecca Arce

Dave Clifford

Ron Gamble

Andrew Grisdale

Tracy Kramer

Glenn Latinen

Gail Partee

Nancy Schermerhorn

Caryle Spence

Muriel Versagi

Craig & Donna Will

Looking For Dream Cruise Volunteers

The **Woodward Dream Cruise** is only a few months away. Try something different and sign up to help us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park on Saturday, **August 19, 2017.** The park located at Hampton and Chester, is just a few blocks north of Memorial Park and one block east of Woodward. Our day begins around 8 am and finishes up around 8 pm. Shifts are only about 3 hours long.

Our main responsibility is to collect parking fees and direct drivers to open parking spots. It can get extremely busy in the early afternoon, so, we could use all of the help that we can get. If you volunteer for us at Dream Cruise, you are invited to our annual **pre-Dream Cruise**

picnic. It will take place on the Friday (**18th**) evening, the day before the actual Dream Cruise. Time is from 6:00 to and 8:30 pm. The Nature Society supplies the burgers. This is a pleasant way to sit back and enjoy the pre-Dream Cruise atmosphere. While we are there, we collect money from people who park their cars at Gunn Dyer.

If you have some free time on the 19th and would like to give us a helping hand, please call us at 248-246-3380 & leave a message or e-mail us at naturesociety@romi.gov.



Photo of goings-on at the Nature Society's 12th Annual Fundraiser

Please check out our Facebook page & "like" 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 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 Cummingston 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)

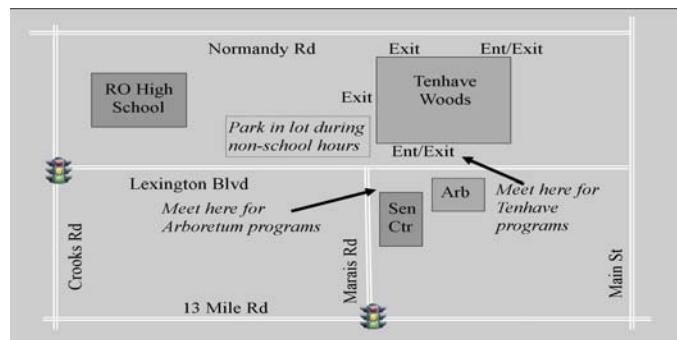
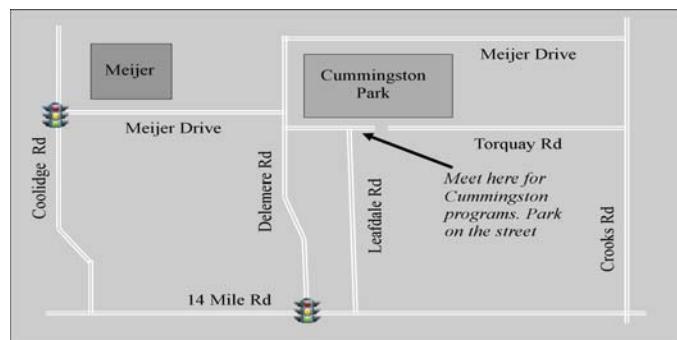
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

Scout Representative: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

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

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"

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 and maintenance of them. In addition, we are in the process of developing an arboretum in Warden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.

www.romi.gov/407/nature-society

nature@romi.gov

248-246-3380

Royal Oak, MI 48067

1600 N. Campbell

The Royal Oak Nature Society

