



The Chinquapin

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Winter 2017-18

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

FINAL NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

To continue receiving our newsletter “The Chinquapin” (beginning with the Spring 2018 edition), you need to be a paid-up Associate, Supporting or Patron 2017/18 Nature Society member.

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 quality of the photos is better and they 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, 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. If you want to be an Associate,

(Continued on page 2)

Frog Watch: 2013 to 2017

by Laura Gogola & Laurine Cybulski

Five years ago, we volunteered to be Citizen Scientists, and documented the presence (or absence) of amphibians in Tenhave Woods. To prepare, we attended workshops in frog watching at the Detroit Zoo, held by the staff of the National Amphibian Conservation Center. We learned to identify the calls of the 13 native frogs of Michigan, and how to complete the protocol (including temperature, precipitation, wind speed) of the area we were observing. These weekly observations were sent to the zoo staff, who forwarded them to the national center. Six different species of frog were identified by call, some more prevalent than others.

Our first year was a true adventure. In April, the Spring Peepers can be heard from the parking lot outside the Woods. We were not, however, prepared for the attack of the American Toads. These animals had been observed by others during the day, but truly come into their own by dark. Their call does not carry like the peepers, and is long and musical. That first spring they were so thick on the path we had to use sticks to encourage them to get out of our way. A most delightful discovery midway through that first year

was to hear the Western Chorus Frog. Where had it been up to now? It was not seen until a year or two later. It, too, has a distinctive call, rising in pitch, like running your finger over a comb. Normally, we do not run into other people in the Woods after dark. Too many mosquitoes. But one year we found another woman sitting on our spot. She told us that she had done Frog Watch at the pond in past years. She did not tell us what she had heard other than the Spring Peepers or where she had reported her findings. Another mystery.

Laurine and I are now retiring from our rolls as “frog listeners.” As we age, hearing deteriorates, and we feel we can no longer adequately do the job. The job is important, however, and we highly recommend that someone with younger ears take over. The Detroit Zoo provides training in the early Spring, and we would be happy to share our experiences with our successors. The work of the Citizen Scientist is critical to the documentation of species in our environment. They are the trained eyes and ears of the research scientist, enabling a much broader observation of what changes are occurring in the natural world around us.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED AMPHIBIAN ACTIVITY AT DRAGONFLY POND FROM 2013-2017

American Toads: 2013-active at end of April & into early May; 2014-no activity; 2015-very active first week of May; 2016-no activity; 2017- active 2nd half of April

Cope's Gray Tree Frog: 2013-Active 2nd half of May & 1st half of June; 2014-not active; 2015- slight activity in 2nd half of May; 2016-not active; 2017-slightly active in middle of May.

Gray Tree Frog: 2013-active 1st half of May; 2014-active 2nd half of May& 1st half of June; 2015-active in 1st half of May & very active at end of May & into early June; 2016-very active 2nd half of May & slightly active 1st half of June; 2017-active end of April thru early June.

Green Frog: Showed up only once in June of 2016

Spring Peeper: Very active the past 5 years from the beginning of April towards the end of May & some years slightly active into early June.

Western Chorus Frog: 2013- slightly active in 1st half of April; 2014- slightly active in 1st half of April & very active in 2nd half of April; 2015-slightly active in month of April; 2016- slightly active in 2nd half of April & active in the 1st half of May; 2017-active 1st half of April & slightly active in 1st half of May

Friends of Fungi— Looking Back at 2017

by Mary Fredricks, Mycologist for the Royal Oak Nature Society

For fungi watchers, this has been a difficult year. There were long periods of drought and only a few short periods when the conditions (the amount of moisture and the temperature) were right for fungi. Interestingly, when there were fungi, the ones in Tenhave Woods were mainly on wood, and the ones in Cummingston Park were mainly terrestrial. Another difference was that many old friends showed up in Tenhave (Turkey Tail, Dryad's Saddle, Mustard Yellow Polypore, Crowded Parchment), while many species new to me put in an appearance in Cummingston. I am still working on identifying those. One I was able to identify is northern tooth (aka, shelving tooth), shown in the photo on your right.



Northern Tooth also known as Shelving Tooth

There wasn't as much fungus as usual in either woods, but there was more vandalism. (Taking plants, animals, or fungi from the woods is illegal and subject to a \$500 fine.) There was evidence that half-free morels were dug up. That was a shame, since those were the only half-free morels that I have ever seen in any woods. Because someone chose to take them, fewer people got to see them, the mycelium was probably damaged, and countless spores were removed from the woods. Will there be more next year? Maybe not.

Other fungi most likely taken or damaged by humans (unless raccoons have learned to use knives) include dryad's saddle, Russulas, giant puffballs and chicken of the woods. The last was especially difficult for me since it was taken the day before a walk. It was growing on the side of a stump which is unusual for either of our woods. Normally we see them on top of logs. The growth pattern is different in each case, and I was looking forward to

explaining this to the walkers. I could still explain it, but I couldn't show them.

If we want our two woods to be places where people can escape from the pressures of modern life for awhile, if we want our woods to be places where everyone can learn about nature (Even MSU has done studies in Cummingston.), then we must all work together to protect them. Simply by being there, we can make them safer places for people, plants and animals. By obeying the rules and encouraging others to do so, we can further protect them. By inviting our friends to walks and speaker programs, we can share what we love about nature and help them see how important it is. By supporting the Nature Society in its work, we can help insure that our nature areas and everything in them will be there for generations to come.

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Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (page 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 (tax deductible), you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail us the information asked for on our membership form (page 5) & send that information to: naturesociety@romi.gov.

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

At our monthly meetings, October to May, we host speaker programs.

WHERE: Royal Oak Middle School located at 709 N. Washington. Enter at the school's southeast entrance and follow the Nature Society signs.

WHEN: Wednesday's at 7:30 pm

Usually, the programs are slide shows focusing on various natural history topics. If you watch nature programs on PBS or the Discovery channel, this is better, as you can meet afterwards and ask the speakers questions.

"**What Lives in the Arboretum**" speaker program is being held on **December 13th**. The Nature Society continues to collect and care for the native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, native grasses, and sedges that will fit into a unique local native plant arboretum – one based on the deciduous forest and savanna/meadow communities of southeast Michigan. Join Nature Society Botanist, Don Drife, and learn about what grows, lives, and visits the Royal Oak Arboretum. Copies of the Nature Society's first book, on the plants of the Arboretum, will be available to purchase for \$40.

"**Dragonfly Pond Restoration**" presentation is being held on **January 3rd**. Join Royal Oak Nature Society naturalist Bob Muller, as he talks about the restoration of Dragonfly Pond that took place in the fall of 2005 and what has happened to it since then. He will also talk

about Dragonfly's pond life and Cummingston's Crawfish Pond which was built from scratch in the fall of 2008.

"**Grand Canyon National Park**" presentation is being held on **February 7th**. The Grand Canyon in northern Arizona is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. At 277 miles long, 4 to 18 miles across and 1 mile deep, the canyon is truly spectacular. Gordon Lonie, retired Sterling Heights naturalist, will show us all the sights of Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim including wildflowers, a pygmy forest and historic Grand Canyon Village. Then join him for a hike down into the canyon to the Colorado River and then up to the North Rim. See the canyon as few visitors do!

Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi is a group that promotes the understanding of, and an appreciation for, fungi in general and those fungi found in Tenhave, Cummingston, and other local urban woods. This group is open to anyone who wants to learn more about fungi which also includes mushrooms. During the winter, the group meets one **Wednesday** a month (November, January, February & March) at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) beginning at **7:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome. There is usually a specific topic that is being talked about at each of these meetings. Mary Fredricks heads this group. Check out the Nature Society's website for more information.

The **Friends of Fungi Mycology Club** will be meeting on Wednesday, **January 10th and February 21st**, at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) beginning at **7:00 pm**. There is no preregistration or cost for these programs. Everyone is welcome. Program information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

In Remembrance of Jack Kerby

Jack Kirby (photo on your right), one of the original founders of the Royal Oak Nature Society, passed away this past October.

Back in the year 2000, Jack was a member of the Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's ad hoc committee. Their goal was to figure out how to best utilize Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park.

Jack became an integral part of the Nature Society which was officially formed in 2001 from the ad hoc committee. From the spring of 2001 through June of 2006, Jack was our director of Beautification and Restoration. He began the task of taking the existing paths through the woods and turning them into our trail system. He also helped to search out new trails that

would go by past natural features that would be points of interest on nature walks. Since he lived nearby, his strongest passion was the stewardship of Cummingston Park. After June, 2006, Jack stepped down from active service with us, but continued to help us with our auction fundraisers and Dream Cruise parking.

Jack will be missed, but the lasting results of his volunteer work in Royal Oak will be felt for years to come.



NATURE WALKS

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

ARBORETUM: Park and meet on the north side of the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais)

"Mammals of Tenhave" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **December 9th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Park at the Lexington & Marais lot & meet at the Lexington entrance. Come and learn about the mammals that live in Tenhave Woods. We will look for signs of these mammals and have skulls and skins with us to help describe them and how they live.

"Winter Forest" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **January 7th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Park at the Lexington & Marais lot & meet at the Lexington entrance..

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Tuesday, **January 16th**, beginning at **7:30 pm**. Park and

meet at Leafdale & Torquay. We will walk into Cummingston and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Thursday, **February 8th**, beginning at **7:30 pm**. Park & meet at the Lexington & Marais lot.. We will walk into Tenhave and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

"Winter Forest" is being held at **Cummingston** on Sunday, **February 11th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay.

Summer 2017 Stewardship Report

After the July 1st Cummingston meadow Eagle Scout project (see 2017 Fall issue) was completed, work continued in the meadow area. Removing burdock & other invasives that continue to keep growing there is an ongoing process. The trail going through the meadow areas was relined with logs. Work was also done to clear the trail along the south side of the Crawfish pond.

Nature Society member Celeste Watts, headed a Tenhave Woods project in August to remove invasive euonymus plants from Dragonfly Pond & Goodwin Trail before they spread to other parts of the park.

Royal Oak Arboretum Gardening Accomplishments for 2017

by Karen Pettke

Every Tuesday beginning last May and ending in September, our little band of gardening volunteers worked at the Royal Oak Arboretum (located behind the Royal Oak Senior Center). Our goal was to keep the trails walkable, clear out dead branches, and weed where it was needed.

Basically, we had four volunteers doing most of the arboretum maintenance work over this past summer. In the photo on the right is myself, Doris Walters, and John Semchena. Gail Valentine (not shown), was also part of our four person crew. We did get some extra help this summer from Joyce

Drife and Kristine Hill. They both stopped by once to give us a helping hand.

Gardening is good for both the body and soul. After two hours in the outdoors, we always felt refreshed by our efforts.

We could always use some extra help. When May 2018 comes around, we would appreciate it if you would consider helping out in our arboretum garden. It could be just one time or often as you want.



2017 Dream Cruise Wrap Up

Even though the weather forecasters were saying rain for the day of Dream Cruise, the weather turned out great with temperatures around 80 and no precipitation.

The Nature Society wants to thank the following people for volunteering their time at this year's Dream Cruise: **Carol Bradshaw, Pam & Mike Brady, Helen Cost, Debbie Ferguson, Mitzi Hoffman, Bonnie Michalak, Karen Pettke, John Semchena, Vanessa Shultz, Richard & Pat Stoll, Mary Toussaint, Ted Vickers and Doris Walters.** Also, a big thanks goes out again to **Greg Rassel** and his crew for getting the park ready for us.

Once a year, this becomes an easy way for the Nature Society to bring in some extra money. The City of Royal Oak sets everything up and all we have to do is collect the \$10 entry fee and direct drivers to available parking spots.

Hopefully, when Dream Cruise comes along next year, you might consider joining our volunteer parking crew for a few hours.



Mike Brady collecting money on Dream Cruise Day (2017) from a driver parking his car at Gunn Dyer Park

NATURE SOCIETY'S 13th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Our next annual fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, **April 27th, 2018** at the Royal Oak Elk's Club. Please **SAVE THE DATE** and get more details in our next newsletter (Spring 2018) and also from our website beginning in early 2018.

Please check out our Facebook page & "like" the Royal Oak Nature Society.

Page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society/228095233882566>



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 (248-885-6821)

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)

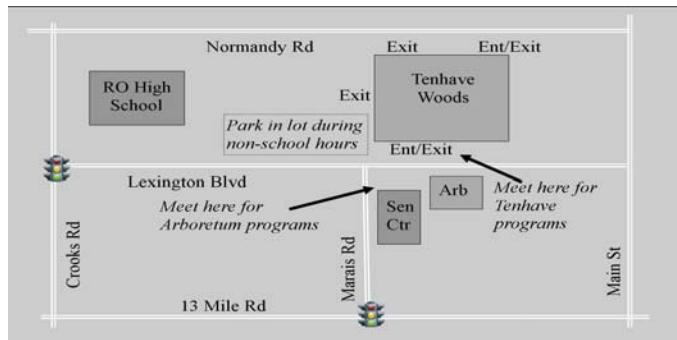
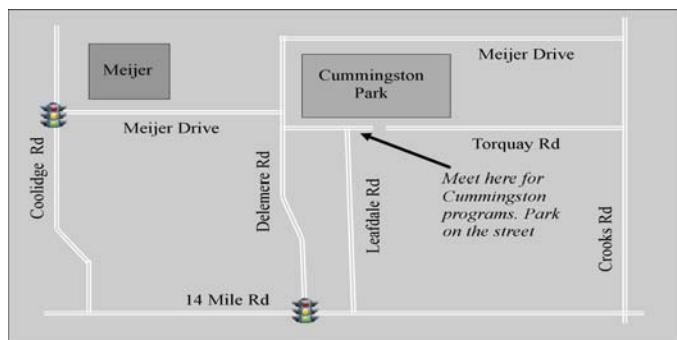
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

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.

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