



The Chinquapin

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Fall 2018

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2018/19 season begins now and ends in August, 2019 To see if you owe membership dues for the 2018/19 season, please check either your street address label found on the last page or the 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 and up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus being listed a supporting member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 and 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 two free tickets to our annual fundraiser. If you want to be an Associate, Sup-

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President's Report: The Future of our Nature Society

by Don Drife

At our fundraiser I was asked if the Royal Oak Nature Society (RONS) had a five-year plan. While we have a master plan with long term goals posted on our website, I wonder if the Nature Society will even exist in five-years. At sixty years old, I'm the youngest Board of Director's member. The other members are in their 70s or 80s. We are slowing down and need assistance. No one is coming up through the ranks to replace us. Our Nature Society is a fragile group. If we lost a single member of our tiny core group our program would drastically change. We need a larger corps of volunteers. Bob Muller and I have known these nature areas for over forty years. In many ways Mary Fredricks knows the parks better than we do. Ted Vickers has been involved with the nature society for two decades. I am not sure that RONS will continue unless we find the next generation that we can help train. Bob Gasiorowski trained Bob and I in the 1970s and provided valuable assistance when the nature program was rekindled.

The Royal Oak Nature Society is unique among city run nature programs in the fact that we have no paid staff and receive no financial support from the city. We rely on volunteers for everything we do. We manage to keep our core programs running: nature walks, speakers programs, fundraisers, and trail and fence maintenance. However, much more should be done.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need people willing to lead or assist in leading nature walks. Three of us lead almost all of our walks. If you desire to learn about the parks and are willing to read and study, we can teach you. You don't need to know everything about the parks. Start by attending our walks. Discover a topic you want to learn more



Fungi Walk Lead by Mary Fredricks

about: fungi, trees, pond life, birds, insects, forest ecology... I find it rewarding to share my knowledge. In particular, we need more help with our two most popular programs: fungi walks and pond studies. These programs could be enhanced with a little support. Doing a pond life program requires carrying the equipment into the park and helping to catch subjects from the pond. As we age, these activities become increasingly demanding.

We need someone to monitor what is in our Arboretum collection and look at the health of the plants. Are the plants we put in still alive? Are they healthy? This could take a few hours a month.

We need a person to maintain our collection's database. This person could work at home and enter data provided to them. This would only require a few hours a year.

We desperately need a volunteer coordinator to set up work sessions and help get volunteers plugged into where they can work. Groups are coming to us wanting to do community service projects and it takes time to coordinate a work session. Recently a hundred plus students from Oakland University's School of

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Medicine worked in Cummingston Park. Several companies have worked in our parks. We want to be able to utilize this labor.

We need help with our newsletter. We need people to help with the gathering of material, article writing, and assisting in the editing of it. I think our newsletter is one of the finest produced for a nature organization and we need to maintain that standard. We need someone to help maintain our Facebook page by posting events and updating what's happening in the parks. That could include what birds are seen, plants in flower, and other observations. We need help with publicity. That would involve sending out press releases and contacting local media.

We need an official photographer to take pictures at our events for our newsletter, Facebook page, and website. Our board includes several accomplished photographers but they are unable to take pictures because they are working at our events. You don't need a fancy camera. Most cell phones will do the job.

Our Education Committee, which is our outreach to area students, has been unsuccessful for several years. This is not solely our fault. We need to rethink what this committee does. Should we have after school programs? Should we do a nature night? Special youth nature walks? If you have an education background and enjoy working with children this could be your chance to make a difference.

We have been doing our annual April fundraiser by committee. We need someone to spearhead this event. We also need someone to explore new fundraising opportunities for the Nature Society. We are spending \$5,000 a year on invasive species management and this keeps them in check. We need additional funding for the next five years.

We need someone to look for possible grant money and help us find organizations that are willing to donate to our cause.

We need people willing to work in our Arboretum. Gardeners are welcome. Volunteers weed, water, control invasive plants, clear trails... Our volunteers meet on Tuesday morning. We also have tasks that you can do

when you have time. Get an assignment. Work when it fits your schedule.



Arboretum Gardeners at work removing invasive species

Our stewardship committee needs support. We need people to monitor the fence in Tenhave. It is a simple job but it takes time and commitment. If there is a problem with the fence all you need to do is report the fence post number and we can go and repair the fence. We need more people just walking the trails in Cummingston and reporting what they find. We need people to help with maintenance in the parks: clearing trails, fixing fences, maintaining signs... When we use power equipment in the park the city requires us to have at least two people.

We need help monitoring invasive species in both parks and the Arboretum. We can teach you the species to watch for.

A Call to Action

If you are willing to donate even a few hours we can use you. Tell us your skills or your interests. Without our nature society our two natural gems are lost. Nature walks and programs will not happen. Trails will fall into disrepair. Invasive species will take over. Deer will destroy the wildflowers. The time is quickly coming when the torch needs to be passed to a new generation. If you value what we have built, then help us out. Contact us by email at naturesociety@romi.gov or by phone at 248-246-3380 and leave a message.

(Royal Oak Wild Side continued from page 1)

porting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Royal Oak 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 help-

ing 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) and send that information to: naturesociety@romi.gov

**ALL SPEAKER PROGRAMS AND NATURE WALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.
PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED**

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

*Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (October to May) is held at the **Royal Oak Middle School** which is located at **709 N. Washington**. We meet in the auditorium or the "Gathering Place", both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. 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 7:30 pm, with the speaker program to follow.***

Presently, we do not have the dates or details for our October and November speaker programs. When we have information on those programs, it will be posted on our website.

Help Save the Park Day will be held on Saturday, **November 3rd**, at **Tenhave Woods** from **10 am to noon**. John Semchena work will lead a work force to remove some of the invasive species found in the park. Known invasive plants in Tenhave are garlic mustard, bull thistle, Canada thistle, common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn and euonymus. We will remove these "bad neighbors" along

with a general litter clean up of debris. There will be handouts from Michigan State University extension about each of the invasive plants. All you will need are a good pair of gloves, mosquito repellent and water. We limit the event to 2 hours and you will be surprised how the time will fly by. Meet at the Lexington entrance.

Michigan Sentinel Trees: Eyes on the Forest Project

by Don Drife

Exotic invasive pests continue to wreak havoc on Michigan's trees & forests. To keep tabs on those invasives, the Michigan State University Extension in cooperation with the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) runs a tree monitoring project. They are seeking individuals to register a single tree and monitor that tree throughout the year. Reports should be made at least three times a year. Their report checklist includes: estimate of tree health condition, canopy condition, any insect defoliation and the severity of it, the condition of the bark, etc. The checklist is fairly simple. We currently have two sentinel trees in our nature parks. They are the Black Walnut in the meadow at Cummingston and the large Red Oak in Tenhave at the Sandbar and Goodwin trail intersection. The goal of this program is early detection of forest threats. Three new threats targeted are: the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, the Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut, and the Asian Longhorn Beetle. The sooner we detect a threat the better chance we have to eradicate it. More information regarding the "Eyes on Forest Program" can be found at https://www.canr.msu.edu/eyes_on_the_forest/. Information on invasive species can be found at <https://www.misin.msu.edu/> which also includes a phone app for

reporting invasive species. If you might be interested in helping, please contact Don Drife at donalddrife@comcast.net.



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)

"An Evening at the Arboretum" will be held on Wednesday, **September 5th**, beginning at **7:00 pm**. Meet at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) parking lot-north end. We will tour the arboretum, looking for different plants will be evident in late summer, and hopefully find some cool insects as well.

"Cummingston Meadow" walk is being held on Saturday, **September 8th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

"Searching for Bats" is being held at the **Royal Oak Arboretum** on Tuesday, **September 18, 2018** beginning at **7:30 pm**. Meet at the north end of the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) parking lot. Amanda Felk from Night Nature Alliance & Nature Society member, will be using a bat detector that shows different echolocation calls & identifies species with somewhat good reliability. Night Nature Alliance's is an organization whose mission is preventing cruelty toward, and fostering understanding of, nocturnal animals through education, supporting research and rehabilitation.

"Mushroom Walks" begin at **10:00 am** and are being held at:

Cummingston Park on Saturday, **September 22nd**

Tenhavé Woods on Saturday, **October 27th**

"Fall Color" walks are being held at:

Cummingston Park on Saturday, **October 20th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**

Tenhavé Woods on Saturday, **October 27th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**

Cummingston Park on Saturday, **November 3rd**, beginning at **2:00 pm**

This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our nature study areas.

Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi

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. Mary Fredricks heads this group.

The **Friends of Fungi Mycology Club** will meet on Wednesday, **November 14th**, at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) beginning at **7:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome.

Quercus Crazy

Come and help us as we attempt to sort out which Oak (*Quercus*) species and hybrids grow in our two nature parks. On Tuesday, **October 2nd at 7:30 pm** at the Royal Oak Senior Center (3500 Marais), we will explain what oak species grow in Michigan and how to identify them. We will then discuss some of the Oak hybrids. We hope to determine which hybrids in the white oak group occur in our parks and which species in the red oak group we

have. The following Saturday, **October 6th at 2:00 pm** we will meet at Cummingston and on Sunday, **October 7th at 2:00 pm** we will meet at Tenhave. At this time we will walk the woods and study leaves and acorns. Come to just one session or as many as you wish. Oaks will drive you crazy. It's great fun.



Spring 2018 Park Stewardship Report

At the end of March, seven members of the Wayne State Delta Zeta Sorority and some Nature Society members spent several hours picking up seven bags of litter from the arboretum and Tenhave Woods. We thank them and hope that they will consider coming back next year.

In early May, 16 workers from the Royal Oak Democratic Club, some volunteers from Hour Exchange Time Bank, and a few Nature Society members spent several hours in Cummingston, picking up trash around the entire outside perimeter of the park, in the play area, and along trails. Fallen branches which littered the play area were taken to the curb. This has become an annual project for the Democratic Club and we applaud them for their effort in keeping Cummingston cleaned up.

During a Sunday mid May Park Patrol walk in Tenhave Woods, it was discovered that two sections of fencing along Lexington were knocked down by a tree that fell across it. The need for repair became an urgent matter because of the threat of deer getting into the woods. The city got right on it and had it repaired in less than two days. The Nature Society sincerely thanks the city for their quick effort.

Save The Park Day was held at Tenhave Woods in early June and mid July. In June six volunteers removed garlic mustard & other invasives species from the park. Goodwin, Scout & Pond Trails were cleaned up and

invasive plants in the pond were also removed. In July, seven volunteers focused their effort on invasive plants that were growing on the pond peninsula.

On a mid June Friday, over one hundred 3rd year medical students from Oakland University descended upon Cummingston Park to do some community service. Working in the morning, they were able to accomplish the following:

- The northern section of Eagle Scout Trail was rerouted and lined. Parts of Arkona Trail were relined.
- Low spots on Gentian Trail and others were filled in with gravel.
- Meadow Trail was cleared of vines, and anything else that could trip people.
- Dead grapevines, broken glass, bricks, and concrete were removed from the meadow itself. A path was created along the meadow's ridge.
- The new eastern trails were cleared of branches, vines, small stumps, etc.
- Invasives were removed from the meadow and other places in the park.
- Three drainage ditches were cleaned out.
- Trash was collected from around the perimeter of the park and from the woods.

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

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



PROBLEMS IN THE PARKS

If you are near or in one of our two nature parks (Tenhave Woods or Cummingston Park) or the Royal Oak Arboretum 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. We would also appreciate it if you could also let us know by contacting us at 248-246-3380 or by e-mail at naturesociety@romi.gov

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) | Receive newsletter |
| ☐ Associate (\$5) | by: |
| ☐ Supporting (\$10 & up) | ☐ Regular mail OR |
| ☐ Patron (\$50 & up) | ☐ E-mail |

NATURE SOCIETY GROUPS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of the following groups:

Stewardship: Maintains a trail system and enhances the overall park experience at Tenhave Woods, Cummington 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 Cummington 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: Open

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

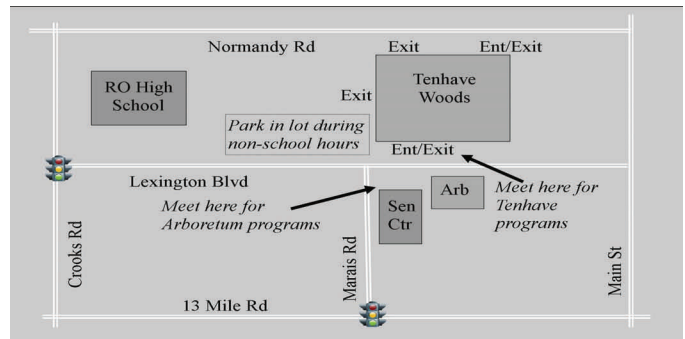
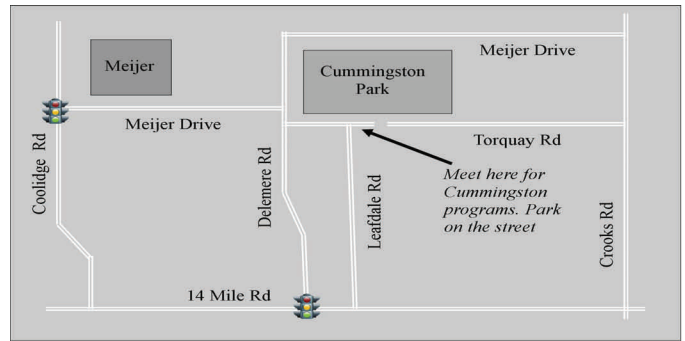
Stewardship-Tenhave & Royal Oak Arboretum: John Semchena (248-549-1362)

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

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

At Large: Open

Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummington 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 Cummington 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 Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.

The Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell
Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-246-3380
naturesociety@romi.gov
www.romi.gov/407/nature-society



FIRST CLASS MAIL