



The Chinquapin

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Winter 2018-19

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 2019 edition), you need to be a paid-up Associate, Supporting or Patron 2018/19 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 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, Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the

2018 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The Nature Society held their 2018 Awards Ceremony on September 21st. Twenty five guests who volunteered their time to the Nature Society this past year along with Society board members, watched this year's award winners being honored. Winners included Miner's Den, Laura Gogola, Laurine Cybulski and Mary Kleiss. With their contributions plus those of all of our other volunteers, the Nature Society is able to stay strong so that it is able to maintain and improve our two nature parks and arboretum plus provide environmental education to the community.

The President's Award winner for 2018 is Miner's Den

Miners Den has been a supporter of the Nature Society for as long as we have been requesting donations from local businesses. They have also been a sponsor at our Annual Fundraisers since the beginning. They have always given us incredible items to auction off and usually more than one. When we had table sponsors, Miner's Den generously provided gift packages for each guest at the table they sponsored.

Miners Den is more than a local business, they are members of our community.



Barb Torongeau of Miner's Den receiving the award

We thank Miner's Den for their support.

Chinquapin Award winners for 2018 are Laura Gogola & Laurine Cybulski

Laura Gogola and Laurine Cybulski (aka "The Frog Ladies") studied the frogs of Dragonfly Pond in Tenhave Woods from 2013 to 2017. Photo on your right is Laurine and Laura receiving their award. Trained at the Amphibian Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoo, they learned the calls of 13 species of frogs and toads. During the five year study they identified six species: American Toad, Eastern Gray Tree Frog, Cope's Tree Frog,



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(Laura Gogola & Laurine Cybulski award winners continued from page 1)

Green Frog, Spring Peeper, and Western Chorus Frog. Many of these species are difficult to see during the day and were not recorded in the park. The two tree frogs are only separated by their calls. So before this study, we knew we had tree frogs but not that we had both species.

Amphibians are declining across North America. They serve as indicator species for a healthy environment and

are often the first species to react to negative changes. If someone could continue this important monitoring work it might alert us to shifts in the health of our forest. This is a great example of how amateur naturalists can contribute to science. If someone wishes to continue this work, the Detroit Zoo offers training each winter.

Chinquapin Award winner for 2018 is Mary Kleiss

This 2018 Chinquapin Award is given to a long time Royal Oak Nature Society member and friend, Mary Kleiss. Mary has been an avid supporter of the Society almost from the start. She has always joined in our activities whenever she was able. Her life has been filled with challenges that required great inner strength. She has still given of herself to the Nature Society in so many important ways. She regularly attends our programs at the Middle School. She has enthusiastically volunteered at Dream Cruise Parking and for our annual fundraiser. Mary is an accomplished gardener whose knowledge has been so helpful in identifying plants found in our woods. She also contributes potted plants from her garden as items for the Fundraiser – always favorite items.

For a few years she coordinated all the food for the fundraiser very successfully. When she was able, she agreed to be an At-Large member of our Board of Directors, where her opinions and contributions were welcomed and appreciated. Mary's daughter, son-in-law



Mary Kleiss receiving her award

and granddaughter have followed her example in volunteering at the fundraiser as well. Many of us are proud to consider her our dear friend. All her contributions to the Royal Oak Nature Society have been so important to our continued success.

(Membership renewal continued from page 1)

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

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (October to April) 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.**

"Turkey Vultures: The Ghoulish Gourmand " speaker program is being held on **December 5th**. Dorothy McLeer, Program Coordinator and an Interpretive Naturalist at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center, will talk about these masters of the migratory winds that often go unappreciated for their vital job as part of nature's clean-up crew. Come join us and learn some of their surprising "tricks of the trade" and about their unique adaptations as the ghoulish gourmand of the bird world as well as some local locations to observe the phenomenon of seasonal raptor migration.

The Nature Society and the Friends of Fungi mycology club will hold a joint session on **January 9th**. The program, **"Fungi Fundamentals,"** will be presented by Mary Fredricks, the Nature Society mycologist. This is an introduction to the amazingly diverse group of organisms that include the mushrooms that you put on your pizza, the morels your neighbor finds in a secret spot and raves

about, the crusts covering logs in the woods, the strange growths in your lawn that appear after a rain, and much more.

"Monarch Biology and Conservation" speaker program is being held on **February 6th**. Monarchs used to dance in our gardens but today, it's hard to find them. They face perils in nature and the changing landscape from human progress has made their numbers and future survival uncertain. Monarch caterpillars depend on one type of food source which isn't favored by farmers and is eradicated for its toxic content and habit of spreading. Yet, it's the state butterfly for many. A recent movement has sprung up to take steps to conserve this magnificent migrating butterfly. Join Debbie Johnson, Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist, as she spends time looking at biology, migration, natural enemies, manmade threats to its survival and easy methods that anyone can do to help them survive.

"Quercus Crazy"

by Don Drife

"What is this one?" "The terminal bud is reddish like a Red Oak and there are no hairs on the underside of the leaves. But it also has Black Oak shaped, open lobed leaves and some hairs on the angled terminal bud. The acorn caps scales are somewhat fringed. I think it is a Red Oak X Black Oak hybrid." So I went "Quercus Crazy," in an attempt to learn more about the oaks in our two nature parks.

On a Tuesday evening this past October, I invited the community to come out to the Senior/Community Center where I reviewed Michigan's 11 species of oaks. Then the following Saturday we walked in Cummingston followed by a Sunday walk in Tenhave. Both days we walked the two parks while looking up at leaves and bark and down for twigs and acorns.

A dozen people walked in Cummingston where we found the following species: White, Swamp White, Burr, Chinquapin, Pin, Red, and Shumard Oaks. We also located three hybrids: Black X Red, Red X Shumard, and White X Swamp White Oaks. Eight people walked in Tenhave where we found the following species: White, Swamp White, Burr, Chinquapin, Pin, Red, Black, and Shumard Oaks. Also a Black X Red Oak hybrid was found.

The large oak at the intersection of Goodwin and Sandbar Trails was studied. Its bark has some chunkiness characteristic of Black Oak. However, all the branches found at its base had classic Red Oak caps, leaves, buds, and twigs. Along the Sassafras Trail, within arm's length of the trail, we found a Shumard Oak. Dozens of branches, many with large acorns, littered the ground. A little farther along the trail we found Pin Oak branches. "Where is the tree? Is that it?" "Could be. It's not the classic shape. It might be a tree that didn't read the book."

We learned more about the oaks of the two nature parks; however, we still have questions. Does Black Oak still grow in Cummingston or was it flooded out? It grew in the western end of the park in the 1970s. Do we have White X Burr Oak hybrids in either park? Several grew in the tree line north of the high school parking lot before they were cut down. What are the oaks that grow south of the Pond Trail just west of the Sandbar Trail? They bloom earlier than the surrounding oaks. Are they Shumard Oaks or one of its hybrids?

We could learn more about other tree groups in the parks by doing similar studies. "Hickory Hullabaloo".... It has possibilities.

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)

"Geological Features of Tenhave Woods" is being held at **Tenhaye Woods** on Saturday, **December 8th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. What did this area look like thousands and millions of years ago? Why is Royal Oak so flat or is it?

"Finding the Biggest Trees" is being held at **Cummingston** on Saturday, **January 12th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Tenhaye Woods** on Thursday, **January 17th**, beginning at **7:30 pm**. We will walk into Tenhave and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Tuesday, **February 12th**, beginning at **7:30 pm**. We will walk into Cummingston and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

"Winter Nature Walk" is being held at **Tenhaye Woods** on Saturday, **February 16th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

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. During the winter, the group usually 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 Nature Society and the Friends of Fungi mycology club will hold a joint session on Wednesday, **January 9th**, at the **Royal Oak Middle School** beginning at **7:30 pm**. See January speaker program" on page three for more information. In February, the "**Fungi Club**" will meet on Wednesday the **13th** at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** beginning at **7:00 pm**. Check out the Nature Society's website periodically for a February program update. There is no pre-registration or cost for this program. Everyone is welcome.

Royal Oak Arboretum Gardening Accomplishments for 2018

by Karen Pettke

From May until early September, John Semchena, Doris Walters, Gail Valentine and myself gardened every Tuesday morning at the Royal Oak Arboretum. We cleaned out the butterfly and memorial gardens. We made sure that the trails were cleared and we tried to tackle the invasive species. One Saturday Service Day in August, a group of volunteers chopped down all of the invasive Canadian Thistle in the arboretum. We just let

the plants decay on the ground because most of the thistle seeds were sterile. The job was quickly completed. Bob Muller helped out on some Tuesdays. He and John transplanted many saplings that Bob had been patiently nursing along in his backyard. Each year, the Arboretum is adding more interesting trees to its collection.

2018 Dream Cruise Wrap Up

The weather for the 2018 Dream Cruise was a summer like 85 degrees with no precipitation. There were more cars parked at Gunn Dyer Park this year than there have been in the past two years. We weren't expecting a larger number but was pleasantly surprised by the increase.

The Nature Society wants to thank the following people for volunteering their time at this year's Dream Cruise: **Carol Bradshaw, Pam & Mike Brady, Kim Crame, Don & Joyce Drife, John Herrgott, Bonnie Michalak, Karen Pettke, John Semchena, Vanessa Shultz, Richard & Pat Stoll, and Christine Utter.** 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.



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

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



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 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, 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: Open

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

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

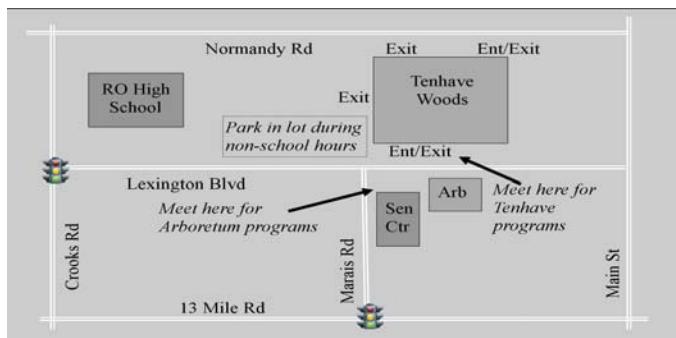
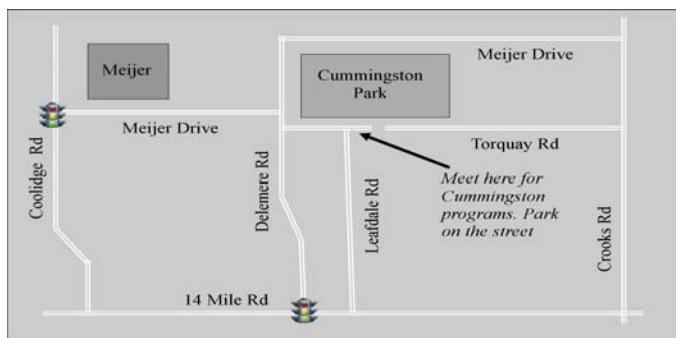
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

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

At Large: Open

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

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The Royal Oak Nature Society

