



# The Chinquapin

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Winter 2019-20

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 2020 edition), you need to be a paid-up Associate, Supporting or Patron 2019/20 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

(Continued on page 2)

## 2019 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The Nature Society held their 2019 Awards Ceremony on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen 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 Mary Fredricks, Michelle Watson, Christine Utter and Karen Blenc. The Nature Society is

an all volunteer organization. The contributions of our award winners as well as the many persons who volunteer their time and efforts all year round, is the reason why the Royal Oak Nature Society is able to continue maintaining our two nature parks and arboretum for our community to enjoy now and into the future.

The Robert Gasiorowski Lifetime Award winner for 2019 is Mary Fredricks

We met Mushroom Mary while she was roaming Tenhave Woods with her camera and mirror looking at fungi. Her knowledge of the woods was impressive and has grown through the years.

Mary does much to promote the objectives of the society. She is best known for her “Friends of Fungi” (FOF) group. They have walks in the two nature parks the second Saturday of each month April through October and an evening speaker at the community center on the second Wednesday of the month November, and January through March. Mary’s love of fungi is infectious. If you want to learn more about these fascinating organisms come to one of their meetings. Mary leads most of the walks and gets outstanding speakers for the evening programs who can talk at a level that laypeople can grasp.

Mary further serves as the steward for Cummingston Nature Park. She oversees

volunteer work sessions and watches over the park. She serves on the Nature Society Board of Directors and helps with our annual fundraiser.

We thank Mary for all her hard work and look forward to serving with her for many years to come.



Mary receiving her award

## Chinquapin Award winner for 2019 is Christine Utter

Christine's first time volunteering with the Nature Society was in the fall of 2015. She along with family members, started doing Tenhave Fence Patrol for us. The patrol looks for fence line breeches that would allow deer into the park. She and her family have been volunteering to patrol the fences several times a year ever since then.

In the fall of 2018, she answered the call from our president for help by volunteering to take over our social media. She is in charge of the Nature Society's Facebook page and also posts our events/activities on other Royal Oak Facebook pages. She has done a great job by increasing the number of Nature Society likes on Facebook and our presence on other Royal Oak social media pages.

At the 2019 annual fundraiser, Christine worked as an at-large volunteer in many different areas.



Christine receiving her award

Christine has been working on several activities to add more exposure to Tenhave Woods. She is working on doing a scavenger hunt and art workshop at the park, as well as "Yoga in the Park" for next year.

## Chinquapin Award winner for 2019 is Michelle Watson

Along with Christine and her family, Michelle and her family also volunteered in the fall of 2015 for Tenhave Fence Patrol and have been doing it a number of times a year ever since.

In the fall of 2018, Michelle became our volunteer coordinator. The coordinator sends out email requests to our members for volunteers to help with events/activities. Included are park maintenance and projects, Tenhave fence patrol, annual fundraiser, Dream Cruise parking help, Tenhave Trick or Treat program and anything else that requires volunteers. In addition, she has reached out to the Berkley and Royal Oak National Honor Societies for help with some of these activities. This position had been vacant for a long time and Michelle has done a great job filling it.

Also in the fall of 2018, Michelle became a Nature Society Facebook editor. She is responsible for many of the photos found on it. She has also set-up a Royal Oak Nature Society Instagram page.

Michelle has been a great fit in helping to run the Nature Society. She is always there when something needs to be done.



Michelle (right) getting a hug

*(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](mailto:naturesociety@romi.gov)

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

## SPEAKER PROGRAMS

We normally have our monthly general meeting/speaker programs from **October to April**. In past years, we have been holding these programs at the Royal Oak Middle School. **But, in our 2019/20 season, our speaker programs are scheduled to be held at the [Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center](#) which is located at 3500 Marais.** 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.**

**"Birds, Bugs & Blooms"** speaker program is being held on **December 4**. Join photographer David Stimac for an evening exploring some of his favorite images made over the past two years in Michigan along with a few side trips too. Highlights include winter waterfowl, spring warblers and lots of summer orchids and butterflies.

**"Fungi in the Environment"** speaker program is being held on **January 8**. This is a joint program with the Friends of Fungi Club. Most of us know very little about what mushrooms do in the environment. Tess Burzynski, founder of Fungi Freights and Environmental Studio, wants to change that. As she says, "Fungi play a vital role in our environment, holding special relationships with

soil and the overall ecosystem." In this presentation, she will uncover the diverse abilities fungi have and how they connect life on earth.

**"Isle Royale: Wolves, Moose, and More"** speaker program is being held on **February 5**. Erin Parker, Nature Centers Manager of the Detroit Zoological Society, spent three seasons as a backcountry ranger and biological technician at Isle Royale National Park. She has returned there several times (most recently in August of 2019) to explore as part of the Moose Watch program. Come learn about this beautiful and wild island archipelago, including the ongoing wolf reintroduction project and start planning your own visit.

### Chinquapin Award winner for 2019 is Karen Blenc

Responding to the article written by President Don Drife outlining our urgent need for volunteers, Karen Blenc joined the Nature Society in August of 2018 and offered to help in three areas: record keeping, documenting the work of the Nature Society through still photography, and assisting Mary Fredricks in educating the public about the important work done by fungi in our woods and the world. She brought previous experience to the first two areas, but faced a steep learning curve for the third one. By joining the walks, attending the Friends of Fungi indoor meetings in the fall and winter, and studying guidebooks, she now has gained enough knowledge and confidence to help with the walks and even lead them herself. In all three areas, her help has been invaluable. Photo on your right shows Karen receiving her award.



### Summer 2019 Park Stewardship Report

In August, 2019, Boy Scout Troop 1627 took part in a Royal Oak Arboretum evening cleanup project. Twenty scouts and six adults removed sticks, fallen branches and other debris from the area between the power lines and Lexington. This was done in the preparation of planting native grasses that is a part of an Oak Savanna restoration project that we are presently working on.

In mid September, 2019, ten Nature Society members went into Tenhave and removed 18 tree branches that

were thrown into pond during the last year. They took a three foot section of a fallen tree and buried part of it into the ground next to the birdfeeder located next to the pond. The purpose was to turn it into a step which would make it easier to get to the top of the feeder in order to fill it. Trail markers that had been damaged at Sandbar/Pond and Sandbar/Sassafras intersections were repaired and put back into the ground.

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

## 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**, park and meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

**ARBORETUM:** Park and meet on the north side of the **Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center** (3500 Marais)

**"Mammals of Tenhave"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. 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.

**"Tree Bark"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **January 11<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Learn the differences of bark on different species of trees and the changes in the looks of the bark as the tree ages. Why are some barks smooth and others deeply furrowed? Which patterns in the furrows help in to identify the tree species and more?

**"Owl Hoot"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Thursday, **January 16<sup>th</sup>**, 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 18<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **7:30 pm**. We will walk into Cummingston and attempt to lure in or have screech and great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

**"Finding the Largest Trees"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

## Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi

**Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi Mycology Club** 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. There is no preregistration or cost for any of the fungi walks or meetings. Everyone is welcome.

The Nature Society and the Friends of Fungi will hold a joint session on **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **7:30 pm** this time only. See January speaker program on page three for more information.

Friends of Fungi will meet on Wednesday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **7:00 pm**. Mary Fredricks will present "What am I Looking At?: How to Use Guidebooks, Keys and Other Tools to Identify Mushrooms in the Woods and Elsewhere."

## Royal Oak Arboretum Gardening Accomplishments for 2019

by Karen Pettke

Another summer flew by for the volunteers who worked every week at the Royal Oak Arboretum. Each Tuesday we gardened from 8:30 until about 10:30 am. Our group consisted of John Semchena, Bob Muller, Doris Walters, Gail Valentine and Karen Pettke. This year, Bob Fry and Tom Marsh, a Boy Scout from Troop 1601, helped dig out those endless buckthorn plants. One of our main goals this season, was to eliminate all of the invasive species

(Canadian thistle and buckthorn) in the northwest corner of the arboretum. In the future, this area will be rototilled and native seeds will be sown in this field. Sometimes, when a very undesirable plant is removed, another pesky plant moves in. It will take many years to control what is grown in this acreage, but each season, we continue to improve the arboretum.

## 2019 Dream Cruise Wrap Up

The weather for the 2019 Dream Cruise was a summer like 85 degrees with no precipitation. We did quite well this year. There were several times we had to temporarily close the lot because it filled up. We opened it back up as spaces became available. As usual, we got a portion of the parking fees.

It was only a few years ago that we had a huge decrease in the number of cars parked at Gunn Dyer Park from the prior year. Back in 2016, there were only about 230 cars parked at Gunn Dyer on Dream Cruise Day. This year, we were back up to 350. We are hoping that this is a positive trend and that we might someday get close again to the 470 cars that were parked at Gunn Dyer in 2013.

The Nature Society wants to thank the following people for volunteering their time at this year's Dream Cruise: **Carol Bradshaw, Pam & Mike Brady, Joanne Braund, Kim Crame, John Herrgott, Mitzi Hoffman, Bonnie Michalak, Bob Muller, Karen Pettke, John Semchena, Vanessa Schultz, Richard & Pat Stoll, Ted Vickers, and Wanda Warsinski**. 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 Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/royal.oak.nature.society/?hl=en>



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, Cummingson 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 Cummingson 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)

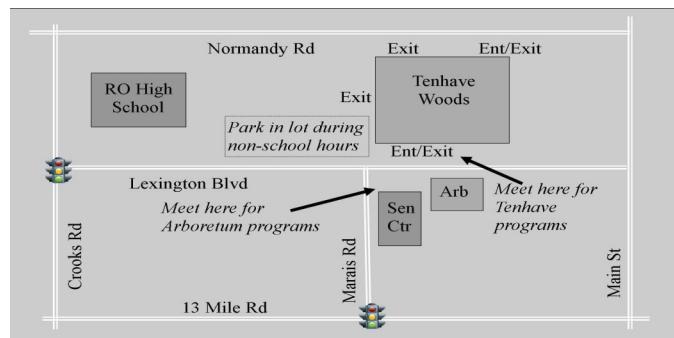
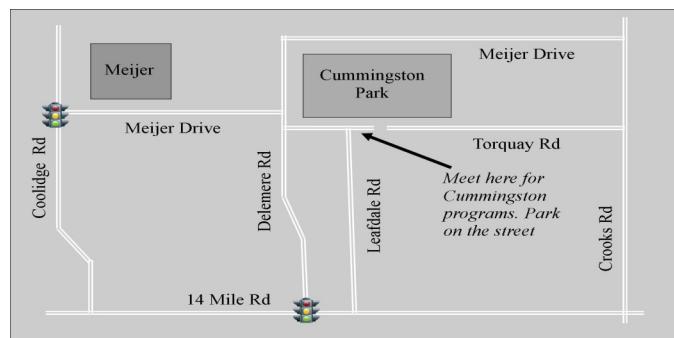
Stewardship-Cummingson: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

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

At Large: Open

## Cummingson Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum

Traffic Light



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingson 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 Cummingson 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.

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