



The Chinquapin

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Spring 2023

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Friends Of Fungi Report – 2022

by Mary Fredricks

The pandemic continued to be an issue in 2022, affecting the activities of the Friends of Fungi. Registration was required for the walks in order to control the numbers, and there were no in-person meetings with guest speakers. I did, however, make three presentations via Zoom: "Fungal Coloration: Spalting," "Fungus Among Us: Mushrooms in Our Lawns and Gardens," and "Fantastic Michigan Fungi," which were open to anyone who was interested. They were well attended.

The weather was also a factor. The season got off to a slow start with the first walk being held in May, rather than April. Throughout the season, more fungi were spotted in Cummingston than in Tenhave, perhaps due to dryer conditions in the latter. There were, however, interesting fungi in both woods, although not always on walk days. There was a spectacular display of golden oyster (*Pleurotus citrinopileatus*) in Cummingston and a very nice fruiting of ceramic parchment (*Xylobus frustulatus*) in Tenhave. It's worth taking time to look them up online. Neither one is common in our woods, although I have seen both in other Michigan woods. Bleeding mycena (*Mycena haematopus*) was seen in Cummingston during the mushroom walk on May 28, 2022. It is found in our woods spring through fall. It is an attractive mushroom that grows in clusters on dead hardwood. It was given its

common name because a dark red liquid oozes from its cap and stem if they are cut.

The walks will continue in 2023, hopefully starting in April in Cummingston and alternating woods each month after that. The registration requirement has been lifted.



Bleeding mycena

Cummingston Stewardship Report for 2022

by Mary Fredricks

The meadow restoration project continued throughout the year, with workdays happening monthly for anyone who was interested. There is now a plan in place to suggest work in the meadow to those groups wanting to volunteer in our woods.

There is still much to be done in the meadow. The burdock continues to be a problem in some areas, but this should be resolved as we continue to deadhead burdock that sets buds. Woody plants and wild grape, although less of a problem than in the past, still do appear. As for identifying other invasive species, I am

hoping that we can have one of our botany experts do that for us before the workdays begin.

Several high school groups helped us with general maintenance during the year. Students from Oakland Schools Technical Campuses picked up trash and students from the International Academy Bloomfield Hills Biology Club cleared the drainage ditch. People from the neighborhood also picked up trash on a regular basis. Other volunteers removed trees that had fallen across trails.

Cummingston Woods is doing well.

Royal Oak Nature Society Nursery

by Bob Muller

The Nature Society started the Royal Oak Arboretum 15 years ago in an effort to have all of Michigan's native trees either in our nature parks or planted there. There are 87 trees native to this state and we now have all except 11 species. Some of these were purchased, many collected from the wild and a number had to be grown from seed as they are not available in the nursery trade. From the beginning we had to have a place to keep these trees until we prepared a place for them, or they were too small and needed time to grow. I had a large vegetable garden in my backyard and slowly it has changed to become the Arboretum's nursery. Only a few tomatoes and pepper plants remain as a remnant of its former use.

At present the trees we have are Balsam Fir, Black Spruce, Tamarack, Red and Jack Pine, waiting to move to the arboretum's conifer garden. Dwarf Hackberry and Wafer Ash are small plants grown from seed waiting to be moved. The Kentucky Coffee tree, Paw Paw, Honey Locust and Sycamore are trees in the Arboretum we started from seed. It took us three years to find Cork Elms and gather seed. A few have been planted in the Arboretum.

We have Sheep-Laurel, and Labrador Tea that were collected last fall up north. We now have all eleven oak species native to Michigan

although our Hills Oaks are only a foot tall. Along with the woody plants (trees and shrubs) we also grow a number of prairie flowers in the nursery. Tall Coreopsis, Lance Leafed Coreopsis, Yellow Coneflower, Butterfly Weed and Columbine are among these.

The nursery is needed as place to take care of these plants until they can be moved to the Arboretum and cages built to protect them from deer damage.



Royal Oak Nature Society's Nursery

Fence Patrol

Fence Patrol for 2023 begins at the end of March and ends about the middle of November: The Nature Society needs help keeping an eye on the Tenhave Woods fence line. Maintaining the fence helps to keep deer out of the park and in turn, protects the native plants in the woods.

Falling branches, wind, and humans sometimes knock down the top wires and cause holes in the fence. We like to have someone walk the fence line once a week to ensure that it is well maintained. For sign-up and more information, please click on following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA229-tenhave4>

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PATRON MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2022/23 Patron members for their generous financial contribution to us: **Alyssa Beavers; Pam & Mike Brady; Victoria Denison; Pat Dodge; Bob Fry; Barbara Grinke; Chris Hartwig; Jaynmarie Hubanks; Elaine Jirkins, Alice & Arthur Marotti; Daniel Mattina; Bonnie Michalak; Jeanette Roger; Robert Schneider; Kristin, Derek, Jackson, Ty Smith; Richard & Patricia Stoll, Jean Watson, and Nicole Welsh.**

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Currently, our speaker programs are done virtually via Zoom. Our programs are usually Power Point presentations 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. There is no cost for our speaker programs and registration is not required. Currently, there are no programs scheduled. If we decide to put on any programs, we will post them on our website, our Facebook page and send a notice electronically to our members.

Winter Wildflowers by Don Drife

We just held our first ever Winter Wildflower walks this past winter. Winter wildflowers are the remains of the capsules, seed heads, and pods from the last growing season. Some are quite beautiful. We identified these remnants and talked about their uses as food sources and over-wintering sites for wildlife.

Learning to identify wildflowers from their seedpods is a rewarding bit of detective work. When I see a winter wildflower the first thing I notice is the habit of the plant. Is it short or tall, erect or creeping, how many flowers did it have? Then I examine the plant. Are there scars where the flower petals attached? Do dried leaves remain on the plant? Can you determine if the leaves are opposite, whorled, or alternate (look for leaf scars)? Does the plant have seedpods, heads of seeds or seeds in long groups? What is the shape of the seedpod, long, pointed, peapod-like, wide, narrow? How many sections does it have? Do any of the flower parts remain? Look at the shape of the seed head. Is it a ball, elongated, pointed? Are the seeds fuzzy, barbed, sticky, smooth? What is the habitat, wet, dry, sunny, woods, fields, dunes? Sometimes when I find a strange seedpod the only way I can figure out what it is, is to return to spot during the flowering season and look at the species growing there.

Two outstanding books are *Winter Wildflowers* by Helen V. Smith and *Weeds in Winter* by Lauren Brown. Smith's

book is currently out of print but Brown's book with her superb line drawings and a workable identification key has been reprinted under the title *Weeds and Wildflowers in Winter*.

Howard Miller, my botanical mentor, told me that you do not know a plant unless you can identify it in all the seasons it is visible. Winter is a fun time to look at our herbaceous plants. Come to a future Winter Wildflowers walk and get a different view of our wildflowers.



Evening Primrose



Save the Date

After a 3 year hiatus, the Nature Society will be holding their 15th Annual Fundraiser on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market. Keep up to date with our fundraiser news by periodically checking our Fundraiser [website](#) page, Facebook page and through our Nature Society member email blasts.

ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY FRIENDS OF FUNGI

Friends of Fungi (FOF) is a group that promotes the understanding of, and an appreciation for, fungi in general and especially those fungi found in Tenhave, Cummington, and the Arboretum. Mary Fredricks, mycologist for the Nature Society, heads this group. At the present time, no in-person meetings are being held. However, the FOF sponsors fungi walks from April through October on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10 am. There is no cost for our walks and programs and registration is not required. Please see the Royal Oak Nature Society website or Facebook page for more information.

NATURE WALKS

Normally, there is at least one naturalist lead walk per month with additional ones added during the spring wildflower and fall color seasons. An emphasis is put on understanding the different forest types found in our parks. Further information is given on individual plant and animal species, geology and human history of the area. 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. All public nature walks are free & preregistration is not required.

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park is just east of Meijers. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: Park is just east of the High School. Park in Marais/Lexington lot and meet at the Lexington entrance (300 feet east of parking lot). For the Owl Hoot walks, park and meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

ROYAL OAK ARBORETUM: Park and meet on the north side of the Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais).

“**Owl Hoot**” nature walk is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Friday, **March 3rd**, beginning at **7:30 pm**. We will walk into the park and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

“**Tree Bark**” nature walk is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Saturday, **March 11th** 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?

“**Spring Wildflower Walks**” are being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday **April 8th**, **15th**, **May 6th** and Sunday **April 23rd** beginning at **2:00 pm**. We will be looking for Red & White Trillium, blue & yellow violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Wild Geranium, Spice Bush, Spring Beauty, Wood Poppy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, & Wood Anemone and more.

“**Mushroom Walks**” begin at **10:00 am**. They will take place on Saturday, **April 22nd** at **Cummingston Park** and Saturday, **May 27th** at **Tenhave Woods**. 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

Filling the Birdfeeders During the 2022/23 Winter Season

We want to thank Ken Caldwell for keeping the Royal Oak Arboretum & Tenhave Woods birdfeeders filled during the 2022/23 winter season. Ken has also been volunteering his time working alongside Bob Muller to help maintain the arboretum from late-spring to mid-fall.

The birdfeeder on your right is located next to Tenhave Wood's Dragonfly Pond. The bird in the photo is a White Breasted Nuthatch.



The Nature Society is on YouTube! Check out our first virtual Fungi Walk hosted by Mary Fredricks. See some of the fungi (and more) that was in Cummingston Woods in July 2020.

Just go to YouTube and search for "Royal Oak Nature Society" to find our channel. You can Subscribe to our channel and get notifications when new content is added. It is free!

You can also click here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTBfeN1EIWtF90P4tu6EpcQ>



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

<https://www.facebook.com/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society-228095233882566>



Please check out our Instagram page:

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



www.treefirst.org
info@treefirst.org

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)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General (free) | Receive newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$5) | by: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$10 & up) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular mail OR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50 & up) | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |

For more membership information, please click onto: <https://www.romi.gov/410/Membership>

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 including publishing our quarterly newsletter.

Education: Provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

Fundraising: Is responsible for our fund-raising efforts including our annual fundraiser normally held in April.

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 & Programs: Bob Muller

Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers

Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers

Education: Open

Fundraiser: Open

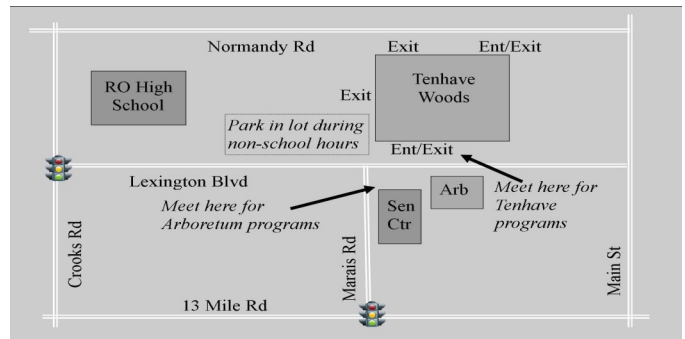
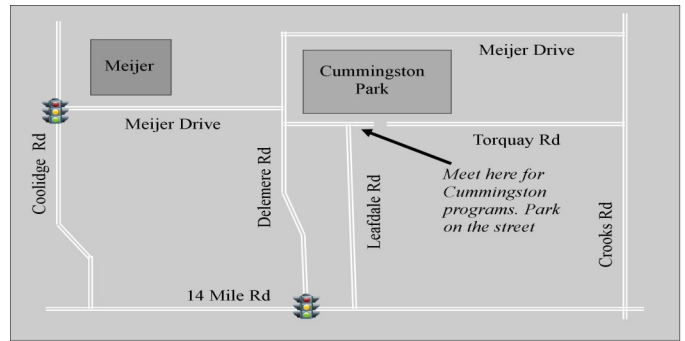
Stewardship-Jeremiah Sandler and Jack Novak

Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

At-large- Karen Blenc, Robert Schneider and Alyssa Beavers

Scout Representative: Richard Stoll

Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



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 nonprofit 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 Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.

The Royal Oak Nature Society
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