

# The Chinquapin

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Fall 2023

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

**Membership for the 2023/24 season begins now and ends in August, 2024. Check to see if you owe membership dues for the 2023/24 season or not. If you receive a hard copy of the newsletter, check the address label to see if you need to renew. If you receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, check the email subject line to see if you need to renew.**

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 as 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.

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## 200th Anniversary of Land Purchases

by Ted Vickers

Two hundred years ago in 1823, James Monroe was President of the United States and the Monroe Doctrine was introduced. In October of that year, 160 acres land east of present day Leafdale and north of 14 Mile Rd. was purchased by Josiah Alger from the United States of America government. Part of that land contains what we now know as the eastern half of Cummingston Park.

Josiah Alger was born in Uxbridge, Massachusetts on June 3, 1782. His family moved to West Bloomfield, New York in 1793. In West Bloomfield, Josiah was an acquaintance of Cromwell Goodwin. In May 1824, Cromwell Goodwin moved to Royal Oak township and purchased land from the United States of America that was less than a mile apart from Josiah Alger's land. Cromwell's land was bordered by present day Normandy, Crooks & 13 Mile Road. Eighty acres were purchased in 1824 and 80 more acres in 1825. The land Cromwell bought includes a part of what is known today as Tenhave Woods. Soon after Cromwell arrived, he held a "bee" (a social gathering where people combine work, competition, and amusement) to build a road northward to Josiah Alger's place.

**CUMMINGSTON PARK:** Josiah Alger sold his land in 1836 to Mason James and Charles Leonard purchased this piece of land from James in 1865. In 1827, Michael Pearsall purchased the land west of present day Leafdale and north of 14 Mile Rd. from the United States of America government. Part of that land contains what we now know as the western half of Cummingston Park. J. Phillips bought this land from Pearsall in 1828 and Abram Burns purchased it from Phillips in 1832. By 1881, William Marcus Hall owned both the east & west sections of land that now includes Cummingston Park. Hall was the father-

in-law of Percival Parmenter, the person Parmenter Blvd. was named after. By 1916, George H. Cummings owned this land. He died in 1920. In 1924, this land that included what is today known as Cummingston Park was owned by the George H. Cummings Foundation. The land was platted as a subdivision.

**TENHAVE WOODS:** The Goodwins owned the north half of their land from 1824 to 1904 and the south half from 1824 to 1857.

In 1831, Cromwell sold the north half of his land to his son, Samuel, and the south half to his son Seth in 1835. Seth then sold his land to William White in 1857.

In 1835, Samuel Goodwin purchased additional land just east of his property from James Johnson. Johnson bought it from Thomas Flinn, who originally purchased the land from the United States of America government in 1825. At this point, Samuel Goodwin now owns all of the property (about 22 acres) known today as Tenhave Woods.

In 1864, 21-year-old Volney, Samuel B. Goodwin's son, purchased the south 40 acres of Samuel's farm from his father. In 1873, Volney purchased the remainder of it from him. Volney and his wife moved the family from the farm to Birmingham, Michigan in 1888 to provide better educational privileges for their children. The farm was rented until 1902, the year Volney died. In 1904, Ann sold the land to Edgar Freer. In 1908, Joseph Folta, a city of Detroit catholic priest, purchased the land. In 1920, the Charter Oak Articles of Association was filed by Joseph Folta and others. Charter Oaks Corporation platted Arlington Heights Subdivision in

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1923. The subdivision includes Tenhave Woods.

Sometime between the 1924 and 1940, Charter Oaks lost their land to the state for taxes as we have records of this land being transferred from the State Tax Office Board to the City of Royal Oak in 1941, with a few remaining lots coming back to the city by 1947. Around the same time, the George Cummings Foundation's land was also lost to the state for taxes.

To learn more about the interesting history & people who owned the property that now contains Cummington Park and Tenhave Woods, please check out the following articles by linking on to:

["History of a Piece of Land in Northern Royal Oak-Cummington Park"](#)

["History of a Piece of Land in Northern Royal Oak-Tenhav Woods."](#)

Both articles can be found on the Nature Society's website.

## Nature Society's Pond Life Program

As of June 2023, our Dragonfly Pond Life program was back in business. Prior to that, our last program was way back on May 11, 2019. When spring came around again in 2020, COVID had shut down our programs. Because of close contact for pond viewing, there was no way that we could hold Pond Life programs until this year. On June 4<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>, we held our first Pond Life programs in over four years. Bob Muller (holding a dropper in the adjacent photo) took water samples from the pond and put them in a viewing tray. He exhibited and talked about the creatures found living in Dragonfly Pond. Inhabitants included Back Swimmers, Damselfly Nymphs, Daphnia, Digger Crayfish, Dragonfly Nymphs, Fingernail Clams, Giant Water Bug, Mayfly larva, Phantom Midge larva,



Predaceous Diving Beetle larva, Seed Shrimp, Water Beetles and Water Boatman.

If you missed out on seeing what lives underwater in Dragonfly Pond in 2023, join us in 2024 and learn about what can be found under the surface in a vernal pond.

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If you want to be an Associate, Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (see p.5 for the form & instructions) 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). If you want to pay with a credit or debit card or PayPal, please fill out this [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) and follow the instructions. Type the word "membership" on the payment form where it says, "Add special instructions to the seller."

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 (see below) and send that information to: [naturesociety@romi.gov](mailto:naturesociety@romi.gov).

For those who choose not to continue being members, you 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

*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.*

### Conifer Garden

by Bob Muller

Back in 2008 when we started to develop the Arboretum, our idea was to have every species of deciduous trees native to Michigan. A few years into our acquiring or growing from seed these trees we decided we should have all trees native to Michigan. We began collecting conifers, trees that bear cones and have needles. Most were only six inches high, and were collected up North where we had permission. They have been in our nursery (see our Spring 2023 newsletter) growing and this summer we began moving some of them into our new Conifer Garden.

All our conifers are not evergreens. Tamaracks turn yellow and loose their needles in the fall. They usually grown in swamps, so we planted them in a wet area behind the memorial garden. White Cedar which we have not acquired yet, will also be planted near them. The Conifer Garden is located along the wooden fence next to the hose on Mt. Vernon. That is where the reminder of our Michigan conifers are going. Last summer we moved numerous Red Cedars that were scattered throughout the Arboretum to the Conifer Garden. They will become a small grove on its south end. This summer we moved three Jack Pines, one Red Pine, two black Spruce, two White Spruce and two Balsam Firs into the garden. We do have one not very healthy Eastern Hemlock in the Arboretum near the sidewalk running through the Arboretum, but hopefully can acquire two more up north this year. We also plan on purchasing two Eastern White pines for planting this fall.

There were already three Norway Spruce, not a native, growing in the area we were making the Conifer Garden. We will eventually cut two down leaving one for teaching the difference between our native spruce and a common tree in yards in the city. In the Arboretum we also have numerous European Black Pines which are common in local landscaping. We need to add some Scots Pines this would give use teaching ads on our native and the common European Pines.

All of these are small trees so it will take a decade to get the Conifer Garden to get the look we envisioned. This is the beginning of a new area of development in the newly named Fred A. Erb Arboretum.



Balsam Fir located in our arboretum

If you are near or in one of our two nature parks (Tenhaven Woods or Cummington 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](mailto:naturesociety@romi.gov)

## 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 & registration 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).

**“Cummingston Forest Walk”** is being held on Saturday, **September 9<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **2:00 pm**. Cummingston is much different than Tenhave. Cummingston is mostly a mature Oak forest whereas Tenhave is a combination of Beech-Maple, Oak & Swamp forests.

**“Mushroom Walks”** are held on Saturdays and begin at **10:00 am**. They will be held at:

**Tenhave Woods on September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Cummingston Park on October 28<sup>th</sup>**

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 woods is welcome

**“Fall Color Walks”** begin at **2:00 pm**. They are being held at:

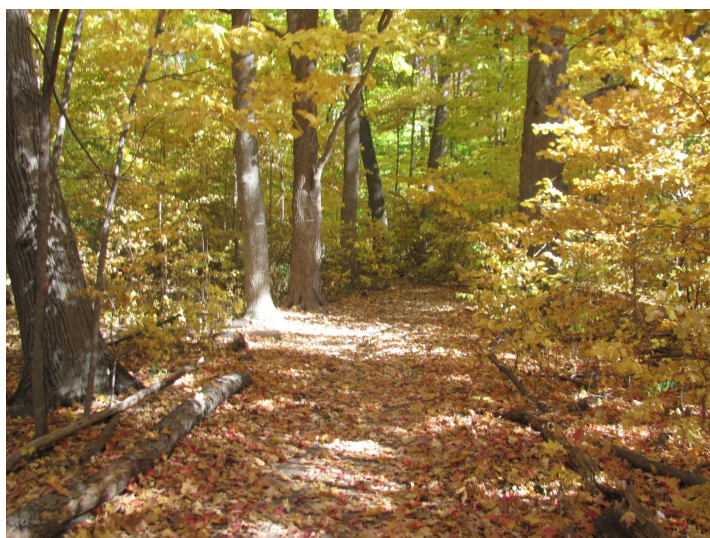
**Tenhave Woods on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Cummingston Park on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Tenhave Woods on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Cummingston Park on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our two nature parks, Cummingston Park and Tenhave Woods.



Tenhave Woods: October 24, 2022

**“Geological Features of Tenhave Woods & Royal Oak Walk”** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **November 12<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Questions to be asked. What did this area look like thousands and millions of years ago? Why is Royal Oak so flat or is it?

## 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, Cummingston, 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.*

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](http://www.treefirst.org)  
[info@treefirst.org](mailto: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 Fred A. Erb 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

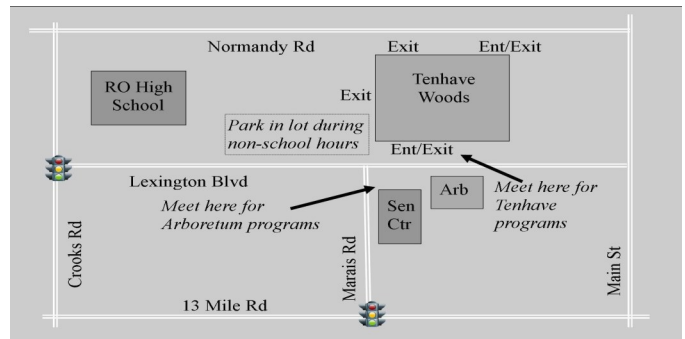
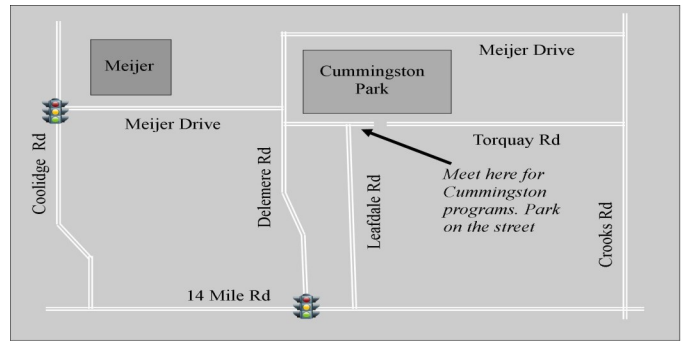
Stewardship- Tenhave Woods & Fred A. Erb Arboretum: Jack Novak & Jeremiah Sandler

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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[www.romi.gov/nature](http://www.romi.gov/nature)

