



The Chinquapin

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Summer 2024

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Nature Society Membership

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 listed as a supporting member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 and up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus 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 and pay by check, please fill out a membership form (see p.5 for the form and 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).

NOTE* If you want to pay electronically with PayPal, credit, or debit card, first fill out our [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) (electronic copy), then hit the "submit" button. Then for payment, click [HERE](#). Where it says, "Add special instructions to seller", type "Membership". If you can't access the above membership and payment links, go to our Membership website page.

Nature Society's 16th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser

Our 16th Annual Fundraiser was held this year on Thursday, April 25th, and once again it took place at the Royal Oak Farmers Market. There were 190 auction items to bid on this year including a lot of plants. The money received from our auction helps us to maintain, improve & protect Tenhave Woods & Cummingson Park.

This year, we had the support of nine sponsors. Sponsors generous contributions help to cover some of our cost to run the fundraiser. See the list (above) showing the names of our 2024 sponsors.

Nature Society's 16th Annual Fundraiser Sponsors

Event Sponsor: **Miner's Den**

Our other sponsors included:
Firefly Forest School
JD's Yard Men
Kal's Lunch Bowl
Lakeshore Tree Preservation
New Species CrossFit
Royal Oak Historical Society
Tree First Arboriculture
Troop 1629

We want to thank downtown Royal Oak establishments, Give Thanks Bakery for donating delicious desserts and Noorjahan Indian Cuisine restaurant for donating some of their tasty food, for our guests to eat.

Special thanks goes out again this year to Kal's Lunch Bowl, located inside the Farmers Market. He stayed open beyond his normal business hours to supply our guests with beverages at a reasonable cost.

We also want to thank our 31 volunteers who included some National Honor Society students and Boy Scouts from Troop 1627 plus all of our auction and cash donors. Their names are included in the list on page three. If it weren't for them, we couldn't continue to host this event every year.

Check out our website periodically for an update on our upcoming 17th Annual Fundraiser. When the date is announced, please put it on your calendar.

Where else can you go for an inexpensive evening that only costs \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Hopefully, we will see you then.



Our guests checking out our auction items in 2024

Bees in the Arboretum

by Bob Muller

Last summer, Rick Wieske, a local beekeeper and a longtime friend, placed two Honey Bee hives in the Fred A. Erb Arboretum. Because we have a pollinator garden at the Arboretum, we thought this was a great addition and would provide an opportunity for public education about bees. We are planning to have several bee programs for the public this summer, where the hive can be opened, and people can learn more about Honey Bees, how the hives are worked with, why we can harvest honey and leave enough honey for the bees to make it through the winter. We will come up with dates for these programs but unlike dates for nature walks weather will dictate if they happen on those dates. When barometric pressure is dropping before weather changes leading to rain, bees are very irritated. This would not be a good time to open a hive with an audience. So, unlike our other programs a decision may be made that day to postpone. I was a beekeeper years ago and it is fascinating to see the workings of a hive so we are looking forward to this addition to the nature services we provide.



Our new bee colony located in the arboretum

Ashes in Tenhave Woods

by Bob Muller

Twenty-five years ago when we started the Royal Oak Nature Society, the emerald ash borer arrived in our nature parks and the effect was devastation. Hundreds of ash trees were killed within a couple years. In 2012, while attending the University of Michigan Dearborn, one of my classes was an independent research study. I chose to look at the structure of the forest in Tenhave Woods. Two hectares (100 meters square) were staked off and I had to measure the diameter and identify each tree 4 inches in diameter or more. Also, within these hectares, I counted all the ash saplings. This past winter we had a "citizen scientist" project, teaching ash identification and spreading out with several dozen helpers to find and count any living ash in one of the Tenhave hectares. Small ash abounded from only a couple feet high to broom stick sized trunks and six to eight feet tall. This survey is not finished, we still need to survey a portion of that hectare, but we do know that ashes are still alive in Tenhave. The surprising thing is if the saplings I counted in 2012 were still alive they should be 2-to-3-inch diameter ash today and we did not find any ashes of that size. It will take more surveys with volunteers to get enough data to possibly come up with a hypothesis as to what is



Bob Muller is checking out one of ash trees growing in Tenhave

happening with the ash species. One thing we noticed. The ashes identified to species were all White Ash. White Ash seeds take two years to germinate so this may have given them an advantage over the other quicker germinating ash species.

SPEAKER PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

Our speaker 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. Our current speaker programs are being held at the **Royal Oak Historical Museum** (1411 W. Webster, just west of Crooks), and begin at **7:00 pm**. Currently, there are no speaker programs scheduled. Check our website periodically for newly scheduled programs.

Below is the list of all of our fundraiser volunteers, auction item donors plus those who donated cash to this year's fundraiser to help cover expenses. We could not have had a successful 2024 fundraiser without their help.

Annette's Hair Studio & Spa	Arthur Murray Dance Studios	Atomic Coffee
Bar Louie	Alyssa Beavers	Big Mitten Linocuts
Jo Anne Bigler	Bigolora	Billings Lawn Equipment
Bowlero	Brown Iron Brewhouse	Bucharest Grill
Buffalo Wild Wings	Cadillac Straits Brewing Co.	Café Muse
Ken Caldwell	Kim Ciolek	John Colquhoun
Condado	Helen Cost	Cranbrook Institute of Science
Creative Arts Studio	Crispelli's Pizzeria	Detroit Masonic Temple
Detroit Zoological Society	Pat Dodge	Aaron Dorn
Don & Joyce Drife	Dynamic Flowers of Royal Oak	John Fedyk
Amanda Felk	Mayor Michael Fournier	Mary Fredricks
Frentz & Sons Hardware	Brian Fritz	Don & Kathy Gavin
George Gomez	Green Toe Gardens	Kristine Hill
Mitzi Hoffman	Holiday Market	Hollywood Market
Dianne Howey	Hungry Howie's	Jim Brady's
Julian Brothers	Judge Andrew Kowalkowski	Kruse & Muer
Janet Lawless	Tom & Karen Layman	le crepe
Leon & LuLu	Lily's Seafood	Lochart's BBQ
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle	Alice & Arthur Marotti	Judge Derek Meinecke
Bonnie Michalak	Mike Frentz	Bob & Kelly Muller,
Norris, Kevin & Barb	Jack Novak	Nutri-Foods
Oak City Grille	Olga's	Pet Supplies Plus
Rail & Anchor	RO Chamber of Commerce	Jeanette Roger
Rossbach	Royal Oak Leprechauns	Royal Tropical Fish & Bird Haven
Robert Schneider	Vanessa Schultz	Seven Sundays Coffee
Monika Sipe	South Oakland YMCA	St. John's New To You Resale Shop
Richard Stoll	The Side Bar	Beth Toftey
Tom's Oyster Bar/Ale Mary's/Mesa	Tree First	Uno Hair Salon
Ted & Nancy Vickers	Denise Vultee	Michelle Watson
Keya Wang	Wanda Warsinski	Water Works Theatre Company
Hannah Wolfe	Ruddy Ziehl	Jeremiah Sandler
Judith Ellison		

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.

NATURE WALKS/PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

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. Park locations:

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

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

FRED A. ERB ARBORETUM: Park and meet on the north side of the Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais).

Pond Life Programs: They take place on Sundays beginning at **2:00 pm** at **Tenhaye Woods**. One will be held on Sunday, **June 2nd**, and the other one on Sunday, **July 14th**. Go to the Lexington entrance & follow the Pond Life signs. We will be sampling the vernal pond for what is living in it. We will have viewing trays to examine what we find.

Arboretum Nature Walks: They take place at the **Fred A. Erb Arboretum** beginning at **7:00 pm**. One will be held on Tuesday, **July 23rd** and the other on Thursday, **August 22nd**.

Mushroom Walks: They take place on Saturdays beginning at **10:00 am**. One will be held on **June 22nd** at **Tenhaye Woods**, the next one on **July 27th** at **Cummingston Park**, and the last one on **August 24th** at **Tenhaye 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 woods is welcome.

A Big Thank You to All of Our Supporting Members

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2023/24 Supporting members for their financial contribution to us: Doris Applebaum, Kent & Barbara Aughe, Kimberly Belton, Rebecca Bouts, Pam & Mike Brady, Nancy & Serge Colombeau, Victoria Denison, Liz & Ben Dupee, Susanne Greenlee, Dianne Howey, Lisa Lavender, Connie Manley, Karen Pettke, Jim & Laura Rogers, Charles Svalya, Beth Toftey, and Rudy Ziehl

Looking For Dream Cruise Volunteers

The Woodward Dream Cruise is only a few months away. Try something different and sign up to help us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park on Saturday, August 17, 2024. The park located at Hampton and Chester, is just a few blocks north of Memorial Park and one block east of Woodward. Our day begins around 8 am and finishes up around 8 pm. Shifts are only about 3 hours long.

Our main responsibility is to collect parking fees and direct drivers to open parking spots. It can get extremely busy in the early afternoon, so, we could use all of the help that we can get. If you volunteer for us at Dream Cruise parking, you are invited to our annual pre-Dream Cruise picnic and you will get a free Dream Cruise t-shirt to be worn during your shift. The picnic will take place at

Gunn Dyer Park on the Friday (16th) evening, the day before the actual Dream Cruise. Time is from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The Nature Society supplies the hot dogs. This is a pleasant way to sit back and enjoy the pre-Dream Cruise atmosphere. While we are there, we collect money from people who park their cars at Gunn Dyer that evening.

If you have some free time on Dream Cruise Day and would like to give us a helping hand, please call us at 248-246-3380 and leave a message or e-mail us at naturesociety@romi.gov.

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.



YouTube

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 & "follow/like" the Royal Oak Nature Society.

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

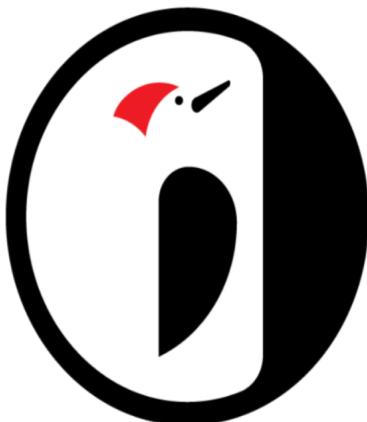


Please check out our Instagram page:

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



Instagram



Tree First
ARBORICULTURE

www.treefirst.org
info@treefirst.org

Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check payable to:
Royal Oak Nature Society

Mail completed form & check to:
Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ 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

Payment amount \$ _____ Date _____

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

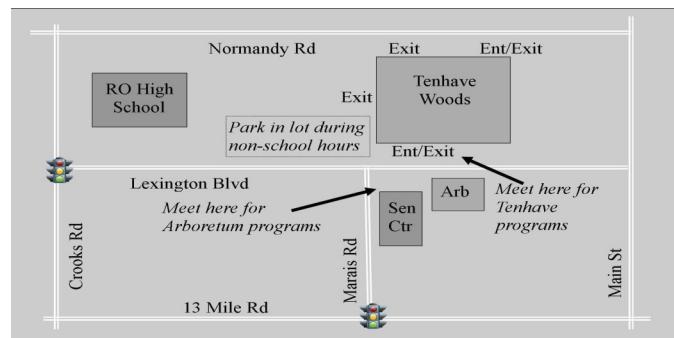
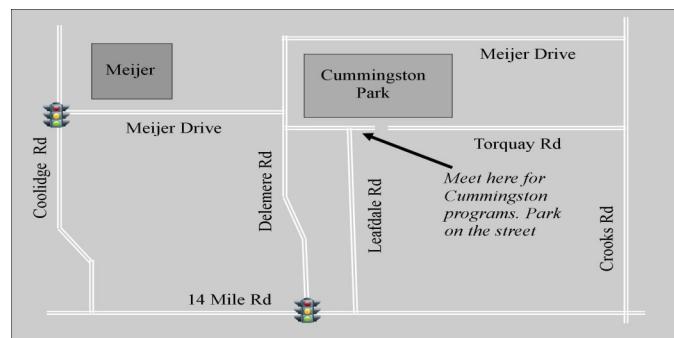
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

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

Scout Representative: Richard Stoll

Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum

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"

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The Royal Oak Nature Society is a non-profit education 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 the area. 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



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