



The Chinquapin

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Spring 2016

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Michigan Nature Guy

by Don Drife

I started a nature blog (<http://www.michigannatureguy.com/blog/>) three years ago. Ninety plus posts later, it is still easy to find new subjects to write about. I write about whatever I'm studying at the moment. Our arboretum and two nature parks provide abundant subjects with many posts resulting from discoveries made during our walks.

This site is to share what I am learning and what is going on in the natural world in Michigan. The Michigan Nature Guy's mission statement is to get people looking at, enjoying, and understanding the natural world around them. As a generalist, I look at all things wild. I have a need to hang a name on what I see, but I can enjoy things in nature solely for their beauty or elegance.

In the summer of 2014 a few plants of Indian Pipe were photographed in Tenhave Woods. This past summer hundreds of plant were found. They rated a post.

We found a rust on a Poison Ivy vine. Rusts are parasitic fungi. We identified it as *Pileolaria brevipes* (rusts seldom have useful common names). Our rust's lifecycle is one of the simpler and takes place on a single plant species.

During our open house a few years ago it was noticed that our Yellow Trout Lilies have two colors of anthers. We are still studying the two taxa to try and determine the importance of this variation. If you want to join in the study check out the blog and get out in the spring and look at our Trout Lilies.

Giant Swallowtail larvae occur on Prickly Ash in Tenhave Woods and the arboretum. They resemble bird

droppings. In 2013, I found larvae in Tenhave Woods for the first time. In 2014, we found six larva and two eggs in the arboretum. We searched for Giant Swallowtail larvae in Tenhave in September of that year as our first citizen scientist walk, finding two small but widely scattered groups. In 2015, we found no larvae in either park.

Leopard Slugs were the subject of an August, 2014 post. They are a large imported slug that we found in the arboretum. Since that posting we have found them in Tenhave Woods. They are largely nocturnal, but get active just before sundown. We see them after some of the summer arboretum walks. Wildflowers, Split Gill Fungus, Winter botany, and Invasive plants are other postings that have their origins with the Nature Society.

Sometimes posts result in people bringing photos to nature walks. Mary Kleiss, a Nature Society Board member, brought an insect gall from her garden I had never seen before. It was on a Green-headed Coneflower. It proved to be *Asphondylia rudbeckiaeconspicua* (most galls do not have useful common names but often have great scientific names). It is rare in Michigan; however, one reader sent photographs of it from Southfield.

I continue to observe and learn new things. If you are new to nature study come out to our speaker programs and nature walks. Ask questions. We may not have the answers, but together we will search for answers. Get a good field guide and start looking things up. You will find things I have never seen. There is so much to learn. Share what you have learned. You might provide me with a subject for a future blog post.

Tenhav Woods: Fall 2015

by John Semchena

It was busy this past Fall at Tenhave Woods, I saw one deer in the park near the soccer fence. A Custer Street resident reporting three deer but those deer were trying to get into the park from his backyard. The one deer I saw must of left the park when someone broke the lock at the Lexington gate and left the gate open. Since then, there have been zero reports or signs of deer in the park.

Rerouting the Scout Trail allowed people to bypass a 1 1/2 foot high mound. Keeping the trails free of

obstructions is always an ongoing task. The bird feeder at Dragonfly Pond is now being filled for our feathered park residents during the winter.

I have been amazed not only from the number of people who spend a few hours at our work projects but the people themselves. We have had families, middle school students and high school students from Royal Oak and Clawson. This span from teenagers to senior citizens with the goal of preserving our natural areas is inspiring.

Park Patrol

by Ted Vickers

This past fall, the Nature Society began a volunteer program called "Park Patrol." We wanted a program that has families or individuals walking periodically through Tenhave Woods in order to "be our eyes." Members of the Park Patrol are on the lookout for problems, and when they find them, they report them to us. As the patrols are walking the trails, they are encouraged to pick up any trash that they find on the ground. The Patrol walks along our trail system and along the fence perimeter. Some of the problems that they are on the lookout for are fallen

trees blocking our trails and lying on the fence, other fence breaches, open gates and vandalism.

This program is a great way to get children to appreciate our parks, get some outdoor family time, and for them to do something positive for the community.

We had several families volunteer for our "Patrol" this past fall. If you know of any families/individual(s) that might be interested in being part of this program, please be sure to have them contact us.

Friends Of Fungi: Looking Back On 2015

by Mary Fredricks

Friends of Fungi (FOF) is a mycology club formed under the auspices of the Royal Oak Nature Society. It is open to everyone and all of its events are free. Four indoor meetings are held each year. Walks are held every month from April through October in either Tenhave or Cummingston Woods.

The year began with a meeting in January that featured fungi in local gardens and lawns. Many of the photos used in the presentation were taken by FOF members. In February we learned about poisonous mushrooms from Chris Wright, a research mycologist at Michigan State. Phil Tedeschi, a vice president of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club, shared his love of hunting and eating mushrooms at the March meeting. The final indoor meeting was held in November. The video *Spirits of the Forest* was shown. It documents the personal quest of Taylor Lockwood, a well known photographer of fungi, to find and photograph bio-luminescent mushrooms (aka glow-in-the-dark mushrooms) around the world. It was both informative and entertaining.

2015 was a challenging year for fungus. The extremely cold winter delayed the growing season and a dry stretch didn't help matters. Nothing much was seen in our local woods until May and June, with the most abundant fungi being crusts and brackets on logs. Many of those, however, were quite spectacular. When the gilled mushrooms started to appear, they, too, were mostly the species that grow on logs. The reason may have been that logs retain moisture, providing a better environment last year than the drier soil.

There were a number of surprise finds. Small Nest Polypore was found in Cummingston. It combines features of cup fungi and shelving polypores. There is also a Hydnum there that I have been following for months. It's not the most beautiful fungi, but it is very interesting. It grows close to the ground in clusters of individuals which eventually fuse together. It has small teeth under its cap, and it has the ability to deal with the weather by stopping its growth during dry weather and starting up again when it rains. It also helps out the local oak trees by providing them with nutrients, receiving nutrients from them in return.

Also seen for the first time this year were Fiber Head, Deadly Galerina, and the Big Laughing Fungus, named for the behavior it can cause. Old favorites such as Chicken of the Woods, Fibril Trich (which favors the ground under the pine trees outside Tenhave), and Orange Mock Oyster, among others, showed up, too, many in stunning arrays. But some were missing or scarce, such as puffballs and Pholiota species. This just underscores the fact that walking in the woods is always fascinating; you never know what you will see.

The first mushroom walk of 2016 will be held on Saturday, April 23, at 10am in Tenhave. The walks will then be held every fourth Saturday through October, alternating woods. You will find more information about the remaining indoor meetings and the mushroom walks on the Royal Oak Nature Society website. I hope to see you in the woods!

Photo on the right is a Turkey Tail. The velvety surface, the rosette form, the color zones (look closely!) and the small pores underneath help to identify it. This fungi was found in Tenhave Woods this past September.



The Friends of Fungi Mycology Club will meet on Wednesday, **March 16th** at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) beginning at **7:00 pm**. Have you ever seen an alien looking yellow blob in your garden and wondered what it was? It may have been a slime mold. Once thought to be fungi because of their fruiting bodies, it is now known that these amazing organisms can, when young, move around the garden or forest floor. Join us and learn more about slime molds.

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

*Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (September to May) 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. Our June program is usually held at the Senior/Community Center 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 following several minutes later.*

"The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge" speaker program is being held on **March 9th**. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is nearly 6,000 acres of islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of Detroit River and Western Lake Erie shorelines. Find out more from Jennifer Braatz, park ranger for the Refuge, about the units that make up the nation's only international wildlife refuge along with what the future holds for this unique urban refuge. ***NOTE*** *March speaker program is being held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.*

"Geology and Glacial Lakes with a Royal Oak Connection" speaker program is being held on **April**

20th. Royal Oak is located in part an extensive glacial landscape that was formed during the final stages of the last Ice Age. In this presentation, Dr. Jeffrey L. Howard from the Wayne State University Department of Geology, will discuss how this landscape was formed, including the origin of Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. ***NOTE*** *April speaker program is being held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.*

May 4th program is **"To Be Announced"**. We will post the program details on our [Speaker Program webpage](#) as soon as they are confirmed.

Arboretum: Fall 2015

by Bob Muller

The Royal Oak Arboretum, the area behind the Community Center (3500 Marais), was a project started by the Nature Society in 2008. The area was almost a pure stand of invasive Buckthorn which provided a great place for birds to eat its berries and plant them in Tenhave Woods. We started with a major cutting of Buckthorn where the Prairie area is now. We have been fighting Buckthorn ever since. Our main goal is to have all of Michigan's native trees represented either in Tenhave Woods or at the Arboretum. We have been planting ever since. We now have a collection of all Michigan's native Oak species. We believe this is rather special since the name of our city is Royal Oak.

This past fall some major events took place. A large area of the Arboretum is planned to be developed into an Oak Savannah, a natural community type common in this area before settlement. This community type is very rare today. We had killed off the Buckthorn in this area but the six foot tall dead woody stems remained. We had those stems removed with a brush hog and cleared from the area. This was a major piece of hard labor intensive work. The photo to your right shows what it looks like afterwards.

We are developing one area of the arboretum into a native forest. About eight years ago we planted about 10 tree species that we did not have in either Tenhave or the Arboretum. Presently, they are doing well. In this area we had about a dozen standing dead elms that had contracted the Dutch Elm disease. They were cut down this past fall. We were worried that when these dead



(Continued on page 4)

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)

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Tenhavé Woods** on Saturday, **March 12th** 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.

"**First Day of Spring**" nature walk is being held at **Tenhavé Woods** on Sunday, **March 20th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. We will be looking for the first signs of the reawakening of the Tenhave plant community.

"**Spring Wildflower**" nature walks are being held at **Tenhavé Woods** on:

Saturday, **April 16th** beginning **2:00 pm**

Sunday, **April 24th** beginning **2:00 pm**

Sunday, **May 1st** beginning **2:00 pm**

Saturday, **May 7th** beginning **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**" are scheduled for Saturdays beginning at **10:00 am** on:

April 23rd at **Tenhavé Woods**

May 28th at **Cummingston Park**

Mary Fredricks, a member and botanist/mycologist of the Royal Oak Nature Society, will lead the walk. Anyone with an interest in learning more about mushrooms and other fungi of the urban woods is welcome.

"**Pond Life**" program is being held on Saturday, **May 7th**, beginning at **11:00 am** at **Tenhavé Woods**. Park at Lexington/Marais lot & meet at Lexington entrance. We will be sampling the vernal pond for what is living in it. We will have viewing trays to examine what we find. For those interested small aquarium nets will be available for you to catch your own pond life and have us identify. Come and learn about the interesting aquatic wildlife of Dragonfly Pond.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PATRON MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2015/16 Patron members for their generous financial contribution to us:

Barbara Grinke

Katherine & Larry Howell

Jana Kelly

Bonnie Michalak

Richard & Pat Stoll

Jean Watson



(Continued from page 3)

trees fell, that they would hit the trees we had already planted. We had a number of volunteers moving these logs to line trails but many logs still remain. They will be moved this coming spring. We plan to purchase more trees next summer. Native Honey Locust and Balsam poplar trees are ready to be moved to the Arboretum from our nursery. We have also started a program to grow some "hard to find" tree species from seed.

In late fall, we moved the bird feeder from Cummingston to the Arboretum. This feeder and one by Dragonfly Pond in Tenhave Woods have been maintained with seed this winter. The feeder can be easily seen from the northeast end of the Senior Center parking lot. This location will benefit those who do not like the cold, as they can watch the birds coming to the feeder from their cars.

This coming spring we will be developing a "Mushroom Garden." We will place logs of different tree species on the ground and over time we will see what kind of fungus attaches to each species. These logs will be marked as to what tree species they are. Although this will be set up next spring, we already have Basswood, Blue Beech, Hop Horn Beam, Silver Maple, Elm and Spruce logs stacked in the area.

Presently, we are working on submitting a Community Development Block Grant to cover the cost of making the Arboretum's trails hard surfaced. If we accomplish this, the Arboretum would be handicapped accessible. We consider this an important goal. We have held several handicapped walks, but only along the single sidewalk going through area. The hard surface paths would make the entire area accessible to everyone.

Royal Oak Nature Society's 11th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser

WHEN: Friday, April 22nd, 2016

WHERE: Royal Oak Elks Club (2401 E. 4th Street at Stephenson Hwy, Royal Oak)

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

FOOD & DRINKS: Light refreshments & a cash bar

ACTIVITIES: Silent and live auction, 50/50 raffle, and an awards ceremony.

TICKET COST: \$10 advance; \$12 at the door

WHERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: Speaker programs, nature walks, from any Nature Society board member or sending a check in by mail. If you purchase tickets in advance, you will get the first chance at winning a door prize.

MAILING CHECKS:

- Write check out for \$10/person
- Payable to the "Royal Oak Nature Society" with "Fundraiser Tickets" written on memo line
- Mail check to the Royal Oak Nature Society, 1600 N. Campbell, Royal Oak, MI 48067
- Ticket(s) will be waiting for you at the door

PURPOSE OF THE FUNDRAISER: To raise money for improvement projects in Tenhave Woods, Cummington Park, and the Royal Oak Arboretum located behind the Royal Oak Senior Center (3500 Marais).

The Nature Society could use your help. We need people to supply and bring in food on the night of the fundraiser. To cover our expenses, we are trying to find businesses/groups that might be interested in becoming a table sponsor. They would have their business/group name displayed on one of the tables and would be able to put their advertising material out in the center of it. The business/group name would be prominently shown on signage, in our program guide and in our fall newsletter. As a table sponsor, the business/group would get two free tickets to the fundraiser. Cost is \$100 for a table. We are also looking for donations from businesses that can be

used as auction items. If you know of anyone who might be interested in helping us out in any of these ways, please contact us at 248-246-3380 and leave a message or e-mail us at naturesociety@romi.gov.

This event is a great way to show your support for the Nature Society. You get to bid on over 140 items while enjoying great food and drinks along with getting to chat with your friends and other Nature Society supporters in a relaxed atmosphere. So, this is an cordial invitation for you to join us on April 22nd. Hope to see you then!

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

Page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society/228095233882566>



4934 Fernlee
Royal Oak, MI 48073



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) | Receive newsletter |
| ☐ Associate (\$5) | by: |
| ☐ Supporting (\$10 & up) | ☐ Regular mail OR |
| ☐ Patron (\$50 & up) | ☐ E-mail |

NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of our teams:

Stewardship: Maintains a trail system and enhances the overall park experience at Tenhave Woods, Cummington 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 Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum.

Ways & Means: Investigates means of grant solicitation and then follows through accordingly.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-892-3380)

Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost (248-549-9423)

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers (248-549-5366)

Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

Stewardship-Tenhave: John Semchena (248-549-1362)

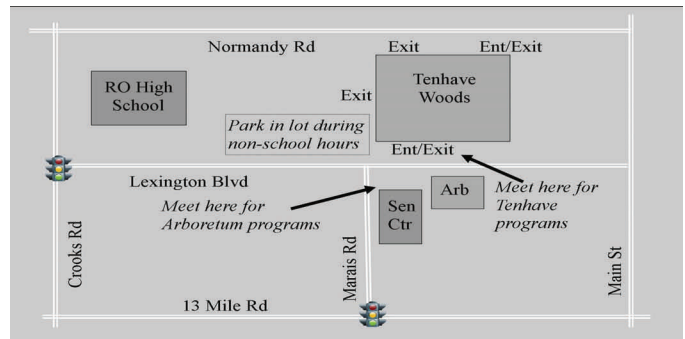
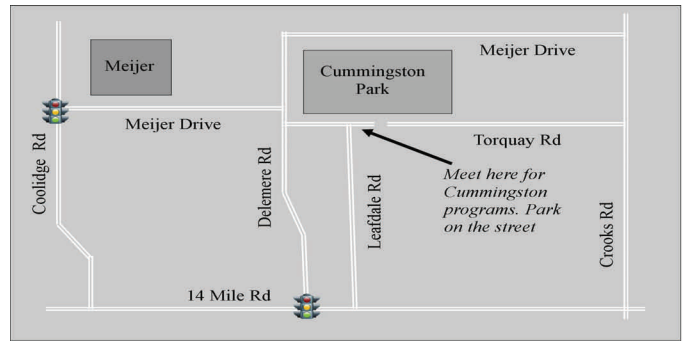
Stewardship-Cummington: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

Troop 1627: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

At Large: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

At Large: Mary Kleiss (248-399-6679)

Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummington 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"

6

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 Cummington 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



FIRST CLASS MAIL