



# The Chinquapin

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Summer 2019

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## Nature Society's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser

Over 140 people joined us at our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Soiree/Fundraiser that took place on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Oak Elks Club. It turned out to be another very successful one for the Nature Society.

Remembering back, our first fundraiser was held in April 2006 at the Royal Oak Senior Center. We needed more room, so we moved our Soiree/Fundraiser to the Royal Oak Elks Club (2401 E. 4th Street) the following year. We have been holding our event there every year since then. It has turned out to be a good fit for us.

Our event began at 7 p.m. and lasted until around 10. We began our program around 7:30 by welcoming our guests to our soiree/fundraiser. We then thanked and introduced our seven sponsors (see adjacent list). Sponsors generous contributions help cover our cost to run the fundraiser. After that, we held our live auction.

For the balance of the evening, our guests continued to bid on over 150 interesting silent auction items, eat delicious food, purchase reasonably priced drinks from the cash bar, and enjoy the company of friends, members of the community and other Nature Society supporters.

We want to thank our volunteers, plus auction, food and cash donors. Their names are listed on page 3. If it weren't for them, we couldn't continue hosting this event every year.

We are also very grateful for help this year from three NHS students from Royal Oak and Berkley High School. They were Connor McCaffrey, Joey Kaminski and Jack Merten. In addition, we thank two eighth grade Royal Oak Middle School students, Fleet James & Max Zgoda for their help. The students' assistance though out the evening was greatly appreciated.

If you haven't been to any of our previous soiree/fundraisers, you should come out to our next one that is being held in April 2020 and see for yourselves what you have been missing.

## Nature Society's 14th Annual Fundraiser Sponsors

**Greater Royal Oak Democratic Club**

**Japhet School**

**Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union**

**Miner's Den**

**Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce**

**Royal Oak Garden Club**

**Royal Oak Historical Society**



Guests at our 2019 Soiree/Fundraiser having a great time

## Cummingston Biggest Trees

by Don Drife

On January 12, 2019 a dozen people met at Cummingston to walk through the park searching for big trees. We walked the entire park. The circumference of each tree sampled was measured four-and-a-half feet from the ground and divided by pi to get the Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). Each tree was identified to species but some oaks we could only determine their species-group. The legend records our data. The data and tree location map can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

We made several surprising observations. First, we did not find any large Wild Black Cherry trees. A pencil-sized tree was the largest that we found. Second, while we knew Cummingston was a fine example of an Oak / Hickory forest we had never measured any trees. We

found a 21-inch American Elm and Shagbark Hickories 18 and 19-inch DBH. Third, the largest tree we found is a 45-inch DBH oak in the Red Oak group. Tenhave's largest tree is a 46 inch Red Oak. I did not expect to find a tree this large in Cummingston.

We need to return to Cummingston with our tape measures and look for the largest American Beech. We also need to stake out a couple of study sites that are one -hectare in size and then identify and measure every tree in them. We have three study sites completed in Tenhave and data from Cummingston will allow us to better compare the two parks. We also need to do a similar big tree measuring session in Tenhave. Our two forests are botanical gems. We need to study them.

## Remembering Mary Kleiss

by Nancy Vickers

Earlier this year the Royal Oak Nature Society lost one of our long-term supporters with the passing of Mary Kleiss. Mary has been a long time contributor to the Nature Society. She has been an At-large Nature Society board member, a regular contributor of plants for sale at our Silent Auction, and was in charge of food at several of our annual fundraiser. Mary's expertise with plants was a major assistance in our programs. Any time we needed help and she was able, Mary always said yes.

Mary and her husband, Denny, were active volunteers at our Dream Cruise Parking. She assisted her son, Regis Kleiss, in serving as a judge for our Young Poets Contest from the beginning.

She needed to scale back activities in the last couple of years, but her many friends in the Nature Society still enjoyed her infectious laugh and company. This lovely lady had so many obstacles in her personal life that would have sent many others to hide from the outside world. Not Mary. She gave openly of herself to so many people and things that were important to her, including the Nature Society.



Mary with her husband, Denny, in 2009

## SPEAKER PROGRAMS

We normally have our monthly general meeting/speaker programs from **October to April**. We have been holding these programs at the Royal Oak Middle School. But, this coming fall, our October, November & December programs are scheduled for the **Royal Oak Senior Center** which is located at 3500 Marais. We will let you know about the location of our speaker programs for the January-April 2020 time period after we get confirmation.

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.** Our next speaker program will be this coming October.

**Below is the list of all of our fundraiser volunteers, auction item and food donors plus those who donated cash to this year's fundraiser to help cover expenses. We could not have had a successful 2019 fundraiser without their help.**

Great Lakes ACE Hardware	Clawson Steak House	Leslie Anderson
Doris Applebaum	The Avenue	Leon & LuLu's
Jim Berg	Bigalora	bd's Mongolian BarBQ
Theresia Blasciul	Karen Blenc	Joyce Bowen
Carol Bradshaw	Ann Bueche	Don & Adair Calder
Angela Callahan	Brenda Cianciolo	Kim Ciolek
Lockharts BBQ	Ladybug Craft & Framing Shoppe	Pat & Ray Coleman
Tom & Elizabeth Condino	Helen Cost	North Macomb Sportsmen's Club
Kim and Christopher Crame	Laurine Cybulski	Matt Dailey
Mesa Tacos & Tequila	Arthur Murray Dance Studios	Heather Dietrichson
Don & Joyce Drife	Maureen Dunphy	Dynamic Flowers of Royal Oak
Edwards Family	State Representative Jim Ellison	Amanda Felk
D'Amato's/Goodnight Gracies	Mayor Michael Fournier	Freshii
Mary Fredricks	Frentz & Sons Hardware	Kim Gibbs
Barb Gleason	Laura Gogola	Oakland County Parks
Pet Supplies "Plus"	Susan Hartley	Cole & Priscilla Hawkins
Moosejaw Mountaineering	Kristine Hill	Mitzi Hoffman
Friends of the Royal Oak Library	Marcia Hovland Studio	Katherine & Larry Howell
Dianne Howey	Hop Cat	Indoor Golf Club of Michigan
Nora Iverson & John Talbot	English Gardens	South Oakland Family YMCA
Rose Kudron	Leo's Coney Island	Wild Birds Unlimited
Deborah Lobring	Hamlin Corner	Gail Mack
Holiday Market	Alice & Arthur Marotti	Nancy Mazzenga
Judge Derek Meinecke	Sue & John Meloeny	Diamonds Steak & Seafood
Bonnie Michalak	Margaret Monroe	Bob & Kelly Muller
Batteries Plus	Water Works Theatre Company	National Coney Island
Paper Trail Books	Nicole Parker	Duggan's Irish Pub
Five 15	Olga's Market Fresh Grille	Stagecrafters
Karen Pettke	Mr. B's Gastropub	Royal Oak Golf Center
City of Royal Oak	Reds Salon & Barber	Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Town Tavern	Royal Oak Woman's Club	Jim & Laura Rogers
Royal Tropical Fish & Bird Haven	Yvonne Schilla	Robert Schneider
John Semchena	Kristin & Derek Smith	Oak City Grille
Royal Oak Tap House	Richard & Pat Stoll	Suzanne Strohmeyer
Telly's Greenhouse	Toyology	Christine Utter
Ted & Nancy Vickers	Denise Vultee	Doris Walters
Wanda Warsinski	Michele Watson	Jean Watson
Hollywood Super Markets	Craig & Donna Will	Joyce Wiswell
County Commissioner Dave	Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce	Kimberly Belton
Woodward		

# NATURE WALKS

**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. 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)

**"Meadow of the Arboretum"** nature walks are being held at the Royal Oak Arboretum at 7:00 pm:

Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, June 11  
Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday, July 23

**Summer “Mushroom Walks” begin at 10:00 am:**

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Cummingston

Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at **Tenhave Woods**

Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, at Cummingston

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.

The following are Cummings頓 tree diameters measured at breast height. The trees are numbered and their location is shown on the map below.

- 1) Red Oak 38"
- 2) Chinquapin Oak 35"
- 3) White Oak group 29"
- 4) Swamp White Oak 23"
- 5) Red Oak 37"
- 6) Shagbark Hickory 19"
- 7) White Oak group 33"
- 8) White Oak group 32"
- 9) Red Oak (labeled) 36"
- 10) White Oak group 36"
- 11) Red Oak 32"
- 12) Red Oak 38"
- 13) Red Oak 35"
- 14) White Ash (Dead) 24"
- 15) Burr Oak 49"
- 16) Burr Oak 40"
- 17) Black Walnut 20"
- 18) White Oak group 42"
- 19) Red Oak group 33"
- 20) Red Oak group 32"
- 21) Red Oak group 34"
- 22) Red Oak group 33"
- 23) Red Oak group 45"
- 24) Shagbark Hickory 18"
- 25) Basswood 15"
- 26) Sycamore 8 1/2"
- 27) American Elm 12"
- 28) American Elm 21"

# Cummingston Park Trails



## 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, 2019**. 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, you are invited to our annual **pre-Dream Cruise**

**picnic.** It will take place on the Friday (**16<sup>th</sup>**) evening, the day before the actual Dream Cruise. Time is from 6:00 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.

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 & leave a message or e-mail us at [naturesociety@romi.gov](mailto:naturesociety@romi.gov).

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to the following 2018/19 Supporting Members for their support and financial contribution to us:

Doris Applebaum

Pam & Mike Brady

Ron Gamble

Lauren & Anthony Hallett

Cully, Marg, Aurora Hawkins

Ray & Vivienne Kell

Donna Kuchapsky

Glenn Latinen

Alice & Arthur Marotti

Joyce Wiswell & Tom Miller

Gail Partee

Karen Pettke

Tom Reagan

Pat Robertson

Jim & Laura Rogers

Nancy Schermerhorn

Robert Schneider

Kristin, Derek, Jackson, Ty Smith

Charles Svalya

Alan & Peggy Van Kerckhove

Michelle Watson

Sandy & Keith Wilkins

Sean & Shaleen Wilkins

Please check out our Instagram page:

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



Instagram

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

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



### 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, 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.

**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 Cummingston 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)

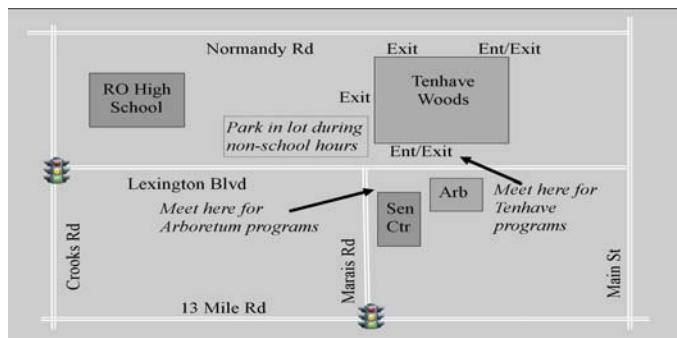
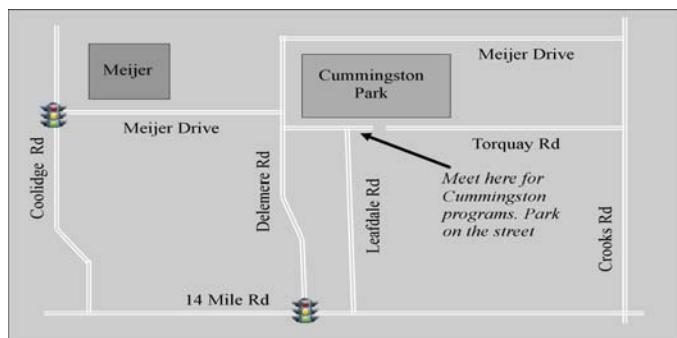
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

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

At Large: Open

## 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"

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

[www.romi.gov/407/nature-society](http://www.romi.gov/407/nature-society)

[nature@romi.gov](mailto:nature@romi.gov)

248-246-3380

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The Royal Oak Nature Society

