



# The Chinquapin

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Fall 2019

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

**Membership for the 2019/20 season begins now and ends in August, 2020. To see if you owe membership dues for the 2019/20 season, please check either your street address label found on the last page or the e-mail subject line.**

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

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## 2019 President's Report

by Don Drife

Last year I wrote about the desire to get new volunteers for the Nature Society. From that, four outstanding members came forward. Karen Blenc is assisting in the leading of our Friends of Fungi walks and working as our official photographer. Although he has temporarily relocated, Matthew Dailey worked in the Arboretum and we look forward to his return. Christine Utter is spearheading our social media outreach. Follow us on Facebook if you have not done so already. Michelle Watson is coordinating our volunteers. Other members stepped forward to work on Tenhave Wood's fence patrol, our annual fundraiser, and our Dream Cruise parking fundraiser. I thank all our members for their hard-work and dedication. I apologize to the individuals who responded to our plea and were not contacted. We did not have the people power to properly respond. We have resolved this, so if you will give us a second chance I promise that we will respond.

### Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for people willing to lead or assist in leading nature walks. Five of us lead almost all of our walks. If you desire to learn about the parks and will read and study, we can teach you. You need not know everything about the parks. Start by attending our walks. Discover a topic you want to learn more about: fungi, trees, pond life, birds, insects, forest ecology... I find it rewarding to share my knowledge. In particular, we need more help with our one

of our most popular programs, pond studies. It is challenging for us to carry the equipment to the pond. If we had added help we would do pond studies at Cummingston. We could enhance our programs with a little support.

We need people willing to work in our Arboretum. Gardeners are welcome. Volunteers weed, water, control invasive plants, clear trails... Our volunteers meet on Tuesday mornings (May thru September). We also have tasks that you can do when you have time. Come and get an assignment.

We need someone to monitor what is in our Arboretum collection and study the health of the plants. Are the plants we put in still alive? Are they healthy? This could take a few hours a month. We need a person to maintain our Arboretum's collection database. This person could work at home and enter data provided to them. This would only require a few hours a year.

We need people willing to help with communications including someone to write and / or gather material for our newsletter. I think our newsletter is one of the finest produced for a nature organization and we need to continue that standard. We need a proofreader for our website, newsletter, and Facebook page. We need someone to send out press releases and contact local media.

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CHANGE  
OF  
VENUE

**Beginning this coming October, our speaker programs will be held at the Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center (3500 Marias). Please see page 3 for more information**

## How Frog Watch Monitoring at Tenhave Woods Opened My Eyes and Ears to Nature

by Kim Crame

I've always loved to learn about nature. The fungi walks with Mary Fredricks, the wide range of topics on the nature hikes with Bob Muller, and bat monitoring with Amanda Felk are just three examples of the several excellent learning opportunities provided by the Royal Oak Nature Society.

I had heard about the Frog Watch monitoring a couple of Nature Society volunteers had started at Dragonfly Pond in Tenhave Woods several years ago, and wanted to see if I could assist with this effort. The Detroit Zoo offers free Frog Watch training to anyone interested. I took one of the classes this March, passed the test and spent time on the Internet further honing my frog listening skills. Then it was time to let the monitoring begin!

Monitoring occurs at least a half hour after sunset, and only takes about five minutes to complete. Since it is dark, I always go with someone else, and often just stand

outside the park fence, near where Dragonfly Pond is located. It is also a good idea to let the police department know you are going to be at the park after it has closed.

I never knew one frog call before this class, and now everywhere I go where frogs are calling I'm listening and identifying the species! It is so much fun to have this new area of nature opened up to me.

See list below of which frogs/toads I have heard so far at Dragonfly Pond this season. I monitor about 2-3 times a month, so I may have missed some frogs that may have passed through or have shorter breeding seasons.

I would encourage anyone interested in learning more about nature to consider taking a free Frog Watch training class at the Detroit Zoo next winter. You can gather more data points at Dragonfly Pond or could even expand the monitoring to Cummingston Park or another area.

2019 Dragonfly Pond Frog Watch report  
Northern Spring Peeper (Early April – Late May)  
American Toad (Mid April – Early May)  
Eastern Gray Tree Frog (Mid May - Early June)

In 2013, Nature Society members, Laura Gogola & Laurine Cybulski, began monitoring Dragonfly Pond as part of the Detroit Zoo Frog Watch Program. They retired from the program after they finished up the 2017 season. In 2019, Kim Crame has picked up where Laura & Laurine left off.

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Our coordinator does a great job but he runs hard and gets little support.

Our Education Committee, which is our outreach to area students, has been unsuccessful for several years. This is not entirely our fault. We need to rethink what this committee does. Should we have after-school programs? Should we do a nature night?

Our Stewardship Committee needs support. We need people to monitor the fence in Tenhave. It is a simple job, but it takes time. If there is a problem with the fence all you need to do is report the fence post number and we can repair the fence. You can sign up online via "Sign up genius" or contact us. We need more people just walking the trails in Cummingston and reporting what they find. We need people to do maintenance in the parks: clearing trails, fixing fences, maintaining signs... When we use power equipment in the park, the city requires us to have at least two people present.

We need help monitoring invasive species in both parks and the Arboretum. We can teach you the species to watch for.

We need someone (or a family) to fill the bird feeders in the Arboretum and Tenhave from December to March. The Hawkins family who has done this for many years has moved from the area.

If you will donate even a few hours, we can use you. I know I have missed some jobs. Tell us your skills or your interests.

If you would like to help us with any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact Michelle Watson by email at [m2watson@aol.com](mailto:m2watson@aol.com) or phone the Nature Society at 248-246-3380 and leave a message.

### A personal note

My role in the Nature Society is changing. I will not be running as president for another term. My talents and limited time are better suited to studying the parks and working in the Arboretum. I will be around, just not in an administrative capacity.

ALL SPEAKER PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.  
PREREGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

## 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 [Mahany/Meininger Senior Community 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 confirm the venue.

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.**

**"Bob and Don's Most Excellent Adventure"** speaker program is being held on Wednesday, **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, beginning **7:30 pm** at the **Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center (3500 Marais)**. Join Bob Muller and Don Drife as they travel through America's Southwest visiting Petrified Forest, The Painted Desert, Grand Canyon, Winslow Arizona, Meteor Crater, Bridges National Monument, Gooseneck State Park, and Mesa Verde National Park. See the Southwest through the eyes of two interpretive naturalists exploring unfamiliar territory.



**"A Passage to South India"** speaker program is being held on Wednesday, **November 6<sup>th</sup>**, beginning **7:30 pm** at the **Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center (3500 Marais)**. What happens when you're registered for an ecological field course abroad and a tsunami hits your "classroom" only days before your plane leaves? You and your classmates become the first to document what survived the impact! Learn more about this unique experience that UM-Dearborn's Dorothy

McLeer had during a month-long class in south India, co-taught by UM-Dearborn's Dr. Orin Gelderloos, and how this region of India has fared since the infamous 2004 tsunami.

### Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi

**Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi** is a group that promotes the understanding of, and an appreciation for, fungi in general and those fungi found in Tenhave, Cummingston, and other local urban woods. This group is open to anyone who wants to learn more about fungi which also includes mushrooms. There is no preregistration or cost for this program. Everyone is welcome. Mary Fredricks & Karen Blenc head this group.

The **Friends of Fungi Mycology Club** will meet on Wednesday, **November 13<sup>th</sup>**, at the **Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center (3500 Marais)** beginning at **7:00 pm**. Mary Fredricks will present **"These are Mushrooms, Too: Fungi Without Gills."**





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PREREGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED**

## 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 Hoot walks, park and meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

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

**"An Arboretum Walk"** will be held on Sunday, **September 8<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. We will tour the arboretum, looking for different plants will be evident in late summer, and hopefully find some cool insects as well.

**"Mushroom Walks"** begin at **10:00 am** and are being held at:

**Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Cummingston Park** on Saturday, **October 26<sup>th</sup>**

We will be searching & learning about fungi found in our two nature parks. Walks are lead by Mary Fredricks, Nature Society mycologist and Karen Blenc.

**"Fall Color"** walks are being held at:

**Cummingston Park** on Sunday, **October 13<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**

**Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **October 19<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**

**Cummingston Park** on Sunday, **October 27<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**

**Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **November 9<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **2:00 pm**

This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our two nature parks.

**"An Owl Hoot"** walk will be held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **October 26<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**"Geological Features of Tenhave Woods & Royal Oak"** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. What did this area look like thousands and millions of years ago? Why is Royal Oak so flat or is it?

### Trick or Treat at Tenhave Woods for ROAM HOME Week in Royal Oak

The City of Royal Oak's 100th birthday is fast approaching! Incorporated in 1921, the city has grown from a small village surrounded by woods and farms to a thriving urban community. To celebrate its centennial, a group of community volunteers is organizing an annual week-long, city-wide homecoming celebration called ROAM HOME. It will take place October 19-27, 2019. The Nature Society will be joining this celebration with three different activities taking place on **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a mushroom walk at Cummingston in the morning and an owl hoot at Tenhave in the evening. See above Nature Walk schedule for more information about them. The third activity is one that we have never done before. The Nature Society will be hosting a fun **Halloween event that same day between 1 and 3 pm**. We will be inviting families to enjoy Trick or Treat in **Tenhave Woods**. Everyone is welcome. Bring your families, neighbors, nieces and nephews – kids in costume if they wish. Host volunteers will distribute treats throughout the park. Maps will be

provided so families can easily find the treats. In addition to candy that is nut free, we will provide non-edible treats. Children should bring their own treat bags. For those of you who don't have a lot of

children coming to their doors on Halloween night any more, this becomes an opportunity to experience that once again. Please come join us on October 26th for a wonderful time in the woods. There is no preregistration or cost for this activity. If you would like to help us with this activity, please link onto <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054eabaa229-trick>



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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, please fill out a membership form (see below) 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).

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)

## West Bloomfield Environmental Stewardship Award

Bob Muller, our Nature Society naturalist, recently was awarded the West Bloomfield Environmental Stewardship Award by the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society. It was awarded to Bob for his work in mapping several townships from 1817 survey notes. Townships included Troy, Royal Oak, Bloomfield, Greenfield, West Bloomfield, Waterford, Pontiac and Avon townships. In their statement they said that Bob Muller has created hand-drawn maps of eight townships in Oakland County. Using land surveyor notes from 1815, 1817 and influenced by an 1818 expedition into what would become West Bloomfield Township, Bob has created a document that allows us to see environmental origins of our township.

When starting out, Bob's original goal was to map out Royal Oak Township in an effort to better understand the borders of the temporal lake here that was the headwaters of Red Run. The maps have also been used better to understand the land and plants here before the settlers altered the environment.

1817 Township Survey Maps drawn & annotated by Bob Muller can be found on the RO Historical Society link . <https://royaloakhistoricalsociety.com/muller-township-maps>

Section 4 on the Royal Oak Township map is where present day Tenhave Woods is located

Section 32 on the Troy Township map is where present day Cummingston Park is located

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

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



The Nature Society also has an Instagram page:

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



## 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          |

## 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, 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 (248-885-6821)

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)

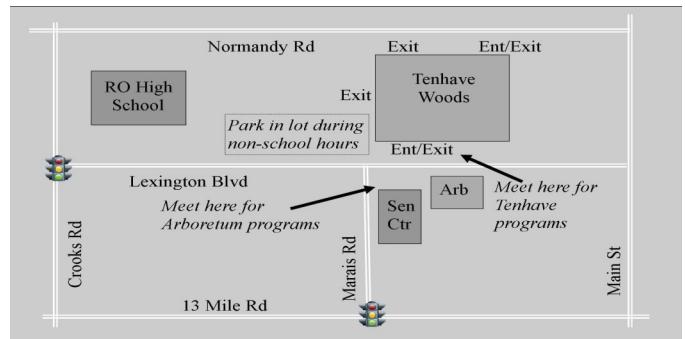
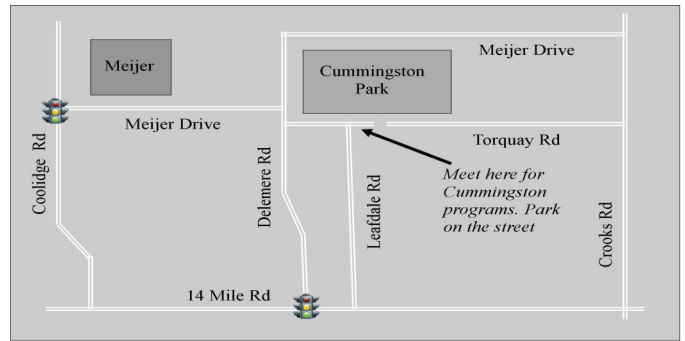
Stewardship-Tenhav e & Royal Oak Arboretum: John Semchena (248-549-1362)

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

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

At Large: Open

## 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"

*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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Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-246-3380  
naturesociety@romi.gov  
www.romi.gov/407/nature-society

