



The Chinquapin

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Summer 2022

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Who was Hessel Tenhave?

by Donald Drife

Tenhave Woods was named in honor of Hessel William Tenhave. He was born on July 9, 1895 in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Coopersville, Michigan, near Grand Rapids. His undergraduate studies began at Western State Teachers' College, where he met the pioneering ecologist Dr. Leroy H. Harvey. He earned his teaching certificate there. Later, he transferred to The University of Chicago, where he earned his Bachelors of Science degree. While studying for his bachelors degree he took a field ecology class from another pioneering ecologist, Dr. George D. Fuller. They did field work in Yellowstone National Park during the summer of 1923. He completed his Master of Science in the Department of Botany at The University of Chicago in 1929 with a thesis titled: "An Ecological Study of the Forests of Southern Oakland County, Michigan."

Hessel Tenhave married Helen Peck on August 1, 1926. The couple moved to Royal Oak the same year. Tenhave was part of the first group of teachers at the new Royal Oak High School in 1927. He taught biology there until his retirement in 1961.

In 1938, he organized the Forestry Club at the high school and lead it for 33 years. They had after school walks through local parks looking at trees and birds. Annual spring, summer, and winter campouts were held. They planted trees and shrubs in city parks, cleared parks, built nature trails, and maintained a nursery just south of the city sewage treatment plant. When the State of Michigan was debating whether the Porcupine Mountains in the Upper Peninsula should be preserved, the members wrote letters and met with state officials. They held food and money drives for family relief. In 1937, the club planted a "Constitution Tree" on the high school grounds. It was a 30 foot tall Norway Maple. Many such trees were planted around the county to mark the 150th anniversary of the U. S. Constitution including: ones at the White House and the U. S. Supreme Court Building.

Tenhave was active in scouts and was awarded a Silver Beaver Award and inducted into the Order of the Arrow. In 1977 he was acknowledged for his 43 years of service as a merit badge counselor. He kept a record of every boy that he helped and pointed with pride to many who had become leaders in the business world. In addition, he was president of the Detroit Audubon Society, a member of the American Legion Post 253, Royal Oak, and the First United Methodist Church. He served in the

U.S. Army during World War I. Cranbrook Institute of Science was another place he volunteered.

I knew Mr. Tenhave as an old family friend. My father, Malcolm Drife, met Hessel in the 1940s at Detroit Audubon events. I would see him at member events at Cranbrook Institute of Science and remember him as a tall, outgoing man with a quiet wife. Every time I saw him I think I pulled a twig, leaf, or fruit out of my pocket to ask him about. He always took time to examine and explain whatever specimen I presented. Mr. Tenhave was a kind and generous man who influenced the lives of thousands of people. I think his spirit lives on in our nature society.



Hessel Tenhave

Winter Trees Identification Series

by Don Drife

We have just completed our winter twig identification series consisting of two evening zoom talks and three nature walks. We did each nature walk twice in the same afternoon to keep the group size manageable.

The idea for a series about winter tree identification came about after a "Fish and Tree" walk with the Friends of Rouge Park (FoRP). One of the participants asked if it was possible to identify trees that did not have leaves. Cara from FoRP then asked me to lead a winter walk. I said yes and members of the botanical club overheard and wanted to join in. We then added the Zoom talks and a trip to Tenhave Woods.

Our sponsors for the series became Friends of Rouge Park, a group now celebrating 20-years of stewardship of Rouge Park, Detroit's largest park. They host park clean up days, nature walks, building projects, and are now laying plans for so building renovations. The Southeast Chapter of the Michigan Botanical Club was formed in 1944. They offer field trips, talks and a subscription to "The Great Lakes Botanist." Our third sponsor was of course the Royal Oak Nature Society.

The first zoom talk covered basic terms and some easily identified trees. The second talk covered additional species and some genera, such as hickories and ashes. It also covered some of the basic identification techniques for bark.

We held the first walk along the Stone Bridge Trail in Rouge Park in Detroit. About 40 people total came out for the two walks that day. The trailhead is in an open upland woods, then it descends into a floodplain of the Rouge River. This area has a fascinating oxbow that was once part of the main Rouge River. Notable species included Hackberry, Sycamore, Black Maple, the native Crabapple, and Cork Elm. A large Hop Hornbeam 44-inches in circumference is now my favorite tree in the park.

Next we went to Tenhave Woods in Royal Oak. We also visited the developing Royal Oak Arboretum across the street. We saw 46 species of deciduous trees on that walk. In Tenhave Woods we saw

American and Slippery Elm, Choke and Black Cherry, Burr, Red, and Black Oak, Butternut, Basswood, and Tupelo. In the Arboretum we studied Yellow, and Paper Birch, Shingle Oak, Kingnut Hickory, and Ohio Buckeye. Thirty-six people attended this session.

Our third walk was at Dodge Park in Sterling Heights. About 30 people turned out on a gorgeous sunny spring day to walk through the floodplain of the Clinton River. Highlights were Pawpaw, Kentucky Coffeetree, Hackberry, Black Walnut, Redbud, Blue Ash, Black Locust, Bitternut Hickory, and Sycamore.

We pointed out 57 species of deciduous trees on the three walks. Everyone who took part in our winter tree ID series will not remember how to identify all of these species, but we hope they learned a few of them and will continue to look closely at trees in the winter and throughout the year.

Woody Plants in Winter a Series

Introduction to Trees in Winter
January 5 and 6, at 7pm via Zoom

1st Nature Walks
January 9, at 1pm and 3pm
Stone Bridge Nature Trail at Rouge Park

Trees in Winter II
February 16 and 17, at 7pm via Zoom

2nd Nature Walks
February 20, at 1pm and 3pm
Tenhave Woods in Royal Oak

3rd Nature Walks
March 6, at 1pm and 3pm
Sterling Heights Dodge Park



Register at romi.gov/407/Nature-Society

This series will be facilitated by longtime student, Don Drife and naturalist, Bob Muller. They will reference the book *Michigan Trees* by Burton Barnes and Warren Wagner (2nd edition).

Sponsored by the Royal Oak Nature Society, Michigan Botanical Club, and Friends of Rouge Park.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2021/22 Supporting members for their financial contribution to us:

Doris Applebaum

Kimberly Belton

Ron Gamble

Nigel & Anita Heap

Suzanne Johnson

Kimberly Johnson

Janet Lawless

Allen Linoski Family

Connie Manley

Charles Svalya

Cory Valdez

Alan & Peggy Van Kerckhove

Muriel Versagi

Rudy Ziehl

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

We normally have our monthly general meeting/speaker programs from October to April at the Mahany/Meiningen Senior Community Center (3500 Marais). We present speaker programs that 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.

Because of COVID 19, we currently do not have any speaker programs scheduled for the summer. If we decide to do any, we will post it on our website, our Facebook page and send a notice electronically to all of our members.

A Tribute to Nature Society Volunteers of 2021

Even though we have been in a pandemic the past two years, we have continued our stewardship of Tenhave, Cummingston and the Royal Oak Arboretum with the help of many volunteers. We couldn't do park stewardship without their help.

Zeta, Tau, Alpha Detroit Metro Alumnae sorority helped clean up the arboretum and Tenhave in middle of April. Sororities have worked with us to clean up all the clutter left around since the previous winters in 2018 & 2019 and again in 2021.

The Royal Oak Democratic Club led by Tom Reagan helped clean up Cummingston Park in April. This has become an annual project for them.

Weekly Tuesday arboretum workdays started up in May and continued thru early fall. Some of the work done by our volunteers included building a new butterfly garden on north edge of the arb, replacing our old Rain Garden in July, adding native shrubs, cleaning up mushroom area, and buckthorn removal.

Once again, volunteers patrolled Tenhave Woods' fence

line from May thru early fall, looking for fence breaches. Fence Patrol has been an integral part of keeping deer out of the park since 2015.

Volunteers helped us to add money to our account by helping us with Gunn Dyer Park parking lot duties on Dream Cruise Day, August 21, 2021.

Weekend workdays included four in Cummingston and one in the arboretum. Volunteers helped remove invasives including burdock, honeysuckle, grape vines, wild grape vines and trash in Cummingston and removing invasive perrywinkle, English Ivy & myrtle from the arb.

In December, an Eagle Scout project by Boy Scout Troop 1610 helped build new a trail in Cummingston.

If you are interested in volunteering in 2022, please check out this link to find something that you might be interested in doing to help us out. <https://www.romi.gov/427/Volunteer-Opportunities>

Below is a list of our volunteers for 2021:

Alyssa Beavers

Jennifer Bolte

Ann Bueche

Melanie Connors

Joyce Heenan

Sherri Holmes-Hand

Karen Pettke

Vanessa, Mike, Robby Schultz

Doris Walters

Kim Belton

Pam & Mike Brady

Ken Caldwell

Don & Lillian Erwin

John Herrgott

Bonnie Michalak

Jim & Laura Rogers

John Semchena

Wanda Warsinski

Becky Bibbs

Julie Bricker

Joanne Cantoni

John Fedyk

Mitzi Hoffman

Kevin Norris

Robert Schneider

Stephen Sensoli

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. Mary Fredricks & Karen Blenc head this group. There is no cost to belong. The group in the past has met on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, November, January, February and March at the Royal Oak Senior Community Center (3500 Marais).

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.

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).

"Meadow of the Arboretum" nature walks will be held in June, July and August. The dates have not been set yet. When they are, the dates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, and will be sent out electronically to our members.

"Summer "Mushroom Walks" begin at 10:00 am:

Saturday, June 25th at Tenhave

Saturday, July 23rd at Cummingston

Saturday, August 27th at Tenhave

There is no cost for these walks, but registration is required. Please click on following link to sign-up: <https://www.romi.gov/411/Nature-Walks> 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.

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 20, 2022. 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 (19th) 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.

Old Sign Attached to Quickstad Park Gate

About the time the Nature Society was formed, Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist, noticed a sign (right) on a soccer field gate that was a reminder that for 18 years, the forested area of Quickstad Park was limited in use. In October 1967, there was an incident in the park and it was decided to fence part of it in. For someone to be able to enter the park from 1968 to 1986, one had to go the city and get a key to unlock a padlock that was attached to a gate. In 1986, two turnstiles were installed in the park fence so the public could use the park seven days a week, from dawn to dusk.



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>



Tree First
ARBORICULTURE

www.treefirst.org
info@treefirst.org

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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 our fund-raising efforts.

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: Karen Blenc

Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers

Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers

Education: Open

Fundraiser: Open

Program: Bob Muller

Stewardship-Tenhave & Royal Oak Arboretum: Open

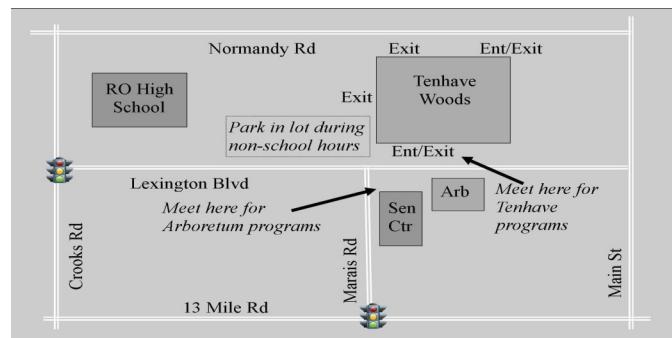
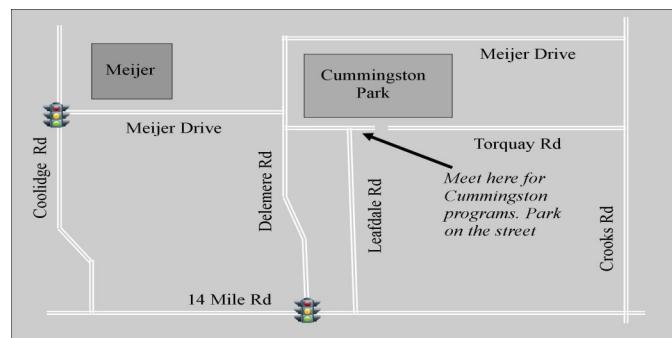
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

At-large- Robert Schneider

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"

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

www.romi.gov/407/nature-society
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1600 N. Campbell
The Royal Oak Nature Society

