



The Chinquapin

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Fall 2022

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2022/23 season begins now and ends in August, 2023. Check to see if you owe membership dues for the 2022/23 season or not. If you receive a hard copy of the newsletter, check the address label to see if you need to renew. If you receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, check the email subject line to see if you need to renew.

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 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

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Remembrances of Quickstad Park

by Donald Drife

On June 26, 1972, I recorded my first field-notes for Quickstad Park, now called Tenhave Woods. My first note lists Silver Maple, American Beech, Prickly-ash, and what was a new species for me, Blue-beech. That was a half-century ago. My notes now record over 260 species of plants for Tenhave, along with many observations of birds, insects, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

I visited the park often during my high school years, 1972–1976. I would often walk by the park before or after my classes at Kimball high school.

The city of Royal Oak sponsored a nature program with money from a block grant. Bob Gasiorowski was the city naturalist and ran the program starting in 1972. Bob was a biology teacher at Kimball high school. Monday through Thursday we would meet in Bob's classroom at the high school and he would lecture for half an hour or 45 minutes about the topic of the day. Pondlife, Meadow Plants, Woodland Wildflowers, Birds, Migration, Lawn Weeds, Insects, Butterflies, Reptiles and Amphibians, Trees, Shrubs, and Geology were some topics. We would then walk to Quickstad and study what we had just learned about.

The only public entrance into the park was the double gate along the West fence. There were no turnstiles. The city kept the gate locked, but you could borrow a key from city hall. Marais Avenue ran west of the park from Lexington Avenue to Normandy Road. This was before the avenue was abandoned and the soccer fields created. The main trail ran east to west approximately where the Goodwin trail runs today. It came to a tee near the big red oak and ran north

along what today is the sandbar trail. Another trail meandered south or southwest from the tee to the pond. There were a few other foot trails through the park, but nothing that compares to the trail system we have today. We didn't have names for the trails but gave locations relative to the big oak, the birdfeeder, the pond, or some other landmark.

A dense tree canopy covered most of the park. Inside the main gate a mowed field area surrounded a flagpole. The flagpole has been moved, and the mowed area is now growing up with oak and Butternut saplings. Openings in the southeast and northeast corners of the park provided areas for field plants to grow. Garlic Mustard, Common Buckthorn, Reed Grass (*Phragmites*) and Purple Loosestrife were unknown in the park. Many of these invasive species had not yet reached this part of the state. We had some honeysuckle that was probably planted by Hessel Tenhave's Forestry Club but the shade kept it in check. The understory of the park was more open than it is today.

Gasiorowski was a bird bander. He would pull his 1963 Nash Rambler station wagon into the woods and park at the tee near the big red oak. The opening was big enough to allow the station wagon to turn around. We would set up mist nets. A mist net stretches between two vertical poles like a badminton net. They are made from a fine nylon and are almost invisible. Three pockets run the length of the net. When a bird flies into a net, it drops into one of the pockets and is caught. We would then carefully remove the birds from there, identify the species, and if possible,

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determine the age and sex. We would then put a numbered Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum band on the bird's leg. All the data was recorded and sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, DC. If the bird was later recovered they would notify us. During the winter, we often set the mist nets near the bird feeder. The bird feeder was along what we now call the Goodwin trail. This was before we moved it alongside Dragonfly Pond. One Black-capped Chickadee we caught four winters in a row. One Eastern Phoebe was recovered in Florida. I do not recall other recoveries. We banded close to 100 species of birds in the two nature parks. Unfortunately, Bob's banding notebooks were not saved. Banding sites are numbered, and we used one number for both nature parks and Bob's home in Clawson; making it impossible to sort out the records to a specific location.

Tenhave Woods and its nature program provided a great place for a beginning naturalist to learn and



Bird banding in Quickstad Park with Bob Gasiorowski-1974

explore the natural world. Gasiorowski's program provided the blueprint for our current Royal Oak Nature Society's program. It also had an evening speaker's program. It provided Bob Muller and me our first opportunities to present programs. These programs, along with my remembrances of Cummings Park, will require other articles in future newsletters.

Royal Oak Arboretum Hard Surface Trail Grant

A grant to create hard surfaced trails in the Royal Oak Arboretum has been awarded. The arboretum hard surface trail grant will be financed with Oakland County providing \$71,250 and the city will match with \$24,000. If necessary, the Nature Society has committed \$5,000 for the project. Trails will be hard packed stone and four feet wide. Total length of all of the trails will be about

1,300 feet. The grant will include accessible benches and a picnic table.

We are still waiting on the city and county to let us know where we are in the process of getting these trails paved. Bob Muller has requested to be present when the contractor begins the project.

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(see p.5 for the form & 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). If you want to pay with a credit or debit card or PayPal, please fill out this [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#), and follow the instructions. Type the word "membership" on the payment form where it says, "Add special instructions to the seller."

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.

For those who choose not to continue being members, you are still welcome to come to our monthly speaker programs as well as our nature walks. Those programs and walks are, and always will be, free to anyone who enjoys learning about nature.

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.

There will be a fungi program Wednesday, November 9th. It will be a Zoom program that begins at 7:00 pm. There is no cost but registration is required. Please check out our website periodically for more information about the program & registration. <https://www.romi.gov/422/Speaker-Programs>

If we decide to do any more programs, we will post them on our website, our Facebook page and send a notice electronically to all of our members.

The Beginning of a Conifer Garden in the Royal Oak Arboretum

by Bob Muller

When we started the Royal Oak Arboretum a decade ago, the goal was to have all the deciduous trees native to Michigan being found in either Tenhave Woods or the Arboretum. That goal changed to also include the Michigan native conifers, usually evergreen. The only conifer that we have added to the arboretum so far is the eastern Hemlock. There are several others that we collected, but they are still small. They have been growing in our nursery and will eventually be moved to our arboretum.

Last year, a new neighbor on Mt. Vernon removed a lot of buckthorn and trees in his backyard and put in a wooden privacy fence. We had never been certain where the line between his yard and the park was. That fence has settled that question. We now have an area alongside that fence where we can put our conifer garden.

Last summer we had a volunteer day removing invasive English Ivy and Periwinkle, from the area, along the new fence. We had Tree First, the arborist company that donates their work to the Nature Society, cut down some invasive and native trees that would put too much shade in the area for the conifers. We had another workday with volunteers dragging the tops of these trees to where the city could chip them. We had a number of Red Cedar trees that came up on their own in the arboretum in places we did not want them. We moved about ten of them to the far south end of the conifer area. They should develop into nice groves.

More work still needs to be done. Hopefully, we will be able to move two Balsam Fir, two Black Spruce, two Jack Pine, two Tamaracks and a Red Pine in late fall from

other parts of the arboretum to our conifer area. We are trying to have a minimum of at least two of each of these species, so we are looking for another Red Pine. We are also looking for white Spruce.

Development is a slow process. I have a work crew that includes Kevin Norris, Ken Caldwell and John Fedyk that is doing the ground prep work for the planting of trees and shrubs. We are also continuing to attempt to dig out all the invasive European Buckthorn from the arboretum. Vanessa Schultz also works in the arboretum by doing the gardening in the butterfly and rain gardens. Our group meets one day per week for a couple hours. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact us.



Future Conifer Garden

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 heads 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).

Fall Mushroom Walks begin at 10:00 am are being held at:

Cummingston Park on Saturday, September 24th

Tenhave Woods on Saturday, October 22nd

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.

Fall Color Walks begin at 2:00 pm are being held at:

Tenhave Woods on Sunday, October 9th

Cummingston Park on Sunday, October 16th

Tenhave Woods on Sunday, October 23rd

Cummingston Park on Sunday, October 30th

This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our two nature parks, Cummingston Park and Tenhave Woods.

There is no cost for our mushroom & fall color walks, but you will need to register in advance for:

Mushroom walks: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA229-mushroom1>

Fall Color walks: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA229-fall2>

The Nature Society Still Needs Your Help

In the fall 2019 issue of our newsletter, we called out for help to maintain our three parks. Three years later, we are still in a strong need of assistance in several areas. We would appreciate your help!

Our board of directors has several openings. We need individuals to fill the positions of fundraising, education, Tenhave & the Arboretum stewards plus one at-large position. The education director provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education. Fundraising director leads the fund-raising efforts of the Nature Society, which includes the coordinating and organizing of the Annual Spring Fundraiser and other fund-raiser programs approved by the board. Stewardship directors organizes the maintenance, protection & improvements for our nature parks & the arboretum which will in turn enhance the overall park experience there.

We are looking for people who would like to write for our newsletter about the Nature Society and our 3 parks. It

could be firsthand knowledge or through research and interviews.

We are still looking for people willing to lead or assist in leading nature walks. You could go on some of walks to get an idea about what we talk about. Discover a topic you want to learn more about fungi, trees, pond life, birds, insects, forest ecology and we can teach you .

Come next spring, we need people willing to work in our Arboretum. Gardeners are welcome. Volunteers weed, water, control invasive plants, clear trails. Our volunteers usually meet on Tuesday mornings, spring thru fall.

Check below website link for a list of other things we could use your help with.

<https://www.romi.gov/427/Volunteer-Opportunities>

If you think that you might be interested in helping us out, please contact us at naturesociety@romi.gov or 248-246-3380.

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>

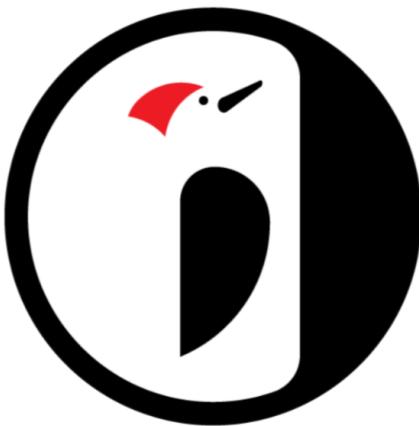
Please check out our Facebook page & "like" the Royal Oak Nature Society.

<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, Cummingson 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 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 Cummingson 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

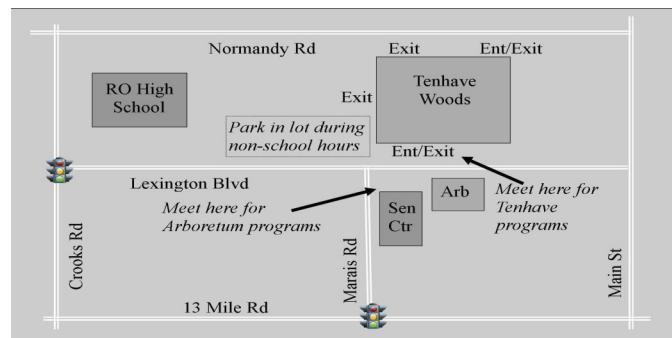
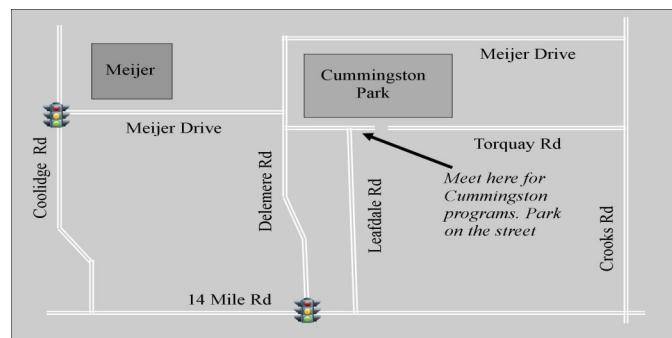
Stewardship-Cummingson: Mary Fredricks

At-large- Robert Schneider

Scout Representative: Richard Stoll

Cummingson Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum

Traffic Light



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingson 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 Cummingson 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.roimi.gov/nature

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