



The Chinquapin

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Winter 2022/23

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

The 2022/23 season ends August 31, 2023. Check to see if you owe membership dues for the 2022/23 season. 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 (see p.5 for the form & instructions) and mail it along with a check to the Royal Oak Nature

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Royal Oak Arboretum Gardening Accomplishments for 2022

by Bob Muller

Twenty twenty-two has been a very good year for the Arboretum. Our quest to get hard surface trails throughout the Arboretum has been successful. Julie Lyons Bricker from the city has been working on getting grants for this for over four years. The city received a grant from Oakland County and the commission agreed to meet the matching funds; included in this is \$5,000 from the Nature Society. We are waiting for the city engineering department to develop the design, but they are swamped with earlier projects that need completing first. Hopefully, the project can begin next year.

From the Nature Society's side, we, have had a group of four or five men working at the Arboretum on Tuesday mornings from early May till early November. This year it has been Kevin Norris, Ken Caldwell,

John Fedyk and me doing the heavy work of digging out buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive woody plants. The group has helped lead volunteer work groups on a project moving mulch to smother English Ivy and Myrtle in the mushroom garden. Below is a photo that includes two women volunteers from Retail Bloom helping to spread mulch in the mushroom garden.

All of this work in the arboretum has been going on for the past five years in an effort to get the area ready for the addition of the hard surface trails, which will allow us to offer nature programs for the physically challenged.

As stated in our 2022 Fall newsletter, we have been working on getting the area ready for our conifer collection



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Royal Oak Nature Society 2021 Award Winners

MICHELLE WATSON: LIFETIME AWARD WINNER

Michelle Watson has continued the great work she was honored for when we awarded her the 2019 Chinquapin award. She has continued to do a superb job as our volunteer coordinator for fence patrol and workdays, continues to do a great job on keeping up our presence on our social media, and helps out on many of our park workdays. Michelle has also served on the Nature Society Board of Directors.

Six years after she started volunteering for the Nature Society, we are honoring Michelle with the 2021 Lifetime achievement award. The award goes to a person who has consistently worked for the wellbeing of Royal Oak Nature Society for at least five years. The Nature Society wants to thank her for her continued dedication to the Nature Society.



Nancy Vickers (L) & Michelle Watson (R)

KEN CALDWELL and KEVIN NORRIS: CHINQUAPIN AWARD WINNERS

Both Ken and Kevin have worked with Bob Muller in the Arboretum for the past few years. For two hours once a week beginning in early May and ending in early November, they have helped in the removal of buckthorn, honeysuckle, Euonymus, multi-floral rose and other invasive species from the arboretum. In addition, they have helped remove broken concrete, cleared out area for the mushroom & conifer gardens, laid woodchips to keep invasive species from growing, prepared for, and planted trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. They even assisted Bob in Tenhave Woods by helping him clear out trails and with fence repair. The Nature Society wants to thank both of them for their continued commitment to the Nature Society.



Bob Muller (L). Ken Caldwell (M) & Kevin Norris (R)

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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

Currently, our speaker programs are done virtually via Zoom. Our programs 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 is no cost for these programs, but preregistration is required. Currently, there are no programs scheduled. If we decide to put on any programs, we will post them on our website, our Facebook page and send a notice electronically to all of our members.

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to be planted next spring. We have Balsam Fir, Black Spruce, Jack Pine, Red Pine and Tamarack waiting in our nursery.

We are developing a new trail running through the forest of mature Burr Oaks where we need to plant woodland wildflowers. We did start this with several flats of Wild Ginger this year. It is our goal to have every tree species native to Michigan either in our nature parks or planted in the Arboretum. We spent three years looking for Cork Elm a tree unavailable from nurseries. In 2021, we found Cork Elm trees and we gathered seeds and planted them in our nursery. They did well and we moved four to the Arboretum this summer.

Much of the Arboretum is not actively gardened, as you might do in your backyard. When a natural plant community is thriving, it is only occasionally that something that does not belong is found and control is needed. But the memorial garden, butterfly garden and rain garden are different and continued weeding and planting occurs. Vanessa Schultz is our Chief Ecoscaper in charge of this continuing work. We hope to develop a work crew for her in this never-ending gardening job.

If you are interested in joining to help with maintaining the Arboretum, please contact us.

New Board Members

The Nature Society has just recently voted in three new board members. They are Alyssa Beavers as an at-large director plus Jeremiah Sandler and Jack Novak from Tree First as co-stewards of Tenhave Woods and the Royal Oak Arboretum. We welcome their addition to the board.

We appreciate that they have volunteered their help to strengthen our three parks and the Nature Society. There are still two positions that need to be filled. They include Fundraiser director and Education director. If you think that you might be interested in either of them, please contact us.

Outside Group Volunteering

Outside groups have been an important part of the stewardship of Tenhave Cummingston and the Royal Oak Arboretum. Recently, an Eagle Scout project took place in August of this year (page 4) along with other outside group workdays this past April and May.

On April 20th, 15 Honor Society students from Oakland School Technical Campus volunteered their time to clean up Cummingston by removing trash along south fence and trails.

On a Cummingston Park workday on May 28th, seven students from International Academy of Bloomfield Hills Biology Club cleaned out the Cummingston drainage ditch that runs parallel to Leafdale Trail. It frequently gets clogged up and needs to be cleaned out every once and awhile.

ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY FRIENDS OF FUNGI

Friends of Fungi (FOF) is a group that promotes the understanding of, and an appreciation for, fungi in general and especially those fungi found in Tenhave, Cummingston, and the Arboretum. Mary Fredricks, mycologist for the Nature Society, heads this group. At the present time, no in-person meetings are being held. However, the FOF sponsors fungi walks from April through October on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10 am. There is no cost, but preregistration is currently required. Please see the Royal Oak Nature Society website or Facebook page for more information.

ALL NATURE WALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.

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).

"Mammals of Tenhave" walk is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **December 11th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Friday, **December 16th** beginning at **7:30 pm**.

"Winter Wildflowers" walk is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Sunday, **January 15th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Tuesday, **January 17th**, beginning at **7:30 pm**.

"Owl Hoot" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Thursday, **February 16th**, beginning at **7:30 pm**.

"Winter Wildflowers" walk is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **February 18th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**.

There is no cost for our winter walks & Owl Hoots, but you will need to preregister in advance. For more information & preregistration information, check out the following links:

Winter walks: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA229-winter3>

Owl Hoots: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA229-winter2>

Woodward Dream Cruise Parking

On Woodward Dream Cruise Day, August 20th, the Nature Society was once again in charge of parking at Gunn Dyer Park. The weather cooperated as it was dry most of the day with temperatures in the mid-80s.

Money-wise, we did a lot better than last year. The Nature Society made \$735 this year with the parking lot going from a maximum of 1/3 full in 2021 to a maximum of 3/4 full in 2022. Hopefully, this will be an upward trend

come 2023. We want to thank Pam & Mike Brady, Jan Eton, Bob Fry, John Herrgott, Mitzi Hoffman, Bonnie Michalak, Bob Muller, Karen Pettke, Robert Schneider, Vanessa and Robby Schultz, Richard & Patricia Stoll, Ted Vickers & Wanda Warsinski for volunteering to help us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park plus John Fedele from the city and his crew for getting the park ready for vehicle parking.

Eagle Scout Project

A Tenhave Woods Eagle Scout project took place on Saturday, August 27th. It was a perfect day to work with temperatures in the mid 70's and clear skies. The leader was Eagle Scout candidate Aiden Callahan from Troop #1610. Beginning around 9 am, Aiden had a crew of around 25 troop members and adults working for him. Beginning from the south end of the Sandbar Trail, they were able to line part of the trail before running out of logs. They then began the removal of invasive plants between the pond and the west fence (see adjacent photo) which included buckthorn, honeysuckle, multi-flora rose while trying to save high bush cranberry, nanny berry & gray dogwood that also resided in the area. They also replaced the log that has been at the edge of the pond since the pond reconstruction in 2005 with a new one. The log is used to kneel on so one can get up real close to the pond to see what is underneath the water. By 2 pm, they were finishing up their last job attaching tags on trees, mainly in the arboretum.



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>

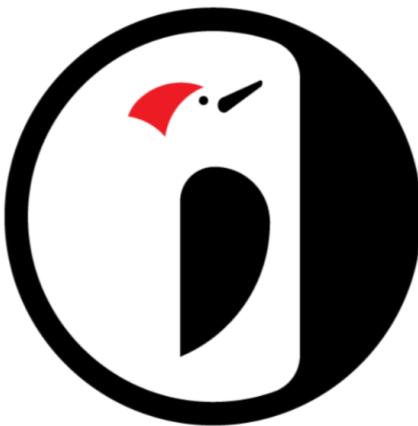


Please check out our Instagram page:

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



Instagram



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 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 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-Jeremiah Sandler & Jack Novak

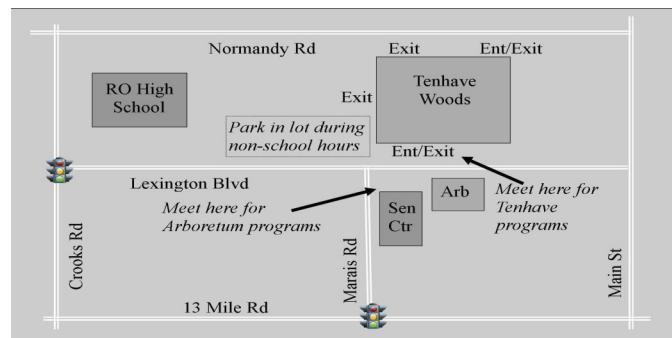
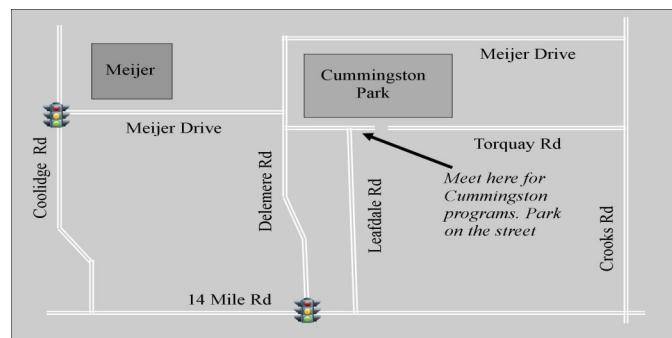
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

At-large- Robert Schneider and Alyssa Beavers

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 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 and around the parks. The Royal Oak Nature Society is a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.

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The Royal Oak Nature Society

