



VOLUME 22 Issue 4

# The Chinquapin

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Summer 2023

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## Nature Society's 15th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser

After a three year hiatus, the Nature Society's annual fundraiser is back! After holding our annual event at the Royal Elks Club from 2007 to 2019, we decided this year to find a larger venue. So our 15th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser was moved the Royal Oak Farmers Market. With attendance being around 135, we thought that was pretty good turnout for being in the middle of week and at a new venue.

We heard a lot of good comments about how much more space there was compared to our previous venue. From the food table area, to dining area and around our auction tables, there was a lot of room to move around in. Another plus was parking. There was plenty of parking nearby and it was free.

This year, we had the support of 12 sponsors. Sponsors generous contributions help cover our cost to run the fundraiser. See the list (right) showing the names of our 2023 sponsors.

We also want to thank our 33 volunteers who included some National Honor Society students and four Boy Scouts from Troop 1627 plus all of our auction & cash donors. Their names are included in the list on page 3. If it weren't for them, we couldn't continue to host this event every year.

Special thanks goes out to Kal's Lunch Bowl, located inside the Farmers Market. He stayed open beyond his normal business hours to supply our guests with beverages at a reasonable cost.

Where else can you go for an inexpensive evening that only costs \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. We hold great soirees where you can spend time with friends and community members, eat pizza and desserts and have over 150 items to bid on at our live and silent auctions.

Our next annual fundraiser will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the Royal Oak Farmers Market. Please save the date and plan to join us next year.

### Nature Society's 15th Annual Fundraiser Sponsors

Corporate Sponsor: Miner's Den

Our other sponsors included:

Black Mamba Barbell  
Exterior Grounds Management  
Greater Royal Oak Democratic Club  
Japhet School  
Lakeshore Tree Preservation  
Ron & Christine Novak  
Royal Oak Garden Club  
Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce  
Royal Oak Historical Society  
Tree First Arboriculture  
Weekend ComeBack



Fundraiser attendees checking out our silent auction items at the Farmers Market

## Fred A. Erb Arboretum

by Bob Muller

The Royal Oak Arboretum is now the Fred A. Erb Arboretum. Fred Erb was born in 1923. He was a local businessman who, at the age of 24, took over the helm of the Erb-Kidder Lumber and Coal business. Under his leadership the store grew. It eventually had 45 locations, 1300 employees, and \$280 million in annual sales. He died in 2013.

Fred and Barbara Erb established the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation in 2007. The foundation has awarded the Royal Oak Civic Foundation a generous grant of \$250,000 for use at the Erb Arboretum. Part of this fund will be used to plant 100 trees to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Fred Erb. Other improvements could include a new garden shed, gardening tools, plants, and educational signage.

The dedication took place April 27. Aaron Filipski, director of the Royal Oak Department of Public Services, served as the master of ceremonies. Fred and Barbara's son, John Erb, spoke. He recounted his family's rich Royal Oak history, his and his father's love for the outdoors, and their love for the Royal Oak parks system. He mentioned the "Father of Royal Oak Parks" Myron Zucker whose vision was that no child should need to cross a major street to reach a park. Tom McGannon, chair of the Royal Oak Civic Foundation also spoke, thanking the Erb Foundation for the grant. The new sign was then unveiled (photo on your right).

The highlight was the planting of the first of the 100 new trees. A Pin Oak was chosen to represent the "Royal Oak" and the strength of the Erb family in our community. Students from Jane Addams Elementary School assisted in the tree planting. Each student threw in one or two shovelfuls of dirt and John Erb finished the planting.



## Hard Surface Trails in the Arboretum

by Bob Muller

Getting the hard surface trails in the arboretum has been a goal for many years. The simple dirt trails in our forested nature parks stay uncovered by plants because of the shade and the feet of visitors. The sunny trails at the arboretum simply become covered with many of the same prairie wildflowers that grow alongside them. The trails would then just disappear with three-foot-high wildflowers growing in them if they were not mowed with a string trimmer. Our small crew of workers simply does not have the time to do this maintenance, along with working with the plants already there and planting new species we have acquired. These trails would make it possible to have nature programs for people with mobility issues and should be accessible to people needing wheelchairs.

We did qualify for a grant just before the pandemic started but the city voted down the matching funds because they did not know what was going to happen financially. Last year a new grant was found. We recently had a meeting with the city and a company quoting on the job, so things are moving forward. We had thought packed stone trails would work but they will not take the foot traffic expected in the arboretum. The material has not been agreed on, but it will be permeable to let water work through it instead of running off, an environmental style trail in a natural area. A drawing needs to be made of the trail locations. Cages for protecting important plantings along the trails will need to be made and installed by us. We expect the hard surface trails will be installed in the summer of 2024.

## Fence Patrol

Fence Patrol for 2023 has already begun and will continue through to the middle of November: The Nature Society needs help keeping an eye on the Tenhave Woods fence line. Maintaining the fence helps to keep deer out of the park and in turn, protects the native plants in the woods. Falling branches, wind, and

humans sometimes knock down the top wires and cause holes in the fence. We like to have someone walk the fence line once a week to ensure that it is well maintained. For sign-up and more information, please click on following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABA229-tenhave4>

## ALL SPEAKER PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.

### 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 our speaker programs and registration is not 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 our members.

**Below is the list of all of our fundraiser volunteers, auction item donors plus those who donated cash to this year's fundraiser to help cover expenses. We could not have had a successful 2023 fundraiser without their help.**

Moosejaw Mountaineering	Doris Applebaum	Leon & LuLu
Natasha Bair	Olga's Kitchen	Alyssa Beavers
Bigalora	Karen Blenc	Blossoms
Bold Flow Yoga Studio	Bucharest Grill	Buffalo Wild Wings
Ken Caldwell	Angela Callahan	Brenda Ciancilo
Kim Ciolek	Ray Coleman	John Colquhoun
Tom Cook	Hungry Howie's	Helen Cost
Cadillac Straits Brewing Co.	Pauline Delgato	Meijer
Donna Doyscher	Don & Joyce Drife	Trader Joe's
Dynamic Flowers of Royal Oak	Ray's Ice Cream	Uno Hair Salon
Laurie Eisenhardt	Brown Iron Brewhouse	Bolero Lanes & Lounge
Judith Ellison	Don & Lillian Erwin	Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Annette's Hair Studio & Spa	Amanda Felk	Ann Ford
Mary Fredricks	Mike Frentz	Frentz & Sons Hardware
Joe's Army Navy	George Gomez	Susanne Greenlee
South Oakland YMCA	Pet Supplies Plus	Kristine Hill
Royal Oak Nature Society's Nursery	Hollywood Market	Marcia Hovland Studio
Jim's Frostie Treats	Elaine Jirkins	Mitzi Hoffman
Kal's Lunch Bowl	Cannelle LLC	Winnie Kowalski
Tom & Karen Layman	Firefly Forest School	Linda Lupi
Holiday Market	Alice & Arthur Marotti	Dream Scene Parties
Judge Derek Meinecke	Lily's Seafood	Bob & Kelly Muller
Water Works Theatre Company	National Coney Island	Plants for Ecology
Kevin & Barb Norris	Jack Novak	Live Well Chiropractic
Jack Novak	Royal Oak Brewery	Five15
Stagecrafters	Uno Hair Design	Royal Oak Golf Center
Royal Oak Historical Society	Jeanette Roger	Jim & Laura Rogers
Nanya Roland	Richard & Maureen Sage	Jeremiah Sandler
Edie Saunders	Yvonne Schilla	Robert Schneider
X-Golf	LudicrousCreations	Oak City Grille
Big Mitten Linocuts	Richard & Patricia Stoll	Tom's Oyster Bar/Ale Mary's
Miner's Den	Cranbrook Institute of Science	Ted & Nancy Vickers
Edie Vrooman	Denise Vultee	Michelle Watson
Green Toe Gardens	le crepe	Fifth Avenue
Royal Oak Fire Department	Frank Hostnik-Certified Medical Hypnotherapist	Friends of the Public Royal Oak Library

### 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 for our walks and programs and registration is not 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. All public nature walks are free & registration is not required.

**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).

**“Pond Life”** programs are being held on Sunday, **June 4<sup>th</sup>**, and **July 16<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **2:00 pm** at **Tenhaye Woods**. Go to the Lexington entrance & follow the Pond Life signs. We will be sampling the vernal pond for what is living in it. We will have viewing trays to examine what we find.

**“Mushroom Walks”** are held on Saturdays and begin at **10:00 am**. They will take place on **June 24<sup>th</sup>** at **Cummingston Park**, **July 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **Tenhaye Woods**, and **August 26<sup>th</sup>** at **Cummingston Park**.

**“Arboretum Nature Walks”** are being held on Wednesdays at the **Fred A. Erb Arboretum** and begin at **7:00 pm** on **July 19<sup>th</sup>** and **August 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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 19, 2023. 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 (18<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 ALL OF OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2022/23 Supporting members for their financial contribution to us:

Doris Applebaum

Pam & Mike Brady

Nancy Colombeau

Janet Lawless

Dean Masters

Alan & Peggy Van Kerckhove

Kent & Barbara Aughe

Julie Bricker

Liz Dupee

Allen Linoski Family

Charles Svalya

Muriel Versagi

Kimberly Belton

Lisa Campbell

Kimberly Johnson

Connie Manley

Daniel Trudeau

Rudy Ziehl

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>

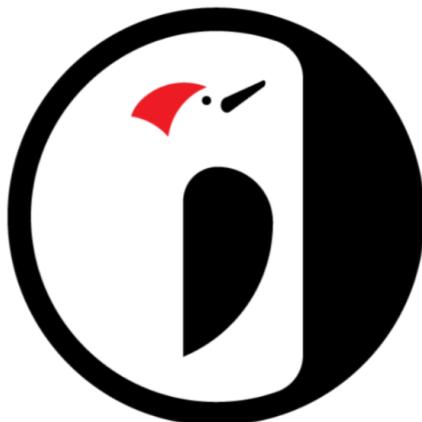


Please check out our Instagram page:

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



Instagram



**Tree First**  
ARBORICULTURE

[www.treefirst.org](http://www.treefirst.org)  
[info@treefirst.org](mailto: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)

<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

For more membership information, please click  
onto: <https://www.romi.gov/410/Membership>

## 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 Fred A. Erb 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 & Programs: Bob Muller

Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers

Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers

Education: Open

Fundraiser: Open

Stewardship- Tenhave Woods & Fred A. Erb Arboretum: Jack Novak & Jeremiah Sandler

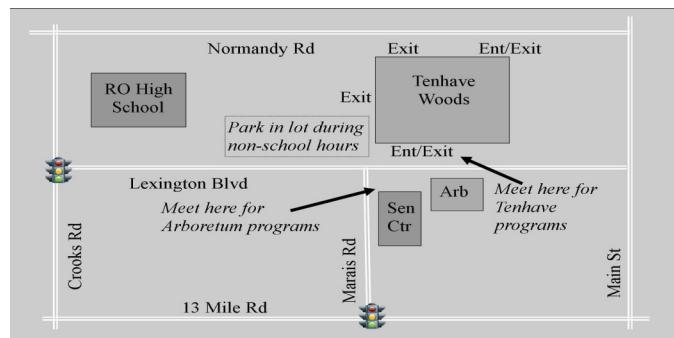
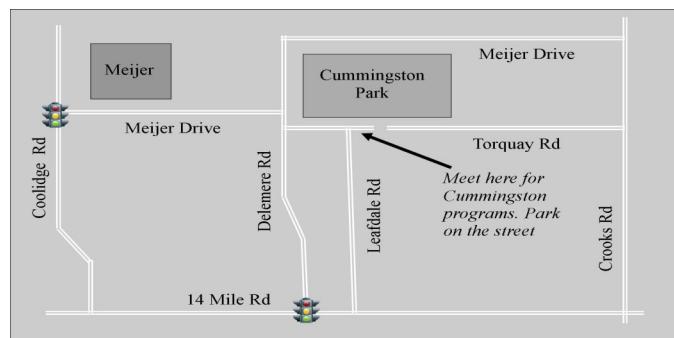
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

At-large- Karen Blenc, 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 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 the wooded area of Cummingston Park. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.

www.romi.gov/nature  
naturesecclevy@romi.gov  
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The Royal Oak Nature Society

