



# The Chinquapin

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Spring 2024

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## Nature Society Membership

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 listed as a supporting member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 and up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus 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 and pay by check, please fill out a membership form (see p.5 for the form and 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).

**NOTE\*** If you want to pay electronically with PayPal, credit, or debit card, first fill out our [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) (electronic copy), then hit the “submit” button. Then for payment, click [here](#). Where it says, “Add special instructions to seller”, type “Membership”. If you can’t access the above membership and payment links, go to our Membership website page.

## Cummingston Stewardship Report for 2023

by Mary Fredricks

It was a typical year for Cummingston. A number of trees, both large and small, fell across its trails. These were removed by Tree First and other volunteers. Trash accumulated along the fence line or showed up inside the woods, was removed by various volunteers or the city, depending on its nature. Thank you, everyone who helped!

Unfortunately, very little work was done in the meadow beyond keeping the main trail open. Hopefully, this year regular workdays will once again be scheduled, and the problem of invasives will be addressed. Another problem that needs addressing in the meadow is how to mark ground hog burrows along the ridge path so that no one is in danger of stepping into them. Please watch for announcements of these workdays and join us.

## 2023 Friends of Fungi (FOF) Report

by Mary Fredricks

Although there were no in person FOF meetings during 2023, a walk in Tenhave or Cummingston Woods did happen every month from April through October. It was not a very good season for fungi, but we did see some on every walk, and there was always something interesting to talk about in the woods. .

The walks will start up again in April in Tenhave Woods. Hopefully, the meetings will start up again in November, giving me time to find speakers. Information about the date and location will be forthcoming as we get closer to November.



Lemon Drops Fungus

## My Best Nature Walk Ever

by Bob Muller

We do a geology walk every fall, and last fall's was one of the best nature walks I have ever led. The response of questions and thoughts was fantastic. There were about 30 people on the Tenhave Woods walk, among them was a Geologist and a number of people with a very good understanding of the natural, very slow alteration of the earth's surface. Many comments came from them.

Aside from these people, everyone on the walk was involved in a continuous flow of questions, followed instantly by comments from others on what was just asked. The weathering of rocks was discussed; the breakdown of rocks from rain, ultraviolet etc. over great periods of time. Some asked if weathering occurred

underground. I had no answer. While looking at the Geologist, I saw on his face the lack of a good response. So I said I did not know and then someone spoke up and said "what about caves." Wow!, Yes! It was the water moving through the earth that dissolved the limestone, thus making caves.

I may have been the leader of this walk, but it really was a group of 30 people in a lively discussion on the geology of Southeast Michigan and the features of it to be seen in Tenhave Woods.

## Owl Hoots

Winter Owl Hoots are walks that take place in the dark where we play recordings of owl calls. If we were lucky, we had an owl fly in to see who the other owl that was in its territory or at least answer back to our recording. It was a very popular program, but it was noticed that we didn't schedule any this past winter. We became aware of research that luring them off their nests only a single time may be damaging to their ability to successfully

raise their young. As the nature parks were saved primarily for the protection of the plants and animals and secondarily for human use, we felt that we should not continue Owl Hoots until more data becomes available.

Depending on what we find, it is possible we will resume them again next winter.

## Filling the Birdfeeders During the 2023/24 Winter Season

We want to thank Ken Caldwell for keeping the Royal Oak Arboretum and Tenhave Woods birdfeeders filled during the 2023/24 winter season. Ken has also been volunteering his time

working alongside Bob Muller to help maintain the arboretum from late-spring to mid-fall.

## Fence Patrol for 2024

Fence Patrol for 2024 begins at the end of March and ends around 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 during this period to ensure that it is well maintained. For sign-up and more information, please click on the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA229-47138070-tenhave>

## A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PATRON MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2023/24 Patron members for their generous financial contribution to us: **Ann Bueche & Wojtek Szumowski; Dan & Joyce Bowen; Adair Calder, Pat Coleman & Nicole Parker, Don & Kathy Gavin; Barbara Grinke; Christine Hartwig; Cole & Priscilla Hawkins; Jaynemarie Hubanks; Bonnie Michalak; Tom Regan, Robert Schneider; Kristin, Derek, Jackson, Ty Smith; Richard and Patricia Stoll and Nicole Welsh.**

## SPEAKER PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

Our speaker 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. Our current speaker programs are being held at the **Royal Oak Historical Museum** (1411 W. Webster, just west of Crooks), and begin at 7:00 pm.

**“These are Mushrooms, Too: Fungi Without Gills”** speaker program will be held on Thursday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>**. Join Mary Fredricks as she covers morels, cup fungi, stinkhorns, and many others. Periodically, checkout our website for possible speaker programs for April and May.

### 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.*



**Crowned Tipped Coral.**



### Save the Date

The Nature Society will be holding their **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser** on Thursday, **April 25, 2024**, at the Royal Oak Farmers Market from 7 to 10 pm. Keep up to date with our fundraiser news by periodically checking our Fundraiser [website](#) page, Facebook page, and through our Nature Society member email blasts.

## NATURE WALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

### REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

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. Park locations:

**CUMMINGSTON PARK:** Park is just east of Meijer. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay.

**TENHAVE WOODS:** Park is just east of Royal Oak High School. For nature walks & park programs, park in Marais/Lexington lot and meet at the Lexington entrance (300 feet east of parking lot).

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

**Spring Wildflower Walks:** They all begin at 2:00 pm and are being held on a Sunday at **Tenhaye Woods**. The dates are **April 14<sup>th</sup>**, **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, **April 28<sup>th</sup>**, and **May 5<sup>th</sup>**.

We will be looking for Red & White Trillium, blue & yellow violets, Bloodroot, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Trout Lily, Wild Geranium, Spice Bush, Spring Beauty, Wood Poppy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, & Wood Anemone and more.

**Mushroom Walks:** They begin on a Saturday at **10:00 am**. They will take place on **April 27<sup>th</sup>** at **Tenhaye Woods**, and **May 25<sup>th</sup>** at **Cummingston Park**.

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 2023 Projects

On the first weekend in November, Bob Muller & six helpers planted 11 trees in the Fred A. Erb Arboretum. See photo on your right. Trees included Ohio Buckeyes (2), Hackberry (2), Persimmon (2), Tulip trees (2), Chinquapin Oaks (2) and one Ginkgo. As we get further into this year, there will be a lot more trees to be purchased and planted as part of the Erb Foundation \$250,000 grant and the goal of planting 100 trees in the arboretum. In early December, Bob plus five helpers, moved leaf mulch to areas where future plantings will take place. The mulch will help enrich the soil & discourage invasive plant growth.

On the second weekend of November, Colin Bibbs from Troop 1610 lead an Eagle Scout project where eight posts with QR codes were made and installed in various places around the Erb arboretum. That Saturday, the posts were made and the Codes were attached to them. The next day, Sunday, the posts were installed. The Troop also helped remove some invasive species located inside the Lexington fence, near the entrance.

These QR codes will be the prototype for additional ones that will be placed in Cummingston, Tenhaye and for additional ones 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>

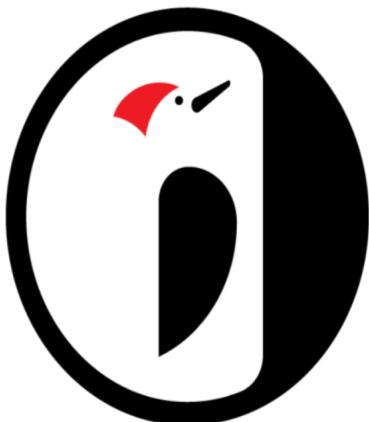


Please check out our Instagram page:

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



Instagram



**Tree First**  
ARBORICULTURE

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

#### Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check payable to:  
Royal Oak Nature Society

Mail completed form & check to:  
Royal Oak Nature Society  
1600 N. Campbell Rd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ 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

Payment amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **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 Cummings 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 V

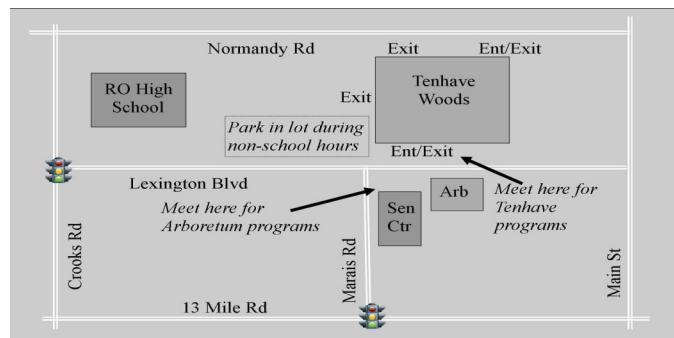
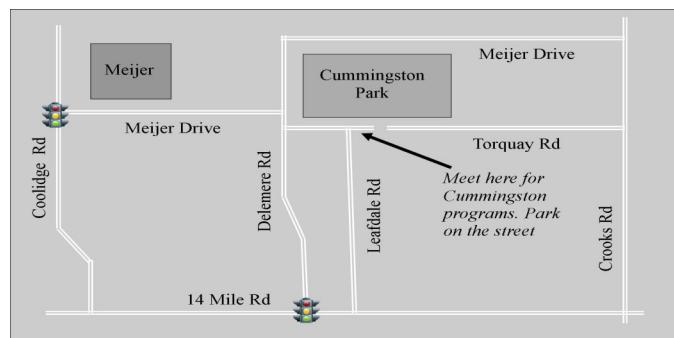
vak & Jeremiah Sandler  
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

At-large— Karen Blenc, Robert Schneider and

At large: Karen Biers, Robert Schindler and Alyssa Beavers  
**Scout Representative: Richard Stoll**

Great Representative: Richard Stein

## **Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum**



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"

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The Royal Oak Nature Society is a non-profit organization working within the city of Royal Oak's two nature parks, Tenhaw Woods and Cummins Station 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 Warden 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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