



The Chinquapin

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Winter 2024/25

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2024/25 season begins now and ends at the end of August, 2025. Check to see if you owe membership dues for the 2024/25 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.

Only a couple of our members currently have our \$5/year associate membership. Also, newsletter hard copies that go out by regular mail, now cost more than \$5 to make and distribute yearly. So, we have decided to do away with the associate membership. We hope that you will continue to support the Nature Society through your Supporting & Patron memberships.

General Membership is free. You get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month.

Supporting Membership is \$10 and up per year. You get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month plus our newsletter emailed or mailed to your household quarterly. You will also be listed in our newsletter as a Nature Society Supporting Member.

Patron Membership is \$50 and up per year. You get the

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Current Status on the Fred A. Erb Foundation Goal of 100 Trees Being Planted in the Arboretum

by Robert Muller

Recently, the Erb foundation approached the city of Royal Oak with a request to have 100 trees planted in one of its parks. In honor of Fred A. Erb (1923-2013), the arboretum was picked as the park to have them planted, as it could handle a group of these many trees. A generous grant was given to accomplish this and to improve the arboretum. Planting these trees is what we have been doing these past two summers. The area between the arboretum & the Tenhave south fence is now also considered part of the arboretum and is included in the grant. Photo (right) shows two of the trees that have been planted near Tenhave Woods.



Many of these trees have been purchased from Telly's Nursery, as they only deal with trees grown in our climate. A list of what we desired was given to them and they have been doing a great job acquiring them for us. Some of the native Michigan Trees we wanted for our collection are not grown commercially. Thus, we have been searching for places we could collect from the wild or grow them ourselves from cuttings of our seeds.

So far, we have accomplished planting 70 trees. We always try to have at least two of each so if one is lost we still have that species in the arb. There are a few more species in the Nature Society's nursery that will be planted this coming Spring.

Listed below are the species that make up those 70 trees.

Ginkgo	White Pine	Balsam Fir
White Cedar	Tuliptree	Swamp Cottonwood
Redbud	Honey Locust	Juneberry
Elm	Hackberry	Chinkapin Oak
Pin Oak	Scarlet Oak	Shumard Oak
Shingle Oak	Northern Red Oak	Speckled Alder
Yellow Birch	Black Birch	Grey birch
Paper Birch	Blue Beech	European Hornbeam
Kingnut Hickory	Pecan	Red Maple
Acer X Freeman Maple	Ohio Buckeye	Flowering Dogwood
Blackgum	Persimon	Sourwood
Silverbell	Snowbell	Yoshino

Additional Water Faucets in the Arboretum

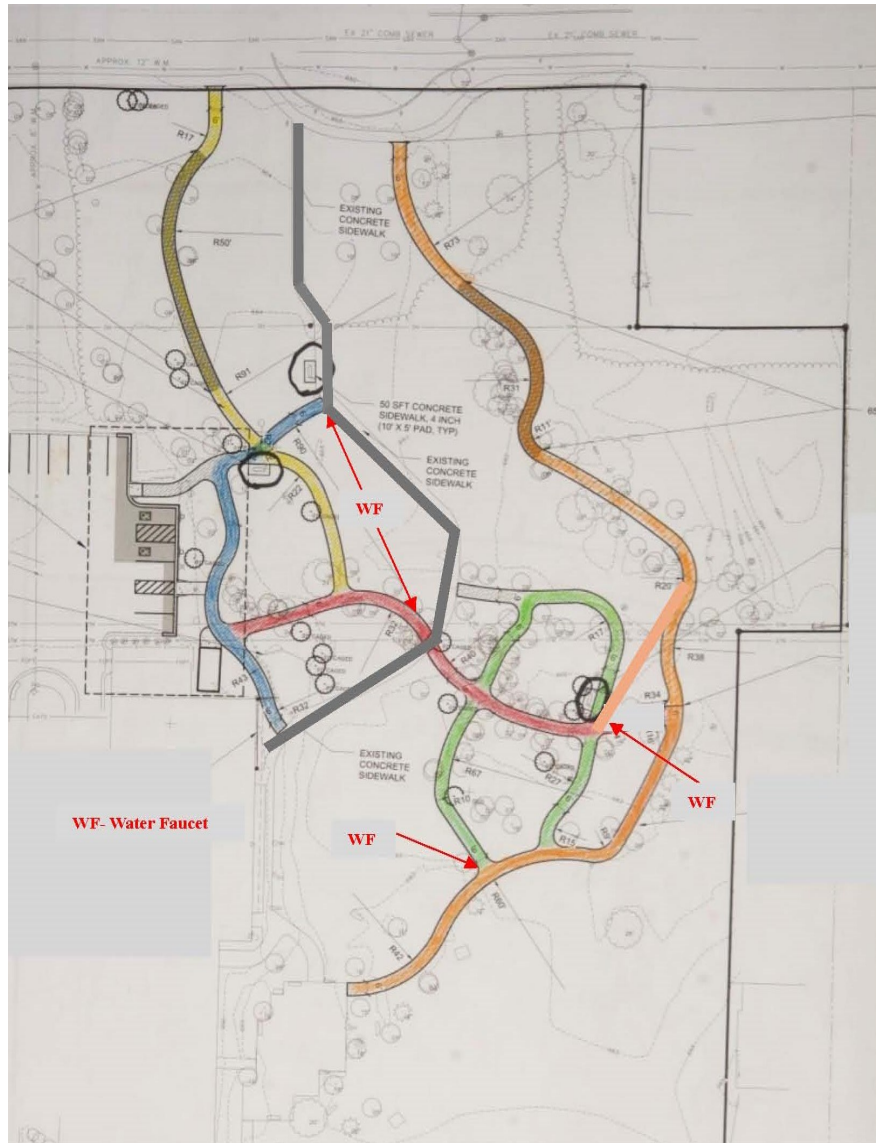
Years ago, the Nature Society managed to get a single water faucet installed along the sidewalk leading up to the back of the Senior Center. We often had to stretch 400 or 500 feet of hose to get to those areas where we were planting or to plants needing some extra water.

This past spring 3 more water faucets were added. Now we can get to most areas with only 100 feet of hose and everywhere within 200 feet of hose.

Also, we can be watering in more than one place at a time. It may not be a noticeable addition, but is a great addition for those volunteering to do the gardening.



One of the new faucets that has been installed in the arboretum



Locations of the new arboretum faucets

(Continued from page 1)

Supporting Membership benefits listed above, plus two free tickets to our annual fundraiser, and an invitation to our "Day Before the Dream Cruise Picnic" at Gunn Dyer Park. You will also be listed in our newsletter as a Nature Society Patron Member.

To be Supporting or Patron member:

1. If paying by check, 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 Society.
2. If paying with a credit/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."

Please list other household members you want included as Nature Society members (no extra cost).

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 p.5) and send that information to: naturesociety@romi.gov.

SPEAKER PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

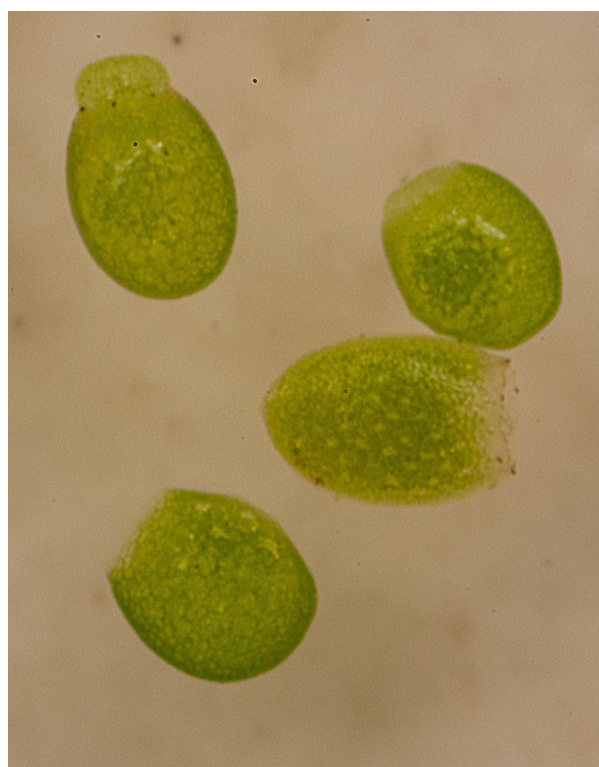
*Our speaker programs are usually Power Point presentations focusing on various natural history topics. If you watch nature programs on PBS or the Discovery Channel, this is better because you can meet with the speakers afterwards and ask questions. Our current speaker programs are being held at the **Royal Oak Historical Museum** (1411 W. Webster, just west of Crooks), and begin at **7:00 pm**. Currently, there are no speaker programs scheduled. Check our website periodically for newly scheduled programs.*

Almost the World's Smallest Flowering Plant

by Don Drife

In 2022, Columbian Water-meal, one of the world's smallest flowering plants, showed up in Dragonfly Pond. It is estimated that 5000 plants would fill a thimble. The lines on the photo are one millimeter [1/25 inch] apart. Our species (**Wolffia columbiana**) is not the smallest in the world, but it comes close. It probably arrived at the pond on the feet of migrating ducks. Water-meal is a tiny duckweed. They are now classified in the Arum Family, the same family as Jack-in-the-pulpit, Skunk-cabbage, and Wild Calla-lily. It will be interesting to see if Meal-wort continues to persist in the coming years. Water-meal is widespread, it naturally occurs in the United States, southern Canada, and South America and is established in Europe. You can see the plant growing on the surface of Dragonfly Pond with Lesser Duckweed and the liverwort Fringed Heartwort.

Wolffia Columbiana (right)



Woodward Dream Cruise Parking

On August 17, 2024, Woodward Dream Cruise Day, the Nature Society was once again in charge of parking at Gunn Dyer Park. There were intermittent showers, but was dry much of the time, with temperature around 80 degrees. Because of the rain & the threat of rain all day, the Nature Society made less than it did last year. Even though it was less this year, whatever we make helps us to maintain & improve our two nature parks, Cummingston & Tenhave Woods. Hopefully, next year's weather will be better.

We want to thank Pam & Mike Brady, George Gomez, Don Drife, Bob Muller, John Herrgott, Bonnie Michalak, Robert Schneider, Vanessa Schultz, Richard & Patricia Stoll, Helen Cost, John Colquhoun, Wanda Warsinski, Janet Lawless, Kathy Krajicek, Michelle Wells, and Monika Sipe, for volunteering to help us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park plus Lee Collick from the city and his crew for getting the park ready for vehicle parking.

When the call goes out next year for volunteer help, we hope you will consider being part of our Dream Cruise parking crew.

NATURE WALKS/PROGRAMS 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).

FRED A. ERB ARBORETUM: Park and meet on the north side of the Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais).

"Mammals of Tenhave Walk" will be held on Sunday, **December 8, 2024** at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **2:00 pm**. Come and learn about the mammals that live in Tenhave Woods. We will look for signs of these mammals and have skulls and skins with us to help describe them and how they live.

"Winter Trees and Bark Walk" will be held on Sunday, **January 5, 2025**, at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **2:00 pm**. We will identify trees by looking at their bark and human uses of them.

"Groundhog Day Signs of Spring Walk" will be held on Sunday, **February 2, 2025**, at **Cummingston Park** beginning at **2:00 pm**. We will be checking out what can be seen and changing in the park as spring approaches.

The Nature Society & its Nature Parks: September 2023 to August 2024 Season

We could not have improved our nature parks without the over 40 Eagle Scout projects that have been completed in our parks over the years. In November, Troop 1610 made and installed eight QR Code posts in the arboretum along with adding some bird houses. In Tenhave, they dug up buckthorn and some other invasive plants. In June, Troop 1627 relined part of Tenhave's Sassafras Trail and removed some more buckthorn from Tenhave.

Every year, we put out the word to our volunteers about opportunities that are available to help us with nature park maintenance. This past season in the arb, our volunteers moved mulch and woodchips to areas to enrich the soil and discourage plant growth and removed invasive myrtle. In Cummingston, they cleaned out the Leafdale Trail drainage ditch to get excess water from the back end of the park to flow into the main drain located in the front of the park. We thank everyone who has donated their time to help us.

Our thanks go out to Royal Oak Middle School students for the early May service day they did for us. They-planted and caged a Bass Wood tree in the Arb, cleaned up plant debris near the memorial/butterfly gardens, spread some of that plant debris into the wooded part of the Arb where no plants were growing and pulled garlic mustard in the Tenhave meadow near the soccer field exit gate.

In January, we held our first in-person speaker program since early 2020. Our in-person programs prior to that year, were held at the Royal Oak Senior Center. Recently, the Royal Oak Historical Museum became available to us, so we moved our speaker programs there. The Museum can seat up to around 50 people, which would be more than enough seats to accommodate everyone, most of the time. We figured it would be easier to schedule and set up than doing it at the Senior Center.

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.

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 & "follow/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>



www.treefirst.org
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)
☐ 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 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: Alyssa Beavers

Education: Open

Fundraiser: Open

Stewardship- Tenhave Woods & Fred A. Erb Arboretum:

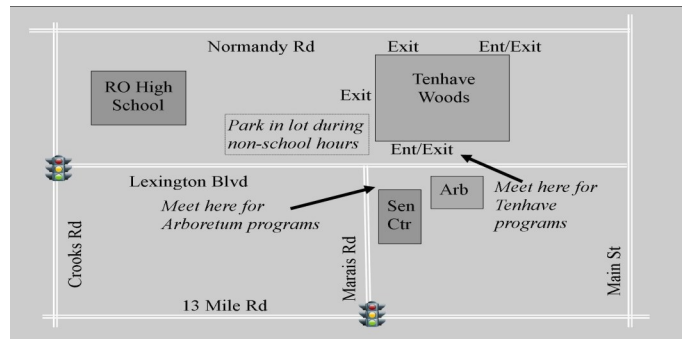
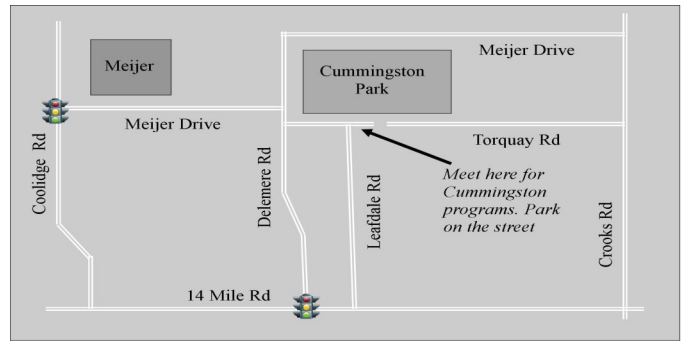
Jack Novak & Jeremiah Sandler

Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

At-large- Robert Schneider and Nancy Vickers

Scout Representative: Richard Stoll

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"

The Royal Oak Nature Society is a nonprofit 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 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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