



The Chinquapin

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Summer 2025

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Nature Society Membership

There are three membership levels.

Supporting Membership starts at \$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 starts at \$50 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 also get 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.

If you want to become a Supporting or Patron member and pay by check, please fill out a membership form located on page 5. If you want to pay electronically, please go to our [membership page](#).

General Membership is free. You get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month. To become a General member, [Email](#) us with a request to become a General Member along with your name and postal address.

Nature Society's 17th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser

Our 17th Annual Fundraiser was held this year on Thursday, April 24th, and again this year, it took place at the Royal Oak Farmers Market. There were over 200 auction items to bid on this year including a lot of plants. The money received from our auction helps us to maintain, improve and protect Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park.

This year, we had the support of 10 sponsors. Sponsors generous contributions help to cover some of our cost to run the fundraiser. See the list (right) for this year's sponsors.

Nature Society's 17th Annual Fundraiser Sponsors

Event Sponsor: **Miner's Den**

Our other sponsors included:

Firefly Forest School
JD's Yard Men
Kal's Lunch Bowl
Natural Community Services, LLC
Penney Luebs
Ready Dig
Ron & Chrissy Novak
Royal Oak Historical Society
Tree First Arboriculture

Once again, we want to give a special thanks to a downtown Royal Oak establishment, Give Thanks Bakery, for donating delicious desserts for our guests to eat.

Special thanks goes out again this year to Kal's Lunch Bowl, located inside the Farmers Market. Once again, they stayed open beyond their normal business hours to supply our guests with food and beverages.

We also want to thank our 32 volunteers who included some National Honor Society students plus all of our auction and cash donors. Their names are included in the list on page three. If it weren't for them, we couldn't continue to host this event every year.



Attendees checking out this year's auction items

Check out our website periodically for an update on our upcoming 18th Annual Fundraiser in April of next year. When the date is announced, please put it on your calendar. Where else can you go for an inexpensive evening that only costs \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Nature Society's New Shed

by Bob Muller

For years we had a small shed at the Arboretum used to hold the tools we needed including shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, hoses, materials for deer cages for new trees etc. The shed was filled up to the door. Often many tools had to be removed to get to the tool you needed. One of the items acquired through the Erb grant was a new 10 foot by 20 foot shed (adjacent photo) along with many new tools as well as some battery powered equipment. The shed is big enough that on a cold windy day this past spring, we built the 14 deer tree cages we needed inside the shed. We were even able to store the 14 cages in the shed until volunteers installed them. It will take us a little time to design the best way to store the tools in our new shed.

We were trying to figure out how to dis-assemble the old shed when we found out the Senior Community Center had a use for it. So, the Nature Society donated it to them. Ready Dig, the company that built the trails, also

built the new shed and were kind enough to move the old one to the patio behind the Center. The Senior Center is using it to store chairs that sometimes are used outside. With us being an environmental group, it was nice to not see the old shed go to a land fill.



The New Hard Trails in the Fred A. Erb Arboretum

by Bob Muller

The Nature Society started developing the Arboretum 18 years ago, making a few trails and planting native trees and shrubs along them. Unlike the trails in our two nature parks, many of these were not in the shade of a forest. The feet of walkers were not enough to keep plants from growing on them, so they had to be mowed. This was a problem, as our small group of volunteers did not have enough time to keep up the mowing. Several years before the pandemic, we began working with a city grant writer to find funds for some type of hard surface trails. Aside from the mowing to keep the trails open, not having an even surface wasn't good for those people that had trouble walking on them. We wanted a material that would let water drain through them; the answer to this is the packed crushed stone we now have.

As we are located next to a Community Center that caters to seniors, we felt we should also have several benches, for those with walking problems. We ended up with three benches evenly spaced along the trails where walkers can take a break. See adjacent photo for one of our new benches and hard covered trails.

In mid-summer 2024 the trails began to be built. An exciting but scary prospect when heavy equipment would be moving through our plantings. We expected collateral damage, and I was at the Arboretum Monday through Friday most weeks for the rest of the summer and fall, monitoring the work being done. Ready Dig, the company doing the work, listened to our concerns and made slight alterations in the paths to avoid trees and important plants. In the end we had no collateral damage which still amazes me.

The results changed the look of the Arboretum; it looks far more inviting. We see people every day walking the new trails, often with strollers, something that would

have been difficult if not impossible to do before. The six foot width of the trails will be perfect for the nature walks we do in the Arboretum, as a group of people can easily gather around a plant we are talking about. Some interpreted signs have been added and more will follow. Almost daily, I have heard someone comment on how they like the new hard trails.

Part of the Erb grant was to plant 100 trees in honor of what would have been Fred A. Erb's 100th birthday. By May of this year, the 100th tree was planted. Our original goal of planting Michigan's 87 native trees is within striking distance; we are only five species short.

The Royal Oak Nature Society started working on a waste area behind the Community Center and in the past 18 years, we have turned it into a quality park for the City of Royal Oak.



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.

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 2025 fundraiser without their help.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 526 Main Dueling Piano Bar | Annette's Hair Studio & Spa | Arthur Murray Royal Oak Dance Studios |
| Atomic Coffee | Alyssa Beavers | J. Bedrava,, |
| Bigalora | Billings Lawn Equipment | Blind Owl |
| Blossoms | Bowlero Lanes & Lounge | Pam & Mike Brady |
| Brown Iron Brewhouse | Bucharest Grill | Buffalo Wild Wings |
| Cadillac Straits Brewing Co. | Café Muse | Ken Caldwell |
| Kim Ciolek | Hannah Collins | John Colquhoun |
| Condado Tacos | Helen Cost | Cranbrook Institute of Science |
| Detroit Masonic Temple | Don & Joyce Drife | Ewe-nique Knits |
| Hannah Fariman | Amanda Felk | Fifth Avenue |
| Firefly Forest School | Mary Beth Fitzpatrick | Five 15 |
| Flute Specialist | Mayor Michael Fournier | Mary Fredricks |
| Mike Frentz | Frentz & Son's Hardware | Give Thanks Bakery |
| George Gomez | Kristine Hill | Mitzi Hoffman |
| Holiday Market | Hollywood Market | Hop Cat |
| Hungry Howies | JD's Yard Men | Jim Brady's |
| Julian Brothers | Kal's Lunch Bowl | Judge Andrew Kowalkowski |
| Winnie Kowalski | Kruse & Muer | le crepe |
| Leon & LuLu | Lily's Seafood | Penny Luebs |
| Marcia Hovland Studio | Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle | Judge Derek Meinecke |
| Bonnie Michalak | Owen Miller | Miner's Den Jewelers |
| Vivian Mullay | Bob & Kelly Muller | Natural Community Services |
| Matt Nomad | Noodles & Company | Kevin Norris |
| Jack Novak | Ron & Chrissy Novak | Nutri-Foods |
| Oak City Grille | Olga's Kitchen | Paper Trail Books |
| Pet Supplies Plus | Lily Prather | Rail & Anchor |
| Ready Dig | David Richards | Royal Oak Historical Society |
| Rock on Third | Royal Oak Brewery | Royal Oak Golf Center |
| Royal Oak Leprechauns | Royal Oak Masala | Royal Oak Symphony |
| Jeremiah Sandler | Jeanne Sarnacki | Robert Schneider |
| Vanessa Schultz | Seven Sundays Coffee | Sidetrack Bookshop |
| South Oakland YMCA | Stagecrafters | Richard Stoll |
| Lily Sullivan | Tree First | The Great Escape Room |
| Ted & Nancy Vickers | Trattoria da Luigi | Michelle Watson |
| Wanda Warsinski | X-Golf | |

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).

Park location maps: <https://www.romi.gov/1013/Park-Locations-Trail-Maps>

Arboretum Nature Walks: They are scheduled to take place on a Wednesday at the **Fred A. Erb Arboretum** beginning at **7:00 pm**. They will be held on **June 18th**, **July 16th** and on **August 13th**.

Mushroom Walks: They are scheduled to take place on a Saturday beginning at **10:00 am**. They will be held on **June 28th** at **Cummingston Park**, **July 26th** at **Tenhaye Woods**, and on **August 23rd** 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.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2024/25 Supporting members for their financial contribution to us: Doris Applebaum, Rebecca Arce, Kent & Barbara Aughe, Krystn Aversa, Kimberly Belton, Julie Bricker, Joanne Cantoni, Pat Coleman, Victoria Denison, Ann Ford, George Gomez, Dianne Howey, Steven Johnson, Lisa Lavender, Connie Manley, Karen Pettke, Rose Slovick, Monika Sipe, Beth Toftey, and Rudy Ziehl

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 16, 2025. 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 parking, you are invited to our annual pre-Dream Cruise picnic and you will get a free Dream Cruise t-shirt

to be worn during your shift. The picnic will take place at Gunn Dyer Park on the Friday (15th) evening, the day before the actual Dream Cruise. Time is from 6:00 pm 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 that evening.

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 and leave a message or e-mail us at naturesociety@romi.gov.

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>

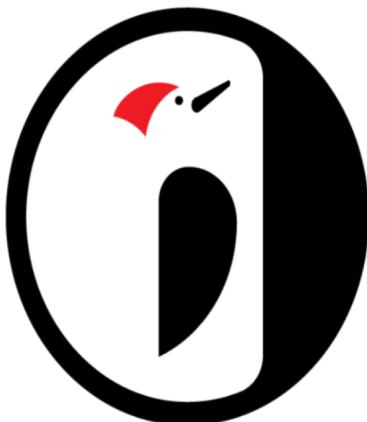


Please check out our Instagram page:

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



Instagram



Tree First
ARBORICULTURE

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, Communications & Interim Treasurer: Ted Vickers

Recording Secretary: Alyssa Beavers

Education & Fundraiser: Open

Stewardship- Tenhave Woods & Fred A. Erb Arboretum:

Jack Novak & Jeremiah Sandler

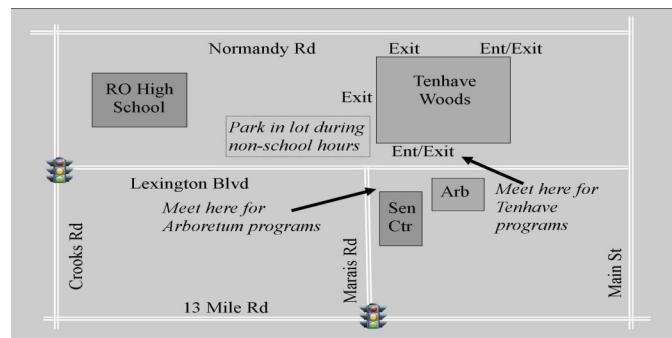
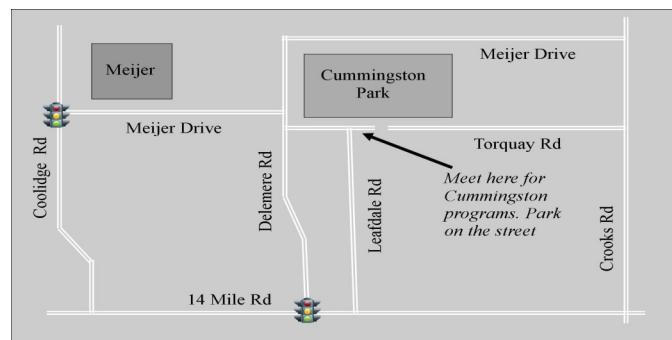
Stewardship-Cummingston: Mary Fredricks

At-large- Robert Schneider , Nancy Vickers & Helen Cost

Scout Representative: Richard Stoll

Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum

Traffic Light

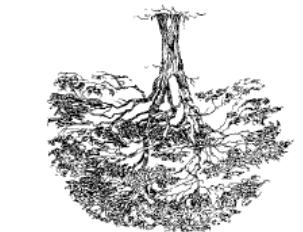


To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (listed below under our tree logo), link on to "Park Locations" and then "Map for park trail locations"

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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 Woodsen 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.romi.gov/nature



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