

Royal Oak Nature Society (May, 2019)

Protecting Our Nature Parks and Educating the Community

The Royal Oak Nature Society is a volunteer group working with the city to maintain & improve Royal Oak's two nature preserves, Cummington Park & Tenhave Woods. They are also developing the Royal Oak Arboretum behind the Senior Center. If you are interested in joining the conservation effort or just need more information, please phone us at 248-246-3380 & leave a message, e-mail us at naturesociety@romi.gov, postal address is: Royal Oak Nature Society, 1600 N. Campbell Rd, Royal Oak, 48067 or check out our website at www.romi.gov/nature. You can also find us on Facebook & Instagram. There is no preregistration or cost for our speaker programs and public nature walks.



Monthly Meeting/Speaker Program Schedule

Meetings/programs are held on **Wednesdays** from October thru April at the **Royal Oak Middle School** located at 709 N. Washington, unless otherwise noted. Enter at the school's southeast entrance and follow the "Nature Society" signage. Starting time is always at **7:30 pm**. Usually, the programs are slide shows focusing on various natural history topics. If you watch nature programs on PBS or the Discovery channel, this is better, as you can meet afterwards and ask the speakers questions.

"Monarch Biology and Conservation" speaker program was originally scheduled for this past February, but was cancelled because of bad weather. The program has been rescheduled for Wednesday, **May 1st, 2019**, beginning **7:30 pm** at the **Royal Oak Middle School** (709 N. Washington). Monarchs used to dance in our gardens but today, it's hard to find them. They face perils in nature and the changing landscape from human progress has made their numbers and future survival uncertain. Monarch caterpillars depend on one type of food source which isn't favored by farmers and is eradicated for its toxic content and habit of spreading. Yet, it's the state butterfly for many. A recent movement has sprung up to take steps to conserve this magnificent migrating butterfly. Debbie Johnson, Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist, will spend time looking at biology, migration, natural enemies, manmade threats to its survival and easy methods that anyone can do to help them survive.



Nature Walk Schedule

(Meet at the park)

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. Dogs are not allowed inside either Tenhave Woods or Cummington Park. Wearing boots while in the parks is recommended during the winter and spring months. To learn more about the parks, please come to our naturalist led nature walks listed below.

For Cummington, park & meet at Torquay & Leafdale (just east of Meijer).

For Tenhave Woods (just east of RO High School), park at the Marais/Lexington lot and walk about 300' east to the entrance. For Tenhave Owl Hoots, park & meet at Marais/Lexington lot.

“Spring Wildflower Walk” is being held on Sunday, **May 5th, 2019** beginning **2:00 pm** at **Tenhave Woods**. Park at Lexington/Marais lot & meet at Lexington entrance. We will be looking for Red & White Trillium, blue & yellow violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Wild Geranium, Spice Bush, Spring Beauty, Wood Poppy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, & Wood Anemone and more. There is no pre registration or cost for this walk.

“Pond Life” program is being held on Saturday, **May 11th, 2019** beginning at **2:00 pm** at **Tenhave Woods**. Park at Lexington/Marais lot, 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. For those interested small aquarium nets will be available for you to catch your own pond life and have us identify. Come and learn about the interesting aquatic wildlife of Dragonfly Pond.

“Mushroom Walk” is scheduled for Saturday, **May 25th, 2019** at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **10:00 am**. Park at the Marais/Lexington lot & meet at the park entrance. Mary Fredricks, a member and botanist/mycologist of the Royal Oak Nature Society, will lead the walk. Anyone with an interest in learning more about mushrooms and other fungi of the urban woods is welcome. There is no pre registration or cost for this walk.

