



THE Chinquapin

/'chi[nq]-ki-'pin/

SUMMER 2007

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY!

If you would like to become a Royal Oak Nature Society member for the 2007/2008 season (September 2007-August 2008), please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society or give the form and check/cash to a Nature Society board member.

A membership entitles you to have our newsletter, *The Chinquapin*, mailed to you four times a year. The mailing begins with the fall issue and ends with the summer one. Your membership will help to cover the cost of printing and mailing of our newsletter and will also assist in funding educational programs that we provide.

Non-members are still welcome to come to our monthly speaker programs as well as our nature walks. Those programs and walks are, and always will be, free to anyone who enjoys learning about nature.

Donations are tax deductible.

Changes in the Vegetation at Dragonfly Pond

BY DON DRIFE

In the fall of 2005 the vernal pond at Tenhave woods was deepened and named Dragonfly Pond. In addition, the area around the pond was opened up as more than 65 trees in the area were cut down. I spent a lot of time in 2006 looking at the plants growing in the pond area. The changes in vegetation were dramatic. Eighteen new species were added to the park flora list. Additional species had not been recorded for 20 to 30 years. It has been documented that the seeds of certain plant species can remain in the soil for a long period of time.

When conditions are right or the soil is disturbed they germinate. This seed bank can play an important role in the makeup of a plant community. Cecil Billington published a list of plant species that had remained in the seed bank of the bottom of Cranbrook Lake for at least 25 years. (Billington, Cecil, 1938. *The Vegetation of Cranbrook Lake Bottom*. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bulletin No. 11. 20pp, 2 fig.). Many of the species that survived in the seed bank at Dragonfly Pond are on Billington's list also (they are marked* in the list below). Because the seeds of certain species are known from other seed banks this explains the rapid return of such a diverse flora in our pond area. The complete flora list for both parks can be found on the Internet at <http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature/flora.html>. To find the scientific names for the plants named in this article, please consult this list.

In early June of 2006, cattails appeared

at the pond. They did not flower so we are not sure which of the two cattail species they were. Both species were at the pond until the 1980's. There were also water-plantain plants growing in the



Monkey Flower

water. We had just two water plantain plants growing at the pond before the work was done. Afterwards, we ended up with thousands of them. The plants started out submerged with ribbon-like leaves. They then sent up oval floating leaves. As the water level went down, the plants would send up terrestrial leaves and flowers. At one point these single species of plant had three very distinct forms. In the fall of 2006, the surface of the water was covered with floating seeds. In the winter I saw the snow peppered with water-plantain seeds Ditch Stonecrop*

continued on page 2

BOARD POSITION OPENINGS

The Education Committee focuses its efforts on education outreach programs that promote understanding and appreciation of the environment by involving children with our local parks and nature programs.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Ted Vickers at either 248-549-5366 or tgV1121@sbcglobal.net.

PARK PROBLEMS

Dogs are not allowed inside either Tenhave Woods or Cummington Park. If you are near or in one of our two nature parks and see or hear suspicious or unlawful behavior, please call the Royal Oak Police Department's non-emergency number, 248-246-3500 and inform them of the problem.

TENHAVE WORK DAY

Saturday, May 19th, 9am to 11am. We'll be pulling garlic mustard! Bring gloves, bug spray and mud shoes. Everyone is welcome to participate and we could really use your help! Meet at the new entrance near the intersection of Lexington Blvd and Marais. Maps are at <http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature/locations.html>. The workday will be cancelled if the weather is really bad (thunderstorms, high winds, etc). Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Dena Serrato at 248-542-2820 or dserrato@ford.com

VEGETATION continued from page 1

was found and occurred by the hundreds in the pond area. It was last seen in the park in the 1970's but not from the pond area. The seed heads are still at the pond as of March 2007.

At the end of June we found Pale Smartweed* and False Pimpernel*. The Pale Smartweed was new for the Tenhave list but we have an old record from Cummington in the 1970's. False Pimpernel was new to the flora list. It might have been at the pond in the 1970's but was overlooked. There were hundreds of those plants and they bloomed until September. They would flower at the edge of the pond as the water level went down. Dr. Edward G. Voss writing about this species in his Michigan Flora said, "...thriving on exposure after lowering of water levels and seldom seen in times of high water". The seeds are evidently dispersed or rejuvenated from the seed banks by fluctuations in water level.

A few weeks later a Rush (*Juncus effusus*) was found. The Rush had occurred at the pond in the 1970's. Tree-of-Heaven was recorded for the first time at Tenhave. Common Mullein* reappeared at the pond. It also grows elsewhere in the park. Cursed Crowfoot* and Blue Vervain* were added to park list at this time. By mid-July Willow-herb* (*E. cileatum*) and Toad Rush were recorded at the pond and by the end of July, Nut-grass, Spike-rush, Fireweed and Ground-cherry were in flower. Dozens of Water-purslane plants were also flowering. This plant might have been at the pond in the 1970's but if it was, it was overlooked. The flowers were small. I needed a 16x hand lens to determine that it was blooming. Eight plants of Monkey-flower* were seen in the pond area.

Willow-herb (*Epilobium cileatum*) bloomed in mid-August. Mad-dog Skullcap* was found at the pond and also a small stand was seen near the center of the park. A few Staghorn Sumac* seedlings came up on the disturbed higher

ground. A big surprise for me was when we found Sago Pondweed. I thought it would take many years before any of the pondweeds would turn up. It apparently does not. I thought that birds would have to carry in the seeds. I did not take into account the seed bank.



Water Purslane

In late August Barnyard Grass*, Pennsylvania Smartweed*, Prostrate Spurge and Jimson-weed were added to the Tenhave list. One seedling Common Milkweed grew at the edge of the pond. This species had not been recorded in the park in recent years.

The birdlife is also responding to the new pond. Black-crowned Night-herons, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Kingbirds, and Gadwall are among the species that have been helped by the pond.

The changes in the pond area have been very exciting. It will be interesting to see what the pond looks like in the coming years. Will some of the species like False Pimpernel and Water-purslane die out if the competition from other species increases? Given the amount of seed production we had, will Water-plantain become more plentiful? What new species will move into the pond area? Will the cattails form a dense stand and become predominate? Only with time will we know the answers.

**ALL SPEAKER PROGRAMS AND NATURE WALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.
PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.**

Summer Speaker Programs

June 6th *"Dragonfly Pond and the Explosion of Life It Has Attracted"* When the Nature Society restored Dragonfly pond, it was hoped that aquatic life would return. In the first year, both animal and plant life seemed to rush in as if trying to fill a vacuum. The area was covered with aquatic plants, most of which must have been hiding for years in the seed bed. The abundance and diversity of aquatic invertebrates was amazing. The pond was well named, as at least five kinds of dragonflies have been seen there. Come and learn from Bob Muller, Royal Oak Nature Society naturalist, about the life in and around the pond and how it has changed Tenhave Woods.

September 5th *"Fall Mushrooms of Michigan"* Diane, an active member of the North American Mycological Association, has traveled the world studying mushrooms. Her program will focus in on basic common fall mushrooms of Michigan. She would like anyone that has a fresh mushroom come up in they yard, to bring it in for discussion. Our September 16th nature walk in Tenhave Woods will also be lead by Diane. A mushroom survey of the park will be taken at that time and with Diane's help, they will hopefully

continued on page 4

General Meeting with Speaker Programs

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - Leo Mahany/Harold Meininger Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais)

Date	Program
June 6th	<i>Dragonfly Pond and the Explosion of Life It Has Attracted</i>
Sept. 5th	<i>Fall Mushrooms of Michigan</i>

Nature Walk Programs Meet at the park

Date	Day	Time	Location
June 16th	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cummingston
July 17th	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Tenhave Woods
August 7th	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Cummingston
Sept. 16th	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Tenhave Woods

2007 Dream Cruise

This year, the Woodward Dream Cruise will be on Saturday, August 18, 2007. The Nature Society will be collecting parking fees again for the City at Gunn Dyer Park (Hampton & Chester). The park is located north of 13 Mile Rd & east of Woodward. This year we are planning on adding another shift and shortening the shifts to just a little over two hours in length. The shifts are as follows: 7:45 to 10:00 am, 10 to 12:15: pm, 12:15 to 2:30 pm, 2:30 to 4:45 pm and 4:45 to 7:00 pm

If you have never seen the Dream Cruise, this is a great place to park your car & check it out. After your shift, you can leave your car at the park & walk a block down to Woodward Avenue and the Dream Cruise. A short walk to the south will

take you to Northwood Shopping Center where Chrysler has a huge display in the Northwood Shopping Center parking lot. The Royal Oak Grand Nationals (1.4 scale gas powered race cars) can also be found there at Northwood.

Extra Bonus: Volunteer and you get a free Dream Cruise t-shirt from the City of Royal Oak that you get to wear while on Dream Cruise duty. Besides collecting money, we will be guiding visitors to where they can park and helping anyone who may have a



Nature Society Woodward Dream Cruise Crew: from left to right, Diane Diehl, Donald Diehl, Helen Cost & Connie Cost

problem. When things get quiet, we just sit back and relax (see picture).

If you are interested in volunteering on August 18th, please contact Ted Vickers by calling 248-549-5366 or e-mail naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us.

be identified. There may also be a chance to sample some of the edible types that we find.

Nature Walks

June 16th *Late Spring*
come see what is happening at the end of the woodland wild flower season

July 17th *Summer woods and a look at the pond.*

Aug. 7th *Summer woods*

Sept. 16th *Mushroom Walk*
A mushroom survey of the park will be taken and with Diane's help, they will hopefully be identified. There may also be a chance to sample some of the edible types that we find.

Praying Mantids

Last summer, I purchased two egg cases of praying mantids/mantis at the Farmer's Market for our son. We enjoyed watching the nymphs emerge from the sacs and setting them free in our veggie garden.

It was amazing how docile they were as they came out to explore – sitting on our fingertips and then tentatively stepping onto a leaf of a plant.

One grew to about three inches long and ended up outside of our second floor sun porch window stalking ants! Who knows if that big one was from one of our egg sacs but our son believes it was.

If you have children, the mantis is invaluable for its entertainment and educational value. If you raise one as a pet, you can always feed it the bad bugs. Also avoid using pesticides in your garden this will harm your new friends.

— by Ann Williams

Educational Nature Nights!

Another season of Nature Nights has come to a conclusion. Our first Nature Night was on Thursday, February 22 and was held at the Royal Oak Public Library. It was followed about three weeks later at Royal Oak's Starr Elementary. As usual, both were again very successful with a total attendance of 144 children and 100 adults.



Jennie Klein at Starr's Nature Night, attracting a large group to her amphibian exhibit.

The Nature Society wants to thank Mary Karshner from the library and Kristina Goodwin from Starr in coordinating the Nature Night programs with us. Without their help, we would not have been able to put on these programs.

In addition, we thank our volunteer staff setting up and

talking about their exhibits to those children and adults that attended

our two Nature Nights.

Thanks again to everyone who participated this year and hopefully you will be with us again for Nature Nights in 2008. If anyone else has or knows of someone who may have something nature oriented that could be used as an exhibit, please contact the Nature Society.



John Topor at the Royal Oak Public Library Nature Night showing off his fossil collection to a captive audience.

Thank You To Our 2007 Nature Night Volunteers

Nancy Vickers & Patti Oppenheim: Crafts
Troop 1627: Tree Rings
Doris Applebaum & Margaret Moran of Oakland Audubon: Birds
Dena Serrato & Laura Morden: Seed Planting
Bob Muller & Tim Turner: Skulls & Skins

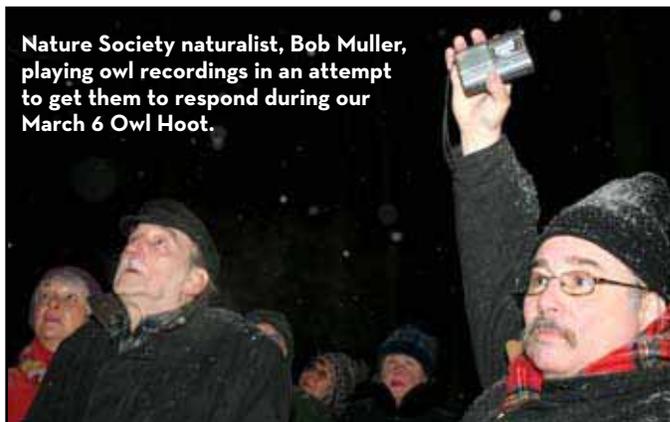
John Topor: Fossils
Jimmy Kipps, Troop 1627: Insects
Daniel Brier: Little Creatures
Leo Long: North American Native Fish
Jennie Klein: Amphibians & Nature Society Information table
Edi Sonntag: Reptiles
Carol Bradshaw: Nature Society Information table

Royal Oak's Wild Side – What's Happening in Tenhave Woods and Cummington Park

BY BOB MULLER

This is the second year we have had "Owl Hoots" in March. I am surprised at how well they have been attended. Another surprise is that the majority of those attending have never been to any of our programs before. It seems standing in the woods in the dark listening to tape recordings of owl calls hoping to lure them to answer, catches the imagination of many people. The first year we had a great horned owl answer us. Last year many screech owls answered. This year there was mostly silence, but I believe that is a sign we have both species. Great horned owls eat screech owls. So if the great horned are present the screech keep their mouths shut. Our first Owl Hoot on March 6th, we saw a Great Horned silently fly in while playing screech calls. On our second on March 14th, we heard a very soft screech owl call only once and on the third, March 22, only silence from owls, but geese answering from the pond. Even with this, everyone seemed to have a good time and became familiar with what owls sound like.

We also heard killdeer and a couple raccoons that were not too happy with each other, as we were discussing other animals of the night that should be in our parks. Every one seemed to be surprised when



Nature Society naturalist, Bob Muller, playing owl recordings in an attempt to get them to respond during our March 6 Owl Hoot.

I mentioned flying squirrels. I stated we had not seen them but expected they were here. When I got home that night, there was a flying squirrel on my bird feeder enjoying a late night meal. If they are in my neighborhood, they are definitely in our parks.

Any time you walk through our Royal Oak forest, there will always be something new to discover, even in the dark. Become an explorer; find something you have never seen before. Escape the developed world, take a breath, feel the stress fade away and take a walk in the woods. Check out Royal Oak's wild side.

Thank you for becoming new members or renewing your membership for the '06-'07 season!

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| George Aldea | Diane L. Gurzick | Sue, Bob & Stephanie Schneider |
| Karen Anderson | Bob Guymer | Leslie & Ila Schonberg |
| Roger Bajorek | Ruth Hart | Ann & Elmer Schoss |
| Carol Bradshaw | Chris Hartwig | Dena Serrato & April Walker |
| W. Chrzanowski | Carol Jarvie | Rose Slovick |
| Pat Cornett & Mel Annis | Dominique King & Tim Marks | Charles Svalya |
| Helen & Connie Cost | Jennie Klein & Andy DeWolfe | Ken Taylor & Ruthann Bajorek |
| Mary Decker | Dennis & Mary Kleiss | Richard & Vivian Taylor |
| John & Theresa DeLisle | Carolyn Ludwig | Carol Turner-Rollinson |
| Trish Derocher | Nancy McDermott | Susan Ward |
| Aaron Dorn | Bonnie Michalak | Janice Whelock |
| Rob Duchene | Karen Pettke | Yvonne Wilson |
| Barbara Grinke | Joy & Tim Reade | Ann Williams & Family |
| | Dave Roberts | Dave & Stacie Woodward |
| | Mary Ann Sara | |
| | Jeanne Simmons | |

Want to Join The Royal Oak Nature Society?

Please make checks out to:

**CITY OF ROYAL OAK
MEMO: ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY**

Mail completed form and donation check to:

**Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067**

Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

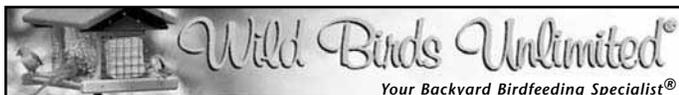
Email _____

Total Number of Family Members _____

1-year membership rates: (Sept-Aug)

Individual: \$5 Family/Supporting: \$10 and up

Donations are tax deductible



28558 Woodward Avenue

Royal Oak, MI 48067

Owners: LuAnn & Steve Linker

Phone: 248-548-2424

Fax: 248-548-0917

Email: wburoyaloak@aol.com

NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

Please contact us to become actively involved in one or more of our Teams.

Beautification: Tackles tasks as surveying the parks, defining & maintaining a trail system, park clean up & removing invasive species.

Communications: Provides publicity about organizational activities to the general membership & the public. It is also responsible for publishing this newsletter.

Education: Focuses its efforts on education

outreach programs that promote understanding and appreciation of the environment by involving children in our local parks and nature programs.

Program: Coordinates and schedules nature walks & nature oriented speaker programs, develop programs for outside organizations and catalog plants, trees & birds.

Ways & Means: Investigates means of fund raising and grant solicitation & then follows through accordingly.

Board of Directors

President: **Tim Turner** 248-320-4819

Vice President: **John DeLisle** 248-585-9002

Beautification & Restoration: **Jack Kerby [Cunningston]** 248-879-8010

Dena Serrato [Tenhave Woods] 248-542-2820

Communications: **Ted Vickers** 248-549-5366

Treasurer: **Jeanne Sarnacki** 248-548-1149

Education: **Open** • Fundraising: **Karen Anderson** 248-549-7150

Program: **Bob Muller** 248-398-0195

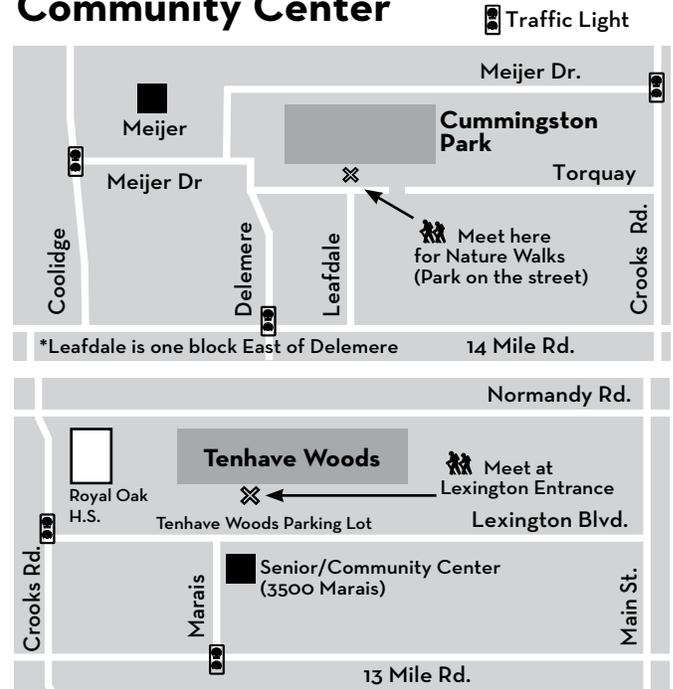
Ways & Means: **Helen Cost** 248-549-9423

Newsletter: **Ted Vickers** tgV1121@sbcglobal.net

Ann Williams ann.m.williams@comcast.net

Engineer: **Richard Stoll**

Our Nature Parks & Senior Community Center



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (bottom of p.5), link on to **Park Locations** and then **Map for park trail locations**.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. CAMPBELL ROAD
ROYAL OAK MI 48067

