



The Chinquapin

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Summer 2012

The Official Publication of the Royal Oak Nature Society

Search for Native Michigan Trees

by Don Drife & Ted Vickers

This is the third in a series of articles featuring the trees in Tenhave Woods. The first two were published in *The Chinquapin* in the Summer 2009 and Spring 2010 issues. They can be downloaded at <http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/portal/community-links/nature-society/newsletters>. In those first two articles, there were 29 native Michigan trees mentioned along with two non-native species (White Mulberry and Norway Maple). In this issue, we look for the 10 remaining native Michigan species found in Tenhave.

To take this tour, please follow path shown on map (p.2). Begin our tree walk at the Lexington entrance and start walking towards the pond.

1. White Ash

LOCATION: If you look along the Pond Trail, 40-feet north of the Sandbar Trail you will find a sapling.

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Seven feet on your right (east) & seven feet south of a Black Cherry.

DIAMETER: One inch

HEIGHT: Eleven feet

FEATURES: It has an opposite compound leaves that are pale underneath. A compound leaf is one that is divided into leaflets.

COMMENTS: An insect, the emerald ash-borer, has wiped out the large ashes in Tenhave.

2. Staghorn Sumac

LOCATION: North of the Dragonfly Pond marker

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Eight feet straight north of the marker

DIAMETER: 5/8 of an inch

TREE HEIGHT: Six feet

FEATURES: It has alternate compound leaves and stout, pubescent (fuzzy) twigs.

COMMENTS: The common name comes from these twigs

that look like a stag's horn in velvet. The leaves turn a brilliant red in the fall.

3. Nannyberry

LOCATION: On the trail leading to the pond's peninsula, about 25 feet east of the Pond Trail. It is even with the tree on the right side of the trail that is eight foot tall tree trunk tagged "Poison Ivy".

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Fifteen feet off the left side (west)

DIAMETER: Multiple trunks, each less than one inch

HEIGHT: Nine feet

FEATURES: The leaves are opposite, with tiny black dots on the lower surface. The leaf stalk is winged.

COMMENTS: Small shrub.

4. Choke Cherry

LOCATION: Several can be found in a three foot wide section that begins at the northeast corner of the Sassafras/Goodwin intersection for a distance of about 10 feet along the Sassafras Trail.

DIAMETER: Less than an inch

HEIGHT: Maximum tree height is six feet.

FEATURES: Leaves broadly ovate, coming quickly to a point.

COMMENTS: No large Choke Cherry's have been found in Tenhave. A choke cherry is a basically a shrub.

5. Tupelo or Black Gum

LOCATION: Along the Sassafras trail, six feet east of the tagged Bitternut Hickory (south side of trail) and 30 feet before the trail begins to snake northward for a long distance.

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Seven feet off of the left (north) side of trail.

DIAMETER: eight inches

(Continued on page 2)

****PLEASE NOTE**** : Our June speaker program **will be held** at the **Senior/Community Center** (3500 Marais) and not at the Royal Oak Middle School. Please see page 3 for details.

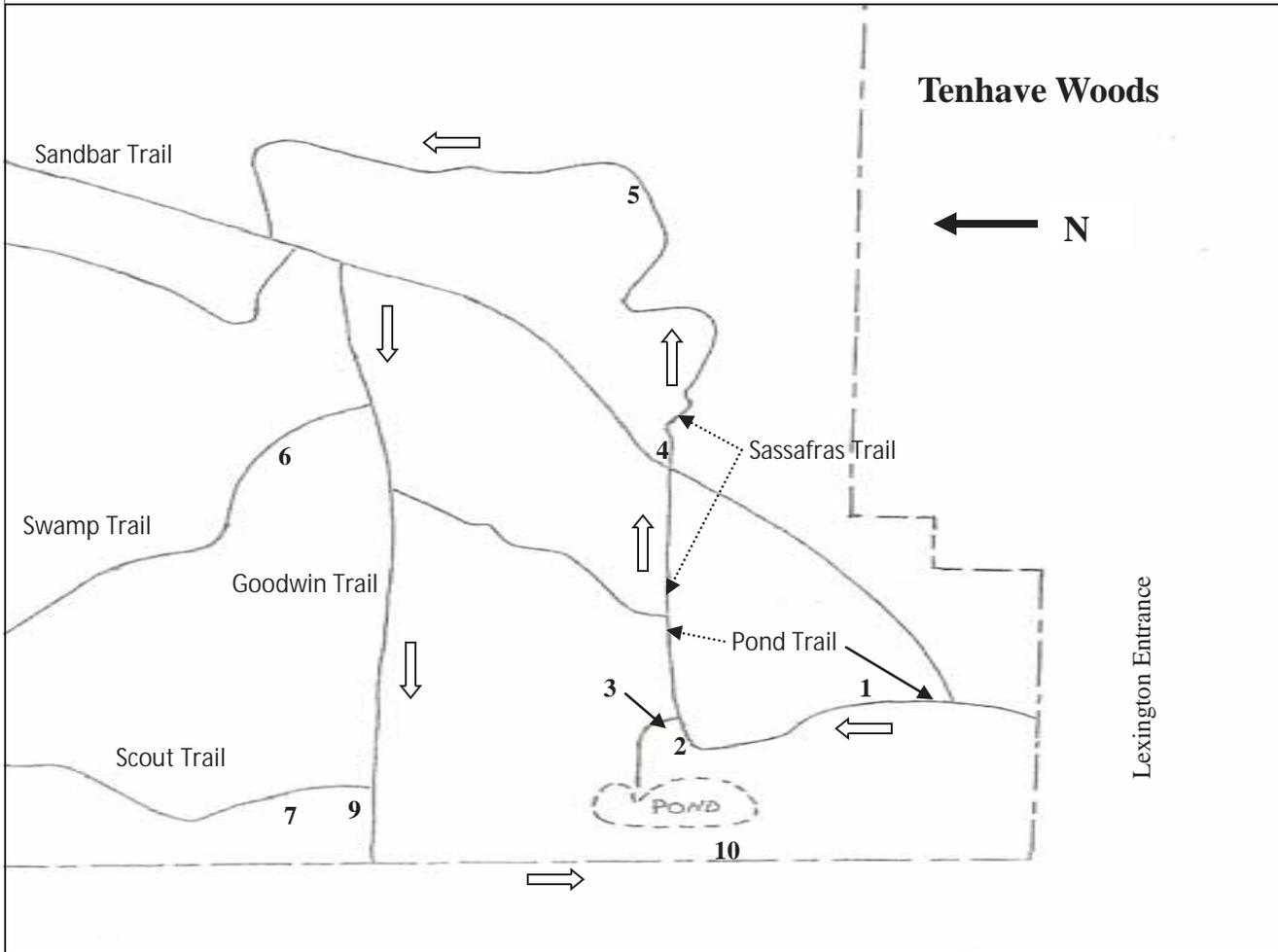
The location of the trees described in this article can be found by checking out the map shown below.

1. White Ash
2. Staghorn Sumac
3. Nannyberry
4. Choke Cherry
5. Tupelo (Black Gum)
6. Hackberry
7. Pin Oak
8. Black Ash
9. Box Elder
10. Black Willow

The following Native Michigan trees can also be found in Tenhave Woods. See our Summer 2009 &

2010 newsletters on our website for more information. This list includes 29 species. Other Michigan Native deciduous trees found in Tenhave Woods include:

- American Beech , Basswood , Black Cherry
- Blue Beech , Butternut, Catalpa
- Eastern Cottonwood
- Elm: American & Slippery
- Hawthorn
- Hickory: Bitternut & Shagbark
- Hop Hornbeam, Juneberry, Large Tooth Aspen
- Maple: Sugar, Silver & Red
- Oak: White, Red, Black, Burr, Swamp & Chinquapin
- Red Ash, Sassafras, Sycamore
- Tulip , Witch Hazel



(Continued from page 1)

TREE HEIGHT: The first six feet of the trunk leans towards the trail.

FEATURES: It has broken off twigs along the trunk that make small knobs on the grayish bark.

COMMENTS: This tree turns a brilliant orange in the fall.

6. Hackberry

LOCATION: From the Goodwin Trail, turn right (north) onto the Swamp Trail. Travel about 100 feet until you

reach a double-trunked Silver Maple (right-hand side of the trail). You will see the double trunk as you walk by it. The Hackberry can be found a few feet beyond the Maple.

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Five feet on left hand side (west)

DIAMETER: Three inches

HEIGHT: Arching north, 9 feet off of the ground.

FEATURES: It is beginning to develop the characteristic warty bark. The leaves are very thin with fine hairs. They are asymmetrical.

(Continued on page 3)

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

June's general meeting/speaker programs will be held at the **Senior/Community Center** (3500 Marais- north of 13 Mile Rd between Crooks and Main). At our monthly **Wednesday** meetings from September to June, we present speaker programs that are usually slide shows 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. The general meeting begins around **7:25 pm**, with the speaker program following several minutes later.

"Nature Society Year in Review" is being held on **June 6th**. This year, our June program will be held at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) instead of at the middle school. We will talk and have a slide show on

what has been going on with the Nature Society, Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods and our new arboretum in Worden Park East.

(Continued from page 2)

7. Pin Oak

LOCATION: From the Goodwin Trail, walk about 80 feet north along the Scout Trail. On the right side of the trail opposite the Oak, there is an 1 1/2 foot diameter maple tree, two feet off of the trail.

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Thirty feet on left (west) side

DIAMETER: Large, dark-bark, double-trunked Oak. The split trunk can be more easily seen as you walk a several feet beyond (north) the tree.

FEATURES: The tree has characteristic dead branches, along the trunk, which almost reach the ground.

COMMENTS: This is a member of the Red Oak group.

8. Black Ash

LOCATION: Also along the Scout trail are saplings growing among Red Ash saplings

FEATURES: Opposite buds, the terminal bud is on a short projection that protrudes above the first pair of buds. Leaflets have no stalks.

COMMENTS: We have no mature Black Ash in the park but saplings can be found throughout the low, swamp forest, section of the park.

9. Boxelder

LOCATION: Off of the Goodwin Trail, just west of the Scout Trail

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Ten feet, due north of the bench that is sitting just off of the trail on your right.

HEIGHT: Main limb is lying along the ground & growing towards the flagpole.

WINTER FEATURES: This has opposite buds and the twigs have a bluish, waxy, bloom on their surface that can be rubbed off.

FEATURES: Opposite, compound leaves with three to five leaflets.

COMMENTS: Small seedlings are often mistaken for Poison Ivy which is alternate and Boxelder is opposite.

10. Black Willow

LOCATION: Thirty feet north of "Park Closed" sign that is located on the outside of fence. Looking towards the pond when the trees are bare, you will see the pond lookout platform.

DISTANCE FROM TRAIL: Just inside the fence

DIAMETER: Fifteen inches

HEIGHT: It has been cut-off three-feet above the fence top but has re-sprouted.

FEATURES: Slender twigs, alternate buds with a single bud scale. Leaves are long & narrow.

COMMENTS: It is one of two native tree willows.

In all, there are 39 native Michigan tree species that can be found in a 22 ½ acre forest (Tenhave) that is surrounded by development. We consider that to be amazing!

The Nature Society's overall goal is to gather living examples of all of Michigan's deciduous native trees. We want to do this in order to create an educational facility to teach children and adults about the importance of having native trees. Native Michigan trees are ones that occur here naturally, before European settlers started, intentionally or unintentionally, importing plants.

We are trying to plant native trees in the arboretum (behind the Senior/Community Center) that are not found currently growing in either Tenhave Woods or the Arboretum. Our goal is to have around 70 of these native species in one or the other of these two parks. In the future, we will periodically update you on our progress towards reaching that goal.

Whenever you get the opportunity, please take a stroll into Tenhave Woods with these three Tenhave tree newsletter articles (Summer 2009, Summer 2010 & this one) in hand. Walk the trails at different times of the year and check out the 39 native tree species that can be found in Tenhave Woods.

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park & meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: Park in lot at Marais & Lexington Blvd. and meet at the Lexington Entrance (300 feet east of parking lot).

ARBORETUM: Meet at the north end of the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center's (3500 Marais) parking lot

Wearing boots while in the parks is recommended in the winter & spring months. Using insect repellent and dressing appropriately is advised from late spring to the end of summer.

"Late Spring Nature Walk" is being held on Saturday, **June 9th, 10:00 am** at **Tenhave Woods.**

Join us and see what is happening in the woods. during the late spring and beginning of summer.

"Meadow of the Arboretum Walk" is being held at the Royal Oak Nature Society Arboretum beginning at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, **July 18th** and Wednesday, **August 15th.**



A July, 2011 Nature Society evening arboretum meadows nature walk

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2011/12 Supporting members for their financial support:

Doris Applebaum
Roger & Eugenia Bajorek
Ann Bobiney
Joyce Bowen
Carol Bradshaw
Pam & Mike Brady
Karen Click
Pat & Ray Coleman
Dennis & Andrea Cowan
Patricia Derocher
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Robert & Susan Schneider
Ann Schoss
Stephanie Simone
Frank & Sylvia Sopata
Caryle Spence
Charles Svalya
Michelle Watson
Jean Watson
Janice Whelock
Kenneth & Susan Wolak

Nature Night- 2012

Our only nature night for this year was held on Friday, March 9th at Royal Oak's Northwood Elementary school. The total number of family members attending was 182.

The Nature Society wants to thank Julie Race, Northwood PTA Green School committee member, for coordinating Northwood's Nature Night with us.

A special thanks goes out to all of our 2012 exhibitors:

Doris Applebaum & Alice Marotti -Birds
Nancy Vickers & Kate Peach-Crafts
Heather Muller: Owl Pellets
Dena Serrato-Seed Planting
Bob Muller-Skulls & Skins
Philip Kukulski -North American Native Fish
Jimmy Kipps-Insects
Amanda Felk-Bats
Troop 1627-Tree Rings

Looking For Dream Cruise Volunteers

The Woodward Dream Cruise is only a few months away. Try something different and sign up to volunteer to help us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park on Saturday, **August 18, 2012**. The park located at Hampton & 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 2 1/2 to 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. When your shift is over, you can keep your car at Gunn Dyer Park while you walk on over to the Dream Cruise. It is only a block away.

If you volunteer for us at Dream Cruise, you are invited to our annual pre-Dream Cruise picnic. It will take place on the Friday (17th) evening, just before the actual Dream Cruise. Time is from 6:00 to and 8:30 pm. Everyone brings a dish to share and whatever they want to drink. The Nature Society supplies the burgers. 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 this lot.

If you have some free time on the 18th and would like to give us a helping hand, please give Ted Vickers a call at 248-549-5366 or e-mail him at naturesciety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us.

Please support us by checking out our Facebook page & becoming a fan of the Royal Oak Nature Society.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society/228095233882566>



Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check payable to: **Royal Oak Nature Society**
MEMO: Membership

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

Names (household members): _____

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1 year Household Membership
(September-August)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General (free) | Receive newsletter |
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NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of our teams:

Stewardship: Maintains a trail system and enhances the overall park experience at Tenhave Woods & Cummington Park.

Communications: Publicizes organizational activities to the general membership and public through various mediums and performs any other forms of communications required by the board.

Education: Provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

Fundraising: Is responsible for the fund-raising efforts of the Nature Society, which includes the coordinating and organizing of the Annual Spring Fundraiser & other fund-raiser programs approved by the board.

Programming: Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummington Park and Tenhave Woods.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost (248-549-9423)

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Tenhave Woods Stewardship: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

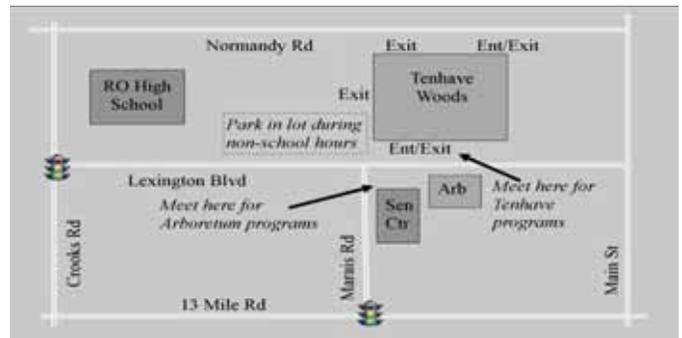
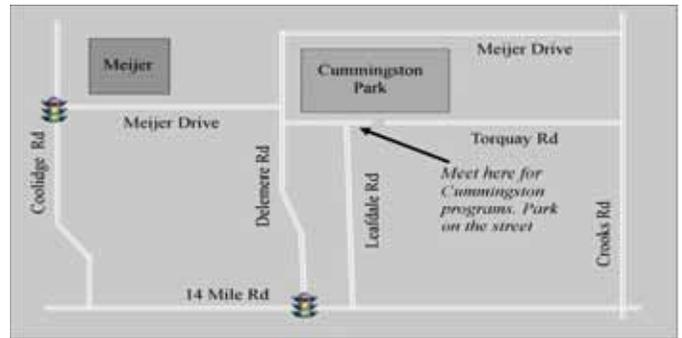
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Newsletter: Ted Vickers

Engineer: Richard Stoll

Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummington 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
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 www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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 Cummington 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 creating an arboretum in Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs.