



THE Chinquapin

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WINTER 2006-2007

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership dues for the current season (September 2006-August 2007) must be paid up in order to have the 2007 spring and summer editions of our newsletter *The Chinquapin* mailed to you. Please check your address label to see if your membership dues still need to be paid. If they are still due, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society.

A membership entitles you to have our newsletter 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.



Dragonfly pond in mid- August

Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods And What We Have Been Doing

BY BOB MULLER

The Nature Society is beginning its seventh season of programs. It doesn't seem that many years. As they say, time flies when you're having fun. The attendance in programs took a big jump and we ended the year with just under 1,400 people. Almost any time I am in the park, there are other people simply enjoying these jewels of the Royal Oak park system. We have been making a difference!

Looking back at this last year, many important things have happened. The Dragonfly Pond project has succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. Aquatic animal life of all kinds just exploded in the restored

environment. Back swimmers, water boatmen, giant water bugs, mayflies, predaceous diving beetles, water striders, phantom midges as well as many kinds of damselflies and dragonflies were found in abundance. Most of these haven't been seen in the park in years. The toads discovered the pond and bred. Now there are small toads everywhere in the park! The great thing that happened was a distinct lack of mosquitoes using the pond to reproduce. Even more surprising was the plant life that appeared. Over twenty-five rediscovered or new plants have been added to our flora list. The multitude of aquatic plant that covered

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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.

The Fundraiser Committee has just been recently created. It's goal will be to plan everything that goes into a fundraiser, including where to have it, getting donations for auctions, and selling tickets.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Ted Vickers at either 248-549-5366 or tg1121@sbcglobal.net.

FUNDRAISER

The Nature Society is beginning to plan for next year's annual fundraiser. Presently, we are working on three things: a place to hold the fundraiser, donated auction items & places that will donate food.

If you want to work on our Fundraiser Committee, the next committee meeting will be on November 8th (Wednesday), room 2 of the Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais), beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you can't make it & are interested on being on the committee or know of anyone who can help us with any of the above, please contact Tim Turner at 248-320-4819.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING continued from page 1

the area from seeds in the ground just waiting for the right conditions to come back was amazing. We had one pond life program that attracted several children. We gave them small nets, looked at what they found in viewing trays, discussed what they caught and talked a little about the life history of some of those creatures. The pond is a great teaching aid for the park. Not only were the children fascinated with the life in the pond, but it seemed that all the adults present were too. One adult was overheard saying she thought ponds like this were just waste areas. She never understood how much life they contained. Next spring we will have several pond life programs. Please come out then and catch some pond life with us.

We now have deer in Tenhave Woods! This is not good, as they will graze away all our wildflowers. We are watching carefully and contemplating what we might be able to do. At least three fawns have been seen. Who would have thought we would ever have breeding deer in Royal Oak. In late September ten deer were counted in just the north end of the park. They seem to be using the park for shelter and moving out into the neighborhoods to eat the plants in people's yards. At this time we are seeing little browsing in the park, but when they run out of food in the neighborhoods we will lose the park. I have heard people saying they are taking their children to the park to see the deer. Be careful and please don't approach them. They are used to people and don't run until you are very close. A kick from a deer could cause major injuries and could be fatal. Please keep children at a distance.

We had our first major fundraiser with our auction last April. We are now actively planning next spring's auction and hopefully, it will grow, providing funds for further improvements in both parks. We are now just starting projects that involve the purchase of items like new turnstiles and therefore we need to earn funds. Please look around and see if you have something to donate to our spring auction. We have a long way to go. Our president Tim Turner

has made making these fundraising programs bigger his personal goal. We now have the sidewalk completed from the Senior/Community Center to the fence along Lexington. I understand the City has received several calls as to why they built a sidewalk to a fence with no gate. Soon, we plan on adding a service gate at that location which will be locked but opened up for our nature walks. With next April's auction, I would expect we will have enough funds to be able to purchase and place a turnstile alongside the gate.

We added three owl hoots to our nature walk program in March. Owl hoots are where recordings of owl calls are played and hope to have them fly in or answer back. No owls have come to take a look at us, but many did answer our recordings at Tenhave Woods, but not at Cummington Park. We do have a good population of screech owls. Three owl hoots are planned for this March. Come out then for a rare nighttime program.

Our speakers program had its best attendance so far. We continue to have a great lineup of top quality speakers and as always, the price is right, the talks are free. As I have said before, it's like public television except you get to ask questions. We ask at the beginning of each speakers program about newcomers and where they heard of us. There are always new places that information on our nature society shows up at. Ted Vickers has been doing a very good job continuing to spread the word on what we are doing. Ted and Ann Williams work hard to get our newsletter out. In seeing the newsletters from many other nature organizations and cities, I believe we have one of the best around.

Jack Kerby is the chairman for Restoration and Beautification for Cummington Park. He has a great group of volunteers that maintain the trails and try to keep the park free of litter. They also have been trying to fight the invasive garlic mustard. As Jack says, "Cummington Park is a challenge." The park is flooded well into summer and therefore all work has to

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

Fall Speaker Programs

December 6th "Cave Exploring in Indiana" While in college, Jim Langhammer, a retired curator of the Fishes Belle Isle Aquarium Institute, was a very active spelunker. Come and learn from him about a very special earth environment that few of us ever see. Jim will talk about the how and why of cave exploring, the different types of cave formations, how it is thought that they develop, the geology of their formation and how they self-destruct. He will also tell us about the very unusual wildlife found in caves that have evolved to live in total darkness and about the fact that caves breathe, providing fresh air deep within the earth and sometimes making it easier to find their openings.

January 3rd "Australia" Australia is a land of the extreme. This island continent seems so different to us than what we are use to in the States. Naturalist Kathy Thomas, assistant naturalist at Lewis Wint Independence Oaks Nature Center and Bill Thomas, supervising interpreter at Wolcott Mills Metro Park, will provide a specialized view of northern Australia through its parks, unique terrain, aborigines and wildlife.

General Meeting with Speaker Programs

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

Date	Program
December 6th	Cave Exploring in Indiana
January 3rd	Australia
February 7th	Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery in Southeast Michigan

Nature Walk Programs Meet at the park

Date	Day	Time	Location
Dec. 16th	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cummingston Park
Jan. 13th	Saturday	2:00 p.m.	Tenhave Woods
Feb. 10th	Saturday	2:00 p.m.	Cummingston Park

Nature Walk Descriptions

December 16th: Just before the beginning of winter, come and see changes taking place in the woods.

January 13th: The winter forest is the easiest time to see signs of wildlife (tracks, bird and squirrel nest etc.). Bring binoculars for the birds and keep an eye out for mammals.

February 10th: The winter forest is the easiest time to see signs of wildlife (tracks, bird and squirrel nest etc.). Bring binoculars for the birds and keep an eye out for mammals.

February 7th "Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery in Southeast Michigan" Laura Haris, head keeper of butterflies at the Detroit Zoological Institute, will describe a cooperative project to reintroduce the Karner Blue butterfly to southeast Michigan. She has been working with the Michigan DNR to restore an oak savanna habitat in Monroe County where the Karner was last observed in 1987. Strategies including prescribed burns, seeding, plug planting and data collection have been used in the restoration. Laura is hoping to begin breeding butterflies for release at

the sites this summer. Come learn about the Karner Blue butterfly, its unique habitat

and the partnerships that support this restoration project.

PROBLEMS IN THE PARK?

If you are near or in one of our two nature parks and see or hear suspicious or unlawful behavior, please help by calling the Royal Oak Police Department's non-emergency number, 248-246-3500 and inform them of the problem.



Dogs are not allowed inside either Tenhave Woods or Cummingston Park.

TENHAVE WORKDAYS

Everyone is invited to join the Tenhave Woods Beautification and Restoration team for our autumn Invasive Shrub Workdays at Tenhave Woods

Autumn is the best time of year to kill invasive shrubs such as buckthorn, asian honeysuckle, barberry, multiflora rose and others. These shrubs hang on to their leaves long after the native trees and shrubs have dropped theirs, making it easier to identify them.

We need volunteers that are willing to either do the cutting with saws and loppers, or apply a herbicide with sponge applicators. No one under age 18 will be allowed to apply herbicide.

Workdays will be on the following Saturdays from 9-11 am: November 11th and December 2nd. Meet at the Tenhave Woods turnstile by the soccer fields.

Bring pruning saws, loppers, gloves and sturdy shoes. A chainsaw would be great. We'll provide the herbicide, rubber gloves and applicators. A workday will be cancelled if it's raining or the temperature is below 40 degrees.

Please contact Dena Serrato at 248-542-2820 if you have questions.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING continued from page 2

be done in the fall. Hopefully, we will be working on the parks drainage problem soon. Dena Sorrento is the chairman for Restoration and Beautification for Tenhave Woods. She has been leading the battle against invasive plants there. She has a small group of volunteers as well as the help of Boy Scouts and students from Royal Oak High School (formerly Kimball High School). We are making progress on removing buckthorn, but it will take years to get out what has become established in the last couple decades. It will be a massive task to remove the garlic mustard. If you would like to help in either of our nature parks, please contact Jack or Dena.

We had two School Nature Nights this year, which were very well attended. Although Royal Oak Nature Society

members put up some of the displays, many others are set up by outside people and organizations. We could not put these programs on without these people. They have partnered with us to get information on the natural world out to the children and their parents. This is a great program, but amazingly, we seem to have trouble getting schools interested in them. Hopefully, we will be able to find two schools for this coming season.

We continue to make a difference in both nature parks. Almost every time I take a walk through the parks, I see others on their own out enjoying the woods. Come out for one of our nature walks, take a walk on your own, go jogging, watch the birds or other wildlife, sit by the pond, search for a new wildflower, take in the fall color or just escape the city for a while.

Thanks to the 2006 Dream Cruise Volunteers!

In addition to the volunteers shown at right, Ted Vickers, Tim Turner, Jack Kerby, Ann Bobiney, Helen & Connie Cost also helped out.

Despite all of the rain that we had this year, the Nature Society was able to pocket \$520 for one day's work at this year's Dream Cruise.

The Nature Society wants to thank everyone who volunteered this year. Like last year, all of the volunteers said they had a great time while they were there. An extra shift was added this year, which cut



Nature Society members who helped collect money from people who parked their cars at Gunn Dyer Park during this year's Dream Cruise. From left: Les Schonberg, Bob Muller, Ann Holcomb, Ila Schonberg, Diana and Donald Diehl.

the length of each one down to 2 1/2 hours.

Hopefully, next year there won't be any rain on

Dream Cruise Day and we will be able get more people to park at Gunn Dyer and thus make more money.

Renewals & New Members

Thanks to the following individuals & families for becoming new members or renewing their membership for 2006-2007.

Doris Applebaum
Andrew & Geaneen Arends
Joe Armstrong

Cheryl Ashley
Ann Bobiney
Joyce Bowen
Pam & Mike Brady
Marie Brent
Margaret Bresnan
Ann Cline
Pat & Ray Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Karl DeLisle
Paul Desjardins
Don Diehl
Tom & Karen Elliot

Darlene Ellis
Mary Emerson
Ann Forsaith
Richard & Marilyn Fowler
Robert & Marilyn Gasiorowski
Kathleen Gorzkiewicz
Gretchen & Patrick Greenwood
Kristine & Dave Hammond
Colleen & Frank Hilzinger
Sally & Stephen Hiott
Ann Holcomb
Jack Kerby

Joan Larson
Glen Latinen
Lance Lindell
Ann Manor
Margaret Miller
Patty Mogk
Bob & Kelly Muller
Bill & Pearl Richardson
Jeanette Roger
Joan Runcie
Jean Sarnacki
Jeffrey Sibley

Richard & Patricia Stoll
Kathleen Thomson
Tim Turner
Joseph Tusa
Melissa Vachon
Ted & Nancy Vickers
David Wiltse
Kenneth & Susan Wolak
Michael & Katherine Woodford

Tenhave Woods' Deer Venture into Arlington Park Neighborhood

REPORT BY ANN WILLIAMS AND PHOTO BY TOM MATHER

Arlington Park is the neighborhood north of Thirteen Mile Road between Marais and Main Street. The homes there have deep lots and many of the homes on Lexington Boulevard back up to Tenhave Woods, separated only by a tall chain link fence. Our home is on Mount Vernon and we are fortunate to live on an oversize lot which includes lots of tall trees and overgrown scrub.



"Backyard Bucky", the eight pointer that hung around Tom Mather's Lexington Blvd. home.

The deer that have taken up residence in Tenhave have frequented our and our neighbors' yards this spring and summer. They have enjoyed eating our hostas, green bean leaves from our veggie garden, morning glory, moonseed berries and honeysuckle. While I don't appreciate them eating my hosta down to the stubs, they can eat all the weeds they want, especially the morning glory and moonseed berries (toxic if consumed by humans).

With the first sighting in mid-June we enjoyed a large buck with a young fawn early in the day in the back of our property. The buck heard us and popped his head up from behind a large hydrangea bed. I wish I had gotten a picture of this for you all to see. I have to admit the buck was so large I was a bit afraid to get too close for fear it might charge me to protect the fawn. I moved inside the house to watch as they both explored our yard for over an hour. This day I was amazed how effortlessly they can jump a regular height chain link fence from one property to the next.

The second sighting was during our neighborhood garage sale in the late afternoon. We were so surprised as there was so much traffic and people in the neighborhood that day. This time it was just the fawn hanging out in our back vegetable garden, eating the

same thing, green bean leaves and morning glory and taking breaks to lie down in the overgrown scrub along the north fence. She didn't mind that we would take visitors from our garage sale and show her off. She would let us get pretty close (about 80 feet). She would stop to look at us then continue on with her meal and rest.

The third sighting was the following day in the early evening.

Our two young sons enjoyed watching the same fawn explore the overgrown edge of the property.

We find it special the deer are among us and we worry about their safety, but they almost seem at peace in our backyard habitats. The neighbors we have talked to seem very excited about our new visitors and don't seem to consider them nuisances. We don't mind if they enjoy our hostas since they are perennial. Hopefully, the deer will stick around. It would be so nice to see them in the winter against a snowy backdrop.

Wild Birds Unlimited
Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

28558 Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Owners: LuAnn & Steve Linker
Phone: 248-548-2424
Fax: 248-548-0917
Email: wburoyaloak@aol.com

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

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

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

Beautification & Restoration: **Jack Kerby [Cunningston]** 248-280-0186

Dena Serrato [Tenhave Woods] 248-542-2820

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

Education: **Open** • Fundraising: **Open**

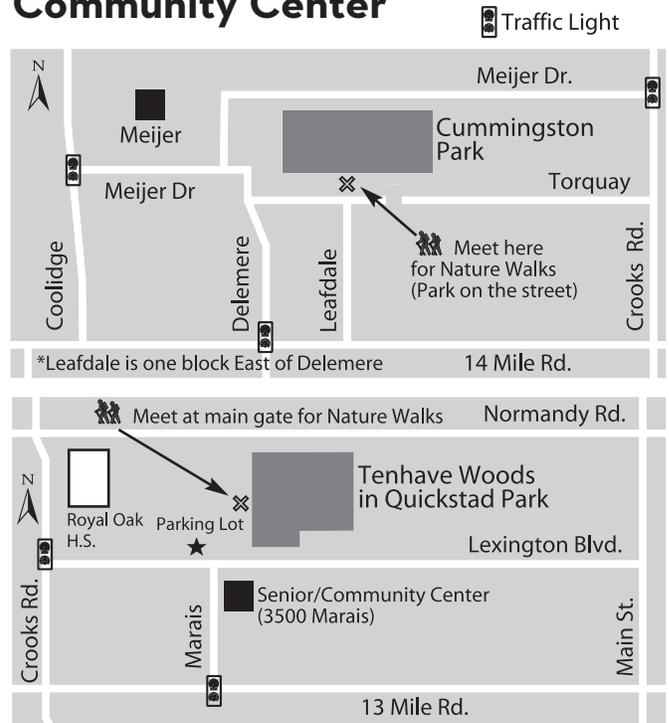
Program: **Bob Muller** 248-398-0195

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

Newsletter: **Ted Vickers** tg1121@sbcglobal.net

Ann Williams ann.m.williams@comcast.net

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**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

