

The Chinquapin

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*The Official Publication of
The Royal Oak Nature Society
www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature/index.html*



Hi and welcome to the first issue of the Royal Chinguapin! Since our first meeting on January 17 we have made a lot of progress. As with any grass roots group, getting started and organized is one of the hardest things to accomplish. The five main subcommittees, (Communication, Beautification, Education, Programs, and Ways & Means) have been meeting on a regular basis and have accomplished a lot, considering we are only six months old (See the next page).

The enthusiasm and excitement for this effort has been overwhelming and the amount and quality of volunteers that have come out to support the Royal Oak Nature Parks is incredible. We thank you for your support and commitment to preserving our nature preserves.

Gretchen Greenwood

Something to Talk About!

A healthy community needs people who are committed to the management of its open spaces and natural resources. Royal Oak's fifty parks, acres of open space and thousands of trees make it unique among Michigan cities. The management of these natural resources is an awesome responsibility and I'm thrilled that the members of the Royal Oak Nature Society have chosen this mission as their public service. Their commitment to our environment will help Royal Oak maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for generations to come. I am committed to helping them achieve their short and long term goals.

Marie Donigan
Royal Oak City Commissioner

2001-2002 Season Schedule – Everyone Welcome!

General Meeting with Speaker Programs

7:00pm – Royal Oak Senior Center

9/5 – **Wild Desserts:** The edible fruit and nuts of Oakland County. (Bob Muller /Don Drife)

10/3 – **Fossils of the Great Lakes Region:** Did you know that starfish once lived in Michigan? Find out what the wild life looked like 350 million years ago. (John Topor)

11/7 – **Zoo Conservation, Reptiles 101:** The Detroit Zoo's role in reptile conservation. (Andy Snider)

12/5 – **A Run Ran Through It:** Red run, the Ghost River of Royal Oak, where it ran and the fishes that lived in it. Find out what was lost. (Bob Muller)

1/2 – **Tree identification workshop:** Learn how to identify trees in winter. (Don Drife, Joyce Drife and Bob Muller)

Nature Walk Programs—9:00am

9/29 – Tenhave Woods
10/6 – Cummingston Park
10/27 – Tenhave Woods
11/3 – Cummingston Park
12/1 – Tenhave Woods
1/5 – Tenhave Woods
2/2 – Tenhave Woods
3/3 – Tenhave Woods
4/ 8 – Tenhave Woods
4/20 – Cummingston Park
5/4 – Tenhave Woods
5/11 – Cummingston Park

Other Events

9/15 – Plant Exchange – 9:00am @ Royal Oak Senior Center
9/29 – Tenhave Woods Cleanup – 11:00am
10/6 – Cummingston Park Cleanup – 11:00am

Program Committee Report

The Program Committee set up and ran a Nature Walk and Speaker series this spring. We lead two walks at Quickstad and two at Cummingston. The first two walks spotlighted early spring growth and the last two occurred at the height of the spring wild flowers blooming. The walks at Quickstad had about 17 people each and the Cummingston walks 11 each. The walks did show the contrast between the two parks. Cummingston's drainage problems were easily seen and the damage to the plant life of that park was glaringly obvious. On every walk through the parks several new plants were added to our botanical list. The Speaker Program went well. Our Wild Flower Talk drew 33 people, the Amphibian Talk, 17, and the Backyard Habitat, 11. We handed out questionnaires at the talks, and from the comments we received, we are planning butterfly and reptile speakers for the 2001-2002 Season. Many other programs are in the works. Please contact us via the web site if you have any requests.

Communication Committee Report

The Communication Committee is responsible for communicating with society members and the public. We have compiled a membership list so that we can keep members informed of meetings and events. We are also responsible for communicating with interested citizens to publicize the Royal Oak Nature Society and its programs through press releases and mailings.

The Communications Committee has also been working on the Newsletter, keeping a club scrapbook, and thinking of new ways to tell the community about what we're doing. We have a lot of great ideas and can't wait to get to work in the Fall when our new season begins!

Beautification Committee Report

The Beautification Committee is dedicated to the task of improving the two Royal Oak Nature Preserves - Cummingston Park and Tenhave Woods (Quickstad Park) - for the enjoyment and educational value of these natural resources.

Our goal is to provide nature trails and maps, improvements to the drainage, identification of the trees and flowers, a nature center as a center for learning, and other enhancements to the parks so that they will offer year round enjoyment for the citizens of Royal Oak and surrounding areas.

With these goals in mind, we are in the process of preparing a Master Plan for each park so that, through volunteer effort, we can achieve our goals and make the parks more enjoyable places to visit. We encourage interested citizens to join our Committee and participate in this activity.

Education Committee Report

The Education Committee would like to provide teachers in Royal Oak Schools with lesson plans, ideas, and programs that will center around the use of the parks in Royal Oak. Our goal is to provide an outreach education program that promotes understanding and appreciation of the environment by involving children in the local parks. We feel our best means of reaching the children is through their teacher's use of lessons and resources, which we are willing to provide.

A questionnaire has been developed and sent to all elementary school teachers in the Royal Oak School District. Returned questionnaires will be helpful in developing lessons and materials for the next school year. With a team effort and interaction with educators we hope to reach the children of Royal Oak.

Steering Committee Members:

Program – Bob Muller (398.0195)
Communication – Gretchen Greenwood (288.2002)
Beautification – Jack Kerby (280.0186)
Ways & Means – Phil Townsend (549.0540)

Committee Chairmen:

Program – Mary Bogush
Communication – Heather Muller
Beautification – Derek Blount
Ways & Means – Dena Serrato

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