



THE Chinquapin

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FALL 2007

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Royal Oak Nature Society membership dues for the 2007/08 season (September to August) are now payable. Please check your address label to see if you are already paid-up through August 2008. If not, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society. If a family membership, please be sure to record the total number of family members on designated line.

A membership entitles you to have our newsletter, *The Chinquapin*, mailed to you four times a year. The mailing begins with the Fall 2007 issue and ends with the Summer 2008 edition. 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.

Attendees watch a slide presentation by Bob Muller



Our Second Fundraiser

BY BOB MULLER

In April of 2006, the Royal Oak Nature Society held its first fundraiser. We spent eight weeks putting it together and getting items donated for our silent auction. It was held at the Leo Mahany/Harold Meininger Senior/Community Center and we were very pleased by the community's participation. After the fundraiser, the Board decided that it was so successful, that we needed to make it an annual event and also bigger and better. So we secured the Royal Oaks Elks Club for the spring of 2007, as our location. Preliminary planning began in the fall of 2006. By March of 2007, we were having weekly meetings in order to get ready for the "putting on" of our Second Annual Fundraiser.

We began to ask the City's businesses and friends of the Nature Society for donations of items to be bid on at the silent auction. The Nature Society advertised that there would be appetizers. So we also approached area restaurants, asking for food donations (see list of donors). The Society felt because

we had been an organization long enough, that awards should be given out at the fundraiser to individuals and organizations that have helped us out. Thus, *The Chinquapin*, President's and Lifetime Achievement awards (see sidebar) were born and discussions as to who should receive them began. Surprises also happened. While we were manning a table at the Farmers Market publicizing our fundraiser, a small folk trio, Theresa, Phyllis & Jack, offered to play at the fundraiser at no charge. So ticket sales began and items for the auction started to flow in (see list of donors). On the afternoon of the fundraiser, we began setting everything up at the Elk's Club and waited afterwards to see what would happen. Everything exceeded our expectations! The band was fantastic and created a festive atmosphere. Hopefully, we can get them to return next year. The restaurants sent so much great food that it was more like dinner than appetizers. The attendees bid, items were won and twice

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The Nature Society wants to thank everyone who donated an auction item(s) for the 2007 Annual Fundraiser.

2nd Street Sub
 Al & Winnie Chrzanowski
 American Laser Centers
 Annette's Hair Studio & Spa
 Aquarium Shop
 Arisia Ward
 Artcraft
 Athens Coney Island
 Batteries Plus
 Billings Lawn Equipment
 Black Lotus Brewing Co.
 Bob Gasiorowski
 Bob & Kelly Muller
 Bordine Nursery
 Briggs Gallery
 C & N Party Rentals
 Carol Bradshaw
 Chinn Jewelry
 Citizens Bank
 Creative Art Studios
 Decades the Nostalgia Store
 Dena Serrato
 Detroit Repertory Theatre
 Detroit Zoo
 Don & Joyce Drife
 Doug Brown Packaging
 Emily Damstra
 English Gardens
 Ewe-nique Knits
 Frenz Hardware
 Frittata
 Gayle's Chocolates
 Glen Latinen & Leslie Keys
 Holiday Food Center
 I Luv Scrapbooking
 Ikea Canton
 Jack Kerby
 Jeanne Servis
 John Topor
 Joyce Ann Mierlie
 Karen Dargo Massage=Relief
 Kelly Muller
 KLM Sales
 Lady Bug Craft Shoppe
 Leon & LuLu
 Marcia Hovland Gallery
 Margaret Monroe
 Marie Ford-Holcomb
 Marvin's Garden
 Miner's Den
 Monterrey Cantina
 Nancy Vickers
 Outback Steakhouse
 Oxford Inn
 Paperback Trade Inn
 Pat & Ray Coleman
 Peabody's Restaurant
 Perennial Enhancements
 Personalize Books Plus
 Pet Ritz America
 Pronto!
 Richard Stoll
 Ron Meyer
 Rustic Furniture & Christmas
 Wreaths
 Sherlock's Hair Salon
 Shining Moment LLC
 Stagecrafters
 Starbucks
 Stoneful Creations
 Telly's Greenhouse
 Theresa, Phyllis & Jack
 Uppity Puppy
 Van Every Chiropractic Center
 Vinsetta Grill
 Westin Hotel

FUNDRAISER continued from page 1

as much money as last year flowed in. Our goal for 2007 to get enough money to purchase and install the first new turnstile for Tenhave Woods, was achieved. The turnstile is on order and it should be installed by the time we have our September nature walk. The bidding for the last of our silent auction items ended around 9:15, but people did not leave. The socializing and eating continued on. What we had created was a party. We still had people filling the tables at 11:00 pm. All of the Nature Society members that staffed the event were tired, but with big smiles on their faces.

If you missed this event, you missed a real fun evening. Make sure to mark your calendar next spring for our Third Annual Fundraiser (Royal Oak Elk's Club on Friday, April 18, 2008). For that one, we are looking to earn enough money to add one more turnstile at Tenhave. At that point, we will have completed our Master Plan (can be found on our website) goal of adding turnstile type pedestrian gate entrances on the north and south sides of the park, similar to the existing entrances.

Again, thanks from all of us that work in the nature parks to everyone who attended the fundraiser and to all



Folk group: Theresa, Phyllis & Jack performing

of those who donated food and items for our auction. All Donors will receive complementary issues of our newsletter for the 2007/08 Season.

Royal Oak Nature Society Award Winners

Robert Gasiorowski was the winner of our *Lifetime Achievement Award*. It is awarded to a person who has consistently worked for the maintenance and well being of the Royal Oak natural areas for at least five years. **The City of Royal Oak** received the *Presidents Award*. This award is to be given annually by the President of the Nature Society to the individual or group who has made the greatest contribution toward the Society's mission the previous year. **Boy Scout Troop 1610** received the *Chinquapin Award*. This award is given to an individual or group for recognition of notable contributions towards achieving the goals of the Society in any given year.



Robert Gasiorowski being presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award

The Nature Society would like to thank these fine restaurants for donating food for our 2007 Annual Fundraiser.

- BD's Mongolian BarBQ
- Herman's Bakery
- Lily's Seafood Grill & Brewery
- Oak City Grille
- Pasquale's Restaurant
- Potbelly's
- Sangri's
- Tom's Oyster Bar
- Woody's Diner
- Ya Yas
- Zumba Mexican Grille

Fall Speaker Programs

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

October 3rd "The Secret Lives of Trees"
Bob Muller, Nature Society Naturalist: Below, is a description of the program
Dan Kurkowski (DJ) was going to give to us in October. Sadly, DJ passed away in June. The trees and Nature Society have lost a good friend. I could not bring myself to find a replacement for DJ's talk, so I will do my best to talk on the subject he chose, although I will be a poor substitute for DJ.

*Dan Kurkowski, Arborist:
"I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues"
— The Lorax*

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

General Meeting with Speaker Programs

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

Date	Program
Sept. 5th	Fall Mushrooms of Michigan
Oct. 3rd	The Secret Lives of Trees
Nov. 7th	The Late Glacial Period in Oakland County
Dec. 5th	Birds in Flight - Aerial Acrobats

Nature Walk Programs Meet at the park

Date	Day	Time	Location
September 16th	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Tenhave Woods
October 20th	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Tenhave Woods
October 26th	Friday	7:30 p.m.	Tenhave Woods
October 28th	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Cummingston Park
November 3rd	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Tenhave Woods
December 15th	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cummingston Park

Nature Walk Descriptions:

September 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.

October 20th *Beginnings of Fall* See the changes that are starting to take place within the forest.

October 26th *Full Moon Walk* Experience the woods at a time of day when the park is

normally closed. You never know what you may hear and see when the light levels are low. Bring a small flashlight.

October 28th *Fall Color* This is the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

November 3rd *Most of the leaves should be gone.* Come see what has been revealed in the forest and Dragonfly Pond.

December 15th Come and see what changes are taking place in the woods just before the beginning of winter.

December Workshop Program

December 8th, (Saturday) 1:00 pm at the Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais). Learn how to identify common tree groups using a simple tree key. Common terms used in winter botany will also be covered. After the classroom session is over and weather permits, the group will walk over to Tenhave Woods and be given the opportunity to test their newly learned skills. Cost is \$5 per person at the door. Pre-registration is not required.

Please call 248-246-3380 or e-mail us at naturesociety@ci.royal-oak-mi.us for further information.

Ever wonder about tree reproduction? Join Dan Kurkowski as we explore Mother Nature's ingenious methods of tree propagation. From fluff to nuts, we'll discuss how our leafy green overlords utilize gravity, wind, insects, birds and even us lowly house apes to disseminate their progeny in their never ending conquest to rule the world.

November 7th "The Late Glacial Period in Oakland County" Join Cranbrook Geologist, John Zamiskie, for an engaging examination of the local surface geology of Oakland County, what it reveals regarding the retreat of the great ice sheets in this region 14,000 years ago and the subsequent development of proglacial lakes and beaches as the earth warmed. John will also review the evidence from his research at the Shelton and Adams Rd. mastodon sites and talk about how life returned to this region following the northward shift of polar desert, permafrost and tundra. The life he will focus on is the arrival of the first remarkable spruce forests and associated mastodon community type.

December 5th "Birds in Flight - Aerial Acrobats" Highlights of this nature presentation by Rick Lieder, painter/photographer, will be unique images of birds in flight, shown as aerial acrobats performing daring maneuvers. Rick's dramatic photographs are all taken in his backyard. These unique images are incredible photographs of birds. For a program preview, take a look at Rick's photos at www.cloudboxer.com.

Our First Open House

BY BOB MULLER

In the last seven years, we have had thousands of people attend our nature programs. We know from the time we spend in the parks that many people are also using them on their own. Regularly, there are articles in the local newspapers about the Nature Society and Royal Oak's two nature parks (Tenhave Woods & Cummington Park). We also do programs for local service clubs and others that focus on what we are offering. We have become well known in the community, but still I often talk to local people who have never heard of us or more surprising, that Royal Oak has nature parks! How could we get people that haven't been in the parks to



Attendees checking out collected pond samples.

come and see what we have? The idea of an open house was born.

We decided that the spring season with the wildflowers and Dragonfly Pond with its aquatic life would be the time of year

to give it a try. May 5th was picked as the date. We would have an all day program with scheduled nature walks in the morning and numerous things going on from 1:00-5:00 in the afternoon so people could just drop by and take part in them. Fifty people attended morning programs that included a bird walk (lead by Doris

Applebaum & Margaret Moran from Oakland Audubon), a wildflower walk (headed by Don Drife) and a pond life program (run by Bob Muller). Afternoon programs included a nature photography demo (Pat & Ray Coleman), wildflowers (John DeLisle), pond and insect life (Jimmy Kipps), trees (D.J. Kurkowski), a

children's craft table (Nancy Vickers & Jennie Klein), skulls and skin display (Tim Turner) and invasive plant species removal (Dena Seratto). Sixty-five people showed up for those.

The Nature Society and the Trees Have Lost a Friend

Dan Kurkowski, known to most of us as DJ, passed away unexpectedly in June. I have known DJ for many years and "drafted" him early in our struggles to get our speakers program going. He also helped on a number of early nature walks and I tried very hard to get him to become deeply involved with us. Unfortunately for us, DJ was already very involved with many other organizations (Global Releaf, The Michigan Big Tree Hunt, & The Michigan School of Gardening to name a few), but was always ready to help out, as time would allow. DJ thought highly enough of the diversity of Tenhave Woods to use it for tree ID classes that he taught. This pleased us tremendously as the Nature Society's main goal is to get people into the parks. DJ was always smiling and laughing; he was able to project his enjoyment of life to those around him. It was impossible to not find yourself in a good mood when around DJ. DJ worked on our open house this past May and was scheduled to give us another talk this coming October. I do not have the heart to find a replacement for his talk and will use the description of what he had planned. I will do the best I can, although I know I will be a poor substitute. After his name on our listed programs, he always quoted the Lorax from the Dr. Seuss book "I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues". The trees have lost a great defender and friend, as DJ spoke for the trees, for the trees have no tongues. *by Bob Muller*

We saw many new faces. One gentleman commented that he had not been in the park for at least 20 years. Many parents and grandparents with children were walking the trails. Since I was not running a program in the afternoon, my job was to wander around the park, which gave me the opportunity to talk with many of those people. People seemed to be enjoying themselves and lots of comments were made as to how beautiful the woods were. I continuously pointed out that this was a great place to walk with small children; they always enjoy running down the trails with the parents not having to worry about the street and cars. Our insect pond life afternoon program was staffed by a high school freshman with help from my grandson. I got lots of feedback as to how well they explained what was in the pond and



Group checking out the birds that could be found during an early morning bird walk.



A Red Tail Hawk taking a timeout near Dragonfly pond.

the time they took with younger children in helping them catch things that were in the water.

We had concerns since the open house was only two weeks after our fundraiser, that there wasn't enough publicity for this event. We thought few might attend. But, by mid afternoon we knew that this was the beginning of our annual Spring Park Open House. If you missed this one, mark your calendars for May 3, 2008.

Birds that were seen or heard

- Red Tail Hawk
- Downy Woodpecker
- Red Bellied Woodpecker
- Indigo Bunting
- White Breasted Nuthatch
- Tufted Titmouse
- House Finch
- Northern Flicker
- Robin
- Scarlet Tanager
- Yellow Rumped Warbler
- Black Throated Green Warbler
- Black & White Warbler
- Nashville Warbler

Thank you!

For becoming new members or renewing your membership

- Shirley Albright
- George Aldea
- Andrew Androff
- Joe Armstrong
- Robert Braun
- Tony & Dana Catania
- Ann Cline
- Marge & Ray Crawford
- Kelly Daniels
- Don Diehl
- Bernie Ethridge

- Jennifer Gilbertson
- Barbara Gleason
- Jim Grant
- Nigel & Anita Heap
- Carol Jarvie
- Glen Latinen
- Paul Lussier
- Karen Pettke
- Mark & Johanna Pitchford
- Jeanette Roger
- Rose Slovick
- John & Valery Smith
- Michelle Swanson
- Emily Welch

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**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

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

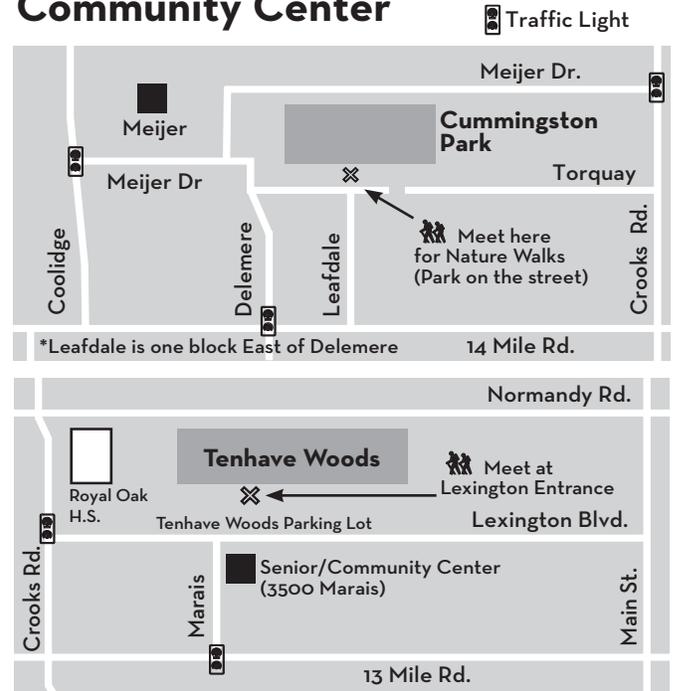
Ways & Means: **Helen Cost** 248-549-9423

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

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ROYAL OAK MI 48067

