



The Chinquapin

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Fall 2013

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2013/14 season begins now and ends in August, 2014. To see if you owe membership dues for the 2013/14 season, please check either your street address label or e-mail subject line.

There are four membership levels. General Membership is free and with it, you get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month. Associate Membership cost \$5 per year and gets you the above benefit along with four newsletters, "The Chinquapin", e-mailed to you quarterly. If you want, we can mail a hard copy to you instead. **With e-mail, the print quality of the newsletter is better and the photos are in color.** Supporting Membership is \$10 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus being listed a supporting member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits, listed as a patron member in our newsletter, an invitation to our pre-Dream Cruise picnic at Gunn Dyer Park and one free ticket to our annual fundraiser. If you want to be an Associate, Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (page 5)

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Nature Society's 8th Annual Fundraiser

On Friday, April 19th, we held our 8th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser at the Royal Oak Elks Club from 7 to 10 pm.

We want to thank everyone who helped us out by bringing in the tasty food that was served to all of our guests. There were appetizers and desserts along with a cash bar. At 7:45, our awards ceremony began. See page 2 for all of our award winners. For the first time, we announced the winner of our Young Poets Contest. See page 2 for more information about that contest. After the ceremony, our guests continued to bid on over 140 various silent auction items. The Nature Society wants to thank everyone who donated an auction item this year. A list of those donors can be found on page 4.

Eight of our guest tables had sponsors this year. They included **Royal Oak Garden Club, Doug Brown Packaging, Emagine Theatre, Fifth Avenue, Miner's Den, Royal Oak Historical Society, Action Fence of Michigan and Play & Stay Pet Center.** We want to thank them for their generous donations and support and to everyone else who in one way or another, has supported us during the past year.

Because of Good Friday, next year's fundraiser is going to be held one week earlier than it was this year. Please be sure to pencil us in for Friday, **April 11, 2014** for our **9th Annual Fundraiser.** It will be held again at the Royal Oak Elk's Club. Hope to see you then.

Message From the President

by Don Drife

Our small band of dedicated volunteers study and do upkeep on our two nature parks. We continue to do trail maintenance in both parks and we now monitor and make repairs to the fence surrounding Tenhave. We could always use more help in these areas.

We are continuing to develop the arboretum and have added a new butterfly garden. Help is needed weeding, watering, and monitoring the collection. Please contact John DeLisle (see page 6) if you would like to volunteer.

The parks continue to surprise us. In the last year we have found several plants of Richweed near the intersection of the Goodwin and Sandbar Trails. This native has frilly flowers that I think smell like citronella. It grows in rich, undisturbed woods so it is an indicator that our forest is healthy. Hog peanut has also been rediscovered. This plant was common in Tenhave in the 1970s and I have been looking for it ever since the Nature Society was formed. I found a four-foot by eight foot patch of it last summer. A second

Sour Cherry tree in the park has been found growing near the east fence. Another native plant found growing along the Goodwin Trail is Virginia Stickseed. It has a small flower that looks like a Forget-me-not.

Another surprise was the discovery of fish in Dragonfly Pond. Fish will not survive in a vernal pond (a pond that dries up in the summer). Someone released a few fertile Fathead Minnows into the pond. This is a species used as a baitfish. Many species that occur in vernal ponds exist there because there are no fish to eat them. We don't know what long-term impact this invasive species will have. We do know they will die in the winter and hopefully will not be introduced again.

Mary Fredricks, a Nature Society member, is starting a group to study the mushrooms in the parks. Working under the auspices of the Royal Oak Nature Society, it is called Friends of Fungi. During the growing season, April to October/early November, members will

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If I Were Nature

by Sophia Papp

If I were a bird
soaring above the trees
I'd look down and see
all the big bulls and busy bees.

If I were grass
tall and lean
I'd be as important as sugar in cake
I'd be the most common thing seen.

If I were a lion
majestic and pretty
I'd be "king of the jungle"
being my prey would be a pity.

If I were a snake
scaly and serious
I'd bathe in the sun
maybe safe, maybe venomous.

If I were a flower
colorful and good smelling
I'd sway in the breeze
make everyone feel like singing.

If I were a turtle
slow and steady
but when danger comes
with my shell, I'll be ready.

If I were nature
all things beautiful and free
I'd sing and rejoice
nothing compares to me.

2013 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

Twelve years ago when the Nature Society was first formed, Richard Stoll as a friend, was called upon to repair a gate at Tenhave Woods. This earned him the tongue in cheek title of the Nature Society's Engineer and he has never put down his tools since. He has used a chainsaw to cut up fallen trees so that they could be removed from our trails, operated heavy equipment to move large amounts of dirt, repaired bird feeders, made and installed signage, assembled our arboretum shed along with doing many other things that needed to be done. In 2012, he designed, machined and helped install posts & wires necessary to add additional height to the fences along Custer and Lexington. This project was necessary in order to keep deer out of the park so that they can no longer destroy Tenhave Woods' wildflowers. This design saved us \$50,000. Without all of Richard's efforts throughout the years, our nature parks would not be what they are today. We honored **Richard Stoll** for all the work he has done for the Nature Society by awarding him with the **2013 Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Fred Kaluza promotes the Arboretum stewardship on Wild Ones listserv and website. He and his wife Linda manage the northwest quadrant of the Arboretum as integral parts of the Ecoscaper team. He has lent his engineering and expertise to the Arboretum's rain garden design, construction, and management. The Arboretum project would not happen without Fred's help and the assistance of the Ecoscaper team. With great satisfaction, we awarded **Fred Kaluza** with the **2013 President's Award**.

Many attempts have been made by the Nature Society to offer programs to the schools with only marginal success. Kristin Smith, a teacher at Royal Oak Jane Addams Elementary School, asked us four years ago if we could do a pond life program for the entire 5th grade class on the last day of the school year. Kristin apparently felt it was a success and we have been repeating the program yearly since then. She also invited us to put on a program as part of a school assembly in the winter of 2011. This past fall we did a forest walk in Tenhave Woods and an owl pellet program for the entire Addams 5th grade. Hopefully, she will continue to make this an annual event. These programs are among the most rewarding for us, because of the enthusiasm of the children. Kristin is the only person from outside of the Nature Society to actively become involved with our goal of doing educational programs for children. With great pleasure, we awarded **Kristin Smith** with the **2013 Chinquapin Award**.

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and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society. Please list other household members you want included as Nature Society members (no extra cost).

Through your donation (tax deductible), you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail us the information asked for on our membership form (page 5) & send that information to: naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us.

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.

YOUNG POETS CONTEST

This year we added a new event to celebrate at our annual Fundraiser - the Young Poets Contest. April is National Poetry Month. Our Fundraiser is held in April. We thought this would be the perfect time to introduce the concept of art and nature to young people. The contest was open to all students in the Royal Oak Public Schools in grades 2 through 5. Their subject had to be nature themed. We were very pleased with the number of entries we received since the teachers had only a few weeks to put everything together in an already full school year schedule. The quality of the work submitted was outstanding. The judges did not have an easy task. We had three judges this year - Regis Kleiss, Diana Wing and Robert Kantz. Each judge selected three finalists and then they all chose one winner. The 2013 winner was Sophia Papp, a fifth grader at Northwood Elementary. Her poem, "If I Were Nature", is printed on this page for you to enjoy. All of the finalists' poems can be read on our website and in the electronic version of this newsletter. Sophia was honored with recognition at the 2013 Fundraiser on April 19th. Her prize is a private pond study with Bob Muller for up to 10 children. She was very excited to share this event with friends. This contest will be an annual event and we look forward to see what the 2014 entrants will submit.

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (September to May) is held at the **Royal Oak Middle School** (formerly Dondero High School) which is located at 709 N. Washington. We meet in the auditorium or the "Gathering Place", both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. Our June program is held at the Senior/Community Center located at 3500 Marais. At our monthly Wednesday meetings, 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. All speaker programs are free and reservations are not required.

"Declining Butterflies of the Midwest and Michigan" is being held on **September 4th**. Dr. Emily Saarinen is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She will discuss current population trends in butterflies of the Midwest and highlight several species that are rare in Michigan. Special emphasis will be placed on scientists' efforts to save butterflies and actions the public can take to help.

"Great Smoky Mountains National Park" is being held on **October 2nd**. Great Smoky Mountains National Park welcomes more visitors in a year than any other national park. Located on the Tennessee-North Carolina border, this park has become well known for its biodiversity. Join Gordon Lonie, retired Sterling Heights naturalist, for an

introduction to the human and natural history of the park. This program includes plenty of flowers, waterfalls, salamanders and a guaranteed black bear sighting.

"The Fish Communities of the Rouge River" is being held on **November 6th**. The Rouge is Michigan's most polluted river. Who would think that it is one of only three rivers in Michigan to have the endangered Redside Dace. The Rouge is also the home of our newest invasive fish, the Mummichog. The Rouge is really a fascinating river that flows close to Royal Oak with an amazing diversity of fishes. Come learn about these fishes and why Bob Muller, our Nature Society naturalist, has spent the last two summers jumping into it.

(Continued from page 1)

meet monthly for walks in one of the Nature Parks or a nearby woods. In the winter, indoor programs are planned to teach mushroom identification and study their other interesting aspects. More information on this group will appear on our website, in emails, and on the Royal Oak Nature Society Facebook page. If you are interested in joining, send Mary an e-mail (maryfredricks.aim@gmail.com). Last year we had hundreds of the Giant Puffball fruiting in the park. These softball size (or larger) fungi are always fun to find.

Laurinne Cybulski and Laura Gogola, Nature Society members, were involved in a study of amphibians in Tenhave Woods this past spring. They found Western Chorus frogs in the park for the first time. They also reported Spring Peepers, American Toads, and Cope's Gray Treefrog. Their reports will provide an important benchmark for future population studies.

One of the highlights of the year for me was getting around a hundred people to turn out one cold Saturday morning in early February and walk through the park to assure that it was free of deer.

We raised a little over \$4,000 at our 8th annual fundraiser. If you have never been to one of our fundraisers, then you should plan to attend next year. If you have attended before, please come again. This is

another event put on by a small number of volunteers.

Our Wednesday night speaker program continues to improve from an already high bar. Total attendance reached almost 600 people this year. Over 500 people attended our nature walks this past year. These are free programs because the people leading and supporting them are again, volunteers.

The Royal Oak Nature Society continues to promote and protect Royal Oak's natural heritage and we have fun while doing it. Come and help us. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.



Giant Puffball

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: Park in Marais/Lexington lot and meet at the Lexington entrance (300 feet east of parking lot). For the Owl Hoots & Full Moon walks, park and meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

ARBORETUM: Park and meet on the north side of the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais)

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. All public nature walks are free & reservations are not required.

"Arboretum in Early Fall" is being held at the Royal Oak Nature Society **Arboretum** on Sunday, **September 22nd**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Take a tour of the meadow in our developing arboretum (behind the Community Center) and see what fall wild flowers are blooming

"Fall Color" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Saturday, **October 19th**, beginning at **10:00 am**. This is the most beautiful time of year to take a look at our nature study areas.

"Oak Tree Identification" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **October 26th**, beginning at **10:00 am**. We are doing something different. Help us with some Oak research. We need help identifying oak species. Come, lend a hand and learn more about oaks.

"Fall Color" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **October 27th**, and again on Sunday, **November 3rd**. Both programs begin at **2:00 pm**.

"Geological Features" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **November 9th**, beginning at **10:00 am**. What did this area look like thousands and millions of years ago? Why is Royal Oak so flat, or is it?

"Mammals of Tenhave" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **December 8th, 2013** beginning at **2:00 pm**. Park at the Lexington & Marais lot & meet at the Lexington entrance. Come and learn about the mammals that live in Tenhave Woods. We will look for signs of these mammals and have skulls and skins with us to help describe them and how they live.

"Owl Hoot" is being held at Cummingston Park on Thursday, **December 19th, 2013** beginning at **7:30 pm**. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay. We will walk into Cummingston and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

Thank you to all of our 2013 Annual Fundraiser Auction Donors

Annette's Hair Studio & Spa; Aquarium Shop; Athens Coney Island; Baconfest Michigan; Bark-A-Bout Pet Resort
bd's Mongolian BarBQ, Billings Lawn Equipment; Black Lotus Brewing Company; Carol Bradshaw; Judge Terrence Brennan
Briggs Gallery; Button's Rent-It; Mary Ann Carmichael; Kim Ciolek; City of Royal Oak; Clover Stones; Pat & Ray Coleman Decades
Dos Manos; Don & Joyce Drife; Dynamic Flowers; Dr. Paul Ehrmann; Ewe-nique Knits; Amanda Felk
Four Seasons Garden Center; Frentz & Sons Hardware; Frittata; Green Toe Gardens; Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival
Gustafson Morningstar Dentistry; Priscilla Hawkins; Holiday Market; Hollywood Super Markets; Hopeakuu, holistic massage
Diane Howey; Jan's Pottery; Fred Kaluza; Mary Kleiss; Donna Kuchapsky; Ladybug Shoppe; Leon & LuLu's; Lily's Seafood
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle; Betty Mathie; Mayor Jim Ellison; Judge Derek Meinecke; Miner's Den; Moosejaw
Motor City Auto Spa; Bob Muller; Norm's Field of Dreams; Oak City Grille; Outback Steakhouse; Paint Party Royal Oak
Paper Back Trade In; Pet Supplies "Plus"; Josephine Primeau; Pronto!; Royal Oak Garden Club; Virginia Safronoff
Stephanie Schneider; Dena Serrato & April Walker; Stagecrafters; John Topor; Town Tavern; ; Trader Joe's
Van Every Family Chiropractic Center; Gina Vanderhoff; Nancy Vickers; Vinsetta Grill; Denise Vultee

Nature Society's 7th Annual Open House

Our 7th Annual Open House was held on Saturday, April 27th, one week earlier than in past years. This year, our activities took place between 1 and 3 pm, instead of from 9 to 3 as in previous years. For the third year in a row, the weather turned out to be quite nice. At 1 pm, everything was set up at Dragonfly Pond for two hours of pond life with Bob Muller. At 1:15, Don Drife led a tree walk into the woods. Pat & Ray Coleman at 1:30, with

cameras in hand, led people to our wildflowers in order to capture them on their cameras. John DeLisle finished up at 1:45 by leading a wildflower walk through the park.

Total attendance for all of our Open House programs this year was around 50. At next year's event, we hope that you can join us and experience one of the several programs that the Nature Society puts on as part of our outdoor nature series.



This year's award winners (left to right): Kristin Smith, Richard Stoll, Sophia Papp & Fred Kaluza

Please check out our Facebook page & become a fan of the Royal Oak Nature Society.

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



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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): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

1 year Household Membership
(September-August)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General (free) | Receive newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$5) | by: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$10 & up) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular mail OR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50 & up) | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |

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 and the Arboretum.

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, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-528-0479)

Vice President & Arboretum Stewardship: John DeLisle (248-672-7611)

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

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers (248-549-5366)

Communication & Newsletter: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

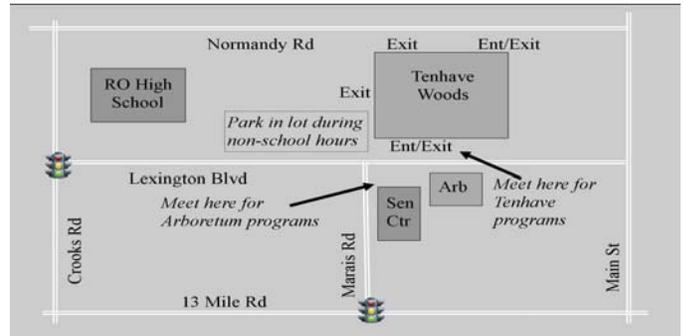
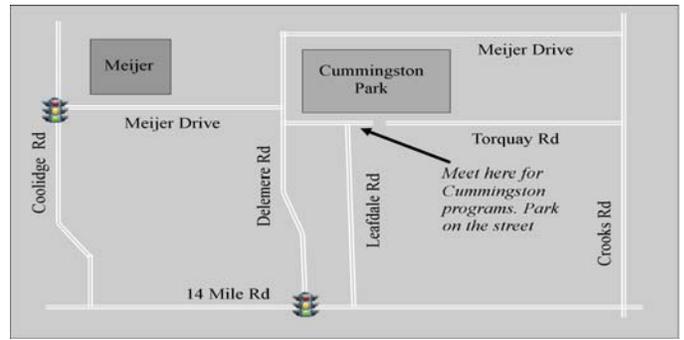
Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

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

Troop/Pack 1627 Representative & Engineer: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

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 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.

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