



The Chinquapin

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Summer 2010

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

New/renewal membership begins now for the 2010/11 season. That season will end in August 2011.

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", mailed to your household quarterly. Supporting Membership is \$10 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus e-mailed Tenhave Woods & Cummingston park updates from our naturalist (Bob Muller) & our botanist (Don Drife). Patron Membership is \$50 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus two private walks a year, listed as a patron in our Fundraiser Program & newsletter, invitation to our day before the Dream

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PLEASE NOTE

Our June speaker program **will be held** at the **Senior/Community Center** & not at the Middle School. See p.3 for details.

Walking Tour of Tenhave Woods: Part II

by Don Drife & Ted Vickers

In last summer's (2009) Chinquapin, we did "A Walking Tour of Tenhave Woods". It covered the Pond, Fern & the northern part of Sandbar Trail. In this issue, we continue the walking tour by covering the balance of the Sandbar Trail and most of the Sassafras Trail. A map on page 4 shows the location of all of the numbered trees referred to in this article.

This tour again begins at the Lexington turnstile (south side of park). Walk north up the Pond Trail about 35 feet. To your left just off the trail you will see a one foot diameter Silver Maple. Ten feet past the Maple on the same side, you will see a small ½" diameter **Catalpa [1]** tree not even 6 feet tall. The top part of the tree splits into 3 branches. Catalpas are the only trees in the park that have their leaves (or leaf scars and buds) in a whorl. Three leaves come out at each point (node) along the stem.

Take the Pond trail to the first intersection and turn right onto the Sandbar Trail. Walk nearly 45 feet up that trail and on your right you will see a one foot diameter **American Elm [2]** about five feet off the trail. On the left hand side of the trail for the next 90 feet are a series of Sugar Maples, less than a foot in diameter. They have opposite leaves (or leaf scars and buds) meaning that they are grouped in pairs along the stem. There are also many Sugar Maple saplings along this stretch.

Traveling almost 70 feet beyond the Elm, you will find on the right hand side and four feet off of the trail, a **Red Oak [3]** around 18 inches in diameter. The trees next to the Oak are two small American Beeches. They have smooth grey bark.

On the right hand side of the trail about 65 feet farther, you will come to a six inch

diameter **Hop Hornbeam [4]**, three feet off of the trail. This is one of many Hop Hornbeams that you will come across while on the Sandbar Trail. Almost all of the Hop Hornbeam trees you see in the park are less than one foot in diameter. Their bark looks like it is "cat-scratched". Across the trail are two **Black Cherry [5]** trees, each one about a foot in diameter and between 10 and 15 feet off of the trail. They look like they are covered with burnt potato chips. Ten feet farther along the trail, on your left and down in the hollow, you will find a three foot diameter Eastern Cottonwood. In front of the Cottonwood near the trail is another Hop Hornbeam.

On the southwest corner at the intersection of the Sassafras and Sandbar trails is a two foot diameter White Oak. On the southeast corner are two oaks. The southern one is a Red Oak and the northern one is another White Oak. Looking southeast 40 feet from the two oaks, you will see a **Sycamore [6]** tree with twin trunks. It has a peeling bark that almost makes the tree look diseased. Right behind the trail sign on the northeast corner are a pair of Hop-hornbeams.

Still on the Sandbar Trail and about 45 feet beyond the intersection with the Sassafras Trail, you can see on the left hand side, a two foot diameter Red Oak about eight feet off the trail. About 15 few feet farther up the trail and on the same side about 20 feet off the trail, you will see an 18" diameter light gray **Butternut [7]**. Twenty five feet farther is a 1 ½ foot Cherry tree four feet off of the left side of the trail. Almost 35 feet behind the Cherry is a large twin-trunked **Hop-hornbeam [8]**. The tree splits into two trunks about seven feet off

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the ground. This is the largest Hop-hornbeam in the park. Another 55 feet up the trail you will see an 1 ½ foot Red Oak just off of the trail on your right. If you look to your left, there will be an 18 inch diameter **Shagbark Hickory [9]** about 35 feet away. By looking at this tree, you can easily figure out how it got its name. Continuing up the trail, the next tree on your left is what is left of an old American Beech. In March of this year, the tree was vandalized by being burned down. The smaller tree in front of the Beech, one foot from the trail and nearly six feet tall with alternate leaves and thorns is a **Hawthorn [10]**.

As you keep going north, there are several multi-trunked Witch-hazels on both sides of the trail. They have wavy-edge leaves and yellow flowers in the fall. From the damaged Beech, walk about 60 feet to where you will see a heavily decayed fallen oak tree on your left. Then next to it 10 feet off the trail is a two foot diameter White Oak. Traveling another 20 feet, you will see on your left, a two inch diameter tree about eight feet off the trail. This is a **Slippery Elm [11]**. There are several smaller ones nearby.

These elms have fuzzy twigs. Moving up the trail another 30 feet, you will see on the left, a **Black Oak [12]** leaning over the trail. When the Oak was a young tree, it was at the edge of the woods. The tree leaned into the sunlight where the opening once was.

Passing by the intersection of the Sandbar and Good-



Vandalized American Beech Tree

win Trails, you will see on your right, the largest **Red Oak [13]** in Tenhave. It is four feet, two inches in diameter.

At the southeast corner of the Sandbar/Sassafras Trail intersection, there is a White Oak. After turning right onto the Sassafras Trail, the next tree on the right side is a six inch diameter Sugar Maple followed by a member of the Red Oak group. Fifty feet past these trees on the right side and four feet from the trail, is the second largest Red Oak in the park. The next large tree on the right side is a nearly three foot diameter **Tulip tree [14]**, about eight feet from the trail.

On the right hand side of the trail as it begins to bend to the right, you will see a one foot diameter Sugar Maple. Several feet farther along just off the left side of the trail, there is an 18 inch diameter **Red Maple [15]**. About 40 feet away on the right hand edge of the trail is an 18 inch **Sassafras [16]**. It has three different shapes of leaves. One is mitten shaped, another has two thumbs, and a third is uncut. New twigs are bright green and are our only trees species that the branches can divide in their first year. On the right side, 15 feet beyond the Sassafras, is a pair of three inch diameter **Blue Beech [17]** trees, about eight feet from the trail.

On the right hand side, 45 feet farther along and four feet off the trail, is a 30 inch diameter Red Oak. The next big tree on the right, almost touching the trail, is a two foot diameter **Tulip Tree [18]**.

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(Membership continued from page 1)

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) 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, you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide. Donations are always tax deductible.

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

Your membership whether General, Associate, Supporting or Patron, will help to strengthen this organization.

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.

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SPEAKER PROGRAMS

NOTE ** *The upcoming June meeting will be held at the Senior/Community Center at 3500 Marais (north of 13 Mile Rd between Crooks & 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 2nd**. 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 about what has been going on with the Nature Society, Cumming-

ston Park, Tenhave Woods and our future arboretum in Worden Park East. A photo show will depict some of those activities. We will finish off the evening by talking about some things we are planning to do in the future.

NATURE WALKS

There is at least one walk per month with more per month added during the spring wildflower and fall color seasons. An emphasis is put on understanding the different forest types found in our parks. Further information is given on individual plant and animal species, also the geology and human history of the area. 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.

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).

“Late Spring Nature Walk” is being held on Wednesday, **June 16th** beginning **7:00 pm at Tenhave Woods**. See what is happening in the woods during the late spring and beginning of summer.

“Pond Life in the Summer” is being held on Wednesday, **July 7th** beginning **7:00 pm at Tenhave Woods**. The wa-

ter level should have dropped and we can look at the wetland plants, aquatic life and the dragonflies for which the pond was named for.

“Mid Summer Nature Walk” is being held on Wednesday, **August 18th** beginning **7:00 pm at Tenhave Woods**. Join us and look at the summer woodland and ferns.

The Nature Society Needs Your Help With Our New Arboretum

As you probably know, the Nature Society has been working since 2007 to create an area inside Worden Park East that will eventually become an arboretum. Most of our work for the past three years has been to remove buckthorn, honeysuckle shrubs and garlic mustard from an area west of the new sidewalk built behind the Senior Center in 2006.

We are now reaching the point ecologically in 2010, where we can start collecting the native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, native grasses, and sedges that will fit into a unique local native plant arboretum – one based on the deciduous forest and savanna/meadow communities of southeast Michigan – and to care for these native plant communities.

Our next step is to create a team of “Ecoscapers”. An Ecoscaper is a gardener who landscapes with regard for nature’s local suite of organisms, their environment, and maintains and balances the local ecology and interactions amongst those organism. This is the definition put forth by the Wild Ones.

In order to maintain a native garden or restore an eco-

system, the Ecoscaper manages by: learning to identify the natives & exotic species; removing/cut weeds (or invasive plants and other exotic species); planting natives: moving plants, replanting or seeding disturbed/weeded areas; monitoring/treating phragmites and other specifically identified target weeds; mulching; watering certain plants and helping to plan weekly arboretum plant community and garden maintenance.

We need Ecoscapers who will help us from the ground up, as this is the year we will be planting and seeding entire “plant community gardens”. Basically, in our Royal Oak Nature Society Arboretum, we are actively seeking gardeners who know how to dig, weed, and plant, but who also appreciate and want to maintain nature’s garden!

Would you like to be the one who puts in the first Bloodroot to the Beech-Maple Forest Garden or the first Bee Balm to the Wet-Meadow garden?

For more information on becoming an Escoper, e-mail John DeLisle at johndgoesyard247@wowway.com, or Dena Serrato at: oldtoolgirl@yahoo.com. You can also call John at 248-585-9002 or Dena at 248-542-2820.

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About 30 feet after the trail veers to the left, you will see an one foot diameter Sassafras tree about three feet from the trail. After the trail bends back to the right, there is an 18 inch Oak in the white oak group on your right hand side. Also, on your right a few feet farther is a multi-branched **Juneberry [19]** shrub. The branches are ¼ inch in diameter. Walking farther, the trail then angles back to the left.

After travelling a short ways and before the trail bends to the right, you will see two larger trees on the left hand side. They are **Red Oaks [20]**. One is a two trunked tree and the other is a single trunk tree. On the right side of the trail there is a one foot diameter Sugar Maple at the edge of the trail.

After rounding the bend and traveling around thirty feet, you will see a two foot diameter **Bitternut Hickory [21]** on your left, just off of the trail. Close by is a 1 ½ foot diameter American Beech. A short ways before the trail turns to the right you will see a three foot diameter **Red Oak [22]** on your left, 15 feet off of the trail.

After the turn and on your left, there is a downed Red Oak that fell several years ago. About 40 feet along this stretch you will come across a Hop-hornbeam on your left. Nearly 30 feet away from the opposite side of the trail is a 1 ½ foot diameter **Shagbark Hickory [23]**. On the left and eight feet before the base of the fallen tree, is

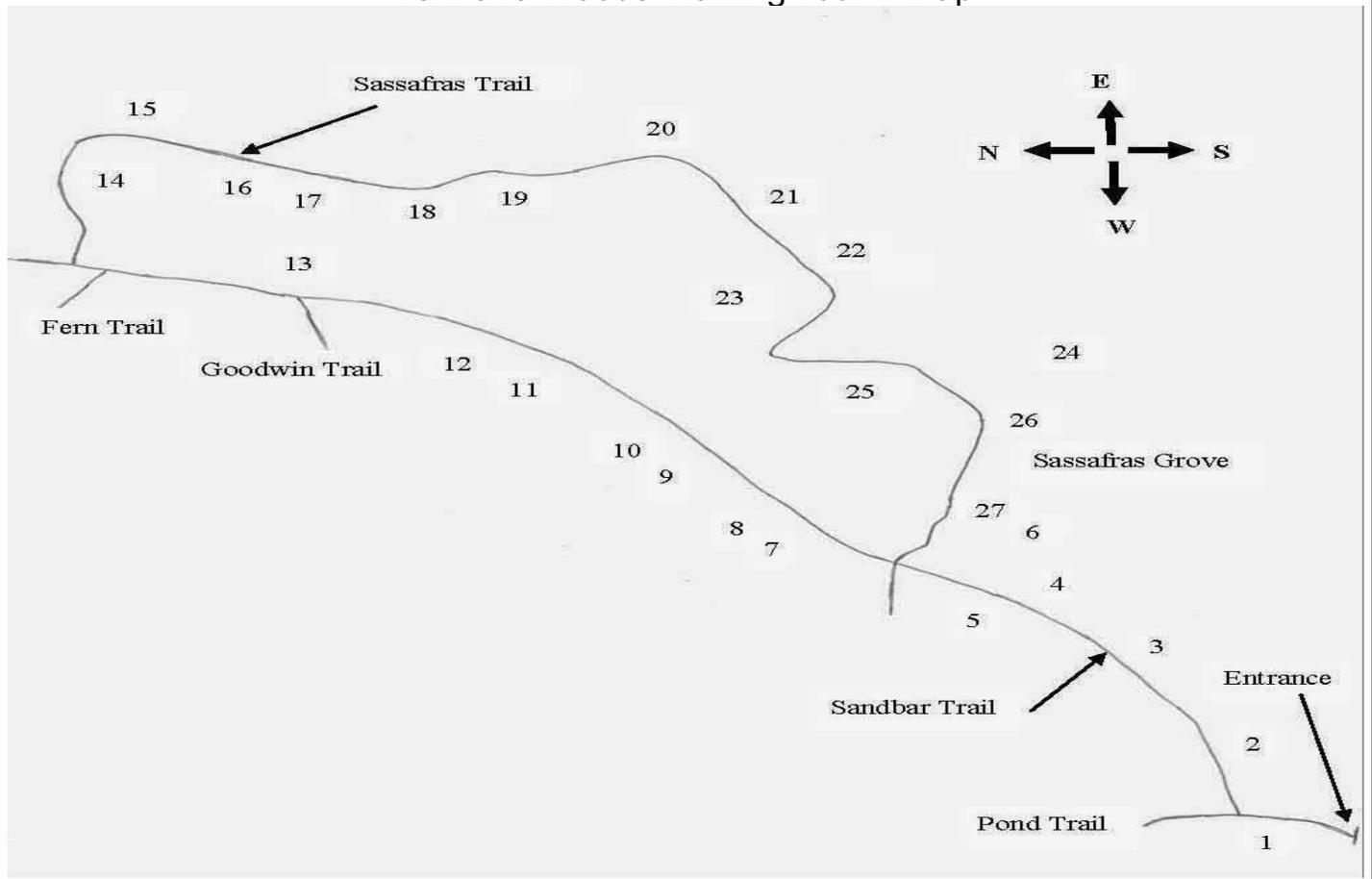
another Hop-hornbeam.

After making a sharp left turn at the base of the fallen Oak, we continue on until just before the trail veers to the right. Straight in front of you, you will see a tree with reddish bark almost 50 feet off of the trail. This is a very large **Sassafras [24]** and if you look at the top of that red streak you will see a knothole (about 12 feet off the ground) where squirrels live. They have worn the outer bark off the tree. Also, before you turn and if you look to your right, you will see one of the largest **Black Cherry [25]** trees in the park 15 feet off of the trail. After the trail turns, you will see a grove of Sassafras trees. They are probably one clone grown from a single seed. At the point where the trail turns to the right, you will see two **Sassafras [26]** trees on each side of the trail. Just past those two trees, you will see off to your right, a large oak tree that tree fell in March of 2002.

Just before the trail angles slightly to the right, you will come across a **Large Tooth Aspen [27]** near the left edge of the trail. It is one foot in diameter and the bark has broad flat topped ridges. Continue walking along as the trail snakes its way back to the Sandbar Trail.

This is end of our Tenhave Tree Walk, Part II. Between our two walks, we have past by 31 of the tree species listed on our flora list for Tenhave. To see the complete flora list, go to our website (www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature), link on to reports then go to our flora list.

Tenhav Woods Walking Tour II Map



Cummingston Park Drainage

In the middle of this past February, the City of Royal Oak installed a drain tile in the southwest corner of Cummingston Park. They dug about a four foot deep ditch, laid the drain tile and connected it to a street sewer located at the corner of Delemere & Torquay. Hopefully,

this will solve the problem with excess water in the western section of the park. But, we probably won't know this year if this drain will remedy the water problem because there hasn't been any flooding in the park this spring.

Nature Nights

Usually during the winter, we do two nature nights. This past winter, we only did one. That one was held in the evening at the newly rebuilt Northwood Elementary School on Friday, March 12, 2010. We had a great turnout with over 220 adults/children attending that program.

The Nature Society wants to thank Tracy Purrenhage coordinating Northwood's nature night with us. Without her help, we would not have been able to put this program together.

A special thanks goes out to all of our 2010 exhibitors: Nancy Vickers-Crafts; Bob Muller-Tree Rings & Skulls/Skins; Dena Serrato-Seed Planting; Jimmy Kipps-Insects; Kristine Hill-Birds; Leo Long & Philip Kukulski -North American Native Fish; Rebecca Johnson from the Detroit Zoo-Amphibians; Amanda Felk-Bats; Don Drife-Owl Pellets, John Topor-Fossils and all of their helpers.

If you know of someone who has a nature collection or display and might be interested participating in an upcoming Nature Night, please have them contact us.

Looking For Dream Cruise Volunteers

The Woodward Dream Cruise is only a few months away. It is time to step forward and volunteer to help us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park on Saturday, August 21, 2010. We start around 8 am and stay until about 7 pm. Shifts are only 2 1/2 to 3 hours long. It can get extremely busy in the early afternoon, so, we could use all of the

help that we can get.

If you have some free time on the 21st 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.



Heartfelt Thanks to Perry Gentner For Making
Our Vernal Ponds Become a Reality



Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check out 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 (individual/household members): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

1 Year Membership (September-August)

- General (free)
- Associate (\$5)
- Supporting (\$10 & up)
- Patron (\$50 & up)

NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

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

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 Cummingston Park and Tenhave Woods.

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-528-0479)

Vice President & Cummingston Park Stewardship: John DeLisle (248-585-9002)

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

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

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

Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

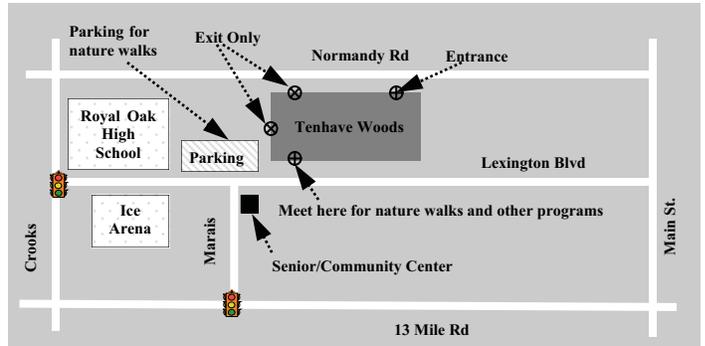
Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

Newsletter: Ted Vickers

Engineer: Richard Stoll

Royal Oak Nature Parks



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston 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 Cummingston 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 plus we offer a wide range of natural history educational programs.

The Royal Oak Nature Society
 1600 N. Campbell
 Royal Oak, MI 48067
 248-246-3380
 nature.society@ci.royal-oak.mi.us
 www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature



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