



The Chinquapin

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The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Introducing the Royal Oak Nature Society's Arboretum

By John DeLisle & Ted Vickers

The Royal Oak Nature Society Arboretum's mission is to collect and plant trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and graminoid (grasses and relatives) native plants that will lead Southeast Michigan in reviving biodiversity. This will be done by maintaining a full range of locally native plants and associated organisms. The plan for the arboretum is to make it into a garden that will be a collection of native plants that would have been found in undisturbed, pre-settlement Royal Oak. A second novel concept is to have all of the native deciduous trees of Michigan located in either Quickstad Park (including Tenhave Woods) or the Nature Society's arboretum. To showcase different native plants and trees, the arboretum will be broken up into four Native Plant Community Gardens: Area 1: Oak Openings; Area 2: Backyard Habitat; Area 3: Oak Hickory Woodland Garden; Area 4: Wetland (to be determined). See map on next page. Most of the work done in the arboretum up to this point has been in areas 1 and 3. Work in Area 2 and creation of our rain garden will not probably begin until 2012.

AREA 1 (Oak Openings): Records from the pre-settlement General Land Survey of Oakland County show that the area now around the Arboretum, could have once

been described as being a part of a Lakeplain Oak Openings. Lakeplain Oak Openings is a fire-dependent savanna community (characterized by the trees being sufficiently small or widely spaced so that the canopy does not close), dominated by oaks and with dominant grass species associated with both prairie and forest types communities. Other flora would include smaller trees, shrubs and wildflowers. The remnants of this Oak Openings can be seen today by the presence of many spreading, old (over a century) bur oaks and white oaks in the Worden Park forests.

This Oak Openings is being restored by the Nature Society by replacing the understory of non-native trees, shrubs, and weeds with the grassland species likely to have grown in the original Oak Openings. Restoration of this area proceeds with the following steps. The first is to remove woody vegetation from around the oak trees, an ongoing labor-intensive activity. Buckthorn removal first began in the spring of 2008. After that, periodic workdays that focused on buckthorn removal and other invasive species took place. This work has been accomplished through community service workdays and Eagle Scout projects. This area will be kept open by the regular cutting of brushy species. After woody plant removal, prairie and other characteristic grasses are planted. After the grasses are established, other appropriate species of wildflowers are reintroduced to complete the plant community. Currently, about one acre has been restored. Almost most all of the original buckthorn has been removed. Buckthorn re-sprouts still need to be cut and treated in areas that were untreated by earlier work crews.

Over 200 understory plants were donated and planted in the Oak Openings in 2010. Eventually, our two acre Oak Opening will contain thousands of open woodland and meadow native Oak Openings plants and around 300 individual species. In 2011, we will be adding black and white oaks to this area. In addition, many more shrubs, herbs and forbs (any herb that is not a grass or grass-like) will be planted.



Giant Sunflowers and Swamp Milkweeds in Oak Openings

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AREA 2 (Backyard Habitat Garden): This area will create a healthy refuge for wildlife. It will include a rain garden and an area that provides wildlife food, cover and water. Our first step will be to remove some undesirable/aggressive natives, such as poison ivy, silver maple and cottonwood from Area 2 along with invasive pests such as buckthorn and honeysuckle.

A rain garden will be placed at the northeast corner of the Senior Center. A rain garden is a depression in the landscape, designed and planted to trap, absorb, and filter storm water runoff and improve water quality. The land will be excavated to a depth of 2 to 3 feet, backfilled with a mixture of compost and sharp sand, and planted with native species. Rain water from the Center's roof will flow down a downspout run through the sloping garden, through pipes placed under the sidewalk behind the Center and then empty into Area 2. Wet-mesic prairie and savanna perennials will be planted in the rain garden, such as Potentillas, Asters, Bluejoint, Penstemons, Monardas, Golden Alexanders, Lobelias, Verbenas, Obedient Plants, Ragworts, Spiraeas, Sedges, Rushes, and Switchgrass.

Also a biohedge of native shrubs for bird forage will be planted in Area 2, featuring species like Viburnums, Chokeberries, Snowberries, Buttonbush, Serviceberry, Diervilla, Sumacs, and native roses. A "biohedge" is created when shrubs with varying flowering and fruiting habits are clustered together. In addition, there will be birdbaths, brush piles, snags, nest boxes, and feeders which will make this habitat feel like home for many of our native creatures.

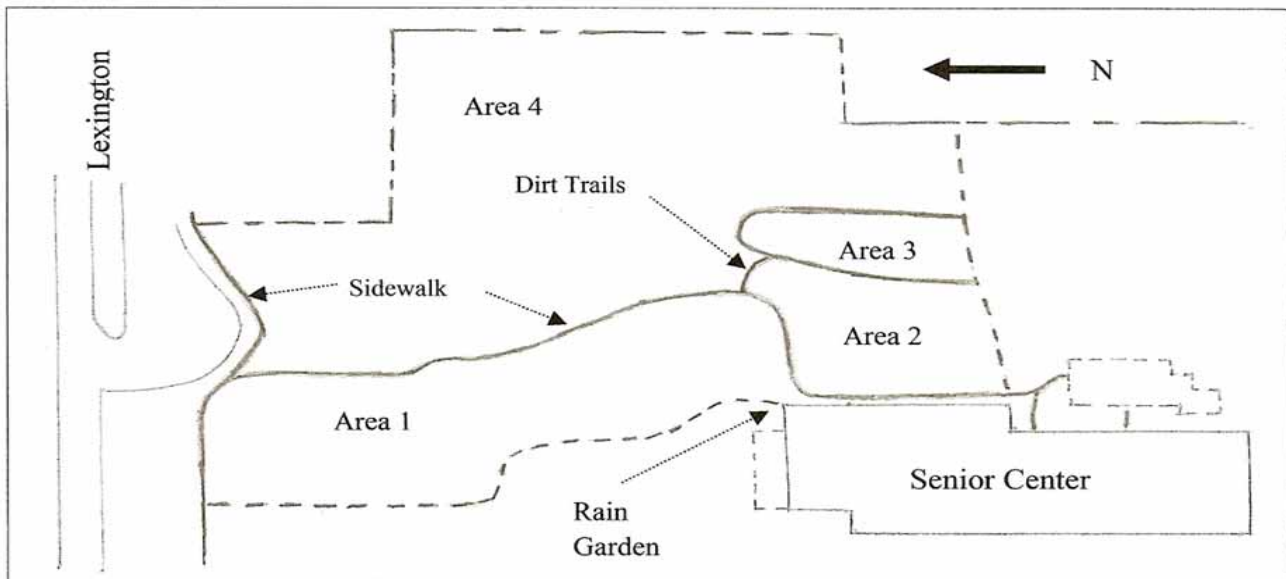
AREA 3 (Oak Hickory Woodland Garden): Last September, Boy Scout Eagle Scout project leader, Alex

Fabrizio, and his crew of volunteers from Troop 1610, spent five hours clearing invasive plants out of Area 3 and the lining the trails that border its perimeter. The only thing left after the clearing was English Ivy that was clinging to the ground. Trim and herbicide treatments were applied to remove any live invasive English Ivy. If there are any remnants left, those areas will be retreated in the spring of 2011.

One of our major goals is to have all of Michigan's deciduous native trees represented in one local area. Presently, there are 49 species of these trees in either Tenhave Woods or the Arboretum. There are currently 10 native deciduous tree species growing in Bob Muller's nursery. They will be planted sometime this year. These trees include Scarlet Oak, Shumard Oak, Kentucky Coffee Tree, American Chestnut, Pignut Hickory, Striped Maple, American Mountain Ash, Yellow Birch, White Birch, and Ohio Buckeye. Trees that still need to be purchased which will then complete our native deciduous tree collection include Swamp Cottonwood, Honey Locust, Pin Cherry, Rock Elm, Shingle Oak, Speckled Alder and Shellbark Hickory. Most of these trees that still have to be planted or purchased & planted, will go in Area 3. A few will be planted in areas 1 and 2 because these areas are either a little bit wetter or dryer than Area 3.

Planting will begin when those areas are clear. Whatever trees are deemed sizable will be planted in spring, with the remainder to be planted in fall. Woodland wildflowers will also be planted, species which naturally associate with the trees being planted. For example, around Oaks you would find Agalinis, the Purple Gerardia. Possible shrubs may include serviceberries, brambles, and Witch Hazel.

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Map of the Nature Society's Arboretum

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

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

*Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs are usually held at the **Royal Oak Middle School** (formerly Dondero High School). The school is located at 709 N. Washington, between 11 Mile Road & Catalpa (11 ½ Mile). **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 the Middle School, the meeting/program will be held in the "Gathering Place" or auditorium, both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. Reference our Fall 2008 issue (can be found on our website) for a map showing the location of the school & entrance. 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.*

"Capacities of Corvids: What it Really Means to be a Bird Brain" is being held on **March 2nd**. Birds that are members of the taxonomic family Corvidae are known to be among the smartest of all the birds (and maybe other creatures as well!). Blue Jays, Gray Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens are included in this fascinating and globally distributed group of birds. Join corvid researcher Dr. Star Kraven-Madd (in partnership with Naturalist Dorothy McLeer) for a unique look at the antics and problem-solving abilities of these intriguing Michigan residents. Dr. Star Kraven-Madd grew up in the Black Forest of Germany. She conducts field research on members of the Corvid family and is a faculty member at Concorvidae University. Dorothy McLeer, Dr. Kraven-Madd's colleague, is an interpretive naturalist and the Program Coordinator at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center, where she teaches happily in the campus' 300-acre outdoor classroom.

"The Unseen Microwilderness" is being held on **April 6th**. Rick Lieder is a painter and photographer. He will show photographs and a video of the beautiful and amazing variety of insect life which surrounds us and is mostly unseen. This will be a spectacular travelogue tour of the world underfoot, a world where dew-drops are the size of melons, blades of grass loom high overhead and where every neighbor seems stranger than the next.

"Introduction to the Michigan Cooperative Pest Cadre (MCPC)" is being held on **May 4th**. Dave Dehn is a Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. He is heading a pilot project to get different communities involved in monitoring for invasive species that are threats to agriculture and natural resources. Some of these invaders include the Silver Y moth, Splendor Beetle and the Asian Long-horned Beetle. Dave will give a short natural history and life cycle of these organisms. He will educate everyone on how to survey for them and how to release parasitoids (insects whose larvae are parasites that eventually kill their hosts) out into the community. His goal is to find MCPC volunteers to help survey for these exotic invaders. Volunteers will have the opportunity to help introduce parasitoids that are developed to help control the Emerald Ash Borer population.

"Nature Society Year in Review" is being held on **June 1st**. 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, Cummingston 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.

A THANK YOU TO OUR LONG TIME SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following Nature Society members who are currently Supporting Members and have been Society members for five or more years.

Doris Applebaum
Roger Bajorek
Ann Bobiney
Joyce Bowen
Carol Bradshaw
Pam & Mike Brady
Margaret Bresnan

Ann Cline
Chris Hartwig
Kristine Hill
Colleen & Frank Hilzinger
Glen Latinen
Karen Pettke
Joy & Tim Reade

Robert & Susan Schneider
Ann Schoss
Charles Svalya
Janice Whelock
Kenneth & Susan Wolak

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). For the Owl Hoots, park & meet at the Marais & Lexington parking lot.

Our **5th Annual Open House** is being held on **Saturday, May 7th**. Check out all of the programs & walks listed below. Please join us for a entertaining & educational day. First walk begins at 9 am..



“Owl Hoots” are being held at:

Cummingston Park on Tuesday, **March 1st, 7:30 pm.**
Tenhave Woods on Wednesday, **March 30th, 7:30 pm.**
We will attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

“Spring Equinox Walk” is being held on Sunday, **March 20th, 2:00 pm** at **Tenhave Woods**. We will be looking for the first signs of the reawakening of the Tenhave plant community.

“Pond Life” programs will take place at **Tenhave Woods’s Dragonfly Pond** and will be held on :
Saturday, **April 9th at 10:00 am**
Saturday, **May 7th at 11:30 am** & again from **1- 3 pm**
Sunday, **May 22nd at 2:00 pm**

We will be sampling the vernal pond for what is living in it. There will be viewing trays available to examine what we find. For those interested small aquarium nets will be available for you to catch your own pond life and have us identify. Come and learn about the interesting aquatic wildlife of Dragonfly Pond.

“Spring Wildflower Walks” will take place at **Tenhave Woods** and be held on:

Saturday, **April 9th at 12 noon**

Sunday, **April 17th at 2:00 pm**

Saturday, **April 23rd at 10:00 am**

Saturday, **May 7th at 10:00 am & 1:45 pm**

Some of the wildflowers we will be looking for are Spring Beauty, Trout Lily, Bloodroot, & Spicebush, Red & White Trillium, blue & yellow violets, Spring Beauty, Wood Poppy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wood Anemone and Wild Geranium.

Other programs and nature walks being held during our **Open House** on **May 7th at Tenhave Woods** are:

9:00 am: Bird Walk-- Join us for a look at the resident birds and some that are just passing through.
1:15 pm: Animal Habitat For Young Children Walk-- Kristine Hill, a high school science teacher, leads a walk that is designed to make children aware that all living things, no matter how big or small, require food, water, shelter and space to survive. Program is geared for children from 5 to 8 years old.
1:15 to 3 pm: Nature Photography with professional photographers, Pat & Ray Coleman,
1:30 pm: Tree Walk-- Tenhave Woods has 43 species of trees. Come and learn about some of the common tree species of southeastern Michigan.

“Late Spring Nature Walk” is being held on Saturday, **June 11th, 10:00 am** at **Tenhave Woods**. Join us and see what is happening in the woods. during the late spring and beginning of summer.

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AREA 4 (Undetermined wetland community):

For the time being, we have not decided what to do with Area 4. Leading possibilities include a wetlands garden of some type, or keeping the area a semi-natural area by simply continuing with invasive species management. Other propositions for the area include Floodplain Forest, restoring a small portion as a seasonal stream, or making it a shrub-carr/tamarack swamp as we remove more buck-thorn.

Plans haven’t been made yet, but it is possible that the arboretum might expand into the southern part of Worden Park East. Sylvan and lawn areas might be turned into prairie, woodland and wetland gardens.

As you can probably see, the creation of our arboretum will take many years of hard work. We invite you to visit often and watch it grow into one of the best arboretums around. If you would like to get involved in this endeavor, please be sure to contact us.

Royal Oak Nature Society's 6th Annual Fundraiser

WHEN: Friday, April 15th, 2011

WHERE: Royal Oak Elks Club (2401 E. 4th Street at Stephenson Hwy, Royal Oak)

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

FOOD & DRINKS: Light refreshments & a cash bar

ACTIVITIES: Silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and an awards ceremony.

TICKET COST: \$10 advance; \$12 at the door

WHERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: Speaker programs, nature walks, from any Nature Society board member or sending a check in by mail.

MAILING CHECKS:

- Write check out for \$10/person
- Payable to the "Royal Oak Nature Society" with "Fundraiser Tickets" written on memo line
- Mail check to the Royal Oak Nature Society, 1600 N. Campbell, Royal Oak, MI 48067
- Ticket(s) will be waiting for you at the door

PURPOSE OF THE FUNDRAISER: To raise money for improvement projects in Tenhave Woods, Cummington Park, Arboretum in Worden Park East and our proposed Environmental Education Center.

Our fundraising committee is currently trying to find businesses/groups who might be interested in becoming a table sponsor for our April fundraiser. You would have your business/group name displayed on one of the tables and would be able to put your advertising material out in the center of it. Your business/group name would be prominently shown on signage, in our program guide and in our fall newsletter. As a table sponsor, you would get two free tickets to the fundraiser. Cost is \$100 for a table. We are also in need of items that we can use for our silent auction. If you know of anyone who might be interested in either of these, please contact us at 248-246-3380 & leave a message or e-mail us at naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us.

This event is a great way to show your support for the **Nature Society**. You get to bid on over 150 items while enjoying great food and drinks along with getting to chat with your friends and other Nature Society supporters in a relaxed atmosphere. So, this is an cordial invitation to join us on April 15th. Hope to see you then!



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:

Stewardship: Organizes maintenance, protection and improvements at Cummington Nature Area, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum in Worden Park East which will in turn enhance the overall park experience in those areas.

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, including the coordinating and organizing of the Annual Spring Fundraiser.

Programming: Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods & 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)

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

Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

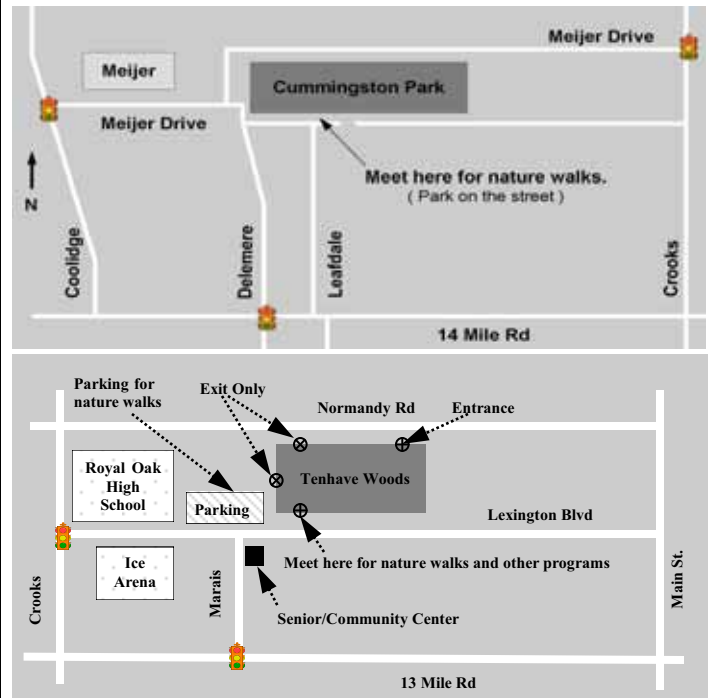
Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

Newsletter: Ted Vickers

Engineer: Richard Stoll

Our Nature Parks & Senior/Community Center



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. We are also in the process of creating an arboretum in Worden Park East. Our mission is to foster awareness and usage of these three 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 to the community.

The Royal Oak Nature Society
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