

The Chinquapin

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*The Official Publication of
The Royal Oak Nature Society*

www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature/index.html



Tenhave Woods' Fallen Oak

Last St. Patrick's Day an event occurred in Tenhave Woods. A tree fell, but not just any tree. This was a 77-foot high, almost 4-foot diameter, Red Oak estimated to weigh 25,000 pounds. The noise was heard and the impact felt by the residents along Lexington. The tree was probably close to 200 years old and very hollow. Finally the right wind came along ending the life of the oak.

The result is a 75' x 50' hole in the forest canopy allowing sunlight to flood onto the forest floor. The leaves of the old tree had prevented this from occurring during the summer longer than any of us can remember. Changes will now begin to happen. Plants that needed the shade of the forest will now struggle in the hot sun. Plants that thrive in bright sunlight will take hold, choking out some of the woodland plants. In only a year or two we should see these changes. In the shade of the old oak many small trees and shrubs (woody plants) crowded the area.

Although many have stems of only a quarter inch in diameter and are only a few feet tall, they may be 20 or more years old. They have struggled their whole lives in the shade, now their time has come. Their growth will accelerate and



they will race toward the sun. Those that grow fastest will spread their branches, grabbing their section of the new forest canopy. As the hole in the canopy refills, the shade loving woodland plants will return. Finally maybe one hundred years from now only one tree will again fill the area left by the death of the old oak.

In an effort to understand this process those of us studying Tenhave Woods have begun to count and measure all the plants in the clearing. We will be photographing the area each year for a visual record. Don and Joyce Drife, our Botanists, are heading up this project. What dies out, what comes in, how much faster does each plant grow, which ones win the race, how fast does the old tree rot and many more questions will be answered. Don has said that he will be studying this spot for the rest of his life. At that point we will have to find someone to continue, as the job will not be done.



Things will change fast enough that within 10 years the hole in the canopy will be filled with small thin trees. Come on one of our fall nature walks at Tenhave Woods and see for yourself the slow but constant process of the renewal of life in the forest.

Message from the President

Heather J. Muller

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. I also hope that you are all ready to get back into the swing of things, beginning with the start-up of our new speaker series and Nature walk series. See the back cover for our new schedule.

Members of the Royal Oak Nature Society have been working on the following projects this summer:

- * The City placed a trial drain in at Cummington Park to help relieve the flooding. Nature Society members and neighbors, including Jack Kerby, are watching the results and will continue to work with the city to help solve the drainage problems. Once the drainage problems are resolved we can start to work on the trails.
- * Richard Stoll, a local resident, is rebuilding the birdfeeder at Tenhave Woods. The birdfeeder at Cummington Park is in good shape while the Tenhave feeder has been the victim of quite a lot of vandalism over the years. (It probably has something to do with its location being near the high school.) Richard is building the new feeder out of steel and it will hold about 50 pounds of feed.
- * The Beautification Committee worked for two days removing a majority of the Wild Honey-suckle from Cummington Park. They will tackle the Wild Grapevine this fall (free grapevine for anyone who participates)!

As for things to come....

The trails at Quickstad Park will soon begin! Andrew Mast will lead the effort for his Eagle Scout Project. His project will include the main trails that are currently dry and a new seasonal trail that will loop through the southeast part of the park. If you are interested in helping build the trails, call Andrew at 248.399.4519. (The trails in the wet areas will be handled by another Eagle Scout Project next summer.)

Heather



Newsletter Staff:

Editor – Heather J. Muller
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Trees, Trees, Trees

Bob Muller

"Trees, Trees, Trees" is the first program in our 2002/2003 speakers series. It will be a combination slide show and live samples of some of the trees that make up our nature parks forests. 45 of the approximate 66 species of deciduous trees found in the state, occur in our two nature parks. We are very fortunate to have such rich forest remnants existing in Royal Oak. The program will show examples of flowers, fruit, leaves and bark. Comments will be made on identification, and what the trees are used for both today and in the past.



Box Elder Seeds



Tulip Tree Blossom

We will also talk on our "P r e - settlement forest Project". Tenhave Woods and Cummington Park aren't the only old forest in the city. In many

of our neighborhoods the old forest trees were left when the homes were built. We are trying to document all the old growth trees in the city. This will produce a mosaic that may be able to tell us what the city looked like before development. If you have ever been curious about the trees in you yard or any of the old big trees in our city come and let us tell you about them.



Bird List Online

The following is a sampling of the list of birds sighted in the park since 1970. The complete listing as well as a listing of the Fauna found in each park is located on the web at <http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature/index.html>. Think you've spotted something we haven't? If so, email us at naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us.

CICONIIFORMES

(herons, storks, New World vultures and relatives)

Ardeidae Family

Heron, Great Blue
Heron, Black-crowned Night
Egret, Great

ANSERIFORMES

(waterfowl - ducks, geese, swans)

Anatidae Family

Goose, Canada*
Mallard
Duck, Wood

FALCONIFORME (hawks and vultures)

Cathartidae Family

Vulture, Turkey*

Accipitridae Family

Hawk, Sharp-shinned
Hawk, Cooper's
Hawk, Red-tailed
Hawk, Red-shouldered
Hawk, Broad-winged

Falconidae Family

Kestrel, American

GALLIFORMES (domestic fowl and game birds)

Phasianidae Family

Bobwhite
Pheasant, Ring-necked



Call For Volunteers!

Now that our Master Plan for the parks is complete, we have a lot of work to do! Please join us in helping to beautify our woods.

Removing Invasive Species - Remove Wild Honeysuckle and Wild Grapevine in Cummingston Park. Call Jack Kerby for teamwork days at 248.280.0186.

Painting Entrance Sign - Paint the signs at the entrances of both nature parks, as the signs are faded and look sad! Call Gretchen Greenwood at 248.288.2002 to arrange for supplies. Paint on your own schedule.

Cleaning Up the Parks - Any organization or club is more than welcome to help us out with general park clean up, one time or on an ongoing basis. Call Jack Kerby 248.280.0186 to arrange a date for your organization.

Trail Building - In early fall Andrew Mast, an Eagle Scout candidate, will be organizing the trail building at Tenhave Woods. He will need between 20 and 30 people to help in this effort. Please call Andrew at 248.399.4519 for dates and times.

Filling the Bird Feeders - We need someone to be responsible for filling the bird feeders in both parks. They are big feeders holding about 50 pounds of seed each. If you are interested in this job, call Bob Muller at 248.398.0195.

Writing Nature Based Articles - Anyone interested in writing an article for The Chinquapin, please contact Heather J. Muller at 248.546.4184. We would love to publish nature-based articles written by members!



Royal Oak Nature Society

Board of Directors:

President – Heather J. Muller (248.546.4184)
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Membership – Jeanette Carnaghi (248.585.3014)

General Meeting with Speaker Programs

7:00 p.m. – Royal Oak Senior Center

Date	Speaker (s)	Topic	Description
September 4	Bob Muller, Don Drife	Trees, Trees, Trees	Learn about the trees that make up the forest of Cummingston Park & Tenhave Woods, and the project to document these forests and the trees that comprise them. Also, you will get an idea of what Royal Oak looked like before settlers moved in.
October 2	Bill Collins - Ecological Consultant	The Myth of Wetland Protec- tion in Michigan	This program is going to define what a wetland is, plus identify and describe wetland vegetation, soils and hydrology. Regulations, loopholes, lack of enforcement, and a scarcity of public resources will also be looked at along with a few encouraging wetland success stories.
November 6	Kevin Zipple- Curator of Am- phibians, De- troit Zoo	Declining Am- phibian Popula- tion	Come and find out why amphibians are important, why they are declining in population, what is being done to protect them, and what we can do to help with their preservation.
December 4	Joe Derek - Farm. Hills Naturalist	Gardening for Butterflies and Hummingbirds	Joe is going to show us what to plant and do to attract beautiful butterflies and hummingbirds to our backyards.

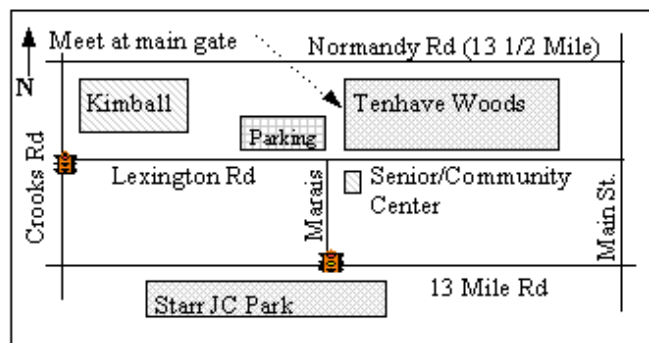
Nature Walk Programs

Meet at the park

Date	Day	Time	Location	Theme
September 14	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Tenhave Woods	Back to the Woods
October 5	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cummingston Park	Fall Color
October 16	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Tenhave Woods	Fall Color
October 19	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Tenhave Woods	Fall Color
November 9	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cummingston Park	Fall Fruits
December 7	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Tenhave Woods	Big Trees

Our Parks

Tenhave Woods at Quickstad Park



Cummingston Park

