



The *Chinquapin*

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Summer 2016

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Nature Society's 11th Annual Fundraiser

Our 11th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser was held on Friday, April 22nd at the Royal Oak Elks Club from 7 to 10 pm. We started our program a little after 7:30, welcoming everyone to our soiree/fundraiser. After that, this year's three award winners (page 2) were introduced. Then we had our live auction. There was spirited bidding on several items which included Trap/Skeet Shooting at North Macomb Sportsman's Club, a Large Wall Mirror handcrafted by the Estes Wood Company, Homemade Pies from Heather Muller, one every month, for one year. Play & Stay Pet Care Center Two Days/Nights Stay certificates, Two Night Stay at Hotel Royal Oak and a Dream Cruise All Day Parking Pass. This year's live auction has once again become very successful for us as it brought in over \$500.

For rest of the evening, our guests continued to bid on over 140 silent auction items, eat scrumptious food,

purchase reasonably priced drinks from the cash bar, and enjoy the company of friends and other Nature Society supporters.

A special thank you goes out to our six "guest table" sponsors. They included the **Royal Oak Garden Club, Fifth Avenue, Miner's Den, Royal Oak Historical Society, ROAK Brewing Company, and Duggan's Irish Pub.** We also want to thank all of our guests for coming, our fundraiser volunteers and auction, food and cash donors. If it wasn't for you, we could not keep putting on this event every year.

If you haven't been to any of our previous fundraisers, you should come out and see for yourselves what you have been missing these past years. It only costs \$10 per person and this event is as much of a soiree as is it a fundraiser. And if you have been at our fundraisers before, be sure to join us again at next year's event.

Tenhave Woods/Arboretum: Winter 2015/16

by John Semchena & Ted Vickers

An Eagle Scout project took place during the Christmas holiday at Tenhave. It included re-lining the Scout Trail from the Goodwin Trail to the Swamp Trail and then the Swamp Trail back to the Goodwin Trail. Also, the Scout Trail was rerouted to go past the only Pin Oak in Tenhave. Sticks and logs were pulled out of dragonfly Pond and tree name tags were added to some of the trees. It was a great deal of work with many people helping out. The weather was good and after a full afternoon of activity, the park trails looked great.

Priscilla & Cole Hawkins, Nature Society members, volunteered this past season to fill the birdfeeders at Dragonfly Pond and the Arboretum. They wanted to do it because they support all living beings and enjoy the out-of-doors. Along with their two grandsons, Nate & Elliot, they kept the birdfeeders at both parks filled up during the winter. They began in early January, filled the feeders up every two weeks and finished up at the end of March. Birdseed was stored in the Nature Society's shed adjacent to the Senior Center. The seed was put into a large bucket and then poured into the feeders. The Hawkins brought along a short ladder to use to get up to the top of the feeders. Their young grandsons assisted them by holding the ladder still and by pouring in some of the birdseed into the feeders themselves. For the past winter season, about 300 pounds of bird food was used to fill the feeders. There were a variety of birds that visited

our feeders this past winter. Visitors included Black Capped Chickadees, Cardinals, Downy Woodpecker, Mourning Doves, Blue Jays and American Crows.

The Nature Society wants to thank the Hawkins and their two grandchildren for volunteering their time to fill the feeders this past winter.



Rerouting part of Scout Trail

2016 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The **Robert Gasiorowski Lifetime Achievement Award winner for 2016** is Nature Society member **Helen Cost**. Helen is a founding member of the nature society, and has been an active member of the board since 2001. She is the treasurer and also serves as the Ways and Means person for the board. A big part of her contribution over the years has been finding available grant monies and writing grant proposals to help fund the improvements made to the nature parks. Some of these projects include improving the drainage at Cummington, adding a cement path in the Arboretum, grants to purchase wildflowers and native trees, trail mapping, and many other projects. She serves as the Nature Society's representative to Royal Oak Opportunity To Serve (ROOTS), which works to encourage philanthropy, to strengthen the spirit of the community, and to enrich the quality of life in Royal Oak. Most recently she has been working to make the Nature Society part of Oakland County's Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), a group which is developing innovative methods to help landowners control invasive plants. Control of invasive plants in the parks is

a big part of the Royal Oak Nature Society's work. Helen's attention to detail is phenomenal. She is truly deserving of this honor. In the photo below, Helen is receiving her award from Bob Muller and Don Drife.



The **President's Award winner for 2016** is Nature Society member **John Semchena**. John won the **Chinquapin Award** last year for his outstanding contributions to trail maintenance, work in the Arboretum, Dream Cruise parking, and many other projects. Since then he has gone on to contribute even more time and energy to help keep our two nature parks and Arboretum in good condition and accessible to the public. This often involves not only following orders, but going out into the parks, seeing where there are problems, coming up with a plan to fix things, and then doing the work. The Nature Society continues to appreciate John for everything he has done for us in 2014, 2015, and on into the future. This is the kind of help that we need in order to keep our nature parks & arboretum viable in the future.



Don (left) & John Semchena (right)

The **2016 Chinquapin Award Winner** is Nature Society member **John Herrgott**. John has been a Nature Society member since May 2013. In mid 2014, he began volunteering to help the Nature Society on workdays and activities. John has helped us remove fallen trees from trails, fill in gaps underneath Tenhave fences in order to keep deer out of the park and with Tenhave fence repair. When buckthorn had to be removed from the Arboretum, John was there to help. During 2015, John volunteered to help us with cleanup at our 10th Annual Fundraiser and to collect parking fees at Gunn Dyer Park during the Woodward Dream Cruise. Without that money being raised from these two events, the Nature Society would not be able to maintain and make improvements in our two nature parks and the arboretum. We thank John who volunteers on a regular basis to help make the Nature Society and our three parks more viable. In the photo on your right, John Herrgott (right) is receiving his award from Bob.



**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 (September to May) is held at the Royal Oak Middle 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 usually 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 **7:30 pm**, with the speaker program following several minutes later.*

Our monthly program for June will be held on the **June 1st** at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais)/**Arboretum** beginning at **7:30 pm**. We will meet inside the Senior Center first for a brief talk about our program to develop the Oak Savanna and our native tree collection in the Arboretum. Afterwards, we will go outside and tour both areas.

This is the list of all of our fundraiser volunteers, auction & food donors plus those who donated cash to this year's fundraiser. We could not have not had a successful 2016 fundraiser without your help.

Deb Anderson	Andiamo	Andrew Bartley
Arthur Murray Dance Studios	B Spot Royal Oak	Joe Ballor
Andrew Bartley	Bastone Brewery	Batteries Plus
bd's Mongolian Grill	Billings Lawn Equipment	Black Lotus
Carol Bradshaw	Briggs Gallery	Buffalo Wild Wings
Burn Fitness	Buttons Rent It	Café Muse
Don Calder	Kim Ciolek	City of Royal Oak
Pat & Ray Coleman	Tom & Elizabeth Condino	Helen & Connie Cost
Cranbrook Institute of Science	Cristini Salon	Dos Manos
Don & Joyce Drife	Mayor Jim Ellison	Bernadette Ethridge
Amanda Felk	Five 15	Mary Fredricks
Barb Gleason	Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival	Susanne Greenlee
Hamlin Corner	Kristine Hill	Mitzi Hoffman
Holiday Market	Hollywood Super Markets	Hotel Royal Oak
Dianne Howey	Nora Iverson	Jan's Pottery
Mary Kleiss	Cathy Kleiss	Cheryl Koerber
Ladybug Shoppe	Leon & LuLu's	Lockharts BBQ
Main Art Theatre	Dick Manikowski	Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Alice & Arthur Marotti	Judge Derek Meinecke	Mesa Tacos & Tequila
Bonnie Michalak	Michigan by the Bottle Tasting Room	Miner's Den
Moosejaw Mountaineering	Moti Mahal	Motor City Auto Spa
Motor City Gas	Bob & Kelly Muller	Heather Muller
North Macomb Sportsmen's Club	Shawn O'Connell & family	Olga's Market Fresh Grille
Paperback Trade Inn	Pet Supplies "Plus"	Karen Pettke
Ray's Ice Cream	Roberts Restaurant Group	Rock on Third
Royal Oak Golf Center	Robert & Susan Schneider	Stephanie Schneider
John Semchena	Kristin & Derek Smith	South Oakland Family YMCA
Richard & Pat Stoll	John Talbot	Sherry Toggweiler
Trader Joe's	Ted & Nancy Vickers	Denise Vultee
Doris Walters	Water Works Theatre Company	Emily Welch
Whole Foods	Wild Birds Unlimited	Donna Will
Joyce Wiswell		

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park is just east of Meijers. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: Park is just east of Royal Oak High School. 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)

“Mushroom Walk” Saturday, **June 25th**, at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **10:00 am**.

“Pond Life” program is being held on Saturday, **June 25th**, beginning at **11:00 am** at **Tenhave Woods**. Park at Lexington/Marais lot & meet at Lexington entrance. We will be sampling the vernal pond for what is living in it. We will have viewing trays 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.

“Meadow of the Arboretum” is being held at the Royal Oak Arboretum on Wednesday, **July 6th** beginning at **7:30 pm**.

“Mushroom Walk” Saturday, **July 23rd** at **Cummingston Park** beginning at **10:00 am**.

“Meadow of the Arboretum” is being held at the Royal Oak Nature Society Arboretum on Thursday, **August 3rd**, beginning at **7:30 pm**.

“Mushroom Walk” Saturday, **August 27th**, at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **10:00 am**.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to the following 2015/16 Supporting Members for their support and financial contribution to us:

Doris Applebaum
Pam & Mike Brady
Helen & Connie Cost
Don & Lillian Erwin
Eric Green
Ray & Vivienne Kell
Jim Langhammer
Alice & Arthur Marotti
Margaret Moran
Jim & Laura Rogers
Robert & Susan Schneider
Caryle Spence
Katie VanSickle

Krystn Aversa
Brenda & Vince Ciancido
Laurine Cybulski
Ron Gamble
Cindy Gunnip
Jack Kerby
Glenn Latinen
Tom & Joyce Miller
Gail Partee
Marc Rosin
John Semchena
Joel Stein
Craig & Donna Will

Joe & Angie Ballor
Pat & Ray Coleman
Gerry DeLong
Laura Gogola
Cole & Priscilla Hawkins
Donna Kuchapsky
Carolyn Ludwig
Rob Moore
Peggy Robbins
Nancy Schermerhorn
Kristin, Derek, Jackson, Tyler Smith
Charles Svalya

Looking For Dream Cruise Volunteers

The **Woodward Dream Cruise** is only a few months away. Try something different and sign up to volunteer helping us with parking at Gunn Dyer Park on Saturday, **August 20, 2016**. The park located at Hampton and Chester, is just a few blocks north of Memorial Park and one block east of Woodward. Our day begins around 8 am and finishes up around 8 pm. Shifts are only about 3 hours long.

Our main responsibility is to collect parking fees and direct drivers to open parking spots. It can get extremely busy in the early afternoon, so, we could use all of the help that we can get. If you volunteer for us at Dream

Cruise, you are invited to our annual **pre-Dream Cruise picnic**. It will take place on the Friday (**19th**) evening, the day before the actual Dream Cruise. Time is from 6:00 to and 8:30 pm. The Nature Society supplies the burgers. This is a pleasant way to sit back and enjoy the pre-Dream Cruise atmosphere. While we are there, we collect money from people who park their cars at Gunn Dyer.

If you have some free time on the 20th and would like to give us a helping hand, please call us at 248-246-3380 & leave a message or e-mail us at naturesociety@romi.gov.

Photos of goings-on at the Nature Society's 11th Annual Fundraiser



One of our auction bidders was elated that she had the winning auction bid for one homemade pie a month for one year



Our guests conversing & enjoying the food



Guests checking out some of our auction items

Please check out our Facebook page & "like" the Royal Oak Nature Society.

Page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society/228095233882566>



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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.

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 (248-892-3380)

Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

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

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

Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

Stewardship-Tenhave: John Semchena (248-549-1362)

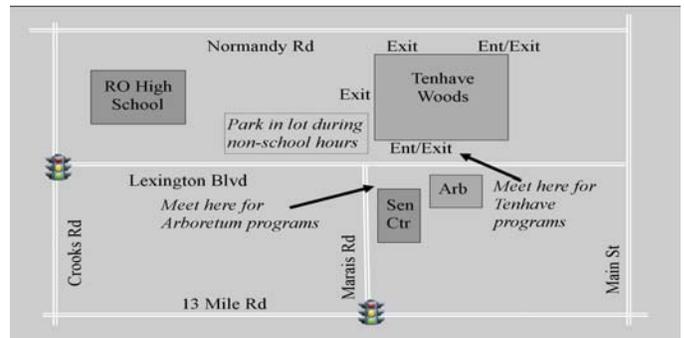
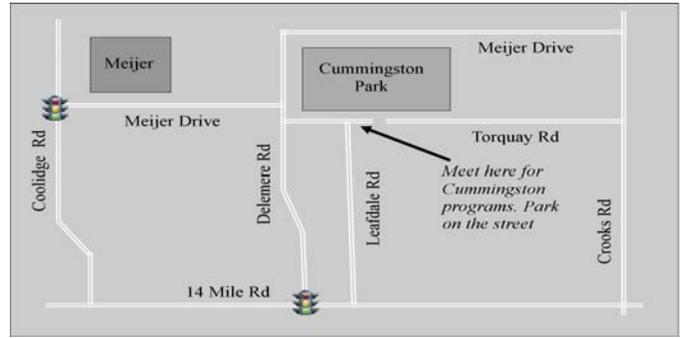
Stewardship-Cummington: Mary Fredricks (248-280-1042)

Troop 1627: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

At Large: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

At Large: Mary Kleiss (248-399-6679)

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 developing an arboretum in Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.

The Royal Oak Nature Society
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Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-246-3380
nature@society@romi.gov
www.romi.gov/nature

