



# The Chinquapin

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Spring 2019

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## Friends of Fungi Report - 2018 by Mary Fredricks

The Royal Oak Nature Society's mycology (mushroom) club, Friends of Fungi, met for four indoor programs in 2018 and sponsored seven walks in our two woods, Tenhave and Cummingston. The programs covered a range of topics: poisonous mushrooms, mushrooms without gills (puffballs, polypores, crusts, and many others), psychoactive mushrooms, and slime molds, which are not fungi but can be mistaken for them.

The walk season began in April in Tenhave Woods and continued once a month in alternating woods through October. The season started slowly due to dry, hot weather and didn't produce an abundance of fungi except for about two weeks in October. In spite of that, there was something interesting to see every month. One of the most exciting finds was made during an Eagle Scout project in November after the walks had ended. The winter mushroom (aka velvet stalk) was growing in multiple clusters on a standing dead tree that had lost most of its top branches. It fruits in cold weather, and even freezing doesn't set it back. See adjacent photo.

Please remember that it is illegal to remove any natural material from our woods. As you walk along the trails, stop and enjoy what is there, but leave it there for the next person to enjoy.

I hope you will join us in 2019 for the programs and walks and learn more about the amazing world of fungi. You will find information about upcoming events and locations on the Royal Oak Nature Society website.



Velvet Stalk

## We are Now on Instagram!

Follow us at "royal.oak.nature.society"

Not familiar with Instagram? Not a problem! Similar to Facebook, Instagram is a free app with which users can share photos and videos and add captions to each. But the focus of Instagram is really more on the photos themselves. With a variety of editing tools to choose from, users can add beautiful and unique photos to their pages. To get started, just type in Instagram into your phone or computer's search engine. You can view Instagram pages

from your computer, but if you plan on adding any to your own site it works better from your phone. Instagram is a free app, but you will need to create an account to use it. Just follow the instructions on the main page. Once you have an account, enter "Royal Oak Nature Society" into the search box and the Nature Society site will pop up. You can follow the page and like individual photos. Another great site for nature photos is National Geographic's Instagram page: natgeo.

Cummingston Park– 2018  
by Mary Fredricks

Every year good things happen in Cummingston Woods to make it healthier, safer, and more enjoyable. 2018 was no exception. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, the trails were kept clear, trash was picked up, and drainage ditches were cleaned. Non-native invasive plants were removed from the wooded areas and the meadow restoration area. Several special projects also happened. With the help of over 100 medical students from Oakland University, crushed stone was added to several trails to make walking easier during our wet springs. That same day, the north end of Eagle Scout Trail was re-routed to higher ground for the same reason. Last fall, benches were added to the Leafdale entrance by Anthony Turner, Eagle Scout candidate, and his team.

Other trails were also given special attention in 2018, but of a different kind. They received names. The new north-south trail on the east side of the woods has been named Turkey Tail Trail after a fungus found on this trail and in many other parts of the woods. It's a small shelf fungus with pores rather than gills under its cap. It grows on dead logs in clusters and can be recognized by its fuzzy appearance and bands of varied color (see photo above-right). It is one of our important wood rotters and is used in the paper industry to remove lignin from paper pulp.

The trails that were added to the west side of the park have also been given names. The main trail is called



Screech Owl Trail. Screech owls raise young in Cummingston and thrill people who attend the late winter owl hoot when they put in an appearance. The short trail that leads off of the south end of Screech Owl Trail and then rejoins it is called Owlet Spur because it is an offshoot of the longer trail. (See map below.)

Also new in 2018, a footpath now runs along the ridge that marks the northern edge of the meadow. It allows a nice overview of both the meadow to the south and the lower, wooded area to the north. It is a rugged trail and shouldn't be attempted by anyone unsure of their footing.

I hope to see you in the woods soon.

# Cummingston Park Trails

Screech Owl

Leafdale

Chinquapin

Arkona Beach

Gentian

Eagle Scout

Turkey Tail

Owlet Spur

Meadow

Shagbark Hickory





## SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (**October to April**) 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. 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 to follow.**

"**What Can We Do to Save the Bees**" speaker program is being held on **March 6<sup>th</sup>**. We have lost 75% of our insect Bio Mass over the last 50 years. Some of the questions we should ask are: Should I plant a tree? What is the status of all our native pollinators? Are honey bees part of the answer? Rich Wieske is co-owner of Green Toe Gardens. Green Toe Gardens tends hives throughout Detroit, pollinating our local farms and gardens. They also maintain the observation hives at Belle Isle, Edsel and Eleanor Ford bee yards and bee hives at Cross Winds Marsh. Rich is a bee advocate and mentor on what's happening to our bees. Join Rich Wieske as he tells us what we can do about saving them.

If you've ever wanted to learn more about honey bees this evening is the place to be.

"**The Philippines – Islands of Endemics**" speaker program is being held on **April 10<sup>th</sup>**. The Philippines are a birders paradise. This country is made up of isolated islands in the Pacific Ocean near Asia, providing a perfect spot for isolated bird species to evolve. Boasting 7107 islands, the Philippines can also boast of having 657 species, of which 214 are endemic. Join Don Burlett, president of Oakland Audubon, as he leads our visit seven of these islands in a quest to see many of the islands birds. We'll also enjoy the landscape, history and culture of these islands.

### A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PATRON MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2018/19 Patron members for their generous financial contribution to us:

**Ann Bueche  
Donna Doyscher  
Edwards Family  
Don & Kathy Gavin  
Barbara Gleason  
Barbara Grinke  
Yvonne Schilla  
Richard & Pat Stoll  
Jean Watson**

### Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi

*Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi is a group that promotes the understanding of, and an appreciation for, fungi in general and those fungi found in Tenhave, Cummingston, and other local urban woods. This group is open to anyone who wants to learn more about fungi which also includes mushrooms. During the winter, the group meets one **Wednesday** a month (November, January, February & March) at the **Royal Oak Senior Center (3500 Marais)** beginning at **7:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome. There is no cost or preregistration. There is usually a specific topic that is being talked about at each of these meetings. Mary Fredricks heads this group. Check out the Nature Society's website for more information.*

*"The Friends of Fungi Mycology Club" will meet on **March 13<sup>th</sup>**. There will be an open discussion of the importance of fungi in the natural world and the ways in which people are trying to harness their capabilities to solve some of our most difficult problems, including oil spills and climate change. The discussion will be facilitated by Mary Fredricks, Nature Society mycologist, and Karen Blenc, Mary's trainee.*



**Purple Tooth**

## NATURE WALKS

**CUMMINGSTON PARK:** Park is just east of Meijer. 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)

**"Owl Hoot"** programs begin at **7:30 pm.**

Thursday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>** at **Cummingston Park**

Tuesday, **March 12<sup>th</sup>** at **Tenhav Woods**

We will walk into Cummingston and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

**"Winter Nature Walk"** is being held at **Cummingston** on Saturday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **2:00 pm.**

**"Spring Wildflower Walks"** are being held at **Tenhav Woods** beginning at **2:00 pm.**

Sunday, **April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday, **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday, **April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday, **May 5<sup>th</sup>,**

We will be looking for Red & White Trillium, blue & yellow violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Wild Geranium, Spice Bush, Spring Beauty, Wood Poppy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, & Wood Anemone and more.

**"Mushroom Walks"** begin at **10:00 am.**

Saturday, **April 27<sup>th</sup>** at **Cummingston Park**

Saturday, **May 25<sup>th</sup>** at **Tenhav Woods**

Mary Fredricks, a member and botanist/mycologist of the Royal Oak Nature Society, will lead the walks. Anyone with an interest in learning more about mushrooms and other fungi of the urban woods is welcome. There is no preregistration or cost for these walks.

**"Pond Life"** program is being held on Saturday, **May 11<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **2:00 pm** at **Tenhav Woods.** Park at Lexington/Marais lot, go to the Lexington entrance & follow the Pond Life signs. 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.

## Royal Oak Fall 2018 Stewardship

The Nature Society wants to thank the following for doing at least one fence patrol walk between June and October of last year: Doris Walters, Michelle Watson, Christine Utter Family, Jeanette Roger, John Herrgott, Carol Bradshaw, Debbie Ferguson, Kristine Hill, Laura and Jim Rogers, Bonnie Michalak, and Kristine Hill. The purpose of the patrol was to look for fence breaches. Breaches can allow deer to get into the park and subsequently decimate our wildflower population.

The 3rd "Save the Park Day" of 2018 was held on the first Saturday of November. Around 15 volunteers, including 5 Royal Oak High School National Honor Society members, helped remove invasive plants from Tenhave.



In November, Berkley Troop 1085 as part of an Eagle Scout Project (see adjacent photo) lead by scout Anthony Turner, built and installed three benches just outside the Cummingston Park Leafdale entrance.

## ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY'S 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

**WHEN:** Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**WHERE:** Royal Oak Elks Club (2401 E. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 and live auction, and a 50/50 raffle.

**TICKET COST:** \$10

**WHERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:** Speaker programs, nature walks, from any Nature Society board member or sending a check in by mail. If you purchase tickets in advance, you will get the first chance at winning a door prize.

**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, and the Royal Oak Arboretum which is located behind the Royal Oak Senior Center (3500 Marais).

The Nature Society could use your help. We need volunteers to supply and bring in food on the night of the fundraiser. To cover our expenses, we are trying to find businesses/groups that might be interested in becoming a sponsor. They would be able to put their advertising material out on our "Sponsor" table just inside the hall entrance. The business/group name would be prominently shown on signage, in our program guide and in our upcoming fall newsletter. As a sponsor, the business/group would get two free tickets to the fundraiser. Cost is \$100. Also, we are also looking for donations from businesses that can be used as auction

items. If you know of anyone who might be interested in helping us out in any of these ways, please have them contact us at 248-246-3380 and leave a message or e-mail us at [naturesociety@romi.gov](mailto:naturesociety@romi.gov).

This event is a great way to show your support for the Nature Society. You get to bid on over 140 interesting items while enjoying great food and drinks along with getting to chat with your friends and other Nature Society supporters. So, this is an cordial invitation for you to join us on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you then!

Please check out our Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/royal.oak.nature.society/?hl=en>



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

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society-228095233882566>



### 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 GROUPS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of the following groups:

**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 (248-885-6821)

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

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

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

Education: Open

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

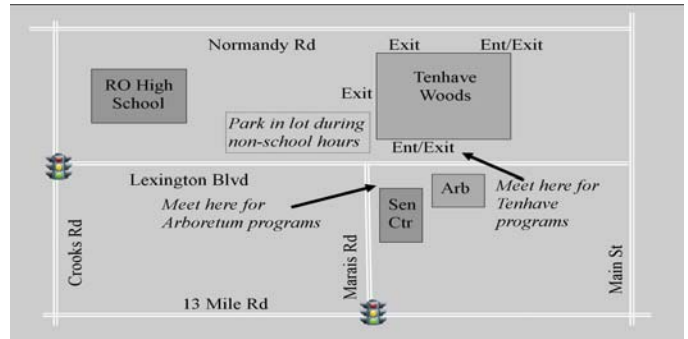
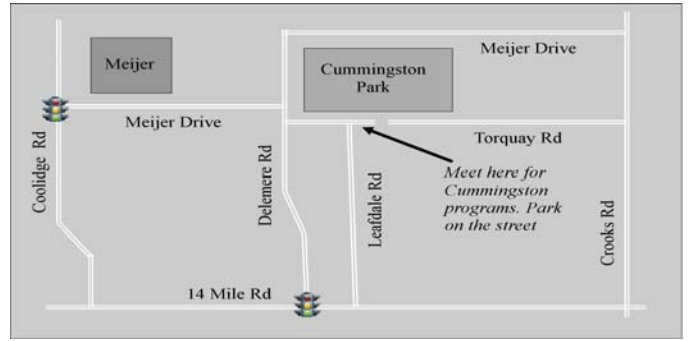
Stewardship-Tenhave & Royal Oak Arboretum: John Semchena (248-549-1362)

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

Scout Representative: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

At Large: Open

## 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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www.romi.gov/407/nature-society

