



The Chinquapin

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Fall 2009

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Royal Oak Nature Society membership structure has changed. The membership season still begins in September and ends the following August. But now there are 4 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 & gets you the above benefit along with 4 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 2 private walks a year, listed as a patron in our Fundraiser Program & newsletter, invitation to our day before the Dream Cruise picnic at Gunn Dyer Park and one free fundraiser ticket

Please check your address label to see if you are already paid-up through August 2010. If not, & you want to be an

(Continued on page 2)

Nature Society's 4th Annual Fundraiser

Our 4th Annual Fundraiser was held on April 24, 2009 and for the third year, was held at the Royal Oak Elks Club. This year, we moved the event starting time from 6 pm back to 7 pm.

Instead of getting our food from restaurants like we did in the past, this year the food was made and brought in by Nature Society volunteers. There were appetizers & scrumptious desserts along with a cash bar. At 7:45, Tim Turner, the Nature Society president, introduced Nature Society officers and had a few words to say. Then the awards ceremony took place. This was an opportunity to give thanks to those individuals/groups that have done the most to help the Society reach its goals. Please see page 2 for list of award winners. For the balance of the evening, everyone had the opportunity to continue bidding on over 170 items, including sports items, paintings, photographs, plants, entertainment & restaurant deals, and many others. By 9:15, all of the auction tables were closed

& people were lining up to pay for auction items that they won. Even though the event was scheduled to end at 10, there were still quite a few people who stayed around afterwards. By 11, volunteers had everything cleaned up & were ready to go home. Total attendance for the evening was about 135.

This year, our fundraiser had a sponsor for the first time. Jim Razor of Razor Law Firm stepped forward, donating \$500 to help support our organization. We want to thank Jim for his very generous donation. We are hoping to increase the number of fundraiser sponsorships next year.

A great time was had by all! When you get your 2010 calendar, be sure to pencil us in for Friday, April 16. If you have never been to this event, you need to attend & see what you have been missing. If you already have attended in the past, please join us again next year for our 5th Annual Nature Society Fundraiser.



Bob Muller Receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award From Tim Turner

2009 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

Bob Muller, Nature Society Naturalist, was the winner of our **Lifetime Achievement Award**. This award goes to a person who has consistently worked for the maintenance and well being of the Royal Oak natural areas for at least five years. Bob has been an integral part of the Nature Society since its inception, and has been responsible for all of our programming and park projects.

Royal Oak Public Schools received the **Presidents Award**, with Tom Moline, R.O. Public Schools superintendent, accepting the award. This award is to be given annually by the President of the Nature Society to the individual or group who has made the greatest contribu-

tion toward the Society's mission the previous year. The Royal Oak Public Schools has begun a partnership with the Nature Society to bring environmental education to the children who attend these schools and also has let us use Royal Oak Middle School for our nature based speaker programs.

John Topor received the **Chinquapin Award**. This award is given to an individual or group for recognition of notable contributions towards achieving the goals of the Society in any given year. John is a fossil collector & for the past seven years, has donated his time to teaching adults & children about fossils.

Thank you to everyone who donated something to our 2009 Annual Fundraiser:

6 Salon	Duggan's Irish Pub	Nawda Hair Spa
Annette's Hair Studio & Spa	Jay Dunstan	Nth Degree Fitness Studio
Aquarium Shop	Jim Ellison	Outback Steakhouse
Athens Coney Island	Emile Salon & Spa	Paesano Pizza
The Avenue	English Gardens	Paperback Trade Inn
Azenza Salon	Wendy Ernzen	Senator John Pappageorge
Batteries Plus	Ewe-nique Knits	Peabody's Restaurant
BD's Mongolian BarBQ	Fitness Unlimited	Pet Supplies "Plus"
Ilene Beninson	Four Seasons Garden Center	Professional Movers
Billings Lawn Equipment	Frentz Hardware	Ray's Ice Cream
Black Lotus	Frittata	Rec Diving
Ann Bobiney	Grand Slam Baseball Training Center	Redz Upscale Barber House
Bordine Nursery	Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival	Roberts Restaurant
Briggs Gallery	Green Toe Gardens	Rock on Third
Café Muse	Colleen Hilzinger	Royal Oak Brewing Co.
Caribou Coffee	Ann Holcomb	Royal Oak Golf Club
Dana Catania	Holiday Market	Dena Serrato & April Walker
Winnie Chrzanowski	Jan's Pottery	Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority
City of Royal Oak	Jeff Knaggs	Stagecrafters
Clover Stone	Winnie Kowalski	Taste-Full Tours
Cloverleaf Fine Wine	Lady Bug Craft Shoppe	Tennis & Golf Company
Pat & Ray Coleman	Glen Latinen & Leslie Keys	John Topor
Contract Design Group	Leon & LuLu	Nancy Vickers
Helen Cost	Rick Lieder	Vinsetta Grill
Cranbrook	Lily's Seafood Grill & Brewery	Vintner's Cellar of Royal Oak
Creative Artist Studios	Lotus	Westin Southfield-Detroit Hotel
D'amato's Restaurant	Ron Lupo	Whole Foods
Emily Damstra	Marcia Hovland Gallery	Wild Birds Unlimited
Decades	Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle	Sandy Wilkins
Jennifer Deiterick	Michigan Renaissance Festival	Women's Club 7
Detroit Pistons	Miner's Den	Works of AUD
Detroit School of Rock & Pop Music	Tom Moline	WOW Smile USA
Detroit Symphony	Moosejaw	Peter Wurdock
Detroit Tigers	Mr. B's Pub	YMCA-South Oakland Branch
Dos Manos, LLC	Bob & Kelly Muller	YWCA- Oakland Branch
Don & Joyce Drife	Namaste Yoga Studio	Zumba's Mexican Grille

(Membership continued from page 1)

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 an Associate 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.

NATURE SOCIETY T-SHIRTS

Nature Society T-shirts are now selling at \$4 per shirt. There are many large & medium size shirts available. They can be purchased at any of our speaker programs or contact us at 248-246-3380 or naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us to make arrangements to purchase a shirt.

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs are now 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). The meeting/program will be held in the "Gathering Place" or auditorium, both of which can be reached via the school's south-east 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.

"Skulls & Bones" is being held on **September 2nd**.

What can skulls that we find in the woods teach us about their owners? How can we find out what kind of animal they belonged to? What can we learn about how they made a living while they were alive? The clues to these questions can be found in the teeth. Be a forensic detective and come join Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist, to see what can be found out about these animals.

"Geology of Thunder Bay Island" is being held on **October 7th**. Explore a 385 million year old Middle Devonian Stromatoporid coral tropical reef complex, 13 miles offshore from Alpena, Michigan, with geologist Cranbrook Geologist, John Zawiskie. These reefs are exposed by low water along the southern end of Thunder Bay Island and continue for 20 feet or more beneath the surface of Lake Huron. This reef complex was comprised of wave resistant corals, sponges, and dominantly stromatoporoids – an ancient form of lime-secreting sponge. Join John and retrace the footsteps of Douglas Houghton and Karl Rominger whose 19th century writings are to this day the only descriptions of this remarkable limestone outcrop.

"Wildlife of the Galapagos Islands" is being held on **November 4th**. The Galapagos Archipelago encompasses a land mass of about 8000 km² and straddles the equator and consists of one major island and six smaller islands. Each island hosts a different variety of wildlife. Visit these islands through Winnie Chrzanowski's (Nature Society member) pictures and commentary about their unique ecosystems.

"Freshwater Mussels" is being held on **December 2nd**. Come learn about the secret sex lives of North American mussels from Todd Crail, naturalist and PhD student at the University of Toledo. While there are approximately 300 species of mussels on the North American continent, over 70 percent are listed as "Of Concern". Included, is the local star of Mr. Crail's show, "The Snuffbox". In spite of its amazing life history, this mussel is listed as "Endangered by Michigan", and is now threatened by expansion of the European zebra and quagga mussels. Learn about the Snuffbox's natural history along with the fascinating life histories of other species, and all the factors that play into the success or demise of these unique organisms among North America's aquatic fauna.

Nature Society's 3rd Annual Open House

Our 3rd Annual Open House was held on Saturday, May 2. Unlike last year, the weather was much more cooperative. There wasn't any rain and temperatures were quite comfortable. The day began at 9 am with a migratory bird walk. With Nature Society's Botanist, Don Drife leading the way, we saw Red Bellied Woodpeckers, a Red Wing Blackbird, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Bellied Fly Catcher, Wood Duck, Downy Woodpecker and some other birds that are usually in seen in suburban neighborhoods. At 10 am, Don Drife was out again leading a morning wildflower walk highlighted with Trillium and Mayapple carpeting the forest floor. Also seen were Wild Geranium, Foamflower, Jack-in-the - Pulpit, Trillium, Wood Poppy and others. At 11:30, Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist, began sampling the water in Dragonfly Pond. Viewing trays were available to examine what was found and for those who

were interested, small aquarium nets were available to catch their own pond life which in turn, Bob helped to identify.

In the afternoon, more programs were scheduled. At 1 pm, the Pond Study recommenced with Jimmy Kipps, from Troop 1627 & Bob Muller's grandson, Logan, leading the program. Even though they are young, both are very knowledgeable about pond life. Kristine Hill, a high school science teacher, lead a small group of young children through the woods looking for animals and evidence of their existence. Pat & Ray Coleman, professional photographers, lead a walk thru the woods, showing how to capture nature through photography. Don Drife capped his busy day, by leading a group through the forest, identifying the many type of trees that can be found in Ten-have Woods. Elmer Morehouse, a former biology

(Continued on page 4)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

The Royal Oak Nature Society would like to thank the following individuals/families for either recently becoming new members or renewing their membership.

Jennifer Gilbertson
Cindy Gunnip
Kathryn Keefer
Joan Larson
Suzanne, James & Jacob Strohmeyer
Michelle Watson

TENHAVE WOODS STEWARDSHIP

If you are interested in stewardship opportunities at Tenhave Woods, please contact Dena Serrato at 248-542-2820 or oldtoolgirl@yahoo.com for more information.

DIRECTOR POSITION OPENINGS

The **Fundraiser Director** coordinates and organizes the Annual Spring Fundraiser and other fund-raiser programs approved by the board.

The **Education Director** provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education..

If you are possibly interested in volunteering for either of these positions, please contact Ted Vickers at either 248-549-5366 or naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us

NATURE WALKS

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 "Full Moon Walk", park & meet at Marais/Lexington Blvd parking lot.

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.

"**Fern Walk**" is being held on **September 13th** (Sunday) beginning **2:00 pm.** at **Tenhave Woods.**

Join Royal Oak Nature Society botanist, Don Drife, to look at some of the common fern species of Southeast Michigan. Tenhave Woods has 13 species including: Broad Beech, New York, Lady, Silvery Glade Fern, Evergreen Wood Fern, and Christmas Fern

"**Fall Color Walks**" are being held at **Tenhave Woods** on:

October 17th (Saturday) at **10:00 am**

October 25th (Sunday) at **2:00 pm**

October 31st (Saturday) at **2:00 pm**

This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our nature study areas.

"**Full Moon Walk**" is being held on **November 2nd** (Monday) beginning **7:30 pm** at **Tenhave Woods.**

Experience the woods at a time of day that the park is normally closed. You never know what you may hear and see when the light levels are low. Bring a small flashlight.

"**Fall Color Walk**" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on **November 7th** (Saturday) at **10:00 am.**

This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our nature study areas.

"**Late Fall Nature Walk**" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on **December 6th** (Sunday) at **2:00 pm.**

They say you can't see the forest for the trees, but it is the leaves that hide the shape of the land. Come and see what is revealed about the land of Tenhave Woods.

(3rd Annual Open House continued from p.3)

teacher, set up a spot in the woods, talking to the groups passing by about small animal life found underneath leaf litter. John DeLisle, Nature Society naturalist, wrapped up our Open House by leading another wildflower walk through the park.

Attendance for this year's open house was best we have ever had. Total attendance for all of the programs was around 135.

Next year's open house will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010. When you get next year's calendar, please pencil us in and join us for a fun day & a great way to learn about nature.



2009 Open House at Dragonfly Pond

Goon, the Chipmunk

Every once and awhile, you're lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time with camera in hand. Several years ago, the mother-in-law of Ann Williams (Nature Society member), Bettina Edwards, took this great shot of a chipmunk on Ann's kitchen windowsill. Named Goon by Ann's young son Connor, it became a regular visitor. Ann knew it was the same one because of the little chomp taken out of its right ear. In this photo, Goon was mostly cleaning itself and could have been hiding from the neighborhood cat that liked to take walks around Ann's house. For a while, this cute furry creature showed up every day on the kitchen window ledge & then it was no longer seen again.



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

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.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tim Turner (248-320-4819)

Vice President: John DeLisle (248-585-9002)

Treasurer: Jeanne Sarnacki (248-246-3380)

Stewardship-Cummingston: Don Drife (248-528-0479)

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

Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

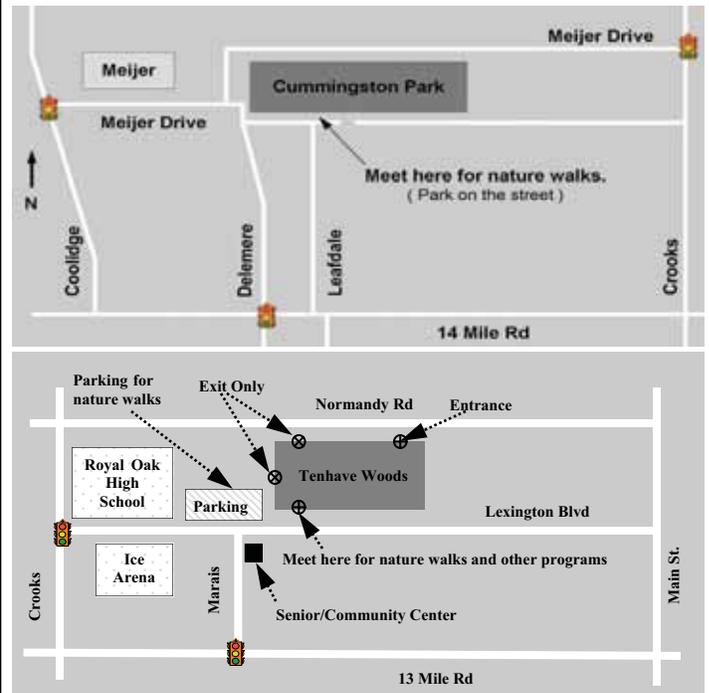
Education: Ted Vickers (acting)

Fundraiser: Open

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

Newsletter: Ted Vickers Engineer: Richard Stoll

Our Nature Parks & Senior/Community Center



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
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