



The Chinquapin

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Fall 2010

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

New/renewal membership begins now for the 2010/11 season. That season will end in August 2011. Please check your address label to see if you are already paid-up through then.

There are four 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 and gets you the above benefit along with four 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 two 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 ticket to our annual fundraiser.

If you want to be an Associate, Supporting or Patron member, please

(Continued on page 2)

Nature Society's 5th Annual Fundraiser

On April 16th, we held our 5th Annual Fundraiser at the Royal Oak Elks Club, and like last year the festivities began at 7 pm and were over by 10.

Food was made and brought in by Nature Society volunteers. There were appetizers & scrumptious desserts along with a cash bar. At 7:45, we had our awards ceremony. Award winners are listed on the next page. After the ceremony, our guests continued to bid on almost 160 different silent auction items. The Nature Society wants to thank everyone who donated an auction item. A list of these donors is also on the next page.

Our major sponsor again this year was **Jim Rasor of Rasor Law Firm**. This year for the first time, we offered guest table sponsorships. Table sponsors were

given the opportunity to put advertising material out on their table and they were listed as sponsors on a banner displayed on one of the walls. Of the ten table sponsorships available, we had four sponsors. They included **Professional Movers, Bordine Xpress, Royal Oak Garden Club and Doug Brown Packaging**. We want to thank all of our sponsors for their generous donations and support.

Summing it all up, we had another successful fundraiser. There were 145 people attending and the event raised nearly \$5,000. Half of those earnings will be earmarked for our future Environmental Education Center.

Please be sure to pencil us in for Friday, **April 15, 2011** for our **6th Annual Fundraiser**. Hope to see you then.

Message From the President

by Don Drife

This fall we begin our 11th year of programming. Our extremely small band of dedicated workers has done much. We have an annual fundraiser that has allowed us to put in two turnstiles, buy books and supplies for programs and to pay for our speakers program. We put on nature nights at Royal Oak elementary schools. We have had several garlic mustard pulls and are actually gaining ground on our goal of eradicating that invasive species.

With the help of several Eagle Scouts we have completed the trail system in Tenhave Woods, put ponds in both parks and we are beginning to do more work on trails in Cummingston. Steps have been taken to improve the drainage at Cummingston. It has been a dry year so we don't know how effective our work has been. I was recently in the park and was not driven out by mosquitoes. This is the least amount of mosquitoes I have ever seen in July.

It is gratifying to see the increased use that Tenhave is getting. Every time I walk

there I see people using the park. Some are just jogging on the trails, some are photographing and some are just enjoying the woods.

Our parks are truly gems. Tenhave has nesting crows, hairy and red-bellied Woodpeckers, robins and others. I heard a warbling vireo and an Acadian flycatcher this spring. We have seen bald eagles and Sandhill cranes flying overhead. Monkeyflower, water purslane, water horehound, and mad-dog skullcap are flowering by Tenhave's Dragonfly Pond. Crawfish pond at Cummingston had breeding American toads. Coltsfoot, swamp milkweed, bone-set and fringed loosestrife are flowered at the pond's edges.

These are two very unique areas. I would encourage (beg) you to get involved. Help out at a nature night, volunteer for the fundraiser, pull garlic mustard, help lead a nature walk. Please lend us a hand by contacting me or one of the other members of the board.

2010 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

Tim Turner, past president of the Nature Society, is the winner of our **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Tim became our president in 2005 and immediately got the Nature Society thinking about ways to raise funds for future projects. He was responsible for the creation of our first fundraiser. It was held in April, 2006 at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center. It was so successful that it was moved to a larger venue, the Royal Oak Elk's Club, the following year. Ever since then it has become an annual event.

Pat and Ray Coleman are the winners of the **President's Award**. Pat and Ray are professional photogra-

phers and have been an integral part of the Nature Society since its inception. They have done many speaker programs for us over the years entertaining us with their great nature photography. They also teach nature photography at our annual Open Houses.

Perry Gentner of Machine Works is the recipient of the **Chinquapin Award**. Perry has used his earth moving equipment to rebuild Tenhave Wood's vernal pond in the fall of 2005 and in the fall of 2008, helped us create a vernal pond from scratch in Cummington Park.

Thank you to all of our 2010 Annual Fundraiser Auction Donors:

American Laser Centers
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Aquarium Shop
Athens Coney Island
Batteries Plus
Ilene Beninson
Billings Lawn Equipment
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Vic the Bread Man
Nancy Vickers
Vinsetta Grill
Vintner's Cellar of Royal Oak
Westin Southfield-Detroit Hotel
Whole Foods
Wild Birds Unlimited
Sandy Wilkins
Donna Will
Ann Williams

(Membership continued from page 1)

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 a General Mem-

ber, 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.

Roseland Park Cemetery

A special thank you from the Nature Society to Joe Pickacz & Roseland Park Cemetery. They gave us permission to come in & take some white trout lily that were growing there. Bob Muller now has two large pots that will be transplanted to our new arboretum.

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. 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.*

"Pond Life the Creepy Crawlers of Dragonfly Pond" is being held on **September 1st**. It's been five seasons since we restored Dragonfly Pond. We had originally planned on making it larger, but simply did not have the resources at the time. In November 2009, we finally finished what we had set out to do to get the pond back to about the size it had originally been years ago. Come and join Bob Muller, Royal Oak Nature Society Naturalist, to see what we have found in the pond and learn about its life history as well as what has changed in the past five years

"Nature Photos" is being held on **October 6th**. Join us in October for a presentation of winning Nature and Wildlife images from around the world by Don Drife, Royal Oak Nature Society botanist. Around 1400 images from 30 different countries were judged in the Great Lakes Digital Salon and some 400+ accepted images were selected. Come and enjoy some great nature photography.

"Life at a Fox Den" is being held on **November 3rd**. Suburban areas are prime real estate for red fox. Here,

a pair of foxes can find plenty of rabbits, mice and squirrels to feed a hungry litter of pups. Sterling Heights naturalist Gordon Lonie has spent many hours watching and photographing red foxes at their den. Come join him for a close look at this fascinating canine.

"From the Goodwins of Royal Oak to Tenhave Woods, the History of a Piece of Land" is being held on **December 1st**. Have you ever wondered how Tenhave Woods managed to escape development? We researched the history of all those that have owned this property and the story is amazing. Natural history is always tied to human history; Tenhave Woods is Cromwell Goodwin's woodlot from 1823. What was its connection to John Dodge? Today it is an island of nature in our neighborhoods, but how long has it been an island? Come and learn from Bob Muller, Royal Oak Nature Society Naturalist, about Tenhave Woods's history from the land's first purchase from the United States to the nature park we have today.

Nature Society's 4th Annual Open House

Our 4th Annual Open House was held on Saturday, May 1st. This year the weather was somewhat wet, keeping our attendance down for the day.

The day began at 9 am with a migratory bird walk, lead by Doris Applebaum. Our bird list included a Redwing Blackbird, Red-tail Hawk, Hermit Thrush, Wood Duck, Black & White Warbler, Yellow Rumped Warbler and Sharp Shinned Hawks plus and some other birds that are normally seen in suburban neighborhoods. At 10 am, Don Drife, our Nature Society botanist, lead the morning wildflower walk. 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. American Toads were the highlight though, as it seemed like they were everywhere in

and around Dragonfly Pond.

In the afternoon, Jimmy Kipps, from Troop 1627 headed our Pond Life program. 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, were available to show how to capture nature through photography. Bob Muller lead a group through the woods, identifying the many type of trees that can be found in Tenhave. John DeLisle, Nature Society naturalist, wrapped things up by leading another wildflower walk through the park.

Next year's open house will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011. When you get next year's calendar, please pencil us in and join us for a fun day and a great way to learn something about nature.

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.

"Mushroom Walk" is being held on Sunday, **September 19th**, beginning **2:00 pm at Tenhave Woods**. Diane Pruden, an active member of the North American Mycological Association, will lead a mushroom survey of the park in the attempt to identify the mushrooms & fungus that we encounter.

"Fall Color Walks" are being held at **Cummingston Park** on Saturday, **October 16th**, at **10:00 am** and on Saturday, **November 6th**, at **10:00 am**. They are also being held at **Tenhav Woods** on Sunday, **October 24th** at **2:00 pm** and on Saturday, **October 30th** at **2:00 pm**.

"Nature Walk for the Physically Challenged" is being held at the **Arboretum** on Sunday, **October 24th**, at **1:00 pm**. Join us for a short (500 feet) walk down the cement sidewalk behind the Senior/Community Center. Many different trees, shrubs, and wildflowers are right

along the pathway. The sidewalk is level and barrier free. It provides an easy way to see nature. Meet at the south end of the Senior/Community Center (on Marais).

"Full Moon Walk" is being held on Sunday, **November 21st**, 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.

"Late Fall Nature Walk" is being held on Sunday, **December 5th**, beginning **2:00 pm at Tenhave Woods**. Come and learn about the mammals that live in Tenhave Woods. We will look for signs of these mammals in the park. We also will have skulls and skins to assist us in describing them and showing how they live.

Nature Society Arboretum & Wildflower Garden Share a Native Plant Day

by John DeLisle, Nature Society Naturalist

For several years, the Nature Society has been clearing out buckthorn & other invasive species from about one acre of land just northeast of the Senior/Community Center. In early May of this year, I began putting out the word to bring native Michigan wildflowers, grasses, or shrubs to our Nature Society Arboretum & Wildflower Garden Share a Plant Day on Saturday, May 22.

Donors dug up and delivered their plants the week of May 17. Eight volunteers brought those plants directly to the event on the 22nd. They also assisted in cataloging donations and laying out the native community garden according to our ecological design intent and species requirements. Many of the donors labeled the plants, and Nature Society botanists were on hand to identify and record accession data for donated plants that were unlabeled. In all, there were 15 donors who brought in over 100 individual plants consisting of 30 different species. The planting began at 1 pm and continued to around 4.

Share a Plant Day started at 9 am for Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist, and I. We transplanted 10 trees, shrubs, and wildflowers from Bob's backyard nursery that he used to accommodate the donations and purchases of native plants given to us over the last of couple years. A heavy round of showers enabled us to move the bounty from south Royal Oak to the arboretum without worry, and plants were watered later in the afternoon.

We had a lot of positive comments about 'Native Plant Day'. The Stewardship Network, a grassroots coopera-

tive organization working to protect, restore, and manage Michigan's natural lands, called Share a Native Plant Day "a neat, innovative idea", and posted it on their website and listserve activity promotions. Southeast Michigan Wild Ones Native Plants and Natural Landscapers board member Judy Graham called the event "inspirational", when she dropped off her plants onto my driveway. Ruth Vrbensky, owner of Oakland Wildflower Farm, thought "the metro area needs a native botanical garden." Karen Hoskins told my wife, Theresa, while delivering 15 native plants, "It's great to see such generosity of a natural resource. I wholeheartedly share these other donors enthusiasm for native Michigan wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees."

The following week after the event, we had a rough stretch of hot weather. Theresa, and I were out with the water hose Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Thankfully, even the obligate wetland plants and riparian woodies like PawPaw didn't wilt...in fact, some, like American Cranberry put on 2" of growth that week!

The Nature Society is very pleased with the generous donations of many native gardeners, restorationists/rescuers, and nurseries. We thank you, with the caveat that we may solicit not only your help with more plantings, but even more importantly, recruit all of you ecologically-concerned gardeners, to join us in building and maintaining our arboretum.

Nature Society & Royal Oak in Bloom

by Nancy Vickers

Royal Oak in Bloom is a Mother's Day tradition in our community. Sponsored by the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, the event takes over the City Hall & Library Williams Street parking lot - filled with vendors selling flats of annuals and perennials, shrubs and healthy vegetable plants - and garden art and accessories. The Chamber makes several spots available for non-profit groups.

The Royal Oak Nature Society has participated since 2002. My husband, Ted, and I have manned this event every year (except for one when we were out of town). We have a colorful banner set up across our table and spread out literature explaining our purpose. We also hand out fliers listing upcoming events. We have maps available and draw people in to talk to us by showing colorful pictures of the parks with trillium front and center. It is fun informing them that we even have these two parks in the city. Many people from the Royal Oak area still don't know they exist. Using the maps, we can help them locate the parks and encourage them to visit on their own or with the Nature Society.

Up through 2008, we met and greeted about 40-60 people each year. In 2009, the number of guests increased to 90. In 2010, we shared information with 185 men, women and children.

As the years go by, we are speaking with more people who already know about us. They tell about their experiences in the park on their own. They ask questions about the events we hold and about the critters that call our parks home.

This is one of my favorite Nature Society activities -- a beautiful day outdoors in our "cool" hometown.



Nancy at the Nature Society's Royal Oak in Bloom table in 2008

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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 & Cummington 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 Cummington Park and Tenhave Woods.

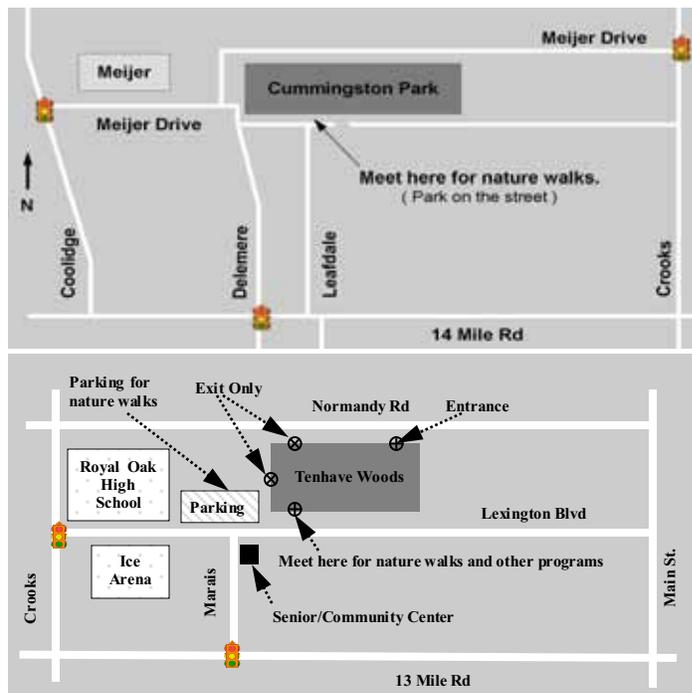
Ways & Means: Investigates means of grant solicitation and then follows through accordingly.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Don Drife (248-528-0479)
- Vice President & Cummington Park 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. 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
 1600 N. Campbell
 Royal Oak, MI 48067
 248-246-3380
 nature@society@ci.royal-oak.mi.us
 www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature



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