



The *Chinquapin*

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Fall 2015

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2015/16 season begins now and ends in August, 2016. To see if you owe membership dues for the 2015/16 season, please check either your street address label or e-mail subject line.

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", e-mailed to you quarterly. If you want, we can mail a hard copy to you instead. **With e-mail, the print quality of the newsletter is better and the photos are in color.** Supporting Membership is \$10 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus being listed a supporting member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits, listed as a patron member in our newsletter, an invitation to our pre-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 fill out a

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Nature Society's 10th Annual Fundraiser

Our 10th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser was held on Friday, April 24th at the Royal Oak Elks Club from 7 to 10 pm. We did things a little bit differently this year. Beginning a little after 7:30, we welcomed everybody to our soiree/fundraiser. Because it was our 10th fundraiser, we decided to have past award winners come up and be recognized. Next, this year's award winners were introduced along with the Young Poets Contest winner for 2015 (see next page for more information). And lastly, we had our first ever live auction. There was spirited bidding on four items which included Trap/Skeet Shooting at North Macomb Sportsman's Club, a Gift Basket from Bark-A-Bout, a Bat House made for the Batman v Superman Movie coming up in 2016 and a handcrafted, occasional sofa donated by the Estes Wood Company. The live auction was very successful for us and we plan on doing one again at next year's annual fundraiser.

We want to thank our guests who came to our event and bid on over 130 different auction items along with all of our volunteers, food and cash donors plus everyone who donated an auction item (see next page for the list).

A special thank you goes out to our seven "guest table" sponsors. They included the **Royal Oak Garden Club, Fifth Avenue, Miner's Den, Play & Stay Pet Care Center, Royal Oak Historical Society, Royal Oak Woman's Club and Natural Community Services, LLC.**

Please be sure to save the date for our **11th Annual Fundraiser** that is scheduled to be held again at the Royal Oak Elks Club on Friday, **April 22, 2016.** 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. And if you have been at our fundraisers before, be sure to join us again at next year's event.

Message From the President

by Don Drife

Royal Oak, and indeed all of southeast Michigan, should be thankful for the foresight of our city planners in preserving Cumingston Park and Tenhave Woods. They are unique areas and the fact that they exist in an urban setting only adds to their value.

Cumingston Park has degraded over the years. Flooding, resulting from the development of the adjoining lands, and the increased damage of White-tailed Deer over browsing, has taken its toll. However, the drainage issues are resolved and some of the native species are expanding in the woods. It has a diverse woody plant population, a fascinating fungal community, and interesting breeding birds. It seems at

times to be the forgotten stepchild. Many scientific studies could and should be done there if time permitted.

Last year we started attacking some of the invasive plant species in Tenhave Woods. European Buckthorn, Glossy Buckthorn, Norway Maple, non-native Honeysuckle, and Privet are now being controlled. We hired a company that specializes in habitat restoration because we do not have the people power to do the work with volunteers. Sections of Tenhave now consist of standing dead Buckthorn. The area inside of the Lexington turnstile is a good example. These areas will heal.

A native species of plant has appeared in

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2015 YOUNG POETS CONTEST

The Nature Society held our Young Poets Contest in April, 2015. Because April is National Poetry Month, we know this is the perfect time to introduce the concept of art and nature to young people.

The contest was open to all students in the Royal Oak Public Schools in grades 3 through 5. Their subject had to be nature themed. The quality of the work submitted was again outstanding. The judges did not have an easy task. We had four judges this year – Anton Anderssen, Diana Wing, Sharon Dargay and Lauren Merriam. Each judge selected one finalist and then they all chose two favorites from the four finalists and one winner. The 2015 winner was **Ramona Cronkite**, a third grader at Addams Elementary. Her poem, "Beaver", and the other finalists' poems can be found by going to this website link: http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/webfm_send/4172.

This contest continues to be an annual event and we look forward to see what the 2016 entrants have for us.

Beaver by Ramona Cronkite

Sturdy Home.
Slap on water.
flat tail
water ripples,
Beaver!
He looks.
Watches me.
Dives under.
gone!

But I know,
in the lake,
Hidden.
He is in
a dry hut,
babies maybe
sitting.
And when I leave,
He goes out and looks for sticks.

2015 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The Lifetime Achievement Award winner for 2015 is Nature Society board member Nancy Vickers.

Nancy was one of those attending the first public meeting when the Nature Society was first organized. At the second meeting she volunteered to be on the Program Committee helping to plan our nature walks and speaker programs. She has continued to serve since then with an ever increasing diversity of responsibilities. Nancy has served on the Education Committee. Since 2009, she has been our Recording Secretary. She has worked public relations by explaining who we are and what we do at Royal Oak in Bloom and our annual Open House at Tenhave Woods. Nancy is on our Board of Directors helping to make decisions as we move forward with the stewardship of Royal Oak's nature parks and arboretum. Since 2002, she has help develop and staff a craft table at our school Nature Nights. She has been on the Fundraiser Committee for all 10 of these events. She is in charge of the gift certificate displays that can be seen at our fundraiser. She has acquired auction items for us for all of our fundraisers, and has been on the crew that spends the afternoon setting it up. She founded our Young Poets Contest which helps to foster a positive relationship between nature and the arts. Poet

Contest winners are awarded at our Annual Fundraiser. Nancy has been continuously, since our inception 15 years ago, one of the core group that has formed the base of the organization that plans our programs and the maintenance of the City of Royal Oak's nature parks. Fifteen years ago the nature parks were unused and maintained. Today the Nature Society serves several thousand people per year with various programs and many more actively use these parks on their own. Without Nancy's commitment, this would not have happened.

The President's Award winner for 2015 is Nature Society member Karen Pettke. Karen is a retired elementary school teacher active in gardening, genealogy, the Detroit Historical Society, Society of Active Retirees (SOAR), and also serves as a driver for the American Cancer Society. Last year she noticed that the Royal Oak Arboretum was suffering from a lack of maintenance, that trails had become impassible and desirable vegetation was being overwhelmed by invasive Canada Thistle and buckthorn. She began working there every week and recruited a number of other volunteers to come in on a regular basis to clean up the trails and remove the worst of the weeds. Her

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membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Royal Oak Nature Society. Please list other household members you want included as Nature Society members (no extra cost).

Through your donation (tax deductible), you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail us the information asked for on our membership form (page 5) & send that information to: naturesociety@romi.gov

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.

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.

"The World of Butterflies and Moths" speaker program is being held on **September 2nd**. Join Pat & Ray Coleman, nature photographers and friends of the Nature Society as they show us larva and adult butterflies and moths from around the world. The Colemans are internationally known nature photographers and experts on insects.

"Mysteries of Madagascar" speaker program is being held on **October 7th**. Join Dr. Orin Gelderloos, Professor of Biology/Environmental Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and learn about Madagascar, a large island some call the Eighth Continent. Known for its many species of lemurs, it is really the poster child for a host of endemic species of flora and fauna with mysterious origins including species found only in Madagascar and in South America. Humans have occupied the land for only the last 2,000 years and their

origins are a mystery as well. Conservation and sustainability are major issues in this country with a diversity of habitats from rain forests to deserts.

"Under the Rouge River" is being held on **November 4th**. An amazing diversity of fishes in the Rouge River, once threatened by pollution, are now by endangered by invasive species. The last four years of survey work in the Rouge has shown a tremendous rebound of the fish community. But the invasive Round Goby is moving upstream after 30 years of being in the Great Lakes. No one knows what the outcome might be. So far, it looks very different to what happened in the big lakes. Join Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist, as he talks about other new invasive are being discovered and natives fishes that were thought to be gone from the Rouge River, are now reappearing.

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Tenhave. It is Indian Pipe, also known as Ghost Plant. It is a flowering plant that many people confuse with a fungus, because it does not have any green leaves. Without green leaves it cannot manufacture its own food. It is a true parasite, getting its nourishment from a fungus that attaches to tree roots. Indian Pipe is rare in southern Michigan where it grows in rich, undisturbed woods. It is an indicator that our woods are healthy. We have several hundred plants along the pond trail. I have not seen this species in the park before.

Our arboretum is a favorite place of mine for photography and relaxation. I photographed 125 species of plants and 20 species of insects there in the past year. Many of these we planted. After the leaves dropped from the trees I was surprised to find a Baltimore Oriole nest hanging in a Silver Maple above the main meadow. Karen Pettke coordinates the arboretum volunteers. Karen received the 2015 President's award for all of the hard work that she did in the arboretum in 2014.

We also contracted the same habitat restoration company that was working in Tenhave to attack Buckthorn,

Honeysuckle, and English Ivy in the arboretum. East of the sidewalk that runs through the arb is a large area of standing dead Buckthorn. We need volunteers to cut this down. Contact us if you have a few hours of your time to volunteer. You can work on your own schedule and at your own pace.

We have started training a group of Nature Guides to assist with the leading of our nature walks. This past summer, they learned about the plants in the arb. In the fall they will begin a series on woody plant identification.

Our small band of dedicated volunteers study and maintain our two nature parks. They also share the parks by having nature walks and other educational programs. They maintain the trail system in both parks and now monitor and maintain the fence surrounding Tenhave. The Nature Society continues to develop the arboretum. Help is needed weeding, watering, and monitoring the collection there. I am amazed at how much this group has accomplished and I am well aware of the things that need to be accomplished that are left undone. We can always use more help.

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)

"Arboretum in Early Fall" is being held at the **Royal Oak Arboretum** on Saturday, **September 26th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Take a tour of the meadow in our developing arboretum (behind the Community Center) and see what fall wild flowers are blooming.

"Fall Color" is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Sunday, **October 11th**, beginning at **2:00 pm** and at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **2:00 pm** on Saturday,

October 17th and again on Saturday, **October 24th**. This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our nature study areas.

"Geological Features" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **November 7th**, beginning at **10:00 am**. What did this area look like thousands and millions of years ago? Why is Royal Oak so flat, or is it?

Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi Fall Schedule

September: Mushroom Walk on Saturday, **September 26th**, at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **10:00 a.m.**

October: Mushroom Walk on Saturday, **October 24th**, at **Cummingston Park** beginning at **10:00 a.m.**

November: A Friends of Fungi meeting will be held at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) on Wednesday, **November 11th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.**

"Citizen Scientist" is taking place at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **September 12th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Park at the Lexington & Marais lot & meet at the Lexington entrance. Help us with some Oak Research.

We need help identifying oak species. Come lend a hand and learn about oaks. We are especially looking for Shumard Oak, a species that has just made into this corner of the state.

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 2015 fundraiser without you.

Deb Anderson
South Oakland YMCA
Joe Ballor
Two Women and a Hoe
Jan's Pottery
Boukie's Grill
Carol Bradshaw
Briggs Gallery
Buttons Rent It
Don Calder
Mary Ann Carmichael
Tim Castaneda
Zumba Mexican Grille
Charlie's Restaurant
Kim Ciolek
Clover Stones
Pat & Ray Coleman
Helen & Connie Cost
Leon & LuLu's
Laurine Cybulski
Whole Foods
Gerry DeLong
Troop 1627
Don & Joyce Drife
Trader Joe's
Mayor Jim Ellison
Estes Wood Company
Bernadette Ethridge
Chris Ethridge
Annette's Hair Studio & Spa
Amanda Felk

Cranbrook Science Museum
Mary Fredricks
Frentz & Sons Hardware
Laura Gogola
Ewe-nique Knits
Susanne Greenlee
Gustafson Morningstar Dentistry
Moosejaw Mountaineering
Pet Supplies "Plus"
Ladybug Shoppe
John Herrgott
Michigan Science Center
Kristine Hill
Mitzi Hoffman
Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival
Marcia Hovland Studio
Noir Leather
Katherine & Larry Howell
Dianne Howey
Nora Iverson & John Talbot
Billings Lawn Equipment
Mary Kleiss
Oakland County Parks
Art & Winnie Kowalsk
Motor City Auto Spa
Wild Birds Unlimited
Holiday Market
Alice & Arthur Marotti
Arthur Murray Dance Studios
bd's Mongolian BarBQ
Judge Derek Meinecke

Bonnie Michalak
Paper Back Trade In
Firestone Complete Auto Care
Lily's Seafood Grill
Heather Muller
Bob & Kelly Muller
Mr. Rain Barrel
Batteries Plus
Water Works Theatre Company
Bark-A-Bout Pet Resort
Shawn O'Connell
Dorothy O'Connell
Jackie O'Connell
Edna John
Jonathon Alhakim
North Macomb Sportsmen's Club
Olga's Market Fresh Grille
Reds Salon & Barber
O'Toolos Irish American Grill & Bar
Vinsetta Grill
Paint Party Royal Oak
Royal Oak Brewery
Five 15
Stagecrafters
Karen Pettke
Royal Oak Golf Center
Pasquales
City of Royal Oak
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Val's Pet Supplies II

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ability to see the problem, willingness to commit her own time, and encourage others to do the same, kept the Royal Oak Arboretum a space that all could enjoy.

The 2015 Chinquapin Award Winner is Nature Society member John Semchena. The Nature Society over a year ago, put out a request for volunteers to help maintain our two nature parks and the Arboretum. John Semchena, a Nature Society member, answered that request. In the early summer of last year, John joined a small team of volunteers that helped clean up all of the trails in our arboretum that were overgrown with weeds. With his "mighty weed wacker" the trails got cleared so people could easily walk the trails again. In mid-summer, John was part of the crew that helped to remove six trees that had fallen across Tenhave trails and he also helped us raise money with Dream Cruise Parking at Gunn Dyer Park in August. Then in the fall, he helped the Society fill in gaps underneath the Tenhave fences in an attempt to keep deer out of the park. The Nature Society is greatly appreciative of John for everything he did for us in 2014 and what he has done for us is the kind of help that we

need in the future in order to keep our nature parks and arboretum viable.



Award winners from left to right: John Semchena, Nancy Vickers, Ramona Cronkite, and Gail Valentine accepting for her sister, Karen Pettke

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Town Tavern
Jim & Laura Rogers
Nancy Schermerhorn
John Semchena
Dena Serrato
Decades
Café Muse
Kristin Smith

Royal Oak Golf Club
Ray's Ice Cream
Richard & Patricia Stoll
Dos Manos
Jeff Synowiec
Sherry Toggweiler
Dynamic Flowers of Royal Oak
Representative Jim Townsend
Toyology

Ted & Nancy Vickers
Denise & Fred Vultee
Hollywood Super Markets
Sandy Wilkins
Craig & Donna Will
Black Lotus Brewing Company
Pete Wurdock

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, which includes the coordinating and organizing of the Annual Spring Fundraiser & other fund-raiser programs approved by the board.

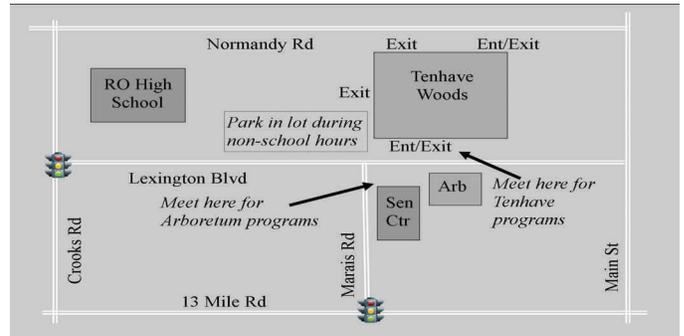
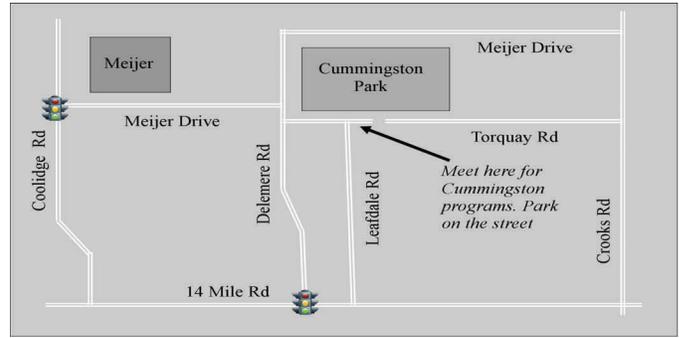
Programming: Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-528-0479)
 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)
 At Large: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)
 Troop/Pack 1627 Representative: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

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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naturesociety@romi.gov
www.romi.gov/nature



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