



The *Chinquapin*

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Spring 2014

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

Royal Oak Nature Society's "Friends of Fungi" Club

by Mary Fredricks

Over three years ago I grabbed my new digital camera, walked into Friendship Woods in Madison Heights looking for something to shoot, and fell in love with fungi. The fungus that did the trick was a magnificent Sulphur Shelf (aka Chicken of the Woods) on a log right next to the trail. Its bright orange and yellow stopped me in my tracks. It would be quite awhile before I found out what it was. An entire year would go by before I bought my first guidebook and started learning about what I was photographing. During that time, just seeing fungi was enough. But now I'm glad that other people challenged me by asking questions about them. Learning about fungi has been fascinating, and I always have something interesting to look for and photograph in the woods.

Fungi (which include mushrooms, molds, mildews, rusts, and more) are neither plant nor animal but have characteristics of both. Like plants, they can spread, but not move about, because they are "rooted" in a substrate (the ground, rotting log, dung, etc.). Like animals, they don't produce their own food but must rely on the nutrients found in the substrate. Fungi perform a valuable service in the woods by decomposing fallen

trees, leaf litter, etc. in their search for food. Although some are parasitic, growing on and killing living trees, others form special relationships with the roots of living trees that are beneficial to both tree and fungus. They are very diverse in shape and color, and are found in virtually every part of the world. They have important roles to play as a food source for animals and humans, as a cash crop, in industry (e.g. the paper industry), and in nature.

Below and on the next page, you will find pictures of several fungi spotted this past year in Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum: Scaly Pholiota, the tiny Bird's Nest Fungus, Cinnabar Chanterelle, and a poisonous Amanita button, possibly a Destroying Angel. A button is a young mushroom before it has opened up. Because the weather affects fungi growth, different fungi can be seen from season to season in the same woods. Some species can be spotted every year, while it may be years before others return. There is always something new to see when you are looking for fungi.

(Continued on page 2)



Scaly Pholiota



Bird's Nest Fungi

PLEASE NOTE

Because the Royal Oak Middle School will not be available to us for the first two Wednesday's in April, there will be TWO speaker programs in March and NONE in April. Please see page 3 for more details.

(Continued from page 1)

Last spring, a mushroom club (The Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi) was formed. Its purpose is to educate adults and children about the fungi in our woods and yards. The club does this by holding monthly walks from April through October in either Tenhave Woods or Cummingston



Cinnabar Chanterelle

Park. The club also holds monthly indoor meetings in November and January through March at the Royal Oak Senior Center on Marais. The walks are opportunities to see fungi up close, and learn about what you are seeing. The meetings are opportunities to meet fungi enthusiasts and to explore various aspects of mycology (the study of

fungi). I hope to see you on a walk or at a meeting this year. See pages three and four of this newsletter for scheduled mushroom programs/walks through the end of June.

For more information, please contact Mary Fredricks, Nature Society mycologist, at 248-280-1042 or e-mail her at maryfredricks.aim@gmail.com.



An Amanita button (possibly a Destroying Angel)

DEER FENCE PROJECT UPDATE

by Bob Muller

In the fall and winter of 2012, we addressed our problem of having 12 to 20 deer in Tenhave Woods. At that time, the amount of browsing resulting from that herd would have permanently eliminated many of our wildflower species within two to three years. Our expenditure of \$14,000 and over 600 volunteer hours fixing the fence was almost the answer to the problem. In the spring of 2013, we had two does that managed to find a way into the park. They each produced two fawns. We watched them throughout last summer. The upside was that the plants overall were able to handle the browsing of those few deer. Even with that said, we don't want any deer in Tenhave. We have one of the finest collections of wildflowers in Southeast Michigan and want to protect this valuable natural area. We had hoped that deer couldn't get into the park, because if two were able to get in last year, maybe a dozen will find their way in this year. We walked the fence and couldn't find a place that seemed to provide a way for them to get into the park. There were a few places that we felt needed a small amount of alteration, but we really didn't feel these were the deer entry points. There are several gates on the Lexington fence side, but home owners were told that they had to keep them closed and locked. This seemed like it was being done. In walking the fence, we found several hundred yards where the fencing didn't reach the ground.

But the gap was never more than six inches. In our research on deer fences, we found that if a wire fence was used, the bottom wire needed to be no more than six inches above the ground. But maybe they still got in this way. Then in late fall, we found that DTE tree trimming crews had opened a section of fence along Custer for access and didn't close it. It was frustrating that this vandalism was done by a corporation. In talking to the home owner at that location, he mentioned that two does that he had seen recently, had multiple, deep scratches along their backs. Eureka! It looks like they were coming in under the fence after all.

This winter, the four fawns that were born in Tenhave this past summer have not left the park. In all of the other years, the entire deer herd left when the leaves fell off the trees, and did not come back until the following May. Presently, they are going in and out of the gates that we have left open. We are hoping that the deer will leave the park area sometime soon.

This coming spring, we are planning on getting some soil from the city to create a berm along the bottom of the fences that do not reach the ground. Also, there are some small gaps in the fencing that need to be fixed. Hopefully, all of this work will solve our problem.

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 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. **PLEASE NOTE* There will be TWO speaker programs in March and NONE in April.** 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. All speaker programs are free and reservations are not required.

"Skulls and Bones" is being held on **March 5th**. What can skulls that we find in the woods teach us about their owners? How can we tell what kind of animal they belonged to? What can we learn about how they made a living in the world when they were alive? It's the teeth that hold the clues. Be a forensic detective and come join Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist, to see what can be found out about these animals.

"Ecology of Antarctica: An Abundance of Life in Snow, Ice, and Glaciers" is being held on **March 26th**. The ecosystem structure in Antarctica is topsy-turvy in more than one way. Join Dr. Orin Gelderloos, Professor of Biology/Environmental Studies at the University of Michigan, Dearborn and learn how the animals have found marvelous adaptations to flourish with the extreme physical environments found in this south polar region of our planet.

"Royal Oak's Nature Parks Through the Eyes of Botanists" is being held on **May 7th**. Join Don and Joyce Drife, Royal Oak Nature Society botanists, as they share the flora and fauna of Cummington Park and Tenhave Woods. These two oases in the urban desert harbor a diverse assemblage of organisms. The restoration work at the Royal Oak Arboretum will also be highlighted.

"Nature Society Year in Review" is being held on **June 4th**. This year, our June program **will be held at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center** (3500 Marais) instead of at the Middle School. We will talk about what has been going on with the Nature Society, Tenhave Woods, Cummington Park, and our arboretum in Worden Park East. A photo show will depict some of those activities. We will finish off the evening by talking about some things we are planning to do in the future.

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 Woods, Cummington Park, 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 (November and January thru March), the group meets one Wednesday a month at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) beginning at **7:00 pm**. Mushroom nature walks are held monthly from April thru October. Please see next page for the mushroom walk schedule.

"Photographing Fungi" is being held on March **12th**. This program is being presented by Mary Fredricks, Royal Oak Nature Society Mycologist & professional photographers, Pat & Ray Coleman.

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: 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)

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. All public nature walks are free & reservations are not required.

Please join us for our **8th Annual Open House** being held on Saturday, **April 26th**. Programs & walks are listed below.

“Owl Hoot” is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Friday, **March 21st**. Program begins at **7:30 pm**. We will walk into the park and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

“What Was Tenhave Woods Like 200 Years Ago Nature Walk” is being held on Saturday, **March 22nd**, beginning at **10:00 am** at **Tenhave Woods**.

“Pond Life” programs will take place at **Tenhave Woods’s Dragonfly Pond** and will be held on :

Saturday, **April 26th** from **1:00- 3:00 pm**

Sunday, **May 4th** at **2:00 pm**

We will be sampling the vernal pond for what is living in it. There will be viewing trays available 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.

“Spring Wildflower Walks” will take place at **Tenhave Woods** and be held on:

Sunday, **April 6th** at **2:00 pm**.

Saturday, **April 12th** at **10:00 am**

Saturday, **April 26th** at **10:00 am**

Some of the wildflowers we will be looking for are Spring Beauty, Trout Lily, Bloodroot, & Spicebush, Red & White Trillium, blue & yellow violets, Spring Beauty, Wood Poppy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wood Anemone and Wild Geranium.

“Mushroom Walks”

The Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi, is holding mushroom walks on the following days in Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park. The walks will take place on the 4th Saturday of the month. Mary Fredricks, a member and botanist/mycologist of the Royal Oak Nature Society, will lead the walks.

April 26th at **Tenhave Woods** at **2:00 pm**

May 24th at **Cummingston Park** at **10:00 am**

June 28th at **Tenhave Woods** at **10:00 am**

Other programs and nature walks being held during our **8th Annual Open House** on **April 26th** at **Tenhave Woods** are:

1:15 pm: “Bird Walk” Join Don Drife for a look at the resident birds in Tenhave and some that are just passing through.

1:30 pm: “Nature Photography” Walk along with us and take your own pictures of the abundant wildflowers that carpet Tenhave Wood’s forest floor this time of year.

“Late Spring Nature Walk” is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Wednesday, **June 18th**, at **7:30 pm**. Join us and see what is happening in the woods during the late spring and beginning of summer.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PATRON MEMBERS

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following 2013/14 Patron members for their generous financial contribution to us:

Nora Iverson & John Talbot

Barbara Grinke

Bonnie Michalak

Richard & Pat Stoll

Mary Kleiss

Mary Fredricks

Bernadette Ethridge

Katherine & Larry Howell

Jean Watson

Royal Oak Nature Society's 9th Annual/Soiree Fundraiser

WHEN: Friday, April 11th, 2014

WHERE: Royal Oak Elks Club (2401 E. 4th 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 auction, 50/50 raffle and an awards ceremony.

TICKET COST: \$10 advance; \$12 at the door

WHERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: Speaker programs, nature walks, from any Nature Society board member or sending a check in by mail.

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 Arboretum in Worden Park East

The Nature Society could use your help. We need people to supply and bring in food on the night of the fundraiser. To cover our expenses, we are trying to find businesses/groups who might be interested in becoming a table sponsor for our April fundraiser. They would have their business/group name displayed on one of the tables and would be able to put their advertising material out in the center of it. The business/group name would be prominently shown on signage, in our program guide and in our fall newsletter. As a table sponsor, the business would get two free tickets to the fundraiser. Cost is \$100 for a table. If you know of anyone who might be interested in helping us out in any of these ways, please contact us at 248-246-3380 & leave a message or e-mail us at naturesociety@romi.gov.

This event is a great way to show your support for the Nature Society. You get to bid on over 140 items while enjoying great food and drinks along with getting to chat with your friends and other Nature Society supporters in a relaxed atmosphere. So, this is an cordial invitation to join us on April 11th. Hope to see you then!

Please check out our Facebook page & become a fan of the Royal Oak Nature Society.

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



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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.

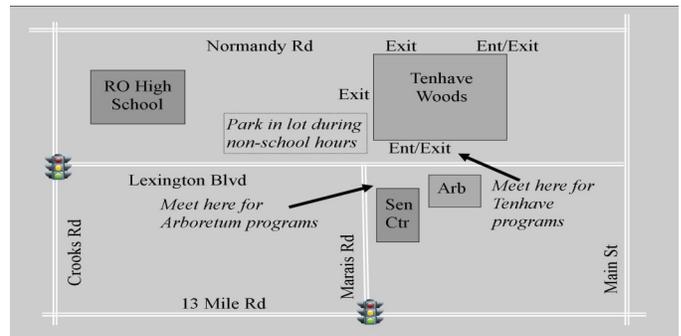
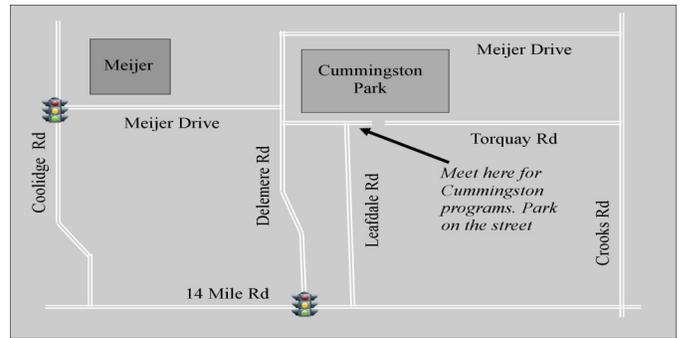
Programming: Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 creating an arboretum in Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs.

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



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