



ROCHDALE TIMES



GARLIC MUSTARD
(JUST BREAK A ROOT OR LEAF
AND TAKE A WHIFF.)
WARREN'S CORNER ON PAGE 2

Rochdale Homeowners Association

The Rochdale Homeowners Association Annual Meeting will be held at Rochester Hills City Hall on Wednesday, June 1st, at 7:00 PM. We hope to see lots of you there to discuss or ask questions about the proposed changes in the original Building and Use Restrictions. If anyone would be willing

to become a member of the Rochdale Board of Directors, just call any of the current Directors that are listed on the front page of our Rochdale Directory.

Since there was only one home that participated in last June's annual garage sale, the Board has voted to skip a year

or two, so there will not be a Sub Garage Sale this year in June. It is felt that people won't bother to enter our sub for a sub garage sale because there were so few homes in recent years.

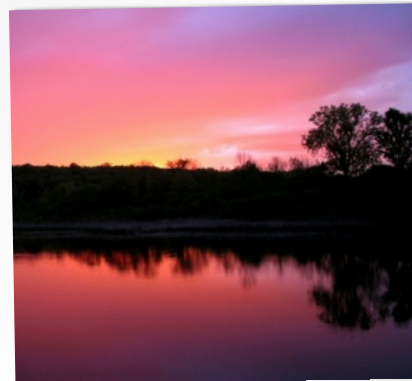
The Rochdale Annual Potluck Picnic will be held in our park on Sunday, August



SPRING IN MICHIGAN



TRILLIUM



SUNSET OVER THE HURON
RIVER

Rochdale Homeowners Association

21st. Mark the date on your calendars now – it's such fun to talk with our neighbors and meet the new residents!

The Board approved a contract with Perfect Turf to mow the Rochdale Park this year. The contract includes a spring and fall clean-up.

Please let your voice be heard by returning the last page of the proposed changes for our Building and Use Restrictions, by Saturday, May 21st, to Tiffany Fronek, 416 Orchardale, Rochdale's Secretary. Your comments

will be given careful consideration before the final document is given to you for approval.

The primary purpose for the proposed changes is to allow Rochdale Association to recover damages and to seek reimbursement for costs, including attorney fees, incurred as a result of lawsuits; and we want to keep our neighborhood beautiful.

Come to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 1st to voice your comments about the proposed

document and hear your neighbors' ideas.

Thanks to all of you who have turned in the last page of proposed changes! We value your comments and suggestions. If we don't have your last page yet, you have 5 days to get it into Tiffany's mailbox! We value your input!

See you at the June 1st Annual Meeting at Rochester Hills City Hall! (7:00PM)

Warren's Corner - Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard is rapidly becoming one of Michigan's worst woodland weeds. Its thrifty, biennial habit allows the plant to optimize growth before native vegetation greens up while sewing thousands of seeds with each mother plant.

Unfortunately, because of its invasive habit, garlic mustard is rapidly dominating the forest floor, changing woodland habitat for plants and animals alike. Given the chance, it will also invade the home landscape and even take over patches of existing ground cover.



Understanding the life cycle

Garlic mustard is a biennial, meaning it completes its lifecycle in just two years. The first year it is a diminutive, even attractive little plant with clusters of 3 to 4 rounded-to

kidney-shaped leaves with scalloped edges. At first glance, it may be mistaken for a wild violet. These first-year plants remain green throughout the summer season and into the winter, making it easy to check for invasion throughout the year.

Early the next spring, robustly growing garlic mustard plants send up a 20 to 40-inch bloom stalk bearing tiny white flower clusters. Leaves at this point, tend to lose their scalloped edges giving way to a more "toothed" appearance. Flowers pollinate quickly and become viable seeds within a few days after flowering begins. Seeds mature and disperse as the slender seed capsules dry out and flip around in the wind. By the end of August, the plant actually disappears. At this time, unsuspecting gardeners and woodlot owners forget about garlic mustard, thinking it has gone away until the thousands of seeds germinate and begin their aggressive march through the forest. Seeing a forest woodlot that has been completely taken over by garlic mustard is a strikingly disturbing scene.

Control measures

Any control method selected must be repeated for several years until residual seed from previous year's plants has germinated. To a gardener, this could be a long time. Smaller garlic mustard infestations can be controlled with a watchful eye and rigorous hand pulling during spring before other

Warren's Corner - Garlic Mustard

vegetation greens up. (Now, late March, Early April is a great time!)

The plants are relatively easy to pull but brittle, so be sure you are lifting the entire plant out of the ground and not just breaking off the top. If the plants have begun to flower and set seed, be careful to take the entire plant and not drop off any of those seed capsules.

Plants should be bagged or burned (with permission) since research has shown that composting is not a consistently good option. A large percentage of seeds can withstand the compost heating process and may not be destroyed.

For larger stands, mowing or cutting has not proven to be the best solution either. If you can cut the plants before the

flower buds have opened this is the best option to avoid future seed production. Herbicides can be used in the early spring or again in late fall when native vegetation will not absorb the product. The very nature of the forest floor is a very delicate so please read the label carefully before applying.

The bottom line is that people who appreciate the native beauty of their woodlands and would not like to see this aggressive weed move into their landscape beds should keep a vigilant eye and remove it as soon as it appears. You can also get involved in a local "garlic mustard pull" to help park lands and other valuable areas tackle the problem.

Information provided by MSU Extension,
courtesy of Warren DeWitt

Warm weather is here (almost?)

It's springtime in Michigan. One of the most beautiful of all the seasons.

The motorcycles are out, people finally able to get out and go for a walk, cars that can, have the tops down with drivers letting the wind blow through their hair. Ah yes. Hair. I remember. Vaguely.

Please don't forget to give yourself more time to react to the unexpected, such as children darting out from behind parked cars, pets or obstacles in the road, and pedestrians. Remind neighbors to drive 25 mph. Make sure that others who use your vehicles also drive 25 mph. Let's all stay alert and obey the 25MPH speed limit.



And lastly.....

There have been quite a number of resident complaints regarding excessive dog barking. Please remember to be considerate of all your neighbors as the warm weather also brings open windows, residents relaxing on their decks, etc.