



Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

Annual Meeting and

Presentation: Farmington Junction – A Trolley History

Saturday, January 31, 2015

Orchard Lake St. Mary's



CELEBRATING **40** YEARS
1974-2014

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society



2014 GWBHS Review

with a

40 Year Attendance Record

MISSION: GWBHS is a non-profit organization that collects, preserves, researches, and stimulates public interest in the history of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.

*Share history....
1,050 attend 13 events*



including annual Apple Island Tours



250 attend Group Programs

Second graders visit Apple Island and the Museum

Kindergarteners visit the Museum

150 attend monthly Open Houses



1,450 attendance total

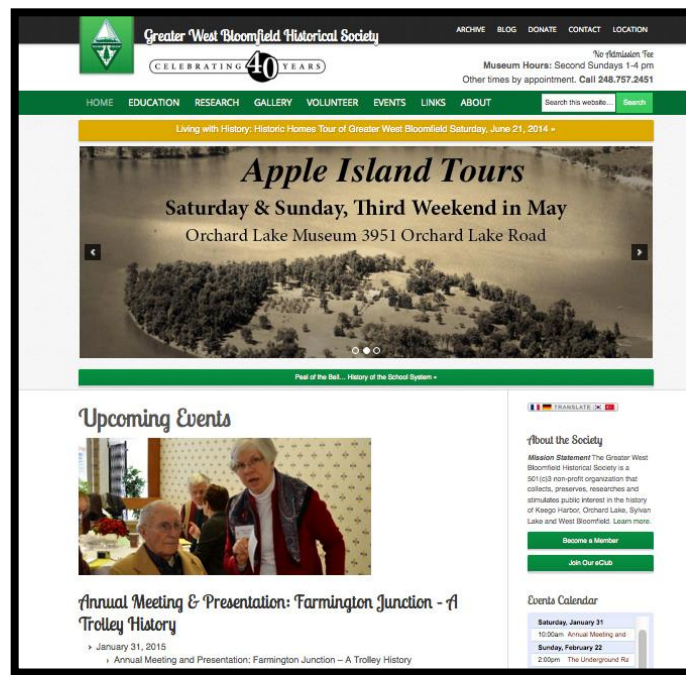
Also connect through

34 Geocaching Museum visits (GPS orienteering activity)

141 Twitter contacts

172 Facebook “likes”

10,150 www.gwbhs.org hits



Take opportunities

Create more Museum exhibits



Submit two WBTODAY articles



Take opportunities

Participate in community events

Keego Harbor Memorial Day Parade



WB Schools Family Fun Night

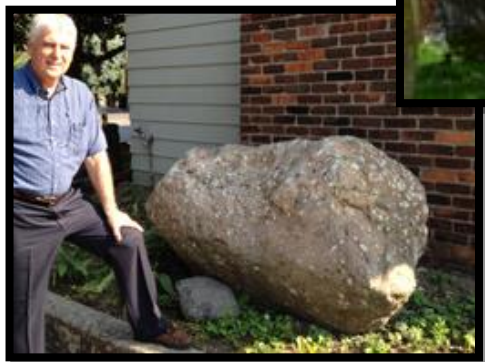


OCPHS Ice Cream Social

Keego Harbor Skate Night

Utilize new opportunities

Submit 4 articles to the Orchard Lake Living publication



Submit historical photos & text to the Beacon newspaper

Create two CCTV video ads

Include GWBHS materials in WB new resident packets

History Matters
Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

Spring 2014

Long-Time Volunteers Recognized at Annual Meeting
The 2014 GWBHS Annual Meeting was held January 25 on the campus of Orchard Lake Schools. It was an opportunity to update the membership about the past year's progress and also recognize volunteers who have helped to make it all possible. Three long-time volunteers received special recognition at the event.

Charles Martinez was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award "in appreciation for many years of service as an archaeologist and historian volunteering with local historical societies bringing many projects forward, especially Song of the Heroes. Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield." Charlie has been sharing his interest in local history and archaeology for over 40 years. Upon receiving his award, he said that the "preservation of the past for the enrichment of the future is my goal in life."

Betty Bradbury has been active with GWBHS since nearly the beginning in 1974. Betty organized children's games at July 4th picnics until 1982. She has helped maintain the Museum, wind the grandfather clock, change outdoor signage and care for the gardens. As an Apple Island and monthly Open House docent, she is always enthusiastic in welcoming guests and sharing local history.

Carol Fink has been active with Apple Island since at least 1977 and called it "the crown jewel of Orchard Lake." She has led countless island tours and nature walks and has served as president of the Friends of Apple Island, Inc., board member of the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary and GWBHS board member.

Each of these volunteers have brought history to life. We appreciate the dedication, enthusiasm and volunteerism of these long-time volunteers!

Apple Island Tours
Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18, 11-5 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3061 Orchard Lake Road
\$15 adult, \$10 children (ages 5-12) \$5 Time Travelers and GWBHS members (includes new memberships) See gwbs.org for details.

Living with History: Historic Homes Tour of Greater West Bloomfield Saturday, June 21, 10am-4pm
Enjoy a summer day experiencing unique stories of greater West Bloomfield historic homes. This self-driving tour begins at Schuylk Farm and ends at the Orchard Lake Museum, on the site of the former Orchard Lake Hotel. Docents will share history inside six homes. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on event day. Make reservations at www.gwbhs.org/homedtour, Orchard Lake Village City Hall or The Friendship of the West Bloomfield Library Main Branch. For information about sponsorship, advertising or how to volunteer, contact twb@gwbhs.org or 248.757.2451. Read more in the latest issue of "West Bloomfield Today" at www.wbtodaynews.com.

Connect with Us! gwbs.org Twitter: @gwbs 248.757.2451

Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter, RSS

Membership

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2014
61	114	106	145	186	188	190	100

2009-2013 membership included free Apple Island Tours

2014 membership included a discount price for Apple Island Tours & complimentary book- Song of the Heron: Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield

Gadd II Fund supports special projects

40 anniversary special newsletters

Museum exhibits and storage upgrades

Outdoor exhibit and Museum signage

Ongoing Initiative

Apple Island Research

WMU Archaeology Dig Project

Made possible with a 2014 grant of \$10,000 from The St. Francis Foundation of MI

Two Field Lab Open Houses
Welcome and Farewell dinners



Ongoing Initiative Wayside Exhibits

Motorcities National Heritage Area Project

* an affiliate of the National Parks Service with a grant from MDOT

*chronicle automotive & railway transportation

* 300 in southeast Michigan

*The program is featured at the
MI Week Breakfast and
Wayside Exhibits volunteers receive a
Community Achievement Award.*

*GWBHS adds a sign
with a dedication at the
Civic Celebration event*



*WB P & Rec dedicates the WB Trail signs
L to R: Joe Hines, Brian Yopp, Dan Navaare, Ron Gay, Nancy Thompson*



Ongoing Initiative

Mary and her little Lamb painting: restoration completed *School History Project: Archives found; history shared; school bell erected at Scotch School*



Alfred Ackerman restored the Whitfield School painting of Mary and her Little Lamb at the DIA. Joanna, Julia and Jaynie visit the painting with Grandma Helen Jane Peters.

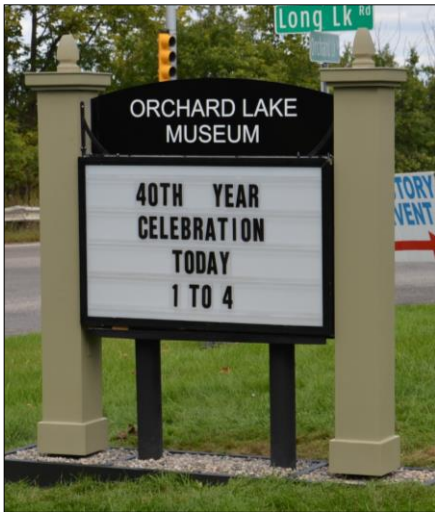
At the Celebrating Scotch:
25 Years Strong, 160 Years Long



Building Improvements

Replacement & new outdoor signage

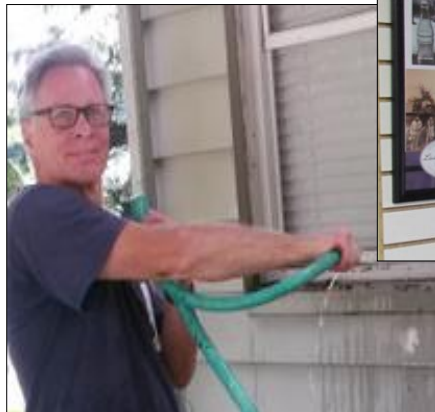
Outdoor exhibit signage



Storm window & exhibit space upgrades



Office & storage become more functional

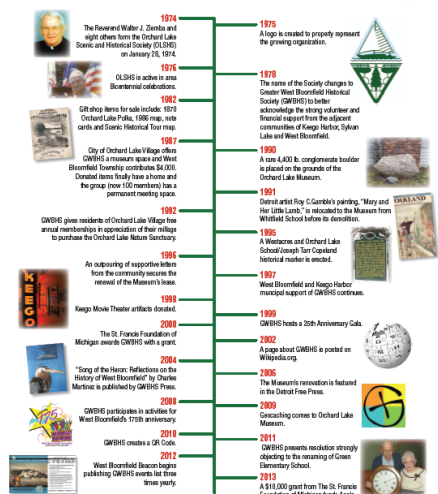


Special for the 40 anniversary

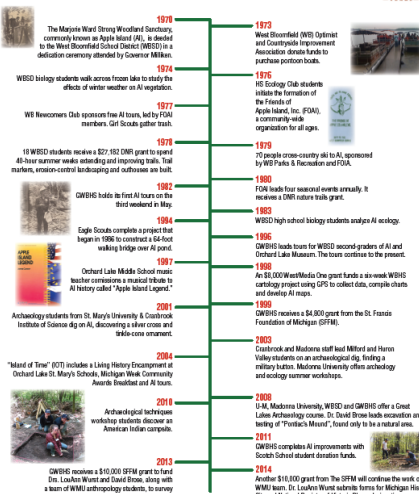
History Matters

in full color with 3 commemorative timeline inserts

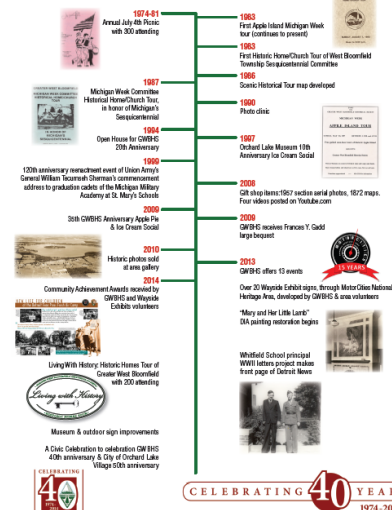
Timeline of the Society and Orchard Lake Museum



Timeline of Apple Island & GWBHS



GWBHS Initiatives & Events



GWBHS Historic Timeline

As Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS) celebrates its 40th anniversary (1974-2014), here is a look back at the history of the organization.

By the early 1970's, Orchard Lake and the many square miles surrounding it had become a sprawling suburbia, still scattered with reminders of its recent past as a community of farms and orchards. The depopulated, trolleys, hotels and summer vacationers were a distant memory and no one lived on Apple Island anymore. It had been many generations since tribes of American Indians had called this land their home.

The development of the area inspired a small group of citizens interested in preserving the scenic and historic values of the surrounding area. "The Orchard Lake Scenic and Historical Society was formed on January 26, 1974 at Abbott School. Nine members of the Board of Directors were elected: the Rev. Walter J. Ziemba (president), Mel Ryous (vice president), Frances Gadd (secretary), Doris Bonville (treasurer), General F. S. Strong, Jr., Rita Splary, Dr. Roger Gavellin, Agnes Patterson and 13-year-old Sam Stephen.

The longevity of the organization is a testament to the hard work and dedication of countless volunteers who treasure the stories and natural beauty of Greater West Bloomfield just as the OLSHS founders did in 1974.

40 Years: GWBHS & Apple Island

As Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS) celebrates its 40th anniversary (1974-2014), here is a look back at the Society's involvement with Apple Island.

Apple Island has always been a special place, first to the American Indians and then as a peaceful summer home. Today it is a place to experience nature and uncover the history beneath its surface.

Officially known as the Marjorie Ward Strong Woodland Sanctuary since 1976, the island has benefited from wide community interest and support to maintain its natural habitat and maintain safe access. The West Bloomfield School District owns the island and students have visited to study its geography and ecology. GWBHS guided tours of the island for second graders each spring and fall are just one of the ways the Society keeps local residents connected to Apple Island.

GWBHS has made the study of Apple Island an important part of its activities for over 30 years. Since 1982, the Society has been coordinating annual tours of the island to give the public a chance to experience this place of natural beauty and its rich local history. The St. Francis Foundation of Michigan has long been a generous supporter of GWBHS activities on the island. Most recently, its grants have funded archaeological digs that have led to the application for Apple Island to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

40 Years: GWBHS Events & Initiatives

As Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS) celebrates its 40th anniversary (1974-2014), here is a look back at the history of its events and initiatives. Part of the mission of GWBHS is to collect, preserve and research local history, but the sharing of this history through events and initiatives is what really highlights the value of the organization to the community.

In the early days, there was a large annual 4th of July picnic and Apple Island tours began in 1982. There have always been great opportunities for members and the public to get together to learn about history and have fun doing it. Other initiatives have resulted in printed items for the Orchard Lake Museum gift shop and the sharing of area historical information on signage in parks and in the schools.

A generous bequest in 2011-12 by Frances Y. Gadd, a founding member of The Orchard Lake Scenic & Historical Society, has allowed GWBHS to expand and enhance its offerings in recent years. There is now an average of more than 2.5 events per month, in addition to many special projects and ongoing initiatives.

Special for the 40 anniversary

LIVING WITH HISTORY

Historic Homes Tour

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

Saturday, June 21

gwbhs.org/homestour








LIVING WITH HISTORY

Historic Homes Tour

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
Keego Harbor Orchard Lake Sylvan Lake West Bloomfield



Saturday, June 21, 2014
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Special for the 40 anniversary Recognition

Community Achievement Award at the MI Week Community Awards Breakfast

West Bloomfield Township resolution

City of Orchard Lake Village proclamation



Special for the 40 anniversary

A Civic Celebration: Hands on History & Ice Cream Social



*Celebrate the City of Orchard Lake Village's 50 anniversary and
the GWBHS 40 anniversary with activities
outdoors and inside the Orchard Lake Museum.*

Appreciate support from

Civic Center TV

City of Orchard Lake Village

Country Side Improvement Association

Orchard Lake Living publication

Orchard Lake St. Mary's Schools

The St. Francis Foundation of Michigan

West Bloomfield Beacon, a weekly newspaper

West Bloomfield Library

West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation

West Bloomfield School District

West Bloomfield Today publication

West Bloomfield Township

Appreciate support from volunteers

*GWBHS has been an all volunteer organization for 40 years.
Without volunteer support we would not be where we are today.
The community appreciates and values our local history!*

New 2014 leaders

Diane Eanes, Volunteer Coordinator

Nancy Perkins, Facebook

Ron Montgomery, Museum Maintenance



All volunteers are appreciated! Thank you!

2015 Plans

Hold strategic planning meetings

Hire part-time help

Recruit more active volunteer support & a 2016 president

Work with interns to catalogue archives

Continue website improvements

Submit 4 articles to WBTODAY

*Increase event advertising by partnership with
WB Parks & Recreation and WB School District and placing 6 Beacon ads*

Support Wayside Exhibits improved stands

Install School History Exhibit Panels

*Submit application for Apple Island Michigan State Historic Preservation
and National Register of Historic Places designation*

40 Year Attendance Record: 30,000 guests

12,400 attend annual large events

including 10,000 Michigan Week Apple Island Tours guests

3,000 attend Open Houses

6,000 attend events

6,300 visit Apple Island with school groups

2,300 others



*Thanks to GWBHS members
and the community
for 40 years of support
keeping local history alive!*

