



# History Matters

Spring 2016

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

## Apple Island Tours to Highlight Farming Activities in May

The annual Apple Island Tours will be the weekend of May 21 - 22 from 11am - 5pm, starting from Orchard Lake Museum. In addition to the island tour (ages 5+), activities will be available on the grounds of the museum, including exhibits and activities focused on early farming. Children of all ages can try their hand at farm chores, including using a yoke, sharpening wheel, crosscut saw, and juicer and listening to a book about West Bloomfield apple farmers hourly. Presenters will share about a wide range of topics, including spinning, early outboard motors, and archaeology. See [gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours](http://gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours) for additional details.

*We are seeking sponsors for this event. Sponsorships start as low as \$25 for an Apple Sponsor, which includes having your name listed on the event's web page and in the newsletter. More details about sponsorships are available at [gwbhs.org/sponsorships](http://gwbhs.org/sponsorships).*



Tour goers take a pontoon boat ride to Apple Island for the 2.5 hour trip.



## West Bloomfield Schools and GWBHS Celebrate the Unveiling of School Panels

*Our School History* is an ongoing project of GWBHS to document the history of area schools. More than three years ago, GWBHS researchers Sue Williams, Helen Jane Peters, and others began to collect information and document the history of schools in the area. Christy Forhan led the effort to develop and design historical information panels that will be displayed at each of West Bloomfield School District's schools.

An event to unveil the panels was held at West Bloomfield Township Library on Wednesday, March 30.



ABOVE Front (l-r): Dr. Gerald Hill, GWBHS President Gina Gregory; Back (l-r): Ellen Simmons, Randi Sakwa, Christy Forhan, Sue Williams, DuAnne Sonnevile, Helen Jane Peters, Library Director Clara Bohrer  
ABOVE LEFT Community members unveil the panels.

## From the Desk of President Gina Gregory...

GWBHS adds value to area residents' quality of life by sharing our past, which enhances today and enriches the future. We do this with a robust website, monthly programs and monthly themed Open Houses, annual Apple Island Tours, and group programs. The *Our School History* initiative permanently places an engaging exhibit panel in every West Bloomfield school. These programs all have production costs and our financial resources do not fully cover these costs.

A 2016 goal is to enhance program support by boosting community awareness of GWBHS to increase the number of memberships, donations, and sponsorships (more at [gwbhs.org/sponsorships](http://gwbhs.org/sponsorships)). We now have a team of over 10 Civic and Business Ambassadors, GWBHS volunteers who will be spreading the word about GWBHS at municipal, School District, Cable Commission, and Chamber of Commerce meetings.

**We need you to be a GWBHS Ambassador, too! Please promote GWBHS events, memberships, donations and support opportunities with your friends, neighbors, and local businesses.** If you are interested in having materials to share, please contact us at 248.757.2451 or [contact@gwbhs.org](mailto:contact@gwbhs.org). In addition to information on our web site, we have business cards, colorful brochures (with stands for counter displays), and sponsorship packets available at the museum office.

**Lastly, your sponsorships help us continue to offer Apple Island Tours at reasonable rates by offsetting annual deficit costs.** A Main Event Sponsor is \$250, a Booth Sponsor is \$60 and an Apple Sponsor is just \$25. More information is at [gwbhs.org/sponsorships](http://gwbhs.org/sponsorships). We appreciate your support!



### Michigan Week Award to *Our School History* Chair

Christy Forhan is a recipient of a Lifetime Volunteer Leadership Award, presented by the Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week Committee.

GWBHS appreciates Christy's work on the *Our School History* exhibit panels project. She has also volunteered with West Bloomfield School District for over 20 years, including PTO, Parent Network Council, Scotch fun run program, and many district millage campaigns. Congratulations Christy!

## Donations Needed for Appreciation Reception

We are seeking businesses to donate food, flowers, and prizes for the Appreciation Reception on Wednesday, July 13, 6-8 p.m., at Orchard Lake Museum. Please contact [volunteer@gwbhs.org](mailto:volunteer@gwbhs.org) with your donations! GWBHS members, volunteers, and sponsors are invited to join us as we gather to socialize and celebrate our most important asset - you!



## Sponsorship Opportunities 2016

### Apple Island Tours

#### Main Event Sponsor

**\$250**

Logo on program  
Name on Orchard Lake Road sign  
Individual Membership for one year  
All Booth Sponsor items listed below

#### Booth Sponsor

**\$60**

Table at event  
"I'M A GWBHS SPONSOR" decal  
Listing on website/social media/newsletter

#### Apple Sponsor

**\$25**

Listing on website/social media/newsletter

### Other Sponsorships

#### Newsletter Sponsor

**\$200**

1"x2" logo/ad space in 3 issues of newsletter  
Table at nine (9) events  
"I'M A GWBHS SPONSOR" decal  
Listing on website/social media/newsletter

#### Website Sponsor

**\$100**

Logo on all pages of web site for one (1) year  
Table at six (6) events  
"I'M A GWBHS SPONSOR" decal  
Listing on website/social media/newsletter

#### Event Sponsor

**\$60**

Table at three (3) events  
"I'M A GWBHS SPONSOR" decal  
Listing on website/social media/newsletter

**For more details & payment information:**  
**248.757.2451 • [gwbhs.org/sponsorships](http://gwbhs.org/sponsorships)**



# 2016 EVENTS

## MAY-DECEMBER

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society hosts and sponsors programs covering a wide variety of local history topics throughout the year. Visit [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org) for more information and final event details.



### PINE LAKE CEMETERY TOUR

**Saturday, October 8, 2016 • 10 - 11:30 a.m.**

*Northeast corner of Lone Pine & Middlebelt Roads*

Visit Pine Lake Cemetery and learn about prominent local residents buried there, from pioneer John Green to football hero Nick Pietrosante, and Detroit Tiger Norm Cash. \$5. Optional restaurant stop following. Contact Sue Williams to docent at 248.757.2451.



### MONTHLY THEMED OPEN HOUSES

**Second Sundays, 1-4 p.m.**

*Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Enjoy temporary and permanent exhibits interpreting area history and culture. Hands on activities. Occasionally guest presenters share their interests. No charge.

#### Open House Themes:

**July** - Antique Kitchenware

**August** - Pleasant Lake History

**September** - Edible Wild Plants

**October** - Antique Saws

#### Docent Training

*Wednesday, May 18, 7 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Would you like to lead a tour on Apple Island or guide a 2nd grade class through the Orchard Lake Museum? Come see what it's all about. RSVP by Tuesday, May 17 to Gina, [gina@gwbhs.org](mailto:gina@gwbhs.org) or 248.622.7570

#### Apple Island Tours

*Saturday, May 21 & Sunday, May 22, 11-5 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Semi-guided tours of Apple Island. First come, first served. No reservations. 3:30 p.m. is last departure. \$15 adults, \$10 children 5-12 years (no kids under 5). \$5 GWBHS and Time Travelers members. Sponsored with West Bloomfield School District, West Bloomfield Library, City of Orchard Lake and Orchard Lake Schools.

#### Join Us In a Memorial Day Parade

*Monday, May 30, 9 a.m. - noon, Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake*

Walk or bike in the Monday Memorial Day parades! Or bring your vintage car! To participate contact DuAnne, 248.683.1542 or [duannesonneville@hotmail.com](mailto:duannesonneville@hotmail.com).

#### National Trails Day Walk

*Saturday, June 4, 8:30 - 11 a.m., Walnut Lake Road entrance of WB Trail*

Celebrate National Trail's Day by walking the West Bloomfield Trail's scenic and historic rail-to-trail path beginning at the Walnut Lake Rd. entrance. Step off the trail to the Orchard Lake Museum for refreshments. See Parks and Recreation Brochure for more info. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation. No charge.

#### Volunteer Opportunities Meeting

*Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Are you looking for flexible, interesting volunteer opportunities? Come learn our needs -- from one-time to long-term commitments. 2017 events are being planned now! No charge.

#### Appreciation Reception

*Wednesday, July 13, 6 - 8 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Members and volunteers are invited for refreshments to this GWBHS appreciation reception. Complimentary drawing ticket included for choice of multiple prizes. RSVP by July 10 to [rsvp@gwbhs.org](mailto:rsvp@gwbhs.org) or 248.518.0871.

#### Kit Homes in Michigan

*Wednesday, September 28, 7 p.m.*

*WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road*

Join Sears kit homeowners and enthusiasts Andrew and Wendy Mutch as they explore the fascinating history of kit and catalog homes. Learn about Michigan's role in the kit house industry and see examples from vintage catalogs. See a photographic tour of the many kit homes located in West Bloomfield area communities. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Township Library. No charge.

#### Pine Lake Cemetery Tour

*Saturday, October 8, 10 - 11:30 a.m., northeast corner of Lone Pine & Middlebelt Roads*

Visit Pine Lake Cemetery and learn about prominent local residents buried there, from pioneer John Green to football hero Nick Pietrosante, and Detroit Tiger Norm Cash. \$5. Optional restaurant stop following. Contact Sue Williams to docent at 248.757.2451.

#### Autumn Nature Walk

*Sunday, October 16, 2 p.m., Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary, 4700 Pontiac Trail*

Join Naturalist Carol Fink for a guided tour. Walk through rolling terrain and explore seasonal autumn beauty. Sponsored with City of Orchard Lake Village. No charge.

#### Monthly Open Houses

*Second Sundays, 1-4 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Enjoy temporary and permanent exhibits interpreting area history and culture. Hands on activities. Occasionally guest presenters share their interests. No charge.

# Orchard Lake Museum News



World War II mementos at a recent Open House

## Share Your Collection

If you have a collection of historic items that you would like to share, we would love to talk to you about it. The public can share collections at an Open House or as a temporary museum exhibit. Please contact Sue Williams at [sue@gwbhs.org](mailto:sue@gwbhs.org).

## Volunteers Needed

Digital cataloging  
Research and write history articles

## Wish List

Flat screen TV/monitor (WiFi capability)  
Notebook computer

Board members Gina Gregory and Carol Fink enjoy a Chamber of Commerce Mix & Mingle event during a special museum Open House.



Richard Weiss speaks to Civic Center TV about the 1976 tornado during the March 13 Orchard Lake Museum Open House. View the video on their web site at [civiccentertv.com/tornado40](http://civiccentertv.com/tornado40).

## New to the Collection

During the March Open House at Orchard Lake Museum, Richard Weiss donated photos and a metal exit sign that had been folded in half by the 1976 West Bloomfield tornado.

If you own something related to area history that you would like to donate to the GWBHS collection, bring it to an Open House or contact us at [contact@gwbhs.org](mailto:contact@gwbhs.org) or 248.757.2451. We also encourage you to share your memories and digital photos via email to [archives@gwbhs.org](mailto:archives@gwbhs.org).

## Thank You

GWBHS could not do so much good work without the help of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to those who have recently given their time and helped out.

### Annual Meeting

Ashley Wilson, Ella Baker, Diane Eanes, Rob Gregory

### History of African Americans in The US Marine Corps

DuAnne Sonnevile, Ella Baker, Gina Gregory, Kate Carlin, Tanya Sharon

### Open Houses (November - March)

Speakers: Betty Bradbury, Helen Jane Peters, Gina Gregory, Nancy Salo;  
Docents: Diane Eanes, Gina Gregory, Sue Williams

### Spring Nature Walk

Carol Fink, Sue Murphy

### Administrative Help

Nora Feinberg



Members of the Montford Point Detachment at the February library event



Couple at the Valentine's Day Open House

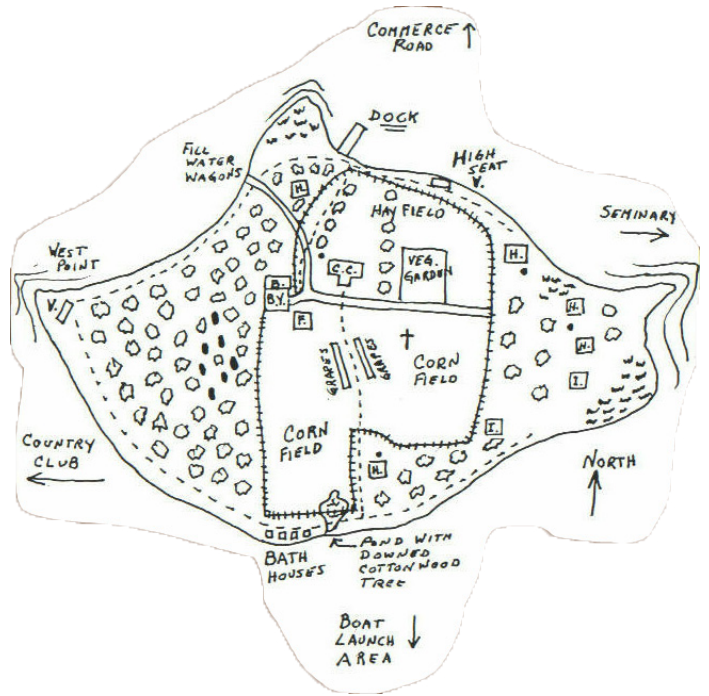


# Piecing Together the Story of Apple Island

Today Apple Island is mostly wooded and natural, a peaceful oasis in the midst of a bustling community. Many are surprised to learn that people once lived on the island, even if only during summers. Over a century ago, trees were cleared for farming, houses and outbuildings were constructed, and sometimes hired help lived on the island to work for the families that owned it. The map to the right, drawn by caretaker W.R. Hamlin, shows what the island was like around 1900.

In 2013 and 2014, GWBHS coordinated archaeological digs on the island with Dr. LouAnn Wurst of Western Michigan University. Much of the work has focused on the Campbell family's use of Apple Island for summer vacations. The Campbells were a prominent Detroit family of such historical significance that an application was submitted to have Apple Island designated as a historic site.

Public tours of Apple Island are available each year the third week-end of May. Learn more at [gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours](http://gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours).



Summer home of the Campbell family, known as Smoke-Tree Inn, date unknown



Members of the WMU dig team  
on Apple Island, 2014



Vase found on  
Apple Island, 2013

## PhD Thesis to Focus On Apple Island

Mark Hoock, Anthropology PhD candidate at American University in Washington, D.C., is focusing his thesis on Apple Island. In 2013 and 2014, he led Western Michigan University anthropology students in field work on Apple Island. He and a few volunteers will continue archaeological fieldwork on the island this summer.



Mark Hoock, 2014



Orchard Lake Museum  
**Phone 248.757.2451**  
3951 Orchard Lake Road  
Orchard Lake MI 48323

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### Board of Directors

Gina Gregory	President
Diane Eanes	Recording Secretary & Volunteer Coordinator
Carol Fink	Corresponding Secretary
Sue Williams	Treasurer
Helen Jane Peters	Historian
Hannah Dagg	History Matters Editor

### Committee Chairs

Don Newman	Group Programs
Christian Sonnevile	Development/Fundraising
Christy Forhan	Our School History Chair
Sue Grifor	Membership

### GWBHS Mission Statement

*The Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that collects, preserves, researches and stimulates public interest in the history of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.*

### Put Your Logo Here!

Learn about opportunities for businesses to support GWBHS.  
[www.gwbhs.org/sponsorships](http://www.gwbhs.org/sponsorships)



## Membership & Donation Form

Membership Year: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31    ☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I prefer to receive my newsletter by email link.  
☐ Please contact me about volunteering with GWBHS.

*Please make checks payable to GWBHS. Credit card payments are accepted through PayPal at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org).  
GWBHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible according to IRS regulations.*

Membership includes access to Time Travelers reciprocal membership network  
Mail to: GWBHS 3951 Orchard Lake Road Orchard Lake , MI 48323.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual | \$15  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual        | \$20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple     | \$30  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family            | \$40  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Premier           | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business          | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life              | \$600 |

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_