

Volunteers make it happen!



Volunteers are what make this organization. Without volunteers we would not be here! **And** without “**new**” volunteers we **won’t** be here in the future! Volunteers make it happen. If you have ever volunteered with GWBHS, know that we appreciate your efforts to help preserve & share . [\(CLICK\)](#)

As president I’m always looking for volunteers to fill positions at events, to serve on committees, and to take on leadership roles. Each plays an important role in the health of this organization. [\(CLICK\)](#)

We appreciate the vision, work and successes dedicated volunteers bring to this organization.

Virtual GWBHS Annual Meeting Awards

January 30, 2021

Today we celebrate volunteers who have shown **strong leadership commitment** to GWBHS. Each has taken on leadership roles. Their leadership **skills** help this organization **function**. Without leaders the organization falters. We appreciate their commitment to leadership.

Distinguished Service Award with 22 names.



The Society's Distinguished Service Award is our highest award. Earlier this award was called the Lifetime Achievement Award. **This year I have the pleasure to recognize the person who first voiced the idea to begin a historical society here: Mel Rycus, 91 years old.**

2020 Distinguished Service Award to Mel Rycus



Mel has always been active in his community. While living here, he served the City of Orchard Lake Village, from 1971-1976, two years as a councilman, two year as mayor, and then was mayor pro tem. We learned in a letter he sent us recently, and published in the fall 2020 newsletter, how in 1974 he developed and helped found this organization at a Labor Day picnic. On the grounds of the former Michigan Military Academy with his family, Father Wally, and Father Stan, enjoying his first (and only) batch of home brewed dandelion wine, he shared the idea, someone should preserve Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, and Sylvan Lake history and historical artifacts. They agreed this was a good idea, and after much debate it was agreed, Mel and Fater Walter Ziemba, would co-chair the leadership. And the rest is history! So 47 years later the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society board members

recognize one of our founding members with a Distinguished Service Award. Mel's name has been added to the the award wall plaque, (animation) and on behalf of the Society, we present him remotely with a GWHBS cap and an award certificate that reads:

Distinguished Service Award presented to Mel Rycus In appreciation of your 1974 suggestion to preserve the history and historical facts of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake, and West Bloomfield and your co-leadership with Father Walter Ziemba initiating this organization. January 30, 2021. Let's show our appreciation to Mel. Wait three seconds

Mel can you share some memories with us?

Mel remembers meeting using this table with 6 chairs,
1971-1976, matching the number of possible council members.

These chairs were
brought back to the
Museum,
January 20, 2022.

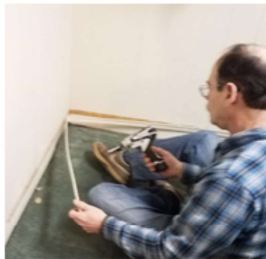




As president, I'm always looking for volunteers to fill positions. Each year I see volunteers step forward to fill roles that were vital to our achievements in that particular year. We would not be where we are today without them. Now I'm happy to present the 2020 President's Merit Awards to volunteers who filled important needs.

This year I was struck by the dedication and commitment exhibited by 5 members. Without their dedication, the unique 2020 opportunities would not have gone as well for GWBHS. Their volunteer support is deeply appreciated.

Rob Gregory



Rob Gregory tops my list! (smile) When I shared with my husband, especially this year, many inside Museum renovations or outside exhibit logistic considerations, and I needed a solution and skillful help. Rob would listen, develop a solution, know what tools were needed, and then volunteer to move large items, take care improvements and installed slat wall sections, and fixed many minor problems. We would not be at this point without his volunteerism. AND I appreciate his support of me as well. Thank you Rob.

(CLICK)

Rob's President's Merit Award simply reads: In appreciation of your volunteerism by supporting the renovation of the Orchard Lake Museum.

Sue Grifor



At 10 am while cleaning the Herschede grandfather clock, Sue asked why it wasn't exhibited in the room with the raised ceiling and fully viewed! Good deal! Four hours later plans were formulated and approved. The room was unpacked of stored artifacts; two exhibit cases were removed; the clock was disassembled and moved into the room. The unused ceiling fan was removed. In the afternoon slat wall sections were added and the walls primed. After a dinner break, the walls were painted. Carpet was installed the next morning.

Sue Grifor. I boldly thought we could renovate the museum with new carpeting **some** rooms and painting a **few** walls - with volunteer help. Sue Grifor volunteered to renovate and help paint the Museum. She led a volunteer cleaning team, painted walls, and thought creatively how to best highlight our artifacts and tell our stories. When we saw more could be achieved with more work, the project grew, and her steadfast project commitment helped us get where we are today. Now, each main floor room has been renovated and a fully developed exhibit floor plan. We would not be at this point without her volunteerism. Thank you Sue.

(CLICK)

Sue's certificate reads: President's Merit Award presented to Sue Grifor. In appreciation of your volunteerism by renovating and painting the interior of the Orchard Lake Museum.

Carol Fink

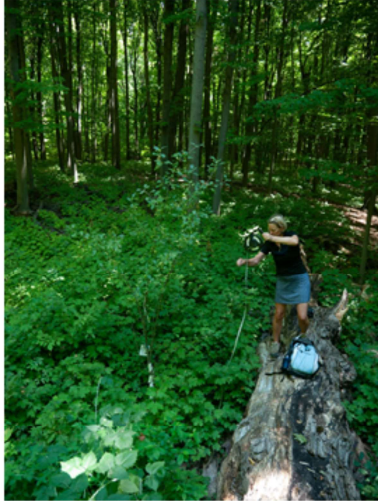


With 2020 COVID-19 social distancing in place, Carol Fink saw the opportunity to use this time to restore the Orchard Lake Museum's outside exhibit doctor's carriage. She spent many hours sanding, priming and painting the wooden carriage, preserving it's longevity. On the Museum porch, the public can now easily see the bright yellow wheels on the dark green attractive carriage. Thank you Carol.

(CLICK)

Carol's award reads: President's Merit Award presented to Carol Fink. In appreciation of your volunteerism during COVID-19 by painting the doctor's carriage, an outdoor exhibit at the Orchard Lake Museum.

Christy Forhan



Christy at home next to Apple Island artwork.

2020 saw new unexpected program opportunities to meet restrictions due COVID-19. We are so fortunate to have people willing to volunteer to create good quality video programs, we can reuse for years to come.

When Christy Forhan volunteered to host a virtual Open House on the West Bloomfield School District's 50th Anniversary of Apple Island ownership, she took the opportunity to learn more about video recording, and presentation animation options. She produced three videos totaling 30 minutes. Each is informative, well produced, and engaging. Thank you.

(CLICK)

Christy's award reads: President's Merit Award presented to Christy Forhan. In appreciation of your volunteerism during COVID-19 by producing Apple Island: Then & Now a 30-minute video, and Brief Overview of Local Native American History a 10-minute narrated slide presentation.

Cory Taylor



On location video at a Motorcities Marker along the West Bloomfield Trail.



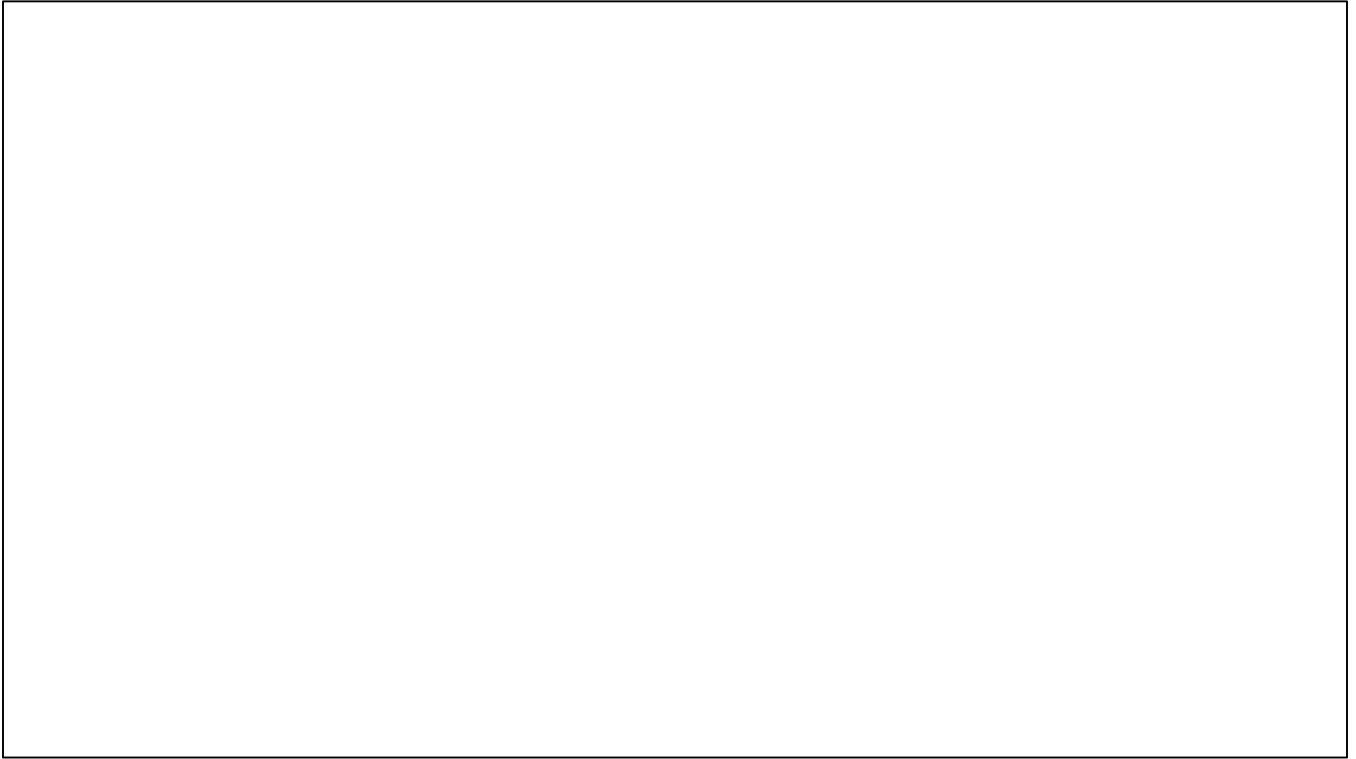
Lastly, I am pleased to present an award to Cory Taylor. Not for the way she stepped into her larger role with GWBHS in February, or soon pivoting her tasks to provide different content through the GWBHS email group, FB posts, or new Instagram account. As we learned more about virtual content opportunities, she **volunteered her time** to implement the idea of creating virtual video tours of the outdoor history exhibits, and create original Open House virtual content. While we might not have known how long these projects actually took to produce, she immediately saw how this was important work and volunteered to see the projects through. For her volunteerism she is receiving this award.

(CLICK)

Cory's certificate reads: President's Merit Award presented to Cory L. Taylor. In appreciation of your volunteerism during COVID-19 by producing a Walking Tour of the MotorCities Markers 25-minute video,

Roosevelt School 100th Anniversary 22-minute video, and Walking Tour Outdoors at the Orchard Lake Museum 6-minute video.

Thank you. That concludes our awards presentation.



Plan read slide 4 in screen share. Stop. video. Stop. show slide.