

2024 Annual Report



Annual Meeting
Saturday, January 27, 2024
St. Mary's Dining Hall, Bldg. 15, Commerce Road

Gina Gregory

We appreciate Orchard Lake Schools facilities use support!

Who?

Community members came together in 1974
as a charitable 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Why? HISTORY MATTERS!

Serve

Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake, West Bloomfield

2022 Mission

Enriching our communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing history.

2022 Vision

Our communities will understand how our past shapes, inspires, and informs the present and the future.

www.gwbhs.org



Since c. 2003



Collecting Memories online
submission program, 2021



2023 has 6,650 searchable
archives online

Orchard Lake Museum, 1987

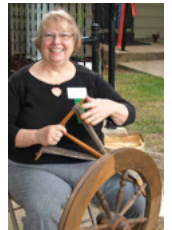
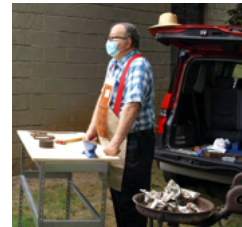
We appreciate Museum support by the City of Orchard Lake Village.
Museum has two galleries, office, and basement with collection storage.



Refurbished Museum reopened, 2021



Remarks supporting importance of local history by all: WB School Superintendent Dr. Hill, MI Rep Carter, MI Sen Runasted, James Craft member of the Oakland County Historical Commission
Municipal leaders & GWBHS board members cut ribbons
CCTV provided Youtube program video
Welcome by Orchard Lake Mayor & Chamber Ex. Dir.
200 attended weekend events



Reconfigured Museum Exhibits

New indoor exhibits and
installed outdoor exhibit panels,
2021



Herschede Tubular
clock repaired, 2022



2023 Installed nine new exhibits,
reupholstered & restored the carriage



Open house: monthly theme Second Sunday & others

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays & 3rd Fridays, 1-4 pm, since 2021



Share collections



Share recent research



Feature presenters



Members share their collections



Drop in conversations

Collection & Research

GWBHS.org is very unusual with online collection, c. 2003

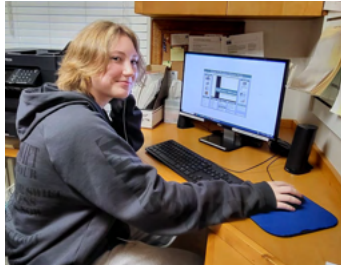
We are one of about six Michigan museums with PastPerfect online portal, at no cost to public, since 2017



Improved collection
files and shelf
organization, 2022



2023, created
the first object
locations binder



2023, 1,500 object records
became available online

[Submit a Research Request Form](#)

2023, created online
research request form to
handle increased requests

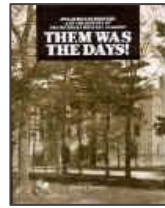
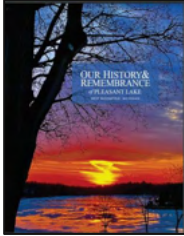
Gift Shop

Local history books, maps, and items are available at the Museum. Some items are available at OL Schools bookstore and WB Town Hall.

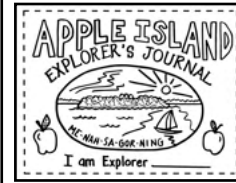
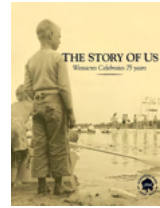
Published with a
grant, 2004



2022



2023

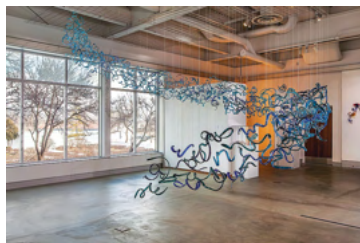


11-13 Programs Annually

350-450 attend: Library presentations, Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary walks, appreciation reception (since 2015), trips through WB Parks (since 2019), Pine Lake Cemetery Tour



2023, 100 attend Restoring 2690
Pine Lake Road Presentation

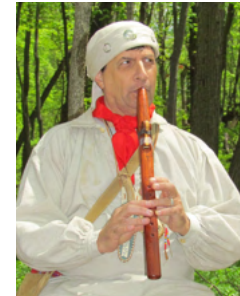


Annual Apple Island Tours

250-500 attend the 2nd weekend in June

TOURS RETURN June 8 & 9, 2024. New boats!

Members can register online for tours at gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours



Group & Community Programs

- Apple Island Tours & Museum visits for 250-500 West Bloomfield Schools 2nd grade students & others, since 1980
- Museum Group Tour, 2023 WB Parks
- Community presentations

2022, 2023: with no pontoon boats, students uniquely spent 1 hour at the Museum engaged in activities



2021



Independent Seniors
Engage in Local History



Interact

Learn at home

See Outdoor Exhibits

Share Memories

Walk or Visit

Community Presence

- Library exhibits
- Municipal exhibits
 - City of Orchard Lake Village
 - 2024 West Bloomfield Town Hall: 50th anniversary exhibit
- Splash Live interviews, GWBCCC: January, February,



Communications

Newsletters, 3 annually

Available at municipal offices, Library, WBP locations



Program descriptions:

WB Beacon newspaper: ads, listings, feature articles

WBP Activities Guide: GWBHS program ads, 3 annually

WB TODAY publication: GWBHS event page, quarterly





Youtube: Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society channel & <https://civiccentertv.com/>

50+ videos

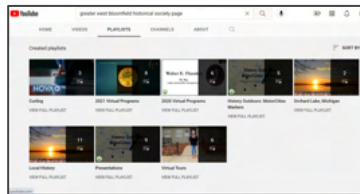
8 playlists:

11 History

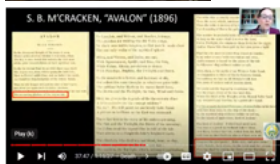
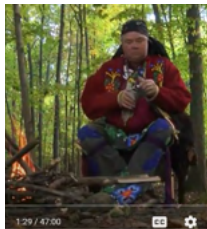
9 Presentations

8 Virtual Programs

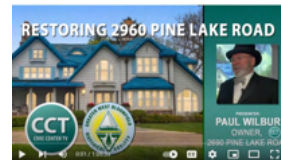
6 Virtual Tours



2021: Numerous historical content
GWBHS videos, presentations



2022: Here Lies Chief Pontiac: Apple Island Myth, Annual meeting and Archaeology Presentation



2023 CT produced presentations:

Restoring 2960 Pine Lake Road,
The LeRoy Pelletier House

Social Media

	2021	2022 (Gina)	2023 (GWBHS)
Eblasts	144	78	77
Facebook Followers	N/A	744	824
Facebook Reach	8,526	5,477	54,541
Instagram Followers	N/A	99	111
Instagram Reach	980	214	993
YouTube Videos Published	34	3	2
YouTube Subscribers	36	50	64
YouTube Impressions (the number of times our videos came up in searches or as recommended videos for users)	26,297	17,065	19,160
Youtube total views	1,574	1,089	1,569



Attendance & Memberships

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	49 year total
Total Attendance	1,500	346	1,046	1,065	1,230	41,135
Large Events & Annual Apple Island Tours	340	0	63	0	0	14,245
All Open Houses	304	171	337	239	35+	5,418
Programs	426	175	201	324	100+	9,825
Apple Island students	225	0	400	400	400	8,530
Museum group visits, community presentations	40	0	0	0	10	3,117

Memberships

2006 - 61 +

2019 - 145 +

2020 - 58 +

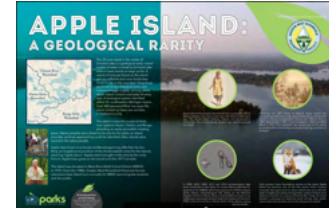
2021 - 101 +

2022 - 76 +

2023 - 113 + 17 life members

Active in community groups

GWB Chamber of Commerce, 2016 to present
GWB Clergy & Community, 2019, 2021 to present
GWBCCC Community Advisory Panel, 2018 -2021
Oakland County History Coalition, 2019 to present



Support community special activities

WB Parks outdoor exhibit panel wording and images, c.2005, 2018
1818-2018 Oakland Co. 100th ann. video, 2017-8
West Bloomfield Township 175th ann. article, 2018
Oakland 200th Ann.with GWBHS newsletter inserts, 2020
Sylvan Lake Village 100th Anniversary, 2021

2023: Rededication of Peace Memorial



Participate in nine annual community events



MI Week Community Awards Breakfast: Planning committee, 1974 - present

Memorial Day Parade, 2009- present

National Trail Days Walk w/ WBP, c.2015-present

WBT Juneteenth Celebration, 2021-present

Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, 2016 - present

Oakland Co. Pioneer & Historical Society Social, 2014 - present

WBSD Family Fun Night, 2016 - 2019, 2021, 2023

WBP Wellness Fair, 2021 - present

WBP/WBT Heros Appreciation Breakfast, 2018 -present



Sponsored Apple Island archaeology research With Apple Island Historic Site listing in the National Register of Historic Places, 2018



Research & work:

2001 Madonna University Ted Gish

2008 Madonna University Ted Gish, WBSD, GWBHS, Dr. David Brose

2013 & 2014 Western Michigan University student project with Dr. LouAnn Wurst & Mark Hoock

2015 Western Michigan University MA candidate Skylar Bauer prepared 108 page evaluation & application

2016 Dr. Wurst submits Historic Apple Island designation application, learns additional support needed

2017 Application resubmitted

2017 University of the Americas Ph.D. candidate Mark Hoock conducted Apple Island dissertation project fieldwork

2018 Apple Island Historic Site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

2019 Apple Island National Register of Historic Places boulder monument installed with a celebration

Involved with Apple Island

Island safety

Install handrails, 2006

Install interpretive site safety protection, 2007

Repair island steps, 2011

WBSD replaces entrance steps, 2019



Clear debris from interpretive sites

GWBHS volunteers 2016-2018

OL City, WBSD, WBP clear 9 paths, with OL Country Club transportation, 2021



Plant apple trees with second grade WBSD students, 2018

Design/install National Register of Historic Places boulder monument, 2019



Researched

23 Outdoor MotorCities Markers

Motorcities National Heritage Area, National Parks Service project



WB Parks dedication of MotorCities markers, 2014. L to R Joe Hines, Brian Yopp, Dan Navarre, Ron Gay, and Nancy Thompson



GWBHS unveiling MotorCities marker, 2014. L to R Linda Kidd, Helen Jane Peters, Gina Gregory, Sue Williams, Anita Pinson



1817 Waterford, Pontiac, Bloomfield & West Bloomfield survey marker, 2017. L to R Steve Stone, Eric Wiegand, John Marshall, Helen Jane Peters



2024 Holiday House, Girls Friendly Society marker by Ron Gay, April 25, 2024 dedication

Special projects

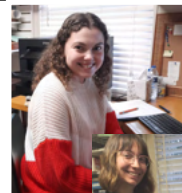
Historical Markers

Research, and share in purchase of outdoor historical markers at Westacres Library & Orchard Lake Schools, 1995



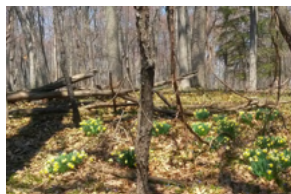
Our School History

- West Bloomfield public school histories posted at gwbhs.org, 2010
- 10 permanent school history exhibit panels installed in each WBSD building. Traveling exhibit panels exhibited in the WBSD board room, 2016
- **2023** Digitized much of this collection to the online database



Spoke out on issues

- Sale of Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary, 1990
- Renaming of Green School, 2011
- **2023** Repurposing of Roosevelt School



2022-2027 Strategic Goals

- **Build** membership
- **Develop** effective governance and fiscal sustainability
- **Increase** funding
- **Look** for additional space
- **Recruit** volunteers & leaders



2023 GWBHS Fundraising Strategy
presentation by Catherine Cangany

Nominate & receive awards



MICHIGAN WEEK BREAKFAST AWARDS Doris Bonneville, Bessie Weatherston 1999, Frank & Nancy Salo 2006, Cara Kazanowski 2007, Helen Jane Peters 2009, Dave & Betty Bradbury 2010, Richard “Buzz” Brown 2013, Gina Gregory 2015, Christy Forhan, Helen McAllister 2016, Sue Williams 2018, Mari Bem, Bob Muller 2019, Barb Krause 2021, Mikwhandahn “Mike” Jewell, Sarah Schraffenberger posthumously for her mother, Molly Rozycki, Paul Mellerowicz, 2022; **Christian Sonnevile, 2023**

Receive Recognitions



Michigan Week Breakfast Community Achievement Award 1990 & 2014,
Motorcities National Heritage Area Wayside Exhibits, 2014;



Seymour Gretchko Youth Advocate Award, 2019



40th anniversary Proclamation, City of Orchard Lake,
2014



Proclamation for Apple Island listing on the National Register of Historic Places, 2019:
Senator Runestad, Representative Berman, Carter, & Manoogian,
WB Township board



Proclamations for Orchard Lake Museum Reopening, 2021

Give President Merit Awards

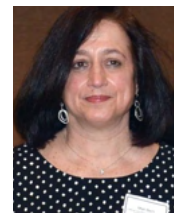
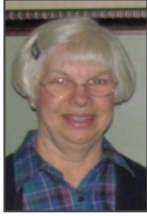


Outstanding Community Service Award: Countryside Improvement Association on 100 anniversary, Westacres on 75 anniversary, Father Whalen, Don & Iris Green 2011. West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation, West Bloomfield Library 2012*.

President's Merit Award: Angela Cini, Paul Mellerowicz, Judy Kerr*, Hannah Dagg* 2014. Melissa Gilbert, Anita Pinson, DuAnne Sonnevile 2015. Christian Sonnevile 2016. John Marshall*, Helen Jane Peters*, Ron Campbell* 2017. Jim Cherfoli, Mik-kwan-dahn (Mike) Jewell, Glen King 2019; Bill Bertakis, Christy Forhan, Rob Gregory, Gino Sanita, Susan K. Williams, 2020; Rob Gregory*, Sue Grifor, Carol Fink, Christy Forhan*, Cory Taylor, 2021; Hannah Dagg, Diane Eanes, 2022

* Not shown.

Give Distinguished Service Awards



Helen Jane Peters 2011, Buzz Brown, Sebrina Borth 2012, Charles Martinez 2013, City of Orchard Lake council members 2014, William McIsaac 2015, Christy Forhan 2016, Mari Bem, David Brose, LouAnn Wurst 2019, Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian 2020, Mey Rycus 2021, Mikwhandahn "Mike" Jewell 2022, 2023
GWBHS Board of Directors, 2024

2023 Leaders



Board Members L-R:

Carol Fink Corresponding Sec
Linda Kidd Recording Secretary
Gina Gregory President
Karen Pushie Membership DataBase
Hannah Dagg Communications
Sue Williams Treasurer



Finance Committee, L-R:

Christian Sonnevile, Chair
Steve Briggs, not shown
Jim Bayson
Gina Gregory
Susan K. Williams



Museum & Communications Assistant

Shelby Nelsen, 8.5 months

2023 Anna Smith, 3.5 months

2023 Committee Volunteers

Building maintenance

Neil Hepburn, Paul Mellerowicz, Sue Williams

Committee Relations Committee, Co chairs: Rick Bartus, Neil Hepburn. Bruce McIntyre

WBSD Liaison Christy Forhan

Education Committee Linda Kidd Chair, Carol Fink

Grants Christian Sonneville Chair, Gina Gregory, Susan Williams

Museum Archives Susan K. Williams Chair, Lana LaFortune

Museum Exhibit Panels Hannah Dagg

Museum Exhibit maintenance Carol Fink, Rob Gregory Chair

MI Week Community Breakfast & Awards Committee Karen Pushie, DuAnne Sonneville, Sue Williams

Program Committee: Gina Gregory Chair, Hannah Dagg, Carol Fink, Linda Kidd, Kathy Pelletier, DuAnne Sonneville
Group reservations: Don Newman

Proofreaders Neil Hepburn, DuAnne Sonneville



2024 - 50th anniversary plans



Special features:

- GWBHS timeline inserts in each newsletter & November presentation
- March: History Through Maps presentation
- April: Holiday House marker dedication
- August: Poker Rally, Things You Auto Know About Local History
(See Rick Bartus for details at rickbartus@gmail.com)
- September: Open House - Celebrating 50 Years Sharing History
- September: West Bloomfield Historic Highlights Map presentation



What will the next 50 years look like?

How do we fill vacancies? Work with fewer volunteers?

How: exhibit sponsors, memberships, partners, planned giving

Exhibit Sponsors

Pat & Glen King, 2021

Gwynne & Jim Cherfoli, 2021

GWBHS Memorial Fund for John Breeze Long, 2022

Tom Bjorklund, 2022

2024 new memberships perks

Free commemorative pen

Free online-reservations for Apple Island Tours

Free Poker Rally event donation ticket

Mailed invitations, newsletters

Partners

City of Orchard Lake Village supports Orchard Lake Museum, since 1987

Orchard Lake Schools

Civic Center TV

West Bloomfield Library

West Bloomfield Parks

West Bloomfield Schools

West Bloomfield Township

Planned giving

How: donations, tribute donations

Donation Recognition

Silver \$250- \$499

Anonymous, 2010-2019

Betty Bradbury memorial, 2016

Gwynne & Jim Cherfoli, 2021, 2023

Jackie & Bill Beach, 2022, 2023

bugs Beddow birthday, 2023

Gold \$500-\$999

Diane Eanes, 2023

Platinum \$1,000- \$9,999

John Benson Kazanowski memorial, 2019

Christian Sonnevile's birthday, 2023

Carbonari Family Foundation, 2023

Diamond \$10,000 and higher

Frances Gadd Legacy Leader, 2012

How: grants

2008, 2013, 2014 Saint Frances Foundation of MI: Apple Island Archaeology Project

2020 Oakland Together Cultural Institution, Covid-19

2022-3 MotorCities Heritage Area, Holiday House marker



2022-3 CFSEM 'Our School History' Digitizing Database



2023 MI HUM Apple Island & summer programs



2024 MACC/NEA Digitizing #2



2024 MNA Operational Relief



2024 MI HUM Museum Outdoor Exhibit Enhancement



How: program sponsors, shoppers, volunteers

Apple Island Tours

Silver sponsors

bugs Beddow, 2024

Magnolia by the Lakes, 2024

Kroger shoppers chose GWBHS as their charity donation option

2023, 2024 Programs

Gino's Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant

Petite Gardens

Volunteers for committees, community and event support, docents, digitizing, fundraising, researchers

What's needed?

Your volunteerism and your support

We only receive donations



HISTORY MATTERS!

Thank you
for your attention!

