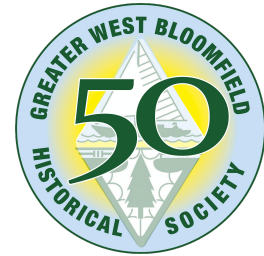
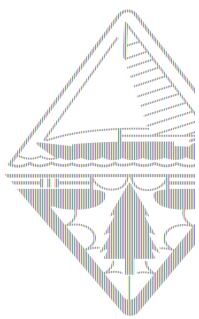
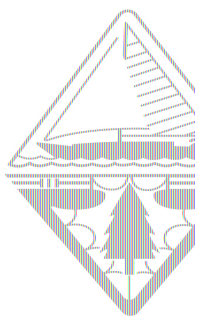


50 years of GWBHS!



Presentation by Gina Gregory, November 12, 2024

50 years of GWBHS!

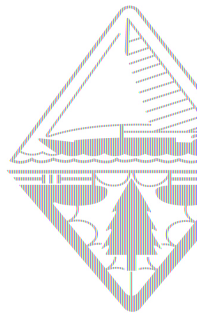


Presentation by Gina Gregory, November 12, 2024

1974 Rev. Walter Ziembra & Mel Rycus co-found Orchard Lake Scenic and Historical Society (OLSHS)

1974 Rev. Walter Ziembra & Mel Rycus co-found Orchard Lake Scenic and Historical Society (OLSHS)

1974 OLSHS logo created



1974



digitized 2005



2014



2014



2019



2024

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

1974-1981, about 300 people attend the
OLSHS annual July 4th picnic

C. 1977 A Scenic Historical Tour map is developed

1976 OLSHS participates in Bicentennial celebrations

1978 Society name changes to
Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
(GWBHS)

1982

Gift shop items are available

C.? 3 West Bloomfield historic maps are reproduced

1982

GWBHS holds first Apple Island Michigan Week Tour

1987

GWBHS gives a Michigan's Sesquicentennial
Historical Home/Church Tour

1987

City of Orchard Lake offers to GWBHS old city hall
for the Orchard Lake Museum

1990

A 4,400 lb. conglomerate boulder is placed at the Orchard Lake Museum

The large

1992

Free annual membership was offered to Orchard Lake Village residents in appreciation of Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary purchase

The property was then owned by Cranbrook. It was to be sold. GWBHS board members objected and went door to door.....

1994

GWBHS holds its 20th Anniversary Open House

1995

A Westacres and Orchard Lake School/Joseph Tarr
Copeland historical marker is erected through GWBHS
efforts

1996

GWBHS leads tours for West Bloomfield Schools second-graders to Apple Island and Orchard Lake Museum. The tours continue 1997 to the present.

1997

Orchard Lake Museum's 10th Anniversary was celebrated with an Ice Cream Social

1998

Keego Movie Theater artifacts received

The small exhibit Museum room is updated to accommodate the large sign.



1999

GWBHS hosts a 25th Anniversary Gala

A dinner was held at Orchard Lake Saint Marys Schools.

1999

120th Anniversary reenactment of Gen. Wm. T. Sherman's
commencement address at Michigan Military Academy
graduation

1999

GWBHS receives an Apple Island grant from St. Francis Foundation of Michigan (SSFm).

The first GWBHS computer was used to collect information. It was installed on a custom wooden counter in the Museum office.

2001

Archaeology students from St. Mary's University & Cranbrook Institute of Science dig on Apple Island discovering a 19th century silver cross and silver decoration.

2002

A Wikipedia.org page about GWBHS is posted

Contents hide

(Top)

[Topography](#)

[Archaeology](#)

[Menahsagorning](#)

[Native American settlement](#)

▼ [White settlement](#)

[James Galloway](#)

[William Dow](#)

[John Coats](#)

[Colin Campbell](#)

[The Wards](#)

[Sources](#)

[Notes and references](#)

[External links](#)

[Bloomfield School District](#) uses the island as an educational nature center.

Topography [edit]

Apple Island is a 37-acre (150,000 m²) island, spanning three-eighths of a mile in length and a quarter of a mile in width.^[2] The island's highest point is 960 feet (290 m) in elevation, approximately 31 feet (9.4 m) above the normal elevation of [Orchard Lake](#).^[3] The island's formation traces back to the recession of the region's [last ice age](#) glacier 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

Apple Island Sanctuary contains examples of every type of ecological system identified within the [southeastern Michigan](#) region. Over 400 species of [flora](#) live upon the island, including many rare varieties in [Oakland County](#).

Archaeology [edit]

In the 1930s an Apple Island resident discovered a French-made spun [pewter](#) bowl while plowing his cornfield. The bowl was filled with [wampum](#), and was



Métis reenactor on Apple Island



Geography

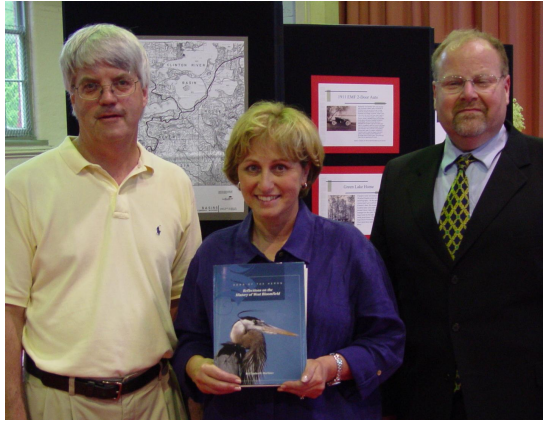
Location	Orchard Lake
Coordinates	42°35′21″N 83°22′18″W﻿ / ﻿42.58917°N 83.37167°W﻿ / 42.58917; -83.37167
Area	0.14 km ² (0.054 sq mi)

Administration

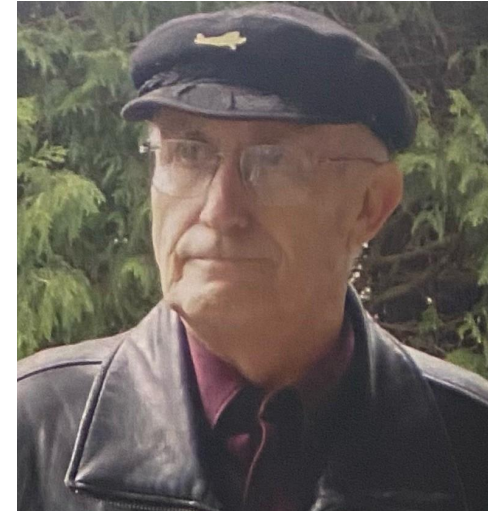
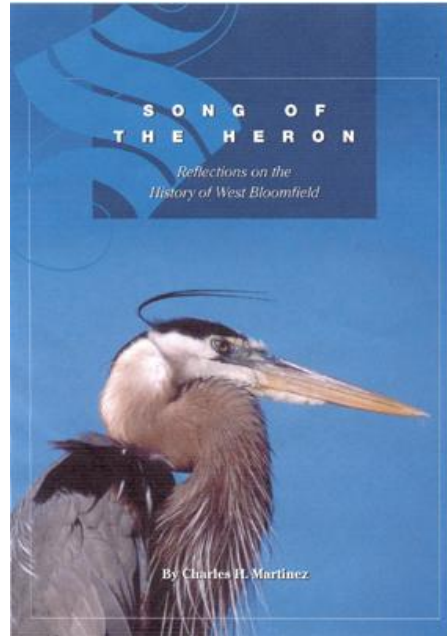
	 United States
State	Michigan

2004

“Song of the Heron: Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield” by Charles Martinez is published by GWBHS Press



GWBHS President Buzz Brown, Library Director Clara Bohrer, WBT Supervisor David Flaisher



2004

“Island of Time” includes a Living History Encampment at Orchard Lake St. Mary’s Schools, Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast and Apple Island tours.



Island of Time
APPLE ISLAND

2008

U-M, Madonna University, WBSD, and GWBHS offer a Great Lakes Archaeology course. Dr. David Brose leads excavation and testing of “Pontiac’s Mound,” found only to be a natural area.

2009

Host 35th Anniversary Apple Pie & Ice Cream Social



2009

Theme Sunday open houses

2009

Program collaboration with West Bloomfield Library

2010

Archaeological techniques workshop students discover an American Indian campsite on Apple Island.

2010

Install Archaeology Dig Box

Buzz Brown & Paul Mellerowicz build for use during Apple Island Tours, and celebration open houses. In 2022 and continuing as possible, use with 2nd grade student visits when possible.

2011

GWBHS completes island safety improvements using a Scotch School student donation.

2013-2014

SFFM

grants for WMU Dr. LouAnn Wurst to lead anthropology students to survey, collect artifacts, and dig test pits.

2009 (2011) Receive Frances Y. Gadd Memorial bequest

2011 Resolution: objection to Green Elementary School renaming

2013

Install 20 outdoor MotorCities Markers, through
MotorCities National Heritage Area

2013

Restore “Mary and Her Little Lamb” painting

The painting hung in the Whitfield School kindergarten, and was removed before school demolition and brought to the Orchard Lake Museum. After GWBHS professional renovation it is exhibited at Sylvan Lake City Hall.

2014

Install outdoor Museum exhibit signs: crock, conglomerate boulder, doctors carriage, and garden bed with a 3 sisters planting.

2014

Host Living With History: Historic Homes Tour

2014

Receive Michigan Week Award: Community Achievement Award

2014

Celebrate GWBHS 40th & Orchard Lake's 50th
anniversaries with ice cream social

2017

Install Our School History panels in West Bloomfield Schools

These are an historical view in 2017, and aren't being updated as schools change.

2018

Program collaboration with West Bloomfield Parks

Give free bus service for Apple Island Tours.

2019

Receive Michigan Week Award: Seymour Gretchko Youth Advocate Group

2018

Apple Island list

GWBHS members attended a hearing at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office concerning the Apple Island historic places. A presentation was written by Mark Hock and presented by Wurst.



Historic Places



05/02/2018

2019

Apple Island National Register of Historic Places Celebration.

250 people attended the event and is available on Youtube, on the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society channel.

2019

Install Green School Bell outdoor Museum exhibit

2020

GWBHS celebrates 50th anniversary of WBSD ownership with a GWBHS video: Apple Island: Then & Now.

We appreciate Christy Forhan's efforts video production during Covid ! The virtual program included words of welcome by Dr. Hill and GWBHS curriculum support staff Amy Quinn and featured a back-in-time video tour of Apple Island. These are available on YouTube on the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society channel.

2020-2021

Renovate Museum with reimagined exhibits

What began by volunteers as a project to reorganize a closet, replace the carpet and paint a few walls grew, at the beginning of COVID 19 Pandemic, to include updates to ALL of the museum. We reimagined the space to include essential artifacts in the best location with exhibits in a chronological order. We had time to craft the best plan to work in the space. Volunteers gathered artifacts, chose key components, and developed text to include in about 20 exhibits.

We were fortunate to have professional museum and designer advice. All comments have been very complimentary.

2021

GWBHS video: 2021 Virtual Apple Island Tours.

During Covid for a virtual tour of Apple Island we included included video of tour topics by long-time tour docents Carol Fink and Robert Gregory and the historical Apple Island tour video by Christy Forhan.

2021

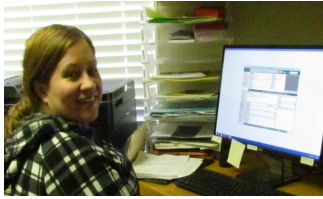
Produce historical content videos. Also collaborate with Civic Center TV on original historical content.

Native American Michwahndan gave his perspectives in a video which Civic Center TV replays it often.

2022 Repair Herschede clock

2023

Digitize West Bloomfield School District collection



Melissa Gilbert 2010



For 10 years the Board moved slowly forward to improve our digital collection. This is a monumental task. With a first grant in 2023 and well trained staff support were off to a great start. A 2024 grant continues the ongoing project.

2023

Resolution: object to the demolition of Roosevelt School

2023-2024 Restore doctor's carriage. Install outdoor

Museum lighting

These grant projects increase the quality of our Museum and we appreciate the dedication of volunteers to accomplish this!

2024 Reprint 1975 GWBHS historical sites' map with 2024 version

2024

Apple Island Tours return, post COVID-19, and boats new to West Bloomfield Schools.

2024 Celebrate 50 years of GWBHS Host Poker Rally:
Things You Auto Know About Local History New
digitization project

2024 Update 1975 GBHS historical sites map

2024

Sell reprints of historical West Bloomfield Maps 1896,
1921, and 1947.

For sale at the West Bloomfield township Clerk's counter and the
Orchard Lake Museum.

2024 September

A sunny day saw 95 people participate in activities inside and outside the Museum. They enjoyed live guitar/lute duets, presentations, 1970's favorite snacks: varieties of floats and sweets, and much more!