

Remembering Charles H. Martinez by Gina Gregory April 2021

Charles H. Martinez, 1932 - 2020, a GWBHS member, contributed so much to increase our understandings of local history. He worked as a contract archaeologist for over 26 years. He excavated some 50 archaeological sites and authored numerous reports and monographs on the results of these investigations. He served as president of the Michigan Archaeological Society. (see [TheDigitalArchaeological Record.org](http://TheDigitalArchaeologicalRecord.org))



He was an active Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society (OCPHS) member, a board director for numerous years, and the executive director in the 1990s. He researched and wrote many articles and booklets including funeral practices and *Hammering Out the Past: Prehistoric Artifacts Found In Oakland County*, now available at the Orchard Lake Museum. In 2020, Charlie was named an OCPHS Lifetime Achievement Award winner. On the Pine Grove grounds a sign was installed designating a tree named in his honor. The chosen tree was intentionally close to multiple sites where he conducted archaeological digs over the years.

GWBHS best remembers him as author of *Song of the Heron: A Reflection on the History of West Bloomfield*, available at the Orchard Lake Museum. This informative, well researched book chronicles West Bloomfield area history. We are fortunate to have this valuable resource. In 2014 Charlie received the GWBHS Distinguished Service Award (DSA) with his name added to the DSA plaque and a recognition certificate presented.

He was in declining health when I hand delivered an invitation to the Apple Island National Register of Historic Places Celebration June 7, 2019. He was very pleased Apple Island received this national status.

The life of Charles H. Martinez will be celebrated during the OCPHS annual meeting on Saturday, May 15, 11 am outdoors. See the OCPHS Oakland Gazette, March 2020 for further details.

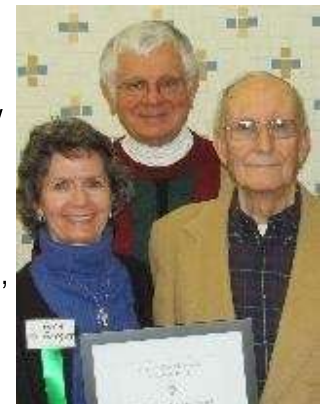


Photo 1: Charles H. Martinez, book jacket of *Song of the Heron*, 2004

Photo 2: 2014 GWBHS Annual Meeting: Distinguished Service Award - L-R: Gina Gregory, OCPHS President Mike West, Charles H. Martinez.

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