



Fall 2012

History Matters

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield



HANDS ON HISTORY Sunday September 16 1-4 p.m.

Orchard Lake Museum
3951 Orchard Lake Road
(Orchard Lake Road at Long Lake Road)

- GWBHS members free; non-members \$5 per child, \$2 per adult
- An afternoon of family activities with no cell phones, tablets or laptops needed!
- Dig for buried artifacts
- Try manual typewriters, an apple press, stilts and hula hoops
- Create traditional arts and crafts
- Run three-legged races
- Learn how families lived centuries ago with costumed reenactors



More than 400 explore Apple Island in May

Some 430 children and adults toured Apple Island during the beautiful, sunny weekend of May 19 and 20.

Making the visitors' museum and island experiences run smoothly were Chair Gina Gregory, plus a record 40 adult volunteers, six high school volunteers, six groups of presenters, and local communities and businesses.

GWBHS Membership Chair Helen Jane Peters and her volunteers recorded another all-time high over the two-day tours with 84 new memberships: 39 family, 16 senior couple, 19 senior individual, 9 individual and one patron/business.

Thanks for support from ...

West Bloomfield School District, owner of the Marjorie Ward Strong Woodland Nature Sanctuary (as Apple Island is formally known), especially the Facility Operations and Transportation departments.

St. Mary's Preparatory

Orchard Lake Village Department of Public Works and Police Department

Ashleigh Ruggero, West Bloomfield High School teacher
Carvel Ice Cream, 3050 Union Lake Road, Commerce

Bellacino's, 2465 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake

Presenters: Gina and Kevin Courter, Mike Jewell, Frank Haugwitz, Ed Milkowski, Jr., Dennis and Joyce Milkowski, Genot Picor, DuAnne Sonnevile, Patricia Tait, Phil Vandenstorm

Adult Volunteers: John and Glory Aiken, Sebrina Borth, David Brodie, Buzz Brown, Amy Clarke, Jim Cherfoli, Luccia Faulkner, Debbie Feldman, Carol Fink, Rob Gregory, Melissa Gilbert, Ron Hanson, Rosanna Holmes, Cara Kazanowski, Alan Kerr, Linda Kidd, Glen King, Bill McIsaac, Helen McAllister, Paul Mellerowicz, Steve Missaghi, Brad Mock, Marge Newell, Don Newman, Maureen Nolan, Helen Jane and Pete Peters, Anita Pinson, Nancy Salo, Steven Saponis, Elinor Strum, Donna and Mike Talbot, Susan Toltyka, Eric Wiegand, Sue Williams, Ann and Dennis Zembala

West Bloomfield High School students: Yazmyn Cross, Stephanie Jabro, Ciara Jones, Emily Stern, Carlee Widmer, Shelby Zenker

Search for Whitfield School grads who served in World War II



World War II veterans (from left) Marvin Hole, Jerry Stoll (not a veteran but a Whitfield School classmate), Jim Coates and Lyle Filkins during their reunion on August 20.

On November 6, 1943, Glenn Husted, superintendent of Daniel Whitfield Elementary School in Sylvan Lake, wrote his first "Dear Joe Whitfield" letter to a graduate of the school serving in the U.S. armed services during World War II. He eventually corresponded with about 45 young servicemen.

Recently Mr. Husted's daughter, Mrs. Sharie Husted VanGilder, found some 70 letters to and from her father. As a girl, Mrs. VanGilder remembers going to Whitfield School on Sunday afternoons as her father wrote the letters on the school typewriter while she helped with mimeographing.

Since the end of June, Mrs. VanGilder, along with GWBHS Board member Helen Jane Peters and Randy Rogers, a former Whitfield student now living in Seoul, Korea, have located 16 men or their families and returned the original letters to them. According to Mrs. Peters, "It is very heartwarming when a son or daughter says 'This is the only correspondence we have from my father during World War II.'"

For information on the search see the Facebook Daniel Whitfield Elementary School alumni page or call Mrs. Peters, 248-681-9568.





VINTAGE CLOTHING

**Saturday
September 22
1-3 p.m.**

**Schulak Farm
6889 West Maple Road**

Karen Faett will share her extensive 1910s-60s collection of women's dresses, hats and accessories, with some local resident models. Her talk includes how synthetic materials and plastics have influenced fashion. Feel free to wear something vintage or dressy! Formal refreshments. \$5 admission; free to GWBHS and Time Travelers members. Co-sponsored with West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation. Reservations by Wednesday, September 19, to Carole, 313.929.3543.

OF GRAVE CONCERN: TOUR OF PINE LAKE CEMETERY **Saturday, October 20, 10:30 a.m.-noon** **northeast corner of Lone Pine & Middlebelt Roads**

At your own pace stroll the cemetery, stopping by costumed story-tellers who will share the stories of prominent people and families: Detroit Tiger Norm Cash, football hero Nick Pietrosante, General Frederick Strong, Jr., Rev. Laban Smith, and these early families: Ellenwood, Greer, Coates, Stickney, Hamlin and John Green. \$5 admission; free to GWBHS and Time Travelers members. Optional restaurant stop following. Volunteers are needed. Contact Sue Williams, 248.757.2451.



AUTUMN NATURE WALKS

Sunday, September 23, 2-3 p.m. and Sunday, October 21, 2-3 p.m.
Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary, 4700 Pontiac Trail

Join Naturalist Carol Fink for a guided walking tour. Experience the beauty that the autumn season bestows upon this beautiful setting as Carol shares her expertise and observations. No charge. Co-sponsored with the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary.

Special Membership Meeting October 1

A special membership meeting will be held at the Orchard Lake Museum at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2012, for the purpose of voting on bylaws changes, including moving the GWBHS fiscal and membership year from October 1 to September 30 to the proposed January 1 to December 31.

Everyone is invited to stay for the Board's regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m.





Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
 Orchard Lake Museum
Phone 248.757.2451 • Fax 248.757.2453
 3951 Orchard Lake Road
 Orchard Lake MI 48323

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Pontiac Mailing

Board of Directors

Buzz Brown	President / Keego Harbor rep.
Cara Kazanowski	Vice President / Newsletter
Sue Williams	Treasurer
Betty Bradbury	Corresponding Secretary / OL rep.
Gina Gregory	Recording Secretary / WB rep.
Helen Jane Peters	Historian / Sylvan Lake rep.
Bill McIsaac	Museum Collections / Newsletter
Carol Fink	Apple Island

Scan this QR code to see our mobile website.



Twitter @gwbhs

Membership Application

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

Individual	\$20	Family	\$40
Senior Indiv.	\$15	Senior Couple	\$30
Premier	\$50	Patron/Business	\$100
Life	\$600		

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership year is January 1 to December 31.

Please make checks payable to GWBHS.

Mail to GWBHS: 3951 Orchard Lake Road
 Orchard Lake MI 48323

Wondering where to go, have a great time, and see and learn something new – right in your own backyard?

Join the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society for...

- Free admission to the popular Apple Island Tours, May 18 & 19, 2013
- Free admission to the Hands on History family program, Sept. 16
- Other events including Vintage Clothing, September 22 & Of Grave Concern: Tour of Pine Lake Cemetery, October 20
- Discounts to 200 institutions across the country through the Time Travelers network
<http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/membership/timetraveler>

Mail in your application or join at any GWBHS event.

