

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
3951 Orchard Lake Road
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Immediate Release

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**Once-yearly chance for the public
To tour Apple Island, May 15 & 16**

The public has a once-a-year chance to tour Apple Island in the middle of Orchard Lake on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16, noon to 5 p.m., with the last tours leaving at 3:30 p.m.

The tours, which begin at the Orchard Lake Museum on Orchard Lake Road at Long Lake Road, are on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations are taken for the tours that are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 years old and free for GWBHS members, including those who join this weekend.

Visitors, led by members of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, will hear Native American Mike Jewell, aka Mikwandan, tell stories as they explore the 35-acre island's natural wonders and ruins of homes and other structures from the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The island has been uninhabited since the summer of 1939, when former resident Caroline E. Campbell spent a little time there. In 1970, the Ward family, who bought the island from the Campbells in 1915, gave Apple Island to the West Bloomfield School District, which now uses it for educational purposes.

At the museum, reenactor Jeff Vallender will tell stories from 1760, just after the end of the French and Indian War, and demonstrate skills and equipment used to survive in the wilderness of southeastern Michigan.

Activities at the museum, for which there are no charge, also include children's games and refreshments for sale.

Tour goers should allow about 2 to 2-1/2 hours, wear athletic or walking shoes and dress for the weather because the boat ride and island are cooler than the shore. Strollers are not allowed on the island.

Go to www.gwbhs.com or call the museum, 248-682-2279, with questions.

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