

Timeline of Apple Island Activities & GWBHS



1970
Marjorie Ward Strong Woodland Sanctuary, commonly known as Apple Island (AI) was deeded to West Bloomfield School District (WBSD) with a dedication ceremony attended by Governor Milliken.

1974
WBSD biology students walk across frozen lake to study effects of winter weather on AI vegetation.



1977
WB Newcomers Club sponsors free AI tours, led by FOAI members. Girl Scouts gather trash.

1979
70 people cross-country ski to AI, sponsored by WB Parks & Recreation and FOAI.

1982
GWBHS holds its first AI tours the third weekend in May during Michigan Week.

1994
Eagle Scouts complete a project to construct a 64-foot walking bridge over AI pond, that began in 1986.



1997
Orchard Lake Middle School music teacher commissions "Apple Island Legend," a musical tribute to AI history.

1999
GWBHS receives an Apple Island grant from St. Francis Foundation of Michigan (SSFM).

2003
Cranbrook and Madonna staff lead Milford and Huron Valley students on an archaeological dig, finding a military button. Madonna University offers archeology and ecology summer workshops.

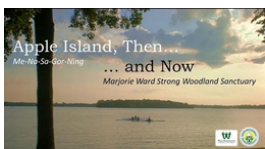


2008
U-M, Madonna University, WBSD, and GWBHS offer a Great Lakes Archaeology course. Dr. David Brose leads excavation and testing of "Pontiac's Mound," found only to be a natural area.

2011
GWBHS completes island safety improvements using a Scotch School student donation.



2018
Apple Island listed in National Register of Historic Places.



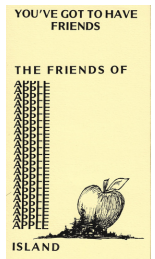
2020
GWBHS celebrates 50th anniversary of WBSD ownership with a GWBHS video: Apple Island: Then & Now.

2024
AI Tours return, post COVID-19. WBSD receives Island curriculum project grant.

1973
West Bloomfield (WB) Optimist and Countryside Improvement Associations donate funds to purchase pontoon boats.



1976
WBHS Ecology Club students initiate the formation of Friends of Apple Island, Inc. (FOAI), a community-wide organization for all ages.



1978
WBSD receives a DNR grant for 18 students to spend 40-hours weekly during the summer to extend and improve trails: place trail markers, add erosion-control landscaping, and build outhouses.

1980
FOAI receives a DNR nature trails grant and annually leads seasonal events.

1983
WBSD high school biology students analyze AI ecology.

1996
GWBHS leads tours for WBSD second-graders of AI and Orchard Lake Museum. The tours continue to the present.



1998
A West-Media One grant funds a six-week WBHS cartology project using GPS to collect data, compile charts, and develop AI maps.

2001
Archaeology students from St. Mary's University & Cranbrook Institute of Science dig on AI, discovering a 19th century silver cross and silver decoration.



2004
"Island of Time" includes a Living History Encampment at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Schools, Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast and AI tours.

2010
Archaeological techniques workshop students discover an American Indian campsite.

2013-2014
SFFM grants for WMU Dr. LouAnn Wurst to lead anthropology students to survey, collect artifacts, and dig test pits.



2019
Apple Island National Register of Historic Places Celebration.



2021
GWBHS video: 2021 Virtual Apple Island Tours.

