



Phase 2

History Matters

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



Timeline of Apple Island & GWBHS



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

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

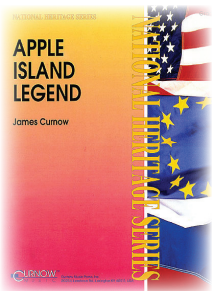
1977
WB Newcomers Club sponsors free AI tours, led by FOAI members. Girl Scouts gather trash.

1978
18 WBSD students receive a \$27,182 DNR grant to spend 40-hour summer weeks extending and improving trails. Trail markers, erosion-control landscaping and outhouses are built.



1982
GWBHS holds its first AI tours on the third weekend in May.

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



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

2001
Archaeology students from St. Mary's University & Cranbrook Institute of Science dig on AI, discovering a silver cross and tinkle-cone ornament.

2004
"Island of Time" (IOT) 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
GWBHS receives a \$10,000 SFFM grant to fund Drs. LouAnn Wurst and David Brose, along with a team of WMU anthropology students, to survey AI, collect artifacts and dig test pits.

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



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



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

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

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
An \$8,000 West/Media One grant funds a six-week WBHS cartology project using GPS to collect data, compile charts and develop AI maps.

1999
GWBHS receives a \$4,800 grant from the St. Francis Foundation of Michigan (SFFM).

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 AI improvements with Scotch School student donation funds.



2014
Another \$10,000 grant from The SFFM will continue the work of the WMU team. Dr. LouAnn Wurst submits forms for Michigan Historic Site and National Register of Historic Places designations.

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS
1974-2014

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248.757.2451

