

Whitesbog Preservation Trust Newsletter - Spring 1998



Illustration by: Michael Nastuk

Message from the President:

Spring is almost here and about to burst into full glory at Whitesbog. The village is bustling with activity.

By the time you read this, we will be sharing quarters with the P.I.N.E.S. program in the General Store. Gary Patterson and Maria Peter have graciously offered to share their accommodations with us. This will help us in several ways not the least of which is that we can rent out the current office space. The Trust has been striving toward Pinelands groups working together to the mutual benefit of all, and this move is a step in the right direction.

With a little refreshing, the vacated Boarding House will be available for rent. This large duplex building was used to separate single males and females in the early 1900's.

Restoration work is progressing on the Schoolhouse on the North end of the Village. Between 1908 and 1918, Whitesbog provided schooling on site. Before summer, we will have someone in residence.

The Old General Store at the North end of the village is now available for rent. This is a large building suitable for offices. The newly restored ceilings, walls and floors are beautiful. The building was moved from the present General Store site in 1922 to make room for a larger store and Post Office to accommodate a bustling village.

Eighty percent of our rental income is used for restoration and upkeep of the village buildings. Twenty percent is used for administrative expenses. We hope to double our rental income in 1998 with the occupancy of the above buildings.

We lost our Executive Director, Ann Marie Kent, in the fall. It was matter of funding. We could no longer afford to pay her and she (unreasonably, I thought) couldn't work for free. She did a fantastic job and will be sorely missed.

Look over the 1998 Calendar of Events. Mark your calendars and come out often. Remember, most weekend programs are FREE to current members.

If you have not renewed your 1998 membership, now is the time to do it. We count on this support to continue our increasingly popular educational and interpretive programs. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

John Nardone
President

1772 Foundation Grant

A grant of \$10,000 from the 1772 Foundation, and matched by the Whitesbog Preservation Trust and Lebanon State Forest, will restore one of the worker's cottages. Upon completion, one half of the building will be interpreted as a quad and the other half as a duplex. The cottages originally housed four families for year-round Whitesbog workers, and in the early 1900's, the cottages were remodeled to house two families. When the restoration work is complete, period furniture will be needed for public interpretation depicting what life was like during these two time periods.

New Program

A new program will be offered to the public beginning April 25. Martha Windisch will be on site one Saturday a month from 10am to 3pm. The Saturday program will allow volunteers to help with landscape and trails work, or conduct 20-30 minute village tours to weekend visitors or to assist with office work. The landscape-trails work will be in the morning, then noon to 3pm will be set aside for tours and office work.

Docent training will be provided to anyone interested. We need your help!

Please Mark Your Calendars

April 25	August 8
May 9	September 5
June 6	October 3
July 11	November 7

Forest Floor Carpeted With Color

By: April Hughes, P.I.N.E.S. Staff

For those of us who look for evidence of the progression of the seasons by tracking nature's events in the Pine Barrens, nothing is quite as symbolic of spring than the seasonal show of the first wildflowers. The primordial timely spring breeding rites of amphibians are secretive, mostly nocturnal performances witnessed by only a few. Even the first appearance of robins can be a false alarm - they most likely are resident birds that have spent the entire winter here. But when the Pine Barrens forest floor abruptly changes from sandy barren soil to patches of color, then spring has finally arrived. This magical appearance of the first wildflowers does more to stop the winter doldrums than any other natural phenomenon. As this microcosm becomes colorful once again its transformation affects us in profound ways. "Spring Fever" takes hold and we head into the woods once again.

Numerous Pine Barren wildflowers sprout from underground tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, or root stocks - the organizational framework that stores the plants' food and enables them to bear first leaves and flowers after their lengthy winter dormancy. It is the increasing sunlight coupled with their biological clocks that serve as the stimulus for their spring emergence. Even though the capricious spring weather changes from year to year, there is a certain order in which these wildflowers spring forth. Broom crowberry (*Corema conradii*) one of our priceless endangered species is one of the first woody perennials to emerge with its tiny white flower blossoms. It is followed closely by pixie moss (*Pyxidantha barbulata*) whose blooms sparkle like diamonds. Right on their heels to burst forth is trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), a member of the heath family (*Ericaceae*), with its breath taking pinkish white efflorescence of flowers. The *Saxifrage* family offers yet another of our spring beauties, Virginia willow (*Itex virginica*) which resembles the flowers of the sweet pepper bush. Shrubs from the rose family (*Rosaceae*) like red and black chokeberry (*Pyrus arbutifolia* and *Pyrus melanocarpa*, respectively) are outstanding with their apple blossom like petals. Serviceberry (*Amelcanchier candensis*) is another member of this family with its very pretty white flowers.

Mid April brings out the herbaceous swamp-pinks (*Helonias bullata*) which is a threatened species of the lily family (*Liliaceae*) with bright pink, lavender and lilac flower stalks. Late April ushers in more heath family members, bearberry (*Artostaphylos uvaursi*) with its white bell shaped blossoms and sand myrtle (*Leiophyllum buxifolium*) with its many numerous small pinkish white flowers. Wrapping up this springtime profusion are our own Pine Barren bellworts (*Uvularia pudicavar nitid*) with their familiar yellow bell-like flowers hanging from branching stems to our most common heart shaped plant of the violet family (*Violaceae*) with their violet lilac pearly white and yellow blossoms. Most familiar are the budsfoot violet (*Viola pedata*) the lance-leaved violet (*Viola lanceolata*), the primrose-leaved violet (*Viola primulifolia*), the broad-leaved violet (*Viola latiuscula*), the arrow-leaved violet (*Viola sagittata*), and finally the smooth yellow violet (*Viola scabriuscula*).



Bearberry illustration by: Michael Nastuk

By the end of April the woodland wildflower show is at its peak; however, the parade ceases almost as abruptly as it began. Once the trees sprout their leaves and the forest canopy closes, the sunlight is cut off. Although the emerging leaves of trees can be just as beautiful and magical as the appearance of wildflowers; it spells the end of another season of the wildflowers.

Classroom Space

P.I.N.E.S. and the Trust will provide funding to restore one of the small cottages on the North end of the village to provide classroom space for the P.I.N.E.S. school programs.

Research Library

Whitesbog archival documents are being catalogued by Mrs. Martha Darlington, and P.I.N.E.S. and Trust staff. A research library will be available to the public this year.

Whitesbog Blueberry Festival

Mark your calendar for a Pinelands fun day. June 27th is the date for the 15th Annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival and 10K Cross-Country Run. Crafts, Pinelands Art, Antique Engine Displays, supervised Children's program, Whitesbog history, Pinelands educational and interpretive bus, wagon and walking tours... Dave Orleans, Jim Albertson, Valerie Vaughn, Bog Iron Boys, Home Cookin, and the Snake Brothers will provide continuous South Jersey Pine Barrens music.

New Jersey Council For The Humanities Grant

Funding was received in 1997 from the New Jersey Council For The Humanities in the amount of \$5000. The Trust will interview past residents of the village from the 1920's to the 1950's to create a 30 minute video depicting life in this vibrant company town. We have a number of enthusiastic past residents from the 1940's and 1950's who will participate, and we are searching for more residents, especially from the 1920's and 1930's era.

Pinelands Antique Engine Association

In recognition of substantial volunteer efforts in the restoration of a blueberry field for public interpretation, and repair efforts in village buildings and many, many other volunteer efforts, a Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Lebanon State Forest and the Pinelands Antique Engine Association. The agreement will allow PAEA the use of two buildings; the Power House and the Workshop for storage of antique tractors, engines and parts. They are currently in the process of restoring the Power House roof to prevent further leaks. This is another example of private groups working together for the benefit of Whitesbog Village and the public.

Membership Luncheon And Update

A personal invitation will be sent to 1998 members to participate in a membership luncheon and Trust update sometime this spring. An interesting afternoon is planned at the Whitesbog General Store / Post Office. The program will cover:

- *Planned development of Elizabeth White's Gardens and the Village landscape.*
- *Progress report in the restoration of Village buildings, including the application of the 1772 Foundation Grant.*
- *The new educational weekend events.*
- *Progress report in the Whitesbog Research Library.*
- *P.I.N.E.S. educational programs and research activities.*
- *Pinelands Antique Engine Association and Village restoration projects.*

Pinelands Month Kick-Off

The Third Annual Pinelands Month Kick-Off celebration will again be held at Whitesbog Village. The date is October 4th. This event is promoted by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and supported by other Pinelands organizations.

Partnerships

We all know that democracy works. The public-private partnership cultivated between Lebanon State Forest, the Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies, the Pinelands Antique Engine Association and the Whitesbog Preservation Trust embodies the fundamentals of democracy where we collectively sustain, restore, promote and enjoy the beautiful Pinelands village of Whitesbog. What an exciting time!

Data Entry and Layout by: Danielle M. Kearns, Volunteer

Wish List

Faster Computer and Printer, Copier, FAX Machine, Video/TV Combo, Slide Projector and Screen.

