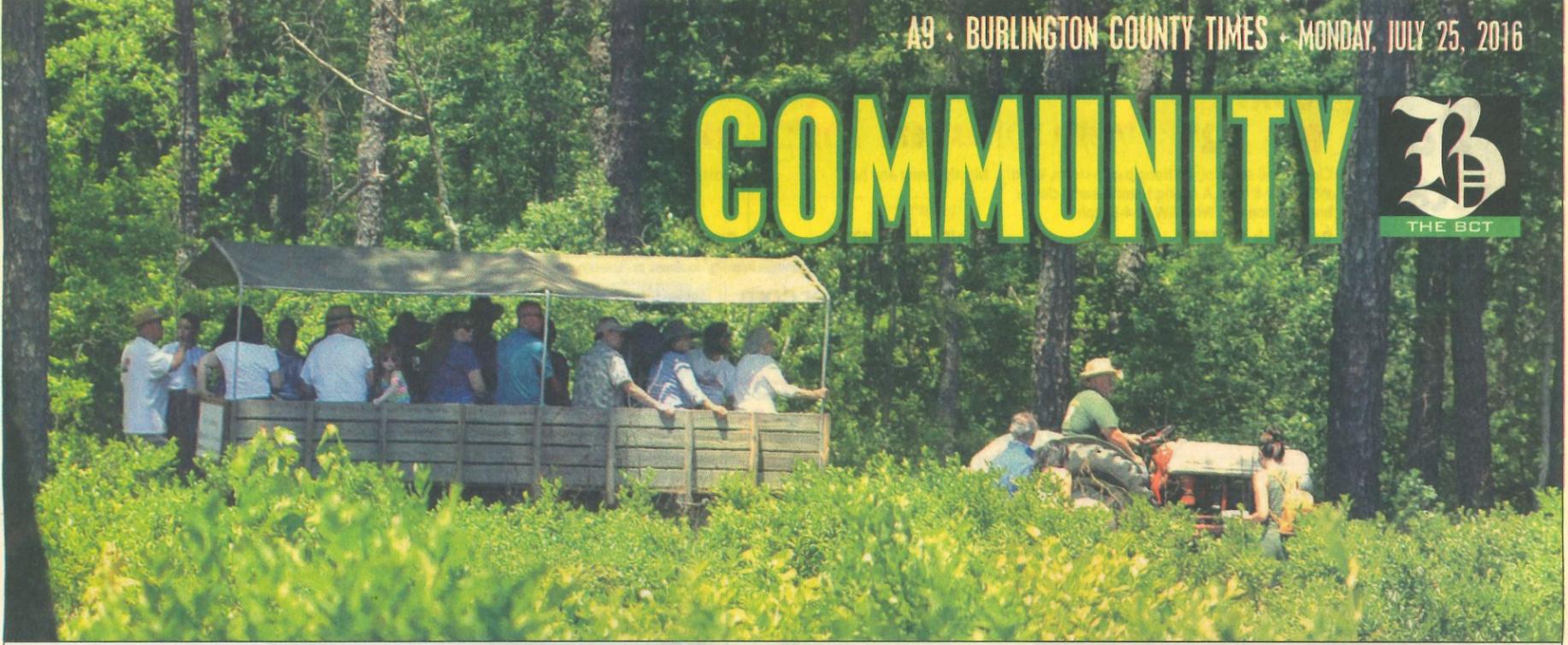


COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY SCOTT ANDERSON

(File) A wagon tour of the blueberry fields took place earlier this summer at the 33rd annual Blueberry Festival at Historic Whitesbog Village in Pemberton Township.

Growing the blues

Plump, sweet berries are native to the Garden State.

By CATHERINE LAUGHLIN
CORRESPONDENT

Fats Domino soulfully crooned that he'd found his thrill on Blueberry Hill.

But chances are the rhythm-and-blues singer didn't know that the \$817 million commercial blueberry industry started right here in the South Jersey Pinelands 100 years ago.

"Many people don't realize the blueberry is native to New Jersey," said Mark Ehlenfeldt, a research geneticist and blueberry breeder for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

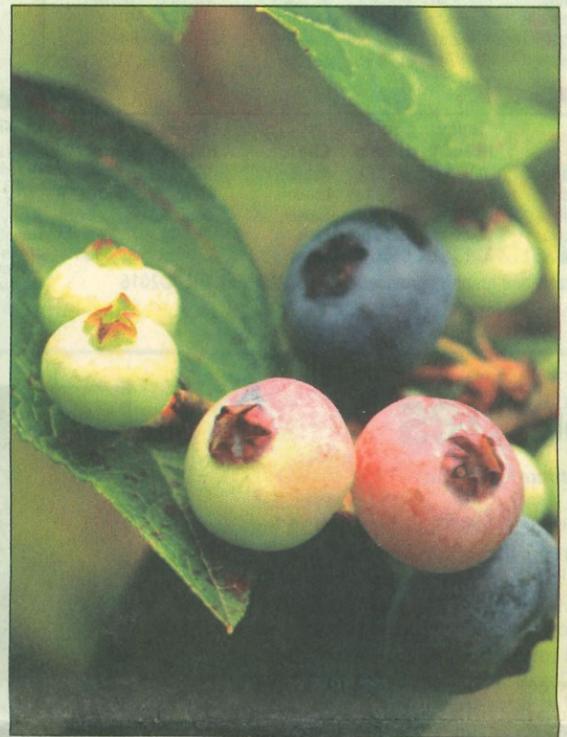
Ehlenfeldt, wearing a straw hat under a bright sun, walked alongside the raised beds of the 4-foot-tall Bluecrop bushes at the Philip E. Marassi Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research in Woodland. Every so often, he picked off and plopped a few of the ripened fruits into his mouth.

After receiving his doctorate in plant breeding and genetics, Ehlenfeldt bred potatoes for a time at North Dakota State University before switching to blueberries.

Besides breeding blueberries with names like the raspberry-tasting Nocturne, the subtle Pink Champagne (named for its pink hue), and the mildly-sweetened Duke, Ehlenfeldt studies the causes and effects of diseases, fertilization applications and cultivation practices.

And when you're a plant breeder, you also get to name the offspring. In Ehlenfeldt's case, two blueberry plant offspring are named after his own offspring: peach-tasting Hannah's Choice and lightly sugared Cara's Choice.

The trek from farm-to-table for the blueberry began when Elizabeth White, the oldest daughter of Joseph J. White, a Quaker farmer in Burlington County, came across the 1910 article "Experiments in Blueberry Culture," which revealed that blueberries need an acidic, moist, yet drainable soil, plus a cold dormancy period for the blue fruits to be robust and tasty. It further explained why wild blueberries usually didn't prosper when grown in home gardens.



See BERRIES, Page A10

Gideon Gonzaga, of Clifton, picks blueberries at the 33rd annual Blueberry Festival at Historic Whitesbog Village in Pemberton Township earlier this year.



Farm to Fork week in South Jersey

A PIECE OF HISTORY

5-Day forecast

TODAY
94° 72°

Clouds and sun, hot; a strong p.m. t-storm. Wind WSW at 4-8 mph. A strong t-storm early; clouds breaking tonight. Wind SW at 4-8 mph.

RealFeel: 106°/74°

Tuesday

93° 67°

Mostly sunny and hot

RealFeel: 99°/67°

Wednesday

92° 67°

Mostly sunny

RealFeel: 100°/68°

Thursday

91° 71°

Clouds and sun with a shower or t-storm

RealFeel: 101°/72°

Friday

84° 68°

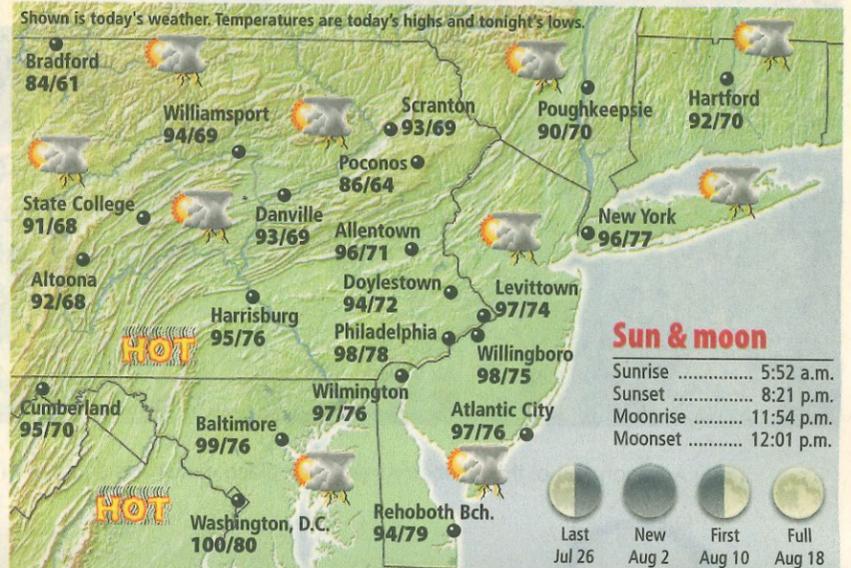
Clouds and sun with a t-storm; not as hot

RealFeel: 91°/69°

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the day's highest and lowest values.

National weather for July 25, 2016

AccuWeather.com



U.S. cities

City	Today	Tue.	City	Today	Tue.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albany	88/68 t	87/64 s	Louisville	92/76 t	88/74 t
Albuquerque	92/69 t	92/68 pc	Nashville	93/75 t	91/75 t
Boston	95/74 t	92/71 s	New Orleans	89/78 t	88/77 t
Buffalo	85/66 t	83/65 s	Norfolk, VA	97/78 s	96/79 t
Burlington, VT	87/70 t	84/65 pc	Orlando	91/75 t	93/76 t
Charleston, SC	93/75 s	94/78 s	Phoenix	108/88 pc	110/91 pc
Cincinnati	91/71 t	88/67 pc	Pittsburgh	89/69 pc	88/65 s
Cleveland	90/70 t	85/64 s	Portland, ME	80/66 t	88/64 s
Dallas	96/76 t	95/75 t	Raleigh	95/74 s	95/76 pc
Fairbanks	72/52 c	73/55 c	Richmond	97/76 pc	95/75 t
Honolulu	87/77 sh	88/77 s	St. Louis	88/74 t	89/74 t
Indianapolis	87/69 t	86/69 s	San Antonio	97/77 t	91/76 t
Jacksonville	93/72 pc	93/72 pc	San Diego	80/70 pc	80/70 pc
Las Vegas	111/87 pc	111/89 s	Tampa	88/77 t	91/77 t

Student weather



Drawing by Genevieve W., 6, Trenton

Send us a COLOR weather drawing from your town. Drawings must be brightly colored, 3 inches wide and 3 inches high on white paper. Print your name, town, age and date on the back. Categories are sunny, partly sunny, rain, cloudy and snow. We receive many submissions so we cannot use every drawing. Drawings are usually kept for two months. Mail to: Calkins Media, Student Weather Forecaster, 8400 N. Bristol Pike, Levittown, PA, 19057-5117.

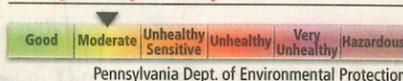
For the record

Trenton Airport through 2 p.m. Sunday.

Temperature:
High/Low 92° / 69°
Normal high/low 86° / 66°
Record high/low 98° (1910) / 49° (1985)

Precipitation:
Sunday/normal none / 0.15"
Month to date/normal 4.01" / 3.86"
Year to date/normal 20.16" / 25.89"

Air quality today



Delaware River tides

	High	High	Low	Low
Burlington				
Today	7:02 a.m.	7:34 p.m.	2:06 a.m.	2:31 p.m.
Tomorrow	7:58 a.m.	8:30 p.m.	3:01 a.m.	3:21 p.m.
Morrisville				
Today	8:07 a.m.	8:44 p.m.	3:31 a.m.	3:59 p.m.
Tomorrow	9:05 a.m.	9:41 p.m.	4:27 a.m.	4:51 p.m.

Regional cities

City	Today	Tue.	Wed.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Allentown	96/71 t	93/68 s	93/68 s
Asbury Park	92/75 t	91/71 pc	86/71 s
Atlantic City	91/77 t	91/76 pc	86/73 s
Baltimore	99/76 t	95/73 pc	92/72 pc
Harrisburg	95/76 t	94/71 s	94/72 s
Lancaster	94/72 t	92/68 pc	92/68 s
Newark City	96/77 t	94/74 s	92/74 s
Philadelphia	98/78 t	95/77 pc	95/75 s
Reading	97/72 t	94/69 s	93/69 s
Scranton	93/69 t	91/62 s	90/65 s
State College	91/68 pc	89/61 s	90/65 s
Wilmington	97/76 t	94/74 pc	93/73 s

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, r-rain, t-thunderstorms, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

In the Poconos

A shower this morning, then a strong thunderstorm. High 84 to 88. A thunderstorm in spots tonight.

At the shore

Partly sunny, hot and humid today; a morning shower, then a strong thunderstorm. High 89 to 93. Water temperature: 65.

Berries

Continued from Page A9

Frederick V. Coville, a USDA botanist and the report's author, had experimented in his Washington, D.C., greenhouse with a wild blueberry bush that he named Brooks after the owner of the New Hampshire farm where he'd found the plant.

Coville also concluded that blueberry bushes were sterile, with few seeds and no plants resulting from his experiments.

White, who never married, helped her father run what was once the largest cranberry farm in New Jersey, known today as Whitesbog Village, a nexus of 3,000 acres of fields, buildings, reservoirs and pine forests in Pemberton Township.

Ehlenfeldt said Elizabeth White became more involved in the family farm after her brothers died. "When her father rode around with his superintendent, she always joined them on the wagon."

White wrote to Coville and told him that White's bog, with its naturally sandy and acidic soil, seemed like a suitable place for blueberries to thrive. The family often looked for a summer crop to carry them through, should they have a bad cranberry season.

She invited Coville to partner with her and to visit their property. He agreed and was eventually introduced to Ezekiel Sooy, a local berry picker, who took the scientist to his favorite "swamp" blueberry bushes that yielded berries even bigger than those Coville had been seeking.

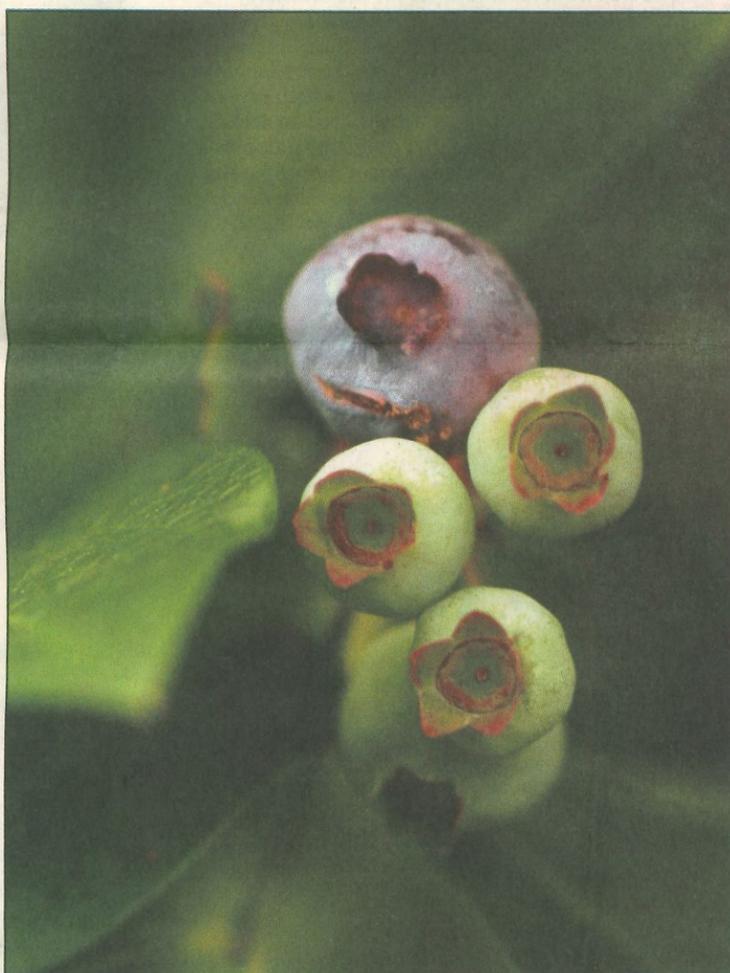
In 1911, Coville cross-pollinated the Sooy and Brooks bushes, and a year later transplanted them to the White farmland.

In 1916, the first cultivated blueberries were harvested for commercial distribution.

Today, 38 states grow blueberries, totaling 553 million pounds, with 10 of them accounting for 98 percent of U.S. commercial production. Washington state is first with 96,000 million pounds produced in 2014, New Jersey is fifth with 56.7 million pounds. Worldwide, production is greater than 1.9 billion pounds.

In 2004, New Jersey officials designated the highbush blueberry as the state fruit.

Ehlenfeldt said that areas like Hammonton, Atlantic County, are currently in "prime blueberry season" because it's "a little warmer there." Blueberry plants are hardy and



SCOTT ANDERSON / FOR THE BCT

can survive in the ground for decades. Original bushes planted 100 years ago at Whitesbog are still yielding berries today.

Joe White Darlington, the great-nephew of Elizabeth White, said, ironically, his family got out of the blueberry business 20 years ago. But swayed by Darlington's son seven years ago, they've slowly eased back into production and are growing Elizabeth bushes (named for White) on 2½ acres in the township's Browns Mills section.

"Elizabeth wrote in her diary that she dreamed of seeing fields of blueberry bushes," said Darlington.

With blueberries filling everything from pies to cereals to smoothies to scones, no doubt White would be happy.

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS

Community News considered for publication: Military News, Student News, College News, Honor Rolls, Dean's Lists, College Graduates, High School Reunions, Scouting News, Students of the Month.

Although we do provide a free calendar for all nonprofits, because of the high volume of submissions we cannot guarantee that every event will be listed. For a guaranteed ad, you may contact our advertising department at 215-949-4196.

For best results, submissions for the hometown calendar should be received three weeks or more before an event date. The best and fastest way to have an event published is for subscribers or registered users to enter it at www.burlingtoncountytimes.com/calendar/ or to email it. Submit your event, photo (200 dpi or higher) or other information to BCTCommunity@calkins.com.

You also may fax, mail or drop off your submission, and they will be handled as time permits. Electronic submissions will be processed first.

Fax: 609-871-0490

Address: Burlington County Times, Hometown News
4284 Route 130, Willingboro, N.J. 08046

Contact Rebecca Carlon at 609-871-8114 or rcarlon@calkins.com for more info.

FIRST DAY
classifieds
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Announcements

Announcements

CRAB & SHRIMP FEAST
in MARYLAND



MORE THAN JUST CRABS
August 27th, 7pm-11pm
ALL YOU CAN EAT & DRINK
Includes transportation \$130/person.
Must reserve seat ASAP w/required deposit. Balance due 8/5.
Call 609-518-7077 or visit:
www.facebook.com/events/15737146468900/

Articles for Sale

Dining Room Set, \$750; Queen Bedroom Set, \$500; 4 Piece Sectional Sofa, \$200; Treadmill, \$50; Wedding Gown, \$350; 2 Ton Engine Hoist, \$80; Engine Stand, \$30; John Deere 38" Riding Mower \$250 856-320-4402

Autos for Sale

Honda '11 CRV-EX. 16K miles. Exc. cond. Silver. New Inspected. Garage kept. \$18,000. 609-230-9514

Autos Wanted