



Whitesbog Preservation Trust

NEWSLETTER

1st Quarter

www.whitesbog.org

2011

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

Blueberry Centennial 2011-2016!

Excerpts from a 1936 article in 'Cranberries - The National Magazine' entitled, 'The 25th Anniversary of the Beginning of Blueberry Culture' by Elizabeth C. White

The Centennial of blueberry domestication begins in 2011 with the commemoration of the start of blueberry research here at Whitesbog and will culminate with our commemoration of the marketing of the first domesticated blueberry crop in 2016. Over this period of five years we hope to convey the excitement of those early blueberry development years, and to use it as an opportunity to look forward to the next 100 years of blueberry history. We begin with an excerpt from a 1936 article by Elizabeth C. White describing that first year.

It was November 15, 1910, that the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture issued Bulletin No.193. Its heading announced B. T. Galloway as Chief of the Bureau. The letter of transmittal to the Honorable James Wilson, then Secretary of Agriculture, was written by William A. Taylor, Acting Chief of the Bureau.

This bulletin carried the title "Experiments in Blueberry Culture", and was written by Frederick V. Coville, Botanist in charge of Taxonomic and Range Investigations.

It came to my attention through the list of Government publications which at that date was monthly sent to any citizen who requested it.

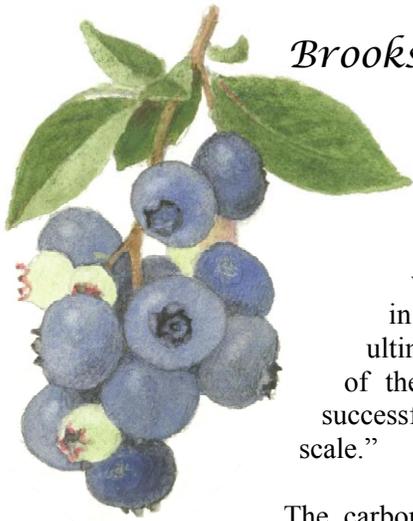
Very soon after it was issued, a copy of "Experiments in Blueberry Culture" was in my hands. It thrilled me with its explanation of the cause of the brown color of our bog water, and it clicked with the idea father and I had often discussed cultivating our wild swamp huckleberries as an auxiliary crop for cranberries. The bulletin gave a new

slant to our discussions.

I was in a position to give much time to the developing of a new crop, for Frank Chambers had recently joined us at Whitesbog, and could easily carry some of the work to which I had been giving much time and strength. Association with the author of this bulletin would be of inestimable help in developing blueberry culture, and the unknown experimenter in Washington certainly needed land such as we had in abundance at Whitesbog, and cooperation such as father and I could give if his Chief's prophecy were to come true. This prophecy was expressed

in the letter of transmittal in which





Brooks

William A. Taylor wrote of Dr. Coville's experiments, "There is good prospect that the application of the knowledge thus gained will establish the blueberry in field culture and that ultimately improved varieties of these plants will be grown successfully on a commercial scale."

The carbon copy of that first letter written twenty-five years ago and the succeeding correspondence have been carefully preserved in a fire-proof safe. When the first letter was written, I was sure that it was of such importance in establishing a new branch of horticulture that the passage of time would give it historical value. This is the letter.

B. T. Galloway, Chief,
Bureau of Plant Industry,
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

New Lisbon, N. J.
January 11, 1911

Dear Sir:

I recently received from Washington, the report on "Experiments in Blueberry Culture", which I have read with great interest, and I write to make a suggestion in regard to future experiments.

My father, Joseph J. White, is one of the largest cranberry growers in the country, and on his property are considerable areas of land too high for cranberries, but admirably suited to blueberries, judging by the way the wild ones flourish.

My father authorizes me to offer you the use of this land for further experiments in blueberry culture, and is willing to pay \$50.00 a year for 5 years for such labor as may be needed in the experiments, we to have the proceeds from any crop that might be produced.

I should be pleased to assist in the work by observation, reports, or in any way in my power.

If you should at all consider this proposition, Dr. Shear can perhaps give you some idea of our ability to assist the Dept. of Agriculture in this matter, as I had the pleasure of showing him and two of his assistants over a portion of our bogs last fall.

Trusting that this may receive favorable considerations I am,

Very respectfully yours,
Elizabeth C. White

January 28th, ten days later, William A. Taylor, Acting Chief of the Bureau, wrote that the Department would probably accept our offer of cooperation which had been turned over to the author of Bulletin 193. On February 4th, Frederick V. Coville wrote saying that he would like to visit Whitesbog to look into the possibilities. The visit was made on March 1st, 1911.

These first letters and his visit to New Lisbon and Whitesbog on March 1st, twenty-five years ago, marked the beginning of a period of cooperative experimentation of intense interest and remarkable results.

Those first blueberry years are a joyous memory. Encouraging developments came thick and fast. Dr. Coville and I gloated over them together, the enthusiasm of each fanning to brighter flame that of the other.

The first five years of cooperation covered the period of search for superior wild bushes in New Jersey. At the time Dr. Coville and I joined forces, his stock of plants was represented chiefly by seedlings raised from berries resulting from natural pollination on a selected New
(continued on page 4)

Huckleberries.

I WILL PAY FOR HUCKLEBERRY BUSHES, from ONE to THREE DOLLARS a bush, when the largest berries on it will not drop through holes the size of the blue spots.

The money will be paid in the late fall or early winter, when the bushes are dug.

In addition to the money for the bush I will pay for any time the finder may spend in taking me to the bush and helping dig it.

No bush will be paid for unless a bottle of its berries is sent to me and the bush is marked with my own labels.

Bottles with labels inside and a gauge giving the size of the smallest berry wanted will be furnished to anyone who thinks they can find such bushes.

If you want bottles send me a post card giving your Post Office address as well as the place you live, or see me or my agent about it.

My agent nearest here is,

When picking berries carry a bottle in your pocket and a gauge tied to your clothes and you may be able to earn \$10 or \$15 without extra work.

Elizabeth C. White.
New Lisbon, N. J.
June, 1914

2011 Board of Trustees Meetings

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (except as noted)
March 23, April 10 (Sun. 10 a.m.), May 25, July 27, Aug. 24,
Sept. 28, Oct. 26
Annual Membership Meeting, Sun. April 10 12 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Richard Prickett, President
Stephanie Schrader, Vice-president
John Joyce, 2nd Vice-president
Mark Ehlenfeldt, Treasurer
Christine Lipsack, Secretary
Ted Gordon Bart Amato
Joseph Darlington Diane Kelly
Jeffery Macechak

Staff

Susan B. Phillips, Executive Director
Program Coordinator (vacant)
Jennifer Rubeo, Bookkeeper/Assistant

Newsletter

Mark Ehlenfeldt & Susan Phillips – Editors

Committees – 2011

Buildings & Restoration – John Joyce

Finance – Mark Ehlenfeldt

Fund Development – Susan Phillips

General Store – Steve Young

Marketing & Public Relations – Mark Ehlenfeldt

Interpretative Education & Archives - Ted Gordon

Landscape and Garden – Mark Szutarski

Membership & Nominating - Stephanie Schrader

Personnel – Rick Prickett

Events – vacant

If you are interested in attending the meeting of any Committee, please call the Trust office for the scheduled meeting time.



Colonial regiment re-enactors relaxing at the 2009 History Fair



Join us on May 7, 2011!

Experience five centuries of New Jersey's history all in one place at the SPIRIT of the JERSEYS - a historical festival for all ages on Saturday, May 7 at the Historic Village at Allaire, Allaire State Park in Farmingdale.

This free event, which runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine, drew 6,000 visitors in 2009. Now in its seventh year, the Fair is a fun-filled adventure into New Jersey's past with living history demonstrations, military re-enactors, tours, exhibits, period music, an authors' tent, and historical organizations and museums from around the state.

New this year, visitors can meet Benjamin Franklin; sit for a silhouette image; watch a 19th century tinsmith; attend Maria Allaire's wedding; learn about the Hindenburg, and chat with Civil War soldiers Benjamin and David Scheier. There are plenty of hands-on activities for kids and adults, from learning the art of paper marbling to participating in historical games; to plowing a furrow and inventing a working phonograph.

The Fair is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Historic Sites, Division of Parks and Forestry and Allaire Village Inc.

Allaire Village is the restored Howell Iron Works Company, an industrial community that flourished in the first half of the 19th century. The company was founded by James P. Allaire in 1822. Today, interpreters, dressed in period clothing, demonstrate daily life in the 1830s. Visitors can tour Allaire's home, shop at the General Store and watch the blacksmith and carpenter ply their trades.

Allaire Village is located in Allaire State Park and can be reached from exit 98 of the Garden State Parkway or exit 31B of I-195. For more information and a complete list of fair activities, visit the History Fair's website at www.njhistoryfair.org or call Allaire Village Inc. at 732-919-3500. Inquiries can also be made to Historyfair@dep.state.nj.us. ■



April 9 at 10 a.m.

*Emerging
Plants Nature
Walk*

with Mark Szutarski

*Explore Suningive's gardens,
the nearby bogs, and Pineland
areas to discover and identify
native plants as they begin their
springtime display.*

\$5 per person
reservations requested



Sunday, April 10, 2011
Annual Membership Meeting - 12 Noon

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to follow

R.S.V.P. requested

Quarterly Lecture Series
Sunday May 15 at 1 p.m.

Frederick V. Coville
Botanist & Blueberry
Culture Pioneer

Speaker – Richard Prickett

*Glimpse Coville's world from his early
years in New York, to Washington
D.C., to his expeditions to Alaska and
the Southwest. Discover how he
domesticated the wild blueberry in
partnership with Elizabeth White.*

\$5 members, \$7 non-members
reservations requested



(from page 2)

Hampshire bush. In Bulletin 193 he says that this bush was “selected at Greenfield, New Hampshire, after three summers of cursory observation in the mountains of southern New Hampshire and three weeks of diligent search in the summer of 1908”. Then after a detailed description of the bush and its foliage he states, “The berries were of large size, reaching a diameter of over half an inch. The color was an unusually pale blue. In flavor the berry was exceptionally good.”

Twenty-five years ago, neither Dr. Coville nor I thought possible such larger blueberries than were represented by the fruit of this Brooks bush, but that very summer of 1911, the Sooy bush was found by Ezekel Sooy just north of the road passing his home between Browns Mills and Whitesbog. Its berries were as blue as those of Brooks and were larger. Many of them were $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in diameter as compared with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter for the largest of the Brooks berries.

These two bushes were the parents of one of the first extensive crosses made by Dr. Coville. It was fortunate that these early parents possessed the hidden quality, which I have come to believe is rare in even the most carefully selected wild blueberry bushes, of producing a small percentage of offspring of a size and quality decidedly superior to either parent.

.....

I have mentioned finding in New Jersey only the Sooy bush during the summer of 1911. In locating these bushes my policy was to interest the people who picked the wild berries for market. I told them of my confidence in the future of blueberry culture and that if they would help me with their special knowledge, their names might become important in the history of the industry. Nearly all of the wild bushes accepted were named in honor of the finder. A package was rigged up for them containing gauge, labels, bottle, formal solution and directions with the purpose of making it as easy as possible to mark a fine bush and deliver to me a sample of the berries preserved in formalin. Only with such preservation could I judge the size and color, for those were still horse and buggy days and usually the finders could not get fresh berries to me in condition to be judged in any respect, and the bush was apt to be stripped before I could make arrangements to visit it. Most important of all I paid them two or three times their customary wage for any time they spent in guiding me to the bush while it was in fruit or when it was to be dug. ■



WHITESBOG EVENT SCHEDULE

For more information call (609) 893-4646, e-mail us at WhitesbogPreservationTrust@comcast.net or visit us on the web at www.whitesbog.org.

March

- 5 Volunteer Workday** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Have fun with friends, working in the gardens, repairing trails, restocking the General Store and working around the Village. Lunch provided.
- 5 Whitesbog Village Tour*** 1 p.m.
Stroll the Historic Village, learn about Whitesbog's history, and visit Suningive, Elizabeth White's historic home, the worker's cottages and other buildings of Whitesbog's heritage. \$5 donation/person.
- 13 The 6th Annual Lines in the Pines**
Christina's/Vienna Inn, Egg Harbor City, Free admission from 1 - 4 p.m. Visit Whitesbog's General Store on-the-road.
- 19 Moonlight Walk**** 7 p.m.
Worm Moon. Listen to the night sounds of the Pines, learn about Whitesbog and experience the seasonal changes of the Pinelands. Walks are 3 5 miles long, and led by experienced leaders. \$5 donation/person, reservations requested.
- 26 The Annual Pinelands Short Course**
Sponsored by the NJ Pinelands Commission and Burlington Co. Community College. New this year: All-day sessions at Whitesbog!
Register at: www.nj.gov/pinelands/about/events
- 7 Whitesbog Village Tour*** 1 p.m.
\$5 donation/person (See March 5)
- 14 Moonlight Walk**** 7 p.m.
\$5 donation/person, reservations requested. (See March 19 listing for details).
- 15 Quarterly Lecture Series** 1 p.m.
"Frederick V. Coville: Botanist & Blueberry Culture Pioneer" presenter: Richard Prickett. \$5 members, \$7 non-members, by reservation. Glimpse Coville's world from his early years in New York, to Washington D.C. and his expeditions to Alaska and the Southwest, where he searched for plants important to Native Indians. Discover how he used his early experiences to help him domesticate the wild blueberry in partnership with Elizabeth White.
- 21 Suningive's Gardens** 10 a.m.
\$5 donation/person, reservations requested. Experience Suningive's gardens in bloom with Mark Szutarski. Learn about Elizabeth White's unique plant collection and efforts to preserve her gardens, pond and the surrounding pinelands landscape.

April

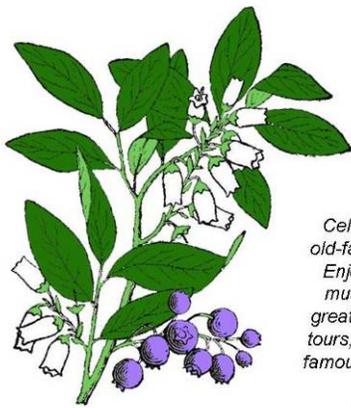
- 2 Volunteer Workday** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(See January 8).
- 2 Whitesbog Village Tour*** 1 p.m.
\$5 donation/person (See March 5)
- 9 Emerging Plants Nature Walk** 10 a.m.
\$5 donation/person, reservations requested. Explore Suningive's gardens and nearby bogs with Mark Szutarski to discover native plants as they begin their springtime display.
- 10 Annual WPT Membership Meeting**
- 12 Noon**
- 10 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**
April is National Volunteer Recognition Month
- 16 Moonlight Walk**** 7 p.m.
\$5 donation/person, reservations requested. (See March 19 listing for details).

May

- 7 Volunteer Workday** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(See March 5).

June

- 4 Volunteer Workday** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 4 Whitesbog Village Tour*** 1 p.m.
\$5 donation/person (See March 5)
- 11 Moonlight Walk**** 7 p.m.
\$5 donation/person, reservations requested. (See March 19 listing for details).



Saturday June 25
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**28th ANNUAL
BLUEBERRY
FESTIVAL**

Celebrate all things blueberry at this old-fashioned festival. Great family fun. Enjoy blueberry picking, live country music, children's activities, exhibits, great food, historical presentations and tours, pinelands artists and crafters, our famous blueberry pie eating contest, and lots more.

Load up the car, \$8 / carload

Whitesbog Preservation Trust 2010 Annual Report

As Executive Director, it is my privilege and pleasure to report on the achievements of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust during the past year. 2010 was an exciting and very productive year, thanks to the Trust's supportive Board of Trustees, Whitesbog's devoted membership, our generous donors, and the unbelievable energy and dedication of our volunteers.

Volunteers, Members and Donors

During the year, 248 volunteers donated over 9,320 hours of their time, talents, and expertise to ensure that Whitesbog's programs, projects, and visitor services all ran smoothly. We had a 60% increase in participation over last year and an estimated \$194,322 in value-added services on behalf of Historic Whitesbog Village to the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest.

The Trust's memberships soared to a new high of 268, with many increasing their membership levels and others adding an extra donation to assist the Trust in its work. This additional financial support and a very generous gift from Robert A. Aaronson III enabled us to successfully match every grant dollar and complete several important projects that have been in process for years.

Historic Restoration & Repair

June 2010, marked the end of the Whitesbog's New Jersey Historic Trust (NJHT) 5-year Grant which enabled WPT to invest more than \$795,000 into the restoration of the nearly all of the Village's historic structures. Final projects included the interior & exterior re-pointing of the Power House (the PAEA's Antique Engine Museum), roof repairs to the Barrel Storage Warehouse (Whitesbog's Agricultural Museum), and the installation of a new interpretative sign located on the commons to commemorate the WPT's effort, NJHT's generous support, and to welcome new visitors to Whitesbog with a brief history of the Village. 2010 also marks the end of an era of extraordinary leadership by John Joyce, who has spearheaded the Whitesbog restoration effort as Building Restoration & Repair Committee Chair for decades.

The Whitesbog Archives

This year, the Trust was fortunate to receive and accept 5 new collections and many donations from members and friends. These collections include: the business and financial records of the Tru-Blu Cooperative, a collection of Elizabeth Chase's botanical drawings and paintings of Elizabeth White's garden, records and artifacts of Tru-Blu Coop member # 309, additional records and promotional materials related to Holly Haven, and environmental inventories and studies by Dr. Eugene Vivian. Other donations included a beautifully framed map, pen & ink drawings of the village,

photographs, documents, and artifacts relating to Whitesbog and the village residents.

The Oral History Committee has been interviewing individuals at small gatherings in an effort to preserve their recollections of living and working at Whitesbog. A special thank you to the past members of the original Tru-Blu Coop, past residents of Whitesbog, and the relatives of the past Whitesbog community – your memories are treasured here.

We spent the year preparing our new archival library, outfitted with a copier/scanner and seeking the funds to catalogue our new and existing collections. I'm pleased to report that we were successful at both. With funds from a New Jersey Historical Commission Special Project Grant the Trust will open the library on request, and begin cataloguing with PastPerfect 5.0 with part-time staff this month.

Events and Educational activities

The Education and Events committees welcomed thousands of visitors to Whitesbog in 2010, with more than 8,360 attending the Blueberry Festival and hundreds more flocking to Whitesbog to participate in Moonlight Walks, garden/nature walks, Tundra Swan tours, our monthly Village tours, Quarterly Lectures, and a cadre of Special Programs that included the 2nd Whitesbog Symposium, the Pinelands Short Course at Whitesbog, a Cranberry Harvest bus tour in partnership with J.J. White, Blueberry Tasting, and all our Holiday happenings. Needless to say, our thank you list to everyone that planned, managed and coordinated these activities could easily fill this entire page. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to Whitesbog and all your energy, really hard work and inspiration!

The Pinelands Institute for Natural & Environmental Studies, an outreach program of Burlington County College and our Village partner, welcomed another 9,417 children & adult program participants to Whitesbog during the 2010 season.

Outreach Activities

We increased our outreach efforts in 2010, nearly doubling the number of events attended as well as our efforts to provide off-site programs and exhibits. Whitesbog was the featured exhibit at the Willingboro Library for the entire month of March. As headliners at the Pinelands Jamboree, we provided an exhibit, a living history re-enactor of Elizabeth C. White to, speakers and volunteers who circulated for the day. We also participated in Smithville's month-long Victorian Christmas Program by decorating an entire room, interpreting the life & times of Ms. White and provided a re-enactor for the opening and subsequent tours. Whitesbog Board members, volunteers and staff also participated in other community festivals and outreach events in support of Art in the Park & Earth Day Smithville, Lines in the Pines, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, The Pinelands Short Course and FunFest at BCC,

and we received the Pinelands Restoration Award at the Annual Pinelands Festival in Tabernacle.

The Trust also hosted the Pinelands Discovery Festival, the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Annual Meeting of the NJ Herbal Society, a fund raising event for the Equine Assisted Therapy & Handicapped Riding Association of New Jersey, and dozens of tours by Rick Darke and the University of Delaware, other Burlington, Hunterdon, Ocean and Monmouth County groups, and many others. We have also re-established a strong relationship with the Boy Scouts and have several new projects planned for 2011.

Landscape Restoration

Whitesbog's Landscape Committee has been hard at work in Elizabeth White's garden, removing death and dying trees, pruning shrubs, replanting beds, and battling lace bug. The wet spring, devastating summer drought, and back to back, winter snow, ice, and wind storms battered our progress and postponed our planned improvements to the 11th hour. I'm pleased to report that the 2007 Trail Grant from the NJ DEP is finally complete thanks to Ian Daniels and the Scouts of Troop 31.

A new boardwalk graces the entrance to our Nature Trail with a pond observation platform that will serve as a teaching station for PINES and the thousands school children that visit Whitesbog yearly.

Janet Robbins turned the Landscape Committee Chair reigns over to Mark Szutarski in July, ending yet another era of incredible effort and decades of devotion to the gardens at Whitesbog. Exciting plans and new projects are already in the works, please call or email the office to "get on the list" to receive frequent workday updates.

The Blueberry Centennial

Plans for the Blueberry's Centennial Celebration are still coming together as we usher in 2011. 2010 produced 2 grants that will support the effort with the launch of a new Web-site and an exciting research project which will help us to improve the Trust's programming, our services to the community and the benefits we offer to our members, volunteers and the visiting public. To learn more please join us at our Annual Meeting on April 10, 2011.

The General Store

Last but certainly not least, our little store suffered again, with the economy still struggling to recover, our credit card machine sat relatively idle for a second year. The winter snow storms blocked weekend sales, but our bottom line went up \$8,700. The 'real' credit, this year, goes to the General Store Committee's careful management of our inventory and to our fantastic General Store shopkeepers who continue to greet visitors, interpret the village's history, and maintain that very special "welcome to Whitesbog touch" that keeps our customers coming back.

We are anticipating another wonderful year and outfitting the Welcome Center with refreshments, a lending

library and a new office/workspace for our staff and volunteers. Yes, we've added heat, air conditioning and a fresh coat of paint to the inside of the 1st Worker's cottage (adjacent to the Whitesbog General Store) and we invite everyone to stop in and share their opinions, ideas and energy! We'll be there to greet visitors daily, and yes, open the General Store on request.

- Susan Phillips, Executive Director -

Come one, Come All Spring Beckons to Volunteers

The garden needs tending. The grass needs cutting (well maybe not right away). The air smells fresh and clean, the way it can only in the Pinelands. It's time to get out of the house and let the sun and the breeze touch your face.

The General Store is open for business again, 10 – 4 on Saturdays and Sundays. We can always use more storekeepers. Village tours and Moonlight Walks have started. Once again the Garden at Sunningive is being tended.

One thing hasn't changed. We need everyone who has a few hours to give as we prepare for another year at Historic Whitesbog Village. And this is a year of celebration. It is the 100th anniversary of Elizabeth White and Dr. Frederick Coville's development of the Cultivated Highbush Blueberry.

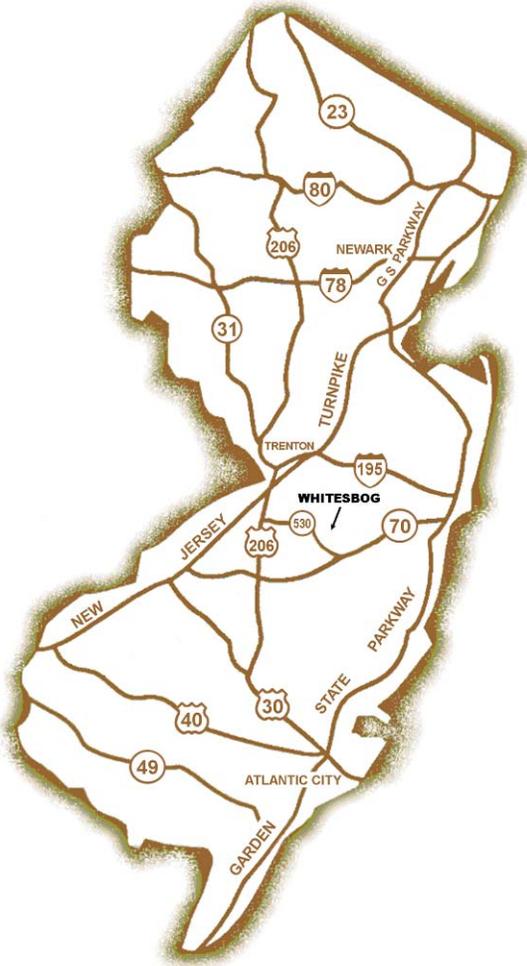
We continue to work, getting closer to the garden Elizabeth White created at Sunningive. Some plants need to come out, others need to go in. And as all gardeners know – there is weeding and raking and smelling the earth - always enjoying the beauty that is all around.

We have a festival scheduled on June 25th – our twenty-eighth Annual Blueberry Festival. There are many jobs to do – even now. Mailings to go out. Information to send out. Signs to redo. Space does not allow listing the many jobs. Before, after, and in between.

We are always happy to develop new docents, and welcome those who wish to hammer and paint. There is always a need for new energy and new ideas.

Come to a **Volunteer Work Day – 10 to 4, the first Saturday of each month** – or call Sharon Goodman, Coordinator of New Volunteer Development, at 893-4646, and join us. ■





Driving Directions:

From NJ Turnpike

Take Exit 7 to Rt. 206 South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530. (Landmarks - Vincentown Diner and White Dotte)

Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13. (Landmarks – You will go through the towns of Pemberton & Browns Mills, passing Burlington County College on the right.)

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot on the left.

From PA Turnpike

Travel to NJ Turnpike North and follow above instructions.

From 206 South

Travel North to circle intersection with Rt. 70.

Travel East on Rt. 70 to Rt. 530. (Rt. 530 is between mile markers 33 & 34.)

Travel West on Rt. 530 for one mile to mile marker 13.

Turn right onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

From 206 North

Travel South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530.

Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

From Philadelphia

From Ben Franklin Bridge, take Rt. 38 East, crossing over Rt. 206 and onto Rt. 530 East.

Travel East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

The General Store is across from parking lot. Trust Offices are approximately 1/8 of a mile down the crossroad to the right (at Suningive).

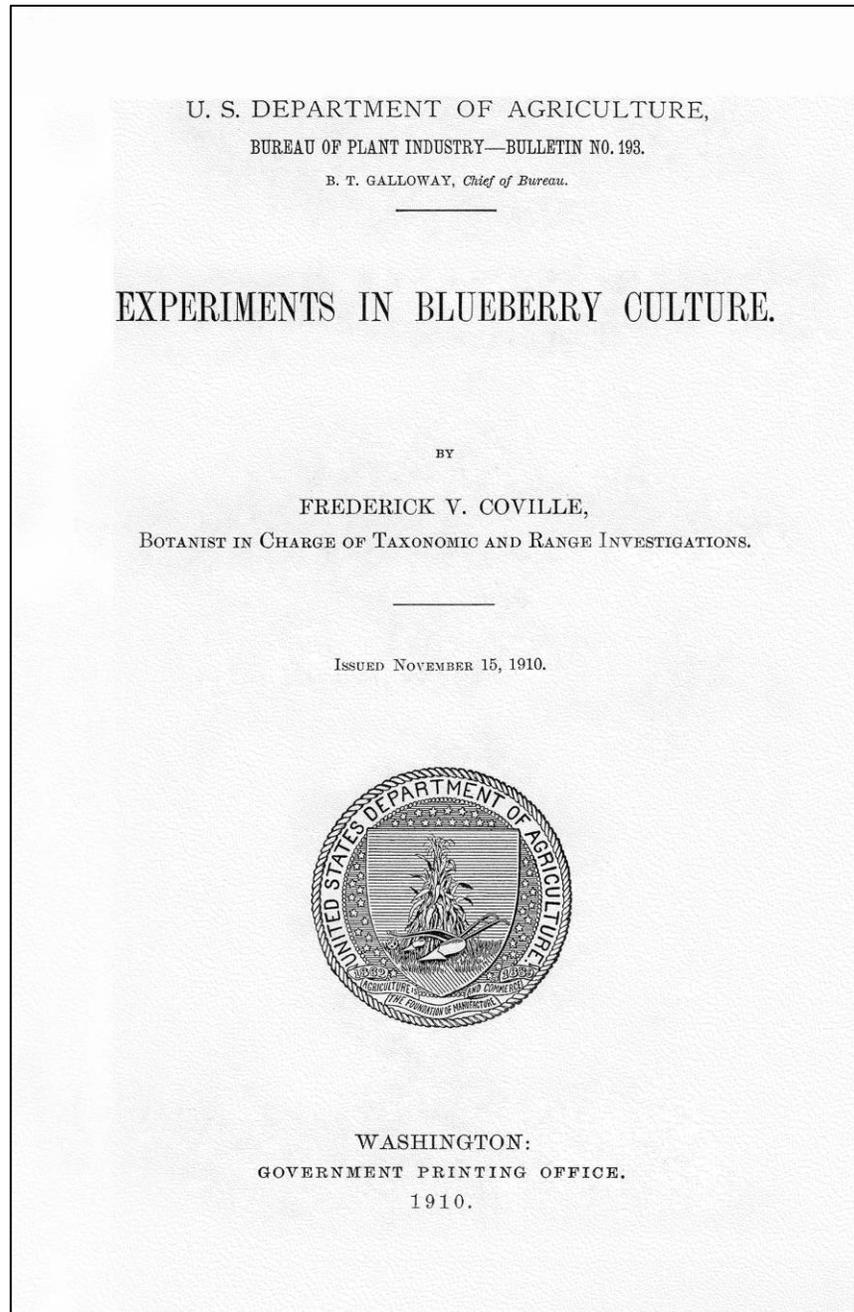
Visit our website: WWW.WHITESBOG.ORG or call: 609.893.4646

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 Browns Mills, NJ 08015



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Online extras start here!



The cover of Frederick V. Coville's 1910 Bulletin, "Experiments in Blueberry Culture", a booklet of 100 pages.

Elizabeth White kept a notebook of observations on each selection made from the wild in New Jersey.
Below are the two entry pages for the 'Sooy' blueberry.

SOOY No. 1 40

Found By Ezekel Sooy, July, 1911.

Situation Just north of road between Browns Mills & Whitesbog, about 3/4 of a mile east of Browns Mills, in a little hollow which had evidently been dug out for some purpose. Slightly shaded by a few little birch trees.

Berries Fair bloom, about 16 mm in diameter. Good flavor.

Bush Little if any over three feet high, had spread by root stocks over a space eight or nine feet long by four feet wide.

Aug. 14, 1911. Stem bases & budwood sent to Washington.

Bush Dug March 1, 1912. divided into 18 plants which were planted in Rows 2 and 3 in field. Some of the roots had no top but on most of them one stem was left. Those that had little or no stem above ground developed best during the summer of 1912. Cuttings made of the trimmed off tops were placed in the sand bed in N.E. corner of cranberry house.

40
June 31, 1914 First berries ripe.

Sooy No. 1 continued.

Oct. 31st, 1914. Fruit buds heavily set, no mildew, some tips of new shoots killed by freeze of Oct. 27th and 28th. Some fruit buds on new shoots over expanded.

Apr. 28, 1915 First flowers open, a few.

May 31, 1915 Berries well set but irregular in size, many small ones look as if unlikely to mature. Largest 3/8" in diameter. No frost damage.

July 12, 1915 Ready to pick, largest berry 15 mm, flavor flat.

" 19, " Tried on the table these berries have a really disagreeable flavor, which lingers some time after eating them, they also leave a very heavy residue of skins in the mouth.

Nov. 1915 Stock no good, shall dig out all but two or three of the plants. All the plants in row 1 and 3 grubbed out.

Note, Nov. 1937, Four Sooy plants are still growing at Whitesbog. Left because of the frost Sooy has frozen in blueberry house.