



The festival will feature fun and games for children plus entertainment for all visitors.



# Summer BLUE

## Whitesbog Village heaping helping of berries

By Lysbeth Bledsoe  
Special to the BCT

After an unusually long, cold winter, South Jerseyans are ready for a few good festivals.

And that, maintains Patricia Frasier, is one good reason why 2,000-5,000 persons are expected to attend this year's 13th annual Whitesbog

Blueberry Festival, tomorrow at the historic village hidden deep in the pine forests of the Browns Mills section of Pemberton Township.

"Of course, the size of the crowds depends on the weather," said Frasier, marketing and public relations director for the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, "but this is a good year for festivals because people are longing to spend time outdoors.

"Unfortunately," she said, "late spring



This year's 13th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival is expecting between 2,000 and 5,000 people to the historic village hidden deep in the pine forests of Pemberton Township.





# Whitesbog Pies

serves up a  
s, fun and festivities

s didn't help this year's blueberry crop, but we've  
ed early blueberries flourishing in certain secret  
s, and we hope to offer jitney tours so people can see  
a growing naturally, and pick them for 50 cents a  
t.

After all," she added, "wouldn't it be fun to ride back  
the woods and pick berries from bushes actually  
ted by Elizabeth White, who worked to develop our  
ap domestic blueberry back in the early 1900s?"

In addition to the fun in the sun, there are  
other good reasons to enjoy the celebration  
staged in 19th-century Whitesbog, an  
important cranberry-growing center when  
owned by White's father, Joseph, then from  
1911 into the 1920s, a major blueberry-  
growing/packing/shipping complex owned by  
White and containing workers' homes, a  
general store, a barrel storage warehouse  
and barrel factory, a packinghouse, a board-  
inghouse and a schoolhouse.

Following are some of those reasons:

**Crafts** — Throughout the day, 20-25 vendors from throughout the region will display handmade, country-themed items.

**Art and Photography Show** — Also throughout the day, Burlington County residents will show and sell Pinelands-themed works, priced from \$25-\$800.

**Tours** — Guided 90-minute jitney tours and 45-minute walking tours keyed to Pinelands ecology will operate noon-5 p.m.

Jitney excursions, at \$2 and departing from the village at noon, 2 and 3 p.m., will follow sandy trails out to old cranberry bogs originally created by Joseph White. Most are in various stages of natural succession (that is, gradually returning to the wild), but a few are still in use.

On these trips, visitors will also see the remains of blueberry fields planted at the edge of the bogs but abandoned in the late '20s, when technological advances made Whitesbog Village operations impractical.

Walking tours, at \$1 and departing on the hour, noon-4 p.m., will focus on the village itself, with historians and naturalists pointing out remaining buildings and discussing their history and use.

**Video showcase** — New Jersey Network (NJN) will show three documentary videos — "Whitesbog: A Century of Innovation," "My Pine Barrens Land," and "Sled Dogs of the Pines," — in the Whitesbog General Store, continuously during the day.

**Games** — Just for kids are such sports as Blueberry-on-the-Spoon, Blueberry Balloon Toss, Biggest Blueberry, and Pick-a-Pint-of-Blueberries.

**Pie-eating contest** — All festivalgoers can participate in this 3:30 p.m. event, \$2 for adults, 50 cents for children.

**Bake sale** — Available will be blueberry pies, doughnuts, muffins and other treats, along with blueberry sundaes and fresh, commercially grown blueberries supplied by the Tru-Blu Cooperative Association, formed back in Elizabeth White's day.

**Book-signing** — Tabernacle resident Howard P. Boyd, author of "A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey," will be on hand to greet visitors and sign copies of his book.

**Entertainment** — Performing at various times on the festival's center stage will Randy Bailey & Friends, of Lincroft, Monmouth County, bluegrass; The Thaw, of Burlington City, also bluegrass; Cedar Crick, of Medford, traditional Pinelands; Bill and Linda Green, from Maryland, gospel; The Bog Iron Boys, Atlantic County, folk; and The Mountain Strings Dulcimer Band, of Medford, traditional.

Hosting the performances will be radio personalities Joe Wills, of WBZC-FM (88.9), at Burlington County

College, and Randy Bailey, of WBJB-FM (90.5), at Brookdale Community College, Monmouth County.

**Races** — The 13th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Cross-Country 10K and 2-Mile Fun Run will utilize Whitesbog's 10-15 miles of sand roads. Top male and female finishers in the 10K run will receive \$100 cash prizes, with fresh blueberries awarded to first-place win-

ners in other categories.

**Food** — Fair food and beverages will be provided by the Pemberton Township Lions Club.

According to John Nardone, of Lumberton, president of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, a non-profit citizen's support group, proceeds from this year's festival will be used to preserve and restore vil-

lage structures.

"We'd like to raise \$10,000, but whatever amount we raise, much of it will be earmarked for restoration of the old packinghouse, which could use a ton of money," Nardone said.

"At this point, the general store is restored and used for certain functions, like the NJN Video Showcase, and the boardinghouse is used as Whitesbog Preservation Trust headquarters," he said. "But other important buildings here need a lot of help to survive."

## IF YOU GO

### Whitesbog Blueberry Festival

**Where:** Historic Whitesbog Village, at Mile Marker 13 on Route 530, off Route 70, in Pemberton Township

**When:** Tomorrow, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for the festival, with a Blueberry Cross-Country 2-mile Fun Run scheduled for 9 a.m., followed by a 10K Fun Run at 9:30 a.m. Race registration is 8-9 a.m. Rain date for the festival is Sunday, but the races are scheduled rain or shine.

**Admission:** \$5 per carload for the festival; \$15 registration fee for runners, including free T-shirts for the first 400 participants and free festival admission for all runners and their families.

**Information:** Call 893-4646

**Nora Hayes** cuts and dishes out the blueberry pies last year. A bake sale tomorrow will feature pies, muffins and other treats made with fresh blueberries.



BCT photos/JOHN JABLONOWSKI, ROSE SHIELDS