

# Historic Whitesbog display at home in a bank

By **LORRAINE AGNEW**  
Courier-Post Staff

PEMBERTON TWP.

A China teapot and a cup and saucer from the early 1900s sit atop a lace-covered table in the lobby of Sun National Bank in Browns Mills.

Above them hangs a framed photograph and biography of Elizabeth White, who cultivated the land between the cranberry bogs and started blueberry production at Whitesbog and which spread elsewhere in the state.

As a result of her innovative cultivating, the blueberry became the official fruit of New Jersey in January.

The exhibit at the bank at Lakehurst and Clubhouse roads in Browns Mills, "A Day in the Life of Whitesbog," is free and open to the public and an invitation to learn about nearby Whitesbog Village, the birthplace of the cranberry and blueberry industry in New Jersey.

Bank manager Dave Riippa said he was introduced to the Whitesbog Preservation Trust last year at a Burlington County Chamber of Commerce function.

"I had only been in Browns Mills six months and I was trying to get myself established," said Riippa. "I thought that bringing in the display would help me bring more customers into the bank. I asked them (Whitesbog Preservation Trust) if they wanted to bring a piece of Browns Mills history in the branch."

Riippa knew then he wanted to create a Whitesbog exhibit in his branch.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust is a nonprofit group formed in 1984 to preserve Whitesbog Village and its rich history, said T. Stephan Thompson, executive director. The trust leases Whitesbog Village from the State of New Jersey in a partnership agreement and offers educational programs throughout the area.

"We tried to reach out to local businesses for corporate sponsorship," said Thompson. "Sun Bank liked the idea."

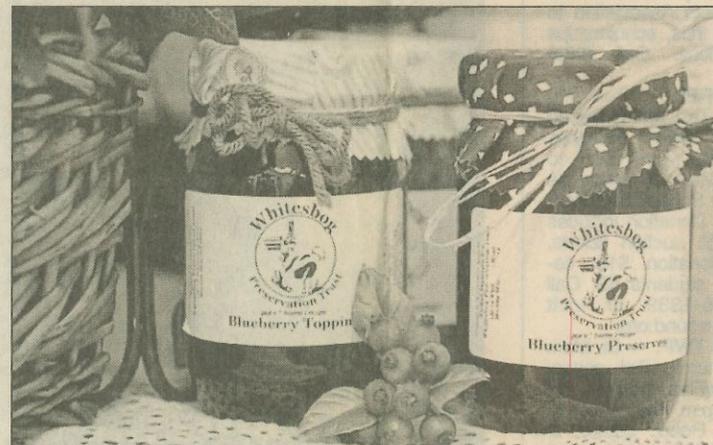
The bank, with its Colonial design, also appears to be a building with historical significance so it was a good match, Thompson said.

This particular exhibit, Thompson said, has been set up to entice towns people to visit and learn about their neighboring village.



**Clockwise from above: Stephan Thompson (left), executive director of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, talks to Mike Sidani of Marlton about the Whitesbog exhibit. A straw hat and tea service are part of the exhibit in the bank lobby, along with some blueberries.**

Photos by TINA MARKOE  
KINSLOW/Courier-Post



Has the exhibit enticed him to visit Whitesbog?

"Of course," he said.

He and a friend plan to visit Whitesbog this year.

"There are customers that do take notice," said Riippa. "There have been a few people who read about it being here and they came in to see the display."

The exhibit is not big, just large enough to spark curiosity.

On display is a trio of "Eatmor Cranberries" crate labels from the early 1900s.

Whitesbog Village, noted Thompson, is representative of the cranberry and blueberry industry in the area.

"Whitesbog was the first in the early 1900s. There were others."

## IF YOU GO

■ The Whitesbog historical exhibit is on display at Sun National Bank, Lakehurst and Clubhouse roads, Pemberton Township, during bank hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 to noon Saturdays. For more information, call (609) 735-2801 or visit [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org).

purchased a 490-acre tract and cultivated the land for cranberries. By the 1860s, he had begun the cranberry industry in the state.

J.J. White, the father of Elizabeth White, inherited the 300-acre cranberry bog from Fenwick and expanded it to 3,000 acres.

Riippa intends to keep the exhibit up indefinitely.

Although there are no other Whitesbog exhibits on display at this time, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust is looking to the future.

"We have one coming up in the Cherry Hill Mall within the next few months," said Thompson.

Reach Lorraine Agnew at (856) 486-2946 or [lagnew@courierpostonline.com](mailto:lagnew@courierpostonline.com)

## PARTY WAREHOUSE LOVES BUSY MOMS & DADS SPECIAL OFFER

Good Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
from 6pm to 9pm

**\$5.00** Any  
Purchase  
of \$20.00  
or more  
off

**PLUS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!**

May not be combined with any other offers!

You Must Present This Ad!

**PARTY WAREHOUSE**  
AMERICAS DISCOUNT PARTY MEGASTORE  
460 W. Route 70 • Marlton, NJ • 856-596-0206  
WE DELIVER • We Accept Most Credit Cards

Hours: Mon.-Fri: 9am-9pm • Sat 10am-9pm • Sun.: 11am-5pm

Riippa. "I thought that bringing in the display would help me bring more customers into the bank. I asked them (Whitesbog Preservation Trust) if they wanted to bring a piece of Browns Mills history in the branch."

Riippa knew then he wanted to create a Whitesbog exhibit in his branch.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust is a nonprofit group formed in 1984 to preserve Whitesbog Village and its rich history, said T. Stephan Thompson, executive director. The trust leases Whitesbog Village from the State of New Jersey in a partnership agreement and offers educational programs throughout the area.

"We tried to reach out to local businesses for corporate sponsorship," said Thompson. "Sun Bank liked the idea."

The bank, with its Colonial design, also appears to be a building with historical significance so it was a good match, Thompson said.

This particular exhibit, Thompson said, has been set up to entice towns people to visit and learn about their neighboring village.

"They live close by, but have not been there. They don't know the history," he said.

Mike Sidani of Marlton has worked as a manager at the Shell station on Lakehurst Roads in Browns Mills for 20 years and he has never been to Whitesbog.

"I hear about it, but I don't really know it. A lot of people stop at the gas station and ask for directions. I have never been there myself," said Sidani.

Trust, talks to Mike Sidani of Marlton about the Whitesbog exhibit. A straw hat and tea service are part of the exhibit in the bank lobby, along with some blueberries.

Photos by TINA MARKOE  
KINSLOW/Courier-Post



Has the exhibit enticed him to visit Whitesbog?

"Of course," he said.

He and a friend plan to visit Whitesbog this year.

"There are customers that do take notice," said Riippa. "There have been a few people who read about it being here and they came in to see the display."

The exhibit is not big; just large enough to spark curiosity.

On display is a trio of "Eatmor Cranberries" crate labels from the early 1900s.

Whitesbog Village, noted Thompson, is representative of the cranberry and blueberry industry in the area.

"Whitesbog was the first in the early 1900s. There were others," he said.

Other historical tidbits in the exhibit are a pair of old wire-framed glasses and two books — one from 1916 and another from 1928.

There are also jars of blueberry preserves, a replica of a blueberry bush and an information board detailing the festivals and activities that are taking place at Whitesbog throughout the year.

It was James Fenwick who

## IF YOU GO

■ The Whitesbog historical exhibit is on display at Sun National Bank, Lakehurst and Clubhouse roads, Pemberton Township, during bank hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 to noon Saturdays. For more information, call (609) 735-2801 or visit [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org).

purchased a 490-acre tract and cultivated the land for cranberries. By the 1860s, he had begun the cranberry industry in the state.

J.J. White, the father of Elizabeth White, inherited the 300-acre cranberry bog from Fenwick and expanded it to 3,000 acres.

Riippa intends to keep the exhibit up indefinitely.

Although there are no other Whitesbog exhibits on display at this time, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust is looking to the future.

"We have one coming up in the Cherry Hill Mall within the next few months," said Thompson.

Reach Lorraine Agnew at (856) 486-2946 or [lagnew@courierpostonline.com](mailto:lagnew@courierpostonline.com)

## Renzi's Cigars

1702 Rt. 541  
Burlington Twp., NJ

OPEN  
7 DAYS

609-386-0400



## Cohiba

Limited Cabinet Reserve  
Box of 25.....Reg. \$99.99

\$89.95 with this coupon

## SPECIAL OFFER

Good Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
from 6pm to 9pm

\$5.00  
off

Any  
Purchase  
of \$20.00  
or more

PLUS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!

May not be combined with any other offers!

You Must Present This Ad!

## PARTY WAREHOUSE

AMERICAS DISCOUNT PARTY MEGASTORE  
460 W. Route 70 • Marlton, NJ • 856-596-0206  
WE DELIVER • We Accept Most Credit Cards

Hours: Mon.-Fri; 9am-9pm • Sat 10am-9pm • Sun.: 11am-5pm

Open Daily  
9 - 6

**Wholesale & Retail**  
Corner of Medford Lakes-Tabernacle & Carranza Roads, Tabernacle

609-268-0239