

Annual Whitesbog Blueberry Fest coming June 25

BROWNS MILLS — The 28th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival is just around the corner, being held Saturday, June 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Historic Whitesbog Village.

This annual celebration of all things blueberry — the official state fruit of New Jersey — is considered to be one of the finest “old-fashioned” festivals in the tri-state region.

The Festival features the work of Whitesbog’s own, Elizabeth White, to domesticate the very first blueberry, traditional Pinelands musicians, artists and crafters, fantastic festival food, wagon and walking tours, lectures, demonstrations and dozens of children’s activities will all be featured at the day-long festival.

This year, the festival will be celebrating the Centennial of the Blueberry, by commemorating the unique partnership between Elizabeth White and the USDA’s, Dr. Fredrick Coville, which resulted in the cultivation of the very first domesticated blueberry.

The 28th Annual Blueberry Festival will feature this partnership

with special exhibits, an exciting art competition to depict the blueberry’s development, living history characters and promotional materials to educate, entertain and inform.

Top attractions at the day-long festival include the fifty of the Pinelands best crafters and an artists “alley” featuring fine art and photography, a Model-T exhibit, Pinelands Antique Engine Association’s displays, walking and wagon tours, lectures, demonstrations and interactive experiences festival goers can enjoy throughout the day.

For the children, activities such as the blueberry pie-eating contest, face painting, hands-on crafts, traditional games and blueberry picking, will keep the young ones entertained all day.

Live bluegrass music by Home Cookin’, Bill and Linda Green, the Basement Musicians, the Bad Dogz, Clan Suibhne and the Long Hill String Band provides the atmosphere for the festival.

History buffs can explore Whitesbog’s agricultural museum, visit the newly restored Cranberry Research Substation and

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Community News

SouthJerseyLocalNews.com

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 24

JUNE 16, 2011

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Serving the Pembertons since 1983

Blueberry from front

tour a cottage that depicts what life was like for Whitesbog's workers in the 1920s and shop in Whitesbog's authentic General Store.

Fresh fruit enthusiasts will delight in picking their own blueberries at the celebration. Whitesbog is home to the world's oldest test fields for domesti-

cated blueberries, which will be open at the Blueberry Festival to give people an opportunity to experience firsthand a bit of the state's agricultural history.

Parking for the event is \$8 per car and \$5 per person arriving by foot or bus. All proceeds benefit the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. Parking is set on the Whitesbog airstrip. Shuttle buses bring visitors from the parking area to the village throughout the day.

Historic Whitesbog Village is located at 120 North Whites Bogs Road in Browns Mills.

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