

Whitesbog celebrates twenty years of its Blueberry Festival

By Thomas J. Cathers Sr
Special to Community News

PEMBERTON TWP.-

Buzzing like bees on the ground, over 4500 people attended the 20th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival. The parking lots were at a distance and shuttle buses transferred partici-

pants to and from the festival site. There were educational bus and walking tours of the plantation in conjunction with tours of individual homes and structures.

Nestled at the center of the days' activity was the Whitesbog general store,

where an official U. S. Post Office was open for post cards and letter mailing from the historic site. Postmaster for the day Donald Cooper, Browns Mills, hand canceled each article with an official Whitesbog Post Office stamp. In the background were sounds of

the hit-and-miss antique engines creating a 1930's atmosphere for the rope making, log cutting and multiple arts-and-craft vendors during this event, which took place on Saturday, June 28.

Perching the atmosphere was the music of mu-

sician and songwriter David Orleans. The four piece bluegrass band, "ome Cooking," also complement the afternoon events with melodies for basic country enjoyment.

There was plenty of food to enjoy, even a pie eating contest for the

youngsters to indulge in. The results were not like the movie "Stand By Me," however there was a serious sense of pride as a wide smile evolved on the winner, eleven-year-old Ryan Murphy, for his ability to gobble down the pie fast-

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20th Whitesbog blueberry festival held in the greens of the Pinelands

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er than the other contestants.

Closing the afternoon and retreating to our homes, automobiles departed the quiet little village in an order as smooth and rapid as the bees returning to their nest. Another day in the pinelands, and another successful

Blueberry Festival at the historic Whitesbog Plantation.

Many organizations attempt to emulate Whitesbogs' festival. However, Whitesbog is the birthplace of the cultivated blueberry and retains that position with respect throughout the industry. Perhaps Elizabeth C. White envisioned

her dreams and constant studies in horticulture would lead to a dedicated society to educate the public to appreciate a bygone era in the pinelands of Pemberton Township. For more information related to the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, and future society events log onto <http://www.whitesbog.org>.



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Christine Lewis and eight-month-old Jayde Lewis happily take in the sights of Whitesbog. Below right, Jayde stares in wonder at the excitement.



(top) A Whitesbog "freeway," with some of the 4500 people who attended.
(bottom) Steve and Nancy Grove, Gold Canyon, Ariz., enjoy their lunch.



(left)

Ryan Murphy, 11, winner of the pie eating contest, licks the table clean.

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