



# Whitesbog Preservation Trust

## NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter

www.whitesbog.org

2014

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

## Lost Blueberry Varieties of Whitesbog

by Mark Ehlenfeldt, Ph.D., U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

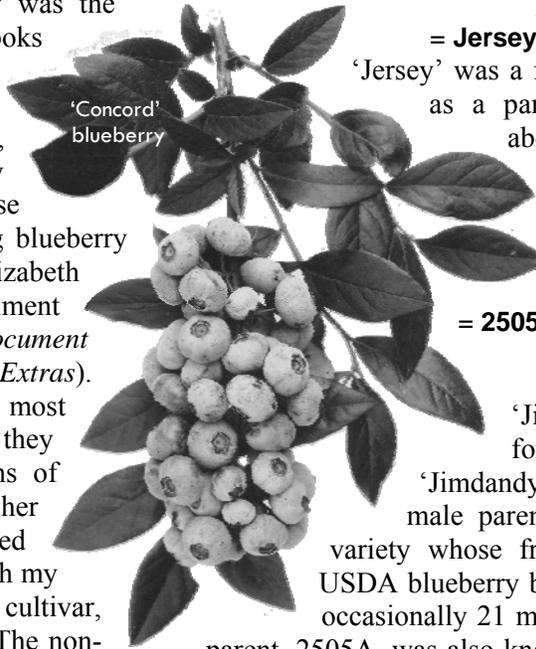
Professor Paul Eck of Rutgers University was the author/editor of several well-known books about blueberries and cranberries.<sup>1-3</sup> When he retired, his reference material for these books was archived at the Rutgers University, Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research in Chatsworth, NJ. Among these documents is a sheet from 1949 documenting blueberry selections that had been transferred from Elizabeth White to the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station for testing. (*You can see the original document on our website in this Newsletter's Online Extras*). Each of these selections had a name. For the most part, you haven't heard of any of these, but they provide a picture of the goals and ambitions of Elizabeth White's breeding program late in her life. These test selections to which White applied provisional names are listed in order below with my commentary. The boldface text represents the cultivar, its female, and its male parent, in that order. The non-bold numbers and text represents numbers used while the selections were under test, and pedigrees of individual parents.

At this time the variety 'Rubel' which White had called an aristocratic bush had been available for more than 30 years. 'June' (released 1930) and 'Weymouth' (r. 1936) were common early-ripening varieties). 'Stanley' (r. 1930) was grown for mid-season fruit. 'Rubel's offspring, 'Jersey' (r. 1928) and 'Burlington' (r. 1939) were commonly grown late-ripening varieties.

### **Tallman (29-28A)**

= **1437C** (Earlin x Brooks) x **Jersey** aka 1443A, CA106 (Grover x Rubel)

I think we can believe that Tallman was just what its name implies: tall. Looking at its ancestry, we know that there were three clones designated as Earlin: #1, #2, and #3. It is unclear which Earlin is specified as the parent here, but Earlin #1 was noted as being **12 feet tall** when collected in 1914. June Vail (Elizabeth White's assistant and colleague) said the fruit of this selection formed raisins when left on the bush (personal communication), and this alone may be the main reason for its selection.



### **Able (32-8C)**

= **Jersey** x **1552H** (Brooks x Grover)

'Jersey' was a fine parent, itself having 'Rubel' as a parent. We don't know anything about 1552H other than its parentage, but I think 'Able' could have been expected to be midseason to mid-late season.

### **Jimdandy (32-24F)**

= **2505A** aka GM37 (Jersey x Pioneer) x **Concord** aka 1452A, BP52 (Brooks x Rubel)

'Jimdandy' is a name that speaks for itself. June Vail said the fruit of 'Jimdandy', would reach 1" in size. Its male parent, 'Concord', was an attractive variety whose fruit Frederick Coville (the first USDA blueberry breeder) said would reach 20 and occasionally 21 mm (see photo at left).<sup>4</sup> Its female parent, 2505A, was also known as GM37. Coville described **GM37 as the largest berry ever produced**, but pronounced it lacking in flavor. GM37 along with CU5 (= 'Stanley' x 'June') would give rise to **the mighty 'Bluecrop'**. 'Bluecrop' is the most widely grown blueberry in the world, and it is what you envision when you think of the flavor of classic New Jersey blueberries. GM37 x CU5 would also give rise to the lesser 'Blueray', and the more recent 'Razz'.<sup>5</sup>

### **Diana (38-50A)**

= **28-8A** (Katherine x Jersey) x **Scammell** aka 1257A (826-1 x Rubel)

Elizabeth White seemed to have a mild propensity for classical/Latin names. Diana was the Roman goddess of the hunt. Additionally, the name Diana is derived from the Italian word for heavenly or divine. It is easy to imagine that the name was applied because the 'Diana' cultivar tasted extraordinarily good. 'Diana's male parent, 'Scammell', was itself reputed as a unique and delicious variety.<sup>4</sup>

### **Alpha (37-21A)**

= **39-17A** (June x 1232D) x **1552H**

'Alpha' suggests first and early, and there's every reason to think that Elizabeth White was trying to extend the blueberry season at both ends. Coville wrote that the earliest

blueberries always brought the best prices,<sup>4</sup> and this principle remains true today. 1552H was likely a strong all-around selection, occurring in several places in the pedigrees of these successful selections. Of greater importance and interest, however, is 39-17A, comprised of 'June' × 1232D. 'June' is, even by modern standards, an early variety, both in flowering and ripening, and has a robust upright structure. Among these selections, 'Alpha' is the only one with any lowbush ancestry (via 'Russell' lowbush). 'Russell' comprises 25% each of the ancestry of 'June' and 1232D, and lowbush germplasm is known to convey early flowering and ripening.

### Omega (34-45E)

= 2505A aka GM37 × 2506B aka GO128 (Pioneer × Rubel)

As 'Alpha' targeted the early season, 'Omega' no doubt targeted the late season. 'Omega', like several other selections here, contains the mighty 2505A (GM37).

### Eros (37-20A)

= 1552H × 1613A (Pioneer × Rubel)

The exact logic of this name is unclear. 'Eros' was perhaps just a counter-balance to 'Diana', but was, in this case, a Greek god rather than a Roman one. The name Eros is synonymous with the ancient Greek word for desire. Here again we see 1552H as the female parent, this time paired with 1613A. What we can guess about 'Eros' is based mostly on what we know of 1613A. Surprisingly, 1613A is still extant. It was never officially named or released, but is sold even today, as 'Hardiblu' and has some popularity on the west coast as a processing and pick-your-own variety. 'Hardiblu' is dark, sweet, and soft; a pleasant and flavorful berry (photo below).

### Advance (37-61A)

= Stanley aka 1907A, FR3 (Katharine × Rubel) × 2505A  
aka GM37

'Advance' suggests improvement. 'Stanley' was considered a good variety with a good strong plant structure, but never

proved consistent enough as far as yield. According to Coville, 'Stanley' was the variety with the most delicious flavor (photo below).<sup>4</sup> Here 'Stanley' is mated with 2505A (GM37). The reciprocal of this cross had already given rise to the large-fruited cultivar 'Dixi' (r. 1936), the last cultivar released by Coville during his lifetime, and by the time of this document, had also produced the cultivar 'Coville' (r. 1949). Both were late-ripening.

## The Fate of Lost Blueberries

**Today, all of these selections are lost ... all except one.**

Several years after Elizabeth White's death, it was decided to name a cultivar in her honor, to recognize her accomplishments in blueberry development. In 1966, members of the New Jersey Blueberry Council decided to take the best among the remaining selections that Elizabeth White had developed on her own, and named it 'Elizabeth'. Today, **the 'Diana' selection is the 'Elizabeth' variety.** 'Elizabeth' is a strong vigorous plant and has a reputation as one of the best tasting classic varieties. J.J. White, Inc. has restored several fields of 'Elizabeth' at Whitesbog, and markets these berries today under the Tru-Blu Blueberries label. ■

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Blueberry Culture. 1967. P. Eck and N.F. Childers (eds.), Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ, 378 pp.
- <sup>2</sup> Eck, P. 1988. Blueberry Science. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ, 284 pp.
- <sup>3</sup> Eck, P. 1990. The American Cranberry, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ, 420 pp.
- <sup>4</sup> Coville, F.V. 1937. Improving the Wild Blueberry, pp. 559-574, In: 1937 Yearbook of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 1497 pp.
- <sup>5</sup> 'Razz', a sibling of 'Bluecrop' and 'Blueray', released in 2012, has distinct raspberry overtones to its flavor. 'Razz' was released approximately 75 years after Coville's death, and is almost surely the last cultivar that will be released from a cross made by Coville!



# WHITESBOG EVENT SCHEDULE

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

## July

- 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 per person, reservations requested.
- 6 Blueberry Tasting 1 p.m.**  
Learn all about Whitesbog's role in blueberry cultivation from Mark Ehlenfeldt, Blueberry Geneticist with the UDSA. Sample unique and hard to find varieties and special blueberry baked goods. \$5 donation / person, reservations required.
- 12 WPT 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.
- 12 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.**  
Buck Moon. Listen to the night sounds of the Pines, learn about Whitesbog and experience the seasonal changes of the Pinelands. Walks are 3 to 5 miles long, and led by experienced leaders. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested.
- 19 Fiddling in the Forest Concert 7 p.m.**  
\$5 donation/ carload, reservations requested
- 25 National Moth Week 7 - 11 p.m.**  
There are thousands of moth species, as beautiful as their colorful butterfly cousins - and just as important to the ecosystem. Join the count - FREE.
- 27 Living History Tours 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**  
Experience life in the 1920's and tour Whitesbog Village with the 'Cranberry King', Joseph J. White, his daughter, Elizabeth, and Charles Beckwith, played by historical interpreters. \$15 donation per person - reservations are required.

## August

- 2 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
(See July 12 listing for details).
- 2 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.**  
(See July 5 listing for details). \$5 donation/person.
- 9 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.**  
Sturgeon Moon. (See July 12 listing for details). \$5 donation / person, reservations requested.
- 17 Quarterly Lecture Series 1 p.m.**  
The Whitesbog Experience - An exchange of memories, experiences and recollections of life at Whitesbog, with

Facilitator: Sharon Goodman. \$5 members, \$7 non-members, by reservation.

- 24 Living History Tours 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**  
(See July 27 listing for details). \$15 donation per person - reservations are required.

## September

- 6 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
(See July 12 listing for details).
- 6 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.**  
(See July 5 listing for details). \$5 donation/person
- 6 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.**  
Harvest Moon. (See July 12 listing for details). \$5 donation / person, reservations requested.
- 14 Suningive's Gardens 10 a.m.**  
Join botanist, Mark Szutarski. to explore Whitesbog's unique plant collection, trails, gardens, surrounding Pine Barrens landscape. \$5 donation / person, reservations requested.
- 21 Art in the Park at Smithville Park**  
Stop by our table to learn about NJ 350 and the Women's History Trail. Help us to kick-off the cranberry harvest by sampling our blueberry & cranberry products grown right here at Whitesbog! Be sure to bring the kids. FREE
- 27 Cranberry Harvest Kick-Off Event**  
Learn all about the history and cultivation of cranberries in New Jersey. Call Joseph J. White, Inc. at 609-893-2332 for more information.

## October

- Cranberry Industry Bus Tours 8:30 a.m.**  
See descriptive listing at [www.pbnf.com](http://www.pbnf.com) for details.
- 4 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
(See July 12 listing for details).
- 5 Celebrate Elizabeth White's Life & Legacy on her Birthday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
Join us to recognize Elizabeth White's pioneering contributions to agriculture. Meet Elizabeth White and experience life in the 1920's, while touring the Village museums with historical interpreters.
- 11 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.**  
Hunter's Moon. (See July 12 listing for details). \$5 donation / person, reservations requested.
- 26 Living History Tours 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**  
(See July 27 listing for details).

**2014 Board of Trustees**

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*Living History  
Tours*

**Monthly**  
July 27 / Aug 24 / Oct 26  
Sundays 1 – 3 p.m.

*Experience life in the 1920's  
and tour Whitesbog Village with  
the 'Cranberry King', Joseph J. White,  
his daughter, Elizabeth,  
and Charles Beckwith,  
played by historical interpreters.*

*\$15 donation per person - reservations  
are required.*



Whitesbog is administered by the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry as part of Brendan T. Byrne State Forest.



NEW JERSEY  
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ARTS

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a General Operating Support Grant for fiscal year 2014 and a 2014 Special Project Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the Department of State.



Funding for the 2014 Whitesbog Blueberry Festival, a Local Arts Project, was made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts from a grant to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Department of Resource Conservation, Division of Parks.



Visit our website: [WWW.WHITESBOG.ORG](http://WWW.WHITESBOG.ORG) or call: 609.893.4646



Whitesbog Preservation Trust  
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# Online extras start here!

7  
blue

5 plants of each blueberry variety of Elizabeth C. White's breeding given to the Ag. Exp. Station, New Brunswick, N. J. Spring 1949

Tallman (29-28A) 1437C (GM14) X Jersey, 1443A (CA<sub>106</sub>)  
Earlin X Brooks Grover x Rubel

Able (32-8C) Jersey, 1443A (CA<sub>106</sub>) X 1552H  
Grover X Rubel Brooks X Grover

Jimdandy (32-24F) 2505A (GM37) X Concord = 1452A (BP<sub>52</sub>)  
Jersey X Pioneer, 620A Brooks X Rubel  
Grover X Rubel Brooks X Sooy

Diana (38-50A) 29-8A X 1257 A = Scammell  
Katharine X Jersey 826-1 X Rubel  
Sooy X Brooks Grover X Rubel Brooks X Chatsworth

Alpha (37-21A) 39-17A X 1552H  
June, 1705A (EG41), 1232D Brooks X Grover  
Rubel X 394Y 394Y X Rubel  
*Russell x Brooks*

Omega (34-45E) 2505A (GM37) X 2506B (G0128)  
Jersey X Pioneer Pioneer X Rubel  
Grover X Rubel Brooks X Sooy Brooks X Sooy

Eros (37-20A) 1552H X 1613A  
Brooks X Grover Pioneer X Rubel  
Brooks X Sooy

Advance (37-61A) Stanley, 1907A (FR3) X 2505A (GM37)  
Katharine (830C) X Rubel Jersey, 1443A X Pioneer  
Sooy X Brooks Grover X Rubel

3 plants planted  
no plants of Omega (34-45E)