

ARTS AND LEISURE

Whitesbog shows appreciation for its volunteers

By Thomas J.
Cathers Sr.

Special to Community News

PEMBERTON TWP.-

Blueberry cheesecakes and tasty lemon pies were only some of the pastries offered to Whitesbog Preservation Trust volunteers during holiday appreciation party held on Friday evening, Dec. 12. There were no mocking-

birds singing or summer sun toasting the land, however, the warmth of the volunteers was soothing and as warm as the wood stove in the corner.

"We could not do this without you, and we appreciate your being here tonight," Stephen Thompson, executive director of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust said.

"We are part of the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, and have cooperation with the Pineland Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies, and recently the 1772 Foundation enabled us to complete the warehouse and other projects in the village," Thompson added.

During the evening there were awards pre-

sented to all attending members, as well as a special thank you for Janet Robbins of Mt. Holly, for her continuous contributions and dedicated services to the preservation over the past decade.

The party was held in the barrelhouse, and the creaking wooden floors of the building simulated

the same environment as the early Whitesbog residents encountered. "I like the sense of peace when there were fewer distractions and work ethics were stronger. It was a life that went with the seasons," Marcia Coward said. "We would like to see a lot more local people come out," Ellie Apgar added.

The evening concluded with a walk in the night to various homes of the village that were open for tours and holiday memories. For more information concerning the Whitesbog activities call 893-4646, or visit <http://www.whitesbog.org>.