

Whitesbog heads off fall with celebration

Community News 9-27-01

Celebrating New Jersey Pinelands Month is a fall tradition. Imagine, crisp autumn breezes, fall foliage, entertainment, art, wagon rides, nature tours, musician, children's activities, and food. It all happens at the 6th Annual Pinelands Celebration on Sunday, October 7, at Historic Whitesbog Village off Route 530 in Browns Mills. This is a way to enjoy a fall day with friends and family for free. There is no entrance or parking fee.

The Pinelands Month Celebration offers visitors the opportunity to travel to the heart of the Pinelands and experience the cultural heritage or our state's natural resource. The event is held at Whitesbog Village, a historic company town made famous for the cultivation of the blueberry. Guided tours bring visitors along the sugar and sand roads to view the cranberry bogs ready for harvesting.

Naturalists will lead walks to explore and discover the wildflowers, trees and animals adapted to the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

The Village will be filled with sounds of Pinelands folk and bluegrass music. Dave Orleans, singer, songwriter, and naturalist will sing about the Jersey bluegrass music.

Dave Orleans, singer, songwriter, and naturalist will sing about the Jersey blueberries. The Sugar Sand Ramblers, Cedar Creek, and Past times will perform a sampling of music from the Pines and the Turtle singer, Karen Buckley, will entertain the crowd with ballads about her lovable reptiles.

Whitesbog Village is home to Suningie, the house built for renowned pioneer and horticulturist, Elizabeth C. White.

An open house and tour of Suningie will be lead by The Nature Conservancy, an organization dedicated to land preservation.

A variety of exhibitors, artists, nature photographers, environmental organizations, and interactive displays will be showcased.

Anne Marie Woods, Pinelands Photographer, has created the "Pinelands Memory Wall," an exhibit that portrays the culture and history of the Pinelands and its inhabitants.

The landscapes of the Pine Barrens' forests and endangered plant species adapted to this habitat are captured in the photographic artwork of Mike Hogan.

A quartet of artist called A Perfect Mix, will display the "Pine Barrens Quilt," a creation of rice paper prints depicting the threatened and endangered flora and fauna of the New Jersey Pinelands.

Dr. Jon Gelhaus from the Academy of Natural will show children and adults critters that live in the nearby bogs and streams.

The descendants of Dr. Still will give an oral history of his use of medicinal plants and travels in the Pines.

One of the highlights of the festival is the joy visitors experience when they witness the release of a rehabilitated hawk as it flies to freedom. Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge will share their stories of success and rehabilitation with injured animals and introduce visitors to native wildlife rarely seen by people.

Snake and turtle experts will present several threatened and endangered species including the elusive timber rattlesnake.

The Pinelands Month Celebration will be held, rain or shine, on Sunday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For information and directions check website, www.pinelandsalliance.org or call 609/894-8000.