

# OCEAN

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## Teens

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"Most of the kids here have already gone through those programs," he said. "They're truly on their way to juvenile jail."

Arriving by bus, the students are sent to a day of classes and work projects such as restoring the interior of old buildings. They also are engaged in daily group sessions, when they and fellow students set goals and have the responsibility to bring up and deal with negative factors in their daily lives, Josey said.

"It's trying to teach them there's a better way of dealing with a problem," he said.

Working alongside the students are counselors Donald Bakes and Brad Stewart, an experienced building tradesman who supervises the recon-

"Brad is a certified drug and alcohol counselor, as well as the genius behind these projects," Josey said.

"We've been doing electrical (work), plumbing, plastering — a lot of plastering in these old houses," Bakes said.

Stewart said working on the buildings is not just good vocational experi-

ence but a way to teach values fostered by the program.

"For some kids, it starts like this: 'I don't care about myself, why should I care about that building?'" he said.

The students have repaired one farmhouse to use in their program and with Stewart's planning, built foundations and a new chimney for an old field office that was returned to Whitesbog from the neighboring J.J. White cranberry bogs.

The next project is to renovate the interior of a 2½-story house that will provide offices for the preservation trust, said trust director Julie Gandy.

Lebanon State Forest provides support services in the village, and state officials plan to spend about \$200,000 to renovate the Whitesbog general store that now houses the Pinelands Institute for Environmental Studies.

In past years, the state had not paid any large amounts of money to restore Whitesbog because it already was committed to restoring the berry farm settlement at Double Trouble State Park in Berkeley Township.

The non-profit Whitesbog Preservation Trust was formed to prevent further deterioration, stabilize the surviving buildings and raise money for restoration.

Trustees cite the farm's history of pioneering berry culture in the United States and note it is the largest surviving example of the 19th century Pinelands agricultural industry.

Vicari

Ocean County season turns out better than last year's, which was marred by two beach closings — one during Memorial Day weekend — because of household trash washing ashore.

Vicari said the garbage wash-ups last year had a devastating impact on the county.

"We can't afford the bad publicity" again this year, he said.

However, on Saturday, the Coast Guard station, Beach Haven, reported sighting a mile-long stretch of garbage three-quarters of a mile offshore at the southern end of Long Beach Island.

According to state Department of Environmental Protection officials it was mostly trash and floatables.

Vicari said he had believed that by this summer programs would be in place to stop trash from being dumped in the ocean.

"There was a lot of lip service given last year," Vicari said, "but no programs have been initiated."

## Restoration of bog town helps teens

### Juvenile offenders learn respect for self

By KIRK MOORE  
Press Staff Writer

A STATE program that helps youthful offenders restore self-respect in their lives also is helping restore a 19th-century farming town in the heart of the Pine-lands.

Teen-age boys in the Burlington County Day program prune the landscape, restore houses and build bridges at Whitesbog, an old blueberry and cranberry settlement at Lebanon State Forest in Pemberton Township, Burlington County.

Since 1984, they have provided needed muscle for another volunteer group, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, which is trying to save the old village.

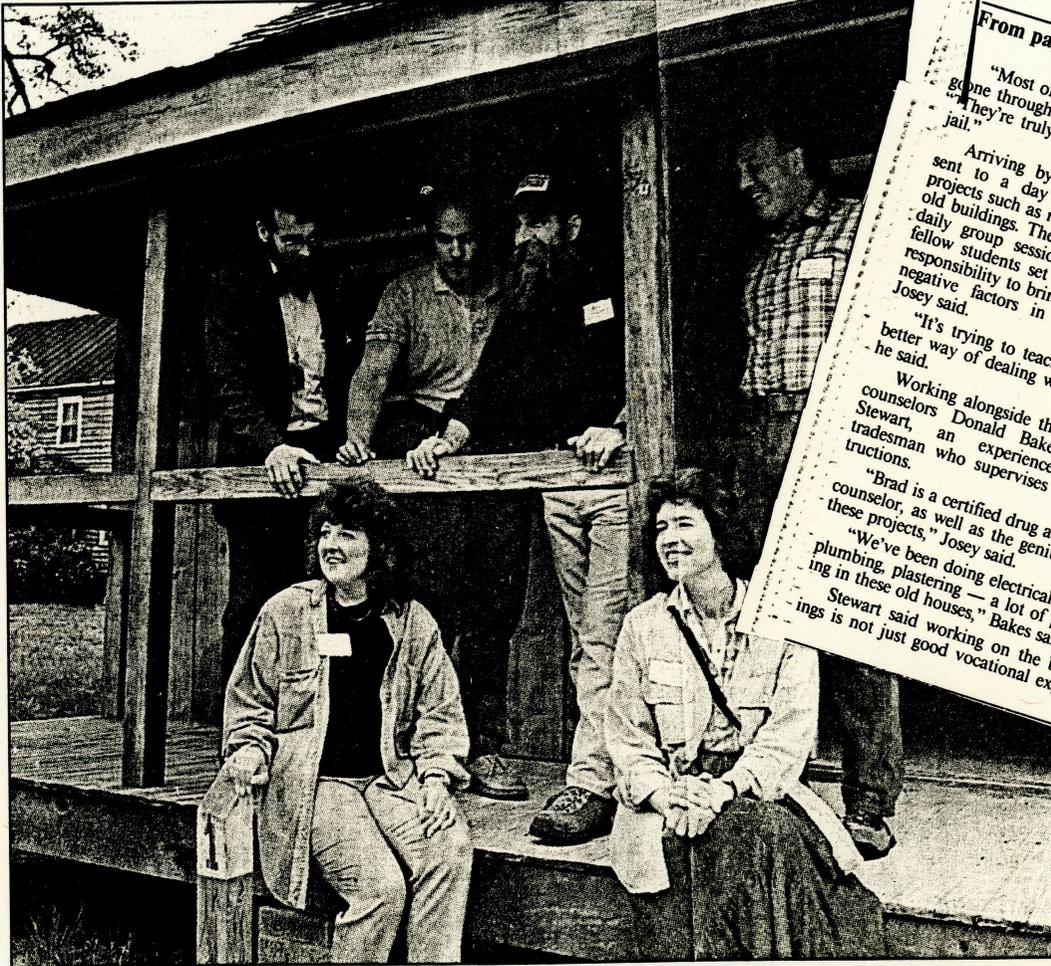
Physically, "the main thing we've done is to enhance the beauty of the landscape. . . . I think that's important, to make people want to come here and enjoy it," said day program director Robin Josey.

The cleanup and construction work is just a means toward the program's primary mission — teaching its students responsibility and accountability, Josey said.

"All of those things tie into what got them here in the first place," said Josey, who for five years has run the program for non-violent repeat offenders, who mostly get into trouble for crimes against property.

Conservationists and others who work at Whitesbog say they have been impressed by the program's effect on the community and the students. Last Friday, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust held a picnic to thank the students and counselors for their work.

"There ought to be more programs



KIRK MOORE/Asbury Park Press

At Whitesbog (standing, left to right) historian Garry Stone, Burlington County Day Director Robin Josey, Counselors Brad Stewart and Donald Bakes, trust Director Julie Gandy (seated left) and Trustee Judy Norcross at house restored by teen offenders.

like this for kids before they get into trouble," said Gary Patterson, a Pine-lands ecologist and former state Pinelands Commission member. "They feel pride, working on those buildings.

"Some kids come back here to

visit," Patterson said. "Who comes back to visit jail?"

Most of the students come from Willingboro Township, Mount Holly Township, and Burlington City, with some from nearby Pemberton Township.

The daylong regime of classes, work and group therapy is geared for difficult students who already have tried other forms of counseling, Josey said.

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