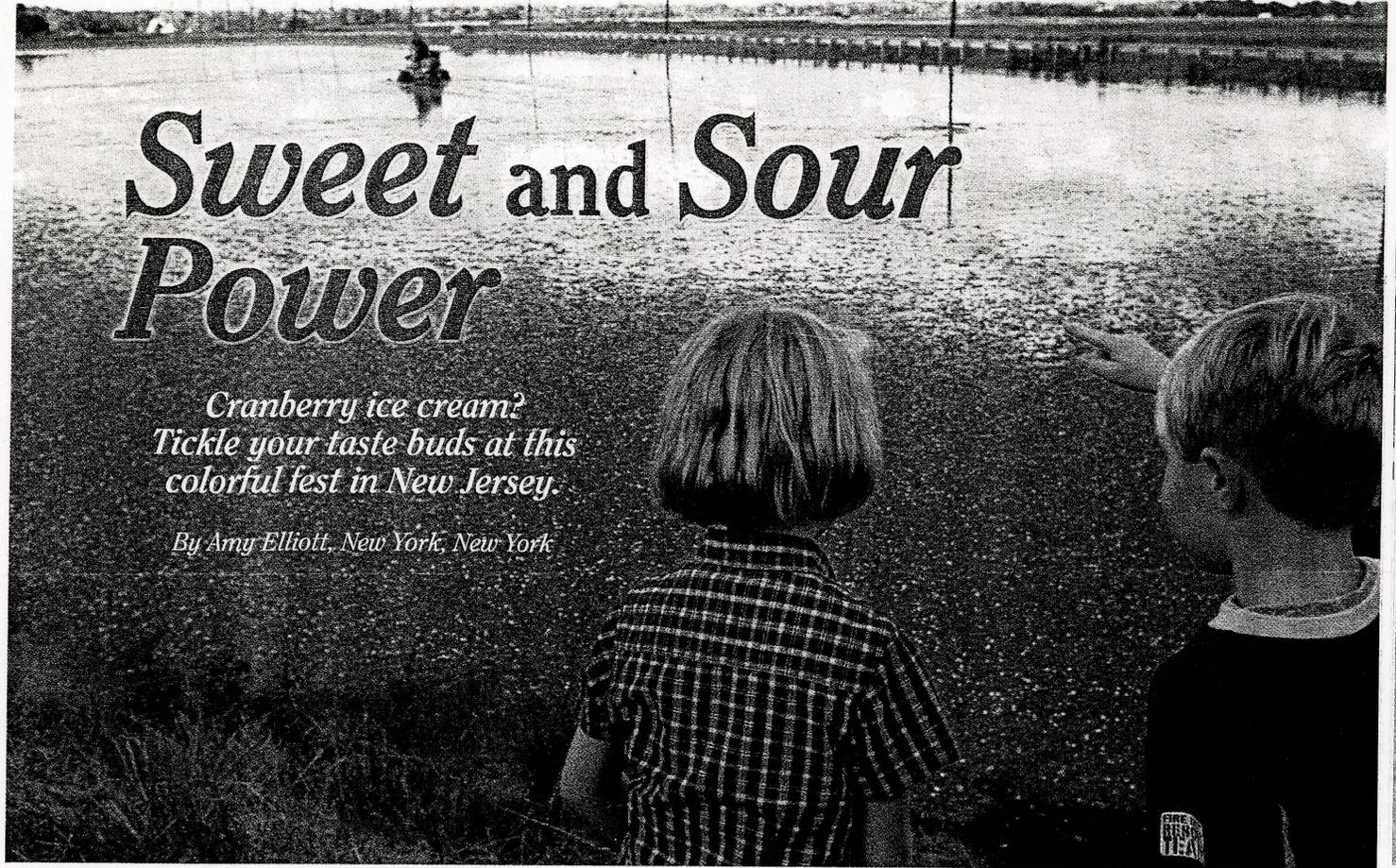


Sweet and Sour Power

Cranberry ice cream? Tickle your taste buds at this colorful fest in New Jersey.

By Amy Elliott, New York, New York



I LOVE the Chatsworth Cranberry Festival in southern New Jersey. Among the largest of its kind in the United States, it's the perfect place to spend a crisp mid-October day.

Chatsworth is a charming small town, nestled amid the Pinelands National Reserve—1 million acres of forests and wetlands. It's known as the "Capital of the Pines" because miles of pitch pine surround it. In fact, if you come into town via State Highway 563, you won't encounter a single stop sign!

First settled in the 1700s, the town still harbors a few historic buildings, like Buzby's General Store and the 1860 White Horse Inn. Dedicated volunteers use festival proceeds to continue refurbishing the inn, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the fair information booth, you can learn fascinating tidbits about Chatsworth and the inn, once home to the overseer of a blueberry and cranberry plantation.

If you attend, be sure to make time for a tour of the cranberry bogs (above). The sea of shiny, brilliant-red berries floating atop the flooded fields, extending as far as you can see, is a sight you'll never forget!

The traditional Thanksgiving fruit is well represented in the juried arts and crafts. I watched craft demonstrations...examined quilts...took in the classic auto show...browsed through antiques...and listened to toe-tapping live music. Arrive between 6 and 11 a.m. either day, and you can start your visit with breakfast at the Chatsworth Volunteer Fire House.

But save room to sample the incredible variety of cranberry goodies available, and not just juice, cookies or muffins. You'll find cranberry salsa...ketchup...pepper spread...honey...jam...vinegar...even ice cream! Cranberry cookbooks

abound, and of course, you can buy boxes of fresh cranberries to use when you try the recipes at home.

This celebration of all things cranberry is a fun way to see red—and put a little tang into your autumn! 

FAST FACTS

Chatsworth is located where State Highways 532 and 563 meet in the heart of southern New Jersey's Pine Barrens region, about 20 miles west of the Garden State Parkway. For information, call Burlington County Tourism at 1-609/265-5055.   www

The Chatsworth Cranberry Festival is always held the third full weekend of October (that's October 15-16 in 2005). Admission is free; parking is \$5. To learn more, call the festival committee at 1-609/726-9237.   www

More to See... Historic Whitesbog Village is about 16

miles north of Chatsworth along State Highway 530; it's considered the birthplace of cultivated blueberries. For details, see page 59 of the May/June issue or call the Whitesbog Preservation Trust office at 1-609/893-4646.   

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