

# Celebrating the blueberry

The 18th annual blueberry festival is a summer tradition in the Pinelands.

What better way to kick off summer than at an old-fashioned country fair complete with music, blueberry pies and a day in the sweet air of the Pines.

Each year thousands of visitors travel to Historic Whitesbog, in the heart of the Pinelands to share in the rich cultural heritage of this company town where the cultivated American Blueberry was born. The Whitesbog Blueberry Festival offers the opportunity to view Whitesbog as it was "back then", as well as the chance to see it as it is today.

Bus and wagon tours take visitors along the sugar sand roads and natural world of the Pine Barrens, its cranberry bogs, wetlands, and wildlife refuge.

Walking tours of the village and some of the buildings are also available. Guided by local historians and naturalists, visitors can see what life was, and is like, in this Historic Village and its 3,000 acres of fields, bogs, and forests.

The Whitesbog Blueberry Festival, a long standing Pinelands tradition, offers hand made country crafts, art and photography, an operating antique engine display, antique autos, great food, ice cream and blueberry baked goods, Music, an integral

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part of the Pinelands culture, echoes throughout the day.

The Village is filled with the joyful sounds of bluegrass and Pinelands folk music.

Scheduled entertainers include Dave Orleans, Emcee, songwriter, storyteller and educator, Linda Rouse of Home Cookin' whose members blend bluegrass and acoustic country, Valeri Vaughn, South Jersey folk singer and tale spinner; Sugar Sand Ramblers, a cross section of musicians offering a sampling of music of the

New Jersey Pines; and Glen Waldec Mother Nature's unofficial troubadour.

There are children's activities and a pie eating contest for kids 6 to 12 years of age, fresh blueberries, as well as the opportunity to ride a wagon to the blueberry field and "pick your own," a native plant sale with Master Gardener's available to answer all your plant questions and much, much more.

The Festival will be held on Saturday, June 30 (rain date July 1) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking is

\$5 per car load and includes one ticket to pick one free pint of pick your own berries. All proceeds benefit the Whitesbog Preservation Trust -in their efforts to restore and protect the Village.

Whitesbog is located at mile marker 13 on County Route 530, Pemberton Township, southeast of Browns Mills, New Jersey. For information or directions call (609)893-4646.

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

*Don't Miss this Opportunity...*

*"Horsin' Around"*

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