



Blueberries' in Bloom

Whitesbog event serves up a tasty mix of food, fun and music

Stephan Kreyns of Mount Laurel picks fresh blueberries during last year's festival in Whitesbog.

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By Lysbeth Bledsoe
Special to the BCT

If you've attended any of the 16 previous Blueberry Festivals at Whitesbog Village in Pemberton Township, you probably think you know everything there is to know about Pinelands history, personalities, agriculture in general, and blueberry-growing in particular.

But the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, which sponsors the annual event, believes there's still a lot more to know, which is why, during the 17th annual Blueberry Festival, set for tomorrow, an anticipated 3,000 visitors will have a chance to take more walking, wagon and bus tours than ever before, to explore the agrarian enclave of Whitesbog Village and its surrounding 3,000 acres of forest, fields and bogs.

Janet Robbins, festival coordinator, said, "There is so much here at Whitesbog that we want to give visitors a lot of choice about what they see and do.

"That's why," she said, "we're offering more guided tours than at any other time in the past six years."

Specifically, those tours will focus on the following:

■ **10 a.m.: Whitesbog's Memories**, walking tour led by Thomas Darlington of Pemberton Township's New Lisbon section, grandson of cranberry grower J.J. White, whose bogs were the most extensive in New Jersey in the early 20th century, and whose daughter, Elizabeth, co-developed today's cultivated blueberry at Whitesbog.

Also, **Birds of the Pines**, a walking tour led by guide/teacher Edie DiSanto of Mount Holly, and **Cranberry Culture Bog Tour**, a bus tour led by Rowan University professor Gary Patterson of Pemberton Township.

■ **11 a.m.: Cranberry Bog Tour**, walking tour led by Whitesbog Village resident Pat Frasier; **Blueberries — Sweet & Neat** walking tour led

by April Hughes of Mount Holly, a naturalist at Lebanon State Forest; **The Biz ... According** walking tour of Whitesbog Village, led by natu-

IF YOU GO

Blueberry Festival

Where: Whitesbog Village, off Route 530 in the Browns Mills section of Pemberton Township

When: Tomorrow, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission: \$5 per carload; additional \$3 or \$1 per child for guided walking tours and \$4 or \$2 per child for guided bus and wagon tours, with sign language available.

Information: Call (609) 893-4646

Martha Windisch of Woodland **That Eat Bugs** wagon tour led by Patterson, and **Pine Barrens** bus tour led by Howard Boyd of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey

■ **Noon: Pine Barrens Pla** ing tour led by naturalist Pat C Southamptton; **Whitesbog Vill** ing tour led by John Joyce of S chairman of Whitesbog Preser Trust's Buildings Committee; **P Barrens Ecology** walking tou naturalist Ted Gordon of South **Exploring Whitesbog Water** tour led by hydrologist Bob Nic

Yardville; and **Animals of the Pond**, a bus to naturalist Len Little of Pemberton Township.

■ **1 p.m.: Whitesbog Memories**, walking tour led by Thomas Darlington; **From Huckleberry to Blueberry** tour led by naturalist Barbara Church of Medf **Whitesbog 101**, a wagon tour led by author/h William Bolger of Whitesbog Village; and **Cran Bog Tour**, bus tour led by Patterson.

■ **2 p.m.: Pine Barrens Ecology**, walking tour led by Little; **From Huckleberry to Blueberry**, tour led by Church; **Whitesbog 101**, wagon to Bolger; and **Animals of the Pond**, bus tour le Hughes.

■ **3 p.m.: Whitesbog Wetlands**, walking to Windisch, and **Whitesbog Village** walking tou Joyce.

Also open during the festival will be Suning of Elizabeth White, whose collaboration with F Coville of the U.S. Department of Agriculture r the 1916 conversion of the small and sour huck growing wild between J.J. White's cranberry bo today's plump, sweet blueberries.

Eleven years later, White helped organize th blueberry farmers' cooperative, the New Jersey Cooperative Association, still functioning today name Tru-Blu.

While festival tours begin at 10 a.m., 45 loca photographers and handcrafters will set up day plays in the village starting at 9 a.m.

"Everything offered for sale will be entirely h — nothing flea market at all," Robbins said, "an the crafters will be demonstrating their skills as

Other festival activities will include an antiq engine and machinery showcase staged by the F Antique Engine Association, with members from Burlington and Ocean counties; sales of commer post cards bearing a Whitesbog postmark, availa Whitesbog Post Office; and sales of fresh, Tru-Bl along with blueberry baked goods, sundaes, jam and cups of Ocean Spray Cran-Blueberry juice.

Providing live entertainment on the festival's Pinelands Music Stage will be festival host and singer/songwriter/storyteller Dave Orleans of Pin Camden County, 10 a.m.; storyteller/folk musicia



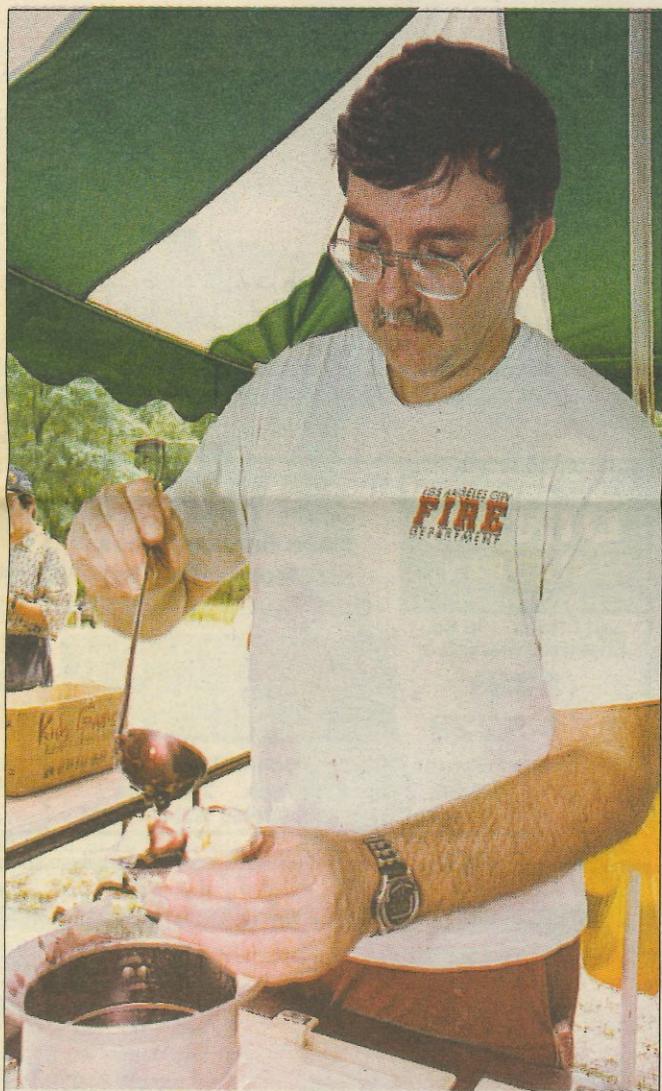
Alex Cochrane of Pemberton Township checks out the inside of a fire truck during the blueberry festival last year.

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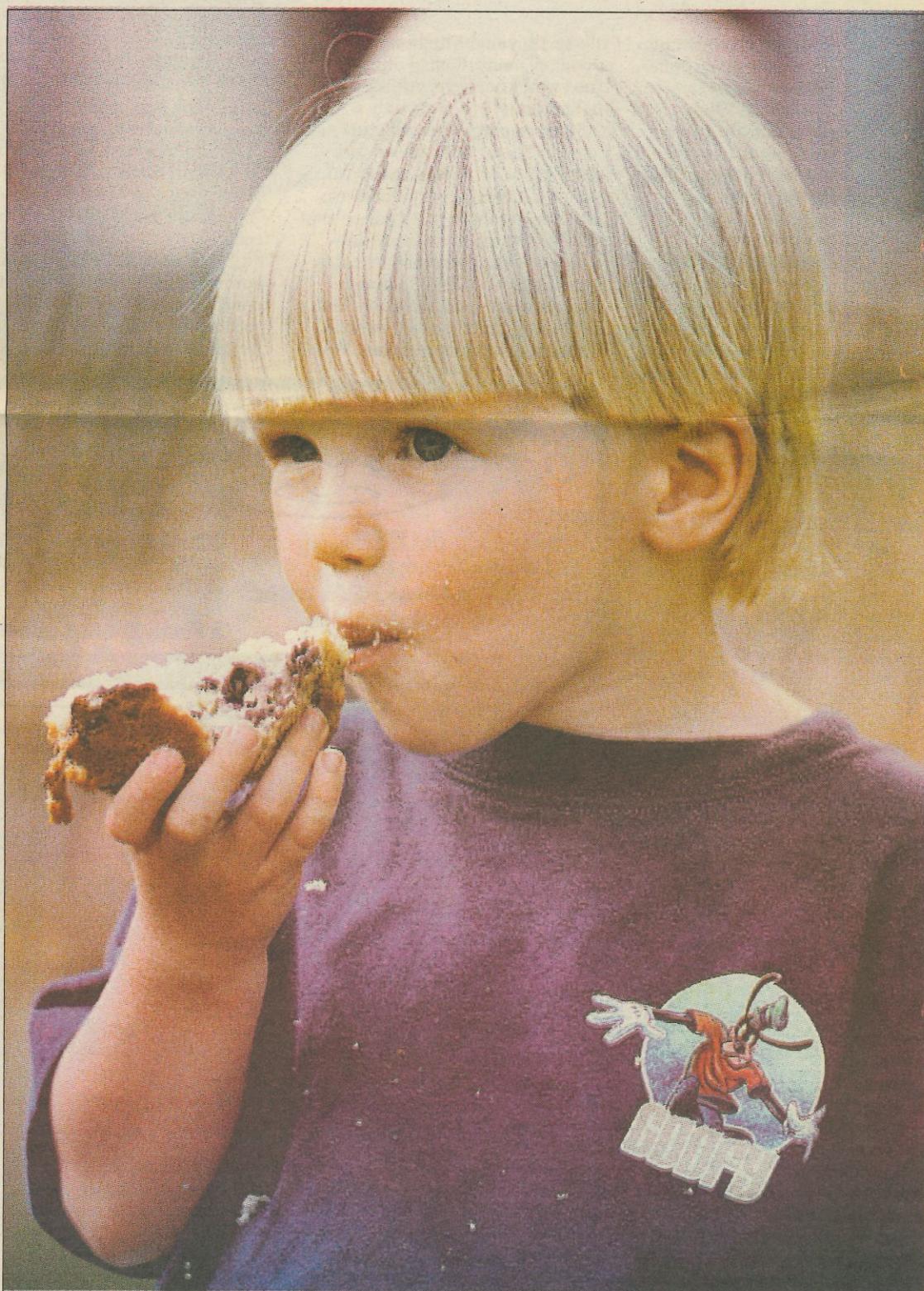


Guests of the 17th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival can take a tractor ride to pick fresh blueberries.

BCT file photos



Pat McAndrews of Haddon Heights serves blueberry scones at last year's festival.



Maxwell Kurtin of Medford enjoys a blueberry muffin during last year's festival.

Albertson of Millville, 10:45 a.m.; Home Cookin', a South Jersey-based bluegrass and acoustic country music group, 11:45 a.m.; and nature troubadour Glen Waldeck of Lester, Pa., 12:30 p.m..

Also Valerie Vaughn & the Decoys, an area theme band from Tuckerton, Ocean County, 1:15 p.m.; Sugar Sand Ramblers of Medford, specializing in Pinelands music, 2 p.m.; and the Snake Brothers, an acoustic quartet from Vineland, 2:45 p.m.

Festival fare will be provided by the Pemberton Township Lions Club, famed for their "Jersey Devil" breakfast sandwiches, and Texas Barbecue, a Berlin, Camden County, restaurant.