

Whitesbog Preservation Trust

NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter

www.whitesbog.org

2011

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

Beyond Cranberries and Blueberries

Elizabeth White - Advocate for Justice

by Albertine Senske

During our Blueberry Centennial Celebration, Whitesbog will be honoring Elizabeth White for her marvelous accomplishments in developing the cultivated blueberry. Her work in cranberry farming with her father J. J. White is also well known. What may come as a surprise are her extensive efforts in the realm of human welfare. She followed in her father's footsteps in her dealings with those who worked at Whitesbog, both permanent and temporary. J. J. White was governed by the Quaker principles of 1) recognizing the equality of all and showing respect to each person and 2) responding to the needs of all peoples. Elizabeth was content to confine herself to her small sphere. There was more than enough to do. She tells us this herself in an address before the New Jersey Conference of Charities and Corrections.

"Always feeling an interest in social work and uplift movements and reading all literature on such subjects as came my way, I have never been associated with any organized work of this kind, for it seemed that any effort of mine would be more directly applied and bring larger results in assisting my father (to) see that hundreds of people working with us were treated fairly, and extending a helping hand when needed to those whose circumstances we knew so well".

Events of 1910 soon thrust the "private" Elizabeth into the public eye and into the role of advocate. During the



cranberry harvest of that year, the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) visited various New Jersey farms under the guise of preparing a magazine article. By November, they issued a pamphlet that described (what they considered) the terrible conditions of children forced to participate in the work of the harvest. (It is important to understand that this organization was not government sponsored, but a private charitable group). The NCLC listed a host of wrongs inflicted on even very young children by greedy cranberry farmers. Infections from working among the vines, exposure to pesticides, deprivation of education, lack of adequate housing, lack of proper sanitation, and lack of clean water were at the top of the list. While J.J. White busied himself in dealing directly with the NCLC on behalf of the American Cranberry Growers

Association, he asked Elizabeth to respond to outcries from other sources. Early in 1911 she answered the concerns raised by Jane Addams of Hull House. By this time Jane Addams had become a prominent and powerful reformer who devoted herself to raising national awareness to issues of concern to mothers, particularly the needs of children and public health. Later that same year, Elizabeth addressed a group, primarily composed of women, assembled for the annual meeting of the New Jersey Commission of Charities and Corrections. She would stand before them again on April 21, 1914 in Asbury Park, this time making a major

(continued on page 2)

(from page 1)

presentation to the entire body. Her paper entitled "Cranberries and Colony Contributions" was reprinted in pamphlet form and was very much in demand as word of it spread.

Even as she defended the cranberry growers, Elizabeth was wise enough to recognize there was a grain of truth in some of the charges. She was aware that not all bog owners provided for their employees to the degree that her father did. Both the NCLC and the Commission of Charities acknowledged that conditions at Whitesbog were quite satisfactory.

J. J. White, Inc. was a pioneer in offering health benefits to its employees. J. J. White, Inc. secured a doctor who visited Whitesbog every two weeks for a contracted fee. Workers could see the doctor, and individually paid him fifty cents per consultation. On any given visit, if the sum of the individual consultations did not reach the contracted amount, J.J. White paid the balance. Elizabeth had taken a first aid course and was able to provide care for minor needs between doctor visits. J. J. was proud of this latter fact and referred to it in one of his letters to Mr. Lovejoy, the head of NCLC, although he does not specifically identify Elizabeth, but refers to her as the daughter of one of the growers. A more official response was offered by the American Cranberry Growers Association which was quite concerned by the allegations and had begun its own investigation. Two doctors who attended the migrant laborers, Dr. J. William Bichler of New Egypt and Dr. Enoch Hollingshead of Pemberton provided official statements attesting to improved health of the migrants as the picking season progressed. This was not enough for Elizabeth White. She independently contacted a Philadelphia neighborhood physician, Dr. Mercedes Roberts, who confirmed the benefits her patients enjoyed from the fresh and pure country air.

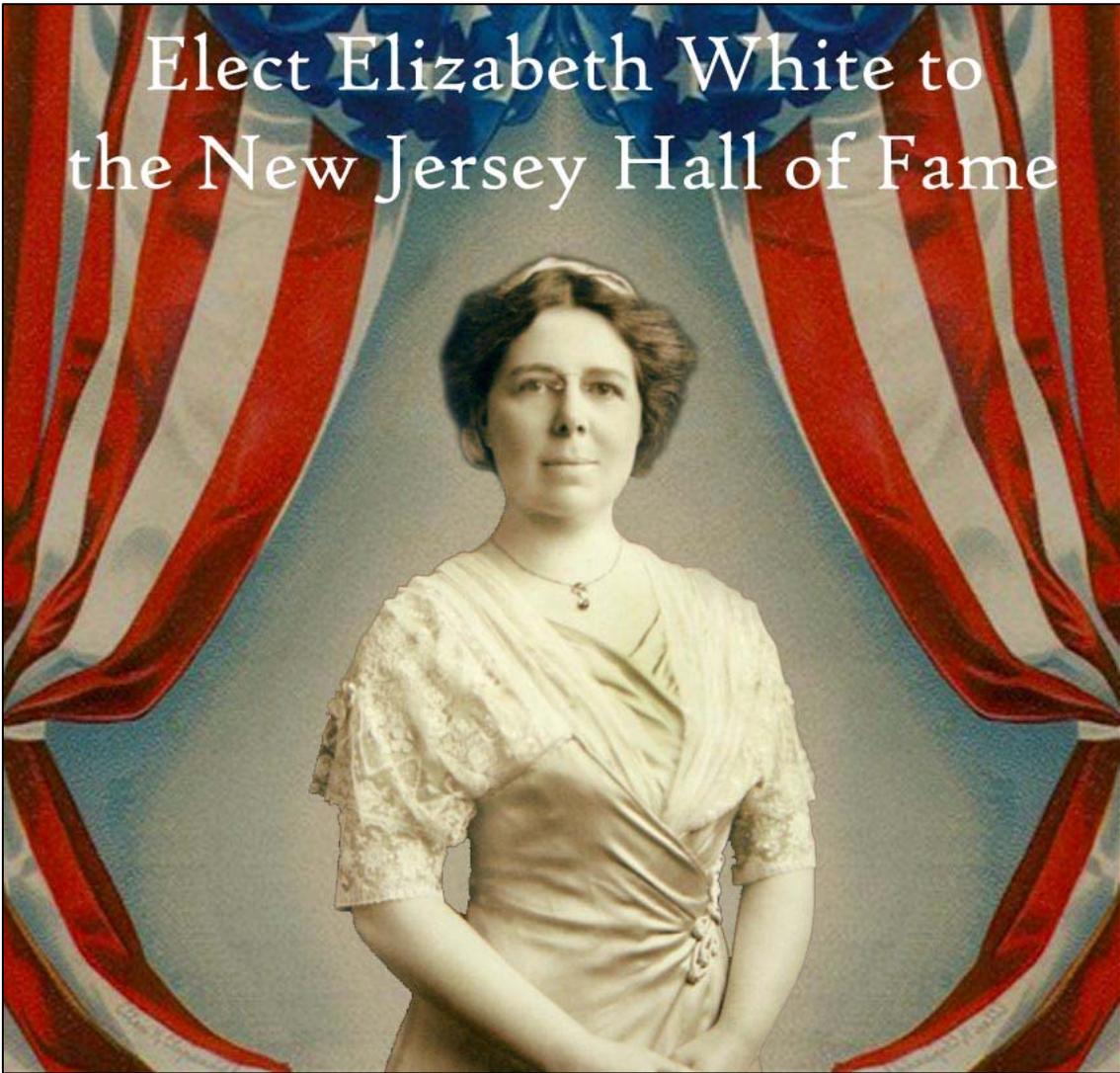
Two other issues captured Elizabeth White's attention: housing and education. The Cranberry Growers Association established a three-person task force to look into housing conditions and make recommendations. Members of the committee were George Holman of Ocean County, Elizabeth White in Burlington County, and Andrew Rider in Atlantic County. Thus, all of the cranberry growing areas were represented and the varying conditions in each were taken into consideration. Elizabeth was the spokesperson for the group when they presented their recommendations at the 1915 meeting. These were relatively simple: single storied houses, good drinking water, and adequate sanitation. Some growers

were ready to make changes; some were not. Once again, Whitesbog exceeded the minimum standards. J. J. White was commended for providing a building that was used as a gathering place in the evenings and on rainy days. It was named Friendship Hall. Elizabeth continued to work for satisfactory housing. In 1930 she was appointed to the Farm and Village Housing Committee at President Hoover's Home Building and Home Ownership Conference. More specifically, she served on the Migrant Worker Housing Sub-committee. The committee worked for an entire year gathering data prior to the actual conference which was held December 3-5, 1931 in Washington D.C. At the end of the meeting Elizabeth helped draft the final report and recommendations.

Even as she advocated for better housing, Elizabeth White did not forget the National Child Labor's Committee concern that the children of migrant workers were being deprived of schooling. At this time in the 1930's there were about 600 families (4,000 persons) involved in migrant farming in New Jersey. Many of these were school-aged children. The picking season began in late spring with early berries like strawberries and ended in the fall with cranberries and winter vegetables. Children whose parents participated in crop picking often left school before the end of one scholastic year and returned about six weeks after the start of the next. Between 1908 and 1916, Whitesbog had a school that was part of the Pemberton School district. It served the families that lived at Whitesbog and in its immediate area. Migrant families' children were offered the opportunity to attend Whitesbog's school during the time that the cranberry harvest was going on. Some took advantage of the offer; many did not. In the late 1920's, Elizabeth White and Theodore Budd invited the Ladies of the Council of Women for Home Missions to come to their farms. The goal of this group was to show cranberry and blueberry growers what could be done to benefit their migrant families. This time the emphasis was on the pre-school set. Children were not only cared for while parents picked, they were also taught hygiene and table manners and how to care for their space. They were frequently taken on "field trips" to learn about nature. Elizabeth was much in favor of this type of education for all types of migrant work and children of all ages. She suggested environmental education as an appropriate methodology. Those involved in picking could learn about the crops they picked, the soil and water requirements, and so on. Elizabeth did not rely only on her own ideas. She

(continued on page 7)

Elect Elizabeth White to the New Jersey Hall of Fame



Elizabeth Coleman White

Cranberry grower, blueberry domesticator,
conservation gardener and native-plant nurserywoman,
holly grower and propagator,
child welfare advocate, migrant labor advocate, lecturer

Elizabeth White is nominated, and now she needs your vote, to be elected to the New Jersey Hall of Fame. During the fall of each year the public is offered an opportunity to vote for candidates they would like to see inducted into the Hall of Fame. The list of nominees was posted in early October, and encompasses 30 individuals across five categories: Historical, Enterprise, Arts & Entertainment, Sports, and General. Voting is now open, and continues through the fall of 2011 for nominees. Following a certification of the public vote, the New Jersey Hall of Fame inducts the top vote getter in each category, as well as one or two top vote getters the board may deem as deserving.

Vote NOW online through the Hall of Fame website at www.NJHallofFame.org. Spread the word.

Encourage your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to vote too! Elect Elizabeth C. White!

Partners

Robert H. Aaronson III

BenefactorsNora E. J. Hayes
Anonymous**Sponsors**Lou & Gail Harris
Joseph V. McKee
Stephanie Schrader
Renee & Bob Williams**Patrons**Theresa L. Anderson
John & Debbie Aniano
Patricia and Raymond Blinn
Edward & Leah Boise
Thomas Bresselman Jr.
John Caccese
Jan B. Conover
Frank & Deborah Cripps
Karen A. Cutler
John and Eileen Dobol
Mark & Jean Ehlenfeldt
Sharon & Richard Goodman
Alan R. Grover
Maryann Hajduk
Shan & Theresa Jacks
John & Nancy Joyce
Dianne Kelly
Bernie & Doreen Knaupp
Donna & Joe McBride
Kenneth & Helene Mitchell
Dave Orleans
Susan B. Phillips
William G. Presho
Richard Prickett
Albertine Senske
Jeanne L. Streiter
Mark & Mary Szutarski
Barbara Westergaard
Thomas & Terry Zane**Supporters**Ruth Adrian
Ray & Sharon Amato
Candace M. Ashmun
Philip H. Bobrove
John Bornholdt
Thel Brown
Abigail Hunter Burr
Ann Cavanaugh
Lakeside Gardeners of Cedar
Glen Lakes
Virginia E. Charles
Veronica Connell
Perdita Connolly
Janet DeMauro
Armon Diedrich
Juliette K. Elmore
Claire G. Engle
Robert & Janet Fisher-Hughes
Henrietta C. Forcanser
Stan Gladkowski
Robert Glynn
Gene Goundrey
Jonathan & Laurie Green
Joan Harden
Deborah J. Hartshorn
LaVonne A. Heydel
William & Ruth Hyers
Guy Johnson
Milton Kennedy
Judith Krall-Russo
Charles Laughery
Will & Mary Leland
Jay Levenson
Margaret M. Mayer
George E. & Theresa Morris
Paula J. Newcomer
Virginia Olsen
Maj. Jerome S. Renner (Ret)
Barbara A. Rich**Estelle Rife**Janet S. Robbins
S. Coles Roberts
Leon M. Rosenson
Jennifer & Michael Rubeo
Nancy Haines Ryan
Lorraine Sadowski
Paul W. Schopp
Clyde Snyder
Margaret Spallone
Robert H. Staples
Joanne M. Wagner
Guy & Karen Webster
Patricia A. Totten**Family Memberships**Chris A. Adams
Joy Adams
Bradley & Deborah Antanaitis
June and Jim Auch
Bruce Bauer
David & Jean Binns
Carol Bishop
Charles E. Bohus
Steve Bohus
Ina Cabanas
Arleen & Stephen Carlson
Marge & Jack Catterall
Terri Chiddenton
Robert F. Dahl & Barbara A.
Fordyce
Marsha & Joel Dowshen
Stephen Edgerton
Mr. & Mrs. Evald R. Eskilson
Carl & Marie Ford
Baird & Margo Foster
Ellie & Bill Greco
Barry & Deborah Grove
Gwen Guglielmi & Thomas Vogt
Daniel & Dawn Hullings
Mike Hunninghake
& Margaret O'Gorman
Bernice F. Jacob**Gail & Pieter Kreyns**T. Bruce & Pamela Launhardt
Matthew & Rita Lukas
George, Jean & Jeff Martin
Andrew Marvel
Robert J. McNeil & Maria Mosca
Roger & Barbara Miller
Gayle Miner
John & Janet Nallinger
Linda & Albert Palendrano
Joe & Donna Pilato
Lynn Pitts & Joe Smith
Joan G. Poole & Randy Haviland
Lucindia Rodgers
Elizabeth Ruga & Phyllis Long
J. Frederick & Alice Swan
Bonnie Tillery & Joseph Leist
Susan & Norris Williams
Edwin G. Wurzburg
& Deborah Haggett**Individual Members**Yonnie Abel
Rutgers University Alexander Library -
SPCOL
Mrs. Harry Allaire
Kenneth Arnol
Liza Berdnik
Daniel Berger
Dr. Walter F. Bien
Michael Borovicka
Patricia M. Browne MD
Robert J. Chervy
Alice W. Eilers
Alice Elliott
Mark Emery
Caroline M. Evangelista
Janet S. Felt
Rosaline T. Fleming
Michelle Forman
Carol R. Frascella
Patricia Fusco
Grace Gambino**Beth Gensel**Patricia Gordon
Ted Gordon
Robert Gould
Thomas Haines
Isaiah (Bud) Haines
Joan A. Hansen
Elizabeth Hill
Rosemarie Hill
Edith Hindermann
Janet Horton
Russ Hubschman
Phyllis Kelty
Rick Kemp
Bill King
Esther Kubiczky
Anthony Kuhn
Candace Lillie
Marcy Jo Lippincott
Samuel E. Lippincott D.M.D.
Jeffrey Macechak
Glenn Malsbury
Peggy Marter
Ken Mayberg
Susan McChesney
Jim Minick
Barbara Mirsky
Millicent Moore
Nicholas W. Morgan
Joseph Moritko
Nancy S. Morrow
Miriam Moss
Stanley Nazimek
Juta Nolan
Terry O'Leary
Henry Papit
Gary Patterson
Betsy Piner
Jolene Pippin
Kelly Powers
Letitia O. Principato
Caroline Radice
Edward J. Richter
Elaine Ruocco
Frank Ryan, Jr.
Eleanor Scheiddeg
Betsy J. Schnorr
Astrid Shapiro
Carol M. Sheaffer
Mary Ann Sittler
Barbara L. Smatusek
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen T. Smith
Dorothy R. Smith
Barbara Sprowl
Alma Staehle
J. Arthur Steitz M.D.
Roland P. Stratton M.D.
Alice Surico
Mary Joan Sweeney
Kimberly Thomas
Ed Tornquist
Alice Troester
Clare & Tim Wadsworth
Clarke M. Walker
Leonora C. Welsher
Anita Wergin
Ellen Weymer-Carter
Daniel Williams**Gifts & Memberships in-Kind****Bart Amato**
Joe Darlington
Heinz & Margaret Knaupp
Christine Lipsack
Len Little
Donna Montuoro
Richard Rolle
Jessica Shilling
Ellen Terry
Steve Young**Corporate Contributions**
Exxon-Mobil Foundation
Verizon Foundation

Whitesbog Preservation Trust

Membership 2011

Thank You!



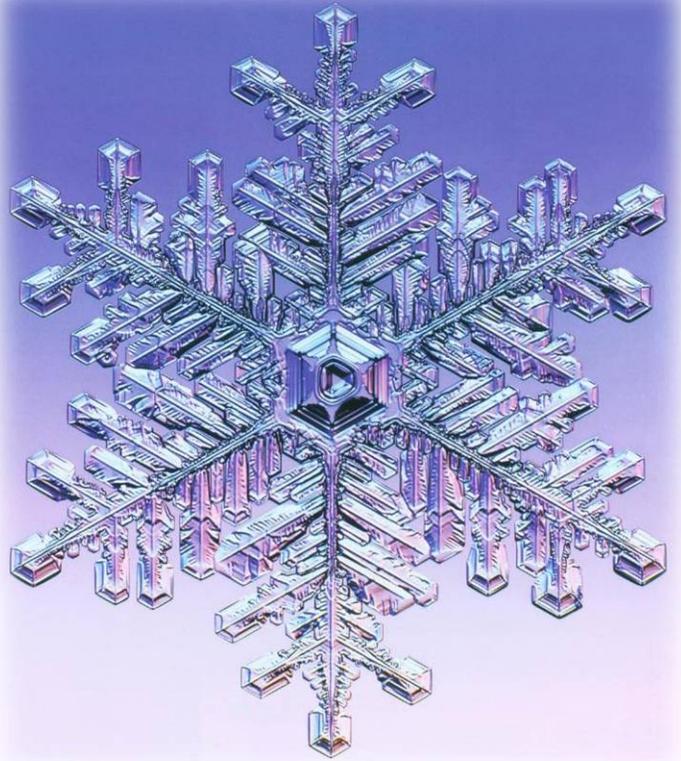
First Findings of our Audience Research Study

In 2011, The Whitesbog Preservation Trust was pleased to receive a grant from the **New Jersey Cultural Trust/Department of State** to redesign our website and conduct an Audience Research Study with the assistance of Heritage Consulting, Inc. While our new interactive website is still under construction, the Audience Research Study has just concluded with some interesting outcomes.

Key findings of this study revealed important information about Whitesbog's visitors:

- Visitors look to the internet first for information, but also rely heavily on word of mouth for information about the historic and natural sites they plan to visit.
- Motivated to learn and enrich their understanding, visitors primarily visit Whitesbog to pursue information. Educational programming and interpretation is crucial to meet this need.
- Historic preservation, cultural heritage, and blueberries are the top interests for visitors.
- There are two visitor groups at Whitesbog, those that enjoy guided tours and structured programming, and those that like to discover at their own pace with self-guided experiences. Whitesbog must accommodate both types of visitor groups and provide self-guided brochures and resources for those that visit outside of regular hours, and structured programs for those who come during normal daytime hours.
- Visitors gave Whitesbog high marks for their visitor experience, and learned about the three core areas of Whitesbog's mission statement.
- Visits to Whitesbog were very valuable for respondents, and many shared the personal impacts of their visit. Many were motivated to get involved in activities and efforts in historic preservation, cultural heritage, and the environment as a result of their visit.

There are many exciting prospects contained in this study and Whitesbog has a valuable opportunity to incorporate these findings to better meet the needs of its current members and future visitors. Please call us if you would like to review a copy of the full study. ■



Dear Members of the Whitesbog,

As you know, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust needs a great many resources to keep it afloat and moving forward each year. The most important of these resources continues to be the Trust's membership. Your active participation provides energy and direction to the organization and demonstrates that historic Whitesbog Village is important to the community and worthy of protection.

While our membership fees help to support grant proposals with critical matching funds and enable the Trust to implement new projects, programming, and restoration activities, your donation to the Trust is much more than a financial contribution to Whitesbog. It's a way to support New Jersey's rich historical community and our State Park system, while insuring the preservation of this important historic landmark – a sanctuary whose visitors come to be part of the scenery, the sounds, and the peacefulness of Pine Barrens.

As Membership Chairperson, I want to sincerely thank you for your ongoing support and urge you to renew your membership for 2012.

*- Stephanie Schrader –
Membership Committee Chair
Vice President, Board of Trustee*

WHITESBOG EVENT SCHEDULE

For more information call (609) 893-4646, e-mail us at WhitesbogPreservationTrust@comcast.net or visit us on the web at www.whitesbog.org.

November

- 5 Volunteer Workday** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Have fun with friends, working in the gardens, repairing trails, restocking the General Store and working around the Village. Lunch provided.
- 5 Whitesbog Village Tour** 1 p.m.
Stroll the Historic Village, learn about Whitesbog's history, and visit Suningive, Elizabeth White's historic home, the worker's cottages and other buildings of Whitesbog's heritage. \$5 donation/person, reservations requested.
- 6 Quarterly Lecture Series** 1 p.m.
"Blueberries – From Picking to Packing: Some Tools of the Trade from the Past", presenter: Millie Moore. \$5 members, \$7 non-members, by reservation.
- 12 Moonlight Walk** 7 p.m.
Beaver Moon. Listen to the night sounds of the Pines, learn about Whitesbog and experience the seasonal changes of the Pinelands. Walks are 3 to 5 miles long, and led by experienced leaders. \$5 donation/person, reservations requested.

December

- 3 Volunteer Workday** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(See November 5).
- 3 Whitesbog Village Tour** 1 p.m.
\$5 donation/person. (See November 5).
- 10 Gen. Store Open House** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 10 Whitesbog's Winter Celebration** 1 p.m.
\$5 members, \$7 non-members, by reservation.
Just for children, their parents & grandparents - Nature walk and candy-cane find with Santa's helper, holiday arts & crafts and a special photograph with Santa.
- 10 Moonlight Walk** 7 p.m.
Snow Moon. \$5 donation/person, reservations requested. (See November 12 listing for details).
- 17 Whitesbog Holiday Party** 4:30 p.m.
Members only, reservations requested. Celebrate the season and tour the Village homes.
- 18 Tundra Swan Tour** 1 p.m.
\$10 donation/person, **reservations required**.
Get a closer look at these magnificent Arctic birds that winter in the Pinelands. Depending on conditions, the program will either be a walking tour or car caravan. Please call to confirm that the birds have arrived and for tour times. Don't forget your binoculars and cameras!
- 21 General Store Closes** 4 p.m.
Open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (Dec 19-21) for your last minute shopping needs.

January

- 7 Volunteer Workday** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 7 Whitesbog Village Tour** 1 p.m.
\$5 donation/person
- 7 General Store Open for a Day** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 7 Moonlight Walk** 7 p.m.
Wolf Moon, weather & conditions permitting. \$5 donation/person, **reservations requested**.
(See November 12 listing for details).
- 14 Tundra Swan Tour** TBA
\$10 donation/person, **reservations required**.
Same as December 18, weather permitting.

February

- 4 General Store Re-Opens** 10 a.m.



2011 Board of Trustees Meetings

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (except as noted)
Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 16
Holiday Party, Dec. 17, 4:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Richard Prickett, President
Stephanie Schrader, Vice-president
John Joyce, 2nd Vice-president
Mark Ehlenfeldt, Treasurer
Christine Lipsack, Secretary
Ted Gordon Bart Amato
Joseph Darlington Diane Kelly
Jeffery Macechak Paul Dietrick

Staff

Susan B. Phillips, Executive Director
Jennifer Rubeo, Bookkeeper/Assistant

Newsletter

Mark Ehlenfeldt & Susan Phillips – Editors

Committees – 2011

Buildings & Restoration – vacant

Finance – Mark Ehlenfeldt

Fund Development – Susan Phillips

General Store – Steve Young

Marketing & Public Relations – Mark Ehlenfeldt

Interpretative Education & Archives – Ted Gordon

Landscape and Garden – Mark Szutarski

Membership & Nominating – Stephanie Schrader

Personnel – Rick Prickett

Events – vacant

If you are interested in attending the meeting of any Committee, please call the Trust office for the scheduled meeting time.

The Mission of the Trust is to restore, protect and enhance the land, historic sites, and structures at Whitesbog, and to provide educational materials and interpretive programs that engage visitors in the history, culture, and natural environment of Whitesbog.

(Beyond Blueberries & Cranberries, from page 2)
networked with others interested in education whenever she could. While attending the Hoover Housing Conference, she appears to have sought out delegates connected to education. Her program from the event shows the name of two women and the schools with which they were associated penciled on the title page. Since neither attended the conference, one has to assume that one of the other attendees thought Elizabeth would benefit from contacting them. Around the same time, Miss White attended a migrant education conference sponsored by the Maryland Conference of the League of Women Voters. The official invitees were the NCLC and the heads of Departments of Labor and Education -- all professionals in the field. And then there were the "conference crashers," women like Elizabeth White who were interested in education and agriculture. ■

Not all of Elizabeth White's efforts were directed toward the betterment of the migrant workers' situation. She expended just as much energy on the local scene as we will see in the continuation of this article in the next Newsletter.

Sources

Whitesbog Preservation Trust Archives.

Proceedings of the New Jersey Conference of Charities and Correction, Vol. 10, 1911.

The Housing of Rural Migratory Labor. Report from President Hoover's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership; Washington, D.C., 1931.

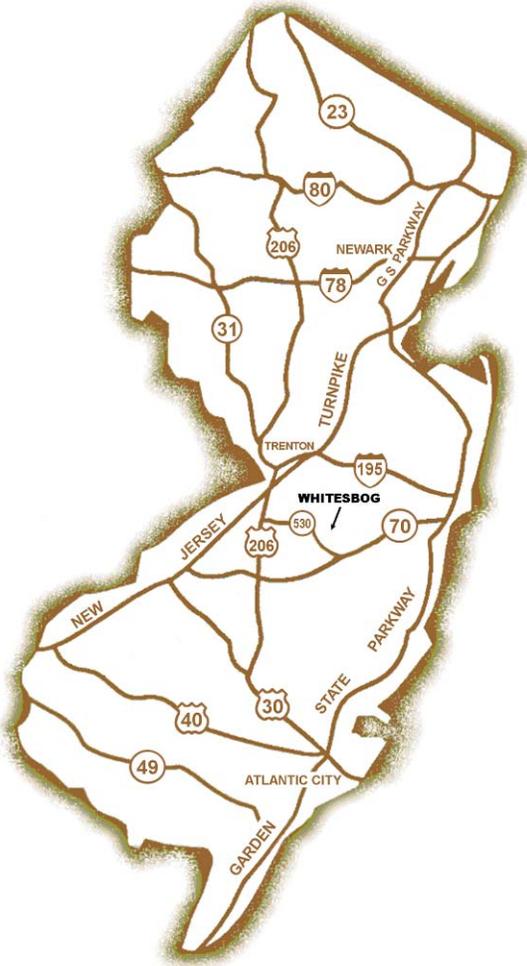
Migrants in Cranberries in New Jersey. Dorothea Raymond, Council of Women for Home Missions, New York, N.Y. 1930.

Operating Support Awarded from the



The Whitesbog Preservation Trust is pleased to have been awarded a General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, for fiscal year 2011 and again, for the upcoming year of 2012. The Commission's general operating support grants assist organizations that preserve, promote or provide programs that advance the public knowledge of New Jersey's rich historical heritage.

In 2011, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust also received a special project/operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission (a division of the Department of State) in support of the Whitesbog Archival Collection's Cataloging Program. ■



Driving Directions:

From NJ Turnpike

Take Exit 7 to Rt. 206 South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530. (Landmarks - Vincentown Diner and White Dotte)

Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13. (Landmarks – You will go through the towns of Pemberton & Browns Mills, passing Burlington County College on the right.)

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot on the left.

From PA Turnpike

Travel to NJ Turnpike North and follow above instructions.

From 206 South

Travel North to circle intersection with Rt. 70.

Travel East on Rt. 70 to Rt. 530. (Rt. 530 is between mile markers 33 & 34.)

Travel West on Rt. 530 for one mile to mile marker 13.

Turn right onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

From 206 North

Travel South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530.

Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

From Philadelphia

From Ben Franklin Bridge, take Rt. 38 East, crossing over Rt. 206 and onto Rt. 530 East.

Travel East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

The General Store is across from parking lot. Trust Offices are approximately 1/8 of a mile down the crossroad to the right (at Suningive).

