

Whitesbog Preservation Trust

NEWSLETTER

4th Quarter

www.whitesbog.org

2011

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

Beyond Cranberries and Blueberries

Elizabeth White – Education and Outreach

by Albertine Senske

Elizabeth White's interest in education stemmed from her own experience. All through her formative years, her family provided her with a variety of learning experiences. She attended the local school, was home-schooled for a time, was sent to Friends Central to complete high school, attended Drexel College extension classes, and was tutored by her grandfather, father, and others in all things horticultural. One has only to look at her accomplishments to know that she took advantage of, and nurtured, each of these. What she didn't learn formally, she discovered through reading. Elizabeth probably would never have met her collaborator in blueberry domestication, Dr. Coville, if she hadn't scoured the agricultural bulletins of the Department of Agriculture in search of knowledge.

Because she so treasured her own education, Elizabeth White wanted others to have the same opportunity. This was not an easy task in the locale in which she lived. In the early 1900s, rural education was not a priority for most state governments. In Elizabeth's time, New Jersey's appropriation of school funds was based on attendance. Schools in farming communities were often closed because of severe winter weather, spring planting, or fall harvesting, and thus suffered disproportionately with respect to funding. In 1915, L.L. Gratz, Superintendent of the Pemberton School District reported that during the 1911-12 school year, 5,000 student attendance days were lost. That winter had been especially snowy, and the road between the Coates school and



The first group picture of the Four Mile Colony taken in 1914. Among the employees are the Maccombers, the Kellys, and the Reeves. Mrs. Macomber holds Baby Dorothy.

Lemontown had been closed for five weeks. Without sufficient funding, it was impossible to hire good teachers or maintain proper school buildings. Elizabeth sought to be involved in local education. She ran for membership on the Pemberton School Board in both 1911 and 1913, but lost both times.

An important, but different, aspect of Elizabeth White's education were the lessons taught by her family of respect for others, and the obligation to be of service, to the best of one's ability, whenever and wherever it was needed. She followed their guidance and example in a meaningful way when she became involved in the Four Mile Colony.

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The Training School at Vineland had been established in 1887 to teach and care for mentally challenged individuals. By 1910, some of the boys who had originally attended Vineland were grown men and had learned all they could in that facility. Dr. Edward Johnstone decided to establish a small farm nearby for some of the men, to teach them to be more self-sufficient through agriculture and animal husbandry. He called it the Menantico Colony. The experiment worked well. In 1913, as more young boys matured into men, Dr. Johnstone felt it was time to replicate Menantico for the next group of Vineland graduates. This time he chose Burlington County as the location. The State of New Jersey had agreed to donate the land and a meager food allowance per boy, but the rest of the expense of the Colony would be the Vineland school's responsibility. A search began for a site in the Lebanon State Forest. Four Mile was chosen (*ed. The name Four Mile seems to derive from the fact that there was a four mile long branch of the Egg Harbor River through the area*). In the summer of 1913, Johnstone approached a few people to discuss his idea. A meeting took place in Pemberton at the home of Mrs. John C. Fremont that included Mrs. Fremont, Dr. Johnstone, Elizabeth, her father - J.J. White, and Mrs. Strawbridge-Brophy of Moorestown. This was the beginning of a major commitment for Elizabeth White. Later that fall she joined with many other Burlington County citizens who felt it was their duty to help provide a satisfying life for these men. They did it in the best way they knew how at the time, and among their initiatives, a committee was formed to help raise building funds.

The establishment of the Four Mile Colony was not without its difficulties. A disreputable woman who had been hired to serve as teacher was forced out of town. At the school, there was no heat, few books, totally inadequate toilet facilities, and only a rusted pail for drinking water. Sarah Macomber, the wife of Four Mile Colony manager, J. Frank Macomber, had stepped in to help provide some basic instruction. She contacted the local school board to request some improvements to the building, but was told that Four Mile School was as good as any other. Miss White became aware of the plight of the students through Mrs. Macomber, and helped start a group that became known as the Board of Lady Visitors, whose primary function was to assist Mrs. Macomber to provide clothing, personal items, and treats at holiday times.

Miss White was not satisfied with leaving things as they were. In the winter of 1915, she addressed the Daughters of the American Revolution at a meeting in Trenton. During the course of her speech she recounted the plight of the Mrs. Macomber and the Four Mile School. Elizabeth made two requests to her fellow DAR members. Of course, she asked them for monetary help to alleviate the immediate need. More importantly, she urged these women to help all rural

students in New Jersey by working to effect a change in the way in which the state distributed funds.

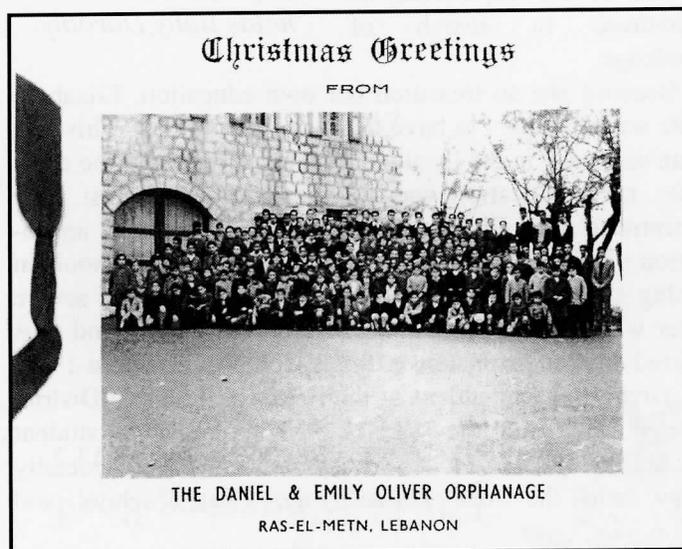
Students from Antioch College were brought in to teach at Four Mile Colony. Antioch's philosophy for training such teachers was to provide classroom instruction that was then reinforced through a type of internship. The result was that the instructors at Four Mile Colony changed every few months. This didn't work well for the Colony, where continuity was essential to the educational process. However, the concept of learning followed by practical experience must have appealed to Elizabeth, as she became a life-long supporter of the College.

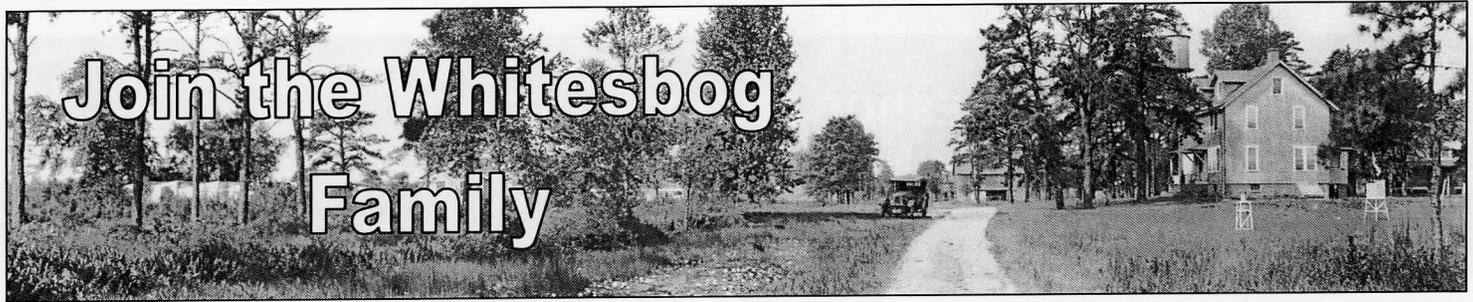
When the State took over the Four Mile Colony in 1916, the Board of Lady Visitors was dissolved and a Board of Managers was created. Elizabeth White was its first Secretary. She remained on the Board throughout her life, serving in an honorary capacity in later years.

We consider one final example of Elizabeth White's passion for education and outreach. As a result of the devastation following World War I, there were so very many orphans in Syria, that missionaries were sent from many places to provide care and schooling. Daniel and Emily Oliver were two such individuals from the Philadelphia area. They opened an orphanage in Ras-el-Metn, a section of Syria that later became part of Lebanon. It is not clear how Miss White became aware of their work, but it might have been through her Philadelphia contacts, since the Olivers were Quakers, and their foundation was headquartered in Philadelphia. What we do know is that she became one of their sponsors and remained so until the day she died. Poignantly, she never received their last thank you note and Christmas greeting. It was dated November 30, 1954. Elizabeth had gone to her reward on November 11. ■

Sources

- Devery, Elizabeth C. 1939. *The Story of Four Mile Colony: A Successful Demonstration of Human Conservation*. The Smith Printing House, Vineland, N.J., 120 p.
Whitesbog Preservation Trust Archives.





Dear Friends and Members of Whitesbog,

For nearly 30 years, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust has carried out its mission to restore, protect and operate Historic Whitesbog Village independent of New Jersey State Parks and Forestry funding. As the caretakers of the Village, the Trust and its members maintain an important gateway to the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, a classic turn-of-the-century company town, its archives and artifacts, as well as, a special place for artists, bird watchers, horseback riders, hikers, runners and history enthusiasts to come and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. Please join us in making Historic Whitesbog Village the best it can be for you and all who come to visit this Nationally Registered Historic Site.

Your membership is vital to the ongoing restoration and preservation of Historic Whitesbog Village and the interpretive programs offered by the Trust. On behalf of the Membership Committee, thank you for your past support; please help us to continue the Trust's mission in 2012.

Please support our efforts and renew your membership or become a new member today!

Levels and Benefits

Individual Membership includes: a membership card identifying your level of support, a decal for new members, acknowledgement in Whitesbog publications, special member rates for programs, lectures and tours, voting privileges at the annual meeting and invitations to members-only events.

Family membership includes: Individual benefits for one or two named adults and all children under 12.

Supporters receive: Family member benefits and one free moonlight walk.

Patrons receive: Family benefits and four free Moonlight Walks.

Sponsors receive: Family benefits, four free Moonlight Walks and a 5% discount on General Store purchases.

Benefactors receive: Family benefits, four free Moonlight Walks and a 10% discount on General Store purchases.

Partners receive: Family benefits, four free Moonlight Walks and a 20% discount on General Store purchases.

Join the Trust !

Membership Levels:

\$1,000 & up _____	Partner
\$ 500 _____	Benefactor
\$ 250 _____	Sponsor
\$ 100 _____	Patron
\$ 50 _____	Supporter
\$ 35 _____	Family
\$ 25 _____	Individual

Renewal: New Membership:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Please contact me. I am interested in volunteer opportunities at Historic Whitesbog Village.

Please complete and return with your membership check to the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, 120-34 Whitesbog Road, Browns Mills, NJ 08015. Make check payable to Whitesbog Preservation Trust. Memberships are valid from September 1st to August 31st of any given year.

Whitesbog Preservation Trust is a non-profit, tax exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you for joining the Whitesbog Preservation Trust.

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.

January

21 Tundra Swan Tour 10 a.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. If swans are not in view, the guides will focus on other fascinating winter birds. Bring binoculars and cameras.

February

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

Whitesbog General Store is open for another season, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 4 PM and by special request.

4 WPT 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.

4 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.

4 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Snow 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 per person, reservations requested.

18 Tundra Swan Tour 10 a.m.

\$10 donation/person, **reservations required.**

Same as above

March

3 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(See February 4).

3 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 4).

10 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Worm Moon. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested. (See February 4 listing for details).

11 The 6th Annual Lines in the Pines 1 - 4 p.m.

Frog Rock Golf & Country Club, Hammonton, NJ. Free admission from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit Whitesbog's General Store on-the-road & Pinelands' exhibitors.

24 The Annual Pinelands Short Course

Sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County Community College. New this year: Enjoy a Living History Tour of Whitesbog!

Register at: www.nj.gov/pinelands/about/events

April

7 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(See February 4).

7 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 4).

7 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Fish Moon. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested. (See February 4 listing for details).

22 Emerging Plants Nature Walk 10 a.m.

\$5 donation/person, **reservations requested**

Explore Suningive's gardens, the nearby bogs and surrounding Pineland areas with botanist, Mark Szutarski to discover and identify native plants as they begin their springtime display.

29 Annual WPT Membership Meeting 12 Noon

29 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

April is National Volunteer Recognition Month

May

5 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(See February 4).

5 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 4).

5 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Flower Moon. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested. (See February 4 listing for details).

6 Quarterly Lecture Series 1 p.m.

\$5 members, \$7 non-members, *by reservation*. "Lure of the Pines", presenter: Ted Gordon.

12 N.J. State History Fair 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

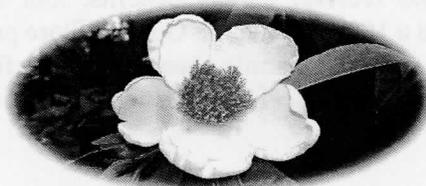
Visit Whitesbog at this year's history making event – at Washington's Crossing State Park.

19 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 4).

20 Suningive's Gardens 10 a.m.

\$5 donation per person, reservations requested. Experience Suningive's gardens in bloom with Mark Szutarski. Learn about Elizabeth White's unique plant collection and efforts to preserve her gardens, pond and the surrounding pinelands landscape.



2012 Board of Trustees Meetings

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (except as noted)

Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 28 April 25, May 23, July 25, Sept. 26, Oct. 24

Annual Membership Meeting, April 24, 10:00 a.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 – 2012

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

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.

From the President

Dear Friends,

This year, Whitesbog Preservation Trust marks their 30th year of keeping the spirit of Whitesbog Village alive and well. Through the Blueberry Festival, Quarterly Lectures, Village Tours, the General Store, Moonlight Walks and the Newsletter, families have been able to enjoy the historical and natural resources found so abundantly amongst the vast cranberry bogs and fields of blueberries found at Whitesbog.

Over the last three decades so many wonderful people have volunteered countless hours of their time to assure that buildings were preserved, vistas were maintained and new generations of people were introduced to the ways of this marvelous Pineland's Village.

During this time the members of the Trust have done so much to protect and promote Whitesbog for the public's benefit, and we have a lot more to accomplish.

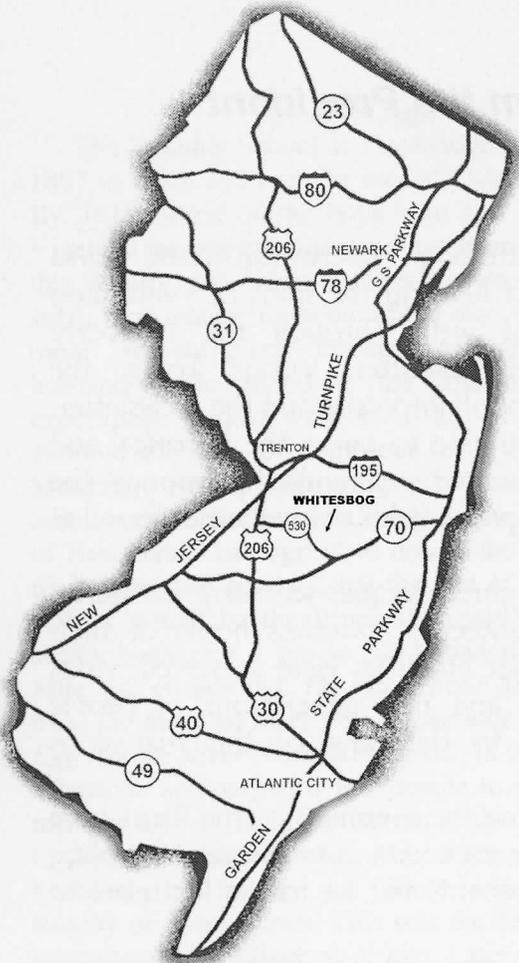
This year, for the Trust's 30th Anniversary, members are planning to celebrate our successes as well as showcase our vision for the future of Whitesbog Village during several events that are currently being planned. Please stay tuned to the newsletter, website and by visiting Whitesbog Village to learn more. Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Happy New Year,
Rick Prickett

Operating Support from the

NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, for fiscal year 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. The Trust has also received funding from the NJ Cultural Trust for audience research and website development. ■



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

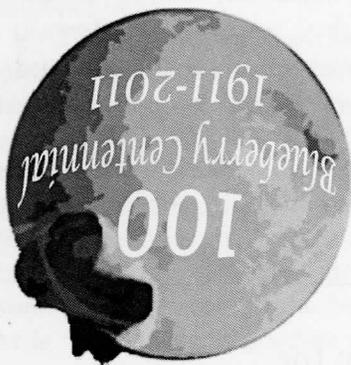
Travel South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530.
 Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.
 Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

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).

Visit our website: WWW.WHITESBOG.ORG or call: 609.893.4646



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