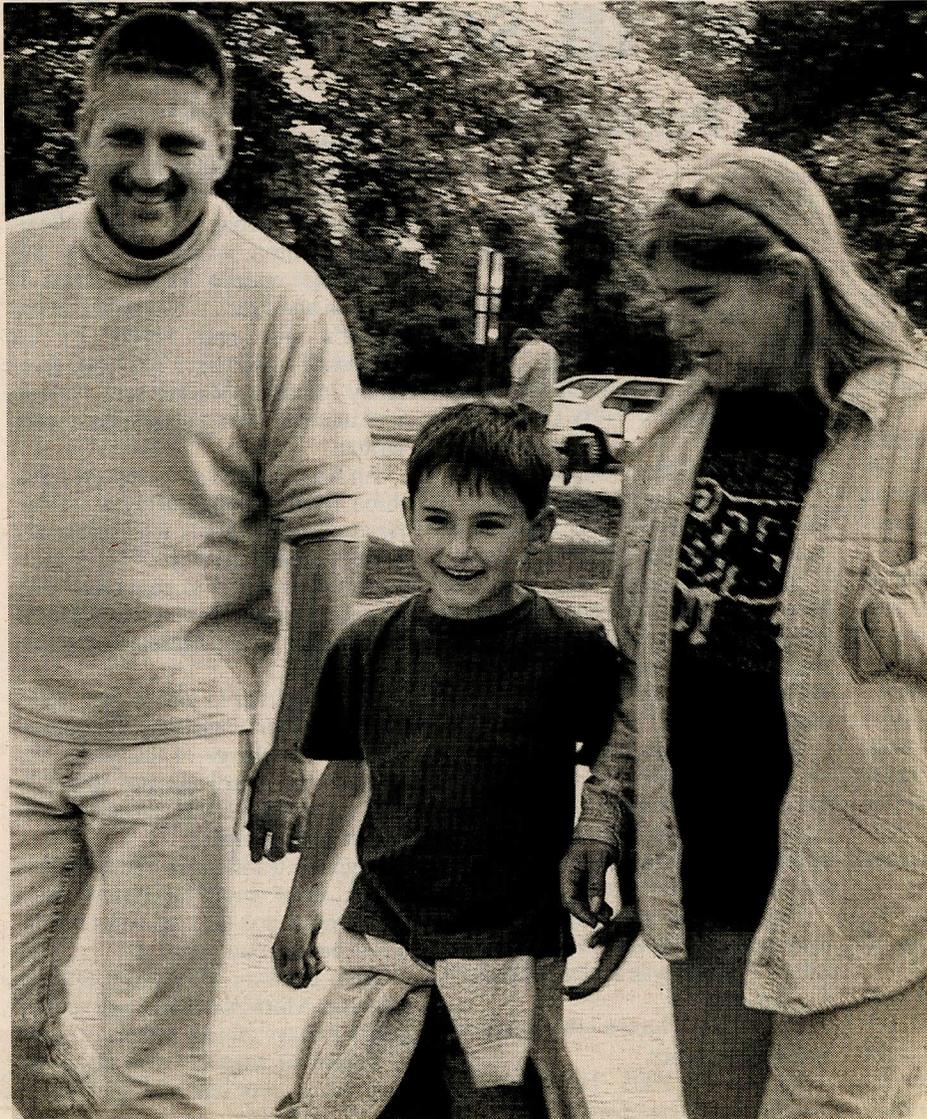


LOCAL NEWS

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June 15, 2006

Community News



DORANN WEBER

Ernie Yeager, Alex Forman and Sandra Forman started out for a five-mile walk with Whitesbog Village Saturday.

WALKING THE WALK

Whitesbog takes visitors under 'Strawberry Moon'

By **DORANN
WEBER**

Correspondent

Nature's music — a symphony of cricket, frog and bird noises — provided a backdrop against an environment filled with the scent of flowers and woodsy scenery Saturday, as the Whitesbog Preservation Trust held its monthly Moonlight Walk.

Under each month's full moon — with the exception of that in December — the trust takes participants for strolls among its bogs' paths. This month, it celebrated the "Strawberry Moon," noting the time of year when strawberries are harvested.

The walks vary in length, ranging anywhere from 3 to 8 miles, depending on the group that's arrives for a given stroll. Sometimes, if some group members are up for longer

walks than others, they'll branch off.

The walks have continued for about 20 years, Whitesbog officials said.

Beth Gensel, a volunteer with Whitesbog Preservation Trust, aims to gauge participants' interests.

"We're trying to update it and find out what people are interested in, whether they are interested in history, nature or exercise," he said. "I'm getting the impression that most people come for the exercise and the nature. We have nice roads and it is pretty out here.

Whitesbog has many lakes, trails, bogs and wildlife to see.

Clark Walker, another volunteer at Whitesbog Preservation Trust, has been involved with the moonlight walks for three years. Each month, and each season, brings a different variety of sounds,

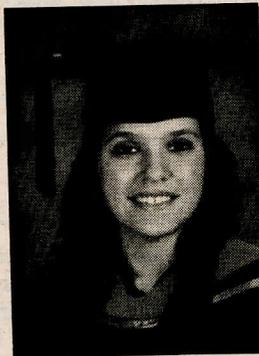
and scenery, he said.

"Even in the middle of winter, there will be a little snow on the ground; everything is frozen. They fill up the cranberry bogs with water so the plants don't get to badly damaged. So there will be a lot of ice during the winter months," he said. "Also, in the winter months you will see Tundra swans out there. In the spring we have the frogs out. This month there are peeper frogs. They are about the size of a thumbnail. We will also often see a snapping turtle crossing the road. There is always some sort of wildlife."

Each month brings many new participants to the walk, and as well as repeat visitors. On average, about 20 participants take part. That number sometimes rises as high as 40.

Officials said the turnout largely depends on the weather. Children are welcome to participate as well.

For more information on Whitesbog's various programs, call 609-893-4646 or visit the organization's Web site at www.whitesbog.org.



Toni Alicia End, from Browns Mills, NJ, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ on May 19th. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and she was awarded First Honors in Biology. She plans to pursue her Master's degree at Rutgers University.

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