

WHITESBOG PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1997

They're Back... The Arctic Tundra Swans Visit Whitesbog Cranberry Bogs...

According to Martha Windisch, Naturalist for the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, "no where else in New Jersey can you observe Tundra Swans at such close range than at historic Whitesbog Village. The visitor can view these magnificent swans from their own car just by following the old bog roads leading out of the Village Common."

The swans at Whitesbog prefer the abandoned flooded cranberry bogs and reservoirs in the center of what used to be the J.J. White cranberry farm. In March, over 500 swans can be seen wintering on the bogs. These swans have been featured in an article in the New York Times and highlighted on "Discover New Jersey," produced by New Jersey Network.

The Tundra swans that winter at Whitesbog are America's most common native swan. These white magnificent birds have a 6 to 7 foot wing span and their mellow and high pitched voices can be heard long before the ribbon-like flock can be seen. Each year around November, the swans begin to arrive at Whitesbog. Their peak abundance periods are mid-December and mid-February through March.

The Tundra Swans that visit the Pine Barrens during the winter particularly enjoy eating the tubers of a plant called Red Root. Red Root is a weed that competes with the cranberry vines for nutrients and can be found in both the active and inactive cranberry bogs.

Join the Trust on February 8, 1997 for guided tours of these majestic birds. One tour leaves at 10am and one tour leaves at Noon. Fee is \$4 per person, \$9 per family, FREE to Trust members.

1997 Winter Calendar of Events

January

Winter Wonderland Hike*
Sunday, 1/19/97 - 3PM

Full Moon Hike*
Saturday, 1/25/97 - 7PM

February

Whistling Swan Tours*
Saturday, 2/8/97
10AM and 12Noon

Full Moon Hike*
Saturday, 2/22/97 - 7PM

March

"Elizabeth C. White" A "Woman in History"
Presentation
Sunday, 3/9/97 - 3PM

St. Patty's Signs of Spring Green Walk*
Sunday, 3/16/97 - 3PM

Full Moon Hike*
Saturday, 3/22/97 - 7PM

* These tours are made possible through a grant from the William Penn Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

To register for guided tours, call the Trust office at 609-893-4646. Tours are \$4/person, \$9/family, FREE to Trust members.

Whitesbog Goes to Town

The Trust participated in the Pemberton Township 150th Anniversary Celebration on November 2, 1996. Whitesbog artifacts and memorabilia were on display with many other impressive exhibits depicting the colorful and significant history of Pemberton Township.

The history museum was one of many featured attractions during the day-long celebration that included lots of food, fun and fireworks.

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

A Message from the President...

John Nardone became President of the Trust in April 1996. Mr. Nardone joined the Board as Treasurer in 1994. A resident of Mt. Holly, John's link to Whitesbog goes way back. John's father worked at Whitesbog picking cranberries for the J.J. White company. Prior to becoming Treasurer, John was an active volunteer with the Trust for several years.

Hello and welcome to Whitesbog. Our periodic newsletter is a way for us to provide you with interesting facts and information about Whitesbog's natural environment and history. The newsletter is also a vehicle by which we can update you on the progress of the Trust's work in our continuing effort to preserve Whitesbog for future generations.

As many of you already know, Whitesbog is a very special place. It provides visitors with an abundance of educational and interpretive opportunities about the history, culture and natural environment of the New Jersey Pinelands. Now entering our 15th year of operation, there is visible evidence that the Trust's years of hard work are paying off. If you have been out recently, you have noticed lots of changes. The Barrel Factory and Workers Cottages are being stabilized. We have a kiosk. There are more residential houses occupied than ever before.

A record number of visitors have enjoyed the Trust's educational seasonal series, interpretive tours and special events in 1996. Public interest in Whitesbog is spreading well beyond the boundaries of the site. Trust representatives have been invited to many senior communities, organizations, and special interest groups to lecture about Whitesbog.

If you are not currently a member of the Trust, I hope you will take this opportunity to join. If you need a reason, come out to one of our events. You will see for yourself how beautiful Whitesbog is, how much has been accomplished, and how important a resource this site is to our community.

John Nardone
President

Whitesbog Village Comes Back to Life.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust will be launching an oral history project on life in Whitesbog Village from 1930 to 1950. The video presentation, "Whitesbog Village: An American Company Town," will provide first hand accounts of life in an authentic American company town.

The project is made possible through a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The video is scheduled for release in the spring of 1998. We are interested in talking to anyone who lived in the Village between 1930 and 1950. If you qualify, call the Trust office at (609)893-4646.

Elizabeth C. White Garden Restoration Receives National Grant Award.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust was selected from 2,000 children's gardening programs nationwide to receive a 1997 Youth Garden Grant from the National Gardening Association, based in Burlington, Vermont, to restore Elizabeth C. White's historic garden in Whitesbog Village. The Trust will receive more than \$700 worth of tools, seeds and useful garden products contributed by Ames Lawn & Garden Tools and 27 leading companies in the lawn and garden industry who recognize that children today are the gardeners of the next century.

"National Gardening is proud to support this terrific children's gardening program," says David Young, Director of the Youth Garden Grants Program. "The Whitesbog Preservation Trust was selected based upon a number of criteria including strong leadership, community service, quality educational features, and their dedication to preparing America's youth to appreciate and understand our natural environment through gardening." The youth groups that have been participating in the restoration of Elizabeth C. White's historic garden include Burlington County Special Services School District, "Learn and Serve Program", Boy Scout Troop 145, and the Bancroft School. Any youth group interested in participating in this project should contact the Trust office at (609)893-4646.

How Much Do You Know About Whitesbog's History?

In the early 1900's, Whitesbog was the largest cranberry farm in New Jersey. The founder of Whitesbog, J.J. White, was a nationally recognized leader in the cranberry industry with a published book called, Cranberry Culture, that was considered the "hand-book" on cranberry cultivation at the time.

J.J. White also worked for a period of time for the H.B. Smith Company of Smithville, Burlington County. This experience came in handy for Mr. White, who held several U.S. patents for inventing equipment used at the time for cranberry harvesting and processing.

In 1916, Elizabeth C. White, J.J. White's oldest daughter, and Dr. Frederick Coville of the U.S. Department of Agriculture developed the first cultivated blueberry at Whitesbog. This was the start of a major industry both in the New Jersey Pinelands and throughout the Country.

During the height of operations at Whitesbog, a work-force of 600 Italian immigrants was employed to pick the cranberries during harvest time. These workers were recruited from neighborhoods of south Philadelphia. They lived on the bogs during harvest season in two satellite villages called Rome and Florence.

Preservation Up-Date

In 1991, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust developed a "Master Plan" for the redevelopment and reuse of Whitesbog. Since then, the Trust has been working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Parks and Forestry in a unique public/private collaboration. Together, the Trust and the DEP, Division of Parks and Forestry have been able to establish programs and projects at Whitesbog that will preserve it for future generations. Accomplishments to date include:

Restoration Projects. Water tower and water system, Barrel Storage House, Field Office, Boarding House, Suningive (Elizabeth C. White House), Entomologist House (Darlington House), Superintendent's House, Two Story Cottage and the Nature Trail.

Building Stabilization Projects. Barrel Factory and Workers Cottages.

Education and Interpretive Programs. Seasonal Series - regularly scheduled selection of tours on the culture, history and natural environment of Whitesbog. **Lecture Program** - representatives of the Trust provide presentations to groups, organizations and senior communities throughout the state.

Annual Special Events: Blueberry Festival, Cranberry Harvest Tours, Halloween Evening in the Pines, Pickerel Catch, Holiday Candlelight Tour.

Upcoming projects planned for 1997 include the restoration of Elizabeth C. White's garden, an oral history video on life in Whitesbog Village from 1930 to 1950. The publication of several interpretive guides on the natural environment of Whitesbog including, a Nature Trail Guide, Trees of Whitesbog, a Driving Tour Guide and Human Influences at Whitesbog will compliment the educational and interpretive tours. Building restoration projects scheduled for completion in 1997 include the School House and the Old General Store.

Thank you to all of the members of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust for your generous support over the years. We could not have achieved so much without you.

And Now... A Word for Our Sponsors...

Thank you to the following Foundations, Corporations and individuals who have made it possible for the Trust to continue the restoration of Whitesbog Village with funding, or in-kind contributions.

A.R. Demarco Enterprises, Inc.
Barren & Gillespie
Burlington County College
Deborah Heart and Lung Center
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
NJ Division of Parks and Forestry
Garden State Cable TV
Janet Robbins
Lebanon State Forest
Michael M. Kay, DDS
Michael Nastuk Graphic & Fine Arts Illustration
Ocean Spray
Pemberton Township Board of Education
Peter R. Kellogg
Pine Island Cranberry Company
Township of Pemberton, New Jersey
WBZC 88.9 FM Pemberton
William Penn Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

Three Cheers for Volunteers!!

The Trust has a great group of volunteers. We would like to acknowledge and thank all of our volunteers whose efforts are invaluable. Special thanks are due to the two volunteers listed below:

Janet Robbins

The Trust could not survive without her. She organizes all of the Trust's special events. Her loyalty to Whitesbog is unwavering. Recently, Janet was appointed Treasurer to the Trust's Board of Trustees. Janet is also the recipient of the Trust's first "Volunteer of the Year" award. The presentation took place at the Trust's membership reception preceding the December 1996 Holiday Candlelight Tour. Thank you Janet.

Danielle Kearns

This newsletter comes to you courtesy of the many hours of time Danielle spends updating our data base. Danielle is a regular volunteer at all of our special events and provides invaluable assistance to Janet Robbins with pre-event preparations. Danielle is a student of Burlington County College majoring in Environmental Education. Thank you Danielle.

WHITESBOG PRESERVATION TRUST
120-24A Whitesbog Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015

Become a Member of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Inc.

If you enjoyed this complimentary issue of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust Newsletter, you can continue to receive it by becoming a member of Trust. Other benefits of membership include: free admission to selected educational and interpretive tours, and advance mailings of announcements on up-coming special events such as Halloween Evening in the Pines. Starting in 1997, only Trust members will automatically receive a 1997 Spring/Summer Calendar of Events by mail. Non-members who wish to get a calendar of events must request one from the Trust by calling the office at (609) 893-4646 or pick one up at the Village kiosk. Our Spring & Summer Calendar of Events will be available at the end of March 1997.

Most importantly, membership in the Trust gives you the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a very important effort to preserve the history, culture and natural environment of Whitesbog.

For more information about the Whitesbog Preservation Trust and the work we are doing at Whitesbog, contact us at (609) 893-4646.

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Become a Member of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Inc.

1997 MEMBERSHIP FORM

You can help the Trust continue to provide opportunities for people to enjoy Whitesbog and preserve it for future generations. Your contribution helps cover the cost of managing the site, coordinating restoration and maintenance projects, and developing and implementing educational and interpretive programs. You enable the Trust to keep the public informed about regularly scheduled events and tours. You also help the Trust raise money from foundations, corporations, and small businesses by showing your support.

The Trust's mailing list is compiled solely from information requests we receive and visitors to the site. This request is being sent to over 5000 individuals and families who have shown an interest in Whitesbog. You know that Whitesbog is a very special place. If each residence receiving this mailing becomes a member of the Trust, we can reach our fund raising goal for 1997.

The Trust works very hard to keep Whitesbog an interesting and educational site to visit. We could not do this without membership support. Help us continue the good work.

In addition to supporting the on-going effort to restore and re-use Whitesbog, membership benefits include: a periodic newsletter; advanced mailings announcing up-coming special events such as our popular, "Halloween Evening in the Pines", and free admission to selected educational and interpretive events throughout the year.

Return the form below with your contribution and become a member of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. For more information on the Trust and the work we are doing at Whitesbog, do not hesitate to call us at (609) 893-4646. Thank you.

John Nardone
President

All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
Membership is valid through December 31, 1997.

Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Inc.
1997 Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

Telephone: _____

Type of Membership:

____ Sponsor (\$500)

____ Patron (\$100)

____ Friend (\$50)

____ Family (\$30)

____ Individual (\$20)

____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities at Whitesbog.

Please make check payable to: **Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Inc., 120-24A Whitesbog Road, Browns Mills, NJ, 08015.** All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Membership is valid through December 31, 1997.