

# Whitesbog festival serves up special blueberry treats

By Jason Bodnar  
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can pick blueberries from the same fields Coville and White used. They can also participate

in a blueberry-pie-eating contest and gorge on an assortment of other blueberry-flavored food:

jam, donuts, tea, honey, cheese-cake, sundaes, smoothies, even funnel cakes.

The festival, however,

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It's not just the celebration of a fruit anymore. It's the celebration of the state fruit.

Saturday, the 21st annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival will be held in the village of Whitesbog in Pemberton Township. This year, the festival takes on perhaps a little extra significance, as in January, the blueberry was designated the state fruit of New Jersey.

## IF YOU GO

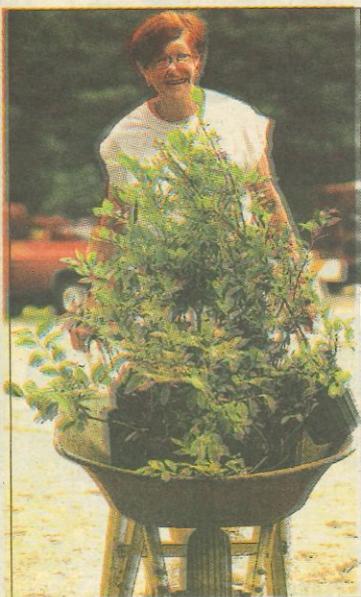
### Whitesbog Blueberry Festival

**Where:** Whitesbog Village, Route 530, Pemberton Township  
**When:** Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Rain date Sunday.  
**Parking:** \$7 per car.  
**Information:** 609-893-4646 or www.whitesbog.org

"It makes sense," said Theresa Earley, program coordinator of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. "The blueberry was first cultivated here in 1916."

By here, Earley means right here in Whitesbog, U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher Frederick Coville and Elizabeth White, daughter of cranberry farmer J.J. White, developed the fruit 88 years ago from a sour huckleberry.

On Saturday, festivalgoers



BCT staff photo/DENNIS MC DONALD  
**Ellen Terry of the Whitesbog Garden Club** totes a wheelbarrow full of blueberry bushes that were to be sold during last year's Whitesbog Blueberry Festival.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2004

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Saturday

### A.C. from 14

July 10-11: **Chris Isaak**, July 10, 9 p.m.; July 11, 8 p.m.; \$40.

July 24-25: **Smokey Robinson**, 8 p.m.; \$55.

**The Improv:** Through Tuesday, **Ron Pearson** and **Mike Dugan**. Thursday-July 6, **Cathy Ladman**. Shows are Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.; Friday and Saturday at 8 and 11 p.m. Tickets are \$17-\$20.

**Sands**  
609-441-4137, 800-AC-SANDS  
July 3: **Joe Piscopo**, 9 p.m.; \$25.  
**Showboat**  
609-343-4000, 800-SHOWBOAT

July 12-Sept. 5: "The Price is Right Stage Show," 7 p.m.; \$25.

**Tropicana**

609-340-4020, 800-736-1420

July 2-4: **Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons**, July 2, 9 p.m.; July 3, 8 p.m.; July 4, 7 p.m.; \$35-\$125.

July 16-17: **David Brenner** and **Dom Irrera**, July 16, 9 p.m.; July 17, 8 p.m.; \$40-\$75.

July 31: **The Spinners** and **Harold Melvin's Blue Notes**, 8 p.m.; \$35-\$45.

**Comedy Stop at the Trop:**  
Through Sunday, **Bruce Smirnoff**, **Todd Paul** and **Joe Yannetty**. Monday-July 4, **Sam Fedele**, **Mitch Fatel** and **Billy Elmer**. Shows are Sunday-Thursday, 9 p.m.; Friday-

July

July 2

\$32.50.

July 2

July 2

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## FAMILY FUN

### FAMILY FUN from 16

includes more than just its fruity namesake.

There are tables of hand-made crafts, displays of antique engines and tractors, and tours into the Pine Barrens.

People can also see the release of a wild bird, tour Elizabeth White's house, and take hay wagon rides.

Folk and bluegrass musicians Jim Albertson, Home Cookin', Dave Orleans, Sugar Sand Ramblers, Glen and Holly Waldeck and Valerie Vaughn are scheduled to perform.

"It's a really nice, family oriented, old-fashioned country festival," Earley said.

And this year, it's the old-fashioned country festival of the official state fruit.

