



THE BERRY BEST OF WHITESBOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITESBOG PRESERVATION TRUST

SPRING 2001

President's Message

For the first time in its 18-year history, The Whitesbog Preservation Trust invited all members and volunteers to attend its Annual Board Meeting held on April 22. The 67 guests that attended enjoyed a picnic lunch, two ribbon-cutting ceremonies and a special view of Whitesbog.

Beth Gensel reported on the progress that is being made to restore the Elizabeth White Garden and Tom Darlington, former president of the J.J. White Company, explained how his grandfather, J.J. developed Whitesbog from a 300 acre cranberry farm into 3000 acres and the largest cranberry plantation in New Jersey.

The ribbon on the restored potting shed at Sunningive was cut by Myself, Tom Darlington, Pemberton Mayor T.C. Kay, and Chris Bethmann, superintendent of Lebanon State Forest.

The Pinelands Antique Engine Association (PAEA) members, led by Bill King, cut the next ribbon and the newly restored Power House was open. The building will serve as a museum and meeting space for the PAEA.

The group proceeded to the Packing House where Dave Banisch, (Banisch Assoc. Inc) a founding Trustee and former village resident, described the Cranberry Packing House as one of the largest, and most innovative agricultural buildings in New Jersey. Dave made the long journey from his present home to assure the members of his, and his organization's support for the Trust's plan to stabilize the remainder of this important building.

While we have a long way to go, there has been considerable progress made this year. I outlined to the members, some of the projects, described below, on which the Trust is working.

Elizabeth C. White Garden: The restoration plan as Miss White developed it, has been completed and restoration has begun. Volunteer trees, some of them 50 years old, have been removed. The pond has been refilled for the first time in 30 years, the potting shed (outhouse) has been restored, and a project to restore the brick walkway is underway.

Oral History Project: In this project, funded by the NJ Council for the Humanities, a 22-minute video "Voices of Whitesbog" has been produced from over 10 hours of broadcast quality

tape. The Trust has won an award for this project, from the State Historic Preservation Office. An award ceremony was held on May 12 in the State House in Trenton at which the Trust was recognized.

Increased Membership and Volunteers:

Membership has nearly doubled this year and volunteer hours and numbers have increased dramatically. This is evidenced by the completion of so many projects.

Closer Relationships with Tenants and

Allied Organizations: The Nature Conservancy, having been a tenant of the village since June 2000, has lent expertise and volunteers to the garden restoration effort. The PAEA continues to enhance the efforts of the trust with their many contributions. The P.I.N.E.S. program of Rowan College, headed by Gary Patterson and Maria Peter, continues its successful self financed interpretive, educational programs for the 10,000 school children that come through Whitesbog each year. The Trust and P.I.N.E.S. jointly plan to expand the interpretive program for adults.

Blueberry Cultivation: This is an extremely important joint project for the Trust. Working with the State, the Trust plans to develop the abandoned blueberry fields as a source of revenue to restore the Elizabeth White Garden, and to restore the original fields where the blueberries were first cultivated.

Introduction of Interpretive Tours: This year, our most important new project to raise operating funds, and to provide more exposure to the unique history and culture that was Whitesbog, will be to introduce organized interpretive tours of the Village. Tom Darlington has offered to organize this project and is seeking volunteers.

Fred Gibbs, President
Whitesbog Preservation Trust

Building Committee Update

The past six months have been extremely active for various rehabilitation projects in Whitesbog village. While many of the usual building upgrades have continued to get done, the big news over the last few months has been roof replacement.

One project that was highlighted in our fall, 2000 newsletter has now been completed. The Power House roof was finished with a historically accurate standing seam metal roof. The Pinelands Antique

Engine Association has subsequently installed lights, ceiling fans and shelves that have turned the building into a small museum dedicated to the interpretation of historic engines, some of which were used to power machines that figured prominently in the agricultural operations at Whitesbog.

A major project to replace the roof on the Boarding House was completed shortly before Christmas. This roof is a replacement-in-kind of the original standing seam roof that had deteriorated to a point where it was not feasible to repair it. Although the manufacturer's red proved to be a little brighter than we anticipated, WPT is very excited to have this important building safe from water damage so we may pursue interior renovations in the near future.

Our fall, 2000 newsletter also featured a plea from Trust president Fred Gibbs asking for contributions to help pay for the replacement of the badly deteriorated roof on the Machine Shop. The project involved more replacement/repair than we had originally anticipated (Don't they all?), including replacement of sill plates and posts. The Trust was able to use red cedars removed from elsewhere in the village to duplicate the original cedar posts that are part of the building's unique construction. This job was finished at the cost of \$7,800 and over 35% of the cost was covered by direct donations to the project. I want to extend a sincere Thank You to everyone who contributed to this fund drive. Your generosity has produced a quick and successful remedy that will help save a structure that played an important part in village history. This building will be used by the Pinelands Antique Engine Association as a work area and storage facility for some of their equipment. In the near future, WPT hopes to install clapboard siding and repair the windows to complete the outside restoration of the building.

Suningive, the home of Elizabeth White, has continued to receive considerable attention from the Trust. A new boiler and central air-conditioning system has been installed using existing ductwork to provide the climate control necessary to operate a modern office. An expert plasterer was also brought in to repair various cracks/holes in the walls and ceilings.

Various other projects were also completed in the past six months. A tree service was brought in to do a village-wide project aimed at removing or pruning large trees throughout the village that were too close to buildings or creating hazardous situations. Over 35 trees were removed or pruned. Heating ducts

were installed in the two-story cottage so the second floor could be tied into the central heating system. Finally, historically accurate storm windows and screens were manufactured and installed on the entomologist's house in the first phase of our plan to equip all occupied buildings with this energy saving amenity.

While our plans have to scale down in the near future until the buildings fund replenishes itself, the committee hopes to resume an ambitious schedule of restoration and repair later this spring.

John Joyce
Buildings Committee Chair

Donors to the "New Roof" Fund

In response to the request for special gifts designated for a new roof fund, the following friends contributed:

\$500 Donors

Tom and Martha Darlington
Fred Gibbs
Richard J. Hutton

\$100 Donors

Candace Ashmun
MaryAnn Hadjuk
Judith Norcross
Dr. and Mrs. Roland Stratton

\$35 Donors

Martha Bark
Howard and Doris Boyd
Elaine Collison
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Filippone
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Filson
Henrietta Forcanser
Grace Gambino & Jim Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Gang
Julia Garrett
Margaret Gilman
Elizabeth Hill
Bill King
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Majeski
Reverend & Mrs. James Marshall
Ken Mayberg
Mr. & Mrs. Augustine Mellace
Sarah Moritko
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Richter
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ryan
Barbara Shottliff
Neva Wendt
Mr. & Mrs. Klaus Wergin
Barbara Westergaard
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wirtz

Blueberries Contribute to Good Health

Amy Howell, Ph.D., Research Scientist
Marucci Center for Blueberry Cranberry Research and Extension
Rutgers University, Chatsworth, NJ

Eating blueberries may be one of the best things you can do to prevent disease and promote good health. The use of blueberries for medicinal purposes is gaining merit through scientific studies aimed at proving their usefulness in preventing everything from diarrhea to cancer. The "wonder berry" has been reported to have antioxidant (anti-cancer) activity, prevent urinary tract infections, reduce heart disease risk, strengthen collagen, regulate the blood sugar of diabetics, improve night vision, reduce age-related mental decline, improve coordination and treat diarrhea. Anecdotal evidence for the use of blueberries for medicinal purposes dates back to the Middle Ages, but it wasn't until recently that scientists discovered that the berries had such a broad spectrum of health benefits. Some of these claims can be backed up with scientific research, however clinical trials need to be done with humans to fully validate them.

The medicinal value of blueberries is due, in part, to their high flavonoid content. Flavonoids, besides imparting health benefits to humans, have many important functions for the blueberry plants themselves. Anthocyanins are the plant pigments which give the fruits their blue color, protect them from excess sunlight and attract animal pollinators. Flavonol glycosides intensify flower petal and fruit colors, attract insect pollinators and act as anti-microbial agents. Tannins are astringent compounds, acting to deter predators and protect the plant from fungal and bacterial attack.

Recently, there has been a flurry of research on the antioxidant properties of blueberry flavonoids. Reactive oxygen species have negative effects on a number of physiological processes in the body and are known to increase cancer risk. Ron Prior at Tufts University found that blueberries had the highest antioxidant capacity compared to a number of other fruits tested, indicating that the fruit may play a role in prevention of cancers. Other research has shown that blueberries act to induce enzymes that protect against cancer and reduce rapid tumor growth. Blueberry extracts fed to rats appeared to reduce oxidative stresses on the brain and improved some aspects of age-related mental decline, although further studies on humans are needed.

Blueberries may also have cardiovascular protective effects by strengthening capillaries and reducing the oxidation of LDL cholesterol, which is believed to contribute to the formation of atherosclerotic plaques in blood vessels. The flavonoids in blueberries are also showing promise in reducing the stickiness of blood platelets, which can reduce the risk of blood clot formation and stroke.

Previous research at the Weizmann Institute in Israel showed that there were unknown compounds in blueberries that were associated with the prevention of urinary tract infections. At Rutgers we determined the identity of these compounds, found in both blueberries and cranberries, which are called proanthocyanidins (or condensed tannins). Condensed tannins are also found in red wine, grape seeds, chocolate and tea, imparting body and astringency to these foods. However, they will not do much to help fight a urinary tract infection. Only the condensed tannins from blueberry and cranberry do the trick, because they have unique molecular structures that are different from the tannins found in other foods. We discovered that these special tannins inhibit the binding of disease-causing *E. coli* bacteria to cells from the urinary tract wall. The theory is that if the bacteria cannot bind, they will not multiply and cause an infection. The bacteria are then harmlessly flushed out of the body in the urine stream.

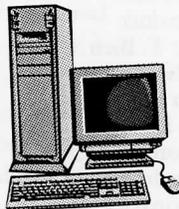
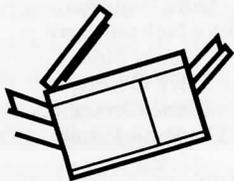
There have been some reports of blueberry anthocyanins improving eyesight, especially night vision. Research suggests that they work by increasing circulation within the capillaries of the retina, retarding cataract formation, and protecting the eye from UV light.

It is important to note that many of these studies are preliminary and further work on humans is needed. However, the collective body of evidence suggests that blueberries possess a staggering array of potential health benefits. For maximum antioxidant capacity, consume the fruit fresh or frozen, as cooking can reduce some of the healthful flavonoids. For maintenance of urinary tract health, the blueberries can be cooked, as heating does not appear to affect the tannins. Researchers suggest that consumers eat 1/2 - 1 cup of blueberries per day for the benefits.

Whitesbog News Bits

- ❖ Many of you have called the office and spoken to a “new” voice. Jean Wood is working part time at the Trust office as part of the Green Thumb program. This a great help to us. Not only is Jean capable and knowledgeable, but the Trust also benefits from her expertise, compliments of this Federal government program. Welcome, Jean.
- ❖ The Astronomical Society of the Tom’s River Area (ASTRA) comes to Whitesbog twice a year to conduct a “Star Party”. The last one held in March was just wonderful. The members set up 9 telescopes and high magnification binoculars on the old airstrip just around sundown. The views of Saturn, Jupiter and Venus were just spectacular as were the millions of stars visible. The club members were very happy to explain and teach and eager for all to experience the views. Come share the night with ASTRA on October 20 and bring the kids. This is an event everyone will enjoy.
- ❖ Janet Robbins, the heart and soul of Whitesbog for the last many years, has retired. Janet continues to support the Trust by sharing her knowledge and acting as a resource for current staff. This is great loss for the Trust but will enable Janet to pursue her dream of traveling and enjoying some well deserved quality “down time” with her family. Thank you Janet, for all you have done. Whitesbog would not be where it is today without your caring, energy, and thousands of hours of volunteer work.
- ❖ Many thanks to all of you who sent donations in memory of Irwin Jakob Sr. Thank you also to his family for designating donations to Whitesbog in his honor. Mr. Jakob walked at Whitesbog as part of his cardiac rehabilitation some years ago. He came to love the village and the surrounding area and his family thought it would be fitting to help preserve something that gave Mr. Jakob so much pleasure. What a lovely tribute to a very nice man.
- ❖ Beth Gensel, one of our loyal volunteers has offered to put together a Whitesbog Cook Book. This is a very exciting venture and one that we hope all of you will participate in. Please mail, e-mail Whitesbog@Juno.com, or fax your favorite blueberry or cranberry recipe to the office and we will pass it on to Beth. If you wish to help with this project, let us know that as well.
- ❖ We were very fortunate to receive a donation of a copy machine to replace our old one that died of old age. Unfortunately, the donation turned out to be a 15 year old machine that we were unable to get parts for and now that Sharp has joined the Mita in copier heaven. We do need a new one, so if you are able to donate one or work for someone who might, please call Sue in the office.
- ❖ Also, many thanks are due to the friends who helped us move the copier, albeit in vain. Bill King and Bill Hyers from the The Pinelands Antique Engine Association, Mark and Paul from the J.J. White Company, Joe and Tom Darlington and Jay Burton.
- ❖ Joe Darlington and the J.J. White Company has graciously and generously helped restore the pond next to Suningive. This involved a tremendous amount of physical labor and expense and we are very grateful to Joe for both. This, combined with the efforts of our garden volunteers, has changed the look of the area around Suningive to more accurately reflect its appearance as it was in the early 1900s.
- ❖ Calling All Volunteers!!! The Blueberry Festival on June 30th is right around the corner and we are in need of volunteers to set up the evening before and the morning of the festival, and to clean up the day after. This will include setting up tents and canopies, putting out stakes to number spaces, setting up tables etc. Please let us know if you are available.
- ❖ If you are interested in a slide presentation about Whitesbog for your group or school please notify the Trust office. We have a few folks that have offered their time and expertise to do this. There is a fee involved but arrangements may be able to be made if there is a financial hardship.
- ❖ The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a minigrant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to pay for the printing of a new brochure. The brochure is eye catching and informative. Look for it the next time you visit the village.
- ❖ The New Jersey Historical Commission is asking for help in researching the operation of the Underground Railroad in New Jersey. If you have any information to share, you may contact Edward Wonkeryor at 609-292-6062; fax 609-633-8168 or gwright@admin.sos.state.nj.us
- ❖ If you would like to donate some potted plants for us to sell at the Blueberry Festival, we would love to have them. Just bring them to the General Store any time between June 24th and the 30th and please label them as to type of plant. Thanks!
- ❖ The Whitesbog Garden Club, under the direction and leadership of Ellen Terry, has made great strides. If you would like to be on the garden club mailing list, please let the office know.

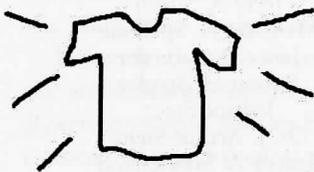
- ❖ A fond farewell to John Nardone who resigned from the Board of Trustees after many years of service. We thank him for all this hard work on behalf of Whitesbog and wish him well in all his future endeavors.
- ❖ For those of you who don't know, we have a wonderful website which can be accessed at www.whitesbog.org It is maintained through the generosity of the folks at the Burlington County Library.
- ❖ Carol Carter has joined Pat Frasier in conducting our monthly moonlight walks through the village. We are now able to offer a 1-2 mile *or* a 4-5 mile hike depending on preference. So if you are just out for a stroll, or looking for some "real" exercise, come join us. If you like Whitesbog by day, you'll love it in the moonlight.
- ❖ Please remember to keep track of the hours you are putting in as a Whitesbog volunteer and turn them into the office every other month.
- ❖ If you have not renewed your membership for 2001, it is not too late! Please join and help us to keep the restoration of the village a reality.
- ❖ Congratulations to our own garden volunteer, Tracy Sunderland. Tracy has recently been appointed as the Master Gardener for Burlington County. Way to go, Tracy!
- ❖ Special thanks to Bill Bolger, Martha Windisch, Bill Fairgrieve, Bruce Atkinson and Kristin and Patrick Slowey for the great job they did restoring the Potting Shed. And thank you to Chris Bethmann for all his help as well.



WHITESBOG WISH LIST

A new or used copier (not more than 5 years old please) that is capable of producing 10,000 copies a year ♦ A folding machine to help with our mailings ♦ Adjustable desk chairs ♦ A new computer ♦ A new air conditioner ♦ Financial Bequests.

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST



The Whitesbog Preservation Trust is sponsoring a t-shirt design contest. We are seeking a cranberry related design for the fall season. If you would like to submit a sketch or idea (you don't have to be a talented artist, just creative), you can send it to the Trust office by July 31, 2001. The winning design will be displayed in our next newsletter, as well as on the new t-shirts, and the winner will receive a \$25 savings bond.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

The Oral History Project recently completed, continues to generate interest. In addition to garnering an award from the State Historic Preservation Office, we have received many requests for the purchase of the video. We are pleased to offer copies for sale at \$10.00 per copy plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Just mail a check with your name and address to the Trust office and we will fill your request as quickly as possible.

Membership List 2001

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The Curtis Family
Fred Gibbs
Michael McQuaide

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The Burlington County Soil
Conservation District
Joann Cubberley
James & Barbara Moschera

Patron

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Edward & Leah Boise
Michele Byers & Ted Stiles
Dick & Jean Anne Christie
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Lee Welsher
Geneva Wendt
Renee Williams
Martha Windisch
Richard W. Zimmerman

WHITESBOG PRESERVATION TRUST

Calendar of Events

July - December 2001

July

7th **Volunteer Work Day** 10am to 3pm
If you are interested in helping the Trust with repairs, maintenance, garden or office work, please call to register

7th ***Moonlite Walk** 7pm
1-2 or 3-5 mile walk around the village and bogs

August

4th **Volunteer Work Day** 10am to 3pm

4th ***Moonlite Walk** 7pm

September

8th **Volunteer Work Day** 10am to 3pm

1st ***Harvest Moonlite Walk** 7pm

15th ***Canoe/kayak trip** 11am to 2pm
Bring your own canoe or kayak and a brown bag lunch and join our guide as you explore the canals of Whitesbog Village -
Rain date 9-16

9th **Volunteer Recognition** 12pm to 2pm

9th **Video Showing** "Voices of Whitesbog"
2pm. A 21-minute oral history of what life was like in the village in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s

30th ***Moonlite Walk** 7pm

October

6th **Volunteer Work Day** 10am to 3pm

7th **Pinelands Month Kickoff Celebration**
10am to 4pm. Celebrate the culture, history, music and unique ecology of the New Jersey Pinelands. Sponsored by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the day will feature Cranberry Harvest tours and slide presentations, food, music, tours, exhibits and more. Wild bird release by Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge.

13th ***Cranberry Harvest Tour** 10am and 12noon

13th ****Sunset Hayride and Campfire Story Time**
6pm to 7:30pm hayride; 7:30pm campfire with songs and stories about the Pine Barrens and Whitesbog hosted by our own Dave Orleans. Bring your own hot dogs if you'd like, we'll supply the marshmallows and cider.
\$10 per person. Rain date 10-14

20th ***Cranberry Harvest Tour** 10am

20th ***Star Party** 7pm

Come join the **Astronomical Society of the Tom's River Area (ASTRA)** and explore the planets and stars through powerful telescopes. Great fun and education for ages 7 and up.
Rain date 10-27

21st ***Cranberry Harvest Tour** 12noon

November

3rd **Volunteer Work Day** 10am to 3pm

3rd ***Moonlite Walk** 7pm

December

7th **Invitation Only Holiday Party** 6pm

8th **Christmas Decorating Tour** 4pm

9th **Christmas Decorating Tour** 4pm

*starred events are \$5 per person or \$10 per family
Please call ahead to register and verify dates and times.
609.893.4646

All events meet at the Whitesbog General Store.
Historic Whitesbog is located at mile marker 13 on Route 530, southeast of Browns Mills in Pemberton Township, NJ.

Support the Restoration of Historic Whitesbog Village

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust is a non-profit, Tax-exempt Corporation established to restore, protect, and enhance the land, sites and buildings at Whitesbog. Your valuable membership contribution enables the Trust to continue the successful restoration, educational and interpretive programs.

\$1000 +	Partner
\$500	Benefactor
\$250	Sponsor
\$100	Patron
\$50	Supporter (Family)
\$25	Contributor (Individual)

In addition:

Patron receives:

Name recognition in Blueberry Festival Program and Newsletter

Free parking at Blueberry Festival

Sponsor receives all of the above plus:

Blueberry Festival T-shirt

Benefactor receives all of the above plus:

A set of Whitesbog mugs

Partner receives all of the above plus:

Invitation to Breakfast with the Board of Trustees

Chairperson

Each membership includes: membership card,
one free field trip, bi-annual newsletter

Name _____ Yes, I'd like to volunteer

Address _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____ E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to: Whitesbog Preservation Trust, 120-13 Whitesbog Road, Browns Mills, New Jersey 08015

***Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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

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

Whitesbog Preservation Trust
120-13 Whitesbog Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015



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