

# GARDEN *Variety*

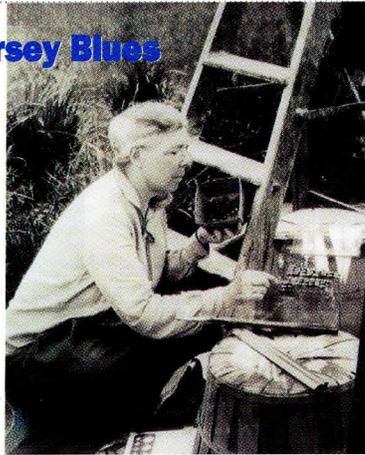
Edited by Christopher Hann



**BUZZ BIN** was bemused to read that *GQ* magazine recently included the Jersey Shore on its list of the year's most underrated things (along with red-sauce Italian eateries and watching Paul O'Neill when he strikes out). Underrated? Not by this magazine, guys. Check out this issue's twelve-page Shore Guide. *New Jersey Monthly* readers surely know of no better place to recline on a hot summer day than on one of New Jersey's beaches. But please, *GQ*, stop promoting the Jersey Shore. Let all those nasty New Yorkers schlep out to the Hamptons. They'd just overrun the Garden State's shoreline with their fancy appetites for sun-dried-tomato pesto and designer cocktails. **BUZZ BIN** prefers a cold brew and a slice of boardwalk pizza any day....Two nasty New Yorkers do, however, bring something good to eat to New Jersey. **Paul and Lorraine Ingenito** have taken over the Perryville Inn in bucolic Hunterdon County, where Chef Paul, who plied his trade at the Russian Tea Room and Pierre Cardin's Maxim's, whips up some elegant country cuisine....Back at the beach, it's time for some summer reading, preferably something set at the Jersey Shore, like *Dead Man's Float* (Avon, \$5.99), a murder mystery that takes place on a Fourth of July weekend in Ocean Grove. Author **Beth Sherman** may be yet another nasty New Yorker, but we'll forgive her because she summers at the Jersey Shore. (Just leave your gourmet snacks

## Birth of the Jersey Blues

To many, summertime in New Jersey means fresh blueberries. But few know that the store-bought blueberry can be traced to a turn-of-the-century researcher from the Pine Barrens. Elizabeth White of Whitesbog began her work after hearing that the delicate wild blueberry bush, a North American native, was impossible to cultivate. With a mission to bring the fruit to market, the self-taught horticulturalist began cross-breeding various blueberries, starting a New Jersey tradition in the genetic engineering of one of America's most beloved fruits.



Blueberry pioneer Elizabeth White

White died in 1954 at the age of 83, but the evolution of her work continues. In Chatsworth in the heart of the Pine Barrens, geneticists still strive to develop a better berry at the Blueberry and Cranberry Research Center run by Rutgers University. They aim for a tasty fruit that will ripen rapidly and resist disease, and hope to produce a berry with a higher level of naturally occurring antioxidants to help the body fight disease and repair vital cells.

As it stands (or hangs), the blueberry has become one of the Garden State's most profitable fruit crops, alongside the peach and the cranberry. Nationally, New Jersey ranks second only to Michigan in blueberry production, selling 35 million pounds a year—the fruits of nearly 100 years of labor. —*Meaghan B. Yudes*

## NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS

Uma Pemmaraju insists that the word news should not be synonymous with bad. "People need to be inspired," says the Fox News network anchor and Edgewater resident. "They need to feel like they can go to sleep at night...that everything will be okay."



These days things are more than okay with Pemmaraju. Recently transplanted to the Garden State from Boston, she is the first Indian-American to anchor a national news program. The host of *Fox on Politics* and *Fox in Depth*, she also reports breaking news for Fox News Channel. Before going national, Pemmaraju was an anchor and correspondent for *The Evening News* on Boston's NBC affiliate, and worked at local stations in Baltimore and Dallas.

A former employer once warned Pemmaraju that her last name would hinder her success on television. We all should be so hindered: Last year, Pemmaraju covered international stories of such magnitude as the death of Mother Teresa and the birth of the McCaughey septuplets in Iowa.

At 38, Pemmaraju appears to have arrived at the pinnacle of her profession. But she confesses that balancing the good with the bad in each day's broadcast remains a challenge, and she still strives to improve. "I'm constantly pushing myself," she says.

Her new home affords her a stunning view of the Manhattan skyline. And after dedicating herself to national and international events in the past year, Pemmaraju hopes to have more time to enjoy it and "connect" with her new neighbors. —*M.B.Y.*

home, Beth.)...Elizabeth's own Athletic Hall of Fame boasts the city's rich roster of sporting heroes. This year the hall will induct such legends as basketball's **Rick Barry**, **Hubie Brown**, and **Chris Gatling**; football's **Gil Chapman** and **Richard Wood**; baseball's **Don Newcombe**; and track star **Ron Freeman**....New Jersey ranks 36th among the states in the percentage of women in the Legislature, a standing that barely has budged in recent years. In fact, Middletown author **Amy Handlin** says in her new book, *Whatever Happened to the Year of the Woman?* (Arden Press, \$24.50), women continue to face major challenges in their pursuit of elected office. A professor at Monmouth University and a Middletown committeewoman, Handlin has served as a deputy mayor and county freeholder. For one thing, she writes, women don't support women—no "good ol' girls" network, if you will. What's more, the parties tend to nominate men to run for winnable seats, while they sacrifice women in no-win races.... Another outsider invades New Jersey: Oregonian **Robert Sullivan** chronicles his adventures traipsing through the state's infamous urban swampland in his book, *The Meadowlands* (Scribner, \$23). Sullivan describes an area rich in history and symbolism that stands between the natural world and the march of industrial progress. **BUZZ BIN** hates to admit it, but this carpet-bagger has penned a good read about the Garden State....Earlier this year, the **Jackie Robinson** Foundation dedicated a twelve-

