

Whitesbog Preservation Trust

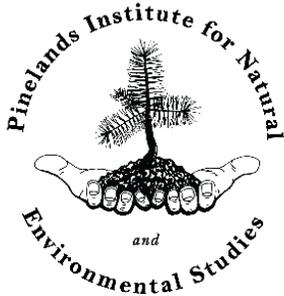
NEWSLETTER

2nd & 3rd Quarter

www.whitesbog.org

2019

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation



by Jessica Grill, Program Coordinator, Pinelands Institute

Many Whitesbog Preservation Trust members are aware of the mutual partnerships that take place within Whitesbog Village. One of these long-time partnerships involves the **Pinelands Institute for Natural & Environmental Studies**, also known as the **PINES** program. Many who have grown up in the area have fond memories of PINES / Whitesbog school field trips. Such field trips often included adventures where kids used nets to catch bugs and tadpoles in the waterways, or experienced life as a Lenape tribes-person, or lived Whitesbog history first-hand, picking cranberries in the bogs.

The Pinelands Institute for Natural & Environmental Studies started life as an environmental education outpost of what was then **Glassboro State College**. That seminal organization was the **Conservation and Environmental Studies Center (CESC)** founded in 1966 by Dr. V. Eugene Vivian with support from Glassboro State College. Dr. Vivian was a well-known expert on Pinelands plants, and he ran the CESC successfully for 18 years. When Dr. Vivian ultimately closed the CESC in 1984 as federal funding diminished, several individuals stepped in to fill the void; among them, Dr. Gary Patterson, a professor at Glassboro State College. Patterson was instrumental in establishing the **Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies (PINES)** in the mid-1980's. Through the 1990's, **Rowan University** (as Glassboro State College was renamed in 1992) continued to sponsor the program and it was run for many years by Maria Peter. Waning interest by Rowan, ultimately led to **Burlington County College (BCC)** taking over the PINES program around 2001. PINES thrived through the early 2000s and up to about 2010. However, BCC's funding and

support of PINES also began to wane, causing attendance to steadily decline. By 2012, the program was in serious jeopardy, and by 2015 it was close to being discontinued.

That could've been the end, but it wasn't.

In 2017, the program was taken under the wing of Jessica Grill, the current Program Coordinator of the **Pinelands Institute at Whitesbog Village**, at that time a graduate student of **Miami University's Project Dragonfly**. As her graduate thesis capstone, Jessica took steps to reinvigorate PINES. Grill re-oriented the existing programming by adapting it to current learning standards which recommend introducing more active, hands-on, inquiry-based learning opportunities, and doing away with worksheet-heavy programs that fail to spark imagination. Grill believed the reinvigoration of PINES was especially important because there are very few local resources or opportunities to participate in structured environmental education nearby.

As teachers and parents know, and as exhaustive amounts of research prove, children benefit by spending more time outside. The Pinelands Institute program gets them involved and interested in their local natural environment while addressing the physiological needs of school-age children. Pinelands Institute programs are more than just an accompaniment to existing academic programs. They are bridges between the classroom and the community. Combining environmental education with early childhood education is an increasingly popular trend in schools across the country, as it coincides with growing awareness that today's children lack opportunities to

(continued on page 2)



Pinelands Institute Director, Jessica Grill (left), with several fascinated learners at a Whitesbog pond.

(continued from page 1)

experience the wonders of the natural world. In each program that the Pinelands Institute runs, concerted effort is made to foster nature awareness and appreciation, while also supporting development of age-appropriate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Currently, the Pinelands Institute has been officially adopted as a program of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. This exciting development means that this long-standing educational resource can continue serving the communities surrounding Whitesbog, while also providing opportunities for increased preservation, conservation, and eco-tourism. By increasing eco-tourism to the area, along with increased academic engagement with local students, Whitesbog and the Pinelands Institute can maintain and grow the membership base that is so crucial for our programs and our environment to grow and thrive.

The Pinelands Institute at Whitesbog Village continues to be an important community treasure. We're excited by the many upcoming opportunities: field trips, partnership with the local 21st Century after-school program to provide quarterly assemblies, scheduled family programming, and future summer programs. The rapid blossoming of our community programs is incredibly rewarding. Since Grill took the helm, the Pinelands Institute at Whitesbog has thrived, and the Whitesbog Preservation Trust looks forward to many more years of growth for the program, the community, and the Trust.

To book a field trip, group program or learn more about the history and science-based events for 2019-2020 visit <http://www.whitesbog.org/explore-and-learn/field-trips> or call (609) 893-1765 or email pinelandsinstitute@gmail.com . ■

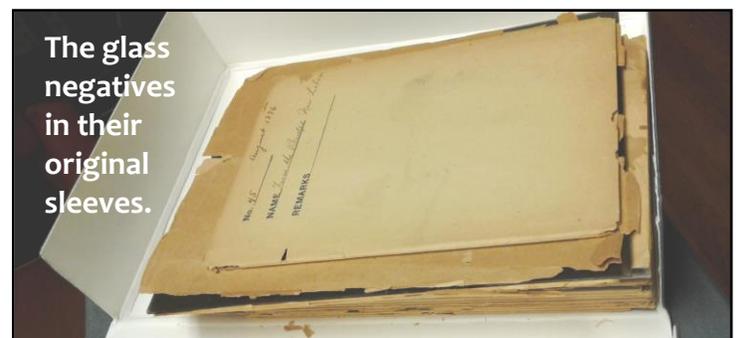
Why Archivists Matter (and Why You Should Support Them)

by Kiyomi Locker

It may come off as bias, since I am indeed an archivist, but I believe that the importance of my work and the work of other archivists cannot be overstated. In this quarterly newsletter, you will be viewing pictures taken by Elizabeth White herself. Viewing these pictures has been made possible through a project grant given to us by the **New Jersey Historical Commission**. They funded our partnership with the **Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts** in Philadelphia to preserve, maintain, and publish these amazing pieces of photography. Without grants and donations such as these, artifacts, objects, and items would be lost to us. Archivists are the custodians of these objects; their primary job is the care and maintenance of these items. It is their job to understand the value of the objects and ensure they are well preserved for future generations. This is why my job here at Whitesbog Preservation Trust is so vital to its mission. I am the caregiver to all of the Trust's historical documents, photographs, and items including Elizabeth's original blueberry experimentation data. By having this job, I have gained a fondness for Elizabeth and her trailblazing research. I want to make sure her legacy is preserved for future generations. I cannot do that without the generosity and support of our members.

Your membership is vital to my work, and I hope that our members will continue to journey back to Whitesbog (on our newly paved front road!). Over the course of the next couple months, the Archives will be hosting a variety of events, including an Archives Night, Suningive House Tours, and upcoming talks about our glass negatives. I look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks and hope that you will become a patron of the archives and all of the work we do here!

To contact the Whitesbog archives to schedule a visit, ask a question, or make a donation please email whitesbogpreservationarchives@gmail.com. ■



The glass negatives in their original sleeves.

The 2019 Whitesbog Blueberry Festival; its 36th Year

by Allison Pierson



After epic rainfall the week before the festival, the main blueberry picking field was under several feet of water for the opening morning of the 36th Annual Blueberry Festival, Saturday June 22. Undeterred, our volunteers, Brendan T. Byrne state forest staff, state park police, Whitesbog staff, Pinelands Antique Engine Association families, and vendors and presenters made the best of the conditions. Working quickly to adapt programs and tours, with the help of all of our partners and volunteers, we adjusted wagon routes, blueberry picking was moved to the Triangle Field, parking areas were adjusted and traffic was detoured to avoid puddles, vendor spaces shifted and announcements went out on social media with videos promoting wearing footwear that could get wet.

Many wonderful visitors joined us despite the region-wide flooding and closure of some local roads, bringing friends and family to experience the historic village, visit the crafters, artisans, chefs and programs, watch basket weaving demonstrations, print graphics on fabric with artists, hop on a wagon to tour around the reservoirs and bogs, listen to a presentation in the Barrel Factory, shop in the General Store or enjoy live music being played on the **NEW STAGE!**



Our archivist, **Kiyomi Locker**, presented a talk entitled "**Why Elizabeth White Chose Science Over Suffrage**" and we displayed many of the Albertine Senske Memorial Archives collection of historic blueberry industry images of blueberry picking, packing, eating and marketing materials in the Whitesbog Gallery History Room.

Visitors enjoyed the new hand-painted signs and cut-outs painted by our **Moore College of Art summer intern Kaitlyn Newman** and constructed by our volunteers **Larry Cottrell** and **Gerry Kiyak**.



Attendance was high, and lines grew long, causing the entry road to be closed. Luckily both Saturday June 22 and Sunday June 23rd were dry, pleasant and sunny, and the grounds became easier to traverse. Visitors had excellent feedback for planning for 2020 and shared messages of encouragement. Thank you to all of our sponsors, partners and volunteers who help make this wonderful event a success every year! ■



Elizabeth White's Glass Plate Negatives – Conserved

by Allison Pierson

In the early 1900s, Elizabeth White took a number of photographic images of various subjects using a camera that required glass exposure plates used in that era (rather than film). For many years, these 5" x 7" glass negative plates resided in a file cabinet in the Whitesbog Preservation Trust offices and ultimately in the Trust archives. As the archive development progressed, it was decided that these glass negatives needed conservation.

Ultimately, the conservation and scanning became a significant part of the FY19 Project Grant we proposed to, and received from, the **New Jersey Historical Commission** and marked big step for the archives in making the collection more open and available to the public, and making sure the collection was well cared for using the highest standards of archival treatment. Support for such projects is one of the many ways our donors, members, visitors and grant providers help us preserve more New Jersey history for future generations.

On July 3, 2019, Kiyomi Locker (our archivist) and I traveled to the **Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts** in Philadelphia to pick up Elizabeth's glass plate negatives, now cleaned and safely housed in archival storage boxes. We got to see the prints from the images for the first time and they were stunning! We also received a condition report that included the titles of the images, and subsequently, we have begun sharing the images in various programs and materials.

The images tell a more nuanced story about the life and accomplishments of Elizabeth White, and it is quite amazing to see images she crafted over 120 years ago. It is fascinating to see the artistry in the composition, to see how the people are captured, and to get a glimpse into their lives.

We will be working with the newly scanned digital files which are much clearer and easy to read, developing an exhibit for the **History Room of the Gallery**, presentations, and slide show for the website, as well as looking further into the details of the images to see what they reveal about the time period and lives of people at Whitesbog and the surrounding area. Let Kiyomi and me know if you would like to help with the image assessment, and/or help identify the locations in the images and the people.

Thanks to all who helped work on this grant! ■



Do you know what these images are?
Some we know, others we don't.
Send your thoughts, comments, and guesses to:
whitesbogpreservationarchives@gmail.com .





WHITESBOG EVENT SCHEDULE

For more information call (609) 893-4646,
e-mail us at WhitesbogPreservationTrust@gmail.com
or visit us on the web at www.whitesbog.org.

September

21 - Museum Day Live

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Smithsonian Museum Day Live! at Whitesbog will feature cranberry sorting in the museum, hands on cranberries, vintage labels, agricultural tools, museum exhibits and Bog sand table building. You can also walk out and see the cranberries ripening on the vines in our demonstration bog and learn about other local tours for the cranberry season. Stop in the Whitesbog Gallery to see artworks from locals and a vintage photography exhibit of Browns Mills in the 1940's and 1950's. At 1 pm in the Barrel Factory we will reveal the Glass Plate Negatives of Elizabeth White, dating from as early as 1896 including images of Browns Mills, New Lisbon, people on the farm, nature studies and more.

21 - Nature Storytime with PINES

10 – 11 a.m.

Join Miss Jess as we read a story, explore nature, and use our imaginations! For children ages 1-5 and their grown-ups. \$5 for WPT members/\$7 for non-members. September's Story - Not A Stick by Antoinette Portis. More information at www.facebook.com/PinelandsInstitute.

21 - Music in the Bogs: Accidental Jug Band

6 p.m.

Please join us for an evening of Music in the Bogs, under the stars. We have picnic tables in the fairgrounds to sit on, but I would recommend bringing your own chair or blanket. The General Store will be open selling snacks and soft drinks. If it rains, the concert will move to The Barrel Factory.

22- Suningive House Tours

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Take a tour of the historic home Suningive, designed and built for Elizabeth C. White, the "Blueberry Queen". The home has been preserved and restored with the help of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. This beautiful Craftsman home constructed in 1923 has unusual features and hidden treasures, unique fixtures and woodwork, garage and porches with 2nd and 3rd story views out over the cranberry bogs, her native pine barrens botanical garden, pond and woodland trails, \$5.

24 - Board Meeting

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

28 - 'Middle of Nowhere' Pine Barrens Film

Screening and Art Installation Event 5 p.m.

Join Atlas Obscura and Whitesbog Historic Village for an immersive experience in the storied landscape of the New Jersey Pine Barrens through film, music, and artwork in dialogue with the 3000-acre fallowed blueberry and cranberry farm, conceived and curated by filmmaker David Scott Kessler. <http://www.pinebarrensfilm.com/events>

29 - Cranberry Tea

1 – 3 p.m.

Join us in Whitesbog for a High Tea in Elizabeth White's beautiful living room in Suningive as well as a house tour. Cranberry teas, scones, finger sandwiches and more are served at your table. Come early for a walk throughout the village and General Store. Come out for the tea and to stroll the gardens, historic village and visit the General Store. Teas sell out fast, \$20 per person \$35 for two.

October

5 - Volunteer Service Day

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Come out and join our volunteers in outdoor or indoor projects in the village. You can choose from tending trails and garden paths or projects like painting, sweeping, helping to decorate and organizing supplies for events! Open to all ages, volunteers share lunch in the General Store classroom and time to enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings!

5 - Cranberry Hike

10 a.m.

Hike the Historic Farm Village sandy trails while learning about Cranberry Harvest at Whitesbog, Pick cranberries in the dry demonstration bog and watch the happenings on the active cranberry farm. \$8 donation/person. Wet cranberry harvest viewing is not guaranteed, but we will try!

6- Cranberry Living History Day

1 - 4 p.m.

Visit all of the village's interpreted museums and historic landscapes, pick cranberries, take a wagon ride and more at the fall Living History Event! The Village will come alive with workers and residents from the 1920's. Join them in their daily activities. Visit Suningive, the home of the "Blueberry Queen" and share some cake for Elizabeth's Birthday! Interact with those who helped make this one of the largest cranberry farms! We would LOVE to see you become a part of our Living History. Call 609-893-4646 for additional details and to make reservations. It's \$8 Adults, \$5 Kids, children 3 & under are free. Family Rate \$25. The Accidental Jug Band will be playing music on the General Store Porch.

6 - Wagon Rides & Campfire S'mores

4 - 7 p.m.

Come join us in Historic Whitesbog Village for some tunes from local musicians, make s'mores by the campfire and take a wagon ride hosted by the Pinelands Antique Engine Association into the cranberry bogs! Admission is FREE, wagon ride tickets \$5 for sale through Eventbrite. We will have s'mores kits and roasting sticks while supplies last (\$5), snacks and drinks available for sale in the General Store. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the bogs during harvest season! Members who have joined this Fall can get a free ticket while supplies last! Last wagon ride leaves at 5:30 pm. Check with us for any questions: whitesbogpreservationtrust@gmail.com.

7-11 - Cranberry Hikes

10 a.m.

(See Oct. 5 for details.)

12 - Harvest Dinner Event

5 p.m.

Our first Whitesbog Preservation Trust Farm Dinner event will feature Rustic Italian dishes and of course cranberries during the New Jersey Cranberry Harvest! Join us in the Suningive Gardens for fellowship and food, celebrating this rich agricultural region of the Pine Barrens. Music from The Accidental Jug Band. Tickets will be available through Facebook and Eventbrite. In event of rain we will be in the Barrel Factory. \$35

12- Moonlight Walk

7 p.m.

Listen to the night sounds of the Pines, learn about Whitesbog and experience the seasonal changes of the Pinelands. All walks are 3-5 miles in length, weather permitting and led by experienced leaders. \$5/person donation, reservations requested 609-893-4646.

15 - Nature Storytime with PINES 10 – 11 a.m.

Join Miss Jess as we read a story, explore nature, and use our imaginations! For children ages 1-5 and their grown-ups. \$5 for WPT members/\$7 for non-members. October's Story - Clarence: The Cranberry Who Couldn't Bounce by Jim Coogan. More information at www.facebook.com/PinelandsInstitute.

19 - Nature Storytime with PINES 10 – 11 a.m.

(See Oct. 15 for details.)

22 - Board Meeting 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

26 - Kids Trick or Treating & Craft 11 a.m.

Visit Historic Whitesbog Village and stop into the General Store for a special make and take Halloween craft in the Classroom and for trick or treating. Costumes encouraged! No reservations required. Treats are found all around the village and are not candy, just trinkets and toys. Perfect for kids of all ages and abilities, grab a map and stop at historic house porches and look for the treats!

26 - Halloween Lantern Tours 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Our Haunted History Tours are back for another year! This is a family-friendly event to raise funds for Whitesbog Preservation Trust's (a non-profit) work in preserving the historic village. All of the helpers are volunteers and love sharing the spooky and creepy Historic Village with others! Choose your adventure. You can do one, two or all three activities for the same ticket price! Check in at the General Store to get your hand stamped, then head to the area you want to try first! \$10/person, \$8 each for members, not for the faint of heart.

- **Haunted Lantern Tour**, past the cottages, through the museum, into the Pine Barrens woods along the Trail, starting at 7 p.m. at the General Store, with new groups forming **every 15-30 minutes**, walkers will be on their feet, over some rough terrain, old houses, in the woods, watch out for branches and creepy crawlies! We will walk in light rain so come prepared! The hike distance is a little over a half mile.

- **Scary Stories and Music around the Campfire** with storyteller, Jersey Devil tales with banjo and fiddle, starts at 7 p.m.

- **Haunted Wagon Ride to the Bog and Back with the Pinelands Antique Engine Association** tractor drivers, wagon rides will start around 7:00 and loop every half hour or so, last wagon at 8:30 p.m.

- **Tarot Card Readings in the Paymaster's Shed**, 7 - 9 p.m. \$10 donation.

In the case of Heavy Rain, the rain date will be Sunday, October 27th at 7 p.m. Tickets are not refundable. Events may sell out in advance.

November

2 - Volunteer Service Day 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(See Oct. 5 for details.)

2 - Village Walking Tour 1 p.m.

Hike the Historic Farm Village sandy trails, learn about Whitesbog's role in history and visit: Suningive, the worker's cottage, and other museums. \$5 donation/person, advance reservations requested but not required - 609-893-4646.

9 - Jersey Devil Fun Walk

More details will be available soon, check our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/whitesbog.preservationtrust>.

9 - Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

(See Oct. 12 for details.)

10 - Membership Meeting

15 - Nature Storytime with PINES 10 – 11 a.m.

Join Miss Jess as we read a story, explore nature, and use our imaginations! For children ages 1-5 and their grown-ups. \$5 for

WPT members/\$7 for non-members. November's Story - Fall Leaves, Fall! by Zoe Hall. More information at www.facebook.com/PinelandsInstitute.

16 - Nature Storytime with PINES 10 – 11 a.m.

(See Nov. 15 for details.)

16 - Lantern Tour 7 - 9 p.m.

30 - Small Business Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shop Local in the General Store! Give-aways and great local artisan items to pick up for the holidays, retro toy stocking stuffers, chocolates, preserves, candy, crochet and knit wear, collectible t-shirts and while supporting the community and historic preservation!

December

3 - Board Meeting 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

3 - Giving Tuesday

People can celebrate Giving Tuesday by giving their time or money to charities that they find worthwhile. When you post to social media, make sure to use the hashtag #GivingTuesday to raise awareness about the holiday.

7 - Volunteer Service Day 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(See Oct. 5 for details.)

7- Handmade Holiday Craft Fair

Wreath-making workshops, wagon rides, historic house tours, crafting, artists, vendors, Candy Cane Trail hike, Pictures with Santa, Hot chocolate bar, museum tours and more on this fantastic winter day! Bring the family for this free event, prepared to have fun! Shop local with handmade items in the Barrel Factory and General Store! Free Wagon Rides provided by the Pinelands Antique Engine Association. Wreath-making workshop by Snow Valley Farm, tickets on Facebook and Eventbrite.

10 - Nature Storytime with PINES 10 – 11 a.m.

Join Miss Jess as we read a story, explore nature, and use our imaginations! For children ages 1-5 and their grown-ups. \$5 for WPT members/\$7 for non-members. December's Story - In the Snow by Sharon Phillips Denslow. More information at www.facebook.com/PinelandsInstitute.

14 - Nature Storytime with PINES 10 – 11 a.m.

(See Dec.10 for details.)

14 - Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

(See Oct. 12 for details.)

15 - Membership/Volunteer Holiday Party 2 – 5 p.m.

in the Barrel Factory

21 & 22 - General Store Holiday Shopping



2019 Whitesbog Board of Trustees

Jeff Macechak, Pres. Millicent Moore, V.P.
 Kenneth Willitts, Sec. Paul Detrick, Treas.
 Ed Mattson Maria Mosca
 John Joyce Robert Barnes Lauck
 Sharon Goodman

2019 Board Meetings at General Store, open to the public
 Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 10 (membership meeting),
 Dec. 3

Staff

Allison Pierson, Director
 Jennifer Rubeo, Bookkeeper/ Assistant
 Kyomi Locker, Archivist
 Jessica Grill, Pinelands Institute Program Director

Newsletter

Mark Ehlenfeldt & Allison Pierson - Editors

Committees - 2019

Membership & Fundraising - Lise Mainor, Roni Detrick, Allison Pierson
 Building & Restoration - John Joyce
 Garden & Landscape - Mark Szutarski, Terry Schmidt, Tom Besselman
 Education and Interpretation - Allison Pierson, Lise Mainor, Jeff Macechak
 Archives - Sharon Goodman, Janet Felt
 Living History & Tours - Terri Chiddenton
 Cranberry & Blueberry Museum - Ted Gordon, Joe Darlington
 Gallery - Terry Schmidt, JoAnne Claire
 General Store - MariAnne Torres
 Marketing & Communications - Allison Pierson, Ed Mattson,
 Caroline Weigle, Mark Ehlenfeldt, JoAnne Claire
 Events & Programs - Kenny Willitts, Caroline Weigle, Allison Pierson



THE 1772 FOUNDATION

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

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a FY 2019 General Operating Support Grant and a FY 2019 Project Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State

Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a New Jersey Council for the Humanities Grant for FY 2018 for "Harvesting Stories" and oral history video interview project.

The 1772 Foundation, in cooperation with the New Jersey Historic Trust, has provided Whitesbog Preservation Trust with a Capital Preservation Grant for the repair and restoration of a worker's cottage.

The Mission of the Trust is to restore, protect and enhance historic Whitesbog Village, in order to preserve the White family legacy and to inspire audiences of all ages to experience:
 - the origins & innovations of cranberry & blueberry cultivation
 - the rich culture and unique ecology of the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

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



Whitesbog Preservation Trust
 120-34 Whitesbog Road
 Browns Mills, NJ 08015



NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 BROWNS MILLS, NJ
 PERMIT NO. 113