



Whitesbog Preservation Trust

NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter

2006

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

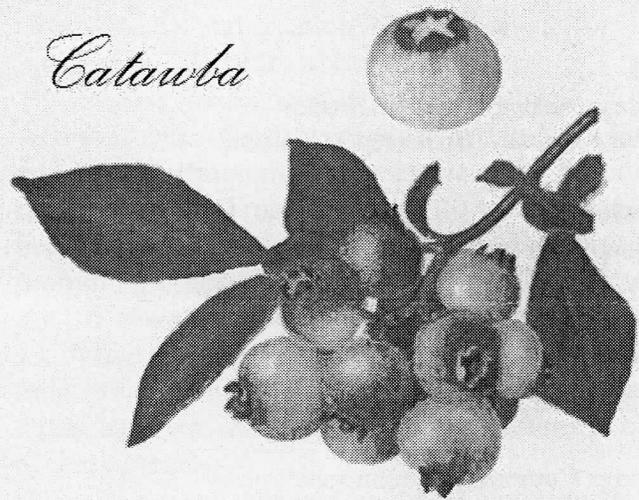
Feature Article

The Lost Blueberry Varieties of Whitesbog - Redskin and Catawba

by Mark Ehlenfeldt,
President, Whitesbog Preservation Trust

More than 25 blueberry varieties were developed at Whitesbog in the highly productive collaboration between Frederick V. Coville of the USDA and Elizabeth C. White (ECW), in an active partnership that lasted from 1911 to approximately 1937. Among the more unusual varieties developed at Whitesbog are two that Coville described as albinos, named 'Redskin' and 'Catawba'. These varieties were, in fact, pink-fruited rather than blue-fruited. In the 1937 Yearbook of Agriculture (1) Coville reported that these varieties were second generation hybrids produced by crossing two similar primary hybrids between 'Russell' lowbush and 'Brooks' highbush in 1913. Both 'Russell' and 'Brooks' were plants collected from the wild by Coville that had been selected for fruit size and fruit quality. Although the original varieties selected from the wild, such as 'Rubel', were released in 1912, and the first varieties from scientific breeding (e.g. 'Pioneer', 'Katherine', and 'Cabot') were released in 1920, 'Redskin' and 'Catawba' were not named and released until 1932. In the 1937 Yearbook article Coville stated "they were given names in 1932 because as red-cheeked albinos they are horticultural curiosities". He further commented "It is doubtful whether any albino blueberry will ever acquire importance as a market fruit". It is unclear whether plants of either of these varieties were ever sold commercially, even as garden novelties. In the existing Whitesbog archives, there is no mention of these varieties, although ECW's field notes record numerous color and waxiness variants among blueberry selections.

What did these varieties look like? Coville described 'Redskin' at differing times as "mahogany-colored", "deep



wine-colored", or "purple" (2). Its berries were good-flavored, up to 16 mm in diameter, and the plant grew only about 2 feet tall (1). 'Catawba' was described as "catawba-colored" with smaller fruit and a waxier blush, with the plant growing to 4 feet tall (1). Although the Catawba grape, (from whence the name derives) may not be familiar to many today, the color is similar to the pink grapes commonly seen at the grocery store. The Whitesbog archives provide no information on the utilization of these varieties, but both were ultimately lost from cultivation.

Fortunately for us, in those earlier days of blueberry cultivation, the USDA employed talented personnel who made watercolors of numerous early fruit cultivars. Although the artist's name is lost to history, images of 'Redskin' and 'Catawba' were among those captured and preserved, and today we still have images of these two varieties (see accompanying picture).

Ironically, today, more than 70 years later, there is a renewed interest in pink-fruited blueberry selections

(continued on page 2)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Annual Trust Meeting.....	3
The Blueberry Festival.....	4 - 5
Calendar of Events	6
The Whitesbog Symposium.....	7

2006 - 2007 Board of Trustees Meetings

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (except as noted).

2006 - May 24, July 26, September 27, October 25, November 29. 2007 - January 24, February 28, March 28, April 22 (Sunday, 10:00 a.m.).

Holiday Party, Saturday, December 16, 4:30 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting, Sunday, April 22, 12:00 Noon.

Board of Trustees

Mark Ehlenfeldt, Pres.	John Joyce, Vice Pres.
John Kallelis, Treas.	Ellen Terry, Secretary
Bart Amato	Chris Bethmann
Tom Darlington	Ted Gordon
Nora Hayes	Richard Prickett
Stephanie Schrader	

Staff

Theresa Jacks, Executive Director
Esther Kubiczky, Bookkeeper/Assistant

Newsletter

Mark Ehlenfeldt & Theresa Jacks - Editors

Committee Information - 2006

Buildings Committee – John Joyce, chair – Meets bimonthly – contact WPT office for schedule

Events Committee – Theresa E. Jacks, chair – contact WPT office for schedule – New members welcome

Finance Committee – John Kallelis, chair

Fund Development Committee – Mark Ehlenfeldt, chair – contact WPT office for schedule

General Store Committee – Esther Kubiczky, chair – contact WPT office for schedule

Interpretative Education/Archives Committee – Ted Gordon, chair – contact WPT office for schedule – New members welcome

Landscape and Garden Committee – Ellen Terry, chair – 2nd Wednesdays of Jan, Apr, July, Oct at 6:30 pm

Marketing/Public Relations/Newsletter Committee – Mark Ehlenfeldt, chair – contact WPT office for schedule - New members welcome

Membership/Nominating Committee – Stephanie Schrader, chair – contact WPT office for schedule - New members welcome

Personnel Committee – Mark Ehlenfeldt, chair

(Blueberry Varieties from page 1)

due to the nursery and landscape industry. Because of this interest, the University of Florida released a pink-fruited rabbiteye blueberry variety named 'Florida Rose' in 2004 (3) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service recently released two unnamed pink-fruited selections, G-435 and ARS 96-138, for possible commercialization (4). The fruit of such selections is generally low in acid (5) sometimes to the point of blandness, but many consider them to be delicately and pleasantly flavored, and a real taste treat (author, personal observation).

A black and white version of the 'Catawba' watercolor is reproduced with this article. However, if you would like to see the colored versions of either the 'Redskin' or 'Catawba' watercolors, visit the Trust office at Whitesbog.

References cited

1. Coville, F.V. 1937. Improving the Wild Blueberry. In: Yearbook of Agriculture – 1937, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., pp. 559-574.
2. Coville, F.V. Hand-written and typed field notebook in the archives of the Fruit Laboratory, Beltsville, MD.
3. Lyrene, P.M. 2004. Blueberry Plant Called 'Florida Rose'. U.S. Plant Patent 14,485, filed December 4, 2002, issued January 27, 2004.
4. Ehlenfeldt, M. K. and C. E. Finn. 2006. G-435 and ARS 96-138, pink-fruited blueberry selections. HortScience (in press).
5. Ehlenfeldt, M.K., Meredith, F.I. and Ballington, J.R. 1994. Unique organic acid profile of rabbiteye versus highbush blueberries. HortScience 29:321-323. ■

The Mission of the Trust is to restore, protect and enhance the land, sites and buildings at Whitesbog and to provide educational and interpretive programs and materials about the history, culture and natural environment of Whitesbog.

If you would like to see any articles from this newsletter in large print, please contact the Trust :
Whitesbog Preservation Trust
120-34 Whitesbog Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015
Phone: 609 893 4646
Fax: 609 893 8297
E-mail: Whitesbog@hotmail.com

Annual meeting reviews Trust accomplishments; two members honored

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust held its Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday April 23, 2006 in the Barrel Factory. The Trust elected two new Board members, Bart Amato and John Kallelis. Both bring valuable skills to our Board. Bart is a member of the Pinelands Antique Engine Association, and an architectural historian. John is a retired business executive. John first came to the Trust with the Retired Executives and Professionals (REP) Program while doing a training program for the Board. When our Treasurer position became open last year, John stepped in and has functioned as our *de facto* Treasurer, until being formally elected at this meeting. After being elected, John formally presented the Trust's 2006 budget, which was approved by the membership.

The President and Committee chairs reviewed accomplishments of the previous year, among them, 1) the Building Committee reported on building renovations and repairs funded by a \$387,000 bricks and mortar grant from the State of New Jersey. The Trust has received two payments on the grant, one for \$111,000 and a pending reimbursement of \$37,000. Several major projects this grant has funded include reshingling of buildings in the village. A separate grant is pending for the reroofing Elizabeth White's home, Suningive. 2) In February, the Trust moved its offices to Suningive after The Nature Conservancy vacated as a tenant. The move to Suningive resulted in a loss of rental income and has added extra utility costs to the annual Trust expenses. Future plans for Suningive include its restoration and development as an interpretive center. 3) The Interpretive Education Committee reported on

archive preservation work and announced the first Whitesbog symposium planned for September 9, 2006; 4) the Events Committee reported that events were reduced last year to eliminate those that were not mission-oriented and reported that last year's Blueberry Festival was the most financially successful festival in the Trust's history; 5) the Membership committee reported membership was up approximately 15%; 6) the Marketing committee reported that the Newsletter has been restructured to provide more historical interest articles and has been put on a timely quarterly schedule; and 7) the General Store committee reported increased sales.

Bylaw changes approved at the meeting included abolition of volunteer, honorary, and alumni membership categories, a change of Board meeting dates from December to January, a change in the number of Board members needed for a quorum (from 7 to 5), and creation of a mechanism for interim appointments of Board members.

And finally, well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Nora Hayes and Tom Darlington. Nora was one of the founding members of the Trust more than 20 years ago and has been perpetually active in working for the Trust and promoting interest in Whitesbog. Tom Darlington is E.C. White's nephew and was the President of the J.J. White Company for over 30 years. He has had a long association with the Trust, and is part of the living legacy of Whitesbog. Congratulations to both of these members!

After the meeting, members adjourned to Suningive for a lunch prepared by Trust volunteers. We wish to thank Beth Gensel, Steve Young, Richard Rolle, and Ellen Terry for organizing and preparing the luncheon.

Complete meeting minutes are available from the Trust on request. ■

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Storekeepers are needed for the General Store. As little as 3 hours a month!

Whitesbog General Store is open on the weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Training will be provided.

Please contact Esther Kubiczky at

(609) 424-0354 or ekubiczky@comcast.net.

The Blueberry Festival is Coming!

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The Blueberry Festival is Coming!

The 23rd ANNUAL WHITESBOG BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL is just around the corner, Saturday, June 24th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Extreme weather date Sunday, June 25th.). This annual tradition has been voted one of the best "old-fashioned" festivals in the region. Visitors are gearing up to kick off summer in Pinelands style enjoying music, food, tours, country crafts, Pineland artists, antique engine displays, children's activities - And of course, the stars of the show - the BLUEBERRIES! Parking is \$7.00 per car. All proceeds benefit the Whitesbog Preservation Trust (WPT) in our tireless efforts to restore and protect Historic Whitesbog Village. Just a reminder, if you come as a visitor that parking is on the airstrip - a 2 minute drive from the festival grounds. Shuttle buses bring visitors from remote parking.

Each year, thousands of visitors travel to Historic Whitesbog Village, in the heart of the Pinelands to explore the rich cultural heritage of this company town, where the cultivated American blueberry was born. The Blueberry Festival offers a unique opportunity to glimpse Whitesbog as it was "back then" and the chance to see the continuing restoration today. All of this festival fun is set among the beautiful Pinelands where visitors can view the remarkable natural environment, indigenous plants & wildlife, and the breathtaking, unspoiled landscapes of the Pine Barrens.

The Whitesbog Blueberry Festival features unique country crafts, Pinelands art & photography, antique engine displays, a tractor parade, walking & wagon tours guided by Pineland historians & naturalists, great festival food, delectable blueberry

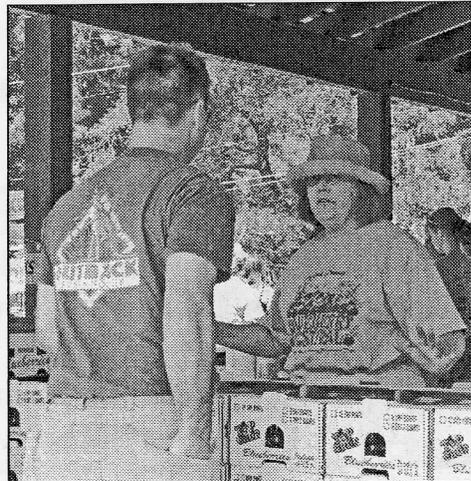
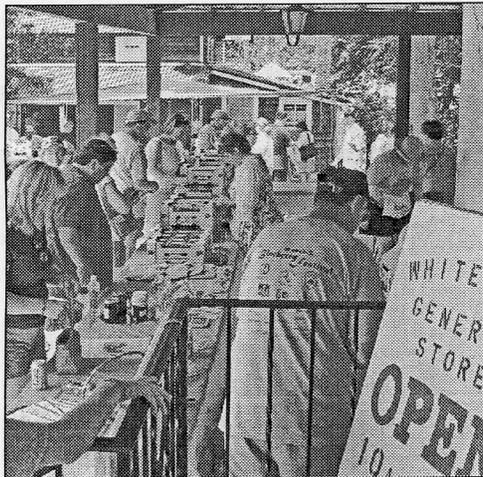


goods & products, free children's activities, an agricultural museum, a 1920's worker's cottage, blueberry picking, native plant sales, an old fashioned general store & post office, and Pinelands & country music.

The musicians include the Sugar Sand Ramblers unique sampling of New Jersey Pines' music, folk musician Jim Albertson's tall tales, Medford Station's "piney folk", the Conaghan Family's traditional Celtic music, the Basement Musicians smooth country pickin' and BAD DOGZ with Joe Wills! Because our long time former emcee, Dave Orleans is living on the west coast, Joe Wills will emcee the festival concert this year. We welcome Mr. Wills to the Whitesbog fold.

Children's activities have always been a wonderful part of the Blueberry Festival and this year is no exception. Children will "fun" the day away with a variety of free children's activities, including contests, games, natural crafts, the Garden State Discovery Museum's "Put Yourself in a

Bubble", a science table organized by member/volunteer Ken Mayberg and the outrageous and delicious children's blueberry pie eating contest judged by Elizabeth White and the infamous Jersey Devil!

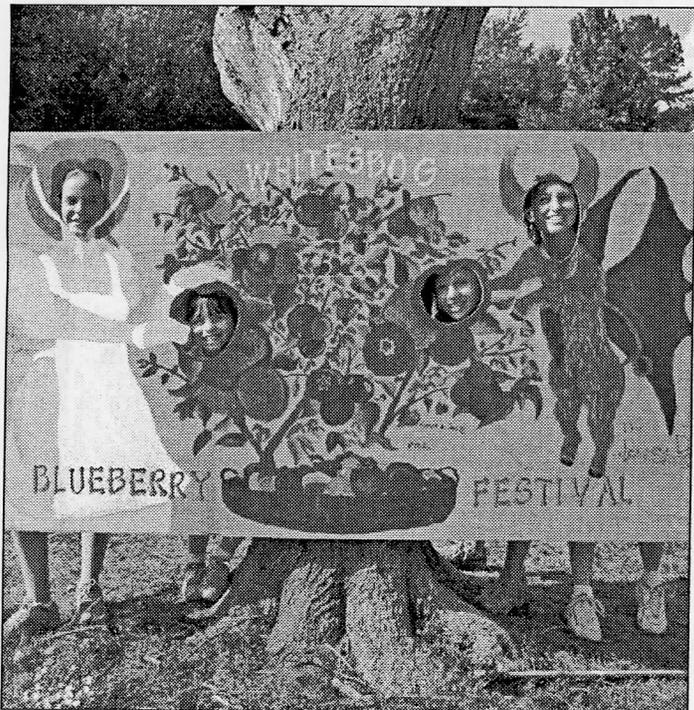


But all this fun still needs an overall children's activity coordinator. If you are interested, please call Theresa at the Trust office.

While enjoying the Festival, visitors are encouraged to take one of the walking or wagon tours. These tours are a great way to learn about the history and culture of the New Jersey Pinelands, Historic Whitesbog Village and the blueberry & cranberry industry. Tours and talks this year include: Elizabeth White and the history of blueberry development, barrel-making, Pinelands ghost-towns, and more.

The General Store will sell our Blueberry Festival commemorative t-shirts and postcards. Visitors can enjoy sending a postcard from Historic Whitesbog complete with the special postal cancellation only provided twice a year! **Esther Kubiczky, coordinating sales and the General Store, encourages members and volunteers to spend some time volunteering during the fest. She is also requesting candle donations for the store – blueberry and cranberry ONLY, please.**

For the second year, "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". This important grant pays musicians' fees and promotional expenses. The WPT is proud to receive this special project grant from the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



The WPT also thanks our many sponsors that make the annual Blueberry Festival possible. The Trust proudly welcomes back our returning

sponsors as of April 25, 2006: Clarke Insurance Agency, Inc., Columbus Farmers Market, Comcast, Deborah Heart & Lung Center, The Kokes Organization, Gibbs, Gregory & Emmons, L.L.C., Attorneys at Law, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Pine Island Cranberry Company, Inc. New sponsors this year include Fall Creek Farm & Nursery, Sun National Bank, and the Red Lion Diner. Every year the generosity of our sponsors ensures the success of the Blueberry Festival and the continued restoration of an important piece of New Jersey history. We encourage our members and volunteers to give our sponsors a big "thank you" when you get the chance.

Lastly, a special thank you to our area coordinators, including, Stephanie Schrader - Crafter Coordinator, Mark Ehlenfeldt – Tours, Lectures and Demos, Bart Amato – Wagon Master, Judy Norcross – Baked Goods, Dave Harrison – Remote Parking, Steve Young – Entrance, and Jeanne Streiter & Ellen Terry – Plant Sales. And, we also look forward to the combined volunteer efforts of the Pineland Antique Engine Association. Their antique engine display is a definite crowd pleaser! WPT members and volunteers know that the Blueberry Festival does not happen without the dedicated work of many, many volunteers. Thank you to everyone that has already volunteered! If you haven't committed to the Blueberry Festival yet – you are invited to join us! Volunteer opportunities range from the planning committee to event workers on the day of the fest. If you would like to volunteer your time for one of these areas, or another, please call Theresa at the Trust offices, (609) 893-4646. This very important fund raising program depends on all of us. Please volunteer your time and talents today! ■

**Burlington County College's
Pinelands Institute for Natural &
Environmental Studies
at Whitesbog Village**

**Nature of the Pine Barrens
Walks - Tours - Presentations**

Pine Barrens Ecology Car Caravan Tour –

May 23, 2006. 2 - 4 p.m., \$7/person. Take a guided tour featuring swamps, pine & oak forests, cedar water, mudflats & more. Along the way, your feet will stay dry as the "Nature in a Bag" kits bring the pine barrens right to your vehicle. Light refreshments will be served in the General Store following the presentation. Must pre-register 609-893-1765.

Wetlands Excursion Driving Tour – June 6,

2006. 10 a.m. - 12 noon, \$7/person. The Pine Barrens of New Jersey has many beautiful, diverse wetlands. Take a driving tour to see swamps, meadows, streams, ponds, and abandoned cranberry bogs along the sandy roads surrounding Whitesbog. Stops along the way provide opportunities for photography and discussion of natural history. Must pre-register 609-893-1765.

**Carnivorous Plants of the Pine Barrens
Presentation & Driving Tour – July 18,**

2006. 10 a.m. - 12 noon, \$7/person. An indoor program provides a guided examination of the interesting characteristics of the sundew, pitcher plant and bladderwort. In a driving tour along the sandy roads of Whitesbog, we will find these plants in their lowland habitats. Must pre-register 609-893-1765.

Hummingbird Presentation & Observation -

August 1, 2006. 10 a.m. – 12 noon, \$7/person. Did you know that the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird weighs only as much as 2 ½ paper clips? Join us in learning some natural history facts of NJ's only hummingbird species. Get a close look as these tiny birds interact with others as they zip between flowers of the sprawling trumpet vine, just outside the General Store. Must pre-register 609-893-1765. ■

**Whitesbog Preservation Trust
Event Schedule**

Most events meet at the General Store and require reservations. Reservations can be left on the main voice mail (609) 893-4646 or whitesbog@hotmail.com. Call for details.

June

3rd - Volunteer Work Day - 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Free. Lunch provided.

10th - Moonlight Walk - Strawberry Moon. 7 p.m.
\$5 per person.

19th to 23rd - Special Volunteer Work Week

.....
24th - Blueberry Festival, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Celebrate all things BLUEBERRY at Historic Whitesbog Village! Tours, food, music, artists, crafters, blueberry picking, demonstrations, and more! Family Festival Fun. \$7 per carload.
.....

**LOAD UP THE CAR – WE'RE GOING TO THE
BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL!**

July - National Blueberry Month !

8th - Volunteer Work Day. (see June for details).

8th - Moonlight Walk - Buck Moon. 7 p.m., \$5 per person. *Summer in the Bogs is breathtaking!*

22nd - Blueberries – the Wonder Fruit by Judith K. Russo – part of the N. J. Council for the Humanities Speaker Bureau. Free – reservations are necessary. Please call for details. 1:00 p.m.

August

5th - Volunteer Work Day - (see June for details).

12th - Moonlight Walk - Sturgeon Moon 7 p.m. \$5 per person.

September

2nd - Volunteer Work Day . (see June for details).

9th - First Whitesbog Symposium - (see page 7 for more details).

9th - Moonlight Walk - Harvest Moon 7 p.m. \$5 per person. ■

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust Annual Membership Drive continues. Thank you for renewing your membership or becoming a new member this year. Your valuable membership ensures the ongoing programs and preservation of Historic Whitesbog Village and the Whitesbog Preservation Trust.

Thank you for your support! (Memberships received as of 2/15/05 to 4/25/06).

Partner:

Thomas B. Darlington

Patrons:

Deborah & Jamie Hartshorn
The McBride Family
Don Nigroni
Dennis Waters

Supporters:

Bart Amato
Carol Bishop
Ann Cavanaugh
Bruce Claypool
Elizabeth Ruga & Phyllis Long
Ken Mayberg
Gayle Miner
Renee F. Williams

Contributors:

Marlynn Belsito
Barbara & Bill Gerace
Jacqueline D. Haaf
Jack & Esther Hickman
William S. King
Samuel E. Lippincott, DMD
Jeff & Judy Looney
Rutgers University Library
Mrs. William Sitler
Robert Staples
Gwen Guglielmi & Thomas Vogt

Donation:

Eleanor K. Scheidegg
■

Announcing the First

Whitesbog Symposium

Saturday, September 9, 2006

A day-long event featuring presentations on
Whitesbog-related topics:

Agricultural Machines of Whitesbog

Rare Plants of Whitesbog

E. C. White and the Development of the Cultivated Blueberry

Rare Reptiles and Amphibians of Whitesbog

The Whitesbog Community in the Early 1900s

Watch for further details on our website: www.whitesbog.org
or call: The Whitesbog Preservation Trust Office

609.893.4646

Driving Directions:

From NJ Turnpike

Take Exit 7 to Rt. 206 South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530.
(Landmarks - Vincentown Diner and White Dotte)

Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13. (Landmarks - You will go through the towns of Pemberton & Browns Mills, passing Burlington County College on the right.)

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot on the left.

From PA Turnpike

Travel to NJ Turnpike North and follow above instructions.

From 206 South

Travel North to circle intersection with Rt. 70.

Travel East on Rt. 70 to Rt. 530. (Rt. 530 is between mile markers 33 & 34.)

Travel West on Rt. 530 for one mile to mile marker 13.

Turn right onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

From 206 North

Travel South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530.

Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

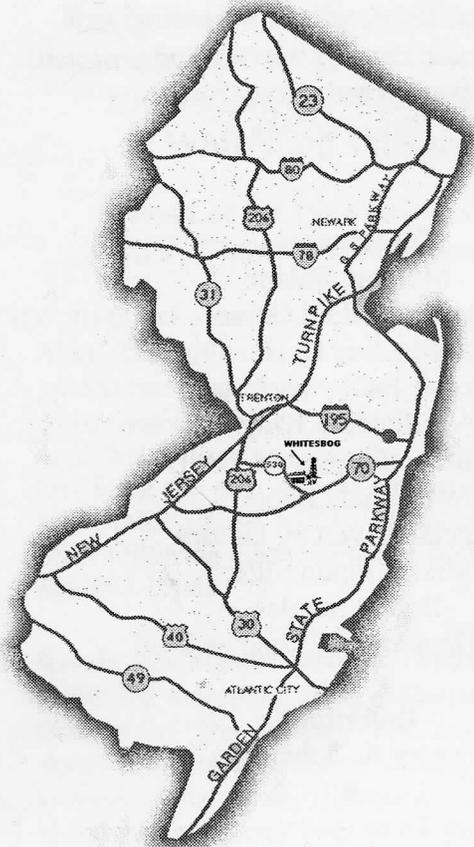
From Philadelphia

From Ben Franklin Bridge, take Rt. 38 East, crossing over Rt. 206 and onto Rt. 530 East.

Travel East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.

Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

The General Store is across from parking lot. Trust Offices are approximately 1/8 of a mile down the crossroad to the right (at Suningive).



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

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BROWNS MILLS, NJ
PERMIT NO. 113

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

