

NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITESBOG PRESERVATION TRUST SPRING 2003

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Instead of the usual brief comments expected in this space, I would like to introduce a new concept which we hope will enhance our newsletter for you. Last fall, a member of our board proposed the idea of including articles in the newsletter that might be of special interest to the general membership of the Trust and other friends of Whitesbog. The general consensus was that it was a great idea.

Let us know how you like the idea, or what you think of this first excerpt. I would also like to extend the challenge to others to contribute their own articles on Whitesbog for future issues of the newsletter. Do you have an interesting or informative story to tell our newsletter readers?

President- Board of Trustees, Dave Orleans

From the Whitesbog Archives

A regular feature on the history and lore of Whitesbog

Elizabeth White's Notebook

The history of the cultivated highbush blueberry began in 1911, when Elizabeth White, daughter of a NJ cranberry grower, invited Frederick Coville, a botanist with the US Department of Agriculture, to come and conduct blueberry breeding research on the Whitesbog property. In the ensuing years Coville and White engaged in a fruitful collaboration that resulted in all of the blueberry cultivars developed and grown in the earlier part of the twentieth century. In full, at least 24 cultivars can be shown with certainty to have been developed at Whitesbog, and many more appear to have been at least evaluated at Whitesbog. Many of these early cultivars are still grown today, and the more successful of these cultivars have formed the foundation for many of the blueberry cultivars that have been subsequently developed. Coville and White

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BECAUSE THEY LOVED WHITESBOG....

The families and friends of the following people chose to make memorial contributions to honor their memories and to help Historic Whitesbog in some fashion.



Left to right: George Murphy III, Renee William, Stephan Thompson, Margorie Sooy-Murphy, Vivian Murphy-Fort and Maurice Fort

George W. Murphy Jr.

George lived at Whitesbog until he joined the Army Air Corps at the age of 18. He served in the Corps from 1941 to 1945 as an aerial engineer stationed in Washington, DC. He worked for Lucas Motor Company in Burlington for 31 years. His wife, Margorie, also lived in the village. George has been interviewed several times regarding life in the village during the 1930s and appears in a couple of Whitesbog videos. Just weeks before his death, he gave the Trust some insight to the use of the Whitesbog firehouse. His family asked that George's friends honor his memory with donations to the Trust.

Walter F. Hayes

Walter joined the Army and was injured during WW II serving in Germany, France and Luxemburg. He was a graduate of Trenton State Teacher's College, teaching in the Trenton area. Even though he was wheelchair bound,

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BECAUSE THEY LOVED WHITESBOG

that did not limit him when the decision was made to save and restore the village back in the early 1980s. He was an active member of the first cleanup crew and a volunteer at the very first cranberry festival that was actually held at Whitesbog 22 years ago. He assisted in all the blueberry festivals throughout the years until several years ago by selling blueberries and blueberry plants or lecturing on the history of Whitesbog. Because of his dedication to Whitesbog, his wife, Nora, felt that a memorial contribution to the Trust was appropriate.

Carol Graubart

Carol worked at the Department of Environmental Protection for over 15 years. Because she was so well liked and respected, her co-workers made a memorial contribution to the Trust in her name. Carol enjoyed visiting the Village and the nature trails, even volunteering here for a time. She knew the history of Whitesbog and the ecology of the Pinelands and shared that love with her fellow workers.

Erwin E. Jakob Sr.

Jake came to America from Germany as a young man after WW II and joined the U.S. Army serving throughout the country. After the service he made Browns Mills his home. He loved the outdoors, especially exploring the 3000 acres of Whitesbog pines, ponds, and bogs. His family felt that contributions to the Trust would be an appropriate way to honor his memory.

Memorial contributions of \$500 will be honored with brass name plaques displayed in the General Store.

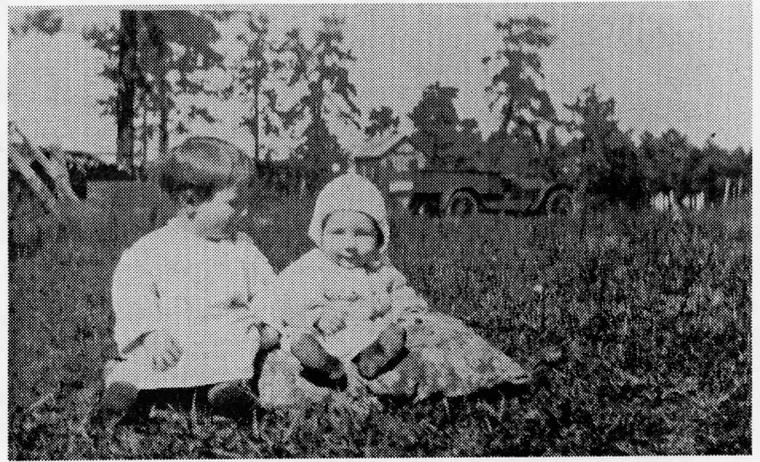
An electronic version of this newsletter is available for those preferring not to receive a paper copy in the mail. Simply email your request to WHITESBOG@HOTMAIL.COM

continued from pg 1 Elizabeth White's Note book.

recognized that one of the important first steps in developing improved blueberries was the collection of good parental material from the wild. To this end, Elizabeth White made posters that were prominently displayed in stores and post offices that offered native-blueberry pickers cash rewards

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Editor: T. Stephan Thompson
Associate Editor: Theresa Early



George W. Murphy Jr. and Vivian Murphy at Whitesbog
1923

for the finding of blueberry plants with large fruit. Those wishing to claim their reward needed to 1) find a plant with fruit larger than 5/8", 2) tag the plant, and 3) preserve a sample of fruit in a jar of formalin, and ship it to Elizabeth White. Upon receiving a sample deemed satisfactory, Miss White would contact the picker, and engage his service to lead her and her crew to the location where the plant was growing so it could be dug and returned to a plot at Whitesbog. From Miss White's own accounts, in 1911, 3 plants were collected, in 1912, 20. In 1913, a year that had a late freeze, only 1 plant was collected, and in 1914 a final 60 were collected. These blueberry plants, along with a few others that Coville collected in the New England states, formed the core of plants that were used in the initial rounds of blueberry breeding.

This background brings us to the archive "highlight" of this article. In the archive collection at Whitesbog is a half-size binder notebook, 5½ x 9 inches in size, and covered with a now faded green cover. Although this notebook is plain and work-a-day in appearance, it is one of the "jewels" of Whitesbog. The notebook, produced by the John C. Moore Corporation of Rochester, New York is a cleverly designed binder with two perpendicular spindles and a latching mechanism along its left edge that allows the cover and individual pages to be removed (and additional pages added). The convenience of removable pages meant that they could be individually removed, typed upon, then reinserted in the binder. Within the yellow pages of this book lies the early history of blueberry development. The book covers the period of 1912 to 1918 and meticulously records the pertinent issues in the discovery and location of each of the original blueberry bushes collected from the wild. It records the date found and the finder, a description of the bushes location, a description of the berries, a description of the bush, details of its digging, and details of its propa-

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gation. Longer entries detail the performance of the plant and the quality of fruit in subsequent years. All told the book enumerates 103 selections with colorful and locally familiar names such as Beebe, Bozarth, Clevenger, Duckinghat, Dunfee, Earlin, Grover, Haines, Hanover, Harding, Irick, Sooy, Theodosia, Tranquility, and Wells. Several pickers were prolific searchers. There are entries for Haines #1 through Haines #13; all originally found by Mr. C. R. Haines. Many plants were named after their finder, while others are named after the location where they were found. Wild blueberries were often described as "swampers", for it was in those locations that blueberries survived both the droughts and the fires that are common to the Pine Barrens habitat, and grew to be large old plants. It is obvious from the entries that Miss White was a meticulous observer, and exact counts are given of stem numbers and cuttings propagated. The entries are mainly typed, but sporadic notes are added in precise handwriting. A final set of handwritten notes was added in 1937 (about 20 years later) that added some retrospective observations about specific clones. It's clear from the descriptions that almost all of the clones were extensively propagated and tested. A number of them were "grubbed out" for poor performance. Yet another group of these collected plants became commercially-grown varieties in the early years of the com-

mercial highbush blueberry industry. A few of these varieties still exist today, and one, 'Rubel', is still grown as a processing cultivar that constitutes somewhere between 5 and 10% of the planted acreage in Michigan. 'Rubel' achieved its long-term success in processing, but it has also generated new interest in recent years among commercial growers and home gardeners because of its high levels of antioxidants.

The image below is a scanned reproduction of the first page of the 'Rubel' entry in Elizabeth White's notebook. It reflects the comment by Miss White that both she and Coville felt it was too fine of a berry to be called 'Rube' (after its finder, Ruben Leek). Presumably, they found the possibility of calling it 'Leek' equally problematic. They settled on the use of Mr. Leek's first name and his last name initial, hence the name 'Rube L'. The entry goes on to describe the uniformity and good color of the berries, but no notation is made of their flavor. 'Rubel' did, however, go on to be among the first cultivars marketed by Elizabeth White both as fruit and plants. A planting of 'Rubel' and 'Harding' dating back to 1917 still exists at Whitesbog, . . . but that's a story for another day.

- Mark Ehlenfeldt

RUBEL

~~RUBE LEELK~~ 84

Found July 1912 by Rube Leek.

Situation Near Chatsworth in Governor's Hole about 100 ft. from top of J. Reed's Bog.

Berries Fine berries 17 mm in diameter, good bloom, suppressed calyx.

Bush Twenty-five stems, five to six feet high.

Bush Dug March 15, 1913, ^{redivided} by F. S. Chambers, and was divided into 14 roots which were planted in Row 31 in the field.

Cuttings The top and a few roots made 627 cuttings, 20 of which were sent to Anna D. White at Lansdowne, 358 put in the black sand of the propagating frame, and 249 in the white sand.

Dec. 1, 1913. All but two or three of the original 14 roots came up and have grown luxuriantly, making symmetrical bushes from 12 to 18 inches high, heavily set with fruit buds

April 25-30, 1914.	From Anna D. White's cuttings	21 plants.
	" white sand	32 :
	" black "	27 " 80 plants

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003

April

- 5th Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- 12th General Store opens for the season
(open on weekends only 10 to 4)
- 19th Moonlite Walk 5 mi. 7pm
- 27th Annual Meeting (members only)

May

- 3rd Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- 10th Village Tour 10:30AM
- 17th Moonlite Walk 5 mi. 7pm
- 24th Canoe the Canals 11AM –2PM

June

- 7th Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- 7th Wildflower Walk 10:30 AM
- 14th Moonlight Walk 5 mi. 7PM
- 21st Summer Solstice 10K Run 9am
- 28th Whitesbog 20th Annual Blueberry Festival.
9am to 4pm.

Join us for a fun day as we celebrate all things blueberry at Historic Whitesbog, the birth place of the cultivated blueberry. Music, crafts and fine arts, antique engines, tours, children's activities, baked goods, food, exhibitors, wild bird release, fresh blueberries by the flat and much more. Parking \$7 per carload.

July

- 12th Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- 12th Moonlite Walk 5 mi. 7pm

August

- 2nd Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- 9th Moonlite Walk 7pm

September

- 6th Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- 6th Interpretative Ed Training 10-2
- 13th Moonlite Walk 7pm

October

- 4th Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
 - 4th Bog Trotter 10K 9AM
 - 4th Pinelands Month Kickoff 10 to 4
- A day to celebrate the history, ecology and unique culture of the Pinelands. Sponsored by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and hosted by the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, the day will feature exhibitors, music, educational tours, wagon rides, a wild bird release by Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and much, much more. Free
- 11th Moonlite Walk 5 mi. 7pm

- 18th 19th 25th 26th Cranberry Industry Tours
- Everything you ever wanted to know about the cranberry industry and more, plus a guided tour of a working bog. \$7 per person.
(additional dates to be added)

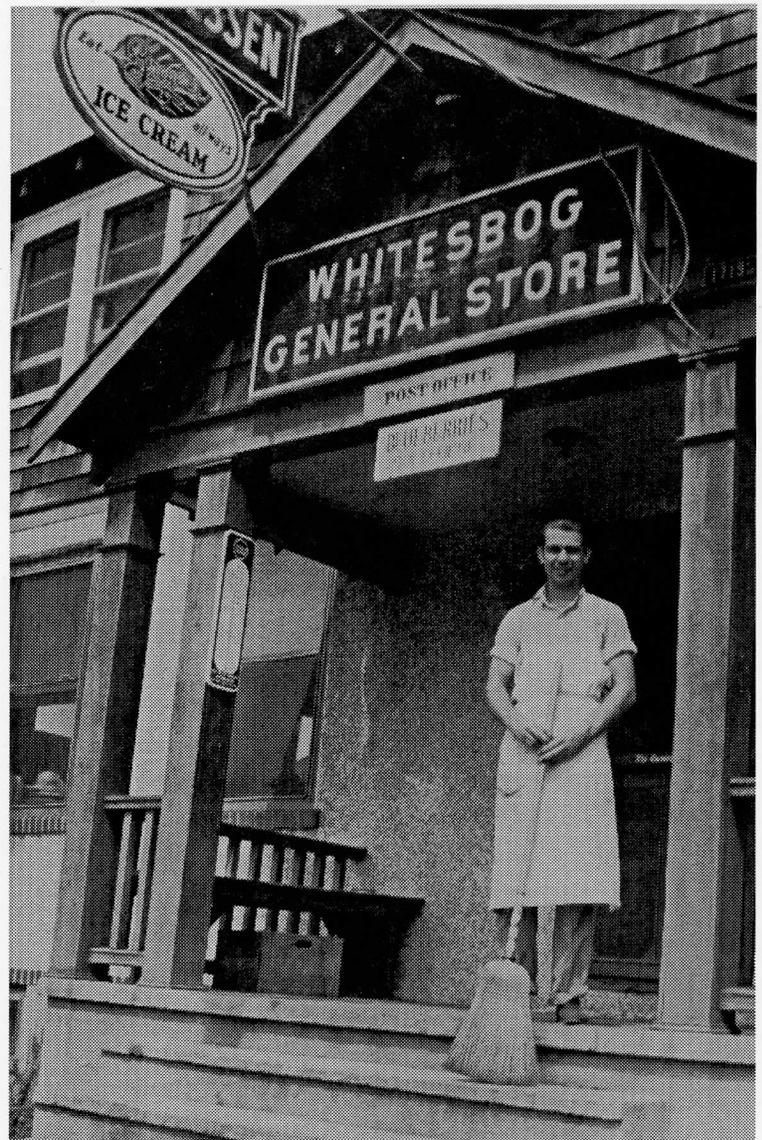
- 18th Sunset Hayride and Story telling
- 27th General Store closes for the season

November

- 1st Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- 8th Moonlite Walk 5 mi. 7pm

December

- 12th Invitation Only Holiday Party
 - 6th Volunteer Work Day 10-3 Free
- All events meet at the General Store and are \$5 per person unless specified. Proceeds benefit the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. Whitesbog is located at mile marker 13 on Route 530, southeast of Browns Mills in Pemberton Township, NJ.



Late 1930s Whitesbog General Store & clerk Maurice E. Fort, Jr. later married Vivian Murphy

Whitesbog News Bits

- ❖ The Blueberry Festival and Summer Solstice Run is right around the corner: June 28th and June 21st respectively. As always, volunteers are the successful ingredient in all our events. Thank you to everyone that has already been volunteering their precious time and talent. We're still reaching out to include more volunteers. Please call the Trust to express your interest. There is so much to do!
- ❖ As our Moonlight Walks become more and more popular, new leaders are constantly needed. Many area newspapers have written articles about the Walks. We anticipate that the groups may grow larger and larger. Please consider volunteering to become a Moonlight Walk Guide.
- ❖ The General Store officially opened for the season on Saturday, April 12th. The plan is to open the store Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This runs through October. Storekeeper spots are still available!
- ❖ An interesting email to Whitesbog was received. A reporter from the London Times is doing a story about the Jersey Devil. Additionally, she plans to visit Whitesbog and hear about our interesting and diverse history. Thank you to Tom Darlington, Bill Bolger and Dave Orleans for agreeing to share their expertise. Perhaps we may become international!
- ❖ Thank you to all members that responded to our mass mailing regarding membership fees. As you all know, fees help continue the restoration of Historic Whitesbog. Also, to members that were sent a request in error, thank you for calling and setting the record straight. Your patience and attention to this detail is very much appreciated.
- ❖ Whitesbog's volunteers ensure the continued growth and realization of our dreams. New volunteers are always sought after. If you know of a group that is interested in a worthwhile volunteer opportunity and would like a group presentation, please call the Trust with your leads.
- ❖ Tom Darlington and Theresa Earley were invited to the Homestead Senior Community in Columbus for a presentation about Whitesbog's history and volunteer opportunities. The group of about 80 people enjoyed Tom's slideshow presentation, along with his family history, Whitesbog lore and cranberry/blueberry history. Homestead has asked for a second presentation in the fall. We hope to see the Homestead community become a part of our community at Whitesbog.
- ❖ Richard Rolle and Ellen Terry visited Little Silver Garden Club in Little Silver, NJ on April 10th. The women's club is interested in the garden and flora of Whitesbog as well as the overall history. The president of the club said it was the best presentation that her group has ever had. Many thanks to Richard and Ellen for doing such a great job!
- ❖ A new committee to organize information packets for Whitesbog visitors would be beneficial. The group could meet on Volunteer Workday, organize all materials and complete the visitor mailings. The group could also recommend and develop new informational fliers as necessary. If you are interested, please call the office. This committee would be greatly appreciated.

Wish List

- More Volunteers
- New volunteer recruitment opportunities
- Historical artifacts re: cranberry & blueberry industry
- Peonies to build a peony hedge
- Gratis tree removal services
- Bequests
- Truck to be used in gardening/landscaping
- Topic appropriate new vendors for General Store to increase inventory
- Gratis cleaning service for summer time

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

bv,v,m03
Beth Gensel
217 Woodlawn Avenue
Florence NJ 08518

Please Call for New Event Info:
Canoe the Canals - July 19th
Things with Wings - September 13
Holiday Craft - December 6

Whitesbog Preservation Trust
120-13 Whitesbog Road
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