

Whitesbog Preservation Trust

NEWSLETTER

4th Quarter

www.whitesbog.org

2019

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THIS PICTURE



A Photo-composite Gives a Panoramic View of West Whitesbog Road around 1915

by Mark Ehlenfeldt, USDA-ARS

Come into modern-day Whitesbog, stand somewhere near the front of the General Store and look west. Now go back about 100 years to the early 1900s. **This is your view.** It's a Photoshop composite of two photos, but gives you a good perspective of West Whitesbog Road in about 1910. The **three cottages on the right** are recognizable. They are still there today, and in truth, not much changed. They've been restored! - preserved! At sufficiently high magnification, the edges of the **Barrel Factory**, and the **Barrel Storage Building** (the modern-day **Cranberry and Blueberry Museum**) can be seen beyond the cottages. On the left is the **Cranberry Packing and Storage Building**; sadly, now long gone. What we currently see at this spot is the Whitesbog parking lot. The structure pictured is the later rendition of the Cranberry Storage Building (that's how we know it's

about 1915). In the earliest version (about 1896), what is here as the large open bay door on the elevated second level was a porch-like loading area at the end of a free-standing single building. In the subsequent round of major expansion and reconstruction (completed by 1912), the porch was enclosed and two more major co-linear wings of equal size to the original building were added. The wing perpendicular to the road was added during this expansion as well. This wing housed facilities for manual cranberry sorting (which was done before packing and shipping) and had six windows on its western lower level (the opposite side of what's pictured in the photo) to provide optimum light for sorting. The modern-day **Pinelands Antique Engine Assn. Museum** building was a **Power House** that occupied an area behind this wing at approximately the center of the Storage Building.

Currently, some of the remaining ruins of the building's third segment can still be seen several hundred feet further down the road at what would have been the opposite end of this building (across from the Barrel Factory and the Cranberry and Blueberry Museum). Although the building is gone, enjoy this perspective. It's a grand view from the heyday of Whitesbog! ■

How Migrants Built Whitesbog ... and America

by Kiyomi Locker

When you hear the question “What are you?”, what is the first answer to pop into your mind? Are you a male or a female? Are you a mother, sister, brother, or grandfather? Or when this question is posed, do you say, “I am Italian”, “I am German”, “I am (insert ethnicity here).”? Unless Indigenous American blood flows through your veins, your ancestors crossed an ocean to get here in the very recent past, journeying to the land of promise and opportunity as the word spread of the landmass to the West. They came in waves from all across Europe; they came enslaved, forced to do the work of others. They came with hopes of providing better lives for their children, or even came as children for the hope of a better life for themselves. However or wherever they came from, they came and never stopped. These migrants became the backbone of the United States workforce, launching the U.S. in the Industrial Revolution to amazing heights.



Whitesbog was not exempt from this boom of European influx, in fact, migrant workers are what powered the farm when it came time to harvest both our cranberries and blueberries. Our archives are full of pictures that reveal a bygone age, an age that I am sure many of our members look back on fondly, or about which they have stories related to that time. (If anyone has any stories about Whitesbog, I would love to hear them and put them in our oral history vault). Whitesbog attracted workers from all corners: African Americans, Portuguese, local children (like my grandfather), and

fresh-off-the-boat Italians. The most influential group of workers that Whitesbog attracted were Italian American immigrants; there was no denying why the two auxiliary settlements were named Rome and Florence.

Italian migrant workers proved themselves to be hardworking, reliable, and willing to do what they must to earn their living. They tended to employ their children in the fields, working alongside them, to make the most money possible. Yet, when this became a nationwide issue, the White family sprang to action and built a schoolhouse to educate the younger children. These migrants flooded in from big cities, following their *padrones*, the labor bosses who would organize the people and get them to the fields. While the *padrone* system may have not been as beneficial for the workers as it was for the boss, it allowed the opportunity for workers to reach outside the cities to greater prospects.

Immigrants worked in the fields, gathered the crops, packed and sorted, transported, and did all things necessary to ensure the harvest was a fruitful one, just as migrant workers of modern times do. While the demographic has changed, the pursuit of a better life and the willingness to put in hard work is something that all citizens of the United States should understand.

The current rhetoric of our political hierarchy asks us to look down upon those whom they do not view as our equals. But as custodians of Whitesbog, I believe it is our duty to stand for those who simply wish to do the work, and benefit from all the aspects this country has to offer. I ask for all of us to look with compassion in our hearts this New Year, to ensure that the legacy of not only Whitesbog, but also of this country of immigrants, is not forgotten or lost. ■



A Busy Year for Building Projects in Whitesbog Village

by John Joyce

The past year was certainly a busy one for projects that maintain or enhance the twenty-five buildings that Whitesbog Preservation Trust is responsible for throughout the Whitesbog Village. The Building Repair and Restoration (BR&R) account is the funding mechanism responsible for almost all of the structural repair work done in Whitesbog. It utilizes 75% of the rents collected from village buildings, and is supplemented with various grants that the Trust has been able to secure on a regular basis through the years.

These BR&R funds pay for all of the recurring maintenance activities on the buildings. These include the garbage & recycling dumpsters, and electric bills for the Power House (#6), Museum (#7), Interpretive Cottage (#9), Barrel Factory (#8) and the Machine Shop (#17). The alarm bills for the Museum and Suningive and other routine tasks such as pest control services, storm window/screen change outs, yearly gutter clean-outs, and yearly furnace maintenance are also paid with BR&R funds.

Of all the projects completed in 2019, the biggest visual impact was provided by two trim painting contracts which resulted in full trim paint jobs on 14 buildings, and full exterior paint jobs on the Boarding House (#24) and the Cranberry Substation (#37). The trim paint project was helped when the Trust secured a \$15,000 matching grant from the 1772 Foundation administered through the New Jersey Historic Trust.

The Blueberry-Cranberry Museum (#7) underwent a complete resealing and repainting of the metal roof. The foundation was also repaired and repainted, and some interior floor replacement was done at the east end of the building. The exterior paint job for the entire building will be a priority in 2020.

Significant improvements to the Barrel Factory (where many of the Trust's lectures and gatherings are held) (#8) included full trim paint, four rebuilt windowsills, and the installation of four new 60-inch ceiling fans and a couple of window-unit air conditioners. This should help make the building far more comfortable for hot weather events throughout the summer.

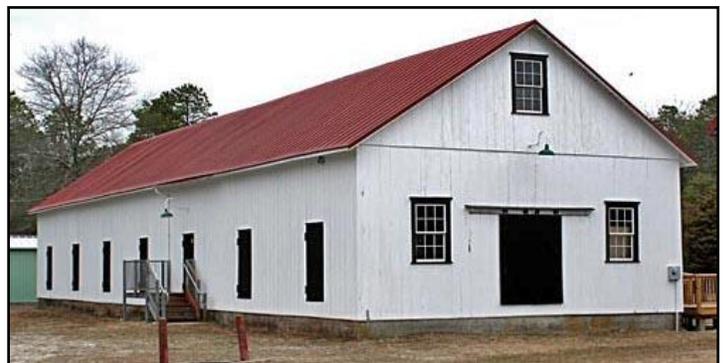
Two Interpretive Cottages (#9 and #10) had floorboards replaced, and repairs were done to the ADA ramp outside #9 in addition to full trim paint on the building. Building #11 which the Trust is using as an art gallery also had some concrete leveling done on the porch although we are still awaiting the replacement of the three porch concrete slabs that required replacement due to excessive cracking. The fourth cottage is the Welcome Center/Office for the Trust, and it too benefited from a full trim paint job.

Many of the residential buildings in the village underwent extensive upgrades. Furnaces were replaced in the Boarding House (#24A) and the Schoolhouse (#29). Full trim paint jobs were done on all six rental units: Boarding House (#24A and 24B), Superintendent's House (#26), Darlington House (#27), Schoolhouse (#29), Old General Store (#35A) and the Two-story Cottage (#36). Unit 35A had new locks installed, floors painted, and walls touched up. Interior stair repairs were done in the Two-Story Cottage (#36) and the Boarding House (#24A).

Much work was also done to Suningive (#34). Miss White's former home received a full trim paint job and all of the windows were cleaned inside and out. An access panel in the kitchen was replaced and the Archives room got a new AC/dehumidifier window unit so the Trust could stabilize the climate in this one very important room. The steady climate control will allow us to better preserve the many valuable documents that are kept in this room.

By far the largest monetary investment put into any building was the extensive effort to upgrade the Darlington House (#27). In early 2019, the house became vacant for the first time in over 20 years, but it needed much more work than the Trust had anticipated. In addition to the full house trim paint job, the entire house was rewired. All of the damaged plaster throughout the house was repaired and then the entire interior repainted. The sunporch interior trim was scraped and repainted, and over a dozen cracked windows were replaced with new glass. The oil tank was pumped out and the intake line was repaired. The final major renovation has been replacing the upstairs bathroom fixtures and restoring the tub/shower. The original claw-foot tub has already been reglazed as part of this renovation.

All of this progress was made possible using BR&R funds and the matching grant from the 1772 Foundation. All told, the Trust spent just over \$100,000 on building projects during 2019, and the collected-rents returned \$21,430 to the General Operating Account for the Trust through a 25% administrative transfer. We are anxiously looking forward to another productive year in 2020 as we move forward in our efforts to preserve Whitesbog Village as one of New Jersey's true historic treasures. ■



End of the Year Archives Report

by Kiyomi Locker

As our first full year with a dedicated Archivist came to a close, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust Archives Department can be proud to have accomplished a significant number of goals and milestones. To put into perspective the time and dedication Sarah Augustine, our intern, and I gave this year, working towards the future of Whitesbog; I logged over 1,255 hours at Whitesbog, with Sarah cataloging her intern hours at over 327 hours,

We completed our project grant, generously given to us by the **New Jersey Historical Commission**, to conserve, preserve, and publicize the glass negatives taken by Elizabeth C. White. This grant was multifaceted and allowed us the opportunity to purchase items that will let us to continue with preservation efforts on our own. Included in this grant plan was the purchase of:

- 18 archival binders from Archival Methods, a New York State company, to replace our derelict and rotting binders
- an Epson Perfection V850 Pro Scanner which allows our own staff and volunteers to digitize our collection
- a Canon EOS Rebel SL2 Camera and accessories to capture objects to create profiles in our cataloging system

All of these electronics and materials allow the Whitesbog Preservation Trust Archives Department to continue our mission of preserving Whitesbog and Pine Barrens culture/history.

In addition to our project grant, archives staff took on many events to help increase archives revenue. We held 5 regular monthly house tours and 4 special house tour events, *'Traveling with Miss Lizzie'* in August 2019, *Haunted House Tours* in October, *Lantern Tours* of Suningive and the Village in November, and then finished up in December with *Holly Holiday Tours*. Most of these events were new and implemented to continue to grow our revenue stream. We also hosted two Living History events in July and October. Our *'Cranberry Living History'* event saw the largest number of visitors that our Living History events have ever seen, over 70 people. Many of those visitors were people who had never visited our site before.

We are looking forward to an even more prosperous and event-filled 2020! We hope to bring in more visitors and help others to fall in love with this little Pine Barrens hideaway, just as we have. Whitesbog is truly a gem and we should all work to continue the goals of Whitesbog Preservation Trust in any way we can. ■

New Year, More Stories!

by Sarah Augustine

The year 2020 is shaping up to be a wonderfully productive for Whitesbog's oral history program, *'Harvesting Stories'*. *'Harvesting Stories'* was started in 2017 thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. It is an ongoing project that involves making video recordings of people connected to Whitesbog and the surrounding area as they tell their stories. Already, there are nine interviews in our collection. This year we will be expanding our oral history collection at Whitesbog Historic Village. We are actively working to get in touch with new people to interview, and plan to start the recording process in the coming months.

Further, we are taking time to educate ourselves on new methods of oral history collection. On January 6-9, archivist Kiyomi Locker and I attended the **Oral History Training Institute** at the **Science History Institute** (formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation) in Philadelphia. Kiyomi and I had the chance to work with a group of individuals from varied backgrounds to learn and discuss practices for collecting oral histories. During the four-day workshop, we worked through recordings and transcripts from the Science History Institute's expansive collection, as well as various articles written by top individuals in the field. There was also an opportunity for us to apply the information presented in the workshop, in an exercise in which we interviewed one another. It was such an inspiring experience! Coming away from this workshop, I am especially excited to continue *'Harvesting Stories'*.

I encourage anyone who would like to participate or recommend an interviewee to contact me at saraheaugustine@gmail.com. Together, we can preserve the story of Whitesbog for generations to come! ■



The Pinelands Institute at Whitesbog: 2019 Overview

by Jessica Grill

PINES had a very active year in 2019! We officially became a program of the WPT in July, finalizing the transfer process that began in February. Jessica Grill was hired as the 2nd part-time staff member of the WPT, and 4 *per diem* instructors were secured. These new instructors instruct during field trips and weekend programs on an as-needed basis. This year, we had more than 4000 participants in our programs!

During 2019 we attended two major outreach events – ‘Lines on the Pines’ in March where we begin advertising the merger of PINES and WPT, and then in November we received a free booth for the 2019 **New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Conference**. At the NJEA Convention we had the opportunity to reach a few thousand teachers from across the state. While many teachers were out of our intended-audience radius, we handed out many pamphlets to local teachers. After the convention, we scheduled 5 field trips directly as a result of the outreach opportunity. Additionally, Lise Mainor (former WPT Board President) reached out to the Pemberton-Browns Mills School Board and was able to arrange a meeting of PINES with the superintendents and principals of the township schools. From this meeting, we have been able to schedule 5 field trips from the district elementary schools, each trip for an entire grade of between 80-100 students. Additionally, we continue our partnership with the 21st Century Program providing 3 after-school programs throughout the year at 3 Pemberton-Browns Mills township elementary schools (Denbo, Stackhouse, Busansky), and one summer camp field trip program.

In the fall, we started expanding our family program offerings. A twice-monthly story time program had a good pilot run, with the Pinelands Family Success Center sponsoring local families to come to the story time. Based on the feedback received, we will continue to offer the story time program, restarting in the spring. However, due to attendance issues, we will require a certain number of paid RSVP’s in the future to ensure the program is profitable. ■



School Field Trip Registration Pinelands Institute at Whitesbog Village

Teachers can get more information or book a school field-trip by calling (609)-893-1765 or using the form found at: <http://www.whitesbog.org/explore-and-learn/30-pines>. Please reserve your visit at least four weeks in advance for peak months of April and May.

Membership End-of-Year Report 2019

Trust membership today is at an all-time high of 533, and 40 of these are new members, an ~8% increase! Hooray! THANK YOU. Your membership makes a difference. It helps preserve Whitesbog Historic Village as well as share its history and significance. Your ongoing commitment helps us with the preservation of the archives, The Cranberry & Blueberry Farm Museum, upkeep of Elizabeth White’s Gardens and her home, Suningive. Membership funds help continue educational outreach and field trips of the Pinelands Institute (PINES). It helps with projects such as the Stage, restoration of the cottages, the Whitesbog Art Gallery, upgrades to the General Store, new signs, trails, and information centers around the village. Remember YOUR Membership goes a long way. We sincerely want to thank YOU! ■



THE 37th ANNUAL BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
Sat. June 27 & Sun. June 28
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate all things blueberry.
Great family fun – blueberry picking,
historical presentations and tours,
arts and country crafts, music, food,
and lots more.
Load up the car. \$10 / carload.

Volunteers needed and welcomed.
Whole day and ½ day schedules.
Call 609-893-4646 or e-mail:
WhitesbogPreservationTrust@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.

February

- 1 - 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 helping to clear trails and garden paths or helping to organize our office cottage supplies for events! Both get you lunch in the General Store classroom.
- 1 - Village Walking Tour** 1 p.m.
Walk the Historic Village trails, learn about Whitesbog's role in history and visit Suningive, the worker's cottage and other museums & landscapes that speak to Whitesbog's heritage. \$5 donation / person, meet at the General Store - 609-893-4646.
- 2 - Blueberry Music Jam** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Calling all music lovers and musicians! Come into historic Whitesbog Village and join the music for an open jam session. Join experienced musicians for an open music jam session in The Barrel Factory in Historic Whitesbog Village. FREE activity.
- 8 - 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.
- 13 - Heart Bombing** 1 p.m.
Show your love of old buildings and Whitesbog Historic Village! We will craft heart bombs (paper hearts to lovingly attach to buildings, take pictures and post to social media) to share our love of preservation and old structures! We will have all of the supplies. Meet at the General Store. Check out #heartbomb for more examples.
- 16 - Blueberry Music Jam** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(See Feb. 2 for details). Free event.
- 22 - Rustic Barn Dinner** 5 - 8 p.m.
Join us in the Whitesbog Barrel Factory as we enjoy Rustic Italian Dishes, Music and Friendship! Walk through the Historic Village and visit the General Store. Whitesbog Members \$35, or \$65 for a pair, Non-Members \$45, or \$85 for a pair. Tickets on sale now through Facebook and Eventbrite.
- 23 - Suningive House Tours** 12 - 4 p.m.
Take a tour of the historic home of Suningive, designed and built for Elizabeth C. White, the "Blueberry Queen". The home has been preserved and slowly restored with the help of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. Tickets are FREE for the month of February; \$5/person in other months,
- 7 - Moonlight Walk** 7 p.m.
(See Feb. 8 for details). \$5 donation/person.
- 8 - Brownie-Daisy "Winter Adventure" Girl Scout Program with PINES** 1 - 4 p.m.
An Eco-explorer event for Daisies and Brownies in grades K-3. Girls will have the opportunity to observe Tundra swans, find hibernating insects, practice animal tracking, and listen to the sounds of winter on a nature hike. Activities are both indoors and outdoors. Participants will complete Daisy Eco Learner or Brownie Eco Friend Badge. Call for registration information.
- 15 - Blueberry Music Jam** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(See Feb. 2 for details). Free event.
- 14 - Pinelands Short Course @ Stockton University**
15 - Lines on the Pines @ Stockton University
15 - Irish Music at Suningive 1 - 4 p.m.
Enjoy Traditional Irish Music from the Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society at Suningive,
- 21 - N.J. Makers Day** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Whitesbog Historic Village comes alive with activities for families to play, build, create and have fun. The Barrel Factory will be filled with building stations, including Legos, Tinker Toys, Log Cabin Kits, Forts, Strawbees and more! Try out vintage tools with our builders, clamps, saws, cranks, vices and more! Get in the Cranberry Bog Sand Box for fun with farm construction toys and try out the robotic controller! FREE.
- ## April
- 4 - Volunteer Service Day** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(See Feb. 1 for details). Free event.
- 4 - Village Walking Tour** 1 p.m.
(See Feb. 1 for details). \$5 donation/person.
- 4 - Terrarium Making Workshop** 2 - 4 p.m.
Workshop will be held in The General Store classroom. We will have a variety of vases and globes available to select as well as mosses and small plants, soil, charcoal, stones, and more. Small terrariums \$25, Medium Terrariums \$35
- 4 - Moonlight Walk** 7 p.m.
(See Feb. 8 for details). \$5 donation/person.
- 5 - Blueberry Music Jam** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(See Feb. 2 for details). Free event.
- 11 - Easter Brunch for Volunteer Appreciation**
Brunch in Suningive for all Members, Volunteers, Partners, etc.
- 12 - Easter Egg Hunt & Crafts** 1 p.m.
FREE event hosted in partnership with Pemberton Recreation Department at Whitesbog Historic Village! Ages 1-10. Egg Hunt will take place in the gardens of Suningive, with Craft located in the General Store. Meet the Easter Bunny!
- 19 - Membership Meeting**
19 - Blueberry Music Jam 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(See Feb. 2 for details). Free event.
- 25 - Pemberton Recreation (Superhero Run)**
Severe Weather Date 26th
- 26 - Suningive House Tours** 12 - 4 p.m.
(See Feb.23 for details).). \$5 donation/person.

Join Us For The 4th Annual Whitesbog Village



March 21, 2020 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



www.facebook.com/whitesbog.preservationtrust

Whitesbog Historic Village comes alive with activities for families to play, build, create and have fun. **The Barrel Factory** will be filled with building stations, including Legos, Tinker Toys, Log Cabin Kits, Forts, Strawbees, and more! Try out vintage tools with our builders, clamps, saws, cranks, vices and more! Get in the **Cranberry Bog Sand Box** for fun with farm construction toys and try out the robotic controller! In **the Gallery** we will craft and create! **The Cranberry & Blueberry Museum** will have tours and a demonstration device where kids can pour cranberries in and see them drop down the steps and bounce. The Museum's fascinating collection includes cranberry sorters, bounce machines, blueberry harvesting and sorting equipment, barrels, crates, lanterns, tractors, elevators, farm tools, cranberry labels, beekeeping equipment and more. Building blueprints and machinery designs will be on display along with working Tractors and Old Engines! **FREE.**

2020 Whitesbog Board of Trustees

Jeff Macechak, Pres.	Millicent Moore, V.P.
Lise Mainor, Sec.	Paul Detrick, Treas.
John Joyce	Joe Darlington
Jennifer Knorr	Thomas Besselman
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Doug Leifert, Pinelands Ant. Eng. Assn.	



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 2020 General Operating Support 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 2020 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 Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a Financial Stabilization grant for FY 2020 from the NJ Cultural Trust.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received Discover NJ History License plate grant for FY 2020.



THE 1772 FOUNDATION

2020 Board Meetings at General Store, open to the public
Feb. 25, Mar. 24, Apr. 19 (membership mtg.), May 26,
Jun. 16, Jul. 28, Aug. 25, Sep. 22, Oct. 27,
Nov. 8 (membership mtg.), Dec. 8.

Staff

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

Newsletter

Mark Ehlenfeldt & Allison Pierson - Editors

Committees - 2020

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 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
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Browns Mills, NJ 08015



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