

Thousands attend blueberry celebration

by Rachael Bakos

Community News staff

BROWNS MILLS — This year's Whitesbog Blueberry Festival turned out to be a huge success. With dozens of vendors and thousands of people there were many things to see and do.

Many people were seen riding around the bogs on wagons pulled by tractors or walking with a tour guide around the village. Others went shopping or, tasted the variety of cuisines offered by the different booths at the festival.

Local musicians, storytellers, and historians offered information to the guests.

Lectures and demonstrations were provided for free at the barrel factory.

Lectures of the day included a variety of topics such as Pine Barrens ghost towns, and the history of the local railroad.

Members of the Burlington County Historical Society Jeff Niac and Eric Pfeiffer dressed in authentic Tory regalia for the occasion.

They told the story of Joe Mullener "the Robin Hood of the Pines". Mullener had a letter of marque, which was a license to steal from the British.

He was hanged in August of 1781 according to Niac.

Several books were



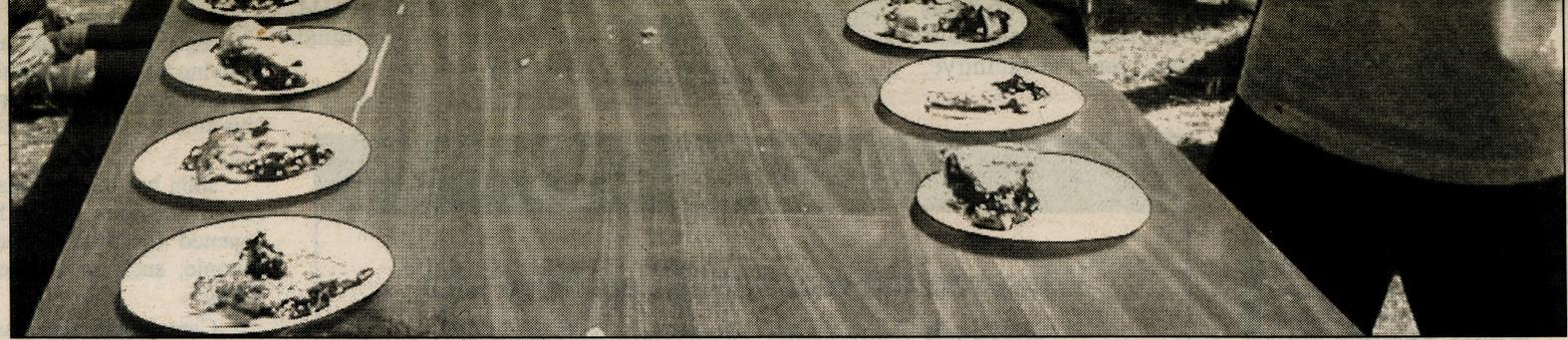
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Several books were available for purchase containing a plethora of information about the NJ Pine Barrens, and the surrounding area.

Pictures and paintings depicting the local flora and fauna were also on sale.

One local artist was selling his hand carved birds.



NANCY O'MALLON

Kids prepare to dig into blueberry pies at the Blueberry Festival at Whitesbog in Browns Mills on Saturday.

William Cowen has sold his birds at the festival for the past 7-8 years.

He and his wife enjoy the

locality of the venue according to Mrs. Cowen.

Education and awareness were main focuses for

many of the vendors.

The American Red Cross Pet Aid Team, The Forest Research Education Center, and The Unexpected Wildlife Refuge were on hand to inform the public of various issues.

Blueberries were obtainable in various forms including baked goods, sun-dae, honey, jam, iced tea, and all by themselves.

Blueberry bushes were

for sale with all proceeds being donated to the Elizabeth White suningive garden.

According to Ellen Kerry landscape commission chairperson the garden is now eight years in the making and encompasses three acres of land.

The Whitesbog Farm sits on 3,000 acres of land according to Kerry.

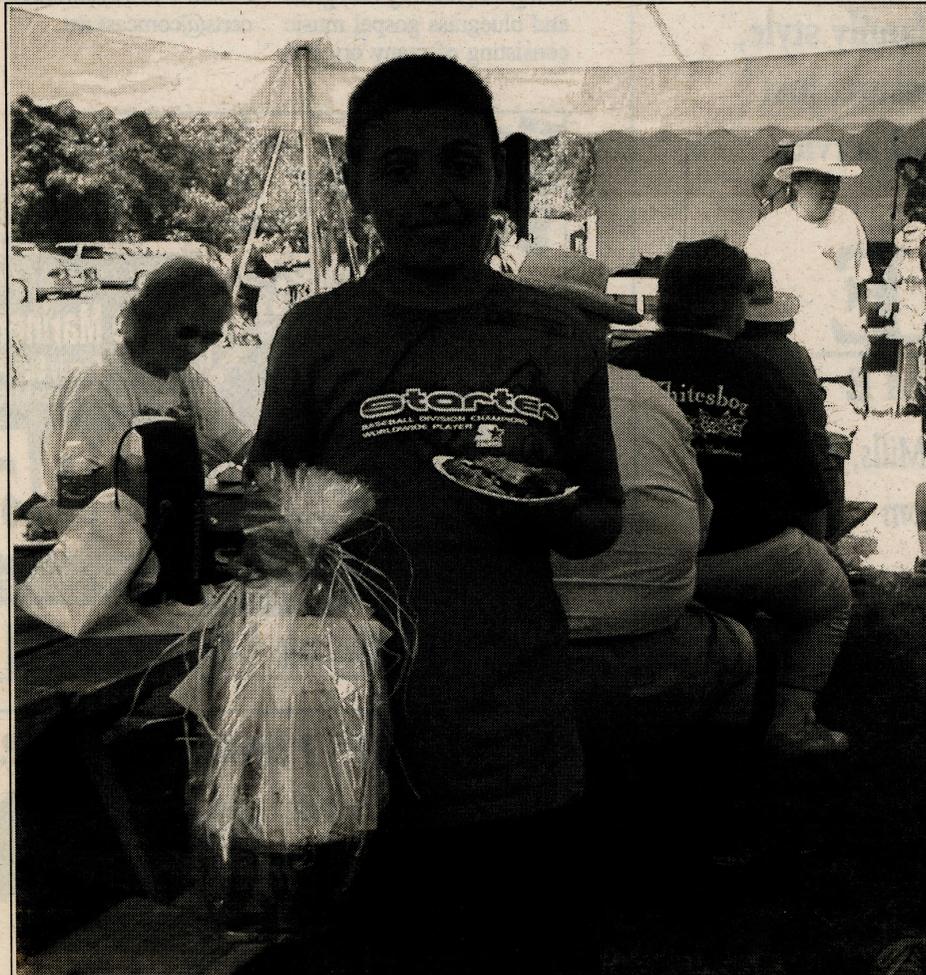
The Whitesbog Preserva-

tion Trust publishes an annual calendar of events.

It shows moonlight walks scheduled throughout the rest of 2005.

They have several other events posted.

The Whitesbog General Store is open weekends from February to December. For more information about Whitesbog contact whitesbog@hotmail.com or call (609) 893-4646.



NANCY O'MALLON

The winner of the pie eating contest, Ramon Manuel Cabanas, 12, checks out his prize at the blueberry festival.



RACHAEL BAKOS

Two men brave the heat by donning their colonial uniforms at the Whitesbog Blueberry Festival.