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## For Immediate Release

### **Pinelands Summer Short Course to Feature 14 Education Programs that Showcase the Pinelands' Natural, Cultural and Historic Treasures**

NEW LISBON, N.J., July 1, 2021 – The fifth annual Pinelands Summer Short Course will feature 14 education programs at two venues, including guided history tours, nature walks, a canoe trip, a ground-penetrating radar demonstration and live music.

Registration is now open for the event, which will be held at [historic Whitesbog Village](#) in Pemberton Township, Burlington County and [Wells Mills County Park](#) in Waretown, Ocean County from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. When registering, attendees will be able to choose between the two locations and from among a wide variety of tours.

The event is co-sponsored by the [New Jersey Pinelands Commission](#) and [Stockton University](#). It was cancelled last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Pinelands Commission is excited about this year’s Summer Short Course, which marks a return to in-person, educational programs about the Pinelands,” said Susan R. Grogan, the Pinelands Commission’s Acting Executive Director. “Whitesbog and Wells Mills County Park are perfect locations for the public to learn about the region’s history and ecology, while soaking in the sights, scents and sounds of the Pinelands.”

“The Pinelands Summer Short Course gives the public the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Pinelands we see every day on our 1,600-acre campus in the Pinelands National Reserve,” said Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman. “We are proud to support this program and encourage the public to learn more about this great natural resource.”

To register for the event, please log on to: <https://www.stockton.edu/continuing-studies/conferences.html>.

**(MORE)**

## **Pinelands Summer Short Course Press Release**

*Page 2 ...*

Here is a full description of each course offering:

### **Programs at Whitesbog Village:**

#### **Walking Tour of Historic Whitesbog**

Allison Pierson, Executive Director, Whitesbog Preservation Trust

This walking tour will provide an overview of Whitesbog's agricultural history. We will discuss the people and features that comprise the nuanced history of Whitesbog, including Elizabeth C. White's role in the blueberry industry, child labor issues on the farm, and daily life in the village. Participants will be able to walk through a few of the farm's historic structures, while also passing by the site of a satellite village for seasonal workers, the farm's original cranberry bogs, and one of the world's first blueberry fields.

#### **Suningive House Tour**

Sarah Augustine, Archives Assistant, Whitesbog Preservation Trust

Explore all of the nooks and crannies of Elizabeth C. White's home, Suningive. Built in the early 1920s, this Craftsman style house has three floors of artifacts and unique features. In addition to discussing the home's interior, Augustine will provide a biographical sketch of Ms. White, including her role in the cultivation of the highbush blueberry.

#### **Cranberry Sub-Station and More Tour**

Jeff Macechak, Education Coordinator and Living History Performer, Burlington County Historical Society

This tour will feature the Cranberry Sub-Station and will highlight the Franklina, the School House, as well as the Sears Cottage. Other topics will be discussed such as the 1918 opening of the Rutgers Sub-Station, plus the research of Charles Beckwith and the others who worked on cranberries and blueberries, along with managing diseases and pests. Participants will be directed to the Triangle Blueberry Field for picking blueberries. The blueberry field has sandy, uneven walking areas, so plan accordingly. Visitors will be provided with pints for collecting berries.

#### **Suningive Garden Tour**

Mark Szutarski, Landscape Committee Chair, Whitesbog Preservation Trust

This tour will highlight the history of the Suningive Gardens, designed by Elizabeth Coleman White, The Blueberry Queen. Ms. White developed a native Pine Barrens garden in the 1920's, and Szutarski will point out the Sphagnum pond, circle garden, blueberry plantings, the native, rare, regional and non-native plantings, and the cranberry bogs. He will also show the changes over time, while discussing the work of volunteers to restore the garden and maintain it for

**(MORE)**

## **Pinelands Summer Short Course Press Release**

*Page 3 ...*

public enjoyment. Visitors will walk over uneven ground, including woodland paths, sand, grass and boardwalk trails through the garden.

### **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Blueberries But Were Afraid to Ask**

Dr. Mark Ehlenfeldt, Plant geneticist, blueberry breeder

This program will feature a little bit about everything blueberry, including blueberry history, the modern blueberry industry, the best tasting varieties, the best varieties to grow, and how you can grow them. It will include a question-and-answer period. This is an indoor program.

### **Plants of the Pine Barrens Walk**

Nicole Bendixen, Seasonal Naturalist, Brendan T. Byrne State Forest

Kassandra Kopanyi, Seasonal Naturalist, Brendan T. Byrne State Forest

Join us on a one-mile walk to discover the native plants in Whitesbog Village. We will observe how the plants transition around us as we travel through lowland and upland areas, focusing on the different plants' adaptations and their ecological importance. We ask that you please wear comfortable shoes, sunscreen and bug spray.

### **Soil Toils: Exploring the Soil of the Pines**

Becky Laboy, M.Ed., Education Outreach Specialist, Ocean County Soil Conservation District

Come explore the soil of the Pines. Sugar sand, Manahawkin muck, and colorful clays offer a glimpse into the foundation of this rich and diverse habitat. Learn about the properties of local soil and its relationship to local plant species that define the Pines. Come prepared to walk short, sandy trails and get your hands dirty.

### **Demonstrations and exhibitions at Whitesbog:**

#### **Through Elizabeth's Eyes Exhibit (self-guided)**

Thirty-nine delicate glass plate negatives in the archives of Whitesbog Preservation Trust were conserved and digitized for the first time in 2019, making them available for public viewing. These 1896-1917 photographs were taken by Elizabeth Coleman White, and they include scenes from the active cranberry farm at Whitesbog, New Lisbon scenes, family portraits of Pine Barrens residents, snowy woodland scenes, nature studies and some travel images from Philadelphia and the Delaware Water Gap. These images reveal new views and insights into White's life before she developed the first crop of commercial blueberries, and they paint a portrait of life in the Pine Barrens at the turn of the last century.

**(MORE)**

## **Pinelands Summer Short Course Press Release**

*Page 4 ...*

### **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) unit demonstration**

Tony McNichol - Archaeologist/Cultural Resources Planner

Tony McNichol, an Archaeologist and Cultural Resource Planner with the Pinelands Commission, will lead a demonstration of the Commission's portable Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Unit. Basic GPR principles and applications will be discussed, and participants will be able to view real-time imaging of subsurface features on the unit's monitor. The demonstration will run for the duration of the event, and it will be stationed along West Whitesbog Road, immediately south of the Historic Village General Store and workers' housing.

### **Music at Whitesbog:**

#### **Old-Time Music and Dulcimer Performance by the Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society**

Members of the Society will play several Old-Time tunes while sharing the origins of the songs. They will play mountain and hammered dulcimers and will discuss the history of both instruments.

#### **Tunes & Tales: Valerie Vaughn, New Jersey's Troubadour**

A multi-talented musician and educator from Tuckerton, NJ, Valerie Vaughn specializes in writing acoustic tunes that cover the rich folklore and the history of the people and places of South Jersey.

#### **Jackson Pines - Singing Pinelands Folk Favorites from Today and The Past**

Jackson Pines is a band of friends who all grew up in the Pine Barrens playing music together. They will perform a set of songs that were popular at Albert Music Hall in the 80s and 90s, played by Merce Ridgway & The Pinehawkers. The performance will include folk favorites as well as tunes with Pine Barrens-centric lyrics. Jackson Pines will also play a few Pine Barrens folk songs of their own devising on acoustic guitar, stand-up bass, fiddle, and banjo.

### **Wells Mills County Park Programs:**

#### **Wells Mills Lake Canoe Eco-Tour**

Joshua Gant, Park Naturalist

Join us as we explore a 35-acre former mill pond by canoe, identifying many of the interesting plant and wildlife species of the Pine Barrens. Some paddling experience is preferred, as novices sometimes have trouble keeping up with the group. Dress for the weather, including footwear that can get wet. Canoes, Paddles and PFDs (life vests) will be provided.

**(MORE)**

## Pinelands Summer Short Course Press Release

Page 5 ...

### Wells Mills Nature/History Walk

German Georgieff, Chief Naturalist, Ocean County Dept. of Parks & Recreation

Virtually all lakes and ponds in South Jersey have man-made origins. At Wells Mills, the Oyster Creek was dammed in order to operate a water-powered sawmill. Over the years, other commercial endeavors were also pursued here. We will explore the historic human use of this site, along with the natural resources that attracted settlement. Be prepared for approximately 2 hours of walking at a fairly slow pace, with frequent stops. Dress appropriately for the weather.

**\*\*\* ATTENTION EDITORS/REPORTERS:** Digital photos of Whitesbog Village and Wells Mills County Park can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at [Info@pinelands.nj.gov](mailto:Info@pinelands.nj.gov).



The fifth annual Pinelands Summer Short Course will feature numerous programs at Whitesbog Village, which is home to historic buildings, blueberry fields and cranberry bogs (as shown above). Photo/Paul Leakan

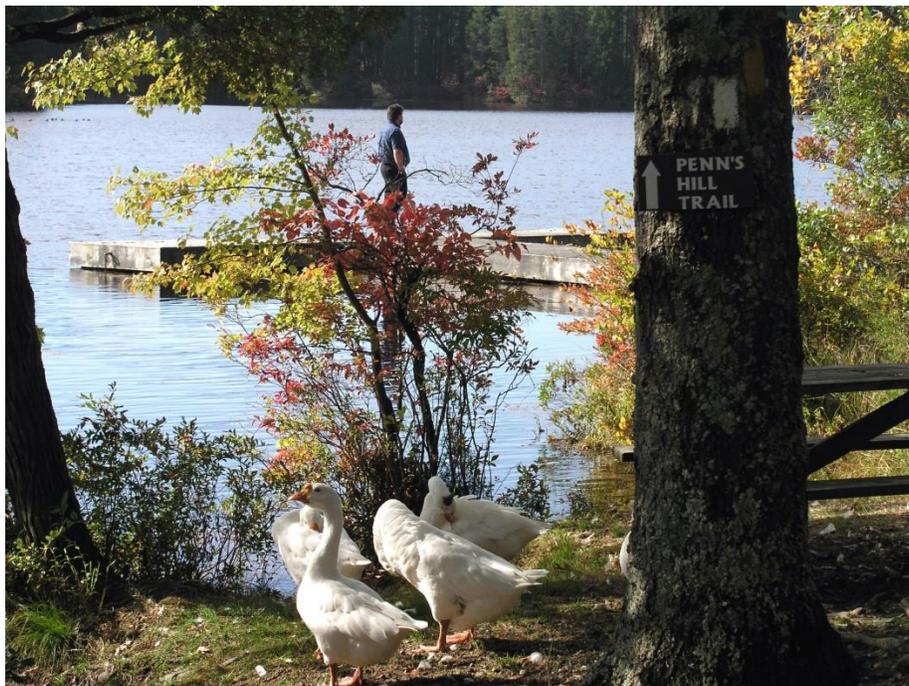
**(MORE)**

## Pinelands Summer Short Course Press Release

Page 6 ...



The fifth annual Pinelands Summer Short Course will include a guided tour of the historic structures at Whitesbog Village, as shown above. Photo/Paul Leakan



The fifth annual Pinelands Summer Short Course will include a canoe trip and a nature and history walk at Wells Mills County Park, as shown above. Photo/Paul Leakan

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