

# Cranberry Chronicle

News of Cranberry House and the GCI Historical Society

## Louise Marr Memorial

There will be a Plaque Dedication in honor of the late Louise Marr at Cranberry House on Sunday, June 27 at 2 pm. Family members of Miss Marr will attend. Louise donated over \$200,000 to Cranberry House over the years; the Preble-Marr Historical Museum is named in her honor.

We encourage all supporters of Cranberry House and what it represents to Cranberry Island to attend, honoring the memory of this woman who helped make it all possible.

## Home, Art, and Garden Tour

We hope everyone plans to attend the Society's Home, Art, and Garden Tour on Wednesday, August 11. We'll have nine stops, including the incredible gardens of Jan Moss, Clay Taylor, and Kathy Graven. Other stops are at Morrie Newell, Nancy Wood, Wini Smart, Mickey Macfarlan, the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation, and Cranberry House. The Café will sell box lunches, and the Art Exhibit will still be hung. Next door, the Church will have live music throughout the day.

Tour Admission is \$20 in advance, \$25 the day of the event. For off-islanders, we offer a round trip ferry from either Northeast Harbor or Southwest Harbor & Manset: \$15 in advance, or the standard \$24 the day of the event. Tickets are available at the Museum. For more details, visit [gcihs.org](http://gcihs.org)

We need volunteers to make this exciting event run smoothly; please contact Morrie and Johnna Newell or Vicki Johnston if you'd like to help.

## Where and When

The photo above, taken around 1948, shows Hillard Hardy's vessel, *Peggy*, being hauled at the Bunker Boatyard (now the Cranberry Island Boatyard.) Left to right in the photo are: Wilfred Bunker on the tractor, Philmore Peterson, Hillard Hardy, and Arvard Savage, who lent us the photo.

## Correction

For last issue's photo (*Island Queen* aground in Spurling Cove) we said "The Post Office on the Town Dock is closer inshore ... too far left to be seen..." Actually the Post Office was never on the Town Dock; it was—as now—on the Beal & Bunker Dock (but still not visible in the photo.)

## Geocache on GCI

Geocaching is a treasure hunt game played with a Global Positioning System (GPS) device. A fun outdoor adventure hobby for the whole family, the idea is to find a hidden container, then share the experience online. There are several caches hidden on MDI. Now GCIHS has placed one on GCI. Coordinates are on [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com), the official site. The aim is to attract a few more visitors to the island, and to Cranberry House.

## Membership Drive

GCIHS is making a great effort to increase membership. We have \$15 individual, and \$25 family memberships, good for one year from the month of payment. We'll soon have a process in place to remind you a month before expiration, but for now, see our member list below.

If you're not listed, please take time to send a check to continue your member benefits: mailings of the *Cranberry Chronicle* newsletter, invitations to special receptions, lower admission prices to certain paid events, 10% off Museum Store items, and a free walking tour map upon Museum entry. For any question about your status, contact us at 244-7800. Please encourage your friends and relatives to join, too. Remember, your dues help keep GCIHS and Cranberry House operating.

A heartfelt **Thanks** to the following folks who already renewed their memberships this year:

Alson, Dr. Allan & Sue Ann Glaser	Murray, Virginia "Ginna"
Bailey, Patricia	Nevius, Mary & Garrett
Bennett, Nancy N.	Newell, Morrison & Johnna
Bileck, Emily Nelligan	Pew, Arthur E. III & Judith
Bradley, James & Virginia	Pierson, Dr. & Mrs. Richard N.
Bradley, Stephen	Polshak, James & Ellyn
Brunault, Ruth	Quackenbush, Fred & Wini
Buchsbaum, Peter & Elaine	Raup, Henry A.
Carter, Alice G.	Richardson, Amy & Christina
Comiskey, Elsa R	Richman, Michael
Corson, Neil & Candace	Roberts, Owen & Janet
Donald, Malcolm	Rome, Abigail
Fernald, Anna	Rome, Dan & Cindy
Fuerst, Richard G. Jr. & Joanne	Rome, Nathan
Glaser, Michael & Kathleen	Rose, Dr. Dan & Martha
Goldberg, Mark	Saltostall, David
Goodwin, Max & Victoria	Sanborn, Beverly
Gray, Ed & Jane	Shorey, Ev & Joan
Guth, Polly W.	Spencer, June B.
Harlan, George Jr & Charlotte	Spurling, Leslie & Norma
Herrick, Steven & Margaret	St. Germain, Robert & Lucille
Hook, Janet A.	Sullivan, Richard & Ann
Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Orton P.	Taylor, Clay
Johnson, Jr., Robert E.L.	Tyrrell, John & Veronica
Johnston, Chris & Vicky	Uihlein, Lynde B.
Jordan-Fernald	Wallace, William & Lena May
Liebow, Dr. Paul & Evelyn	Watson, Thomas & Leslie
Lorence, John & Treg	Webster, Marilynn
Luterman, David & Leonie	Weibel, David & Tracy
Lyman, Lincoln P.	Westphal, Ruth
Macfarlan, Michael D. "Mickey"	Whitney, Phil & Karin
Madara, Ted & Linda	Williamson, Mark & Sarah
Method, Janice	Wood, Cameron & Nancy
Millar, Louise	Wood, Jonathan & Robin
Moore, Nancy Hadlock	Zimmerman, Steven & Sarah
Moss, Jan	

Cranberry Chronicle Editor: Bruce Komusin

## GCIHS Board

### Officers

Phil Whitney	President
Bruce Komusin	1st. Vice President
Beverly Sanborn	2nd. Vice President
Wini Smart	Treasurer
Kitty Pierson	Secretary

### Trustees

Elaine Buchsbaum	Malcolm Donald
Vicky Johnston	Charlotte Harlan
Mickey Macfarlan	Morrie Newell
Owen Roberts	Leslie Watson
Nancy Wood	

## Notes of Appreciation

GCIHS thanks the following individuals and organizations for their significant support:

- 🌸 Clay Taylor and the Fund for Commonweal for the new garden on the south (Parsonage) side
- 🌸 Holly, Vicky, and Grace Hartley for the new Betty Hartley Memorial Garden
- 🌸 The Townspeople of Cranberry Isles for the new heating system in the Arts Center
- 🌸 The Home, Art, and Garden Tour hosts for graciously participating in the August 11 event in support of GCIHS
- 🌸 Blair Colby for a week of intense work clearing 50 tree blowdowns and burning the debris
- 🌸 Karin Whitney for cleaning Cranberry House every day free, plus installing the blue backdrop curtain in the Arts Center
- 🌸 John French for building extensive shelves in the basement last winter
- 🌸 Wini Smart for working tirelessly all winter on new museum exhibit panels, and the new House History book, Volume I
- 🌸 Marilynn Webster and Janice Method, nieces of the late Louise Marr, for their donation of a memorial stone in Louise's memory
- 🌸 Morrie & Johnna Newell for organizing the Home, Art, and Garden Tour, and drafting publicity and fundraising brochures
- 🌸 Bruce Komusin, who spent countless volunteer hours doing everything

## In Memoriam

Cranberry Island deaths since last issue:  
March 21, 2010      Andy Storey

## President's Message

Cranberry House is now starting its third season. It's been a wonderful experience seeing this project develop. It seems only seven months—rather than seven years—since we received donated land, purchased the historic Mountain View Inn, moved it up the road 1/4 mile, and began extensive renovation and landscaping leading to the current building and site, beautiful enough to make island residents proud.

It's been an amazing process, full of hard work by many, many volunteers. We've been blessed at every turn with timely good fortune, often when least expected. For example, recently an island woman walking by Cranberry House noticed our amateur landscaping on the Parsonage side, offered to plant a tree and flower garden with materials and labor worth thousands, and completed the project in only three weeks. The new garden's beauty ranks with the best in the region. She did this simply because she appreciated what GCIHS had already accomplished, and took great pride in the appearance of our community.

We are committed to inspiring people to join our organization and participate in activities that interest them. A strong GCIHS must attract a wide cross-section of people, young and old, to bring new ideas and revitalize our operations. If you have an interest in participating in any way, please contact me or any GCIHS member. We welcome your support.

We constantly plan ahead for future needs, to identify worthy long-term capital improvement projects that justify larger funding. The Board of Trustees has voted to study expanding the front deck around to the Parsonage side of the building, and enclosing it, to permit dining in inclement weather. We hope to gain support for this goal with fundraising events this Summer.

The great attraction of Cranberry House lies in the wide variety of activities we offer. There's something for just about everyone. The Café, open May to October, attracts many repeat customers: year-rounders, summer people, and day trippers. This season's rehung museum exhibit highlights the history of all five Cranberry

Isles, plus the role Native Americans played as our first summer visitors. The Museum Store is expanded and improved. The upstairs Arts Center opened April 1st with movies. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy biking or walking to Cranberry House, then hiking the beautiful nature trail to the unspoiled back shore at Whistler's Cove.

This season we'll again offer an imaginative, diverse program series: lectures, concerts, movies, classes, special events, and art exhibits. (See back page.) A group of Unity College students will come for one week to earn credits helping on outdoor projects around the grounds. The August 11th Home, Art, and Garden Tour, new this year, will showcase the beauty and character of Cranberry Island, capping a week-long exhibit of local artists in the Arts Center.

Islesford School children recently visited Cranberry House to present a remarkable skit promoting a clean environment, with slides, singing, and dancing. They also enjoyed a barbeque on the lawn, and took advantage of great weather to walk the trail and find treasures on the beach. Little eyes were watching intently along the trail for "wild coyotes" and mysterious woods fairies.

Eight year old island girl Sophie Dowling summed it all up best: when told this season's activities and movies (including her favorite Gene Kelly Musicals and Roy Rogers Westerns) she took a deep breath and exclaimed, "It's going to a wonderful summer!"

-Phil A. Whitney

Islesford school kids sing "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" at Cranberry House, June 9, 2010.



Photo: Bruce Komusin



## Committee Reports

There are five working committees operating under the Board of Trustees:

**The Financial Committee** meets every two months to discuss ways to increase revenues, streamline operations, and reduce costs. Members often have financial or management backgrounds, or operate their own businesses. The group makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees, or to other committees.

Recent recommendations are: Host a Home, Art, and Garden Tour; create a glossy fundraising brochure targeted to individual donors; create a Cranberry House publicity rack brochure for wide local distribution at local businesses and on ferries; promote small featured artist exhibits and sales in the Arts Center and on our web site; encourage GCIHS membership via specific techniques; identify targeted projects for fundraising; enhance the museum store; and identify appropriate projects for grant applications. Many other ideas will be discussed in future meetings.

**The Operations Committee** meets every three months to plan and review building and grounds maintenance. Members often have useful skills: carpentry, gardening, computers, administrative.

Recent accomplishments are: Establish a telephone conferencing system; build sturdy basement storage shelves; clear extensive winter tree blowdowns; install a heating system and back-drop curtain in the Arts Center; install safety strips on the stairs; write a building maintenance and operations procedures manual; coordinate a large scale flower garden project; enhance the Museum Store displays; install the 2010 season Museum exhibits; purchase a roadside daily events sign and a new Media Room color laser printer; install more bog bridging on the Trail; plus many other small tasks too numerous to list.

**The Publications Committee** meets as needed to manage all aspects of GCIHS pubs and videos.

Our latest historical booklet, *House Histories of Cranberry Island - Vol. I*, will come out in June. Later this year we'll release the glossy individual

donor brochure, and the general distribution rack brochure recommended by the Financial Committee. Also we'll create advertising for Islesford and Sutton Islands, and local Chambers of Commerce, encouraging local residents to visit our special events and activities. Plans for 2011 have this newsletter going from 2 to 3 issues per year: March, June, and November.

**The Events Committee** meets as needed to approve and coordinate proposed Cranberry House events. The busiest time is June to September, requiring considerable personnel and delegation of responsibilities in support of many varied events. (Please see events scheduled at publication time on the back page.)

**The Archives Committee** meets regularly in winter, and in summer as time permits, to identify and catalog historical documents, photos, artifacts, and other materials donated or loaned to the Historical Society. Most members are island veterans with great memories of past people and events. Some have library and historical archiving experience. Last winter, meetings were twice a week; museum curators met a third day to enter data on materials reviewed by the group. About 25% of our unrecorded materials was processed this first season.

## House Information Needed

Our newest publication, *House Histories of Great Cranberry Island, Volume I*, will be released this month. Much of its house information is from House History forms submitted by home owners over the past several years. But many did not respond, or provided only very sketchy details.

To cover any missing houses, we hope to publish Volume II next summer. But we'll need owners to provide us with whatever historical background they have. Please contact either the Museum at 244-7800 or Editor Wini Smart at 244-9055 with your information.

Thank you for helping preserve the historical heritage of Cranberry Island.

## John Snow (1868-1937)

John Leonard Snow was a Passamaquoddy. He was born at the Pleasant Point Reservation (also known as Sipayik) near Perry, Maine, but lived most of his life on Mount Desert Island, making and selling crafts to locals and summer visitors. He was a well-known personality, especially in Northeast Harbor and the Cranberry Isles.

John appeared in the 1900 Census as a resident of the Ledgeawn Indian Camp in Bar Harbor, along with his wife, Mary Ann Fransway Francis Snow (1855-1946), a Penobscot. They were both listed as basket makers. They separated sometime between 1910 and 1918.

He then fell in love with Alice Sochabasin, like him, also a Passamaquoddy from Pleasant Point. Alice was also a basket maker. They settled in Northeast Harbor and began a basket and crafts business from a shop in their home.



Photo: Abbe Museum Collection

Their first child, Susan, was born 1919 at Bar Harbor. They had three more children: Philip, Bertha, and Juanita. Alice also had two children from a previous marriage, who sometimes lived with them. Their own four children all attended local schools in Northeast Harbor.

They lived in a rustic “camp like” house on Manchester Road near the old steamboat wharf. It had four bedrooms. The living area was a work room in winter, a store front in summer. Their heat came from a wood stove in the kitchen and a small potbelly coal stove in the living room.

Alice made fancy sweet grass baskets. To supply her materials, early in the season John would canoe to the Cranberry Islands to gather the pleasant-smelling grass. He himself made sturdy baskets from ash wood pounded into narrow strips. He also made birch bark boxes and picture frames, toy canoes, and sealskin moccasins. He bought the skins from fellow Native Americans.

In high summer John would return again to the islands and go door-to-door, selling baskets and other craft work they had both made. He liked to talk, and must have been a good salesman.

When Alice pined for Pleasant Point, John built a second house there in 1934, where they stayed in winter. They still summered in Northeast Harbor until his death in 1937.

Polly Bunker recalls John Snow coming by her parents’ house (now St. Germain’s) on Cranberry Island when she was a child. He gathered sweet grass nearby, and also sold his wares. He was a big man, and the children were afraid of him. On one trip Polly’s mother invited him in and offered him a snack. He sat down heavily on a porch chair, breaking it and falling to the floor with a mighty crash. At that, Polly and her sister Charlene ran out of the house and hid in the woods until they were sure he was long gone. Apparently they had seen too many Hollywood Westerns. Of course, John, a polite and pleasant man, laughed off the incident. -Wini Smart

(Details from Polly Bunker, and from *Indians in Eden* by Bunny McBride and Harald E.L. Prins.)

## Museum Report

The core of Cranberry House is our Historical Museum, open this season June 1 to September 30. Hours are 10-4 daily, 12-4 Sundays. Paid Receptionists from June 15 to September 15 will be: Laura Bolton, Abigail Singerling, Kelly McGrath, and Vicky Johnston. Unpaid volunteers greet visitors in the shoulder seasons.

Our 2010 exhibit is **History of the Cranberry Isles**, with all five islands represented. The displays have been rearranged, and feature many new photos and graphics. One section emphasizes Maine Indians (Native Americans) who for centuries until the 1940s visited the Cranberry Isles in the warmer months to fish, hunt, forage for berries, and make useful crafts. They were the first summer visitors. The huge three-masted model sailing schooner *Islander* is still on display, as well as our Hitty collection.

We enlarged our Museum Store with new gifts and publications to catch the visitor's eye. We are also expanding our famous photo wall of prominent year-round and seasonal islanders who have passed away, but live on in our memories. It's our most popular display, arousing great sentimental response among island folk.

We hope you'll join us as Historical Society Members this year, or at least drop by for a visit. If it's cold, rainy, or foggy, come sit in our 1920s wicker chairs by the warm, blazing stove, perhaps play some checkers or chess, and soak up the Cranberry Island memories that surround you.

-Phil Whitney

## Café Report

GCIHS sublets the Café to a private operator. Karin Whitney, who took it over so ably in mid-Summer last year, has agreed to return. She has lined up several helpers: Abigail Singerling, Laura Bolton, Bruce Komusin, Vicky Johnston, Kelly McGrath, and Casey Gustafson. The Café will be open from Memorial Day Weekend (May 29) until Columbus Day Weekend (Oct. 11.) Hours are 10-4 daily, 12-4 Sundays.

A wide variety of sandwiches, salads, ice cream, and specials will be offered—try the Swedish

Open-Faced Shrimp Sandwich. The Café will occasionally provide food and beverage support for Cranberry House events, and popcorn and drinks for most Movie Nights.

The Café shares with GCIHS the cost to provide free Wi-Fi internet service on The Deck—a very popular place to unwind, yet keep in touch with the world, in an internet café atmosphere.

-Phil Whitney

## Request for Support

Cranberry House has an annual operating budget of \$25,000 just for routine operating expenses: program events, salaries, maintenance, insurance, utilities, and inspections. Capital improvements are extra, such as the current plan to expand and cover our deck on the South (Parsonage) side for comfortable dining in inclement weather.

Please help us in these efforts by contributing what you can afford. Contributions can be in the form of Historical Society annual memberships, specific targeted programs of interest, stock sales, an endowment gift, or perhaps a legacy will. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so your contributions are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

If you have questions, or need assistance making a contribution, please contact the Museum at 244-7800 or Treasurer Wini Smart at 244-9055. We appreciate any assistance, and look forward to seeing you at Cranberry House this Summer, enjoying our many activities.

-Phil Whitney

## Invitation to Present

We're now finalizing our summer schedule, with classes and talks by several volunteers. If you'd like to host such an event, either free or sponsored, please inform the Museum Receptionist. We're looking for all kinds of programs: arts & crafts, poetry & writing, exercise & health, music & dance, sewing & quilting, photography, etc. Have fun imparting your special knowledge to others!

-Phil Whitney (Pres.) &  
Vicky Johnston (Events)



# The Total Eclipse of 1963

Maine's Eclipse Is Like Race Day In Indianapolis  
By HAROLD HARTLEY  
Staff Writer, *The Indianapolis Times*

CRANBERRY ISLAND, Me., July 20 -- The sun winked for nearly a full minute at this eastern jut of Maine and night fell three hours ahead of time here today.

Through a soft, sea-hugging haze, a ring around the sun lighted up like neon fire as the moon stood squarely between the sun and the earth.

It was an eerie moment. The chill of night fell on the air. The birds stopped singing except for a lone Canadian song sparrow doing a solo in the cathedral pines.

THE FULL ECLIPSE, which lasted 59 seconds, was the biggest show on earth today. It even had sound effects. A jet squadron from Dow Air Base at Bangor tracked and filmed the moon's shadow across Maine, adding symphonic thunder to the grandeur of the scene.

We rigged up a reflector in the front yard overlooking the sea: a telescope, three grocery cartons with a few holes in the right places did the trick. With this the show could be seen without looking direct, a peril to the retina of the eye.

At the University of Maine in Orono, about 900 professional and amateur astronomers were gathered. And Maine expected some \$10 million of tourist money to roll into the state.

Rooms were as scarce as on Race Day in Indianapolis. Rent-A-Cars were sold out two weeks ago.

THE ASTRONOMERS got together tonight for a chicken barbecue at Orono to compare notes, talking a language nobody knows but themselves.

We had a half-dozen ice cream buckets, round and gallon-sized, with exposed camera and X-ray film pasted over a hole in the bottom. They made everyone look like a cow with a white head.



Clouds played along with the eclipse like children following a circus parade, and a soft haze drifted like wispy smoke through the pines. And the gulls headed for Duck Island, where they roost for the night.

It was a minute to remember, as if someone had turned out the light in a room, then fumbled for the switch and turned it on again. That is the way it was on the eastern tip of Maine today.

*And from an unpublished companion piece:*

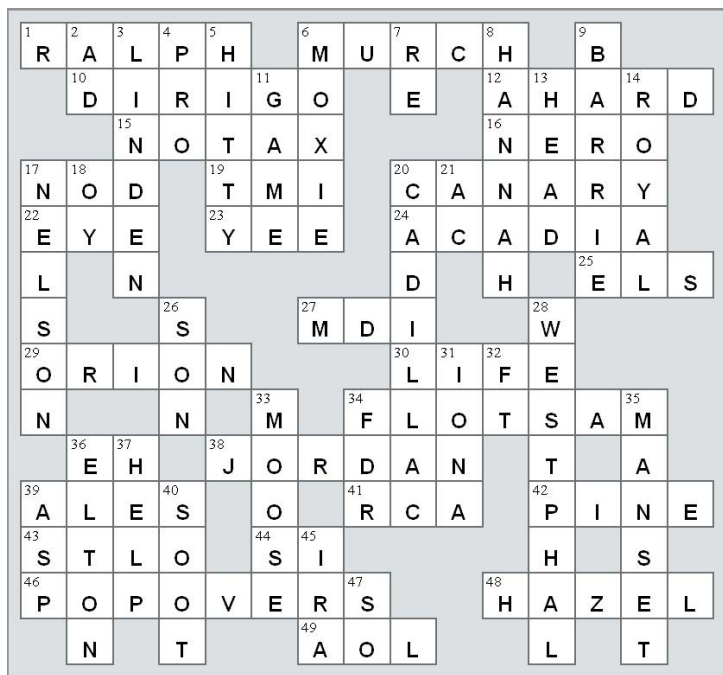
The total eclipse, the first in some 360 years, will last about one minute...

Up here people had planned to celebrate the phenomenon with cocktail parties. Then they called off the parties. Anyone with three or four cocktails could easily forget and look at the sun, feel no pain, and still lose, or damage, his eyesight.

There will be two air glow experiments, one conducted by the Air Force and another by the Bureau of Standards. They will do two high speed photo experiments picturing "Baily's Beads" a phenomenon caused by the last rays of light shining through irregularities or valleys in the surface of the moon.

The dry-witted Maine folk are taking the excitement in stride. Wilfred Bunker who runs the mail and a water taxi service among the islands said: "What's so wonderful about the moon getting in front of the sun? The mountains do it every night."

**Great Cranberry Island Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 12**  
**Cranberry Isles, ME 04625**



*(Answer to last issue's puzzle)*

**CRANBERRY HOUSE EVENTS, 2010**

**MOVIES**

June 15 to Sept. 15, every Tue, Thur, and Sat at 7:30 pm  
 plus Rainy Day Saturday Matinees  
 rain @ Sat noon = movie @ 2 pm

**JUNE**

27 Dedication of Louise Marr Memorial Rock, 2 pm

**JULY**

- 5 Talk: Afghanistan and Yemen, by Charles Dunbar 7:30pm
- 9 Talk: Bob Kearns' Flash of Genius, by Tim Kearns 7:30pm
- 10 Bass Harbor Yacht Club visits 10 am
- 12-14 Watercolor Class with Helen Bertles 10 am
- 15 Concert with Audrey Noether and friends
- 16 Wilfred Bunker 90th B'day Party 7pm @ Community Ctr  
Tribute 8 pm @ Cranberry House
- 19 Heliker-LaHotan Artist Reception 5 pm
- 21 Poetry Reading by Sam King 7 pm, reception follows
- 23 Poetry Camp with Sam King 9 am
- 23 Talk: Antarctica Volcano, by Nelia Dunbar 7:30 pm
- 24-26 Islander Portraits Exhibit, 10 am (12 noon Sunday)  
funded in part by Maine Arts Commission
- 28 Acadia Players Classical Concert 7 pm
- 29-31 Children's Crafts with Charlotte Harlan 10 am
- 30 Talk: Baker Island, by H. Dwelley & Ralph Stanley 7:30pm

**AUGUST**

- 4-11 Local Artists Exhibit and Sale all day
- 9-13 Unity College Students Work Projects Visit
- 11 Home, Art, & Garden Tour all day
- 11 Poetry Reading & Book Signing by Sam King 1 pm
- 16 Poetry Reading by Michael Glaser 7pm
- 18 Talk: Vietnam Past & Present, by Fred Benson 7:30 pm
- 25 GCIHS Annual Meeting 7 pm
- 27 Basket Weaving with Christie Benson 10 am
- 27 Grand Canyon Rafting, by Eliza Greenman 7:30 pm

**SEPTEMBER**

- 1 Talk: Towns Slides, by Phil Whitney 7:30 pm
- 8 Talk: Alaska Cruise, by Chris Johnston 7:30 pm
- 10 Heliker-LaHotan Artist Reception 5 pm
- 30 Museum closes 4 pm

**OCTOBER**

- 11 Café closes 4 pm
- Have a warm winter, and see you next season!

**We need your membership  
to help support our events.**

Please mail in your 2010 dues  
in the handy pre-addressed envelope inside.