

Cranberry Chronicle

Number 29 • Summer 2014

Photo: Omer & Annette Mountain

News of Cranberry House and the GCI Historical Society

Gilleys Haying on Baker Island

Great Summer Events at Cranberry House

Open House, July 6

Our Historical Museum official opening begins with a Sunday coffee from 11:30 am to 2 pm on July 6, 2014. Come see the new museum exhibits created by artist Wini Smart.

This year we highlight the history of photography on Great Cranberry Island, with posters, photos, and antique cameras. Marie Locke loaned us four prints taken on GCI in the last century by her great grandfather, Fred Morse, of Islesford. We also show two copies of works by renowned photographer Walker Evans. A limited number of books are available about the lives of both photographers, plus a new book on Island Photography by Wini Smart.

Anne Grulich's research last year led to a new exhibit "180 Year Old Shoes and Cape Style Houses on GCI." Her work also appears online: search for "Great Cranberry Island's Preble House" on MaineMemory.net and also see hundreds of new items in the Finding Aid (museum archives list) on our own gcihs.org

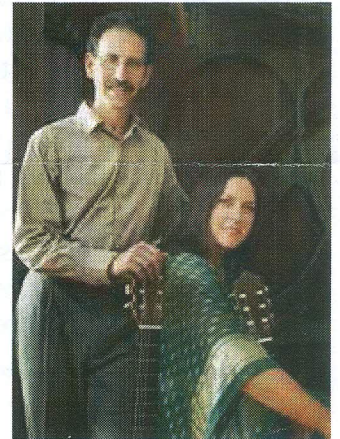
We've also added new items to our Museum Store, many Maine Made. The museum is for your pleasure and education. Come visit and enjoy our island's unique history.



Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo Concert, July 19

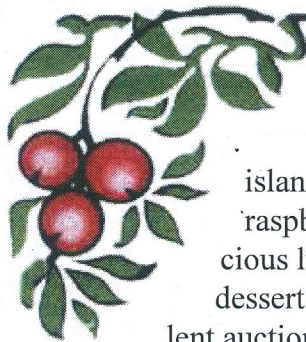
Hailed as a "revelation to hear" by The Washington Post, the Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo's phenomenal musicianship places them solidly at the top of their field. Their innovative programming, matchless technique, and ensemble precision make them a stand-out chamber ensemble in every way.

The Buchsbaums persuaded these fine musicians to give a concert to benefit CIRT and GCIHS on Sunday, July 19 at 4 pm at the Church.



Very Berry Day, July 29

Tuesday, July 29 (starting at 10 am) will be a fun day for the whole family, and a way to help out Cranberry House too! We're celebrating the island's bounty: strawberries, cranberries, raspberries, and yes, blueberries. Have a delicious lunch and a choice of homemade berry desserts. Bid on berry inspired items at the silent auction. There will be some artistically painted furniture, art, photos, and handmade gifts. Check out our yummy island Berry Bake Sale. Visit a beautiful garden and view a special art show. Take a nature hike, return for a Crantini punch, and claim your silent auction prize! This is our only fundraiser, so bring out your family and friends.



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A Flattering Editorial

The Mount Desert Islander, June 19, 2014

Cranberry Means Community

Maintaining thriving year-round communities on the offshore islands of Maine has been a difficult proposition for decades.

Employment is hard to find. Fewer and fewer people seem to be willing to live in a place where a trip to the store is determined by the winds and the waves and the lack of transportation options.

While all of the inhabited islands off Mount Desert Island have made advancements in strengthening the fabric of their communities, progress has been especially impressive on Great Cranberry Island.

Their approach has been twofold, both with the embrace of activities which encourage more summer visitors, thus boosting the island's fledgling retail economy, and with the creation of additional, affordable housing options.

The moving and renovation of the Cranberry House, the opening of Hitty's Cafe at the island's museum, the creation of trails to provide public access to shorelands owned by the local land trust, and the operation of the Cranberry Explorer, a golf cart shuttle that allows visitors and residents to get around without a full-size vehicle, all have helped. In the past, too many summer day trippers bypassed Great Cranberry to spend time on the better-known Islesford. But the larger island has much to offer and now can be considered one of Down East Maine's undiscovered day-trip gems.

Additional town-subsidized ferry runs also have helped make it easier for folks on both Great Cranberry and Islesford to commute to jobs on the mainland. In recent town meetings, funds have been approved to maintain underutilized schools so the town won't find itself short of classroom space should enrollment pick up in the future.

As for housing, just this week, two more modular homes were barged out to Great Cranberry to be installed on land provided by a generous donor. The continued efforts of the Cranberry Isles Realty Trust may seem modest at first blush, but they signal a strong trend in the right direction.

The strengthening of community fabric on Great Cranberry isn't happening by accident. It takes the hard work of public officials, non-profit organizations and dedicated individuals. Other Maine islands searching for solutions to their own concerns over a fading sense of community would do well to emulate the Great Cranberry approach.

Cranberry Explorer Shuttle

The Cranberry Explorer Golf Cart Shuttle will run again this summer. Last winter the Board of Trustees voted to purchase an 8-passenger 'stretch' golf cart, based on the success of last season's experimental service using a rented 6-passenger golf cart. However, earlier this spring, our former insurance carrier decided to eliminate Maine auto coverage, and refused to renew our policy. After a three-month search, covering a wide area of New England and the eastern seaboard, insurance coverage was finally confirmed, at very favorable terms. To say the least, we're ecstatic over this development. The new cart had optional accessories installed at the dealership in Monmouth, Maine, and was then barged over from NEH to GCI. Service began Saturday, June 28, and will end Monday, Sept. 1. Operation will remain as last year, with departures from the Town Dock every half hour from 9 am to 6 pm daily. Trips will run the length of Cranberry Road, making stops en route. Special on-call trips via the municipal side roads will be handled when possible. Please call the Museum Desk (10-4) at 244-7800 for further information. Screened volunteers will drive. Rider donations are greatly appreciated.

—Phil Whitney, President

GCIHS Board

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Milestones

Deaths: Paul DePalmer, 6/20

Weddings: Margaret Griset & Chris Sullivan, 6/21 (Margaret is Charlotte Harlan's grandniece)

Miscellaneous: New CIRT tenant Michael Justa arrives at Rice House, 6/13 (his wife, Kinsey, to follow)

Two new CIRT affordable rental homes barged to GCI and erected behind Cranberry House, with extensive media coverage, 6/17-18

President's Message

The very long winter and very short spring resulted in delays in construction and maintenance projects around Cranberry Island, including at Cranberry House. When warm weather finally did arrive, it was accompanied by an explosion of activity along the Cranberry Road. (See Separate Article.)

The spring season, although most welcome when it finally arrives, also brings considerable stress to workers and volunteers at Cranberry House. Many delayed projects must be completed, often by the Memorial Day Weekend, when the museum and café open for the season. Personnel are often stretched to the limit, due to other personal and professional commitments, and our seasonal support volunteers and paid staff have not yet arrived to help lessen the workloads. But somehow we always manage to persevere and get most projects completed relatively on time. Our various subcommittees have met throughout the winter, many who were away participating by teleconferencing, to move forward our many projects and plan for the challenges ahead, both short and long term. The subcommittees include: Operations, Finance, Publications, Archives, Events, and two new committees: Public Relations and Stanley Cemetery Preservation.

We were confronted with two major challenges this coming season: The new CIRT affordable housing construction project, which accesses the housing sites via our parking lot, was scheduled for completion in June, just prior to Cranberry House activities shifting into high gear. Many heavy trailer trucks, cranes, concrete trucks, and other construction equipment needed to transit through the parking lot, and oftentimes to park there, due to parking space limitations at the site. However, the two houses are now in place, and the worst is behind us. Also, this spring we were notified our insurance coverage for the Cranberry Explorer Golf Cart Shuttle had been cancelled, due to the insurance company reducing its presence in Maine. Many, many hours were spent by several volunteers searching New England and the East Coast before successfully finding a company willing to insure our community non-profit shuttle operation. (See Separate Article.) It goes without saying that we (most of the time) enjoy our work around the Cranberry House property—but there were some sleepless nights.

There have been some gradual changes and improvements at Cranberry House for the coming summer season. Jim Singerling donated a flat screen 55" televi-

sion which was mounted on the wall in the Arts Center. It can show high definition and 3D programming. We anticipate using it for special showings, and also for expanding our 'Wall of Fame' viewing of former year-rounders and prominent summer residents. The television will display multiple screen images during business hours which will rotate gradually to continually show new photos. Chicken wire was placed on all the bog bridges on the Whistler Cove Trail to reduce slippery conditions during wet weather. Benches were placed adjacent to the larger pond for picnicking and wildlife viewing. The Preble Cemetery was mowed by Tiffany Tate, which greatly enhanced the attractiveness of the grounds. The Museum Receptionist summer staff will include Chris Johnston (M-W-F), Gail Grandgent (T-Th), Nancy Wood (Sat), and Katherine Whitney (Sun.) We welcome several new volunteers to our organization, including Tom and Becca Powell, David Ferreira, and Mike Justa. We also added the Stanley Cemetery Preservation Committee under the sponsorship of GCIHS, whose new members include, but were not limited to, Patty Pinkham, Ralph Stanley, Louise Millar, and Susan Michalski. We continue to landscape the grounds behind Cranberry House, to make the area more attractive and more easily walkable. Finally, the café is in gradual transition this year, with new chef Cezar Ferreira easing into the operation as Karin Whitney gradually retires.

Our Annual Meeting this year will be on Wednesday, August 13, 7:30 pm, at Cranberry House.

We continue to encourage members and visitors to support Cranberry House, and the many activities and programs it offers, by generously donating towards its continued operation. Costs continue to rise, and we must constantly review our organizational planning to make every donated dollar count. I encourage your generosity as much as possible this season, either by contributing via our "Friends of Cranberry House" program, or simply dropping a donation in one of the jars when you visit us. I look forward very much to seeing you on the 'Property' this summer, and hope you will enjoy your experiences at Cranberry House as much as we do.

—Phil Whitney, President

Old Schoolhouse Day, August 22

The whole family will enjoy this event, which is very timely after the vote this spring to renovate GCI's Longfellow School. On Old Schoolhouse Day, school children will perform a skit, Sophie Dowling will read letters from a young teacher traveling to her job on Baker Island, and a panel of islanders will reminisce of their good and bad times at Longfellow School. We'll show school-related slides and serve coffee, punch, and Gail Grandgent's old-fashioned gingerbread.

We'll have transcripts of an interview with Ella Bates Spurling, the first teacher at the Longfellow School, who taught previously at the former school near the gravel pit; ruins of it are still there. In the 1800s there were two schools on GCI; the other (shown), now owned by the Donald family, on Schoolhouse Hill.



Each of the five Cranberry Isles have had schools. Even tiny Bear Island had one for a short time; the museum has records of its cost to the town.

On Baker Island the Gilley family—and later the lighthouse keepers—had many children. At one time they had to row to Fish Point on GCI and then walk to school. Sometimes they had to stay overnight due to treacherous weather. Later they had their own school in the little red schoolhouse on Baker Island, which still stands today and is used as a summer guest cottage; the owners retained a few school desks. Great Duck Island also had a school when two lighthouse keepers lived there with their large families.

High school subjects were taught in the early schools. But many children finished their education at 8th grade. In later years children began to attend the high schools on Mount Desert Island at Southwest and Northeast Harbors, as well as academies in central Maine. Most recently they attend MDI High School, boarding with friends during the school year.

Sam King Workshops, July 9 & August 12

Sam King Poetry Reading, July 25

We are indeed fortunate to have Sam King back this season to educate, inspire, and tweak our emotions. Sam will lead two workshops: "Writing from Dreams" on Wednesday, July 9, and "Writing from Claywork" on Tuesday August 12. Both workshops are 12:30 - 3:30 pm; the fee is \$40 each.

Sam has given readings from her work all over the country: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Virginia, Maryland, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington, DC. And now... she will read for us on July 25 at 7:30 pm.

Sam's poems have been widely published in magazines and journals: *Prairie Schooner*, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Spoon River Quarterly*, *Zone 3*, *The Maine Times Northeast Magazine*. She has written several books, some of which can be purchased at the Cranberry House Museum Store. Her newest book, *Out of the Depths: Poetry and Poverty-Courage and Resilience* will come out through Holy Cow Press in 2015.

Community Play Reading, July 14

Bonnie Alpert will facilitate as we sit informally and take turns reading various parts of *God of Carnage*, by Yasmina Reza. Everyone will have a chance to participate, with no need to study lines or read the play in advance; we'll have a number of copies available to share among the readers.

God of Carnage won the 2009 Tony Award for best play, and the Laurence Olivier Award for best comedy. The plot involves two sets of parents, one of whose children has hurt the other's child, who meet to discuss the matter in a civilized manner. However, as the evening progresses, the parents become increasingly childish, with very funny chaos as the result.

Art of the Cranberry Isles, August 4-10

We will once again continue our popular week-long summer exhibit of paintings and crafts at Cranberry House. Artists from all the Cranberry Isles are invited. The Artists' Reception is Sunday, August 3, at 6 pm, and the exhibit will run August 4 through 10. Past exhibits have been well attended; we'll again be open during the Ladies Aid Fair. Receiving dates will be Friday, August 1, 10-4, and Saturday August 2, 10-1. Pick up on August 11. Call 244-7800 for more information and to register.

Mail Art Exhibit, July 23-30

Mail Art is a piece of art work that has been sent (mailed) to someone; it can take many forms. This unique idea was enthusiastically received two years

Summer Events *continued*

ago when Rebecca Guyver presented the first exhibit at Cranberry House. Works from around the world were shown as well as pieces from local Cranberry Island artists. She will repeat her effort again this year with a whole new exhibit. Reception is July 23 at 6 pm; exhibit is July 24-30, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Rebecca (Jan Moss' daughter) is an artist and art educator in her home village in Suffolk, England. She had several exhibits of her work in England this year. She is married and has two children, one attending University of Edinburgh, and the other is at medical school.

Guided Nature Walks, July 2,16 & Aug. 13,20

Join us for another year of nature walks on GCI, led once again by Peter Buchsbaum. Some of you may have joined Peter on his walks to Whistler's Cove last summer. He can often be found wearing a bright blue hat with a large fish projecting from the front. He is known by some on the island as "Mr. Fish."

Peter recently retired as a Superior Court judge in New Jersey. Prior to joining the Judiciary, Peter was an attorney specializing in Land Use, Real Estate, and Municipal Law. Peter and his family began coming to Great Cranberry in the early 1990s and purchased a home on the Island in 1998. Peter is an avid hiker, with a strong interest in many aspects of nature including wildflowers and trees. His entire family, Elaine, Matthew, Andrew and his wife, Fan, and Aaron, who worked at Hitty's Cafe one summer, are ardent fans of Great Cranberry.

Meet the Heliker-LaHotan Artists, July 3 & 16

Patricia Bailey, President of the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation, will again introduce their newly-arrived artists to the community at these popular sessions. The artists explain their previous works and what they hope to accomplish during their stay on the island.

William Patterson Photos Show, July 14-20

Following a reception July 13 at 2 pm, William Patterson will show his photos July 14-20, 10 am to 4 pm.

Charles Dunbar Talk, July 28

Charles will give talk about Middle Eastern affairs on July 28 at 7:30 pm. Charles was a United Nations and American diplomat who lived 21 years in the Middle East, and was U.S. ambassador in Qatar and Yemen. He later ran the Cleveland Council on World Affairs for 8 years and was a professor of international relations at Simmons College and Boston University for 10. He currently teaches part-time at Boston University and proudly owns a home on Bear Island.

SWH Library Historical Slides, July 11

Meredith Hutchins and Charlotte Morrill, members of the Southwest Harbor Library, will present a slide show with historical background commentary on Friday, July 11 at 7:30 pm. Meredith was the former librarian for many years, and Charlotte is a transplant who loves history. Together they've formed a remarkable team which, over the past several years, has identified and cataloged thousands of photographs of the region, including the Cranberry Isles.

Historical Slides, July 7,21 Aug. 11,27 & Sept. 10

Phil Whitney will present a series of slides with audience participation in recognizing the scenes and people shown. The July 21 and August 27 shows are at 4 pm; the others at 7:30 pm.

Children's Arts & Crafts Workshop, Aug. 12-14

Charlotte Harlan will once again reprise her popular children's art class this August 12, 13, and 14 from 10 am to 1 pm. The cost is \$10/day, for supplies.

Mark Howard Watercolor Workshop, Aug. 14-15

Mark Howard is a plein air painter, well known for his watercolors of Little Cranberry Island, where he and his wife have summered many years. He will teach a watercolor class on August 14 and 15, from 9 am to 3 pm. The cost is \$50/day.

GCIHS Annual Meeting, Aug. 13

Our Annual Meeting will be held August 13 at 7 pm. Several officers terms are expiring, including President Phil Whitney and V.P. Bruce Komusin, and Trustees Charlotte Harlan and Nancy Wood.

Friends of Cranberry House

We're sincerely grateful for the response so far to our new "Friends of Cranberry House" support program. To recap: An annual tax-free gift to GCIHS as a Friend (\$25) or Family Friend (\$50) is like our previous individual or family membership. Or you can more generously support a program you particularly enjoy or propose, as a Donor (\$100), Sponsor (\$250), Patron (\$500), or Benefactor (\$1000 and up.)

Friends help preserve Cranberry House for current and future generations, and receive our newsletter three times a year, plus discounts on museum purchases and trips, and invitations to special events. The year-end newsletter will list all Friends (amounts not shown) unless they wish to be anonymous.

Thanks again for your generosity.

—Fred Quackenbush

Museum Happenings

☞ **Island Fellow Starting this September.** The Island Institute has a grant in hand to completely fund a study of the Agricultural History of the Cranberry Isles, by an Island Institute Fellow who would live on Great Cranberry for one or two years. This project will be headed by Professor Todd Little-Siebold of the College of the Atlantic, and will involve close cooperation with GCIHS and the Ashley Bryan School, to include a children's education element.

On June 11 we had the privilege of interviewing three Island Fellow candidates. All three were personable women with unique strengths, a love of history, and a burning desire to live and work on Great Cranberry. Jessica Duma, a 2014 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was selected. Jessie's previous experience producing documentaries and using digital media to tell community stories, working with youth, and archiving a variety of materials will be a big help to GCIHS and the school. With Jessica's help, we plan to update our existing collection of oral histories and record new interviews. We can also begin to catalog the hundreds of scanned historic photos and digital images Bruce has collected over the past 15 years. So, look for Jessie as she moves onto the island in September.

☞ **Archives Work.** Summer brings a halt to weekly Archives Committee meetings, and allows time to clean racks and reorganize artifact storage in the basement. Boxes of donations still pending committee review and boxes of items approved for cataloging are now on separate shelves; and there are even a few vacant shelves available to store artifacts and documents once they are properly housed in archival boxes.

☞ **Stanley Cemetery Progress.** As a member of the Stanley Cemetery committee, I'm documenting the graveyard before Fred Wieninger begins his conservation work late this summer. The condition, size, type, and inscription of each headstone have been recorded, as have the locations of several burials lacking headstones. Once all these particulars are loaded into a database, a comparison of monument types, stone material, inscriptions, and locations of family members will no doubt reveal some intriguing stories and show us how the Stanley Cemetery developed over time. Once online, with Becca Powell's photographs added, it will be a resource for

researchers who study burial practices elsewhere. If you're interested in chronologies of headstone motifs like the urn and willow on the earliest stones in this cemetery, try this link: histarch.illinois.edu/plymouth/deathshead.html. About half way down that web page you'll find the 17th-century start of urn and willow headstones in the U.S. The Stanley Cemetery urn and willow stones represent the waning 19th century use of this motif. If you've been seeking an answer to the seemingly modern conundrum of where to bury a woman with two husbands, Stanley Cemetery provides an answer in at least two instances—between the two husbands, of course. Watch for updates on StanleyCemetery.com as research is written up.

Spring Construction Projects

This spring has seen an extraordinary number of construction projects along the Cranberry Road. We mention this because these activities represent historical changes on the island. Someday, years from now, people may not remember what was where and when, unless we document what has happened. So let's take a tour down Cranberry Road. 1) The Town Wharf suffered some significant damage to pilings when a barge drifted into it earlier this spring. Work has been accomplished recently to repair or replace the pilings. 2) A totally new, attractive (but expensive) \$80,000 public restroom was constructed to replace the old two-seater at the shore adjacent to the parking lot. 3) There were several roofing jobs completed including Way's, MacFarlan's, Freeman's, and Sullivan's. 4) Two new modular affordable housing homes were constructed on land behind Cranberry House. 5) Renovations to the Parsonage were nearly completed during the winter, with minor additional work scheduled this spring. 6) A fire well was dug, and replacement septic system installed, adjacent to the Firehouse. 7) Longfellow School major renovations are scheduled to begin, possibly in August. Architects have been chosen, and bids for general contractors were being issued at press time. 8) Pauline Bunker had extensive porch & window repairs completed. 9) A new septic system was installed at Wood's. 10) The new Ward structure was completed on Thrumcap. 11) At press time, two sections of Cranberry Road are scheduled for paving: tennis court to Junior Bracy's, and Dog Point Road to Elwood Spurling Road.

—Phil Whitney, President



Great Cranberry's north end in the 1960s or 70s. At left, the Town dock, and Beal & Bunker dock with two large buildings. Above that, on shore, a long white boathouse, then the Cranberry Cove Restaurant (gray roof.) On the main road, the old tennis court (large white area.) Above and to right of that, the gray roof of the Cranberry House, in its former location behind the Wesley Bracy, Sr. house. The large field (far side) has George Bunker's small studio; his larger house (now Encarnation) is not yet built. The Eversman/Hartley dock is on the right, built on 4 stone pillars; it was completely removed and later rebuilt in the same spot, on wooden piles. Above that the small white speck on shore at Preble Cove is the Eversman/Hartley boathouse.

George Savage

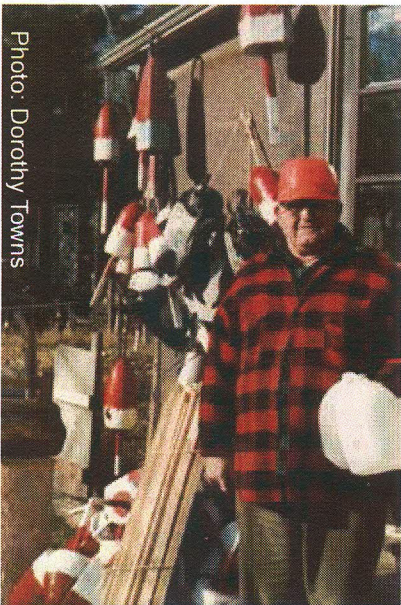


Photo: Dorothy Towns

Robert Bloom and Sara Lambert Bloom



Photo: S.L. Bloom



Photo: Steve Spurling

Blanche Atkinson and Forrest Spurling

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society

P.O. Box 12

Cranberry Isles ME 04625

Order Form

VIDEOS (DVDs in USA format)

	Price	Q'ty	S.tot
Interview: Tud Bunker & the Wares	\$16	_____	_____
Interview & Fishing: Wesley Bracy Jr	\$16	_____	_____
Interview: Marjorie Phippen	\$16	_____	_____
Interview: Ada Rice	\$16	_____	_____
Interview: Steve Spurling & Janice Murch	\$16	_____	_____
Interview: Robert Cumming	\$16	_____	_____
Interview: Charles "Waddy" Wadsworth	\$16	_____	_____
Secret Trail to the Western Way	\$16	_____	_____
Moving Cranberry House, 16 Nov 2004	\$16	_____	_____
Great Cranberry Island, Hitty's Home	\$16	_____	_____
Rachel Field Recites, by Daniel Maslan	\$16	_____	_____
Spinning Sheep Tales, Gail Grandgent	\$16	_____	_____
Jane Goldberg Taps	\$16	_____	_____
Music: Ralph Stanley & Friends	\$16	_____	_____
Once Upon an Island, Jackson & Blodgett	\$16	_____	_____
Night of Poetry & Music, 2004	\$16	_____	_____
Night of Poetry & Music, 2002	\$16	_____	_____
Play: Carrie Richardson of Big Cranberry	\$16	_____	_____
Manset Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	\$16	_____	_____

Newsletters by E-mail

To save both expense and natural resources, we'd like to use e-mail as much as possible. Each printed newsletter costs us more than \$2 to print, fold, stuff, seal, and mail—money we'd prefer to use toward Cranberry House programs and events.

So please consider receiving **ONLY** the e-mail version of the newsletter. You'll get it days before a printed copy, and can read it on screen (saving paper and ink), or print it out if you wish.

Instructions for forms

- 1) Copy this whole page, including your address label, above.
- 2) On Order Form, fill in any desired items.
- 3) On Friends Form, fill in desired level of Friends renewal.
- 4) Indicate if you want to exclude your name from the year-end Friends of Cranberry House list, under the appropriate level, i.e. Family Friend, Donor, Patron, etc. Note that the exact value of your gift will never appear.
- 5) Add any donation(s) to a Cranberry House sustaining fund.
- 6) Add any items from the Order Form (postage is free.)
- 7) Make out a check for GRAND TOTAL, payable to GCIHS.
- 8) **Carefully** print your e-mail address.
- 9) Indicate if you wish to receive future newsletters by e-mail only, to save costs.
- 10) Fill in your correct postal address if the label is wrong.
- 11) Mail your completed form and signed check to:
GCIHS, P.O. Box 12, Cranberry Isles Maine 04625

Friends of Cranberry House Form

Renewal for 1 year, due in December (choose one)

Friend (\$25), Family Friend (\$50), Donor (\$100),

Sponsor (\$250), Patron (\$500), Benefactor (\$1000+) _____

☐ Exclude my name from year-end Friends list

Donation to a Fund

(Fill in one or more to help

sustain Cranberry House.)

• Events _____

• Operating _____

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Total of Order Form items (free postage) _____

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Name & Addr _____