

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society
Welcomes you to our first...

Home, Art & Garden Tour



The tour includes twelve stops, shown on the map on the back page. Here are some quick facts:

- ▶ Although you can easily walk the whole tour if you wish, free specially marked cars and golf carts will take you between stops. If you'd like a ride, just flag them, or ask a volunteer.
- ▶ The entire island is 2½ miles long, but the tour ends at about the halfway mark. Follow the map and the sunflower signs!
- ▶ Homes: 4, 6, 7, 11 Art: 1, 3, 5, 5a, 8 Gardens: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12
- ▶ Box lunches, salads, hot and cold sandwiches, and cold drinks are available at Cranberry House (8).
- ▶ So that we can accommodate everyone, please take your designated return boat. It's on your ticket.
- ▶ The last return boat to Northeast Harbor is at 4:30 pm; Southwest Harbor/Manset at 4:15 pm.
- ▶ **Restrooms** are near the Dock, at Cranberry House (8), and at the Longfellow School (5a).

#1 Cranberry Cove Studio

Cranberry Cove Studio was originally built as a restaurant on the shore facing the mountains of Mt. Desert. In the 1980s it was converted to a studio/home. The owner, well-known artist Wini Smart, had three ponds dug to create her own “Monet Ponds.” After unsuccessfully trying to grow commercial pond lilies, she finally threw in some wild roots tied to weights. They covered the ponds and had to be thinned. Frogs supply mosquito control. Springs at the back of the property keep the area very wet, so gardens have to be in pots or raised beds.

The artist prefers a natural look. Some lawn areas are not mowed, allowing the prolific wildflowers to flourish. In front, huge beach roses provide summer-long blooms and protect the house from winter storms. Ferns and wild iris fill the wet areas. A homemade greenhouse is used to start plants and speed the growth of tomatoes and cucumbers. One shed was turned into an oil painting studio, which is open during the tour, with a display of art works, many of which were painted on the property or nearby.

#2 Jan’s Garden

When Jan Moss and her family moved into their summer home in 1971, even before they unpacked she started digging a tiny garden so she could grow lettuce and a few flowers. She hand-dug all of the beds and tended everything alone for many of those 39 years. She has a passion for flowers. In June the early perennials and shrubs start the cycle and by August the cutting/vegetable garden bursts into the last hurrah!

She hand-waters the annuals and vegetables, but everything else must make it on its own. Her organic garden has been featured in numerous books and magazines and is included in the Archives of American Gardens of the Smithsonian Institute.

#3 Gardens on the Western Way

When the Graven-Encarnation family bought this house in 2002, their dream was to have garden views from every window. The gardens are a family affair: Dennis, Kathy, and their sons Luke and David work together. Over Memorial Day weekend, they dig soil and plant seeds. When school is out in June they return for the summer. They pull weeds, chase away slugs, and plant annuals. They grow fruit and vegetables to pick and eat, sometimes in their pajamas. They know what fresh means! Herbs are for cooking, berries for jamming, flowers for the table.

Abundance teaches them to share beauty and freshness, and to preserve for winter days ahead. At summer's end the family does a big harvest before heading home to downtown Boston. Harvest is, as now 10-year-old David says, "Better than Christmas." Tour the garden and view Kathy Graven's art work on the deck.

#4 The Preble-Macfarlan Home

This may be the most historic house on the island. It was built in the late 1820s by Capt. Samuel Hadlock, Jr., the hero of Rachel Field's book, *God's Pocket*, for the young woman he met and married in Prussia. From 1822 to 1826 he traveled Europe with his own Northern Curiosities show, displaying stuffed seals, plus a live Eskimo couple who performed harpooning and kayaking—skills that Europeans had never seen. When Captain Hadlock, with his eldest son and 19 local men, disappeared on a specimen-collecting expedition to Labrador, the house was inherited by his sister. She married William Pitt Preble, who held various island positions: selectman, justice of the peace, church elder, and post master.

The small shed beside the house was the Post Office; the mail slot is still in the door. Later a third story was added, possibly when it was a boarding house. It fell into disrepair, but was bought and renovated by the Macfarlans in the early 1940s. The house is now owned by Michael Macfarlan, who has lived in it year-round since 1965. It has 16 rooms. The original bake-oven fireplace is still in the dining room, and a piano, the one piece of furniture that came with the house, is in the back parlor. The first floor of the house is open for the tour.

#5 Heliker-LaHotan Foundation

(Opens at NOON) Originally this property was one of the principal shipbuilding locations on the island. Owned by Enoch Stanley, it was a thriving business in the 1800s. The adjacent Pool, which fills and drains with the tides, provided excellent shelter from storms, and easy launching of new ships. Enoch's son, Captain Lew Stanley sold it to artists John Heliker and Robert LaHotan in the 1950s. They used the property as their summer home and studio. They were both nationally-recognized artists from New York City.

Mr. Heliker's work has appeared in exhibits at the Carnegie Institute, the Brooklyn Museum, the Corcoran Gallery, and the Whitney. Mr. LaHotan's works are in many major museums and private collections, especially in New York City. He created the Foundation, as they both wished, dedicated to their artistic vision. The Foundation is engaged in a variety of projects that perpetuate their legacy, including a summer residency program for painters and sculptors. Its grounds, gardens, as well as studios are available to tour.

Two other Foundation resident fellows have an Open Studio at the historic Longfellow School (5a), near but across from stop 10.

#6 Newell-Matthews Residence

Morrie Newell and Johnna Matthews are long-time summer residents of Cranberry Island. Morrie can date his island summer roots back to the late 1940s. He and his wife designed and built their new home to capture mountain and ocean views from each room, including the nearly all-glass front of the great room. The decks, screened porch, and downstairs office also look across the Cranberry Thoroughfare to the mountains of Acadia National Park. The front of the house looks out at the island's ferns, wild berries, and woods.

After completing their home in 2008, the couple added the front gardens with contributions from well-known island gardener, Donna Sunday. The gardens, surrounded by beach rock walls, feature a variety of colorful flowers, mainly perennials. Their home also features several Maine artists, including noted Cranberry artist, Carl G. Nelson. Visitors are welcome to tour this home.

#7 Williamson Residence

This just-finished house is a renovation of the former Harris house which overlooks the harbor and the mountains of Mount Desert. The house sits on a point and the water views are spectacular, with great sunrises and sunsets.

The house was moved back from the water and property line, and a second floor was added to the reduced footprint. There is a garage out back and a guest house. A dock was built towards the harbor. It is accessible by MayTom Road or by walking along the beach. The house is open for the tour.

#8 Cranberry House

Cranberry House is the home of the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society, sponsors of this tour. It houses the Preble-Marr Museum, a Café, an Arts Center, and a Media Room; it's also the start of a mile-long public trail to Whistler Cove on the back shore.

The building was originally the Mountain View Inn in the 1920s. It was moved ½ mile from its original location, and completely renovated over four years. More than \$500,000 was raised through grants, generous donations from island residents and friends, and much hard work of island and summer people. Now it houses an expanding collection of historic documents, photographs, and island artifacts, saving what might have been lost.

An “Art of the Cranberry Isles” exhibit is being shown on the second floor. The Museum is open with a history of all five islands. A newly-printed publication, *House Histories of Great Cranberry Island*, is available at the museum gift shop.

Donna Sunday, who has made creative contributions to many island gardens, designed the gardens of Cranberry House.

Tasty box lunches and cold drinks are available here, or enjoy a delicious salad or hot or cold sandwich at the Café, with seating on the deck or lawn. A public restroom is upstairs.

At Cranberry House, and at the Whale's Rib Gift Shop (10), you may purchase raffle tickets good for a drawing for two \$100 gift certificates for use at the Whale's Rib.

#9 Congregational Church

This church, the only one on the island, was built during the Civil War and has been the home of a growing and active congregation for generations. Along with the Ladies Aid building next door, it is one of the gathering places for the island community. The Ladies Aid Society is a charitable organization that supports both island and off-island Christian-based activities.

Beginning at 11:30 am and throughout the day, there will be a series of brief concerts by island musicians, where Garden Tour visitors can take a break and enjoy some lovely music. Sam King, an island poet, will read from *Bog Orchids*, her new book of poetry, at 12 noon, 1 pm, and 2 pm.

#10 Whale's Rib Gift Shop

Polly Bunker is celebrating her 40th year operating the Whale's Rib. It was previously located on the shore, next to what is now Cranberry Cove Studio (1), but at that time the studio was Cranberry Cove Restaurant, built and run by Polly's two sisters.

For 40 years the Whale's Rib has been a "must" stop for islanders, their guests, and visitors from the mainland. It has a wonderful selection of gift items, clothing, housewares, paintings and photography. Polly likes to feature local artisans and artists. Her personality and moderate prices make it a popular shop. A visit to Cranberry Island is not complete without a stop at the Whale's Rib.

At Cranberry House (8), and at the Whale's Rib, you may purchase raffle tickets good for a drawing for two \$100 gift certificates for use at the Whale's Rib.

#11 The Wood's Residence

This 1840 traditional Maine cape, built by a Spurling, is one of the oldest houses on the island. It once housed a store and was used as a boarding house. A number of island residents and a few summer families have a history of occupancy here. Recently renovated, the kitchen, baths, and related systems have been upgraded to 21st century standards while leaving the remainder of the house unchanged. Care was taken to preserve historic materials wherever possible. Any necessary replacements were sensitive to the style and period of the house.

The Wood family is pleased that this charming piece of Cranberry Island history is ready for its next 100 years. The house sits high above the Pool with a good view of the mountains.

Spring flowers cover the bank and roadside. Visitors are welcome to tour the house.

#12 The Taylor Garden

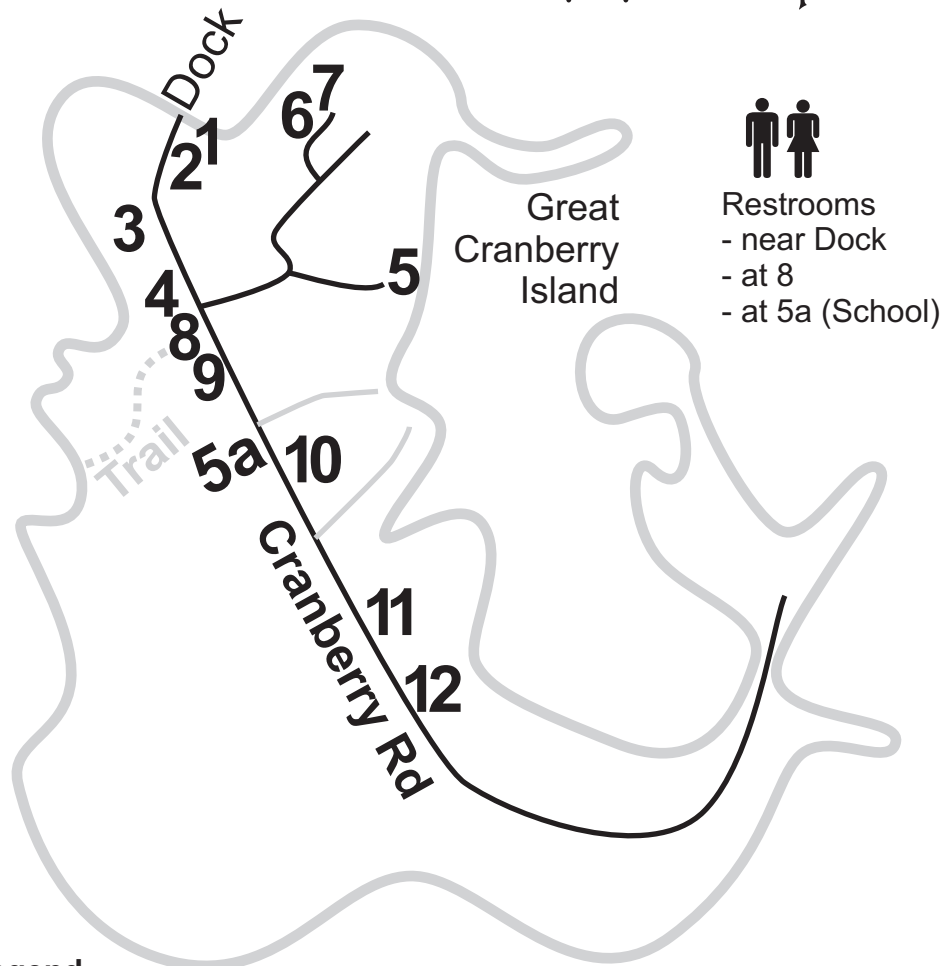
After Robin Richman and Clay Taylor decided to move to the island, having lived out west, they built this splendid house on property that had belonged to Robin's parents. It was a spacious home for them and their pet dogs. A few years later they built the garage/studio and began gardens on the side towards the water.

Clay Taylor considers these wonderful gardens a work in progress, and is inspired by the challenge of finding the right spot for the right plant. Her vegetable gardens in waist-high raised beds provide an abundance of vegetables. The annual border bed facing the water is one of her delights—as it changes completely from a bulb bed in spring. The house and gardens overlook the Pool... and towards Islesford.

We thank the Spa at the Bar Harbor Club for their generous contribution of lovely boxes for our box lunches.

Home, Art & Garden Tour

Numbered Stops



Legend

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Cranberry Cove Studio | 8 Cranberry House: Museum, Café, Public Trail, Restroom |
| 2 Jan's Garden | 9 Congregational Church |
| 3 Gardens on the Western Way | 5a Longfellow School |
| 4 Preble-Macfarlan Home | 10 Whale's Rib Gift Shop |
| 5 Heliker-LaHotan Foundation | 11 Wood's Residence |
| 6 Newell-Matthews Residence | 12 Taylor Garden |
| 7 Williamson Residence | |

Tour to Benefit Cranberry House

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