



June, 2008,
Resort beckons folks to a more relaxed time

Boston Sunday Globe
By Chris Tree

Rock Gardens Inn, Sebasco Estates, Maine

“Kids are our best promoters,” says Ona Barnett, owner of the inn. “They keep badgering their parents and grandparents to come back.”

Rock Gardens opened in 1911 in Phippsburg on a sleepy peninsula south of Bath. During the 1930s Nate Cushman of bakery fame purchased 575 neighboring acres, creating the seasonal vacation village that has since evolved into Sebasco Harbor Resort, where facilities include a nine-hole golf course, three restaurants, a large saltwater pool, a theater, and a spa.

Today the resorts coexist nicely. In July and August organized activities include Camp Merit for youngsters age 5-10 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) as well as family-focused events such as Pirate Adventure and cruises aboard the resort’s excursion boat.

At the resort the 140 or so guest rooms range from ‘30s rustic to 21st-century posh, including cottages with up to 10 bedrooms. Despite its size the resort prides itself on the personal way staff relate to guests. Owner Bob Smith counts many of his guests, some of whom have been coming here for 40 years, as friends.