#### **HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

### Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve

community tradition began in 1987 when the Friends of Shore Acres decided to string a few lights to help celebrate the holidays. That first season, 6,000 miniature lights, one large Christmas tree, and the decorated and open Garden House drew 9,000 visitors.

Now, at least 300,000 LED lights, 20 large landscape lights, dozens of small landscape lights, 26 large holiday trees, dozens of lighted sculptures, entertainment in the Pavilion, and the festive open house attract 40,000 to 50,000+

visitors each season. Numbers vary with the weather and visitors come from almost every state and many different countries.

They enjoy hot cider, coffee, punch, and cookies.

"Our Favorite Tradition!"- Federal Way, WA

'GREAT! A Must See." - Martinsburg, PA

"Epic Awesomeness!!!" North Bend, OR

"THE BEST!!! EVER -Portland, OR

Planning for the season begins in January with inventory and checking used lights. The lighting plan is completed and replacement lights ordered by the end of May. Sculptures are created and refurbished during the summer. In late summer, the new lights are prepared for the setup that begins the middle of October. The Garden House is beautifully decorated in a traditional holiday theme.

Sculpture displays are set up, and hundreds of lights stringers and tree decorators work for about 6 weeks to complete the display by Thanksgiving. The total number of volunteers for the event is about 1,500, which also includes button makers, spice makers, lights checkers, house cleaners, host teams, entertainers and IGC

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. with support of local businesses and individuals pay for the lights, the decorations, and all display expenses. Shore Acres State Park and the Friends pay the light bill.

Also contributing to the success of the Friends and the Holiday Lights are park staff, our members, our Information and Gift Center and visitors like you.

Volunteers Welcome Co-Chair - Shirley & David Bridgham 541-756-5401 or bridgham@epuerto.com



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. and

Shore Acres State Park



"a powerful partnership since 1986"



- Choose from thousands of excellent items.
- Annual OPRD park passes available for purchase at the Information & Gift Center (IGC).

**INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER** 

All-Volunteer

Net proceeds from the IGC, the Holiday Lights, and other Friends' activities go toward projects that benefit the park.

541-888-2472 • 1-866-888-6100



### — MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS —

- Discount in the Information & Gift Center
- Discount on OPRD Permits
- Annual Summer Journal
- Volunteer Opportunities

## Shore Acres' Annual Events

Rhododendron Sunday-Mother's Day - May State Parks Day - June Rose Sunday-Father's Day - June OCMF Garden Concert - July Bonsai Day - August Orchid Day and Dahlia Day - September Holiday Lights - Thanksgiving-New year's Eve

### Become a Member today!

Name:		
City:		
Phone:		
Email:		i
\$500 Life	rcle One \$25 Patron	

\$15 Family

\$10 Individua

I / We would like to volunteer for:

□ Information & Gift Center

\$250 Sustaining

\$100 Benefactor

\$50 Sponsor

☐ Friends Monthly Activities

☐ Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park

Please fill out this form and mail with your check or money order to: Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., PO Box 1172, Coos Bay, OR 97420

Friends of Shore Acres Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) taxexempt organization. Tax I.D. #93-0941893

\$5.00 Member Discount on OPRD Permits

12 Month Permit (Member Price) \$25.00

24 Month Permit (Member Price) \$40.00

Membership:		
Permit:		
Total:		
I / We wish to pay by credit of	card: VISA	MC
Credit Card Number		
Evaluation Data	3 Digit Soci	with Co.

Signature (Credit Card Payment Only)

More information: 541-756-5401 • 541-888-5447 © Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - November 2014

### Friends' and Parks' Cooperative Milestones

1986, Dec. - Friends of Shore Acres Founded 1987, Dec. - First Holiday Lights

988 - Garden cart and garden "sitters" for sales

- Underground wiring in formal garden

- First parking lot lights

1989 - Gift and Information Center (GAIC) (8'x8')

1990 - Plant I.D. signs

1991 - Underground wiring in pond area

1992 - Information and Gift Center (IGC) (24'x24') (GAIC name change)

1993 - Friends' storage building (24'x24')

- Shore Acres Viewbook

- Garden House - new wiring, lights, paint

995 - "Gardens Above the Waves" video

- Doubled existing parking, added parking lot lights

1996 - Memorial Fountain built

- Landscape Lighting project started

1998 - Garden House - new carpet

1999 - New rose pergola

- Garden House - kitchen remodel

2000 - 50 space overflow parking lot

- Garden House - new foundation & ceilings

2001 - Performance Pavilion

- Friends' web site created

2002 - Storage building doubled in size

2003 - Simpson Reef Overlook - new parking lot, viewing platform and interpretive displays

New Information and Gift Center (32'x48')

- New Gazebo and Columns Entrance to the Gardens

2005 - Memorial Fountain Display redesigned and built

Pond - resurfaced base

- Observation Building - wiring and path lights

"Gardens Above the Waves" video on DVD

2006 - "The Shore Acres Story" video on DVD - Garden House - new interior doors

- New brochure rack at entrance

- Second Gifts and Memorials Display created

- New payer path near Observation Building

2007 - Water system booster pump

2008 - New gate on the northwest side of the garden

- Garden House - restoration of front windows

2009 - A second storage building for Friends and Park

- Garden House - installed original style small windows

- Garden House - painted inside and out

- Web camera, west side - installation

2010 - Web camera, west side - pictures on web site

- Paver paths near Garden House and Pavilion

- Memorial Fountain renovated

- New garden gate southwest of garden

New fencing around garden

2011 - Garden House - restored dining room windows

New garden benches

2012 - Newly designed web site at www.shoreacres.net

- New Interpretive Panels in Observation Building and at the Garden Entrance

- New Storage Building for IGC

- Garden Entrance - new Trex deck

- Garden House - new back Trex deck

2013 - Garden House - new front Trex porch and steps

New cedar rose pergola, west side

- New paver path from Garden House to parking lot

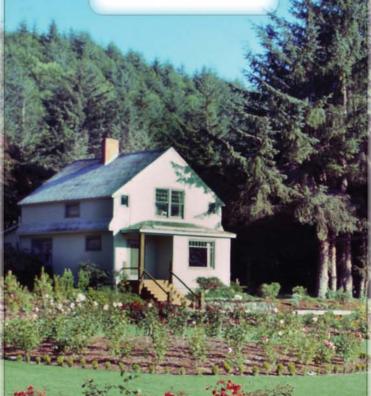
- Garden House - new front bedroom windows

2014 - IGC - New water heater and HVAC system

- Garden House - weather envelope project - New exposed aggregate concrete walk east of pond

New redwood garden benches near fountain and IGC

**Shore Acres Gardens 1975** 



This brochure contains some of the important dates and events in the history of Louis J. Simpson's grand Shoreacres Estate and Shore Acres State Park and the ongoing partnerships of the Friends of Shore Acres, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and others to continue and enhance Simpson's legacy. More books and videos on the history and natural history are available in the Friends' Information and Gift Center.

The Friends' ongoing interpretive projects include the annual Journal, web site management, the Rocky Shores Interpretive Program, brochures, DVDs, new plants and plant signs and other projects needed by the park.

# Shore Acres History

At its zenith, L. J. Simpson's Shoreacres Estate stretched from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago.

1905 - Louis bought the property from Jake Evans for \$4,000.

1907 - Louis began building his first mansion on the bluff (site of the present Observation Building) as a Christmas present for his wife Cassie. He began landscaping and formal gardens that would include exotic plants from all over the world and planted Monterey Cypress at the entrance to the gardens. He built a carriage house/barn complex at the north end of the property and a gardener's cottage (the only structure still standing) near the formal gardens. At the south end, L. J. built a dairy farm complex where he raised prize Holsteins.

1914 - Enlarged the mansion to include a Roman Bath with a 26'x52' swimming pool that used both fresh and salt water. Built rose pergolas and greenhouse. Reconstruction of the south end of the formal gardens included a Japanese garden and 100' pond. Also built Sunset Bay Inn which was destroyed by a fierce storm in 1939.

1921, April - Cassie Simpson died after a long illness.

1921- July - The mansion burned to the ground.

1927 - Louis and his second wife Lela moved into a second mansion that streched 224' along the bluff.

1932 - Louis and Lela gave the Cape Arago portion of the estate to the state of Oregon.

1942 - The U.S. Army closed the road at Sunset Bay and the Simpsons moved to a home in nearby Barview.

1942, December - The Simpsons sold the remainder of the estate for \$29,000 to Oregon for the development of a

World War II Years - The U. S. Army occupied the site and the mansion became a barracks and officers' club.

1948, December - Because the second mansion needed too many repairs it was razed.

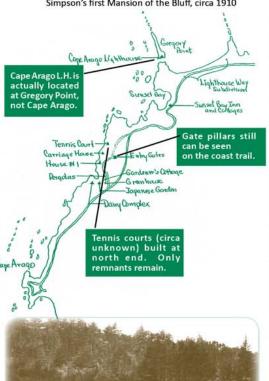
1949, January - Louis J. Simpson died at his home in Barview. He is buried in the Simpson family mausoleum at Moutain View Cemetery, Oakland, California.

1974-75 - Oregon State Parks launched a program to rehabilitate Shore Acres. Landscape architect Joseph Paiva prepared a design similar to but slightly more formal than the original garden. The new design included resloping the gardens to improve drainage. A rededication cermony was held September 18, 1975.

1977- All America Rose Selections Display Garden established.



Simpson's first Mansion of the Bluff, circa 1910



Garden House (former Gardener's Cottage) - early 1900s - Note the half-moon shape of the first pond which Simpson would modify to present shape, circa 1914

Map from "The First Simpson House, 1907-1921: Shore Acres State Park," report by Stephen Dow Beckham for Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.-1997