







Shirley Bridgham

## How Friends of Shore Acres Happened

In 1986, the Communication Arts Group at Southwestern Oregon Community College decided to tell the story of Shoreacres and Shore Acres State Park by creating a multi-image slide show to be shown at the 5th annual Multi-Image Festival in September. After the Festival, Shirley Bridgham asked Andy LaTomme, manager at Shore Acres State Park, if the park wanted a copy. He said yes. Not long after, Andy asked Shirley and her husband David if they would like to help start a Friends group – a non-profit corporation in association with state parks. They said yes.

An organizational meeting was held on December 4, 1986 at 7:30 pm in Room 12 of Sumner Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. In attendance were Andy LaTomme, John Bergen, Mike Bodkin, David and Shirley Bridgham, John Garner, Marty Giles, George Guthrie, Dick Hansen, Ron Hjort, Tony Mason, and Karen Wuethrich. On that important night, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. in cooperation with Shore Acres State Park began a long journey of success.

*The Shore Acres Story* was shown in slide format to thousands of visitors for years, then transferred to VHS tape for easier showing. In 2006, it was transferred to DVD. In 2013, it was transformed again, this time with additional photos courtesy of Caitlin Day, James McDermott, Sunset Bay State Park and the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum. Special thanks goes to Phillip Bridgham for rescuing the original sound track.

The program is about Asa Meade Simpson and his son Louis Jerome and the history of the magnificent estate that Louis called Shoreacres. It continues with what Shore Acres State Park was like in 1986 when the slide show was created. ■



Ward Robertson

## Aerial and Gardens — 1986



Shirley Bridgham





Shirley Bridgham

## About the Friends' Albums

*by Shirley Bridgham - 2014*

It's time to preserve the Friends' photos and clippings using the following:

- Epson Expression 11000XL Scanner
- Adobe PhotoShop CS-3
- Adobe InDesign CS-3.
- Epson Presentation Paper - Matte
- Epson Premium Photo Paper - Glossy
- Epson Stylus Photo R2000 Printer

I will also save the album pages as PDF files. ■



Ward Robertson

## Aerials - 1986



Ward Robertson



## Note from Shirley Bridgham - September 2014



**Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. was founded on December 4, 1986.**

**1st annual year Dec. 4, 1986 - Aug. 31, 1987**

**1st Birthday - Dec. 4, 1987**

**1st Christmas Lights - Dec. 11, 1987**

**2nd annual Year - Sept. 1, 1987 - Aug. 31, 1988**

**2nd Birthday - Dec. 4, 1988**

**. . . and so on. The annual year runs from September of one year to the end of August of the next year.**

*What an amazing journey it has been for David and me since 1986. Little did we know when we, the Friends, decided to bring more attention to Shore Acres State Park, by stringing some lights to celebrate Christmas in 1987, we would begin an awesome adventure that continues to this day.*

*So many volunteers, so many supporters, so many visitors, such a great board of directors, and always so much excellent cooperation from park managers, rangers and staff - all combine to make Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. one of the most successful non-profit Co-ops in the state of Oregon.*

*All these years, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has been truly blessed to remain an all-volunteer organization. It has made it possible to accomplish so many interpretive and physical development projects at Shore Acres. Visit our Information & Gift Center and pick up one of our membership brochures and you will find an extensive list.*

*I've been privileged to create and produce our slide shows, DVDs, and Newsletters and Journals. Not to mention, designing the lights display and seeing it come together like theater every season. Yes, it's a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun. David has the challenge of designing and producing new sculptures and maintaining the old ones. When we read the comments in the guest books, we always get enthused to start the next season.*

*This year, I'm starting a project to preserve the Friends' archives in physical albums — this is the first album — backed up in a digital format for easy viewing by many. We have many photos, news clippings and other materials that will be included in the albums.*

*As I've started going through the archives, I'm reminded of how FoSA has grown and prospered in order to help Shore Acres State Park, Sunset Bay State Park and Cape Arago State Park. What a great reminder of why we do what we do. Our hope is that in the future, others will experience and enjoy the same opportunities. ■*

## Note from David Bridgham - September 2014

*The following pages (and Albums) are a chronology of the efforts of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., but even more than that, tell the tale of the enormous support that the Friends have enjoyed from our regional communities.*

*This was a movement whose time had come. The Oregon State Legislature had passed "Enabling" Legislation allowing non-profit 501(c)3 organizations to adopt a specific State Park to provide educational and interpretive services to its visitors. Well that's the dry legislative speak for find a core user group that loves that park and let it nurture and care for it.*



*Shore Acres State Park, 13 miles from town, is the touchstone that we all bring our friends and visitors to when we want to show off the beauty of the Oregon south coast. There was a built-in and pent-up desire to shower this special place with community pride and needed TLC. Outreach to our communities started with the planning sessions with FOSA Board members and volunteers. Dreaming of what could be, planning on now and the future.*

*Holiday Lights at Shore Acres is a night time interpretation of the formal English style gardens and the reflecting pond at the oriental garden. Historically, the original Simpson mansion built on the bluff at the stone wall, was a Christmas present to Louie Simpson's wife Cassie. From the very first lighting event we recognized the importance to the communities to open the Garden House for our visitors and start building traditions. After 27 annual lightings it thrills me to hear from adults with their young family when they tell us they came to see the lights as kids and now they're bringing their families to grow the tradition.*

*An important cornerstone to the Holiday Lights tradition is the consistency of our focus on major themes. We have stayed true to who we are and where we're at, interpreting the gardens with flower-lights, sculptures that are inspired by what's found in the gardens as well as many marine related sculptures. The Garden House is beautifully decorated with an old time (Simpson era) theme that fits this historic gardener's cottage.*

*There are those certainties in life - like the tide at our ocean's shore, the Bay and its tributaries - migrating geese, and the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres. When I see or hear a migrating flock of Canadian Geese I get an itch I can only scratch by stringing lights at Shore Acres.*

*You will see as you turn these pages that the secret sauce has always been to engage our community, give credit and ownership where deserved, and always try to improve this place that we all love. ■*



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

*Founded December 4, 1986*



*“The purpose of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.  
is to participate in interpretive, educational,  
and physical development programs  
with Sunset Bay Management Unit.”*

*FoSA Bylaws*



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

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## FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting was held on December 4, 1986 at 7:30 pm in room 12 of Sumner Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. In attendance were Andy LaTomme, John Bergen, George Guthrie, Karen Wuethrich, Marty Giles, Ron Hjort, Mike Bodkin, John Garner, Shirley Bridgham, David Bridgham, Dick Hansen and Tony Mason. Andy LaTomme opened the meeting by giving background information about the establishment of non-profit corporations in association with state parks.

Mike Bodkin reviewed the legal steps necessary to establish a corporation and to certify it as tax-exempt under federal and state laws: fees to be paid, legal liability of corporation members and the formation of an initial board of directors.

Discussion followed on the details of the above presentations. The group agreed that a preliminary date of June, 1987 was a goal for establishing the tax-exempt status of the organization and that the group should forego any solicitation of funds until this status has been obtained.

Those present introduced themselves to the group and completed a sign-up sheet with their names and addresses. Each person was asked if he or she desired to serve on the initial board of directors. All except Andy LaTomme, Ron Hjort, Karen Wuethrich and Mike Bodkin responded "yes."

Some discussion followed about the number of state park employees to be allowed to serve on the board at any one time. It was generally agreed that no more than 1/4 of the board should be composed of state park employees, however formal action on this was deferred until bylaws are adopted. It was agreed that the Sunset Bay State Park district manager would serve as a non-voting member of the board. There was some discussion about this and it was understood and agreed that the group would not undertake any projects without the approval of the district park manager or his designee.

Nominations were opened for chairman. Dick Hansen and John Bergen were nominated and declined. John Garner was nominated and unanimously elected. He conducted the balance of the meeting.

A motion to name the organization the "Friends of Shore Acres, Inc," was proposed, seconded and passed.

Mike Bodkin was named to act as legal agent for the Friends of Shore Acres (hereafter referred to as the "Friends") and was thanked for his work thus far. Discussion followed regarding the purposes of the Friends as required for the incorporation papers.

Mike Bodkin stated that he would use wording from a similar organization's application and that he expected the incorporation papers would be returned by the next meeting.

Friends of Shore Acres  
December 4, 1986  
Minutes - page 2

It was decided the scope of the organization would be discussed when bylaws were presented for adoption at a later meeting.

There was discussion about membership in general, voting vs. non-voting membership and graduated membership fees. Action on this was deferred until a later meeting.

A collection was taken to cover the cost of the incorporation fee. A total of \$13.00 was collected from the group.

It was proposed and approved that Mike Bodkin act as initial incorporator for the Friends.

Additional discussion about the purpose of the Friends took place. It was felt that the purposes stated in the articles of incorporation should be broad enough to allow the group to participate in a broad range of activities, including physical development in the park.

The agenda for the next meeting was discussed. It was decided that bylaws and the setting of goals for the group would take up most of the meeting. The board was asked to be prepared to discuss possible goals and committee assignments for that meeting. Dick Hansen was selected to lead the discussion on bylaws.

Andy LaTomme was asked to bring a copy of his park's master plan to assist in coordinating the goals of the Friends with those of State Parks. He was also asked to prepare a draft set of bylaws, based on those used by existing cooperating associations, to be mailed to board members before the next meeting.

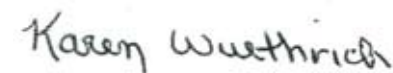
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

Karen Wuethrich was asked to prepare minutes of the meeting.

The date for a second meeting was set for January 13, 1987. Shirley Bridgham was asked to arrange for a meeting room at SWOCC. The suggestion was made that the board consider a fixed meeting date, e.g., the second Tuesday of each month. It was felt that this was a good idea, but no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wuethrich



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Annual Year - September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996

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## Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. Annual Meeting - September 12, 1995 MINUTES – *Highlights (Details on File)*

The Annual Meeting of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by President Doris Emmett. Board members present were David and Shirley Bridgham, Georganna Casey, Doris Emmett, Ellen Garner, George Guthrie, Charlie Kocher, Bob and Betty Renner, Carl Siminow and Dick Van Natta. Directors absent (excused) were Al and Judy Aslakson, Bob Emmett, Gerry Livingston, Jo Hower, Gregg Nelson and Terry Richards. Guests included Shirley Champagne, Jay Dow, Kenn and Betty Kennedy and Mary Novak.

David Bridgham, on behalf of the nominating committee, nominated Charlie Kocher and Gerry Livingston, Mary Novak, Bob and Betty Renner and Dick Van Natta to serve as Board members for a term of 3 years expiring in September, 1998. Bob Renner seconded the nominations. There being no further nominations from the floor, all were elected unanimously.

Doris asked for comments on accomplishments during the past year, and the following were recalled: The Friends sponsored at least one event each month. The new Shore Acres brochure has been printed and is available for distribution. The area surrounding the mobile home has been cleared. The Garden House has been rewired. The video of Shore Acres is being edited and should be ready in December. The Oregon Coast Music Festival event was a financial success. Sales in the Gift Center were better than ever. All in all, the activities of the Friends have been successful, but Doris has been disappointed that more volunteers were not present at the various events.

Carl moved to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Bob Renner seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, *Georganna Casey, Secretary*



## Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. Board Meeting, September 12, 1995 MINUTES – *Highlights (Details on File)*

The Board Meeting of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. was called to order at 7:50 P.M. by President Doris Emmett. First order of business was election of officers for 1995-96. On behalf of the nominating committee, David Bridgham nominated Georganna Casey-Secretary; Shirley Bridgham-Treasurer; Bob Renner-President-Elect, Doris Emmett-Immediate Past President and Dick Van Natta-President. All were unanimously elected. Doris passed the gavel to new President Dick Van Natta to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Minutes of the August 8 meeting were reviewed and passed as submitted.

Shirley gave a financial report of the monthly and annual status. Details were in a report that she distributed to everyone. Both reports were accepted as submitted and are on file.

Ellen stated that she plans to have a meeting of volunteers on September 23, and plans to have special recognition of volunteers who have worked for many, many hours.

David reported on the proposed parking lot expansion, which should be completed in time for the Holiday Lights.

Bob reported that the Fuchsia Society has indicated a desire to hold an exhibit again.

Jay Dow of the Southwestern Oregon Rose Society presented a proposal for a 4 to 5 year project, working with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, to upgrade rose planting in the gardens. He also recommended the installation of a drip watering system.

The recent annual picnic was not well attended and it may be discontinued in the future.

A work party to clean up the grounds around the mobile home is scheduled for October 7.

Dahlia Daze will be September 24. Doris Emmett and Bob Renner have contacted members of the Dahlia Society to have members present, and volunteers will be there to serve refreshments.

George stated that wiring is well on the way to control lights around the pond during Holiday Lights. Light stringing will start the first weekend in November.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, *Georganna Casey, Secretary*



# In the News

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 7, 1995

## All sides want beaches

By Elise Hamner  
Staff Writer

Oregon State Parks moved its public hearing series about proposed vehicle beach closures to North Bend Wednesday, hearing mostly from the opposition.

The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Bureau of Land Management and a citizens group have asked state parks to close about 16 miles of beaches to motor vehicles between Florence and the Curry County line.

State parks' Nan Evans said comments will be weighed by the department and a recommendation forwarded to the State Parks Commission possibly at its Klamath Falls meeting Oct. 26.

Melvin Leshner, Lakeside, said he understands some areas need protection, but state parks must consider how proposed beach closures may deter tourists from vacationing here. Oregon should advertise that the beaches are still open, he said.

The closure reasons vary. The ODNRA is asking the state to ban vehicles along four sections of the beach adjacent to dunes which are closed to vehicles under its new management plan.

Dunes ranger Ed Becker told the group of almost 50 people that the public's beach use should be consistent with use in the dunes. He also said the agency is trying to limit its snowy plover management areas mostly to the closure zones, and ATVs and trucks pose a threat to plover nests.

Meanwhile, BLM wants a 3.4-mile section of beach closed at New River, south of Bandon, to protect rare plants, marine mammals and bird species, wildlife biologist John Guetterman told the group. He added that few people drive on the beach now because the area is isolated by rivers.

Several people against the plan said they might support seasonal closures to protect birds but not permanent, year-round closures.

"The biggest flaw at all is the total closure year-round," said Florence resident Wilbur Terynik, because there is no way established to reopen beaches.

Evans said earlier the state has never reopened a closed beach to vehicle traffic, but there has never been a request to do that either.

Coos Bay resident Teresa Sherwood told the group she wants a vehicle ban for one mile south of the Horsfall Beach parking lot. She

said she quit using the beach due to unsafe ATV riders. She added that walkers need a long stretch of beach, and State Parks should better enforce its safety rules.

Others argued the proposed vehicle bans is another case of government taking away rights of residents on public lands, and some said human rights should come before animal rights.

"The world is changing. The plover can't cut it," said ATV trail-rider Mike Smith of North Bend. He said he is adamantly opposed to beach closures.

Coos Bay resident Sabrina Keen disagreed saying, "I don't feel we have the right to do recreation anywhere, any time we want."

The commission will make its decision by asking whether the beaches are safe, providing public access, and whether natural resources are protected, Evans said. A final public hearing is scheduled tonight at 7 p.m., at the Curry County Fairgrounds in Gold Beach. State parks will take written comments until Sept. 21.

The proposed closures areas, maps, the petitions and other in-depth information are available from State Parks at 365 N. 4th St., Coos Bay, 269-5038.

# Dahlia Daze and Fall Walk

by Doris Emmett, Past President

Such loveliness! Such color! Such photo opportunities!

That was the dahlia daze and beautiful fall walk on Sunday, September 24th at Shore Acres Gardens. The dahlias and weather were at their best and it made for a sensational event in the last of our monthly series of events before the Holiday Lights.

Displays in the Garden House by the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society were well received as visitors marveled at the variety and size and amazing colors of the blooms. There was even a bloom that had a sweet fragrance – unusual for dahlias. Many questions were answered by the Society as guests made queries about garden care and growing dahlias. Our great appreciation is extended to the members of the Dahlia Society and for their marvelous participation.

Friends of Shore Acres President, Dick Van Natta, Cappy Klein, and Bob and I served refreshments to nearly 300 guests, including lots of children, in the Garden House. Business in the Gift Center was brisk, as it has been all summer. Dahlia Daze was most successful and enjoyed by all involved. ■



*A Powerful Partnership  
Since 1986*





# Friends Annual Celebration Dinner – Oct. 5, 1995

## A HOUSE AT SHORE ACRES? . . . and SPECIAL AWARDS

*by Charlie Kocher. Board Member*

A proposal to study the feasibility of creating a visitor contact center overlooking the ocean cliffs at Shore Acres State Park was given the "green light" in October by Oregon Parks and Recreation Director Bob Meinen. Speaking to those attending the Friends' annual Celebration Dinner, Meinen called the possibility of a visitor center "a very positive reinjection of energy back into the park."



OPRD Director Bob Meinen holds up a holiday sweatshirt presented by Master of Ceremonies David Bridgham.

An ocean-view building has been in the Friends' long-range goals for several years. Early in 1995, the Friends asked the Oregon Parks and recreation Department for permission to proceed with the plan. The idea of a building at Shore Acres has also attracted the endorsement of the Tourism Committee of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

In its request, the Friends noted there is no public building with an oceanfront view between Florence and Bandon. We left details of any building open for further discussion with the department, but did suggest that the facility be operated by or in cooperation with the Friends of Shore Acres.

At the dinner, Meinen suggested that the building might have the exterior of one of the former mansions on the estate, with visitor facilities inside that might include visitor education, a gift shop, food service and interpretive center. He has asked department staff members to start the research toward such a design.

Meinen gave the Friends of Shore Acres approval to work with Area Manager Andy LaTomme on the project. He called for a "quality development, done tastefully," and warned that the project would need "outside funding" to be successful.

"If we all work together, I think we can do it," Meinen said. "I feel pretty comfortable about this. I think it's very doable."

The state parks director praised Friends of Shore Acres as a model for state parks cooperatives around the state. "I want to thank you for giving us your time and giving us your resources," he said. He also thanked the Friends for pledging to help promote the sales of annual parking passes, noting that a photograph of Shore Acres will be featured on the 1996 permits.

In addition to hearing from Meinen, the Friends offered special awards at the dinner to a number of dedicated volunteers:

- Photographers Bernard and Jackie Schlaf, and Luis Velasquez.
- South Coast Printing owner Preston Clement, for continuing support in publishing Friends' materials.
- Information and Gift Center coordinators Ellen Gamer, Mary Novak and Winnie Pitsenberger.
- Southwestern Oregon Rose Society members Jay Dow, and Mike and Jan Kelly. The Society has embarked on a multi-year project to renovate rose beds in the northern portion of the gardens.
- KCBY Television and Production Manager Brent Smith, for producing a volunteer training video.
- Cooky baking coordinators Sharon Fortune, Pearl Groves, Ella Mae Stuart and Marty Wheeler.
- Ocean Spray Cranberries and Fred Meyer Coos Bay, for donation of juice to the annual Holiday Lights & Open House.
- Industrial Services, Inc. for helping create the Holiday Lights sculptures.
- Oregon Department of Transportation for installing directional signs to the Holiday Lights display every December.
- "Holiday Lights wizards" Marvin Blenz and Ken Kocher. Blenz creates extension cords for the display, while Kocher repairs the light strings that aren't working.
- Outgoing Board President Doris Emmett. ■



Gift Shop Coordinators Ellen Gamer, Winnie Pitsenberger and Mary Novak with Bob Meinen



## While cookies were baking . . .

**C**ooky bakers baked cookies – 44,500 – on four weekends in October. They began their effort at Marshfield High School October 7, and completed the job at North Bend High School October 28.

Luis Velasquez took group pictures every weekend except the first one. Ella Mae Stuart, who chaired this gigantic effort, with the help of Dan Gordner at Marshfield, says everything went like clockwork.

Dan made arrangements for the bakers to use Marshfield's cookie machine and ovens and also the ovens at Blossom Gulch School. As a result, Dan found himself transporting trays back and forth between the two locations.

This kind of support from the volunteers and the school districts is what makes our event a success. A huge thank-you to everyone who helped! ■



Food Service Director Dan Gordner and volunteer Alyssa Hall work the cookie machine at Marshfield High School.



Lily Busic and Ella Mae Stuart



Shirley Champagne



(L-R) Front row: Gail Wigler, Kristi Santivaschi, Liann Why, Mesa Inglish; Middle row: Vera Fusano, Shirley Champagne, Alberta Esch, Shirley Shellabarger, Ann Toman, Ella Mae Stuart; Back row: Linda Gault, Pat Curtis, Vandy Vanderpool, Joe Pfeifer, Tim Drechsel, Jon Davis, Laura Yoshida.



(L-R) Sitting: Della Hunsaker, Grace Jensen, Leslie Cook, Ella Mae Stuart, Shirley Champagne, Pearl Groves; Standing: Joe Pfeifer, Kay Valois, Lois Winn, Gina Young, Vandy Vanderpool, Dan Gordner.



(L-R) Front row: Robert Knudsen, Jessica French, Danielle Green, Denise Green, Johanna Bernstein, Joe Pfeifer; Middle row: Linda Gault, Patty Curtis, Lois Winn, Jason Kiffe, Ella Mae Stuart, Lucy Varoujean, Jane Gigler; Back row: Debbie Taylor, Shirley Shellabarger, Eloise Wagoner, Helen Shefstad, Kate Gigler, and Jon Davis.



## . . . Parking was expanding!

Every year since we began the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres we've heard, "You need more parking." We always agreed, but parking lots cost money – a lot of money. In 1994, we added bus and RV parking on the exit road. This fall, it finally became possible to add 55 more diagonal parking spaces for cars. In two years the Friends in partnership with Shore Acres State Park nearly doubled the parking. This year and next, we plan to add more parking lot lighting. ■

Photos by George Guthrie



The Goal: Add more parking.



Laying the base.



Rolling the asphalt.



## . . . Volunteers were stringing 150,000 Lights



Shirley Bridgham



Luke Soules and Grandpa Bill Breitmeyer



Betty and Kenn Kennedy



Travis, Erika, and Connie Nelson



Ginger and Bingo Sawyer



Maxine McKenzie



Alice Richter and Archi Rosenthal  
create a "lighted candle"



Robynn, Adam and Michael Reed



## . . . In the Garden, Garden House and Gift Center



Debbie Webb



Lights on the Garden House



Lights on the Information & Gift Center



(L-R) Elks Lodge #160 tree decorators Frank Smith, Steve and Pam Dalton, Ron and Elaine Smith, Rhea and Jim Cheslock



### FIRE AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS



(L-R) Coos Bay: Miranda Stout, Mike Harder, Steve Schneiderman, Jon Eck, Tina Eck; North Bend: Joe Henry, Jonathon Henry, Hank Parrott, Jeff Common, Eric Hulse



# Debut of the Leaping ORCA Whale



Bob, David and Fred stretch the fishing net.



David Bridgham



Connie and Gregg Nelson

David Bridgham was sure Don McMichael could design an Orca whale sculpture leaving in five stages. He was right. Just like last year, Don came through again. And with a lot of help from Industrial Services' fabrication crew, Industrial Steel's truck to haul it, and Don Thompson Construction's scaffold to put it up, this year's new attraction became a reality.

Of course it took a few more people to string lights on it – namely Carl Siminow, Connie Nelson, David Bridgham, Dick Scott, Frank Smith, Fred Ehrman, Gregg Nelson, Keith Ott, and Mike Perkins.

Then someone had to make it leap. Naturally our resident electrician Tom Kyle said, "no problem." We held our breath, but like always, Tom was right – no problem!

***Thanks to all who worked so hard on this project! ■***



Fred and David stretch the grid on the net.



Checking the plan



Giant Orca leaps . . .



. . . and turns – before splashing.



# “Home on the Range” in the Garden House



The Coos County Mounted Sheriff's Posse Auxiliary house committee, chaired by Peggy and Dick Monson, spent months creating ornaments and decorations for the Garden House theme – ***Home on the Range***.



When it was time to decorate the house, Carol and Don Todd and Carl Siminow helped put up miniature lights and garland. Keith Ott and Carl also ran new wire for a permanent stereo system. Other decorators included Barbara Bernhisel, Denton Watson, Elberta Smith, Evelyn Christian, Heide Erickson, Ilene Sibold, Jack Christian, Jean Watson, Joanie Johnson, Joyce Wilkins, Lauren Osterhout, Louise Bowers, Mary Kelley, Mellissa Berg, Nikki Johnson, Patti Kunz Peggy Monson, Starr Cotton, Sue Griffin, and Tom Sibold. Milton

and ElsieMae Casey of Casey Saddlery loaned a saddle for the display. ■



Ilene Sibold in upstairs front bedroom



B&B Bed



Thanks to everyone who helped!



Cowboy Santa takes a bath.



Upstairs back bedroom, aka *bunkhouse*



# Holiday Lights at Shore Acres Nov. 30, 1995 - Jan. 1, 1996

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 18, 1995

## **Editorial**

### **Officials show concern for public**

A concern for the public has averted what could have been a disruption in this year's Festival of Lights at the Shore Acres State Park. The festival is scheduled to begin Nov. 30 and last through Jan. 1.

Last April a slide caused by a leaking water main resulted in a washout on Cape Arago Highway. That was quickly repaired and the road reopened but now more work is needed to replace the leaky water main. That's where the conflict arises. Repair work now would require tearing up the highway, and since Cape Arago is the only access to Shore Acres, it would either close the festival to the public or make getting there a possibly hazardous journey.

Although the Oregon Department of Transportation thinks the work can be done in about a week, and has solicited bids for the work, a re-evaluation brought up the concerns of the upcoming holiday season and the effect the work might have on the festival, which brings thousands to the area each year.

"We're getting too close to Thanksgiving, especially considering the Festival of Lights," was the feeling expressed by Mark Usselman, ODOT district manager. Now ODOT will relet the bid in December. In the meantime, guard rails will be installed.

In an era where government and its workers are getting more than their share of criticism, it is cheering to note that not all officials are coldhearted and seemingly non-caring about the area they serve. We'd like to add our salute to Mr. Usselman and any others who had a role in this decision that permits the Festival of Lights to proceed on schedule.

■ **Festival of Lights:**  
Will proceed on  
schedule, thanks to  
ODOT.



Luis Velasquez

Early evening is a favorite time during the lights.



Jackie Schlauf



# Sensational Scenes at the Lights



Luis Velasquez



Jackie Schlaf



Luis Velasquez



Jackie Schlaf



# New Stage, New Location, Great Entertainment

We debated - we considered – we asked Larry Becker, Assistant Manager Area 4 – “How can we improve the location of the stage? May we move it closer to the Garden House?” Larry was more than accommodating. Not only did he agree the stage should be moved, he decided to provide a covering for the grass to keep folks out of the wet grass.

Next we contacted The Fabric Mill to what kind of cover we could get. Sharen Kibby and David Warner were quite helpful and gave the Friends a very good discount on a new awning. When it came time to put the stage up, George Guthrie and park staff moved the stage modules into place. Keith Ott and Frank Smith designed a frame and with the help of Joe Neill put it up. It was quite a job.

Our original idea was to keep the dampness off of the singers, players, and performers. We didn't think about 12 inches of rain! Needless to say, next season the awning will be water-proofed! Even so, it was a great improvement for those who entertained; we just hope to make it better. ■



Keith Ott, Frank Smith and Joe Neill take a well-deserved rest after building the new stage.



Kids and adults entertained. Everybody seemed to like the new stage in its new location.



Golly the Clown on Christmas Eve.



# Positive Publicity

Coquille Valley Sentinel, December 6, 1995

## Shore Acres trip

Register now to reserve a seat on the Greyhound bus Sunday, December 10, to head for Shore Acres park to enjoy the beautiful lighting display. This popular excursion, hosted by MP Community Activities, will leave Netland Park at 5:00 Sunday afternoon and return between 8 and 8:30 p.m. Registration fee: \$2.50. Please call MP Community Activities to register: 572-2811, extension 800.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 20, 1995

## EVENTS

**"HOLIDAY LIGHTS"** at Shore Acres State Park run now through Jan. 1 from 4 to 10 p.m. every night, including holidays. Some 150,000 lights will fill the botanical gardens at the park; refreshments will be served in the garden cottage; and there will be entertainment each night, too. For information on the holiday event call 756-5401. People going to the lights will not need to pay any fee. Friends of Shore Acres will sell tickets for a New Year's Eve stay in the gardener's cottage, complete with breakfast the next morning. Entertainment includes the Bay Area Foursquare Church from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and the Coos Bay Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 5:45 to 6:45 tonight, Dec. 20.; the Bay Area Community Band from 7 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21; St. Monica's Madrigal Choir from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 22 and Golly the Clown on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Those wishing to perform may call 888-3364 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to sign up.



## Happy holidays



World photo by André Ranieri

The season of lights and celebration is nearing its height and the days are numbered for the lights display at Shore Acres. The popular show

of sea animals designed with Christmas lights will be open to the public — complete with cookies and cider — through Jan. 1.



# Endings and Beginnings

## B & B Winners



Bill and Trudy Eisenbeis

*January 1, 1996 – “Thank you very much for the wonderful stay New Year’s Eve. A great start to a new year.” Bill and Trudy Eisenbeis, Salem*



Bill and Trudy started off the new year with a tasty breakfast prepared and served by Kaarina and David Scolari.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - January 19, 1996

## Coast Life

### Lights party

The public can attend the annual Holiday Lights Shakedown Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the Bureau of Land Management, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend.

There will be a report on 1995 holiday lights at Shore Acres Botanical Gardens and suggestions will be taken for the 10th annual lights show in 1996.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Beverages and table services will be provided. Please let organizers know you are coming by calling 756-4450 or 756-5401.



THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - January 8, 1996

## Parks day-use sticker features Shore Acres gardens photo

A Steve Terrill photo of the formal gardens at Shore Acres State Park, south of Charleston, will be on every day-use permit issued by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department during 1996, according to Andy LaTomme, regional parks superintendent.

The photo, of the gardens and cottage, is also available in a 16 by 20 inch poster that sells for \$2 at the Friends of Shore Acres gift shop in the gardens or for \$4 by mailing to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 1115 Commercial St., N.E., Salem, 97310-1001.

The annual day-use permit is on sale now and the price has increased to \$25. The fee will be charged all year during 1996 at all 24 day-use areas statewide.

The fee was extended last spring to a year-round fee, but the depart-



ment waived the fee for holiday lights at both Shore Acres and Honeyman state parks on the South Coast.

“We’ve expanded the season and increased the annual permit charge in an effort to keep all parks open and to achieve more equity for

support of the system among park users,” according to Bob Meinen, department director.

That means visitors to the 1996 Shore Acres 10th annual holiday lights celebration will need an annual or a daily permit, parks officials note.

“Since the department’s share of the state general fund has shrunk to only 8 percent of the agency’s total budget, we must rely more on user fees,” Meinen said.

During the last fiscal year, 221 day-use areas operated by the department cost \$7 million for day-to-day maintenance, yet revenue collected from day-use parks totaled only \$1.34 million. During that 12-month period, the department recorded more than 30 million day-use visits.

Even with the \$5 price increase in 1996, Meinen said the annual permits, which allow unlimited day-use of all state parks, provide a good recreation value for the investment.

“A family of four would pay \$80 for one day of skiing and \$15 to \$18 for a two-hour movie,” he noted.

Permits are available in the Bay Area at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department office, 365 N. Fourth St., Coos Bay; Wal-Mart

Store’s sporting goods section, 2051 Newmark Ave., Coos Bay; the Sunset Bay State Park office, 10965 Cape Arago Highway, Coos Bay and in the gift shop at Shore Acres State Park.

Those selling the permits may charge a 50 cent handling fee.

A \$5 extra vehicle permit for people owning more than one vehicle also may be purchased from

vendors and park offices.

If you simply buy a single day-use permit the cost will remain at \$3. These one-time-only visit permits are sold at affected parks.

They are sold either by staff at an entry booth or dispensed from a ticket machine that accepts coins, \$1, \$2 or \$5 bills.

The day-use fee is charged seven days per week all hours the parks are open.

A current state park campground receipt will allow free day-use access at any park while you are staying there.

You can also order the year-round day use permit by calling 1-800-452-5687. Posters can not be ordered by telephone and must either be purchased at the park or by writing to the above address and

enclosing a check to cover poster cost and handling.

The photo of the gardens is in full color and depicts the gardener’s cottage with the full glory of dahlias blooming in the foreground in shades ranging from bright orange to yellows and golds or red.

The gardens already attract over one million visitors a year and the Friends of Shore Acres sponsor events monthly for the benefit of those visitors.

Events range from tours with experts in rhododendrons, roses and dahlias, to concerts to the annual holiday lights display.

For more information on the Friends of Shore Acres contact the park or Shirley and Dave Bridgham at 756-5401.



# Mother Nature at Work

Western World, Bandon, March 1, 1996

## '96 rainfall could beat 15-year mark

by Mary Schamehorn

One often hears comments about the weather, which go a lot like this. "Oh, it always rains that much here in the spring," or "what can you expect it's January."

But that's not necessarily true. Rainfall in this area can nearly double from year to year.

And if it continues to rain like it did in January and February, this year may be the wettest on record for the last 15 years.

A reader brought in monthly rain data, which dates back to March of 1982, and although January of 1995's rainfall of 20.25 inches surpassed the 1996 total of 13.97 inches, the combination of January and February (13.96) surpass all previous months for which data is recorded. In fact, the two-month total for 1996 of 27.93 inches is more than half of the rainfall recorded in five of the last 14 years.

January's rainfall ranges from a low of 0.2 inches in 1985 to a high of 20.25 in 1995. February's highest total, 15.74, was in 1983. The lowest amount recorded for the Valentine month was 3.03 in 1988.

March totals range from 4 inches in 1988 to 12.71 in 1983.

Other months which have shown quite a disparity include July. Twelve of the last 14 years show a rainfall of less than an inch, includ-



ing four years with no rainfall in July. But in 1993, there were 2.04 inches of rain for that month.

The same holds true for August, which is historically the driest month. There was no rainfall recorded in five of those years, but in August of 1990, more than two inches of rain fell.

December totals range from a low of 1.83 inches in 1989 to a high of

21.28 in 1987.

So what is the average rainfall? It ranges from a low of 40.79 inches in 1985 to a high of 81.16 inches in 1983. There were 49.89 inches recorded in 1994, and 77.51 inches fell in 1995.

The average for the 13-year period (1982 totals weren't complete) was 59.48 inches.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - March 9, 1996

Reformatted for this album

### Land bridge collapses

Locals who walk the trail south of Shore Acres will notice the view has changed. A natural land bridge, better known by park ranger as the blow-hole, collapsed last month. The landslide carried thousands of tons of earth onto the rocks and water below. Park visitors looking south from the observation area may notice the new bus-sized chunk of rock in the waters of Simpson Cove.

"It's probably been gradually eroding away for awhile. It just all let go," said Dave Esch, park ranger.

The area just south of Simpson Beach once was a sea cave. Eventually a section of the roof fell in, leaving a hole in the ground, bordered on the water side by the thin land bridge.

Ranger Mimi Blazek said she never trusted the narrow rock bridge enough to walk across it, but other did. She said an inmate crew worker first noticed the landslide about to weeks ago, while working on a park upkeep project.

Park officials don't plan to do anything about the slide. A fence remains along part of it. "The slide area is not anymore dangerous than other areas of the rocky cliff," said Blazek. Park officials ask visitors not to climb along the cliffs at Shore Acres.





# Annual Spring Cleaning – March 30, 1996

by Gregg Nelson, Board Member and Friends' Editor Shirley Bridgham



Gregg Nelson and his son Travis



Repotting Water Lilies

The BLM fire truck pulled into the back courtyard near the greenhouse just before 10:00 A.M. Nick Jansen and Scott Poore, both experienced at laying down fire hose for fighting fires, had volunteered to provide water to fight pond scum.

Within a few minutes they had a hose going from the fire truck to the pond. They put in a "T" valve so there would be two hoses in the pond, and added nozzles to allow adjusting the spray from a mist to a power blast. And with two dozen volunteers already pushing brooms, squeegees, and shovels around in the pond, the annual spring cleaning had begun.

From past experience, volunteers have learned that the best way to clean the pond is with a little bit of muscle and a good blast of water. This year would be easy – the group included some experts who have been volunteers for this work many years in a row.

While a few people washed down the sides and bottom of the pond, others pushed the muck and mire, sludge and slurry toward the drain. Some of the thicker, heavier material was shoveled into wheelbarrows, to be hauled away.

While volunteers are working, many visitors wander by. The most often asked question is "Why clean the pond? Why not leave it alone?"



## aka “Brush and Flush”

Several of the more experienced pond cleaners have the easy answer: “If we don’t clean the pond, it will fill in and become a meadow in twenty years.” (*OK, so it might take a little longer, but it would happen.*)

A little over an hour after starting, the work is done and tools put away. While most of the group has been sloshing about in the muck and mire, Lloyd Fritz has been busy flipping burgers on the “barbie.”

The rain stayed away, so the group was able to enjoy a picnic lunch at the patio tables near the garden house.

So what does it take to clean the pond, besides water, squeegees, brooms, and shovels? Like everything else the Friends of Shore Acres do, it takes VOLUNTEERS. We would like to thank this year’s group of volunteers and their families. From BLM: Lloyd Fritz; Nick Jansen; Scott Poore; Ray and Dottie Orazem; Gregg, Connie, Erika, and Travis Nelson; Larry Mangan; Daryl and Barbara Albiston; Jon, Theodora, and Charlotte Menten; Steve, Barbara, Karen, and William Fowler; John and Tim Fields; Bob Golden; and Thomas Cunningham. Thanks also to the FoSA volunteers: David and Shirley Bridgham; Dick Van Natta; George Guthrie; and Archi Rosenthal. ■



All ages helped!



“Grillmaster” Lloyd Fritz



Erika Nelson (L) an Travis Nelson (R)



Beautiful for another year



## This April's showers begin to bring May's flower shows

Despite the deluge, spring's flowers are blossoming and the show must go on.

This weekend brings the annual Southwestern Oregon Rhododendron Society show at Pony Village Mall — the first major show of the season.

The show is open from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27 and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at Pony Village Mall in North Bend.

Some 350 entries are expected and the show is open to anyone wishing

to enter a bloom or two.

If you wish to bring a bloom to display plan on arriving at the mall between 7 and 9:30 a.m. Saturday to present it to members. For tips on displaying the blooms and what to look for call longtime rhododendron society members Tom and Ann Drake at 396-2718.

There will be ribbons and trophies given by trained rhododendron show judges.

Admission to the show is free and

society members will be on hand to answer questions about growing the colorful blooms — they usually thrive in Oregon where mild climate and soils are favorable. This year's rains have damaged the blooms on some early varieties, but rhododendrons and azaleas will bloom well into June, depending on variety.

Also this weekend, the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society will hold its annual tuber sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 26 and from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Pony Village Mall, North Bend.

Tubers will be available from members for prices ranging from \$1 to \$3 with some show tubers available for those who wish to try out their talents later this year in a competitive situation — or who simply appreciate a new variety to add to the garden. Members of the organization will be on hand to tell you how to plant the tubers and assure the best blooms later this summer. For more

information call 756-2358.

The two events kick off a full season of flower-related activities for those who garden — or those who just love to visit lovely gardens.

Still on the agenda this spring are the Mother's Day show on May 12 of the South Coast Bonsai Society at Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens with a "paint out" by the Bay Area Artists Association scheduled during Mother's Day events, too.

For Father's Day, June 16, at the

gardens will find members of the Southwestern Oregon Rose Society on hand to explain their work restoring the rose beds in the gardens, with blooms on display in the garden house and the South Coast Woodcarvers Association showing artworks and demonstrating techniques.

Pull on galoshes, put up the umbrella and head out for a flower show. It's amazing what a glimpse of nature in bloom can do to cheer up the darkest southwester.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 9, 1996

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 8, 1996

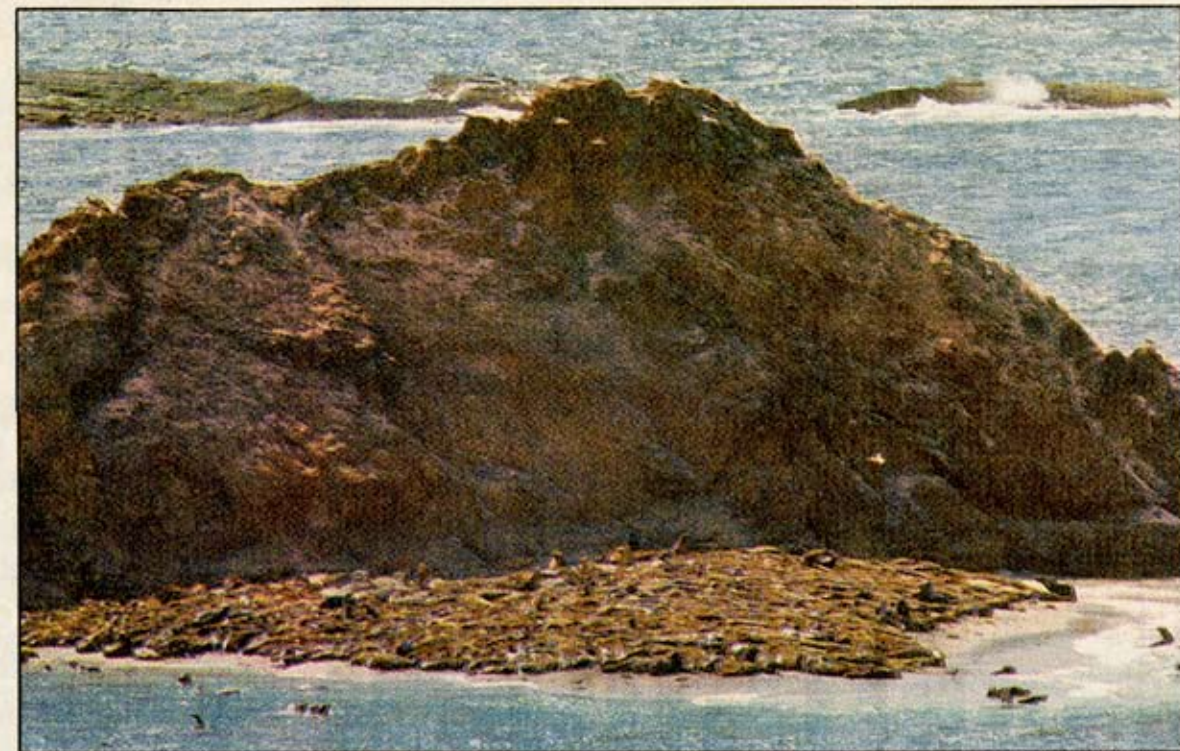
### EVENTS

**MOTHER'S DAY AT SHORE ACRES GARDENS** will find the Southwestern Oregon Rhododendron Society on hand to answer visitor questions about the gorgeous display of blooms in the gardens between 1 and 4 p.m. Sunday, May 12. Members of the Bay Area Artists Association will also be paintings and sketching in the gardens during the event and the Headles and Treadles Guild will demonstrate weaving and spinning in the garden house. Refreshments will be served. Call 756-5401 for information.

### Beautiful Blooms Await



### Beach party



by Mason Marsh

Sea lions crowd onto the small beach at Shell Island Wednesday afternoon. Named because the beach is made of mostly broken shells, the island near Simpson Reef and Cape Arago is

one of the busiest sea lion haul-outs in the Pacific Ocean. The colony of squirming and barking mammals can be seen from Sea Lion Lookout on Cape Arago Highway south of Charleston.



# Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day– May 12, 1996



Charles Edmonds - "Charles of Charleston" a member of Bay Area Artists Association (BAAA), demonstrates his artistic talent.

Mother's Day was a glorious day and the rhodies and azaleas were beautiful at Shore Acres Gardens.

While members of the Bay Area Artists Association painted the garden, members of Heddles and Treadles Weavers and Spinners demonstrated their skills.

George Guthrie, Head Gardener of Shore Acres, shared his wit and wisdom, and his extensive knowledge of rhodies and azaleas with the many visitors.

The Garden House was full of displays and Friends of Shore Acres volunteers served the traditional cookies, coffee and punch.

A big thanks to all who made the day such a success! ■



George Guthrie, Shore Acres' Head Gardener, shares his rhododendron and gardening expertise with Ethel Ferris, Kent Ferris and several others.



In the Garden House, (L-R) Dick Van Natta, Helen Shefstad, Sonny Shefstad, and Cappy Klein serve cookies, coffee, and punch.



Fred Knapp of Heddles and Treadles Weavers and Spinners shows onlookers his considerable skills.



# Rose Sunday / Father's Day – June 16, 1996

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 12, 1996

## EVENTS

**"EXPLORING NEW RIVER,"** the third of the Saturday Field Trips, sponsored by the Cape Arago Audubon Society and various resource agencies, will feature Susan Hootman of the Bureau of Land Management, Saturday, on an exploration of a river south of Bandon that is only 100 years old. Meet at 9 a.m. in the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 50 Central Ave., (between the north-south Highway 101 lanes) in downtown Coos Bay.

**SUMMER STAR PARTY** will offer two weekends of exploring the heavens with Robert Scheppeler. Session one of the astronomy workshop will run from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday and students will view the night skies from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$18 and preregistration is required for the event, headquartered at the Gold Beach offices of Southwestern Oregon Community College. Call (541) 247-2741 for more information.

**ROSE SUNDAY**, the annual Father's Day event at Shore Acres State Park, has been planned again this year from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 16, with Southwestern Oregon Rose Society members on hand to answer questions and describe their project to renew the rose gardens at the park. Call 756-5401 for information.



Father's Day was another beautiful day and visitors enjoyed the roses in the gardens, and the wood carvings and video program in the Garden House.

Out in the gardens, George Guthrie, Head Gardener of Shore Acres, and Jay Dow of the South Western Oregon Rose Society shared their knowledge of roses and gardening with visitors.

In the Garden House, Ken Means of South Coast Wood Carvers, worked on his carousel ponies and displayed many of his beautiful wood carvings.

Visitors watched the Friends' new video **"Gardens Above the Waves"** and Friends of Shore Acres volunteers Dick Van Natta and Carl Siminow served cookies, coffee, and punch.

A big thanks to everyone who helped! ■



Adam Reed (Bridgham's grandson) sands the carousel pony under the direction of wood carver Ken Means.



Wood carver Ken Means tells visitors about his new carousel ponies.



George Guthrie and Jay Dow (nearest table) answer rose and garden questions.



Visitors watch "Gardens Above the Waves" in the Garden House on Rose Sunday.



# Alarming Announcement!

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 20, 1996

June 20, 1996

The Newspaper of Oregon's South Coast

## Falls, Arago included in 65 park closures

■ **More money needed:** Parks and recreation plans public meetings for funding ideas.

By Elise Hamner  
Staff Writer

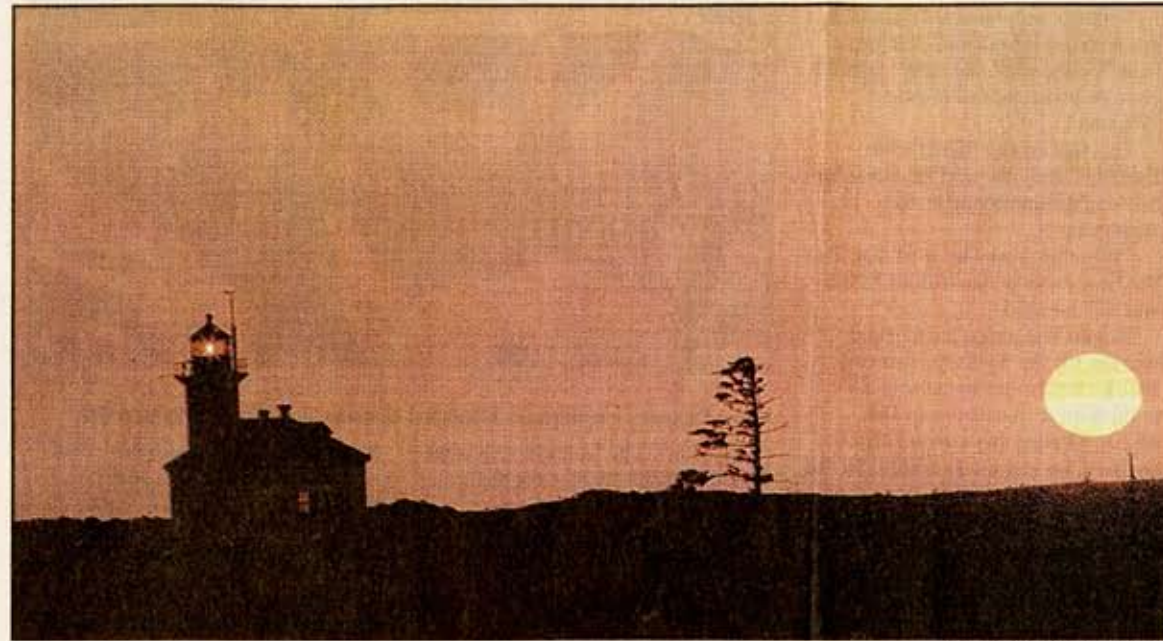
The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission Wednesday ordered the closure of 65 state parks, 17 of which are on the South Coast, including Cape Arago and Golden and Silver Falls.

"We're closing parks because we have a \$3.6 million revenue shortfall, and this seemed the best way to do it," said Andy LaTomme, manager of the South Coast region.

South Coast Parks slated for closure after the Labor Day holiday include: the North Jetty at Jessie Honeyman, C.B. McCullough, Golden and Silver Falls, Cape Arago, Seven Devils, Albert Powers, Coquille Myrtle Grove, McVay Rock, Pistol River, Cape Sebastian, Winchuck, Cape Blanco, Otter Point, Geisel Monument, Hoffman and Paradise.

Day-use at Humbug Mountain will be cut from year-round to seasonal access. Seventeen other parks statewide could close if the department cannot set up partnerships with contractors to operate them. (For a complete listing, see Page 5)

Beginning in 1980, State Parks lost its gas tax funding, and the department has watched the legislature



World photo by Mason Marsh

**A setting sun shimmers through the evening haze behind the Cape Arago lighthouse Wednesday. Tomorrow's summer solstice marks the last season the state park will be open, due to budget cuts.**

whittle away the agency's share of general fund money. Most people figure a state agency will never run out of money as long as people pay taxes, said LaTomme. However, the department now relies on mostly user fees for its budget, he said.

"Out of every \$100 income tax you pay, Oregon State Parks gets 7 cents," said LaTomme.

State officials say the closure could be temporary if Oregonians think up

ideas to pay for the parks or work with other groups to keep them open. The state plans to hold two public meetings on the South Coast in July to listen. The department has scheduled the meetings for 7 p.m. July 10 at the Coos Bay Library and 7 p.m. July 11 at an unannounced location in Brookings.

State Parks plans to close roads into the parks. People will not be allowed to hike into those areas, either,

for their own safety and to prevent damage to facilities, according to Chris Havel, department spokesman.

"That's paramount. We have to keep people safe. Second we have to protect the park," he said.

The announcement surprised residents and Coos County's Parks Director.

"I would think somewhere in the

**See Closures, Page 8**

## Closings revealed

**Closures from Page 1**

future, before I would close a park, I would contact my neighbors public or private sector to see if there were options to keep parks open," said Coos County Parks Director Gary Combs.

Combs said he realized state parks was struggling with its budget, but wide-scale park closures will hurt businesses.

"Sixty-seven percent of the people in the State of Oregon visit the Oregon Coast. Any park closure will have a major impact, not only locally but statewide," he said.

"In the summertime, it's probably 25 percent of our business," said Allegany River Grocery owner Chris Query.

Query's sales have doubled in the three years since she bought the store, and the decision to close Golden and Silver Falls will surely affect her, she said.

"It's (the falls) not manmade. It's something that's been there since the beginning of time, and that's what people come up to this area to see," she said.

Charleston Visitors Center volunteer Mel Campbell said closure of Cape Arago State Park would be a terrible loss to Charleston. People still would visit Sunset Bay and Shore Acres, but the cape is quite popular, she said. Fewer tourists have been stopping in Charleston, and Campbell fears a park closure would hurt more.

"We are really going to be suffering. I think that's another crushing blow to this little area out here," she said.

Campbell said she realizes the state must close parks that don't make money. "If there were a choice, how do you take a choice? They're all beautiful, and you want them all," said Campbell.



# Closures damage pride

■ **Action:** Oregonians need to tell their legislators how important state parks are to them.

By Elise Hamner  
Staff Writer

The bite of Wednesday's decision to close 17 South Coast state parks this fall left a big bruise.

"I expect outrage. I expect disappointment. I expect that some people will say 'Yeah it's about time they close down some,'" said Andy LaTomme, area manager of the state's parks in Coos, Curry, Jackson and Josephine counties.

In all, State Parks and Recreation plans to close 65 parks throughout Oregon this September in response to 16 years of cuts to the department's budget.

"I personally think it's sad. I never thought I'd see that happen. I don't have any easy

fix," LaTomme said.

"I think that Oregonians will have to let their legislators know how important state parks are to them, not just for what gets referred to as 'the Oregon way of life.' But I really believe that outdoor recreation is every bit as essential to life itself as food, water and air," he said.

Closing the parks in September will save LaTomme about \$258,000 out of next year's budget. It will save \$3.6 million statewide. But LaTomme will lose 5.6 full-time positions, which translates into nine people in permanent and seasonal jobs.

"We're affecting employees' lives in addition to park visitors," said LaTomme, who would have the 'unwelcome task of driving to his parks and delivering news of the cuts — when his phone stopped ringing.

The decision surprised Representative Mike Lehman, (D-Coos Bay), who added that he had not heard much about the department's money problems until about a month and a half ago. State parks did not talk loudly enough to be heard over the demands of other agencies' clamoring for money in the 1995 legislative session.

"As the prisons push our budgets higher and education pushes our budgets higher, it's a tough choice," he said. However, "there is a lot more discussion that will go on before this (closure) occurs. I would not write this down as a done deal," Lehman said Thursday.

Oregonians are proud of their parks. The closures may have more of a psychological effect than an economic one statewide, said Lehman.

What is ironic, he said, is that the use of many of Oregon's natural resources will be shut down with the

Coos Bay at 7 p.m., July 31 at the Coos Bay Library

Brookings at 7 p.m., August 1 at the Chetco Public Library.

## Public meeting times set

State Parks and Recreation Commission members have changed the dates of the two scheduled meetings on the South Coast. The commission wants to hear residents' ideas about ways to raise money and better manage parks.

See Parks. Page 8

# Closure looming

Parks from Page 1

parks. Many communities had hoped to heal the economy with tourism. But the decision to close state parks cuts down the tourism access, too, he said.

Closing parks will eliminate people's routes to many of the state's beaches, said State Senator Brenda Brecke (D-Coos Bay). Tourists still will be able to park their motor homes in Oregon's most popular parks, but residents may not be able to get to more remote beaches, she said.

"We had no local input," said Brecke. "I'm outraged. What can I say?"

The legislature must prioritize its budget, she said, adding that last session Republicans chose to give the wealthiest Oregonians a corporate kickback. Residents need to come up with solutions to the closures and make sure state officials hear those comments, said Brecke.

Officials plan to close off the least

popular or least profitable parks.

"Our hope is the citizens of Oregon will help us find a stable funding source so we can reopen those parks we close," said LaTomme.

The legislature took away the department's stable funding in 1980, as it diverted gas tax revenues. But as voters slashed property taxes and demanded an answer to crime, lawmakers chewed deeper into agencies' budgets to find money for schools and prisons.

Park managers reacted. They hiked camping fees and added parking and day-use fees. Now fewer people visit. State parks officials say their agency is starting to bleed.

Over the years, managers postponed not-so-obvious repair projects, while workers made parks pretty, said LaTomme.

"Maybe that's part of the problem. Our staff has been so good at keeping our parks looking good, the public wasn't aware of the problem. Now we're at a crisis point," he said.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 22, 1996

# Panel urges closure delay

■ **Emergency board:** Committee says some of its money could go to fund parks.

SALEM (AP) — A legislative budget committee on Friday sent a message to state parks officials to delay plans to close as many as 65 parks and waysides because of budget problems.

Lawmakers on the Emergency Board said they began getting public protests earlier this week when the Parks and Recreation Commission announced plans to shut down parks after Labor Day.

The step is being considered to help avert a potential \$3.6 million budget deficit in the 1995-97 fiscal period.

The E-Board, which handles budget matters between legislative sessions, voted to send a "strong request" to the commission to delay closure plans until the board's November meeting.

Some lawmakers say using some of the board's emergency funds could then be considered to keep the parks open.

Gov. John Kitzhaber did not indicate he would resist postponing park closures but expressed some irritation.

"The people who are proposing a delay are the ones who approved the budget in the first place," he said.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 22, 1996

## EDITORIAL

# Park closures slap in the face for coast

The front page of The World's Thursday edition revealed a sad, ironic look at one future scenario for the South Coast.

The main story was, of course, about the park closures scheduled for this fall, among them Cape Arago and Golden and Silver Falls state parks. The state says it has no money to keep all its parks open and plans to close 65 of them around the state. At the bottom of the page was a story about Coos Head and potential uses for it if the Department of Defense relinquishes the land now occupied by the Oregon Air National Guard. With a predicted increase in juvenile crime, the

state is looking for places to build more prisons to house and rehabilitate them and the Coos County site is the only one being considered in Southwest Oregon.

If the Cape Arago park closes and a youth boot camp moves into Coos Head — both very possible events — how different Charleston would be. Instead of a steady stream of motor homes and cars traveling out to enjoy the four beautiful parks along the highway, there would be state vans hauling uniformed "cadets" — juveniles who have been arrested for burglary, theft and other property crimes — back and forth to the camp. Security would have to increase and while the people at the boot camp would be nonviolent offenders, the potential for escape is there.

With these actions, the state is making a value judgment about the South Coast and our quality of life. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission says it made its closure decisions based on popularity and productivity. While Cape Arago and the falls certainly are not money makers, their popularity cannot be questioned. And never mind how much enjoyment Portlanders or other tourists get from these natural places. Local people who can visit year-round to find peace of mind and outdoor exercise are the ones who truly appreciate and need the parks. Andy LaTomme, area manager of state parks in Coos, Curry, Jackson and Josephine counties, is right when he says outdoor recreation is every bit as essential to life itself as food water and air.

But the state is considering replacing these special places with boot camps. What do local communities and economies get from these institutions? Certainly nothing that can compare to whale watching on the cape or hiking up the falls.

In addition to the implicit comment of what the South Coast is good for, the closures are a slap in the face to all the volunteers who help with cleanups and maintenance of park buildings. The preservation group Friends of Cape Blanco is only one example of citizens donating their time and efforts to improve their community and its history. Before deciding to close access to our parks, the state should draw on this natural resource — volunteer energy — to help keep the parks alive, funded and maintained.

■ **Value judgment:** Bureaucrats made wrong choice by saying parks not productive.



### Between a rock and a hard decision



World photos by Mason Marsh

Oregon Institute of Marine Biology student Brook Terwilliger searches for specimens on the side of a large rock at Cape Arago recently. Below: Students from OIMB look over a dead California sea lion they found on the beach at Cape Arago.

## State seeking local solutions

By Elise Hamner  
Staff Writer

Each day more than 50 Oregonians are licking stamps and sending suggestion cards to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department with ideas to keep 65 state parks open.

Next week residents will have a chance to offer ideas and tell state officials what they think about plans to close the parks, including 17 on the South Coast, after Labor Day.

Meetings are set for 7 p.m. each night, starting Tuesday at the Embarcadero in Newport, Wednesday at the Coos Bay Public Library and Thursday at the Chetco Public Library in Brookings.

Parks employees are talking to legislators also, hoping to close loopholes in laws that have diverted money to other agencies. The agency estimates expenses will be \$3.5 million more than the department will receive in state funds or campground revenues.

One problem is Oregon's recreational vehicle laws. Quirks in the laws have cost state parks an esti-



mated \$1.8 million from its budget to the benefit of the Motor Vehicles Division, according to Pam Ryan, a financial specialist with state parks.

In 1994, Oregon's RV registration fees doubled. That year, the state made \$11.8 million from recreational vehicle registrations. The earnings dropped to \$11.1 million in 1995, said Ryan.

A minimum of \$54, the fees for

### OIMB wants Arago open

By Elise Hamner  
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — Professors at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology want the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to reconsider closing Cape Arago State Park this fall because of the unique classroom it provides.

Decades ago, the university decided to locate the lab in Charleston because of the variety of areas available for students to study. No other marine lab in North America borders a similar coastline with beaches,

estuaries and different habitats nearby, according to Jan Hodder, an assistant professor at the lab.

Tidepools at the park's South Cove are a popular spot for college students to study biology and oceanography. Classes hike down to the intertidal zone every month to study the pools crowded with life.

Hodder accompanied a class to the cove on a rainy day last week. Students studied the grazing mollusks and larvae and spores that grab hold and survive in an environment

See OIMB, Page 8

two-year motor home registrations go to parks — if people don't allow the registrations to lapse. This is legal under a 1991 law. Instead of registering the vehicles, RV users can buy less expensive trip permits

starting at \$5 for 10 days, but this money goes to the DMV.

Oregon sends 70 percent of those revenues to state parks and the rest

See Parks, Page 8

# Revenues down

### Parks from Page 1

to counties to maintain their own parks, which means counties also are losing money, she said, as the fee revenues drop.

Ironically, Oregon's RV fees are the lowest in the West, less than half the amount charged by Idaho, the next cheapest state, said Ryan.

State Rep. Veral Tarno (R-Coquille) said he realizes state parks have budget problems and agrees the legislature needs to look at the RV licensing issue. However, Tarno said he disagreed with the agency's tactics in announcing it would close parks.

"They could have waited before they frightened or alarmed the public

with the announcement, when they still had a year to go in their budget," he said.

Since the department's closure announcement, several cities, counties and volunteer groups statewide have offered to take over management of the threatened parks. The department is writing standards for the Partners in Parks Program, according to Andy LaTomme, area manager of the Southern Oregon region for state parks.

People also have suggested the department cut back on maintenance work or use more prison inmates, but that makes many people uncomfortable about safety, he said.

## Closing Cape Arago could affect marine institute's classroom

### OIMB from Page 1

where tides pound and the sun scorches.

"This whole place is a mosaic of animals interacting with one another. They all find a place to live," she said, stepping carefully across the rocks to avoid the fragile animals. "Right underneath, you have mussels, and there's limpets."

Students walked and slipped across algae covered rocks, gathering gum boot chitons and limpets which live in shells resembling miniature volcanoes.

"This is a very safe place to take students, especially this time of year when the winds come out of the northwest. It's very protected," said Hodder.

OIMB students are one small segment of the thousands of people who visit the park each year. More than 323,000 people visited Cape Arago in 1995. Twice as many people, 773,688, stopped at Sunset Bay, and almost 430,000 people wandered through Shore Acres.

Visitors help pay for Sunset Bay and Shore Acres, but none of the three areas is self-supporting,

according to state parks statistics. On average, the state spends 9 cents per visitor to operate parks statewide. The costs vary at South Coast parks from as high as 67 cents per visitor at Cape Blanco to 4 cents per visitor at Cape Arago.

Hodder said she wants to attend a public hearing in Coos Bay next week and hopes state officials consider all options.

"If it's kind of a question whether you have enough money to run the bathrooms, maybe you should close the bathrooms," she said.



# Pop tax could aid parks

■ **Proposal:** Part of the 5-cent deposit would be given to state, secretary of state says.

By Charles E. Beggs  
Associated Press Writer

SALEM — Secretary of State Phil Keisling says having the state take part of the deposit refund on beer and pop containers could help the ailing state park system and other natural resources projects.

Keisling is suggesting having the state get 2 cents of the 5-cent deposit on beer and carbonated soft drink bottles and cans.

That would raise close to \$25 million per year, which Keisling said could be used for acquisition and upkeep for parks and other purposes.

Park closures are being considered because of a potential shortfall of more than \$1.5 million a year in operating funds over the next three years.

"We had a state parks system that was a gem of the entire country a generation ago," Keisling, a Democrat, said Thursday. "The fact that we are seriously looking at closing 50 to 60 parks I think is a shameful testament to how far we've fallen and how we've neglected investing."

Under the proposal, the state would return 3 cents of the 5-cent deposit to consumers. The estimate of nearly \$25 million in revenues is based on the 1.2 billion containers returned each year under current law.



South Cove of Cape Arago

An initiative measure on the November ballot would expand the law to include many non-carbonated drinks, covering about 15 percent more cans and bottles, said Chris Taylor of the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, sponsor of the initiative.

OSPIRG has not taken a position on the tax proposal, Taylor said. He said it could bring opposition from grocers, who would have more bookkeeping chores from setting aside and sending to the state 2 cents of the deposit.

State parks officials made plans to close more than 50 parks by the end of the year because of a potential \$1 million-plus budget deficit in the budget and \$3 million or more in the coming 1997-99 fiscal period.

However, lawmakers last month asked officials to delay any plans until the board's November meeting. They want to determine whether emergency funds might be used to avert closures.



The World

Don Brown, Publisher and Editor  
Veronica Combs, Managing Editor

## EDITORIAL

# Public willing to invest time in parks

The public knows what it doesn't want for state parks — closure — but also doesn't have concrete proposals for how to finance their maintenance.

That much was disclosed at a hearing here this week, the 13th of 16 planned to gather public input around the state.

One of the popular proposals was to stop funding prisons and fund parks. But that idea came apart when it was noted that the public had voted for more prisons.

One idea came through clearly; the public is willing to give of its time for keeping parks open. If that is the answer, then the state parks department will have to determine priorities by dividing park chores into those that the public can do and what is required to be done by state employees.

It's not like the idea is foreign. Shore Acres State Botanical Garden is an example of how a volunteer group, Friends of Shore Acres, can take over a portion of the chores and keep costs to visitors to a minimum. Shore Acres is one of the top parks for visitor numbers and certainly ranks up there in the quality of offering.

Frankly, we think the threat to close state parks is based partially on allocation of state funds as well as a blackmail attempt to get the attention of legislators. At least the latter portion has been successful.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the parks are very important to the state and its citizens. And it won't take the citizens long to figure out how to apply political pressure to stop the proposed closures.

■ **Input:** Meetings highlight residents' concern over recreation areas' closure



# Will we let our parks wither?

*Oregonians have to step up and speak out to preserve our beloved heritage*

By BRIAN BOOTH

The State Parks Commission's decision to close 65 parks and lay off 10 percent of the staff has been a wakeup call to Oregonians who have taken continued existence of their parks for granted. It is a sad commentary on Oregon in the 1990s that, in the same week, the Legislative Emergency Board cleared the way to spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars for 10 new prisons.

Oregon has one of the finest parks systems in the world. Our state parks give every Oregon family the right to relax on 360 miles of beaches and to enjoy 500 miles of trails, 19 protected scenic rivers, 221 scenic, recreational and historic areas from Wallowa Lake to Smith Rock to the Columbia Gorge and along the Willamette Greenway and the Coast.

Oregonians love their parks and love to use them. With over 42 million visitors, our parks have the highest density of park visitors per acre in the country. While Oregonians often associate state parks with campgrounds, only 20 percent of our parks have camping facilities, and day-use visitors outnumber campers by a 20-to-1 margin.

At a time of economic prosperity, population growth, increasing demands for recreation, growing emphasis on tourism, and recognition that quality of life is a key to economic development, it seems terribly shortsighted to downsize Oregon's parks. We shouldn't be closing parks; we should be adding parks.

Then why aren't we?

This is not a new problem, and it won't be solved by a quick fix to keep parks open until after the November election. The parks commission lost its historic source of funding, the gas tax, in 1980. By 1988 a statewide committee found there was "trouble in paradise," and urged Oregon to invest \$203 million in its parks and provide stable funding.

State government has failed to act and taxpayers now provide just \$2.6 million annually, or 8 percent of our budget. This is about 7 cents from every \$100 of state income taxes, or less than \$1 per Oregonian per year.

For the past six years, the department has taken heroic measures to keep parks open, including increasing user fees until they are among the highest in the nation, using 11,000 volunteers (as well as inmate crews), adopting business-like practices and raising funds from the private sector through a

foundation. But these steps and others can't overcome the almost total withdrawal of government support at a time of growing demand for services. Unless adequate state funding is restored, there will be more closure announcements.

So is Oregon, the state that dedicated its beaches to the public, acquired magnificent parks during the Depression, adopted the nation's toughest land-use laws, saved its scenic rivers and once proudly boasted that it led the nation in livability, now going to



“ Supporting parks is a matter of government priorities, not lack of government resources. ”

be the state with "closed" and "for sale" signs on its parks? Is this the end of what Gov. Tom McCall called the "Oregon Story"?

Not if Oregonians will deliver the correct message to our government leaders: spending on parks is a bargain; it's good for the economy; and it's an investment in quality of life for all of us:

- State parks are a bargain for taxpayers. Supporting parks is a matter of government priorities, not lack of government resources. The dollars required to maintain parks are of a totally different magnitude than the funding needs for corrections, education, health care and transportation. We can afford a quality parks system without jeopardizing major state programs.

- Parks are the cornerstone of Oregon's tourism industry and a key factor in economic development. Brochures featuring photos of parks are used by state agencies to attract tourists and new business. State parks are Oregon's largest tourist attraction. Park visitors spend approximately

\$550 million annually, and bolster the economy of communities hit by the decline of resource industries. If state policy is to seek "clean" industry to move to Oregon and tourists to visit, but not to support parks, we will harm the very quality of life that attracts these businesses and tourists.

- The main reason to support parks goes beyond economic factors. It is a selfish one; it is why most of us live here. Oregon is a special place that benefits from a long non-partisan tradition of allocating adequate funds to acquire and preserve scenic places and natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment of its citizens. We need to revive this tradition, which has been ignored for more than two decades even though it is written into our laws as state policy.

State parks preserve the best of Oregon. They are democratic; they are open to everyone. At a time of widening income disparity among our citizens, parks are a rare example of government spending that benefits all of us.

Our parks system has been one of Oregon's major successes. We should keep it that way.

How do we do this?

When elephants dance, the grass gets trampled. The Parks Department is a small agency with a tiny budget by government standards. When legislators, bureaucracies, special interests and lobbyists do their dance in Salem every two years, parks get overlooked. We need to change this.

Oregonians who love parks need to be their own lobbyists and advocates and take the message to government officials, legislators and candidates in this campaign year that Oregon can afford stable funding for parks.

I doubt if our children and grandchildren will look back in 20 years and praise us for state-of-the-art highway ramps and prison cells. And I doubt if this generation wants to be remembered for leaving the lottery, video poker and casinos as its legacy.

But if we can keep our existing parks open and well-maintained, acquire selected new park areas, save additional recreational and natural areas from development, and provide more beach and river access, I believe those who follow us will be grateful.

Portland lawyer Brian Booth is chair of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, 1115 Commercial St. N.E., Salem 97310; fax 1-503-378-8936; e-mail oprd.commission@state.or.us.



Shore Acres State Park is a valuable resource of Oregon's beautiful South Coast



# Rotary Finishes Power Project at Shore Acres

by Charlie Kocher, Friends Board Member (also Editor of *Rotary Reminders* Sept. 1996)



Rotarian Don Thompson



Rotarian Al Henrickson

There's a new "Power House" at Shore Acres State Park thanks to a community project of the Coos Bay/North Bend Rotary Club.

The Power House shelters the electric supply for the annual Holiday Lights display – providing cover to both the main breakers and the volunteers who throw the switches, often in wet weather.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has issued a formal thank you to the club for the project.

Rotarians pitching in on the project were Don Thompson, Al Henrickson, Bob Scully, Mike Gillespie, Wade Wakefield, and Ray Ronk, whose Lumbermen's outlet provided materials to the Friends at cost.

*Rotary Reminders* believes Dave Bridgham was also in on the work. He's known as the Friends of Shore Acres volunteer most likely to be throwing the switches in the rain.

**Note from Shirley Bridgham:** We hope this wonderful new "House" will help put an end to power problems we have experienced during past holiday lights seasons. New electrical panels and breakers will be intalled inside the Power House by Kyle Electric.

**A huge thanks goes to the Rotarians who gave their time and energy to make the project happen! ■**



Rotarian Mike Gillespie and future Rotarian



# Friends Complete Summer Activities 1996

## **RUNALLACTA: ANDEAN PANPIPES**

### **FILL THE PARK WITH LIVELY MUSIC**

Oregon Coast Music Festival

Garden Concert attracts large crowd.

Perfect. That's the kind of day it was at Shore Acres on July 19. The sun shone and temperature was not too hot, not too cold - just perfect. In that setting, the annual garden concert sponsored by the Oregon Coast Music Festival was an outstanding success. Five young men from Otavalo, Ecuador performed a wide variety of music including Bolivian and Peruvian songs. The crowd responded enthusiastically and gave a standing ovation when the concert ended.

Friends of Shore Acres volunteers parked cars and sold fresh raspberry and chocolate sundaes and apple juice. We ran out of everything except cars! A big thanks to everyone who helped: Vera Fusano, Carl Siminow, Bob Emmett, Robynn Reed, Adam Reed, George Guthrie, Roger Collins Bob Renner, Gregg Nelson, Dick Van Natta, David Bridgham, Craig Ward, and Cranson Fosburg. Special thanks goes to Charlie Kocher and Gerry Livingston for preparing the raspberries and Bob Emmett for picking up the ice cream. ■

## **FASCINATION WITH FUCHSIAS**

Bob Renner reports a wonderful day at Shore Acres on Sunday, August 11. "The weather was spectacular and we had lots of visitors," he said.

The Garden House was filled with beautiful fuchsia plants from the garden of Ellie Joyce, Coos Bay. Bob and his wife Betty, along with Mary Mainard and Lou Wear represented the local fuchsia society in answering Visitors' questions. Friends volunteers Shirley Champagne and Carl Siminow served cookies, punch, and coffee.

A big thanks to everyone who made the day a super success. ■



FIBEROUS BEGONIAS NEAR  
THE GARDEN HOUSE



## **BOARD MEETING AUGUST 13, 1996 - HIGHLIGHTS**

President Dick Van Natta called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Present : David and Shirley Bridgham, Georganna Casey, Ellen Garner, George Guthrie, Charlie Kocher, Mary Novak, Bob Renner, Terry Richards, Carl Siminow and Dick Van Natta.

Absent: Jo Hower, Gerry Livingston, Gregg Nelson and Betty Renner. Visitor: Larry Becker, OPRD.

- Minutes and Financial reports approved. *(on file)*
- Fountain: Shirley said Mike Vaughan has determined the total cost at about \$13,000 (approximately \$3,000 more than estimated) The Board voted to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$13,500.
- Oregon Coast Music Festival Picnic in the Park on July 19: Event was a success; the band well received; and the Friends sold all the refreshments they had available.
- Gift Center: With no park host available in July, Friends' volunteers kept the Center open every day.
- Fuchsia Display: Fuchsia Society members were present to answer questions about growing fuchsias and it was a beautiful day.
- OPRD: Larry Becker said the State Parks Commission has delayed closure of some of the State Parks until December 1, in hopes the State Legislature can determine additional sources of funding.
- Friends Annual Meeting: Potluck Dessert on September 17 at BLM headquarters with Board Meeting and election of officers following the Annual Meeting.
- Recognition Dinner: Usually held in October, will not be held this year because of the Co-op Conference being held in Coos Bay.
- Meeting/s adjourned at 8:45 P.M. ■





# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 10:

Annual Year - September 1, 1996 - August 31, 1997

Album 9 - Completed April 4, 2018

Book and PDF Versions

CONTENT SOURCES - FOSEA PHOTOS, PUBLICITY  
CLIPPINGS, FRIENDS' QUARTERLY JOURNALS 1995-1996

More Information:

[www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net) – Journal/Newsletters