



Shore Acres State Park  
Before Friends - 1986

Album 10



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.**

**W**hat 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.

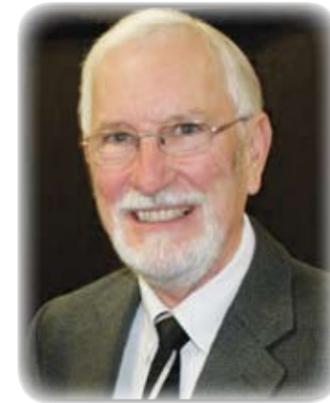
All these years, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has been truly blessed to remain an all-volunteer organization. It has made it possible to accomplish so many interpretive and physical development projects at Shore Acres. Visit our Information & Gift Center and pick up one of our membership brochures and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



**T**he 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

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

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.

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, 1996 - August 31, 1997

## **Celebration Potluck Dessert and Annual Meeting - September 17, 1996 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Conference Room Highlights of the Minutes – (Original on File)**



Dick Van Natta

Following a special treat of many “Potluck” desserts, President Dick Van Natta called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and welcomed about 60 Friends and guests.

The new video “*Gardens Above the Waves*” was shown and enthusiastically received by all present.

David Bridgham gave a report on all the activities and accomplishments of the organization during the past year, commenting especially about the new rose bushes, additional electrical installation, 60 new parking spaces, all made possible by the efforts and funding of the Friends. “It has been a busy year,” he said.

Recognition awards were presented by David and Shirley to many organization and individuals who either provided substantial financial donations or participated in the various activities and work parties during the year.

Announcement was made that coupons for parking during Holiday Lights in 1996 will be offered to those doing volunteer work during the season.

Mike Vaughan gave a report on the status of the installation of the new fountain. He expects it to be completed and operating during December.

David Bridgham, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, stated that the terms of Directors George Guthrie and Shirley Bridgham are expiring. George has declined to serve for an additional term. In addition, Charles Kocher and Gerry Livingston are relocating to Brookings and are resigning from the Board. Al Aslakson and Doris and Bob Emmett resigned earlier this year. David therefore presented the nomination of Shirley Bridgham for an additional 3-year term, and recommended election of proposed new Directors: Winnie Pitsenberger, Barbara Taylor, Charles Lembke and Kay Valois for a term of 3 years expiring in September, 1999. On motion of Bob Laird, seconded by Kenn Kennedy, the proposed slate were unanimously elected.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Georganna Casey, Secretary*



Luis Velasquez

(L-R) Richard ‘Dick’ Van Natta-FoSA President 1995-96; George Guthrie, Jr.-FoSA Founder and Board Member; Betty Renner-Bay Area Bonsai Society; Merrie Holbert-Bay Area Artists Association

### **Recognition Awards**

**Artistic Groups:** Bay Area Artists Association, Heddles & Treadles Weavers and Spinners, South Coast Wood Carvers

**Flower Organizations:** Bay Area Bonsai Society, Pacific Orchid Society, Southern Oregon Dahlia Society, Southwestern Oregon Rhododendron Society, Sunset Branch of the American Fuchsia Society, Oregon Daffodil Society

**Garden Improvements:** Jim’s Water Gardening Jim Purcell; Water Lilies; Downs by the Pond, George & Loretta Downs and La Doll Shannon Family and Friends, Corvallis; “Old Garden Roses” Garden

**Service Organizations:** Coos Bay/North Bend Rotary Club; Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters; North Bend Volunteer Firefighters

# Board Meeting, Dahlias and Memorial Fountain

## **Board Meeting - September 17, 1996** **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Conference Room** **Highlights of the Minutes – (Original on File)**



Bob Renner

**P**resident Dick Van Natta called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM immediately following the Annual Meeting

Directors Present: David and Shirley Bridgham, Georganna Casey, Ellen Garner, Charles Lembke, Gregg Nelson, Mary Novak, Winnie pitsenberger, Bob and Betty Renner, Terry Richards, Carl Siminow and Dick Van Natta. Directors excused: Jo Hower, Barbara Taylor and Kay Valois. Guests: Andy LaTomme, Larry Becker and Mike Vaughan.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, David nominated the following to serve until the next Annual Meeting: President- Bob Renner, President Elect-Gregg Nelson, Secretary-Georganna Casey, Treasurer-Barbara Taylor, Immediate Past President-Dick Van Natta. With no further nominations, Carl moved to cast a unanimous ballot.

Shirley seconded and the motion carried.

***Dick passed the gavel to Bob Renner, who thereafter presided over the meeting.***

Minutes of the August 13, 1996 approved as submitted. MSP David/Carl

Financial Reports accepted as submitted. MSP Georganna/Dick

Total Cash Assets: \$54,654.63

**Old Business** - Mike Vaughan presented a time table of how the fountain work is expected to progress. Work has been started.

**New Business** - OPRD Conference: Registration forms available; Shirley will forward completed forms with the necessary registration fees.

Andy LaTomme said State Parks are still preparing to close at least some of the parks in December.

Shirley stated that Sunset Magazine will have an article about Shore Acres in its December issue.;

With no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Georganna Casey, Secretary*



At Shore Acres Gardens, dazzling dahlias delight visitors every Autumn.

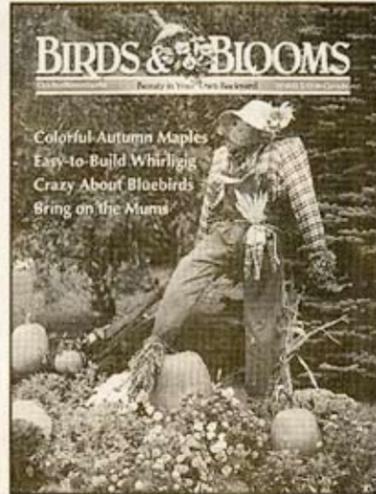


The Memorial Fountain, designed by Michael Vaughan, is expected to be completed by the end of November, in time for the opening of the Holiday Lights. Concrete work will be done by Greg Brock Construction; brick and tile work by Larry Nichols; masonry by Larry Nichols and Stuart Richardson. Electrical work will be done by Archie Crozier, Reese Electric.

# More Positive Publicity and October Meeting

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 30, 1996

## Gardens go national



Shore Acres featured inside.

The October-November issue of the nationwide "Birds & Blooms" magazine features a two-page spread on Shore Acres State Park urging visits to the formal gardens there in the fall and during the upcoming Christmas lights display.

Liz McCain, Florence, is a contributing editor for the magazine, which is published by Reiman Publications out of Greendale, Wis.

The Shore Acres story includes color photographs of the Japanese gardens, the rose garden, the Oregon Coast Summer Music Festival free outdoor concert and the gardens strung with Christmas lights.

The focus of the magazine is gardens and attracting birds to them, but also getting out and about and enjoying flowers, nature and birds at all seasons of the year.

George Guthrie, head gardener, details the history of the gardens in the story. He notes that some things have changed because Louis Simpson didn't host 400,000 visitors a year.

Times to see flowering bulbs, rhododendrons and azaleas, annuals and perennials in borders, dahlias and the lights are noted. For information on the magazine, which accepts items from throughout the United States, call (541) 997-8820.



**A Powerful Partnership  
Since 1986**



**Board Meeting - October 8, 1996**

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Conference Room**

**Highlights of the Minutes – (Original on File)**

President-Elect Gregg Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

Directors Present: Gregg Nelson, David and Shirley Bridgham, Barb Taylor, Chuck Lembke, Dick Van Natta, Kay Valois, Winnie Pitsenberger, Carl Siminow, Ellen Garner. Directors Excused: Bob Renner, Mary Novak, Georganna Casey, Terry Richards. Visitors: George Guthrie, Karen Wuethrich

- Minutes of the September 17 Annual Meeting and Board Meeting approved as submitted. MSP Shirley/Barb
- Financial Report: Accepted; Total Cash Assets: \$50,231.39
- Budget 1996-97 presented in September was accepted.

### Old Business:

- David reported on the annual meeting and the three kinds of meetings the Friends have tried - meeting, picnic, and dinner, all with varying degrees of success. This year's potluck dessert was very successful.
- Ellen reported that the Information and Gift Center is trying to get more locally produced merchandise with many new items ordered for holiday sales.
- Dahlia Daze and Orchid Day were successful.
- Memorial Fountain - Expected to be ready for Holiday Lights

### New Business:

- Holiday Lights: Preview 10/27; Open Thanksgiving 10/28 thru New Year's Day.
- State Parks Report: George said the Rose Society will send a bill for the new irrigation system for the roses. The Rose Society is asking the Friends to pay up to a \$1,000 for roses in the east rose circle. Motion to approve expenditure, which is in the approved budget. MSP Shirley/Ellen
- Cider Spice project: David volunteered to deliver apple juice, etc. to the Presbyterian Church on Oct. 25 at 9:00 AM and deliver the completed spice to Vend West on Oct. 26.
- State Parks Co-op Conference to be held in Coos Bay, Oct. 18-20. There will be display tables and a silent auction, which will include a night flight over the Holiday Lights.

With no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Shirley Bridgham, Director*

# Oregon Parks & Recreation Co-op Conference

October 16-18, 1996

The annual Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Conference was held in Coos Bay. A special highlight of the Conference was the announcement of the winners of the L.L. Stewart Volunteer Service Award given for contributions to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's "Friends" association throughout the state.



**History of the Award:** L.L. "Stubb" Stewart was the first recipient of this award. Stewart is a member of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and, before appointment to the Commission, served over 30 years as a charter member of the former State Parks Advisory Committee. His years of service are the standard by which others will be judged in the future. In 1992, he established a trust fund to continue this award program.

**L. L. Stewart Award**  
*Celebrating Excellence  
in Volunteer Service  
in Oregon Parks and  
Recreation Department  
Cooperating Associations*



SIGHTSEEING AT SHORE ACRES STATE PARK



FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES DISPLAY



FRIENDS OF SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE

# Volunteers Receive L. L. Stewart Awards

**David and Shirley Bridgham of Friends of Shore Acres, Coos Bay – Life Service Award** – The Bridghams are founding members of the group, which formed in 1986. Each has served as president of the Friends' board. Shirley has also served as treasurer and newsletter editor. As co-chairs of the holiday lights display since its beginning in 1987, the two have guided growth of the event from 6,000 lights viewed by 9,000 visitors the first year, to 150,000 lights seen by nearly 70,000 visitors in 1995. They have accomplished the project by "connecting with the community" to tap the resources of 1,300 volunteers who string lights, bake cookies, greet visitors, and sing carols.

**Steve Gobat of Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses, Newport – Inspiration Award** – Steve led efforts to expand the organization to include Yaquina Head Lighthouse managed by BLM.

**Kay Shindler of Friends of Historical Champoeg near Newberg – Inspiration Award** – Kay served as president at a critical time, providing leadership that improved the group's finances.

**Lowell Jones of Friends of Collier State Park, North of Klamath Falls – Dedication Award** – Lowell, an active supporter of the park for 48 years, helping to analyze and procure logging equipment and displays for the park's outdoor logging museum.

**Janet Nagele of Friends of Tryon Creek State Park near Lake Oswego – Rising Star Award** – During only five months of membership, Janet took a leadership role in presenting an in-serve day for teachers, led tour groups, and served as front desk receptionist.



L-R - L.L. "Stub" Stewart, Shirley Bridgham, David Bridgham, and Bob Meinen, Director, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

**Yaquina Bay Coast Guard Station, Newport – Partnership Award** – The station was instrumental in relighting the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse in Newport and having it recognized as an official aid to navigation. Coast Guard personnel helped furnish the lighthouse, provided interpretive displays and assisted with a centennial celebration. ■

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 1, 1996

## Bay Area couple receives statewide Oregon parks honors

### ■ Life Service Award: Duo recognized for their volunteer work with Shore Acres.

SALEM — Shirley and Dave Bridgham recently received the "Life Service Award" from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The award was presented during the annual conference of park "Friends" groups from throughout the state held in recently in Coos Bay.

The award, one of the L.L. Stewart Volunteer Service Awards, is named after L.L. "Stub" Stewart, long-time Eugene lumberman.

Stewart is currently an Oregon

Parks and Recreation Commissioner and prior to his appointment to the commission had served for 28 years as a charter member of the former State Parks Advisory Committee. He was the first recipient of one of the awards in 1991.

The Bridghams were recognized for their volunteer service with the Friends of Shore Acres State Park.

They were both founding members of the 10-year-old group. Each has served as president, president-elect and immediate past president of the Friends board, as well as in many other capacities.

As co-chairs of the annual Holiday Lights display since it began in 1987, the two have guided growth of the event from 6,000 lights viewed by

9,000 visitors the first year to last year's 150,000 lights and 70,000 visitors.

They are at it again this year with a display of 175,000 lights going up over the next three weekends and on view every evening throughout December.

The Bridghams have accomplished the light project by "connecting with the community," said park Superintendent Dave Meinem, to "tap into the resources of 1,300 volunteers who string the lights, greet visitors, bake cookies and sing carols.

Six individuals and a U.S. Coast Guard station also received park's department awards for 1996:

Janet Nagele, Lake Oswego, with

the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park, earned the Rising Star Award. Active with the organization for five months, she has taken a leadership role in presenting in-service day for teachers, leads tour groups and serves as front desk receptionist.

Lowell Jones, Klamath Falls, with the friends of Collier State Park, received the Dedication Award.

He has been an active supporter of the park for 48 years, helping to analyze and procure various pieces of logging equipment and displays for the park's outdoor logging museum.

He has served as president of the Friends since the group was founded.

Kay Shindler, St. Paul, Friends of Historic Champoeg, received the Inspiration Award.

She served as president of the group at a critical time, providing leadership that improved the group's finances. She has volunteered many years at the park and coordinated last year's Christmas party.

Steve Gobat, Friends of Yaquina Lighthouse, also won an Inspiration Award while president of the group. He led efforts to expand the organization to include the lighthouse managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Yaquina Bay Coast Guard Station won the partnership award. The station was instrumental in relighting the Newport lighthouse and in having it recognized as an official aid to navigation.

Coast Guard personnel have

helped with furnishing the lighthouse, provided interpretive displays and assisted with a centennial celebration.

The department provides natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for 40 million visitors annually at 180 developed parks. The department also administers special programs such as the Ocean Shores Recreation Area, Recreation Trails, the State Historic Preservation Office, Scenic Waterways and the Willamette River Greenway.

Department activities are funded primarily by park user fees and recreation vehicle license fees along with the state general fund (about 9 percent of the total park department revenue).



Friends of Shore Acres Journal - Summer/Fall 1996

## The time has come . . .

by Shirley and David Bridgham, Founders and Board Members, Friends of Shore Acres

As we plan the 10th annual Holiday Lights and Open House, we now know that our visitors will have to pay the \$3 per vehicle parking fee. *A fee waiver at Shore Acres cannot be justified with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department facing employee layoffs and possible closure of many of its parks, including some here on the south coast.*

We are overjoyed that Shore Acres is not slated for closure. We also believe this is an opportunity for holiday lights visitors to help our favorite park.

We feel it's critical that our members and supporters understand the problems facing Oregon State Parks.

As many of you know, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has provided many different kinds of services and projects for Shore Acres over the last 10 years. However, most of these projects have been for park enhancement, not operating expenses. Our Mission - "to participate in interpretive, educational, and physical development programs . . ." will continue. For example, this Fall, the long awaited memorial fountain will be installed in the same location as the garden's former fountain.

The parking fee will help keep Shore Acres – and possibly several other south coast parks – open. *The fee is separate from holiday lights donations.* Your contributions will still be used for the Holiday Lights event and other enhancement projects for Shore Acres.

We still have dreams. Think about a replica of the first Simpson mansion as a visitor center on the bluff . . . completion of the year 'round garden night lightscaping . . . a new

greenhouse or arboretum . . . a new entry into the formal garden . . . the possibilities are endless.

We have not forgotten our holiday volunteers and financial supporters. They will receive complimentary parking coupons for the Holiday Lights display, based on their level of support.

Also, a 1996 or 1997 annual parking permit will admit your vehicle for free. The 1997 permit will be available in late November. New and renewing members of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., will receive a \$5 discount off the 1997 permit.

We hope the Oregon Legislature and Oregonians will find a source of stable funding for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. It's long overdue. In the meantime, we need to help our beloved parks.

After all, without our beautiful Shore Acres Gardens, we couldn't "do lights" to continue this wonderful community tradition. ■



Beautiful Begonias

The Register Guard, October 24, 1996

[Reformatted for this album]

### Coos Bay/North Bend

Traditional Holiday is the theme of the 10th Annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park, which begins Nov. 28 and runs through Jan. 1.

An open house is held in the original gardener's cottage, built in 1906, every night from 4-10 p.m. Refreshments, including homemade cookies, apple cider, cranberry punch and coffee, are available for a free-will donation.

According to Shirley Bridgham, Friends of Shore Acres, the lights will be turned on at 4 p.m. each evening and the best time to visit the park is at 4 p.m. to watch as the daylight turns to darkness.

This year, 25,000 lights, including miniature "snow" lights have been added, bringing total number of lights in the park to around 175,000. Also new are light sculptures of flying pelicans and jelly fish, as well as lighting for a just-completed memorial fountain.



Photo by Jackie Schlaf

Close to 175,000 colored lights transform the grounds at Shore Acres State Park near Coos Bay into a magical fairyland from Nov. 28 through Jan. 1. Staff members say the best time to visit the park is just after 4 p.m. when the lights are turned on each evening.

In addition to traditional Christmas-colored lights, teal, hot pink and purple lights are used in the sculpture displays of life-sized whales and other sea creatures. Colored lights also outline hedges, bushes and the gardener's cottage in the formal garden areas of the park.

As this is a walking tour, Bridgham recommends that visitors dress warmly. Temperatures usually range in the 40s and 50s during December.

Umbrellas are available in the gift shop for people to borrow in case it rains.

Shore Acres State Park is located about 12 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend. As it is a day-use fee park, parking costs \$3 per vehicle. For more information, call the park office at 541-888-3732 or David and Shirley Bridgham at 541-756-5401.



# Cookies are Baking at North Bend and Marshfield High Schools



Cookie bakers at North Bend High School. Seated (L-R) Kate Gigler, Ella Mae Stuart, Chair. Second row (L-R) Jane Gigler, Alberta Esch, Pearl Groves, Helen Shefstad, Linda Gault (Head Cook), Maxine McKenzie. Back row (L-R) Vandy Vanderpool, Lori Teriberry, Angie Worrall, Kelly Giddings, Lois Winn, Jean Sorenson, Patty Curtis, RuthEllen Melton



Pearl Groves has helped with cookies since we began!

**THANKS TO ALL OF OUR VALIANT VOLUNTEERS!**



Shirley Champagne



Deb Taylor



Kay Valois

# Getting the Word Out . . .

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - October 28, 1996

## COAST LIFE

Linda Meierjurgan, Editor

### Help string 175,000 Shore Acres lights now

It's time to turn the Shore Acres State Park gardens into a holiday wonderland again.

This will be the 10th year volunteers working with Friends of Shore Acres have flooded the botanical gardens and gardener's cottage with lights, sounds and scents of Christmas.

The whole process begins months in advance when organizers start to dream about the new creations they could make in lights, says Shirley Bridgham, who along with husband, Dave, is in charge of the makeover.

"Once the gardens are open to Christmas visitors, we sometimes just wander about...One of our favorite spots is on the entrance ramp, in the corner. From there we can hear the 'gasp' when people first get a glimpse of all those lights," she says.

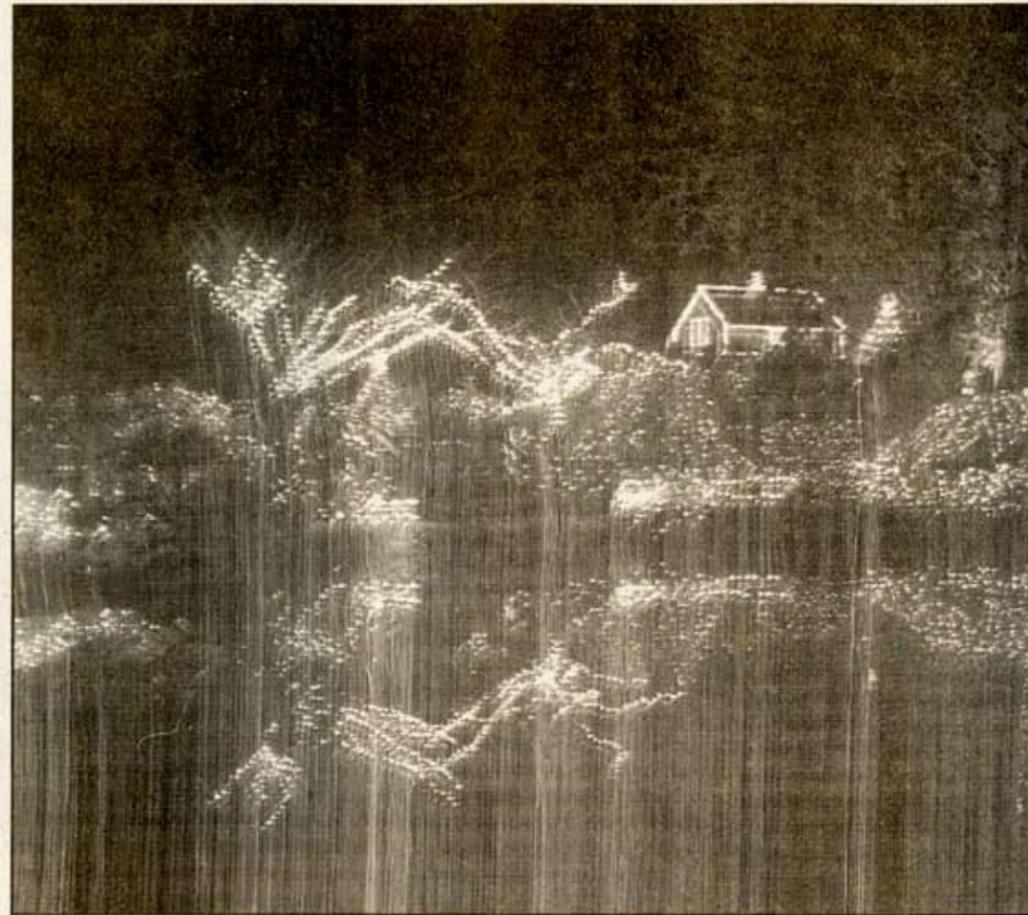
This year, volunteers will place about 175,000 lights, Bridgham explains.

The light work parties will take place every Saturday and Sunday in November (including Thanksgiving weekend) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Friends of Shore Acres asks that you call 756-5401 before volunteering, instead of just showing up at the gardens. It allows organizers to prepare for the day.

For those making early holiday plans, the gardens will be open from Nov. 28 through Jan. 1 — every night, even Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve — from 4 to 10 p.m.

Last year, in spite of the bad weather, over 70,000 people visit-



Lights on the garden house reflect in the Japanese pond during 1995 Holiday Lights show.

ed the gardens, Bridgham notes.

Visitors came from 33 foreign countries, 45 states and 185 Oregon cities, as well as through-

out the West.

Each night visitors come to the garden house to see the decorations, sip cider, nibble homemade

cookies and to enjoy the entertainment in the garden. (The stage will be located in the southeast corner and it will be covered for perform-

ers, with some audience protection, too, under the sweeping tree branches above.)

Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts and entertainers are needed to provide holiday music or dance. Call the Friends to make these arrangements, too.

Throughout the gardens visitors will find light sculptures of pelicans, cranes, a life-size leaping Orca whale, flowers and an "undersea garden" featuring a Dungeness crab, sea star, urchin, anemone, sea horse, octopus, kelp and a new jellyfish.

The event started in 1987 with 6,000 miniature lights and one Christmas tree — 9,000 visitors came that first year.

Thanks to the Coos Bay/ North Bend Rotary Club, the gardens now have a small "power" house where the lights can be controlled and volunteers can deal with them out of the weather. Instead of 200 amps of power the garden had originally, the service now has 800 amps, Bridgham notes.

Volunteers already have finished baking about 40,000 holiday cookies, Brigham says, and soon they will have finished combining the spices for the cider.

These are boiled, with the potent liquid then cooled and poured into ice cube trays.

The cubes are frozen and taken to the garden house. To make each batch of flavored cider, volunteers just pop in a cube of spices.

Throughout the years, the entire event and all of the activities of Friends of Shore Acres have remained non-profit, Bridgham

notes, with the organization helping financially and through volunteers to complete many garden projects, maintenance and improvements. Plans are underway to repair and improve the entryway, for example.

At the same time, the Shore Acres State Parks personnel have always been on hand to help each evening and they host one of the evenings. This year you can chat with your favorite park people on Dec. 21, headed by Andy LaTomme, regional director and George Guthrie, in charge of the gardens.

Also this year, for the first time, visitors to the gardens will pay the day-use parking fee of \$3.

"With the parks facing possible closures and employee layoffs, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department cannot waive the fee this year," Bridgham explained.

Visitors will be able to park with a current state park campground pass or an annual parking permit (1996 or 1997).

Permits for 1997 will be available in late November at all Oregon state parks' offices and at the Friends of Shore Acres Information and Gift Center.

Day use coupons also will be available around the Bay Area.

To minimize the parking crowds, Friends of Shore Acres encourages residents and visitors to carpool to the site, but Bridgham points out "without the park we wouldn't have the wonderful holiday lights. The funds will go to help keep the park open and I think we all want that."

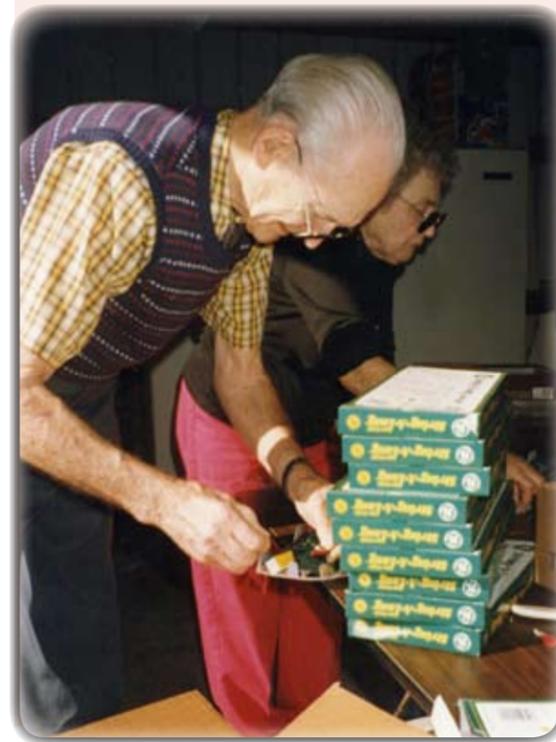
# Holiday Lights Setup Starts



(L-R) Donna Smith and Shirley Champagne



(L-R) Carol Ventgen and Donna Smith



Kent and Ethel Ferris



Bill Mault

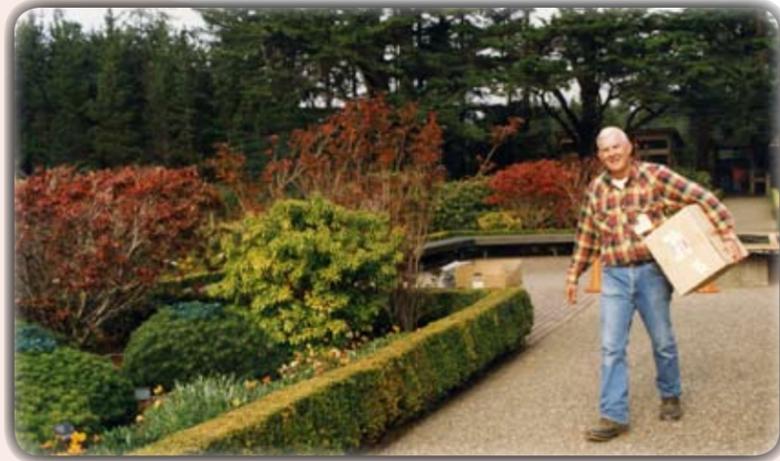


David Bridgham & Grandson Adam Reed



L-R) Kathi Netter, Jessica Roach, KC Roach

# Holiday Lights Setup Continues



Fred Ehrman

Tote the lights, build a stage, light a whale, check the lights, and go where others won't go!



Palm tree is high and difficult!



The height of the Garden House – No Problem!



(L-R) Frank Smith and Mike Perkins set the stage.



Hanging lights on the Information & Gift Center



Orca is a huge challenge.



Sue Ehrman



North Bend and Coos Bay Fire and Rescue Volunteers

# Holiday Lights In the Garden House

## Decorators and Donors

**Robynn Reed - Chair** \* Adam Reed \* Aurora Watson \* Barbara Bernheisel \* Cappy Klein \* Carl Siminow \* Carol Todd \* Checkerberry's, Carolyn Tecube \* D & N Furniture, Norma and Dave Frost, Garth Frost \* Dayton Hughes \* Deloris Bellas \* Don Todd \* Hilda Anderson \* John McKeown \* Julia Means \* Julie Reed \* Kathy Hutchinson \* Ken Means \* Marion Harris Custom Lamp Shades \* Mike Reed \* Sharon and George Bessey \* Tanya Anderson \* Treasures-Lynn Rogers/Q. Bevacqua \* Zyta Construction, Joan and Pete Zyta



Garden House Theme - An Old-Fashioned Holiday



Twin old-fashioned Christmas trees from the window.



Table is set for Bed & Breakfast.



Carl Siminow sets up sound system.



Child's bedroom upstairs.



Julia Means, Don Todd and Ken Means get the rocking horse upstairs, not an easy task.



Antique toy car and a rocking horse in the child's bedroom

# Fountain echoes garden style

■ **Addition:** Friends of Shore Acres adds fountain to center of the botanical gardens.

By John Gunther  
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — Mike Vaughan and George Guthrie examined the newly completed fountain in the botanical garden at Shore Acres State Park Monday and knew that it was a perfect fit.

"It is the visual centerpiece of the park," said Guthrie, an employee at the park. "It ties in to all the stylistic qualities that make the park what it is."

"I like to think Louie Simpson (who owned the original Shore Acres mansion and garden) would have had something like it," said Vaughan, a landscape designer contracted by the Friends of Shore Acres to plan the fountain.

Funded by donations to the Friends of Shore Acres, the fountain was completed Monday after more than a year of planning and two months of construction.

Water flowed from the new fountain for the first time today, and the fountain, which includes four underwater lights, will remain lit throughout the holiday lights display in the park.

Some 175,000 lights will be on from 4 to 10 p.m. every night from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. There is a \$3 park user fee for people without permits and the Cape Arago Highway, which had been closed by a slide, is open for traffic.

The new fountain is at a sidewalk intersection near the main entrance to the botanical gardens, in the same location of a previous small fountain that was vandalized and eventually replaced by a planter.

The fountain is the artistic center of the park, Guthrie said.

"We wanted it to be seen from all the pathways, but didn't want it to be overpowering," he said.

The top of the fountain stands 6 feet 5 inches above the ground, and is made of five pieces of charcoal-colored, heavy cast iron welded into one piece.



While landscape designer Mike Vaughan (left) watches, masonry contractor Larry Nichols adjusts the placement of the new fountain in the center of Shore Acres State Park Monday.

See Fountain, Page 8

## MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN'S "CURING" STAGE



The Memorial Fountain, designed by Michael Vaughan, is expected to be completed by the end of November, in time for the opening of the Holiday Lights. Concrete work by Greg Brock Construction; brick and tile work by Larry Nichols; masonry by Larry Nichols and Stuart Richardson and electrical work by Archie Crozier, Reese Electric. ■

Success! – See *The World* story, November 10.

## Locals help create fountain

### Fountain from Page 1

Water flows from a spout at the peak of the fountain, dropping down into a small basin, and then overflows from that basin into a larger one and eventually into a pool at the base of the fountain. Water also comes out of the mouths of four gargoyle heads below the larger basin.

Vaughan said he used the design of the garden to plan the base of the fountain.

"This formal garden reflects the Persian design from the four-cornered or paradise garden," he said.

Following the Persian theme, the concrete base of the fountain is

designed as a circle inside of a square.

"The circle in the square symbolizes perfection in the Persian garden," he said.

Lining the top of the concrete is an intricate layer of bricks with more than 300 tapered cuts done by hand.

The pool at the bottom of the fountain is lined with tiles, which "enhance the sparkling, clarity and depth of the water," Guthrie said.

The cast-iron part of the fountain was built in Alabama, but the rest of the work was done by local craftsmen.

Greg Brock poured the concrete at the base of the fountain, and

Larry Nichols did the tile and brick work. Archie Crozier of Reese Electric did the wiring to control the lights in the fountain and the flow of water.

"It is important for people to understand that this kind of work is available locally," Nichols said.

The workers started the project in September, but much of the time has been spent waiting for the concrete and the tiles to cure.

On Monday, workers lifted the 295-pound cast-iron structure into the base and attached the wiring.

The entire project will cost about \$15,000, Guthrie said. The Friends of Shore Acres is still taking donations for the project.

# Regional Recognition



# Local Recognition

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 1, 1996

OUR 118TH YEAR

SERVING OREGON'S SOUTH COAST

## *Making the holidays glow*



World photo by Mason Marsh

Shirley and David Bridgham take a stroll Sunday evening through the light display at Shore Acres State Park gardens. As in years past, the couple oversaw the placement of the light display. Sunday the Bridghams put the finishing touches on the display that took four weekends and 1,000 volunteers to assemble. The

gardens will be illuminated by 175,000 lights this year and will open tonight for viewing at 4 p.m. The event will run from 4 to 10 p.m. daily until Jan. 1, including all of the holidays. There is a \$3 parking fee. A \$3 day-use coupon is available at many area businesses. For more information call 756-5401.

# From Dusk to Dark – Amazing



John McKeown



John McKeown



Luis Velasquez



Luis Velasquez

## On The Scene – Entertainers and Hosts



Lost River Band plays in the twilight.



First Presbyterian Church, North Bend sings carols.



Host team from Reedsport's Umqua Discovery Center



Roger Hunt of the Coos Bay/North Bend Rotary Club encourages visitors to sign the guest book.

# 10th Annual Season Coming to a Close

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 24, 1996

*Lighting up Christmas*



Top: The gardener's house at Shore Acres is framed with and surrounded by thousands of holiday lights. Left: As the sun sets, the lights of Shore Acres State Park take over.

World photos by Mason Marsh

## STORY OF THE BED AND BREAKFAST



**P**enny Wallace, owner of a bed and breakfast in Brookings, won the B&B at Shore Acres. She gave it to two of her own house guests, Mike and Nadine Tryngstad. Because of the stormy weather — we had to close the park at 8:30 New Year's Eve — they didn't come to stay until a couple days after New Year's. They wrote the following in our guest book:

*Gorgeous! Thank you, David and Shirley, for being so good to us! And thanks to Penny Wallace and you two, we had a perfect start of the new year! God bless you!!*

*Mike and Nadine Tryngstad*

# Holiday Lights 1996 – Recap

## PROMISES DELIVERED . . .

### 10th annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres “a Community Tradition”



\* **175,000 Lights**  
Nov. 28, '96 – Jan. 1, '97  
Open House  
4 - 10 p.m. every night  
(including Christmas Eve, Christmas,  
New Year's Eve and New Year's)

\* *Attracting tens of thousands of visitors - our community coming together like no other time of year - opening up South Coast hospitality and good will for everyone.*



#### A BIGGER DISPLAY

- At least 175,000 lights, maybe more!
- **NEW LIGHTED MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN** in the formal garden
- **NEW LANDSCAPING LIGHTS** will illuminate shrubs on the west side of the west walkway in the formal garden.

#### LIGHTS SCULPTURES

- Pelicans flying (*new*)
- Jellyfish (*new*)
- Shore Acres cranes/herons
- Life-size leaping Orca whale
- Life-size spouting Gray Whale
- Larger-than-life flowers (tulips, rhododendron, rose and dahlia)
- Dungeness crab
- Sea star
- Sea urchin
- Sea anemone
- Sea horse
- Octopus
- Kelp

**S**tormy weather and the wettest month on record in many, many years reduced the number of visitors to the Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres. However, those who braved the nasty weather and the lucky ones who came on one of the rare, cold, clear nights loved the 175,000 sparkling lights display and the warmth and hospitality in beautifully decorated garden house.



“*The most Christmas we’ve seen in one place,*” said someone from Coos Bay. “*The best yet - fairyland and heaven in one!*” said a visitor from Medford.

We did not have the 70,000 visitors of 1995, but we did have nearly 47,000, which is incredible when you consider the weather and the roads. On some days and nights, the Coos Bay/North Bend area was almost marooned!

In spite of everything, the guest books show visitors from 25 countries, 6 continents, 46 states, 2 U.S. territories, 172 Oregon towns and cities, 48 Washington towns and cities, and 139 California towns and cities. More than 30 large groups signed in and 83 visitors bought bed and breakfast tickets (5 from California, Washington, and Massachusetts!).

Our guest consumed more than 30,000 cookies and 17,000 cups of apple cider (we used 70 cases of frozen apple juice), cranberry punch, and coffee.

And our concern about the parking fee proved to be unfounded when an estimated 3,000 people came the night after Thanksgiving. More people car pooled and they were as generous as ever, in fact donations per person went up slightly.

More than 1,300 volunteers made this *community tradition* a reality. A huge thanks to all who helped!

The Friends of Shore Acres and Shore Acres State Park look forward to many more years of a display that all of us can be proud of. ■

# New Year – New Challenges

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - March 8, 1997

## EDITORIAL

### Coast must support call for park funds

Rallying supporters at Salem is a favorite tactic of groups trying to impress the State Legislature about particular issues. Groups seeking adequate funding for local schools did this recently. Now those seeking a stable funding program for state parks will do the same on Monday, March 17.

Among those to participate is the Bay Area group Friends of Shore Acres, but by no means is the rally's intent confined to Shore Acres. The concern is for all of the state's parks including several others along the South Oregon coast.

Since the early 1980s, the 75-year-old state park system has been on a starvation diet that forced the postponement or delay of necessary repairs and maintenance because of a lack of funding. In some cases, such as at Shore Acres, volunteers have helped bridge the gap. But volunteers are unable to stem the long-term effects of delayed maintenance, so that many, if not all state parks are facing closure as some facilities become a danger if they remain open to the public.

Even during good times park funding has been unstable, relying more on user fees and a portion of the state gasoline tax for survival than from state budget dollars. Current proposals are a hodgepodge of ideas such as a tax on returnable bottles, an increase in the share of the general fund and an increase in the automobile vehicle registration fee.

Now it's time for all concerned to join the campaign to convince the legislature of the need for stable, long-term funding of state parks.

The first step is doing what the Friends of Shore Acres are doing: rallying in Salem with similar groups. However, even before that, a group using the acronym SOS (Save Our State parks) is mounting a letter-writing campaign aimed at legislators as well as to the media in the form of Letters to the Editor.

The hope is that this effort will force the state's legislators and the governor to carefully sift through the many options to create a well-balanced plan for the future of state parks.

Oregon has a well-deserved reputation for its state parks. Thus, we all have a share in maintaining them. Particularly here in the Bay Area is it important because of what we have available. We urge our readers to heed the SOS call and join with other volunteers to seek a remedy: a stable and adequate state park funding program.

■ **SOS:** Friends of Shore Acres are working with other groups to keep parks open.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - March 13, 1997

### Parks backers plan rally

■ **Trip to Salem:** Oregon advocates will draw attention to the system's funding needs.

BY JOHN GUNTHER  
Staff Writer

SALEM — Parks supporters from throughout Oregon are gathering their forces for a march at the capital Monday.

The rally, to encourage legislators to adequately fund the state parks system to keep all the parks open and maintain them, is scheduled for noon on the steps of the Capitol building.

It is imperative that Oregon parks get stable funding, said Shirley Bridgham, a Friends of Shore Acres board member.

"It is as important as all the other things that are crucial for living," she said. "If we don't maintain parks, our families and kids and grandkids will be missing a link to living."

Last year, the state parks department threatened to close more than 60 parks, including 17 on the South Coast, due to lack of funding. The parks remained open when the Legislature's emergency board funded them through the end of the current biennium in June.

The state parks department operates on a \$62 million base budget, but that is not enough to keep all the parks open, said Nan Evans, parks senior policy analyst.

The budget includes about \$54 million in revenue from camping and recreational vehicle registration fees, \$2 million in federal funding and \$6.2 million from the state's general fund, Evans said.



Simpson Reef and Shell Island

The parks department asked for an additional \$30 million, to keep all of the parks open and do necessary maintenance. Republican leaders have proposed a budget that includes an additional \$4.4 million in general fund money.

"The \$4.4 million starts to open

See Parks, Page 8



## Local leaders want parks funding

Parks from Page 1

up some of the parks (that would have been closed)," Evans said, adding it would not be enough to keep all parks open.

People expected to speak at the rally include Gov. John Kitzhaber, Senate President Brady Adams and House Speaker Lynn Lundquist, said Kay Hutchison Cogswell of the group Save Our State Parks.

Camping equipment, recreational vehicles and the new state parks yurts will be on display on the Salem mall all day and other displays will be set up within the Capitol.

Captain Beware, the beach safety bear, and J.R. Beaver, the junior parks ranger program mascot, also will be at the rally.

"It will be a fun day," said Andy LaTomme, regional state parks director on the South Coast. "We certainly hope a lot

“*The parks here are very important to us — important for quality of life.*”

Martha Weaver-Britell, member of Point Orford Heritage Society and Friends of Cape Blanco

of people will go up. It's an opportunity to make the importance of state parks known to legislators."

Friends of Shore Acres board members Carl Siminow and Chuck Lembke will make the trip to Salem, both to talk with legislators and share information about their group.

Siminow said the day is important to make sure lawmakers understand that

parks need to be kept open, not just for personal enjoyment, but also because of the tourism revenue they bring to the state.

"It's real important to get access to the Legislature, particularly down here in this part of the state," said Martha Weaver-Britell, a member of the Point Orford Heritage Society and the Friends of Cape Blanco, parks groups with a combined membership of about 200 in

the Port Orford area.

"The parks here are very important for us — important for quality of life," said Weaver-Britell.

Local leaders hold out hope the Legislature will be able to come up with adequate funding.

"We are talking about a small amount of state budget money," Weaver-Britell said. "The parks system is run well, based on resources put in 10 to 20 years ago. The level of funding is not good enough for maintenance."

A possible advantage for the South Coast is that both Sen. Veral Tarno, R-Coquille, and Rep. Mike Lehman, D-Coos Bay, serve on the parks committees in their respective branches of the Legislature.

"We should hold Tarno and Lehman accountable," she said. "We sent them to Salem to do something."

# Where's the Rubber Ducky?

by Gregg Nelson, President-Elect, Friends of Shore Acres



**P**ond cleaning . . . what can be said about it that hasn't been said already? All you need to do is find a pond and clean it out. In this case finding the pond is always easy – it's always there, every year, waiting for us.

Cleaning the pond is a lot like cleaning your bathtub. You take out all the toys, get out the scrubbers, use a lot of energy getting rid of the scum, and rinse it out when you're done so it's ready to fill up again.

Except the pond is a lot bigger than your bathtub. Instead of toys, you take out the fish and clean around the cranes and water lilies.

The scrubbers are shop brooms and shovels, and you rinse it out with fire hoses. But when you're done, like your tub, you can fill it up again and it looks much better.

But you usually don't invite a few dozen people over to share the experience of cleaning your bathtub with you.



Hopefully, you also clean out your tub more than once a year. Otherwise, it might take a few friends to help you out, like it does with the garden pond.

It's easy to find enough people to help clean out the pond. This has become a tradition at the BLM.

Some BLM employees and their families have been volunteering for this every year since we first got involved, back in 1989. In fact, people apologize when they've made other plans, and can't wallow around in the muck and slime.

The Friends of Shore Acres appreciate those who helped with this year's effort. Steve, William and Karen Fowler; Larry Mangan; Dotti and Ray Orazem; Dennis, Mary, Nicole and Aaron Graham; Jon, Theadora and Charlotte Menten; MacKenzie Marineau; Malorie Little; Gregg and Travis Nelson; John Higgins; Frank Price; Phillip and Caleb Torgerson; Meredith, Dana and Maranda Childs; Terry Richards; Emmett Courtright; Chris and Zoe McAlear; Rob Renner; and Luis Velasquez (*photographer*). ■

# Worth the Wait

by George Cuthrie, Head Gardener, Shore Acres



Late winter/early spring on the Oregon coast in general and Shore Acres in particular is a study in climatic contrasts.

On one hand, daffodils and crocus are showing by February, the grass is growing green and lush, and longer days with spells of sunny, mild weather conspire to lure you out. As often as not, however, once you're out, "old man winter" sneaks up behind, says, "gotcha," and rains, hails, and blows harsh meteorological reality on your tender spring dreams. Oh well . . .

It's also a given in early spring that roses don't look their best. Either they're semi-dormant with bedraggled wind blasted foliage from winter storms or they're just neatly shorn and sawn stubs like ours are, thanks to the help of the Rose Society. In either case, south coast roses (like south coast gardeners) just have to mark time, awaiting warmer, better days.

Now that those days have come, you might like to check out the Old Garden Roses planting on the west side of the front rose garden – the garden with the large rose circles near the entrance.

Old Garden Roses (OGRs) are just that - those rose varieties cultivated before "modern" hybrid teas, grandifloras, and such became popular earlier in this century.

While it's impossible to generalize about such a large and varied group, OGRs have some special qualities of interest to today's gardens and gardeners.



*Ballerina is one OGR*



*Old Garden Roses planting on the west side of the front rose garden*

Practically, they tend to be somewhat more disease resistant and easy to care for. Aesthetically, OGRs can be a delight because they often possess the intense rose scent that everybody associates with roses traditionally but so often muted or just plain gone from modern roses. Last but not least, OGRs often have incredibly sensuous grande dame names that can tip off or trip up your tongue like *Mme Hardy*, *Louise Odier*, *Felicity Parmentier* names redolent of the 19th century country estate drawing rooms and the "beau monde"/High society of the gilded age. However, OGRs tend not to have the extended bloom seasons of current types. So, often after an intense flowering in early to mid-summer, you may be left with only fond memories for the rest of the season.

It was to "correct" this perceived short-coming that English rose guru David Austin created a new line of roses. Called "David Austin Roses" (catchy name, huh?) here in the states, varieties like *Mary Rose* and *Wise Portia* attempt to combine the best of both worlds – hardiness, scent, and long flowering.

Our new planting features all of the above and more and should provide an excellent opportunity to experience both the old and the new of roses. ■

# More Publicity About Funding

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 6, 1997

## Bill sets lotto funds for parks

■ **Draft:** New plan calls for privatization and use of state prison inmates for maintenance.

SALEM (AP) — A legislative plan to save Oregon's deteriorating parks system relies heavily on lottery funds and private businesses, The Register-Guard reported today.

A draft copy of the plan obtained by the Eugene newspaper also would require the state to make more use of state prison inmates for park maintenance.

The plan calls for issuing \$75 million in bonds to be spent over the next 10 years. The debt would be repaid with lottery revenues. No more than \$15 million could be spent every two years.

Lawmakers propose that private businesses could bid to operate at least nine state campgrounds.

"I'm very excited about the lottery bonds as a way to start renovating and rehabilitating the parks system," said Brian Booth, chairman of the state Parks and Recreation Commission.

"It's nice to see a comprehensive package to deal with the parks issue," said Rep. Mike Lehman, D-Coos Bay, who serves on the House committee that will take up the proposal. "But there's a lot of stuff in there I'm very concerned about."

The biggest problem is "the overwhelming emphasis on privatization," Lehman said. State parks should be places to escape from private enterprise, "not places you go for the commercial aspect," he said.

Included in the amendments are a set of six criteria that parks must meet or be put on the bidding block, including: operating costs must equal revenues; closure would not cause excessive damage from vandalism or lack of maintenance; closure would not hurt the park's natural resources.

Cities or counties would get first dibs on the parks failing to meet the criteria. If no local government wants them, private concessionaires would have the next crack. If unwanted, the park would be immediately closed under the bill.

The bill also would require the parks department to open bids for private companies to develop park lands that currently haven't been developed. In addition to lottery revenues, the plan calls for an increase in the fees charged to get a record from the state Driver and Motor Vehicles office; fees from a new license plate commemorating Oregon's parks; and dedication of additional funds from the state Marine Board.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 8, 1997

## GOP ditches park bill

■ **Misunderstanding:** Idea to privatize not as palatable to lawmakers who don't want closures.

By BRAD CAIN  
Associated Press Writer

SALEM — Chagrined Republican legislators, citing misfired communications within their own ranks, have backed away from a plan to privatize or close state parks that don't make money.

House Speaker Lynn Lundquist and Senate President Brady Adams had come under heavy fire from Gov. John Kitzhaber and other Democrats who said the Republican plan would put a majority of parks on a potential closure list.

On Wednesday, Lundquist and Adams said they never intended to push for a plan that could jeopardize any of the state's 220 parks. They said they would work to find the money to keep all of Oregon's parks open.

"This has been my most frustrating communication problem of the session," Adams, a Grants Pass Republican, said in an interview. "That's our fault."

For his part, Lundquist said he was astonished by parts of the now-dead parks funding and privatizing bill drafted by a House subcommittee.

"It took us by surprise," the House speaker said. "I knew there were discussions of privatizing, but nothing of this magnitude. I did not know all the details of what was going on in that committee."

The blowup over parks began Tuesday when the GOP leaders called a news conference to announce a plan to upgrade and better fund state parks, in part by issuing lottery-backed bonds and employing more convict labor.

Under the plan, parks could be put on a bidding list if they didn't meet certain criteria, including a requirement that revenue pay for

See Parks, Page 8



SOUTH COVE AT CAPE ARAGO  
"A FAVORITE VIEWPOINT"

## GOP changes park focus

Parks from Page 1

operating costs. Cities or counties would get first chance to take over those parks, and private concessionaires would have the next chance. If no operator wanted a park, it would be closed.

Kitzhaber, whose proposed bottle tax to fund parks has fallen flat with the GOP-led Legislature, called the Republican plan "beyond disappointing" and said he doubted Oregonians wanted to see any parks closed.

Adams said Wednesday the privatization issue will be discarded.

"That theme has gotten in the

way of the main message," the Senate president said. "The main message is the effort to keep the parks open. Unfortunately, we didn't adequately get that across. We will provide adequate funds to keep all parks open."

Kitzhaber's spokesman, Bob Applegate, said the governor is pleased that Republicans have abandoned their plan to privatize parks.

"These aren't pieces of land that we set aside for development," Applegate said. "The parks system is a conscious effort to preserve Oregon's special places and make them accessible to all Oregonians."

Applegate said Kitzhaber still wants the GOP to come forward with a long-term, dedicated source of revenue to operate parks in the years ahead.

Brian Booth, state Parks Commission chairman, said the GOP "got a little carried away" with the idea of privatizing but quickly learned their constituents didn't like it.

"Oregonians love their parks, and at a time of record prosperity and population growth, the idea of closing parks or turning them over to the private sector just doesn't fly," Booth said. "We should be adding parks, not closing them."

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 9, 1997

Greg Stevens, Publisher

### EDITORIAL

## GOP parks plan is good only for focus

Frankly, we're happy that the Republicans have reeled in their proposal to privatize unprofitable state parks. It was obvious from the start that the plan was going nowhere, with some members of the reigning party complaining that they weren't told of the plan before it was made public.

However, the plan did serve a useful purpose: it galvanized attention on the plight of the state parks system, once Oregon's pride and joy. We hope that the outcome will be meaningful dialogue toward a permanent solution to this nagging problem.

■ **Privatization nixed:** Funding solution no nearer than before plan resoundingly rejected.

Democrats were unhesitant in their opposition, especially Governor Kitzhaber, whose budget proposal is for \$92.9 million, including \$30 million from another 3-cent, beverage-container tax. That's \$9.1 million more than the \$83.8 million proposed by the GOP and \$26.4 million more than the current budget.

There's no question state parks need funding. State officials say \$110 million in maintenance is needed over the next 10 years, and the current system of fees and volunteers isn't enough to stem deterioration. That still leaves the major question of where the state will get the additional funds.

We expect the governor's container-tax proposal will receive considerable opposition, both in the Legislature and from the public. Although Oregon gained notable attention when it created the nation's first container deposit program years ago, extending the parameters to include other containers to encourage recycling didn't get a warm reception from voters.

Getting more funding from the Legislature than what's been offered also isn't going to be easy, what with demands from all sectors already ensconced in the allocations line — particularly education. Hiking fees again also is likely to result in a diminishing return, with many Oregonians already balking at paying the current fees. But, with fewer and fewer free recreation spots left after federal agencies opted for fees at such places as the Dunes, outdoor enthusiasts will find themselves having to pay increased fees.

There's truly a recognizable dilemma in parks funding: Although this just the latest in a long string of problems exacerbated by the electorate's unwillingness to increase spending, it is also an issue that strikes a responsive chord among Oregon citizens. The outcome could provide a worthwhile insight into whether this state is willing to have its cake and eat it, too.

### QUOTES IN THE NEWS

"Oregonians love their parks .... We should be adding parks, not closing them."

- Oregon Parks Commission Chairman Brian Booth commenting on the GOP privatization plan.

# Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day – May 11, 1997

*Sunny Skies, Artists, Rhody Experts, Weavers, Spinners and the new Memorial Fountain*



Artist from the Bay Area Artists Association



Weaving demonstration in the sunny side yard



Heddles and Treadles weavers and spinners in the Garden House



Memorial Fountain, designed by Michael Vaughan completed November, 1996

# Cape Arago Highway – Important to South Coast Tourism

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 11, 1997

## Plans under way to repair road slide

By JOHN GUNTHER  
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — Cape Arago State Park should reopen to traffic soon.

The Cape Arago Highway, which ends at the park, has been closed just past the sea lion viewing point west of Shore Acres State Park since Nov. 18. One of the road's lanes slid out during a heavy rainstorm.

The slide is almost dry, and a design engineer is completing plans to rebuild the highway. The work could be finished in August, said Jim Risley of the Oregon Department of Transportation.

That's good news for tourists, park officials and businesses.

About 350,000 visitors visit the park each year, said Andy LaTomme, Oregon State Parks Department regional manager. Many of those people also visit the nearby Sunset Bay and Shore Acres state parks, which remain open.

"It's important to us that the road be opened," LaTomme said.

Cape Arago State Park features a picnic area and trails to tidepools.

The "road closed" signs and barricade across the highway have not deterred all park visitors.

Many people like Charleston resident Barbara Shirtcliff, who was there Tuesday, hike the quarter-mile into the park from the sea lion viewpoint.

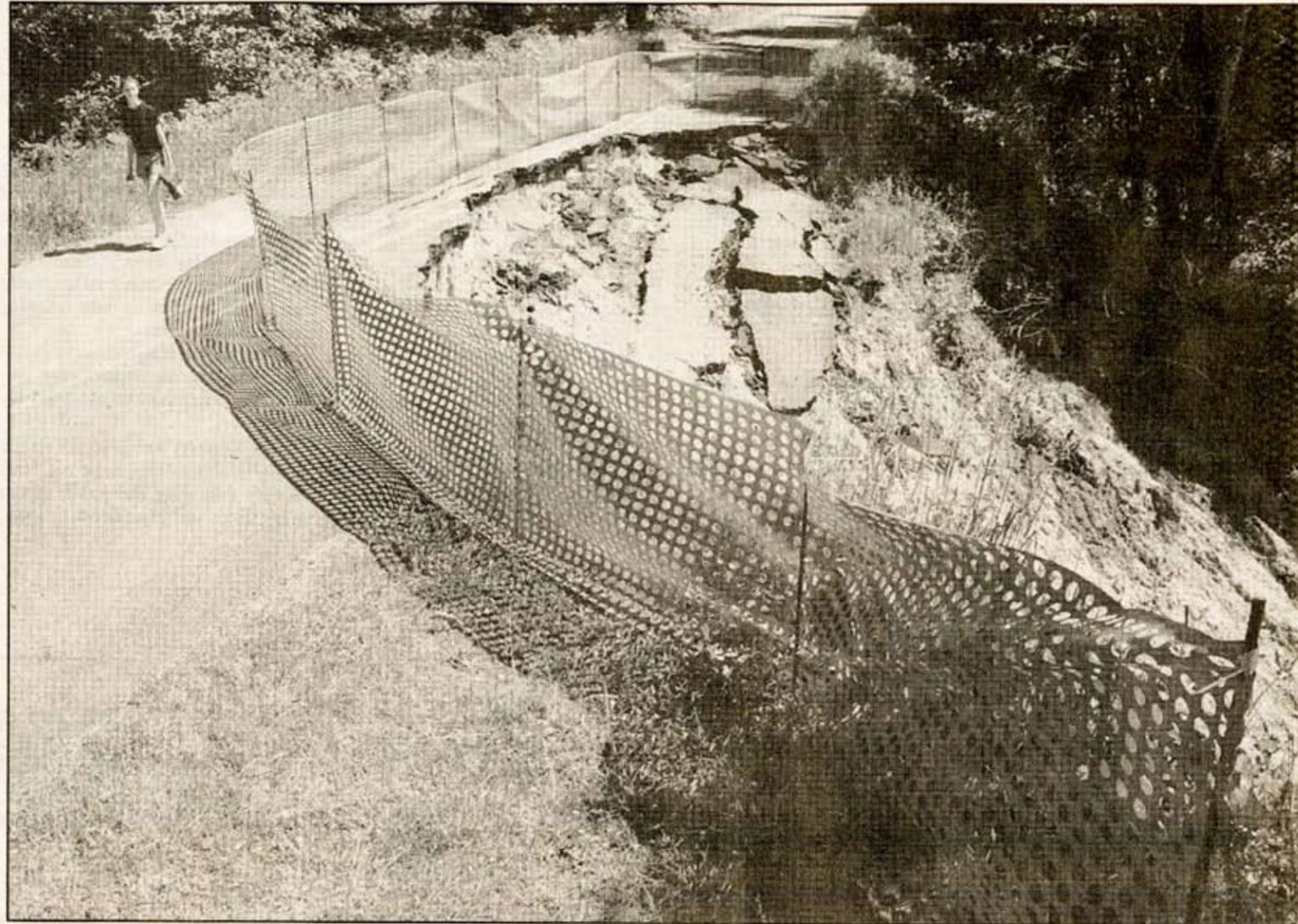
"It's a great place to write and meditate," said Shirtcliff, who has hiked or ridden her bike into the park many times since November.

"I think more people would enjoy it if the road wasn't closed," she said.

Enough people are visiting the park that officials decided to open the restrooms, LaTomme said.

"It's real important, though, that visitors who go in keep it nice and tidy and take out their own litter and the litter others have left behind," LaTomme said.

Perhaps surprisingly, parks offi-



Barbara Shirtcliff of Charleston walks past the slide in the Cape Arago Highway on Tuesday. Plans are under way to repair the damage.

World photo by Mason Marsh

cial and Charleston Visitors Center workers have received few complaints about the road closure.

People with long recreational vehicles have complained, however, said Mel Campbell, visitors center director.

"I am getting a lot of comments about the road being closed, but they can still hike in and that seems to pacify quite a few people,"

Campbell said. "The main problem we have is the people with great big rigs are going up and there is no indication that they can't turn around and get down."

Concerned business owner Ted Weintraub wants people to know the road is closed.

"It's affecting the businesses depending on tourism," he said.

"Tourists aren't going to want to stay in the area, especially if they weren't aware that the road was closed."

Weintraub wants the road opened soon, so tourists will not be turned off by not being able to visit Cape Arago State Park.

"We want people to come to the Bay Area and shop here and stay.

There is no hidden fact that when there is no notice out that way it doesn't help us at all," he said.

Parks officials have issued several press releases to update local residents on the road, and highway crews will put up a sign notifying travelers that the road is closed.

People are still visiting Sunset Bay and Shore Acres.

# Rose Sunday / Father's Day – June 15, 1997

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 11, 1997

## Shore Acres hosts fathers

CHARLESTON — One of the best spots to take Dad on Father's Day this Sunday remains the gardens at Shore Acres State Park.

The Friends of Shore Acres have hosted Father's Day Sunday at the park for close to a decade, but have expanded the event this year by including the Bay Area Artists Association.

If you take Dad for a stroll you'll find rhododendrons and azaleas still lingering in some corners, roses coming into full swing, and the annuals tucked into permanent formal hedged beds also opening their colorful blooms to the sun — marigolds, zinnias, hostas, calendulas and even snapdragons.

Treat Dad to a leisurely breakfast, pack a picnic and head for the beach.

Follow a walk around the docks to see the fishing boat action with a stop at the gardens.

*(A \$3 day-use permit can be purchased at the entrance.)*

Friends of Shore Acres' Bob Renner says the group will host an artist in the gardens — at work and with works on display, too — each month this year except during the annual Christmas holiday lights display.

Dads and families wandering the paths this Sunday will find Coos Bay's award-winning watercolor artist Merrie Holbert.

Holbert is known for her meticulous brushwork depicting landscapes with structures, as well as a series featuring every lighthouse on the Oregon coast.



World file photo

Find goodies in the cottage and an artist-in-residence in the bloom-filled gardens Sunday.

Works from the artist will be on display in the gardener's cottage and the gift shop will also feature photographs, postcards and prints of BAAA members' works, Renner explained.

"We hope people come to enjoy the beauty of the gardens and the people who capture the beauty of Oregon in their art," Renner says.

July will bring the Oregon

Coast Music Festival to the gardens for a free concert by the popular Celtic group "Golden Bough" at 12:30 p.m. July 18.

August brings the South Coast Fuchsia Society to the gardens for a display under lathe and in the cottage, Renner says.

After a relaxing experience sure to heighten the senses, treat Dad to free refreshments in the garden

house. There will be cookies and beverages served by the Friends group.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 888-3732.

The gardens are open to the public seven days a week and volunteers help to make them beautiful throughout the year under the direction of head gardener George Guthrie.



George Guthrie, Jay Dow and Ray Duskin answer questions about growing roses.



Wood carvers in the Garden House



Marion Babcock serves cookies and punch.

# Where's the Mansion?

*Archaeological "Dig" to find L. J. Simpson's First Mansion – July, 1997*



# Goal: Build an Interpretive Center/Restaurant at the Site



We hope to build an interpretive center/restaurant in the style of L. J. Simpson's first mansion. Stephen Dow Beckham, in cooperation with Henry Kunowski of Oregon State Parks and the Historic Preservation Office are working on his report "The First Simpson House, 1907-1921: Shore Acres State Park." Dave Brauner of Oregon State University directed the "dig."



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 11:

Annual Year - September 1, 1997 - August 31, 1998

**Album 10 - Completed April 27, 2018**

Book and PDF Versions

**CONTENT SOURCES - FOSA PHOTOS, PUBLICITY**

**CLIPPINGS, FRIENDS' QUARTERLY JOURNALS**

**SUMMER/FALL 1996 AND AUTUMN 1997**

More Information:

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