



VOL.II, No. 1

Quarterly Newsletter

February 29, 1988

President's Notes

Spring is just around the corner and exciting plans are underway at Shore Acres. Before I get to that, however, I'd like to say a big thanks to all of you for your response to **Christmas at Shore Acres**. The volunteers that helped, the businesses and individuals that offered financial support, and the 9,000 or so people that attended made it a truly memorable event. Plans are well underway for Christmas '88 and we hope to make it even better.

Now, back to spring.....As the crocuses, daffodils, and tulips appear, we are in the midst of developing a comprehensive 5-year plan as well as scheduling spring and summer activities for our many visitors.

It promises to be an exciting and challenging year. We have the "crown jewel" of Oregon State Parks and Recreation. Whatever we can do to enhance that image will not only benefit Shore Acres, but the rest of the south coast as well. **Happy Spring!** *SB*

Watercolor Workshop

In May, a two-day watercolor workshop (with emphasis on flowers) will be presented by Florence artist, Dottie Metzler. Metzler began her fascination with watercolor after years of exploration and study of other media. Since 1978 she has focused all her creative energies toward watercolor and finds motivation and inspiration for landscapes and florals from the coastal scene in which she lives.

See the "Calendar of Events" for more information about the workshop.

Garden notes from George Guthrie

Late winter visitors to Shore Acres Gardens may be surprised or dismayed how at this time of year the rose bushes seem to grow shorter even as the days grow longer. February is annual rose pruning time. Much of what is removed is old, damaged, and diseased material that's unsightly and a potential source of attack on the plants by pests and diseases. Modern roses flower best and most prolifically on "new" wood. Cutting back last year's "old" wood forces the bush to produce lots of new shoots and therefore lots of flowers. While the newly trimmed bushes do look like so many shorn sheep for a while, by summer they will look as good as ever, fully clothed with foliage and flowers.

As the roses recover from "surgery" other flowers are getting ready to do their stuff. First and foremost, the crocus shows its color - purple, yellow and white. For such an exquisite delicate looking bloom, crocus is tough as nails and takes frost and muck at the garden in stride.

What a beautiful way to say that spring is around the corner! The hyacinths down the center walk are poking up - some in other parts of the gardens are already putting up a flower or two and they should be in full cry by March - check out their delicious fragrance when they do. Not far behind them, expect tulips in the former and future dahlia beds and in the formal garden. Early azaleas and rhodias should be starting up soon - adding up to a blooming good start to the new season.



George



Park Notes from Andy LaTomme

First of all, let me add my congratulations to the many the Friends have already received for **Christmas at Shore Acres**. Even though I missed part of the event because I had to take 40 Boy Scouts to the World Jamboree in Australia (Yeah, I know, it was a tough job but somebody had to do it!), I was privileged to be at the opening and to see almost half of the event. **It was great!!** And to think plans are already being made for next season....

The next thing on my list is for those of you who don't want to wait until Christmas to get to work. This issue of the Friends' newsletter contains the start of a new feature -- the **Help Wanted** column. I know that a lot of you are just waiting for an invitation to come out and see what park rangers really do for a living, so here's your chance. We've got a lot of things to do to get the parks in the Sunset Bay District ready for summer, and a lot of things to do to keep them looking nice during the summer, fall and winter. If you see something in the Help Wanted column that sounds interesting, give us a call. We'll be glad for your help.

Come visit the park. Last year we had over **396,000** visitors. If you Friends keep bringing your friends, maybe this year we'll go over half a million!

Christmas Report



"Christmas at Shore Acres" was a huge success and the community response was very gratifying. As near as we can tell, hosts served at least 125 gallons of cider, 105 gallons of punch, 650 dozen cookies and 1,000 cups of coffee. There were about 9,000 visitors during the 17 night event. Donations totaled more than \$3,000, leaving a net profit of \$1500 plus inventory. This

will give us a good foundation for Christmas '88 and will also help in developing the permanent wiring installation for nightscaping the gardens. We will need the same kind of cooperation and commitment from the community this year as we expand the display to more than 15,000 lights.

A "FRIENDS" CALENDAR FOR 1989

The Friends of Shore Acres is endorsing the development of a full-color (11 x 17), 13 month wall calendar for the year 1989. It will feature the photography of Tony Mason and line drawings by Phyllis Love (both are local artists and instructors in their fields). There will be 14 color photographs, 15 line drawings and historical quips about Shore Acres and the surrounding area.

A portion of the proceeds will help the "Friends" acquire educational and interpretive materials as well as help fund special events such as "Christmas at Shore Acres."

In order to defray initial printing costs we are offering ad/listing space on a donation basis from local business and pre-selling the calendar to members and other friends. **Donations of \$75 receive one patron membership for 1989, one listing in the calendar - 2 7/16" x 1 1/4" - and one 1989 calendar.**

CALENDAR PRICES:

Members (1-4 calendars).....	\$6.00 ea.
(5+ calendars).....	\$5.50 ea.
Non-members (retail).....	\$6.95 ea.

Gift mailing will be available.

The calendar will be for sale by the end of June at selected local stores, then at numerous community events such as the Bay Area Fun Festival.

To order calendars or for more information, call Tony Mason at 396-5792 or Phyllis Love at 267-3429.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Planning Workshop

Saturday, March 12 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Southwestern Oregon Community College

Meet in Room 1 of Sitkum Hall

Objective for the day will be to begin the development of a 5-year plan for The Friends of Shore Acres.

Guided Walks Orientation/Potluck

Saturday, May 7 (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Meet at the garden house at Shore Acres. Garden walk orientation from 10 to 12. Potluck lunch from 12 to 1. Tide pool orientation at Cape Arago's south cove from 1:30 to 3. This is your chance to learn how to give a tour and have a great day in the process.

Watercolor Workshop/Dottie Metzler

Saturday, May 14 & Sunday, May 15

(9:30 a.m. - 3:30 each day)

Meet at Shore Acres garden house.

Cost: \$40

Minimum number of students - 10

Maximum number of students - 15

Portion of the fee will go to the Friends as a small fund raiser. For more information about this or any other event call 756-5401 and ask for David or Shirley.

Summer dates for guided walks and tours will be announced in the May Newsletter.

Meeting Notice

The monthly board meetings (2nd Tuesday of the month) will be held at SWOCC, Empire Hall, Rms. 102-103 through the month of May. Meeting time is 7:30.

Linda Lopez, Volunteer Program Coordinator with State Parks and Recreation, will be our guest at the March 8 meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photography Workshops/Tony Mason

April 30 (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Workshop features a hike on the coast trail from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago. Wear good comfortable shoes and bring rain gear. Meet at the Sunset Bay Picnic Area Gazebo and bring a sack lunch (including beverage).

May 19 & July 13 (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

Features plant and flower photography in the Formal Gardens of Shore Acres State Park. Bring a tripod if you have one. Meet at the steps of the Garden House.

June 7 & July 3 (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

A walk along the cliff tops from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago (coast trail) with a stop at the Shore Acres Gardens. Wear good comfortable walking shoes. Meet at the Sunset Bay Picnic Area Gazebo.

August 24 (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Workshop features a hike on the coast trail from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago. Wear comfortable shoes and bring rain gear. Meet at the Sunset Bay Picnic Area Gazebo and bring a sack lunch (including beverage).

Looking back....

Did you know that in the early 1900's Louis Simpson employed as many as 15 gardeners to take care of the gardens at Shore Acres? Less than half that number take care of the gardens now.

Did you know that Jedediah Smith camped at Cape Arago, Shore Acres, and Sunset Bay July 4, 5, & 6, 1828?

HELP WANTED

Historical Research - We're looking for someone who will research the part that Shore Acres played in World War II. We believe that the 761st Signal Corps was assigned to the park to staff a radar installation. If you are interested in doing some detective work, hunting up the past, writing letters, searching for details and old photographs to preserve a unique part of Coos County's history, this might be the job for you. Contact Andy (888-4902) for details.

Trail Maintenance - If you like to walk along the trails around Shore Acres and vicinity, then you know how important good trail maintenance is. It's so nice to walk on a trail without having brush hit you in the face, or without tripping on roots or stepping in mud. If you're someone who likes a challenge, let us provide you with the tools you need to help us keep our trails in A1 condition. We can set up a work party where you'll meet interesting people while you get good exercise. Or, if you prefer, set up a work party of your own. Maybe your family would like to "adopt" a section of trail. Call us at 888-4902 and we'll work with you.

Annual Planting - Did you know that over 13,000 annuals are planted at Shore Acres each year? That's a lot of holes in the ground. If you'd like to help with the planting, our Landscape Supervisor will share the secrets of his success while you work. Call 888-4902 and say "I can dig it!"

Martin,

The crocus are blooming....

Susan

HELP WANTED

Bicycle Camp Building - If you've ever pedalled out to the end of Cape Arago to stay in our hiker-bicyclist camp, and then pedalled back into Sunset Bay overnight camp to take a shower, you know just one of the reasons why we want to re-locate the camp. Here's your chance to be a park developer and help us carve a campground out of the wilderness (or at least the alder grove in back of B loop). This is a job for folks who want a challenge. You can do all or part. We'll be there with tool and material, but you'll have to hurry as this one's only going to last until May 1st. Call Bill (888-4902) for the details.

Evening Programs - So you wanna be a star? Here's your chance. We'd like folks to come out to the overnight camp at Sunset Bay and put on programs for the folks who spend the night with us. You don't have to be a pro, but if you've got some slides of the area and you want a new audience for them, or if you play the guitar and sing folk songs, or if you'd like to demonstrate a craft, we'll be glad to set you up. We can't guarantee the weather or the audience response, but we will guarantee that you'll have a lot of fun. Ask for Andy the star-maker at 888-4902.

PERSONALS

Need a friend? Like to meet charming and interesting people? Mingle in a beautiful and wholesome environment, share creative and stimulating activities... For more information call 756-5401 and ask for Dave.

Insomnia? - Relief is found at Shore Acres. Fresh air and long walks along the coast trail. See help wanted.

The Friends of Shore Acres is an incorporated, private non-profit organization with tax exempt status. Its purpose is **"to participate in interpretive, educational and physical development programs with Sunset Bay Park District."** For more information contact: The Friends of Shore Acres, c/o Sunset Bay Park District, 13030 Cape Arago Hwy., Coos Bay OR 97420 or call 388-4902.

Board of Directors

Shirley Bridgham, President
Dick Hansen, Vice-President
George Guthrie, Sec./Treasurer
John Bergen
David Bridgham
Tony Mason
Nellie Ripper

Newsletter

Shirley & David Bridgham

Membership

An important part of any non-profit organization is its membership support base. One of our immediate goals is to offer quality educational and interpretive items for sale at the park. Longer range goals include providing plant identification tags and permanent interpretive signs. These kinds of activities require funding. You can help. Encourage your friends to become our "Friends".

Current Members

Benefactor

Coos Bay Emblem Club
Dr. Ed Quinn

Sponsor

David & Shirley Bridgham
Don & Nancy Landes
Nellie Ripper

Patron

Patricia Borchert
David & Jean Bradford
Foss/Whitty/Roess/Littlefield
& McDaniel
Mabel B. Lehl
Ann McMann
William Moragne
Frank & Donna Smith
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Cindy Crawford
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Marjorie Evans
Ken & Gertrude Galloway
John Garner & Caroline Harris
Jim & Sue Graeser
Dick & Nan Hansen
Bill & Lois Harvey
Ron & Bernice Hjort
Joel & Shary Horning
Wineva Johnson
Wally & Monita Johnson
Tim & Ann Koppy
Andy & Sue LaTomme
A.J. & Cecile Moore
Andy & Lynn Nasberg
Mike & Robynn Reed
Eugene & Crystal Shoji
Al & Ellen Stinchfield
Richard & Irene Sund
Dorothy Vaughn

Individual

Pearl Afholter
Marjorie Atherton
Anna Mae Barnes
Mitsue Deal
Helen Doving
Marty Giles
George Guthrie
Paul Huzefka
Claire Kinman
Phyllis Love
Virginia Maine
Tony Mason
Irene Quick
Alice Richter
John Sweet
Clare Wehrle
Karen M. Wuethrich

Senior

Helen Barton
Patricia H. Garner
Ward & Monica Robertson
Rose Slevoigh

Shore Acres State Park - Located 4.5 miles southwest of Charleston, Oregon, Shore Acres State Park welcomes visitors with its rugged shoreline, sandstone, bluffs, covered observatory and formal gardens - a photographer's paradise.

The park was once part of the Louis J. Simpson estate. The estate began as a summer home, a Christmas present for Louis's wife, in 1906. The Simpsons were lumbermen and ship builders and their ships returned to Coos Bay with exotic plants for the Shore Acres Gardens. A 100 foot lily pond bordered the formal gardens. In 1921 the original mansion burned to the ground. The existing garden house became the family home while a second mansion was under construction. The site of the two Simpson mansions is now the location of a glass enclosed observation shelter.

The shelter is an ideal place for wave watching. The viewer is protected from rain and spray and has a 180 degree view of the coast. Shore Acres is the site of some of the most spectacular wave action on the Pacific coast. Most of the trails in the park are ones that L.J. Simpson had built for strolling through his estate.

THE SHORE ACRES STORY, an 18 min. three projector multi-image slide show has been created for viewing by interested persons, groups & organizations. For more information about this, contact Andy LaTomme at 888-4902 or Shirley Bridgham at 888-7266.

The Friends of Shore Acres
c/o Sunset Bay Park District
13030 Cape Arago Highway
Coos Bay OR 97420

