



Volume IV, No. 2

Quarterly Newsletter

February 1991



Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres Gardens

VISITOR STATS '90

42,000 Visitors

142 Oregon Cities

46 States

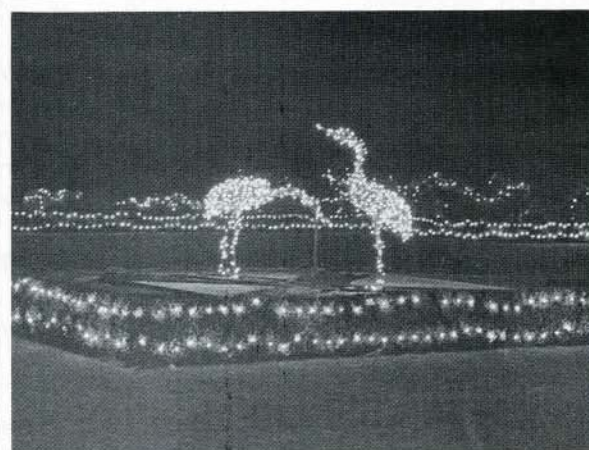
24 Countries

6 Canadian
Provinces

*MORE
TO
COME
IN
'91*

VISITORS SAY, "AWESOME !!!"

Yakima WA - *Breathtaking*
 Charleston OR - *Awesome*
 Grants Pass - *Outstanding!*
 Coquille - *First visit, wow!*
 Veneta OR - *Totally rad !!!*
 Sioux Falls SD - *Breathtaking!*
 Oakland CA - *Fantabulous!*
 Corvallis - *Stunning!*
 Seattle - *Beyond belief, thank you.*
 Winston - *Magnificent!!!*
 Hazard KY - *Glorious*
 Salem - *Wonderful! Worth the trip!!*
 Newport - *Very spectacular!*
 Kirkland WA - *Just beautiful, so glad we stayed
 the extra days to enjoy!*



"Birds" Sparkled

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC.

Quarterly Newsletter
published November, February,
May and August

OFFICERS

David Bridgham, President
Al Aslakson, Vice President
George Guthrie, Sec./Treas.

DIRECTORS

Shirley Bridgham
Connie Eslinger
Ellen Garner
Elise Hamner
Eric Hamner
Dick Hansen
Ann Koppy
Tony Mason
Dick Van Natta

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Shirley & David Bridgham

GIFT & INFORMATION CENTER

MANAGER, Tony Mason

GAIC VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Ellen Garner

EVENTS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Connie Eslinger

HISTORIANS

Dick Hansen

Ann Koppy

SUNSET BAY PARK DIST. MANAGER

Andy LaTomme - 888-4902

SHORE ACRES LANDSCAPE

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT

George Guthrie - 888-3732

HOLIDAYS LIGHTS COORDINATORS

Outside Lights & Co-Chair

Shirley & David Bridgham

756-5401, 267-3012

Garden House DECORATION

Connie Eslinger 267-0570

Cookie Bakes

Sharon Fortune 888-3173

Pearl Groves 756-5684

Holiday & GAIC Sales

Volunteer Coordinator

Ellen Garner 888-3484

Entertainment

Wanda Graham 756-6789

Host Volunteers (Individuals)

Bonnie Koreiva 267-4037

Host Volunteers (Groups)

Shirley Bridgham 756-5401

VISITORS SAY, "WORTH THE TRIP"

More than 40,000 people visited Shore Acres for our 4th annual *Holiday Lights and Open House*. The magic of more than 50,000 lights and the warmth of the beautifully decorated Garden House, where hosts offered hot cider, coffee, cranberry punch and home made cookies, made their visit more than "worth the trip."

Hundreds of volunteers worked very hard to make this holiday event a significant part of visitors' plans. The "Thanks" scrolls at the Garden House had 329 lines of names. Many lines had more than one name.

At North Bend Jr. High School, Sharon Fortune, Pearl Groves and more than 50 volunteer cookie bakers baked over 1,700 dozen cookies. Another 100 volunteers baked nearly 500 dozen. This was the first year we didn't run out! And, *thanks to Vend West*, we had a place to store them.

With the help of the SWOCC Forestry Club, Coos County Forestry Department, Fred Gonzales and Coos Head Builders' truck, four large Christmas trees were brought in and more than 50 volunteers spent two weekends and several days stringing lights and decorating the Gardens.

Connie Eslinger, Ann Koppy and yet another group of volunteers, furnished and decorated the Garden House as a sea captain's cottage. Beautiful job!!

State Parks staff with the help of Bay Area Work Center volunteers, completed a new gate and ramp at the garden entrance, applied a non-slip surface to the wood entry, extended the parking lot lights, and helped the Friends with many other tasks. Andy LaTomme, George Guthrie, Ellie Martial and Frank Eckley, just to name a few, are invaluable to the Friends!

Bonnie Koreiva coordinated the host team schedule. Some teams were organizations and businesses, others were made up of individuals. *All did a terrific job!*

Wanda (Kotch) Graham organized entertainment for the outdoor stage. When weather permitted, visitors were entertained by choirs, guitarists, bands, soloists, dancers and clowns. Some even sang or played in the rain and freezing cold! *A special thanks to them!!*

Guest books indicate that visitors' satisfaction was at an all time high . . . Atlanta GA - *Beautiful! Nothing like it in Atlanta* and from St. Helens OR - *Well worth the trip!*

Thanks to the dedication of so many volunteers and supporters, The *Holiday Lights and Open House* truly has become a south coast community tradition.

NEW SIGNS HELP VISITORS FIND THE WAY



John Nelson and Vergil Goodrich of the Oregon Highway Division installed new confidence signs, provided by Sunset Bay Park District, at strategic highway locations.

Ellie and Rick Martial and George Guthrie (not pictured) strung lights on the new sign at the park entrance.

Lighting the entrance sign was made possible by Phil Matson and King Phelps of the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board and George Jones of Day-Ford Electric.



A NEW IDEA

Debbie Webb had a terrific idea - "Let's get some organizations to decorate three of the large outdoor trees!" When everyone agreed, she said, "I'll see who I can get." Next thing the Friends *holiday committee* knew, dozens of new volunteers from Pacific Power & Light (Debbie Webb, chair); the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay (Rosemary Padgett, chair) and the Friends of South Slough Estuarine Reserve (Mary Enstrom, chair) were working on unique ornaments to decorate *their* trees.

The result? Three distinctly different trees to delight daytime as well as night time visitors.
Thanks to everyone who helped!



Bows, Silver Garland and a Lighted Top
by Pacific Power & Light



Nautical Theme by Oregon
International Port of Coos Bay

MORE >>>

LIVING ORNAMENTS FOR AN OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE

By Michael Graybill

Simple in means rich in ends . . . a phrase coined by Bill Duvall, writer and proponent of the much disputed concept of Deep Ecology. One simple phrase and an offer to participate in our region's most spectacular celebration of the winter season, combined to form the prime ingredients for one of the Christmas trees at Shore Acres Gardens.

After the Friends of Shore Acres called the South Slough to offer an opportunity to decorate one of the trees, the staff and Friends of South Slough discussed how we would go about decorating the tree. The hope was to adorn the tree with living decorations. This way, daytime visitors to the gardens would have an opportunity to see something more than bows, bulbs, and wires.

The other challenge was to come up with some simple decorations capable of withstanding the unpredictable winds, rain and snow of Shore Acres. Winter is a very busy time at South Slough, so another very important consideration was the decorations had to be easy to make. I enjoy working in my woodshop on weekends and I had thirty or so short pieces of western red cedar left over from building a fence in my back yard. I had planned to build some type of birdboxes with these scraps as it is something of a tradition for me to build feeders or nest boxes for my friends and family. I was aware that a friend had discovered some very nice plans for a simple yet appealing wren nest house so I called her for the plans. Other staff members took up the tasks of making bows, and drumming up materials for suet seed balls and pine cones. The book with the plans is entitled Bird Houses by John McNeil, published by Pacific Search Press. The Coos Bay Library has a copy of the book.

I planed the rough sawn fence scraps, and with the help of my table saw had the materials for 30 wren nest boxes ready for assembly in about 10 hours. While I was mothproofing the basement with lots of red cedar sawdust, my wife Jan was upstairs rendering about 20 lbs of beef fat donated by Albertson's Market.

The fat was for suet seed balls and it is necessary to heat it in the oven at about 250 degrees in order to separate the useable fat from the gristle. The fat was in the oven all day but the actual time needed to pour off the liquid fat was nominal. Jan read a book while the slowly simmering fat turned the upstairs to the smell of a fast food burger joint. We used two five pound bags of bird seed and poured the liquid fat into pyrex



Bird Houses and Bows by
South Slough Friends & Staff

cake pans that were about two thirds full of seed. While the fat was still liquid, we stirred the seeds to make sure they were well coated. After the pans were filled we set them on the front porch to cool and solidify.

That evening friends and co-workers dropped by to assemble the decorations. In about two hours we had assembled 30 beautiful bird boxes, filled 25 large pine cones with the suet and seed mixture, and formed another 30 or so plum sized balls of the remaining seed and suet mixture. The seed balls were wrapped in plastic onion bags and a similar material manufactured by Quadell Industries in Coos Bay. It was a fun winter evening and the Shore Acres birds welcomed our treats during the cold winter. On all our visits to the gardens the tree was full of sparrows, chickadees, and kinglets. As we were taking the decorations off the tree the birds were still eating the last of the seed.

Some of the nest boxes have been distributed to friends and family as late presents, ready for occupants during the breeding season. You might want to try these types of decorations on your trees next holiday season. It is a lasting celebration of a winter project.

"BIRDS CAN'T WAIT FOR HOLIDAY SEASON '91" (your editors)

LETTERS & NOTES

Dear Friends of Shore Acres,

Going to "see" Shore Acres has been the highlight of my visits to Coos Bay for over 20 years.

My Christmas visit of '90 will never be surpassed. The immense expansion of colored, sparkling lights was breathtaking! And the cordial welcome by volunteers to the historically decorated house was so very nice.

Your ears should be burning as I relate this unforgettable experience to all far and near.

The gift is in memory of the maternal grandparents of my son Larry Dirk Gerritsen. If any acknowledgement is made, please send (it) to him as he is the one who has shown me such a momentous adventure at Christmas Time.

Sincerely,
Betie Pennington, California

* * * * *

Dear Friends,

Just a note to thank you all for your hard work, beautiful lights and sharing and caring you have given everyone over the holidays.

It just keeps getting better !!!

Three cheers for you !

Monte, Linda & Suzie, Salem

Special Thanks . . .

To Holiday Committee members, who met weekly prior to set-up time.

To David Bridgham and Frank Smith for creating the "birds."

To Robin Harms, Coos Historical Museum and everyone else who donated antiques.

To Karen & Peter Crosby for their wonderful cider spice that made cider making so much easier.

To The Electric Hospital for donating a canister vacuum cleaner.

To George Jones, David Bridgham and all of the lights trouble-shooters, who kept everything running.

To Ginger Sawyer and Kelly Barnett for opening the house weeknights.

To Phyllis and Kaarina Love for the "ultimate bed and breakfast", etc., etc.

To Ellen Garner and Holiday Sales Staff.

To Tony Mason & Daryl Mason for GAIC duties and "closing duties."

To everyone listed on the "scrolls" and anyone whose name we have missed!

JOHN AND TRICIA SHRECK WIN "ULTIMATE BED & BREAKFAST"



Andy LaTomme presents certificate to Tricia & John

Dear Friends of Shore Acres,

We wanted to write and let you know how much we enjoyed our "Ultimate Bed & Breakfast." We enjoyed ourselves tremendously.

We were greeted by Andy LaTomme and presented with a wonderful plaque. Andy left all the outside lights on for us and that was something we weren't expecting.

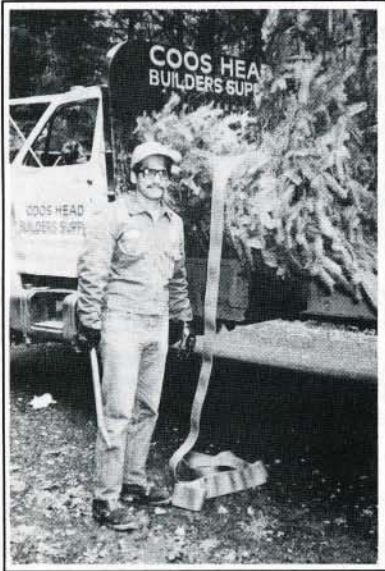
Three friends joined us for a few hours and we toured the garden, sipped champagne and discussed the possibilities of a ghost being in the house.

After our friends left, we went up stairs to "our bed." My husband is 6'5" and we sleep in a king size bed at home, so we were wondering if we would both be able to fit, but we did. *Actually the lumpy mattress was quite comfortable.*

The next morning brought the most wonderful breakfast. We were served champagne, orange juice, muffins, eggs, sausage, fruit and home-fried potatoes. To top it off, we were served the food on very old beautiful china that had been the caterer's great grandmother's.

Thank you for everything, we will never forget it.

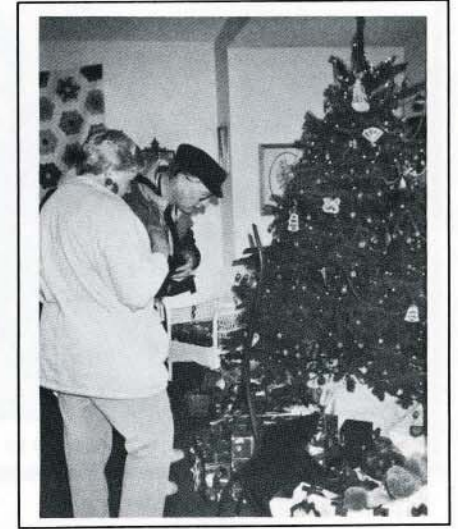
John & Tricia Shreck

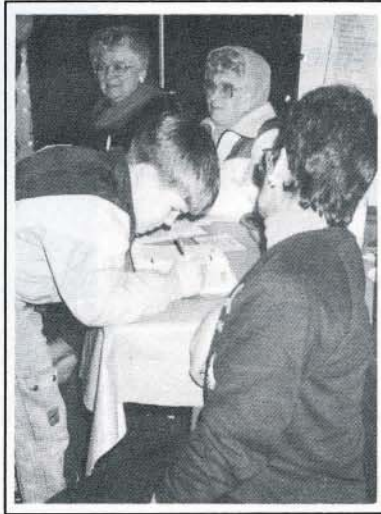


Whatever is needed . . .

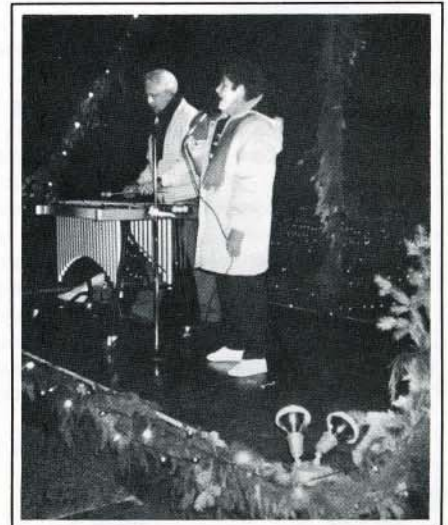
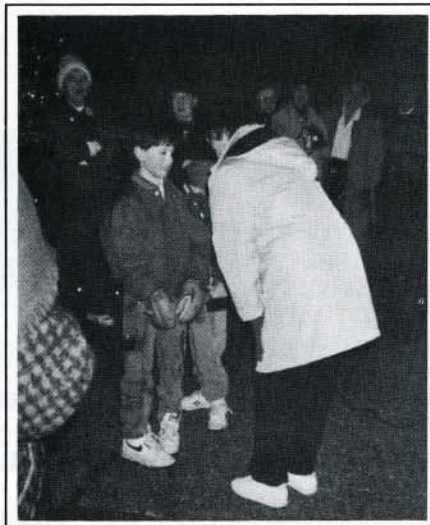


**Friends
get the
job done!**





**And Have
Fun
Doing It !**



PERILS OF PARKS

by Andy LaTomme



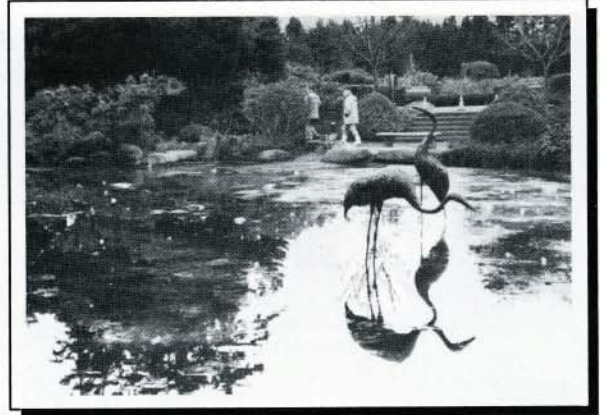
Our story of oil embargos, broken promises and political intrigue began in the November newsletter as we described *Protect the Best of Oregon*, a six-year program for putting State Parks 2010 Plan into action. We left off with *\$74 million needed . . .*

I've got to be honest, \$74 million not only sounds like a lot of money, I think it is a lot of money. And lest you think I'm just another snivelling bureaucrat trying to spend a big bunch of our hard-earned tax dollars, return with me to the 1970s.

Remember those long lines at the gas stations? That gas shortage resulted in less gas tax which led voters to change the Oregon Constitution so that State Parks was removed from the Highway Fund in 1980.

We were told not to worry, that the income-tax-supported General Fund would replace our lost revenue, because, "*everybody loves state parks.*"

But then the recession hit, and the General Fund declined substantially. And as newcomers to the *contest for General Fund dollars*, we haven't received our share of the money.



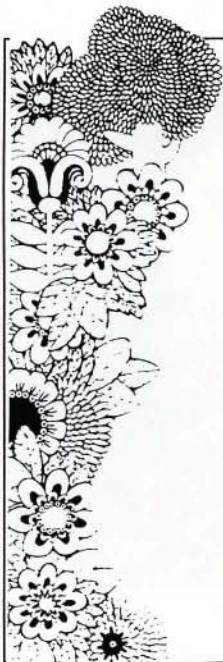
Oriental Pond - Frozen in December

Our response during the 1980s was to transfer some of our parks to other governmental agencies, lay off staff, and just let a lot of work go undone because we didn't have the money to do it.

As a result, Governor Goldschmidt and the 1989 Legislature removed us from the Department of Transportation and created the State Parks and Recreation Department, governed by a seven-member commission. One of their primary tasks was to find a stable, dedicated funding source for Oregon's newest department.

(To Be Continued in May)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



CALENDAR

February 23	Board Retreat, Time and Place TBA
March 5	Board Meeting at SWOCC Empire Hall 102-103 - 7:30 pm
March 16	Annual Beach Clean-up (Winchester Bay, Horsfall, Bastendorff) - 9 am
March 23	Annual Pond Cleaning & Muckraking Party - 9 am
April 2	Board Meeting at SWOCC Empire Hall 102-103 - 7:30 pm
May 7	Board Meeting at SWOCC Empire hall 102-103 - 7:30 pm
May 12	Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day, Garden House Open Noon - 5 pm
June 4	Board Meeting at Garden House - 7:30 pm

GARDEN NOTES

by George Guthrie

Lets face it, even at the best of times any garden (even Shore Acres) can be a rather subdued place in mid-winter, especially if you compare it with all the color and fragrance of summer flowers. Toss in the effects of a December freeze and the place can look like a real mess.

South African agapanthus look like mush and South American escallonias like toast. Rhodies, roses, and all sorts of other *evergreens* look like they'll never come back. The prevailing garden color in places is brown or even black - provided there are any leaves left at all.

Yet, despite the freeze damage, the garden goes on. Daffodils are bravely pushing up, some crocus are already blooming and, wonder of wonders, I even saw some flowers on an azalea. And it will only get better.

The mushy agapanthus *will* resurrect, the toasty escallonia *will* rebud, and rhodies and roses *will* flower again. The garden will go on - not because the gardeners are magicians (*though we try hard*) but because nature is full of surprises and most plants (*besides being lovely to look at*) are just plain tough.

Would you believe our beautiful bottle brush has been tilled to the ground at least 3 times in the seven years I've been here and has come back every time? Yes some plants are definitely gone (at your garden and mine) but hope like tulips (and dandelions) springs eternal and the majority will be back to normal sooner than you think.

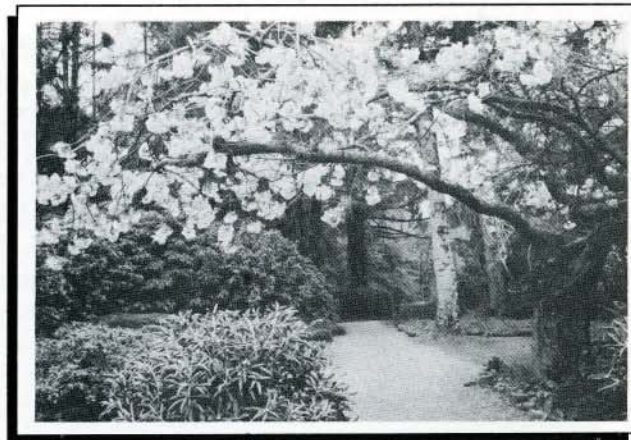
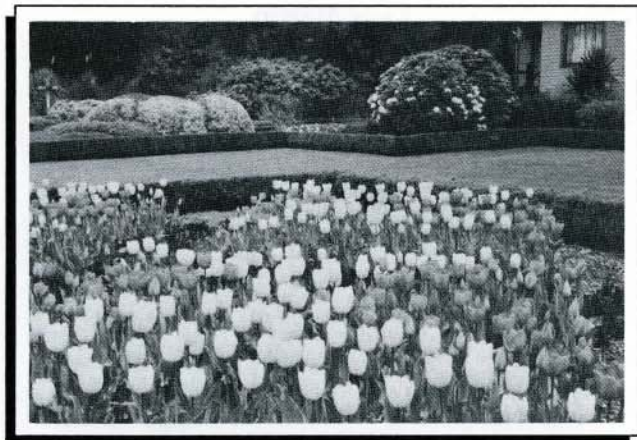
All gardens are a dynamic combination of nature's plants and human minds and hands. Sometimes we tend to treat plants like puzzle pieces and set them around any way we like to create a pretty picture of our choosing.

Time, tide and bad weather are Ma Nature's way of shuffling these puzzle pieces into her own design and reminding us that ultimately we are not masters of the game but partners in life's changing pattern. Meteorological misses (and tricks) are what keep *gardeners* from complacency and *gardens* from being merely static sculpture. A garden is something that lives and changes - sometimes for better, sometimes for worse - but this is the real magic that keeps Shore Acres special through every season of the year.

Come out and see for yourself.

George

SPRING BLOSSOMS



It will be beautiful again, take a break and "come and see for yourself."

MAKE FRIENDS WITH CAP'N BEWARE

by Andy
LaTomme



If you're looking for something to help you get over the post-holiday blahs -- something to help pass the time until summer comes -- something that will get you off the couch and into the outdoors -- something that will make you feel good -- something that other people will appreciate -- something that will help the environment -- Have I got an idea for you !!!

Look, we all know that Shore Acres is the best reason for visiting southwest Oregon. But a close second has to be the 192 miles of ocean beaches that make up the southern part of the Ocean Shore

Recreation Area. Well, during the winter they get sort of, uh . . . messy. You know -- garbage gets tossed overboard or left behind by some thoughtless folks and more stuff washes up with the tides, and pretty soon -- yecch.

Now, it takes a lot of work to keep our beaches clean. That's why Cap'n Beware, the beach safety bear, and the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department invite you to participate in the 1991 **COMPANY'S COMING BEACH CLEAN-UP.**

Just show up at the Winchester Bay, Horsefall Beach or Bastendorff Beach parking areas on **SATURDAY, MARCH 16, at 9:00 am.** We'll have someone there to meet you with litter bags and instructions. You should dress for the weather, and bring a pair of gloves ('cause you never know what you'll find to pick up).

If you'd like to do more, have some questions, or want more information, call Shore Acres (888-3732) and ask for Ellie.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 1991

Benefactor

Howard Chaney
Clair & Diane Jones
Life Care Center of Coos Bay
Richard & Patricia Ulp

Sponsor

Industrial Services, Inc.
Donna Rabin
W.R. Richardson
Dorothy Vaughn

Patron

Don & Richie Bock
Georganna Casey
Bob & Dorothy Gillett
Clariece B. Graham
Steve & Jan Hooper
Wilbur & Judy Jensen
Charles E. & Mary Jones
Ellie Kinney-Martial
Maxine McKenzie
Dr. & Mrs. Phil Morgan
Jim & Lorna Shivley

Family

Marion & Marilyn Andrews
Jim & Karen Campbell
Robert & Carol Lee
Arlin & Helen Shefstad
Henry & Mary Scheirman
David & Shirley Wagstaff
Bill & Shary Werdell
Janet Wilson

Individual

Barbara Chilla
Marlene M. Dolezal
Hauser Garden Club
Krislee McCoy
Virginia Paczesniak
Sharon L. Parks
Mrs. Helen F. Ray
Archi Rosenthal
Hal Sinclair
Charlotte Skinner

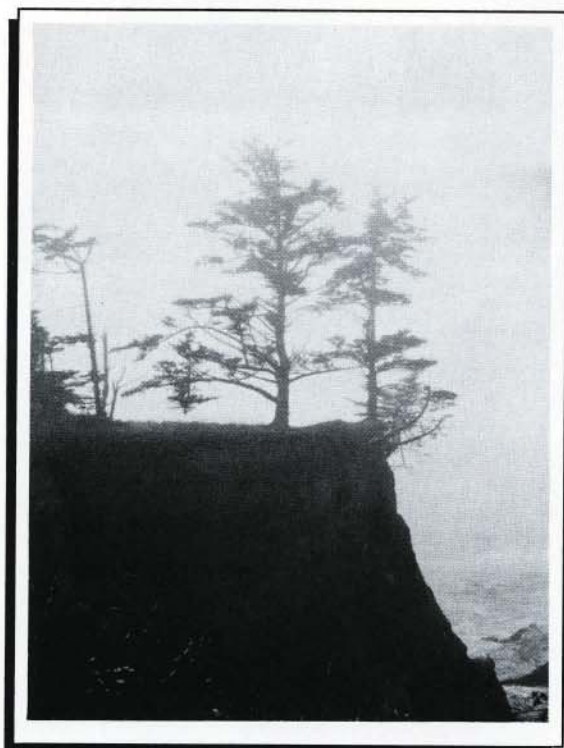
Senior

B & B Bunnell
Rose Clark
Rachel Harwood
Mary E. Hill
Edward Lampton
Myles K. Lowell
Harry Luckett
Sabra Luckett
Lucy Martin
Edith I. Menken
Florence Ross
Robert Ross
Dorothy Westland
Ken Westland
Caroline M. Wright

RENEWALS

*Sixty members
have renewed
for 1991.*

Thanks !!



Coastal Mist

"YOU'RE LATE, YOU'RE LATE FOR A VERY IMPORTANT DATE !"

Members are the foundation of the *Friends of Shore Acres*. We've said it before and we'll say it again, "We need and appreciate every one of you!"

We have coded your address label so you will know if you have renewed for 1991.

If you haven't renewed, it will end with "O"
If you have renewed, it will end with "I"

example

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Friendly BE1
1435 Shore Acres Lane
Coos Bay OR 97420

*In May, we will list all new and renewed.
If we have missed your name, call 756-5401.*

MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. is a 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.**

Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st.

As a member, you will receive a membership card, *Friends* decals and the quarterly newsletter. You will also receive a 10% discount on sales items if you show your membership card at the *Gift and Information Center*. To become a member or to renew your membership, fill out the application form and return with your check or money order to ***Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay OR 97420.***

Senior or Student \$5 [] Individual \$10 [] Family \$15 [] Patron \$25 []

Sponsor \$50 [] Benefactor \$100 [] Sustaining \$250 [] Life \$500 [] Gift _____

Name _____

Address and phone number _____

Please circle any activities you would like to help with.

Board of Directors Gift and Information Center Garden Sitting/Tours Pond Cleaning
Rhododendron Sunday/Mothers Day Rose Sunday/Fathers Day Oregon Coast Music Festival/July
Holiday Lights & Open House/December



P.O. Box 1172
Coos Bay, OR 97420

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Coos Bay, OR
97420
Permit No. 305

