



VOL.III, No. 1

Quarterly Newsletter

May 31, 1988

### ANNUAL POND CLEAN-UP

The Friends have been very busy. Cleaning the pond in April is just one example.

With direction from George Guthrie and Frank Eckley, a dozen volunteers helped clean out the mud and debris that had accumulated over the winter.

A bonus for the Friends was the retrieval of coins that had accumulated during the past year.



**Littlest Friends** - Davina and Sarah Albert help with the annual spring pond clean-up.

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Summer will bring opportunities for many activities.

Guided walks may be very popular, not only for our south coast residents, but for visitors and convention goers as well. It's a very rewarding experience to share the beauty of Shore Acres, so if you are interested in being a guide, be sure to let the Friends know.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PLANNED FOR '88



We are halfway between last year's wonderful Christmas experience and this year's bigger and better holiday activities. The work and planning has not stopped. The number of outdoor miniature lights has been more than doubled through generous contributions collected during last year's event plus contributions since then from groups and individuals who are interested in the project. We look forward to the addition of colored miniature lights to compliment the tiny white lights. Plans are underway for

installation of low level lighting in the parking area and the pathway behind the cottage.

Della Gibbons is coordinating holiday entertainment and we're looking forward to having entertainment almost every night from December 10 through 30. Everyone who wants to be part of this community event is encouraged to help. We have more than 15,000 lights to string (last year we had 6,000) - the cottage to prepare - cookies to bake - large outdoor trees to decorate - and a lot of community spirit to share. Plan on joining us.



## VISIT THE GARDENS

### GARDEN NOTES

The seasons are changing at Shore Acres. The cherry blossoms have come and gone, the rhodies are slowing down, and the tulips that celebrated April have been replaced with May's plastic plant stakes marking the hiding places of July's dahlias. In other words, summer is coming! The garden may seem to go into a brief lull as spring's fling of bulbs tapers off, while summer's bounty of roses and annuals isn't quite ready. While there may be a short "rest" for the garden flowers, this is a busy time here and for all gardeners everywhere. Annuals (12,000 of them for us) need to go into their final positions, lawns need feeding (and lots of mowing) and pest control programs (especially for roses) need to be started.



We've received nice comments from visitors about how good our roses look. I wish there was some secret "weapon" that I could say we use but in reality, it's just a lot of work (and luck) to keep roses going on the coast. The mild moist climate that makes rhodies rejoice is much better for rose diseases than it is for the roses themselves. What this means is that most roses are not low maintenance easy care plants here or anywhere else in the area. About the only "easy" set and forget plant I know is gorse!

However, our experience indicates that there are some nice roses that require less coddling than others, so if you're looking for some relatively easy roses try some of these - "iceberg", a white floribunda, "electron", a large deep pink hybrid tea (really nice), "intrigue", a lavender floribunda with a delicious scent, and "bonica", a 3' tall shrub rose with loads of beautiful small pink blooms. If you really want a "fool-proof" rose, try rosa rugosa, the so-called "wild rose" that forms the

background of the front rose garden. In many ways this one has it all - large (3-4") single purplish-pink or white flowers that are fragrant, bloom for an extended period, and eventually turn into big rose hips that look like miniature tomatoes in late summer and fall. Poor soil, coastal wind, drought, and all those diseases that blacken leaves and blight blossoms of its more "refined" cousins, just leave the rugosa looking lovely and smug!! It gets big and it spreads by suckers so it's not for small gardens. But, if you just have to have a rose, and don't want to baby it with fertilizers and sprays, this is the plant for you!

There are lots of new roses being developed and come June 1st you'll be able to get a sneak preview of some of the newest and best as we unveil the **1989 All American Rose** selection. The winners are all products of several years extensive testing throughout the country and now we all get an opportunity to see them perform under coastal conditions before they hit the local nurseries. If you have the time, come out, take a look at them and everything else as summer comes to Shore Acres.

*George*



**Garden Tours - Friends** volunteer Andrea Knudsen conducts one of many interpretive walks through the gardens planned for this summer.



## GUIDED WALKS



**Tidepool Tours** - Orientation tour for future tidepool walk leaders conducted by Stine Brown (far right), Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

### TIDE POOL WALKS BEGIN JUNE 4

All walks begin at South Cove trail head, Cape Arago and last 3 hours.

Saturday, June 4 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, June 16 - 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday, July 2 - 9:00 a.m.  
Thursday, July 14 - 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday, July 30 - 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 13 - 8:00 a.m.

Limit - 25 people each walk  
Rubber boots recommended  
Call 269-2015 for reservations.

**GUIDED GARDEN WALKS BEGIN JUNE 1**  
Meet at interpretive entrance to the garden. Walks last about an hour.

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday  
Meet at 2 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday  
Meet at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.

Limit - 25 people each walk  
Call 269-0215 for reservations.

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### GUIDED PHOTOGRAPHY WALKS

**Shore Acres Gardens** - Wed., July 13  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Meet at the steps of the Garden House.

**Coast Trail, Sunset Bay to Cape Arago**  
Tuesday, June 7 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Sunday, July 3 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Wed., Aug. 24 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Recommend good walking shoes. Meet at the Sunset Bay Picnic Area Gazebo. Bring sack lunch including beverage. Reservations desirable, but not necessary. Call 269-2015.

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**SPECIAL THANKS** goes to Don Stensland and Tony Mason for leading the Geology/Photography walk held April 30. A video tape is being prepared to be used to train volunteer leaders of future walks.

### PARK NOTES



This is going to be an exciting summer. Starting the first of June, the **Friends** will be giving guided tours of the Shore Acres Gardens on a regular basis -- Wednesday through Sunday at 2 p.m., with additional tours at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Then there is the sales display case in the entrance to the gardens. A special thanks to Jim Phinney, who translated

translated my rough design sketches into the finished product. By the way, that little donation box has collected a substantial amount for the **Friends** in two days! Contributions will be used to provide interpretive services such as new plant i.d. markers for the park. Come out and see the parks, and tell your friends about our **Friends**.



## ACTIVITIES AND HISTORY

### FRIENDS TO HELP AT OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL

As this year's festival celebrates its 10th anniversary season the first event will be the free outdoor concert at Shore Acres Gardens. Beginning at 12:30, Friday, July 15, the concert will feature **FOX FIRE**, with upbeat down home bluegrass.

**Friends** volunteers will be parking cars, greeting visitors and selling refreshments (coffee, tea, soft drinks and fruit kebabs). Also offered for sale will be some of our first **Friends** sales items such as cloisonne pins and note cards.

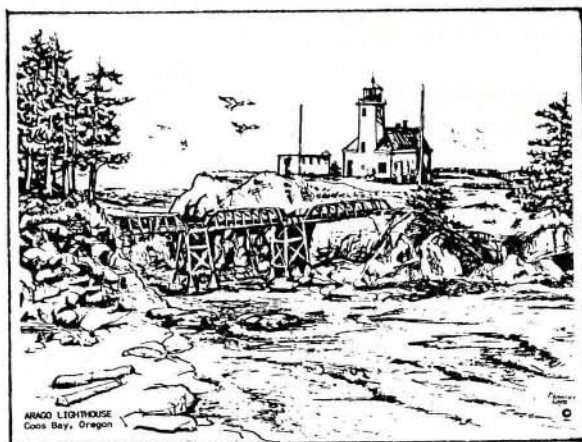
Volunteers will also assist the Music Enrichment Association with clean-up after the concert. Call 888-4902 if you would like to help.



**First Convention Tour** - Small Woodlot Owners Convention brought 250 visitors to Shore Acres Gardens for guided tours.



**CLOISONNE  
PIN**  
(avail. July 1)



**Friends items for sale** will include note cards such as this one as well as cloisonne pins, tidepool books, & berry-finder books.

### LOOKING BACK.....

Shortly after Louis Simpson's estate was acquired by the state in 1942, it was taken over by the military defense forces and the Simpson manor was occupied as their local headquarters during 1943, 1944 and part of 1945. During this period, lookouts were continuously stationed on the high Cape Arago Park promontory to the south, and an around-the-clock sentry post was maintained on the park road covering the important observation point which protected the southerly approach to the entrance of Coos Bay from which almost steady lumber shipments were being made. Rapid deterioration of the large structure during this period, combined with the great expense of restoration and maintenance brought about the decision in 1948 to raze the building.

(courtesy of **OREGON STATE PARKS, History 1917-1963**, compiled by Chester H. Armstrong, July 1, 1965)



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## SHORE ACRES AND FRIENDS

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**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 Simpson'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.

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The site of the two Simpson mansions is now the location of a glass enclosed observation shelter that 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.

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**THE SHORE ACRES STORY**, an 18 minute 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.

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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 888-4902.

Board of Directors

Shirley Bridgham, President  
Dick Hansen, Vice-President  
George Guthrie, Sec./Treasurer  
John Bergen  
David Bridgham  
Tony Mason  
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Al Aslakson  
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Newsletter

Shirley & David Bridgham

Meeting Time

The board meetings (2nd Tuesday of the month) will be at the Garden House during **June, July, August & September.** Meeting time is 7:30 and meetings are open to the public.

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 markers and permanent interpretive signs. You can help. Encourage your friends to become our "Friends."

New Members

Sponsor

Ann McMann

Patron

Gloria Geraths  
Don & Robin Harms  
Carolyn & Breanna Kayate  
Frank & Mavis Rood  
Dean & Debbie Webb

Family

Ellen Garner  
James & Jean Hanna  
John & Judy Knutson  
Bill & Margaret McGuire  
Andy & Lynn Nasburg  
Sarge & Crete Olson

Senior

Cranson Fosburg  
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The Friends of Shore Acres  
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