



President's Notes

I can hardly believe it's been a year since we had our first organizational meeting or that our first newsletter has become a reality. So much has happened since then. A brochure was created and distributed to explain our purpose and expand our membership. During the summer, volunteers guided visitors through the gardens and explained the mysteries of the tidepools at Cape Arago. At the same time, Mike Bodkin was successful in his efforts to gain non-profit status for the Friends.

Brainstorming sessions gave us more ideas than there are weeks and months in a year! Just to name a few -- improvement in garden plant identification and signing; interpretive displays for Shell Island, seal viewpoint and the north cape; enlarged greenhouse; replacement of overgrown and missing plants; a visitor center; nightscaping the gardens. At the annual meeting in September, Sue Graeser came up with an exciting idea for the holidays, "Why don't we have a display of lights in the gardens for Christmas?" What followed will soon be history as **Christmas at Shore Acres** begins Friday, December 11. It promises to be an enchanting experience for those that visit the gardens during the holidays. **Merry Christmas!**

SB

Garden Notes from George Guthrie

Perhaps the basic question that Shore Acres gardeners get asked is (with apologies to the nursery rhyme), "How does your garden grow?" At this time of year finding out the answer may take more than the usual amount of searching

but the results can be just as satisfying to the visitor as viewing the more obvious charms of the warmer months. Most of the usual flowers are gone - the annuals removed and most of the permanent plantings - trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials settled down for their version of a long winter's nap but, weather permitting, summer flowers do spill over into fall and beyond. The roses continue to bloom - especially on the shrub rose "Bonica" a 1986 A.A.R.S. rose of the year - but scattered on a number of other varieties throughout the garden. With a little luck and continued mild temperatures we could have at least a rose or two to enjoy for Christmas. It's getting toward summer in the southern hemisphere (Australia, New Zealand, etc.) where seasons are reversed from here, it's not entirely surprising that the Australian bottle brush (callistemon) in fiery red and the shrubby veronica (hebe) in deep purple show their summery colors in respective corners of the garden. Here and there near the oriental pond, the South American Fuschia or "hummingbird flower" continues to show its nodding blossoms (minus the hummingbirds). Hard frosts will cut plant and flower to the ground but they come back in time to repeat the show next summer. Likewise, the South African "red-hot poker" lights up its bed with orange-yellow "match-heads". While the greenhouse is closed for the season, walking up the path toward the building will bring you to a bed of multi-colored primroses apparently getting a jump on spring before winter is even started. The cabbage-like heads of the common hydrangeas



have mostly faded, but the "lace-cap" hydrangea known as "blue wave" continues to flaunt its large clusters of blue purple flowers by L.J. Simpson's large old silver birch near the upper end of the oriental garden.

A brief "paper chase" through the grounds can't show or tell of all the goodies in the garden even during the floral "off-season". Nevertheless, there is a surprisingly large number of plants to be admired both here and throughout the south coast area if we are willing to search them out. Come visit Shore Acres, see how our garden grows and you indeed might find a little bit of "summer" color hiding out.

George

Park Notes from Andy LaTomme



In September, I had the chance to attend the National Assoc. of State Park Directors' Conference in Sacramento, California. One of the purposes of my attendance was to gather information about how California and other states use volunteer groups. It was a great conference and I returned with a whole bunch of ideas about how the Friends of Shore Acres could make a positive impact on the community.

For example, we learned about the Gilroy Garlic Festival -- a volunteer run effort that produces over a quarter million dollars for local charities. We got to see the Sacramento Railroad Museum -- after a volunteer run train ride, we were hosted by their "friends" to a fine dinner in the Round-House Museum". The Calaveras Big Trees Assoc. folks hosted a luncheon and showed us the interpretive center and bridge they had built. The cooperating association in the gold rush town of Columbia put on a nice show by dressing in period costumes and welcoming us into town. The co-op at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento not only dressed in period costumes, but gave us a living history demonstration - quite a show.

So, home I come to find that the **Friends of Shore Acres** have been planning an event to top their already successful summer tours. I believe that "Christmas at Shore Acres" will be one of the best seasonal events to come to "Oregon's Bay Area". Judging from the level of interest and enthusiasm, it looks like you've got a hit -- one that will be around for a long time.

I'm sure that this event is just the type of thing the 1985 legislature had in mind when they passed Senate Bill 865, which enables groups like the Friends to enter into agreements with state parks to provide educational and interpretive services. As we look forward to the future with guided walks, book sales, increasing membership, development projects and seasonal events, there is no doubt in my mind that, one day, park managers from other states will come to Shore Acres to see just how a cooperating association works.

Congratulations on a great year past and best of luck in the future.

Andy

CHRISTMAS AT SHORE ACRES

LIGHTS IN THE GARDENS

OPEN HOUSE
AT THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE
Antique Furnishings
Christmas Lights & Music
Refreshments

December 11 thru 27
5 - 9 p.m. each evening

Tree Lighting Ceremony - Dec. 11
7:30 p.m.

Barbara Simpson Griffin, daughter of Louis J. Simpson, will turn on the tree lights and the BACC Ambassadors will be on hand to greet visitors.

Christmas at Shore Acres



Drawing, courtesy of Phyllis K. Love

The community response to the **Friend's** first large scale event has been tremendous. These folks are just the beginning of a long list of helpers:

Iva Adams, Pearl Afholter, Bill & Sally Arbus, Al Aslakson, BACC Ambassadors, Bangor School, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Bay Area Concert Band, John & Dottie Bergen, BOAZ Green, David & Shirley Bridgham, Jo Ann Briggs, Brownie Scout Troop 272, Carnation Co., Checkerberrys, Debbie Chesselet, Coos Art Museum, Coos County, Coos County Historical Society Museum, Coos Head Builders Supply, Ron Crouse, Custom Bouquets, Helen Doving, Elf Nursery, Mary Enstrom, Eugene Register-Guard, Jay Farr, Farr's True Value Hardware, Helen & Wally Ferguson, First Presbyterian Church (NB), Flowers Please, Sharon Fortune, Front Row Magazine, Ken & Gertrude Galloway, Girl Scout Troop 180, Jim & Sue Graeser, Tom Graham, Barbara Simpson Griffin, George Guthrie, Howard Hall, Loren Hall, Dick Hansen, Don & Robin Harms, Joe & Rachel Henke, Bev Heyer, Gloria Hillstrom, Karen Hollenbeck,

Horizon Video, Ann Hunt, Clint Johnson, Jim & Irene Johnson, Tom Johnson, Red Jordan Food, Inc., KBBR, KCBY, Ken Keyes College, KHSN, Claire Kinman, Ann Koppy, Bonnie Koreiva, Kyle Electric, KYNG, Barbara Langsdon, Michelle Langsdon, Andy LaTomme, Phyllis Love, Billie Lowe-Aslakson, Tony Mason, Verena Matthews, Dortha McCarthy, McKays, Linda Meyer, Bill Moragne, Ocean Spray, Oregon Coast Magazine, Oregonian, Bill & Corky Otton, Pacific Power & Light, Pancake Mill, Bob & Arlene Peil, Pony Village Mall, Mike Rector, Mike & Robynn Reed, Nellie Ripper, Don Roberts, Safeway (NB), Clark Sathre, Schroeder's Furniture, Scott Paper Co., SE Rycoff, Ed Smith, Frank & Donna Smith, Soroptomists, Irene Sund, John Sweet, Ed & Judy Swenson, SWOCC, Tourism Promotions Committee, United Grocers, Jack Varra, Debbie Webb, John Webber, Judy Weeks, Clare Wehrle, Barbara & Jim Wilkerson, Cheryl Woodward, The World

(and the list continues to grow)

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, Secretary-
Treasurer
John Bergen
David Bridgham
Tony Mason
Nellie Ripper

Members

Al Aslakson
Anna Mae Barnes
Dottie Bergen
Mike Bodkin
David & Jean Bradford
Coos Bay Emblem Club (Elks)
Ray & Rosella Duskin
Marjorie Evans
Kenneth & Gertrude Galloway
Foss, Whitty, Roess,
 Littlefield, McDaniel
John Garner
Marty Giles
Jim & Sue Graeser
Nan Hansen
Caroline Harris-Garner
Ron & Bernice Hjort
Joel & Shary Horning
Wally & Monita Johnson
Wineva Johnson
Claire Kinman
Tim & Ann Koppy
Andy & Sue LaTomme
Mabel Lehl
Phyllis Love
Billie Lowe-Aslakson
A.J. & Cecile Moore
Andy & Lynn Nasberg
Dr. Ed Quinn
Mike & Robynn Reed
Alice Richter
Nellie Ripper
Eugene & Crystal Shoji
Frank & Donna Smith
Richard & Irene Sund
John Sweet
Dorothy Vaughn
John & Teri Whitty

Newsletter Dates

November 30, February 28,
May 30, August 30

**WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FUTURE
EVENTS!**

Shore Acres State Park

Located 4.5 miles southwest of Charleston, Shore Acres State Park welcomes visitors with its rugged shoreline, sandstone bluffs, covered observatory and **Botanical Garden** - 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 gardener's cottage** 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, a 17 min. three projector multi-image 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.

