



FRIENDS OF
SHORE ACRES

©

Volume 9, no. 2

Friends of Shore Acres Journal – Summer/Fall 1996

FoSA Founded 1986

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.

Please take time to read Brian Booth's letter, "Will we let our parks wither?" (p.6), and the article "If a state park were your home" (p.10)

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

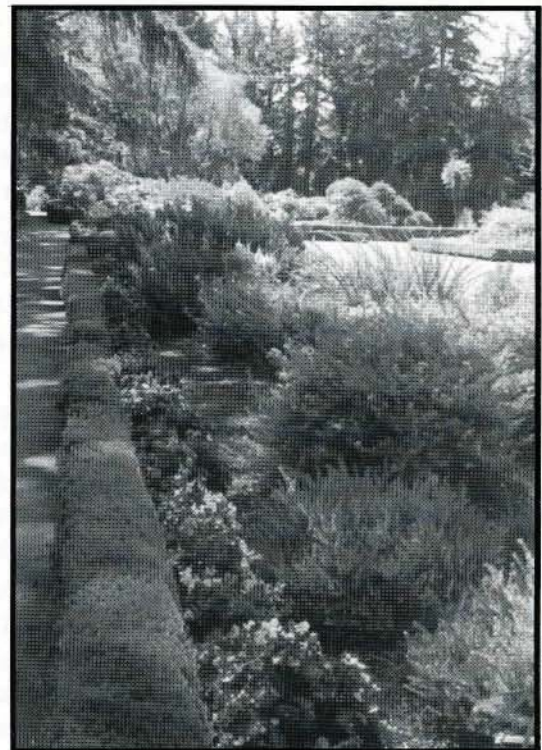
As many of you know, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has provided many different kinds of services and projects for Shore Acres over the last 10 years. However, most of these projects have been for park enhancement, not operating expenses. Our mission – "to participate in interpretive, educational, and 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 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 permits for the Holiday Lights display, based on their level of support. We are working out the details as we go to press with this *Journal*.

Also, a 1996 or 1997 annual parking permit will admit your car for free. The 1997 permit will be available in late November. New and renewing members of Friends of



Fibrous begonias near the Garden House

Shirley Bridgham

Shore Acres, Inc., will receive a \$5 discount coupon 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. ■

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC.

Journal published

Summer/Fall and Winter/Spring

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Cooky Bakes

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Editor's Notes

● We are completing a banner year as *Friends*. We nearly doubled the parking capacity at Shore Acres last November and the memorial fountain will become a reality in September. In December we will have our 10th birthday and our 10th annual Holiday Lights and Open House. For those of us who have been part of the organization since it began, it's hard to believe ten years have passed. Who would have thought our minuscule 6,000 lights in 1987 would turn into 175,000 lights in 1996? We haven't completed all the projects we've dreamed of, but we haven't stopped dreaming, either. It is really wonderful to be part of a group that loves Shore Acres and Oregon State Parks.

● As you can see from the side bar on this page, our *Journal* is now published twice a year. It has become a 16-20 page magazine that can be mailed for the same bulk rate as fewer pages, so we save considerable money on postage. However, if you feel you must have it four times a year, let me know. ☺

● New board members and officers will be elected at the annual meeting, September 17. Our wonderful president, Dick Van Natta, will become past president as Bob Renner takes on the challenge of being president. Dick has said he will chair the "flower events" we have during the year! Several new people are joining the board and we will have a full report in the Winter/Spring Journal.

● The Friends' Gift Shop at the Shore Acres continues its successful ways. Ellen Garner, Winnie Pitsenberger, and Mary Novak plus all the volunteers and park hosts do a terrific job keeping the shop well-stocked with exceptional merchandise to entice our visitors.

● On a personal note, many of you may not know that I retired from Southwestern Oregon Community College the end of April to accept a part-time position as manager of the Oregon Coast Music Association. I had worked at SWOCC for 25 years. My new job is both challenging and fun, so I won't have time to get bored! It will also give me more time for other activities.

● David and I are looking forward to the 10th annual Holiday Lights and Open House. We are also concerned that folks won't really understand the problems facing Oregon State Parks. You can help us by sharing the information in this *Journal* with your friends. We have extra copies, so if you want us to send one to somebody, please call 756-5401. ✿

Shirley Bridgham

FRIENDS EVENTS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS COMING UP

Celebration Potluck Dessert * Sept. 17

Dahlia Daze & Fall Walk * Sept. 21

Silver Spurs & Diamonds * Sept. 28

Orchids in the Park * Oct. 5 (11-4)

Golden Bough Concert * Oct. 5 (8pm)

Handel's Messiah * Dec. 14 (8pm) (Bandon)

Handel's Messiah * Dec. 15 (2pm) (CB)

10th annual Holiday Lights & Open House at Shore Acres

***175,000 Lights * Thurs., Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving) thru Wed., Jan. 1**

Check the "What's
Coming Up" in *The World*
for more information.



GROUND COVERS

by George Guthrie, Head Gardener, Shore Acres Gardens

Since our last “chat” both winter and spring have come and gone and (believe it or not) summer is slipping away, too. Luckily, I will resist the opportunity to cuss and discuss the vagaries and vicissitudes of the year’s weather (not to mention marauding Bambi’s and bunnies) and the impact on Shore Acres and instead will discourse on more pleasant subject—like ground covers.

Perhaps the ultimate ground cover and the one most familiar to gardens and gardeners is good old grass—for large spaces that are played and/or walked on you can’t beat it. However, for smaller areas where you’d like the green carpet look but can’t get the lawn mower in and aren’t going to get much traffic—the non-grass carpeters can come into their own. In shady, moist cool areas our native moss is a natural alternative—but what about those areas that aren’t quite so blest (i.e. dry and sunny) —how about Irish “moss” and wooly thyme.

Irish moss (*sagina subulerta* or *arenaria verna*) is neither particularly Irish and it’s definitely not a true moss. Irish moss is a flowering plant (it has tiny white flowers) while the real thing has none at all. What it does have is that same rich soft green look without being so persnickety about shade and moisture. It looks good around our pond where it



“Wooly thyme flows along the rocks and gravels of the “dry landscape” in the Oriental garden.

quickly spreads softening the hard edges of rock and stone to create the simultaneous aged and timeless look that looks good in any style of garden. There is a golden hued variety called Scotch moss and it can be used for the same purpose—you can use it to create neat color contrasts and/or harmonize with the green kind.

Both accept moderate watering (once a week), light fertilization, and give the lush look in part sun or light shade.

For really sunny sites, give wooly thyme (*thymus, pseudo langulosus*) — as in “parsley, sage, rosemary, and . . .” — a try. As you may have guessed, thyme is an herb—an aromatic sub shrub that can (at least in some forms) be used for flavorings and fragrance. This particular thyme has only a light scent but its “wool” gives it an attractive greyish tinge to this low (about 2”) spreader. Light purple or white flowers may appear in summer and are attractive to bees, but its main virtues are its tone and texture as it flows along the rocks and gravels of the “dry” landscape of the Oriental garden. It’s more drought and sun tolerant than Irish or Scotch moss and it would be especially nice in dry, well-drained, sunny areas in an herb garden with lavender cotton, true lavender, or even parsley, sage, rosemary, and you know . . .

Both the moss and the thyme are available at local nurseries—*generally* in either flats or small containers. If you pay attention to preparing the planting site, i.e., weeding and plant close (about 6” apart) you can get a tight fairly weed resistant carpet from either in a couple of seasons and you definitely won’t have to worry about dragging out the lawn mower.

Speaking of herbs, check out the mini demonstration herb garden that Ellie designed and installed in the back (AARS) rose garden. There’s a nice selection of useful and lovely plants—al of them drought tolerant and deer resistant as well.

• TIP OF THE RANGER HAT

Much appreciation to the Bay Area Bonsai Society and the Oregon Daffodil Society for all their hard work and generosity for their displays this spring. We all benefit from the sharing of their knowledge and expertise.

Through the extremely generous support of Dolly Shannon, her family, and friends from Corvallis, Oregon, we are able to develop a garden of “Old Roses.” With the incredible hard work of Jay Dow and the local Rose Society we have the area planted. This is a story which will be discussed further in a later installment. But for the moment—thank you, thank you to these kind and lovely people.

More thanks to Jim Purcell of Jim’s Water Gardening and George and Loretta Downs of Downs By the Pond for their generous donation of plant materials, time, and labor in repotting our water lilies—a giant task and one that viewers of our pond will have reason to appreciate and applaud. ☼



Spring Cleaning

by Gregg Nelson, Board Member

The BLM fire truck pulled into the back courtyard near the greenhouse just before 10:00 a.m. Nick Jansen and Scott Poore, both experienced at laying down fire hose for fighting fires, had volunteered to provide water to fight pond scum.

Within a few minutes they had a hose going from the fire truck to the pond. They put in a "T" valve, so there would be two hoses in the pond, and added nozzles to allow adjusting the spray from a mist to a power blast. And with two dozen volunteers already pushing brooms, squeegees, and shovels around in the pond, the annual spring cleaning had begun.

From past experience, volunteers have learned

that the best way to clean the pond is with a little bit of muscle and a good blast of water. This year would be easy – the group included some experts who have been volunteers for this work many years in a row.

While a few people washed down the sides and bottom of the pond,



wheelbarrows, to be hauled away.

While volunteers are working, many visitors wander by. The most often asked question is "Why clean the pond? Why not leave it alone?" Several of the more experienced pond cleaners are always

available with the easy answer: "If we don't clean the pond, it will fill in and become a meadow in twenty years." (OK, so it might take a little longer, but it would happen).

A little over an hour after starting, the work is done. The tools are hauled back to the storage sheds, buckets of coins

are set in a corner to be dealt with at a later date (see "Three Coins in a Fountain - and a Lot More in a Pond") and the rough-skinned newts gathered up by the kids and environmentally-conscious adults are released back to the "wilds" of the pond.

others pushed the muck and mire, sludge and slurry toward the drain. Some of the thicker, heavier material is shoveled into

While most of the group has been sloshing about in the muck and mire, Lloyd Fritz has been busy flipping burgers on the 'barbie'. He's been chef-for-a-day for the last few years, and enjoys being the grillmaster for Friends events.

The rain stayed away, so the group was able to enjoy a picnic lunch at the patio tables next to the garden house. A friendly lunch, then everyone left to enjoy the rest of the Saturday afternoon.

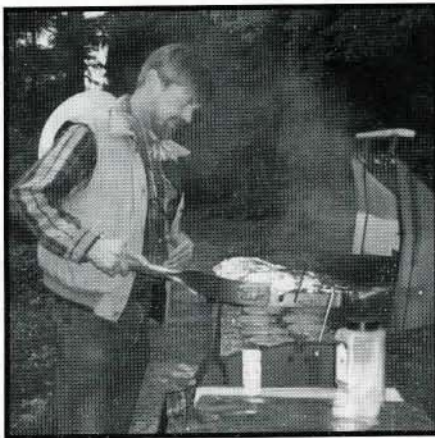
So what does it take to clean a pond, besides water, squeegees, brooms, and shovels? Like everything else the Friends of Shore Acres do, it



takes VOLUNTEERS. We would like to thank this year's group of volunteers and their families from the BLM:

Lloyd Fritz, Nick Jansen, Scott Poore, Ray and Dotti Orazem, Gregg, Connie, Erika, and Travis Nelson, Larry Mangan, Daryl and Barbara Albiston, Jon, Theodora, and Charlotte Menten, Makenzie Marineau, Steve, Barbara, Karen, and William Fowler, John and Tim Fields, Bob Golden, and Thomas Cunningham.

Thanks also to the FoSA volunteers: Shirley Bridgham, Dick Van Natta, George Guthrie, and Archi Rosenthal. ☺



"Grillmaster" Lloyd Fritz

THREE COINS IN A FOUNTAIN - AND A LOT MORE IN A POND

by Gregg Nelson

What do you get when you drain a pond? Rough-skinned newts, goldfish, a chance to repot and fertilize water lilies, a gathering of volunteers to brush-and-flush the sludge. You also get pounds of coins, enough to half-fill a bucket.

Most of these coins are in terrible shape. They've been lying at the bottom of the pond for months, and at best they lose their shine - at worst, they become black with tarnish. It's almost impossible at times to tell the dimes from the pennies.

Actually, other than differences in size, all the coins look about the same: black and mucky.

The banks won't take the coins. They're not able to be circulated. They won't go through the bank's automatic coin counters, so they can't be shipped off to the mint for credit. So for the last few years, the coins have been sitting in the three buckets they were dumped in, hidden away in a corner of the Shore Acres toolshed.

Until this year . . .

Dennis Graham was helping clean the pond last year. If you recognize the name, it's because he works at BLM, and was one of the volunteers that helped design and install the new drain in the pond a few years ago. Dennis volunteered to try cleaning the coins, so we could put the money in the bank. If nothing else, at least we could empty and use the three buckets for other things.

First step in the cleaning process was to tumble the coins with sand in a cement mixer for 24 hours, then lay them out on a tarp to dry. This took off the dirt, but they were still black.

Then Dennis and his wife Mary spent hours on their hands and knees, sorting the coins by denomination. They would go back over the same coins time after time, always finding silver mixed in with the pennies - when everything is black, the sizes are pretty much the same.

With several piles of sorted coins, Dennis was ready to try some chemicals to introduce some color. His first attempt was with vinegar and soda, which didn't do a thing,

except tint the pennies green.

"Whatever is in the pond that discolors coins, it does a superb job that is impossible to remove effectively."

Another try at the mechanical: Dennis started putting a handful of coins at a time through his bullet

tumbler/brass polisher, used to get brass casings ready for reloading. He tried decomposed aggregate and granite to polish, and even tried crushed walnut shells, which he says is used to polish brass. All this did was give him a handful of red quarters and pennies.

Back to the chemicals. He had seen a TV commercial, stating that the 'rich and famous' used Amazing or Lightning (or whatever) Silver Polish. He gave it a try . . . it didn't work. Dennis thought it probably failed because coins are a mixed metal (he'd already checked every dime and quarter for any real silver coins, but found none).

When most of us would have given up in frustration, Dennis forged ahead. He saw the challenge, and wanted the solution. Time to try the mechanical again.

Taking the quarters one-at-a-time, Dennis gripped them with a pliers, and buffed them on a wire wheel. This proved to be the most effective

method of putting some shine on the coins, but never got rid of all the discoloration. But with such a labor-intensive project, Dennis decided to pass on buffing the nickels and dimes by hand.

Chemicals . . . the final frontier. This was going to be the final solution. In this case, the final solution was Tarnex. This worked fairly well on the nickels and dimes. But like other attempts, the final result was less than perfect. Whatever is in the pond that discolors coins, it does a superb job that is impossible to remove effectively.

Dennis said that he must have looked at each coin at least five times, and even after all that sorting, during the final cleaning he was still finding silver mixed in with the pennies.

Dennis brought the coins back to the Friends, and we took them to the bank. The quarters, dimes, and nickels - a total of \$151.85 deposited as a "miscellaneous donation" - were taken out of circulation and shipped off to Portland (they're still pretty discolored, but at least you can tell what they're worth). However, the pennies won't go through the automatic counter at the bank, so the Friends still have about 70 pounds of them. Hopefully, some day we'll find a way to get credit for them.

And after all the volunteer effort, Dennis Graham is saying, "When I help clean the pond next year, we should try . . ." and "Maybe I should try muriatic acid on the pennies."

For everything you've done, Dennis, thanks from the Friends and the staff at Shore Acres. ■



Will we let our parks wither?

Oregonians have to step up and speak out to preserve our beloved heritage

By Brian Booth

The State Parks Commission's decision to close 65 parks and lay off 10 percent of the staff has been a wake up call to Oregonians who have taken continued existence of their parks for granted. It is a sad commentary on Oregon in the 1990s that, in the same week, the Legislative Emergency Board cleared the way to spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars for 10 new prisons.

Oregon has one of the finest parks systems in the world. Our state parks give every Oregon family the right to relax on 360 miles of beaches and to enjoy 500 miles of trails, 19 protected scenic rivers, 221 scenic, recreational and historic areas from Willowa Lake to Smith Rock to the Columbia Gorge and along the Willamette Greenway and the Coast.

Oregonians love their parks and love to use them. With over 42 million visitors, our parks have the highest density of park visitors per acres in the country. While Oregonians often associate state parks with campgrounds, only 20 percent of our parks have camping facilities, and day-use visitors outnumber campers by a 20-to-1 margin.

At a time of economic prosperity, population growth, increasing demands for recreation, growing emphasis on tourism, and

recognition that quality of life is a key to economic development, it seems terribly shortsighted to downsize Oregon's parks. We shouldn't be closing parks; we should be adding parks.

Then why aren't we?

This is not a new problem, and it won't be solved by a quick fix to keep parks open until after the November election. The parks commission lost its historic source of funding, the gas tax, in 1980. By 1988 a

statewide committee found there was "trouble in paradise" and urged Oregon to invest \$203 million in its parks and provide stable funding.

State government has failed to act and taxpayers now provide just \$2.6 million annually, or 8 percent of our budget. This is about 7 cents from every \$100 of state income taxes, or less than \$1 per Oregonian per year.

For the past six years, the department has taken heroic measures to keep parks open, including increasing user fees until they are among the highest in the nation, using 11,000 volunteers (as well as inmate crews), adopting businesslike practices and raising funds from the private sector through a foundation. But these steps and others can't overcome the almost total withdrawal of government support at a time of growing demand for services. Unless adequate state funding is restored, there will be more closure announcements.

So is Oregon, the state that dedicated its beaches to the public, acquired magnificent parks during the depression, adopted the nation's toughest land-use laws, saved its scenic rivers and once proudly boasted that it led the nation in livability, now going to be the state with "closed" and "for sale" signs on its parks? Is this the end of what Governor Tom McCall called the *Oregon Story*?

Not if Oregonians will deliver the correct message to our government leaders: spending on parks is a bargain; it's good for the economy; and it's an investment in quality of life for all of us:

- State parks are a bargain for taxpayers. Supporting parks is a matter of government priorities, not lack of government resources. The dollars required to maintain parks are of a totally different magnitude than the funding needs for corrections, education, health care and transportation. We can afford a quality parks system without jeopardizing major state programs.

- Parks are the cornerstone of Oregon's tourism industry and a key factor in economic development. Brochures featuring photos of parks are used by state agencies to attract tourists and new business. State parks are Oregon's largest tourist attraction. Park visitors spend approximately \$550 million annually, and bolster the economy of communities hit by the decline of resource industries. If state policy is to seek "clean" industry to move to Oregon and tourists to visit, but not to support parks, we will harm the very quality of life that attracts these businesses and tourists. →

"State government has failed to act and taxpayers now provide just \$2.6 million annually, or 8 percent of our budget. This is about 7 cents from every \$100 of state income taxes, or less than \$1 per Oregonian per year."



Bonsai in the Park

Members of the Bay Area Bonsai Society brought plants and demonstration materials to the Garden House on Saturday, February 10. The theme, naturally enough, was *Bonsai in the Park*. The day was beautiful and the visitors appreciative of the very special plants. The exhibit ran from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. *This has become an annual event in February and in the future will be scheduled with Charleston Crab Feed on the third Saturday of February.*

Special thanks to the Friends of Shore Acres who provided free coffee and cookies to visitors and to the many members of the Bay Area Bonsai Society who took the time to groom and transport their plants, set up displays and demonstrate bonsai techniques for park visitors. Those deserving special mention include: Dick Van Natta who tirelessly supports almost every function and the following members of the Bay Area Bonsai Society—George and Eva Ahuna, James Dobkins, Catharine Greiner, Uschi Langley, Beverly Legge, Bob and Betty Renner, Oscar Segura and Lois Strong. ☘

REPOTTING WATER LILIES

"Special thanks to Jim Purcell of Jim's Water Gardening and George and Loretta Downs of Downs By the Pond for their generous donation of plant materials, time, and labor in repotting our water lilies—a giant task and one that viewers of our pond will have reason to appreciate and applaud."

George Guthrie



Repotting water lilies is hard work!

● The main reason to support parks goes beyond economic factors. It is a selfish one; it is why most of us live here. Oregon is a special place that benefits from a long nonpartisan tradition of allocating adequate funds to acquire and preserve scenic places and natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment of its citizens. We need to revive this tradition, which has been ignored for more than two decades even though it is written into our laws as state policy.

State parks preserve the best of Oregon. They are democratic; they are open to everyone. At a time of widening income disparity among our citizens, parks are a rare example of government spending that benefits all of us.

Our parks system has been one of Oregon's major successes. We should keep it that way.

"State parks are a bargain for taxpayers. Supporting parks is a matter of government priorities, not lack of government resources."

bureaucracies, special interests and lobbyists do their dance in Salem every two years, parks get overlooked. We need to change this.

Oregonians who love parks need to be their own lobbyists and advocates and take the message to government officials, legislators and candidates in this campaign year that Oregon can afford stable funding for parks.

How do we do this?

When elephants dance, the grass gets trampled. The Parks Department is a small agency with a tiny budget by government standards. When legislators,

I doubt if our children and grandchildren will look back in 20 years and praise us for state-of-the-art highway ramps and prison cells. And I doubt if this generation wants to be remembered for leaving the lottery, video poker and casinos as its legacy.

But if we can keep our existing parks open and well-maintained, acquire selected new park areas, save additional recreational and natural areas from development, and provide more beach and river access, I believe those who follow us will be grateful.

Portland lawyer Brian Booth is chair of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, 1115 Commercial St., N.E., Salem 97310; fax 1-503-378-8936; e-mail oprd.commission@state.or.us.

(Printed in *Opinion & Commentary*, The Oregonian, Tuesday, July 30, 1996)



Rhododendron Sunday ♦ A Mother's Day Tradition



"Charles of Charleston," a member of Bay Area Artists Association (BAAA), demonstrates his artistic talent.



In the Garden House, Dick Van Natta, Helen Shefstad, Sonny Shefstad, and Cappy Klein serve the traditional cookies, coffee, and punch.



Fred Knapp of *Heddles and Treadles Weavers and Spinners* shows onlookers his considerable skills.



George Guthrie, Shore Acres' Head Gardener, shares his rhododendron and gardening expertise with Ethel Ferris.

Mother's Day was a glorious day and the rhodies and azaleas were beautiful at Shore Acres Gardens.

While members of the Bay Area Artists Association *painted the garden*, members of Heddles and Treadles Weavers and Spinners demonstrated their skills.

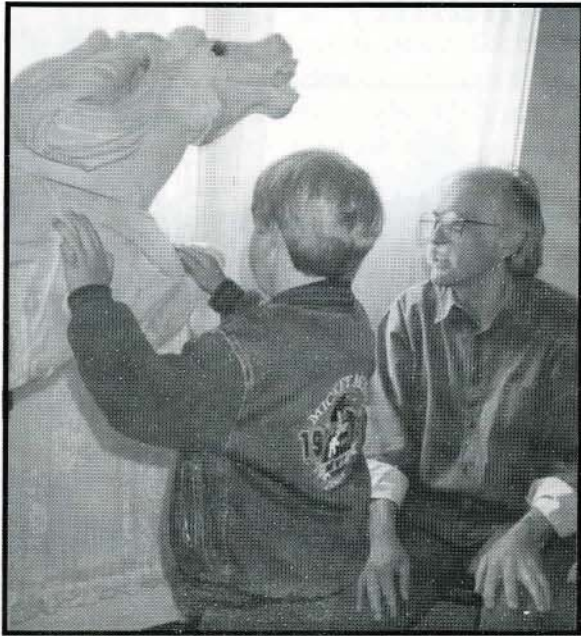
George Guthrie, Head Gardener of Shore Acres, shared his wit and wisdom, and *his extensive knowledge of rhodies and azaleas* with the many visitors.

The Garden House was full of displays and Friends of Shore Acres volunteers served up the traditional cookies, coffee and punch.

A big thanks to all who made the day such a success! ❀

*Coming September 21
Dahlia Daze & Fall Walk
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

Rose Sunday ♦ A Father's Day Tradition



Adam Reed (Bridgham's grandson) sands the carousel pony under the direction of wood carver Ken Means.

Father's Day was another beautiful day and visitors enjoyed the roses in the gardens, and the wood carvings and video program in the Garden House.

Out in the garden, George Guthrie, Head Gardener of Shore Acres, and Jay Dow of the South Western Oregon Rose Society shared their knowledge of roses and gardening with visitors.

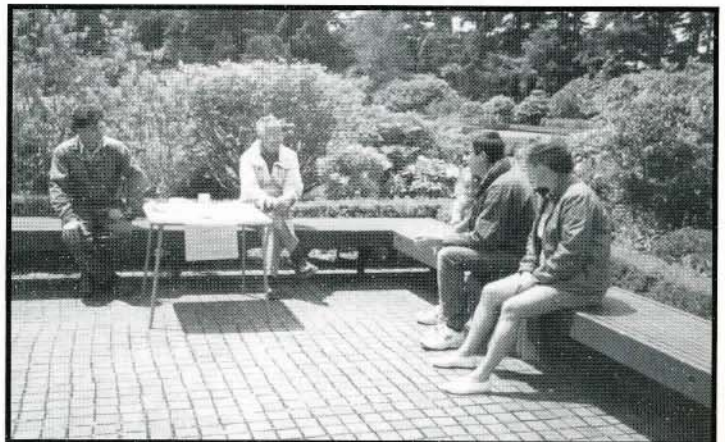
In the Garden House, Ken Means of South Coast Wood Carvers, worked on his carousel ponies and displayed many of his beautiful wood carvings. Visitors watched the Friends' new video "Gardens Above the Waves" and Friends of Shore Acres volunteers Dick Van Natta and Carl Siminow served cookies, coffee, and punch.

A big thanks to everyone who helped! ❀

*Coming October 5
Orchids in the Park
Pacific Orchid Society
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.*



Wood carver Ken Means tells visitors about his new carousel ponies.



George Guthrie and Jay Dow (nearest table) answer rose and garden questions.



Visitors watch "Gardens Above the Waves" in the Garden House on Rose Sunday.

If a state park were your home . . . it's worth quite a bit to you and the community . . .

The money you spend for services, furnishings and repairs to your home creates jobs for others in your community.

The economic impact of state parks is significant especially for rural communities. Annual expenditures by state park visitors contribute more than **\$549 million** to local economies.

Visitors purchase gasoline, meals, lodging, and groceries when they visit state parks.

Some values for your home are hard to measure—it's a special place where you feel secure and comfortable and can retreat from the outside world.

State parks protect Oregon's ocean shores, scenic waterways, unique ecosystems, wildlife sanctuaries, some of the state's most outstanding scenery, and historic sites. It's hard to put a dollar value on all that, but most people agree that these resources are very important to Oregon's quality of life.

. . . you have lots of friends and visitors . . .

Most of your friends and relatives just visit for the day, but a good number spend the night, too, and more are coming.

Oregon's state parks are among the busiest in the nation with 39 million day-use visits and 2 million campers annually. Oregon places among the top 10 in visitation compared to other states. While Oregon ranks so high in use, it ranks 30th in acreage. The ratio of **465 visitors per acre** is far above the national average and by far the highest among the contiguous Western states.

The bathroom is one of the most expensive parts of your home to maintain or replace. The majority of the department's buildings are restrooms and shower buildings. Supposing that only half the people visiting state park day-use areas use the bathroom, on an average summer Sunday, that's 1,320 flushes of the toilets at Ecola, 1,000 flushes at Sunset Bay, 3,000 at Valley of the Rogue and 2,500 at Wallowa Lake.

. . . utility bills are mounting . . .

Your water, sewer, electricity, heat and garbage bills have increased significantly.

In many locations, state parks are able to connect to municipal water and sewer systems. These parks face increasing charges like everyone else. Statewide, the department spent **\$1.33 million** for utility and garbage services last year – an 8% increase from the previous years.

For example, the garbage bill alone for Harris Beach State Park's 156-site campground and small day-use area last year each month averaged \$1,580.

Many parks in remote locations must operate their own water and sewer systems. Several of these systems are functioning above their capacity and well beyond their life expectancy. They will cost millions to upgrade or replace.

Despite an active recycling effort and use of garbage compactors to reduce volume and costs, the department pays \$545,000 annually to haul away visitors' garbage.



Shore Acres State Park is a valuable resource of the Oregon's south coast.

. . . the roof leaks, the plumbing's shot, and there's dry rot in the walls . . .

If your home was like the average state park building, it would be at least 30-40 years old. Homeowners know that repairs become more necessary and more expensive as time goes by. You have deferred major repair projects because you don't have the money.

In the case of the park system, delaying repairs and replacement of major buildings, roads, and water, sewer and irrigation systems has created a **\$70 million backlog**.

Many people are surprised that the department has a major funding problem because staff and volunteers work hard to keep parks looking good.

. . . and you don't have the money to pay the bills! →

Runallacta: Andean Panpipes fill the park with lively music

♫ Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert attracts large crowd

Perfect. That's the kind of day it was at Shore Acres on July 19. The sun shone and the temperature was not too hot, not too cold—just perfect. In that setting, the annual garden concert sponsored by the Oregon Coast Music Festival was an outstanding success. Five young men from Otavalo, Ecuador performed a wide variety of music including Bolivian and Peruvian songs. The crowd responded enthusiastically and gave a standing ovation when the concert ended.

Friends of Shore Acres volunteers parked cars and sold fresh raspberry and chocolate sundaes and apple juice. We ran out of everything except cars! A big thanks goes to everyone who helped: Vera Fusano, Carl Siminow, Bob Emmett, Robynn Reed, Adam Reed, George Guthrie, Roger Collins, Bob Renner, Gregg Nelson, Dick Van Natta, David Bridgham, Craig Ward, and Cranson Fosburg. Special thanks goes to Charlie Kocher and Gerry Livingston for preparing the raspberries and Bob Emmett for picking up the ice cream. ♫

REMINDER

You are cordially invited to a
"Celebration Potluck Dessert and Annual Meeting"
of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.
Tuesday, September 17, 1996
Bureau of Land Management Conference Room
North Bend - 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a dessert of your choice.

Friends will provide coffee, punch and table service.

PROGRAM

Dessert First!

President's Welcome - Dick Van Natta

Video - "Gardens Above the Waves"

Annual Report & Recognition Awards - David Bridgham

Holiday Lights & Open House - David & Shirley Bridgham

President-Elect's Message - Bob Renner

Election of Board of Directors

You are also welcome to attend the board meeting that immediately follows the annual meeting.



Please let us know you are coming!

Call 756-5401 and leave a message.

If a state park were your home...

(continued from page 10)

Will you be able to afford repairs?

How will you handle more visitors?

Current funding no longer is enough to pay for day-to-day operations of state parks. Nothing is left for major maintenance, improvements or expansions. Without more funds, park managers cannot maintain a quality park system.

Current department budgets don't

provide enough funding to take care of all the needs because:

- The department receives no gas tax funds.
- From \$100 in state income taxes, only seven cents goes to state parks, providing less than 10% of our total income.
- The department relies heavily on fees from campgrounds, day-use parks and recreational vehicle licenses. These fees have increased in recent years; the public generally opposes further increases.
- Federal funding has dropped to less than 4% of our budget.

We need your help.

We don't know what the best solution is to our funding problem. But we know it will take the work of many people who are concerned about the future of state parks and Oregon's quality of life. If you have specific ideas or suggestions to help, please contact the park manager in your area.

In Southwestern Oregon Area 4, contact Area Manager Andy LaTomme or Assistant Area Manager, Larry Becker, at the Sunset Bay Office (541) 888-8867.



ROTARY FINISHES POWER PROJECT AT SHORE ACRES

by Charlie Kocher, Board Member (also Editor of *Rotary Reminders* Sept. 1996)

There's a new "Power House" at Shore Acres State Park thanks to a community project of the Coos Bay/North Bend Rotary Club.

The Power House shelters the electric supply for the annual Holiday Lights display – providing cover for both the main breakers and the volunteers who throw the switch, often in wet weather.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation



Rotarian Don Thompson

Department has issued a formal thank you to the club for the project.

Rotarians pitching in on the project were Don Thompson, Al Henrickson, Bob Scully, Mike



Rotarian Bob Scully

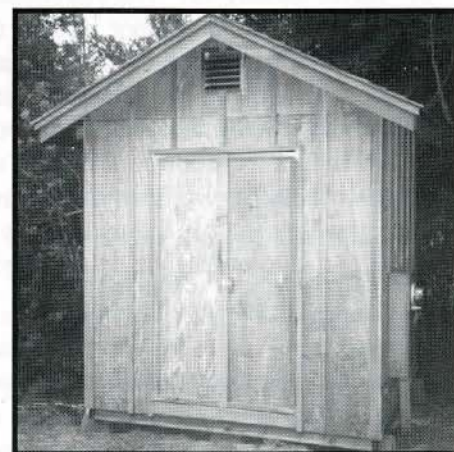
Gillespie, Wade Wakefield, and Ray Ronk, whose Lumbermen's outlet provided materials to the Friends at cost.



Rotarian Al Henrickson

Rotary Reminders believes Dave Bridgham was also in on the work. He's known as the Friends of Shore Acres volunteer most likely to be throwing the switch in the rain. ■

Note from S. Bridgham: We hope



New electrical panels and breakers will be installed inside the Power House by Kyle Electric.

this wonderful new "house" will help put an end to power problems we have experienced during past holiday lights seasons. **A huge thanks goes to the Rotarians who gave their time and energy to make the project happen!**

Fascination with fuchsias

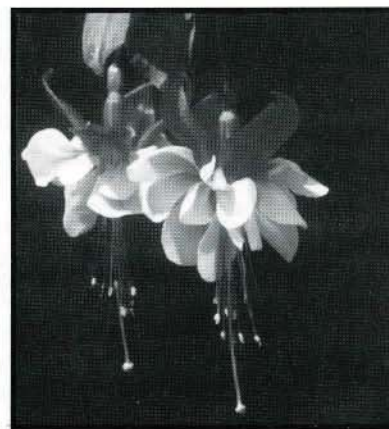
by Shirley Bridgham

Bob Renner reports a wonderful day at Shore Acres on Sunday, August 11. "The weather was spectacular and we had lots of visitors," he said.

The Garden House was filled with beautiful fuchsia plants from the garden of Ellie Joyce, Coos Bay. Bob and his wife Betty, along with Mary Mainard and Lou Wear represented the local fuchsia society in answering visitors' questions.

Friends volunteers Shirley Champagne and Carl Siminow served cookies, punch, and coffee.

A big thanks to everyone who made the day a super success. ❀



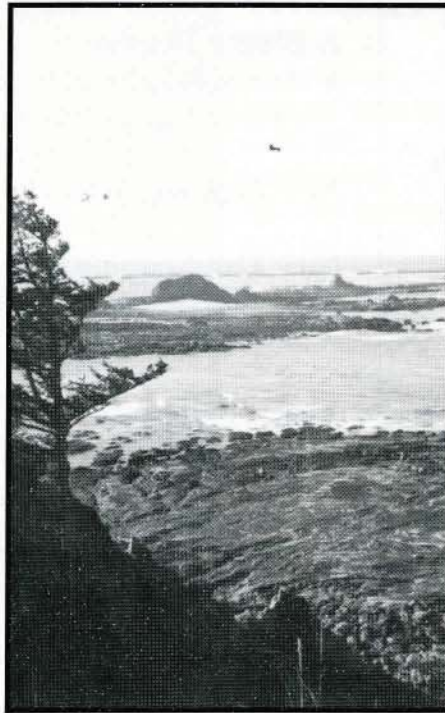
10 WAYS TO ENJOY THE HIDDEN BEAUTY OF CAPE ARAGO

by Charlie Kocher

Because it's off the well-toured path of Highway 101, and devoid of commercial developments, Cape Arago is often called the hidden treasure of the Oregon Coast. Yet even those who discover the treasure miss some of the real gems of this crown jewel.

Finding the cape for the first time presents the obvious: Smell the roses of Shore Acres, wonder at the antics of barking sea lions on Simpson Reef, enjoy the calm of Sunset Beach and watch the whales from the end of the cape. If you've tired of these routines, try hunting for some of these extra magic moments:

- ① The best place for a summer weenie roast is the beach of South Cove. Sir Frances Drake hid from the summer winds here in 1579, and you can do the same. Park in the last spaces on the loop in Cape Arago State Park, and hike down a quarter-mile mostly-paved trail to the beach.
- ② A small remnant of modern history is hidden in the woods above Shore Acres State Park. Head up a path across the road and south of the Shore Acres entrance and you'll find the shell of a World War II outpost, where sentries watched for offshore threats. Hike further up that hill and you'll find a rarely-used picnic table with an eagle's eye view of Simpson Reef.
- ③ There might not be much in the way of oceanside dining at restaurants in Coos County, but there are picnic tables within the spray of the waves on the north edge of Cape Arago State Park. Wander to the right from the main parking area. It's open seating, so you might share space with



Cape Arago view of Shell Island
gulls and rabbits.

- ④ Some summer months on a minus tide, forego the clam digging expedition and head for Sunset Bay. The tide pools on the north end of the beach are cradled in the eroded upthrusts of geologic history. The magic of a tide pool is not just the initial glance; get down close and watch for a few moments. The critters who were scared into hiding by your shadow will crawl back soon.
- ⑤ If you don't like the urban-style camping of Sunset Bay State Park and Bastendorff Beach County Park, there is an alternative hidden in the woods of Cape Arago State Park. A group camp, a quarter mile from the parking lot, is available by permit. It doesn't offer a view, but you can hear the surf as you fall asleep.
- ⑥ Want to see a different side of the former Simpson Estate? Park at
- ⑦ And once you're into Shore Acres, don't forget to go beyond the garden. Go down to Simpson Beach and do two things: 1) Imagine timber baron Louis Simpson throwing full-service dinner parties down on the beach. 2) Take a close look at the "sand" on the beach. Unlike the fine silica sands of the dunes, it's mostly ground up bits of sea shells—and the mix changes at different times of the year.
- ⑧ Beyond Simpson Cove—up the hill to the south—is another pleasant hike through coastal forest. The joy here is to take along a kite. The trail breaks out onto a level bench that is high above the waves and extends out beyond the appetite of kite-eating trees.
- ⑨ Need a quiet moment away from the crowds at Sunset Bay on a sunny day? Wander back into the group picnic area and hug the hill on the south. You'll find a monument to one of Forbes' follies—the launching site of a cross-country balloon trip.
- ⑩ Does anyone dip smelt anymore? There's a small cove between Bastendorff Beach and Lighthouse Beach where the smelt run in the late spring. Ask the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for details like seasons and limits, and then plan a fish fry. ■

the viewpoint north of the Shore Acres entrance — where you can see the Cape Arago Lighthouse — and hike on the Coast Trail through a little bit of rain forest into Shore Acres. You'll pass by the moss covered gate posts of the original entrance to the Estate.



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.**



Host teams should call Bonnie Koreiva,
267-4037 or Shirley Bridgham, 756-5401.

1996

A Bigger Display

- At least 175,000 lights, maybe more! *We are replacing 50,000 lights and adding 25,000 more lights.*

New Lighted Memorial Fountain in the formal garden.

New Landscaping Lights

- New permanent garden 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
- Life-size *leaping* Orca whale
- Life-size *spouting* Gray whale
- Larger-than-life flowers (tulip, rhododendron, rose, and dahlia)
- Dungeness crab
- Sea star
- Sea urchin
- Sea anemone
- Sea horse
- Octopus
- Kelp



Cooky Baking Dates - Sept. 14 (NBHS), 21 (MHS), Oct. 5 (MHS), and 12 (NBHS) - For more information, call Ella Mae Stuart at 756-9539.

Light Stringing & House Decorating - Oct. 26-27 (unpacking, labeling, preliminary work); Nov. 2-3; 9,10,11 (Veterans' Day); 16-17; 22-23; Some light stringing and house decorating may be done during the week if we have volunteers available to work.

Volunteers will be notified of changes by mail or phone.

For the latest information, please call Co-chair Shirley and David Bridgham, 756-5401. ☆

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS.

Because the parking fee at Shore Acres will be in place, you will receive complimentary parking permits for the Holiday Lights display, based on your level of support. We are working out the details as we go to press with this *Journal*.



Thanks, New and Renewing 1996 Members

Memberships received March 1 - August 27, 1996

If you paid your dues prior to March 1, you were listed in the Winter Journal.

Benefactor

Mr. & Mrs. John Stephens, *Bandon*

Sponsor

Ted & Ann Collins, *North Bend*
Wilbur & Judy Jensen, *Coos Bay*
North Bend Garden Club

Patron

Helen Doving, *Coos Bay*
Bernice & Bert Garrick, *Coos Bay*
Penny Schlueter, *Pleasant Hill*
Mike & Barbara Taylor, *North Bend*

Family

Ken & Imogene Chester, *Coos Bay*
James & Rita Crooker, *Coos Bay*
Wanda & Nicky Hanks, *Coos Bay*
Harry & Olive Loughheed, *North Bend*
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rempelos, *North Bend*
Robert & Margaret Rickles, *Molalla*
Dave & Kaarina Scolari, *Coquille*
John & Sally Shipstad, *Coos Bay*
Don & Carol Todd, *Coos Bay*

Individual

Phillipa Benson, *Coquille*
Carol J. Knapp, *Coos Bay*
Phyllis K. Love, *Coos Bay*
Genii Robeson, *Coos Bay*
Crystal Shoji, *Coos Bay*

Membership renewal each year is January 1.

Your mailing label shows a category ending with a "6" if you are current until Dec. 31, 1996.

• New memberships and renewed memberships received after Sept. 1, 1996, will be current until Dec. 31, 1997.

• Remember, your membership entitles you to a 10% discount in the Information & Gift Center.

• To become a member or to renew your membership, please send this form along with your payment to Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

• For more information, call 756-5401.

• Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. is a private non-profit organization with tax-exempt status. ■

New Access to Greenhouse



Thomas Lendyl, seasonal park aide at Shore Acres, recently completed a new ADA-approved entrance to the Garden's Greenhouse. Shore Acres' visitors enjoy visiting the Greenhouse to see the beautiful exotic plants. Thomas has also rebuilt the bridge across the Oriental pond. He did a wonderful job on both projects! ❁

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift/Memorial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sustaining | |

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

☐ Please contact me/us to help with general event activities.

☐ Please contact me/us to help with Holiday Lights.

CHECK IF YOU WANT THIS MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT.

- ☐ Please send coupon for \$5 discount on 1997 annual parking pass (admits you to 24 Oregon State Parks).

1997 annual parking passes will be available in late November.



Shore Acres Gardens - "Gardens Above the Waves"

Shirley Bridgham

Celebration Potluck Dessert * Tues., Sept. 17

Dahlia Daze & Fall Walk * Sat., Sept. 21

Orchids in the Park * Sat., Oct. 5

10th annual Holiday Lights & Open House at Shore Acres

Thurs., Nov. 28 - Wed., Jan. 1

*** 175,000 Lights ***

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.
P. O. Box 1172
Coos Bay, OR 97420

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