



FRIENDS OF  
SHORE ACRES

©

Volume 6, no. 2

Quarterly Journal - Winter 1993

One dollar

## Visitors' Comments

*Gets better every year,  
utterly fantastic –  
Sutherlin, OR*

*Splendid! –  
New Zealand*

*Exquisite – with  
remarkable taste! –  
Portland, OR*

*A twinkling miracle –  
San Diego, CA*

*Worth the trip down –  
Anchorage, AK*

*Merveilleux !!! –  
St. Bedit, France*

*Very enchanting, what  
a blessing! –  
Napa, CA*

*A truly beautiful way  
to share Christmas –  
Orem, UT*

*We came specifically  
to see the lights!  
Great! –  
Klamath Falls, OR*

*It's beautiful ...  
breathtaking –  
Ridgefield, WA*

*None better –  
Portland, OR*

## If you light it, they will come...

by Al Aslakson, Friends' Vice President

**A**nd come they did, to enjoy the sixth annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres Gardens.

More than 50,000 visitors from 31 countries, 43 states, 5 Canadian provinces and 185 Oregon towns and cities came. All but four of Oregon's counties were represented by those who signed the guest books.

The 1992 Holiday Lights gave us several milestones. We topped 100,000 lights in the gardens. We had our first registered visitors from Singapore, Bulgaria and Croatia, among other places. The new Friends Gift and Information Center opened, and proved to be a major attraction for our visitors. More permanent lighting fixtures were installed, bringing us closer to our goal of year-round nightscaping of the gardens. We strung lavender lights on some of the shrubs, causing about as much positive comment as anything we did. And then there was the weather.

The night before opening day, a major winter storm raked the gardens with high winds and heavy rains. All of the decorated Christmas trees assumed new variations on vertical, and hundreds of light strings were literally blown out of their sockets. Worst of all, the electricity was out! Volunteers and park staff worked through the day to get the trees upright and the lights plugged in, but as 4 pm - our opening time - approached, there was still no electricity. That meant no lights, no hot cider, no show. Not to worry. At ten minutes after four, the power came on. Most of the lights did too, and the cider started cooking.

We didn't set a record for the number of visitors this year, but everything is relative. Our worst night for visitors this year was bigger than our best night for visitors the first year we were open, just six years ago. Even though the total number of people who passed through the garden was down by about 10,000, the donations they left were about the same as last year.

(continued page 3)



100,000 lights drew 50,000 visitors from 31 countries, 43 states, 5 Canadian provinces and 185 Oregon towns and cities.



#### FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC.

Quarterly Journal published  
autumn, winter, spring, summer

**Editor** - Shirley Bridgham

**Photographers** - Luis Velasquez  
Shirley Bridgham

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## Synergism —

The total is greater than the sum of its parts.

by Connie Eslinger, President

**A**s I stood back and admired the lights display, the new gift shop, and the expanded lightscaping, I marveled at the beauty, the talent, the perseverance, the love, and the magic that is Shore Acres and the *Friends of Shore Acres*.

There were days during set-up that I was sure none of it would be done on time. How did it get done? With the help of the community, organizations, business, volunteers and friends — a perfect example of the theory of synergism in action.

This synergism effect is not limited to the lights display. It is true of every project the *Friends* set out to do and it is growing! You can feel the energy and excitement surrounding any conversation about Shore Acres and the *Friends*.

We are now looking forward to putting that energy to use in our other many projects. Thanks to all of you for being part of our synergism. ❄

*Connie*

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## Thanks !

We can't thank everyone enough for all the wonderful help we get for *Holiday Lights and Open House*. **We could not do it without you!**

Shirley and David Bridgham





## Lights take community support

### 1992 Lights Pledges

Abel & Swank Ins. Managers  
 Bechtold & Laird P.C. Attorneys at Law  
 Benetti's Italian Restaurant  
 Best Western Holiday Motel  
 Bryan, Bill & Elaine  
 Burles Family  
 Canned Foods Grocery Outlet  
 Captain John's Motel  
 Central Coast Kirby  
 Century 21 Coos Realty, Patty Sweet  
 Cheryn's Seafoods  
 Cone 9 Cookware & Espresso Bar,  
 Karen Blew & Staff  
 Coos Bay McDonald's  
 Coos Head Builders, Tom Graham  
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 Engles Furniture, Inc.  
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 Jim & Marilyn Dow  
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 Thomas & Son Distributors  
 Ticor Title Insurance Co  
 Timmons, Steve  
 Townsend, Jack & Emma  
 Tri-County Plumbing Co.Inc.  
 Upper Room Chalet B&B,  
 Carl & Barbara Solomon  
 Vigue, Dick & Jan  
 Weyerhaeuser  
 W.J. Conrad Lumber Co.,Inc.  
 Zippodt, Charles & Marilyn

## If you light it ...

(continued from front page)

And perhaps most enlightening and encouraging is the fact that virtually everybody who visited the gardens also got inside our new Gift and Information Center. Not all at the same time, of course, though



*Shore Acres sparkles in December.*

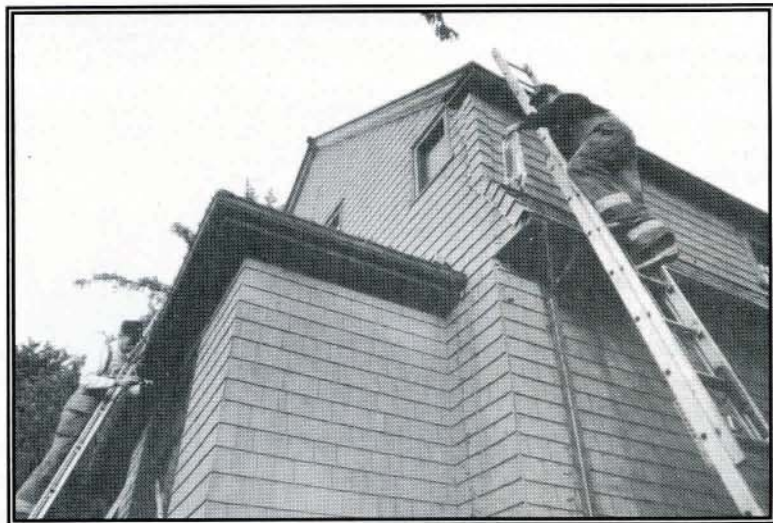
sometimes it seemed like it. GaIC sales set several new records.

Hundreds of volunteers led by Shirley and David Bridgham put in thousands of hours to string over 100,000 lights, to decorate the garden house, to prepare refreshments, and to host our visitors. Each and every one of you make up the *We* in this account, and each and every one of you deserve a special pat on the back.

*But lest we lose perspective...*

On Christmas night, a small boy, holding tightly onto grandma's hand, was standing in the middle of a hundred thousand lights and several thousand people. And as he surveyed all that *we* had done, he looked above the lights and above the trees to the clear skies above and spotted just one light. "Look, Grandma!" he said. "The Christmas star! The Real One!" No matter what we do to gussy them up for the holidays, the gardens themselves and their setting are still the main attraction. *And that's why, when we light them, they do come.* ❄

## Up on the roof top



*Lt. Kelly Niles and Lt. Steve Schneiderman, CB Fire Department*



**Thanks to all sponsors  
and volunteers**

**Businesses**  
Community service clubs  
Cooky Bakers  
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Garden House Decorators  
Garden House Hosts  
Garden Lights Stringers  
Gift & Information Center Builders  
Gift & Information Center Hosts  
Government agencies  
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Sunset Bay Park District staff

**Cooky Bakers**

Sharon Fortune, Chair  
Iva Adams  
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Janet Carr  
Linda Comstock  
Dolores Crawford  
Kathy Cunningham  
Doris Emmett  
Alberta Esch  
Florrie Fox  
Vera Fusano  
Pearl Groves  
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Carol Miller  
Darlene Prowell  
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Safeway, North Bend  
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Audrey Scheel  
Schultz Family  
Helen Shefstad  
Charlotte Skinner  
Ella Mae Stuart  
Diane Trujillo  
Jean Weaver  
Marty Wheeler & Dan Wheeler

**Garden House Decorators**

Connie Eslinger, Ann Koppy -  
Co-chair  
Helen Barton  
Checkerberry's  
Coos County Historical Society  
Museum  
Sally Crisp  
Jean Donason  
Ariann Eslinger  
Gloria & Lloyd Geraths  
Katie Griffith  
Kathy Grossman  
Shirley Hammar  
House of Fabric  
KatyDid Gifts  
KayLee Kocher  
Jonnie Pape  
P.E.O. FM Chapter  
Julie Reed  
Ginger Sawyer  
Julie Schaefer  
Schaefer's Custom Bouquets  
Tricia & John Shreck

## Volunteers baked 30,000 cookies



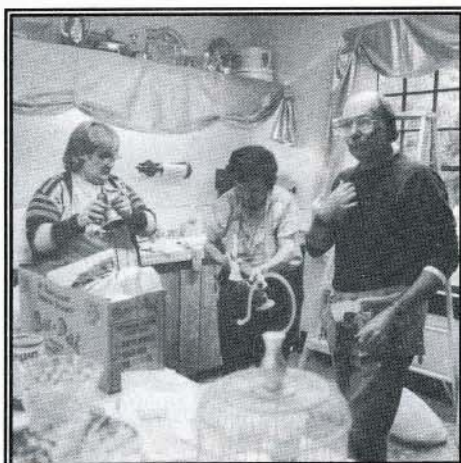
*Tired by happy cooky bakers led by Sharon Fortune (left) at North Bend High School.*



*Marty Wheeler and Sharon Fortune*



*Does this hedge ever end?*



*Ann Koppy, Helen Barton, Carl Siminow*



*Tom Kyle volunteers after hours.*



**House Decorators**

Carl Siminow  
Rhonda Starelli  
Barbara Streeter  
The House of Myrtlewood  
Dick & Jerri Van Natta  
Jan Wilson

**Holiday Volunteers**

Bryan Abel  
Jean Abel  
Abel & Swank Insurance Managers  
Tony & Paige Adams  
Pearl Affholter  
Connie Aimone  
Albertson's  
Donna & Bob Algrim  
Sam Aley  
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Beth Andersson  
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Barbara Bauder  
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Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Bay Area Community Band  
Bay Area Four Square Church  
Bay Area Rotary  
Bay Area Womyn's Terrorist & Tea  
Drumming Society  
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Reese & Carol Bender  
Don Bennett  
Philippa Benson  
Sheri Bichlmeier  
Brooke Billings  
Doreen Binder  
Marvin Blenz  
Kent & Cynthia Blumberg  
Walt & Margaret Bock  
Cindy & Ron Boe  
James Bonman  
Joe Borsky  
Opal Borsky  
Sandy & Dick Bowman  
Ron Bracken  
Connie Jean, Joe, Carrie,  
& Kelly Bradley  
Bill Breitmeyer  
David & Shirley Bridgman  
Carla Brooks  
Brownie Troop #416, North Bend  
Esther Buckingham

## The Time Has Come, the Walrus Said ...

by Gregg Nelson

It's again time to dig out the rubber boots, put on the gloves, and slosh around in the muck and mire. It's been a year since the BLM joined with the Friends of Shore Acres to drain and clean the Oriental Pond at Shore Acres State Park. For those of you who have never had the pleasure — and this year, with the new drain, it will almost be a pleasure — I'll give you a little background, and a run-down of this year's event, scheduled for **Saturday, April 3**, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

In 1989, the Friends of Shore Acres decided to help state park personnel clean out the pond, which gets filled with leaves and slime throughout the year. Several BLMers volunteered to help. The next year more BLM families helped, and by the third year we had gotten the support from management to make it a *BLM thing*. Armed with fire hoses, trash pumps, brooms and squeegees, we annually drain and clean the pond prior to the summer onslaught of locals and tourists.

Last year was a real chore, ending with a back-breaking bucket brigade to remove the final foot of pond scum, due to an inadequate drain. But when we were done with the cleaning, several more BLMers came in to replace the drain. The days of the never-ending buckets of muck are (hopefully!) gone forever.

This will be the year of the *brush and flush*. Once the new drain is opened, we should be able to brush the scum from the sides of the pond, and wash it down the drain with our fire hoses. The Friends of Shore Acres are planning to open up the garden house and provide snacks and refreshments for all pond cleaners. So tell your friends and family, and mark your calendars.

For further information, call Chris Hamilton or me at BLM, 765-0100. ☺

## Gift and Information Center News

by Tony Mason

The holidays were very happy for us at the Center. Not only did we have the best sales month on record, thousands of people could get inside our new, warmer building. A big thank you goes to everyone who worked extra hard to get this great building ready for us to use in time for the holiday lights. Another thank you goes to all the community volunteers who put in lots of hours working in the Center greeting visitors and taking care of business. And last, but not least, thanks to our park hosts Margie and Walter Bock and Virginia and Louie Thiring. You folks not only made the running of the Center possible, you helped make the event go a lot smoother.

What's ahead? We hope to finish the display cabinets and counter space in time for our Grand Opening, April 3rd ... Add new items to our selection ... And make our Gift and Information Center the finest co-op store in the state of Oregon.

Our holiday *name the gift shop* contest drew 194 separate suggestions. No decision as yet, but we'll let you know if and when there's a change.

Don't forget that Shore Acres 50th anniversary was December 10th. The Center will continue to carry anniversary items throughout the summer. Also, "I've Seen The Lights" Irish coffee mugs are still available to members and holiday lights volunteers.

Did you know crocus means saffron in Greek? Saffron, from the saffron crocus, is used as a spice in food and was used by the ladies in the court of Henry I of England to dye their hair. That's just one spring flower tidbit taken from the children's book, *The Flower Alphabet Book*, written by Jerry Pallota and wonderfully illustrated by Leslie Evans. Look for it when you visit the Center this spring. See you in April ...

Tony



#### Holiday Volunteers

Robert Buckley  
Diane Bunch  
Ken Burdett  
Bureau of Land Management  
Patrick & Mary Burke  
Scott Bushmaker  
Karen Campbell  
Camp Fire Boys & Girls  
Chuck Carncross  
Angie Carpenter  
Anna Carder  
Jean Carter  
Georganna Casey  
Sherry Celentano  
Patrick & Patricia Chard  
Charleston Community Church  
Charleston Information Center  
Carol Chesley  
Dennis Chesselet  
Carol & Steve Clayburn  
Terry Clinton  
Donna & Jeff Cochran  
Curtis Cole  
Mickie J. Cole  
Patty & Mark S. Cole  
Coldwell Banker, Justrom & Stromme  
Bruce Colgrove  
Gary Combs  
Wallace Cook  
Becky & Roy Cooper  
Coos Bay North Bend Rotary  
Coos Bay North Bend Water Board  
Coos Bay United Methodist Church  
Coos Bay Volunteer Firemen  
Coos Bay Yacht Club  
Coos Cooperative Library Service  
Coos County Parks  
Coos County Forestry  
Coos Head Builders  
Jackie & Joe Cortez  
CPO Coast Guard North Bend Chapter  
Joan & Michael Crabtree  
Karen & Peter Crosby  
Larry Crose  
Mona Crucitti  
Charlene, Peggy Culver  
Julie Cummings  
Michael P. Cummings  
Reed Cumpston  
Ken Cunningham  
John & Sharren Dalke  
Nathan Damewood  
Mary Datwyler  
Barbara Davey  
Lauran Davidson  
Margaret & Scott Davidson  
Nancy Davidson  
Loren Davis  
Steven Davis  
Verna Day  
Vivien Day  
Cory Dazey  
Nona Demaray  
Edith Dietz  
Johanna Dillard  
Lissa Dishner  
Barbara Dorrill  
Jan & Harry Dolezal  
Jim Donnelly  
Tom, Nancy, Amie & Steve Dooley  
Lee Douthit  
Jay Dow  
Kathy, Billy, & Dustin Dwyer

## Tradition!

**H**oliday Lights at Shore Acres, which became a community tradition in 1987, has set some traditions of its own — one, the *planting* of the Christmas trees in the formal garden.

Every year Coos County Forestry provides the large Douglas fir trees. Every year, Professor Bill Lemoine and the Southwestern Oregon Community College forestry students cut and load the trees.

And every year, Fred Gonzales hauls them on a truck provided by Tom Graham at Coos Head Builders.

The field trip usually takes half a day and one trip to the park. But this past season, with nine 17' trees to haul, it took two round trips from Beaver Hill to Shore Acres. Helping with the project were Coos County Foresters Bob Laport and Lance Morgan; from SWOCC - Bill Lemoine, Steve Eggert, Rick Riley, Ron Yandel, Randy Becker, Rick Holloway, Michael P. Cummings, James Bonman, Nathan Damewood, Jim Walter, Doyce Rose, and Dr. Ben Fawver. ▲



17' Douglas Firs challenged volunteer foresters from Coos County Forestry and SWOCC.



Sails cover the Coos Bay Yacht Club tree.

**A**nother tradition — having organizations and businesses decorate the outdoor trees — saw the addition of three new groups. Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay Yacht Club, and U.S. Bank joined the ranks of *seasoned* tree decorators from Pacific Power, South Slough Estuarine Reserve, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, Southwestern Oregon Community College, and Friends of Shore Acres.

We thank all groups for their hard work and look forward to the creative ideas they come up with this year. It's quite a challenge to design ornaments and string lights that stand the weather test! *R*



**Holiday Volunteers**

Terri Eck  
 Frank Eckley  
 Sandy & Phil Edick  
 Norma & LaVerne Edwards  
 Steve Eggert  
 Fred & Sue Ehrman  
 Teresa Ekborg  
 Brett & Don Elbert  
 Kathy Elwell  
 Brianne Emerald  
 Bob Emmett  
 Mike Enyeart  
 Alberta Esch  
 Leslie Sheldon Esch  
 Mary Lou Fairchild  
 Family and Friends  
 Donna & Kelly Fawcett  
 Dr. Ben Fawver  
 Ethel & Kent Ferris  
 Craig & Shirley Finley  
 First Presbyterian Church Coos Bay  
 First Presbyterian Church North Bend  
 Laura & Michael Fisher  
 Chris & Donna Flammang  
 Rick Fossing  
 Greg Foster  
 Four on the Shore Barbershop Quartet  
 Florrie Fox  
 Sue Fox  
 Lillian Frame  
 Fred Meyer Coos Bay  
 Gail & Mike Freeman  
 Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.,  
 Mary & Charles Fullerton  
 Suzy & Martin Gallery  
 Ellen Garner  
 Gary Gatske  
 Paricia & Michael Gaul  
 Lorna Gayhart  
 Madlyn Geisert  
 General Telephone  
 Geno the Clown  
 Kathleen Gibbs  
 David & Lesli Gieselman  
 Marty Giles  
 Gold Coast Men's Barbershop Chorus  
 Bob Golden  
 Fred Gonzales  
 Roger & Cheri Goude  
 Debbie & Ralph Graham  
 Tom & Wanda Graham  
 Shirley Gray  
 Mike Graybill  
 Cindy Greaves  
 Jesse Greco  
 Kathleen & R.T. Green  
 Carol Greene  
 Victoria Grimes  
 Kathy Grossman  
 Stephanie Guillon  
 Linda & Butch Gulseth  
 Peggie Gulseth  
 Ida Gutcher  
 George Guthrie  
 Darwin Guye  
 Sean, Rowan, Robert Hage  
 Ralls Hall  
 Dick Hansen  
 Tim Hanson  
 Rody & Gary Hargens  
 Cindy Harrison  
 Bill Harsh  
 David Hauser  
 Michelle Hedgpeeth

## Volunteers bring *value added* concept to life in state parks

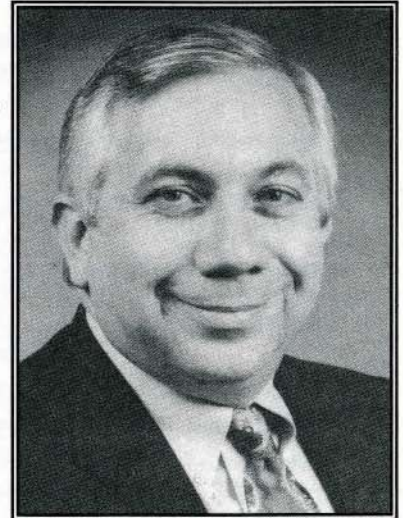
by Andy LaTomme, Sunset Bay District Park Manager

In December, I had the opportunity to join with a group of State Park folks to meet with Bob Meinen, our new department director. It was an interesting and enlightening three-day conference, as we discussed the future of Oregon State Parks. Bob shared his priority concepts with us and spoke of the need for state parks to be recognized as a *value added* to the local communities.

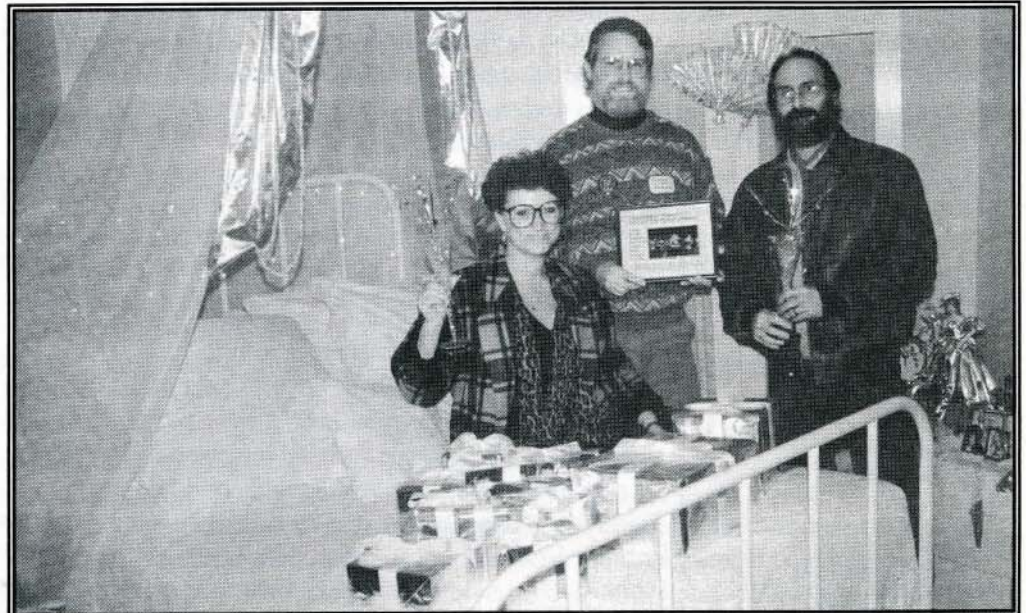
So, I took the opportunity to let him know about all the good works you Friends do to help the people of Oregon's Bay Area understand what a treasure their state parks are. Naturally, I extended an invitation to see the Shore Acres Holiday Lights — you gotta see 'em to believe 'em, right? I must have given a pretty good sales pitch, for in spite of the challenges of being on the job for only a few weeks, and having to prepare for the Legislature, he visited the South Coast Region in early January.

Because Bob was coming, we left the decorations up in the garden house and the lights on in the garden so that he would not have to wait a full year before he experienced Shore Acres' Holiday Lights. All of your hard work made a terrific first impression — as I knew it would.

Aside from the beauty of the lighted gardens, Bob was **very** impressed with the 650+ names of volunteers on the *Thanks* scrolls. "This is a great example of the kinds of things that should go on in all of our parks," he said. "The *value added* concept comes to life when volunteers provide community activities in State Parks." ☼



Bob Meinen  
 State Parks Director



Gregg Nelson presents certificate to winners of the Ultimate Bed & Breakfast - Joyce and Tom Plymyer of Bandon.



### Holiday Volunteers

Bob & Jean Hefty  
 Dorothy Heggen  
 Marie Heisen  
 Mike & Linda Helfrich  
 Dorothy Heggen  
 Joe & Rachel Henke  
 Miya & Kym Hennessey  
 Jim Henson  
 Janice Hester  
 Stacy Heusinkveld  
 Noma Hild  
 Brandy Hille  
 Gloria Hillstrom  
 Curt & Gayle Hinzman  
 Ron & Bernice Hjort & family  
 Alice Hobbs  
 Jan Hodder  
 Tom, Pat & Mike Hoesly  
 Sandy Hoffer  
 Alan Hoffmeister  
 Merrie Holbert  
 Rick Holloway  
 Steve & Jan Hooper  
 Hattie Hougawaut  
 Mark Hoyer  
 Judy & Jennie Hudson  
 Mark & Keith Huff  
 Bob & Janet Huggins  
 Candi Hunt  
 Pam Huntley  
 Paul Hytreck  
 Betty Ice  
 Gladys Ivy  
 Anne Jacobson  
 Rose Jamison  
 Dick & Mary Jo Jamsgard  
 Memo Jasso  
 Kathy & Colin Jenkins  
 Vicki Jenkins  
 Jo Jensen  
 Ken Jensen  
 Laurie & Derek Jensen  
 Marcia Jensen  
 Jan Jewett  
 Jo Joel  
 Beckie Johnson  
 James Johnson  
 Jennifer Johnson  
 Mike & Anne Johnson  
 Melanie Johnston  
 George Jones  
 Terry "Moose" Jones  
 Kaarina's Katering  
 KatyDid Gifts  
 KCBY, KOB, KMTZ  
 Mike Kashuba  
 Jan & Mike Kelly  
 Sherry, Ivan, Greg Kelsay  
 Ken Keyes Carolers  
 Karen Kime  
 Donna & Verle King  
 Rob Kilmer  
 Claire Kinman  
 Ellie Kinney-Martial  
 Mary Ann Kirk  
 Linda Kissinger  
 Cappy Klein  
 Charlie, Morgan & KayLee  
 Kocher & Gerry Livingston  
 Ann Koppy  
 Bonnie Koreiva  
 Sue Koreiva  
 Mary Ann & Ed Kruetzer

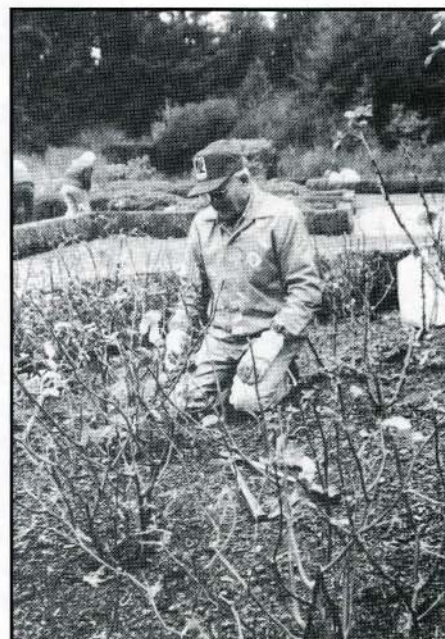
## Christmas in the Gardens

by Cora Wilson, age 15  
 Bandon

Hundreds of colors. All ablaze.  
 Every year special and unique.  
 Never ceasing to amaze.  
 Dazzling lights capture my heart.  
 So many creations. What a beautiful art.  
 Take one loon and be held forever spellbound.  
 So many lights. So many colors all around.  
 The Garden comes alive like Fairy Tale Land.  
 So ornate, forever enchanting, never bland.  
 Starting DECEMBER first lights colorful and bright  
 Slowly count down the days 'til Christmas Night.  
 Twenty-five and twenty-four,  
 forever uplifting, watch your spirits soar.  
 Twenty-three and twenty-two,  
 colors everywhere, white green, red and blue.  
 Twenty-one, twenty, and nineteen,  
 not enough time for all lights to be seen.  
 Eighteen, seventeen, and sixteen,  
 colors of Christmas, red and green.  
 Fifteen, fourteen and thirteen days to go,  
 don't be bad or Santa will know!  
 Eleven and twelve, ten and nine,  
 Christmas trees smell of freshly cut pine.  
 Eight and seven, six and five,  
 the lights of Coos County come alive,  
 Four and three, two and one,  
 Christmas is here, the joy has begun.  
 "Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas!" hear Santa say,  
 listen carefully to the bells jingle on his sleigh.  
 Christmas is done and gone,  
 now waiting patiently for the new year's dawn.  
 Raise your spirits proud and high,  
 and to 1992, say good bye! ❄

EDITOR'S NOTE: Cora Ann's talents have won her the chance to be published in a forthcoming collection of poems, titled, "Quest of the Dream" by Pacific Rim Publishing. She is currently at work on her first full length book – a murder mystery set at a high school. She's been writing for about a year and a half. We thank her for sharing her talents with us. ✍

## Pruning Roses



John Menegat works on rose bushes at Shore Acres.

Southwestern Oregon Rose Society volunteers pruned 545 rose bushes at Shore Acres in January. Working on the project were Jay Dow, Ray Duskin, Hilda Anderson, Betty Ice, Sally Harnier, Alice Hobbs, Sue Severson, Karen Wuethrich, Jan Kelly, Mike Kelly, Geraldine Guenther, Ed Kreutzer, Mary Ann Kreutzer, Duane Davis, John Menegat, and Ellie Kinney-Martial.

## 8th annual Beach Cleanup

Sponsored by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept. and SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism).

**Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
 Contact points: Bastendorff Beach, South Jetty (Winchester Bay) and Horsfall Beach.

### further information

Sunset Bay State Park – 888-4902  
 Shore Acres State Park – 888-3732  
 Honeyman State Park – 997-3851  
 South-Bullards Beach State Park  
 347-2209



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 Joyce Lattin  
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 Lola & Leroy Lathrom  
 Randy Lau  
 Lou Leberti  
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 Lemon Tree Bakery  
 Life Care Center  
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 Mai Lorenz  
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 Phyllis Love  
 Lou Lovett  
 Virginia & Al Loyd  
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 & Kevin Lucas  
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 Liz, Doug & Polly Lutz  
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 Merle Moody  
 Ron Munyon  
 Dan Neal  
 Connie, Gregg, Erika  
 & Travis Nelson  
 Gene Nelson

## More on garden "tripping"

by George Guthrie, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent

**J**ust in case you're out there checking out possible non-compliance with *campaign promises* - you're right! I didn't use my last column to share more tidbits about garden tripping in the United Kingdom. I somehow got detoured into a monologue about zen and the art of dry Japanese pond fly-fishing or something. Sorry about that, but my editor made me!! So, before I forget totally about my trip, here are a few more thoughts and reminiscences.

One of the more interesting gardens I saw in Britain was in the Cornish town of Probus. Probus is a tiny little town with two garages (gas-stations to us colonials), a couple of pubs, and a very large public garden. The town motto is, "If you like gardening, you'll love Probus."

The idea of the Probus garden is not simply to look pretty (it does), but to serve as a teaching garden to train local students for careers in horticulture and gardening and also to educate the members of the general public about ways they can improve their own gardens.

For example, the garden (which was near the coast, just like Shore Acres) had demonstration plots of various plants that could be used as hedges and windbreaks - pretty useful in areas there and here that get strong ocean winds blasting their gardens.

There was a rose garden displaying interpretive signs telling how and when to prune and deadhead. In fact, everything in the garden was oriented toward showing Mr. and Mrs. British Gardener (Esq.) what kind of plants - from fruits and vegetables to perennial flowers and rock garden plants - were suitable for that area.

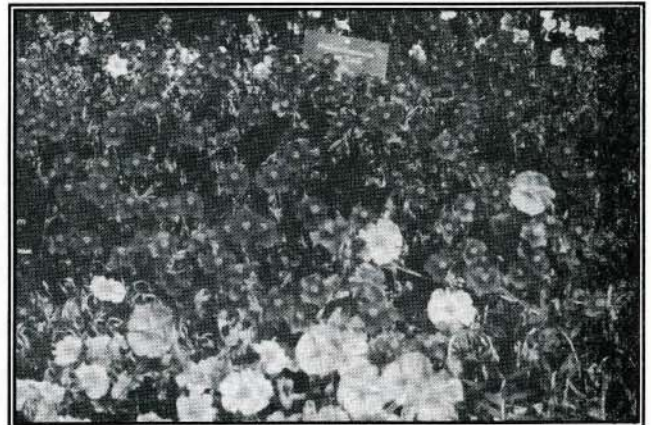
The nice thing about the demonstration plots was they showed that some varieties and kinds of plants were definitely better adapted than others of the same species. They showed the failures as well as the successes. You couldn't take two steps without learning something useful and the slogan was correct - you had to love it.

One of the featured plants there, which I really flipped over, was a cute little number called *sun rose* (*Helianthemum*). Sun rose is a close relation (cousin, I believe) of the cistus or rock-rose that we cultivate at Shore Acres.

Like cistus, the sun rose is drought tolerant and evergreen - but instead of being an upright shrub, it likes to lie down on the job as a ground cover. The flowers are similar - like single wild roses - but the sun rose outshines the rock-rose in its range of flower color - a dazzling range of yellows, pinks and reds - and a happy sun rose will cover itself with flowers for about a month - so you get quantity and quality.

It's a super plant for dry sunny spots and seems to like coastal conditions. It hasn't been tried over here in the States as much as it could and should be - but some nurseries are selling it and if you're in the market for something tough and pretty for problem spots in the garden. Try it, you'll like it.

So much for what I did on spring vacation. If you are a gardener or just like pretty things in general, and you can learn the foreign lingo they speak, I heartily recommend a trip to the British Isles. It's loaded with beautiful gardens and lovely people - in other words, just like home! ☺



A happy sun rose, cousin of the rock rose at Shore Acres, covers itself with blooms for about a month each summer.

*George*



## More Holiday Volunteers

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 North Bend Assembly of God Carolers  
 North Bend High School  
 North Bend High School  
 Jazz Choir  
 North Bend High School Key Club  
 North Coast Electric  
 Bev Noyes  
 Ocean Spray Cranberry Inc  
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 Oregon Coast Magazine  
 Oregon Coast Music Association  
 Oregon Department of  
 Transportation  
 Oregon International Port  
 of Coos Bay  
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 Bill Otton  
 Pacific Power  
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 North Bend  
 Pack 151 Cub Scouts  
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 Sharon Parkes  
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 Gary Parsons  
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 Rick Petrie  
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 Kirsten Polacek  
 Pony Village Mall  
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 Alice Richter  
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*Claire Kinman, one of our most avid volunteers, has moved to Portland. — We will miss her!*

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Annual membership is from January 1 to December 31. Your mailing label has a *code ending in "3"* if your dues are current. To become a member or to renew your membership, please fill out the membership form and return it with your check or money order to Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420. For further information, call 756-5401.

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***Snowy wonderland at Shore Acres — photo by Andy LaTomme***

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