



Shore Acres State Park  
Before Friends - 1986

Album 6





Shirley Bridgham

## How Friends of Shore Acres Happened

In 1986, the Communication Arts Group at Southwestern Oregon Community College decided to tell the story of Shoreacres and Shore Acres State Park by creating a multi-image slide show to be shown at the 5th annual Multi-Image Festival in September. After the Festival, Shirley Bridgham asked Andy LaTomme, manager at Shore Acres State Park, if the park wanted a copy. He said yes. Not long after, Andy asked Shirley and her husband David if they would like to help start a Friends group – a non-profit corporation in association with state parks. They said yes.

An organizational meeting was held on December 4, 1986 at 7:30 pm in Room 12 of Sumner Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. In attendance were Andy LaTomme, John Bergen, Mike Bodkin, David and Shirley Bridgham, John Garner, Marty Giles, George Guthrie, Dick Hansen, Ron Hjort, Tony Mason, and Karen Wuethrich. On that important night, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. in cooperation with Shore Acres State Park began a long journey of success.

*The Shore Acres Story* was shown in slide format to thousands of visitors for years, then transferred to VHS tape for easier showing. In 2006, it was transferred to DVD. In 2013, it was transformed again, this time with additional photos courtesy of Caitlin Day, James McDermott, Sunset Bay State Park and the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum. Special thanks goes to Phillip Bridgham for rescuing the original sound track.

The program is about Asa Meade Simpson and his son Louis Jerome and the history of the magnificent estate that Louis called Shoreacres. It continues with what Shore Acres State Park was like in 1986 when the slide show was created. ■



Ward Robertson

## Aerial and Gardens — 1986



Shirley Bridgham





Shirley Bridgham

## About the Friends' Albums

*by Shirley Bridgham - 2014*

It's time to preserve the Friends' photos and clippings using the following:

- Epson Expression 11000XL Scanner
- Adobe PhotoShop CS-3
- Adobe InDesign CS-3.
- Epson Presentation Paper - Matte
- Epson Premium Photo Paper - Glossy
- Epson Stylus Photo R2000 Printer

I will also save the album pages as PDF files. ■



Ward Robertson

## Aerials - 1986



Ward Robertson

Album 6



## Note from Shirley Bridgham - September 2014



**Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. was founded on December 4, 1986.**

**1st annual year Dec. 4, 1986 - Aug. 31, 1987**

**1st Birthday - Dec. 4, 1987**

**1st Christmas Lights - Dec. 11, 1987**

**2nd annual Year - Sept. 1, 1987 - Aug. 31, 1988**

**2nd Birthday - Dec. 4, 1988**

**. . . and so on. The annual year runs from September of one year to the end of August of the next year.**

*What an amazing journey it has been for David and me since 1986. Little did we know when we, the Friends, decided to bring more attention to Shore Acres State Park, by stringing some lights to celebrate Christmas in 1987, we would begin an awesome adventure that continues to this day.*

*So many volunteers, so many supporters, so many visitors, such a great board of directors, and always so much excellent cooperation from park managers, rangers and staff - all combine to make Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. one of the most successful non-profit Co-ops in the state of Oregon.*

*All these years, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has been truly blessed to remain an all-volunteer organization. It has made it possible to accomplish so many interpretive and physical development projects at Shore Acres. Visit our Information & Gift Center and pick up one of our membership brochures and you will find an extensive list.*

*I've been privileged to create and produce our slide shows, DVDs, and Newsletters and Journals. Not to mention, designing the lights display and seeing it come together like theater every season. Yes, it's a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun. David has the challenge of designing and producing new sculptures and maintaining the old ones. When we read the comments in the guest books, we always get enthused to start the next season.*

*This year, I'm starting a project to preserve the Friends' archives in physical albums — this is the first album — backed up in a digital format for easy viewing by many. We have many photos, news clippings and other materials that will be included in the albums.*

*As I've started going through the archives, I'm reminded of how FoSA has grown and prospered in order to help Shore Acres State Park, Sunset Bay State Park and Cape Arago State Park. What a great reminder of why we do what we do. Our hope is that in the future, others will experience and enjoy the same opportunities. ■*

## Note from David Bridgham - September 2014

*The following pages (and Albums) are a chronology of the efforts of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., but even more than that, tell the tale of the enormous support that the Friends have enjoyed from our regional communities.*

*This was a movement whose time had come. The Oregon State Legislature had passed "Enabling" Legislation allowing non-profit 501(c)3 organizations to adopt a specific State Park to provide educational and interpretive services to its visitors. Well that's the dry legislative speak for find a core user group that loves that park and let it nurture and care for it.*



*Shore Acres State Park, 13 miles from town, is the touchstone that we all bring our friends and visitors to when we want to show off the beauty of the Oregon south coast. There was a built-in and pent-up desire to shower this special place with community pride and needed TLC. Outreach to our communities started with the planning sessions with FOSA Board members and volunteers. Dreaming of what could be, planning on now and the future.*

*Holiday Lights at Shore Acres is a night time interpretation of the formal English style gardens and the reflecting pond at the oriental garden. Historically, the original Simpson mansion built on the bluff at the stone wall, was a Christmas present to Louie Simpson's wife Cassie. From the very first lighting event we recognized the importance to the communities to open the Garden House for our visitors and start building traditions. After 27 annual lightings it thrills me to hear from adults with their young family when they tell us they came to see the lights as kids and now they're bringing their families to grow the tradition.*

*An important cornerstone to the Holiday Lights tradition is the consistency of our focus on major themes. We have stayed true to who we are and where we're at, interpreting the gardens with flower-lights, sculptures that are inspired by what's found in the gardens as well as many marine related sculptures. The Garden House is beautifully decorated with an old time (Simpson era) theme that fits this historic gardener's cottage.*

*There are those certainties in life - like the tide at our ocean's shore, the Bay and its tributaries - migrating geese, and the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres. When I see or hear a migrating flock of Canadian Geese I get an itch I can only scratch by stringing lights at Shore Acres.*

*You will see as you turn these pages that the secret sauce has always been to engage our community, give credit and ownership where deserved, and always try to improve this place that we all love. ■*



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

*Founded December 4, 1986*



*“The purpose of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.  
is to participate in interpretive, educational,  
and physical development programs  
with Sunset Bay Management Unit.”*

*FoSA Bylaws*



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

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## FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting was held on December 4, 1986 at 7:30 pm in room 12 of Sumner Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. In attendance were Andy LaTomme, John Bergen, George Guthrie, Karen Wuethrich, Marty Giles, Ron Hjort, Mike Bodkin, John Garner, Shirley Bridgham, David Bridgham, Dick Hansen and Tony Mason. Andy LaTomme opened the meeting by giving background information about the establishment of non-profit corporations in association with state parks.

Mike Bodkin reviewed the legal steps necessary to establish a corporation and to certify it as tax-exempt under federal and state laws: fees to be paid, legal liability of corporation members and the formation of an initial board of directors.

Discussion followed on the details of the above presentations. The group agreed that a preliminary date of June, 1987 was a goal for establishing the tax-exempt status of the organization and that the group should forego any solicitation of funds until this status has been obtained.

Those present introduced themselves to the group and completed a sign-up sheet with their names and addresses. Each person was asked if he or she desired to serve on the initial board of directors. All except Andy LaTomme, Ron Hjort, Karen Wuethrich and Mike Bodkin responded "yes."

Some discussion followed about the number of state park employees to be allowed to serve on the board at any one time. It was generally agreed that no more than 1/4 of the board should be composed of state park employees, however formal action on this was deferred until bylaws are adopted. It was agreed that the Sunset Bay State Park district manager would serve as a non-voting member of the board. There was some discussion about this and it was understood and agreed that the group would not undertake any projects without the approval of the district park manager or his designee.

Nominations were opened for chairman. Dick Hansen and John Bergen were nominated and declined. John Garner was nominated and unanimously elected. He conducted the balance of the meeting.

A motion to name the organization the "Friends of Shore Acres, Inc," was proposed, seconded and passed.

Mike Bodkin was named to act as legal agent for the Friends of Shore Acres (hereafter referred to as the "Friends") and was thanked for his work thus far. Discussion followed regarding the purposes of the Friends as required for the incorporation papers.

Mike Bodkin stated that he would use wording from a similar organization's application and that he expected the incorporation papers would be returned by the next meeting.

Friends of Shore Acres  
December 4, 1986  
Minutes - page 2

It was decided the scope of the organization would be discussed when bylaws were presented for adoption at a later meeting.

There was discussion about membership in general, voting vs. non-voting membership and graduated membership fees. Action on this was deferred until a later meeting.

A collection was taken to cover the cost of the incorporation fee. A total of \$13.00 was collected from the group.

It was proposed and approved that Mike Bodkin act as initial incorporator for the Friends.

Additional discussion about the purpose of the Friends took place. It was felt that the purposes stated in the articles of incorporation should be broad enough to allow the group to participate in a broad range of activities, including physical development in the park.

The agenda for the next meeting was discussed. It was decided that bylaws and the setting of goals for the group would take up most of the meeting. The board was asked to be prepared to discuss possible goals and committee assignments for that meeting. Dick Hansen was selected to lead the discussion on bylaws.

Andy LaTomme was asked to bring a copy of his park's master plan to assist in coordinating the goals of the Friends with those of State Parks. He was also asked to prepare a draft set of bylaws, based on those used by existing cooperating associations, to be mailed to board members before the next meeting.

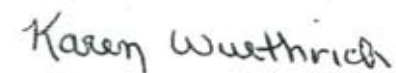
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

Karen Wuethrich was asked to prepare minutes of the meeting.

The date for a second meeting was set for January 13, 1987. Shirley Bridgham was asked to arrange for a meeting room at SWOCC. The suggestion was made that the board consider a fixed meeting date, e.g., the second Tuesday of each month. It was felt that this was a good idea, but no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wuethrich



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Annual Year - September 1, 1992 - August 31, 1993

## September 8, 1992 – Annual Meeting – Garden House at Shore Acres

The World, Sept. 5, 1992

### Friends of Shore Acres sets meeting

CHARLESTON — The annual meeting of Friends of Shore Acres State Park will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, at the Garden House in the park west of Charleston.

The agenda will include the election of new directors, followed by a regular board meeting. Visitors are welcome, and refreshments will follow the meeting.

For more information, call 756-5401 or 888-4902.

### MINUTES

The annual meeting of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. was called to order by President David Bridgham. Board members absent were Al Aslakson, Dick Van Natta, Bob Emmett, Elise Hamner and Eric Hamner. Guests included Judy Aslakson, Claire Kinman and Cranson and Helen Fosburg.

David passed out a list of accomplishments, activities, and projects performed in 1991-92.

Ellen Garner, nominating committee chair, proposed a slate of names to serve on the Board of Directors. Members nominated for renewal of board positions were Connie Eslinger, Dick Hansen, Dick Van Natta, and Ellen Garner. New board positions were proposed for Charlie and Gerry Kocher (one position), Gregg Nelson, and Judy Aslakson.

Doris Emmett moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the proposed slate of directors. Shirley Bridgham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President David Bridgham adjourned the annual meeting. George Guthrie invited everyone to tour the garden to see the new landscaping near the Oriental pond. Refreshments followed the tour. ■



New landscaping at the pond includes a "dry" stream bed.

### Board of Directors

President  
Connie Eslinger

President-Elect  
Ann Koppy

Vice-President  
Al Aslakson

Past President  
David Bridgham

Secretary  
George Guthrie

Treasurer  
Shirley Bridgham

Gift & Information  
Center Manager  
Tony Mason

Directors  
Judy Aslakson  
Georganna Casey  
Bob Emmett  
Doris Emmett  
Ellen Garner  
Dick Hansen  
Charles Kocher  
Gerry Kocher  
Gregg Nelson  
Dick Van Natta

Board Meetings  
Second Tuesday  
7:30 p.m.  
June - September  
Shore Acres  
Garden House  
October - May  
at SMOCC  
December  
No Meeting

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

### Highlights of Activities September 1991 - August 1992

#### October-November 1991

Expansion of underground wiring to include outlets in the Oriental Garden.  
Planning for Holiday Lights '92

#### December 1991

Increase lights to 84,000  
Built three more stage modules  
Added two more outdoor holiday trees - total of 6  
4,500 volunteer hours for the holiday season  
2,200 dozen cookies  
936 gallons hot cider  
200 gallons cranberry punch

#### January - August 1992

March 19 Beach clean-up / lunch for volunteers  
April 5 Simpson Book signing / open house - Stephen Beckham  
May 2 Annual muck raking (pond cleaning)  
May 4 BLM volunteers and park staff install new drain in pond  
May 9 First biathlon (big success)  
May 10 Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day  
May 13 Hosted Commission Dinner meeting  
June 21 Rose Sunday / Father's Day  
June 28 Picnic for members and volunteers  
July 17 Garden Concert / Oregon Coast Music Association  
Parked cars; sold raspberry and chocolate sundaes

#### Other Activities

Published four (4) newsletters and renamed the newsletter "journal"  
Published garden guides/maps and dahlia guides  
Developed plans for new/larger Gift and Information Center  
Developed plans for night light-scaping the gardens  
(including completion of additional underground wiring)  
Park hosts showed the "Shore Acres Story" slide show April-October

#### Membership

193 memberships (about 300 members) - renewal value \$4705

#### Gift and Information Center

Open 222 days, averaging \$141 per day (up from \$97 the previous year)  
Sales income \$30,089; Inventory expense \$26,809; Operating expense \$2478  
Increased wholesale value of inventory: from \$6476 to \$12,651  
Increased retail value of inventory: from \$12,379 to \$25,178



# Reports, Planning and Election of Officers

**September 8, 1992 - Board Meeting - Garden House at Shore Acres**

## MINUTES

President David Bridgham called the meeting to order. Minutes of the August 11 board meeting were reviewed and approved. (Georganna Casey moved, Tony Mason seconded.)

Financial reports were presented. George reported on the general account and distributed copies of the report to all board members. In response to a question from Dick Hansen, David said that most of the money in the Friends' general account is already dedicated for GalC construction, holiday lights, and projects such as the interpretive signs and the viewbook.

GalC Manager Tony Mason reported \$5227 in gross sales in August, the biggest sales month to date. He distributed copies, which included further details. Dick Hansen moved to accept both reports. Georganna Casey seconded. Motion passed.

Cranson Fosburg told the Board about the "spring" by the Oriental pond. He showed pictures of his grandfather standing beside it, circa 1914. Discussion followed about "restarting" the spring. George indicated that parks will be renovating the pond area in the near future and will do some repair work on the spring at that time.

Shirley Bridgham talked about the holiday lights pledge letter. Three hundred (300) letters were mailed. Thirty (30) responses have been received, yielding \$1647 in pledges in the first two weeks. She said she expects the lights pledges will cover the cost of the 22,000 or more additional lights and the permanent path lights around the Oriental pond.

David talked about the night lightscaping installation project, which includes ditching for 110 volt service for path lighting in the formal garden, permanent fixtures for path lighting, and another 200 amp service panel box. Parks staff and Oregon Department of Correction inmates will do most of this project in conjunction with the new irrigation installation project.

Andy reported on the new GalC. Building permits are in and the materials list will be ready soon. The exterior should be done with the interior sheet-rocked by Christmas (fixtures may have to wait). Trees will be removed and the area cleared next week with the foundation done by the next Board meeting. There will be some kind of contest to name the new GalC building - details to follow.

Andy, David, Shirley, Al, Judy, and Connie are going to the Co-Op Conference at the Flying M Ranch near Yamhill, Oct. 9-11.

Tony said he has held off buying new stock for the GalC because of lack of storage space; he will get more in time for the holidays.

Andy showed the new 50th anniversary belt buckle.

Ellen talked about membership name tags. She will see about getting tags made with the logo etched on metal if the cost is reasonable.

Friends will enter a 50th Anniversary float in the Bay Area Fun Festival parade, September 19.

Copies of the FoSA annual budget were distributed. After discussion, Doris Emmett moved to accept the new budget as presented. Dick Hansen seconded. Motion passed.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ellen Garner, nominations chair, proposed the following slate of officers for 1992-93: President, Connie Eslinger; President-elect, Ann Koppy; Vice President, Al Aslakson; Secretary, George Guthrie; and Treasurer, Shirley Bridgham. Dick Hansen moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the proposed slate. Georganna Casey seconded. Motion passed.

Following the election, Past President David Bridgham presented the gavel to new President Connie Eslinger, who conducted the remainder of the meeting.



Connie Eslinger and David Bridgham

In other business, Tony talked about a possible judged photo contest to be held Father's Day, 1993. Winning photos to be displayed at the Garden House in the present storage room upstairs. There would be an entrance fee and prizes would be awarded. The Board agreed it would be a good idea and told him to proceed with the planning.

Connie talked about a possible "paint-out" on Mother's Day '93 with painting going on outside and displays inside the Garden House. She will get more details and report back to the Board.

We are thinking about getting up to 3 "sets" of camp hosts to run the GalC during the week for the holiday season. The GalC will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Volunteer Friends will run the GalC on the weekends.

Carl Siminow has looked into possible Walkie Talkies (at \$219 each) for use by Friends to help with holiday parking. It was suggested we buy two now and maybe a third unit later. Andy LaTomme suggested getting another price quote from Clackamas Communications before we buy. Doris Emmett moved to authorize David Bridgham to investigate prices and buy the Walkie Talkies. Ann Koppy seconded. Motion passed.

President Connie Eslinger adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, George Guthrie, Secretary

GG:SB 10/7/92



# Anticipating the 50th Anniversary of Shore Acres State Park

## “Remembering When” at the Bay Area Fun Festival Parade



Wanda Graham, Frank Smith, Donna Smith



Frank Smith, Shirley Bridgham, Wanda Graham



David Bridgham, Frank Smith, Tom Graham, Shirley Bridgham



Shore Acres Heron Sculptures in Flowers



Coos Head Builders, North Bend, provided the truck.



Harry and Sabra Lockett



# Autumn Highlights

## DAHLIA NAMED "SHORE ACRES 50"

by Ellie Kinney-Martial

When I approached Madlyn Geisert about naming a dahlia for Shore Acres in honor of Shore Acres State Park's 50th Anniversary she was thrilled. She thought it was a wonderful idea and we immediately went to her garden to choose a dahlia.

Madlyn says her work with - dahlias started as a "hobby that got out of hand." She opened Bridge View Dahlia Gardens in 1960. Since that time she has introduced thirty-five new cultivars.

Her grandfather, Howard Collver, was a gardener at Shore Acres in the early 1900s. He and his family (including Madlyn's mother) lived at Cape Arago at this time. Madlyn says they always referred to Cape Arago as South Bay.

Zorro is Madlyn's most well known dahlia cultivar. It has been awarded the Stanley Johnson medal, the Lynn B. Dudley Seedling Sweepstakes Medal, and the Derrill W. Hart medal. Some of her other award winning dahlias include Aloha, Versa and Rusty.



*Shore Acres 50* is a four year old seedling of Zorro. It has a 9-10 inch bloom, and is a dark red semi-cactus. *Shore Acres 50* will be on display in the garden next spring and limited quantities will be available for sale at Bridge View Dahlia Gardens.

Madlyn has been coming to Shore Acres for as long as she can remember. She remembers the pergola and times when she and her family would visit the garden.

She told me she had always wanted to see some of her dahlias at Shore Acres, and this past year it finally happened. Some of Madlyn's dahlia cultivars that were at Shore Acres this year included Zorro, Aloha, Bill Holmberg, Fan Dancer, My Valentine, Tang, Highland Fling, Knockout, and Peaches & Cream. ■

## 5TH ANNUAL OREGON STATE PARKS CO-OP CONFERENCE OCT. 9-11, 1992 FLYING M RANCH – YAMHILL, OREGON



Gregg Nelson-Partnership Award for BLM; Tony Mason-Volunteer Dedication Award for Friends' GaIC; Andy LaTomme-Sunset Bay Park District Manager; Shirley and David Bridgham-Finalists for Life Service Award. (Complete Details about the Conference in the Friends' Quarterly Journal, Autumn 1992)

Wednesday, October 14, 1992, THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. — Page 3

## Shore Acres volunteer efforts win two awards

Volunteer efforts connected with Shore Acres State Park near Charleston won two of five new special awards at the Fifth Annual Oregon State Parks Co-op Conference held Oct. 9-11.

Friends of Shore Acres State Park is one of 12 volunteer cooperatives established to aid particular parks in the state.

The Coos Bay District of the BLM won one of five 1992 Loran L. Stewart Volunteer Service Awards for its work with Friends of Shore Acres in cleaning Oriental Pond. BLM staff member (and new Friends board member) Gregg Nelson accepted the award for BLM employees who worked with Friends volunteers to clean up the pond and worked with park staff to redesign and upgrade the pond's drainage system.

Shoreline Education for Awareness was the runnerup for the award for its work on interpretive programs at Simpson Reef.

Tony Mason, manager of the

Friends of Shore Acres Gift and Information Center, was honored for volunteer dedication for his hours of work planning and operating the center. He received a plaque and State Parks wristwatch.

In addition, David and Shirley Bridgham of Friends of Shore Acres were finalists for the lifetime achievement award.

Before the ceremony almost 60 people from around the state participated in workshops, round tables and presentations.

In the past year over 2,500 volunteers have provided state parks with the equivalent of 109 full-time employees. Over the past five years friends groups have raised nearly \$1 million to benefit state parks.

Meanwhile, Friends of Shore Acres is gearing up for its popular holiday lights display at the park. A final planning meeting is set for noon Thursday, Oct. 20, in the Coquille Room of the Red Lion Inn, Coos Bay.






# Getting Ready for Garden Night “Lightscaping”

## INSTALLING PATH LIGHTS AT THE POND AND CORNER LIGHTS UNDER BENCHES



Marvin Blenz

 On Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18, volunteers buried two more miles of wire in the formal garden at Shore Acres. Added to the three miles installed in 1988, the wire is the second phase of installation for the permanent garden "lightscaping" designed by Tom Kyle. Permanent path lights around the pond and lights under some of the garden benches are being installed just in time for the *Holiday Lights and Open House* in December.

Pulling wire and working on the project were Andy, Sue, Amy, and David LaTomme; George Guthrie; Frank Eckley; Dan and Rickie Lucas; Gregg, Connie, Erika, and Cory Nelson; Connie Eslinger, Harry Wilson, Greg Smith, Marvin Blenz; George Jones, Tom Stemmerman, and Tom Kyle.

***A heartfelt thanks to all who helped! ■***



Gregg Nelson and Harry Wilson



Gregg Nelson



Gregg Nelson, George Jones, Frank Eckley





# The World

Serving Oregon's great South Coast for over 100 years

No. 93 114th Year

Published in Coos Bay, Oregon, 97420

Wednesday, October 21, 1992

35 cents



World photos by Mike Sweeney

Shirley Hammar displays Shore Acres quilt in the "Baltimore style."



## Shore Acres quilt captures 50 years of lore and lure

**T**hink of Shore Acres and you'll think of the twin Blue Herons in the formal Japanese pond of the botanical gardens.

Now, the graceful birds are the centerpiece of a "Baltimore-style" commemorative quilt, designed and stitched by Shirley Hammar, North Bend quilter-extraordinaire, with help from friends.

The quilt will be displayed at an open house, from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 25, at the garden house at Shore Acres, marking the 50th anniversary of the park. The event is open free to the public, sponsored by the Friends of Shore Acres.

**By Linda Meierjorgen**  
Coast Life Editor

Baltimore, or album quilts, were popular in America in the mid-1800s, always telling a story. Hammar's quilt tells the story of Shore Acres, a history dating back to the earliest days of Coos County that centers around the timber baron Asa Simpson, and his charming, development-minded son, L.J. Simpson.

Hammar, who has been quilting for over 15 years, says Baltimore quilts were ornate, quite realistic, but decorative in a Victorian fashion — with wreathes and flowers, scrollwork and often blocks signed or covered with sayings handwritten in India inks.

They commemorated friendships, family records, the Bible, patriotism and political feelings, a bride's story, tithing, retirement and other events.

Like Hammar's creation, the central medallion was often surrounded by other blocks adding to the story, and then edged with geometric patterns, bows or scallops.

There is something of a revival in quilting, and especially Baltimore-style quilts right now, Hammar notes. In January 1991, Hammar and a dozen friends gathered to start a Baltimore quilt, making use of several lesson plans calling for completion of a block a month. The group dwindled though, and it wasn't until Hammar

(Continued on Page 3)



# "The World" Stories Continued

## Quilt captures lore, lure

(Continued from Page 1)  
attended a quilting show in Sisters, featuring Elly Sienkiewicz, author of several books on Baltimore quilts, that she came home fired up to complete the Shore Acres quilt.

"I'd been a visitor to the gardens many times, of course, and those birds always fascinated me," Hammar says. So in July 1991, she began again to create the quilt.

The blocks around the blue heron medallion include the garden house decorated with Christmas lights and ringed by holly leaves and berries, a wild strawberries block, a snowflakes and birds block, a flower-filled summer block and a schooner flying the Simpson family flag.

Hammar took up quilting some 15 years ago when her mother-in-law, Alta Dunphee of Grant City, Mo., a lifetime quilter, created a red, white and blue "Bicentennial Quilt." She now belongs to two Bay Area quilting organizations, as well as the Coast Quilters in Reedsport, and hosts a small group in her home called the "P's and Q's."

Though Hammar did the blocks for the Shore Acres quilt, the "P's and Q's" quilted the pieced fir trees that border the artwork.

The individual blocks are not pieced — like traditional pioneer patterns could be — they are built up layer on layer for texture.

The blue herons take on the characteristic blue-green patina of the familiar sculptures in the pond thanks to unusual upholstery fabric, Hammar notes.

Some blocks are enhanced by

### A history of Shore Acres, see Page 6

embroidery, for instance, the block depicting the garden house during annual Christmas holiday lights is hand-stitched with sparkling beads which reflect the light and shimmer. A wreath of Oregon grapes looks real enough to munch.

A Hoffman jungle print forms the border of the medallion, as well as a "feather" pattern wreath of reverse applique nearby. "Shore Acres was tamed from the wilderness," Hammar smiles.

The signature piece on the back of the quilt was done in calligraphy by Father Martin, O.D., and reads "Shore Acres commemorative quilt designed and created by Shirley Hammar." In the swirling wreath around the signature piece Father Martin has hidden a dove and the words "Peace Be With You."

In a wreath of hearts is another scrolled message: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to end, they are new every morning."

Graphic artist and calligrapher Bill Blumberg traced the lettering for "Shore Acres" above the heron medallion.

Hammar works full time, but still finds the time to quilt. She and her husband, Wayne, live in a house full of love and hand-made country crafts, along with a studio full of materials and quilting equipment.

The quilter says she is never without handwork, even in the car — she used a 14-inch hoop to stitch the

blocks in the "Shore Acres" quilt. She keeps her eyes open for fabrics, too, and jokes "name me a city and I'll tell you where the fabric stores are."

Hammar says each of the blocks in the "Shore Acres" quilt took between 10 to 25 hours of handstitching to create; the pieced trees around the border each took 2 1/2 to 3 hours, and the full quilt has some 150 hours of work in it right now.

The quilt will stay in the Hammar family, going on exhibit at a quilt show at Evergreen Court called "Quantum Quilts" after the Shore Acres open house, through Nov. 30, at 451 O'Connell St., North Bend, then back out to the garden house for the Christmas holiday lights in December. Hammar plans to show the quilt, enhanced with even more quilting stitches, at a special show of Baltimore-style quilts in Lancaster, Pa. in April, 1994.

Page 6 — THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Wednesday, October 21, 1992

## 'Shore Acres' present for Cassie

### Showplace of ambitious L.J. Simpson's South Coast empire

By Linda Melerjurgén  
Coast Life Editor

"Shore Acres" was the name chosen by L.J. Simpson for the estate he would give his wife, Cassie, in 1906, for Christmas. He discovered the property while cruising timber and stopped to buy 320 acres of land from Jake Evans for \$4,000 in 1905. Eventually the estate grew to 743 acres, according to Stephen Dow Beckham, Ph.D., historian and author of "The Simpsons of Shore Acres."

His father, Asa Simpson had hiked to the Coos Bay area from Port Orford in 1855 and found it a good place to open a mill to serve the Gold Rush developments of California. He opened the family's first Northwest mill in North Bend in 1856, then opened one in Port Orford, eventually expanding the empire that would turn "Shore Acres" into a showplace for Oregon's leaders. Family operations included mills in South Bend, Wash., Santa Cruz, Crescent City and the Sierras of California, as well as Knappton and Hoquium in Washington.

His son, Louis J. Simpson was born in 1877, and came north to operate the holdings on Coos Bay in 1899. He purchased the land called "Yarrow" in 1902 and soon established the city of North Bend, became postmaster, mayor and chief developer, donating a public dock over 1,000-feet long on the waterfront. He founded Mercy Hospital, an iron works, an ice factory, a woolen mill and was engaged in developing a second city at Empire in later years. He was an organizer of the Bank of Oregon, as well.

In 1918, the "Handsome Stranger," as he was called, ran for governor, courting the state's

newspaper editors at the original "Shore Acres" mansion. His platform was development for Oregon and "national women's suffrage."

The three-story mansion featured an indoor pool and ballroom, an entry hall paneled in myrtlewood, and Louis Comfort Tiffany lamps designed especially for the

### See related story on Page 1

residence. It was destroyed by fire in 1921 and Simpson decided to rebuild.

The new, two-story ranch-style house of the era was 224 feet long and stood where the glass enclosed observation building now overlooks the dramatic cliffs and crashing waves of Simpson Reef.

In the 1920s, Simpson and his second wife, Lela, lived in a Simpson Heights residence overlooking the bay in North Bend and took possession of the second mansion in 1927.

During the early years of the century, Oregon moved ahead of the nation on its way to an internationally-known state park system. In 1913, the same year L.J. Simpson built the "Sunset Bay Inn" on a portion of his estate, and five gardeners works to create the formal gardens surrounding his home, Gov. Oswald West designated the state's beaches as "public highways" in perpetuity. A state highway commission was established to develop transportation routes, and the beaches came under this commission.

By 1921, Gov. Ben Olcott had banned the cutting of trees along the state's highways and the legislature authorized spending money to buy land for parks.



Louis J. Simpson  
Ran for governor in 1918

Among the first parks were Cape Sebastian and Humbug Mountain, both in Curry County, acquired by Sam Boardman, a Highway Division engineer whose name graces the stretch of parks he purchased for the state in 1925-26.

Boardman was responsible for beginning purchases for Honeyman, Cape Lookout, Oswald West, Ecola, and Saddle Mountain state parks on the coast.

The purchasing of parks took a back seat to the Great Depression's economic impact on the state and on the Simpsons. The Empire Development Co. was mortally wounded in the stock market crash and the Simpsons offered the estate to the state first in 1932.

It wasn't until 1942, however, that the state bought 637 acres of the estate for \$29,000.

The home had been used by the military during World War II and

was in poor condition when the state bought it, according to Beckham. Ben R. Chandler, Coos Bay, a lifelong business competitor of Simpson was chair of the Parks Commission when the land was bought and he ordered the home razed in December 1948. Simpson died the next month, on Jan. 17, 1949.

In 1986, the non-profit Friends of Shore Acres formed, to assist in further development of the park and its use by the public.

The Friends have been instrumental in establishing the gift and information center, installing some three miles of underground electrical service for nightscaping and other special lighting, placing 100 plant identification markers, adding a slip-proof deck for the garden entrance, creating a media display and history of the gardens, and hosting annual events for the public.

Over 1 million people come to "Shore Acres" annually, including stops at Sunset Bay and Cape Arago state parks, also. Thousands come to see the Christmas lighting display in December and to sip cider and punch in the holiday-decorated gardener's house.

Volunteers help clean the pond annually, sponsor "Rhododendron Sunday" on Mother's Day, "Rose Sunday," on Father's Day, a free public concert in the gardens during the Oregon Coast Music Festival in July and other events.

Call 888-3484 for information.



QUILT ON DISPLAY — SHORE ACRES GARDEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH — NOON TO 5 PM



# Quilt on Display – Shore Acres Garden House

## Sunday, October 25th – Noon to 5 pm





# Next half century of Shore Acres State Park starts with “growing pains”

## NEW “CENTER” UNDER CONSTRUCTION - NOVEMBER 1992



From an 8'x 8' **closet** in the corner of the entrance



To a 24'x 24' **building** west of the entrance



David Bridgham, Dan Lucas, Andy LaTomme, George Guthrie



David Bridgham, Lloyd Geraths, Andy LaTomme,  
Shirley Bridgham, Dan Lucas



George Guthrie



Andy LaTomme, Frank Eckley, Ron Hjort

SEE STORY IN THE FRIENDS' QUARTERLY JOURNAL - AUTUMN 1992



## Positive Publicity – Nov/Dec, 1992

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### Christmas at Shore Acres

SHORE ACRES STATE PARK  
DECEMBER 10-JANUARY 3

The annual Christmas lighting display at Shore Acres State Park takes on special significance this year as the formal gardens gracing the park celebrate their fiftieth anniversary.

The display has grown into one of the coast's most popular events. This year the graceful gardens and quaint Garden House will be ablaze with more than 100,000 lights, up from 75,000 last year. It takes volunteers from the Friends of Shore Acres thousands of hours to organize, test, and place the multi-colored display, and it is definitely a labor of love. "In 1987, we decided to string a few lights just to get into the Christmas spirit," remembers organizer Shirley Bridgham. "It has really taken off since then." That first year, only 6000 lights were strung. This year, the 100,000-plus light extravaganza should attract more than 60,000 visitors.

To commemorate the gardens' fiftieth year, a brilliant gold and white light display called the Golden Anniversary Garden will illuminate the grounds adjacent to the Garden House. Tickets will again be sold for a chance to stay overnight New Year's Eve in the gingerbread-like Garden House. For that evening only the lights will remain on all night for the winners.

You can enjoy the Christmas lights at Shore Acres free of charge each evening between December 10 and January 3 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. The sponsor, Friends of Shore Acres, will also provide homemade refreshments in the Garden House. For further information, call the Friends of Shore Acres at (503) 756-5401.



Photo courtesy of Bandon Western World

The Coquille River Lighthouse decorated for the Bandon Festival of Lights

### CHARLESTON

Ongoing South Slough National Estuarine Reserve. Trails and waterways of South Slough National Estuarine Reserve are open dawn to dusk every day, year-round. Marty Giles, PO Box 5417 97420; 888-5558. ♿ building only.

**December 10 Fiftieth Anniversary of Shore Acres State Park.** A day of special events at the formal gardens. Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 210, 97420; 1-800-824-8486. ♿

**December 10-January 3 Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres Botanical Gardens.** More than 100,000 lights spread holiday cheer throughout this fairyland. Free admission, 4-10 pm. See special festival section for more information or contact Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. ♿

**December 12 Mac's Run.** The South Coast Running Club sponsors 10K and 5K run for runners, joggers, and walkers. Admission free, 10 am. Sunset Bay State Park. Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. ♿



# More Than 30,000 Cookies . . .



Cookie bakers led by Sharon Fortune (left) at North Bend High School

## Helping the park

The elves have already started baking some 30,000 cookies to fill visitors to Shore Acres during the Christmas season this year, and volunteers will begin stringing lights to turn the botanical gardens into a fairyland on Saturday, Nov. 21.

Last weekend, Sharon Fortune, in charge of cookies, and a crew of volunteers baked some 600 dozen cookies; they'll gather again this Saturday, Nov. 14, and Saturday, Nov. 21, to turn out about the same number from the ovens at North Bend High School, 1600 Fourteenth St., North Bend.

If you would like to help in this volunteer effort show up at the school at 10 a.m. and be ready to bake! Call Fortune at 888-3173 or Shirley Bridgham at 756-5401 for further information.

Crews will also begin stringing some 100,000 lights at the gardens at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, Bridgham said. There's no need to sign-up for light stringing, either, just show up at the park before dusk and "there'll be a job for you," she says. Call 756-5401 for information on the light stringing.

Volunteers will continue working on the lights Sunday, Nov. 22; Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend; and Dec. 5 and 6, also.



So many bakers and cookies!



Marty Wheeler



Helen McElravey and Doris Emmett



Marty Wheeler and Sharon Fortune



And even more cookies and bakers!



Pearl Groves and Sharon Fortune



# Getting Ready . . .

The World, Nov. 23, 1992 - Front Page

## First of thousands



World photo by Brian McLaughlin

The first of more than 100,000 lights went up in Shore Acres State Park near Charleston over the weekend, as volunteers started work despite the sometimes wet and blustery weather. The annual display of holiday lights

doesn't officially open until Dec. 10, but organizers from the Friends of Shore Acres estimate it will take all off three weekends to get all the lights in place and decorate the interior of the Garden House for visitors. Meanwhile, bakers have already turned out more

than 30,000 cookies for the free refreshments that are part of the holiday lights display. The lights display will run every evening - including holidays - through the New Years Day weekend.



David Bridgham, Andy LaTomme and Ellie Kinney-Martial

The World, Nov. 26, 1992

## Shore Acres lights

CHARLESTON - The Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres State Park lights up the landscape of the park's formal gardens from Dec. 10 through Jan. 3 this year.

The display is free, though donations are accepted to help with the costs of the display and refreshments.

More than 100,000 lights are in the process of being strung by volunteers from the Friends of Shore Acres, getting ready for the nightly show that draws thousands of visitors to the remote coastal park

near Charleston.

The Garden House of the park will be open every evening from 4 to 10 p.m., with volunteers serving free refreshments. In addition, entertainment will be offered on an outdoor stage most evenings, weather permitting.

The opening night marks the 50th anniversary of the park.

For more information on the holiday lights display, call the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-824-8486, the Friend of Shore Acres at 756-5401 or 267-0570, or Oregon State Parks at 888-4902 or 888-3732.





# Getting The Word Out . . .

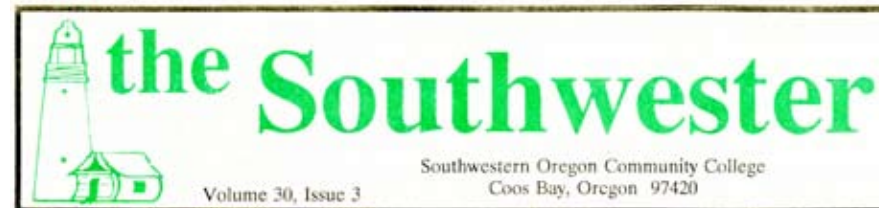


Photo by Cory Dazey

Students from Workforce 2000 decorate SWOCC's Christmas tree at Shore Acres with handmade glass ornaments.



## Seniors to tour the lights

By Liz Garone  
Staff Writer

Senior citizens interested in seeing the best holiday lights displays in town are invited to attend one of two light tours Skipper's Seafood and Chowder House in North Bend is planning.

Skipper's Manager Myron Smith is expecting the third annual event to be bigger than ever, and he is looking for co-sponsors to help out.

Buses will take seniors around to lighted homes and light displays around the cities. After the tour, everyone who took the tour is invited for free coffee, cookies, chowder, courtesy of Skipper's, and holiday carols by the North Bend and Marshfield High School choirs.

This is the first year for two scheduled tours, one on Dec. 14, and the other on Dec. 15. In the past, one tour was enough to accommodate everyone. But Smith is expecting double the size of the crowd he got last year. A year ago, more than 160 senior citizens enjoyed holiday lights - from Shore Acres State Park to homes in both Coos Bay and North Bend.

Smith, who plans to rent six to eight buses this year, spends his evenings the two weeks before the tour finding the Bay Area's best light displays. Anyone who knows of a display not to be missed is asked to call Smith, so it can be included on the tour route.

So far, Smith has received the support of Woodie's Quick Wok. He is hoping for other co-sponsors who can offer free "manpower" and financial help with renting the buses. All of the seniors who go on the tour receive a list of the businesses and people who helped out, according to Smith.

If you or your business are interested in co-sponsoring the tours or you know of a terrific light display, call Smith or Becky at 756-2912.

Reservations are necessary to ensure enough seats on the buses. Seniors who would like to go on the Dec. 14 tour can call the Bay Area Senior Center at 269-2626 to sign up. For the Dec. 15 tour, call the North Bend Senior Center at 756-7622.

## Seniors will revel in Shore Acre scene

Prime Time — December 1992 — Page 17

Cooperation among local senior groups and businesses promises to make the third annual Senior Lighting Tour available for more seniors than ever before.

Seniors throughout Coos County and those in Reedsport will gather in the Bay Area and North Bend Senior Activity Center parking lots Dec. 14 for a bus trip to see the holiday lights at Shore Acres, followed by visiting over clam chowder, crackers, cookies and coffee.

Myron Smith, manager of Skipper's Seafood 'N Chowder House, cooked up the idea three years ago to do something for the seniors in the community.

Woodie's Quik-Wok will co-sponsor the



Myron Smith

event, along with the Bay Area Jaycees who will pick up homebound seniors, or those who don't drive at night, at their homes. The North Bend Bus Company provides buses.

No one will be turned away this year, says Smith. "It wouldn't surprise me to have around 250 or more people attend," he says.

"To see their faces and to hear them, makes my Christmas. It's just something to do to give back to the people who have given so much," says Smith.

Those who would like to attend the tour may contact the North Bend Senior Activity Center or the Bay Area Senior Activity Center.

## Friends' Quarterly Journal - Autumn 1992

### 6th annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres Gardens 100,000+ lights



**December 10★ - January 3**  
**Open every night: 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.**  
(including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,  
New Year's Eve and New Year's Day)  
hot cider, cranberry punch, coffee, cookies  
music and entertainment - weather permitting

★ Shore Acres State Park's 50th Anniversary

happy  
from the staff

Gift Certificates  
The Perfect holiday gift  
Ask your server for help

December 10 to Jan 3

Shore Acres  
Holiday Lights  
&  
Open House  
One of Oregon's greatest  
Christmas attractions  
4 to 10 p.m.

PORTSIDE  
CHARLESTON

Friday Night  
Seafood Buffet  
All you can eat.  
6 to 9 p.m.



# Gold lights celebrate Shore Acres' 50th



Connie Eslinger (foreground), Joan Zyta (left) and Jean Donason helped decorate the house.

World photo by Mike Sweeney

CHARLESTON – Despite cold, heavy rains, dozens of volunteers turned out Wednesday night to see the beauty of their efforts: The magic of 100,000 lights in the forest – white, red, blue, green, purple, and gold.

The gold lights are particularly important tonight as Shore Acres celebrates its 50th anniversary as a state park, and officially opens the annual Holiday Lights display. (See times and other details, Page 3A)

Wednesday's preview was for sponsors and volunteers, who were not disappointed with the splendor of their combined efforts, even though the rain doused some of the lights.

As they came through the park entrance, they wanted to see the small parts they added to the whole scene: lights around tree trunks, a trio of tidepool creatures, the blinking lighthouse on a tree, the masses of color on almost every bush in the formal gardens, and the decorations inside the Garden House – next to a small garden full of gold lights marking the anniversary.

Several wanted to see how the new gift shop is coming along, but were disappointed. Despite frantic activity, it's still not quite ready for customers – maybe by the weekend, say Friends of Shore Acres officials.

The overnight wind storm caused a power outage that includes the park today, but Pacific Power has promised Friends of Shore Acres that the power will be back on by dusk today.

Shirley Bridgham, the coordinator of the Holiday Lights display, most of her day Wednesday trying to list all the names of cookie bakers and donors, light stringers and tree trimmers, board members and coffee servers,

She was printing the traditional posters for display in the Garden House. "If I listed them all on one line, I'd have to paper the whole house," she joked Wednesday night, knowing that some names and groups were still missing.

This morning, Bridgham said there are 526 names on the volunteer rosters and donor lists, and the number is still growing. She expects the effort to exceed the 5,000 volunteer hours that went into last year's display.

But all the numbers pale against the number of visitors that Bridgham expects to this year's show. With more lights, longer hours, and more days when the lights will be on, she's certain the effort will draw many more than the 62,000 visitors who saw the Holiday Lights last year.



# The Show Must Go On

The World, Dec. 10, 1992

## High winds rip up South Coast

Lots of power outages, damage, road closures

By Julie Johnson and Pam Geisinger  
Staff Writers

A storm rolled up the South Coast Wednesday night closing highways, taking out power lines, uprooting trees and damaging personal belongings. Damage reports varied from area to area.

The wind overturned a Cherokee 140 airplane at the Bandon Airport early Thursday morning, according to Frank Crook, owner of Frank's Flight Service.

According to the North Bend Weather Station, the highest gust of wind was 55 knots (63 mph) on the bay and 47 knots (54 mph hour) at the North Bend Airport. The area received 1.49 inches of rain between midnight and 7 a.m. today and 1.5 inches on Wednesday. The heaviest rain-fall was between 2 and 6 a.m. today.

And a temperature inversion that fed the storm caused the temperature to rise to 60 degrees at midnight Thursday.

The U.S. Coast Guard station in Charleston reported 16 to 18 foot swells on the Coos River bar. Port Orford reported 100 mph winds.

A 9 a.m. slide blocked Highway 38, just past the Loon Lake junction east of Reedsport, closing the highway between Reedsport and Elkton, according to the State Highway Department. The slide was expected to be cleared by noon today, the department reported.

According to unofficial reports, traffic was backed up for at least a mile on the east side of the slide before the road was closed.

Other damage in Bandon included an overturned trailer at the Inn at Face Rock, a few disintegrated business signs, a collapsed plywood building in front of McKay's, a blown-in business



Crews work on the tree that rerouted Highway 101 traffic in Coos Bay.

picture window, and trees blocking roads at Oregon Avenue and the intersection of 10th and Franklin streets, according to the Bandon Police Department.

Highway 101 was closed to semi-trailers and recreational vehicles between Humbug Mountain and Bandon between 11:30 p.m. Wednesday and 5:20 a.m. Thursday because of wind, according to Oregon State Police.

Guard rails along Highway 101 between Coos Bay and Bandon were bent by fallen trees.

A downed power line between Fir and Alder streets in Coos Bay caused south bound traffic on Highway 101 to be rerouted into a north bound lane most of the morning, according to Mark Uselman, district manager for the Oregon State

(Continued on Page 3)

## Storm blows up the coast

(Continued from Page 1)

Highway Department. Traffic was slowed down by the rerouting.

Rock slides were reported near Boatworks on the Coos River Highway, at Sumner Road and on Highway 42 South, he said. None of the rock slides were major.

Usselman expected all of the rock slides to be cleaned up by mid afternoon.

John Weber, operations manager for Pacific Power and Light Co., said there were a few major outages, including the one on Highway 101 in which an uprooted tree fell into the North Coos River line.

The company also reported outages in the Delwood area, South Coos River, Cape Arago, Bastendorff Beach, Sitkum Route, and spotty outages in the Bandon area. The Cape Arago outage includes Shore Acres State Park, where the power will be back on in time for the holiday lights display opening tonight, according to Weber.

The Central Lincoln Public Utility District had about 30 individual outages along the South Coast, mostly

### Winds reported up to 100 mph in Curry County

south of the Reedsport area, according to a spokesman.

The largest of those was in the Hauser area, where 223 customers were without power for an hour and a half early Thursday morning, he said.

The remainder of the outages affected an average of one to three customers.

At 8:30 this morning Central Lincoln crews that had been working since midnight were coming in to eat breakfast before going back out. The spokesperson said repairs for power lines could take all day today.

The Reedsport Police Department reported some downed trees along Highways 38 and 101.

And Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative Inc. reported outages in

the area of Seven Devils Road and Fat Elk Road as well as several smaller outages. The company expected to have most power restored by about 11 a.m.

The Coos County Sheriff's Department was advising drivers to be careful Thursday morning, saying many Coos County roads were scattered with tree limbs and other debris. The department expected cleanup to take much of the day. Curry County was also reporting trees and rocks in roads.

Gold Beach lost power and many phone lines, according to its police department.

Other communities sustained less damage. The Coquille Police Department reported only one downed tree and Myrtle Point Police said the town did not lose electricity. Brookings sustained no weather damages, according to the Brookings Police Department. However, many phone lines were down in the area early Thursday morning. Florence Police said the city had a few power outages as a result of the storm.

The World, Dec. 10, 1992



World photo by Cory Dazey

Volunteers have strung 100,000 lights in the formal gardens of Shore Acres State Park, where the Friends of Shore Acres open the traditional Holiday Lights display this evening. (See stories on Page 1 and Page 3A). Though storms have doused some of the

lights, and caused a power outage to the park overnight, the lights will be back on by the 4 p.m. opening today. The display will be open nightly - including holidays - through Jan. 4.





# You Have to See It to Believe It

The Courier, Dec. 17, 1992



Western World, Dec. 16, 1992

## Free bus to Shore Acres

Free bus service to Shore Acres Holiday Lights will run Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18 and 19, and Christmas Eve.

A 40-passenger bus leaves the Pony Village Mall west parking lot at 7, 7:30, 8 and 8:30 pm.

A bus leaves Shore Acres at 8:30, 9 and 9:45 pm.

The busing is sponsored by Security Bank, Pony Village Mall, Mayflower Contract Services, and the Friends of Shore Acres.

For further information, phone 756-5401.



## Holiday lights open house at Shore Acres

The sixth annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres Gardens is open every night through Jan. 3 from 4 to 10 p.m.

To reach Shore Acres turn off Highway 101 in North Bend or Coos Bay and go out through Empire and past Charleston south to Cape Arago and Shore Acres State Park.

Shore Acres Gardens will be open on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day.

The Holiday Lights and Open House celebrate Shore Acres Park's 50th anniversary.

Admission to the park is free and refreshments are served. Music and entertaining will be presented as weather permits.

The Holiday Light Show and Open House is a community tradition sponsored by the Friends of Shore Acres and Shore Acres State Park.

For more information about this special holiday event call the Coos Bay Chamber of Commerce toll-free, at 1-800-824-8486.





# An Amazing Tapestry of Lights



Aerial Photo by Jean Carter, December, 1992



# Lots of Visitors, B&B Winners and Final Night

The World, Dec. 28, 1992



World photo by John Gunther

## Lots of visitors

Scott Davidson (left) and Kent Blumberg serve hot apple cider and cookies to one of the many guests visiting the Christmas lights display at Shore Acres State Park Saturday. About 5,000 guests visited the park Christmas night and even more came Saturday, according to Friends of Shore Acres coordinator Shirley Bridgham, who said the weather was perfect and the park had a steady run of visitors until the nightly 10 p.m. closing. According to State Parks

Official Andy LaTomme, about 38,000 people have visited the holiday lights display this year, down from about 62,000 last year. LaTomme said the weather has probably been a factor in lower numbers. The display will be open until Sunday at 10 p.m. The bed and breakfast drawing was won by Joyce and Tom Plymyer of Bandon, Bridgham said, who will stay in the Garden House on New Year's Eve.



B&B Winners - Joyce and Tom Plymyer, Bandon

The World, Jan. 2, 1993

## Last nights for lights



World photo by Brian McLaughlin

A couple poses for photographs near the pond in Shore Acres State Park's formal gardens Friday night, where the gardens still glow with more than 100,000 lights in the annual Holiday

Lights display. Tonight and Sunday night are the last nights for this year's display. The lights are on – and the Garden House open for free refresh-

ments – from 4 to 10 p.m. About 50,000 people are expected to have seen the lights by the end of the weekend, according to the Friends of Shore Acres, which organizes the display.



Editorial

Don't forget winter tourism

IF YOU SPENT an evening at Shore Acres State Park recently, you saw a dazzling display of lights and volunteer effort that sparkled through the holidays.

And if you avoided stormy weather, you also saw crowds of people. When the lights were turned off for the final time Sunday night, organizers predicted that some 50,000 visitors would have walked into the formal gardens of the park just to see the lights.

The amazing thing was to realize how far some of those visitors traveled, drawn simply by the Holiday Lights display. To read through just a few pages of the guests books is to realize that the lights – as something special – do draw large numbers of people to the Bay Area. Those are people who stop for dinner, stop to check out a store, buy a tank of gas, or sometimes spend the night.

People sign in from all over Oregon, from many other states, and from nations all over the world. The foreigners are often brought to the gardens by proud residents; on just one evening in the gardens, among hundreds of other guests, we met people from Austria, Korea, Japan and Germany.

OUR POINT TODAY is not how far people come, but that they come for something special – and they come to the Bay Area.

Too often, we dismiss tourism in the Bay Area. We worry that we are not a “destination point” because we are not right on the ocean, we give up on tourism outside the summer months, and we fail to recognize that there are things to do here that can attract outsiders to come spend time – and money – here.

Events like the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres, the South Coast Dixieland Jazz Festival, the Oregon Dunes Mail Run and the Oregon State Class 3A Wrestling Tournament prove all three of those theories dead wrong. We can create reasons to visit the Bay Area during all kinds of weather, because we have special people willing to create those events.

Hundreds of people give thousands of hours to string lights, hire bands, keep track of wrestlers and mush dog teams down the dunes. We owe them all our thanks for creating some extra activity – particularly economic activity – in our community.

And the best vote of thanks we can give them is to follow their example – to believe that there are people willing to visit the Bay Area in all seasons for all kinds of reasons.

It isn't enough to match the crowds of summer, but it certainly beats shutting down and simply watching the rain.

State parks fee increase coming



Robert Meinen  
Visits South Coast parks

By Liz Garone  
Staff Writer

Even with cuts from Ballot Measure 5, Oregonians should not expect to see any state park closures this year, according to Robert Meinen, the new director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department – but they can expect to see fee increases.

“We’re not in the position right now to close parks or do anything like that,” said Meinen. “I think that’s very positive, because parks down here – from all appearances to me – are extremely important and an integral part to tourism and to the whole economy of the South Coast, which depends on that. It certainly doesn’t do anybody any good – either the economy of the state or the park system – to be closing things down.”

Wednesday for his first official visit to the area. While no closures are projected, Meinen said that day use fees will be going up and being charged at more locations along with increases in camping fees, facts that he realizes will not be embraced by all park users.

“We’re in a position where you won’t see much change in the form of growth or additional services,” he said, “but one of the areas that we’ve had to use to balance our budget is going in for fee increases.”

On the South Coast, Shore Acres, Sunset Bay, and Jessie Honeyman State Parks will now have \$3 day-use fees charged seven days a week from mid-May to mid-September.

Often times, the public forgets what happened six months ago and can become “irate” when they arrive at the front gate of a park and see an increase or change in fees that they

weren’t expecting, said Meinen. “The staff that works at the front gate sometimes get verbal abuse.”

Meinen said that many of the improvements and changes to the parks over the next few years will not be obvious to the regular park user, because they involve repairs, updates to existing structures, and upgrades to electrical systems.

“One of the major problems we’re having right now is we have to make a lot of investment in infrastructure rehabilitation. One of my drives would be to really try to take care of what you’ve got rather than letting it deteriorate. And that means putting money into roofs and electrical systems and plumbing systems and those type of things that are not real obvious when you walk into a place, but people are going to expect them.”

State parks fee increase slated

(Continued from Page 1)

Because of recent staff cuts, Meinen and his staff are looking at ways to utilize more seasonal help and to work with other groups and organizations to cover those services that the department needs to provide.

While camping in state parks has increased by 40 percent and day-use attendance has gone up by 12 percent since 1980, the state parks have fewer employees than they did in the 1970s, according to a state parks spokesman.

A new development that Meinen is excited about is the implementation of a computerized reservation system, a change, he said, that will benefit both the park user and the park staff by making it easier and more “user-friendly” to reserve campsites. The new system should be available approximately a year from now. It is too late to implement for this year, since the reservation season opens next week, he said.

“To me, it’s a two-sided sword: It’ll be a better service to our

campers and also, it’ll probably cut down on some of our staff time. To us, it’s an efficiency issue; to the camper, it’s a better service.”

Meinen brings a multi-state background to the director position. He came to Oregon in November 1992 from a position as acting regional director of The Nature Conservancy in Minneapolis, Minn., where he had also been program director. Previously, he worked as cabinet secretary of the Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife and director of Iowa State Parks.

“The perception of the public outside of the state is extremely positive,” he said.



\$25 Donation

1-14-93  
Dear Shirley:  
Please accept this donation  
towards the Christmas  
lighting fund for Shore Acres  
Parks.  
It was truly a fairground  
this year.  
Keep up the good work.  
Sally Sperry, Trass.  
Oss Head Garden Club.







# A Rare Snowfall at Sunset Bay and Shore Acres - February 1993

Photos by Andy LaTomme



Looking South toward Simpson Reef and Shell Island



Sunset Bay Campground Booth



Looking North toward site of famous Shore Acres Wave



North rose circle and Garden House



Norton Gulch



Garden House



Garden House



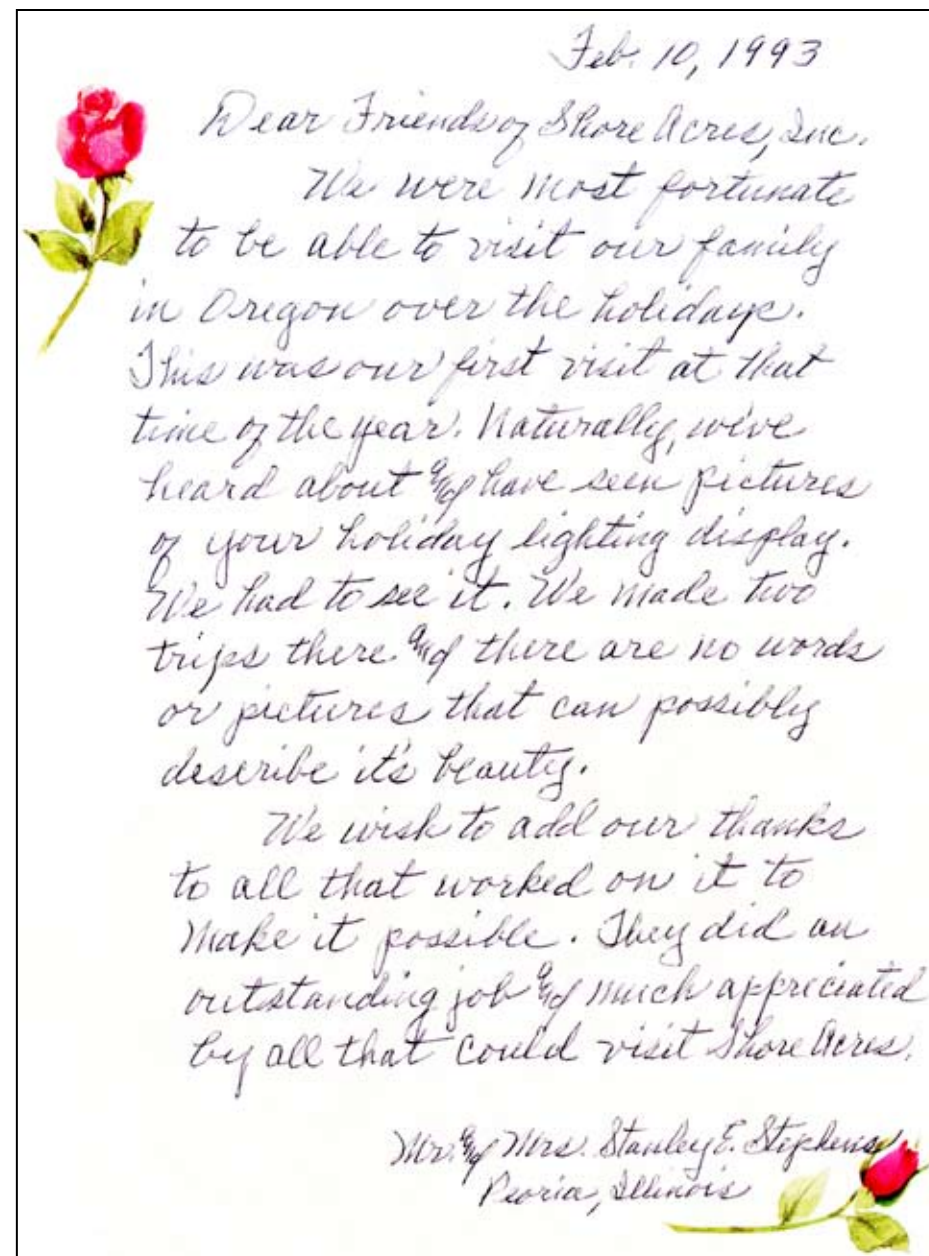
Looking South toward brick planter



Garden House



# Letter, Notecard, Etc.



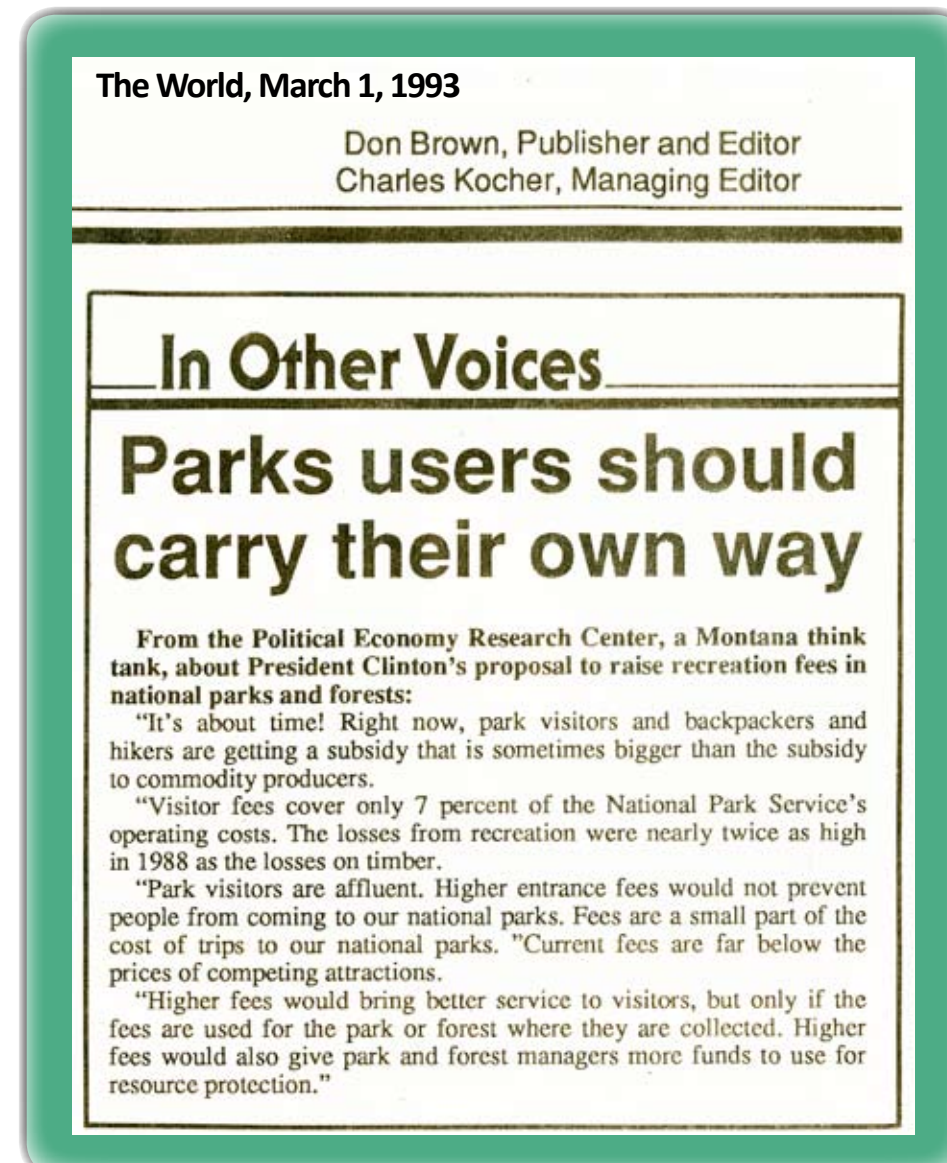
March 2, 1993

Dear Friends,

The tree azalea was such a pleasant surprise. Thank you for taking time to come and help me celebrate my birthday.

Such a great group - you friends. Now I can enjoy my volunteering so much. Thanks again!

Ellen





The World, March 1, 1993

# Fees opposed at Sunset Bay

The fee at Shore Acres might be acceptable, but charging for access to Sunset Bay State Park near Charleston is totally wrong, according to callers to The World's new "Sound Off!" telephone line over the weekend.

Oregon State Parks plans to increase and enlarge its day-use fee system this summer. The plan would increase the fee from \$2 to \$3 per car, make it effective every day during the summer season, and add several parks to the system — including Sunset Bay on the South Coast. Shore Acres State Park has been park of the system for several years.

An annual pass good at all state parks in the fee system would be available for \$20.

Many of those calling to object cited arguments already made by a group of Charleston residents trying to get the decision changed: the safety and popularity of Sunset and the state law on public beach access. Others expressed distrust of state parks in particular and state spending in general when it comes to new fees.

Callers to The World's free 24-hour "Sound Off!" line, and their opinions included:

**Wilma Stange, Coos Bay:** "I am against charging to Sunset and increasing the charge at Shore Acres. There should not be a charge out there. It is against the law because we have access to those beaches."

**Doyle Payne, Coos Bay:** "I feel that weekend charges are fine, but that the local citizens should pay to take a stroll through these parks is sad and discouraging. The park authorities should realize that the support of local people is very important to them in the long term."

**Robbyn Gutierrez, Coos Bay:** "The amount that we're having to pay seven days a week I feel is incorrect. We should be paying half that amount — \$1.50 — Monday through Friday and the full amount on the weekends. We do need the money but I feel they're asking us for way too much money seven days a week. Also, if you're going to charge us \$3 for seven days, then at least Sunset better get bathroom-



## Sound Off!

style doors; that's my big gripe. That really puts a cramp when you have children and they want to go to the beach and we have to pay \$3 every time we want to go to the beach. That really limits our family activity time."

**Bud Burton, North Bend:** "For day fees, I really feel that this is an inappropriate fee. I feel that if the parks need care for picnics and such then the community should be notified of needs and we folks who live here can jump and help. To charge for day fees at a park is almost a violation of our rights to access to the beach. I would have no problem with going over there on a Saturday or Sunday to help do things, but to charge for a picnic area is certainly not fair to local people, or visitors."

**Jim Harris, Myrtle Point:** "As a former park volunteer, rest assured my services will never be volunteered again with the higher increases in user fees. The State Park system operates with prison labor, with volunteers, and they have only 66 permanent fulltime employees according to their latest publication, yet they took in over \$20 million last year in fees. Someone is getting rich at my expense and I will never again support an Oregon State Park. We

are being taken to the cleaners. They have money coming from all different sources and they want volunteers, and they don't want to pay their help and they use prison labor — as a retired person who use to enjoy motor-homing in Oregon, I'll find other places to go."

**Terry Kuni, Coos Bay:** "I feel it's okay for they to raise the fee at Shore Acres — it's not okay, but I can tolerate that. But I do feel at Sunset, the beach should be free. I feel it would create a tremendous traffic problem if they did try to implement it, not to mention the injustice of it. It's a public park and should be maintained as such. I think as far as fees for campgrounds and raising those around the state there ought to be some sort of special annual passes that residents of the state can buy that would cut back considerably on their costs, because I feel most of us with families with lower incomes — it's hard enough to get out and that's one of the things we enjoy here in Oregon is the opportunity to get out and use the facilities that are available for us in nature."

**Don Andrus, Coos Bay:** "I am opposed to any charge for the state park at Sunset Bay."

**Lucy Andrus, Coos Bay:** "I'm deadly against any fee for state parks. There's too many people that need that who can't afford that."

**Betty Ann Trout, Barview:** "The state has declared all Oregon beaches open to the public. If the state's going to now charge the public for using state beaches, that's against the law because that will effectively keep the people who can't afford the price off of the beach. We own beachfront property; tidelands are also in our title. We allow the fishermen to launch their boats, clambers to clam, beachcombers etc. to enjoy our beach. What would happen if we decided to charge everyone who wanted to use our property? Does everyone who owns a beachfront property have the right to charge \$3 per day for the use. I think not."

**Connie Smith, North Bend:** "I think it's ludicrous to have these park fees because it isolates the

people who don't have money. I just think it's ludicrous."

**Jonna Smith, North Bend:** "I think that speeds up the financial difficulties — it bleeds funds from the struggling business district of Charleston — not to mention how tacky it would look on a tourist brochure with barbed wire fences around our beaches."

**Heather Dawn, North Bend:** "I think it's a shame that in one of the most beautiful states in the country that we've resorted to a fee to have to see the beaches. I think the beaches should be for everyone, not just the rich and the elite."

**Bill Kolick, North Bend:** "I don't think it's right to increase these fees. If it's a one-time charge for the year, okay, but if it's a charge for every time in the park, it's ridiculous because this renders it unequal for the residents."

**Cynthia Mallmann, (no town given):** "I think that seeing as how we paid for state parks in our taxes already that the people who live here shouldn't have to pay a fee to use them. If you want to soak the out-of-towners or the visitors, I don't see why we can't do that, but I don't like being forced to pay for something that I've already paid for."

**Stella Zimmerman, Coos Bay:** "I'm a retired citizen and I think it's a mistake of them to charge what they're charging for Sunset Beach and the botanical gardens. I know we have taken many visitors who come to our house from Arizona and California; they've come to Coos Bay and North Bend and they've said it's just another coastal town until we take them out to Sunset Beach and the gardens and we usually stay 10 minutes — not more than half an hour — and to have to pay \$3 for that little bit of time, I think it's an error because many of these people have decided they wouldn't be back until we took them out there, and then the majority of them have said they will be back to vacation or look for a home to live here. It sure changes their attitude."

**Rosalie Hyatt, Coos Bay:** "I oppose the new fees for Sunset Bay. It

(Continued on Page 8)

Page 8 — THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Monday, March 1, 1993

## 'Sound Off!' calls oppose park fees

(Continued from Page 6)

threatens public access to Oregon beaches and it has a negative impact on the tourist economy for tourists coming to the Charleston area. I would prefer that the \$2 charge not remain in effect for Shore Acres, however, I can understand with the labor intensive way that that place is run why they do need the fee there. But I am definitely opposed to Sunset Bay visitors being imposed a \$3 fee."

**Frances Brownlow, Coos Bay:** "I'm calling to protest the fee at Sunset Beach especially because that's where so many little children can go and play and be safe. The other beaches have a lot of undertow, and Sunset Beach — it's so safe for them there. My sister and I went there when we were kids, and my grandchildren go there and so many of my friends have taken their little children there to play. As far as Shore Acres, I can see where they do need a fee, but I do think they should have maybe one weekend a month where they didn't have a fee, or at least not over a dollar."

**David Smith, Coos Bay:** "I've been a native of Oregon all my life and so have my parents before me....I've always felt that the Oregon coast line belonged to the Oregonians, and that they would never disallow people to walk on the beach, even if you own a home in Oregon you can't keep the people off the beach in front of your home. I can understand if they might close some parks or charge money for them that are inland, but I thought this was the law — that you could go to the beach. I just heard that California is going to close 50 parks, but we have a law. I think we should look into that; I don't see how the state park system can keep people off the beaches — it's against the law."

**Cheryl Malone, North Bend:** "At Shore Acres, the fee is okay because of the gardens and all, but Sunset Beach — I don't think it's fair. It's my favorite beach around or

thing to do that doesn't cost any money. I don't think they should charge a fee there."

**Nancy Edlund, Charleston:** "I don't feel there should be fees, but if there are fees the local residents should be required to pay the fee only one time at which time they would be given a sticker for their car good for one year. I hope this helps."

**Mike Fisher, Coos Bay:** "In general, state parks should be self-supporting. A less-frequented park could receive revenues from a park that's frequented heavily and that more heavily frequented park should have a higher per-car fee than a less-frequented park that still deserves to be in existence."

**Oscar Warner, (no town given):** "I think it's ridiculous. If the rates do go up, I'll go to the county parks for my recreation. It's more affordable, and they recently took a pay cut. Who do the state parks think they are?"

**Esther Combs, Coos Bay:** "I think it's absolutely terrible. I don't have any money and it's stupid."

**Dena Barnett, (no town given):** "I feel that the new fees for the state parks at Sunset and the botanical gardens are wrong. We already own these beaches and these parks and I feel that it will take away from the tourism that comes to Oregon. We've already lost enough jobs, and enough people are out of work and the tourism is keeping this town alive. If any of these things go up or start being charged for, we will lose a lot of income that comes to our state in tourism from other states."

**Beverly Collins, North Bend:** "I think a fee at Sunset is one of the worst things I've seen in a long time. Everybody takes their kids to that beach and to have to take and pay a fee just to walk on a beach seems absolutely awful. I can't understand whatever happened to free access to publicly owned beach; I thought that was the law. I'm learning not to trust our state parks department."

**Margaret J. Smith, Bandon:** "I am against raising the park fees."



# Publicity, News and a Gorgeous Garden

## Shore Acres is favorite wedding spot

Make reservation and pay fees, park staff will help with plans

By Linda Meierjürgen  
Coast Life Editor

CHARLESTON — The gardens are always busy, the sound of the surf is crashing in the background, and the weather almost always breaks clear for some part of the day.

It's no wonder that over 60 couples a year decide they want to get married at Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens, according to park spokesman Andy LaTomme.

They come from the South Coast and points as far away as Nevada, California and Washington state, he added.

In fact, if you want a wedding on a Saturday in June this year, there may not be an opening for you. "Try getting married on a Tuesday or mid-week," LaTomme chuckles. "Then there's no problem at all."

### Make a reservation

If you want to get married in the gardens, call 888-4902 and Oregon State Parks officials will be ready to help you make a reservation and the other arrangements.

They send out forms to fill out, including a map of the gardens for you to indicate exactly where you want the services to take place. Favorite spots are in front of the garden house or on the steps overlooking the Japanese pond, LaTomme said.

There are fees to use the facilities; all of the money goes to cover the wear and tear and upkeep of the formal gardens once a part of the Louis B. Simpson estate.

### Fees go to park

For wedding parties of up to 50 people, the fee is \$30; for those up to 100 people, the fee is \$55, LaTomme explained. It costs \$75 to rent the Victorian garden house for the ceremonies or reception. There is also a \$25 refundable cleanup fee to cover possible damage to flower beds or other facilities.

The garden house is not available this month because Friends of Shore Acres State Park volunteers are busy stripping away the old paint and repainting inside. More volunteers are welcome to help, in fact, just by showing up at 10 a.m. any Saturday or Sunday during March.

The most frequently asked question is "what's the best time of year for the wedding," LaTomme says. The answer is "it depends."

Weather is a consideration, of course, but so are the gorgeous gardens. In general the peak season if you prefer rhododendrons for a background is the second week of May; if it's roses you want, try the second week of June for the first bloom of the season; or if you love the splash of color and bloom the dahlias make, try the second week in August.

### Gardens remain open

LaTomme advises couples to "think small" when thinking of a garden wedding. The gardens are not "shut down" during the ceremonies, so there will be other people wandering about. "Most of the other visitors are very respectful, though," LaTomme says.

Be sure to warn guests, also, that during the summer months they will need to pay the day-use parking fee everyone else pays to enter the gardens. There is a way to either pay the full amount for your guests or to purchase pre-paid tickets and send them out with your invitations, LaTomme said.

Bear in mind, as well, that no drinks or food are allowed in the gardens themselves, though you can hold a reception in the garden cottage. All decorations will need to be individually approved, including items such as lanterns in trees or ropes or bowers for the couple and guests.

In general, staff bends over backwards to help the couple have the wedding of their dreams. In fact, a map is included in the



Photo courtesy of Jim Baird Photography

Shore Acres offers many beautiful backdrops for the formal wedding portraits.

forms so the couple can show the exact placement they wish.

"That's so we don't water the lawn immediately before the festivities and watch the bride and her party in high heels sink into the grass getting wet heels," LaTomme explains. In the same vein, the timing is important and staff will be careful to have flowers groomed, beds weeded and no sprinklers will come on during the ceremonies.

### No rice or birdseed

The wedding party cannot throw rice or birdseed inside the gardens, LaTomme explains. The atmosphere is so lush — it sprouts! That makes more weeding problems, he adds.

Also, no amplified music is allowed for the ceremonies, though each wedding is judged on an individual basis. Piano, harp, string quartet, guitars — in essence, music "in keeping with the dignity of the gardens" is allowed. You can get a permit for amplified music, but must work that out individually with park staff since other visitors will be present in the gardens during the ceremony.

The most unusual requests for

wedding details? Well, there was the couple with the hot air balloon...then there was the couple wanting to escape in a helicopter and the couple wanting horses to play a role in the festivities, LaTomme remembers.

The biggest problem for park staff due to weddings? "Cleaning up the residue (nice choice of word) from the decorations on the wedding cars," LaTomme chuckles. Think "subdued" folks!

Thursday, March 11, 1993, THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. — Page 3

The World, March 11, 1993

## State Parks hold public hearing on March 18

The state Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public meeting in Coos Bay on March 18 to get public comment on rules relating to implementing day use fees at 26 state parks.

The state Parks and Recreation Commission at its November meeting approved a day use fee rules package that included a \$3 daily fee (\$1 increase) and the new \$20 annual permit. The commission approved expansion of the fee collection system from 11 parks to 26 parks. The rules to be considered in March relate only to specific details of the implementation plans for the approved increase.

The Coos Bay meeting will be held Thursday, March 18 in the council chambers of the Coos Bay City Hall, 500 Central, beginning at 7 p.m.

Information gathered from the public at the Coos Bay meeting, a meeting held at Enterprise an written comments, will be summarized and presented to the state Parks and Recreation Commission at its meeting on March 25.

The World, March 17, 1993

Don Brown, Publisher and Editor  
Charles Kocher, Managing Editor

## In Other Voices

## Parks use fees are appropriate

From Ron Hjort, regional manager of Oregon State Parks, in advance of Thursday's special hearing on day-use fees at 7 p.m., Coos Bay City Hall:

"To avoid closing a significant number of parks, or significantly lowering the maintenance standards of the system, the State Parks and Recreation Commission decided to increase park user fees for campers and day visitors. Sunset Bay will be one of 15 parks added to the 11 state parks which have collected day-use fees over 10 years.

"As the day-use parking fee program was carefully planned and refined, conscious management decisions were made not to charge fees during the low use 'off season' not to charge fees at small parks and wayside areas; not to use staffed visitor contact stations in all 26 day-use fee parks; and to design the new visitor contact stations of modest size.

"The day user parking fee is not an attempt to limit access or to turn the parks into tourist traps; nor is it a tactic to take away beaches and parks. The state attorney general's opinion is that the parking fee is legal.

"It is appropriate that to some extent the cost of maintaining paved parking areas and foot paths, mowed lawns, regular garbage collection from litter-free picnic grounds, clean restrooms, safe drinking water, information signs and visitor safety be borne by those who use the facilities and services."



FUJI CHERRY TREE NEXT  
TO THE SOUTHEAST PATH  
LEADING TO THE SOUTH AARS  
ROSE DISPLAY GARDEN, AN  
IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE  
FORMAL GARDENS





# A Beautiful Beach and More News



The World, March 24, 1993

## Sunset Bay fee draws hot protest

The rain couldn't stop the more than 130 people who arrived in droves Thursday night to protest Oregon State Parks Department's plans to charge a \$3 day-use fee at Sunset Bay State Park during the spring and summer months.

Southwestern Oregon Regional Parks Supervisor Ron Hjort tried his best to keep the crowd in control. But at times, the crowd got out of hand, demanding to know the amount of his salary and "perks," questioning the cost of brochures about the new fee machines that will be installed, and accusing the State Parks of circumventing state laws.

With a reduction in general fund dollars for 1993-1995, the State Parks and Recreation Commission was faced with the choice of closing parks, significantly lowering the maintenance standards of the park system, or raising fees, Hjort said. They chose the latter.

In October, Hjort held a public hearing in Coos Bay on the proposal for new park fees. Only one person not affiliated with the parks system showed up.

On Nov. 12, 1992, the commission voted to raise the fees and charge day-use fees seven days a week from the second Saturday in May through the last Sunday in September at 26 parks.

On the South Coast, state parks that will charge the day-use fee are Shore Acres, Sunset Bay, and Jessie Honeyman. Park visitors will have the option of paying a \$3 day-use fee or buying a \$20 season pass good at all the parks.

No one at Thursday's meeting in Coos Bay City Hall appeared to



Charlotte Weaver captures the attention of a sometimes-unruly crowd at Thursday's hearing over State Parks fees.

take exception to the day-use fee the State Parks and Recreation Commission has proposed for the 25 other parks in the state system. It was Sunset Bay and Sunset Bay alone that they argued about, lobbying for an exception.

Mel Campbell, who manages the Charleston Tourist Information

Center and organized her own informal protest, presented Hjort with what she said were more than 3,000 signatures against the fee. She also gave him letters from students at Marshfield High School.

Repeatedly, audience members stood up and said that they felt the state Parks Department was break-

ing the law, specifically ORS 390.610, which states that "the public may have the free and uninterrupted use" of the ocean shores from the Columbia River on the north and the Oregon-California line on the south end of the state.

Hjort tried to explain that the

law only applies to north and south beach access – not east and west – but the crowd didn't want to hear it. He reminded them that he did not make the decision, that the commission did. He also invited them to take up the legal issue with the state attorney general.

The World, March 25, 1993

### Editorial

## Two concerns about beaches

SOME BEACH RELATED topics tonight – both for our Spring Break visitors and for those of us who live, work and play by the ocean.

First, these bright clear spring days can make the Pacific Ocean look charmingly calm, particularly when they follow the storms that have just blown through. That's how the Pacific it got its name in the first place.

But even on clear days, you can't afford to turn your back on the ocean. There are occasional waves – they call them "sneaker waves" – that will come out of nowhere. That makes them dangerous, and if you need an example, just listen to the words of a woman who was swept out to sea at Florence earlier this week.

"I thought I could just back up, but it knocked me off my feet." Two waves later she was washed into a creek, and then swept out to sea despite her struggles. Bystanders who heard her cries were luckily able to drag her back to shore and revive her with CPR.

Don't turn your back on the ocean. Don't scramble out to rocks on the water's edge without knowing which way the tide is going. Don't go anywhere near logs that are still being rolled or lapped by the surf. And for good measure, either take a friend to the beach with you or leave word with someone about where you've gone and when you will be back.

ON A MORE pleasant topic, we're hopeful that moving the annual spring beach cleanup to a weekend that involves Spring Break will bring out more help on Saturday to clean up winter debris. The extra help should make an already-successful event even more so.

The beach attracts an amazing amount of trash – both brought and dropped by shorebound visitors and washed in by the surf over the winter.

Twice each year, Oregon State Parks and a variety of sponsors invite volunteers down to the beach to scour the shore for manmade items that don't belong there. We've seen participants bring back everything from fishing boat boilers to \$5 bills, from car wheels to foreign-made cosmetics. Of course, those are the rare items among the sacks full of plastic foam, drink cans, fast-food containers and run-of-the-mill litter.

Participating in the beach cleanup takes no special skill – just a little time. The sponsors provide the collection bags and the trash collection, along with a light lunch; volunteers should wear appropriate clothing for beating through the bushes along the beach, and bring a pair of gloves.

Just show up Saturday at 10 a.m. at your favorite beach, and enjoy the fellowship of other volunteers. For more information about the clean-up and the specific gathering points, pull out Wednesday's edition of The World or call the nearest Oregon State Parks office.



# The Bear of the Brush and Flush

by Gregg Nelson

Pond cleaning got off to an early start this year. On Wednesday, three days before the scheduled cleaning, Dennis Graham, David Rosenkrance, Arnie Nee, and Gregg Nelson (four of the five BLMers who put in the new drain last year) went out to Shore Acres to watch George Guthrie "pull the plug" for the first time. George opened the gate valve, and within an hour the level had dropped one foot. The volume of flow was enough to overflow the footpath leading down to the beach. We were all very pleased with our work.

On Friday the last efforts of the park personnel were almost complete. Ellie had re-potted all the water lilies, and George was sloshing around in ankle-deep water trying to net the last of the elusive baby goldfish. We were all set for the 10 a.m. influx of volunteers on Saturday. The gate valve was closed, so the kids that came on Saturday could have a try at catching fish.

Then the rains came. It poured all Friday night. It poured all Saturday morning. At 9:30 Saturday morning, George went down to check on the pond. At the same time, the first of the BLM volunteers showed up. The pond was full! George muttered something under his breath, shook his head, muttered some more, and opened the gate valve. George spent the next hour muttering, shaking his head, and telling anyone who would listen that "the pond really was almost empty yesterday.

In spite of the setback, the crews only waited about a half hour before starting into the task. Several people began cutting back the vegetation around the "islands," while others cleaned the exposed upper edges of the pond. By 11 o'clock, the eastern portion of the pond had drained enough so the volunteers could sweep and shovel away the muck. The "gatherers" began their work - sifting through the gravel to gather up the coins, and gathering up the newts, frogs, and goldfish.

An hour more of sweeping, hosing, shoveling, hauling away muck, and trimming back vegetation, and the end was in sight. Everyone knew we would have a clean pond soon. Originally we had planned a break at noon, but everyone wanted to finish the job.

At 12:30, the last bit of muck was sucked down the new drain. The hoses were turned off. The tools were put away. And the sun came out! David and Shirley fired up the grill, and laid out a feast of burgers and chips as a thank you for the volunteers.

The Friends of Shore Acres would again like to thank everyone who helped in the pond cleaning effort, all of the Friends volunteers who came out to help, and especially the Bureau of Land Management for its continuing commitment to this community effort, and for the use of BLM equipment.

Thanks go to Chris Hamilton, Steve Fowler, Lloyd Geraths, Ray Orazem, Dotti Orazem, Forest Cranson, Jon Menten, Dora Menten, Gregg Nelson, Martin Pike, Mike Taylor, Jake Taylor, Charlie Kocher, Kay Lee Kocher, Morgan Kocher, Cranson Fosburg, David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham, George Guthrie, Ellie Kinney-Martial, and to Dora Menten's Camp Fire Troop: Kathryn Menten, Blaine Barklow, LeAnne Bechtel, Kara Wick, and Charlotte Menten. Thanks also to everyone who wanted to help, but had prior commitments. We'll look for you next year.

And a GREAT BIG THANKS to the new drain from all the volunteers – it made our job much easier this year. ■



BLMers, Park Staff and Friends



George Guthrie in the middle of it all



# Captured on Film by Luis Velasquez and Charlie Kocher



Page 4 — THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Monday, April 5, 1993



What do you find when you drain the pond in the gardens of Shore Acres State Park? Goldfish, salamanders, frogs, pots of water lilies, gravel, two buckets full of coins, and plenty of muck. More than a dozen volunteers organized by the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment and Friends of Shore Acres turned out Saturday with shovels, brushes and hoses to clean out the pond in the annual muck-raking event. Those who have participated in the past said that this year's work was aided by

a new drain that allowed workers to "brush and flush" instead of hauling out everything in buckets and wheelbarrows. How much change was there? No one knows, because cleaning and sorting the coins from the pond is a long, painstaking process.

World photos by Charles Kocher



Pond Lilies re-potted by Ellie Kinney-Martial



Ellie Kinney-Martial



# Finishing the New Information and Gift Center

## Volunteers work hard getting ready for April Opening



The first coat of Varathane wasn't easy, but willing volunteers tackled the job anyway.



David Bridgham puts on a second coat.

It's almost done. Only the cabinets are left to complete. And it's open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. The new Information and Gift Center that opened for the holidays in December, opened for the summer season, April 3.

To be ready, some dedicated volunteers worked very hard to finish the woodwork. Helping with the project were Gregg Nelson, George Guthrie, Ron and Bernice Hjort, Dan Lucas, Dick Jamsgard, Bob Emmett, David Bridgham, Lloyd Geraths, and Tony Mason.

Staffing the Center in April and May were Friends' volunteers on the weekends and Sunset Bay camp hosts, Del and Barbara (B.J.) Thomasson on weekdays. Barbara said it was their first experience at being camp hosts. "We feel rewarded," she said, "by getting to work at Shore Acres."

While there, the Thomassons came up with a clever idea – that of loaning their own umbrellas to visitors. It was such a good idea, the Friends decided to make it a regular service. Board member Dick Van Natta went looking and succeeded in getting four umbrellas donated by Joe Howard, store manager at Wal-Mart. They have been well used!

We asked Del and B.J. to tell us about themselves. Del was a sergeant in the Marine Corps for 20 years, then a sergeant in the City of Oceanside Police Department for 20 years. For 4 years prior to his retirement, he worked for the Aladdin Supply Co., a company that does mobile home repairs. B.J. has 20 years of experience in banking, working for Pacific First Bank, Bank of America, and the Bank of La Costa. She was also president and treasurer of G.C. Ventures, Inc., a cookie store by the name of Cookie Doodle Doo.

The Thomassons love camping, hiking, fishing and sailing. They lived aboard a Catalina 36 sailboat in the Oceanside Harbor for eight years and now live in their 33 ft. Fifth wheel trailer. They enjoy people, love to travel, and are ready to "hit the trail" full time.

Thanks from the Friends and happy trails! ■



Dick Jamsgard finishes the ceiling.



Tony Mason puts on more Varathane.



# Good . . . no . . . Great News!

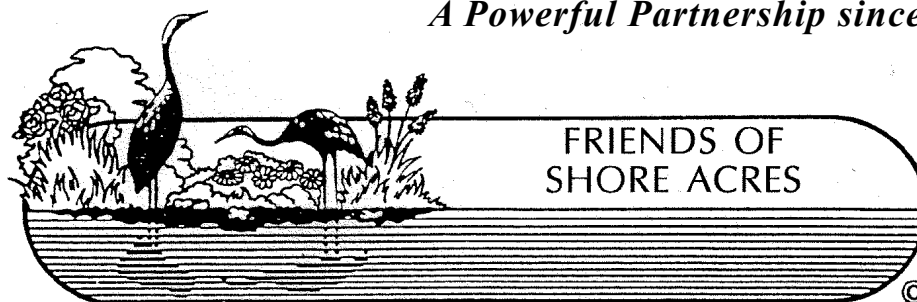
## Up With Tulips



World photo by Brian McLaughlin

Taking a break from Up With People cast duties, Michele Broderick of Mill Neck, N. Y., takes a whiff of the tulips Monday blooming in the garden at Shore Acres State Park. Some 130 Up With People performers from two dozen nations arrived in the Bay Area Monday for tonight's special performance at the Marshfield High Gymnasium. After touring the

Bay Area, they met their host families at Pony Village Mall. The performance, a benefit for Helpline of the South Coast, starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. Co-sponsors are the Rotary Clubs of Coquille, Myrtle Point, Reedsport and the Bay Area, along with The World.



*A Powerful Partnership since 1986*



## Sunset park fee delayed

By Liz Garone  
Staff Writer

In a dramatic reversal, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department has decided to delay plans to charge a fee at Sunset Bay State Park for day users.

The \$3 fee — which was expected to go into effect on Saturday, May 8, and extend through the middle of September — drew vehement protest over the past few months after it was announced. It is this protest, along with legislator concern, that caused the department to delay its implementation, according to Bob Meinen, state parks director.

Visitors to Sunset Bay near Charleston and Wallowa Lake in northeast Oregon will not be charged a fee. Fees at both sites drew heavy protests.

The 24 other parks slated for fees will go ahead and begin charging a fee on May 8. On the South Coast, Honeyman State Park near Florence will be included.

"This is so exciting," said Mel Campbell, manager of the Charleston Tourist Information Center. She gathered thousands of signatures protesting the fee. Campbell said Friday that she had an additional 1,500 signatures she still planned to deliver despite the good news. "We'll continue to bombard them," she said.

Campbell plans to have a comment box installed at the information center so visitors can voice their opinions on whether they would still visit the beach if the fee was in place.

Aside from individuals protesting the fee, Campbell said that local groups have also voiced their concern by cancelling events scheduled

(Continued on Page 3)

The World, April 17, 1993

(Continued from Page 1)

for the park, including the Oregon Coast Music Association and the Coos County Sheriff's Department.

"These are big groups of people who said 'no way,'" Campbell said.

The state parks department is giving itself until June 8, one month after the original implementation date, to hold off on the fee — and find other possible sources for revenue.

Meinen said that the additional day-use fees are needed for repair to parks, daily operation and maintenance. "Since 1980, the voters and legislature have shifted more of the responsibility for funding the department to the users," he said.

According to Ron Hjort, state parks regional director, those options include extending the dates that a daily fee would be charged at Shore Acres State Park; charging the fee at alternative locations, and even possibly closing some other day-use facilities.

Hjort emphasized that if the day-use fee is extended at Shore Acres, it is not intended to be collected during the month of December when thousands of people descend on the park for the holiday lights.

The \$20 annual passes for those parks charging the fees are now available at the state parks office in Coos Bay, said Hjort. They will also be available at state parks and at select vendors over the coming weeks.



# Rhododendron Sunday Featured a Paint-Out . . .

The World, May 7, 1993

## Does Mom like flowers?

See the rhodies or a bonsai show for Mother's Day

Mom can enjoy rhododendrons in full bloom, or the Japanese tradition of bonsai, for Mother's Day weekend, thanks to the Bay Area Bonsai Society and the Friends of Shore Acres.

Both groups will host events, and experts will be on hand to answer questions and give demonstrations.

The Bay Area Bonsai Society holds its annual spring show Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9, at Pony Village Mall, North Bend during mall hours. Admission is free.

Bonsai master Herb Gustafson will give demonstrations at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. During the demonstrations, nursery stock trees will be styled into bonsai

and these trees will be raffled off at 4 p.m. Sunday. Gustafson began his interest in bonsai over 37 years ago, has extensive training in Japan and will publish his second book on the subject this summer.

Bonsai (pronounced bone-sigh) — bon means "tray" and sai means "to plant. Examples of the dwarfed trees in shallow containers will be available for sale, along with starter supplies for those seeking a hobby, at the show.

Hobbyists can join the society's monthly meetings the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the gallery room of the Coos Bay Library, 525 Anderson Ave., Coos Bay. Call 269-1524 or 756-0198 for further information.

Rhododendrons will be at the

peak of bloom as the Bay Area Artists' Association helps the Friends of Shore Acres celebrate the annual "Rhododendron Sunday on Mother's Day" with the garden house open from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The artists will set up easels in the garden, or the gardener's cottage, and conduct a "paint out" for visitors to watch, with Friends serving cookies, punch and coffee.

Out in the garden, head gardener George Guthrie and members of the Southwestern Oregon Rhododendron Society will answer questions about rhododendrons and their care.

For further information call Shirley Bridgman at 756-5401 or Shore Acres State Park at 888-3732 or 888-4902.

**S**unny skies, gorgeous rhododendrons, and artists in the middle of a paint-out greeted visitors to Shore Acres Gardens on Mother's Day. But that wasn't all. In the resplendently renovated Garden House, was a wonderful exhibit of paintings from members of the Bay Area Artists Association.

Merrie Holbert — artist and Friend — greeted visitors to the Garden House and volunteers Dick Van Natta, Wiley and Jil Sanders and Patricia and Bill Borchert, offered punch, cookies, and information about the park.

On Rhododendron Sunday, visitors always have a lot of questions about rhodies and this year was no exception.

George Guthrie, President of the Southwestern Oregon Rhododendron Society as well as Shore Acres Landscape Maintenance Superintendent and Friend was more than happy to share helpful information. For a nickel, he even answered non-park questions. ■



Joe Bush (left) demonstrates painting skills near the cliff overlooking Simpson Cove



George Guthrie (right) shares rhododendron information and photo notecards with the Bill Beers family.



## . . . and A Sunny Garden, Artists and Open House



Jim Davenport paints rhododendrons and more.

A big thank-you goes to all who helped with our annual Mother's Day event - those already mentioned and the following: Friends volunteers Helen Barton, Connie Eslinger, David and Shirley Bridgham, and Ann Koppy. From the Bay Area Artists Association: Exhibitors Betty LaVelle and Dutch Mostert; Paint-out artists and exhibitors: Merrie Holbert, Joe Bush, Jim Davenport, Alice Ellis, Leo Dingman, Pat O'Neil, Dick Wheeler, Pat Weaver, and Charles of Charleston. ■



Charles of Charleston shows his painting of the Garden House.



Alice Ellis (right) shows her painting to a group of visitors.



Pat Weaver paints a garden scene.



Dick Van Natta offers refreshments to Shirley Bridgham's daughter Shary Werdell, who was visiting from Eugene.



# Coast Life

Linda Meierjorgen, Editor



## Give dad a picture-perfect Shore Acres' Day

Take Dad to Shore Acres State Park for a picture-perfect Father's Day this year thanks to the Friends of Shore Acres and the Oregon Coast Photographer's Association.

It's the annual "Rose Sunday" in the botanical gardens and the association will exhibit the finest photographs from a regional contest. All depict locations on the Cape Arago peninsula: Bastendorff Beach County Park, the Cape Arago Lighthouse area, Sunset Bay, Shore Acres and Cape Arago state parks.

Several categories of awards have been given by the association. Visitors to the exhibit in the historic gardener's cottage at the park will be able to select a "People's Choice" winner during Father's Day festivities.

The photographs will remain on display at the cottage through July.

Father's Day events run from 1 to 5 p.m. at the gardens, with members of the Southwestern Oregon Rose Society on hand to identify blooms and answer horticultural questions about the "Queen of Flowers."

The Friends of Shore Acres will serve refreshments in the garden house throughout the afternoon, also.

Rose experts on hand will include Jay Dow, Ray Duskin, Alice Hobbs and Shore Acres botanical gardens chief gardener, George Guthrie.

The garden features many roses in the formal area and near the gardener's cottage, but tucked away at the rear is a rose test garden where local residents can check out varieties to grow in their own gar-

dens, as well as the latest in All-America rose selections.

For further information call 888-4902 or 888-3732.

Other possible Father's Day activities include hiking on the trail between Sunset Bay State Park and Cape Arago, with a pass through the gardens along the way and perhaps a picnic supper on the bluffs to wind up the day.

Activities elsewhere on the South Coast range from the Sawduster's melodrama in Coquille to theater performances in Coos Bay and Brookings. Check the weekend calendar in this edition of The World for other possibilities.

If Dad's favorite "event" is fishing one of the South Coast's streams

then try salmon fishing for spring Chinook on the Rogue River or rockfish fishing over the reefs.

Salmon fishing is allowed in the ocean through Saturday, but closes for Dads' Day off Gold Beach and Brookings — any ocean salmon fishing north of Port Orford was closed already and won't open until July 13.

Crabbing in the ocean is open or Dad can always take you and the kids for a surf-fishing expedition.

South Slough National Estuarine Reserve offers two hikes and a lecture — all free — this weekend and there are events planned in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, too.

Perhaps it's time to fire up the family car for a road trip along gor-

geous country byways, maybe the Old Coos Wagon Road, now that the monsoons have stopped and the wildflowers can stand up tall by the roadside — look for wild iris, orange lilies, simple daisies, foxglove and other old familiars.

South Coast restaurants are also offering special Dad's Day brunches and some are offering entertainment, too.

Or, if Dad just wants to stay at home and use his power tools or watch the tube, perhaps the Bulls won't win tonight and he can catch game five Sunday at 4 p.m.!

It's Dad's Day to decide the details — make sure they are accompanied with hugs and warmth.

## Rose Sunday / Father's Day, June 20, 1993



Helen Shefstad serves refreshments in the Garden House.



Artist Merrie Holbert in the front rose garden.



A riot of roses in the AARS Rose Display Garden



# Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert - July 23, 1993

## OREGON JAZZ BAND FEATURED



Friends' President Connie Eslinger serves sundaes to the North Bend July Jubilee princesses, who were helping collect donations for the concert, which is offered free every year.

The annual Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert drew nearly as many people as in previous years, but fewer cars had to be parked as many chose to car pool because of the daily parking fee at Shore Acres.

Besides the wonderful jazz by the Oregon Jazz Band, many visitors enjoyed the Friends' delectable sundaes - a choice of fresh raspberry or chocolate and complemented with a homemade cookie - and lemonade.

A special part of the concert was a display of extravagantly decorated hats worn by many of those attending.

A special thanks goes to our Friends' volunteers who helped with the concert: Al Aslakson, David and Shirley Bridgham, Vivien Day, Bob and Doris Emmett, Connie and Arianne Eslinger, Vera Fusano, George Guthrie, Gladys Ivy, Carl Siminow. Frank Smith, Bob Valois, Dick Van Natta, Luis Velasquez. A total of about 80 volunteer hours. ■



Oregon Jazz Band



Eager customers at the sundaes booth



Gladys Ivy and Arianne Eslinger



Marty Crouse (left) and friends.



# Coast Life

Linda Meierjorgen, Editor

## Hold Shore Acres garden's glory in your hands

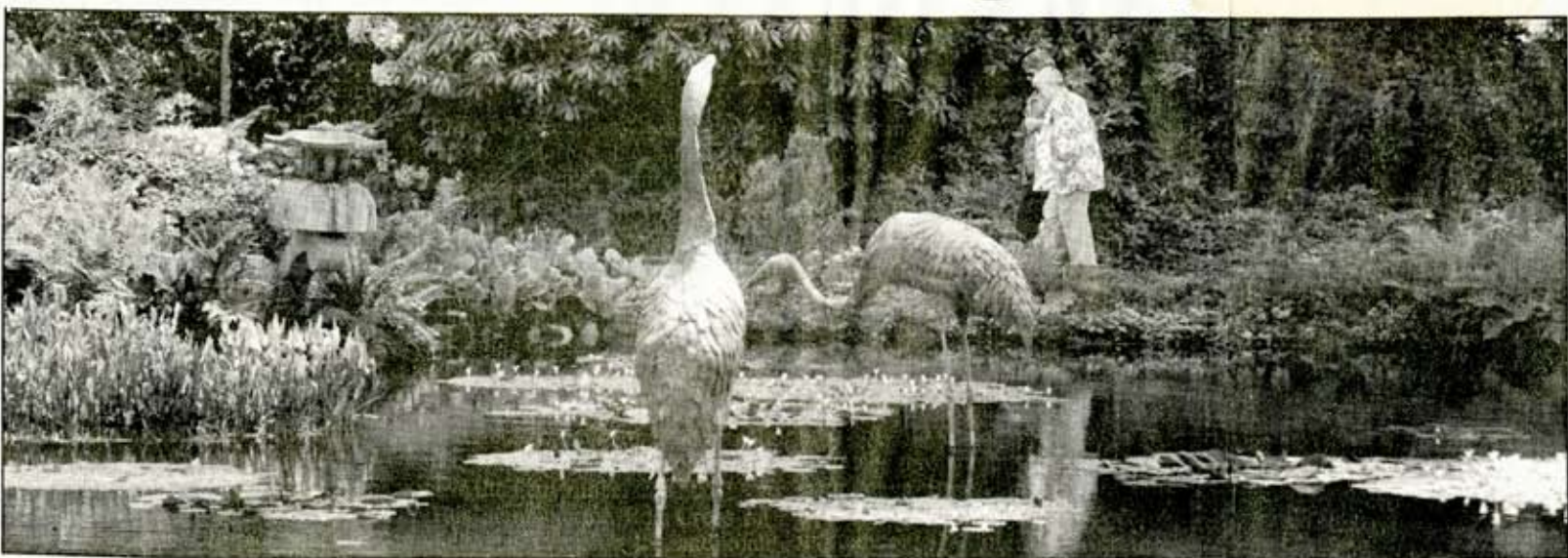
CHARLESTON — Visitors to the gorgeous Shore Acres botanical gardens often ask volunteers if there is something they can take away with them to remind them of their visit.

Those who had their own photos, or luck with a camera or video on the visit, could capture something of the sights, but what about seeing the gardens hung with snow, or drenched in gentle spring rain?

Now, Friends of Shore Acres have produced a book, "Gardens Above the Waves," that will give South Coast residents and visitors something to hold in their hands besides fading blooms or memories.

A story of the history of the gardens has always been available, both in "The Simpsons of Shore Acres," by historian Stephen Dow Beckham, and in various state park publications.

But the all-volunteer organization wanted to provide some flavor of the gardens and their wonders for the public to take away, too, says spokesperson Shirley Bridgham. Her



The Japanese pond at the Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens is included in the new book.

World photo

in the full-color publication which was printed in North Bend.

One of the surprises of the book, after the joy of the full-color flowers, is **all** of the photographs were taken by local photographers.

They include Mason, Madlyn Geisert, Jean Carter, Luis Velasquez, Archi Rosenthal, Shirley Bridgham, Bernard Schlaf, Alice Richter, LaTomme, Jackie Schlaf, Carol Knapp and the late Ward Robertson.

The Friends of Shore Acres received a \$2,500 grant from the parks division and matched it, as well as donating hundreds of hours on the project, to produce the book.

The book is available for \$5 at the Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens information center at the entrance to the gardens, open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

To find out more about the publication, or the Friends of Shore Acres, write to P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, Ore., 97420-0301 or call 888-3732.

husband, David, came up with the context.

Park superintendent Andy LaTomme and head gardener George

Guthrie came up with the text and local artist of many talents, Tony Mason, came up with the design, layout and handled production

details. The Bridghams got help from Phyllis Love for typography and editing and Jim Brenden of the Bureau of Land Management, as

well as the Oregon Parks Department for maps.

Guthrie and Ellie Kinney Martial identified all of the plants captured

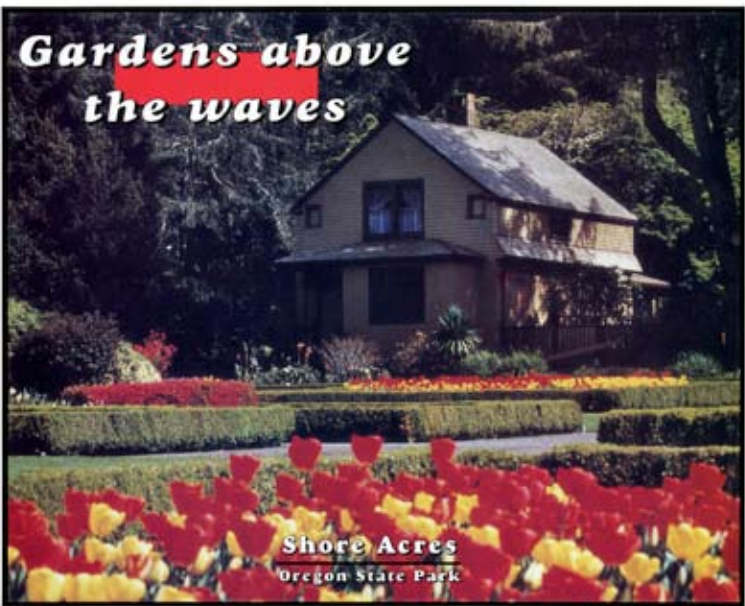
Shore Acres Quarterly Journal - Summer 1993

### Editor's Notes

by Shirley Bridgham

**W**hew! What a super summer this has been. And if autumn is on the horizon, you know what's next. One good thing about getting your summer Journal late is you'll get the autumn issue early.

So many good things have happened for the Friends in the past year, it's hard to highlight just one. But I must say the completion of our viewbook – **Gardens above the waves** – has to be at the top of the list. A completely volunteer effort with exquisite photographs, wonderful story and excellent layout, makes this small book a real winner for visitors and residents alike. It's selling well in the Information and Gift Center and everyone is very glad we have it. A big thanks goes to Tony Mason for coordinating the design of the book, to Andy LaTomme and George Guthrie for writing it, and to all of the photographers who contributed their photos. Be sure to get your copy and check out the credits page for a complete list of all who helped. ■



ACTUAL SIZE - 7"x 8" - 20 PAGES



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 7:

Annual Year - September 1, 1993 - August 31, 1994

Album 6 - Completed April 7, 2017

Book and PDF Versions

CONTENT SOURCES - FOSEA PHOTOS, PUBLICITY  
CLIPPINGS, FRIENDS' QUARTERLY JOURNALS 1992-1993

More Information:

[www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net) – Journal/Newsletters