



Shore Acres State Park
Before Friends - 1986

Album 11



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

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.

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.

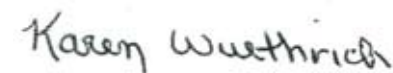
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

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, 1997 - August 31, 1998

Celebration Potluck Dessert and Annual Meeting - September 9, 1997 **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Conference Room** **Highlights of the Minutes – (Original on File)**



Bob Renner

Approximately 50 members and guests of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. were present to enjoy many potluck desserts starting at 7:00 PM. While they were enjoying the treats, Bob Renner, President, welcomed all present. Gregg Nelson, President Elect, added his welcome and encouraged the members to participate in all of the Friends' activities during the coming year.

David Bridgham gave a report of the activities of the Friends and stated that many projects have been started and/or completed during the past year.

Following his report, he stated that the terms of Directors Carl Siminow, David Bridgham, Terry Richards and Georganna Casey are now expiring. Georganna has decided not to serve beyond the end of this term. Betty Kennedy has agreed to nomination as Director and as Secretary. There being no further nominations, on motion of Chuck Lembke, seconded by Dick Van Natta, Carl Siminow, David Bridgham, Terry Richards and Betty Kennedy were unanimously elected to serve as Directors for a term of 3 years expiring in September, 2000.

Service awards were presented to Georganna Casey, retiring Secretary, and to Bob Renner, retiring President.

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Georganna Casey, Secretary*

Board Meeting - September 9, 1997 **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Conference Room** **Highlights of the Minutes – (Original on File)**

President Bob Renner called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Directors Present: David and Shirley Bridgham, Georganna Casey, Ellen Garner, Betty Kennedy, Chuck Lembke, Mary Novak, Gregg Nelson, Winnie Pitsenberger, Bob Renner, Carl Siminow, Barb Taylor, Kay Valois and Dick Van Natta. Director Absent: Terry Richards. Guests: Andy LaTomme, Larry Becker, Linda Lopez and Shirley Stentz.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, David nominated the following to serve until the next Annual Meeting: President- Gregg Nelson, President Elect-David Bridgham, Secretary-Betty Kennedy, Treasurer-Barbara Taylor, Immediate Past President-Bob Renner. With no further nominations, Shirley moved to cast a unanimous ballot. Carl seconded and the motion carried.

Board Meeting - September 9, 1997 - Continued



Gregg Nelson

Bob passed the gavel to Gregg, who thereafter presided over the meeting.

Minutes of the August 12, 1997 approved as submitted. MSP Shirley/Bob

Financial Reports: Barb distributed copies of the August 1997 Financial Report and a proposed budget for the 1997-98. Total Cash Assets: \$60,858.81

In reviewing the proposed budget, it was agreed that it should reflect an expenditure of \$24,000 for Projects-Parking, rather than \$17,000. With the one revision to the proposed budget, the Financial Report was accepted and the Proposed Budget passed.

Old Business :

Information & Gift Center - Sales have been lively this summer and more locally made items are available. Ordering now for Holiday sales. Winnie said with the higher volume of business, there is a need for more volunteers to help with ordering, receiving and arranging merchandise.

New Parking Lot - A bid has been received from Bracelin & Yeager to complete the necessary work for a 50-space parking lot with gravel surface for \$23,341. MSP - David/Bob

New Business:

Linda Lopez of State Parks said there are currently 12 different Friends groups in the state. She also encouraged attendance at the Co-Op Conference, Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

Larry Becker outlined current park projects and said September is Volunteer Appreciation Month and invited all volunteers to a reception at Sunset Bay State Park, September 18, 1997 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

Jay Dow of the Rose Society has requested approval to replace the roses in each of the circles with new plants since the old ones have outlived their normal life expectancy. He estimates the cost to be about \$620 with discounted prices on bushes and planting materials. MSP - David/Ellen

With no further business, Gregg adjourned the Board Meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Betty Kennedy, Secretary*



A September Prediction

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 3, 1997

Weather should finish in a flurry

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

GRANTS PASS — The ocean-warming condition known as El Nino may have peaked early, which could bring a snowy end of the year in Oregon, state climatologist George Taylor says.

A split in the jet stream around the first of the year could leave the state drier than average in January and February as storms track into California and Alaska, Taylor said Tuesday.

El Nino is the periodic warming of tropical Pacific waters that disrupts weather patterns worldwide. In Spanish, the name refers to the baby Jesus, because it usually becomes noticeable around Christmas.

The phenomenon usually means stormy weather for California and drier conditions in the Northwest. But evidence indicates this El Nino — which may be one of the strongest of the century — peaked in June and is starting to wane, Taylor said.

That would produce conditions similar to the winters of 1972 and

1977, he said.

In December 1972, the Willamette Valley had below-zero temperatures and a foot of snow in December. And in 1977, a series of strong storms brought rain and snow to Western Oregon in November and December.

"While the storms are expected to be powerful, we do not expect extreme flooding as we did in past winters," Taylor said.

The wet weather cycle that Oregon entered two winters ago also will offset some of El Nino's drying effects, Taylor said.

Taylor's view that El Nino is waning is at odds with the report the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration gave at a recent meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Monterey, Calif.

"I hope George is right," said Jim Martin, salmon adviser to Gov. John Kitzhaber. "It would assist our restoration of coho."

The warmer ocean temperatures of past El Ninos have hurt salmon by reducing the amount of food available to fish as they mature, exacerbating habitat problems on land.



AP File Photo

A railroad worker runs past a large front-end loader as it removes snow last December.



A Powerful Partnership
Since 1986



September Publicity

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 15, 1997

State parks have money. struggles

■ **Fixed the future?:** Legislature bumps up budget, but bonds must pay for repairs.

By **CHARLES E. BEGGS**
Associated Press Writer

SALEM — By some measures, the state parks system went into the 1997 Legislature begging and came out riding high.

The lawmakers gave the Parks and Recreation Department a budget of about \$87 million for an increase of around 40 percent.

The money keeps all 225 parks open, and work will begin on long-deferred maintenance needs. Much of the maintenance money is to come from bond sales.

Lawmakers authorized a total of \$105 million in bonds, with \$15 million in sales per two-year budget period.

Initial bond revenue probably will finance repairs at Fort Stevens and Silver Falls, two large, popular parks. Water and sewer systems at six other parks also are on the early list for repairs.

Robert Meinen, director of the department, says there are \$100 million worth of projects on the maintenance backlog list.

He figures the agency has made significant progress, considering that a year ago he was proposing to close up to 60 parks for lack of money. A \$1.8 million allotment from the Legislature's interim

funds carried over the parks operation until the full Legislature convened.

So the public presumably will notice fewer leaks and other problems in utility systems at a few parks.

An Internet web site for state parks information is due to begin accepting campsite reservations, and credit card deposit payments, by early 1998, says Nancy Rockwell, deputy director of the department.

But Oregonians won't see any new parks.

Only one new state park has been developed since the mid-1970s. The state's population has risen by more than 30 percent since then, along with increases in out-of-state tourists.

A particular problem is along the coast, says Meinen.

"There has been a tremendous influx of people on the coast," he says. "We can't provide added access points to the beach without more public land."

Gov. John Kitzhaber and other supporters of increased parks funding argue that a permanent, earmarked revenue source is needed to fund and expand the parks system.

Parks had a permanent source of money until 1980, when voters passed a measure cutting off their revenue from the state gasoline tax.

The governor asked the 1997 Legislature to tax beverage containers, in addition to the required deposit, to fund parks. The proposal got little attention.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 19, 1997

Sketching Shore Acres

■ **Artists needed:** Friends of Shore Acres seeks someone to be creative in the gardens.

Imagine having a gigantic garden to call your artistic own.

Coos Bay watercolorist Merrie Holbert will spend the remainder of 1997 as "Artist in the Park."

The new program, sponsored by the Friends of Shore Acres and Shore Acres State Park, is looking for artists who would like to take her place in the new year.

Two-dimensional work, except photography and computer art, can be submitted to the jury.

The winner will participate in events in the garden, show works in the visitor center and the gift shop will buy small works throughout the year.

Holbert says she has enjoyed the park experience.

She sees Shore Acres as a place that is beautifully ordered, with the historic trees and boxwood hedges framing the colors of each season as the flowers bloom and grow.

She spends time sketching in the garden whenever she can, but particularly on special days cohosted by various Bay Area garden clubs — Daffodil Daze, Rhododendron Sunday on Mother's Day, Rose Sunday on Father's Day, Fuchsia Sunday, Dahlia Daze and other special events.

On these days, representatives of the various groups are in the gardens to answer questions about the flowers and offer gardening advice, too.

Holbert gets many comments from guests and plans to turn her sketches into permanent works in her studio at a later date.

She holds a degree in fine arts from the University of Iowa and has studied with various artists throughout the United States.

She has had numerous one-person shows and has works in many private collections in the Northwest.

She won honors as a People's Choice winner at the annual Public Hanging Show at the Coos Art Museum for two years running, including the 1997 show.

Locally you can see her works at

the Bureau of Land Management, in several locations for the Oregon State Parks system, at Oregon Coast Magazine offices and in many business and professional offices.

Artists who submit works should submit three color slides showing subjects that may relate to the gardens, either in a historical or educational way featuring flowers, the coast, birds, historic structures or other scenes related to the gardens.

The deadline for submitting slides was Oct. 1, but has been extended to Oct. 15.

The winning artist agrees to paint or draw on eight special days in the gardens and to donate one, framed original work for the Friends of Shore Acres permanent collection.

Friends of Shore Acres will provide a year-long free parking spot and agree to buy small cards or works for sale in the gift shop.

The artist can choose any type of self expression and media, except photographs and computer-generated artworks.

A panel of judges will jury the entries and select the Artist in the Gardens.

Those who enter should love to talk about art and their work and be happy to greet the public and welcome visitors to the South Coast.

Slides will be returned to the artists following the judging.

Send slides and stamped return envelopes to Friends of Shore Acres, P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, 97420.

For information call (541) 756-5401.



Coos Bay's Merrie Holbert is serving as 1997 Artist in the Gardens at Shore Acres State Park.

SUBMIT ARTWORKS NOW

Before Oct. 15 send slides of artwork to the Friends and you could be Artist in the Gardens:

■ **What artwork:** Sketches, drawings, paintings, watercolors or pastels; no photographs and no computer art. Art should relate to the gardens.

■ **How to enter:** Send slides to Friends of Shore Acres, P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, 97420. Call 756-5401 for details.

Autumn Activities

CAR SHOW AND DAZZLING DAHLIAS





CHRIS PIETSCH / The Register-Guard

Shirley Bridgham (left) and Andy LaTomme hope to rebuild the mansion that once graced the cliffs of Shore Acres where the observation house now sits.

Group wants to rebuild bit of history

By LARRY BACON
The Register-Guard

COOS BAY — In its time, the rambling shingled home perched on the sandstone cliffs above the sea south of Coos Bay was regarded as one of the most spectacular estates in the Pacific Northwest.

Dynamic coastal businessman Louis J. Simpson, heir to a timber and shipping empire developed by his father, built the three-story structure as a summer home in 1907. He moved his family in permanently after adding a major addition in 1914.

It was a showplace where Simpson and his wife, Cassie, entertained guests from near and far — including those who would aid an unsuccessful 1918 campaign for governor that promoted him as “the handsome stranger.”

Guests at the Simpsons’ remote Shoreacres estate lounged in wicker furniture on the broad veranda, overlooking waves crashing on rocks below. They swam in a heated indoor pool that was the centerpiece of a “Roman bathroom.” And after long outings



This historic photo shows the mansion built south of Coos Bay by lumber baron Louis J. Simpson.

touring the estate’s formal gardens, they danced in a large third-story ballroom.

Oriental rugs, paintings and artwork collected from around the world decorated spacious rooms featuring massive fireplaces and heavy wood furniture.

It all went up in smoke July 4, 1921, in a spectacular fire that lit up the night sky for miles around.

“The house and all the contents ... were wiped out. Nothing was left of the elegant furnishings,” a Coos Bay newspaper reported at the time. “Mr. Simpson was deeply grieved at his loss ...”

Now, from the long-cold ashes, a new home may arise on the ocean cliffs — a replica of the celebrated Simpson home.

Plans are still taking shape, but supporters of the idea envision an exterior nearly identical to the original home and an interior that would serve as an interpretive center for Shore Acres State Park, which now encompasses the mansion’s former site. A restaurant, bed and breakfast rooms or meeting facilities also might be included.

The project would be financed through a public-private partnership, in which a private operator would cover most construction costs in exchange for the rights to operate a restaurant or other money-making enterprises in the building.

Famed coast mansion may rise again

Park supporters seek to reconstruct Louis Simpson's burned showplace

By LARRY BACON
Eugene Register Guard

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Guests at the Simpsons' remote Shore Acres estate lounged in wicker furniture on a broad veranda. They swam in a heated indoor pool that was the centerpiece of a Roman bathroom. And after long outings in the estate's formal gardens, they danced in a third-floor ballroom.

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Left: This undated photo shows the mansion of lumber baron Louis Simpson, which was just west of Coos Bay. The Friends of Shore Acres hopes to re-create the mansion, which burned to the ground July 4, 1921.

Below: Shirley Bridgman and Andrew LaTomme are members of Friends of Shore Acres. Bridgman said the late Louis Simpson would love the idea of rebuilding his mansion for modern visitors. "Louis would think it was fabulous," she said.



CHRIS PIETSON/Eugene Register Guard

Andrew LaTomme, southwestern manager for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, is confident such private money can be found.

"Somebody's out there," he said. "Somebody's going to catch the vision."

It's a vision he and the 250-member Friends of Shore Acres have shared for some time. One day recently, LaTomme and Shirley Bridgman, president of the friends group, looked out the windows of a small observation building just north of where the Simpson mansion once stood and talked about the prospects of building another house.

"Louis would think it was fabulous," Bridgman said. "He would love this project. He'd do it in a minute."

Simpson loved entertaining guests. Bridgman thinks a replica of his mansion would draw more visi-

tors than he could have imagined, giving the Coos Bay area a year-round economic boost.

"If they thought there was a place they could come and have dinner or lunch overlooking this magnificent coastline, people would drive from far away," she said.

The new visitors would build on about 400,000 who already visit Shore Acres State Park each year. They view the spectacular scenery and tour the park's acres of formal gardens on the site of the original plantings for the Simpson estate. Though the years, most of the plants have been replaced, but the park's groundskeepers keep the gardens looking much as they did in Simpson's heyday.

Each Christmas season, thousands come to the park to view Christmas lights placed by the Friends of Shore Acres. Bridgman

said the group is considering putting year-round lighting in the gardens, possibly in conjunction with the house rebuilding project.

LaTomme and Bridgman said a re-creation of the house could be a fitting way to tell the story of the Simpsons, their influence on the area and the history of their former 1,600-acre estate, which now includes three state parks.

LaTomme said the next step is to examine public-private partnerships that have worked well, such as Crater Lake Lodge and Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone Park.

Recently, the department hired historian Steven Dow Beckham to research the history, appearance and layout of the Simpson house. His work could serve as a guide for a restoration effort.

A private contractor might finance reconstruction of the first home in return for a percentage of

the gross, with an agreement that the home would revert to state ownership in 20 years, LaTomme said. State economic development money or Oregon State Parks Trust donations might play a part in the formula, he and Bridgman said, but the project cost and financing method remain to be determined.

Bridgman said the state might be in a position to seek proposals from private developers as early as next year. And the project, which has generated public support, could be a reality in five years.

Such a goal might be optimistic, but Bridgman takes heart in Simpson's success in building such a magnificent house in a rugged location, where materials had to be hauled in by sea, and an electrical generating plant was constructed to light the house.

"He thought he could do anything," she said.

In the Meantime . . .

EDITOR'S NOTES - JOURNAL - AUTUMN 1997

BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM

As you probably know, we hope to build an interpretive center/restaurant in the style of Louis J. Simpson's first mansion. Two initial steps toward this project have been completed. Stephen Dow Beckham, in cooperation with Henry Kunowski of Oregon State Parks and the State Historic Preservation Office, has completed his report - *The First Simpson House, 1907-1921: Shore Acres State Park*. Dave Brauner of Oregon State University directed an archaeological "dig" in July.

Other projects we hope to complete by spring include a new coast trail map, interpretive signs at Simpson Reef Overlook, refurbishing of the garden entrance, new carpeting in the Garden House, additional underground wiring near the pond, and more landscape lighting.

Meanwhile, we have to get ready to string 200,000 lights! Preliminary work will be done the last weekend in October with light stringing scheduled for every weekend in November. We open on Thanksgiving. You are welcome to help! ■

WEYCO WORKERS HELP LIGHTS PROJECT.



Weyerhaeuser manager Roger Hunt coordinated a very successful one-day volunteer project to unpack, mark and organize all the new lights for the 1997 display. Two dozen North Bend and Dellwood Weyerhaeuser employees and kids participated in the project and they did a terrific job! The hours they contributed resulted in a \$1,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, Tacoma, Washington.

According to Elizabeth A. Crossman, Vice President, the Foundation began in 1948 with a belief in and commitment to Weyerhaeuser's operating communities. In celebration of this 50 year partnership, the Foundation's new Making WAVes employee volunteer program helps achieve a much greater impact with the granted dollars. ■

11th annual Holiday Lights & Open House at Shore Acres "a Community Tradition"



Thanksgiving thru Sunday after New Year's
4 - 10 every night

(includes Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve & New Year's)

*The brightest and most beautiful place on the West Coast
shines brighter than ever in 1997 with 200,000 lights!*

A Bigger Display - Replacement of 100,000 lights and
addition of 25,000 more lights.

More Parking - A new lighted overflow parking lot.

Landscaping Lights - Permanent garden lights illuminate
the perimeter of the formal garden.

Lights Sculptures - Pelicans, Jellyfish, Shore Acres' cranes,
Life-size leaping Orca whale, Life-size spouting Gray whale,
Larger-than-life tulip, rhododendron, rose, and dahlia, Dungeness
crab, Sea star, Sea urchin, Sea anemone, Sea horse, Octopus,
Kelp - **Plus several surprises!** ■

Cooky Bakes at North Bend and Marshfield High Schools



Sept. 27, NBHS - (L-R) Front: Ella Mae Stuart, Liann Why; Middle: Jean Sorenson, Mildred Crese, Debbie Taylor, Lily Busick, Bonnie Koreiva, Helen Shefstad; Back: Michelle Hinds, Kara Budiselich, Jane Gigler, Johanna Bernstein, Tim Dreschel, Toni Johnson



Oct. 11, NBHS - (L-R) Front: Ella Mae Stuart, Helen Shefstad; Middle: Jon Swank, Liz Eulund, Liz Hyatt, Matt McAndrew, Maxine Braulick; Back: Charlotte Skinner, Toni Johnson, Trevor Underwood, Josie Mulkins, Grace Jensen



Oct. 25, MHS - (L-R) Front: Ella Mae Stuart, Debbie Taylor; Middle: Shirley Champagne, Maxine Braulick, Kay Valois; Back: Leslie Cook, Emma Hadden, Imogene Chester, Kathy Ludwig, Renee Hall



(L-R) Grace Jensen and Liz Hyatt fill cooky trays.



Debbie Taylor packs cookies.



Ella Mae Stuart (Chair) packs cooky boxes in van for transport to Day Ship Supply's donated freezers.

Photos by Luis Velasquez

Cider Spice Cooking at First Presbyterian Church NB

Years ago when we were trying to find an easy way to make the gallons and gallons of hot apple cider for the holiday lights open house, Karen and Peter Crosby came up with their own secret frozen spice recipe and they prepared the spice at home. After several years, they resigned from the cooking and loaned the recipe to the Friends. We've been using it ever since. For many years now, Dan Myers, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church has graciously allowed the "spice committee" to use the church kitchen for the spice cooking sessions.

Current chair Winnie Pitsenberger and her committee streamlined the operation last season and are getting ready to cook spice again in October. ■



Spice cooks (L-R) Kay Valois, Kit O'Callaghan, Nancy Weybright, Bob Valois, Dorothy Dinkins, Gerri Hunt, Winnie Pitsenberger (Chair), Betty Renner (white top), Doris Emmett (not pictured)

Photos by Luis Velasquez



Winnie, Gerri, Betty and spice cups ready for freezing.



Bob Valois transported frozen spice to Vend West freezer.

Getting the Word Out . . .

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - October 30, 1997

COASTAL CLOSEUP

Help needed for light project

By ANDY PORTER
Staff Writer

Needed, volunteers to help string up several thousand holiday smiles.

Starting this Saturday, the Friends of Shore Acres will begin stringing some 200,000 lights at the state park to form this year's annual holiday display.

Now in its 11th year, the event will open on Thanksgiving Day and run through the holiday season, lighting up the park's gardens with dozens of displays.

But before that happens, helping hands are needed to help put up the hundreds of lights and take care of many other tasks to bring the event into being, said Shirley Bridgham, who along with her husband, David, is co-chairing the event.

Volunteers are needed to work on the display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekend until its opening, Bridgham said. People will need to come dressed for the weather, but do not need to bring tools or other equipment, she said.

Volunteers who come to work Saturday and afterwards should check in at the Friends of Shore Acres office located behind the park's garden house, Bridgham said.

Among the attractions planned this year are a spouting whale, a leaping



Volunteers string holiday lights at Shore Acres State Park last year. Friends of Shore Acres is looking for volunteers to help put up the lights again this year.

Orca, an undersea garden and other exhibits which are being planned as surprises, Bridgham said.

Since its start, the exhibit has

grown in size and popularity, drawing close to 50,000 visitors last year in spite of poor weather, Bridgham said.

The number and size of the light

displays has grown as well, she said.

"We started with 6,000 lights, and now we have more than that in one flower bed," she said.

Holiday Lights Setup 1997

The animated Orca Whale designed by Don McMichael needs new lights every year. Industrial Services built the framework and Tom Kyle, Kyle Electric makes sure the computerized controller works. Bob Renner, Gregg Nelson, Mike Perkins, Chuck Lembke, Carl Siminow, Fred Ehrman, David Bridgham and Frank Smith had a “whale of a party” in October and did a great job! ■



(L-R) Bob Valois, Mike Perkins, Gregg Nelson, Carl Siminow, Chuck Lembke (on ladder) work on lighting the “leaping” Orca Whale.



Meanwhile, (L-R) Donna Smith and Shirley Bridgham, get ready to string lights.



Mike, Bob and Gregg - “Is that right?”

Holiday Lights Setup 1997



At the Bridgham's home, Mike Perkins watches Bob Renner put lights on a heron.



Rotarian Kathy Rosencrantz works at the pond.

Whether preparing lights sculptures ahead of time or stringing lights in the garden or decorating the Garden House, the most important part of the holiday lights event is the number of volunteers necessary to get all the jobs done.

This season's Garden House displayed a theme of ***"An Old Fashioned Holiday."*** Prior to the decorating, the entire interior of the house was re-painted.



HOUSE PAINTING - Co-chair Robynn, Mike and Adam Reed; SCCI 19th Platoon Members, Shutters Creek Correctional Institute Work Crew; Friends' Members Sharon Bessey, Ellie Kinney Martial, George Guthrie, Joan Zyta, Jay and Joy Dow, Jack and Barbara Anderson, Schaefer's Paint Works, Jay and Julie Schaefer

HOUSE DECORATING - Co-chair Robynn, Mike and Adam Reed; Co-chair and custom bookcases Kathy and Butch Hutchinson; Marion Harris Custom Lampshades, Treasures-Lynn Rogers, Carl Siminow, Friends of the Coos Bay Library, Carol Ventgen, Carol Ventgen and Mike Perkins; Hilda and Clyde Ellis, Henry Schroeder and Sons; Kristie Jeter; Dayton, Denise, Danielle and Dayton Hughes, Checkerberry's Flowers and Gifts, Inc.-Carolyn Tecube; Dr. Michael and Patricia McKeown; John McKeown, Cozy Wood Heating Center, Inc.-Earl and Nadine Croucher, Charlie West, Chuck's Seafood, Helen Shefstad, Marie Snow, Tri-County Plumbing/Ace Hardware.

Thanks to all and anyone whose name we've missed. ■



Custom bookcases built by Butch Hutchinson



Santa in the bathtub is a "must" for all the "kids" whatever their age!

Local Recognition

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 3, 1997



World photo by Lou Sennick

Jim Taylor, left, and Jim Arbuckle are up to their necks in bushes at Shore Acres State Park on Saturday. They were two of the many volunteers helping to put up about 200,000 Christmas lights around the Botanical Gardens for the upcoming season. Every year, volunteers put up lights in the garden for holiday viewing.

'Tis the season for lights

■ **Holiday spirit:**
Volunteers are making Shore Acres State Park a wonderland of lights.

BY ROBERT JUMP
Staff Writer

While the season for viewing flowers at Shore Acres State Park may be just about over, volunteers are beginning the task of making the park come alive with holiday lights.

For the past 11 years, Shirley and David Bridgham of North Bend have coordinated the stringing of lights at Shore Acres State Park in what has become a community tradition. For the next few weekends, with the aid of volunteers, about 200,000 lights will be strung in an-

ticipation of the Thanksgiving-evening opening of the park for holiday visitors.

"It's a gigantic project," Shirley Bridgham said Saturday. "We have around 50 people who actually string them, but we have about 1,000 volunteers," she said.

But what do 1,000 volunteers do? Besides stringing and checking lights, volunteers will make cookies and apple cider, and about 16 will serve as hosts each night of the 39-night run of the holiday season show.

Working in kitchens at Marshfield and North Bend high schools, volunteers have already made about 30,000 cookies. They will also turn 100 cases of 12 ounce cans of apple juice donated by Fred Meyer into about 40,000 cups of cider.

"I get to plan where the lights go. That's the most fun for me. People

pick specific jobs," Shirley Bridgham said.

"We use mostly 50-light strings and lights from last year to cut down on the failure rate," she added.

"This is a formal English garden," David Bridgham volunteered. "The patterns (of lights) in one bed will be reflected in the next bed."

While winter storms were responsible for a lull in holiday visitors to the park during the 1996 holiday season, 1995 brought 70,000 people from 46 states in for the light show.

"One of the best things about this event is the community involvement. It's a state park, but it's a community event. It's becoming a community tradition. Everyone that works on it has a sense of ownership," Shirley Bridgham said. "It's

See Lights, Page A8

Volunteers lighting up park

Lights from Page A1

really rewarding."

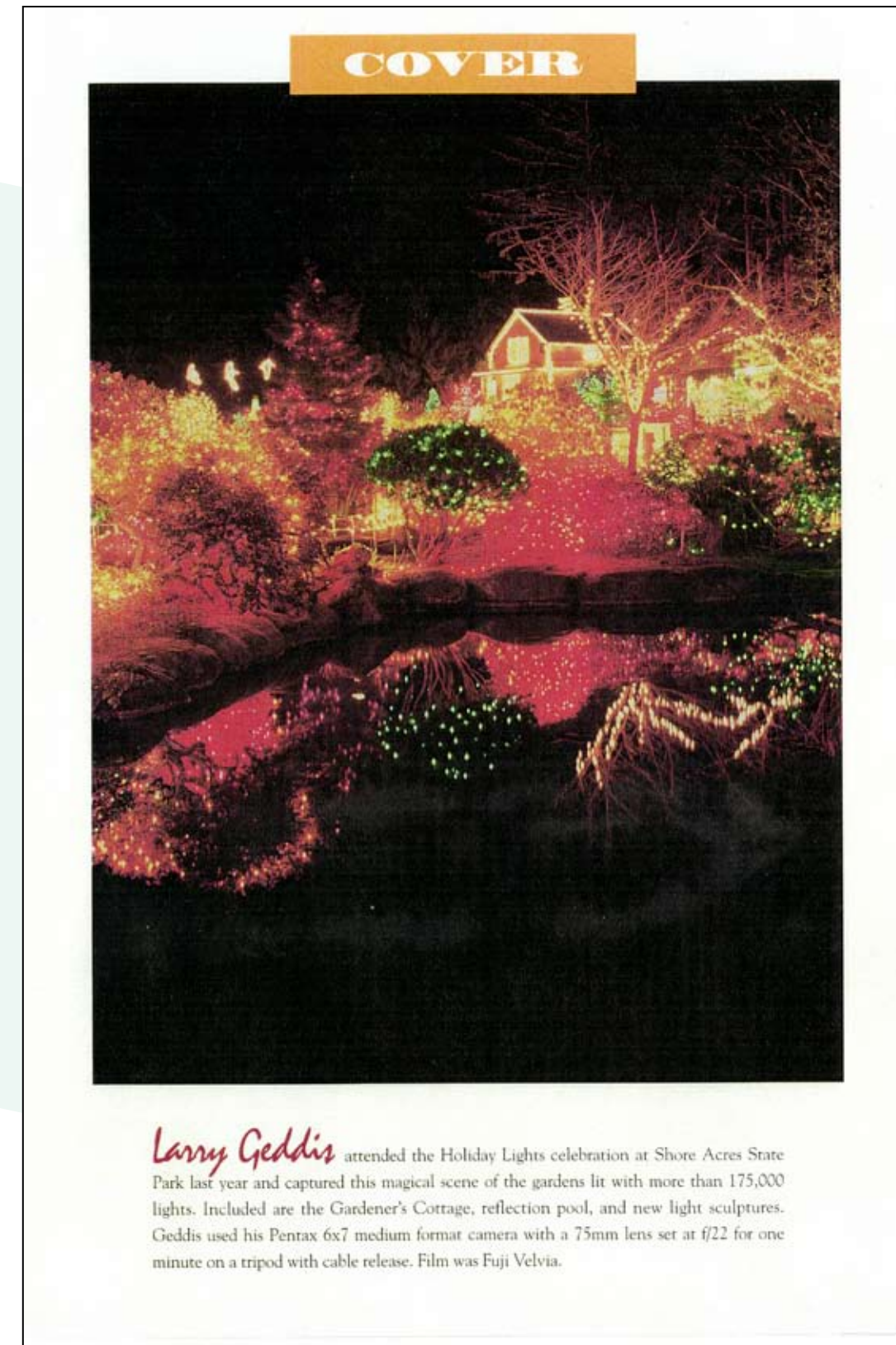
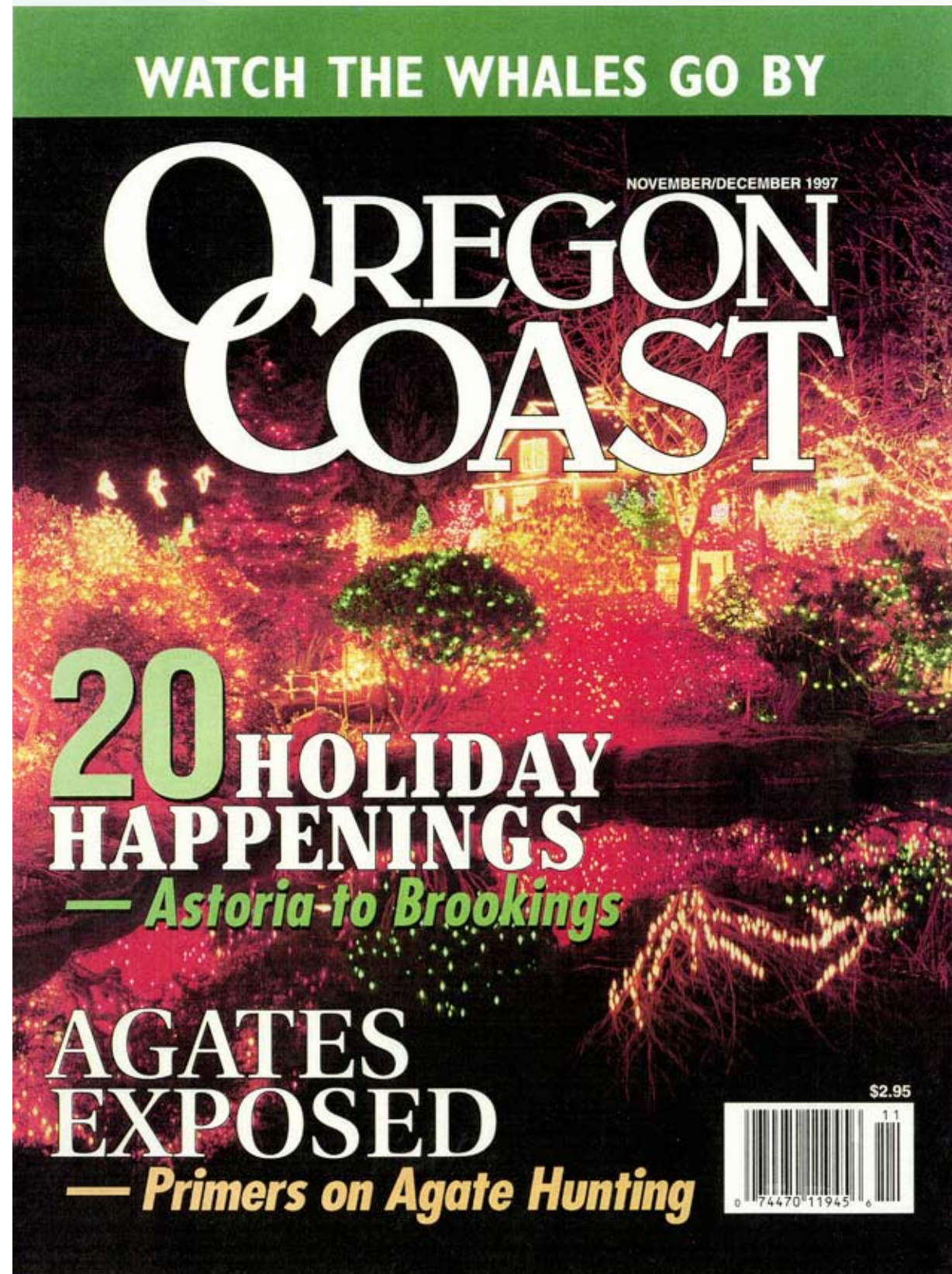
The event began in 1987, when only about 6,000 lights were used. This year, it will take volunteers four weekends and Veteran's Day to prepare for the show scheduled to run through New Year's.

"I volunteered because I thought it would be fun," said Jason Woodward, 15, a student at Bandon High School. He was spending his Saturday stringing lights through shrubs just inside the entrance to the garden. Nearby, Fred Ehrman of Coos Bay helped string lights in one of the elaborate flower beds.

"I've been doing this for a year or two. I like the people I work with," Ehrman said.

The show will begin Thanksgiving evening about 4 p.m. and run until 10 p.m. nightly. The holiday lighting project is cosponsored by Friends of Shore Acres and Shore Acres State Park.

Regional Recognition



Dusk – A Favorite Time for Viewing



Special Effects

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 6, 1997

The magic of Christmas



Shore Acres State Park in Charleston is celebrating its 11th anniversary of the light display. More than 200,000 lights decorate the formal gardens. The display will continue through Jan. 4. The gardens will be lit from 4-10 p.m. daily, including light sculptures. Entertainment is scheduled and refreshments will be available.

World photo by Lou Sennick

Entertainment and Local Reminder



First Presbyterian Church, North Bend, under the direction of Janice Bowman, traditionally is first on the entertainment schedule each season.



Camp Fire Boys and Girls

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 23, 1997

COASTAL CLOSEUP

World photo by Lou Sennick

The Shore Acres holiday lights display continues daily from 4 to 10 p.m. through Jan. 4.

Lights display is a dazzler

CHARLESTON — There's still time to brighten your holiday with a visit to Shore Acres State Park to see the annual lights display and enjoy holiday entertainment.

The Friends of Shore Acres are celebrating the 11th anniversary of the display. Almost 1,000 people volunteered to string up more than 200,000 lights to decorate the formal gardens. Others baked at least 30,000 cookies and planned to serve more than 40,000 cups of cider.

The display started in 1987, when North Bend residents David and Shirley Bridgham and The Friends strung up 6,000 lights. In 1995, 70,000 people from 46 states toured the display. Last year's attendance was down due to winter storms. The display continues until Jan. 4. The gardens will be lit from 4 to 10 p.m. daily. Following tradition, entertainment is scheduled in the gardens and refreshments are available in the Garden House. Call 888-3732 for details.

2nd Artist in the Park Selected

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 24, 1997

SOUTH COAST LIFE

Crosby is 1998 Shore Acres artist

■ **Appointment:**
Selected by committee,
painter will record garden's
changing moods.

By **ANDY PORTER**
Staff Writer

Gardens draw artists and artists draw gardens, a relationship that Anna Crosby can attest to.

Starting in January, Crosby will be the newest "Artist in the Garden" at Shore Acres State Park, charged with helping record the changing moods of the garden spot, as well as greeting and talking with visitors.

"This is the first time I've worked in the park like that," Crosby said about her appointment. "It was a

thrill because I do like to draw and paint flowers."

Crosby said she entered the competition to be named the Artist in the Garden for 1998 in September after seeing a newspaper advertisement asking for applicants. After sending in a resume and slides of some of her works, she received a call from the selection committee for a personal interview, and a few weeks later found she had been chosen.

A resident of Myrtle Point since 1954, Crosby works in pastels, oils and watercolors. Although flowers are her favorite subject, she has also done landscapes and expressionistic abstracts on varied styles and subjects.

She began her art education in high school and continued at the

Portland Art Museum School. She also attended many local classes and workshops by other artists, such as Albert Handel, Vickie McKean-Smith, Billie Sheets, Jody Batson, Lona Block and Judy Nahazel.

Although she painted for years, Crosby said she "didn't get real serious until about 10 years ago." Along with painting and exhibiting at locations in Coos Bay, Reedsport, Myrtle Point and Coquille, she also teaches at the Coquille Valley Art Center and has judged at both the Curry and Coos county fairs.

Among her most recent awards, Crosby's "When Whippoorwills Call" pastel was named best of show at this year's Pony Village Art Show, and three other works were judged first-place finishers as well.

She also won awards for works entered in the 1996 Coos County Fair and at the 1996 Pony Village show, she won another first place and two "judge's-choice" awards for watercolor and pastel works.

As this year's "Artist in the Garden," Crosby will be painting and drawing the park's flora and fauna, and will also be on hand during holidays and special events to meet the public and talk about the park and its attractions, she said.

Although some artists are shy and retiring types, Crosby said that she's not anticipating any problems with handling the public relations part of her new job.

"I got used to that doing the Pony Village Mall show every year," she said with a smile.



World photo by David Wood

Anna Crosby, this year's Shore Acres "Artist in the Garden," holds her pastel painting, "Picottee," in a gallery at the Coquille Valley Art Center.



Congratulations
from the Friends
and OPRD



Holiday Lights 1997 – Recap

HISTORY – 1987

A community tradition was born in 1987, when the Friends of Shore Acres decided to “string a few lights” to help celebrate the holidays.

That first season, 6,000 miniature lights, one Christmas tree, and the decorated Garden House drew 9,000 visitors.

This season, 200,000 lights, many Christmas trees, lighted sculptures, and the traditionally decorated Garden House drew an estimated 65,000 visitors.

Inside the Garden House, scrolls of names were a tribute to business supporters and the 1,000+ volunteers who make it happen.

VISITORS – 1997

32 Countries * 6 Continents * 6 Canadian Provinces
48 U.S. States and Territories * 219 Oregon Towns and Cities
176 California Towns and Cities * 23 Idaho Towns and Cities
13 Nevada Towns and Cities * 97 Washington Towns and Cities

People from all over the world enjoy the holiday lights. Many return year after year to share in this wonderful community tradition. ■

COMMENTS – 1997

We loved the music and lights - Kirkland WA
Beautiful! Never seen anything as pretty - Scottsdale AZ
Gorgeous! Thanks! - Lincoln City and Lebanon
Awesome, breathtaking and very festive - Marina CA
Beautiful as always! - Redding CA
Wonderful! Loved it. - Newport
What a wonderland! - Springfield
Thanks! - Bend
Beautiful! - Carson City NV
WOW! - Woodland WA
Good job!!! - Moscow ID
Beautiful! Magical! - Chico CA
Super! - Prineville
A wonderful tradition! - Bandon
Wonderful! - Missoula MT
Incredible! - Philadelphia PA
de-LIGHT-ful - India
Wonderful Fantasyland - Quincy IL
Very Nice! My 4th year - Portland OR

Pure enchantment - Turner OR
Beautiful as always, thank you - Coquille
I never saw something so wonderful - Milan, Italy
Our favorite thing to do during the holidays - Coos Bay
Breathtaking, thank you! Roseburg
Awesome - I'll be back! - Seattle
Better than ever! - Orange NY
Beautiful-we couldn't believe all the work! - Oregon City
Magical! Love it more every year - Ashland
Japanese pond especially beautiful - Larkspur CA

*Very impressed with all
the lights. We've seen
a lot of displays, even
Branson. This is Best! -
Cascade, Idaho*



Luis Velasquez

Great community pride. - Yakima WA
Wonderful gift to community, thanks. - Reedsport
Come every year - Thank you! - Yakima WA
Lovely and inspirational - Denver CO
Beyond words beautiful - Grants Pass
Cookies are great! - Coos Bay
Wow! It really is spectacular! - Pullman WA
Love the traditional theme in the house - North Bend
Absolutely unbelievable! - Medford
Fabulous, extraordinary! - Oakland CA

Watchers on the lookout for leviathans

By ANDY PORTER
Staff Writer

SHORE ACRES STATE PARK — Everyone was ready for some serious whale watching Saturday, except the whales.

Despite the desires of those who turned out during the morning and early afternoon, hoped-for pods of California Gray Whales heading south failed to materialize.

"Oh, I would truly love to see a whale," Patsy Miller said as she scanned the waters. "I'm from Idaho, and you don't see many whales there."

But this particular Saturday, the first weekend of the annual Winter Whale Watching Week, the rolling ocean gave no sign of whales spouting or breaching, near or far.

"It seems like it's not the peak yet," Robert Denny, a Eugene resident and one of six whale watching volunteers on hand said as he scanned the horizon, empty save for two or three fishing boats.

Another volunteer, Gene Jennings of Coos Bay, agreed.

"It looks like it's running a little late this year," he observed, as he and his wife, Judy Jennings, watched from the cliff's edge.

Started by the late Don Giles, an Oregon Sea Grant Extension agent, Winter Whale Watching Week draws hundreds to Oregon's shores to watch the whale's migration to breeding grounds off Baja California and Mexico.

The southern migration is one of two the gray whales make each year, with the second one coming in spring as they and their newborn calves migrate back to feeding grounds off Alaska. The 10,000-mile round trip is the longest known for any mammal.

Although up to 30 whales per hour might be sighted during the height of the migrations, only about five spouts had been spotted Saturday, volunteer Patrick Hazel said.

Things had been a little better Friday, Jennings noted. "We saw about 25 out here yesterday, 25 blows that is, in about an hour and a quarter," he said.

Denny, Jennings, Hazel and the other volunteers at Shore Acres were

part of 230 volunteers who turn out during the whale migrations to offer information and tips to visitors at sites up and down the Oregon Coast.

"We're the resident experts on whale watching, so think up a tough question for us," Jennings joked with one of the small groups of visitors Saturday.

For Denny and his wife, Roberta, this was the fifth year they've been volunteers, while Hazel said that he

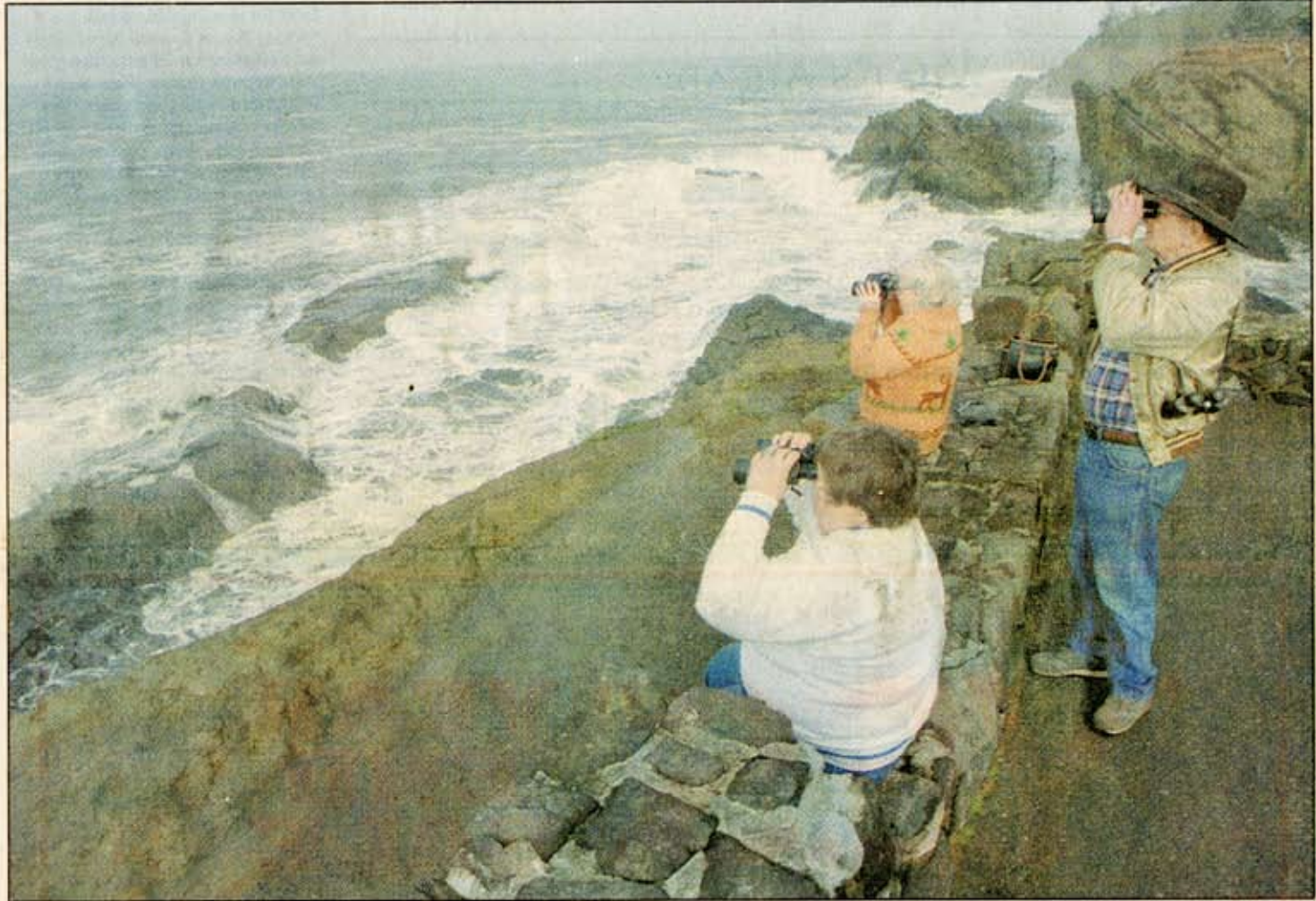
and his wife, Betty, had been volunteering for two years.

"We looked into it last year, my wife read about it in the newspaper, and we took our first training course at Brookings," Hazel said. "This year it was in Newport."

Usually the volunteers sign up to stay at a particular point for the entire weekend, Hazel said that he and his wife were only going to be able to do Saturday this year.



To give whale-watching visitors an idea of how long the migrating whales are, a length of rope stretched along the ground shows the length of newborns, adult males and adult females.



A trio of whale watchers scan the horizon on Saturday for the spouts of whales heading south from Alaskan waters. Mavis Holcomb, in white, Norma Jones and Chet Williams

search for the migrating mammals at Shore Acres State Park. All three are from the Ten Mile and Winston areas of Douglas County.

World photos by Lou Sennick



EDITORIAL

Shore Acres friends are invaluable asset

Chalk one up for El Niño.

The mild temperatures and clear skies that forecasters are attributing to the weather phenomenon contributed mightily to the financial success of the Shore Acres State Park light display.

Last year, it rained almost every day during the annual display. This year, thanks to the nice weather, a significantly higher number of people went to Shore Acres to see the lights during the display's 39-evening run.

State Parks officials place attendance at 62,000 this year, up by 17,000 from the 1996 holiday season.

Higher attendance meant an increase in donations for the Friends of Shore Acres, sponsor of the light display. This year, visitors left \$15,500 in the donation boxes; "a \$5,000 weather difference," said Shirley Bridgham, Friends spokeswoman.

The beleaguered parks system benefitted as well. Parking the nearly 15,000 cars brought \$45,000 to Parks Department coffers. No, not all the money raised at Shore Acres stays here, but it's good to know that the funds will benefit parks statewide.

However all the donations to the Friends of Shore Acres stay here and go into Friends' park projects. That money will be put to good use in park improvements throughout the year, and to help fund the light display next year. Since the light strings used at the park have a life of only two years, the Friends of Shore Acres buy lights every season. Funds also go to pay the light bill — estimated this year at between \$1,200 and \$1,500.

While Mother Nature played her part in making the annual light show a success, the greatest contribution, as always, came from the estimated 1,000 volunteers. Some of them were busy stringing and checking lights. Others served as hosts nightly during the display. Still others baked cookies and mixed apple juice that was donated by Fred Meyer.

No matter what the visitors drop in the donation boxes, money can't begin to pay for that kind of commitment.

■ **Donations increase:** Funds will go into park projects and help pay the electric bill.

VIEW FROM SOUTH SIDE OF LILY POND — A FAVORITE



Luis Velasquez

Whale watchers not disappointed this year

■ **What a week:**
Hundreds of sightings,
lots of tourists make for
successful watching.

By **ANDY PORTER**
Staff Writer

A whale of a lot of watchers were watching a whale of a lot of whales last week.

Mostly good weather brought large numbers to lookout points during the annual Winter Whale Watching Week, Dec. 26 through Jan. 2.

And the whales, for the most part, didn't disappoint.

Volunteers at Shore Acres State

Park watching a various times spotted 253 whales throughout the week, said Shirley Stentz, visitors services coordinator for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Nearly 400 visitors came to look for the migrating California Gray Whales during the week, Stentz said.

Stentz said the highest number seen in one day was 100 on Dec. 28. The next day, however, there were no sightings at all.

Gene Jennings, one of the Shore Acres volunteers, said that even a relatively quiet day could produce surprises. He said that after seeing nothing Dec. 29, "the next day, my wife and I saw 473 blows over 45 minutes! I could hardly believe what

was happening to us."

A "blow" is a plume of vapor sighted when a whale exhales upon surfacing, which they do every one to three minutes during shallow dives.

Mike Rivers, volunteer coordinator for Oregon State Parks "Whale Watching Spoken Here" program, said reports from elsewhere showed the winter watching week went quite well.

"It looks like quite an improvement in numbers this year over last year's winter whale watch," Rivers said Wednesday. "The weather made a huge difference this year."

"For instance, at Boiler Bay last year we had 83 whales and this year

we had 138 whales sighted," Rivers said. "We had 215 visitors there last year and 3,746 visitors there this year."

At Cook's Chasm, north of Florence, 438 visitors were recorded, up from 125 last winter. Further up the coast at Rocky Creek State Park, visitors went from 76 up to 649, Rivers said.

The numbers of whales sighted at those two areas were also up, Rivers said with 26 sightings compared to 23 last year at Cook's Chasm and Rocky Creek going from 78 sightings to 145 this year.

The whales going by Oregon's coast are making one of two annual migrations, heading south to breed-

ing grounds off Baja California and Mexico.

In the spring, they will return north with their newborn calves heading to their feeding grounds off of Alaska, completing a 10,000-mile round trip that is the longest known migration for any mammal.

Rivers said that the "Whale Watching Spoken Here" volunteer program also had a boost this year with the addition of two new sponsors, Sea Education Awareness of Bandon and the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

For anyone who would like to become a whale watching volunteer, SEA will be holding a training session at the Oregon Institute of Ma-

rine Biology on the weekend of Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

The workshop will feature instruction by Rivers and SEA member Bill Russell on the goals of the whale watching program, the biology of gray whales and their natural history, as well as field trips to Simpson Reef and Shell Island overlook on Feb. 1.

A charter boat trip, which can accommodate up to 35 people, will also be available for workshop participants on that day, ocean conditions permitting.

Pre-registration and a \$10 fee are required for the seminar. To register, those interested can call (541) 563-2002.



A Timeless Viewpoint – The Bluff at Shore Acres



Contributed photo by Kay Apel

A California gray whale shows off one of its flukes off the coast between Shore Acres State Park and Bandon last week. The plume is caused when warm air from the whale's lungs condenses in the cooler ocean air.

Winter Storm 1998 - Sunset Bay Day Use Area

LOTS OF WATER, WAVES, AND WICKED DEVASTATION!



Photos by Larry Becker, Assistant Manager, Area 4

Winter Storm 1998 - Sunset Bay Day Use Area



Road Resolution

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - February 10, 1998



World Photo by David Wood

Crews have been working to rebuild this section of Cape Arago Highway that washed away during a winter storm in 1996. The highway will be closed between the Shell Island turnout and Cape Arago State Park until construction is completed. Contractors estimate finishing the job in about two weeks, although their contract gives the road crew until June 7. The project will cost the state \$88,000. All traffic, including pedestrian, is prohibited in the area. Vehicles will be asked to turn around at the Shell Island turnout north of Cape Arago State Park.

FRONT PAGE



Oregon's State Representative Ken Messerle cuts the ribbon in re-opening the Cape Arago Highway ahead of schedule this spring.



Massive road building project restored Cape Arago Highway between Simpson Reef Overlook and Cape Arago State Park. The road was washed out during the 1996 "monsoons."

Message from Gregg Nelson, President 1997-98



Gregg Nelson

It's difficult to talk about myself. It's even harder to write it down. As the President for the Friends, I've been asked to tell a little about myself.

If you like people who are on the same level as pond scum, I'm your man. That's exactly how I got started with this organization.

My wife Connie and I moved here in 1978 when I was hired by BLM. I had graduated from Humboldt State, 200 miles south, and this was my first experience as a forester. It didn't take long for us both to learn to love the area, and

brag about it to our friends and families.

Whenever visitors came, we always took them crabbing in Charleston and picnicking at Sunset Beach, then to Shore Acres gardens, Simpson Reef overlook, and finally to watch the sunset at Cape Arago. If it was the right season, we could watch for migrating whales.

With relatives coming from the Midwest and southern California, it was easy for us to show off the beauty of the area. Nothing is more spectacular than the ocean waves crashing against the uplifted rocks at the observation building, watching for whale flukes against a reddening sky, or listening to thousands of sea lions barking.

As with everything else in life, one can either take, or give something back. We both became involved in the community. I've been on several committees in the past 19 years: the Bay Area Fun Festival, the Oregon Coast Music Association, Community Concerts, and the Friends of Shore Acres.

Also in life, there's always change. With the Friends, the change for me went from giving a little money, to giving a little time. A 1987 newsletter said they needed help cleaning out the pond, so I went and helped. It was hard work! The next year, I got BLM to loan some pumps to the Friends, and it was a little easier. Then BLM loaned us some engineers to survey the pond, replace the drain valve, and provided a fire truck for washing it down, and it got a lot easier.



A sparkling pond every Spring thanks to Gregg and BLM and Friends

My family and I started helping with the lights. I was soon asked if I wanted to be on the Board. Now I'm Board President and you know "the rest of the story." And to think this all started with muck raking in the pond.

Today's changes build on past changes. Our daughter Erika was born in 1982, and was a major change in our lives. Our son Travis was born in 1986, and again we saw a major change. As they've grown up, we've gone through SWOYA Saturdays - soccer, basketball, T-ball and baseball. Erika is now 15, a sophomore at Marshfield High. Travis is 11, and beginning middle school at Millicoma. Both love music, and are active in bands: marching band, symphonic band, Lab band, honor band. We try to be involved with their lives as much as they're involved with ours.

My family still takes friends crabbing in Charleston, picnicking at Sunset Beach, wave watching and holiday lights viewing at Shore Acres, listening to sea lions at Simpson Reef, and visiting Cape Arago. But now we feel part of it and are glad to give something back.

As President this year, I'm more involved with the many events the Friends sponsor. ***But my main efforts still are with holiday lights and cleaning the pond, where for me it all started.*** ■

Getting the Word Out . . . Even Better

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 27, 1998

SOUTH COAST

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The World's Volunteer of the Month for May is Elaine Deuel of Bandon. This local hero has a boundless enthusiasm for life that belies her age of 86 years. Among the organizations that benefit from her time is the Bandon Library.



OUTDOOR SYSTEMS

Billboards put new spin on Bay Area ads

By ANDY PORTER
Staff Writer

Three billboards advertising the Bay Area to interstate motorists will get a new look soon.

The billboards, located on I-5 near Cottage Grove and Canyonville and on U.S. Highway 101 near Crescent City, Calif., will be getting the new design over the next 30 days, said Kay Heikkila, outgoing director for the Coos Bay-North Bend Promotions and Convention Bureau.

Featuring a bright spray of flowers photographed at Shore Acres State Park, the signs promote the park as "gardens by the sea, Coos Bay, North Bend, Charleston."

The design will replace a previous one based on the sea drawings



Contributed Graphic

of local artist Don McMichael which has been on the billboards for about three years, Heikkila said.

"It was time to redo and we decided to base it on Shore Acres," Heikkila said. The park, which draws thousands of visitors a year to its scenic gardens, is unique and helps distinguish this area from other shoreside attractions.

The Promotions and Convention Bureau put together the design in partnership with the Oregon State Parks department and the Charleston Merchants Association, Heikkila said.

Funds for leasing the billboards come from room-tax revenues and additional funding was provided by Charleston merchants.



FRIENDS OF
SHORE ACRES

©

Summertime . . . Rose Sunday / Father's Day in June and Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert in July



"Charles of Charleston" works on his paintings and talks with visitors on Rose Sunday / Father's Day.



In the Garden House, Don Capehart shows his skills.



Anna Crosby, 1998 Artist in the Gardens, paints roses.

Traditions play a big part in Friends of Shore Acres activities. Each Father's Day is Rose Sunday with volunteers from the South Western Oregon Rose Society on hand to share rose growing tips with visitors.

Members of the South Coast Wood Carvers and the Bay Area Artists Association also participate making the event a big treat for fathers and families.

In July, during the annual Oregon Coast Music Festival, garden concert goers enjoy our traditional delicious raspberry and chocolate sundaes and pink lemonade. ■



Mike Curtis Klezmer Quartet



A beautiful day and a garden filled with visitors.



Friends volunteers sell sundaes and lemonade.

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 12:

Annual Year - September 1, 1998 - August 31, 1999

Album 11 - Completed May 15, 2018

Book and PDF Versions

CONTENT SOURCES - FOSEA PHOTOS, PUBLICITY

CLIPPINGS, FRIENDS' QUARTERLY JOURNALS

AUTUMN 1997 AND AUTUMN 1998

More Information:

www.shoreacres.net – Journal/Newsletters