



Shore Acres State Park  
Before Friends - 1986



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.*

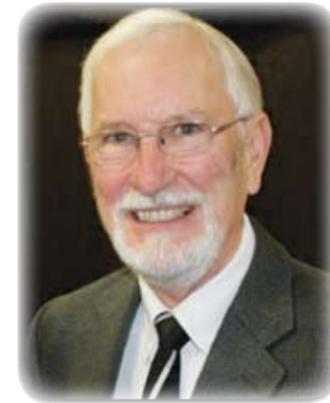
*Shore Acres State Park, 13 miles from town, is the touchstone that we all bring our friends and visitors to when we want to show off the beauty of the Oregon south coast. There was a built-in and pent-up desire to shower this special place with community pride and needed TLC. Outreach to our communities 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.

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## FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

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

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.

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.

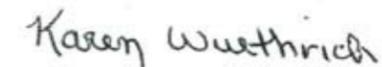
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

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, 2000 - August 31, 2001

## Annual Meeting and Board Meeting - September 12, 2000 - Shore Acres Garden House

### MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING

**Directors Present:** Shirley and David Bridgham, Shirley Champagne, Kenn and Betty Kennedy, Gregg Nelson, Bob & Betty, Renner, Terry Richards, Carl Siminow, Kay Valois, Dick Van Natta and George Guthrie representing Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). **Directors Absent:** Ellie Kinney-Martial, Chuck Lembke, Winnie Pitsenberger, Barb Taylor.

President Shirley Bridgham called the meeting to order and passed out copies of the FoSA September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2000 Recap of Activities and thanked board members for all their help.

The nomination committee (Gregg Nelson) announced the slate of officers for year 2000-2001. Kenn Kennedy, President, David Bridgham, President Elect, Bob and Betty Renner, Co-Secretaries, Barb Taylor, Treasurer. It was moved, seconded and passed to close the nominations.

The Annual Meeting was closed at 7:35 PM.

[RECAP OF ACTIVITIES ON THE NEXT PAGE OF THIS ALBUM.]

### MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Directors Present:** Same as the Annual Meeting

President, Shirley Bridgham called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. The new slate of officers was elected by acclamation. Kenn Kennedy accepted the gavel and conducted the rest of the meeting. Shirley explained that the reason for the meeting at Shore Acres was to see the Garden Night Lighting.

**Minutes** of the August 8, 2000 meeting were approved as written.

Financial Report: (Filed with the Minutes) Total: \$72,231.43

**Information and Gift Center** - Shirley reported on our new Screen Saver with 38 stunning views of Shore Acres at \$9.95 produced by Al Aslakson and Luis Velasquez. Park Hosts: Shirley said we are working to expand the Host program in order to keep Gift Shop open until 6:00 PM instead of 4:00 PM.

**OPRD** - George Guthrie presented a memo (filed with Minutes) from Larry Becker.

**Old Business** - Dahlia Day - Sept. 23, 2000 will be hosted by Betty and Kenn Kennedy and Carl Siminow. Orchid Day - Oct. 7, 2000 will be hosted by Bob and Betty Renner and Gregg Nelson.

Lighting - Tom Kyle of Kyle Electric arrived at 8:00 PM to guide Night Lighting tour.

Website Development - Oregon Office Computers is working toward a Holiday debut of [shoreacresgardens.com](http://shoreacresgardens.com).

Cookie Bakes - Shirley Champagne reported that 11,000 cookies were baked on Sept. 9. Next bake on Sept. 23 and last bake on Sept. 30 at North Bend High School.

Cider Spice Brewing - Betty Renner announced a Brewing date for Holiday Cider Spice - Friday Sept. 29, 2000 - 9:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church of North Bend.

Holiday Lights - Shirley Bridgham announced that we have received \$4,306 in Holiday Light pledges from 46 businesses. Lights are here and will be unpacked first weekend of October.

**New Business** - George Guthrie presented a proposal that the Friends consider supporting "A Wildflower Celebration" in conjunction with Coast Crest Interpretative League, to encourage "natural" gardens. Possible location in the Herb Garden area. FoSA could print a brochure or provide financial aid (\$250) to assist in publicizing or renting space for lecturers. Shirley B will contact Coast Crest and George will serve as liaison.

Kay Valois presented a Butterfly Light Design/Sculpture by Nancy Douglas as a possible future Holiday Light project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm for a walk in the garden with Tom Kyle.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 10th at 7:00 PM in the BLM Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob and Betty Renner, Co-Secretaries

[OPRD MEMO ON THE NEXT PAGE OF THIS ALBUM.]



# Reports from Meetings – September 12, 2000

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

### Memo

To: FoSA Board

From: Larry Becker

cc: George Guthrie , Ellie Kinney

Date: 09/11/2000

Re: State Parks Report, FoSA Meeting on 9/12/2000

*Worthwhile Work In Control  
of Achieving the Goal  
Cheering Each Other On*

The following is a report of activities & events affecting OPRD and Shore Acres State Park since the Aug. 8, 2000 board meeting. (There will be items inadvertently left out).

#### Park Staff Issues:

1. Frank Eckley has been appointed the park manager at the Cape Blanco Management Unit. Frank worked at Shore Acres and Sunset Bay in the 1980's and early part of the 1990's.
2. With the end of the major visitation season a number of the seasonal staff has been laid off.

#### Shore Acres Park Project Status:

1. The gazebo structure is now in the plan development stage. We are waiting for the design drawings to be finalized so that a building permit can be obtained. We are still planning to have this structure in place prior to "2000 Holiday Lights & Open House".
2. The ridge cap and shingles have been replaced on the garden house. We believe that this repair, coupled with the chimney repair, will eliminate the water damage inside the house.
3. Ryan Barber, Boy Scout, will be constructing an interlocking block wall along the maintenance access road near the garden house south lawn. (Project has not been started as of 9/12/00)
4. Leavitt & Davidson Construction will be putting a block foundation under the garden house. Projected start date for construction is July 15, 2000. (Work started on 9/11/00)
5. Replacement of the greenhouse wall and roof material has been completed. Ellie and Lendyl are finishing up the door and exterior area.
6. We replaced the one electric panel in the greenhouse because it had deteriorated from the moist environment.
7. Plans are to put interlocking block retaining walls at the volunteer sites to assist in completing the landscaping of the area.
8. Simpson Reef Overlook parking and viewing area enhancement is now with Federal Hwy and USFS for design.
9. Coos Bay - North Bend Water Board is going to install a pumping station near the entrance to Shore Acres. This should improve our water pressure to the gardens and to Cape Arago.

#### OPRD Planned Projects for Shore Acres in 2000-2001

1. Rebuild the benches in the formal garden
2. Extend the fence along the east side of the garden to encase the garden house area. This is necessary in order to open up access from the garden house to the new gazebo.
3. Rebuild the fence at the NW garden gate to connect to the rose arbor.
4. Clean up and rejuvenate the nursery area.
5. Paint the exterior of the residence/storage facility.
6. Re-slope the ADA access to the garden house.
7. Re-build the structure on north end of greenhouse.

#### Other Sunset Bay Management Unit Projects That May Affect Shore Acres

1. Installation of 8 yurts at W. Tugman overnight camp. Installation must be done by 5/01/2001.
2. Re-alignment of campsite parking pads at Sunset Bay.
3. Hazard tree removal at W. Tugman ONC.

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### Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. September 1, 1999 - August 31, 2000 RECAP

- Annual Meeting
- Kitchen Remodel
- Garden Wiring/Upgrade of Outlets/Expansion to upper lawn near pond
- Shed Wiring - added outlets for freezers and general use
- Membership Campaign / Annual Park Pass Program
- Dahlia Day
- Orchids Day
- Holiday Lights & Open House - see brochure
- Artist in the Park 2000 - Terry Magill
- Shakedown Potluck
- New design for Friends of Shore Acres Journal
- Information & Gift Center Volunteer Lunch
- Information & Gift Center Inventory Expansion
- Bonsai Day
- Rhododendron Sunday - Mother's Day - New Brochure
- Rose Sunday - Father's Day - New Insert for Brochure
- Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert - Sundae sales
- Memorial Display Completion
- New Interpretive Plant Markers - 29 new markers
- Chimney and Roof Repair (OPRD/Friends)
- Interpretive Ranger for Summer (OPRD/Friends)
- Holiday Lights Pledge Campaign
- Official Shore Acres Screensavers produced for sale in IGC  
Holiday Lights and Gardens in Bloom

SB: 9/12/00

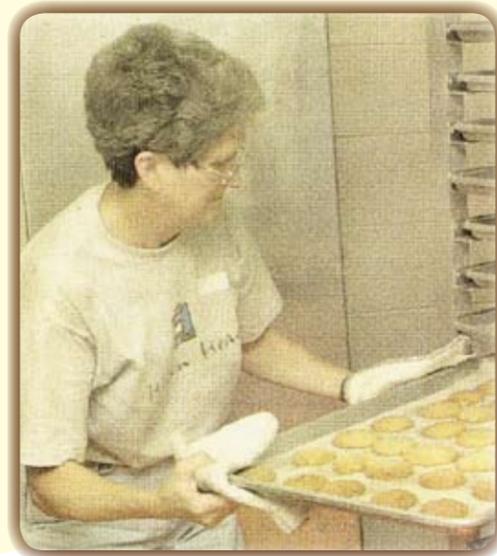
# More than 30,000 Cookies Needed for Holiday Lights

FIRST COOKIE BAKE - SEPTEMBER 9, 2000

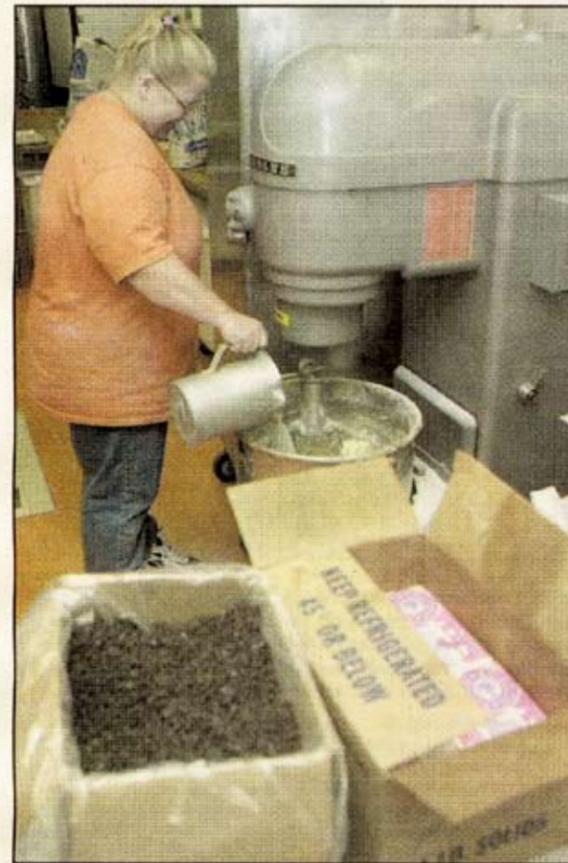


Cookie Bakers at North Bend High School - (Row 1, L-R) Erica Ellingsen, Beka Young, Melissa Drechsel, Michael Garcia, (Middle Row, L-R) Kay Valois, Carl Siminow, Shirley Champagne (Chair), Jan Burger, (Back Row, L-R) Deanna Sundbaum, Lynda Ellingsen, Anne Smith, Judy Cooper

Shirley Champagne moves a tray of chocolate chip cookies from the oven. This was the first of three days that the Friends of Shore Acres will bake cookies to be given away at the annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston. On this day, members and volunteers baked about 11,000 cookies, about one third of their total baking needs for the season.



THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 19, 2000



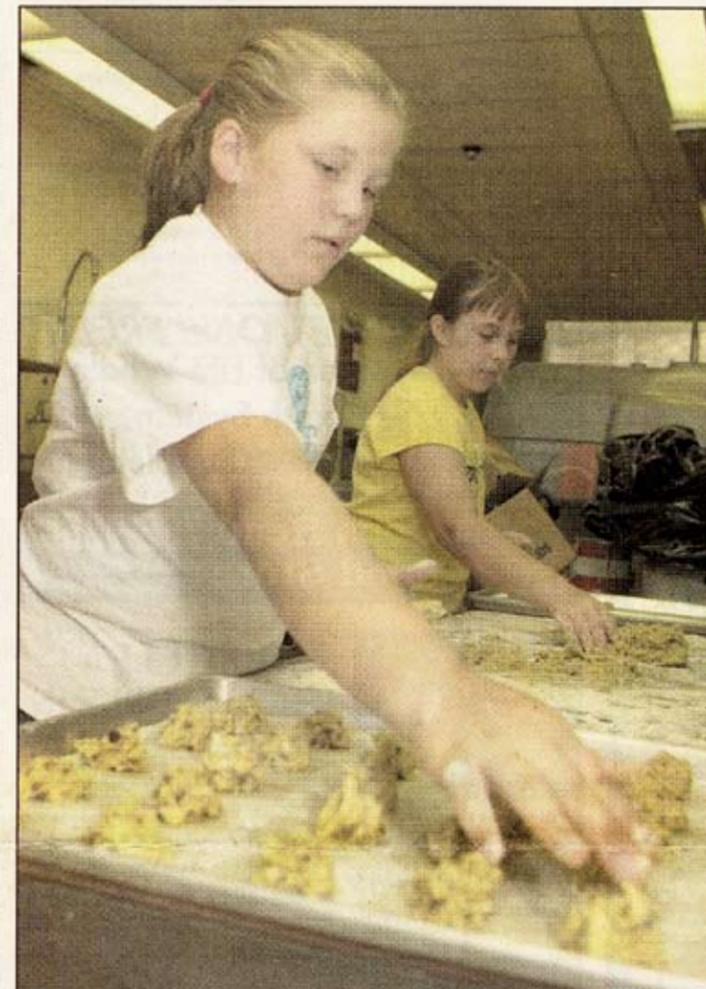
Deanna Sundbeam, of North Bend, adds sugar to chocolate chip cookie batter in a commercial mixer on a recent weekend afternoon at North Bend High School. During the week, Sundbeam is a cook at the school. Below, the boxes of cookies are starting to stack up. More than 30,000 cookies will be ready for the Thanksgiving Day opening of this year's light show.

*World Photos by Lou Sennick*



## Cookie Time!

Volunteers get an early start on treats for the holiday season at Shore Acres



Beka Young, 13, front, and Erica Ellingsen, 12, both of Coos Bay, drop cookie dough onto baking sheets at North Bend High School. They volunteered to help the Friends of Shore Acres bake more than 30,000 cookies over three weekends this fall, in preparation for the 14th-annual Holiday Lights and Open House at the state park's botanical garden. At top, Erica reaches for a chunk of cookie dough.

# Delightful Dinner at Shore Acres - September 28, 2000

HOSTED BY LARRY BECKER, MANAGER, OPRD'S SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT  
AT SHORE ACRES GARDENS – WONDERFUL WEATHER AND NICE CROWD



Andrea and Greg, Park Hosts and Volunteers in the Information and Gift Center, enjoyed the festivities.



(L-R) Dick Van Natta, Bob Renner, Ray Duskin, Jay Dow, David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham



The Stevenson Family - Calum and Barbara and their daughters (L-R) Kelsey and Alina. Calum has been a part of the staff since the summer of 1999.

Photos by Luis Velasquez

September 29, 2000

Mr. Larry Becker, Manager - OPRD  
Sunset Bay Management Unit  
89814 Cape Arago Hwy.  
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Dear Larry and park staff,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you and the staff for a wonderful dinner last evening. The food was wonderful and the weather could not have been better. It provided a real opportunity to meet and socialize with some of our many "Friends" volunteers and the park staff.

Shore Acres State Park has always been such a special place for Betty and myself. I am sure that many volunteers feel the same way or they would not keep coming back year after year. But the park would not be the same without the wonderful staff that keep the grounds and facilities in tip top shape. We know Shore Acres is a special place to you folks too, not just a job, and we appreciate the effort even though we don't always get a chance to say it.

Again, on behalf of myself, the board of directors and the volunteers, a hearty "thank you for a job well done!"

Sincerely,

Kenn Kennedy, President  
Friends of Shore Acres

# Cider Spice for Hot Apple Cider – September 29, 2000



At the First Presbyterian Church in North Bend, cider spice cooks under the direction of Betty and Bob Renner and Winnie Pitsenberger, made enough cider spice for gallons and gallons of Hot Apple Cider. Apple juice (100 cases) for the cider was donated by Fred Meyer in Coos Bay.

# Orchid Day at Shore Acres – October 7, 2000



Orchids of many colors



Friends Volunteers (L-R) Monita Johnson, Bob and Betty Renner, Shirley Bridgham

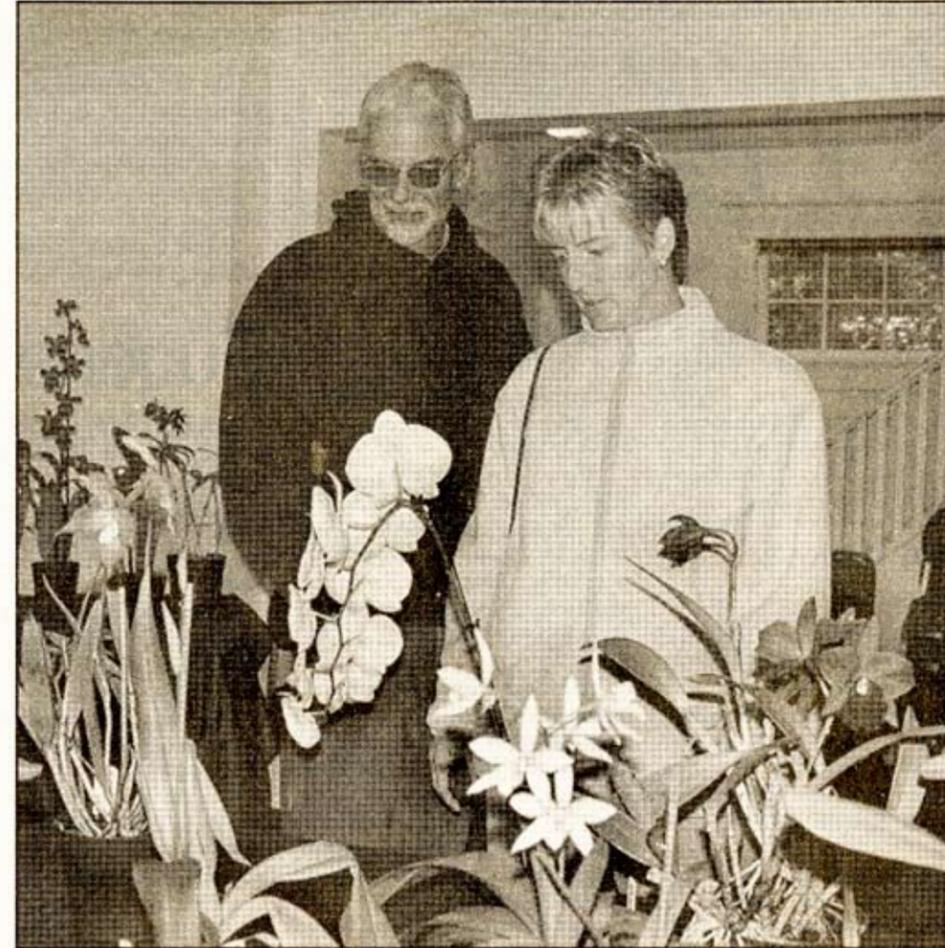
THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - October 9, 2000

## 'Gems of the Rainforest'



The Pacific Orchid Society of Oregon held its annual show at Shore Acres State Park on Saturday. Titled "Gems of the Rainforest," the show was held in the newly remodeled Garden House. The orchid above is a paph or majic lantern. More than 25,000 species grow around the world, including all 50 states. At right, Dennis Eudwill of Eugene and Kris Lyons of Canada came to see the park's botanical garden and got the added bonus of the orchid show. If you missed this weekend's show, the society will hold a show and sale at Pony Village Mall next weekend.

World Photo by Jess Newnham



In the Garden House, members of the Pacific Orchid Society of Oregon displayed their beautiful blooms and answered questions about growing orchids.



# It's Setup Time for Holiday Lights



Shirley Champagne and Kenn Kennedy



Betty Mault (L) helps steady ladder for gray whale work.



Ginger and Bingo Sawyer

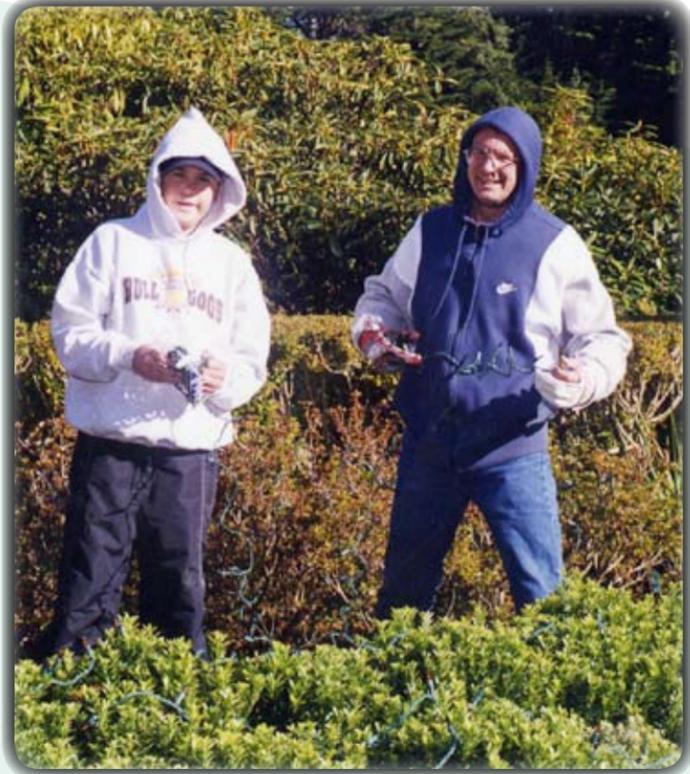


Bay Area Optimists Club led by Marty Kulick (purple coat)



Jim and Cindy Hough

# Many hands make light work!



Adam Reed and his Dad Mike



Timm and Bob Etta Slater



Gladys Johnston and Maxine Johannesen



Jim McMahon

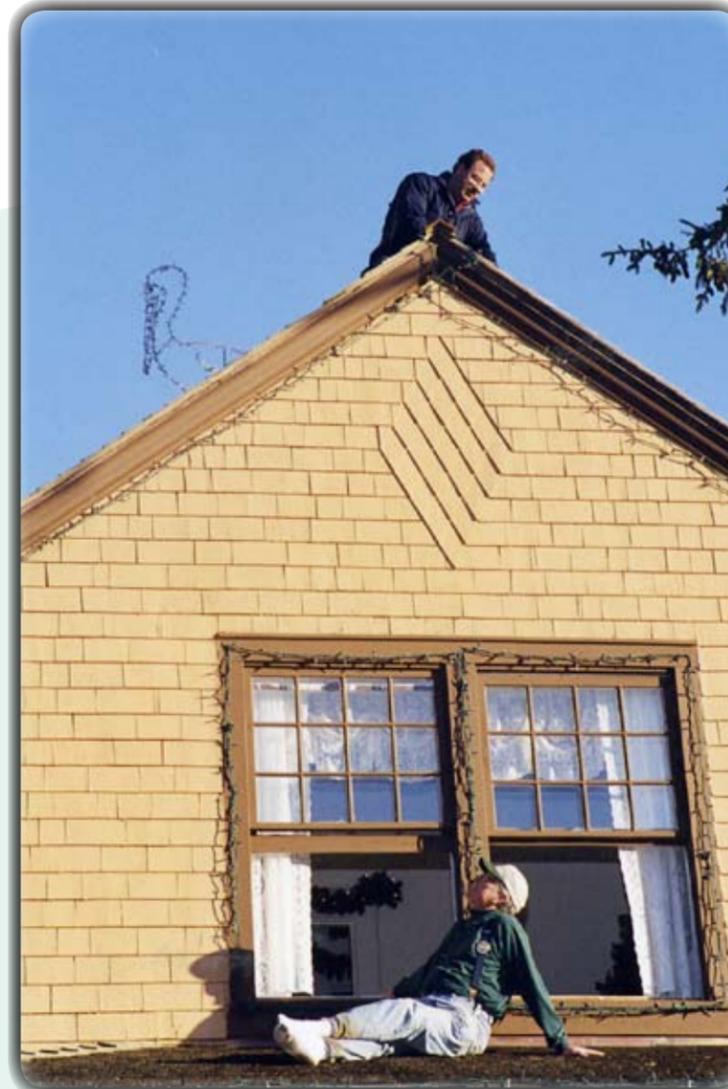


Marion Babcock

# Some volunteers are willing to go high!



Coos Bay Fire and Rescue Volunteer Steve Schneiderman hands the pelican up to Fire Chief Stan Gibson.



Steve Schneiderman completes roof work while David Bridgham finishes the front window.



David Bridgham



Charleston R.F.P.D. volunteers hang lights on the Information and Gift Center



Charleston Rural First Protection District Volunteers

# Shrubs and Christmas trees have to be lighted



Luke Soules and Grandpa Bill Breitmeyer



Bonneville Power Administration

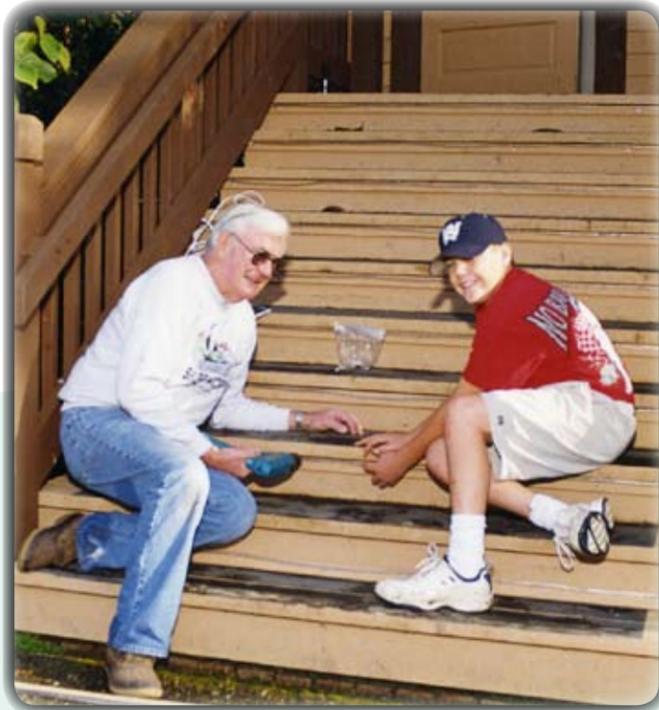


Kathi Netter and Kenn Kennedy



Bay Area Hospital led by Rhonda Starelli

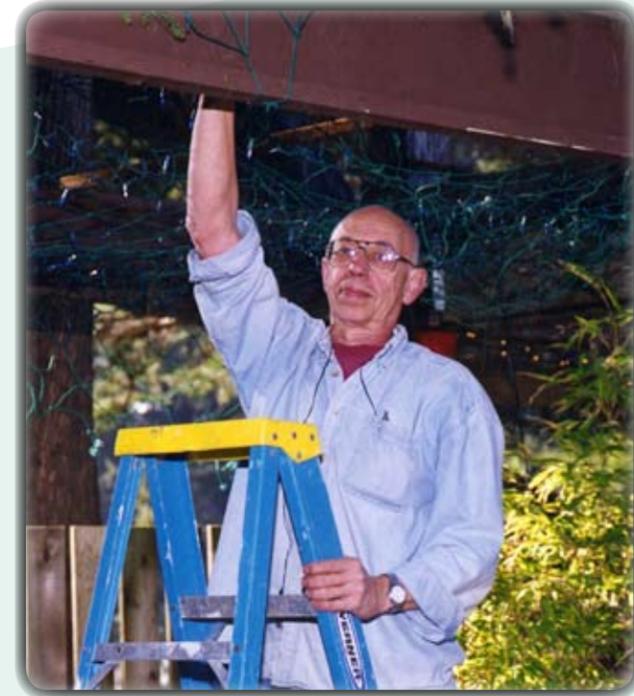
## Many other jobs and a hot lunch for volunteers



Fred Ehrman and Adam Reed (Bridgham's Grandson)



David Bridgham and Oregon National Guard volunteers put up the pelicans.



Chuck Lembke



Gladys Johnston and Maxine Johannesen



Betty Kennedy



Shirley Champagne and Fred Eherman

# Meanwhile in the Garden House – “Home for the Holidays”

DECORATIONS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ROBYNN REED



In the Dining Room - Out of chaos . . .



Front Bedroom - Bed & Breakfast Bed



Front Bedroom



New Bookshelves made by Butch and Kathy Hutchinson in the Living Room



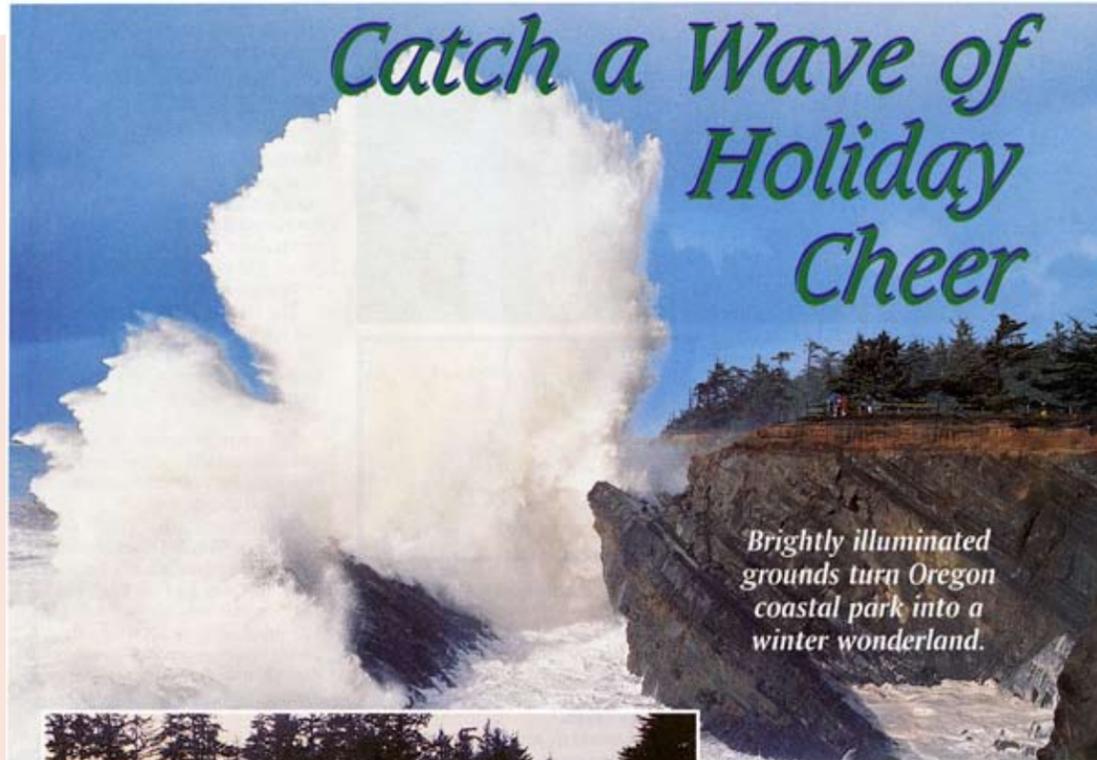
Back Bedroom - “Kids Room”

# Plentiful Publicity



*Let's Head for... the Northwest*

## Catch a Wave of Holiday Cheer



*Brightly illuminated grounds turn Oregon coastal park into a winter wonderland.*



*By Deb Mulvey, Associate Editor*

FOR 40 NIGHTS this holiday season, visitors from all over the United States and Canada will flock to Shore Acres State Park in Oregon to take in its annual glittering light display.

Now in its 14th year, the Holiday Lights and Open House celebration is a tradition for the community and for many families. Some travel across several states to visit, year after year.

The display started in 1987, when the Friends of Shore Acres decided to "string a few lights" around the park's formal gardens. Members of the group



**SHORE IS PRETTY.** Waves of lights turn Shore Acres State Park into a glittering spectacle for the holidays. Volunteers string more than 225,000 lights for the event.

put up 6,000 lights, decorated a single tree and put a few holiday touches on the historic Garden House (above).

The display has blossomed since then. This year's exhibit will be the biggest ever, with 225,000 lights spread over 5 acres of gardens, multiple Christmas trees and a greatly expanded Garden House exhibit. Kids of all ages especially enjoy seeing "Santa" relaxing in the Garden House bathtub!

One touch that sets Shore Acres' display apart from others is the light "sculptures", which depict the region's birds and marine life, such as pelicans, jellyfish, cranes and Dungeness crabs.

### You Won't Get Wet!

One of the most popular light sculptures is an animated killer whale that leaps into the air, then splashes down into a "sea" of blue lights. In the same area, visitors can see an animated gray whale spew water from its blowhole.

You can walk through the display at your own pace, spending as much time as you like admiring the exhibits while munching free homemade cookies and sipping fruit punch, coffee or hot cider. Entertainment is provided nightly by choirs and bands from local churches, schools, Scout troops and community organizations.



Although the event is particularly popular with residents of the Pacific Northwest, it's obvious that the word is spreading. In 1999, visitors came from 31 countries, 45 states and seven Canadian provinces.

Volunteers are at the heart of this ambitious event, as evidenced by scrolls in the Garden House that list the businesses and more than 1,000 helpers who string lights, put up decorations and bake endless batches of cookies. Visitors last year munched their way through 36,000 cookies before Christmas, so volunteers baked up 9,000 more!

The 743-acre park provides a naturally dramatic setting for a light display. Situated on a sandstone bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, it was originally the private estate of lumberman and shipbuilder Louis B. Simpson.

The lavish formal gardens, built in 1915, were filled with exotic trees, shrubs and flowers that Mr. Simpson's ships brought home from journeys

**If You Visit...** Shore Acres State Park is on the Cape Arago Highway, 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay and U.S. Highway 101. This year's holiday display is open from 4 to 10 p.m. daily from Nov. 23 through New Year's Day.

For more information, visit the Oregon State Parks Web site at [www.prd.state.or.us/search.html](http://www.prd.state.or.us/search.html) or call 1-800/551-6949. The park is open year-round from 8 a.m. to dusk.

**More to See...** You can watch tidal pools, whales, sea lions and seals at Cape Arago State Park, a scenic headland that juts into the ocean about 1 mile south of Shore Acres. The two parks are connected by a hiking trail.

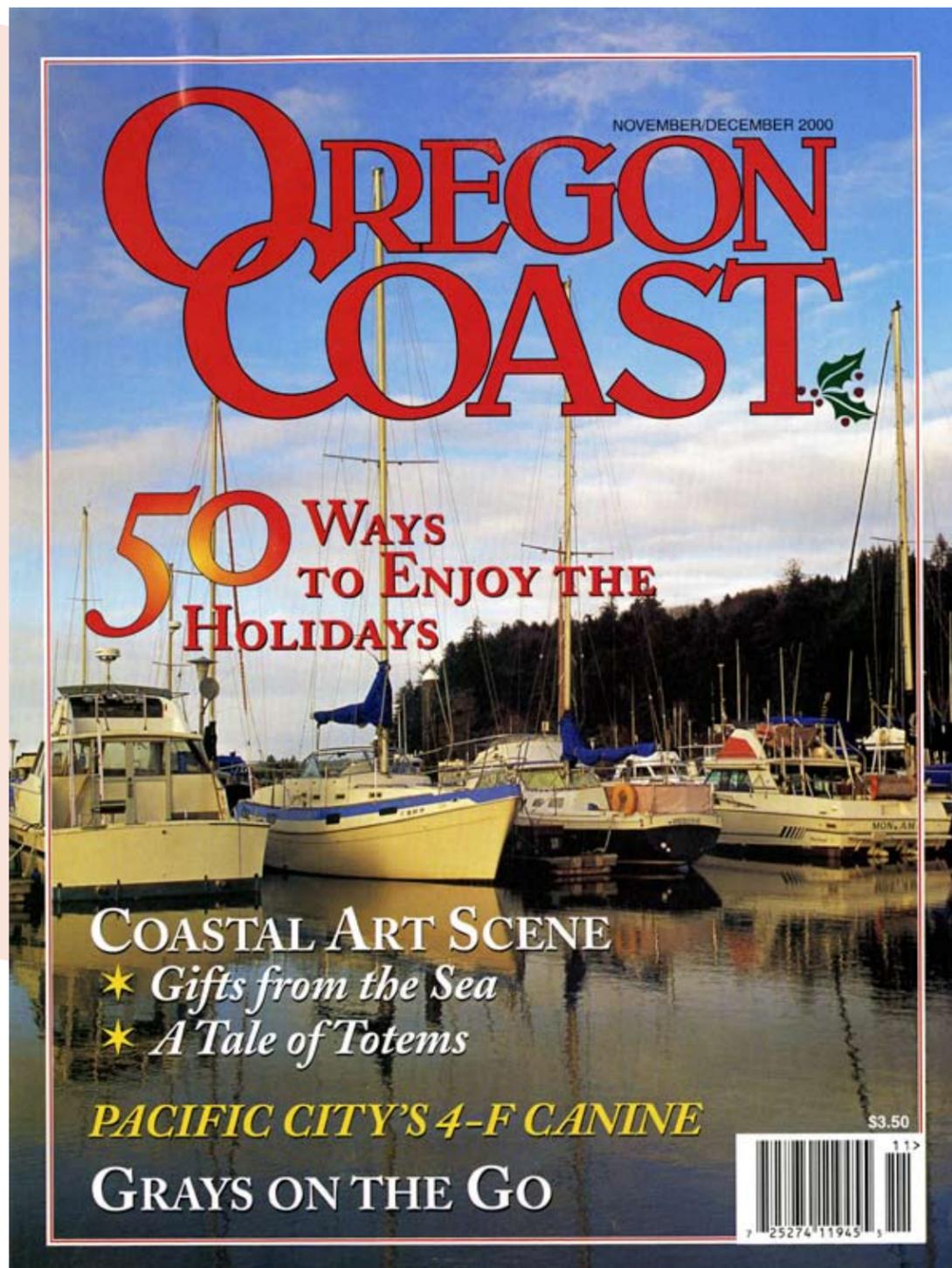
The Heceta Head Lighthouse and scenic viewpoint (featured on the cover of the Sept/Oct issue of *Country Discoveries*) is about 60 miles north of Coos Bay on Highway 101.

For more information about these two attractions, use the Oregon State Parks contact information listed above.

Visitors will also enjoy the 32,000-acre Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, about 10 miles north of Coos Bay on Highway 101. For information, call 1-541/271-3611 or browse [www.gorp.com/gorpfresource/us\\_nra/or\\_dunes.htm](http://www.gorp.com/gorpfresource/us_nra/or_dunes.htm) on the Web.

around the world. In 1942, the state bought the estate, which had fallen into disrepair. A mansion on the grounds was torn down and replaced with an observation building that offers a magnificent and protected view of breakers crashing against the bluff. Migrating whales can be seen here from December through June.

The restored gardens, which are skillfully blended into the rugged coastal landscape, have won several design awards. In this region's mild climate, spring bulbs begin blooming in late February, and the color show continues through summer and fall with 5,000 flowering annuals and perennials, 900 rosebushes and 250 dahlias. It's a colorful place all year long.



## *Lighting up the* **HOLIDAY SEASON**

*Light displays and seasonal events and activities—some traditional, some new—  
from Washington's Long Beach Peninsula to Brookings brighten the holidays in a festive way.*

*By Judy Fleagle*

**A** few years ago the only really spectacular Christmas light display on the coast was the Holiday Lights & Open House at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston. Three years ago Brookings—using Shore Acres as inspiration—started their own Nature's Coastal Holiday Festival of Lights, which has developed into quite a show of its own. (See accompanying article.) Then two years ago Lincoln City started Beach Lights, which has some impressive large light creations and has the goal of a continuous corridor of light from one end of the city to the other.

Many coastal towns have their own beautiful Christmas light displays and certain well-known landmarks—Heceta House at Heceta Head and Coquille River Lighthouse—become magical in lights at night. Besides the light shows, many events and activities from Washington's Long Beach Peninsula to Brookings/Harbor are profiled here. Because we don't have room for everything, check the Calendar of Events for more.

**PENINSULA BED & BREAKFAST HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

*December 9-10  
Long Beach Peninsula: 1-800-451-2542*

When you drive by a beautiful bed & breakfast inn are you ever tempted to stop and ask if you could go in and just look around? Well, here's your chance to do just that and to sample some tasty treats as well. And it's not just a few B&Bs but several you get to visit—a minimum of 11 to as many as 14. From 1 to 4 p.m. each day The Bed & Breakfast Association of Long Beach Peninsula, "Bed, Beach & Breakfast Inns," is hosting this holiday open house. What a deal, but there is a catch. Because this is a benefit for a local food share program, the admission at each B&B is a can of food. After all, it is the season for giving. Sounds like a win-win situation for all concerned.

**VICTORIAN DINNER  
PLUM PUDDING AT FLAVEL HOUSE**  
*December 8-9 & December 15-23, 26-30  
Astoria: 503-325-2203*

Mark your calendar for the annual gala Victorian Holiday Dinner, held the second weekend of December at the Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange Street, which will be festively decorated with period ornaments and holiday decorations. A no-host reception starts the festivities from 6 to 7 and the elegant five-course dinner is served at 7. With this event

20 November/December 2000 OREGON COAST

Highway 101 just before the McCullough Bridge on East Bay Drive. Go about 1/4 mile, turn on Bay Way Road, and continue about a block to Mallard. Follow signs and look for nautical flags flying.

**FOUR CRAFT SHOWS AND A TEA**  
*November 4, December 2 & 13*  
*North Bend/Coos Bay*

Start your Christmas shopping early by attending three craft shows and sales November 4. First is Hearts and Hands Crafters Guild Craft Sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Bend Junior High School. Refreshments include homemade cookies and other baked goods. The second is Crafts Unlimited Christmas Craft Sale (1-800-824-8486) from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the North Bend Community Center and refreshments are served there too. The third is the Coos Craft Guild Craft and Collectible Show (541-267-0479)

with a theme of Winter Wonderland from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Harding (Marshfield High School) gym at 7th and Golden. At all three you'll find woodwork items, tole painting, dried flowers, stained glass, ceramics and pottery, and much more.

The annual Zonta Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale (541-267-3075) is being held at the North Bend Community Center on December 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Arts, crafts, and gifts of all kinds will be displayed and on sale. Expect to find refreshments, and door prizes and raffles will be awarded throughout the day.

A traditional tea "Little Christmas Show and Tea" is the North Bend Garden Club's gift to the community. Crafts will be on sale, and this is where you can pick up that holiday wreath for the door and swags for decorating the fireplace or stairway. The tea and craft sale is held December 13 from noon to 3 p.m. at 1700 Monroe in North Bend.

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS & OPEN HOUSE**  
*November 23-January 1*  
*Shore Acres State Park; 541-888-3732*

More than 225,000 lights dazzle visitors to the gardens at Shore Acres State Park between 4 and 10 each evening. If you come between 4 and 5 you will be able to see the gardens in the last of the daylight before the magic of the lights take over. This is the 14th year for the trees and shrubs to be lighted and for the past few years visitors have also been delighted with the light sculptures of the leaping orca, spouting gray whale, flowers, and Undersea Garden—sea star, urchin, anemone, octopus, crab, and sea horse. And this year there will be more new light sculptures added. The pelican sculpture on the Gardener's Cottage invites you in to warm yourself with hot cider, punch, or coffee and cookies. And that's not all. Each evening—usually between 7 and 8 p.m.—carolers or other local entertainers perform (weather permitting).

And then there's the Bed & Breakfast raffle. The winner wins the right to spend New Year's Eve in the Gardener's Cottage with the lights left on all night and breakfast served the next morning. Bed & Breakfast raffle tickets are \$10. For more information on raffle tickets contact Shirley or David Bridgham (541-756-5401).

**BANDON FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**  
*December 1-January 1*  
*Bandon; 541-347-9616*

The Coquille River Lighthouse in lights is also magical at night. But in Bandon it's not just the lighthouse but the whole town that's lit. The annual Festival of Lights is a community happening with businesses and homes competing for prizes. It officially begins with Santa's arrival at the Bandon Shopping Center on December 1 and another special event is the lighting of the community Christmas Tree on December 8 in Old Town.

**HUGHES HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**  
*December 9-10, 16-17, 23, 26, 30*  
*Port Orford; 541-332-6774*

To celebrate the holidays, the outside of Hughes House is hung with garlands

# Shore Acres Light Show opens on Thanksgiving

The 14th annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres opens on Thanksgiving, November 23, and continues through New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2001.

The walk-through display with more than five acres of lighted gardens -- another new area lighted this year -- continues to attract thousands of visitors each season. The garden house, beautifully decorated in a traditional holiday theme, has friendly volunteer hosts from many organizations, businesses and the Friends serving hot cider, cookies, punch and coffee from 4 to 10 o'clock every night including Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Choirs, carolers and bands offer entertainment (weather permitting) on the outdoor stage. And there's plenty of parking for both cars and buses.

This year's display also features garden landscape lighting and more than 20 light sculptures including pelicans, jellyfish, Shore Acres' cranes, life-size leaping Orcas whale, life-size spouting gray whale, Dungeness crab, sea star, sea urchin, sea anemone, sea horse, octopus, kelp, frog, tulips, rhody, rose, dahlia, and more!

Exciting holiday gifts and raffle tickets for the "Ultimate Bed and Breakfast" are available in the Friends' Information and Gift Center. The B&B is an overnight stay for two adults in the Garden House on New Year's Eve with a special catered breakfast the

next morning. Tickets are \$10 each (only 100 will be sold) with the drawing to be held at 9 p.m. Christmas Day. Ticket holder does not need to be present to win.

The holiday lights event became an instant community tradition in 1987 when the Friends of Shore Acres in cooperation with Shore Acres State Park 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. Last season, more than 200,000 lights, many Christmas trees, lighted sculptures, and the traditionally decorated Garden House drew more than 50,000 visitors. Guest books show visitors from 31 countries, seven Canadian provinces, 45 U.S. states and D.C., including 202 Oregon towns and cities, 146 California towns and cities, and 60 Washington towns and cities. More than 1,000 volunteers and supporters and park staff make it happen.

Inside the Garden House long scrolls of names are a tribute to light pledges and business supporters and the volunteers and park staff who make it happen.

Shore Acres State Parks is 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend. Admission is a parking fee of \$3 per vehicle or a current OPRD Annual Parking Permit or Coastal Passport or current campground receipt. The Friends welcome donations for refreshments and for continuing the event the following year.



## CUT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREES

The following places allow cutting Christmas trees with the proper permit. Cutting guidelines, marking bands, and maps of recommended cutting areas are provided when you pick up the permit.

**SIALAW NATIONAL FOREST**

Call the Supervisor's Office, Siuslaw National Forest (541-750-7000), Monday through Friday, for information about obtaining \$5 permits at Mapleton Ranger District (office in Florence), Waldport Ranger District, Hebo Ranger District, and Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Permits will also be available at local businesses in these districts.

**SOUTH COAST FEDERAL LAND**

The Coos Bay District BLM, the Medford District BLM, the Siskiyou National Forest, and the Rogue River National Forest have recently implemented a uniform and shared policy for cutting Christmas trees. The public can go into any office of these federal agencies and request a \$5 permit to cut a personal Christmas tree on lands under any of these jurisdictions. □

GuardLine  
485-2000

- Wedding information ..... 9333
- Anniversary information .... 9334
- Traveler's weather ..... 6849

# OregonLife

and TRAVEL



**NETHERLANDS**  
River barges provide a moving hotel for bicyclists touring southern Holland / 31



## Lights upon the Shore



Far left: A sculpture of a heron rises from the formal gardens. Left: Visitors walk along the cliffs where the Simpson mansion once stood.

Take an oceanside stroll through gardens, holiday cheer and history



A window in the caretaker's cottage overlooks the gardens.

**G**ROUNDSKEEPERS insist that "something's blooming every day of the year" at Shore Acres State Park, on the rugged coast west of Coos Bay. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, 225,000 lights will decorate the formal cliff-top gardens, as well.

### Oregon Trails

But the gardens are not the only reason to plan a stroll along this stretch of Oregon's shore. The park is also haunted by the history of one of Oregon's wealthiest families. And just beyond the prim flower beds is wild scenery of the first order.

Gigantic breakers off the North Pacific explode against tilted sandstone cliffs. Sea lions bark from whitecapped reefs.

By WILLIAM SULLIVAN

For *The Register-Guard*

PHOTOS BY PAUL CARTER

*The Register-Guard*

North Bend timber baron Louis Simpson bought this dramatic seaside estate as a 1906 Christmas surprise for his wife. Today, Simpson's mansion is gone, but a portion of the Oregon Coast Trail traces the shore past the grand old estate's gardens.

To try a stroll through the history here, leave your car at the far end of the state park's lot and walk across oceanfront lawns to a small observation building perched on a cliff. So far, you'll have walked only a few hundred feet, but it's almost precisely the

same route explored by Louis Simpson in 1905 on his first visit.

Simpson was overseeing one of his many timber cruising crews when he saw a glint of ocean through the trees and decided to take a closer look.

"It was a perfect day and the sun was shining gloriously," Simpson later recalled. "I determined to work my way down to the headland to see what the view might be like. I did have to crawl on my hands and knees through ... the densest undergrowth you ever saw outside of the tropics.

"Finally, hot and breathless, I emerged on a little open space. Immediately I saw what a place for a country home!"

Turn to SHORE ACRES, Page 21



## SHORE ACRES

■ **HOURS:** 8 a.m. to sunset until Nov. 22, then 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. from Nov. 23 through Jan. 1, with the light display scheduled from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. each day from Thanksgiving until New Year's.

■ **HOW TO GET THERE:** From Highway 101 in Coos Bay, follow Shore Acres signs 9 miles to Charleston and then continue straight 4 miles. A mile past Sunset Bay State Park, turn right into the Shore Acres entrance and park by the oceanfront lawns at the far end of the parking area. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

■ **PARKING:** \$3 per vehicle, payable at the park entrance.

— William Sullivan

From Thanksgiving Day to New Year's, more than 200,000 lights decorate the formal gardens.

LUIS VELASQUEZ

SHORE ACRES Continued from Page 11

**T**HE VIEW TODAY is still inspiring. During winter storms, 40-foot waves pound the bluff below the observation building. The surf is slowly grinding the tilted sandstone strata down to a series of stepped reefs.

Simpson built his summer mansion right where the little observation building now stands and presented it to his wife in 1906. Styled after homes he had seen in Massachusetts, the shake-covered building featured bay windows and an enormous pillared porch that faced the ocean. The entry hall was richly paneled with Oregon myrtlewood and lit with specially ordered Tiffany lamps.

Simpson could never have afforded such a posh retreat if it had not been for his father, Asa, the man who amassed the Simpson fortune. Born a humble farmer's son in Maine, Asa Simpson learned the shipbuilding trade and sailed to California with his two brothers in time for the Gold Rush.

He opened a lumberyard and sent his two brothers to scout sawmill sites along the Pacific Coast. Both brothers died during those voyages. One brother's ship capsized with a load of timber on the Columbia River bar. The second brother's ship wrecked while bringing sawmill machinery across Coos Bay's bar.

With grim determination, Asa salvaged the equipment from the Coos Bay wreck in 1856 and opened a mill nearby at what is now North Bend. To reduce the risk of shipwrecks like the ones that killed his brothers, Asa bought a steam tugboat that could tow sailing ships across the treacherous bar in relative safety. Then he built a Coos Bay shipyard that began turning out two-masted freighters every nine months.

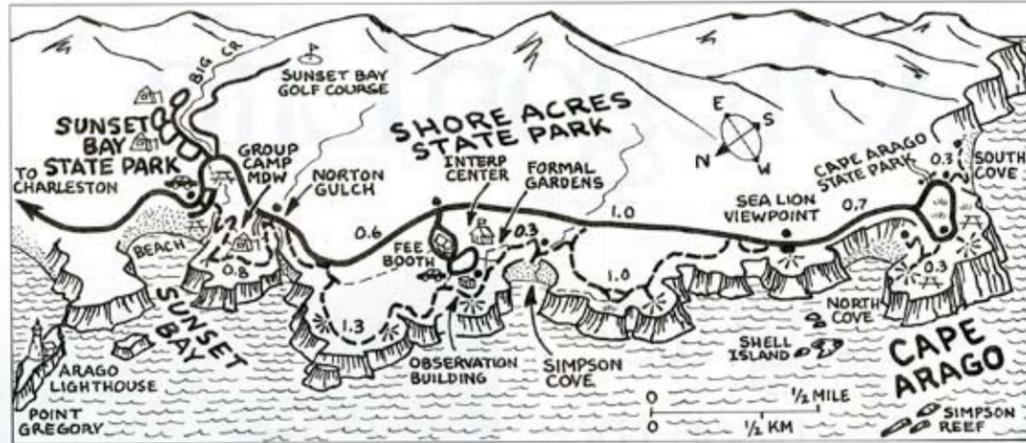
The finest of these ships, the three-masted schooner *Western Shore*, broke all records in 1875 by sailing from Astoria around Cape Horn to Ireland with a full load of 1,800 tons of Oregon wheat in just 101 days.

Asa's son Louis grew up amid luxury. The family owned palatial homes in both Stockton and Oakland and often traveled to the East Coast and Europe, collecting fine art. Louis studied briefly at the University of California in Berkeley. Still, he had almost no business training when he was given charge of the family's Coos Bay operations in 1899 at the age of 21.

When Louis arrived at North Bend, the white buildings of the Simpson Company lined the bay, but he noticed that the woods behind were undeveloped. Because his father still dictated every detail of work at the shipyard and sawmill, Louis decided to save up his salary to undertake a different kind of enterprise.

In 1902 he borrowed \$25,000, bought up the nearby land, platted a townsite, established a post office and incorporated the city of North Bend. He was promptly elected mayor — hardly surprising, given that he owned all but two of the town's lots.

Then he wrote his father that he was raising the rent on land the company had been using. Furious, Asa took the next ship to North Bend to browbeat his upstart son. But Louis didn't budge. Within a



WILLIAM SULLIVAN



PAUL CARTER / The Register-Guard

Sculptures of herons highlight the Japanese style in the gardens.

year, Louis had built a city he could call his own. He sold lots to company workers and to ambitious entrepreneurs from the entire Pacific Coast. He raised capital to open an iron works, ice factory, hotel, gas works, milk condensing plant, door factory and woolen mill. He donated land for a public dock and for Mercy Hospital. Later, he helped organize the Bank of Oregon.

While riding the crest of these business successes, Louis married Cassie Hendricks and presented her with the Shore Acres mansion as a Christmas gift. The Simpsons' country home became the scene of parties and summer gatherings for the social elite of both California and Oregon. Guests often arrived on Simpson ships to stay for weeks.

Gradually, Louis made the summer estate grander and grander. In 1914, he added an enormous wing to the mansion with a 53-foot, heated indoor swimming pool in the style of a Roman bath. A Palm Room connected the addition to the main house. Upstairs were still more bedrooms and a new 75-by-36-foot ballroom. A Chinese cook and three servants kept the estate in order.

North of the house stood a two-story carriage house and a path of bluffs to a viewpoint of Simpson Reef and Shell Island. Louis added a 15-cow dairy farm that also supplied the estate with vegetables, chickens and eggs. He cleared the forest near the house and hired

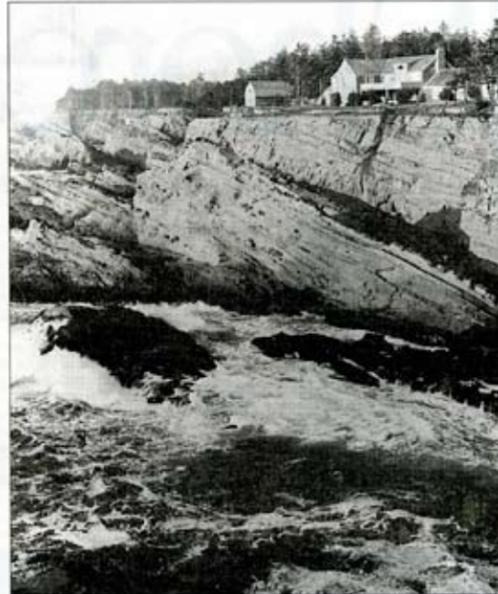
crews to build four acres of formal gardens, including a Japanese garden pool lined with boulders that were hoisted using horse teams from Simpson Cove.

**T**O CONTINUE YOUR tour of the estate's grounds, turn left along the cliff edge from the observation building. Then veer left into the fabulous formal gardens. Simpson's ship captains brought exotic plants from around the world to fill the beds. Today, only a few Monterey pines, cypresses and fruit trees remain from those original gardens. The new plantings feature 22 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas. And yes, you really can find flowers blooming even in November. Late bloomers this fall include penstemons, begonias, fuchsias, some roses and a showy South African ornamental named red-hot poker.

Walk through the boxwood hedges' geometric designs, circle the Japanese garden's pool and return to the paved oceanfront trail. Then turn left for a quarter mile down to the beach at Simpson Cove, a broad triangle of sand embraced by sheer ochre cliffs.

For a longer hike, continue on an unpaved path along the ocean bluffs to a viewpoint of Simpson Reef and Shell Island, where sea lions lounge and bark. This makes a good turnaround point for your day's trip.

The turnaround point for Louis Simpson's fortunes came after a



OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historic photo shows Louis Simpson's Shore Acres estate in 1913, shortly after its purchase by the state. This second mansion to be built on the bluff was destroyed in 1948.

spectacular peak in World War I. The war had revived the sagging demand for the Simpson Company's wooden ships and lumber. When Asa Simpson died in Oakland in 1915, Louis became sole ruler of the company's empire. He brought a shipload of the family's European art treasures to Shore Acres, including marble statues and copies of oils by Italian masters.

In 1916, he moved his family from North Bend to Shore Acres, making the mansion their year-round home. To cap off his success, Louis entered the race for governor, inviting the newspaper editors of Oregon to help kick off his bid with a luncheon bash at Shore Acres. How could he lose? The debonair six-term mayor of North Bend, known throughout the state as the "handsome stranger," was active in the state's YMCA and Elks club. He ran on a populist

Democratic platform to develop Oregon and to extend the state's new women's suffrage law nationwide.

But Simpson did lose the governor's race, and within days World War I ended, canceling demand for wooden ships. In 1920, his wife died of kidney failure at Shore Acres. Suddenly his world was crumbling.

As you hike back from the sea lion viewpoint, you'll be following in the hurried footsteps of Louis Simpson on the night his dream home went up in flames. No one knows why Louis was out walking here near the dairy farm at 2 a.m. on the morning of July 4, 1921. But when he noticed a glow on the horizon to the north, he raced down the dark trail to Simpson Cove and sprinted through the formal garden paths. The mansion was already engulfed by the fire. By dawn, it

No one had been hurt, but all of the house's artworks and all of his company's records were lost. Insurance paid only half of the fire's loss. Louis moved temporarily into the caretaker's cottage that still remains beside the formal gardens.

Later that year, he married a second wife, Lela. Two years later, when one of his company's schooners wrecked on Simpson Reef, dumping 3 million board feet of lumber onto the shore here, he tried to make the best of the tragedy by salvaging the wood for construction of a new mansion on the ashes of the old.

Plain but huge, the great shingled house that began to rise in 1927 was 224 feet long, with 17 rooms in its two stories. Work stopped on the new mansion, however, when the stock market crash of 1929 staggered Simpson's fortunes yet again.

He moved into the shell of the uncompleted house, hastily finishing a few of the rooms. In 1932, he donated 134 acres south of the estate for Cape Arago State Park.

In September 1936, a wildfire swept toward Shore Acres. The Simpsons fled to North Bend.

Although the mansion survived the fire, most of the outbuildings were lost and the family never returned.

**O**N DEC. 10, 1942, Simpson sold the remaining 637 acres of the Shore Acres estate, including the rambling second mansion, to the state of Oregon for a mere \$29,000. The Army converted the house to a barracks for troops guarding the Southern Oregon Coast. Then it fell into disuse.

Meanwhile, Simpson's longtime business competitor from Coos Bay, Ben Chandler, had become chairman of the State Highway Commission that oversaw state parks. Sensing an opportunity to score a symbolic victory over his rival, Chandler ordered Simpson's run-down mansion destroyed in December 1948.

Heartbroken, Simpson died three weeks later in a small Barview cottage near North Bend. Today, with 400,000 visitors a year touring the old Shore Acres estate, parks officials have begun to regret Chandler's vindictive decision. Together with the 250-member Friends of Shore Acres, the Department of Parks and Recreation has been discussing ways to rebuild the original 1906 Simpson mansion.

The enormous cost is just one of many obstacles that lie in the project's path. But even without the old mansion, the spirit of the Simpson family seems to linger here like a sea mist.

Walking through the festively lit gardens on a winter's evening, you can almost hear the distant laughter of the Simpson's wealthy party guests. Then the surf crashes on the cliffs below, and the laughter is lost in the roar.

*William Sullivan is a noted hiker and the author of eight books about Oregon. His Oregon Trails column appears every month in Oregon Life. He can be contacted at [teuw.oregonhiking.com](mailto:teuw.oregonhiking.com).*



### Bright lights Holiday sights

Looking off the front porch of the gardener's house in Shore Acres State Park in Charleston, thousands of lights are up and lit for the annual Christmas season show. The walkways, bushes and Christmas trees along with sculptured whales, birds and other animals are dressed in lights. The 14th-annual light show at Shore Acres will open to the public on Thanksgiving Day. Volunteer Shirley Bridgham said the Friends of Shore Acres have put up 225,000 lights of different colors, on the way toward next year's goal of 250,000. Bridgham said the first year, volunteers put up 6,000 lights, all white, with one Christmas tree. The night-time show will be on through the Christmas holiday season.

World Photos by Lou Sennick



## Holiday Lights shine at Shore Acres

The 14th-annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres State Park opens Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, and will continue through New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2001.

This walk-thru display with more than 5 acres of lighted gardens — another new area lighted this year — continues to attract thousands of visitors each season. The Garden House, beautifully decorated in a traditional holiday theme, has friendly volunteer hosts from many organizations, businesses and the Friends of Shore Acres serving hot cider, cookies, punch and coffee from 4 to 10 p.m. each night including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's

Day. Choirs, carolers and bands offer entertainment (weather permitting) on the outdoor stage. And there's plenty of parking for both cars and buses.

This year's display also features garden landscape lighting and more than 20 light sculptures, including pelicans, jellyfish, sea anemone, sea horse, octopus, kelp, frog, tulips, rhody, rose, dahlia and more.

Raffle tickets for the "Ultimate Bed and Breakfast" are available in the Friend's Information and Gift Center. The prize is an overnight stay for two adults in the Garden House on New Year's Eve with a special catered breakfast the next morning. One hundred tickets will be sold at \$10 each, with the



drawing to be held at 9 p.m. Christmas Day. Ticket holder does not need to be present to win.

The holiday lights event became an instant community tradition in 1987 when the Friends of Shore Acres, in cooperation with Shore Acres State Park, decide 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. Last season, more than 200,000 lights, many Christmas trees, lighted sculptures and the traditionally decorated Garden House drew more than 50,000 visitors. Guest books show visitors from 31 countries, seven Canadian provinces, 45 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.,

including 202 Oregon towns and cities, 146 California towns and cities and 60 Washington towns and cities. More than 1,000 volunteers and supporters and park staff make it happen.

Inside the Garden House, long scrolls of names pay tribute to lights pledge and business supporters and the volunteers and park staff who make it happen.

Shore Acres State Park is located south of Charleston on Cape Arago Highway. Admission is a parking fee of \$3 per vehicle or free with a current OPRD Annual Parking Permit, Coastal Passport or campground receipt. The Friends welcome donations for refreshments and for continuing the event the following year.



**Holiday Happenings:**

*featuring*

- **Bandon Festival of Lights:** Festivities and tree lighting on December 8th. See page 8 for more information.
- **Holiday Lights & Open House at Shore Acres State Park:** See page 13 for more information.
- **Christmas Lights the Night Light Parade in Myrtle Point** on December 16 from 7 to 8 p.m. See page 19 for more information.

Also see our calendar of events on the facing page and advertisements and announcements throughout this issue for more holiday activities.



**Holiday Open Houses**

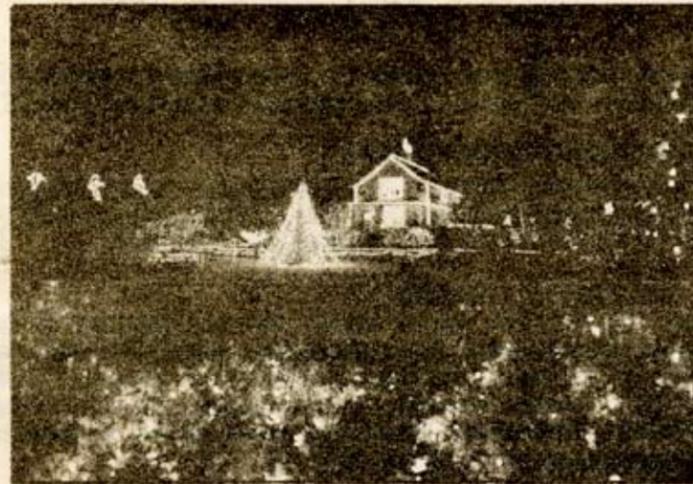


**December 9, Saturday**

• **Christmas Open House at Bay Moss Studio,** 180 Central Avenue, downtown Coos Bay from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Prizes, refreshments, sales, and new work. Lighting of the Sconces will be 5 to 6 p.m. Furniture will be 20% off, Schaefer's A-Gain Line will be half price, all clothes & jewelry will be on sale and more!

**Dec. 15, 16, & 17; Fri., Sat., & Sun.**

• **Laurel Grover Pottery's Holiday Open House,** 6 miles south of Bandon on Hwy. 101. Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. New pottery inventory, live music, refreshments. Three \$25 gift certificate give aways. Call 347-8078 for more information.



**This Holiday Season Stop by and Visit The Merchants of Charleston on Your Way to Shore Acres**

Don't miss the 14th Annual Holiday Lights & Open House at Shore Acres State Park which continues until New Year's Day, January 1, 2001. The Garden House, beautifully decorated in a traditional holiday theme, will be serving hot cider, cookies, punch and coffee from 4-10 p.m. every night including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Choirs, carolers and bands offer entertainment (weather permitting) on the outdoor stage. This year's display also features garden landscape lighting and more than 20 light sculptures. Admission for parking is \$3 per vehicle or a current OPRD Annual Parking Permit or Coastal Passport or current campground receipt.



Visitors once again flock to the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park

See pages 8 & 9 for story and photos



Southwestern students take initiative to clean up campus trails

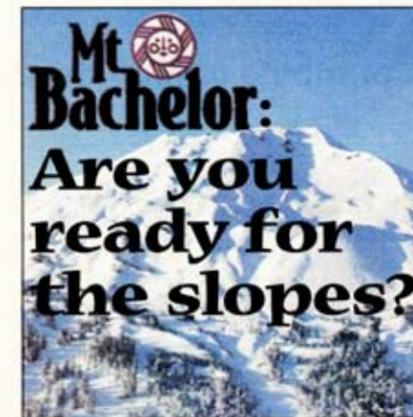
See page 3 for story and photos

December 5, 2000 Issue 5, Volume 37

**The Southwester**

<http://web.southwestern.cc.or.us/se/index>

The Southwestern Oregon Community College Student Newspaper



by Danny Young  
Southwester Photo Editor

We have finally reached the time of year where all Southwestern students are eagerly awaiting Christmas break. Some will, or have already, headed over to their favorite tree salesman to find that perfect Christmas tree to decorate with numerous ornaments and a ball of last year's tangled lights. Others will stick to their traditional ties and head

to the hills to get a fresh one. However, if you're anything like me, nothing compares to strapping on your board, and carving on three inches of fresh powder with the snow covered trees over head.

Light snowfall this year postponed the Thanksgiving break opening expectations of two of Oregon's ski resorts; Willamette Pass, and Mt. Ashland, who's target opening dates were November 15th, and 23rd. This unfortunate news put a damper

on many people's Thanksgiving break plans. However there are those skiing and boarding junkies out there, like me, who didn't let a few extra miles stand in their way, and headed to Mt. Hood or Mt. Bachelor. With the news of running lifts at Mt Bachelor, and an opening week \$24 student lift ticket special, I couldn't resist the temptation.

Mt. Bachelor opens an hour early (flam) on weekends and holidays, so I chose to board on Saturday and take advantage of the extra hour. I couldn't have picked a better day, the sun was out, the weather was nice, and the slopes had a fresh new blanket of powder from the previous night. Due to the inadequate snowfall, the summit, Northwest Territory, and board park were not open yet, but there was still plenty of great runs that were. I had expectations that the mountain would be fairly crowded due to the great rates, and the fact that it was a holiday weekend, but it was exactly the opposite, on some runs I felt as if I had the mountain to myself.

During this past week, all of Oregon's ski resorts have been getting a decent amount of snowfall, so by Christmas break,

you should be able to take your pick. If you are heading to Mt. Bachelor, remember to bring your student ID or proof of enrollment to receive the \$11 dollar discount on your lift ticket. Also please remember to travel safely, you must carry chains, or traction devices to cross many of Oregon's passes during the winter months. I know first hand how dangerous snow and ice can be even in a four-wheel drive vehicle, not only did I witness two accidents on my way back from Mt. Bachelor Saturday night, I also experienced one first hand at the end of last season due to black ice. Be safe and have fun!

If you are planning a ski/boarding trip for the upcoming break, Mt Bachelor is a great place to go. Mt. Bachelor has 3683 acres of skiable terrain, which is accessed by ten lifts, seven of which are high-speed

quads. There are several runs for all levels of skiers/boarders, and great lesson/rental packages for those who wish to take up a new sport. With the resort town of Sunriver at its base and the city of Bend just miles away, there are many different lodging opportunities including vacation rentals, and motels. Some motels actually run specials with the mountain, stay three nights, and the fourth is free. For more info on lodging and specials, you can check their web site at MtBachelor.com.

During this past week, all of Oregon's ski resorts have been getting a decent amount of snowfall, so by Christmas break,

you should be able to take your pick. If you are heading to Mt. Bachelor, remember to bring your student ID or proof of enrollment to receive the \$11 dollar discount on your lift ticket. Also please remember to travel safely, you must carry chains, or traction devices to cross many of Oregon's passes during the winter months. I know first hand how dangerous snow and ice can be even in a four-wheel drive vehicle, not only did I witness two accidents on my way back from Mt. Bachelor Saturday night, I also experienced one first hand at the end of last season due to black ice. Be safe and have fun!



Photo and artwork provided by Mt. Bachelor  
For information and links to all of Oregon's snow parks and ski resorts check out <http://web.pdx.edu/~cyj/oresorts.html>

Continued next page

# Holiday spirit brightens Shore Acres State Park



This Gardener's Cottage is all that is left of the original estate of Louis J. Simpson. It is known as the Garden House now and serves as a social gathering place for visitors and guests. Each year there is a drawing for a chance to spend the night in the house and this year is no exception. Someone will be able to spend the night, with all the lights on, after this years event. Tickets cost ten dollars each, and only 100 will be sold.



This wall of photos shows what the old Simpson Mansion looked like before it burnt to the ground during the Fourth of July holiday, in 1921.

Shore Acres State Park is the scene for a "Home For The Holidays" display of lights, sounds, and good feelings for one and all. This is the 14th year for the lights, and the second year the Southwester has been fortunate enough to capture some of the glory for your viewing pleasure. The Southwester staff wishes you and yours the best in this holiday season.



This view is from the second floor window in the front of the Garden House. It was taken with 100 speed Fuji Film, at a six second exposure. Slow film, a good shutter release, and tripod, are all one needs to capture the color of the lights.



Many wonderful things can be found inside the house also. Robynn Reed, Adam Reed, Mike Reed, and Carl Siminow, along with all the people who donate the decorations, are to thank for this year's old time holiday feeling that one gets while exploring the Garden House. Over 1000 people, with the help of donations by visitors and Friends of Shore Acres members, make this annual community event possible. It is a true representation of what sharing during the holiday season is meant to be.

Photo feature by T. John McKeown - Managing Editor

Thanks, John – Shirley (Mom) and David Bridgham, Co-Chair Holiday Lights since 1987

# 14th Annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres Thanksgiving 2000 thru New Year's Day 2001



Pelicans designed by Don McMichael



View from upstairs window of the Garden House



Undersea Garden created by David Bridgham and Frank Smith



45' Gray Whale designed by Don McMichael

Photos by Luis Velasquez

# From Dusk to Dark . . . Amazing



Memorial Fountain attracts a crowd ready to drop coins and make their wishes.



Garden House beckons with friendly hosts, hot apple cider, coffee, punch and cookies!

Photos by Luis Velasquez

# From Dusk to Dark . . . Sensational



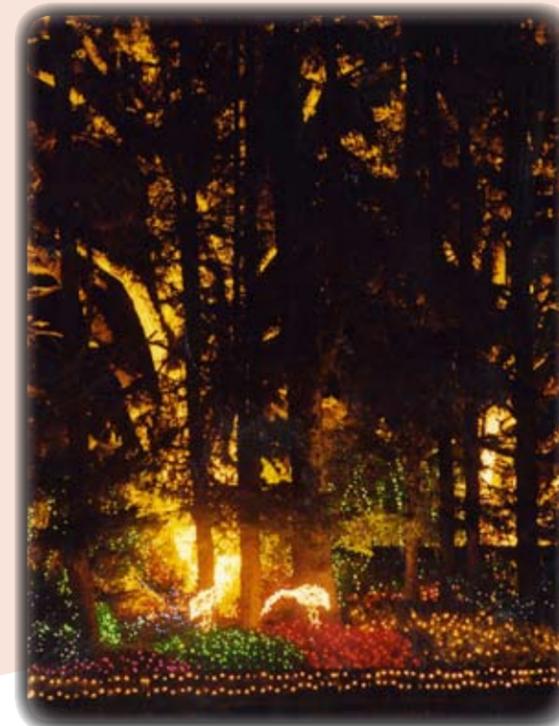
Reflections in the Lily Pond



Salmon "Schooling" - Sculpture designed by Don McMichael

Photos by Luis Velasquez

### Landscape Lights Illuminate Giant Monterey Pines



## Colder weather could impact power usage on the South Coast

By **ANDREW SIROCCHI**  
Staff Writer

An expected cold snap in Washington and Northern Oregon could affect electricity usage on the South Coast, but local distributors are taking a wait-and-see attitude to determine just how much.

Jim Arntz, general manager at Coos Curry Electric, said he doesn't expect local electricity demands to reach a critical level.

“... if they're short of energy up there, then we're going to get hit here.”

Jim Arntz  
Coos Curry  
Electric

“Even though we'll have that advantage, we're still tied to the grid.”

The cold weather is going to have a big impact. If they're short of energy up there, then we're going to get hit here,” Arntz said.

A cold snap is expected to hit the Portland area early this week, prompting Northwest utilities Friday to issue a stage two alert, a warning intended to help avert an electricity shortage. The governor appealed to Oregonians to conserve electricity prior to the cold snap and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it would increase releases from hydropower dams throughout the Northwest in response to the emergency warning.

See Power, Page A8

“I think one of the fortunate things on the South Coast is that we're not going to get the temperature drop that they're going to experience elsewhere,” Arntz said.

Yet while warmer weather on the South Coast would mean residents will not have to use as much energy to heat their homes, it doesn't eliminate the possibility the region will feel a local impact from heavier usage in Portland or other metropolitan areas.

“Even though we'll have that advantage, we're still tied to the grid.”

# Shore Acres will stay lighted for now

Power from Page A1

The Oregon Public Utilities Commission also approved new tariffs allowing Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp to request industrial customers voluntarily reduce their consumption in exchange for payments based on market prices.

Arntz emphasized that his 15,000 customers should not panic about the electricity availability. Coos Curry Electric, which purchases the majority of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration, has not issued any alerts to residential users.

Arntz said the extent of the cop's advisories have been limited to informing industrial users of the possibility of the shortage, but Coos Curry Electric has not requested anyone shut down power.

“We've notified some of our larger customers that this situation potentially exists out there,” Arntz said, “just to give them a heads-up, so if something were to happen next week this doesn't come as a big surprise to them.”

David Kvamme, a spokesman for Pacific Power, said it's possible the South Coast could see an energy shortage if a cold snap hits other areas of the state hard. But Kvamme added he believes his company has enough power to serve all of its customers.

“We're fortunate that we have most of the electricity for us to serve our customers, wherever they

are,” Kvamme said. “But what I'd rather people understand is that we're all trying to work through times of peak demand.”

Kvamme said the company has asked consumers to use common sense in reducing their usage.

“We're not in a dire situation today,” Kvamme said. “What you're seeing right now is utilities taking prudent steps to make sure they don't get into a more difficult situation.”

Pacific Power has been running advertisements statewide informing residential users how they can limit their power usage during the expected cold streak.

Some of the suggestions include waiting until after 8 p.m. to turn on major appliances such as dishwashers, setting thermostats between 65 degrees and 68 degrees, doing laundry on the weekends and taking advantage of sunny days by opening shades and drapes.

Kvamme said part of the reason for concern can be attributed to a shortfall in California's electricity availability. In winter periods, California typically sends surplus power to the Northwest, where demand for heating increases. This year, no power has been sent because many of California's plants have been taken off line for maintenance after intense summer usage to run air conditioners exhausted the system.

As those concerns trickle down to the South Coast, some local power distributors are working to

make customers aware of the potential for a shortfall.

On Friday, after the governor's warning was issued, Bandon City Manager Matt Winkel sent an advisory to newsletter subscribers notifying them that an expected cold snap could have a larger impact in Oregon than previously anticipated.

Bandon's municipal electricity system, which purchases all of its power from the BPA, serves approximately 3,000 customers. In a telephone interview on Saturday, Winkel said the city has not asked anyone to curb their usage but does suggest residents take measures to limit use.

“We haven't issued any advisories, other than the ones that I think the state issued,” Winkel said.

“We certainly anticipate being able to provide the power people need,” he added.

At Shore Acres State Park, where more than 200,000 lights are brightening the botanical gardens during the 14th-annual light festival, no plans are in place to shut down.

“Nobody has contacted us yet and if they do, we will have to decide how to handle it then,” said Shirley Bridgham, who along with her husband, David, coordinates the display for the Friends of Shore Acres.

The lights were turned on Thanksgiving Day and run from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily until Jan. 1. The event is a major draw for the

park. More than 50,000 people visited the display last year, Bridgham said. It is also a draw on electricity, which Bridgham expects to cost more than \$2,000 for the two-month period the lighting is on.

Larry Becker, park manager at Sunset Bay State Park, said his office received notice of the possibility of an energy shortfall following the governor's warning. Becker said the park does not fit the criteria for industrial use, which would limit when the display is turned on.

“The lights are more than just a business for the State Park and the Friends of Shore Acres,” he said. “It is a draw to the community.”

The last time the lights were shut down at Shore Acres was in 1997, during periods of high storms and strong wind, Becker said.

Becker said the state parks office has taken some measures to curb its energy use, including taking conservation measures that reduce heat and lights in some buildings.

While utilities managers statewide are hoping activities like those will help avert a full-scale crisis, it's been more than 20 years since the last advisories were issued.

“In Oregon, you have to go back to the mid '70s, in the energy crisis we got into back then,” Arntz said. “We discussed this with our regional managers. I've got some guys working with me that have been at this a long time and they couldn't remember anything like it.”

14th Annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres  
Thanksgiving 2000 thru New Year's Day 2001

Photos by Luis Velasquez

# Whale Watch Week at Shore Acres

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 18, 2000

## Oregon Coast braces for the whale-watchers

■ **Views:** Popular coastal spots are Ecola State Park, Boiler State Park and seawall at Depoe Bay.

NEWPORT (AP) — The Oregon coast is preparing for two different migrations — the annual march of gray whales from Alaska toward Mexico, and the thousands of people who flock to the beach to watch them swim by.

"My phone melts down on this subject as whale-watch week creeps up," said Michael Rivers, an interpreter for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and coordinator for the whale-watch program.

Each winter, gray whales travel 5,000 miles from their feeding grounds in the Bering and Chukchi seas in Alaska to the lagoons in Baja California, Mexico, where they will breed.

The weeklong focus on watching the gray whale began in 1978 to coincide with the migration's peak, which generally comes the first week in January. This year's watch is scheduled from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2, at 27 sites in Oregon and outlooks in Ilwaco, Wash., and Crescent City, Calif.

Volunteers will be on hand at each site from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rivers said approximately 11,049 whale-watchers visited the sites last winter.

Rivers said the best conditions generally are in the morning when the seas are calm and the sun is behind sightseers. He said a person should use the naked eye to search for a spout. Once sighted, use the binoculars to scan the area and wait for the whale to surface again.

The more popular spots along Oregon's coast are Ecola State Park, Boiler Bay State Park and the seawall at Depoe Bay.

This year's migration comes at a time

See Whale Watching, Page A12

## Scientists agree gray whale has exceeded its food supply

**Whale Watching from Page A1**

when experts think the gray whale population, which is estimated to be at 26,000, has exceeded its food supply. Scientists recorded 274 whale deaths between December 1998 and Sept. 15, 1999, the highest rate of deaths of any previous year.

From January to April this year, 207 whales died in the breed-

ing lagoons, an 83 percent increase from the same period in 1999.

Bruce Mate, extension sea grant specialist at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, recently completed a study with fellow biologists on the topic. Mate and his colleagues think the spike in the mammal's mortality rate is due to a food supply that is decreasing because of a warming trend in arctic waters.

"We'd love to study that

process and figure out exactly what's happening, but the little bit of money for whale study will stay with the endangered species," Mate said.

Gray whales were removed from the endangered species list in 1994.

On the Net:

Parks department whale-watching information:  
<http://www.whalespoken.org>



Myrtle Crest School, Grade 6, Myrtle Point, OR - L-R Derek Peterson, Jordan Newell, Cody Carlson, James Baker, David Standiford, Byrna Peterson and a S.E.A. volunteer inside the Observation Building.



Shoreline Education for Awareness (S.E.A.) volunteers help visitors spot gray whales migrating south on a cloudy/sunny day.



Photos by Luis Velasquez

# Holiday Lights Stats

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT SHORE ACRES - THANKSGIVING 2000 THRU NEW YEAR'S DAY 2001

### GUEST BOOK ANALYSIS BY AL ASLAKSON, REEDSPORT. OREGON

**NOTE:** Not everyone who came to the park signed the guest book. Not everyone who signed did so legibly. Not everyone listed where they were from. And I probably missed some.

#### UNUSUAL COMMENTS:

12/15 - "Way better than a Baptist Youth Revival"

12/19 - "Magnificent jumping whale - nice headless duck"

- 42 COUNTRIES
- 2 US Territories
- 49 STATES
- Missing: Delaware

- Oregon - 208 Cities

#### NEIGHBORING STATES:

- California 169 Cities
- Idaho 21 Cities
- Nevada 9 Cities
- Washington 121 Cities



#### GROUPS OF 15 OR MORE WHO SIGNED IN

?? on 12/4 - Inland Point Assisted Living

?? on 12/14 - Lots of People signed in from Medford area

?? on 12/1 - Somebody signed in as "Florence Bus Driver"

?? on 12/4 - Scout Troop 151 and parents

?? on 12/18 - Somebody signed in "with the LCC Tour"

15 on 11/24 - Streb Family

15 on 12/7 - Folks from Coquille

15 on 12/6 - Claudia Clarke

15 on 12/2 - PNW Beetle Group

15 on 12/3 - 1st Christian Church Jr Youth Group

16 on 11/23 - Adams Family (!)

16 on 12/21 - Hauser Dune Riders

16 on 12/27 - Courtains

16 on 12/27 - Waiss, etc, Florence

16 on 12/23 - From Oakridge, OR

16 on 12/30 - Damilson Family & friends

17 on 11/23 - McCormick/Johnson - Seattle & North Bend

17 on 12/18 - River Road Park, Eugene

17 on 12/24 - three families

17 on 12/17 - Jay N Yoshindelg (?)

18 on 12/10 - Girl Scouts #217

18 on 12/2 - Ron Munsling, Coquille

19 on 12/18 - Les & Grace Stewart

20 on 12/1 - Sunset Middle School

20 on 12/6 - Pacific Coast Guide Dog Puppy Club

20 on 12/17 - Port Orford Christian Center Children

20 on 12/18 - Lloyd Busch, Cresswell

20 on 12/4 - Ocean Crest

21 on 12/2 - Rita Reed

22 on 12/10 - 1st Baptist Church Eugene Adult Sunday School

22 on 12/5 - Carol & Dorothy Roth

22 on 12/26 - from Springfield

25 on 12/4 - Some folks from Medford

25 on 12/2 - Running Foxe Family

26 on 12/4 - Medford First Church of the Nazarene

26 on 12/10 - Marshfield High School something

30 on 11/29 - Bill Hilly, no city listed

30 on 12/1 - Barbara Keay, Beaverton

35 on 12/10 - Darci Kopersmith, Coquille

41 on 11/29 - Mercy Best Years Seniors Group, Roseburg

46 on 12/31 - Allegany Community Church

47 on 12/8 - Headstart from Port Orford

50 on 12/5 - From Eugene

78 on 12/14 - Senior Lights Tour, Lakeside/North Bend

Bus on 12/2 - Irene Foote, Medford

# Follow-up Publicity – January 2001

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - January 5, 2001

## Who came to Shore Acres in 2000?

The Shore Acres Light Festival continued to be a major tourist draw during the 2000 holiday season.

Visitors from around the state and further came to see the dazzling display featuring 200,000 miniature lights.

According to Shirley Bridgham, who along with her husband, David, coordinates the event for the Friends of Shore Acres, preliminary figures indicate approximately 56,000 people visited the park from the opening of the light festival Nov. 23 through Jan. 1. That's an increase from the approximately 50,000 visitors who came to see the display at Shore Acres State Park in 1999.

Final statistics, including where people came from, should be available within the next two weeks, Bridgham said. In 1999, guest books showed visitors came from 31 countries, seven Canadian provinces, 45 states and Washington, D.C., along with 202 Oregon towns and cities.

The heaviest day of visits in 2000 was the day after Thanksgiving, when approximately 4,000 people went to see the lights, Bridgham said. That was followed by the Saturday before the New Year, when nearly 3,000 visitors came, and on Christmas Eve, when approximately 2,776 people visited the park.

Bridgham said visitors weren't shy about leaving

compliments in the guest books.

"People kept writing that it was better than ever, or things like "wonderful as usual, or "this is our fifth year," Bridgham said.

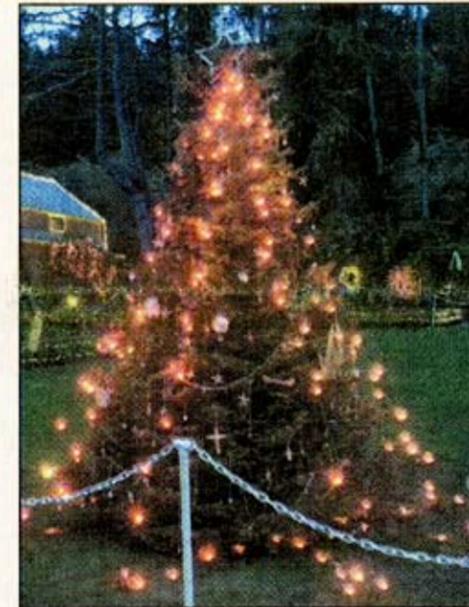
This year's display featured more than 5 acres of garden landscape lighting and included lighted sculptures of pelicans, jellyfish and sea anemones.

Bridgham said plans already are in place to begin preparations for the 2001 festival, which should be bigger and better.

Bridgham said the Friends of Shore Acres hope to increase the lighting to 250,000 miniature bulbs. In addition, more sculptures are being envisioned, including a lighted display of a replica of the tall ship, the North Bend, owned by Louis Simpson at the turn of the century.

Meanwhile, the lighting display will be removed this weekend and Bridgham said staff would appreciate any help in taking it down.

"Anyone interested in helping put it up next year, one way to start is to start taking them down," Bridgham said.



# Plans for 2001

## FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC

### MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. MARCH 13, 2001, BLM CONFERENCE ROOM

**Directors Present:** David and Shirley Bridgham, Kenn and Betty Kennedy, Gregg Nelson, Bob and Betty Renner, Kay Valois and Richard Van Natta. **Directors Absent:** Shirley Champagne, Chuck Lembke, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Winnie Pitsenberger, Terry Richards, Carl Siminow, Barb Taylor **Guests Present:** Larry Becker, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). Linda Lopez, Volunteer Coordinator from OPRD

President Kenn Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**Minutes** of the January 9, 2001 meeting were accepted as amended. The corrected cookie count should be 23,000 baked and 17,000 purchased for a total of 40,000.

**Financial Report** - None

**IGC Report** - Shirley Bridgham reported on the luncheon and "found" dahlia posters signed by the photographer. She also said a guest book has been placed in the IGC.

**OPRD Report**, Larry Becker - Spring Clean-Up... Ellie will be out for a couple of weeks. Memorial Plaque Wall completed. Menasha getting bids on Gazebo materials. State Parks forester assessed Sitka spruce and will have them removed because of root fungus. Many repairs are needed in Pergola (entry) - More info to come once funding requests are acted on.

**Old Business** - David Bridgham: Our Long Range Planning Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2001, on the Rendezvous at the City Dock from 11-3/ Crystal Shoji will be the session facilitator. Shirley Bridgham: A summary of the Memorial Plaque information will soon be available, i.e. vital statistics, donations, etc.

**New Business** - David Bridgham: Reported on Holiday Lights 'Shakedown' Potluck - Over 40 people attended and enjoyed good food, reviewed results and even made a few suggestions (although we're very near perfect now!). Gregg Nelson moved that we purchase a third wheelchair, seconded and passed unanimously. Kenn Kennedy: Spoke about visitor interest in the elephant seal mating/dominance battles and injuries observed in Simpson Cove. Betty Kennedy: Reminded us of the Bonsai in the Park event on Saturday, April 21 from 11 to 4. Gregg Nelson: Mentioned the Pond Cleaning Event - *Brush 'N Flush*. He will coordinate with Carl Siminow. This is usually done the same Saturday as the Bonsai Event. Linda Lopez: Spoke to us of changes in the Salem office and reviewed upcoming Co-op activities. (Report filed with these Minutes) Bob Renner: Merrie Holbert, Artist in the Park, will meet with 5 or 6 area artists who have shown an interest in participating in this activity. They will share the burden of responsibility and bask in the glory as a group.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday April 10, 2001 at 7:00 PM in the BLM Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob and Betty Renner, Co-Secretaries



**Date:** March 19, 2001

**To:** Friends of Shore Acres Board Members, Larry Becker, Andy La Tomme

**From:** David Bridgham, Long Range Planning Coordinator *DB*

**What:** Friends of Shore Acres Inc. Long Range Planning Meeting

**When:** Saturday April 7, 2001 - 11:00 AM to 3 PM (lunch included)

**Where:** Rendezvous Cruise Ship at City Dock, Coos Bay

**Why:** Friends of Shore Acres Inc. has enjoyed great success over the years with thoughtful strategic planning. Our first planning session was in 1985. We revisited our 20-year plan in 1990 to refresh and make adjustments. It is time again to revisit where we are and where we want to be in 2009 and beyond.

**How:** We will meet at the Rendezvous at 11 AM for a one hour recap of what we have accomplished and how it aligns with our existing long range plan. An hour lunch break will be highlighted with a cruise of the Coos Bay. After our lunch/cruise we will reconvene under the direction of our afternoon session facilitator, Crystal Shoji of Shoji! Planning and Development. Crystal will lead us through the process of developing a revised long range plan.

#### APRIL 7TH LOOKS LIKE THIS:

11:00 AM Review FOSA long range plans  
12:00 PM Catered box lunch and cruise of the bay  
1:00 PM Planning session to update long range plans.  
3:00 PM Adjourn

Shoji Planning and Development will publish a finished report.

*I hope all of you can attend. This is important for the future of FoSA and we need your input.*

**If you cannot attend call Shirley Bridgham at 756-5401 by April 2.**

Otherwise we will include you in the lunch count.

c: Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning & Development

Friends of Shore Acres Inc., P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, OR 97420  
(541) 888-3778 or 888-3732

# Bonsai Day and Pond Cleaning – April 21, 2001

## Bonsai - "Gems of the Rain Forest"



Bay Area Bonsai Society volunteers: Theo Stanley, Betty and Kenn Kennedy and Betty Renner



Visitors are fascinated by the tiny trees and shrubs.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - April 23, 2001



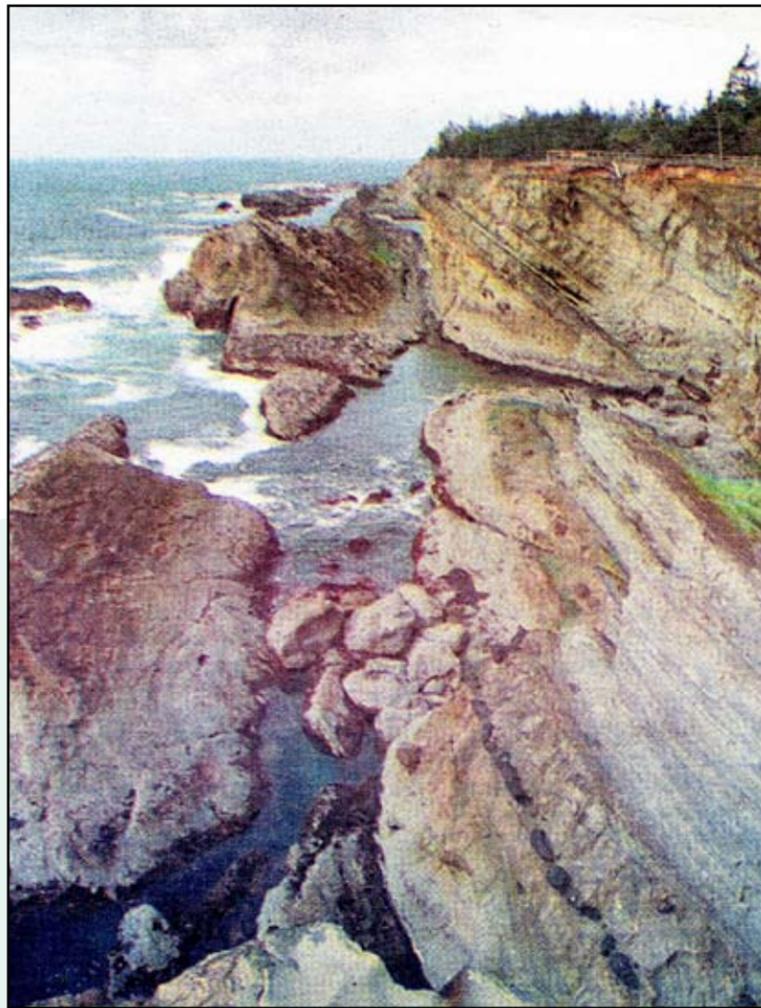
## Brush & Flush

Shore Acres State Park Landscape Maintenance Superintendent George Guthrie, above, searches for goldfish in the last few inches of water in the pond in the park's botanical garden on Wednesday. The fish were held in a tank while the pond's annual cleaning was completed. Each year, park personnel drain the pond to clean out the accumulated muck and re-pot the lilies. If they didn't clean the pond, eventually it would fill with mud and debris from its natural, unfiltered water source. At right, Guthrie drops a goldfish into a bucket while preparing the pond for its annual "brush and flush" by volunteers from the Coos Bay District of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

World Photos by Jess Newnham



Wind and water combine to create amazing formations cut from the sandstone along the trails skirting Cape Arago.



World Photo by Jess Newnham

#### 41. Hike on the cliffs



A walk on the cliffs offers a bird's-eye view of the Pacific Ocean. Why drive from Sunset Bay State Park to Cape Arago State Park when you can hike a trail along cliffs overlooking the crashing waves of the Pacific Ocean and spruce forests? This 3.4-mile trek starts near the footbridge at Sunset Bay's picnic and recreation area.

The trail then moves up through forest and eventually along the rocky cliffs.

For those who want to take home photographic memories, the Cape Arago Lighthouse is visible from the trail as are a variety of wildflowers and wildlife. Of course, there is the ocean itself and the massive waves as you near Shore Acres State Park. From Shore Acres, the trail heads south to Cape Arago. Hikers can

continue down to Simpson Beach and as the trail returns to the cliff tops, see the Simpson Reef Overlook, a favorite spot for watching harbor seals, sea lions and elephant seals.

#### Be safe while you play

Visitors to the South Coast are often tempted to venture out on the jetties, climb on the craggy bluffs at water's edge or scale some of the giant rocks. But beware! Incoming tides can strand adventurers and worse, the pounding waves can knock climbers into the ocean. Just walking on the beach can present dangers, as well. Visitors are warned not to turn their backs to the ocean, to avoid being pulled into the surf by unexpectedly large "sneaker waves." They also should avoid standing or climbing on logs or driftwood piles. Waves can lift the logs, toppling climbers and trapping them underwater.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 1, 2001



The Garden House, used for special displays and presentations, sits nestled amongst the flora of the formal gardens.

## Shore Acres is ready for your own private garden party



Above, a small bamboo fence skirts the trail that circumnavigates the Japanese garden and its pond where lilies, goldfish and newts flourish. Right, visitors linger along in the finely manicured gardens.



Take a walk through the botanical gardens at Shore Acres State Park. A favorite destination for locals and visitors alike, the park is located on the Cape Arago Highway south of Coos Bay.

The historic grounds feature a formal English garden and a Japanese garden, home to thousands of flowering and exotic plants, trees and shrubs.

A nearby lookout point offers a spectacular view of the coastline and during the spring and fall, it's a favorite whale-watching viewpoint.

The park was once the property Louis Simpson, son of Coos Bay lumber and shipping baron Asa Simpson. Louis Simpson chose Shore Acres as the site of an estate for himself and his wife, Cassie.

A huge mansion, several fine barns and other buildings were constructed on the site, with building completed in 1906.

Although Louis and Cassie Simpson enjoyed many happy years at Shore Acres, the beautiful mansion was destroyed by a catastrophic fire in 1921, several months after Cassie Simpson died. Simpson built a second home, but another fire in 1936, a year famous for large fires, destroyed many of the surrounding buildings on the estate, but left the historic house still standing.

The state of Oregon purchases the grounds for a state park with the initial purchase in 1942 and other sections acquired in 1956 and 1980 to form the park grounds today.

To get there, turn off U.S. Highway 101 on either Newmark or Commercial avenues in Coos Bay and go to Empire, where the road turns left into the Cape Arago Highway. Follow the road through Charleston and past Sunset Bay State Park to Shore Acres. The park is open at 8 a.m. daily and closes at sunset. Exact closing times are posted at the park entrance. A \$3 day use fee is required and can be purchased at the booth at the park's entrance. The park is handicapped accessible.



When visiting Shore Acres, enjoy the sights, sounds and smells. Park officials do ask that visitors don't pick the flowers, but leave them for others to enjoy.

World Photos by Jess Newnham

# Springtime Wildflowers and Rhododendrons

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 7, 2001

## South Coast Wildflower Festival begins Thursday

"Celebrating Nature's Gardens" is the theme of the South Coast Wildflower Festival, to be held Thursday through Sunday.

The festival begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, with three presentations at the Coos Bay Public Library auditorium. George Guthrie, landscape superintendent for Shore Acres State Park, will present "Strangers in Paradise." Learn about the foreign plants established in the landscapes that make it difficult to recognize the real natives.

Collecting native plants for your garden may be fun but there are some "Plant Collecting Ethics," as Betty Bahn will discuss. Bahn is from Yachats and has been involved in Master Gardener programs and garden associations for many years. Jan Tetreault's talk, "Folktales and Cattails," tells stories from local folklore. Jan is from Reedsport and hosted a radio talk show in the Bay Area called "Grandma Treetoads' Garden Party."

The Friday evening presentation is an experts slide show, "Wildflowers of the Siskiyou." It begins at 7 p.m. at Coos Bay library. Presenter Sean Hogan is co-curator of the Chinese Classical Garden in Portland and was involved in the selection of plants used in the gardens. He also is co-owner of Cistus Designs in Portland.

He has spent more than 20 years photographing the Siskiyou.

On Saturday, two workshops are scheduled. "An Easy Identification Method" to identify wildflowers and plants will be presented by Bruce Rittenhouse, district botanist for the Bureau of Land Management in Portland. This workshop begins at the Coos Bay library from 9 to 11 a.m. and includes an afternoon field trip to the Oregon Dunes. In a second workshop, also scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m., Tetreault will address "Incorporating Natives into your Garden." This will be held in the conference room at the Business Enterprise Center, 2455 Maple Leaf, North Bend.

Also on Saturday, guided field trips will offer participants an opportunity to experience the plants firsthand in their environment:

■ Hike trails at Golden and Silver Falls with BLM staff botanist Jennie Sperling and natural resource specialist Tim Rodenkirk. This field trip begins at 8 a.m. at the Coos Bay library.

■ Walk through the South Slough saltmarsh with Tom Gaskill, South Slough Education Program coordinator, and discover unique plants, their adaptation to the environment and the animals and plants that share their world.

Meet at the library at 9 a.m. for the 2½ hour walk.

■ Beginning at 1 p.m., Patty Whereat, cultural/historical coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of the Coos-Lower Umpqua-Siuslaw Indians, will lead a 1½-hour easy walk at Empire Lakes, sharing the stories of the local Indians and their names, uses and enjoyment of native plants. Meet at John Topits Park for this walk.

■ Try out the plant identification skills learned in Bruce Rittenhouse's Saturday workshop with an easy three-hour walk in the Oregon Dunes. Walk begins at 1 p.m.

Sign-up sheets for Saturday's field trips will be available at Thursday and Friday evening workshops.

The Sunday event features a newly created Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Shore Acres, developed by Guthrie. Visitors will learn about the difficulties and joys of using South Coast native plants in restricted areas.

This event is sponsored by the BLM, Friends of Shore Acres, Oregon State Parks and Recreation, Coast to Crest Interpreters League, Confederated Tribes and the Coos Regional Trails Partnership. For more information, those interested can call 888-9578.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 9, 2001

## DAILY DIGEST

**WEDDING DRESSES FROM YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW**, a special showing of wedding dresses loaned to the museum by local residents, continues through Saturday at the Coquille River Museum. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adult admission is \$2. On Saturday, plants and hanging flower baskets will be for sale for that special lady in your life, sponsored by Seascapes. There also will be refreshments and the museum gift shop will be stocked with items that would make great Mother's Day gifts. The museum is located at Fillmore and U.S. Highway 101, one block west of the Cheese Factory. For more information, those interested can call Judy at 347-2164.

**OREGON COAST LAB BAND** will be in concert with Las Vegas musician Stan Mark from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday at the Coos Bay Red Lion. Listen and dance to the music of the swing and jazz eras. Admission is \$5 for adults and students; \$10 for families at the door. A light menu and beverages will be available through the Red Lion. For more information, those interested can call Greg or Patti Young at 756-6410 or Anita Almich at 347-2517.

**"ARSENIC AND OLD LACE"** opens Friday at the Sprague Community Theatre in Bandon City Park. Curtain for this Bandon Playhouse production of Joseph Kesserling's classic comedy is at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays through May 27. Tickets are available in advance at Bandon Mercantile Company, Bandon True Value Hardware, as well as at the theater box office prior to performances. Cost is \$10 general admission. A matinee discount of \$7 is available for students and seniors.

Friends of the North Bend Public Library have been saving a great selection of popular fiction novels, plus a broad range of nonfiction subjects, in paperback and hardcover. Proceeds help fund the library's summer reading program, special programs for adults, as well as the purchase of books and materials for the library's collections. Drop by book donations at the library during regular hours. No damp or moldy books, please. For more information, those interested can call 756-0400.

**RHODODENDRON SUNDAY**, at the botanical gardens of Shore Acres State Park, will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mother's Day. Also on display is a mini-demonstration garden of native species as part of the South Coast Wildflower Festival (May 10-13). The Garden House will offer an exhibit by the Bay Area Artists Association and apple punch served by members of the Friends of Shore Acres. In the gardens. For more information, those interested can call 888-3778 or 888-3732.

**ELKS BRUNCH HONORS MOMS**: The Coquille Valley Elks will serve a special brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday in honor of Mother's Day. All Elks and their guests are invited to enjoy the day with their mothers, wives, families and friends at the Elks' scenic dining room. The brunch will be followed at 2 p.m. by a special mothers' appreciation ceremony conducted by Elks officers. The golf course will also be open.

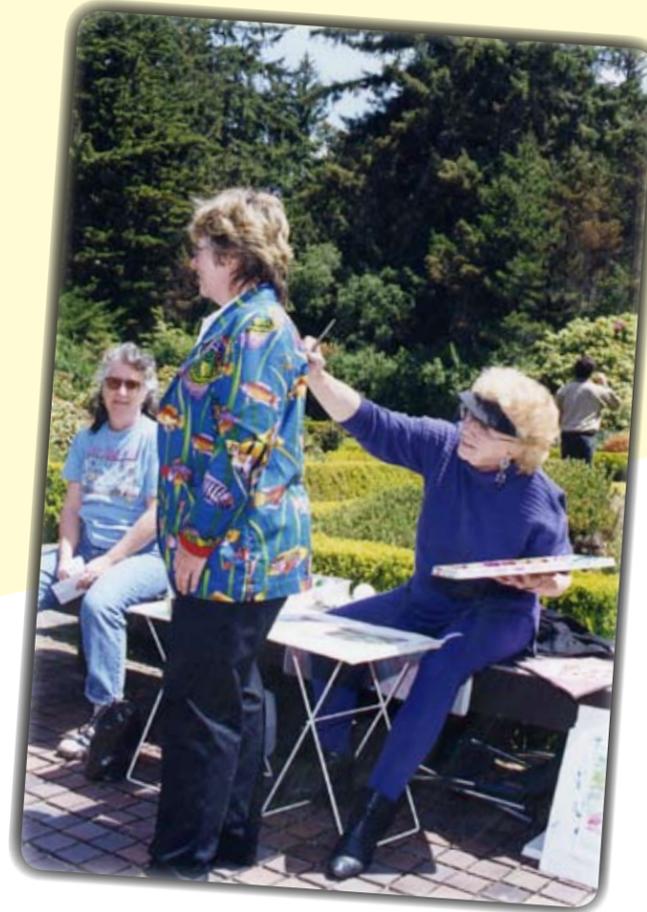
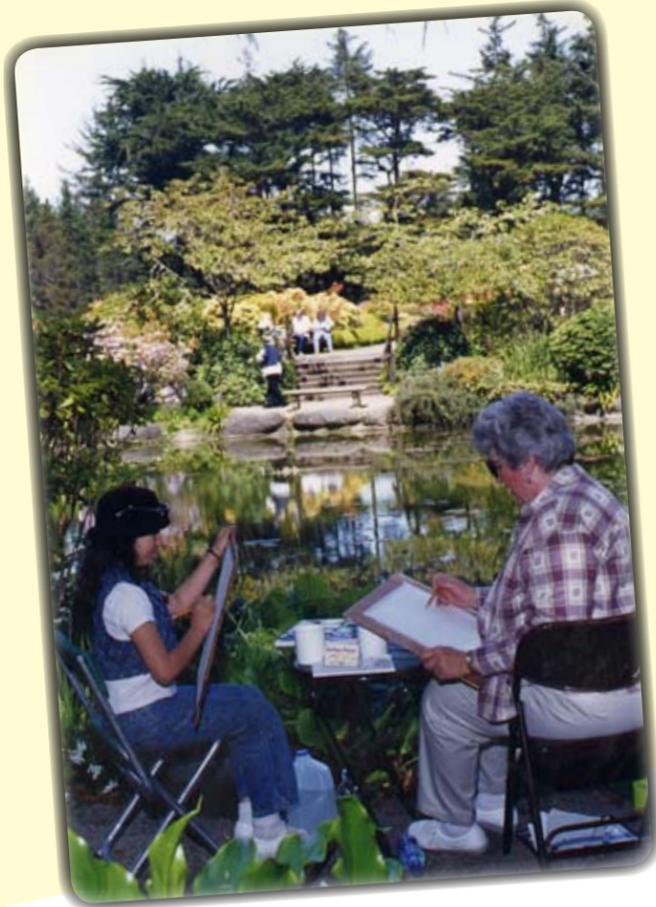
## Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day - May 13, 2001



Shore Acres' **Head Gardener** George Guthrie answers questions about rhodies and gardening.

# Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day – May 13, 2001

**BAY AREA ARTISTS ASSOCIATION (BAAA) HOLDS A "PAINT-OUT."**



# State Parks Day – June 2, 2001 – Free Parking

## FOSSIL COLLECTION AND FACE PAINTING



Rochelle Karpick - expert face painter.



Park Host and Information and Gift Center volunteer Ken DeGraw explains his fossil collection to some very interested kids and adults.



# Rose Sunday / Father's Day – June 17, 2001

**ROSE SOCIETY EXPERTS, SOUTH COAST WOOD CARVERS,  
REFRESHMENTS AND SOME VERY HAPPY VISITORS!**



(L-R) Rose Experts Helen Doving, George Guthrie, Ray Duskin and Helen Harris



Wood Carving Demonstration



South Coast Wood Carvers Display



Connie and Gregg Nelson



Visiting Family Poses at Memorial Fountain.



Betty and Kenn Kennedy

# The Pavilion That Began as a Gazebo

## SPRING AND SUMMER CONSTRUCTION CHALLENGES



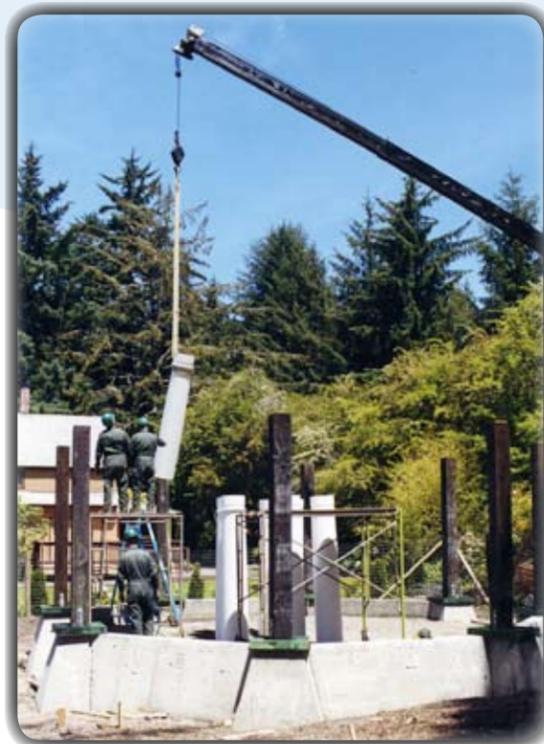
Park staff  
(L-R) Greg Foster,  
Lendyl Thomas,  
(Back) Bob Dixon



Park staff  
(L-R) Greg Foster,  
Lendyl Thomas,  
Bob Dixon



Partners in the Project  
were Menasha  
Corporation, the Al  
Stinchfield family,  
OPRD, FoSA, Crow, Clay  
and Associates, and  
Kyle Electric.



# Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert

## Friday, July 20, 2001



**BEAUTIFUL DAY — ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD!**



The Friends sold fresh raspberry sundaes and lemonade. Chuck Lembke and Carl Siminow took care of sales.



The portable stage will be replaced by the new performance pavilion (*See construction behind.*)



**Siskiyou Summit Bluegrass** got them dancin’

# Friends of Shore Acres Inc. Year 2000-2001 ends Aug. 31.

## FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC. Board Meeting - Aug. 14, 2001

### MINUTES

**President Kenn Kennedy** called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Directors Present: Kenn Kennedy, David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham, Shirley Champagne, Betty Kennedy, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Gregg Nelson, Winnie Pitsenberger, Bob and Betty Renner, Carl Siminow, Kay Valois, Dick Van Natta. Directors Absent: Terry Richards, Barb Taylor, Chuck Lembke Guest: Larry Becker, OPRD Sunset Bay Management Unit

**Minutes:** The minutes of the July 10 meeting were reviewed. One correction - Correct typo (Michael Carrier, Director of OPRD, not Direction). Carl Siminow moved to approve minutes with correction. Second by Bob Renner Motion with correction passed.

#### **Financial Report ending July 31 , 2001**

Change fund: \$400.00; Security Bank Checking: \$13,507.68; Security Bank MMA: \$65,097.40 Total Cash, Checking, Savings: \$ 79,005.08

**Information & Gift Center Report:** Shirley reported nearly \$14,000 in July income for the IGC; very successful month. New stock continues to arrive. New shirts are popular. New shirt with Shore Acres logo coming in. Kay and Betty requested shorter weekend hours; will reduce hours after Labor Day to 12-4 PM. Will ask park hosts to help out with the weekend shifts the rest of August.

**State Parks Report:** Larry Becker reported on the Pavilion. Floor and steps poured, framing in soffits; waiting for bids on the roof shingling; stone work may begin in the next week or two; landscaping, etc. will follow; contractor will eventually acid wash and seal floor and steps. 2001-03 Parks Projects: Restructure garden entrance; remodel garden house; hope to have plans for entrance this winter; will incorporate expansion of the Information & Gift Center; should know more about garden house project in the next couple of months; storage shed expansion project is moving forward with plans to have it completed by Nov. Sunset Bay campground has had only 19 vacant sites in the last 13 days.

**Old Business:** Oregon Coast Music Festival Concert, July 20 - Attendance was up this year. A big thanks to Chuck Lembke for his efforts with sundaes (great job scooping!). Went very well. Thanks to all who helped. Had extra ice cream and supplies left over.



**Marmalade Skies - AARS Selection 2001**

**New Business:** Annual Meeting and Election of Officers: - Sept. 11 at 7 pm. Due to a conflict, Kenn Kennedy will be unable to attend his last meeting as president. President Elect David Bridgham will chair the meeting.

**Dahlia Day:** - Sept. 22. Bob and Betty Renner the morning shift. Terry Richards and Gregg Nelson will work the afternoon shift. Shirley Bridgham will contact Shirley Wood about the Dahlia Society involvement. Kenn and Betty Kennedy will be either in the IGC or the garden house. Winnie Pitsenberger will order cookies. The Renner's will pick up cookies.

**Celebration Dinner - Oct. 11:** - David reported that Mike Carrier, OPRD Director, will be the keynote speaker and may talk about the OPRD's long range plan, the Legislative session and local impact. The dinner will be at the Red Lion. FoSA will recognize

supporters, give awards, expect 80-100 guests. Possibility of a short Power Point program on our first 15 years.

**Other New Business/Correspondence:** Dona DeGraw (park host and wife of Ken) passed away recently from a massive stroke and heart attack. Shirley will send a card from the Friends. Larry Becker reported that the Parks Commission will be visiting the south coast Oct. 19-21. Gregg reported that he and Terry Richards will be gone for the Oct. board meeting and that we need to find another location for the meeting. The meeting may be cancelled. Kenn told board he and Betty attended Walt's interpretive program about the basic history of the Simpson family. Kenn said the presentation was very interesting. Larry talked about the interpretive staff and Walt's and Carisa's involvement in summer programs. Programs have been well accepted by campers and visitors. Bob and Betty Renner are leaving the board when their term ends in September. Bob said they have found their time with the Friends rewarding and enjoyable. Shirley reported that Sharon Kolkhorst sent info regarding the Heritage Tree Program and asked about proposing the Monterey Pine for inclusion. Betty Kennedy took the information and said she would find out if the Monterey Pine qualifies. Carl announced he would not be here for the Sept. meeting.

**Next Meeting: Sept. 11, 2001 at 7:00 PM at the BLM Conference Room**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Ellie Kinney-Martial

# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 15:

Annual Year - September 1, 2001 - August 31, 2002

**Album 14 - Completed March 7, 2019**

Book (Printed) and PDF Version posted at  
[www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net) - Archival Albums

**CONTENT SOURCES - FOSA PHOTOS, PUBLICITY  
CLIPPINGS, FRIENDS' QUARTERLY JOURNALS**

**More Information:**

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