

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS

### Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve

A community tradition began in 1987 when the Friends of Shore Acres decided to string a few lights to help celebrate the holidays. That first season, 6,000 miniature lights, one large Christmas tree, and the decorated and open Garden House drew 9,000 visitors.



Now, at least 325,000 LED lights, 20 large landscape lights, dozens of small landscape lights, 26 large holiday trees, dozens of lighted sculptures, the festive open house, and entertainment in the Pavilion attract more than 50,000 visitors each season.



#### "Breathtaking"

Alberta, Canada

#### "Absolutely Unique!"

Florence, OR

#### "So Beautiful!"

New York, NY

#### "An Oregon Masterpiece"

Portland, OR

Numbers vary with the weather and visitors come from almost every state and many different countries. They enjoy hot cider, coffee, punch, and cookies.

Planning for the season begins in January with inventory, completing the lighting plan and ordering replacement lights.

During spring and summer, sculptures are created and refurbished and the new lights are prepared for the setup of the new season.

About the middle of October, sculpture displays are set up and lights stringers, tree decorators and house decorators work for about 6 weeks to complete the display by Thanksgiving. The total number of volunteers for the event is about 1,500, which also includes button makers, spice makers, lights checkers, house cleaners, host teams, entertainers and Information and Gift Center volunteers.

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. with support of businesses and individuals pay for the lights, the decorations, and all display expenses. Shore Acres State Park and the Friends pay the light bill.

Also contributing to the success of the Friends and the Holiday Lights are park staff, our members, our Information and Gift Center and **visitors like you.** ■

#### Volunteers Welcome

Co-chair - Shirley & David Bridgham

541-756-5401 or [bridgham@puerto.com](mailto:bridgham@puerto.com)



## Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. and Shore Acres State Park



*"A Powerful Partnership Since 1986"*

## INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER

### All-Volunteer



- Choose from thousands of excellent items.
- Annual OPRD park passes available for purchase at the Information & Gift Center (IGC).
- Net proceeds from the IGC, the Holiday Lights, and other Friends' activities go toward projects that benefit the park.

541-888-2472 • 1-866-888-6100  
[www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net)

## Become a Member today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Circle One

\$500 Life

\$25 Patron

\$250 Sustaining

\$15 Family

\$100 Benefactor

\$10 Individual

\$50 Sponsor



I / We would like to volunteer for:  
Information & Gift Center  
Friends' Monthly Activities  
Holiday Lights at Shore Acres

Please fill out this form and mail with your check or money order to: **Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., PO Box 1172, Coos Bay, OR 97420**

Friends of Shore Acres Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Tax I.D. #93-0941893

*\$5.00 Member Discount on OPRD Permits*

12 Month Permit (Member Price) \$25.00

24 Month Permit (Member Price) \$40.00

Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

I / We wish to pay by credit card: VISA MC

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Credit Card Payment Only) \_\_\_\_\_

**More information: 541-756-5401 • 541- 888-3732**

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### — MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS —

- Discount in the Information & Gift Center
- Discount on OPRD Permits
- Annual Summer Journal
- Volunteer Opportunities

### Shore Acres' Annual Events

Rhododendron Sunday-Mother's Day – May

State Parks Day – June

Rose Sunday-Father's Day – June

Garden Concert – July

Bonsai Day – August

Dahlia Day – September

Holiday Lights – Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve



## Friends' and Park's Cooperative Milestones

### INFORMATION AND GIFT CENTER AND ENTRANCE —

1988 Garden cart; 1989 GAIC 8'x8'; 1992 IGC 24'x24'; 2003 IGC 32'x48' and Gazebo/Columns; 2012 Storage building; Trex decks; Interpretive panel; 2014 New water heater and HVAC system; 2017 Building Sign - *Information & Gift Center*

**ELECTRICAL** — 1988 Underground wiring in formal garden and first parking lot lights; 1991 Underground wiring in pond area; 1999 Underground wiring of east gardens

**GARDEN HOUSE** — 1993 New wiring, lights, paint; 1998 New carpet; 1999 Kitchen remodel; 2000 New foundation and ceilings; 2006 New interior doors; 2008 restoration upstairs front windows; 2009 restoration upstairs small windows; House painted inside and out; 2011 restoration dining room windows; 2012 New Trex back porch deck; 2013 New Trex front porch and steps; New front bedroom windows; 2017 House painted inside and out.

**STORAGE BUILDINGS** — 1993 Friends' storage building 24'x24'; 2002 Storage building doubled in size; 2009 Second storage building for Friends and Park

**MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN** — 1996 Memorial Fountain and Display built; 2005 Memorial Fountain Display redone; 2006 Gifts and Memorials Display created; 2010 Memorial Fountain renovated; 2019 Gifts and Memorials Plaques replaced

**ROSE PERGOLA** — 1999 New rose pergola; 2013 Replaced wood with new cedar

**PAVILION** — 2001 Pavilion built; 2015 Replaced artificial turf

**SIMPSON REEF OVERLOOK** — 2003 New parking lot, viewing platform and displays

**OBSERVATION BUILDING** — 2005 Wiring and path lights; 2006 Paver path; 2012 New Interpretive panels; 2015 New doors; 2016 New sign

**POND** — 2005 Resurfaced base

**GARDEN BENCHES** — 2015 New redwood benches

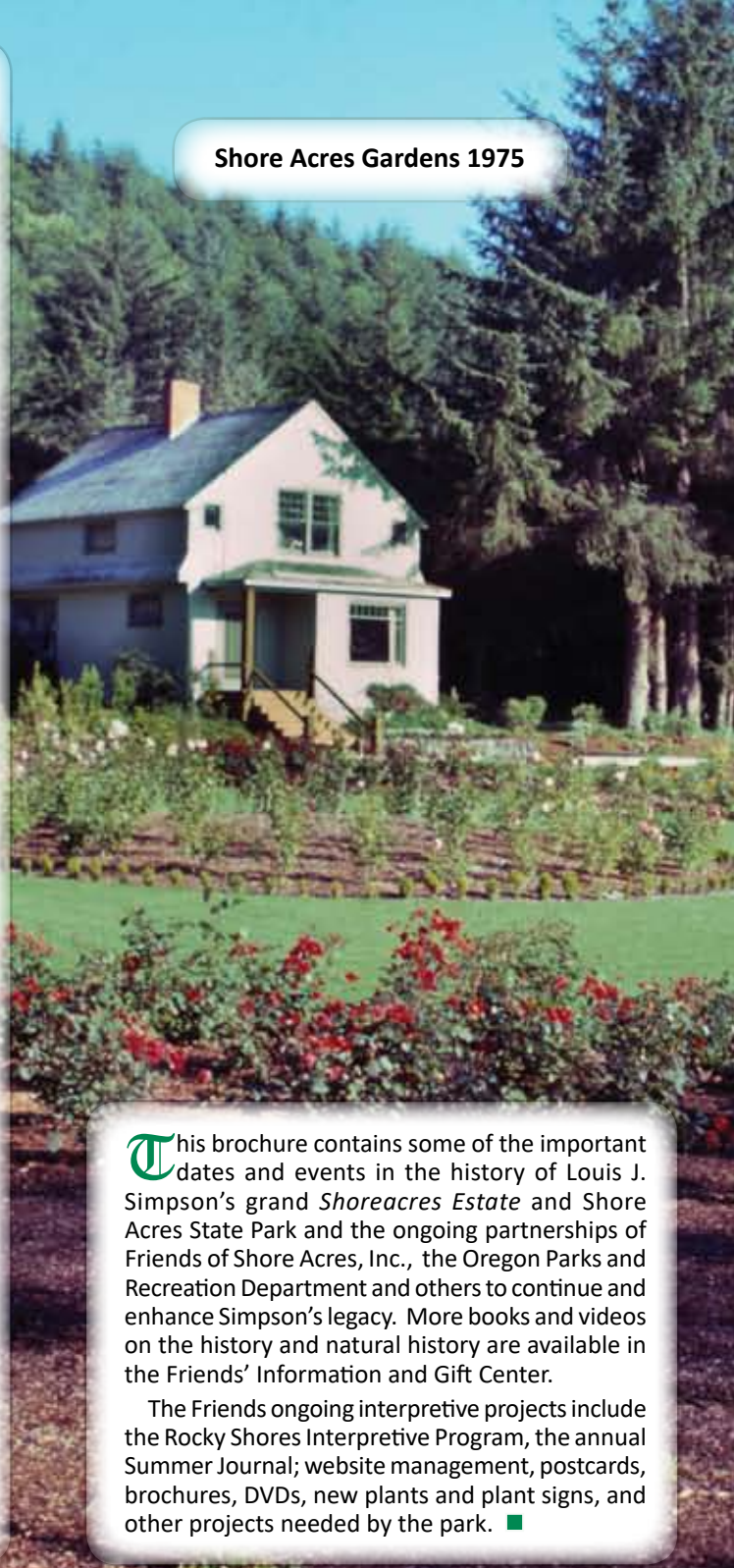
**PARKING LOTS** — 1995 Doubled parking and added parking lot lights; 2000 50-space parking lot East

**WALKWAYS AND ROADS** — 2010 Paver paths near Garden House and Pavilion; 2013 Paver path from Garden House to parking lot; 2014 New walk east of pond; 2015 New walk to South Rose Garden; 2017 New "Welcome to Shore Acres" sign at main entrance; 2018 New walk in Greenhouse yard; Permanent reflectors on Cape Arago Hwy from Sunset Bay to Shore Acres

2019 AND BEYOND

WHATEVER THE FRIENDS CAN DO FOR THE PARK

## Shore Acres Gardens 1975



This brochure contains some of the important dates and events in the history of Louis J. Simpson's grand *Shoreacres Estate* and Shore Acres State Park and the ongoing partnerships of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and others to continue and enhance Simpson's legacy. More books and videos on the history and natural history are available in the Friends' Information and Gift Center.

The Friends ongoing interpretive projects include the Rocky Shores Interpretive Program, the annual Summer Journal; website management, postcards, brochures, DVDs, new plants and plant signs, and other projects needed by the park. ■

## Shore Acres History

*At its zenith, L. J. Simpson's Shoreacres Estate stretched from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago.*

**1905** - Louis bought the property from Jake Evans for \$4,000.

**1907** - Louis began building his first mansion on the bluff (site of the present Observation Building) as a Christmas present for his wife Cassie. He began landscaping the formal gardens that would include exotic plants from all over the world and planted Monterey Cypress at the entrance to the gardens. He built a carriage house/barn complex at the north end of the property and a gardener's cottage (the only structure still standing) near the formal gardens. At the south end, L. J. built a dairy farm complex where he raised prize-winning Holsteins.

**1914** - Enlarged the mansion to include a Roman Bath with a 26'x52' swimming pool that used both fresh and salt water. Built rose pergolas and greenhouse. Reconstruction of the south end of the formal gardens included a Japanese garden and 100' pond. Also built Sunset Bay Inn which was destroyed by a fierce storm in 1939.

**1921, April** - Cassie Simpson died after a long illness.

**1921- July** - The mansion burned to the ground.

**1927** - Louis and his second wife Lela moved into a second mansion that stretched 224' along the bluff.

**1932** - Louis and Lela gave the Cape Arago portion of the estate to the state of Oregon.

**1942** - The U.S. Army closed the road at Sunset Bay and the Simpsons moved to a home in nearby Barview.

**1942, December** - The Simpsons sold the remainder of the estate for \$29,000 to Oregon for the development of a public park.

**World War II Years** - The U. S. Army occupied the site and the mansion became a barracks and officers club.

**1948, December** - Because the second mansion needed too many repairs it was razed.

**1949, January** - Louis J. Simpson died at his home in Barview. He is buried in the Simpson family mausoleum at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, California.

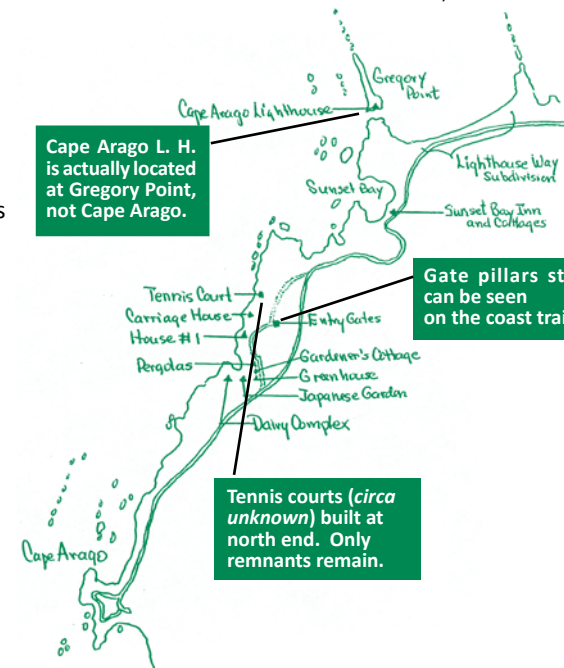
**1974-75** - Oregon State Parks launched a program to rehabilitate Shore Acres. Landscape architect Joseph Paiva prepared a design similar to but slightly more formal than the original garden. The new design included sloping the gardens to improve drainage. A rededication ceremony was held Sept. 18, 1975.

**1977** - All America Rose Selections Display Garden established.

Map from "The First Simpson House, 1907-1921: Shore Acres State Park," report by Stephen Dow Beckham for Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.-1997



SIMPSON'S FIRST MANSION ON THE BLUFF, CIRCA 1910



Garden House (former Gardener's Cottage) - early 1900s - Note the half-moon shape of the first pond which Simpson would modify to present shape, circa 1914

Colorized Version 2015

Colorized Version 2015