



Shore Acres State Park
Before Friends - 1986

Album 15



Shirley Bridgham

How Friends of Shore Acres Happened

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

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

Aerial and Gardens — 1986



Shirley Bridgham



Shirley Bridgham

About the Friends' Albums

by Shirley Bridgham - 2014

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

Aerials - 1986



Ward Robertson

Note from Shirley Bridgham - September 2014



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

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

1st Birthday - Dec. 4, 1987

1st Christmas Lights - Dec. 11, 1987

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

2nd Birthday - Dec. 4, 1988

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note from David Bridgham - September 2014

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Founded December 4, 1986



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

FoSA Bylaws

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karen Wuethrich was asked to prepare minutes of the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

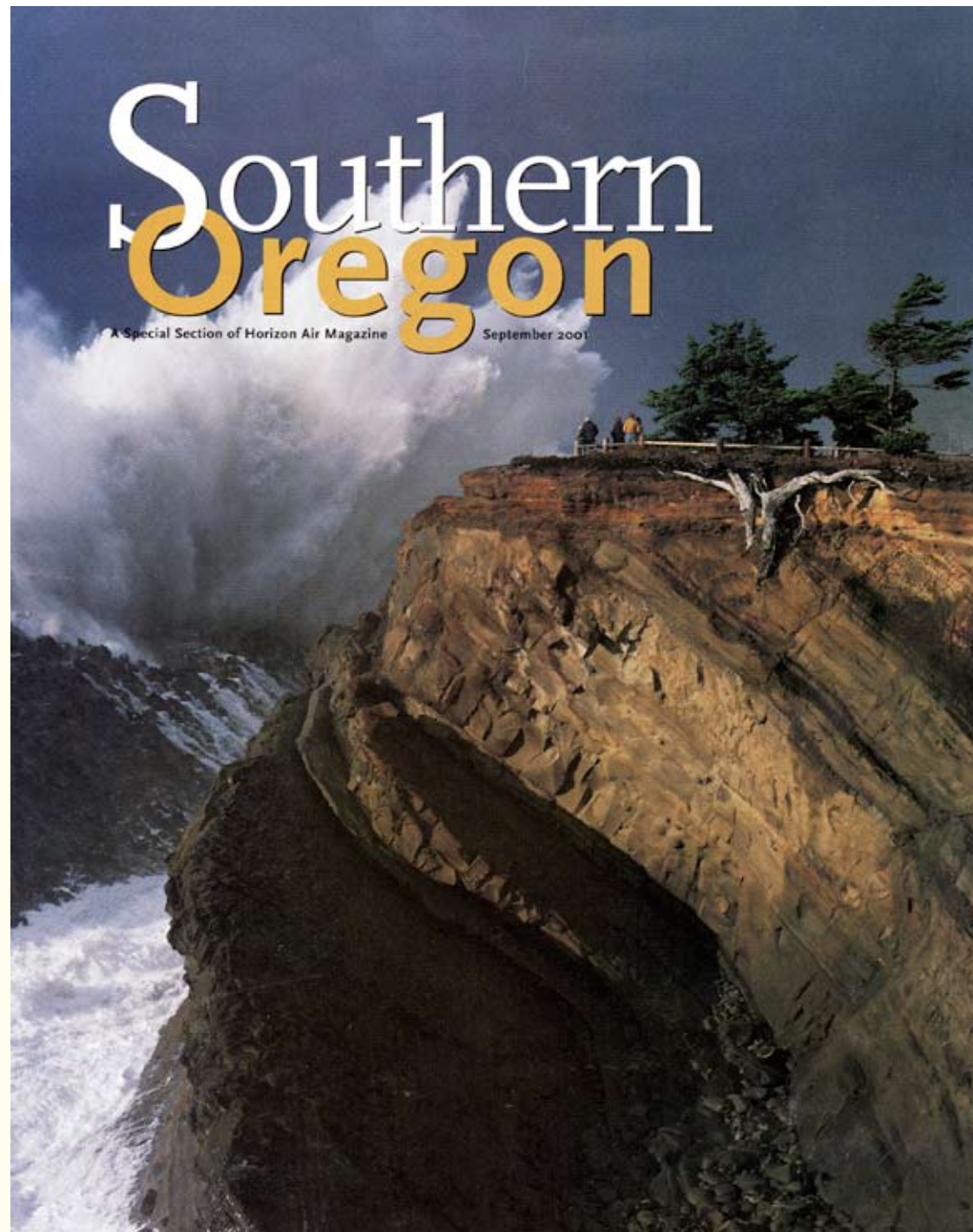


Karen Wuethrich

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

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

Early September Publicity



THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 12, 2001

GARDENING

Seeing red



World Photo by Madeline Steege

You love dahlias and can't get enough? Check out Shore Acres State Park for Dahlia Day scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.

Simpson Reef Overlook Makeover Underway

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 21, 2001



World Photo by Madeline Steege

The edge of the parking lot at Simpson's Reef parking lot is in the process of being torn up and replaced. The project will take about six weeks with a new lookout station also being built. Just beyond the cliffs are where the sea lions congregate on a small island.

Reef lookout closes for repairs

■ Sea lion hang out: Viewpoint upgrades partnership project.

Beginning today, visitors to Cape Arago State Park will find the Simpson Reef Overlook closed for renovations expected to take six to eight weeks to complete.

The popular coastal viewpoint, known to most as Sea Lion Lookout, is undergoing a major facelift by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Improvements will include reconstruction of the parking lot, sidewalk and fence, as well as construction of a viewing deck with interpretive displays, benches and an information kiosk.

"Up to 3,000 California sea lions, Steller sea lions, harbor seals and northern elephant seals haul-out just offshore from the overlook on the Simpson Reef," Roy Lowe, Project Leader of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, said in a statement.

"We are extremely excited to be working with our partners to improve and expand the public use facilities at this great wildlife viewing location."

The project is being funded through a \$210,000 expenditure from the Oregon Transportation Commission and \$79,000 from the fish and wildlife service.

For more information, those interested can contact Cape Arago Park Manager Larry Becker at 888-3778, ext. 22.



Simpson Reef Overlook View of Shell Island
Artwork by Merrie Holbert,
Shore Acres' First "Artist in the Park" 1997

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - September 22, 2001

Shell Island ballet



World Photo by Lou Sennick

Calm winds and quiet seas around Shell Island drew seals and sea lions to every rock and beach surface between the overlook and Simpson Reef on a recent afternoon. With space on solid real estate sparse from all the noisesome animals, this group of sea lions decided the best way to lounge around in the sun was to create their own makeshift raft. Several of the marine mammals gathered together and floated in the water with just their fins and faces sticking out of the water.

Simpson Reef Overlook Makeover Progressing

BETTER INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES AT THE REEF COMING . . .

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., in cooperation with BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Shoreline Education for Awareness (S.E.A.) will create and install interpretive panels and a wayfinding kiosk on this bluff located in Cape Arago State Park. From the bluff visitors enjoy breathtaking views of Shell Island and Simpson Reef, part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Simpson Reef is one of the few places on the Oregon Coast where visitors can see thousands of marine mammals. ■



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Annual Meeting - September 25, 2001 - Shore Acres Garden House

President Kenn Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Directors Present: David and Shirley Bridgham, Kenn Kennedy, Betty Kennedy, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Chuck Lembke, Gregg Nelson, Winnie Pitsenberger, Bob Renner and Betty Renner, Terry Richards, Carl Siminow, Directors Absent: Kay Valois, Barb Taylor, Shirley Champagne.

There were no visitors, but five new potential board position members were in attendance - Ralph Thomas, Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst, Dennis and Kathi Netter. The Kolkhorst's and Netter's will each share one board position. President Kennedy asked each board member to introduce themselves to the new folks.

Remarks: Shirley Bridgham handed out a "Recap of Activities" sheet that listed most of the accomplishments of the Friends over the past year. (Filed with these Minutes). It was noted that the full page of activities represented many, many volunteer hours by dedicated Friends members.

Members declining to remain on the Board of Directors are Bob and Betty Renner, Shirley Champagne and Dick Van Natta.

Recognition: David Bridgham, on behalf of the board thanked Bob and Betty Renner, Shirley Champagne and Dick Van Natta for their many hours of dedicated service and contribution to the Friends of Shore Acres over the past several years. President Kennedy presented a framed floral Shore Acres plaque to the Renner's and additional plaques will be passed along to Ms. Champagne, and Mr. Van Natta in appreciation of their years of service.

Nominations: The nominating committee nominated the following for board positions: Gregg Nelson, Kenn Kennedy, Ralph Thomas, Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst, Dennis and Kathi Netter. All consented to be nominated for election to the Friends of Shore Acres Board of Directors. Gregg Nelson moved to accept the Nominations; Carl Siminow 2nd; The vote was unanimous.

President Kennedy congratulated the new board members.

The annual meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, - Kenn Kennedy



FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC.
SEPTEMBER 1, 2000 - AUGUST 31, 2001

RECAP OF ACTIVITIES

- Annual Meeting 2000
- Garden Wiring of East Garden
- Garden House Ceiling Renovation
- New Foundation for Garden House (\$9,700)
- Membership Campaign / Annual Park Pass Program
- Dahlia Day
- Orchid Day
- Launched Friends' official website - www.shoreacres.net (5,000+ hits so far)
- Holiday Lights & Open House - an estimated 56,000 visitors
- Artist in the Park 2001 - Revised program to include more artists
- Shakedown Potluck
- Information & Gift Center - Volunteer Lunch
- Information & Gift Center - Continued Inventory Expansion
- Added third wheelchair for visitors
- Long Range Planning Retreat and Report
- Bonsai Day
- New brochure of Shore Acres State Park - provided photos and support for project
- Rhododendron Sunday - Mother's Day - New Brochure
- Rose Sunday - Father's Day - New Insert for Brochure (also reprinted)
- Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert - Sundae sales
- Extra Measures to eliminate rodents from mobile home and Garden House
- Kitchen Cabinet addition
- New Garden Pavilion (OPRD, Menasha, Stinchfield family and Friends)
- Purchased a Laptop computer for Power Point programs by OPRD staff and Friends
- Began Shed expansion project
- Holiday Lights Pledge Campaign - see brochure

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Board Meeting - September 25, 2001 - Shore Acres Garden House

MINUTES

President Kenn Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM.

Directors Present: David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham, Kenn Kennedy, Betty Kennedy, Lou Kolkhorst, Sharon Kolkhorst, Chuck Lembke, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Gregg Nelson, Dennis and Kathi Netter, Winnie Pitsenberger, Bob and Betty Renner (Outgoing board members), Terry Richards, Carl Siminow, Ralph Thomas. **Director Absent:** Barb Taylor, Kay Valois and Dick Van Natta.

Election of Officers: David Bridgham, President, Gregg Nelson, President Elect, Kenn and Betty Kennedy Secretary and Barb Taylor, Treasurer.

After commenting about his enjoyment of being FOSA president for the past year, President Kennedy turned the gavel and the meeting over to incoming President, David Bridgham. President Bridgham thanked Kenn for his efforts and a photo was taken by Shirley Bridgham.

Minutes: The board minutes were previously mailed to board members. President Bridgham ask for additions or corrections. Motion to accept the minutes as presented made by Carl Siminow, second by Kenn Kennedy. Approved.

Financial Report: There was no financial report as Treasurer, Barb Taylor was absent. Barb will have a quarterly report at the October meeting.

Information and Gift Center: Shirley reported that the IGC sales were almost \$13,000 for the month of August. September has been very busy. Lots of new inventory including new shirts. Some vendors are reporting that they are finding the FoSA address on the web. The IGC hours are 12-4 PM. Betty Kennedy reported that she recruited a new volunteer, Peggy McAnally to work in the Gift Center. Could use others.

State Parks Report by Ellie Kinney-Martial: Classic Chevy car show revenues were down by about \$233 this year. Roof is on the Pavilion, ready to start putting in the electrical wiring. FoSA storage addition, brush has been cleared, materials are on site, backhoe ready, will excavate this week. ***Simpson Reef - Dept. of Corrections inmate crew have taken out sidewalks, curbs and fencing. Cherokee Construction will reshape and slope area, install side walks, asphalt, drainage, fencing and decks. 6-8 weeks, some problems with foot traffic.*** Light House Viewpoint - Eagle Scouts will construct approx. 200 ft. of trail and a bench in the viewing area at end of trail. Another Eagle Scout project will be to build bridges across drainage areas, reconstruct and improve part of Coast trail south end of Simpson Beach. To be completed by mid-October. Park employees will start removing the dahlias October 8th and plant tulips, hope to be complete by mid October.

Old Business:

Dahlia Day - Bob and Betty Renner hosted the morning shift in the Garden House. Dahlia Society had lots of flowers on display. Bay Area Artists were in attendance in the garden, as well as George Guthrie with his “questions” table set up. Gregg and Connie, Terry and Louise worked the afternoon shift. Good turnout, with \$70 in donations. The Kennedy's were in the IGC and reported that business was brisk.

Celebration Dinner - Because of other pressing events, Holiday Lights decoration, etc. the date for this gala event has been rescheduled until February or March of 2002. Notification of date, time and place will be announced at a future meeting.

State Parks Commission Dinner - David reported that the park staff did a great job and that the salmon was very good. The event was held at Sunset Bay State Park on September 19, 2001.

Other Old Business - Betty Kennedy asked about the status of the grant for the mansion feasibility study. David will talk to the State Parks people about the next action the board needs to take.

New Business: Orchid Day (Gems of the Rain Forest) - October 6, 2001. The Renner 's and Netter's will set up and work the 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM shift. The Kolkhorst's will take the afternoon from 1:00 Pm until 4:00PM. The Kennedy's will staff the Information and Gift Center. Bob Renner suggested that new Board members should plan on attending. It would give them a chance to see what goes on in the Garden House on event days.

State Parks CO-OP Conference - October 19-21, in Keiser, OR. FoSA is one of 12 co-ops around the state. This conference is put on by State Parks to help the co-ops with solutions and new ideas. It is highly recommended. It was moved by Gregg Nelson that the Friends pay for registration and lodging for three nights for attendees. Lou Kolkhorst, second. Approved. Carl Siminow will attend.

Holiday Lights - Shirley passed out the schedule for starting the decorating: Unpacking and preparing lights starts Sat. Oct. 13th - 10 AM to 3 PM. Stringing lights starts Sat. Oct.20th - 10 AM to 3PM and will continue every week-end until complete. October 27th - String lights on the Orca whale sculpture. "Whale of a Party" is at the Renner's on Saturday, October 27th, 4 to 7 PM. Casual attire, bring your own beverage. Finger food will be provided. \$7,915 in lights pledges have come in so far. St Catherine's and Evergreen Court both have made significant pledges of \$1,080 each. Life Care Center \$500. Some other companies have increased their contributions from last year. New sculpture display, sequence of sea lions by Don McMichael. It will be on the Northeast side of the Formal Garden and we are going to try and use tube lights. *Cookies will be purchased from Fred Meyer this year. It is just getting to be too much of a problem to try and bake them ourselves, both in volunteers, facilities and legalities.* Bridgham's have sent a letter to Fred Meyer looking for donations of apple juice and cookies. Undersea garden lights - David and Carl will get together on this project. Carl Siminow will pick up clear split tubing. We will try and put the lights inside the tubing. It should extend the life and be easier to block out unwanted light bulbs.

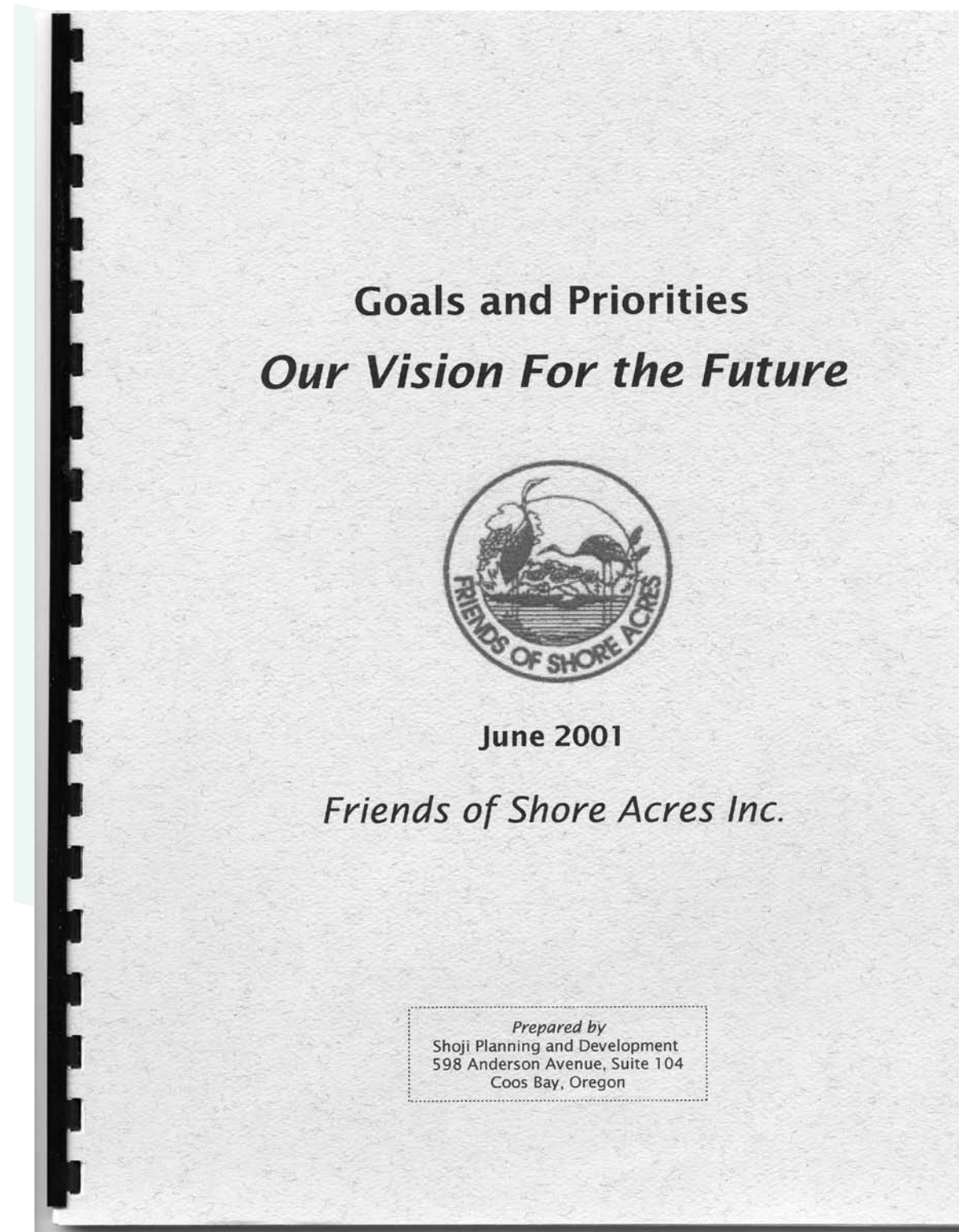
Sign at the main entrance to Shore Acres. It needs to be replaced. President Bridgham suggested that the Friends could help with the replacement. It will be taken under consideration.

There being no further discuss ion the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

The next meeting will be October 9, 2001, 7:00 PM at the BLM.

Respectfully Submitted, Kenn Kennedy, Secretary

LONG RANGE PLANNING RETREAT



June, 2001

Dear Friends,

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has always recognized the importance of a continued long range planning process. Our organization was founded in 1986, and started this formal planning process in 1989 with the development of the 2009 Plan. We revisited this strategic plan in 1990 and 1995. Planning for the future was conducted by our board members, with input from staff and management of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

There has been a striking continuity and a "staying the course" from the earliest directions and visions of the organization. Our plans have moved us forward in a logical progression with a good measure completion. Occasionally, there has been the realization that some previous plans no longer hold any relevance.

This process gives Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. and its organizers a sense of history, and helps provide a more thoughtful approach to future directions. In the *Introduction* section, page two of this document, you will find information about our ongoing annual projects and activities, major projects completed, major projects in process, major projects proposed, and projects that have been discontinued.

We wish to extend our gratitude to Crystal Shoji, AICP of Shoji Planning and Development for professional and thoughtful assistance in developing this 2001 Chapter in our continued success.

Sincerely,


David Bridgham
Founder and Past President

LONG RANGE PLANNING RETREAT

Introduction

The Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. Board of Directors met on the Rendezvous Cruise Ship at City Dock, Coos Bay, Oregon on April 7, 2001 to review and update their long range plan.

The planning session began at 11:00 a.m. with a review of long range planning and Friends' accomplishments presented by founder, past president and president-elect David Bridgham. The information presented is reflected in the listing of projects and activities which are included on page 2 of this document. A catered box lunch was provided at noon, along with a cruise of the Bay.

The discussion which took place at the afternoon goal planning session facilitated by Crystal Shoji, AICP, is reflected in the goals and priorities section of this document, which begins on page 3.

The goals and activities in this document represent the thinking of the collective Board of Directors at the time of its publication. It is, however, a living document, because goals are to be used as guidelines for the ever-progressing work of the organization; the document will be reviewed from time to time to determine if progress is being made. Adjustments and updates to goals and activities will be appropriately made on a scheduled basis to reflect new information, and to formulate and propose new activities to deal with unexpected situations that arise.

This listing of projects and activities was presented at the Goal Planning Session 2001 by David Bridgham, Founder and Past-President of Friends of Shore Acres.

Annual Projects and Activities

- Board Meetings
- Operation of Information and Gift Center
- Production of Interpretive Brochures
- Biannual Journal
- Pond Cleaning
- Open House events in the Park focusing on the flowering plants of the various seasons and on special annual events such as Mother's Day and Father's Day
- Oregon Coast Music Festival "Concert in the Park"
- Holiday Lights and Open House

Major Projects Completed

- Additional Parking
 - Bus Parking (Widened Exit Road)
 - Main Parking (50 spaces)
 - Overflow Parking (50 spaces)
- Garden House — Rewiring Interior Lighting; Painting; Kitchen Remodel; New Foundation; Ceilings Renovation
- Storage Shed
- Memorial Fountain & Display

Major Projects in Progress

- Gazebo Construction Assistance
- Night Landscaping (partially completed)
- Self-guided Coast Trail Map
- Interpretive Panels for Simpson Reef/Shell Island Overlook

Major Projects Proposed

- Heritage Center (Rebuilding of First Mansion) - Under Discussion
- Double the size of the Friends' Storage Shed

Projects Discontinued (which could be revisited)

- Mountain Bike Trail
- Whale Watching Program
- Astronomical Events
- Audubon Activities
- Tide Pool Interpretive Programs

Holiday Lights – Preparations Begin



Betty Renner (in red) leads a group of cider spice cooks at the North Bend Presbyterian Church.



Robynn Reed begins the decorating of the Garden House. The goal: to bring order and beauty out of chaos!



Setting Up Sculpture Displays



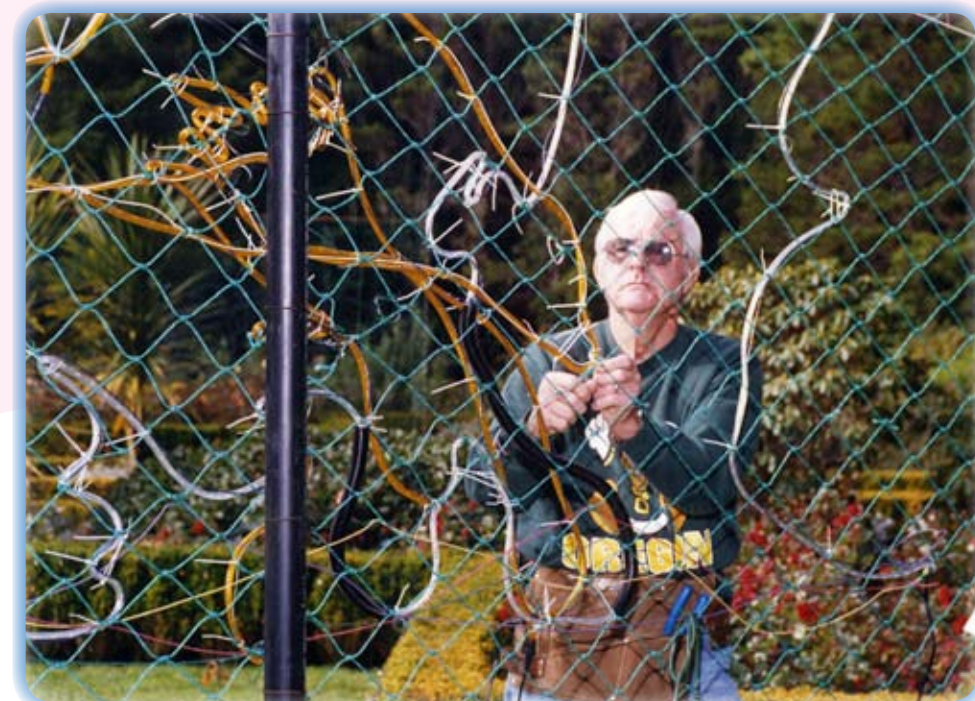
David Bridgham, Mike Perkins and Frank Smith place the splash on the Gray Whale sculpture display.



L-R - David Bridgham and Frank Smith at the Gray Whale



Sea Lions display designed by Don McMichael



Fred Ehrman works on the Sea Lions display.

Valiant Volunteers - High and Low



Steve Schneiderman, Coos Bay Fire and Rescue volunteer



Carl Siminow



L-R - Maxine Johannesen and Gladys Johnston



Irene and Dick Sund work on the Rose Pergola

Outdoor Trees - Decorated by Groups



Mid Coast Mustang and Ford Club



Camp Fire Boys and Girls



Bonneville Power Administration



Harley Owners Group



Am-Vets Post #10

Outdoor Trees – Decorated by Groups



Confederated Tribes



Sunset Classic Chevys



Community Action



Bay Area Hospital



Wal-Mart



Marshfield High School Madrala Players

Significant Sculpture Displays – Sea Lions and Pelicans



Sea Lions and Pelicans designed by Don McMichael, Local and Renowned Marine Artist

Positive Publicity Highlights Holiday Lights

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 17, 2001

THE

VIEW

Magazine

TV listings for the week of
Nov. 17 — 23



Holiday season lights up at Shore Acres

See Page 2

Shore Acres lights to open Thanksgiving Day

The 15th-annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres opens on Thanksgiving, Nov. 22, and continues through New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

This walk-through display with more than 7 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 p.m. every night including Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's. Choirs, carolers and bands offer entertainment (weather permitting) at a brand new performance pavilion. 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 Orca whale, life-size spouting gray whale, Dungeness crab, sea star, sea urchin, sea anemone, sea horse, octopus, kelp, frog, tulips, rhody, rose, dahlia, a variety of bugs and a brand new animated sea lion display.

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 200 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 225,000 lights, many Christmas trees, lighted sculptures and the traditionally decorated Garden House drew more than 56,000 visitors. Guest books show visitors from 42 countries, five Canadian provinces, 49 U.S. states and D.C. (missing only Delaware), including 208 Oregon towns and cities, 169 California towns and cities, 30 Idaho and Nevada towns and cities, and 102 Washington towns and cities. Comments ranged from "Memory Maker" - Bend, to "Eye Candy" - Eugene to "Beautiful, worth the trip from Portland."

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 - more than 1,000 altogether.

Shore Acres State Park is located 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.

For more information, call Holiday Lights co-chairs Shirley & David Bridgman at 888-3732 or Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at (800) 824-8486 or (541) 269-0215.



World File Photo
Last year's display of lights attracted thousands of visitors to Shore Acres State Park and organizers hope to attract as many this year.



Colored lights are reflected in the pond in the Japanese Garden, above. A bundle of lights rests on a table. Soon afterward, the light was strung in Shore Acres State Park as part of the annual seven-acre light show.



Many hands make lights work

David Bridgman said Sunday evening he and his wife, Shirley, counted the many volunteers who will have helped out this year at Shore Acres State Park for the Holiday Lights and Open House.

When they looked through the names of those who helped to put up the lights over the past few weekends, they came up with almost 300 people, many of whom are faithful light stringers.

Another 800 people will help out during the run from Thanksgiving evening through New Year's Day. The volunteers will help with the refreshments and help out where needed, greeting and orienting the visitors in the new pavilion next to the gardener's house.

Lots of hands are needed at the park where 225,000 lights were arranged on the seven acres of lighted garden.

This year's display also features garden landscape lighting and more than 20 light sculptures including pelicans, jellyfish, Shore Acres' cranes, life-size leaping Orca and spouting gray whales, Dungeness crab, sea star, sea urchins, sea anemone, sea horse, octopus, kelp, frogs, flower shapes, a variety of bugs and a brand new animated sea lion display.

In 1987, the Friends of Shore Acres with the Oregon Parks Department strung up the first 6,000 miniature lights for the holidays. They drew 9,000 visitors to see the lights. This year is the 15th annual display.

Shore Acres State Park is located 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.



Storage cases and carts help the myriad volunteers store and transport all the 225,000 miniature lights each year. New lights come packed in boxes, but at the end of the light show, they are carefully coiled and stored for the next year's show.



Getting into the hydrangeas, Shirley Champagne of Coos Bay sets up little red lights in the plot. She was prepared for the damp conditions on the day with her yellow rain gear. By Sunday evening, the lights were ready for the annual show, boasting 225,000 points of light. The doors open to the public Thanksgiving at 4 p.m. and close at 10 p.m. The lights will greet visitors every night including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2001



LIGHTS AGLOW AT SHORE ACRES

Many volunteers make South Coast holiday fixture shine brightly.

SEE PAGE C12



LILLEY'S SERMON

Pirate coach famous for his holiday speeches.

SPORTS, PAGE B1



TODAY

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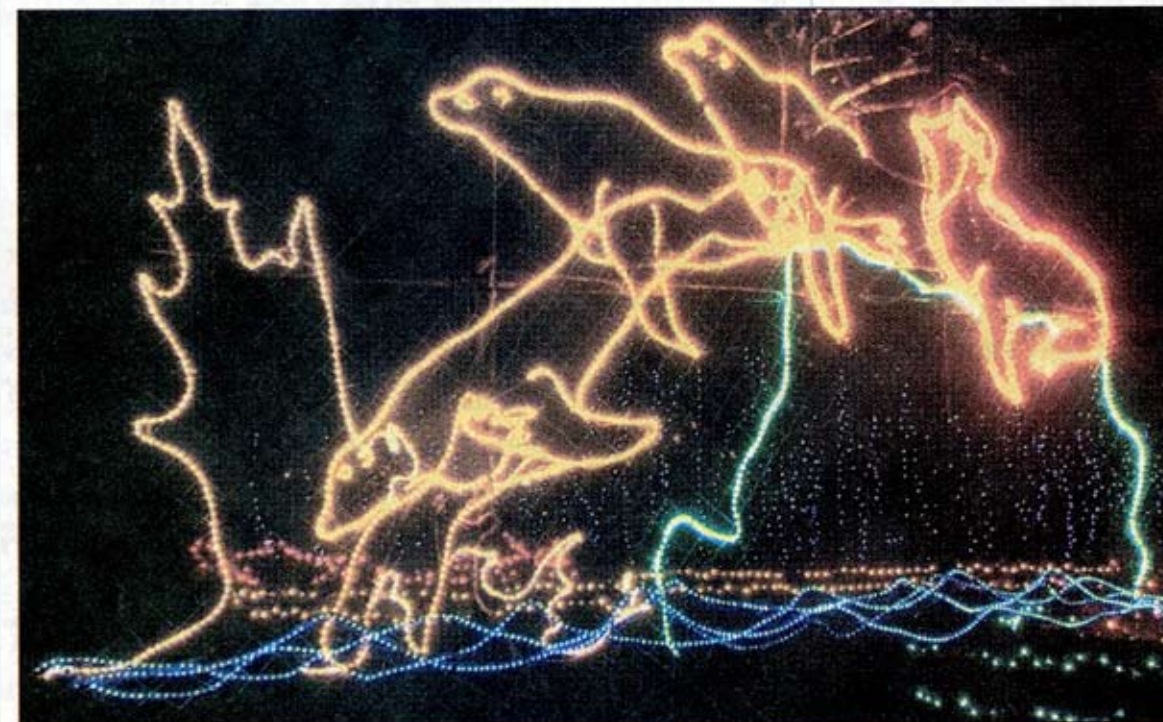
The World

A PULITZER NEWSPAPER

OUR 123RD YEAR SERVING OREGON'S SOUTH COAST

www.theworldlink.com

50¢ (HOME DELIVERED: 35¢ DAILY)



For the first time, this year the Friends of Shore Acres are using flexible lights on a new sea lion display. The animated display was designed by local artist Don McMichael. On a recent Saturday morning, Fred Ehrman of Coquille, left, attaches the lights to a net and stand in the gardens. When the show is over, the net and lights will be covered with a tarp and rolled on a cardboard tube and stored for next year.

PARTS OF FRONT PAGE COVERAGE REFORMATTED FOR THIS ALBUM.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2001



No light display

Access to Shore Acres will be closed starting today through Friday for road repairs.



BILLIES END REEDSPORT RUN

Top-ranked Pleasant Hill pounds Braves in football quarterfinals.

SPORTS, PAGE B1



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The World

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THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 24, 2001

Inside Scoop



Update

Road woes dim holiday

The annual holiday lights display at Shore Acres State Park will be closed next week as crews work to repair a section of sunken pavement along the Cape Arago Highway.

Access to the popular holiday display and recreation areas south of the Sunset Bay campground will be restricted starting on Tuesday, and will remain closed through Friday afternoon, so the bulkhead along a 75-foot section of road can be repaired, said Oregon Department of Transportation Maintenance Manager Ed Pulvermacher. Copies are being used to divert traffic around the damaged pavement until the closure starts.

While inconvenient, the limited access should not detract from

the flood of onlookers expected this weekend, said Assistant Park Manager Rob Kilmer.

"Thanksgiving weekend is one of our busiest of the year," he said. Weather and other factors make it hard to estimate how many people might have viewed the display next week, Kilmer added.

Sinking grade has been a persistent problem along the southern end of the Cape Arago Highway for years, he said. Some sections already are limited to single-lane traffic.

"It really sinks," Kilmer said of the stretch near Norton Gulch that prompted the latest closure, but it never gets to this extent. We need to get under there and solve the problem."

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 26, 2001

DAILY DIGEST

Holiday Lights to be dimmed

The 15th annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres will be open today from 4 to 10 p.m. in the state park's botanical gardens. Due to road work on the Cape Arago Highway, the display will be closed Tuesday through Friday, but is scheduled to re-open to the public on Saturday. Once reopened, the holiday display will be open daily from 4 to 10 p.m. through New Year's Day, Jan. 1, in the state park's botanical gardens. Stroll through more than 7 acres of lighted gardens and enjoy refreshments in the Garden House. Entertainment nightly. Sponsored by the Friends of Shore Acres. For more information, call Holiday Lights co-chairs Shirley & David Bridgham at 888-3732 or the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at (800) 824-8486 or (541) 269-0215.

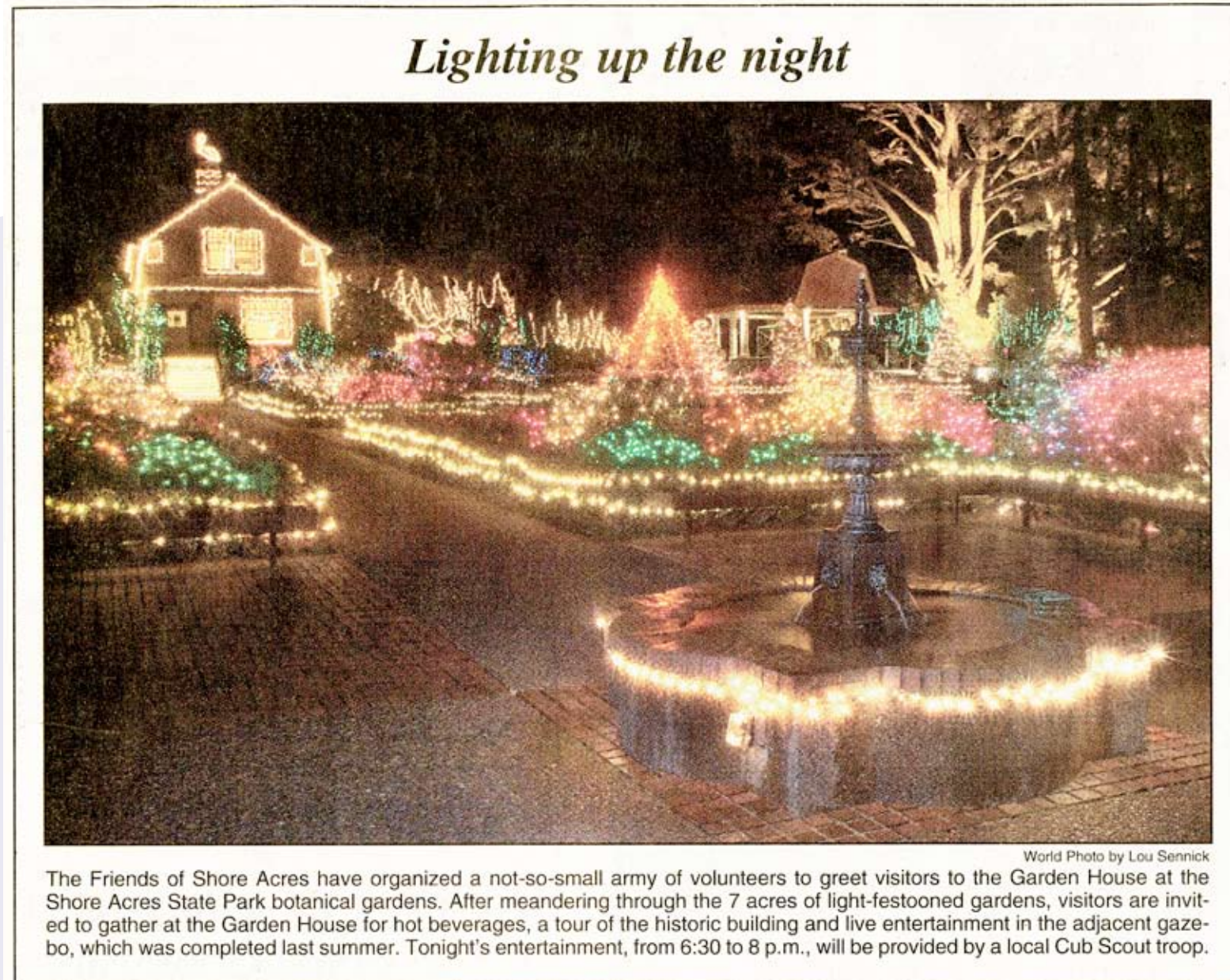


Season Survives Inside and Out!

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 4, 2001



IN THE GARDEN HOUSE, VOLUNTEER HOST GROUPS SERVED HOT CIDER, PUNCH, COFFEE AND COOKIES, WHILE VOLUNTEER MUSIC GROUPS ENTERTAINED IN THE PAVILION.



World Photo by Lou Sennick
The Friends of Shore Acres have organized a not-so-small army of volunteers to greet visitors to the Garden House at the Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens. After meandering through the 7 acres of light-festooned gardens, visitors are invited to gather at the Garden House for hot beverages, a tour of the historic building and live entertainment in the adjacent gazebo, which was completed last summer. Tonight's entertainment, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., will be provided by a local Cub Scout troop.



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SOUTH COAST

www.theworldlink.com

Visitors flock to South Coast for whale migration

"Whale Watching Spoken Here" volunteers are ready to help visitors spot whales this weekend as part of the Winter Whale Watch Week, which will continue until Jan. 2.

More than 200 volunteers will be on duty from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at 30 lookout sites from Ilwaco, Wash., to Crescent City, Calif. Along with information about the annual southbound gray whale migration, they will have up-to-the-minute whale-sighting reports thanks to communications support from U.S. Cellular and Cellular One.

Each volunteer completes a mandatory two-day training course at Hatfield Marine Biology Center in Newport before they can assist whale watchers. They are equipped with whale-watching aids such as telescopes and binoculars and have a wealth of information in the form of brochures and information sheets.

Volunteers are trained in knowing how to spot whales by the direction of their water spouts and other tell-tale signs.

A record number of winter whale watchers — 19,314 — made 1,556 whale sightings during last year's eight-day event.

This year's turnout hasn't been shabby so far in the Bay Area.

"We've had 77 people so far (today) and we've spotted about seven whales and a seal," volunteer Jesse Freeborn said Friday.

Freeborn, who volunteers at Shore Acres State Park, said on Thursday she counted 40 visitors.

Numbers of whale watchers are expected to skyrocket this weekend when people are off work.

The best weather for whale watching, according to Freeborn, is when it is slightly overcast, the water is calm and there is no fog.

Freeborn said gray whales, in adulthood, are about the size of a school bus. Baby gray whales, she said, are about the size of a pickup truck.

The Winter Whale Watch Week coincides with the migration of gray whales from Alaskan seas to lagoons in Mexico where they mate and give birth to calves in the warm waters off the Baja peninsula. The largest number sighted during a Winter Whale Watch

Week was 3,152 in 1994-1995.

On the Net:

Check out *Whale Watching Spoken Here*:
<http://www.whalespoken.org>



Whale watching volunteers at Shore Acres State Park scan the coastline for gray whales making their way south to Mexico where they spend the winter months. The whales' migration is a 10,000 mile swim.



"Whale Watching Spoken Here" volunteers Andy Anderson from Springfield, standing, and Carol and Jesse Freeborn, from Gold Hill, all took a two-day class in Newport that taught them what to look for when scanning the horizon for whales.

World Photos by Madeline Steege



Coos Bay's Horst Seibold looks out on the ocean at Shore Acres for gray whales. He had been watching for almost 40 minutes and had not spotted any yet. Gray whales pass by the Oregon coast at a rate 30 per hour during late December, according to information from Oregon State Parks.

Thar they blow!

"Whale Watch Spoken Here" volunteers will be at the following South Coast locations:

- Sea Lion Caves turnout south of U.S. Highway 101 tunnel, Florence;
- Umpqua Lighthouse, Reedsport;
- Shore Acres State Park, Charleston;
- Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint, Bandon;
- Cape Blanco Lighthouse, Port Orford;
- Battle Rock City Park, Port Orford;
- Cape Sebastian State Scenic Corridor, Gold Beach;
- Cape Ferrello, Brookings; and
- Harris Beach State Park, Brookings.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECAP 2001

45,000 visitors

27 nights with rain

4 nights of road closure

Biggest group: 87 on Dec. 7 -

Pacific NW New Beetle Club,

Vancouver BC & Eugene

30 countries. 5 Canadian

provinces

48 U.S. states and D.C.

(Missing: Vermont, West Virginia)

CITIES & TOWNS:

217 Oregon, 177 California

72 Washington, 27 Idaho &

Nevada, 241 Other

COMMENTS:

"An angel's garden." - 5 year old,
Coos Bay

"Merry Christmas! Lights here
a family tradition since 1987!" -
Eugene

"Another Oregon gift!" - Medford

"Lifetime Event" - Fresno

"Excellent! The Simpsons would
be very proud." - North Bend

"Spectacular even with rain and
wind." - Springfield

"Everything we hoped for!" -

Klamath Falls

"Smashing!" - England

"Coolest thing ever!!! - North Pole

"Fantastic! Thanks to all the
volunteers!" - Coburg

"Appreciate the red, white & blue."
- Grants Pass

Wind-blown acres

Popular tourist attraction hit by storm



World Photos by Madeline Steege

Shore Acres State Park was closed Friday due to Thursday's wind storm that caused substantial damage to the area. Decades-old trees came crashing down inside the State Park. These two trees took out some of the trail along the west side of the park and fell into the sculptured area of the lawn. The north end of the park was hit especially hard with trees falling over, breaking up parts the trail. On the north side of Shore Acres, above, Park Ranger Ellie Kinney-Martial shows where a big tree fell during the wind storm. When this tree toppled, it took along with it part of the asphalt trail leading to the tennis courts.



Early signs of spring



World Photo by Lou Sennick

A few tulips start to bloom in the gardens at Shore Acres State Park on Wednesday. In another few days, the spring flowers should be open.

Springtime Brings Beautiful Bonsai Day – April 20, 2002



L-R Theo Stanley and George Ahuna



L-R Lorna Shivley, Betty Renner, Betty Kennedy and Virginia Stanley



Bay Area Bonsai Society

. . . and Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day – May 14, 2002

Page A6 - THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Monday, May 27, 2002



Head Gardener George Guthrie answers visitors' questions.



OUT & ABOUT

Just the right light

A photograph of an artist, Curt Hitch, sitting on a folding stool in a garden. He is leaning back, looking at his watercolor painting on an easel. He is wearing a white shirt and a dark vest. In the background, another person is sitting on a bench, and the garden is filled with various plants and trees.

World Photo by Lou Sennick

The Bay Area Artists group spent Mother's Day sketching, painting and answering questions during a "Paint Out" in the botanical gardens at Shore Acres State Park, Charleston. Among those taking advantage of the light and the gardens were North Bend artist Curt Hitch, leaning back to check out his watercolor, and Merrie Holbert, background. The artists will return for Rose Sunday, held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Father's Day, June 16.



Rose Sunday, June 18 and OCMF Garden Concert July 21

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., June 10, 2002

DAILY DIGEST

ROSE SUNDAY, FATHER'S DAY, will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday at Shore Acres State Park. The roses are blooming and the 2000 AARS Award winners are on display in the All America Rose Selections garden. Also, the South Coast Wood Carvers will demonstrate their craft and display their beautiful carvings in the Garden House and members of the Bay Area Artists Association will hold a "paint our" in the gardens. This is a perfect time to get your rose questions answered by rose experts Jay Dow, Ray Dusking and George Guthrie. And if all this isn't enough, there will be the traditional cookies, punch and coffee served by the Friends of Shore Acres in the Garden House. For more information, call 888-3732 or 756-5401, or check out the Friends' Web site www.shoreacres.com.



Rose Sunday happened, but we do not have photos of the event, so I'm including this photo that was taken a few years later, knowing it would have looked the same in 2002 - Shirley Bridgham



The annual Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert featured Joe Ross Bluegrass. Friends of Shore Acres volunteers sold fresh raspberry and chocolate sundaes and lemonade. ■

Pavilion dedicated in Stinchfield's honor

By SEAN HANSON
Staff Intern

Allen Stinchfield spent 50 years engraving his life on Coos County with his numerous contributions to the community. Soon, his name will be engraved on a memorial plaque to recognize his achievements. On Sunday, a garden pavilion will be dedicated to him at the Shore Acres State Park.

The pavilion, which will be dedicated at 2 p.m., is the result of a collaboration between the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, Menasha Forest Products Company and the Stinchfield family. The pavilion functions as a lookout point with a wonderful view of the garden. It will be used for hosting musical acts, including the school choirs that frequently perform at the park, said Park Manager Larry Becker.

The pavilion is quite a fitting tribute for a man whose passion for roses was only rivaled by his love for music, said Menasha President Bill Lansing, who was close friends with Stinchfield for the 19 years before he died in 1998. Menasha, which donated both money and hardware to the project, benefited from more than 30 years of Stinchfield's service.

Stinchfield started at Menasha in 1948 as an accountant and, in this 34-year tenure, rose to the position of vice president at the Wisconsin-based company. Stinchfield also was "integral in the development of the paper mill," said Lansing. The North Spit mill was eventually sold to Weyerhaeuser.

Lansing, who was Stinchfield's protege, replaced him when he retired in 1981. He said Stinchfield was a "great mentor."

Before and after his retirement, however, Stinchfield never stopped



World Photo by Sean Hanson/Contributed Photo

Above, the late Allen Stinchfield, vice president of Menasha Forest Products Company until he retired in 1981, helped develop several South Coast facilities, including the North Bend Municipal Pool. A new pavilion, left, looms over the Shore Acres State Park garden. The pavilion will be named after Stinchfield at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

contributing to the community. His resumé is a litany of major accomplishments: Stinchfield was president of the Belloni Boys Ranch; he served on the school board that oversaw the addition of both the North Bend Junior High School and the North Bend Municipal Pool; he was a member of the first Oregon trade delegation to Japan; he was instrumental in organizing the North Bend Community Student Loan Fund; and he served on the Bay Area Hospital Board of Directors.

"Al was a great asset to our community and a wonderful man," Menasha executive assistant Sherry Shay said.

Meriel Soller Stinchfield started the pavilion project soon after her husband died, following an obituary announcement that suggested contributions to the North Bend

"It's a project that grew beyond our wildest dreams."

Shirley Bridgham on the idea for creating a gazebo

Scholarship Fund.

"So many people gave donations to the North Bend Scholarship Fund and I wanted to do something different," she said, "And I knew how much he loved roses."

Meanwhile, park officials were looking for a way to enhance the Shore Acres gardens and Lansing himself was thinking of ways to memorialize Stinchfield. At one point, he even considered working to

re-name the causeway that connects the paper mill to the mainland in Stinchfield's honor.

Meriel Stinchfield pitched the gazebo idea to Lansing, she said, and he warmed up to the idea immediately. Soon, Stinchfield's family met with Lansing, Becker, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Southwest Area Manager Andy LaTomme, and architects from Crow/Clay & Associates, Inc., to design a structure that fit everyone's expectations.

However, the simple gazebo turned out to be just the kernel of what would result.

"It's a project that grew beyond our wildest dreams," said Shirley Bridgham, founder of the Friends of Shore Acres.

The gazebo evolved into a pavil-

ion when the group decided to design the Stinchfield memorial in the style of the original Shore Acres mansion, which burned in 1921.

The pavilion is designed with the gambrel-mansard roof, a combination of two sharply angled roof styles and white support columns. Once those features of the original mansion were added, the structure was elevated from gazebo to pavilion status.

Measuring 28 feet across, the octagonal structure was constructed using laborers including inmates and park rangers, all under the supervision of Ranger Greg Foster, whom Becker described as a "master craftsman," and two assistants.

"I don't know how we could have a more fitting tribute to (Stinchfield). My husband and I knew him personally and he really was a great guy," said Bridgham.

Family and Friends at Pavilion Dedication – August 4, 2002

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - August 10, 2002



Pavilion dedication



World Photo by Peter B. Jones

With Allen Stinchfield's grandchildren looking on, Merriel Stinchfield is assisted by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Director Mike Carrier as she cuts the ribbon dedicating the new garden pavilion at Shore Acres State Park in her late husband's honor Sunday. More than 100 family members and friends witnessed the completion of the project honoring the man who left such a mark on the community. Visitors enjoyed cake and refreshments and the sounds of the Buster Jazz Combo. Stinchfield's granddaughters Annie Danis, Meghan Ross and Adrienne Ross, all of California, sang Whistle Punk Pete at the dedication. The song was a favorite of Stinchfield's and the trio sang it for him regularly at family gatherings.

Memorial to Menasha's own



World Photo by Peter B. Jones



World File Photo

The late Allen Stinchfield's granddaughters Annie Danis, Meghan Ross and Adrienne Ross, all of California, sing Whistle Punk Pete at the recent dedication of the new garden pavilion in Stinchfield's name at Shore Acres State Park in Charleston. The song was one of Stinchfield's favorites and the trio sang it for him regularly at family gatherings. Stinchfield worked for Menasha Forest Products Company for 34 years and in honor of his service the company helped pay to build the pavilion.



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 16:

Annual Year - September 1, 2002 - August 31, 2003

Album 15 - Completed March 29, 2020

Book (Printed) and PDF Version posted at
www.shoreacres.net - Archival Albums

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

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www.shoreacres.net – Journal/Newsletters