



Shore Acres State Park Before Friends - 1986

Album 16



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 La Tomme, 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 La Tomme, 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 Mc Dermott, 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 Photo Shop 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, DVD's, 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 Friends of Shore Acres Inc 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."***

Friends of Shore Acres Inc - 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 La Tomme, John Bergen, George Guthrie, Karen Wuethrich, Marty Giles, Ron Hjort, Mike Bodkin, John Garner, Shirley Bridgham, David Bridgham, Dick Hansen and Tony Mason. Andy La Tomme 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 La Tomme, 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 La Tomme 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.

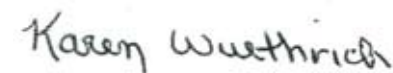
Andy La Tomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

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, 2002 - August 31, 2003

Annual Meeting and Board Meeting - September 10, 2002 Bureau of Land Management Offices, North Bend, OR

Annual Meeting

President David Bridgham called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Directors Present: David and Shirley Bridgham, Betty Kennedy, Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Gregg Nelson, Dennis and Kathi Netter, Winnie Pitsenberger, Terry Richards, Carl Siminow. **Directors Absent:** Kenn Kennedy and Chuck Lembke

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 volunteer hours by dedicated Friends members.

Recognition: Prior to the report of the nomination committee, President Bridgham expressed appreciation on behalf of the Friends to Winnie Pitsenberger and Chuck Lembke for their dedicated years of service as volunteers for the Friends of Shore Acres. Chuck Lembke was unable to attend the meeting, will still be an active volunteer, but because of his wife's health he must leave the board. Winnie was presented with a framed certificate for her years of service as the Gift Shop coordinator, trainer, Cookie baker, Cider Spice maker and all around volunteer. President Bridgham also presented an award to Kay Valois, for her time as a board member and volunteer, who left the board in November, 2001, when she and Bob moved to Florence. Betty Kennedy will pass the award along to Kay.

Nominations: The nominating committee nominated the following for board positions: Shirley Bridgham, Barb Taylor, Robynn Reed and Timm Slater to serve for three years. MSP Lou Kolkhorst/Barb Taylor

The annual meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Board Meeting

President David Bridgham called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Directors Present: David and Shirley Bridgham, Betty Kennedy, Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Gregg Nelson, Dennis and Kathi Netter, Terry Richards, Carl Siminow and Ralph Thomas. **Absent:** Kenn Kennedy

Election of Officers: The nominees for officers were President Gregg Nelson, President-Elect Lou Kolkhorst, Secretary Kenn and Betty Kennedy. MSP. David Bridgham presented the gavel to President Gregg Nelson, who conducted the remainder of the board meeting.

Minutes: Previously e-mailed to board members. MSP

Financial Report: \$78,968.64

Information & Gift Center (IGC): Lou Kolkhorst reported 5.5 % sales increase in July. The IGC will operate out of the Garden House while the re-model and expansion takes place. The month of January, 2003, will be mainly for moving and setting up.

State Parks Report: Ellie requested the board consider paying for the ramps at the Pavilion. Will discuss at the October board meeting.

Old Business: Successful Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert with all sundaes sold. Pavilion Dedication was inspiring.

New Business: Dahlia Day is Sept. 21 and Orchid Day is Oct. 5, 2002. David submitted a written proposal as a motion for future memorials at Shore Acres. MSP

Holiday Lights: Some sculptures will have movement. Carl and Robynn will start house decorating on Oct. 20. Lights stringing starts Oct. 26.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.



Reformatted for this Album

Album 16

Dahlia Day – September 21, 2002

Displays by the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society and Paulette Woodward in the Garden House



Dahlias in front of watercolor painting by Merrie Holbert, Artist in the Park



Friends' Volunteers Joy and Jay Dow serve punch and cookies in the Garden House.



Photos by Luis Velasquez

Fall Brings Holiday Lights Setup 2002



David Bridgham, Travis and Gregg Nelson at the leaping Orca display.



Steve Schneiderman, Mike Seldon



David Bridgham on lower roof, Steve Schneiderman & Mike Seldon up high!



Gregg Nelson and son Travis



Maxine Johannesen



Shirley Champagne-Harris
and Donna Smith



Coos Bay Fire & Rescue - On the
roof - Steve Schneiderman and Mike
Seldon, on the ladder Chuck Hanner,
Jon Eck holds the ladder.

Photos by Luis Velasquez - Photo I.D. L-R

Holiday Lights Setup 2002

SO MANY EXCELLENT VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN
FOR THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TO ENJOY!



Sid Hall and Tom Williscroft



Mid-Coast Mustang & Ford Club



Bay Area Hospital



Kathy Metzger and David Barnhart



Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst



Frank Smith in the Undersea Garden



Carol Ventgen and Mike Perkins



Bob Golden and Frank Smith

Photos by Luis Velasquez - Photo I.D. L-R

Garden House Decorating for Holiday Lights 2002

ROBYNN REED AND HER ELVES BRING ORDER OUT OF CHAOS AGAIN!



Photos by Luis Velasquez

Holiday Lights Publicity 2002

Coastal Living - November-December 2002

16th annual HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT SHORE ACRES STATE PARK

"a community tradition"



2002 Photo by Luis Velasquez

250,000+ Lights ★ 39 Nights
Thanksgiving thru Sunday after New Year's
Nov. 28, 2002 - Jan. 5, 2003 ★ 4-10 PM
OPEN HOUSE - Hot apple cider, coffee, punch, cookies!
 ★ Entertainment in the new Pavilion ★
 Walk-thru Display ★ Plenty of Parking
 ★ Lighted Sculptures-Whales, Sea Lions, Pelicans, Cranes,
 Undersea Garden ★ Flowers ★ and more!

Win the Ultimate Bed & Breakfast ★ 10 PM Dec. 31 - 10 AM, Jan. 1
 Overnight stay for 2 adults at Shore Acres Garden House. Catered breakfast New Year's Day.
Tickets are \$10 (200 Tickets Available.) ★ Drawing at 9 PM Christmas Day. ★ Need not be present to win.
 Tickets at the Friends' Information & Gift Center

Vehicle Parking Fee - \$3 or OPRD Annual Pass or Oregon Pacific Coast Passport or Current Campground Receipt
 ★ Annual Passes available in Dec. - \$20 (save \$5)
 Holiday Lights and Open House sponsored by Friends of Shore Acres Inc. in partnership with Shore Acres State Park,
 Coos Bay, OR 97420 (541) 756-5401 ★ 888-3732 ★ 888-3778 ★ www.shoreacre.com

TRAVEL

On a misty Oregon coast evening, Shore Acres State Park twinkles like a child's sugarplum dream.

A quarter of a million miniature lights glitter mischievously among the hedges and flower beds of a stately garden. Fanciful creatures, all formed from lights, frolic everywhere. Some spring to life—or at least appear to. An orca leaps incongruously among the precisely aligned hedges. A sea lion sails from a rock to splash into the ocean.

The park's Holiday Lights runs from Thanksgiving through January 5. Each year, it draws 50,000 visitors, many of them wide-eyed children. "They love the orca whale," says Shirley Bridgham, who annually undertakes the massive task of planning the light scheme. "They love moving things. And they love the cider and cookies. That may be their favorite part."

This fantasyland appears for a simple, magical reason: The people of the Coos Bay-North Bend area in southern Oregon love Shore Acres State Park. A volunteer group called Friends of Shore Acres lured extra visitors in 1987 with 6,000 white lights and one decorated tree.



garden aglow

*Volunteer elves transform
a coastal state park
into a holiday wonderland.
Visitors even get
free cookies.*

BY STEVE MILLBURG
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY
 MATT BROWN

Then things got out of hand. The light count doubled each year until the Friends decided that 250,000 ought to be quite enough to dazzle anyone. As the work has multiplied, though, the workforce has remained all-volunteer—more than 1,200 in number.

One visitor and guest get a special treat. The Friends raffle off 200 tickets (at \$10 each) for the chance to spend New Year's Eve night in the Garden House's second-floor bedroom, overlooking the scene, with breakfast delivered in the morning. "Everybody says it's absolutely the most extraordinary thing they've done," says Shirley.

Sixty Friends of Shore Acres spend five weekends and several weekdays stringing the lights. It's a massive effort. But nobody minds. "All we have to do is read the guest books," Shirley says, "and we're re-energized for next year." 🌸

LIGHTS FANTASTIC
 Shore Acres State Park, 800/551-6949 or shoreacre.com. Holiday Lights runs 4-10 p.m. daily, November 28-January 5, 2003. The park charges a \$3 parking fee per vehicle, but admission is free. So are cookies, cider, and other refreshments.



Holiday Lights Publicity 2002


Coos Bay Downtown Association

CENTRAL VOICE

VOLUME 5 ISSUE THREE

NOVEMBER 2002

'Brightest and most beautiful place ...'



The brightest and most beautiful place on the West Coast shines brighter than ever in 2002! The 16th annual community tradition of Holiday Lights at Shore Acres begins this year's run on Thanksgiving Day and will extend through the Sunday after New Year's (Jan. 5, 2003).

The display that includes more than 250,000 lights will be open to the public from 4 to 10 p.m. every night for 39 nights, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Holiday Lights at Shore Acres is a community event sponsored by Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. in partnership with Shore Acres State Park, Coos Bay, Oregon (www.shoreacres.com). Friends of Shore Acres, co-chaired by Shirley and David Bridgman, is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. The Bridgmans can be contacted at 541-756-5401 or by e-mail at bridgman@epuerto.com.

There is plenty of parking for the walk-through displays that include seven acres of lighted garden, the decorated Garden House and the Performance Pavilion where entertainment occurs each evening.

Light sculptures include playful sea lions, pelicans, jellyfish, Shore Acres' cranes, a life-size leaping Orca whale, life-size spouting gray whale, tulips, rhododendrons, roses, daffodils, Dungeness crab, sea star, sea urchin, sea anemone, sea horse, octopus, kelp, frogs, butterflies, and more.

In addition, there is an open house at the Garden House, where cookies, hot cider, punch and coffee are served.

The event had its origin 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 Garden House drew 9,000 visitors.

Now, more than 250,000 lights -- both holiday and landscaping -- many Christmas trees, lighted sculptures, a new performance pavilion, and the beautifully decorated Garden House attract 40,000 to 65,000 visitors each season.

Inside the Garden House are long scrolls of names in tribute to business supporters and the more than 1,200 volunteers who make it happen for all to enjoy.

Last year, an estimated 45,000 visitors came from 30 countries, five Canadian provinces, 48 U.S. states and D.C., 217 Oregon towns and cities, 177 California towns and cities, 17 Idaho and Nevada towns and cities. People from all over the world enjoy the holiday lights. Many return year after year to share in this wonderful community tradition.

Visitors pay a parking fee of \$3 per vehicle and those with a current OPRD annual parking permit or Coastal Passport or current campground receipt are admitted free of charge.

The Whole Shebang - November 1, 2002

16th Annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres

A Must on Your Holiday Agenda



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

Now, more than 250,000 lights -- both holiday and landscaping -- many Christmas trees, lighted sculptures, a new performance pavilion, and the beautifully decorated Garden House attract 40,000 to 65,000 visitors each season from all over the world. Many return year after year to share in this wonderful community tradition.

The brightest and most beautiful place on the West Coast will shine brighter than ever in 2002, be sure to include this and Charleston merchants as a stop on your busy holiday schedule.

The gardens will be lighted Thanksgiving through the Sunday after New Year's (Nov. 28-Jan. 5, 2003), including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's. The walk-through display also features an open house at the Garden House with cookies, hot cider, punch and coffee. For more information call: 541-756-5401; e-mail: bridgman@epuerto.com and visit online at www.shoreacres.com.

Special thanks to Shirley Bridgman, photographer Luis Velasquez (who has taken photographs for Shore Acres for 16 years) and Memo Jasso at Brown's Studio in North Bend who produced high resolution scans from slides for print reproduction.





Holiday Lights Publicity 2002

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 20, 2002

Decking the gardens



World Photo by Lou Sennick

With 250,000 lights that need to go up each year at Shore Acres State Park, there are many older strings of lights that need to be checked and replaced. On Saturday morning, Cindy Hough was volunteered to check some of the older strands to see if they were working and replaced burned-out bulbs. Each year the Friends of Shore Acres and other volunteers string the lights that attract visitors to the South Coast during the holiday season. The annual light display runs from Thanksgiving through New Year's. Readers can find more pictures of volunteers stringing lights at Shore Acres in Thursday's Community section, Page C1.



THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 21, 2002

Oh Christmas tree
Oh Christmas tree



Shore Acres decorates for the holidays

By the numbers, the holiday lights celebration at Shore Acres State Park is impressive: More than 250,000 lights are strung around the park for a dazzling display and more than 50,000 people visit the park annually during the holiday season alone, said Shore Acres employees. Last year, however, the numbers were down due to a week-long road closure but workers expect the visitor numbers to rebound this season.

This year's Feb. 7 storm did do some damage to the park, downing some of the large trees that created a wind break along the tops of the shoreline cliffs. Consequently, park staff said the park is now more vulnerable to salt spray from the ocean and, possibly, more wind in the gardens.

But a recent period of wet weather didn't hinder Friends of Shore Acres volunteers, such as Lou Kolkhorst in the top photo, who donned wet-weather gear to string lights. He was busy putting up lights and greenery around the front entrance to the gardens Saturday morning. Friends of Shore Acres volunteers spend most weekends in November preparing for the show.

Several Christmas trees, decorated by local groups and businesses, are scattered throughout the park. Above, Todd Cupp puts one last white ball near the top of the Bonneville Power Administration tree Saturday.

At left, Shirley Champagne-Harris and Donna Smith string lights along a plant near the Gardener's House in Shore Acres State Park.

This is the 16th year for the holiday lights celebration. The park will be open late in the evenings for visitors and performers. Volunteers traditionally have hot apple cider and cookies available. The show will run from Thanksgiving evening through Jan. 5, 2003.

WORLD PHOTOS BY
LOU SENNICK

Holiday Lights Publicity 2002

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 30, 2002

Lighting up the night



The 16th-annual Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres State Park opened to the public on Thanksgiving Day and will be open nightly through Jan. 5. The light display colored the night with longtime-favorite displays and some updated animations. At the entrance to the gardens, many youngsters stopped, wide-eyed with amazement and declared it looked like Disneyland. Adults also stopped to take in all the wonder before moving through the garden paths.



From an upstairs window in the Gardener's House at Shore Acres State Park, visitors get a bird's-eye view of the more than 250,000 lights that have been strung throughout the park's botanical gardens, as an illuminated pelican perches on the chimney above them.

*World Photos
by Lou Sennick*

Holiday Lights Illuminate the Pavilion



THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 24, 2002

OUT & ABOUT

Holiday Lights shine daily at Shore Acres

The 16th-annual Holiday Lights & Open House continues through the Sunday after New Year's Day at Shore Acres State Park. The walk-thru display with more than 7 acres of lighted gardens attracts thousands of visitors each season.

In the beautifully decorated Garden House, friendly volunteer hosts from many organizations, businesses and the Friends of Shore Acres serve hot cider, cookies, punch and coffee from 4 to 10 p.m. each day, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Choirs, carolers and bands offer entertainment in the performance pavilion, and there's plenty of parking for both cars and buses.

This year's display features garden landscape lighting, 20 large Christmas trees decorated by civic organizations and dozens of light sculptures, including pelicans, jellyfish, Shore Acres' cranes, a life-size leaping Orca whale, a life-size spouting gray whale, a whimsical animated sea lion display and much 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 200 will be sold) with the drawing to be held at 9 p.m. on Christmas Day. Ticketholders do not need to be present to win.

The Holiday Lights 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. Now, with more than 250,000 lights, the annual community event attracts 40,000 to 65,000 visitors each season.

Last season's guest book shows visitors from 28 states and Washington, D.C., five Canadian provinces and 30 foreign countries. Entries were

logged by residents of 217 Oregon communities, 177 California communities, 27 Idaho and Nevada communities and 72 Washington communities.

Inside the Garden House, long scrolls of names pay tribute to lights pledge and business supporters, and to the volunteers and park staff who make it happen for all to enjoy — more than 1,200 altogether.

Shore Acres State Park is located 5 miles southwest of Charleston on Cape Arago Highway. Admission is a parking fee of \$3 per vehicle or free with a current Oregon Parks and Recreation Department annual parking permit, Coastal Passport or current campground receipt. The Friends welcome donations for refreshments and for continuing this event in future years.

For more information, those interested can call Dave and Shirley Bridgman at 756-5401, Shore Acres State Park at 888-3732 or the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-824-8486 or 269-0215; or visit <http://www.shore-acres.net>.



Holiday Lights Publicity and 2,002 Recap

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - December 28, 2002

Holiday Lights to honor Coos Bay's fallen firefighters

The deaths of Coos Bay firefighters Randy Carpenter, Jeff Common and Chuck Hanners in the line of duty on Nov. 25 left our community in a state of shock and sadness. This sense of loss and mourning extends personally to the Friends of Shore Acres.

For the past 15 years, members of the Coos Bay and North Bend fire departments have volunteered to bring their ladders and good cheer to hang and remove the lights from the Garden House roof. Without their expertise and equipment, it is likely the roof outline would not be lighted, nor would the pelican roost on the chimney. As an additional measure of support for the event, firefighters serve as volunteer hosts for one evening during the event.

The Friends of Shore Acres, as a token of appreciation for this unselfish service, will con-

tribute all donations received on Sunday — the night the Coos Bay Fire Department hosts the Holiday Lights — to a trust fund established for the firefighters' 11 children, who are now without fathers at this holiday season.

Although as a department, the Oregon Parks and Recreation is unable to provide direct financial support to the families of the fallen firefighters, the director may grant exceptions to the day-use permit requirement. Therefore, as a gesture of support for the Friends of Shore Acres and respect and appreciation for the Coos Bay Fire Department, the day-use fee at Shore Acres State Park will be waived from 4 to 10 p.m. on Sunday, to encourage visitors to be extra generous in their contributions.

— Shirley Bridgham
Friends of Shore Acres

ON DECEMBER 29, 2002, THE PROCEEDS OF \$2,759 IN GARDEN HOUSE DONATIONS WERE DONATED TO THE FIREFIGHTER FUND IN COOS BAY.



Other Notes:

(from the Board Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2003)

The leaping frog worked great.

The new L.E.D. lights looked great, but were a bit of a disappointment because of the rather high failure rate.

The Garden House looked great and kudos were given to Robynn and her volunteers for another successful holiday season.

We used 36,000 cookies and 100 cases of apple juice for hot apple cider.

The de-stringing of the gardens is well underway.

49,000 VISITORS

18 NIGHTS WITH RAIN

Biggest group: 130 on Dec. 17

Madison School, Coos Bay

36 countries * 2 Canadian provinces

46 U.S. states and D.C.

(Missing: CT, NH, SC, WV)

CITIES & TOWNS:

190 Oregon, 164 California

76 Washington, 34 Idaho & Nevada

235 Other

COMMENTS:

- "Oregon's Disneyland? Much better!" - Grants Pass
- "Strikingly beautiful" - Boston
- "Saw it in Coastal Living." Austin, TX
- "Must see every year!" - Concord, CA
- "This is what made me move to Coos Bay."
- "Words can't describe." - Norwalk, CA
- "Beautiful, wet and inspiring!" - Roseburg
- "Sensational!" - North Bend
- "Back again. Love it!" - Eugene
- "Wonderful!" - Sidney, Australia
- "It is absolutely unbelievable!" - Florence

SOURCE: FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 14, 2003 - BLM FACILITY

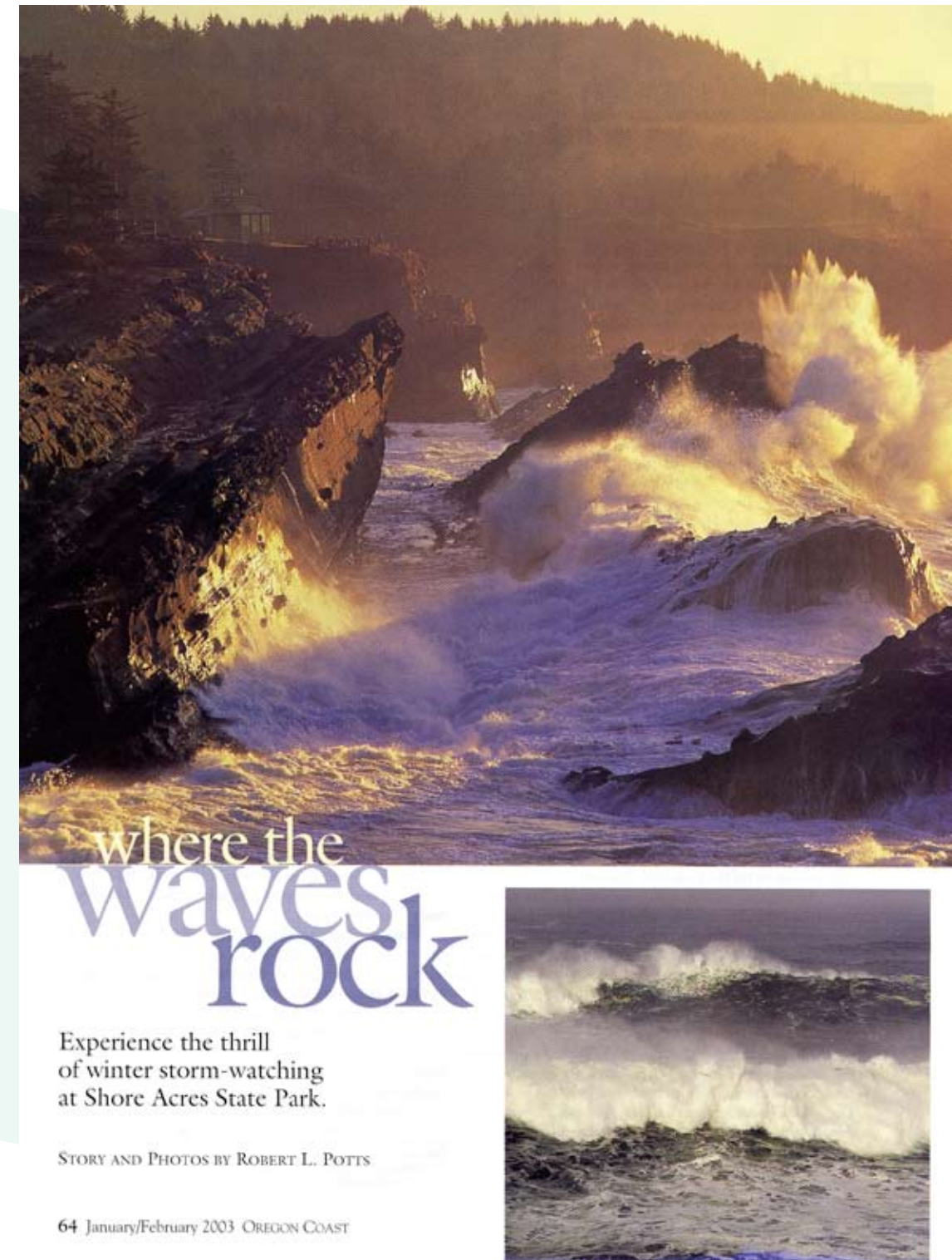
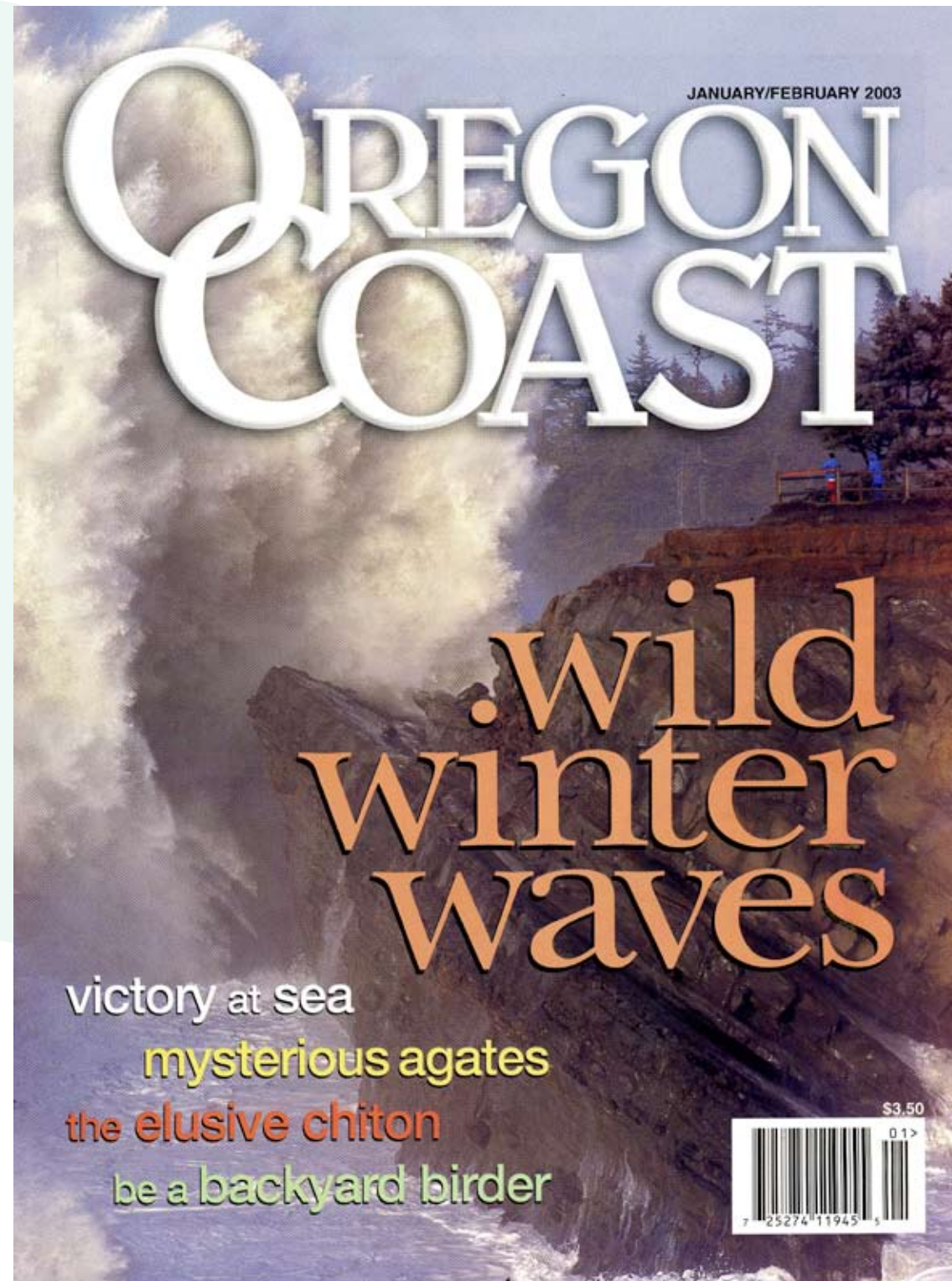
INFORMATION AND GIFT CENTER NEWS

Lou Kolkhorst reported IGC sales from July to December 2,002 were up 11% and January 2,003 is already ahead of 2,002. The IGC will move to the Garden House while the new Information and Gift Center is built.

STATE PARK NEWS:

Ellie Kinney-Martial reported the old IGC will be dismantled in late January. It will be moved to the Sunset State Park Campground and used for a resource and activity center.

Plentiful Publicity – January/February 2,003



Plentiful Publicity – January/February 2,003



WHEN BIG WAVES break on the bluffs at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston, ocean spray engulfs the people who gather to watch the winter storms. The roar of the surf is deafening, and the cannon booms of collapsing waves are startling. This kind of action at close range is likely to leave your pulse pounding. These are not gentle, monotonous waves that lap at the shore.



They are unbridled, powerful, and defy belief.

During winter, Shore Acres sees some of the largest waves along the Oregon Coast. The park is designed to showcase the spectacular surf. A rock wall surrounds a paved main viewing area. This wall is a shield against the largest waves and deters observers from wandering into harm's way. A fully enclosed observation building provides shelter in rough weather or from surf spray. It is often the only dry place in the area for changing film or taking a break.

Shore Acres offers several recreational options. The history of the park is displayed in the observation building. The botanical gardens, home to a graceful Oriental pond

adorned by a pair of metal herons, are worth a visit anytime of year. A gazebo and additional parking were added recently. A small gift shop at the entrance to the gardens is open during peak periods, and a greenhouse is open during the summer.

Top off an evening of wave watching with Christmas lights if you visit between Thanksgiving and New Year's, and enjoy the garden cottage, which is open to the public during the Holiday Lights display. This annual event is very popular, causing traffic to back up all the way to Coos Bay some evenings. It is less hectic if you get an early start and check out the waves, sunset, and geology before strolling

November through March is prime season for enjoying the Coast's favorite winter sport—storm-watching.

over to the gardens to see the display and light sculptures, such as the leaping orca, which seem to be getting more sophisticated every year. It is easy to photograph the bright lights in the darkness if you use a tripod and leave your camera's shutter open for several seconds.

Shore Acres bisects a hiking trail that begins at Sunset Bay State Park and terminates at the end of Cape Arago. About four miles long, the trail may have mud and standing water over it during wet weather, but it offers excellent views of the coastline, Sunset Bay, Shell Island where the sea lions haul out, Cape Arago Lighthouse, and the three coves at Cape Arago State Park. There are many viewpoints along the trail where you can watch for migrating whales, but the best view is at the end of Cape Arago. Expect to encounter cyclists, joggers, dog walkers, and photographers on this popular trail.

Simpson Cove is located below the south end of the gardens. This cove has a sheltered pocket beach made up of shell fragments, sometimes covered by several feet of foam or waves during a storm. At times you may not be able to cross the cove to the trail

IF YOU GO

Shore Acres State Park is a bit off the beaten path, several miles west of Hwy 101. As you drive through North Bend or Coos Bay on this highway, watch for signs to ocean beaches or Cape Arago. The route is circuitous, but well-marked. Cape Arago Highway will take you past the entrance to Sunset Bay State Park Campground. Continue on around a couple of bends in the road and look for a wooden sign on the left side of the road that indicates the entrance on the right. After entering, you must stop at the ranger's booth to pay the daily entrance fee of \$3. Annual passes also are available from the State Parks or Siuslaw National Forest Ranger District. ■

up the other side.

Shore Acres abuts Sunset Bay and Cape Arago State Parks. Point Gregory to the north is the site of the Cape Arago Lighthouse. Nearby is Bastendorff Beach, with its nice stretch of sand, and the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, which has an interpretive center and nature trails. Charleston, the nearest town, has a picturesque harbor with many sailboats and fishing boats. The cities of North Bend and Coos Bay are easily accessible along Hwy 101 and offer plenty of travelers amenities. For campers, Sunset Bay State Park Campground offers services ranging from hiker/biker sites to yurts, with several categories in between. Check the Internet for the latest details (www.oregonstateparks.org).

When you visit Shore Acres, dress warmly. Top insulating layers with a layer to break the wind and repel rain and salt spray. It's a good idea to wear a warm cap, too. Many storm watchers wear rain slickers; umbrellas are helpful on days that aren't too windy. Keep in mind that whatever you wear is likely to become impregnated with salt and require rinsing.

If you don't bring your camera, you'll probably wish

you had. If you do bring it, you'll probably expose it to saltwater. Don't open the back of your camera to change film or change lenses unless you are shielded from the salt spray. Use a cloth dampened in fresh water to clean your camera's exterior before you dry it and put it away. I often put a hat over my camera when I am photographing surf. Minimize exposure of your equipment to salt, but get your shot.

Not every storm produces big waves. Sometimes there is high wind and rain but the ocean stays flat. Sometimes a storm stays out at sea, missing the coastline entirely, but spawning spectacular surf. It isn't always necessary to go out on the bluffs in the rain or during cloudy weather. Big waves can precede or follow storms. A break between two strong storms can yield peak viewing conditions. When the weather forecasters post a "heavy surf advisory," you generally can count on a great show at Shore Acres. Storms that cause big surf can blow in as early in the season as September. December and January usually provide lots of action for storm watchers. Big surf may roll in sporadically well into spring.

As exciting and beautiful as big waves are, they are also dangerous. There have been



several fatalities in recent years at Sunset Bay State Park with people washed off the rocks by waves. On some days, the ocean is so agitated it seems to be trying to overtake the shore. On such days it is clear you need to stand back. More often, however, there are periods of extended calm followed by a frenzy of powerful waves that move in fast, hammering areas that previously had time to dry out. Then another long calm may follow.

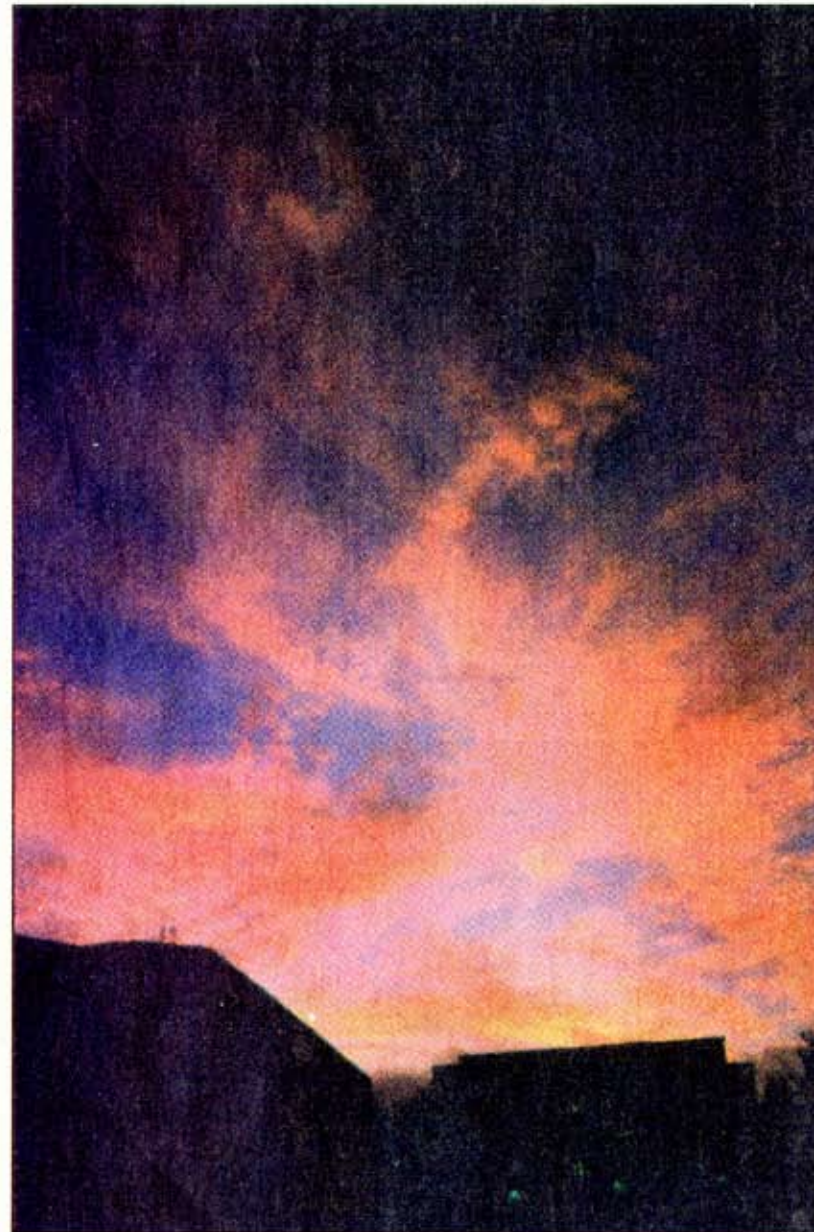
Finally, there is that terror of the coastline, the rogue wave. One such wave came ashore a few years ago near the mouth of the Umpqua River and tossed a pickup truck 150 feet. The moral of this story: Keep an eye on the ocean even if you are in a safe place. Bare rocks are never

safe; they are engulfed on a fairly regular basis. A spot where the grass is growing indicates a safe place.

Storm watching is one of the most popular winter activities on the Oregon Coast. If you like experiencing nature in its rawest forms, you will enjoy it. Go out to an exposed bluff and feel the cold, buffering wind. Feel the sting of the rain on your face, and taste the salt left on your skin by ocean spray. Let the thunderous sound of the surf roll over and through you. Watch the waves rear up with crests like wild, windblown hair. When the waves are rocking, Shore Acres is the place to be. □

Robert L. Potts has worked in aerial photography, wildlands fire and range management, and various wildlife research projects. His photographs have appeared in Oregon Coast, Bivler's World, and Country Journal.

Readers catch stellar views of South Coast



George Kenyon of Coos Bay took this photo of a fiery October sunset in Coos Bay.

Every month, The World receives a number of submissions for the Photo of the Month contest but only one can be chosen the winner.

However, here are some of the close runner-ups the judges also liked.

The World invites readers to submit their favorite South Coast scenic photos in the contest. To enter, photographers should submit a print of the photograph and negative, along with a caption explaining the details. Don't forget to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope large enough to ensure the entry can be returned. The deadline for entries is the last Monday of the month. Entries can be mailed to: The World, Photo of the Month, P.O. Box 1840, Coos Bay, Ore. 97420.



Kevin O'Shaughnessy of North Bend entered this photo of the Oregon coast, looking south toward Shell Island from Shore Acres State Park.



Dorothy Mick, from Coquille, took this shot of the Christmas lights at Shore Acres State Park in December.

Information & Gift Center 2003

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - February 12, 2003



World Photo by Lou Sennick
Shore Acres State Park is in the process of taking bids to build a new interpretive center and gift shop at the gardens near Charleston. The current building on the site, shown here, will be moved to another location in the park and a larger building will take its place.

Shore Acres outgrows visitor center

By HOWARD YUNE
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — Oregon Parks and Recreation is preparing to review bids from contractors aimed at replacing its visitor building at Shore Acres State Park.

Contractors are being asked to submit their proposals for a new interpretive center and garden entrance at the Charleston park by Feb. 19. The winning bidder will construct a 36-by-48-foot building that will house offices, interpretive displays and a gift shop, as well as restore the garden entrance to its appearance early in the 20th century.

The building would replace an existing 24-by-24-foot space, built in the early 1990s, that Park Manager Larry Baker of the Sunset Bay Management Unit described as far too small to accommodate both a gift store and displays.

"Space in the gift shop is being overtaken by visitor demand," said Baker. "During the (Christmas) season (when the park presents its annual holiday light display), you can't even get out the front door because it's so busy." The new visitor center will contain about 50 percent more floor space than the

existing one, he said.

The bid contract also includes reconstruction of the garden entryway, including repairs to the deck, pergola, its support posts and a concrete walkway.

"The deck material has deteriorated to the point we've been temporarily replacing boards over the last two years as they showed rot," said Baker.

He added Oregon Parks and Recreation plans not only to rebuild the entrance area but to redesign it to harmonize with the park's historical status the former estate of shipbuilder and lumber magnate Louis Simpson, who owned the lands before selling them to the state in 1942.

According to Baker, the rebuilt garden entrance will include design elements inspired by two mansions Simpson built on his estate. The gardens originally were created alongside a three-story house, constructed in 1907, that was destroyed

in a 1921 fire. Its replacement, which Simpson left unfinished after suffering economic reverses during the Great Depression, was demolished by the state after World War II.

"When the garden was refurbished (in 1973), the entrance was redone in a modern rather than traditional style," he said. "The new design will look more like something out of the 1910s or 1920s, more like the Simpson garden."

Construction, planned to begin in April, is expected to last about four months and cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000, with the Friends of Shore Acres fund-raising group contributing about \$60,000, said Baker.

Gift sales and information services are temporarily being offered in a garden house at the park, Baker said. The current interpretive center will be relocated to Sunset Bay State Park to serve a similar function there, he added.

**FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES
INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER
FROM A 24'x24' TO A 32'x48'
ALL COMPLETED IN 2003!**

Photo #1 - In January of 2003, the contents of the Information and Gift Center (IGC) were moved to the only original building left from the Simpson era, the Garden House and the IGC building was readied for movement to the Sunset Bay Campground.



Photo #2 shows the entry untouched. In **photo #3** the large overhead beams in the entry have been removed. This was the first step in building the new entry to the gardens. **Photo #4** shows the complete removal of all the beams and decking. A temporary fence was put in to keep the deer out.



Photos by Luis Velasquez

Information & Gift Center Move – March 19, 2003

THE 24'X24' BUILDING WAS MOVED TO SUNSET BAY CAMPGROUNDS, WHERE IT WILL BE USED AS AN INTERPRETIVE CENTER FOR SUCH PROGRAMS AS JR. BEAVER.



OLD ENTRANCE IS GONE.



GETTING THE BUILDING READY



READY FOR THE MOVE



READY FOR LOADING



LEAVING THE BUILDING SITE



LEAVING SHORE ACRES



ON THE MOVE



ARRIVING AT SUNSET BAY CAMPGROUND



ANDY LA TOMME WATCHES A VERY TIGHT FIT!

Photos by Luis Velasquez

Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day – May 11, 2003

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 10, 2003

**DAILY
DIGEST**



World Photo by Lou Sennick

MOTHER'S DAY RHODODENDRON SUNDAY takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shore Acres State Park, south of Charleston on Cape Arago Highway. Rhody experts will be on hand to answer questions and artists will be at work in the botanical gardens (or in the Pavilion, if it is raining). The Information and Gift Center has been relocated in the Garden House while a new center is under construction. Friends of Shore Acres will be serving free refreshments on the back porch. Call 756-5401 for more information.



GEORGE GUTHRIE ANSWERS MANY QUESTIONS



'CHARLES OF CHARLESTON' EDMUNDS AND CURT HITCH OF THE BAY AREA ARTISTS ASSOCIATION DEMONSTRATE THEIR ARTISTIC SKILLS.



WITH THE INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER OCCUPYING THE GARDEN HOUSE, REFRESHMENTS WERE SERVED BY WINNIE PITSENBARGER AND CARL SIMINOW AT THE BACK PORCH.



Springtime Publicity Brings Visitors to Shore Acres

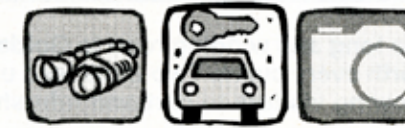
THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - May 23, 2003



The botanical gardens at Shore Acres State Park are ablaze with color throughout the year. The Friends of Shore Acres host open house events in the Garden House periodically throughout the year. Events still to come this year include Rose Sunday on Father's Day in June, Dahlia Day in September, Orchids "Gems of the Rain Forest" in October and the annual Holiday Lights and Open House from Thanksgiving Day to the Sunday after New Year's Day.

World File Photo

8. Give dad a rose for Father's Day.



The Friends of Shore Acres hosts Rose Sunday on Father's Day, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shore Acres State Park, located south of Charleston on Cape Arago Highway.

In the formal garden, rose experts will be available to answer questions. The South Coast Woodcarvers will have a display in the Garden House and refreshments will be served by the Friends of Shore Acres.

Cost is \$3 parking fee or free with an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Annual Parking Permit, Coastal Passport or current campground receipt. Sponsored by Friends of Shore Acres in partnership with Shore Acres State Park.

On the Net:

Shore Acres State Park:

http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_97.php

Date should be June 15.



Summer and Fall Events at Shore Acres

Board Meeting June 10, 2003 - BLM Facility

President Gregg Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Directors Present: David and Shirley Bridgham, Kenn and Betty Kennedy, Sharon Kolkhorst, Terry Richards, and Barbara Taylor. **Directors Absent:** Lou Kolkhorst, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Kathi and Dennis Netter, Robynn Reed, Timm Slater, Carl Siminow and Ralph Thomas. **Guest:** Larry Becker, OPRD

Minutes: MSP

Financial Report: \$40,964.79

The budget committee (Barb Taylor, Gregg Nelson, David and Shirley Bridgham, Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst) will meet before the end of June.

Information & Gift Center (IGC): Sharon Kolkhorst reported IGC sales for May, 2003 were up 5.7% for the month and 9.35% for the year. Park Pass sales are down 50%, but it may be that lots of folks bought the two-year pass last year. Sharon passed around the article in RSVP featuring the Shore Acres Gift Shop.

State Parks Report: Larry Becker, OPRD reported that the contractor has started framing the walls of the new Information and Gift Shop, with the project slightly behind schedule. The sign is posted concerning the funding for the new building coming from Lottery dollars and contributions from Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Website Update: Lou asked Shirley to talk to Roger about adding another page for photos. The website has been updated and includes the dates for upcoming events.

Old Business: State Parks Day went well. Chuck Lembke served cookies and punch. Barb Taylor and Linda Dorman worked the morning shift in the gift shop, with the Kennedy's taking care of the afternoon. Weather was nice. The Kennedy's will take care of refreshments on Rose Sunday, June 15th and volunteers for the music concert on July 18th are set.

New Business: David Bridgham is presenting a program on the holiday lights to the Optimists Club on June 11th at the Red Lion Inn. It was decided to skip a Friends' meeting in July. The next meeting - August 12. President Nelson adjourned the board meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Kenn Kennedy, Secretary



NEW BUILDING TAKING SHAPE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 15 - ROSE SUNDAY / FATHER'S DAY

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

JULY 18 - OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL GARDEN CONCERT

12:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 27 - DAHLIA DAY

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

OCTOBER 4 - ORCHID DAY

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

NOVEMBER 27 - JANUARY 4, 2004

17TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS & OPEN HOUSE AT SHORE ACRES

4:00 - 10:00 PM EVERY NIGHT

State Park Fees Proposed – Summer of 2003

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 20, 2003



State parks propose fee additions

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department wants to expand its state park day-use fee program and will take comments on the proposal at a series of meetings beginning June 25 in Salem. The fee increases would be phased in at 24 locations that do not now require them.

Fees are charged now for permits at 26 of the 173 state parks with day-use areas. Permits cost \$3 daily, \$25 for a 12-month pass or \$40 for a 24-month pass.

Meetings will be held at eight locations in the state, including:

■ Wednesday, July 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., council chambers, city hall, 500 Central Ave., Coos Bay; and

■ Thursday, July 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., council chambers, city hall, 29592 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach.



A Powerful Partnership Since 1986



South Coast parks that would become fee regulated on Oct. 1 include:

- Beverly Beach State Park;
- Bullards Beach State Park, two miles north of Bandon;
- Cape Blanco State Park, nine miles north of Port Orford;
- Harris Beach State Recreation Area in Brookings;
- Jessie Honeyman State Park (East Woahink day-use area);
- Sunset Bay State Park, 12 miles southwest of Coos Bay; and
- William M. Tugman State Park, eight miles south of Reedsport.

The state would add 12 more locations in the Willamette Valley and Eastern Oregon to the fee regulations in October 2005.

State Parks Assistant Director Tim Wood said, in a press release, the state is expanding the program to provide similar levels of services or amenities among parks. He added that these parks also incur significant maintenance costs.

According to Wood, the cost of maintaining Oregon's state park day-use areas exceeds \$28 million each biennium.

The expansion, Wood added, is the first significant one since 1994 when OPRD began requiring day-use permits at 24 parks on a year-round basis.

People may comment on the proposed changes by attending the meetings, or by writing to OPRD, 1115 Commercial St. NE, Salem Ore. 97301-1002, Attn: Colleen Rogers. They also can comment via the Internet at <http://www.oregonstateparks.org/feedback.php>.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 24, 2003

State parks looks to visitors' pockets for more funding

PORTLAND (AP) — The state Parks and Recreation Commission has proposed an expansion of its fee program at state parks.

The \$3 day-use fee has been in place in 26 of the state's 173 day-use parks since 1994. Now the state wants to add another 24 to the list. It would apply to motorists, not bicyclists or those who walk into the park.

Parks department administrators project a revenue shortage in the next 10 years and say charging fees now would help offset it. Money from the fees would be used for maintenance, electricity and law enforcement.

"This is not a valid rationale for user fees, but across America it's clear everyone is charging fees," said John Blackwell, vice chairman of the parks commission, which sets policy for the department. "There are administrative fees involved in using facilities. Clearly the trend is there. It's more than a trend. That implementation is happening."

Before 1994, some parks had charged a seasonal day-use fee. Those parks were chosen because they were the largest in the state, generally attracting the most visitors, said Richard Walkoski, a parks department spokesman. He said the criteria for adding day-use fees at parks have become more detailed. The length of time visitors stay at the park, how developed the park is and the number of visitors are considered.

Nik Blosser, a parks commissioner, said he'd rather wait and see what the economy does before adding the fees.

Paying to play on the South Coast?

Visitors to several South Coast parks would pay to play starting Oct. 1, if the state adopts proposed fee hikes. The parks include:

Sunset Bay State Park, Bullards Beach State Park, two miles north of Bandon; Cape Blanco State Park, nine miles north of Port Orford; Harris Beach State Recreation Area in Brookings; Jessie Honeyman State Park (East Woahink day-use area); and William M. Tugman State Park near Lakeside.

"We're not in fabulous shape, but we're in decent shape," he said about the parks and recreation budget.

In 1998, voters approved Measure 66, which set aside some state lottery profits to keep parks and beaches clean and to restore salmon habitats.

"The public is paying for a decent parks systems through their support of Measure 66," Blosser said. "That's something they've chosen to do, and the parks system has done a good job of respecting that."

But Blackwell said that money hasn't always been enough.

The first of eight public hearings on the fee proposal begins Wednesday at the parks department's headquarters in Salem. Commissioners will vote on the fees in September.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - June 25, 2003

EDITORIAL

If no taxes and no fees, then what?

Oregonians who have charged state government is too income-tax dependent likely will cheer a move by state parks to offset a forecasted revenue shortage.

However others in the state, including South Coast residents, may not be so supportive.

At issue is a proposal by the State Parks and Recreation Commission to expand its fee program — a \$3 day-

use fee that has been in place in 26 state parks for almost a decade. The commission wants to extend the fee, which applies to motorists and not bikers or those who walk into parks, to an additional 24 parks.

The plans call for fees to be charged at a half-dozen parks on the South Coast: Sunset Bay State Park, Charleston; Bullards Beach, Bandon; Cape Blanco, Port Orford; Harris Beach State Recreation Area, Brookings; East Woahink day-use area at Jessie Honeyman State Park, Florence; and Tugman State Park near Lakeside.

State park officials say requiring day-use fees at more parks will provide needed funding for park maintenance, electricity and law enforcement and will help offset a projected funding slump. But critics say the state can wait a while to see if the additional funding really is needed.

Those opposing viewpoints are at the crux of the state's financial dilemma: how to find revenue to pay for state services and upkeep without asking residents to foot the bill. Throughout the current budget problems, Oregonians have been adamant in their determination to avoid any new taxes. Will many of those same residents now tell state parks officials they won't accept fees, either? And if so, where do they expect the state to find necessary funding in the future? The Parks Commission will be holding meetings statewide to listen to the opinions of state residents.

If the expanded fee schedule is adopted, it will mark the end of an era for South Coast residents accustomed to freely enjoying an outing at the beach or a lake. For many, it also will mark the dawning of the realization that maintaining Oregon's wealth of state parks costs money — and that they'll literally get what they pay for.

■ Local hearings:

July 9, city hall, Coos Bay; July 17, city hall, Gold Beach; each from 7 to 9 p.m.

EDITORIAL

Parks already profit locally

Oregonians concerned about access to Oregon's beaches and parks could take a lesson from some South Coast residents.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to add 24 facilities to its day-use system. One-quarter of those are South Coast recreational spots: Bullards Beach, Cape Blanco, Harris Beach, Jessie Honeyman, Sunset Bay and William Tugman state parks. Naturally that makes this proposal interesting to local residents and dozens of them turned out Wednesday night. And the great majority of them told the parks department, "We don't want to pay to play."

This is a hot-button issue. Especially in this region, with its high unemployment and decades-long economic slump, it's asking a lot to expect residents to pay to beachcomb, frolic in the sand and watch the breakers.

It's not that locals don't understand the fiscal realities of maintaining Oregon's state parks. People in Coos and Curry counties understand it takes money to keep these — that's why more than 60 percent of them voted in 1998 to dedicate some Lottery funding to parks. That's money that had been utilized for economic development — nowhere more badly needed than here — so in a real way, that affirmation was a sacrifice for South Coast voters.

While the funding cloak of the parks department doesn't receive any general fund dollars, it's hardly threadbare, with a budget of almost \$129 million. If more money is needed, state parks officials should look to the Legislature, which mandates expenditures of millions of parks dollars. Perhaps the Legislature should put on hold the directive that \$2 million per year be spent on parks acquisition — and offset parks maintenance costs, instead.

But it wasn't so much what the people had to say at the Coos Bay meeting that's most impressive — it's how they said it. Instead of ranting and railing, instead of the "us-against-them" diatribes that frequently predominate any public hearing on spending, the South Coast residents shared their opinions with dignity and understanding.

It's clear South Coast residents love their parks and respect the people who caretake them. And South Coast residents have demonstrated that support with more than courtesy and lottery revenues. They have volunteered thousands of hours annually to improving the parks in this region, in addition to greeting and educating tourists.

That's quite a contribution and they shouldn't be expected to pay more.



South Coast
Group plans low-kill animal shelter, A3
Sports
Nash to be named Portland GM, B1

Coos Bay council to fight park fees

By **ANDREW SIROCCI**
Staff Writer

Bonnie Koreiva added one more big name to the list of those opposing day-use fees at Sunset Bay State Park: the Coos Bay City Council.

Koreiva, a Bay Area resident since 1953, stood before the council Tuesday night and successfully lobbied the city to issue a letter opposing a \$3 parking fee to the state legislature and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The timing of the fees is all wrong, she told the council. The area's high unemployment, hunger rate and lack of money means that any fee at Sunset Bay State Park will limit local residents' access to one of the most popular beaches in Coos County.

"Sunset Bay was very important because you could get there easily, you

could bring the children, you could have a picnic," Koreiva said following her presentation.

"I think this is a very bad time to put a fee on our town beach," she said.

A week ago, approximately 55 people attended a public hearing held by OPRD regarding fees at 24 state parks. The vast majority of those attending opposed the fees but some also said OPRD made a good case for its need.

Business people at the hearing said they worried the fees would harm tourism traffic. Others simply said the fees would harm local residents who would find it more difficult to afford one of the few free pastimes available in the area.

On Tuesday night, the council found little to dispute with Koreiva or any other opponent.

"I think it's important too," said

Councilor Jeff McKeown, echoing Koreiva's comments.

"I just agree with Bonnie 100 percent," said Councilor Anna Marie Larson.

Mayor Joe Benetti said the city will send its letter to the city of North Bend asking for that council to join the opposition.

OPRD is proposing adding 12 parks to its existing day-use fee system by Oct. 1 and adding another 12 parks to the list by 2005. Among the first 12 parks that would be added are five from Brookings to Reedsport: Harris Beach, Cape Blanco, Bullards Beach, Sunset Bay and William M. Tugman state parks.

The department hopes to generate about \$1.4 million from the fees, once all 24 parks are added to the list.

The agency, which receives no money from the state's general fund but operates largely on grants and Lottery revenues, is

"
I remember that the City Council here was instrumental in keeping the beach at Sunset as our town beach.

Bay Area resident Bonnie Koreiva

"
not operating at a deficit but projects a declining stream of funds in the upcoming years.

OPRD has said that a \$3 fee at Sunset is expected to generate about \$80,000 per biennium, almost enough to make the park self-sustaining. The park, which includes two rest rooms, 38 picnic tables and an amphitheater, costs OPRD about \$90,000

per biennium to maintain and operate.

The seven-member OPRD commission, appointed by the governor, will decide whether to implement the fees during a September meeting. Before that decision is made, however, Koreiva and opponents hope to put enough pressure on OPRD to lift Sunset Bay from the day-use fee list.

It's happened before. About a decade ago, Koreiva remembered, OPRD proposed issuing similar fees at Sunset Bay State Park and the city fought the charge. A similar effort might

See Day-use, Page A8



**A Powerful Partnership
Since 1986**

Residents speak out on possibility of park fees

Day-use from Page A1

make a difference again, Koreiva hopes.

"I remember that the City Council here was instrumental in keeping the beach at Sunset as our town beach," she said.

Daughter M.J. Koreiva, a Coos Bay councilor in the 1970s, flanked her mother following the meeting and agreed that Sunset has a special place

in South Coast hearts and should be kept open, free of charge.

"Sunset, emotionally, feels like it is our town beach," she said. "Just about everyone I know that grew up here has pictures with their kids out at Sunset Bay."

On the Net:
<http://www.oregonstateparks.org>

New 32'x 48' Information & Gift Center Taking Shape

THE FINANCING FOR THIS PROJECT CAME FROM LOTTO PROCEEDS PLUS FUNDS FROM FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC.

**THE FRIENDS' FUNDS COME FROM SUPPORT OF THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND
REVENUE FROM SALES IN THE ALL-VOLUNTEER INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER.**

As of June 7, the foundation walls and wiring conduits were in place. The foundation walls were filled with sand in preparation of the floor being poured over the heating system. The deck on the garden side of the Info and Gift Center had been framed. The layout of the entry and deck to front of the IGC had been framed. Things were progressing rapidly, much to the fascination of park visitors. Next came the windows, the roof, and the dormers. After that, the columns, the new front entry concrete, and the framing of the gazebo roof.



. . . And Progressing Nicely . . .

FROM THE BOARD MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2003 - "STATE PARKS REPORT: LARRY BECKER, OPRD REPORTED THAT THE INFORMATION AND GIFT CENTER IS COMING ALONG NICELY. ROOF AND WINDOWS ARE DONE; SHAKE SIDING WILL BE GOING ON NEXT WEEK AS WELL AS THE INSULATION AND SHEET ROCK. COMPLETION STILL LOOKING LIKE END OF SEPTEMBER."



**MORE STORY AND PHOTOS IN ALBUM #17:
SEPTEMBER 1, 2003 - AUGUST 31, 2004**



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 17:

Annual Year - September 1, 2003 - August 31, 2004

Album 16 - Completed April 11, 2020

Book and PDF Versions

CONTENT SOURCES - FRIENDS' MINUTES, PHOTOS,
PUBLICITY CLIPPINGS, FRIENDS' JOURNALS

More Information:

www.shoreacres.net – Journal/Newsletters