



Shore Acres State Park
Before Friends - 1986



Shirley Bridgham

How Friends of Shore Acres Happened

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

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

Aerial and Gardens — 1986



Shirley Bridgham



Shirley Bridgham

About the Friends' Albums

By Shirley Bridgham - 2014

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

Aerials - 1986



Ward Robertson

Note from Shirley Bridgham - September 2014



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

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

1st Birthday - Dec. 4, 1987

1st Christmas Lights - Dec. 11, 1987

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

2nd Birthday - Dec. 4, 1988

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

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

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

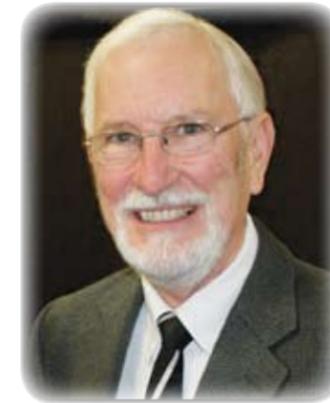
All these years, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has been truly blessed to remain an all-volunteer organization. It has made it possible to accomplish so many interpretive and physical development projects at Shore Acres. Visit our Information & Gift Center and pick up one of our membership brochures and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

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

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

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

Note from David Bridgham - September 2014



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Founded December 4, 1986



*“THE PURPOSE OF FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC
IS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERPRETIVE, EDUCATIONAL,
AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WITH
SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT.”*

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 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.

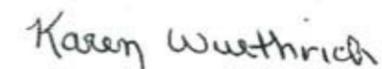
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

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, 2007 - August 31, 2008

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Annual Meeting Highlights September 11, 2007 - Shore Acres Garden House

ANNUAL MEETING - MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: President David Bridgham called the annual meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David and Shirley Bridgham, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst, Timm Slater, Barb Taylor, Joan Clifton, Vee Elliott, Jack Gilham, Kathi Netter, Robynn Reed.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kenn and Betty Kennedy, Dennis Netter, Carl Siminow.

GUESTS: Larry Becker, Preson Phillips, OPRD

Introductions: Preson Phillips was introduced to the Friends. He is the new assistant manager for Sunset Bay and is living in the residence at Shore Acres with his wife Lisa and their daughter.

REMARKS: David reviewed a list of 15 achievements accomplished by the Friends during the past year. All present received a copy of the impressive list.

NOMINATIONS: Shirley presented the nominations report for the election of the Board of Directors. Nominated were Merry Vee Elliott, Kenn Kennedy, Lou Kolkhorst, and Kathi & Dennis Netter (sharing one position); each to serve three (3) years, with terms expiring in September, 2010. MSP to accept and elect the Directors as presented.

ADJOURNMENT: The annual meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM, followed by a social break for ice cream sundaes.

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES INC. ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 - SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM

FRIENDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS SEPTEMBER 2006 - AUGUST 2007

1. Reprinted Shore Acres History/Friends Milestones Membership brochure.
2. Web site maintained - Shirley, Lou
3. Produced 2008 Rose card for rose brochure
4. Coos County Radio Club had a Special Events Station in the Observation Building.
5. Successful 20th annual Holiday Lights season in 2006 with an est. 45,792 visitors (every state but Delaware)
6. Winter Journal (second full color) sent to 650 people on the Friends' mailing list: includes members, financial supporters, and volunteers
7. Successful annual flower day events and music festival concert
8. Provided dollars for new plants and plant signs
9. Reprinted Simpson Reef brochure
10. Reprinted Sunset Bay Special Places brochure
11. New cash register system for Information & Gift Center
12. Bronze plaque "Gifts and Memorials" ordered (delivery - Sept. 14, 2007)
13. Brochure rack built near Information & Gift Center
14. Information & Gift Center had a banner year
15. Developed plan and budget for projects to be completed by June 30, 2008 (see budget)
 - Booster Pump for water system
 - Eagle Scout Path Project
 - Electrical projects
 - Equipment
 - Garden House Improvements
 - Highway sign
 - Interpretive panels for Observation Building
 - Metal storage building
 - Irrigation well
 - Night lights and flag lights
 - Web cam/Internet (Satellite service)
- 16) Balance Sheet July 31, 2007 - \$172,037.94
- 17) First quarter report (July -Sept) at Board Meeting, Oct. 9, 2007



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Board Meeting Highlights September 11, 2007 - Shore Acres Garden House

BOARD MEETING - MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The September Board meeting was called to order by President David Bridgham at 7:30 PM.

Directors Present and Absent: Same as for the annual meeting as above.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The Nominations Coordinator (Shirley) presented the following slate of officers to serve for one year beginning September, 2007: (with changes reflected in the President and President Elect positions)

President: Timm Slater; President Elect: Robynn Reed; Secretary: Kathi (and Dennis) Netter; Treasurer: Barb Taylor - MSP - Unanimous

David passed the gavel to incoming President Timm Slater, who conducted the remainder of the meeting.

MINUTES: MSP to approve minutes of August 14, 2007 meeting with a clarification of the financial report balance.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Barb Taylor – Total Checking / Savings \$163,184.26

INFORMATION AND GIFT CENTER (IGC): Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst
Lou Kolkhorst submitted a report on the Information and Gift Center that shows an increase of 26% over last year's figures for the same period. 24 Park passes were sold in August (Complete report filed with minutes). Lou and Sharon have put together a gift basket (including OPRD belt buckles) for the upcoming OPRD conference. "Stranger in the Woods" Christmas cards will be available in the IGC again this year.

STATE PARKS REPORT: Larry Becker

- Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board system does not produce enough volume/pressure for the newly installed booster system work. Staff is working on solutions.
- Flag pole is going up. (Was delayed due to work on manager's house.)
- Windows for Garden House: evidence suggests the current windows are not originals, therefore replacement requirements may not be as strict.
- 5-panel doors are to be ordered for replacements.



- Road work will occur on November 23rd. Discussions with ODOT ended with an agreement that they would provide an overlay, but that future maintenance is the responsibility of the park.
- Ellie announced a Volunteer Recognition luncheon (catered by the Coach House) will be held Thursday, September 20th at the Garden House. Invitations have all been mailed.
- Ellie has been working on a main data base (Hub) which coordinates information state-wide. It will enhance record-keeping abilities (such as routine maintenance reports).
- Ellie reports that the mouse population in the Garden House is down.
- The boxwoods around the park are due for replacement and will be implemented over time.

OLD BUSINESS: Production Projects & web site: Shirley reports the web site is well-maintained and receives a lot of hits. A DVD label maker has been made available for short term use.

Dahlia Day (Sept. 22) and Orchid Day (Sept. 29): Coverage has been arranged.

Holiday Lights: New lights have arrived (LED snowflakes). Will also be for sale in the IGC. Robynn Reed announced the theme for the Garden House will be "The World Traveler". She brought a few items to be displayed, including a "wagon train" doll and two articulated wooden monkeys. So-o-o cute! Shutter Creek inmates will again be helping with set-up. Shirley reports there continues to be a waiting list for decorating trees and hosting nights, with only a few willing to take a "leave of absence" from their designated areas. Kathi Netter reported the "Secret Order of the Cider Spice Makers" will be gathering at her house on Saturday, October 20th from 10 AM to noon to produce this season's supply of the Garden House's famous recipe. Kathi will invite past members to participate. Call her at 269-7187 and leave a message if you are interested. (She is out of town until October 16th)

NEW BUSINESS: None or already discussed in Old Business. President Timm Slater may elect to combine these two categories.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Proud Grandpa David Bridgham announced that his photogenic granddaughter, Avery will be appearing on the cover of American Baby magazine after being voted the winner over 80,000 other contestants. Wow!

Next Board Meeting: Tues., Oct. 9, 2007 – North Bend Public Library

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Netter, Secretary

. . . Holiday Lights Coming Soon . . .

21ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2007 - PROGRESS REPORT

1. Lights plan is done except for a few modifications.
2. Big expansion of L.E.D. lights including some new styles, ordered in March. Most of the order is in and unpacked, thanks to Joan Clifton and Maxine Johannesen.
3. ORCA whale re-done on new net - David, Jack, Joan
4. Gray whale has been re-painted and is being re-done in L.E.D. rope lighting. - Shirley, David, Jack, Joan
5. L.E.D. lights also will be sold in the Information & Gift Center.
6. Holiday Lights brochures produced.
7. Parking coupons printed.
8. Lights pledge campaign packets mailed; as of Sept. 11 we have received 47 pledges for a total of \$6,787.50 [Note: same time in 2006 - 48 pledges for \$6,075]
9. Thank-you cards, posters, and parking coupons mailed to lights pledge contributors.
10. Fred Meyer request for apple juice and discounts on cookies and lemonade mailed (acknowledged but not granted to date).
11. Holiday poster created; copies made at South Coast Printing; mailed brochures and holiday posters to south coast visitor centers
12. B&B tickets printed and at the IGC.
13. Holiday Buttons have been made and delivered by Gary and Andrea Manwill, park hosts.
14. Kathi Netter is going to coordinate the cider spice production.
15. Notices to be e-mailed to tree decorators and lights stringers
16. Lights setup starts in October.
17. Host schedule is full with sign-up forms to be e-mailed to teams.
18. **NOTE: No preview night**
19. **NOTE: We will not be open New Year's Day night;**
Display runs from Nov. 22 thru Dec. 31.



21st Annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park
a "community tradition" since 1987

More than **250,000 Lights** Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve, Nov. 22 - Dec. 31, 2007
4-10 PM OPEN HOUSE, Hot apple cider, coffee, punch, cookies!

Win the Ultimate B&B
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 (150 Tickets Available.)
Drawing at 9 PM Christmas
Need not be present to win.
Tickets- Friends' Info & Gift Center
541-888-2472
1-866-888-6100

Shore Acres "Wave" - Spectacular in December
Luis Velazquez

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

. . . But First, OPRD Recognizes Volunteers . . .

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

By Ellie Kinney-Martial, Park Ranger and Friends' Board Member

Approximately 100 volunteers gathered at Shore Acres on September 20th for an OPRD sponsored volunteer appreciation luncheon.

The garden was a beautiful setting to honor the many people who have volunteered their time and energy at Sunset Bay, Shore Acres, Simpson Reef and Cape Arago.

Those attending the event included Friends of Shore Acres board members, light stringers and gift shop volunteers, The Gorse Society rose garden volunteers, SEA docent volunteers, Sunset Bay evening program presenters and park hosts.

Special thanks go out to Jim and Carole Lorenz of The Coach House Restaurant and to Dave Hannah of Big Tent Rents and Events for their generous donations that helped make this garden luncheon possible.

And many special thanks to the volunteers, who have given so much in so many ways to our parks. ■



A BEAUTIFUL SETTING FOR A PICNIC!



Andy LaTomme, Southwestern Area Manager, OPRD, shared his appreciation for the volunteer efforts that "make a difference" in the Oregon State Parks.



FRIENDS' BOARD MEMBER BETTY KENNEDY WELCOMES PRESON PHILLIPS TO SHORE ACRES.



FRIENDS' PRESIDENT-ELECT ROBYNN REED AND LONG-TIME FRIENDS' VOLUNTEER MAXINE JOHANNESSEN



VOLUNTEERS (SEATED) VISIT WITH (L-R STANDING) PRESON PHILLIPS-PARK MGR, SUNSET BAY MGMT UNIT; LOU KOLKHORST-FRIENDS' INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER CO-MANAGER; AND LARRY BECKER-ASST. MGR. AREA 4 SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

. . . Next, It's Setup Time . . .



DAVE HANNAH DELIVERS THE CHRISTMAS TREES THAT HE DONATES FOR GROUPS TO DECORATE.



EDITH FORKNER AND DAVID FORKNER



DAVID BARNHART COMES FROM GLENEDEN BEACH TO HELP



DELL AND ROBERTA WILLIS

. . . Just Some of the “More than 1,500” Volunteers . . .



DAVID BRIDGHAM (L) HANDS LIGHTS TO NATE MCCORMICK, ONE OF THE FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO GET ON THE ROOF OF THE GARDEN HOUSE.



COOS BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS (L-R) MATT MAGILL, CORY EVERTTS, NATE MCCORMIC, MIKE WHITE, STEPHANIE YOUNG, AND BEN ROLICHECK PUT THE LIGHTS ON THE GARDEN HOUSE.



MEMBERS OF THE HARLEY OWNERS GROUP DECORATE THEIR TREE.



LEAPING FROG DISPLAY DESIGNED BY DON MCMICHAEL AND INSTALLED BY JACK GILHAM, DELL WILLIS AND DAVID BRIDGHAM

. . . So Many Dedicated Volunteers . . .



KATHY METZGER



SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS



(L-R) MARION BABCOCK AND KATHE LEAF



JACK GILHAM AND JOAN CLIFTON

. . . Inside and Out . . .



ROBYNN REED IS IN CHARGE OF DECORATING THE GARDEN HOUSE



MAXINE JOHANNESSEN



MAXINE JOHANNESSEN AND JOAN CLIFTON GET THE TRADITIONAL LUNCH OF HOT DOGS AND WENDY'S CHILI READY FOR THE VOLUNTEERS.



MAXINE RINGS THE COLORFUL "LUNCH" BELL MADE BY JACK GILHAM

. . . Individuals and Groups . . .



DELL WILLIS (ON LADDER) GETS HELP FROM DAVID BARNHART, WHO TRAVELS EACH WEEKEND FROM GLENEDEN BEACH TO HELP SET UP THE LIGHTS DISPLAY.



LONG TIME VOLUNTEER MIKE PERKINS IS READY TO HELP!



BAY AREA OPTIMISTS DECORATE THE "UPPER POND LAWN" AREA OF THE GARDENS. (BACK L-R) CLARE GOVE, DAN SMITH, JIM JOHNSON, MARTY KULICK, HOWARD SWICK, DON HARMIS (FRONT L-R TYLER SUMA AND PAM WILSON



ROTARIANS DAN AND LYNDA KRISTOFFERSON HELP YOUNG VOLUNTEERS.

Getting ready at Shore Acres



World Photos by Madeline Steege

Shore Acres State Park south of Charleston is starting to look a lot like Christmas as trees are decorated in all sorts of different themes on Saturday. This one is being decorated by the Pacific Coast Corvette Club members with bells and bows plus flags from car races.



Men from the Coos Bay Fire Department hang lights on the house at Shore Acres State Park on Saturday. From left, Ben Rollicheck, Nate McCormick and Dean Martin decorated the house as other volunteers strung lights over every bush and rock.

OUT & ABOUT



Ready to dazzle

Inside the gardener's house at Shore Acres State Park, the living room is aglow with a white Christmas tree decked in blue lights. Handmade fish ornaments accented with white sea stars add to the ornamentation. The tree, along with the Shore Acres Holiday Lights Display, opens Thanksgiving day.

World Photo by Madeline Steege

HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN OREGON'S BAY AREA PLAYGROUND

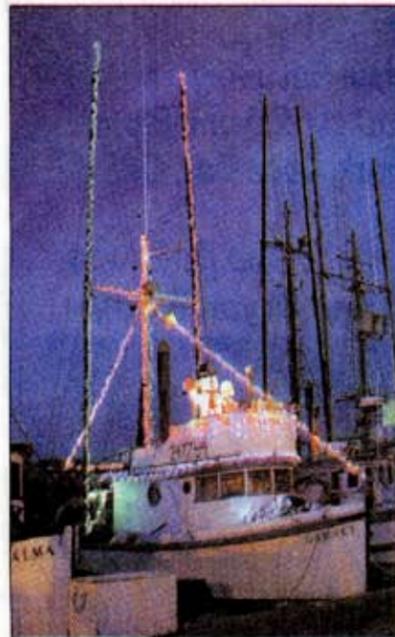
Charleston & Empire

Empire and Charleston

The perfect place for an Oregon Coast Holiday Adventure

Whether it is time for a winter weekend getaway or some unique holiday shopping it is time to head beyond the "Y". The empire district begins just west of the "y" on Newmark Ave. and continues south along Cape Arago highway through Charleston. This ever changing and constantly bustling area of Coos County is worth the visit, no matter what season.

The Charleston and Empire areas have become home to a large array of RV Parks, several motels, vacation rentals, some of the finest restaurants in Coos County, grocery stores, seafood shops, marine supply and



repair operations, and some of the greatest and most unique gift stores on the Oregon Coast. With over 100 shops and services available, there is no one on your holiday list that you couldn't find something for!

Of course no holiday season would be complete without visiting the great display of holiday lights at Shore Acres. So when you are headed out for a little holiday shopping, come by, shop, eat, see the beauty and enjoy what Oregon's bay area playground really has to offer...You'll be amazed!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

21ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Shore Acres State Park

Nov. 22nd - Dec. 31st

OPEN HOUSE

SOUTH SLOUGH RESERVE

Nov. 23rd

OPEN HOUSE

KINNEE'S GGIFTS-N-SHELLS

Nov. 23rd - Nov. 25th

OPEN HOUSE

CHARLEYTOWN MARKETPLACE

Dec. 1st

HOLIDAY TRAIN DISPLAY

CHARLESTON RURAL FIRE DEPT.

Nov. 26th - Dec. 24th

21st annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park

Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve

250,000 Lights - Walk-thru Display & Open House

Friendly volunteer hosts from many organizations, businesses and the Friends of Shore Acres will be serving hot cider, cookies, punch and coffee from 4-10pm every night including Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. Choirs, carolers and bands will offer entertainment in the performance pavilion. The Information and Gift Center, reminiscent of L. J. Simpson's original mansion, will be open every night.

Exciting holiday gifts and raffle tickets for the Ultimate Bed and Breakfast are available in the Friends of Shore Acres Information and Gift Center. The Bed & Breakfast prize is an overnight stay for two adults in the Garden House on New Year's Eve with a special catered breakfast the next morning. Tickets are \$10 each (only 150 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 open Garden House drew 9,000 visitors. Now, with more than a quarter million lights - both holiday and landscaping - dozens of Christmas trees, lighted sculptures, a performance pavilion, and the beautifully decorated garden house attract 40,000-55,000 visitors each season. This year's display features a huge increase in L.E.D. lighting.

Shore Acres State Park is 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend, Oregon. Admission is a parking fee of \$3 per vehicle or a current OPRD Annual Parking Permit or Coastal Passport or current state park campground receipt. For more information call: Bridgman's at 541-756-5401, Shore Acres State Park 541-888-3732, or Bay Area Chamber of Commerce 1-800-824-8486 or 541-269-0215. Or visit the Friends' web site: www.shoreacres.net



World Photo by Lou Sennick

After many volunteer hours over the past few weeks, the annual Christmas light show at Shore Acres State Park is ready. More than 250,000 lights will fill the gardens with color.

Light up the night

■ **Shore Acres:** Display runs through New Year's Eve.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

If you missed the opening display on Thanksgiving night, you still have more than a month to visit the 21st-annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park. The celebration will continue to welcome guests through New Year's Eve to a near-blinding display of more than a quarter-million lights, holiday music and merriment.

The community tradition, which runs from 4 to 10 p.m. nightly through Dec. 31, includes a walk-through light display featuring light sculptures of pelicans, puffins, jellyfish, Shore Acres' cranes, a leaping orca, a spouting gray whale, flowers, playful sea lions and other glowing creatures; a decorated garden house where visitors can snack on cookies and sip warm drinks and live music.

Founded in 1987 by the Friends of Shore Acres, which continues to carry the event today, Holiday Lights at Shore Acres began with 6,000 lights and one Christmas tree. It drew nearly 9,000 visitors. Now, the spectacle brings in 40,000 to 50,000 people each sea-

son. Last year, about 46,000 people viewed the lights display, according to the group's Web site.

Entertainment will be a nightly feature at the Shore Acres pavilion, where carolers, bands and assorted musicians will help visitors get into the holiday spirit.

Dino Coolen, the Holiday Lights entertainment coordinator who shares his duties with his wife, Cindy, said 32 groups, including high school bands, church choruses and local carolers will be performing holiday music from Thanksgiving Day to New Year's Eve. Some evenings will have as many as four groups entertaining.

"Some days are blank, so far, but we are hoping to fill those up," Coolen said.

Entertainers include trumpet player Charles Davison, who will be playing from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. on Nov. 27; Undivided Heart, a vocal trio from Lincoln City that performs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 1; the Gold Pannies of the Riverboat Revue, a group of carolers from Bandon that will sing in colorful costumes from 7 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 6; the Cape Blanco Ringers-English Handbell Choir, a group from Port Orford who will chime from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 8; and the Bay Area Concert Band, an instrumental group from Coos Bay, that will play from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on

See Lights, Page A10

Shore Acres acts

The following is a list of performances scheduled for the 21st-annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston. The event began on Thanksgiving evening and runs from 4 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 31. All performances are at the pavilion.

- Nov. 27. Charles Davison, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.
- Nov. 30. Christ Lutheran Church and school, 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 1. First Presbyterian Church-Joy Ensemble, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1. Undivided Heart, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2. First Presbyterian Church of North Bend, 7 to 8 p.m.
- Dec. 4. Gold Coast Barbershop Chorus, 7 to 8 p.m.
- Dec. 5. North Bend United Methodist Church Choir, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6. Gold Pannies of the Riverboat Revue, 7 to 8 p.m.

See Schedule, Page A10



LIGHTS

Music adds to the experience

Continued from Page A1

Dec. 13.

Cindy Coolen said the music transforms the experience into a richer holiday event.

"There is a variety of things for them to do once they come out. To me, it just adds to the whole atmosphere," Coolen said. "It's definitely worth going to see."

She said park guests also will be able to visit the park's gift shop and can meet members from a variety of community organizations who will host the event and be on hand to answer questions about the holiday lights.

Hosts include Oregon Coast Community Action, the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary, the Bay Area Bonsai Society, Cutting Edge Hair Designs, North Bend Medical Centers, Marshfield Student Council, South Coast Singles, the South Coast Cruisers Car Club and the Friends of Shore Acres, among others.

Admission is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. For more information about Holiday Lights, those interested can call Shore Acres at 888-3732 or visit <http://www.shoreacres.net>.

SCHEDULE

Continued from Page A1

- Dec. 8. Cape Blanco Ringers-English Handbell Choir, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9. Centro de fe Coquille, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9. Magnificent Seven Tuba Group, 7 to 8 p.m.
- Dec. 10. Blossom Gulch fourth-grade students, 4 to 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10. Myrtle Point High School, 7 to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12. Miss Coos County contestants, 5:30 to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 12. North Bend High School Jazz Choir, 6:30 to 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12. North Bend High School French Students & Friends, 7 to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12. Frozen Chosen (Emmanuel Episcopal Church), 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13. Bay Area Concert Band, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14. Lighthouse School, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.
- Dec. 14. Millicoma Mustangs, 7 to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14. Bible Baptist Church Choir (Coquille), 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15. Kingsview Christian School, 5 to 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15. South Coast Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Dec. 18. Pacific Community Church, 7 to 8 pm.
- Dec. 19. Bay Area Foursquare Church, 7 to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21. St. Monica Catholic Church choir, 5 to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 22. Gary Brink Family and Friends, 4 to 9 p.m.
- Dec. 23. Childs Family, 7 to 8 p.m.

. . . Entertainment and Hospitality . . .



CHARLES DAVISON PLAYS HIS TRUMPET IN THE PAVILION.



HOT CIDER, PUNCH, COFFEE AND COOKIES ARE READY!



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. . . L.E.D. Lights Add Sparkle . . .



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GARDEN HOUSE DECORATING IS COORDINATED BY ROBYNN REED. EACH YEAR A TRADITIONAL THEME IS HIGHLIGHTED WITH INNOVATIVE TOUCHES AND SURPRISES. FOR 2007 IT WAS THE BRILLIANT BLUE L.E.D. STAR LIGHTS IN GARLANDS AND ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE.



BRILLIANT L.E.D. LIGHTS AND LANDSCAPE LIGHTS



JOAN CLIFTON AND JACK GILHAM CREATED L.E.D. .GOLD FLOWERS (AND RED), WITH PLANS TO MAKE MORE IN 2008.

. . . Friends' Information & Gift Center – Ready . . .

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The Information & Gift Center has books on gardening, local history of the area and the gardens, children's books, cook books, birds and animals and more; VHS tapes & DVDs on Shore Acres history and the gardens, Oregon lighthouses and covered bridges; screen savers on Shore Acres Gardens, holiday lights, and lighthouses; children's and ladies T-shirts, adult's jackets and sweatshirts, barbecue aprons, baseball style caps; silver and wildflower jewelry; place mats, soap, pictures, art, postcards, note cards, calendars, ship models, science kits, thermometers, kaleidoscopes, playing cards, birds and animals with authentic sounds approved by Audubon. Check out our penny smasher machine (with 4 designs) and other new items such as water fountains, socks, candy bars and gold ornaments.

If you want to volunteer, please check at the Center or call 888-2472 or call volunteer coordinators: Betty Kennedy, 267-7597 or Vee Elliott, 888-5447. ■



OPEN HOURS

Noon-4:00 PM - January thru March
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM - April thru Nov. 26
4:00-10:00 PM - Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve

MORE INFORMATION

541-888-2472 or toll free 1-866-888-6100
www.shoreacres.net



. . . Network Television Attention . . .



A crew from ABC's Good Morning America "Weekend" Show, visited Shore Acres on Nov. 30, 2007. They interviewed Shirley Bridgham and Larry Becker, highlighting the gardens, the sea lions and coastline, and the holiday lights, all in high definition TV. The segment aired a couple of weeks later and the video clip is on our website - www.shoreacres.net.



SPARKLING LED LIGHTS OFFER A BRILLIANT BACKDROP FOR THE HERONS, WHICH ARE LIGHTED WITH UNDERWATER LIGHTS IN THE POND.

“Life is what happens . . .

STORM HITS SOUTH COAST



Luis Velasquez

WEATHERING THE STORM

By Shirley Bridgham

When two huge trees fell in the middle of the night, December 2, they crushed trees, shrubs and our butterflies. Not to worry. Thanks to park staff and Shutters Creek work crews, the affected area was cleaned up in record time and the Lights Display was closed only two nights. David repaired the butterflies and they were put back up on the “tall tree stumps.”

Next season, we will be looking for a new place to display them.

Each season seems to bring unique weather challenges, but thanks to park staff and great volunteers, we will weather the storms! ■



. . . Local News Coverage . . .

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December 4, 2007
 Tides: High: 7.5 8:10a
 Charleston Low: 1.4 2:59p
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STORM KNOCKS OUT USCG COMMUNICATION

The U.S. Coast Guard launched a C-130 Hercules air crew from Sacramento, CA Monday to serve as a communication platform over Oregon's North Coast after communication was lost with Air Station Astoria because of the Pacific Storm. The Coast Guard Cutter Alert and Fir, both home-ported in Astoria, also served as communications platforms for distress calls during the outage. Tillamook Bay was still closed as of Monday afternoon, while Depoe Bay, Yaquina Bay, Siuslaw River, Coos Bay, and Chetco River were listed as restricted.



The Gardner's House at Shore Acres changes at night with the Festival of Lights Show. It reopens Wednesday from 4-10 p.m.
 Courtesy www.coos-bay.net

OPAC Waiting On Governor

Scott McMullen grew up around politics and the law as a youth in Newport. His dad was the Lincoln County District Attorney and later sat on the circuit court bench. Today McMullen is an accomplished and respected commercial fisherman from the North Oregon Coast. He's also the chair of the controversial Ocean Policy Advisory Council, or O-PAC as it is called. McMullen's council is a legislatively mandated marine policy advisory body to Governor Ted Kulongoski, and its charge is establishing marine reserves in Oregon's territorial 3-miles of ocean. However, they're at a stalemate with the second term governor over the non-appointment of Coos County Commissioner John Griffith to the Council. Griffith, the former journalist, was booted off O-PAC by the governor over words exchanged between the two in an email. After being lobbied hard by local politicians during their meeting last Friday in Gold Beach, O-PAC members said they can't move forward until Griffith is re-appointed to the South Coast Representative voting seat. Lincoln County Commissioner Terry Thompson, a graduate of Oregon State and a Newport commercial fisherman, is the North Coast Representative. McMullen says the governor has to make a decision, "does he want marine reserves, or does he want to not appoint a south coast member."

Shore Acres
 The botanical garden at Shore Acres State Park, west of Coos Bay, shutdown Monday and Tuesday because of the stormy weather on the Coast. Shirley Bridgham, who coordinates the Holiday of Lights Show in the garden each year during the holidays, says they had a couple of major issues in the garden with huge trees toppled. Six of the sponsored trees were also knocked over by the wind. They plan to reopen on Wednesday and resume the 4-10 p.m. schedule.

PACIFIC STORM HITS NORTH COAST HARD

The Pacific Storm that hit Oregon Sunday and Monday caused millions of dollars worth of damage to the Central and North Coasts. Governor Ted Kulongoski declared a State of Emergency. Two people reportedly died from the storm in the Tillamook area where winds reportedly exceeded 100 miles an hour. The U.S. Coast Guard sent two of its HH-65 Dolphin helicopters from Air Station North Bend to assist with the rescue of stranded individuals. Ocean swells exceeded 40-feet, and three weather buoys were ripped from their sea-bed moorings. Hwy. 101 was closed in five locations because of downed trees, power lines, high water and the risk of mudslides. At least 36,000 customers of PacifiCorp were without electricity Tuesday morning in Clatsop County, Lincoln City and Coos Bay.

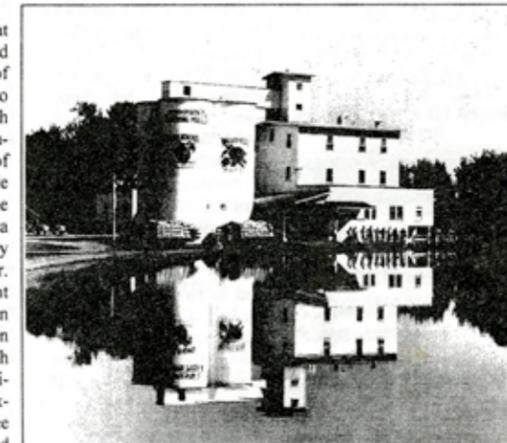


Photo courtesy Oregon State Parks Dept.
 Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site, Oregon's newest state park, will open for weekend visits starting December 9, 2007, east of Shedd. Story on pg. 2.

Shore Acres Lights Are On Again!

The Holiday lights are back on at Shore Acres State Park. The 250,000 lights in the Botanical Gardens were off Monday and Tuesday after Oregon State Parks officials closed the park as a safety precaution during the Pacific storm Sunday and Monday. Two large trees did fall in the garden area, and six of the sponsored Christmas trees were toppled according to co-coordinator Shirley Bridgham. Workers restored the damaged exhibits Tuesday and Bridgham says they are back on schedule with the Holiday of Lights Show open from 4 to 10 p.m. through New Year's Eve.

Storm Watchers
 Some will call them "fools," but they prefer to be known as "extreme weather watchers." The Coos County Sheriff's Office reported finding about 50 people out near the South Jetty of the Coos Bay Channel.
 (cont. on pg. 2)

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Neither wet nor cold can dim Shore Acres light extravaganza

■ **Still alight:** The display will go dark on Monday, Dec. 31.

By **SARA GRAY**
Editorial Assistant

CHARLESTON — More than 250,000 lights almost sounds boring.

Yet, there are that many lights twinkling at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston.

What can they do with so many Christmas lights to make it interesting after the first few bushes?

A lot.

Before going to Shore Acres to see the Holiday Lights display recently, I was ready for the same thing I saw before. The Holiday Lights have been in the Bay Area since 1987, and so have I.

So, I wanted it to rain to make it a different experience. I ignored the memories of cold, wet feet and limp hair that usually come with rain. Instead, I envisioned the extra glimmer that lights have in the rain and the way cider tastes extra good in the cold.

It didn't rain that night. Instead, it was warm — a fact the friend who accompanied me appreciated more than I did.

But, even without the rain, I found a lot to enjoy. Walking in to the lighted area of the park, I noticed the panoramic picture of the many lights in one place. They light up the night sky in myriad colors.

It's almost too much to take in. I had to stand there for a moment.

But there's so much more in the details. A new facet I noticed was clusters of lights surrounded by green lights that look like flowers. There also are white lights in the Japanese lanterns at the pond. Purple is the latest color to make an appearance as a

Christmas color.

There also are old favorites to enjoy such as the Santa in the bathtub of the Garden House bathroom and the diving frog in the pond, as well as new favorites such as the shaped lights. Just figuring out what the shapes are can create conversation. My friend and I finally decided the oddly shaped clear ones must be melted ice cubes.

Other visitors agreed. A peek at the guestbook revealed that, this year, Shore Acres has had visitors from Texas, South Dakota, Switzerland, Vietnam and South Korea. Comments range from "extravagant" to "gorgeous."

I looked for negative comments but couldn't find any.

The host that night was Life Care Center. Through talking to one of the volunteers, I learned that the Garden House decorations have a theme, "Seafaring Travel and Treasures."

There's even sound to go along with the view — and not only the music in and around the Garden House. The sound of the pounding surf permeated the quiet night as I walked around.

The proximity to the ocean also gives visitors something to do while waiting for the sun to disappear. I never get tired of watching the waves. Cold maybe, but not tired.

Visitors also can add seeing gray whales to seeing the lights. The 30th-annual "Whale Watching Spoken Here" week runs today through Jan. 1. During that week, trained volunteers will staff 28 sites along the coast, including Shore Acres. The volunteers are valuable assets in sighting the elusive gray whale spouts.

Even after Christmas, more than 250,000 lights are still interesting, even without the rain.

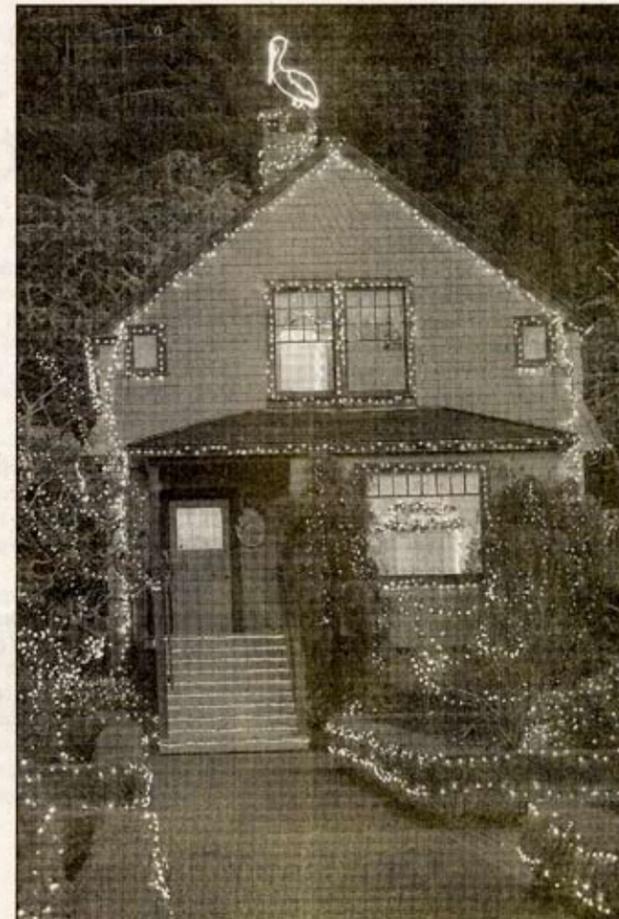
(Sara Gray is an editorial assistant at *The World*. She can be contacted by calling 269-1222, ext. 260; or by email at sgray@theworldlink.com.)



Holiday Lights are still aglow

About 250,000 lights fill the gardens for the Holiday Lights show at Shore Acres State Park with color. The Garden House, right, is alight with bright colors at Shore Acres State Park. Cookies, punch, hot cider and coffee are served at the Garden House. The Holiday Lights are on display from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. until Monday, Dec. 31.

World Photos
by Lou Sennick



. . . Stats and Comments . . .

Shore Acres Lights - "History & Beauty Rolled Into One!"

By Shirley Bridgham, Co-Chair Holiday Lights

An estimated 44,780 visitors attended the 21st annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park. According to statistics gleaned from the guest books by volunteer park hosts Len and Faye Shirley, those who signed the guest books (*not everyone did*) included visitors from 38 countries, 47 states and Washington D. C. "History and Beauty rolled into one!" wrote someone from North Bonneville, Washington. A visitor from Salem wrote, "As lovely as always, but with a full moon, WOW!" Another visitor wrote, "This is simply one of the most wondrous experiences we have ever had!" - Johannesburg, South Africa. And **over and over** throughout the guest books - **Love the LEDs**.

COMMENTS

- I've never seen anything like it. Just Beautiful! - San Diego
- Beyond beautiful! - Medford
- Great! How do you do it! - Alberta, Canada
- Feast for the eyes! - Bandon
- Never disappoints! - Los Angeles
- Picture Perfect! - Portland, OR
- Inspired setting by the powerful Pacific! - New York City
- **As lovely as always, but with a full moon, WOW - Salem**



- Wonderful EVERY year. - Coos Bay
- Great - a tradition every year! - Federal Way, WA
- The Best! - Lynchburg, VA
- Beautiful. We wouldn't miss it. - Bremerton, WA
- Can't wait to come back. - San Francisco
- It made my Christmas!! - Waldport, OR
- Beautiful lights and singing. - Coos Bay
- Ingenious and Dynamic! - Seattle
- Enchanting! - Eugene
- **History and Beauty rolled into one! - North Bonneville, WA**
- Sweet Christmas Carols & Sights - Dallas, OR
- Words can't describe the beauty! - Los Angeles
- Oh My Gosh! Awesome - McMinnville & Salem, OR
- Spectacular! - Vancouver, Canada
- Awesome! - North Bend, OR
- Wonderful! Best in Oregon. - Portland
- Awesome! What a work! BRAVO! - Geneva, Switzerland
- **This is simply one of the most wondrous experiences we have ever had! - Johannesburg, South Africa**

. . . Thanks to Supporters . . .

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955* Bruce's Street Rods - Bruce & Kittie Lou English
667* High Tide Café, LLC; Diane & Kevin Keiser - in memory of Heidi Nerbovig and Berneice Lange
555* Judge Paula M. Bechtold; Cedar Electric & Construction; James & Archina Davenport; Marianne Wilson - in memory of Katharine Mason
500* Bayview Accounting & Tax Service-Maddy Gairan in memory of Jan Philby; Benetti's Italian Restaurant - Joe & Tricia Benetti; Betty Kay Charters - Margery & Bill Whitmer; Charleston Harbor Inn - in memory of John A. Castro; George & Barbara Domenighini; Gold Coast Truck Repair - Butch & Jacque Shields; Betsy Groben; Judith Hansen; Paul & Marlene Haugland; Honda World; House at Lighthouse Beach - Stan & Janet Thompson; K & K Sound Systems Inc.; Kinnee's Gifts N' Shells; Marineau & Associates; Betsy & Walt McClure; Andy & Lynn Nasburg - in memory of Katie Keizer; North Bend Lanes - Bob, Mark & Marianna Mattecheck; Allan M. Olson - in memory of Lois; Stacy Rose; Shoji Planning & Development - Crystal & Gene Shoji; Slippery Slope Soap Shop - Ron & Pauline Vierra; Weldon & Sons-Coos Bay
277* Coos Head Garden Club

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... OPRD Highlights Network TV Visit ...



Good Morning America visits Shore Acres State Park

Shirley Bridgham was quite surprised to get a telephone call from New York City just after the 2007 Shore Acres Holiday Lights display opened. "This is Matt Frucci of ABC's Good Morning America," the caller said. "We would like to come and do a story on your lights display and your part of the Oregon coast."

Producer Tracey Marx and camera man Scott Douglas visited Shore Acres on Nov. 30 to interview Shirley and videotape (in high definition) the lights display. David Bridgham took photos of the whole process.

The next morning Marx interviewed OPRD District Manager Larry Becker about the park, the coast and the Friends of Shore Acres. Douglas

and assistant Mike Dilley also shot footage of the coast and the sea lions at Simpson Reef. All went according to plan—it was the day before the big storm that shut down the park for several days—and they headed back to their studio to put the segment together.

On Sunday, Dec. 16, Shore Acres State Park received national exposure for about 3 minutes—two teaser scenes and the 2:39-minute interview on Good Morning America Weekend.

"They did a great job of promoting the coast and its natural beauty as a backdrop for the lights display," said Shirley.



Shirley Bridgham and a crew from Good Morning America Weekend prepare for the Shore Acres Holiday Lights interview.

"Who knows how many new visitors we will get this year, next year and in the coming years?"

Shirley and David Bridgham are two of the founders of Friends of Shore Acres Inc. (1986) and have co-chaired the holiday lights event since it began in 1987. ●

. . . L.E.D. – Lights with Extra Dazzle . . .

(ALSO KNOWN AS “LIGHT EMITTING DIODE”)

By David Bridgham, Co-Chair Holiday Lights

The electric bill is way down. L.E.D. lights use a small fraction of the energy the old style miniature lights use. This alone is reason enough to switch. We can increase the lighting display in areas that were “maxed out” on our circuitry. I’ve been trying to convince Shirley for years that “negative space” as an artistic concept is an acceptable reason to allow dark areas in otherwise loaded circuits. That theory’s out the window now.

[Note from Shirley: I’m still working with the “less is more” theory, so he’s almost convinced me!]

If you’ve been out to see the Holiday lights in the last few years you know the exceptional effect these new lights have. They put the dazzle in the holiday lighting.



(L-R) JOAN CLIFTON, JACK GILHAM AND DAVID BRIDGHAM WORKING ON THE GRAY WHALE LAST SUMMER.



45' GRAY WHALE IN L.E.D. ROPE LIGHTS 2007

L.E.D. rope lighting was greeted last season with remarks like - “Is that Gray Whale new this year?” No - it’s been the mainstay of our larger marine sculptures since 1991 when marine artist Don McMichael gave us the design.

This season we plan to convert the Orca and Leaping Frog display! Our goal is to convert all of our sculptures to L.E.D. rope lighting over the next few years - not only for the dazzling look - but for the enormous energy savings.

We will make a huge transition this year with 100% L.E.D. string lighting throughout the display, and no more old minis. We have tried to continue to improve the Holiday Lights display over these 21 years. This will be the most ambitious move forward to date.

See you there - 2008 - Thanksgiving *thru* New Years Eve , 4-10 PM every night (including Christmas Eve & Christmas). ■

. . . Looking Ahead to 2008 . . .

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - January 1, 2008

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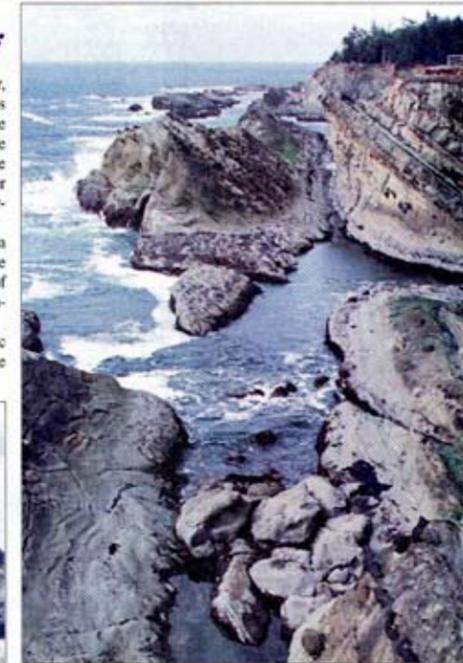


89 Enjoy gardens at Shore Acres

It's all about roses, waves, local history. No matter the time of year, there's something to see at Shore Acres State Park, outside of Coos Bay. The trail system offers both views of botanical gardens and the Pacific Ocean. The wind too cold to weather watch in? Step into the observatory. Not only does the building offer shelter and a view, the walls are lined with story of Shore Acres' original owners, lumber baron Louis Simpson and his wife, Cassie. The state of Oregon purchased the land in 1942.

The Rose Garden boasts more than 600 bushes, from fragrant tea roses to delicate miniatures. For more flowers, visit the Japanese Garden at the park. This garden includes a pond, where a glimpse of goldfish may be found. The acres of surrounding gardens and garden-er's cottage are sure to please, too.

Events during the summer include the Oregon Coast Music Festival's Garden Concert, at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 19. The concert is free.



. . . Springtime Messages . . .

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

*By Preson Phillips, Park Manager,
Sunset Bay Management Unit*

Spring is here and the growing season is upon us. Parks staff is busy readying Shore Acres and the rest of the Sunset Bay Management Unit for the summer season. This winter was trying at times with the storms and occasional freeze, but with so much help from the Friends of Shore Acres the park looks as beautiful as ever.

We will be receiving OPRD's first propane powered mower in April. It will be utilized solely within the formal gardens. Plans for the new Friends/Parks building are being finalized, and the water booster station will be complete in time for irrigation season. This September we will be restoring the windows in the Garden House and hopefully get a new coat of paint on it as well. The event list is filling up with most weekend days booked and weekdays being reserved on a regular basis.

My family and I want to thank all of you we have met either in the garden, at Holiday Lights, or at the Information & Gift Center for being so welcoming. Our first winter here has been amazing. ■



YOUNG GUNNERA OR GIANT RHUBARB
(CAN GROW TO MORE THAN 6' OVER THE SUMMER.)

MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS' PRESIDENT TIMM SLATER

It is certainly my privilege to serve as this year's Friends of Shore Acres president. While I've always enjoyed Shore Acres for its beauty and history since I first came to the area in the early 1970s, I was drawn to the Friends by Holiday Lights.

I love Christmas and the sense of community that Holiday Lights creates. With over 1,500 volunteers regularly participating in this project each year,

apparently you do too. In the Friends I found a great group of folks, who sponsor year round activities at Shore Acres Park and make a significant difference in the Park's future.

Does that sound like something you want to be an active part of? Well, come on down; I'll save a string of L.E.D. lights for you to put up. ■

. . . News from the Gardens. . .

BY GEORGE GUTHRIE, HEAD GARDENER, SHORE ACRES GARDENS

After a rather cool and wet winter I am pleased to report there are signs of a real spring starting in the garden-daffodils and crocus are poking their heads up, the magnolia by the old gardener's cottage is showing swelling buds and if you wander around you can see sprouting, budding, and flowering on all sorts of plants (cherries, azaleas, viburnums, heathers) in various nooks and crannies through out the garden. I believe that many of the flowers are starting a little later this year but the trickle of color that starts in late winter/early spring will (hopefully) end up in the floral surges and torrents of the next few months.

Why should I trumpet the obviously obvious? Well, despite the nearly 25 years I have grubbed and grumbled as a gardener at Shore Acres, I still have to marvel at the way nature manages a rebirth and resurrection of so many things that appear broken, battered and dead and gone. Considering the ferocious winter storms we had and the damage they caused in parts of the garden, it's kind of amazing to see apparently very delicate looking flowers force their way out of alternately sodden or frozen muck. Of course once they have done this deed our intrepid early bloomers expose themselves to wind, rain, hail, and all sorts of pests ready to gnaw, nip, and nibble them. Their sheer survival makes any flower show of any sort at this time a recurring wonder and inspiration to those of us grumpy gardeners who sometimes have trouble just getting out of our soft warm beds on an even moderately brisk morning!

Speaking of surviving adversity, we are still assessing what to do with the ancient old "Mt. Fuji" flowering cherry near the Oriental pond that was devastated by falling trees last December. The tree undoubtedly is one of the original plantings from the days of Louis Simpson's grand estate and its stout trunk and gnarled spreading branches were sculpture in the winter, a cloud of white flowers in the spring, an on-going invitation for kids of all ages to contemplate climbing on, and a wonderful living link at all times to Shore Acres then and now. The impact of several tons of falling spruce trees has reduced this "grandfather tree" to a stump and I don't know what, if anything, may come back this spring. We will plant replacements for the other plants that were damaged or destroyed and several other new plants of the same type nearby but I think that we will also at least consider keeping what's left of the old trunk for a while in the hope that what has endured so much for so long may yet surprise and delight us with renewed life and growth.

(Continued next page)



DAFFODILS AND HINO CRIMSON AZALEA



FUJI CHERRY STUMP



FUJI CHERRY TREE'S FORMER GLORY

. . . News from the Gardens . . .

BY GEORGE GUTHRIE, HEAD GARDENER, SHORE ACRES GARDENS

Tip-toeing through the (terrorized) tulips: For many years now we have planted several thousand tulips in the 4 large center beds in the formal garden and for the last several years we have been skirmishing with tulip loving (=eating) critters. Apparently they come at night since we have never seen neither hide nor hair of them but most certainly we have seen the results of their foraging - dug up and chewed up tulip bulbs. We are not sure exactly who the culprits are but are guessing that they must be some kind of rascally rodent: rat, mouse, or vole. Regardless of their precise identity, they have displaced, damaged, or destroyed hundreds of bulbs over the last several years and endangered the quality of rather expensive and extensive flower displays.

Conventional control measures did not hinder them one bit-they ate rat and mice baits like candy and then having finished the pesticide hors d'oeuvres happily consumed the tulip main course we seem to have so kindly provided them.

Two years ago, we decided to try something different as a kind of horticultural "Hail Mary"- spreading old-fashioned mothballs among the tulips to repel (not kill) the little buggers. I am not sure what inspired us to try the things except complete desperation and the hope that anything as vile smelling as this stuff might truly offend the varmints' delicate noses and cause them to take their unwanted attentions elsewhere.

As a result, now the tulip beds seem to either look like they have been recently hailed on or somebody has broadcast really icky smelling breath mints but so far at least, we seem to have largely succeeded with bulb damage greatly reduced (as long as we keep the crystals coming). Here's hoping that our luck holds and the tulips are allowed to provide a colorful display for garden visitors in late March or early April.

One thing more, we received some reinforcements for our tulip show from the unexpected kindness of Penny Carter and the Garden section of our local Fred Meyer store. We have planted some of them in several spots of the garden without benefit of mothballs as an experiment to see if indeed the presence or absence of the white stuff really makes a definite difference in tulip survival and performance-wish them (and us) luck. ■



MOTH BALLS IN THE TULIP BEDS



. . . A Gift of a Japanese Lantern for the Pond . . .

Letter from E. Ellen Johnson, Reedsport, OR

The Japanese lantern that I would like to donate to Shore Acres was imported from Japan sometime during the '50s or '60s by my father, Dr. F. A. Gilfillan. He was on the faculty at Oregon State University for 40+ years, mostly as Dean of Science, but also acting president of OSU during the early 1940s. One of his many hobbies was Japanese gardening. In the 1930s he built a Japanese garden at our home in Corvallis. At that time he ordered two lanterns directly from Japan. One was the focal point of his garden, along with a pool in the shape of the character for happiness, and all the required stones and elements for an authentic Japanese garden.

Sometime before WWII, he discovered that the Royal Gardener from Kyoto was coming on a tour of the US. He contacted him and invited him to Corvallis to view and critique his garden. The man came to our home in Corvallis. He told my father his garden met all the criteria of an authentic Japanese garden with one exception. The bridge over one arm of the pool had a railing, not the correct design unless a temple was located in the background. My father replied that he had four young daughters who played in the garden and whom he did not want to fall into the pool; the railing provided a deterrent.

Another note of interest is that during the 1940s and 1950s the Marine Biology Center at Charleston was jointly administered by OSU and the University of Oregon. My father was the director. So he made many trips to Coos Bay to get the summer program started and was back at the end of the session to close things down. After my father had left home prior to WWII, his parents moved to Coos Bay. They homesteaded nine miles south of town on Delmar Road. So his trips to the Marine Biology Station often included a visit with his parents. When time permitted, he often drove out to Shore Acres to view the gardens and the Japanese garden in particular.

My mother loved to tell the story of the first time she accompanied him to Shore Acres. As they approached the Japanese garden, my father stopped and studied one of the new stone lanterns from Japan. Then he studied it from another angle. Finally, he went over and dismantled the top three stones, replacing them in a different order. He then explained to my mother that the lantern had been assembled in the wrong order. I can remember as a child visiting the gardens with my family. I remember my father's disappointment when the Japanese garden was dismantled and the pool drained. My husband and I moved to Reedsport in 1977. My parents visited often the next few years before they died in the early 1980s. My father was thrilled to visit Shore Acres after so many years and was ecstatic to discover that the Japanese garden had been rebuilt. So you can see why I feel Shore Acres would be the perfect final home for my lantern. I know my father would agree. ■



. . . Spring and Summer Events . . .

During the year, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. sponsors “flower days” when the garden house is open from 11 AM to 4 PM with volunteers serving punch, cookies and coffee. This year’s schedule includes Bonsai Day, April 19, Rhododendron Sunday/Mother’s Day, May 11; and Rose Sunday/Father’s Day, June 15. Also, the Friends will park cars and sell sundaes and lemonade at the Oregon Coast Music Festival garden concert on Saturday, July 19 at Noon. The Information & Gift Center is open all year, giving park visitors excellent shopping opportunities, as well as providing information and a multitude of interpretive brochures. ■



RHODODENDRON SUNDAY / MOTHER’S DAY



INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER AND RAVISHING ROSES READY FOR
ROSE SUNDAY / FATHER’S DAY



DAVID BRIDGHAM AND
GEORGE GUTHRIE



DAVID BRIDGHAM, KATHI NETTER,
DENNIS NETTER, KATHY METZGER

. . . George Guthrie Retirement – August 7, 2008 . . .



PRESON PHILLIPS PRESENTS
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO GEORGE



SOME SURPRISES FOR GEORGE



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 22:

Annual Year - September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009

Album 21 - Completed August 4, 2020

Book and PDF Versions

***Note: Album Completed During the
Coronavirus-19 Pandemic of 2020***

CONTENT SOURCES - FOSA MINUTES, PHOTOS,
PUBLICITY CLIPPINGS, FOSA JOURNALS

More Information:

www.shoreacres.net – Journal/Newsletters