



Album 22



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

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

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

Note from David Bridgham - September 2014

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Founded December 4, 1986



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

FOSA BYLAWS

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting was held on December 4, 1986 at 7:30 pm in room 12 of Sumner Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. In attendance were Andy 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 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.

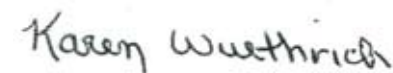
Andy La Tomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

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, 2008 - August 31, 2009

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Annual Meeting and Board Meeting Highlights September 9, 2008 - Shore Acres Garden House

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

President Timm Slater called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Robynn Reed, President Elect, David and Shirley Bridgham, Kenn and Betty Kennedy, Lou Kolkhorst, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Vee Elliott, Barb Taylor.

BOARD NOMINEE PRESENT: Kathy Metzger

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Sharon Kolkhorst, Carl Siminow, Jack Gilham, Joan Clifton

WELCOME AND REMARKS: Timm Slater

INTRODUCTIONS: We all introduced ourselves around the table.

NOMINATIONS: Shirley Bridgham, Sharon Kolkhorst, Robynn Reed, Timm Slater, Barb Taylor to serve 3 years, with terms expiring in Sept 2011. Kathy Metzger to board position being vacated by Kathi and Dennis Netter. This term expires in Sept. 2010. All were elected unanimously.

Annual Meeting adjourned for ice cream sundaes and coffee.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

President Timm Slater called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and conducted the Election of Officers for 2008-2009. Elected unanimously were: Robynn Reed- President for one year; Lou Kolkhorst-President Elect for one year; assuming the role of President for one year beginning Sept. 2009; Joan Clifton- Secretary for one year; and Barb Taylor- Treasurer for one year.

Past President Timm Slater passed the gavel to President Robynn Reed, who conducted the remainder of the Board Meeting.

MINUTES: MSP With one correction to the IGC Report: "IGC sales were up 2.6% in June (not May) . . ."

FINANCIAL REPORT: Barb Taylor – Total Checking / Savings: \$ 237,161.34

INFORMATION AND GIFT CENTER - Lou Kolkhorst: We have new items. Sales are down 21.2% from this time last year. Probably due to high gas prices and fewer visitors. IGC Report on file.

STATE PARKS REPORT - Ellie Kinney-Martial: Shore Acres will be getting a new park manager since George Guthrie has retired. The position has been posted and Ellie has applied. The booster pump and huge holding tank has been installed across from the entrance to Shore Acres. The restoration of the upstairs front windows of the Garden House will be done by Amy McAuley in 2009.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Production Projects - Shirley Bridgham: Production projects are ongoing.
- Oregon Coast Music Festival - Barb Taylor: Sold twice as many sundaes as in 2007; selling in the house successful; local music group was well received.
- Holiday Lights - David & Shirley Bridgham: All the new LED holiday lights are in. We begin decorating on Oct. 31st. 2008. The frog sculpture and the Orca whale sculpture will be improved with LED rope lighting. The new sculpture for this year is a Dragon Fly. Someone removed one of our turtles last year. As in--- took it home. Our energy costs will be down and the Oregon Energy Trust sometimes gives cash for the savings. We may be able to get a refund check from them for \$2800.00. We will only replace about 20% of our lights each year now since the LEDs last longer. Robynn showed fabric samples for the cushions on new natural colored wicker chairs purchased recently. Kathy Metzger will co-ordinate the hosts for the Garden House this year.
- Other Old Business - David reported on the web cam project that is progressing slowly.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Taylor has joined an OPRD committee to review Friends groups.
- Lou Kolkhorst asked permission from the board to donate some of "The Ore Bin" geology books to Ron Metzger for his college class, and to the Sunset Bay Interpretive Center. Permission granted.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Wednesday Sept. 24th Volunteer appreciation picnic at Sunset Bay Day-Use area

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Oct. 14th at 7:00 PM at North Bend Public Library

Adjournment: President Robynn Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Betty Kennedy, Secretary Pro-Tem



. . . Autumn's Dahlias will be followed by Holiday Lights . . .



22nd Annual
Holiday Lights *(almost all L.E.D.)*
at Shore Acres State Park
a "community tradition" since 1987

More than 250,000 Lights
Thanksgiving
thru New Year's Eve
4-10 PM • OPEN HOUSE

Shirley Bridgman

David Bridgman

2008
"Leap Year"

Luis Velasquez

Shirley Bridgman

Luis Velasquez

Shore Acres "Wave" - Spectacular in December

Win the Ultimate B&B
10 PM Dec. 31 - 10 AM Jan. 1
Tickets are \$10 (Only 150 Tickets.)
Available at the Friends' Info & Gift Center
541-888-2472 • 1-866-888-6100

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

. . . Preliminary Work on Sculpture Displays . . .



(L-R) JACK GILHAM, JOAN CLIFTON AND DAVID BRIDGHAM PUT NEW LED ROPE LIGHTS ON THE LEAPING ORCA DISPLAY.



DAVID PUTS NEW ROPE LIGHTS ON THE SNAIL SCULPTURE.



. . . Setting Up by Valiant Volunteers . . .



KELLY AND JOHN FLETCHER



JOAN CLIFTON AND JACK GILHAM



DAVID BARNHART



ROCK-N-RIDERS 4-H CLUB DECORATED A FLOWER BED.

. . . So Many Volunteer Jobs . . .



DELL WILLIS DECORATES CRYPTOMERIA.



(L-R) JACK GILHAM, DELL WILLIS, DAVID BRIDGHAM



DELL HANGS NEW DRAGONFLY



DAWN BUXTON AND KATHY METZGER



MAXINE JOHANNESSEN HAS SNACKS READY.

. . . Local News Coverage by The World . . .

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 17, 2008

Lighting up the park

Volunteers lovingly ready Shore Acres for the holiday season

By Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Suzanne Marchant, of North Bend, sat down for a few moments to take a load off her feet, clad in brightly striped rubber boots.

The retired Blossom Gulch Elementary School principal was one of about 30 or so volunteers enjoying the sunshine at Shore Acres State Park Saturday afternoon. She was working, too, stringing Christmas lights for the 22nd-annual holiday lights display at Shore Acres.

Many helpers belonged to area clubs or were Coos Bay firefighters, but Marchant had come alone.

"I call myself a freelancer," she said. "This is my third week out here this year."

It takes about 1,500 people more than four or five weekends to do the set up. This year they are hanging about a quarter of a million lights.

"The last two weeks it was pouring," Marchant said. "It's still fun. You meet interesting people.

The dedicated people are here in the rain."

The park, which was once a private estate of pioneer lumberman and shipbuilder Louis J. Simpson, is located on 743 acres south of Charleston, sandwiched between Sunset Bay and Cape Arago state parks. It includes seven acres of formal gardens.

Helping out Saturday was David Barnhart, a school teacher who has been traveling from Gleneden Beach for the last 12 years, staying in a motel every

To go

What: Holiday lights at Shore Acres State Park — walk-through display, open house with cookies, hot cider, punch and coffee.

When: From 4 to 10 p.m. Nov. 27 through Dec. 31.

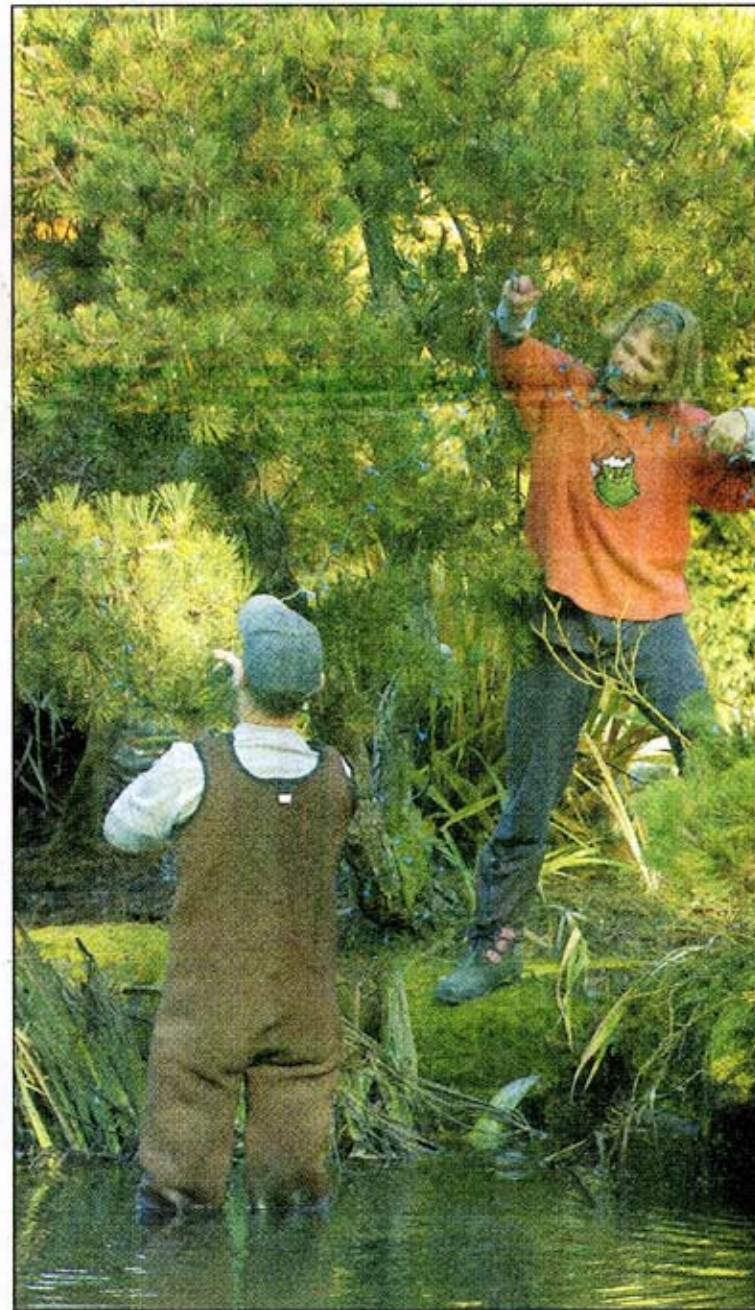
Where: Off Cape Arago Highway, south of Charleston and Sunset Bay State Park.

Parking fee: \$3 per vehicle, or current Oregon Parks Recreation Department annual parking permit, coastal passport or current campground receipt.

To help

To volunteer: Call Shirley and David Bridgman at 756-5401 or e-mail bridgman@epuerto.com.

For information: Call the Friends of Shore Acres Information and Gift Center, 888-2472 or (866) 888-6100 or <http://www.shoreacres.net>.



World Photo by Lou Sennick

For Jim Hough, the best way to work with his wife, Cindy, in putting up Christmas lights at Shore Acres State Park was to get in the water. He wore a pair of chest waders as the couple decorated around the Japanese Garden on Saturday morning.



World Photo by Lou Sennick

Chris Meloy helps string garland around the Christmas tree being decorated by staff and family from the Bonneville Power Administration station at Hauser. Volunteers are setting up more than 250,000 LED lights around the gardens at Shore Acres.

LIGHTS

The display brings in 50,000 visitors

Continued from Page A1

weekend volunteers are needed.

"It's a nice group of people out here to work with," Barnhart said, loading colored lights into a wheelbarrow. "I enjoy going to see the lights with family and friends."

Barnhart squinted through the sunlight streaming into the open door of the shed that stores light sculptures and lights during the year.

"There have been some very rainy days, but most of the time we have good weather," he said.

Wheelbarrow helper Kenn Kennedy and his wife, Betty, moved to Coos Bay in 1995, and a year later joined Friends of Shore Acres, which partners with state parks to present the holiday lights display.

"We love Shore Acres. It's a special place," Kennedy said. "We moved here and said, 'Well, we can't buy it, so the next best thing is to volunteer.'"

Last year, Kennedy discovered stormy weather can be more than a minor inconvenience.

"Two huge firs blew down in the pond," he said. "Then we had to come back out here and try to put it together."

Organizers have made small improvements over the years to make decorating the park easier, including stakes pushed into the soil at the corners of the hedges.

"It was just a nightmare before," said helper Shirley Champagne-

"We love Shore Acres. It's a special place. We moved here and said, 'Well, we can't buy it, so the next best thing is to volunteer.'"

Kenn Kennedy
on stringing lights at Shore Acres

Harris. "We used to use twist ties."

The hedges in the English garden are all laid out with symmetric lighting, according to David Bridgman.

"I've flown over it at night. It looks like a tapestry," he said.

Bridgman, who has chaired the event with his wife, Shirley, since its inception, was working in the pond area with Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club member Jim Hough and his wife, Cindy. Bridgman said 25 different organizations decorated Christmas trees this year and signed up to serve refreshments in the Garden House.

"We have a waiting list," he said.

Firefighters from Coos Bay Fire Department decorated the Garden House that has been there since the early 1900s. Saturday they were using ladders to lift a sculpture of a pelican onto the roof.

On Friday, more pelican sculptures had been lifted atop tall poles that inmates from Shutter Creek Correctional Institution had set into the ground.

"They're a big part of it. We couldn't do it without them," Bridgman said.

Sculptures of seashore flora and creatures, including moving displays, have been added over the years. This year almost all the

lights have been converted to LED lights.

"That's going to save a lot of money," Shirley said.

"We started in 1987 with 6,000 miniature lights and one Christmas tree," she said. "We tried doing a tree lighting, but several hundred people showed up in the dark. We didn't do that again."

Now the holiday display, held from Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Eve, draws 40,000 to 50,000 visitors per season.

Shirley said there are more volunteers than usual this year, which is a good thing since many of the longtime volunteers are getting up there in years.

"Actually, I'm not sure how many volunteers we've worn out," she laughed.

Kathy Loya and her mother, Anne Schiller, were volunteering for the first time Saturday. Loya handed Schiller a string of lights attached to the end of a pole over a bush.

"We started out easy with rose bushes," Loya said. "Every tree and bush has a tag on it that tells how many strings and what color to use. It's all on computer."

"I love seeing the lights," Loya said. "Now we can't wait to come out."

See Lights, Page A8

. . . So Worth the Effort . . .



"LED LAND" ENHANCED WITH LANDSCAPE LIGHTS ON HUGE TREES.



A MAGNIFICENT MOONLIT NIGHT



THE VIEW FROM THE UPSTAIRS WINDOWS IS ESPECIALLY DAZZLING AND MAGICAL AT DUSK - MANY FOLKS' FAVORITE TIME TO VISIT.



VIEW FROM THE PERFORMANCE PAVILION

. . . Familiar Scenes and New Sculpture . . .



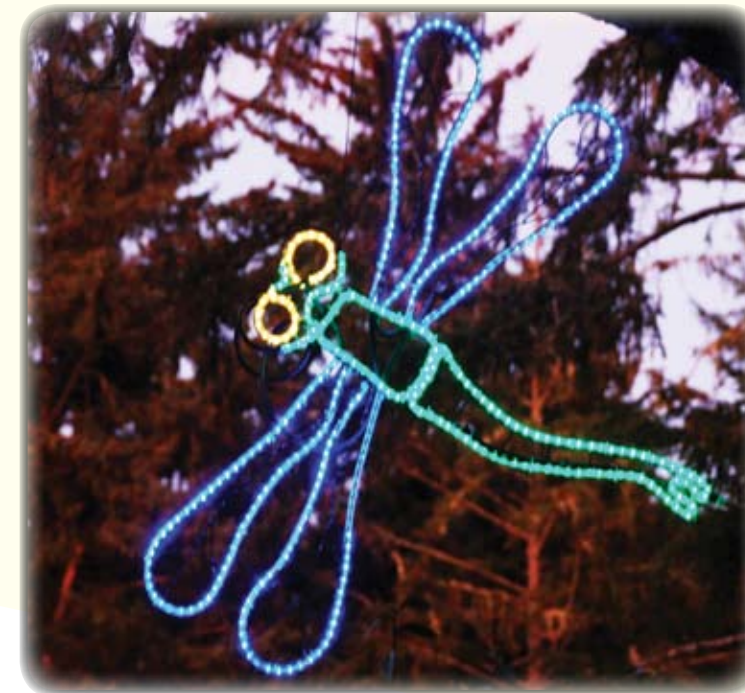
INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER IS READY



NEW DRAGONFLY ABOVE THE "SCHOOLING" SALMON



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JOY ENSEMBLE ENJOY THE VIEW WHILE ENTERTAINING IN THE PAVILION ON A BEAUTIFUL CLEAR NIGHT.



. . . Garden House Is Ready for Visitors . . .



INSIDE THE GARDEN HOUSE THE ANNUAL TRADITIONAL THEME IS HIGHLIGHTED WITH LED LIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE DECORATIONS.
ANOTHER PLUS: SMILING HOST TEAMS AND HOT CIDER, PUNCH, COFFEE AND COOKIES!



PRECEPTOR ALPHA ETA MEMBERS (L-R) BECKY LUNETTA, BECKI JOHNSON, PEGGY MILLER, AND PATTI LANDES. THE GROUP SHARED ITS HOST DUTIES WITH BAY AREA SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB.



BAY AREA SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB (FRONT L-R) BECKY LUNETTA, CAROL BENNETT, TOM BURDETT (BACK L-R) DAVID BRIDGHAM, STEVE SCHNEIDERMAN, LONNY ANDERSON, CHUCK HOLLOWAY, JOHN QUALMAN, RODGER BENNETT

. . . Regional News Coverage . . .

The Register Guard OREGON LIFE, Sunday, November 23, 2008

By RANDI BJORNSTAD
The Register-Guard

It's definitely dark, even a bit gloomy, by late afternoon in most places these days, but starting Thursday, Shore Acres won't be one of them.

By 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, the 250,000 lights that have made the state park near Coos Bay famous will be blazing again for the 22nd year — offer-



ing visitors an eye-popping array of colors and shapes more than capable of holding the winter night at bay.

There will be the perennial favorites,

of course. The life-size gray whale still breaches and spouts while the orca leaps in the air. The stately herons grace their pond, and the sea urchins, jellyfish, squirrel, butterflies and all the other creatures still do what they do.

But there will be improvements, too, says Shirley Bridgham, who with her husband

Please turn to **LIGHTS** page 13



Let us know about your favorite holiday displays

From houses that light up the neighborhood to those displaying subtle decoration, the personalities of local residents shine this time of year. Whether it twinkles, flashes, blinks or strobes, we'd like to know about outstanding holiday season displays in Lane County. And we'd like to tell readers about them.

Beginning Dec. 12, we'll publish a list of noncommercial light displays that celebrate the season — be it Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Years or winter. The list will run Fridays in Ticket, Mondays in Personal Life and round-the-clock at special.registerguard.com/lights through December. You can nominate a display by

sending e-mail to: holidaylights@registerguard.com. Include a precise street address with ZIP code, plus your name and phone number. You may also drop a note with the above information in the mail to: Holiday Lights, The Register-Guard, P.O. Box 10188, Eugene OR, 97440-2188. Nominations also may be faxed to 338-2813.

Lights: Display includes spouting whale, jumping frog, new dragonfly

Continued from Page E1

David Bridgman, has been overseeing the planning and execution of the massive, 7-acre light display since its humble beginnings in 1987 with 6,000 miniature lights festooning one Christmas tree and a small garden area.

"This year, we have nearly 100 percent LED lights, and that's a huge change from the old miniature lights," Shirley Bridgman said. "The LEDs are much more reliable, last far longer and use about 80 percent less energy — and, with them we at last have a true purple instead of something that looks more like pink. But all the colors are truer, and they're much better for photographs."

Another big change with the LED lights is the effectiveness of the "moving" displays such as the leaping orca and the jumping frog, she said. "People who come to watch them will be excited — it's so much brighter and more visible now, even at dusk."

Except for the newer technology and the improved color and motion, most of the displays will be similar to previous years, with hundreds of "light sculptures" and nearly every shrub in the grounds decked out in some sort of colorful pattern. But at least one major new creature — a dragonfly — has been added to the menagerie, Bridgman said.

It's a scene that undoubtedly would have delighted Louis Simpson, scion of a 19th century timber and shipping company started in the Coos Bay area by his father, Asa Simpson.

The younger Simpson bought Shore Acres, on a bluff above the Pacific Ocean with a commanding view of the crashing surf, and built a huge, palatial mansion there as a Christmas gift to his wife, Cassie, in 1906.

Accounts of their lives at Shore Acres conjure up visions of guests lounging on a vast veranda overlooking the sea, dances in the third-floor ballroom, leisurely swims in the indoor Roman-style pool and baths, and rooms with huge fireplaces and massive furniture set off by lavish Oriental rugs, paintings and statues from around the world.

Outside, the original estate stretched for 1,600 acres, including spectacular formal gardens filled with exotic plants brought back to Shore Acres from all parts of the globe via the family's shipping fleet.

At first used just as a summer home, the mansion became the family's year-round residence in 1916. The same year, Simpson — known statewide as the "handsome stranger" — made an unsuccessful

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT SHORE ACRES STATE PARK

This year's "light sculpture" display opens Thanksgiving Day and runs through New Year's Eve at the park near Coos Bay.

Where: 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay; from Highway 101 in North Bend, follow the signs toward "ocean beaches and Charleston" (Newmark Avenue) to the Cape Arago Highway; drive south and look for the signs to Shore Acres.

When: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. every day, Nov. 27 through Dec. 31.

Features: Walk-through display with more than 250,000 lights; open house with cookies, hot cider, punch and coffee; live entertainment; gift shop.

Special event: Drawing on Christmas Day (need not be present to win) for "Ultimate Bed and Breakfast" stay for two in the Garden House on the Shore Acres property on New Year's Eve, with a catered breakfast on New Year's Day; tickets \$10 each with maximum of 150 sold.

Admission: \$3 per vehicle or current annual parking permit from the Oregon Park & Recreation Division, current Oregon Coastal Passport or current campground receipt.

Information: Toll-free at (541) 888-3732 or (800) 824-8486; bridgman@epuerto.com; or www.shoreacres.net

bid to become governor of Oregon. Four years later, his wife died of kidney failure at Shore Acres.

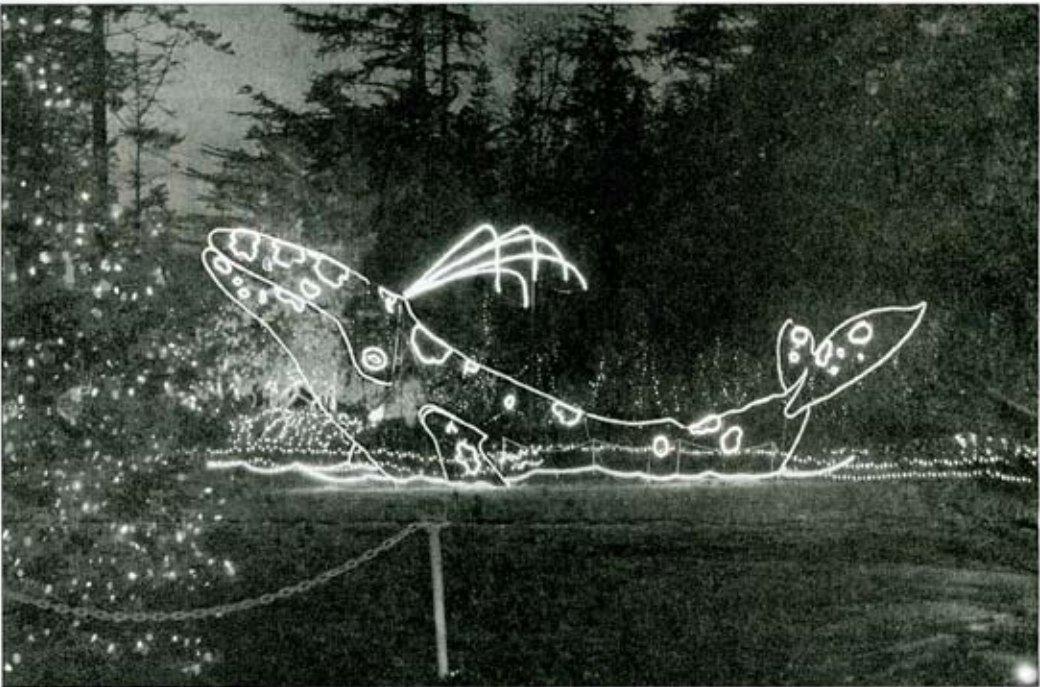
On July 4, 1921, a huge fire engulfed the house and destroyed it. After the fire, Simpson lived temporarily in the caretaker's cottage, which is still on the grounds at Shore Acres.

Simpson soon remarried, and in 1927 began building another house at Shore Acres. But work ceased — except for the completion of a few rooms — after he lost much of his fortune in the stock market crash that began Oct. 29, 1929.

When a wildfire threatened the property in 1936 — but did not burn the house — the family evacuated and never returned.

In 1942, Simpson sold what remained of the Shore Acres property, more than 600 acres, to the state of Oregon for \$29,000. He had previously donated the land for Cape Arago State Park; Sunset Bay State Park also is part of the former Simpson property.

Simpson died just weeks after the state razed the second, derelict mansion in December 1948.



Shore Acres

The light exhibit at Shore Acres State Park has grown from 6,000 miniature lights in 1987 to more than 250,000 lights this year. The display includes "moving" creatures including the crowd-pleasing, life-size gray whale.

Although no longer an architectural showpiece and a retreat for the rich and famous, Shore Acres State

Park plays host to up to 500,000 people each year who come for its walking trails and ocean vistas, summer gar-

dens and winter light display. Nearly 50,000 people — from 47 states and 38 countries last year — flock to the park

between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Eve, when the light show ends for the season.

. . . Local News Coverage . . .

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 26, 2008

A holiday tradition for 22 years

By JO RAFFERTY
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — Shirley and David Bridgham have been in charge of the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park for 22 years. Each year, they've always managed to add something new.

From the first year with a Christmas tree lighting, to this year's more than a quarter-million lights, most of them LED, the

Inside

This year's display in photos
Page A2

Bridghams have organized volunteers to make the park a favorite holiday spot. Planning starts in January, but volunteers don't begin decorating until late October or early November.

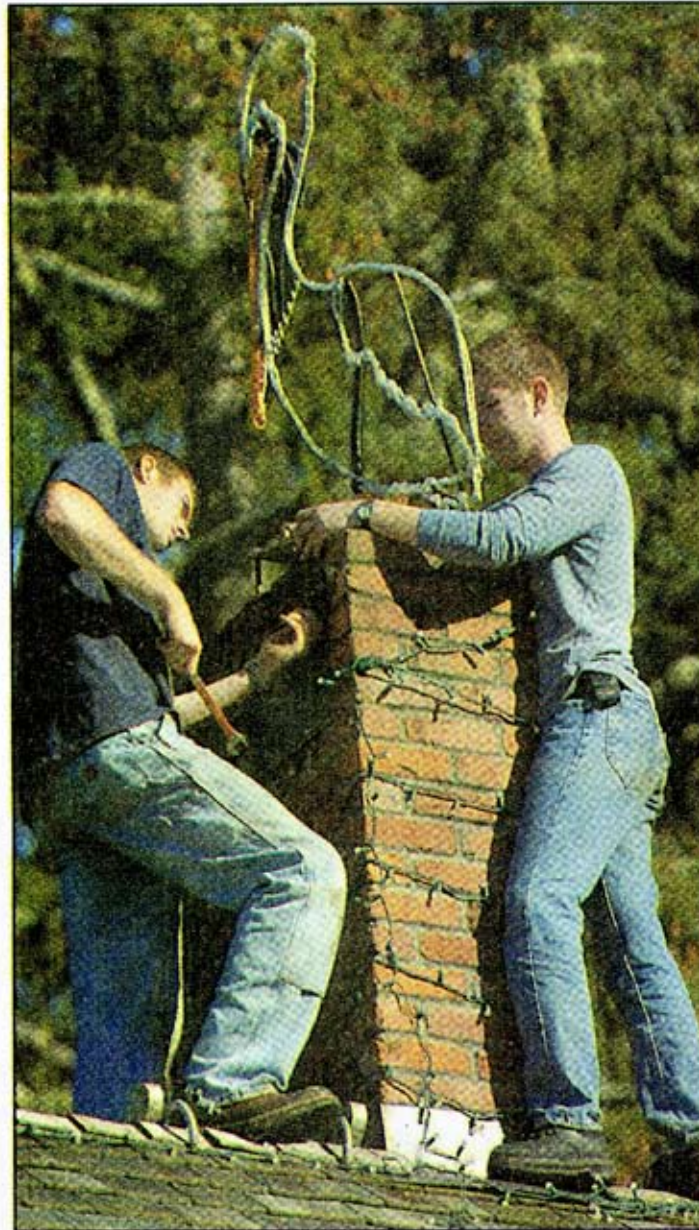
"We usually start about the first of November," Shirley said on a recent workday.

She said they have no choice but to keep decorating once they start, rain or shine, because the holiday lights display always opens on Thanksgiving Day.

The display includes many stationary and moving sculptures of coastal creatures such as pelicans, puffins, salmon, frogs, a 45-foot-long gray whale, and Christmas trees decorated by local organizations.

Bridgham said she feels privileged to be able to plan the decorating scheme for the lights, matching the colors to the flowers in bloom in Shore Acres' botanical gardens.

See Tradition, Page A8



World Photo by Lou Sennick
Nate McCormick, left, and Ben Rollicheck put up a lighted pelican on the Gardener's House chimney on a recent Saturday morning. The two are volunteer firefighters with the Coos Bay Fire Department and are among the hundreds of volunteers that helped out at Shore Acres State Park to get more than 250,000 lights up for the annual Holiday Light Show.

TRADITION

The magic begins at sunset each day

Continued from Page A1

"Every year we doubled lights for a long, long time," she said. "I get the fun of planning it."

Coming to see the park lit up at night is tradition for many families who live locally or visit from out of the area. The holiday lights attract 40,000 to 60,000 visitors annually. While there, they munch 36,000 to 48,000 cookies or more baked by volunteers.

"We've watched this evolve over the years," said volunteer Suzanne Marchant of Coos Bay. "It's really a spectacular show. It's amazing."

The 1,500 or more volunteers have started some of their own traditions. Members of the Coos Bay Fire Department decorate the Garden House that has been at the park since it was a private estate owned by L.J. Simpson, who

Information

What: Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park all-abilities accessible walk-through display.

When: From 4 to 10 p.m. daily Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve.

To get there: Drive to Charleston and head south on the Cape Arago Highway.

Cost: \$3 parking fee or current Oregon Parks & Recreation annual parking pass or Coastal Passport or current OPRD campground receipt or current special access pass.

Reminder: No dogs except guide dogs are allowed.

Need more info? Call Shore Acres State Park at 888-3732.

bought the property in 1905 and sold it to the state in 1942.

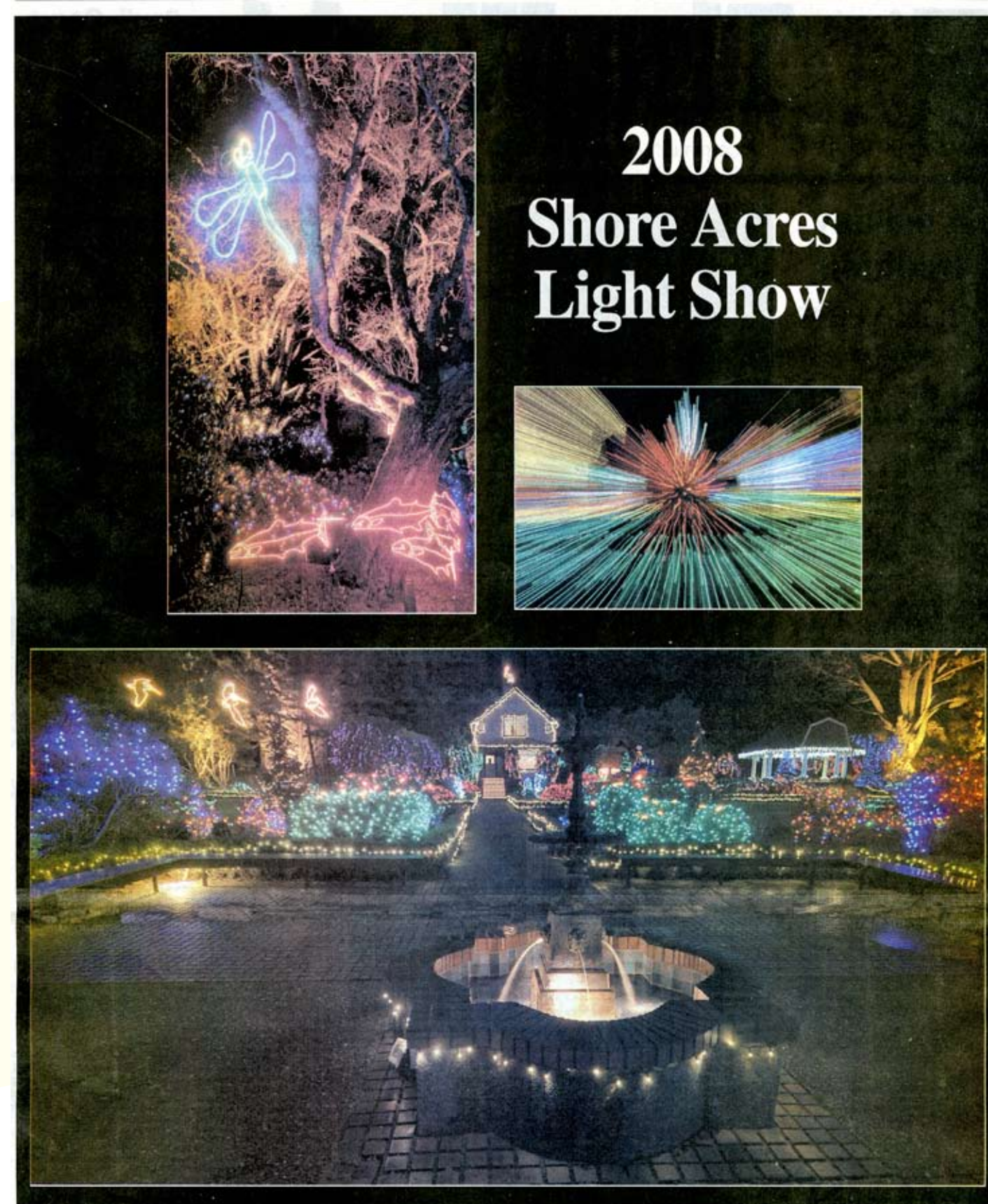
Fire Chief Stan Gibson said the firefighters have come out every weekend for four or five weeks to work every year.

Bridgham said all the hard work is worth it come dusk each night at the display comes to life.

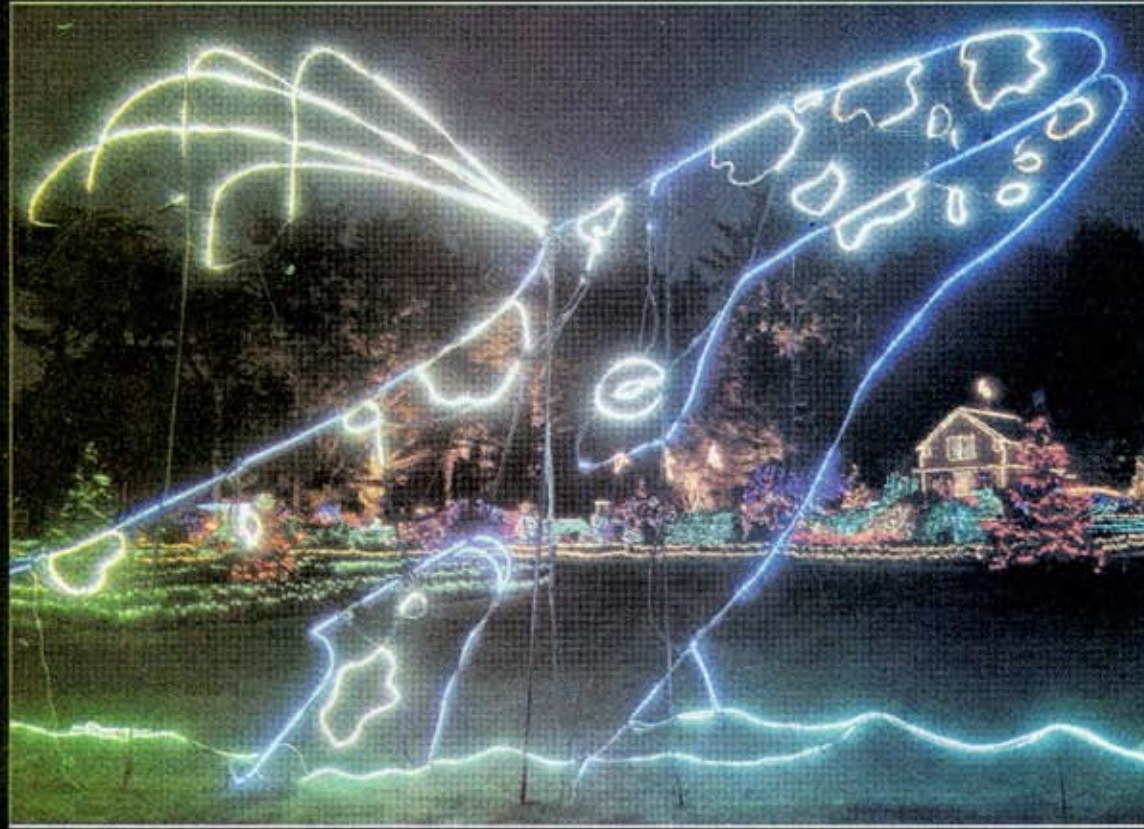
"It's magic," she said.



THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 26, 2008



More than 250,000 LED lights are ready



What: Holiday lights at Shore Acres State Park walk-through display, open house with cookies, hot cider, punch and coffee.

When: From 4 to 10 p.m. Nov. 27 through Dec. 31.

Where: Off Cape Arago Highway, south of Charleston and Sunset Bay State Park.

Parking fee: \$3 per vehicle, or current Oregon Parks Recreation Department annual parking permit, coastal passport or current campground receipt.

World Photos by Lou Sennick



. . . Stats and Comments 2008 . . .

Shore Acres Lights - "Like a Poem"

By Shirley Bridgham

An estimated 44,464 visitors attended the 22nd annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park. Those who signed the guest books (*not everyone did*) included visitors from 38 countries, 45 states and Washington D. C. Cities and Towns included 220 Oregon; 179 California; 65 Washington; and 217 Other.

"Like a Poem" wrote someone from Ketchikan, Alaska. A visitor from Buffalo, New York wrote, "*Beautiful, Dazzling, Smashing, Precious!*" Another visitor wrote, "*Awesome, our first winter Christmas*" - *Queensland, Australia.*" And "**He proposed & I said YES!!! - Waldport, OR.**"

COMMENTS:

- Fantastic, puts me in the spirit. - Placerville, CA
 - WOW!! Colors are so bright!! - Walla Walla, WA
 - Thanks! Worth the trip! - Aurora, OR
 - **Like a poem. - Ketchikan, AK**
 - Great, good for the whole family - Marysville, CA
 - Oh my gosh!! Beautiful - Oregon City
 - Spectacular!! - Windsor, Maine
 - Absolutely Stunning! - Nehalem, OR
 - **Awesome, our first winter Christmas - Queensland, Australia**
 - Great Work of Art! - Coos Bay, OR
 - Lovely in the rain! - Auburn, CA
 - Beautiful garden, home and hospitality. - Eugene, OR
 - **He proposed & I said YES!!! - Waldport, OR**
 - Best light show in the U.S. - Florissant, CO
 - The lights and house are beautiful! - North Bend, OR
 - Wonderful! Wow! - Huntley, WY
 - OMG - Best year ever! - Florence, OR
 - Cultural shock, amazing site, & awesome people - Norwich, CT
 - **Beautiful, Dazzling, Smashing, Precious! - Buffalo, NY**
 - Best thing in Oregon - San Diego, CA
 - Absolutely wondrous! - McKinleyville, CA
 - Thanks to all the volunteers - Olalla, OR
 - **Love, love, love it! - Bandon, OR**
 - Fantastic, Brilliant - San Ramon, CA
 - You've warmed out hearts - North Bend, OR
 - Superb! - New Zealand
 - Great show - wonderful volunteer effort! - Portland, OR
 - LEDs are a great addition! - Colorado Springs, CO
 - **Beautiful, especially lighting the natural trees - Sonoma, CA**
 - Peaceful Beauty - Wimberley, TX
 - Magical/Overwhelming - Pleasanton, CA
 - A very well thought out display - Oregon City, OR
 - **DE - LIGHT - FUL - Dallas, TX**
- . . . and many more!



. . . Lights Pledges and Support 2008 . . .

LED Lights *

6,666* Shinglehouse Auto & Salvage -- **4,450 ***Abel Insurance Agency-Harry & Francie Abel -- **4,200*** Captain John's Motel-Hong-Chi Teng & Jan Lin -- **2,800*** The Portside Seafood Restaurant-Joe Tang -- **2,222*** Nancy Robinson -- **2,100*** Jim & Diane Verger -- **2,000*** John & Kelly Fletcher -- **1,750*** Dave's Pizza -- **1,666*** Huggins Insurance-Bob & Janet Huggins; The Mill Casino-Hotel -- **1,500*** Hargens Construction Co.-Gary & Rody Hargens --**1,400*** Azalea Acres Inc. - Betty, Steve & Wesa Liles; Best Western Holiday Motel; David & Shirley Bridgham; Coastal Paper & Supply-Johanna & Bob Dillard; Edgewater Inn Motel-Coos Bay; Michael Gordon, CPA-"Not Your Basic Bean Counter" -- **1,125*** Coos Bay Fire & Rescue -- **1,066*** Cornelia & Don Barnhart -- **1,000*** Evans-Havel-Styarfyr Family -- **806*** Tom's Lock & Key-Steve & Cathy Clark -- **766*** Timm & BobEtta Slater -- **700*** Art Connection; Audio Video Specialists; Benetti's Italian Restaurant-Joe & Tricia Benetti; Bob's Appliance-Bob & Gayle DePeal; Martha Butler; Cheslock Optical-Dr. James & Rhea Cheslock; Ray Gapp; Clare D. Gove, CPA,PC; Diane & Kevin Keiser-in memory of Heidi Nerbovig and Berneice Lange; Betsy & Walt McClure; Ron & Kathy Metzger; Andy & Lynn Nasburg; North Point Inc.- Ed Meyer; Northwestern Mutual Life - Dick & Janice Vigue; Pacific Power/PacifiCorp; Dr. Ted Terry & Staff; Ticor Title Insurance Co.; Thomas & Sons Transportation --**666*** This Olde House Bed & Breakfast Inn-Sally White -- **586*** Bruce's Street Rods-Bruce & Kittie Lou English



400* Hightide Cafe, LLC -- **366*** Bayview Accounting & Tax Service-Maddy Gaoiran in memory of Jan Philby -- **360*** Cedar Electric & Construction -- **350*** 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; Honda World; House at Lighthouse Beach-Stan & Janet Thompson; K & K Sound Systems Inc.; Kinnee's Gifts N' Shells; North Bend Lanes-Bob, Mark & Marianna Mattecheck; Allan M. Olson-in memory of Lois; Pacific Mobile Services Inc.-The Chaney Family; Shoji Planning & Development- Crystal & Gene Shoji; Slippery Slope Soap Shop-Ron & Pauline Vierra; Weldon & Sons-Coos Bay -- **166*** Donald & Priscilla Zobel

Special Thanks to Fred Meyer

17th Year of donating 100 cases of frozen apple juice for hot apple cider and discounts on cookies & frozen lemonade for punch

Recognition by Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - February 2, 2009

Chamber honors Bridghams

Shore Acres lights organizers take top award at banquet

By JOLENE GUZMAN
Staff Writer

NORTH BEND — The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the best of 2008 last weekend, but the business community also looked to the year ahead with consensus — we'll get through the tough times by working together.

"My attitude is and will remain ... we may be in a recession, but I refuse to participate," outgoing chamber president Ken Croes said before about 200 people at the annual community awards banquet Saturday in North Bend.

New chamber President Sherry Yarbrough echoed Croes' comment, saying "anything is possible" if the community sticks together.

In that spirit, the chamber awarded its top honor to a couple whose 22-year endeavor drew almost 45,000 visitors to the Bay Area between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, despite some very nasty weather this year.

Shores Acres Holiday Lights, under the oversight of 2008 Citizens of the Year David and Shirley Bridgham, truly embodies the spirit of collective effort, Yarbrough said. About 1,500 volunteers help light up the yearly holiday extravaganza, which used a quarter of a million lights this year.



World Photo by Lou Sennick

David and Shirley Bridgham were selected the Citizens of the Year on Saturday night during the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's awards banquet held at The Mill Casino-Hotel.

"It is such a joy to share it with all of you," a surprised David Bridgham said as he and Shirley accepted the award.

The Bridghams have been sharing the lighted joy since 1987. Back then, the show was quite a bit smaller. No more than 6,000 tiny lights and one Christmas tree adorned the Shore Acres garden that year.

"Seven hundred people showed to a pitch black parking lot," Shirley Bridgham said. "The smart ones brought flashlights."

See Chamber, Page A8

The stars

The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce has honored its 2008 Annual Community Award winners. The stars of the Starry Starry Night event last weekend were:

- Prefontaine Memorial Committee Athletic Award: Ali Worthen.
- Ambassador of the Year: Pam Plumber.
- Business of the Year: The Mill Casino-Hotel.
- Citizens of the Year: David and Shirley Bridgham.



World Photos by Lou Sennick

LEFT: Pam Plumber, Ambassador of the Year. CENTER: Kelly Hoffine accepts the Prefontaine Memorial Committee Athletic Award from Stuart Woods for her sister, Ali Worthen. RIGHT: Sherry Yarbrough, new president of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

CHAMBER Win is second for Bridghams

Continued from Page A1

Dark parking lot not withstanding, the lights became an instant hit and a Bay Area holiday tradition. Shirley Bridgham said she has witnessed countless reunions of people who haven't seen each other all year, but seem to run into each other at the lights.

"When people come out to the lights, it's like coming home," Shirley Bridgham said.

The Business of the Year award winner also can be identified by its bright lights. The chamber chose The Mill Casino-Hotel as the year's top business. The chamber recognized the Mill for its hotel expansion and investment in the

Bay Area's tourism.

"In these hard times, they have been careful to protect the jobs ... of their nearly 500 employees," Yarbrough said.

She also recognized the Coquille Tribal Community Fund, which has since 2001 given \$3.2 million dollars to the community.

The chamber bestowed its Prefontaine Memorial Committee Athletic Award on 2008 Marshfield graduate and standout athlete Ali Worthen. Ambassador of the Year honors went to Pam Plumber.

This is the second time the Bridghams have accepted the Citizen of the Year Award. The first time was in 1993 — the seventh year of the lights. Shirley said people back then were worried they wouldn't continue, but the number of volunteers and the display have grown every year.

"It just grew because everyone wanted to be a part of it," she said.

"We've just been so lucky."

David and Shirley give much of the credit of the event's success to the community.

"So many dedicated volunteers help with the event," David said. "They have a great deal of ownership, which is well deserved."

Shirley said people can look forward to the tradition for years to come, even though the task of putting up — and taking down — a quarter of a million lights is daunting. The couple work on and off all year to organize the display.

If their energy runs low, they don't have to look far for inspiration.

"All we have to do is read the guest books," Shirley said, "and we are ready to go again."

Last year's guest books were signed by visitors who came from 682 cities the world over. Now that's a jump-start.

Looking Back . . . and Looking Forward

BY DAVID BRIDGHAM, FOUNDER, PRESIDENT-ELECT, CO-CHAIR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Friends of Shore Acres and our State Parks colleagues meet from time to time to review our shared goals and set new ones. On March 29, 2009, FoSA Board members, Parks Manager Preson Phillips, Shore Acres Ranger Supervisor Ellie Kinney-Martial, and Park Ranger for Sunset Bay Campground, Stephanie Miller, met at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology Boat House Auditorium for an afternoon retreat and planning session.

We reviewed our long history of strategic planning. Founded on December 4, 1986, we dreamed of what we could do for the park:

- Tell “The Shore Acres Story” to our visitors - *and we continue to do this in many ways*
- Share the beautiful gardens - both during the “blooms of the gardens” with our flower events, but also with the Holiday Lights event.

- Provide educational and interpretive services to our visitors.
- Help state parks develop meaningful improvements that would be difficult or impossible to do without our financial and volunteer support.

Our planning reviews and renewed vision happens every 5-7 years. FoSA progress has enjoyed remarkable continuity along with flexibility to change with the times.

We still enjoy opening the garden house and hosting our annual flower events with staff and community flower experts. FoSA is also planning to share and display the gardens year ‘round with a live web cam hosted on our web site. There will be a second web cam on the Observation Building trained on our famous exploding wave. Both web cams are capable of panning to additional views - accessed on our web site by this Fall.

FoSA has grown with its Holidays Lights display. This summer, we are building an additional 24x60 ft. metal storage building and sharing half of it with state parks.

Also, we are in the midst of refurbishing the windows and doors of the Garden House in cooperation with State Parks, using an expert in historical renovation. FoSA is funding this improvement to the only remaining historical building at Shore Acres.

Previously we have improved the wiring, lighting, heating, kitchen and carpet.

We have re-dedicated ourselves to not only develop great amenities to the park that we all love, but to ensure that we help maintain these amenities. Many Oregonians don’t fully appreciate what the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department does to preserve and protect what we hold dear with the limited resources it has. We can all be proud to help support this special place in our part of the world. ■



PARTICIPANTS AT RHODODENDRON SUNDAY / MOTHER’S DAY 2008



DAVID, KATHI AND DENNIS NETTER, KATHY METZGER



OLD TIME FIDDLERS



DAVID BRIDGHAM AND GEORGE GUTHRIE

Recognition by Oregon Tourism & Hospitality Industry

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - April 11, 2009

Locals win state tourism awards

■ Bridghams, Olympic Trials helpers honored

BY JO RAFFERTY
Staff Writer

The South Coast has grabbed two out of seven awards for tourism at the Oregon Tourism & Hospitality Industry 2008 Achievement Awards.

This was the first year that the Bay Area was handed two awards and only its second year of receiving an award in the 25 years of the event, said Katherine Hoppe, director of the Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau.

"This year, having both wins was incredible," Hoppe said.

The awards presentation was part of the Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism on Sunday. Several organizations involved in last summer's Olympic Trials helped earn the partnership award. David and Shirley Bridgham of North Bend, organizers of Shore Acres State Park's annual holiday lights display, were presented the volunteer achievement award.

"For the tourism industry, this is really a big deal — this is our Grammys," said Hoppe, who last year took home the creative tourism development award, the South Coast's first tourism achievement award.

"It was really fun having the area so well-represented," Hoppe said.

Hoppe said The Mill Casino-Hotel in North Bend led the way for about 100 volunteers who funded or volunteered time setting up and manning a booth during the Olympic Trials in Eugene last summer. The booth promoted the area as well as created interest in Steve Prefontaine, a Marshfield High School graduate and Olympic distance runner who died in a car accident at age 24.

SEE TOURISM | A8

TOURISM Local groups win awards

Continued from Page A1

The Olympic Trials booth inspired visitors to come to the Coos Bay area and find out more about Prefontaine, Hoppe said.

Others who had volunteered to help with the Prefontaine booth were the visitor and convention bureau, the Prefontaine Memorial Committee, Nike Running, the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, the South Coast Development Council and the Coos Bay Visitor Center-Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, according to Travel Oregon.

The Bridghams have volunteered every year for 22 years to create the Shore Acres holiday lights display in Charleston, with nearly 45,000 visitors last year. They attended the award ceremony and gave a touching acceptance speech, Hoppe said. They also won the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizens of the Year award in February.



SIGNS OF SPRING AT SHORE ACRES
DAFFODILS AND HINO CRIMSON AZALEA

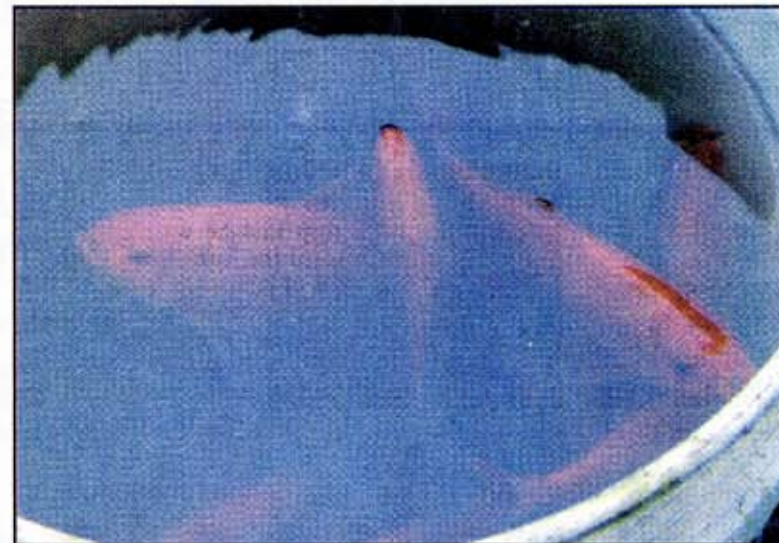
♦ ♦ ♦ More News Coverage in The World ♦ ♦ ♦

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - April 20, 2009

A newt wanders across the gravel walkway at the Shore Acres botanical garden pond, as workers undertake the annual cleaning project to remove muck.



Oregon State Parks personnel, with the help from the Shutter Creek Correctional Institute inmates, clean the pond in the botanical garden at Shore Acres State Park on Thursday. The inmates started digging out the muck in the bottom of the pond. It was 10 to 12 inches thick. They will clean and fertilize the pond plants and remove the dead ones.



World Photos by Madeline Steege

Gold fish swim in 5-gallon buckets while waiting for the Shore Acres pond to be cleaned.

The shovelers

Workers scrub Shore Acres pond

Forty goldfish and 400 newts are in luck, thanks to people shoveling muck. They'll have clean living environs.

Oregon State Parks personnel, with help from the Shutter Creek Correctional Institute inmates,

cleaned the Shore Acres State Park pond this week. The mud was 10 to 12 inches thick, requiring the mud-booted workers to scrape and sweep the ooze to the west end of the pond, but not down the drain.

The mud is dumped outside the botanical gardens and covered with mulch.

What happens to all those coins people toss in the pond? Well, there aren't many, said park ranger Supervisor Ellie Kinney-Martial. Park workers take the coins, which are stained black, and clean and tumble them. Then they donate the money to the Friends of Shore Acres.

The Shutter Creek inmates said they had seen 300-400 newts in the pond when they started cleaning. They rescued them and set the amphibians on the edge of the pond. Most wandered into the foliage. The park rangers expected to take two to three days to complete the annual cleaning project.



. . . Shore Acres Events 2009 . . .

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. will again sponsor the annual “flower days” when the Garden House is open from 11 AM to 4 PM with volunteers serving cookies, coffee and punch. Helping with these events are artists, musicians, and bonsai, rhododendron, rose, dahlia and orchid experts.

Also, the Friends will park cars and sell sundaes and lemonade at the Oregon Coast Music Festival garden concert on Saturday, July 18 at Noon. The Information & Gift Center is open all year, giving park visitors excellent shopping opportunities, as well as providing information and many interpretive brochures. While Shore Acres is *all abilities* accessible, wheel chairs are available for loan at the IGC. ■



SPRINGTIME RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS



SPRINGTIME RHODODENDRON AND YELLOW GENISTA



SPRINGTIME VIEW FROM UPSTAIRS WINDOWS

CALENDAR

- Bonsai Day - April 18
- Rhododendron Sunday-Mother's Day - May 10
- State Parks Day - June 6
- Rose Sunday-Father's Day - June 14
- OCMF Concert - July 18
- Sunset Classic Chevys Car Show - Sept. 20
- Dahlia Day - Sept. 26
- Orchids' Day - Oct. 3
- 23rd Annual Holiday Lights Nov. 26 thru Dec. 31 - 4 - 10 pm

. . . Springtime Messages . . .

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS

By Ellie Kinney-Martial, Ranger Supervisor, Shore Acres



ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL

Last September, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent, aka "Head Gardener" George Guthrie retired after 34 years of service with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

George began his career as a "seasonal" in 1973. He then worked as a Ranger at Alfred A. Loeb State Park and Humbug Mountain State Park before coming to Shore Acres in 1983. After spending three years as a Ranger at the gardens, George was promoted to Landscape Maintenance Superintendent in 1986 and continued in that position until his retirement.

I began my career with OPRD in 1990 as a Ranger and have worked the majority of that time at the gardens. Before moving to Oregon, I worked at Western Illinois University as the greenhouse manager for the Department of Biological Sciences. Last November I was promoted to Ranger Supervisor, the position formerly known as Landscape Maintenance Superintendent.

I have some big shoes to fill, or should I say boots, for those of you who know George, and we have some big projects planned for the garden this year.

One project we will be working on is the renovation of the boxwood hedges in the English Formal Garden. These hedges were planted during the garden renovation in 1975. After thirty-four years of growth and shearing, it is time to take action. We will try several different approaches in this renovation process. Some of the hedges will be cut back to determine how well they will respond to renewal pruning. We also plan to do some replacement plantings.

Another project we are working on with the Friends of Shore Acres is the installation of a web cam on the west side of the garden. Some of you may have noticed an area that has been cleared on the west side. This is phase one of the web cam project. Once the web cam is installed, we will tackle the landscaping in that section of the garden.

These are just a few things to watch for in the garden, this year. I am looking forward to working on these projects and other challenges in my new position at Shore Acres State Park. ■

GREETINGS,

BY ROBYNN REED, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC.

With life, hope "springs" eternal. Here we are experiencing the joys of springtime already! Wasn't it just yesterday we were gearing up to do the "Holiday Lights" and now we are watching the flowers emerge from the barren landscape and show us their happy faces. Trees are blooming, birds are chirping and the frogs are singing us to sleep. We get to enjoy big billowy clouds and drenching downpours interspersed with blue skies and sunshine. It is an invigorating, blustery time of year when all seems fresh and new and anything is possible, even baseball games without rain! Take time to really look around and enjoy all the beautiful things nature has provided. Take yourself and your family on a nature walk and sing with the birds, jump with the frogs and whirl with the wind! Enjoy each moment and all those special people around you every day.

Pass it on – make someone happy.

Happy Spring!



MIKE AND ROBYNN REED ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY, OCT. 15, 2008. ROBYNN HAS CHAIRED THE HOUSE DECORATING SINCE 1997. MIKE IS A ONE OF HER VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEERS!



. . . Friends' Information & Gift Center . . .

AN ALL-VOLUNTEER OPERATION MANAGED BY LOU AND SHARON KOLKHORST

We have gone green. Not entirely, but we are trying some new items. We carry bamboo shirts. No, they are not made with leaves, but are 70% bamboo and 30% cotton. These are really soft and lightweight. We are carrying a card/book line made with recycled fibers. We have soy socks and recycled plastic bag socks. These both have the Shore Acres label. We even carry edible bird feeders.

Over a year ago, we added a wool hat line and later added sweaters, scarves and mittens. In with the new - out with the old. We have cleared out many of the old book lines and added many new titles. There are lots of new puzzles, in fact all have been changed.

Yes, we have a great Penny machine with 4 designs (Cape Arago Lighthouse, OPRD Logo, Garden House and Pond). There is also a passport to hold all your designs. We found some great new kids games, science projects, sand pails, puppets and lots more.

We are adding several new Shore Acres post cards that really show off the gardens. There is a night light selection second to none. We also have small electric lamps from Ibis and Orchid. Playing cards with scenic backs and kids cards too.

We have just received some t-shirts with great new embroidered local designs fresh from BNT Promotional Products.



PARK HOST JIM LIGHTHILL SHOWS OFF THE NEW BAMBOO SHIRTS.



ENTRANCE AND IGC REMINISCENT OF THE SIMPSON ERA.

I haven't even begun to describe all the great items in the shop. It is also the place to stop and ask questions about the park and the local area. We have some great volunteers who keep our store open and are very informative.

If you would like to volunteer, please ask at the Information and Gift Center, or call 541-888-2472. You can also call Vee Elliott at 541-888-5447 or Betty Kennedy at 541-267-7597. ■



NIGHT LIGHTS SECTION

. . . Sunset Bay Management Unit News . . .

SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT GETS ALL-STAR PARK AWARD

By ANDY LATOMME, SOUTHWEST AREA MANAGER, OPRD

Established in 1999, the All-Star Park is an annual award presented by OPRD that gives all field team members in a management unit the opportunity to work together to achieve a level of excellence by demonstrating a commitment to OPRD's mission and service ethic. Participation in the award program is optional, as determined by management unit team members.

The requirements for the award are structured to align with the eight goals of OPRD's Target 2014 as adopted by the OPRD Commission. All 30 OPRD management unit teams, regardless of size, can qualify for the award in any given year.

To earn the All Star Park Award, a Management Unit must complete all 29 mandatory requirements and a minimum of 15 of the 33 optional requirements, from at least six of the eight Target 2014 Goal categories. The flexible nature of the requirements allows the award to be tailored to emphasize changing departmental goals and to provide a means for adjusting performance standards as needed.

This year marked the first year of the Sunset Bay Management Unit's participation in the All Star Park Award program. In 2008, twelve OPRD Management Units qualified for the award. ■



PRESON AND ELLIE PROUDLY DISPLAY SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT'S ALL-STAR PARK AWARD FOR 2008

RECYCLING AT ITS BEST!

BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM



THE REDWOOD ENTRANCE AT SHORE ACRES DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN 1989. WHEN WE BUILT THE NEW ENTRANCE AND INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER IN 2003, THE REDWOOD WAS SAVED FOR FUTURE PROJECTS.



DAVID BRIDGHAM CHECKS OUT THE NEW BROCHURE RACK BUILT OUT OF RECYCLED AND REFINISHED REDWOOD BY BOB DIXON

PREPARING FOR GROWTH

By Preson Phillips, Park Manager, Sunset Bay Management Unit



Spring of 2009 finds us again busy preparing for growth. The garden is primed for floral bloom, the water system is pressurized, Parks Staff will soon add a new member at Shore Acres, and our Friends have blazed the way to build a new shop.

Ellie is growing into her new position with remarkable results. This next year will see her garden plan begin to become reality. I look forward to working with her and everyone at Shore Acres on the myriad of projects and issues that 2009 brings us. ■



IN 2008, BOB DIXON CREATED A NEW GATE FROM THE OLD REDWOOD AND JUST RECENTLY IN 2009, A SMALL POWER BUILDING ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE GARDEN. A BIG THANKS GOES TO THE SHUTTER CREEK CORRECTIONS CREW FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE WITH THESE PROJECTS.

YOU ARE INVITED

TO JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY TO *NATURE, HISTORY, DISCOVERY*

BY STEPHANIE MILLER, PARK RANGER



WHO: For the second year in a row, the Sunset Bay interpretive team will have a full returning staff! The team includes a full time park ranger, Stephanie Miller, a seasonal interpretive ranger, Kristin Hovencotter-Greco, a seasonal rocky shores naturalist, Kris Emmett, and a set of interpretive hosts, Larry and Kolette McClurg. New this year will be another set of interpretive hosts sponsored through a partnership between Oregon State Parks and Shoreline Education for Awareness (S.E.A.), Kevin Jones and Cheryl Compton.

WHAT: Endless possibilities to discover this amazing part of the Oregon coast!

Day time program topics can vary as much as the weather. Tidepool walks, W.W. II history walks to the bunkers, native plant walks, Jr. Ranger programs for kids ages 6-12, and Shore Acres Simpson history strolls are just a few of your choices.



SHORE ACRES CLIFFS SOUTH



SUNSET BAY SOUTH

Evening programs are an ideal activity for after dinner or before a sunset. You can spend your evening “with” marine mammals or cougars, imagining what life at a lighthouse was like, or “digging up” the past of Sunset Bay.

Guest speakers are invited to share their passion for things such as sand, estuaries, the night sky, or myrtlewood. You may also find us out on the trails, beaches, and viewpoints talking with visitors and waiting to answer your questions.

Have an idea for a program? Let us know. We are always looking for new ideas.

WHEN AND WHERE: Programs run from Memorial Day through Labor Day, with most programs in June, July, and August. Actual program times and locations vary. Schedules will be posted in the campground as well as day use areas through out the Sunset Bay Management Unit. Or, you can call the Interpretive Center for more information at 541-888-0982.

WHY: WHY NOT! These programs are not just for campers. Community members are always welcome. We hope that you will share your questions, suggestions, and stories with us.

Come join us in discovering all the beautiful things about this place we call home. **No R.S.V.P needed! ■**

Rose Sunday / Father's Day – June 14, 2009



IN THE GARDEN, ROSE EXPERTS ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MANY VISITORS.



IN THE GARDEN HOUSE, KATHY HORNSTEUN, KATHY METZGER AND RAY LEE SERVE REFRESHMENTS.



(L-R) ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL, HELEN DOVING, JAY DOW, RAY DUSKIN, HELEN HARRIS (CORNER - GEORGE GUTHRIE)



Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert - July 18, 2009



(L-R) DAWN BUXTON, KATHY AND RON METZGER



MARY LUTHER AND "SOULPIE"



. . . Live Web Cam Project 2009. . .



TO SELECT A LOCATION FOR THE POLE AND WEB CAM, PARK RANGER BOB DIXON CHECKED THE VIEW FROM THE WEST SIDE AND TOOK A PICTURE OF THE PAVILION AND GARDENS.



(L-R) PRESON PHILLIPS, PAM STEVENS, ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL, AND TOM KYLE MET TO DISCUSS THE LOGISTICS OF THE WIRING FOR THE WEB CAM.

— WHAT IT TOOK TO GET THE JOB DONE —

- 450' DITCH FROM POLE TO IGC - SHUTTER CREEK CREW
- 25' POLE & CAMERA MOUNT - KYLE ELECTRIC
- 450' PVC AND 450' RG-59 COAX CABLE - KYLE ELECTRIC
- 2 EXPERT TECHNICIANS - JOHN TAYLOR AND JAMES CHILSON, SWOCC ITS TO FIGURE OUT THE CAMERA PROGRAMMING
- 1 EXPERT WEB DESIGNER - ALLAN LEDESMA, EPUERTO
- SHORE ACRES STAFF - ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL, PAM STEVENS, BOB DIXON - "BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY" PARTICIPATION
- SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT - ANDY LATOMME, LARRY BECKER, PRESON PHILLIPS - CONSISTENT COOPERATION
- FUNDING BY FO SA

WWW.SHOREACRES.NET



BASE FOR WILD BLUE SATELLITE DISH NEAR THE NORTHWEST GARDEN.

. . . Live Web Cam Project 2009 . . .



(L-R) JAMES CHILSON AND JOHN TAYLOR, IN THE LOFT OF THE INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER, PROGRAM THE CAMERA.

John Taylor has been with SWOCC for 10 years. He originally was hired in 2000 as a computer technician until 2007. From 2007 until current he has been working as a network specialist. John was born in Crescent City and lived in Grants Pass until the age of 10 when his family moved to North Bend. •

James Chilson has been with SWOCC since the beginning of this year working as a programmer in the ITS department. He is originally from Dallas, Oregon and has his BS degree in math/computer science from Western Oregon University as well as his MS degree in computer science from the University of British Columbia. •



A PELCO CAMERA AND WILDBLUE SATELLITE DISH MAKE THE WEB CAM POSSIBLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVING TECHNOLOGY.



"BIRDS EYE" WEB CAM VIEWS FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE GARDEN LOOKING EAST. THE WEB CAMERA PANS FROM NORTHEAST TO SOUTHEAST TAKING SNAPSHOTS AND SENDING THEM TO OUR WEB SERVER WHERE THEY ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE WEB SITE. WE ARE LIMITED TO STILL PHOTOS (RATHER THAN VIDEO) DUE TO THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR SATELLITE ACCESS. HOWEVER, YOU DO SEE THE MOST CURRENT CONDITIONS AT THE GARDENS AS EACH NEW SNAPSHOT REPLACES THE PREVIOUS ONE. IF YOU ARE LOOKING AT NIGHT, THE BOX WILL BE BLACK UNTIL HOLIDAY LIGHTS TIME, THEN WE WILL SEE WHAT WE SEE?! •

. . . New Shop for Friends and Park . . .

BUILDING-2 (B-2) IS COMPLETED IN LATE JULY OF 2009

HALF OF B-2 WILL BE USED BY THE FRIENDS – THE OTHER HALF BY PARK STAFF.



KUDOS TO TOM BENZ AND HIS KUBOTO FOR DIGGING THE DITCH FOR THE ELECTRICAL LINE TO THE NEW SHOP.



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 23:

Annual Bear - September 1, 2009 - August 31, 2010

Album 22 - Completed August 25, 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