



Shore Acres State Park  
Before Friends - 1986

Album 24





Shirley Bridgham

## How Friends of Shore Acres Happened

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

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

## Aerial and Gardens — 1986



Shirley Bridgham





Shirley Bridgham

## About the Friends' Albums

*By Shirley Bridgham - 2014*

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

## Aerials - 1986



Ward Robertson



## Note from Shirley Bridgham - September 2014



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

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

**1st Birthday - Dec. 4, 1987**

**1st Christmas Lights - Dec. 11, 1987**

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

**2nd Birthday - Dec. 4, 1988**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Note from David Bridgham - September 2014

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

*Founded December 4, 1986*



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

***FOSA BYLAWS***



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

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## 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.

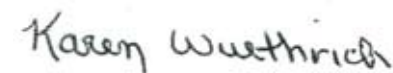
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

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, 2010 - August 31, 2011

## Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Annual Meeting Highlights September 14, 2010 – Shore Acres Garden House

### ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

President David Bridgham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Directors present: David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham, Joan Clifton, Vee Elliott, Jack Gilham, Betty Kennedy, Kathy Metzger, Robynn Reed, Timm Slater, Barb Taylor, Dell Willis

Directors absent: Lou Kolkhorst, Sharon Kolkhorst, Dennis and Kathi Netter

Guests: President, David Bridgham welcomed guests: OPRD Volunteer Services Coordinator, Tammy Baumann, Billie and Brian Bergstrom, Roberta Willis and Ellie Kinney-Martial

Introductions: Introductions were made around the table.

Remarks: A list of Friends accomplishments was reviewed and discussed:

#### Friends Accomplishments September 2009 - August 2010 Compiled by Bridgham's

- Information & Gift Center had ongoing success
- Updated and printed Shore Acres History/Friends Milestones Membership brochure.
- Produced new Simpson Reef and Shell Island brochure (full color with photos)
- Successful 23rd annual Holiday Lights season in 2009 with an est. 53,172 visitors
- New gate at southwest entrance to gardens - Bob Dixon and crew
- Web site maintenance ongoing - Shirley, Lou
- Got the web cam functioning on our web site (including a link to Sunset Bay's weather cam) - with technical help from Allan Ledesma, EPUERTO and John Taylor and James Chilson at SWOCC
- Annual Summer Journal (fifth full color; 16 pages) sent to 435 people on the Friends' mailing list: includes members, financial supporters, and volunteers
- Successful annual flower day events and music festival concert - board members and volunteers
- Provided dollars for new plants and plant signs
- Reprinted "Roses" card
- Refurbished Memorial Fountain inside and out
- Historical crane (Simpson estate) restored by Jack Gilham
- A second new cabinet purchased for Friends' Reference Library in Garden House
- New cabinet put together by Jack Gilham and Joan Clifton
- Organized new storage building (B-2) and installed shelving
- Developed plan and budget for regular Friends activities (IGC; Holiday Lts; etc. - see budget)
- Developed plan and budget for projects to be completed by June 30, 2011 (see budget)



(CLOCKWISE FROM DAVID BRIDGHAM) TAMMY BAUMAN, TIMM SLATER, BARB TAYLOR, ROBYNN REED, ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL, DELL WILLIS, ROBERTA WILLIS, KATHY METZGER, BRIAN BERGSTROM, BILLIE BERGSTROM, VEE ELLIOTT, BETTY KENNEDY, JOAN CLIFTON, JACK GILHAM

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS:

Nominations coordinator, Shirley Bridgham, nominated Vee Elliott, Lou Kolkhorst, and Dennis and Kathi Netter to serve as Directors for a term of three years, expiring in September 2013. All elected by unanimous vote.

Past President, David Bridgham, passed the gavel to President, Timm Slater

### SOCIAL BREAK FOR ICE CREAM SUNDAES







## Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Board Meeting Highlights September 14, 2010 – Shore Acres Garden House

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

President Timm Slater called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM

**Directors Present:** Same as Annual Meeting

**Election of Officers:** Nominations for Board officers were: President-elect - Shirley Bridgham, Secretary-Dennis and Kathi Netter, Treasurer – Barb Taylor. MSP

**Review of Minutes:** MSP to accept minutes of July13, 2010

**Financial Report:** Barb Taylor - Total Checking/Savings: \$ 219,984.22

**Information and Gift Center Report:** Barb Taylor

Sales for July were \$26,305.00, and sales for August were \$26,127.00, an increase of 7.10% over last August. Total sales year to date are \$52,432

**State Parks Report:** Ellie Kinney-Martial, Preson Phillips

Amy McAuley, Oculus Fine Carpentry, has started to build the windows that will be used for replacement of the doors on the south side of the garden house. Work is in progress to finalize the scope of work for the observation building interpretive panels. Interpretive park host, Kolette McClurg, opened the garden house twice a week for approximately 2 hours. The house was open on 16 days and there were 969 visitors. A new 1 ¼ mile section of trail near Yoakum Point, funded by a Federal Trails Grant and a grant from the Friends of Shore Acres, was completed this summer.

### Old Business:

- The “Brief History” brochure has been updated and reprinted, as well as the Simpson Reef brochure. Plans are to revise the “Gardens Above the Waves” DVD and “Holiday Lights” Screensaver in 2011.
- Oregon Coast Music Festival concert: David and Jack assisted with parking. Attendance was up over last year.
- Natural Resource Specialist, Sherri Laier, sent card to the Board, thanking them for the generous donation of books from the IGC.

### New Business:

- Interpreter Position: Preson Phillips requested additional revenue to fund the Rocky Shores Interpreter position through the 2009-2011 biennium. Motion passed to increase funding for the position over a period of two fiscal years.
- Barb brought a copy of the October issue of Oregon Coast Magazine which had an article about Shore Acres

**Good of the Order:** Robynn reported that David and Shirley Bridgham were honored with a Lifetime Achievement award by the city of North Bend as part of its annual July Jubilee Celebration.

**OPRD:** Tammy Baumann thanked the Board for the many hours they have volunteered for the department. She also reported that planning for the next Co-op Conference is underway, and she encouraged all board members to attend.

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at the North Bend Public Library

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

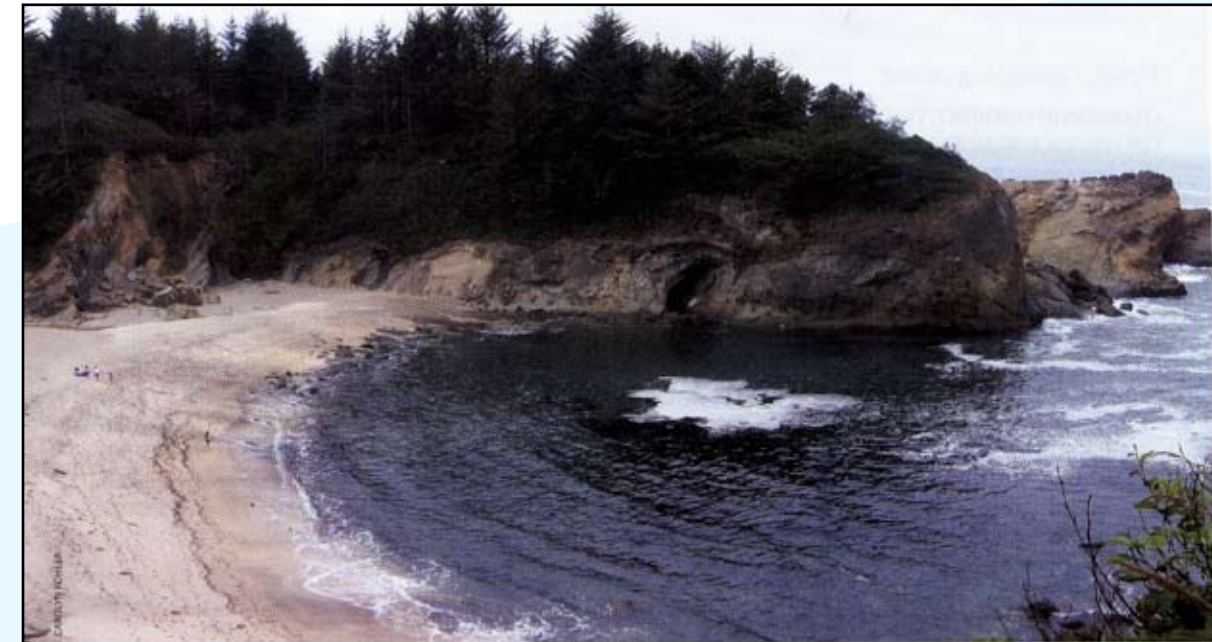
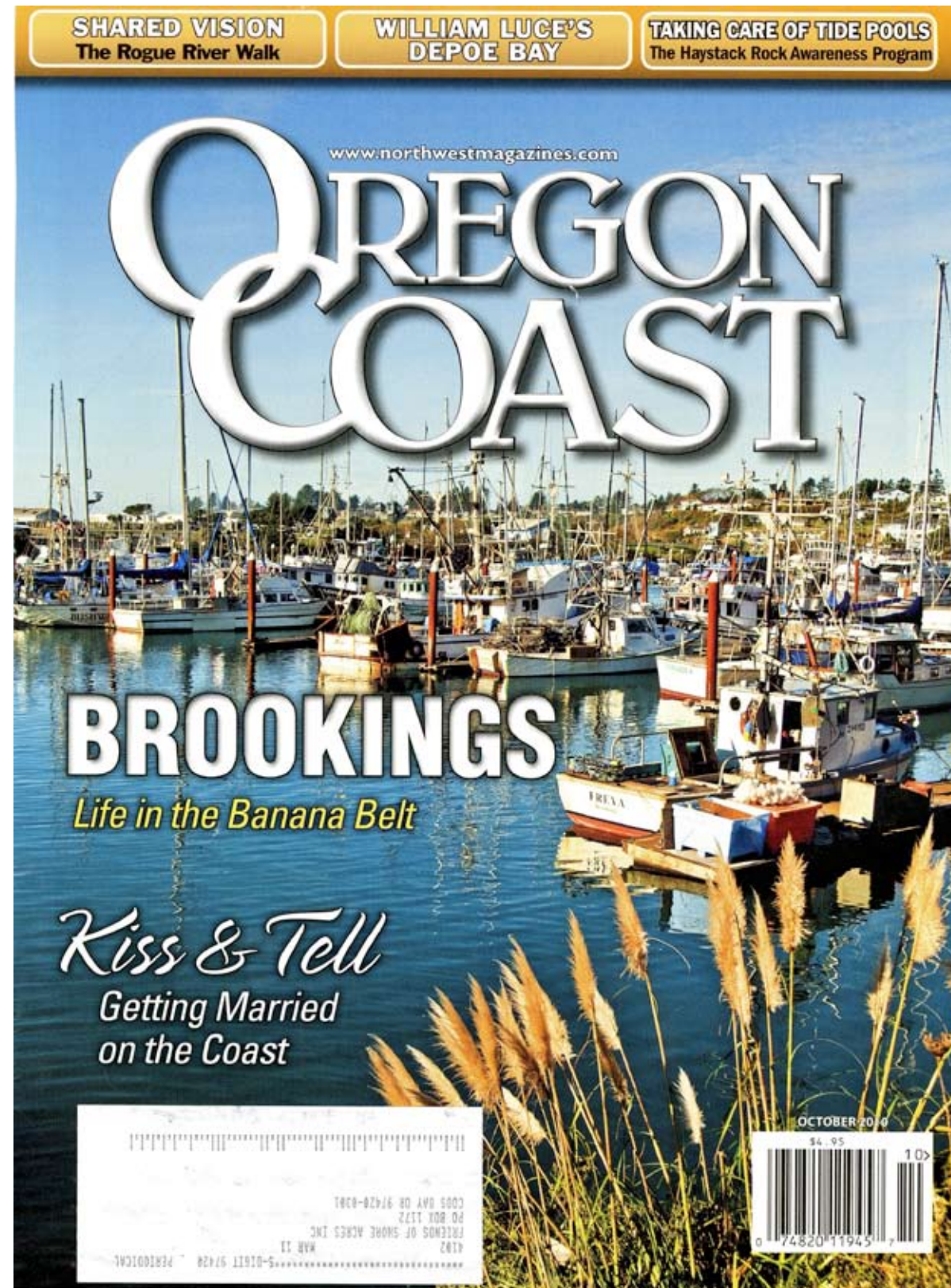
Respectfully submitted, Ellie Kinney-Martial and Shirley Bridgham

### 24TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2010 - PROGRESS REPORT CO-CHAIR - SHIRLEY AND DAVID BRIDGHAM

- Lights plan is done except for a few modifications.
- L.E.D. Lights failures replaced by company
- L.E.D. Lights (additional and backup ) lights ordered, received, unpacked and waterproofed
- Back ordered L.E.D. Lights will be in mid-October
- Lights sculptures powder coated and being re-strung with L.E.D. rope lighting
- Holiday Lights brochure developed and produced
- Parking coupons printed
- Lights pledge campaign packets mailed with responses coming in (\$5,932.75 to date)
- Thank-you cards, posters, and parking coupons mailed to lights pledge contributors
- Mailed Fred Meyer request for apple juice and lemonade and discounts on cookies - Approved; 100 cases apple juice and 10 cases lemonade will be donated; Cookies have been ordered; Vend West will store and deliver juice; Day Ship Supply will store and deliver cookies
- Holiday poster created; copies made at Wegferds'; ready for distribution
- Mailed brochures and holiday posters to south coast visitor centers and media outlets
- Robynn Reed is coordinating the house decorating.
- Kathi Netter is coordinating the cider spice production.
- Kathy Metzger is coordinating the host schedule.
- Dawn Buxton is coordinating the tree decorators.
- Dino and Cindy Coolen are organizing entertainers.
- Additional lighted “Flower” units being created by Jack and Joan
- Sanicans have been ordered.
- Lights setup starts in October.
- New lights sculpture display planned for entrance with help from Ray Daniels at SWOCC



# Awesome Autumn Publicity



## Louis Simpson's Legacy

STORY BY CAROLYN KOHLER

**W**E WERE ONLY a few steps away from our car when we began to hear it—the hoarse barking of restless sea lions. The racket led us to Simpson Reef Overlook, where we leaned out to see a giant mass of the bobbing, vocal creatures.

As many as 2,000 male sea lions can show up in this part of the Oregon Coast during the late summer and fall. At this moment, every single one of them already here was barking full-force. Packed flipper-to-flipper, they nudged and pushed each other to claim any bit of space on the reef's small islands.

We are in Cape Arago State Park, 15 miles southwest of Coos Bay. Its offshore islands, rocks, and reef are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, a safe haven for marine mammals such as these sea lions. Many of them will stay at the cape on "bachelor islands" until spring and then migrate south to California. Others will



go as far north as British Columbia.

Cape Arago is also a prime location to look for gray whales because they swim close to shore here. Most of them travel north from March through June on their way to Alaska and then south from December through February on their way to Baja.

We peered through our binoculars to see if we could catch a glimpse of a gray whale or possibly an elephant seal. None appeared, but we were totally enter-

tained by dozens of strutting, flapping cormorants just offshore.

Cape Arago, along with two other adjoining state parks, Shore Acres and Sunset Bay, showcases a variety of marine life, rugged bluffs, and secluded coves. The parks are connected by the Cape Arago Highway as well as a 3.5-mile segment of the Oregon Coast Trail. Visitors can easily explore all three parks in one day, as we did, either by car or on foot.

The parks were once the private estate of pioneer lumberman and ship builder, Louis J. Simpson. His story is one of love and fortune, found and lost.

Simpson first saw these sandstone cliffs with their panoramic ocean view in 1905. He purchased the land and built a showcase summer mansion as a gift to his wife, Cassie. As his business grew, his ships brought back exotic plants and flowers from around the world for the estate's gardens.



## Tips for searching online

### CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE/VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU WEBSITES

Many have a section for weddings or group events. If they don't, give them a call. Couples looking to save some cash should also see if the chamber has its own rentable facility, as does the Cannon Beach chamber.

**OREGON COAST WEDDING SITE** My Oregon Coast Wedding ([myoregoncoastwedding.com](http://myoregoncoastwedding.com))

### LODGING SITES

**Resortandlodges.com** allows you to search the entire coast. Do a general search—a lot of properties don't list up front that they accommodate groups or weddings.

### VACATION RENTALS

**VRBO.com.** This is a great resource for vacation rentals. Many properties mention if they allow weddings, but always follow-up if you find something you love and it doesn't say. I found our dream beach house-turned-venue on this site. It allowed us to make a weekend out of our wedding and share one of our favorite places—the Oregon beach!

### CAMPGROUNDS/RETREATS

**Oregonstateparks.org** lists parks by northern, central, and southern locations. Contact each park to learn about regulations and permits, especially if you are planning a wedding on a public beach. Shore Acres State Park, just south of Coos Bay, and Hug Point

State Recreation Site, just south of Cannon Beach, are a couple of popular parks for weddings. Or you can rent an entire private camp, such as Camp Westwind, a secluded beach compound just north of Lincoln City.

**WEDDING PLANNERS** A seasoned planner knows how to navigate the restrictions, permits, rental vendors, and small details to make your intimate ceremony for two or elaborate ceremony/reception a success. Wren Smart of Rose Haven Designs ([www.rosehavendesigns.com](http://www.rosehavendesigns.com)), or Debbie Nelson of Basketcase ([www.cannonbeachflorist.com](http://www.cannonbeachflorist.com)) are just a couple planners dedicated to Oregon Coast weddings.

### SALISHAN SPA & GOLF

**RESORT** Resort-style wedding with views of USGA golf course, spa packages, and high-end dining and lodging. (800-452-2300; [www.salishan.com](http://www.salishan.com))

### Otter Rock

**INN AT OTTER CREST** On the ocean, nine reception rooms, wedding packages and lodging, room for very large weddings (up to 500). (541-765-2111; [www.innatottercrest.com](http://www.innatottercrest.com))

### Newport

#### OREGON COAST AQUARIUM

Rent either the full facility or the Gleason Event Room with the Passages of the Deep (shark tunnel) area. Onsite catering is available. (541-867-3474 x 5319; [www.aquarium.org](http://www.aquarium.org))

### STARFISH POINT

Weddings on the beach and condominium lodging. Packages available. (800-870-7795; [www.starfishpoint.com](http://www.starfishpoint.com))

### South Beach

#### STONE CREST CELLAR B&B

All-inclusive weddings to simple

elopement packages are available at this secluded, ocean-side lodging. (541-867-6621; [www.stonecrestbhb.com](http://www.stonecrestbhb.com))

### Waldport

#### OREGON COAST GARDEN

**CENTER** Inquire about private events. (541-563-6001; [members.pioneer.net/~ocgc/](http://members.pioneer.net/~ocgc/))

### Yachats

**ADOBE RESORT** Ceremony on the bluff and ocean-view reception room holds 100. Packages, lodging, in-house catering. Full-service, ask for Sue. (800-522-3623; [www.adoberesort.com](http://www.adoberesort.com))

### HECETA HEAD LIGHTHOUSE AND HECETA HEAD

**LIGHTSTATION B&B** Exchange vows in a very intimate group by the lighthouse or in front of 150 guests at the B&B. Full-service planning available; B&B lodging up to 14 guests. (866-547-3696; [www.hecetalighthouse.com](http://www.hecetalighthouse.com))

### LITTLE LOG CHURCH

**MUSEUM** Up to 60 capacity; wed in the church and have a reception in the garden. Pipe organ available.

Very budget-friendly. (541-547-3976; [www.ci.yachats.or.us/LittleLogChurch.htm](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us/LittleLogChurch.htm))

**OVERLEAF LODGE** Wedding on the bluff and Overleaf event center for receptions. Lodging available. (800-338-0507; [www.overleaflodge.com](http://www.overleaflodge.com))

**YACHATS INN** With views of the beach, the teahouse can accommodate up to 60 people. Very budget-friendly. (888-270-3456; [www.yachatsinn.com](http://www.yachatsinn.com))

### Florence

**DRIFTWOOD SHORES** Event space overlooking beach and onsite catering. Banquet seating for 105. Lodging available. (800-422-5091; [www.driftwoodshores.com](http://www.driftwoodshores.com))

**OSPREY SHORES LAKEFRONT ESTATE** Private rental on Woahink Lake. Outdoor reception area for up to 150 people. (866-997-1351; [www.ospreyshores.com](http://www.ospreyshores.com))

### Coos Bay

#### SHORE ACRES STATE PARK

Several event space options; the Garden House reserves indoor/

outdoor area for up to 45 people. Very budget-friendly. (541-888-3778; [www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net))

### Port Orford

#### WILDSRING GUEST HABITAT

Private eco-friendly resort on the ocean; choose a beach, forest or indoor wedding. Lodging in luxury cabins for up to 22 people. (866-333-9453; [www.wildspring.com](http://www.wildspring.com))

### Gold Beach

#### TURTLE ROCK RV RESORT

Weddings on the beach; meeting hall with deck for receptions for up to 80 people. Vacation rentals and RV sites. (800-353-9754; [www.turtlerockresorts.com](http://www.turtlerockresorts.com))

### TU TU TUN LODGE

Located on the Rogue River, this high-end lodge offers indoor/outdoor weddings, lodging, and catering. Seven miles to the beach. (800-864-6357; [www.tututun.com](http://www.tututun.com))



PRECEDING PAGE: Simpson Beach at Shore Acres State Park. LEFT: Sunset Bay State Park. RIGHT: Cape Arago State Park is a scene of rugged rocks and offshore reefs.



*Three South Coast state parks were once the expansive estate of a lumber baron, but are now open for all to enjoy.*

Fifteen years later, Cassie died after a long illness. Soon after her death, the mansion mysteriously burned to the ground.

Simpson and his second wife, Lela, built another mansion on the estate. Misfortune struck again when they lost most of their wealth during the Depression. In 1932, they gave the Cape Arago portion of the property to the state of Oregon. Later, they sold the remainder to the state for use as a public park.

"We owe a lot to Louis Simpson," says Lou Kolkhorst, a volunteer with the Friends of Shore Acres organization. "This beautiful area might have been developed if it weren't for him."

The centerpiece of Shore Acres State Park is Simpson's wonderful gardens, where something is blooming almost every day of the year.

"Helping out with the gardens is a real community effort," says Shirley

Bridgham, who was a founding member of the Friends of Shore Acres organization in 1986. "We currently have over 1,500 volunteers. They have so much fun, particularly during the holidays when we string up 300,000 lights for the Holiday Lights display. The gardens are really special, and people come from all over the world to visit them."

Stepping through the entrance gazebo, we could easily see why. It was August and the roses and dahlias were on full display. At other times of the year, the gardens burst with daffodils, tulips, and rhododendrons.

We wandered leisurely through the flowerbeds, happily stopping to smell nearly every type of rose. Tucked behind the greenhouse, we discovered the All America Rose Garden, every rose an award winner. One of our favorites was named Hot Cocoa, and yes, it did smell a bit like cocoa.

Later, we strolled by the oriental lily pond. A very realistic sculpture of two cranes standing in the middle of the pond made us pause and look twice. Lily pads, palm trees, and tall evergreens, an unusual combination, all thrive here.

After leaving the gardens and closing the gate behind us to keep out the deer, we followed a sign pointing to Simpson Beach. A short path led through patches of sword ferns to a small, secluded cove. Suspended in the cove's orange-and-buff-colored walls were black rocks, the size of cannonballs. A waterfall emerged from the forested bluff above the cove and trickled downward to the ocean.

At least a dozen harbor seals rested lazily on a slab of rock, only a few feet from shore. Looking a bit like large slugs, they lay motionless and quiet, unlike their noisy neighbors at Cape Arago.





The gardens at Shore Acres State Park feature year-round displays of flowers and evergreen plants.



Oriental garden and lily pond.

Back on the bluff again, we ducked into the glass-enclosed observation building, perched high above the ocean. This was where Louis Simpson's mansion once stood, and his view was stunning. The park's brochure advertised the observation building as the perfect place to see "towering waves crashing against the shoreline after a winter storm." Simpson must have spent many wonderful days here doing just that.

After leaving the observation building, we decided to explore a path that turned inland through the trees. Much of Shore Acres State Park is covered by coastal rainforest, primarily Sitka spruce. We wound our way for about a quarter mile, enjoying the soft cushion of needles beneath our feet.

Suddenly, we heard chirping coming from a large nest of intertwined sticks, lodged on the top of a nearby spruce. Looking up, we saw an osprey attempt three times to land in the nest. A second osprey rose up each time, giving chase for a moment as if to say, "You can't come home until you bring back food!"

We hurried toward the tree to get a closer look at the action. As we peered through our binoculars, we saw the chastised osprey fly away and return a few



minutes later. It swooped overhead and, without landing, dropped a fish right into the nest. The chick, its appetite satisfied, soon became silent. It was full, but we were hungry. It seemed like a good time to stop for lunch.

Sunset Bay State Park was our last destination. It offers camping, a variety of hiking trails, and views of the Cape Arago Lighthouse. For us, Sunset Bay provided the perfect table for a picnic, overlooking Sunset Beach. As we unwrapped our sandwiches, we looked at each other and said, "Thank you, Louis Simpson." ■



## WHEN YOU GO

Cape Arago, Shore Acres, and Sunset Bay state parks are on Cape Arago Highway, 15 miles southwest of Coos Bay. The parks are open 8 a.m. until dusk all year. Shore Acres charges a \$5 per car parking fee (866-888-6100; [www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net)). Cape Arago and Sunset Bay are free to park (800-551-6949; [www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org)).

Any time of year is a great time to go. Following is a general calendar of what you may find, but call ahead for specifics:

### Shore Acres (Gardens):

- February/March—Daffodils
- March/April—Tulips
- April/May—Rhododendrons and Azaleas
- June–September—Roses
- August–October—Dahlias
- Thanksgiving–New Years—Holiday Lights display
- All Year—Deciduous and evergreen perennials, including Oregon's largest Monterey pine

### Cape Arago (Simpson Reef):

- December–February—Gray whales migrate south
- March–June—Gray whales migrate north
- April–June—peak of Northern elephant seal presence
- August–May—peak of California and Steller sea lion presence
- All Year—Harbor seals, Northern elephant seals, California sea lions, Steller sea lions



# SOUTH COAST

www.theworldlink.com

Managing Editor James H. Casey ■ news@theworldlink.com ■ 541-269-1222, ext. 239

Tuesday, October 12, 2010 ■ A3

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - October 12, 2010

## Historians will tell the story of Shore Acres

"Historically Speaking Redux," a series of local history presentations, continues at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21, at Coos Bay Public Library. David and Shirley Bridgham will present "The History of Shore Acres State Park."

Shore Acres began as a private estate with luxurious gardens featuring trees, shrubs and flowering plants brought from around the world aboard the sailing ships of pioneer lumberman and shipbuilder Louis J. Simpson, the founder of North Bend.

The estate began as a summer home, presented to Mrs. Simpson as a Christmas gift in 1906. Simpson developed the home into a showplace three-story mansion that included a palm room, a 52-foot heated indoor pool, rows of guestrooms and a 76-foot ballroom for their elaborate parties. The grounds contained five acres of formal gardens, including a Japanese-style garden built around a 100-foot lily pond.

Louis Simpson's fortunes declined after World War I, when demand for wooden ships decreased. After the mansion burned in a myste-

rious fire on the night of the Fourth of July, 1921, Simpson moved temporarily into the caretaker's cottage. The cottage has survived to this day. After one of his ships wrecked nearby, dumping its lumber on the beaches here, Simpson salvaged the wood to begin construction of a new mansion in 1927. Work stopped when the 1929 stock market crash staggered Simpson's fortunes yet again. He moved out in 1936 and sold the property to the state of Oregon for a mere \$29,000 in 1942. The mansion was used briefly as a barracks in World War II and was razed by the state parks department in 1948.

David and Shirley Bridgham are best known for their 24-years of directing the Shore Acres Holiday Lights. The Bridghams are credited with forming the Friends of Shore Acres organization in 1986 and creating the first light display when 6,000 lights and one decorated tree were seen by 700 people. Now, the popular event includes 300,000 lights and 26 decorated trees attracting more than 50,000 visitors from Thanksgiving to New Year's. Both have served on the



World Photo by Madeline Steege

Shore Acres State Park will be the subject of "Historically Speaking Redux" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21, at Coos Bay Public Library.

Friends of Shore Acres Board of Directors. Shirley Bridgham published the organization's first newsletter in 1987 and continues to do so. They are both active of the local education, art, media and music communi-

ties.

Future programs in this series, sponsored by the Friends of Coos Bay Public Library and the Coos Bay Public Library Foundation, include "Law on the Bay: Marshfield, Oregon, 1874-

1944" by Andie Jensen, and "Living on the Edge: The Coquille River Valley's Frontier Years, 1750-1900"

by Reg Pullen. For more information call 541-269-1101 or visit <http://bay.cooslibraries.org>.



# Lights Setup Goal

**24th Annual**  
**Holiday Lights** *(almost all L.E.D.)*  
**at Shore Acres State Park**  
**a "community tradition" since 1987**

**300,000 Lights!**

**Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve - 4-9:30 PM - OPEN HOUSE**



Shore Acres "Wave" - Spectacular!

**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 - \$5 or OPRD Annual Pass or Oregon Pacific Coast Passport or Current Campground Receipt

Annual Passes available in Dec. - \$25 - (541) 756-5401 or 888-3732 or 888-3778 - [www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net)

"Holiday Lights" is sponsored by Friends of Shore Acres Inc. in partnership with Shore Acres State Park, Coos Bay, OR 97420

# "Western Shore" Debut

**NEW SCULPTURE BY RAY DANIELS - 2010**

Sometimes referred to as the Oregon Clipper, the *Western Shore* was designed by Asa and Robert Simpson, and built by John Kruse, North Bend. Launched in 1874, the *Western Shore* was the only Clipper ship built on the west coast. It was the flag ship of Captain Asa Mead Simpson, father of Louis J. Simpson of Shore Acres. The lighted sculpture of the *Western Shore* was designed and fabricated by Ray Daniels, welding instructor at Southwestern Oregon Community College. It was lighted and set up by Friends' volunteers David Bridgham, Ray Daniels, and Dell and Roberta Willis. ■



ROBERTA



(L-R) DELL, DAVID AND RAY



# Setting Up by Valiant Volunteers



BETTY KENNEDY AND SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS



MIKE PERKINS



PARK MANAGER PRESON PHILLIPS AND DAUGHTER LAYNE



KATHY METZGER DIRECTS 4-H GROUP



# Setting Up by Valiant Volunteers



MAXENE JOHANNESSEN



CHARLES SERLIS



CAROL VENTGEN AND MIKE PERKINS



JACK GILHAM AND JOAN CLIFTON



# Setting Up by Valiant Volunteers



COOS BAY FIREFIGHTERS



DAVID BRIDGHAM  
CO-CHAIR HOLIDAY LIGHTS



JIM ARBUCKLE



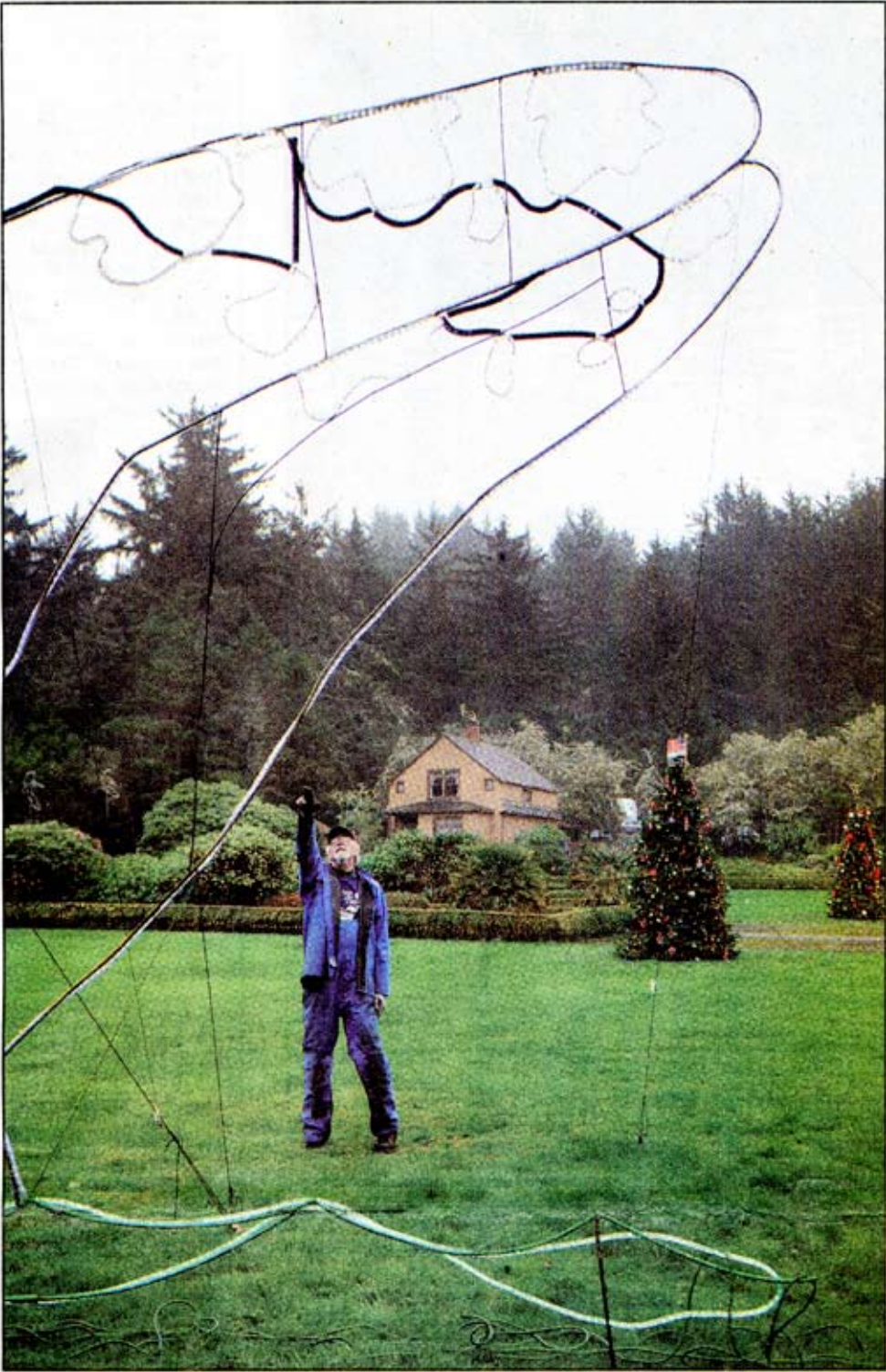
SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS



DAVE BARNHART



# Whale of a show



World Photo by Benjamin Brayfield

David Bridgham examines the illuminated whale that will be on display at the Shore Acres holiday light festival starting on Thanksgiving. Volunteers worked over the weekend stringing the final rows of lights. This week will be troubleshooting minor details. See more photos on Page A7.

## SOUTH COAST

### It's beginning to look a lot like ...



Volunteers gathered beginning Oct. 15 to set up the hundreds of thousands of lights at Shore Acres State Park. The annual spectacular light show draws thousands of visitors between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. World photographer Benjamin Brayfield captures some of the work performed by the many Friends of Shore Acres.

One of the rooms inside the Garden House becomes Santa's bathroom. The entire house is decorated for the annual holiday light show at Shore Acres State Park.

World Photos by Benjamin Brayfield



Mike Perkins takes a final look at the sea creature display that he and Carol Ventjen set up for the annual holiday light show that opens Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25.



Members of the Southwestern Oregon Community College softball team decorate the inside of the Garden House on Saturday at Shore Acres.



Shirley Champagne and Kathe Leaf, right, place holiday lights onto a Christmas tree. Work began Oct. 15 with 1,500 volunteers. Champagne has been volunteering since 1995, she said. There will be 33 entertainment groups throughout the holiday lights festival this year.



# Holiday Lights Set to Open Nov. 25, 2010

UNEXPECTED SNOWFALL ON NOVEMBER 23RD DID NOT LAST . . .





# Holiday Lights Opened on Time



"WESTERN SHORE" BY RAY DANIELS



THE WEST ROSE PERGOLA IS COVERED WITH GREEN LED LIGHTS AND GOLD LED LIGHTS CLUSTERS, THANKS TO SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS, JOAN CLIFTON AND JACK GILHAM. LIGHTS CLUSTERS ARE ANOTHER FAVORITE OF VISITORS.





# Holiday Lights Favorites



"FLYING" PELICANS



LANDSCAPE LIGHTING ON THE GIANT MONTEREY PINES



GRASSHOPPER, WORM, TURTLES AND SNAIL



SALMON "SCHOOLING"



# Holiday Lights Favorites



REFLECTIONS AT THE LILY POND



"SPOUTING" 45' WHALE AT DUSK



BUTTERFLY UP HIGH



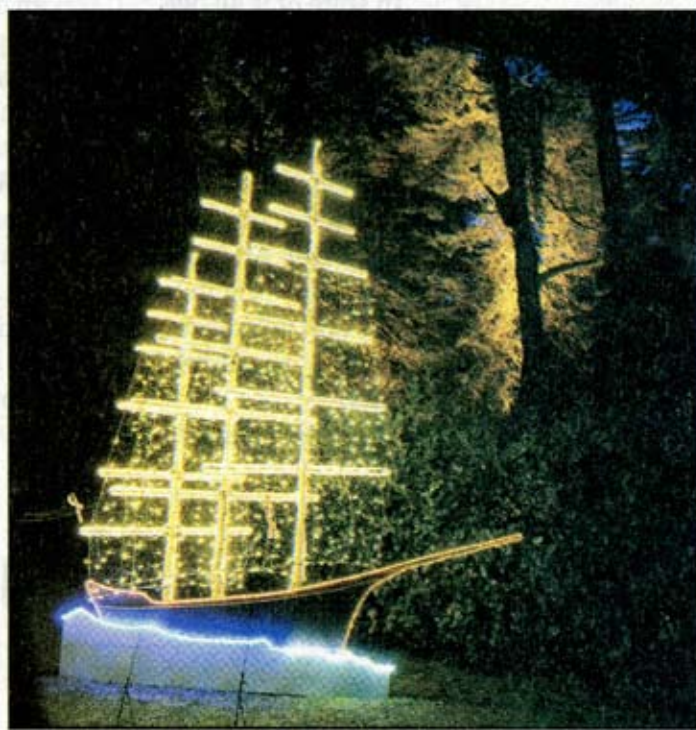
HYDRANGEA FLOWERS



THE FIRST LIGHTED SCULPTURES - HERONS



# Merry Christ-mast



World Photo by Lou Sennick  
New this year at the Holiday Lights display at Shore Acres State Park is a lighted replica of Louis Simpson's Western Seas, a three-masted clipper ship built in North Bend.



World Photos by Lou Sennick  
Visitors check out the many displays Saturday at Shore Acres State Park's annual Holiday Light event. It will continue from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily until Dec. 31.

# Shining brighter every year

BY JESSICA MUSICAR  
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — Whether they're organizers, visitors or volunteers, people wandering through Shore Acres State Park's light sculptures and glowing flora say much the same thing when describing the annual Holiday Lights display.

With one whiff of some pine trees decorated for the event, volunteer Ashlie Coleman said she found herself in the holiday mood.

"I'm ready to go get our Christmas tree now," she told her husband Sunday.

An employee of Bay Eye Clinic — one of about 37 groups that host a night of Holiday Lights at Shore Acres' Garden House — Coleman and her mister spent the evening looking for burnt-out lights and talking with guests.

"I think it gets everybody's season started because I know it does the same thing for me," Coleman said.

Held as a fundraiser to support the state park, and sponsored by The Friends of Shore Acres, Holiday Lights has brightened the South Coast for 24 years.

**Decades of lights**

Co-chairman David Bridgham said it shines brighter than ever with 300,000 lights — at least 25,000 more than last year — that volunteers hung over nearly 22 days.

He said about 1,500 volunteers put on the display, including hosts and entertainers. Alight since Thanksgiving, the gardens will



As the sun begins to set, people start walking around Shore Acres State Park, checking out the Holiday Light display. Visitors on Saturday evening included Mary Sue Madsen, left, along with her daughter Kelli Booth and Paul Bonaduce. Madsen is a local resident; the other couple are from Vancouver, Wash.

continue shining through New Year's Eve.

"One thing that strikes me is it has become the community tradition for many people in our area to go out each year and see the lights," Bridgham said.

Children also are fond of visiting Santa taking a bubble bath in the Garden House.

"They make up the greatest stories when they come back down of why Santa's in the bath tub," Bridgham said.

"He's been working so hard," you know how kids rationalize," Bridgham said the Friends of Shore Acres

originally wanted to light the park on a longer-term basis, but soon realized a holiday display would be more likely to lure crowds. It's drawn people from across the country and internationally.

"It was just remarkably popular, we've been doing it ever since."

**What's new**

Besides more lights, a few more things have changed for this year's event, Bridgham said.

The most notable is a change to the hours.

The event runs a half hour shorter each night ending at 9:30 p.m.

Bridgham also touted the addition of a live webcam of the gardens — view it at [www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net) — a restored brass heron once found in the garden's pond, and a replica of the Simpson timber flagship "Western Shore."

"It's a clipper ship, only one ever built on the West Coast," Bridgham said.

He said every light sculpture has either a marine, botanical or historical theme.

**Out-of-towners**

After touring the gardens with their two children, Eugene Bukowski and Mary Beth Rawlins of Florence said they've come to the display since it started, or close to it.

"We just think it's one of the premiere events that happens on the Oregon Coast," Bukowski said.

"We love gardening and horticulture, so this is just part of our lives."

His daughter, 6-year-old Jasmin, said she simply likes looking at the display's sculpture of whales.

"I like how they jump out and splash," Jasmin said.

"And the hot apple cider."

"And the cookies, too," her father added.

Rawlins said it's such a wonderful event, they make sure to come twice per season.

"I'm amazed when people say they live around here, but haven't been in years."

Reporter Jessica Musicar can be reached at 541-269-1222, ext. 240.; or at [jmusicar@theworldlink.com](mailto:jmusicar@theworldlink.com).



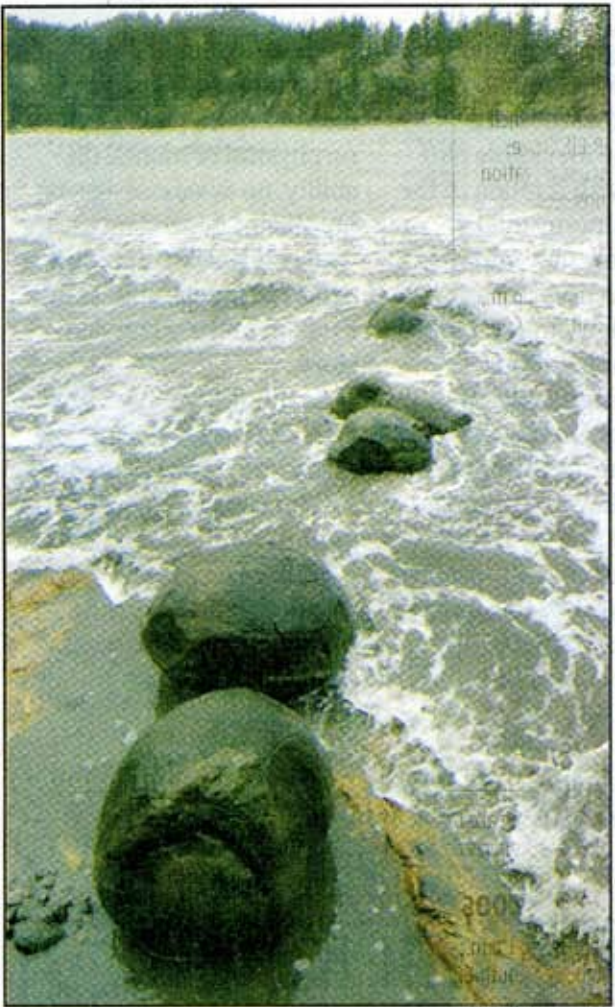
# SOUTH COAST

www.theworldlink.com

Managing Editor James H. Casey ■ news@theworldlink.com ■ 541-269-1222, ext. 239

Friday, December 10, 2010 ■ A3

## Storm froths onto shores



Waves crash high on the beach at Sunset Bay State Park at high tide in stormy weather. These rocks are near the boat ramp as the water rushes in. More rain is forecast for the Southern Oregon Coast through the weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

World Photo by Lou Sennick

## Twinkling lights and joyful sounds



Photo by Lou Sennick

24th annual Holiday Lights nightly lights the evening sky through Dec. 31 at Shore Acres State Park. Cost of admission is \$5 per car.

### At the Pavilion

#### Friday, Dec. 10

Family Worship Center 6 p.m., followed North Bend eighth-grade band at 6:45 p.m. and Set Apart at 8 p.m.

#### Sunday, Dec. 12

Johnny Salzano Jazzy Christmas 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Dec. 14

Pacific Community Church 7:30 p.m.

#### Friday, Dec. 17

The Carolers 5 p.m., followed by Alexis Harris at 6 p.m. and Christ Lutheran Church and School at 7 p.m.

#### Saturday, Dec. 18

Kingsview Christian School 4 p.m., followed by Centro De Fe at 5 p.m.

#### Sunday, Dec. 19

The Magnificent 7 4 p.m., followed by Just Jensens Woodwind Quartet at 5 p.m. in the garden house.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 22

Gary Brink & Friends 4 p.m.

#### Sunday, Dec. 26

Cape Blanco Ringers 4 p.m.



# Shore Acres Holiday Lights – “Happy Memory”

An estimated 49,028 visitors attended the 24th annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park. Those who signed the guest books included visitors from 29 countries, 44 states and Washington D. C. Cities and towns included 216 Oregon; 120 California; 44 Washington; and 195 Other. Our new ship sculpture was a big hit, as well as the 300,000 lights (almost all LED). And as beautiful as the holiday lights are, visitors are awestruck by the landscape lighting on the huge trees that shelter the gardens and the pond. “Happy Memory!” wrote someone from Bandon. A visitor from Pompano Beach, Florida wrote, “Fantastic addition to the holidays” And from Coos Bay - “Best ever!” and “Love the ship!” ■



Cody Cha

- Agness, OR - Beautiful!
- Aguanga, CA - What a treat !!!
- Akron, OH - Wonderful!
- Alberta, Canada - Fantastic, worth the trip!
- Anderson, CA - Making this a traditional visit, it's great!
- Ashland, OR - This is our second wonderful year.
- Australia - Amazing!
- Baker City, OR - Jaw Dropping
- Bandon, OR - Happy Memory
- Boise, ID - Awesome!
- Butte, MT - Thanks for all the Memories.
- Charlotte, NC - Fabulous !! Beautiful tradition.
- Chincoteague Island, VA - Beautiful Display!
- Coeur d'Alene, ID - Wonderful Columbia, MD / Atlanta, GA - Spectacular!
- Coos Bay, OR - Always good. Loved the ship!
- Coquille, OR - Sparkling!
- Corvallis, OR - Incredible - beautiful - love the frogs!
- Eagle Point, OR - There are not enough beautiful words.
- Eugene, OR - Speechless
- Everett, WA - Beautiful!!
- Falls Church, VA - Outstanding!
- Florence, OR - Lovely inside and out!
- Fortuna, CA - Incredible!
- Fountain Valley, CA - The Simpsons would be amazed.
- Frankfurt, Germany - Such a great idea!
- Fresno, CA - Makes Christmas become Christmas.
- Georgia - Unreal - Simply gorgeous



MYRTLE CREEK, OR - “SHORE ACRES, THANK YOU FOR GETTING OUR N.Y.'S OFF TO A BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING! WITH GRATITUDE, CINDY MCSPERITT AND JOHN MCGURN” - WINNERS OF THE ULTIMATE BED & BREAKFAST

- Gold Hill, OR - Thank you for all the years.
- Grants Pass, OR - Over the top! Awesome!
- Gresham, OR - Simply the Best!
- Houston, TX - Fabulous!
- Kirkland, WA - Best we've ever seen!
- Klamath Falls, OR - Beautiful, worth getting rained on!
- Lakeside, OR - What a Beautiful Art Work of Lights!
- Lansing, MI - Bucket list item - check!
- Las Vegas, NV - Awesome!
- Lincoln City, OR - Yes!!
- Los Angeles, CA - F-A-B-U-L-O-U-S!
- Medford, OR - Upstairs - out of a storybook
- Mill Creek, WA - 14 years and counting . . .
- Mt. Angel / Molalla, OR - Fabulous!
- Myrtle Point, OR - This is the best ever!
- Nine Mile Falls, WA - Beautiful
- North Bend, OR - I like the Santa in the tub!
- Olympia, WA - Thank you for all your efforts.
- Palmer, AK - Fantabulous! ! !
- Philomath, OR - Absolutely lovely!
- Port Orford, OR - Awesome!
- Portland, OR - Stunning! Bless All Your Work!
- Reedsport, OR - Loveliest garden I have ever seen.
- Roseburg, OR - The very best yet!
- Salem, OR - Absolutely Beautiful!
- San Diego, CA - Spectacular!
- Santa Fe, NM - Blessed Forever
- Seattle, WA - Gorgeous!
- Shady Cove, OR - Traditions, We Love It Here
- Springfield, OR - Amazing beyond words!
- Switzerland - Very beautiful!
- Tucson, AZ - Amazing!
- Tullake, CA - Part of our Thanksgiving tradition!
- Vancouver, WA - Beautiful. Thanks for the memories!!
- Veneta, OR - Wow Wow Wow
- Walterville, OR - What a Blessing!
- West Hollywood, CA - Spectacular! !
- Woodburn, OR - Gorgeous - defies description!
- Yachats, OR - Fabulous! ! !



# Shore Acres Holiday Lights – Thanks to Supporters

## LIGHTS PLEDGE SUPPORTERS!

- 5,000\*** Shinglehouse Auto & Salvage •
- 4,200\*** Abel Insurance Agency-Harry & Francie Abel •  
Captain John's Motel-Hong-Chi-Teng & Jan Lin •
- 2,800\*** The Portside • Thomas & Sons Distributors •
- 1,750\*** Dave's Pizza •
- 1,666\*** Cornelia & Don Barnhart •  
Coastal Paper & Supply- Bob & Johanna Dillard •  
Huggins Insurance-Bob & Janet Huggins •  
The Mill Casino-Hotel •
- 1,500\*** Hargens Construction Co.- Gary & Rody Hargens •
- 1,400\*** Azalea Acres, Inc.-Steve, Wesa, Betty & Richard Liles •  
Best Western Holiday Motel • David & Shirley Bridgham  
Edgewater Inn Motel-Coos Bay • Evens, Havel, Starfyr •  
J. W. White Painting-Jay & Melody White •
- 1,333\*** Nancy Robinson •
- 1,167\*** Prudential Seaboard Properties, Inc. •
- 1,125\*** Coos Bay Fire & Rescue •
- 1,050\*** Michael A. Gordon, CPA (Not Your Basic Bean Counter) •  
Honda World •
- 706\*** SC & AGE, Inc. -Tom's Lock & Key •
- 700\*** Art Connection; Audio Video Specialists, Inc. •  
Benetti's Italian Restaurant •  
Bob's Appliance-Bob & Gayle DePeal •  
Jerry & Shirley Champagne-Harris •  
Coos Bay Grocery Outlet-Patricia & Sven Backman & Crew •  
Ray Gapp •  
Kevin & Diane Keiser- in memory of Heidi Nerbovig & Berneice Lange •  
Ron & Kathy Metzger • James & Ellen Montalbano •  
Pacific Corp/Pacific Power •  
Ted Jay Terry, DMD & Staff • Weldon & Sons •

**SPECIAL THANKS TO  
FRED MEYER -**  
19TH YEAR OF  
DONATING 100  
CASES OF FROZEN  
APPLE JUICE FOR HOT  
APPLE CIDER AND  
FROZEN LEMONADE  
FOR PUNCH AND  
DISCOUNTS ON  
COOKIES.



Cody Cha

SPOUTING GRAY WHALE - ALL TIME FAVORITE

- 666\*** Northwestern Mutual-Dick & Jan Vigue •  
This Olde House Bed & Breakfast •
- 400\*** Charleston Harbor Inn in memory of John A. Castro •  
High Tide Cafe LLC - Carol Rodde & Steve Raplee •
- 360\*** Cedar Electric & Construction, Inc. •
- 350\*** Betty Kay Charters- Bill & Margery Whitmer •  
Books by the Bay • Jim & A J Davenport •  
Gold Coast Truck Repair-Butch & Jacque Shields •  
Betsy Groben • House at Lighthouse Beach -Janet  
Nelson Thompson • Marineau & Associates •  
Andy & Lynn Nasburg in memory of Carol Bruce •  
North Bend Lanes-Bob, Mark, & Marianna Mattecheck •  
Shoji Planning, LLC-Crystal & Gene Shoji •  
Slippery Slope Soap Shop-Pauline & Ron Vierra •  
Donald & Priscilla Zobel •
- 166\*** Charleston Merchants Association •



# SOUTH COAST

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Thursday, January 20, 2011 ■ A3

## Whether the weather vane?

**Question:** What became of the "wind weather vane" that was erected at central dock by Mike Vaughan? We grew accustomed to seeing it when going around Timber Inn corner. Although a novelty, it could be seen traveling north or south on 101. Coos Bay needs more of the same.

### I want to know

Have a question for "I Want To Know"? Send it to news@theworldlink.com or P.O. Box 1840, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

**Answer:** The windmill on U.S. Highway 101 on the bayside disappeared as mysteriously as it appeared.

Mike Vaughan took the sculpture down for maintenance of the bearing just before Christmas, he said.

He originally erected the kinetic wind sculpture in fall 2009 as part of "The Winds of Time" contest through the Coos County Cultural Coalition. The contest, however, never was held.

The sculpture, which was built in one day with volunteer labor and materials, became popular, and its colorful parts remained intact.

"Everybody loved it," Vaughan said.

"Mostly, people said it was cheerful and happy."

People also liked its simplicity and usefulness — drivers could easily see how hard the wind was blowing and in what direction, he said.

The piece of land the windmill was on belongs to the Coos Historical & Maritime Center, and Vaughan didn't rule out the possibility of the windmill reappearing there or somewhere else. Maybe he'll sell it, he added.

He said he hopes to build smaller forms of the sculpture, maybe in partnership with a high school class, and sell them.

Have a question for "I Want To Know"? Send it to news@theworldlink.com or P.O. Box 1840, Coos Bay, OR 97420.



World Photo by Lou Sennick

On Sept. 24, 2009 Mike Vaughn painted the pole his windmill stood on along Front Street in Coos Bay. He created the wind mill with parts from local shops and it is made of parts from tow boats and metal shavings from a lathe. The wind mill stands where the future Coos Historical & Maritime Museum is to be built.

## Friends of Shore Acres report

The 24th annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park saw 49,028 visitors as compared to 53,172 last season and 44,464 in 2008.

Weather is always a factor, and Coos Bay-North Bend had nearly 12 inches of rain during the lights season compared to just more than 5 inches last season.

New blue hydrangea flowers and the new ship sculpture, the Western Shore, were big hits, as were the 300,000 lights (almost all LEDs).

### Some comments from visitors:

- "Beautiful. The whales are amazing!" New York City
- "Awesome!" Nashville, Tenn.;
- "Fantastic addition to the holidays," Pompano Beach, Fla.;
- "Beautiful, worth getting rained on!" Klamath Falls;
- "Best Ever!" Coos Bay;
- "WOW! Want everyone I know to see it!" Eugene;
- "Bucket List Item - Check!" Lansing, Mich.;
- "Always good. Love the ship!" Coos Bay;
- "Best part of the Oregon Coast!" North Bend;
- "Gorgeous!" Seattle;
- "Best we've ever seen!" - Kirkland, Wash.

And from the Myrtle Creek winners of the Ultimate Bed & Breakfast:

"Shore Acres, thank you for getting our New Year off to a bright and beautiful beginning! With gratitude, Cindy McSperitt and John McGurn"

The lights, sculptures, trees and decorations have been stored for the 25th anniversary of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. and the 25th annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park. Setup starts Saturday, Oct. 15.



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. Celebrating 25 Years in 2011

## A 25 YEAR PERSPECTIVE BY DAVID BRIDGHAM, FOUNDER AND PAST PRESIDENT

**1986 - THIS WAS BEFORE: I PAD/I PHONE • FACEBOOK / TWITTER • GOOGLE/E-MAIL • AND BEFORE THE WIDE USE OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS.**



**T**his was a quieter time and a slower pace of life. Shore Acres State Park has always been a place where you can step back in time and reflect on a bygone era, over 100 years ago — whether it's the actual site of the Simpson's first mansion and its mystique or a walk through the formal gardens that portray the elegance and beauty of this special place we call Shore Acres.

A sense of place and time tells the Shore Acres story and is key to the supporting role Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. plays. From the beginning in 1986, FoSA set the direction to stay consistent with who we are and where we're at - the *Shoreacres* history, the beautiful

Oregon coast, and the enchanting gardens. The Holiday Lights display contains sculptures of floral elements, birds and mammals found at our coast, and marine creatures that live in our environment. The patterns of L.E.D. lights strings on bushes in the gardens interpret the symmetry of the formal gardens and the serenity of the Oriental style garden. The garden house is decorated and furnished to take you back in time to the Simpson's era. One of our newest sculptures, the ship - "Western Shore" is an important historical connection to the powerful shipping and shipbuilding trade upon which the Simpsons based much of their fortune.

# 25

We hope our visitors will leave with a greater sense of place and time. Over time, we have built upon the consistent effort to create what we believe is very uniquely who we are and where we're at - Shore Acres State Park.

This has been possible with the generous help of our community. The tremendous effort has matched the enormous job it is to mount this display each year. Volunteers from throughout our communities, and beyond, have captured the vision and spirit of this truly community event that the Holiday Lights display has become. Time and time again guest book entries have complimented and shared their admiration for what our community has done together and for our visitors.

Something very special has evolved over all these years with just the right blend of dedicated, capable, volunteers who accomplish specific roles to put up the display each year. A large portion of our community businesses and organizations decorate the 26 large trees specially placed for the lights display and help host in the Garden House, joining the growing list of entertainers at the Pavilion throughout the event

At the very foundation of FoSA's efforts and success is the supporting role that State Parks plays. It is truly a co-operative relationship. Just as FoSA provides educational and interpretive services for park visitors, state parks, in turn, provides supportive services to FoSA. This wonderful working partnership marks one reason FoSA is one of the best Co-ops in Oregon.

Shirley and I have been—and continue to be—privileged to be a part of this great partnership since its inception 25 years ago and feel the success of our efforts has been due to the wonderful people who have helped us succeed. ■



GARDEN HOUSE - 1986 - PHOTO FROM *THE SHORE ACRES STORY*, THE MULTI-IMAGE SLIDE SHOW THAT INSPIRED THE FORMATION OF FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC. ON DEC. 4, 1986.



GARDEN HOUSE - 1987 - FIRST LIGHTS DISPLAY HAD 6,000 MINIATURE LIGHTS AND ONE CHRISTMAS TREE, BUT THE HOUSE WAS DECORATED AND OPEN WITH HOT CIDER, PUNCH, COFFEE AND COOKIES!



# Shore Acres Gardens – More Than Lights

APRIL, 2011 GARDEN SCENES - PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM



(L-R) PIERIS AND CHOISYA - GARDENS ABOVE THE WAVES



GARDEN HOUSE, PAVILION AND TULIPS



DAFFODILS AND HINO CRIMSON AZALEA

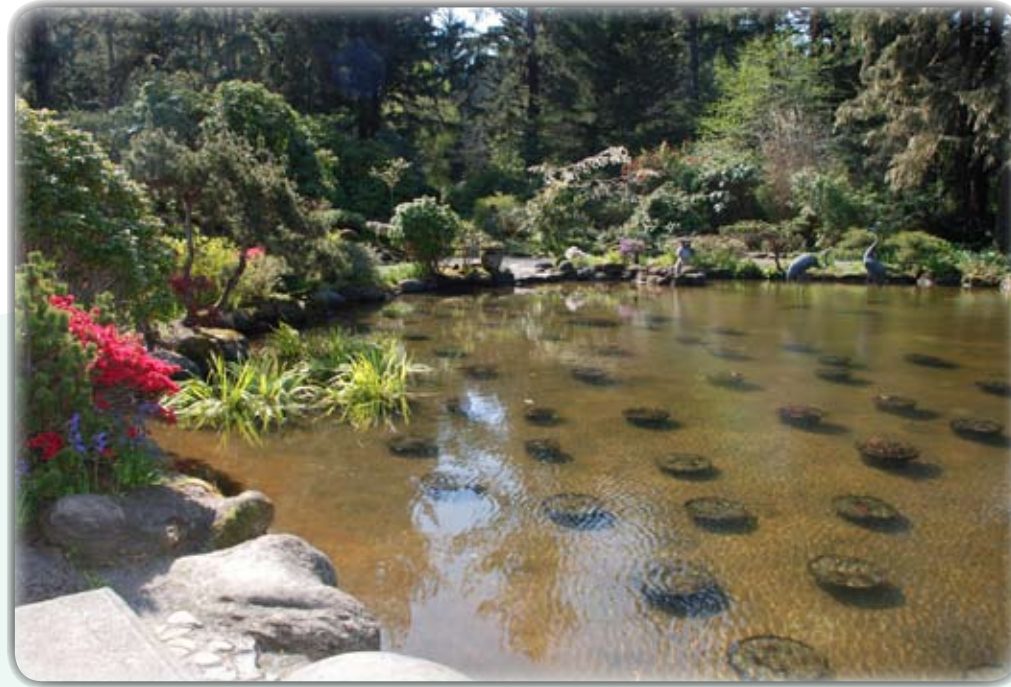


TULIPS CLOSER



# Shore Acres Gardens – More Than Lights

APRIL, 2011 GARDEN SCENES - PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM



FRESHLY CLEANED AND SPARKLING 100' LILY POND



NEW FUJI CHERRY TREE



SUPPORTS FOR LEAPING FROGS DISPLAY



NEW SOUTHWEST GATE OPENS TO SIMPSON COVE / BEACH PATH.



# Shore Acres Gardens – More Than Lights

APRIL, 2011 GARDEN SCENES - PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM



CRYPTOMERIA NEAR GREENHOUSE



AARS ROSE GARDEN WITH EARLY SPRING GROWTH



MONKEY PUZZLE TREE NEAR  
AARS ROSE GARDEN ENTRANCE

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## THE SHORE ACRES FAMILY

BY PRESON PHILLIPS, PARK MANAGER, SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT



PRESON AND LAYNE ENJOYED STRINGING LIGHTS!

The Shore Acres community continues to add success stories and accomplishments to an already stellar list. The summer of 2011 finds staff busy completing the regular detail-oriented tasks of planting, weeding, irrigating (well, soon anyway), pruning, hedging, sweeping, and washing. Along with this considerable workload, Ellie has orchestrated the completion of multiple projects funded by Friends grants.

The repaving of the parking lot has made it worthy of being adjacent to such a wonderful garden. Thanks to all of you who handled complaints during construction and for being flexible with the construction closures. The Sunset Bay Management Unit was just awarded its 3rd consecutive All-Star Park Award. Many of the requirements needed to become eligible for consideration are supported or completed by the Friends of Shore Acres.

My family and I are nearly to our 4th anniversary of joining the Shore Acres family. Wow, time flies when you are having fun! We enjoy the regular interaction with such a dedicated and accomplished group. The benefits each of you provide to the greater community are too numerous and diverse to count.

I am proud to serve with each of you. - *Preson Phillips*



# . . . News From the Gardens . . .

BY ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL, RANGER SUPERVISOR, SHORE ACRES



**A**nother year has passed and we continue our projects in the gardens at Shore Acres.

The boxwood hedges have undergone phase 3 of the size reduction project. You may remember that phase 1 began with the circle beds in the front rose garden. These hedges underwent the most drastic reduction and are all the better for the severe pruning. Phase 2 was the hedge around the square beds in the large lawns. These were reduced last year and they too are recovering well. Keep this in mind as you walk through the garden and see the results of phase 3, which was reduction of height of the hedges surrounding the Formal Garden beds. This season we tackled the height and next year we will reduce the width. This strategy should give the plants a chance to recover from the severe pruning.

Other changes you may notice as you stroll through the gardens are the new plantings around the perimeter of the back rose garden. We have removed the struggling Arborvitae trees and replaced them with Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and Portugal Laurel (*Prunus lusitana*). Patience is the key here, as it will take several years for these plants to create a sizable hedge. There is a beautiful specimen of Mountain Laurel that is planted on the east side of the rock garden, for those of you who are interested in a preview of what's to come.

Another noteworthy project is the replacement planting taking place in the Oriental Garden. This is another area to be watched that will improve with age. Some of the new plants you will see include 'Blue Balloon' Cedar, several different Rhododendron varieties ('Fabia' and 'Cherries & Cream'), dwarf Mountain Laurel ('Minuet'), and 'Sagittarius' and 'Silver Sword' Azaleas, to name a few.

We have replaced much of the fencing around the perimeter of the garden, to include the porcupine-deterrent fencing that was originally installed by Jay Dow and Mike Kelly. Yes, that is the chicken wire that is installed on the bottom of the fence. And, yes, it seems to work. Who knew that porcupines love roses? To eat, that is.

In these challenging economic times we are able to move forward in our efforts to improve, protect and rejuvenate the gardens because of the support provided by the Friends of Shore Acres. From funding plant labels to interpretive panels from providing plants to funding a seasonal Rocky Shores Interpreter position, you, "The Friends", are the driving force that makes all of this possible.

Thank you, to each of you, for your unending support. ■

## GARDEN KUDOS . . .

THANK YOU GARDEN VOLUNTEERS: GEORGE AND PAULA COOPER, HELEN DOVING, RAY DUSKIN, HELEN HARRIS, LEE LITTLEFIELD, SHIRL SCHMIDT, BARB SWANSON • THANK YOU, ONCE AGAIN, FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS: JIM AND CAROLE LORENZ OF COACH HOUSE RESTAURANT, DAVE HANNAH OF BIG TENT RENTS & EVENTS, AND COOS HEAD GARDEN CLUB - *ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL*



PHASE 1 - CIRCLE BED HEDGES HAVE RECOVERED, MAKING ROSES MUCH EASIER TO SEE!



PHASE 2 - SQUARE BED HEDGES HAVE ALSO RECOVERED. DAHLIAS IN JUNE WILL BE DAZZLING IN LATE SUMMER!



PHASE 3 - FORMAL GARDEN BED HEDGES LOWERED TO 19" ANNUALS WILL BE BLOOMING UNTIL HOLIDAY LIGHTS.



# . . . Interpretive Panels Project in Full Swing . . .

## ORIGINAL DISPLAYS IN OBSERVATION BUILDING TO BE REPLACED

BY STEPHANIE MILLER, PARK RANGER, SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT



**S**hore Acres Interpretive Panels project has come into full swing since last summer. Over the winter, project expectations were created within a scope of work and the project was opened to companies to bid. Six proposals were evaluated and scored by four members of the panel project team. After references were checked

on the top three companies, the project was awarded to Lodestar Studio, from Portland, Oregon.

At the end of May, Deb White and Sharon Smith of Lodestar Studio came to the Oregon Coast for a site visit. They spent the day meeting with the panel team and touring Shore Acres, Cape Arago, and Sunset Bay. Excitement was evident between the panel team and Lodestar Studio as stories were told, ideas exchanged and questions were answered about the area and the progress of the project.

During the next few months, panel development will continue. Lodestar Studio will be developing text, choosing images, and designing the layout of ten interpretive panels.

After reviews and adjustments by the panel team, the final design should be ready by the end of September. From there, the team will move forward with fabrication and installation of ten new interpretive panels for Shore Acres State Park. ■



BESIDES THE HISTORICAL SHOREACRES STORY, THE NEW PANELS IN THE OBSERVATION BUILDING ALSO WILL PROVIDE GEOLOGIC AND WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION. AN INTERPRETIVE PANEL ALSO WILL BE LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FORMAL GARDENS.





# . . . Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert . . .

**OREGON COAST LAB BAND - JULY 23, 2011**



(L-R) BETTY KENNEDY AND HER DAUGHTER DEB WIGANT WERE PART OF THE LARGE CROWD ON A GORGEOUS DAY AT THE GARDENS.



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. Celebrating 25 Years in 2011

## TRADITIONS AND THE SEASONS OF YOUR LIFE

BY ROBYNN REED, DECORATING ELF



**T**raditions are the threads that bind the generations together, just as the seasons in a garden have threads that tie them together. We build our lives with familiar habits, patterns and things we do that shape us into the people we are. In the garden of life we are born wobbly and tiny; just as the plants in the garden emerge weak and wobbly reaching for the sunlight as we reach for the ones who love and nurture us. The plants grow quickly as the seasons are short but predictable, as we toddle and grow quickly we too feel the seasons passing quickly and are in a hurry for the next to

start. Each building block helps recreate what the generations before us treasured; just as the plants know how to reproduce the stunning display as each season repeats itself.

Just 25 short years ago a tiny idea was born. It was a tiny bright spot in a windy wet winter landscape where all was quiet while the rain fell, the wind blew and the waves crashed. As families enjoyed their traditional family rituals they ventured out to see this new bright spot. The parking lot lighting was nonexistent but while the event was small it was a beautiful thing. Volunteers had planted a seed and the public helped nurture and grow what was created.

Flower days evolved to celebrate the seasons of the garden and from a small garden cart things kept growing and the public kept nurturing what was offered. Daffodils bobbing their bright sunny heads and tulips and rhododendrons rustling in the spring wind (and rain), were followed by the glorious (windy) days of summer with ravishing roses and dahlias standing proudly and majestically. Summer visitors wandered through the welcoming Information and Gift Center onto the pathways which offer opportunities for family photos. Each camper/visitor or local community member passed on a bit of themselves to the next generations with memories meant to share and activities meant to be repeated. Families gather on the lawn each summer to visit and picnic while small children dance and whirl to the musical notes from the annual music festival concert. The well loved tradition of lemonade and raspberry/ice cream sundaes continues thanks to the wonderful volunteers available to dish them up.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

# 25



TULIPS AND HINO CRIMSON AZALEAS EVERY SPRING.



1987- FIRST "CHRISTMAS AT SHORE ACRES"



SUNDAES AND LEMONADE EVERY JULY AT THE OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL GARDEN CONCERT. SERVERS FOR 2010 INCLUDED (L-R) KATHI NETTER, BETTY KENNEDY, CHARLES SERLIS, HELEN THOMPSON, AND MIKE TAYLOR.



## TRADITIONS AND THE SEASONS OF YOUR LIFE (CONTINUED)

25

While the garden shows its summer glory to the visitors the busy bees (volunteers) led by Shirley and David Bridgham restore sculptures as needed —powder coating is a wonderful thing — lights are ordered, arrive, get checked in, tagged and greased. Buildings are built, maintained and renovated. The Garden House is updated and maintained as needed.

Time marches on and the summer season comes to a lingering close on the coast; or as locals we feel summer actually starts in September, October and maybe November with great, sunny weather! The wind slows for a short time waiting for the first winter storms to come blowing back in with a vengeance. The cliffs await the next season of awe inspiring waves, breaking in huge towering showers high above the cliffs.

Children are born, kids head off to kindergarten and college, families get geared up for the holiday season, grandparents share their stories and their time and the dedicated group of volunteers get ready . . .

October arrives and the extension cords start appearing, the sculptures start going up and the smell of chili and hot dogs is in the air. Maxine is operating a tight ship in the garden house kitchen and the volunteers know they will be well taken care of. The lights plan is checked and rechecked, lights go out into the garden and the experienced crew passes their knowledge onto the new recruits. The garden house starts to evolve although it looks hopeless with tubs of bright objects covering every surface, naked trees waiting for inspiration and garland waiting to be covered with beautiful baubles.

Somehow Santa arrives in the bathtub on schedule, all of the rooms create themselves and the house becomes a humble backdrop to the stunning display waiting outside the windows. Not everyone ventures upstairs but when the season begins on Thanksgiving the people who do, enjoy a beautiful aerial view from above. Children whisper loudly wanting to know if Santa awaits them in the bathtub, young adults wander around on their first dates- those who are ready have been known to propose! (Not on a first date) Grandparents enjoy time spent with their younger generations and families slow down a bit to enjoy the moment with them, looking at the beauty they may be in too much of a hurry to notice otherwise, in their busy lives. Everyone gobbles up the cookies, punch, coffee, and famous hot apple cider; patiently waiting in a long line for the next goodie which will create a lasting memory.

The weather changes each year just as the seasons and people change. . .Rain, wind, snow, crisp clear evenings- we have them all to offer the people who come from all over the world to enjoy our little slice of heaven. Hug your kids, kiss your spouse, hug your parents and grandparents- tell EVERYONE you love them and enjoy this wonderful journey we call life! Share your traditions and enjoy the seasons of your life! ■



DAVID BRIDGHAM, JOAN CLIFTON AND JACK GILHAM PUT NEW LED ROPE LIGHTS ON THE GRAY WHALE FOR 2011.



MAXINE JOHANNESSEN





# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. Celebrating 25 Years in 2011

## FRIENDS' INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER (IGC)

. . . FROM A GARDEN CART FULL OF POSTCARDS TO INFO AND GIFTS GALORE . . .

AN ALL-VOLUNTEER OPERATION MANAGED BY LOU AND SHARON KOLKHORST

BY LOU KOLKHORST, IGC CO-MANAGER



1989 - INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER (IGC) (8' x 8')



1988 - GARDEN CART, DAVID BRIDGHAM AND "GARDEN SITTER" JOHN BERGEN



2003-IGC MOVED TO SUNSET BAY CAMPGROUND FOR A NEW INTERPRETIVE CENTER.



1992 - 2003 - IGC (24' x 24')

We are constantly looking for new and "Green" items. The IGC has now expanded into more products using recycled paper and fibers as well as postcards printed locally featuring photos of Shore Acres State Park that are available ONLY in our Information and Gift Center.

We have added mugs, bookmarks, magnets, key chains, playing cards and more featuring Shore Acres scenes. We even have our own Christmas ornaments featuring hand painted and brass designs of the park. This year we will also be carrying new items dedicated to our 25th year celebration of Holiday Lights including a great poster.

- We still have our penny "smasher" that flattens pennies and imprints designs of the pond, Garden House, Cape Arago Lighthouse and the OPRD logo.
- Our night lights selection has been expanded and we've added new displays to show them off. Also new lamps and wall sconces.
- Come in and check out our walking sticks and canes. We have some great medallions to go on them too.
- Our Scout patches are designed by the local Scouts, who also offer Holiday Lights entertainment each year.
- The Jewelry lines include Lost Mine Silverworks (made in Florence, OR), Silver Forest, and Annalee to name a few.
- We are constantly upgrading our youth lines and supplies that are used for fun, entertainment and home schooling. Look for children's jackets, too.
- Come in and see our new books, bird and hummingbird feeders and moth traps.

If you just want to stop and ask questions, we have great hosts and volunteers who can provide or find the information you need. ■



2003 - NEW ENTRANCE AND IGC (32' x 48') REMINISCENT OF L. J. SIMPSON'S FIRST MANSION AND ROSE ARBOR COLUMNS



# 25th Birthday and 25th Annual Holiday Lights Coming in December

## Andy's prediction . . . positive and prophetic!



Story from the 1st  
Friends' Newsletter

FRIENDS OF  
SHORE ACRES

VOL. I, No. 1

Quarterly Newsletter

November 30, 1987



Park Notes from Andy LaTomme, District Park Manager

In September, I had the chance to attend the National Association of State Park Directors' Conference in Sacramento, California. One of the purposes of my attendance was to gather information about how California and other states use volunteer groups. It was a great conference and I returned with a whole bunch of ideas about how the Friends of Shore Acres could make a positive impact on the community.

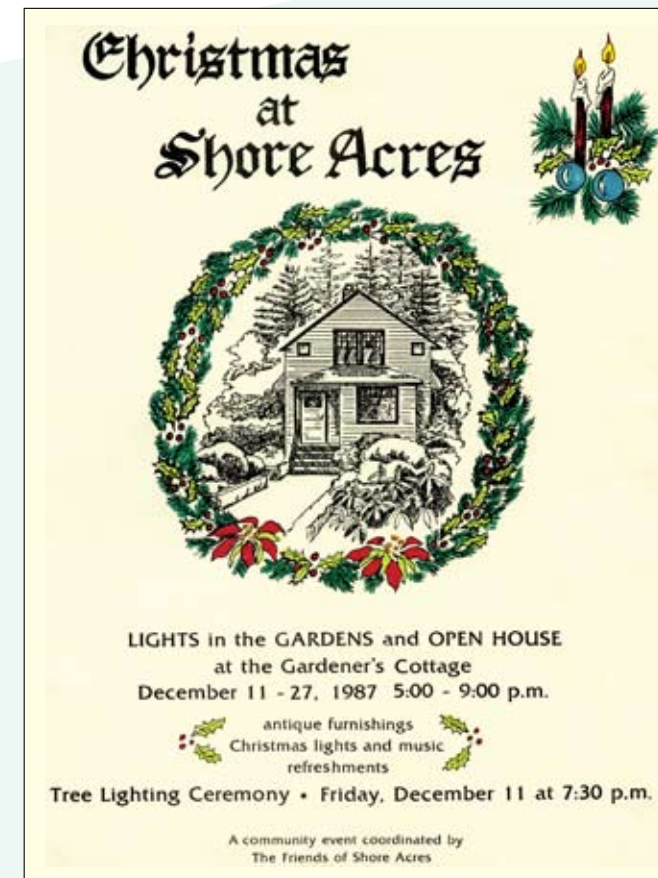
For example, we learned about the Gilroy Garlic Festival — a volunteer run effort that produces over a quarter million dollars for local charities. We got to see the Sacramento Railroad Museum. After a volunteer run train ride, we were hosted by their "friends" to a fine dinner in the Round-House Museum. The Calaveras Big Trees Association folks hosted a luncheon and showed us the interpretive center and bridge they had built. The cooperating association in the gold rush town of Columbia put on a nice show by dressing in period costumes and welcoming us into town. The co-op at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento not only dressed in period costumes, but gave us a living history demonstration — quite a show.

So, home I come to find that the Friends of Shore Acres have been planning an event to top their already successful summer tours. I believe that "Christmas at Shore Acres" will be one of the best seasonal events to come to "Oregon's Bay Area." Judging from the level of interest and enthusiasm, it looks like you've got a hit — one that will be around for a long time.

I'm sure that this event is just the type of thing the 1985 Legislature had in mind when they passed Senate Bill 865, which enables groups like the Friends to enter into agreements with state parks to provide educational and interpretive services. As we look forward to the future with guided walks, book sales, increasing membership, development projects and seasonal events, there is no doubt in my mind that, one day, park managers from other states will come to Shore Acres to see just how a cooperating association works.

Congratulations on a great year past and best of luck in the future.

# 25



THE FIRST POSTER WAS DESIGNED BY PHYLLIS K. LOVE, GRAPHIC ARTIST AT SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE. ALL THE POSTERS WERE HAND COLORED BY VOLUNTEERS.

## Flashback

*Friends of Shore Acres Organizational Meeting*  
—Minutes- Dec. 4, 1986

A meeting was held on Dec. 4, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. 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.

Mike Bodkin was named to act as legal agent for the Friends of Shore Acres. A collection was taken to cover the cost of the incorporation fee. A total of \$13.00 was collected from the group. ■

*Friends of Shore Acres*  
*Board Meeting*

— Minutes, Oct. 12, 1987  
John Bergen made a motion that the Board Officially sponsor the Christmas "Open House," Dec. 11-27, 1987 at Shore Acres. David seconded the motion, the measure passed unanimously. ■

*The rest is history . . .*





# Parks + Friends & Community = Success



## Electrical



- 1988 - Underground wiring in formal garden
- 1991 - Underground wiring in pond area
- 1996 - Landscape Lighting project started
- 2005 - Landscape Lighting added west side

## Parking



- 1988 - First parking lot lights
- 1995 - Doubled existing parking
- 1995 - More parking lot lights
- 2000 - 50 space overflow parking lot

## Facilities



- 1999 - New rose pergola *in memory* of Al Stinchfield
- 2007 - Water system booster pump
- 2008 - New gate northwest of garden
- 2010 - Paver paths near Garden House and Pavilion
- 2010 - New gate southwest of garden
- 2010 - New fencing around garden
- 2011 - More fencing and new gates southeast
- 2011 - New entry to Greenhouse

25

## Performance Pavilion



- 2001 - THE PERFORMANCE PAVILION, *IN MEMORY* OF AL STINCHFIELD AND PARTIALLY FUNDED BY MENASHA CORPORATION, IS A YEAR AROUND FACILITY FOR WEDDINGS, CONCERTS AND HOLIDAY LIGHTS ENTERTAINMENT.







# Parks + Friends & Community = Success

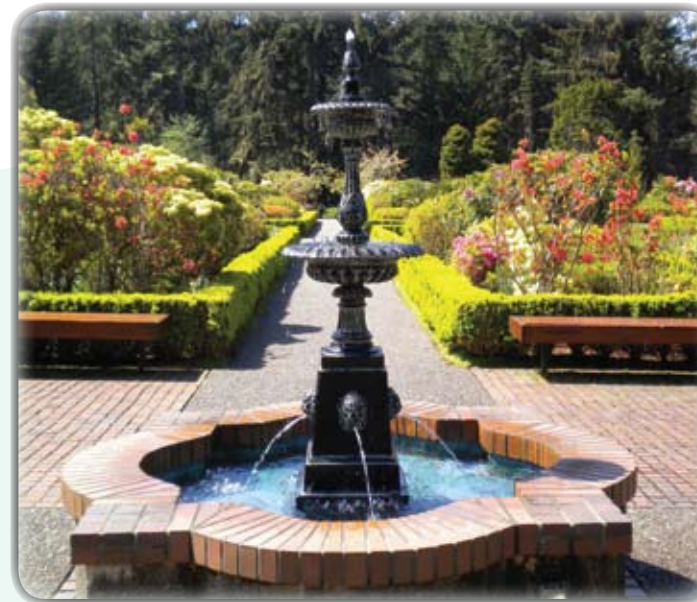


## Information & Gift Center



- 1988** - Garden cart and garden "sitters" for sales
- 1989** - Information & Gift Center (8'x8')
- 1992** - Information & Gift Center (24'x24')
- 2003** - New entrance and Information & Gift Center (32'x48')  
(Reminiscent of L.J. Simpson's First Mansion & Rose Arbor Columns)

## Memorial Fountain



- 1996** - Memorial Fountain, designed by Mike Vaughan
- 2004** - Memorial Resource Library established
- 2005** - Memorial Fountain Display redesigned & built
- 2006** - Gifts & Memorials Display created
- 2010** - Memorial Fountain renovated by Mike Vaughan

## Interpretation



- 1990** - Plant I.D. signs
- 1993** - "Gardens Above the Waves" Viewbook
- 1995** - "Gardens Above the Waves" video
- 2005** - "Gardens Above the Waves" video on DVD
- 2006** - "The Shore Acres Story" video on DVD
- 2006** - New brochure rack at entrance
- 2008** - Brochure rack waterproof covers

## Oriental Garden and Pond



- 2005** - Resurfaced base of 100' lily pond



Memorials Display

Gifts and Memorials Display

## Simpson Reef/Shell Island Overlook



- 2003** - New parking lot, viewing platform and displays





# Parks + Friends & Community = Success



## Observation Building



- 2005 - New wiring and path lights
- 2006 - New path near Observation Building
- 2010 - New windows
- 2011-12 - New Interpretive Displays
- 2011-12 - Remodel inside for new displays

## Internet



- 2001 - Friends' web site created - [www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net)
- 2009 - Wildblue Satellite Dishes Installed
- 2009 - Web camera, west side - installation
- 2010 - Web camera, west side - pictures on web site

## Storage Buildings



- 1993 - First Storage Building (24'x24')
- 2002 - First Storage building doubled in size
- 2009 - Second Storage Building (pictured) for Friends & Park

25

## Garden House



- 1993 - New wiring, lights, paint
- 1998 - New carpet
- 1999 - Kitchen remodel
- 2000 - New foundation & ceilings
- 2006 - New interior doors



- 2008 - Restoration of front windows
- 2009 - Installed original style small windows
- 2009 - Painted inside and out
- 2011 - New dining room windows



Ongoing - Dozens of Interpretive Brochures and Physical Development Programs as needed.



# Historical Friends Activities



**1990** - Shore Acres was the site of a very special Memorial Day, commemorating the United States Coast Guard's 200th Birthday. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed helicopter demonstrations and many other activities.



**1997** - Stephen Dow Beckham, in cooperation with Henry Kunowski of Oregon State Parks and the State Historic Preservation Office, completed a report entitled *"The First Simpson House, 1907-1921: Shore Acres State Park."* Dave Brauner of Oregon State University directed an archaeological dig of the site in July of 1997.



The OSU students found the second mansion's footprint and the top steps of the basement stairs.



**1992** - A one and only Shore Acres Biathlon was held on May 9. Erik Hanmer, Nick Furman and the South Coast Running Club organized the event which was staged from Shore Acres to Cape Arago and back. It included a 5K run, 20K bike, and 5K run. Also helping with the event were the Coos County Sheriff's Office Reserves and the Coos County Radio Club's ham operators.



Nick Furman holds up the commemorative Biathlon T-shirt. David Bridgham still has (and wears) the one he received for helping with the event.



**1999** - Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism was held at Shore Acres on April 11-13. It was well attended and enjoyed by all, who also got to see a portion of the 1998 Holiday Lights display that was left up for this special occasion.



# 25

Since 1987, besides special one time events, the Friends have sponsored the annual Holiday Lights display, annual "flower day" events and many activities that help Shore Acres. We are still an "all volunteer" organization with an outstanding relationship with the staff of Shore Acres and the rest of the Sunset Bay Management Unit.



# Summer Journal Excerpts and August Scenes, 2011



*I*t's hard to believe another year has passed. Once again it was my honor to serve as President of the Friends of Shore Acres. We all know what a gem Shore Acres and the surrounding parks which made up the Louis J. Simpson estate, are. What you probably don't know is what a gem your Board of Directors is. This is a year round working board. They make sure the flower days, the concerts, the Information & Gift Center and certainly Holiday Lights are successful and memorable. They freely donate their time for all of our enjoyment. Their dedication is an inspiration to me.

While I've always loved Shore Acres for its spectacular beauty, Holiday Lights is what drew me to the Friends. Holiday Lights is special to me and my family. I love the sense of community it creates. You must agree as many hundreds of you are involved in it each year. While Holiday Lights is wonderful, the Friends of Shore Acres do that and so much more.

We live in a beautiful part of the country, both due to our wonderful sea coast and the quality of our people. Thanks again for the chance to serve. ■

*I* have to echo President Timm Slater's sentiments. Where has another year gone? This publication is about a month later than usual and lights stringing is just around the corner.

We've had our usual flower day events and music festival concert. As you will see in our 25 year highlights, every year has been busy and productive for FoSA and Shore Acres. We look forward to completing the interpretive panels project at the Observation Building and garden entrance, as well as many projects planned for the future.

A special thanks goes to my daughter Robynn Reed and her husband Mike for their expertise and dedication in decorating the Garden House for the Holiday Lights Display. Also, a big thanks goes to photographer Cody Cha for sharing his 2010 holiday lights photos with us. To see more of Cody's photography, go to [www.codycha.com](http://www.codycha.com).

The Friends' goals are realized because of the excellent support of our members, volunteers, state parks staff, the community, and you.

Thank You! ■



ONE OF THE ORIGINAL HERON SCULPTURES FROM THE LILY POND HAS BEEN REPAIRED BY JACK GILHAM AND PLACED NEAR THE GARDEN ENTRANCE.





# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 25:

Annual Year - September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012

Album 24 - Completed October 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](http://www.shoreacres.net) – Journal/Newsletters