



Album 25



Shirley Bridgham

How Friends of Shore Acres Happened

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

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

Aerial and Gardens — 1986



Shirley Bridgham



Shirley Bridgham

About the Friends' Albums

By Shirley Bridgham - 2014

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

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

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



Ward Robertson

Aerials - 1986



Ward Robertson

Note from Shirley Bridgham - September 2014



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

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

1st Birthday - Dec. 4, 1987

1st Christmas Lights - Dec. 11, 1987

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

2nd Birthday - Dec. 4, 1988

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note from David Bridgham - September 2014

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Founded December 4, 1986



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

FOSA BYLAWS

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

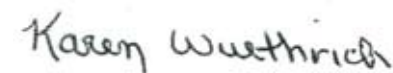
Andy La Tomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

Karen Wuethrich was asked to prepare minutes of the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wuethrich



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

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

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Annual Meeting Highlights September 13, 2011 – Shore Acres Garden House

ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order: President Timm Slater called the annual meeting to order at 7: 00PM, welcoming visitors and board members.

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

Directors absent (excused): Lou Kolkhorst, Sharon Kolkhorst

Guests: Ellie Kinney-Martial and Preson Phillips (OPRD), Debbie Wigant (Betty Kennedy's daughter)

Remarks: Shirley presented a list of Friend's Accomplishments from September 2010 through 2011. Fred Meyer has agreed to provide apple juice again this year. Light pledges have gone out. New sculptures are coming out. Garden is spectacular now with snapdragons and zinnias making a nice combination.

Nomination and Election of Board members: Nominations Coordinator David Bridgham presented nominations renewing the terms of six board members (Shirley Bridgham, Sharon Kolkhorst, Kathy Metzger, Robynn Reed, Timm Slater and Barb Taylor) until September, 2014 and filling the 15th board position (Dennis Netter) to expire in September 2013. MSP to accept nominations as named for the 2011-2012 year.

The Annual meeting was adjourned with an Ice cream social following the meeting.



FRIENDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS SEPTEMBER 2010 - AUGUST 2011 COMPILED BY BRIDGHAM'S

- Information & Gift Center had ongoing success
- Updated and printed Shore Acres History/Friends Milestones Membership brochure.
- Successful 24th annual Holiday Lights season in 2010 with an est. 49,028 visitors
- New gate at southeast entrance to gardens - Bob Dixon and crew
- New entry to Greenhouse - Bob Dixon and crew
- New benches in Rose Display garden - Bob Dixon and crew
- Web site maintenance ongoing - Shirley, Lou
- Got the web cam functioning (again) on our web site with technical help from John Taylor, Dean Ball and James Chilson at SWOCC and Allan Ledesma, EPUERTO
- Annual Journal - Summer 2011 (sixth full color; 16 pages) at the Printer. It will be posted on our web site and mailed to more than 400 people on the Friends' mailing list: includes members, financial supporters, and volunteers
- Successful flower day events and music festival concert - board members and volunteers
- Provided dollars for new plants and plant signs
- Updated and reprinted "Roses" brochure and Rose card
- First storage building (B-1) re-roofed and re-sided; rodent proofed, organized and cleaned and installed more storage shelves (thanks, Joan and Jack)
- Helped develop new interpretive panels for the Observation Building
- Garden House - new dining room windows project completed
- Developed plan and budget for regular Friends activities
- Developed plan and budget for projects to be completed by June 30, 2012



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Board Meeting Highlights September 13, 2011 – Shore Acres Garden House

BOARD MEETING

Call to Order: Incoming President Shirley Bridgham called the regular board meeting to order after the ice cream social.

Election of Officers: As presented by the Nominations Coordinator, the slate of FoSA Board Officers for 2011-2012 includes: President Elect: Dennis Netter, Treasurer: Barb Taylor, Secretary: Kathi Netter. MSP to unanimously elect the officers.

Minutes: MSP to accept the minutes of July 12, 2011.

Financial Report: Barb Taylor presented a revised June 30, 2011 annual report. A \$2,000 difference was noted and corrected. MSP to accept the report as presented. As of August 31, 2011 - \$173,339.58

Information and Gift Center Report: Barb Taylor presented the IGC report, as Lou and Sharon were excused for this meeting. The IGC revenue has been down about \$5100 for 2 months (mostly for July). It picked up in August and September is looking good. Credit card purchases have been problematic with online accessibility, so an Addressograph was obtained to manually back up credit card charges. The Center will need to follow work on a privacy policy to avoid identity theft. Considering the state of the economy, the IGC is doing well. There is always something new. MSP to accept report.

State Parks Report: Ellie Kinney Martial and Preson Phillips updated the Board with recent State Parks news. For the first time, Cycle Oregon made a stop at Shore Acres during their tour. The group was noted to be well-organized and cleaned up after themselves. Upcoming events include the Show and Shine Car show (part of the Fun Festival), then Dahlia Day (last event until Holiday Lights). The Greenhouse lath has been replaced (funded by FoSA). Redwood benches have been installed in the Rose garden. Ellie noted people sitting on benches right away.

Preson: State park use varies like rest of economy. Seasonal employees are starting to be laid off. The Rocky Shores position (funded by FoSA) has ended for the season. The maintenance budget will see a 10% cut this year. The price of firewood bundles will increase to \$5, like the rest of the state parks.

Old Business: Shirley Bridgham reported that the membership brochures are being completed; the Holiday Lights posters are ready (Jack and Joan agreed to make their annual distribution rounds); and the FoSA Journal is at the printers (after a slight delay due to work on the interpretative panels). Thanks were expressed to the Coos Historical Society for their help in reprinting some of the information needed for the panels.

The Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden concert took place July 23rd, with Charles Serliss, Vee Elliott, Billie and Brian Bergstrom, and Kathi Netter serving the traditional ice cream sundaes in the Garden House.

FoSA's web camera is working again, but is restricted to still pictures due to the limited technology we have.

Holiday Lights report: A complete report (see next page) was presented by David and Shirley Bridgham outlining the organization plan and progress made for this year's Lights.

New Business: A special Friends of Shore Acres 25th Anniversary dinner will be held at the Mill Casino. Andy La Tomme will be the keynote speaker. \$2,000 has been approved in the budget for this and all volunteers, members and supporters will be invited. Due to budget constraints, the State will not do its annual volunteer recognition, so the park hosts will be invited to this event as well.

Good of the Order: Robynn Reed showed the Board a picture of her already-decorated Christmas living room at her home. She usually doesn't have the time during the Holiday Lights season, so she got an early start this year! She also asked to revisit the idea of better cell phone service at Shore Acres, due to a recent motorcycle accident where emergency care was difficult to obtain due to poor communication availability. In lieu of having a cell tower on State Parks property, it was suggested that better signage of where telephones and emergency help can be found would be helpful.

Next Board Meeting: It is possible that a meeting room would be available at the New Visitor's Center for FoSA to use for their monthly Board meetings. Timm Slater will check into this. Otherwise, the next Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at the North Bend Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Netter, Secretary

Friends' 25th Birthday and 25th annual Holiday Lights – December 2011

25TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2011 - PROGRESS REPORT

CO-CHAIR - SHIRLEY AND DAVID BRIDGHAM

- Lights plan is done except for a few modifications.
- LED Lights failures replaced by company
- LED Lights (additional and backup) lights ordered, received, unpacked and waterproofed
- Gray whale lights sculpture sand blasted, painted and re-strung with LED rope lighting
- Holiday Lights buttons produced
- Holiday Lights brochure developed and produced
- Parking coupons printed
- Lights pledge campaign packets mailed with responses coming in (\$3,180 to date)
- In the process of mailing thank-you cards, posters, and parking coupons to lights pledge contributors.
- Mailed Fred Meyer request for apple juice and lemonade and discounts on cookies - Tentative approval by email; 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
- New red lighted "Flower" units being created by Jack and Joan
- "Santacans" have been ordered.
- Christmas trees have been ordered (26 large; 4 medium donated by Dave Hannah of Dave's Trees). They will arrive at Shore Acres on Nov. 1 for setup Nov. 2-4.
- Lights setup starts in October.
- New lights sculptures by David - Fuchsia flower and Fluttering Hummingbird



25th

Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park

Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve
Nov. 24 - Dec. 31, 2011 * 4-9:30 PM

A "Community Tradition" since 1987
More than a Quarter Million Lights!

Sponsored by Friends of Shore Acres & Shore Acres State Park,
Coos Bay, OR 97420
541-888-3732 or 541-756-5401
www.shoreacres.net

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Win the Ultimate B&B
Tickets at the Info & Gift Center
541-888-2472
1-866-888-6100

POSTER BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM IS AVAILABLE AT THE INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER.

Fall Favorite – Dahlia Day, September 24, 2011

DAZZLING DAHLIAS TAKE CENTER STAGE AHEAD OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS.



Setting Up the Lights – What It Takes



GREG ALDRIDGE, BAILEY ALDRIDGE, ROSALIE MCGARITY, SHAY CHAVEZ AND LUCINDA DINOVO



RYAN WOODS AND DALE HERRING



CHARLES SERLIS AND SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS

Every season, the best lights stringers in the world put the lights up and take them down . . . just for some Wendy's chili, hot dogs and lots of goodies . . . and the satisfaction of creating the best lights display on the West Coast!

We recognize their efforts on the many scrolls that hang on the walls in the Garden House during the event and really can't thank them and all of our supporters enough for their help.

For 2011, lights stringers included: Bailey Aldridge, Greg Aldridge, David Barnhart, Shirley and David Bridgham, Dawn Buxton, Shay Chavez, Shirley Champagne-Harris, Christine Coles, Ray Daniels, Lucinda DiNovo, Edith Forkner, Debra Gerritsen, Jack Gilham and Joan Clifton, Dale Herring, Betty Kennedy, Kathe Leaf, Rosalie McGarity, Kathy Metzger, Mike Perkins and Carol Ventgen, Marsha Roberson, Charles Serlis, John & Lynn Sollers, Dell & Roberta Willis, and Ryan Woods.

Several garden areas were done by Coos Bay Kiwanis, 4H Rock N Riders, 4H Straight Shooters, and the North Bend High School Key Club.

The outside lights on the Garden House were put up of by Coos Bay Fire and Rescue - Stan Gibson, Dennis James, Michael Archer, Corbin Cline, Donovan Kauffman, Lindsey Batch, Abby Wilson, Jason Wilson, Raef Owens, Howard Owens, Erin, Ben Rolichcheck and Nate McCormick. ■



LIGHTS STRINGERS (CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT) DALE HERRING, MARSHA ROBERSON, RAY DANIELS, KATHE LEAF, SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS, MIKE PERKINS



VEE ELLIOTT IS READY WITH GOODIES!



(L-R) RAY DANIELS AND DELL WILLIS



NORTH BEND HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB DIRECTED BY DAVE BARNHART

Holiday Lights Scenes From 2011



MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN, PELICANS AND GARDEN HOUSE



FUCHSIA FLOWERS AND ANIMATED HUMMINGBIRD



DIVING SEA LIONS



UPLIGHTED GIANT MONTEREY PINES

Holiday Lights Scenes From 2011



SPOUTING 45' GRAY WHALE NEAR UPLIGHTED GIANT EVERGREENS



OVERVIEW FROM THE UPSTAIRS WINDOW, SPOUTING WHALE AND LEAPING ORCA



UNDERSEA GARDEN AT THE ENTRANCE



AMAZING REFLECTIONS AT THE 100' LILY POND

Holiday Lights Scenes From 2011



PUFFINS NEAR THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE GARDEN



DRAGONFLY NEAR THE PERGOLA COVERED WITH GOLD FLOWER CLUSTERS



HUGE CRYPTOMERIA TREE IN THE SOUTHEAST GARDEN



SALMON "SCHOOLING" IN THE GARDEN EAST OF THE POND

25th Annual Holiday Lights – Plentiful Publicity

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 22, 2011

Shore Acres comes alive



By Benjamin Brayfield, The World

The finishing touches were put on the Shore Acres holiday light display over the weekend. The show opens Thursday.

Lights, camera ... fun

BY DANIEL SIMMONS-RITCHIE
The World

CHARLESTON — After months of preparation and the help of 1,500 volunteers, Thursday's the day that Shore Acres will turn on its Christmas lights for the 25th year.

More than 300,000 lights have been strung at Shore Acres State Park for this year's display, which runs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve.

The walk-through festival

attracts 40,000 to 60,000 visitors each year and has slowly built from its humble debut in 1987, featuring only 6,000 lights and a single Christmas tree.

This year will feature 26 large holiday trees and dozens of lighted sculptures, including herons, life-size whales, animated sea lions, an undersea garden, flowers, garden bugs and more.

The display is open from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. daily. The only fee is the usual \$5 parking charge for going to the



state park.

Choirs, carolers and bands will be on hand to entertain the crowds, and volunteers will be serving hot cider,

A schooner guards the entrance to Shore Acres. More than 300,000 lights have been strung for the annual holiday display

punch, coffee, and cookies.

The annual display is organized by Friends of Shore Acres and with the help of local businesses.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 24, 2011



How to photograph holiday lights



By Benjamin Brayfield, The World

“Pictures at eye level typically aren’t at the best angle.”

BY BENJAMIN BRAYFIELD
The World

The best photos of holiday lights aren’t taken at night, and even a point-and-shoot camera can be adjusted with

beautiful results. Here are some tips that can help you capture the best possible images a Shore Acres or anywhere else.

- Start shooting when there’s still light in the sky, but it’s dark enough to see

the lights.

- If you’re using a point-and-shoot camera, try the Night Portrait setting. If using a single-lens reflex, try shooting on Manual mode.

- Make sure to set your white balance to Tungsten. Christmas lights are tungsten balanced. This will ensure you capture the true color of the lights.

- Use a tripod and the self-timer func-

tion to reduce camera shake from shooting in low light. This will also allow you to shoot at low ISO to maintain picture quality (ISO 400 or below). That means using slow shutter speeds to compensate for a low ISO.

- Experiment with different apertures. Shooting at f/16 - f/22 will produce sunburst effects in the lights. A tripod is mandatory for this, as your shutter speed and ISO will be low.

Shooting at very wide apertures (f/2.8 - f/1.2) will produce very nice out of focus lights in the foreground or background, also known by the Japanese term “bokeh.”

- Try shooting at different angles — low, high, side angles, etc. Try to shoot below four feet and above six feet. Pictures at eye level typically aren’t at the best angle.

Shore Acres by the numbers

Years it’s been lit: 25
Lights strung this year: 300,000
Volunteers who strung them: 1,500
Visitors in a typical year: 40-60,000

Shore Acres State Park

Starting tonight, the display is open 4:30-6:30 p.m. every night through Dec. 24. Take Cape Arago Highway 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay. Parking is \$5. Cookies and hot drinks are available by donation in the Garden House.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

MONDAYS and TUESDAYS at the Hilltop!

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We are open **EVERY DAY!** 4:00pm to 10:00pm

541-756-4160

The Hilltop House Restaurant and Lounge
93405 Wilsey Lane, North Bend, OR

Shore Acres entertainment

All times are p.m. All performances are in the Pavilion except where noted. Schedule subject to change; visit www.shoreacres.net for current information.

Nov. 24, Little Ole Opry Christmas Dancers and Singers, 7-8
Nov. 24, The Little Match Girls, 7-8, Garden House
Dec. 2, North Bend Middle School 8th Grade Band, 7-7:30
Dec. 3, Undivided Heart, 5-6

Dec. 3, South Coast Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 6:30-9
Dec. 4, Bay Area Brass Quintet, 6-7
Dec. 6, Gold Coast Chorus, 7-8
Dec. 7, North Bend HS Choirs, 5-6
Dec. 7, North Bend HS French Students and Friends, 6-6:30

Dec. 7, Reedsport Community Charter School, 7-8
Dec. 8, The Lighthouse School, 6-7
Dec. 8, Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, 7-8
Dec. 9, St. Monica Church, 6-7
Dec. 9, Christ Lutheran Church and School, 7-7:30
Dec. 10, Sea Breeze Harmony Chorus, 6-6:45
Dec. 10, Passin’ Notes, 7-8:30
Dec. 11, Magnificent Seven Tuba Group, 4-5
Dec. 11, Milo Academy Bells/Choir, 5:30-6
Dec. 12, Myrtle Point HS Show Choir – Vibe, 5-5:30
Dec. 12, Jan Doyle, flutist, 6-7, Garden House
Dec. 15, Bay Area Concert Band, 7:30-8:30
Dec. 16, Kingsview Christian School, 4:30-5

Dec. 16, The Salvation Army Youth Programs, 6-7
Dec. 17, Carolers from Bandon, 5-6
Dec. 17, Centro De Fe, 6:30-7:30
Dec. 17, Jason Corbus & Amber Kissell, 7-45-closing
Dec. 18, Magnificent Seven Tuba Group, 4-5
Dec. 18, Bay Area Foursquare Church, 6-6:30
Dec. 18, Johnny Salzano, 7-closing
Dec. 21, Candace Kreitlow (Harpist), 5-7, Garden House
Dec. 22, Gary Brink Family & Friends, 4-5
Dec. 22, Just Jensens Quartet, 5-6, Garden House
Dec. 22, Gary Brink Family & Friends, 6-closing
Dec. 25, Cape Blanco Ringers English Handbell Choir, 5-closing

SCENE

PUBLISHED THURSDAYS
IN THE WORLD

Scene Editor: Gail Elber • 541-269-1222, ext. 234
Designer/Coordinator: Beth Burbach • 541-269-1222, ext. 224
www.theworldlink.com

How to get listed

To submit announcements for local entertainment events, email to events@theworldlink.com, fax to 541-269-5071, mail to P.O. Box 1840, Coos Bay, OR 97420; or hand deliver to 350 Commercial Ave. Deadline is 10 a.m. Monday.

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OREGON COAST

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For that unique gift

DECEMBER 2011



Behind the Magic

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT SHORE ACRES

Thanks to one very dedicated couple
and lots of volunteers, the holiday lights
at Shore Acres State Park still shine
brightly after 25 years.



The Gray Whale delights Holiday Visitors at Shore Acres



Santa in the bathtub.

STORY BY JUDY FLEAGLE

WHEN VISITORS arrived at Shore Acres on a December evening in 1987, 6,000 hedge lights adorned the garden. A switch was thrown, and a Christmas tree came alive with light. The first "Christmas at Shore Acres," as it was called then, was certainly a far cry from today. Now 6,000 lights cover just one flowerbed.

Seven hundred visitors made the trip that first night to Shore Acres State Park (on Cape Arago just south of Coos Bay), and over the next couple of weeks, a total of 9,000 visitors signed the guest book. Many wrote comments. "Apparently, the main reason for coming was not to see the lights," says David Bridgham, former president of the Friends of Shore Acres, "but to go inside the Gardener's Cottage, which was normally closed to the public."

In October, only a couple months earlier, the nonprofit group Friends of Shore Acres had made the decision to put on a Christmas Open House. In brainstorming ways to increase the exposure of the gardens to the public and to raise money for improvement projects, the Friends decided that Butchart Gardens' night illumination provided an excellent model to follow. The holidays were coming up, so it was decided to try a test run.

The success of that first display changed everything. "We weren't talking about Butchart Gardens any more," explains David. "Our test run had developed its own show."



Shore Acres Lights in 1987.

The next year, the Friends buried power lines and added colored lights. By the fifth year, the pond area was lighted. And every year thereafter, improvements to the gardens, the Garden House, and the light show continued. Among the most noticeable were the new entertainment Pavilion added in 2002 and the Information and Gift Center constructed in 2003.

Today, the bushes, hedges, and trees within the formal gardens are strung with as many as 300,000 lights, most of which are LED. During the last decade, many lighted sculptures (some animated) have been added, and the huge trees surrounding the gardens are lit with landscape lights. The total effect is magical and has been enjoyed by more than a million visitors in the past 24 seasons.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

From the beginning, the Friends of Shore Acres invited the Bay Area communities (Coos Bay, North Bend, and



Shore Acres today.



LEFT: Shirley and David Bridgham.

BELOW: Shirley checks "the book."



PHOTO BY JIMMY FLEAGLE

have done the 'heavy lifting' of putting up the whales and other large light sculptures for many years," explains David. "We would be hard pressed to do it without their help."

"The only time we could use more help is in January during the take down and put away process," adds Shirley Bridgham, David's wife and current president of Friends of Shore Acres.

LIGHTS—OLD AND NEW

"Before LED lights were added in 2006, we had 30-amp breakers and would only use up to 24 amps," explains David. "There was a 6,000 lights-per-bed limit, and we had to have an electrician come to check after the lights were set up. With LED, the same amount of lights used only 3 or 4 amps."

Since LED lights are more brilliant, they found that they could use less to get the same effect. LED rope lighting made creating light sculptures and outlining structures easier. Last year the benches were outlined for the first time.

David proudly describes a unique way they found of using the LED miniature lights. "Where rhodies and hydrangeas are draped, we clustered the



Charleston) to help string lights, and they received an immediate positive response. When groups or businesses were asked if they wanted to have a night to host in the Garden House or to have a tree to decorate, the response was also positive. "It has grown to the point that groups and businesses sign up for half nights, and we have a waiting list. Once a person or group signs up, they get to continue until they choose to leave," explains David. "That's true for tree decorating too, which also has a waiting list." The trees are donated from a tree farm.

Outlining the Garden House in individual lights has been done for years by the volunteer firefighters. "We watch them use the extension ladders and a whole lot of courage in placing lights on the roof lines, the pelican, and the chimney," says Shirley.

Another group that has also been involved is the Shutter Creek Correctional Institution. "The inmates

PHOTO BY JIMMY FLEAGLE



lights to make it look like rhody and hydrangea blossoms."

Setting up lights begins in mid-October and lasts for six weekends. Depending on the weather, anywhere from six to 50 volunteers turn out each day. Often it's the same people, year after year, most of whom come from the Bay Area.

The planning is done before the volunteers arrive. Shirley has "the book" where her photos (updated each year) show every bed and area. Then a spread-sheet for each area shows what is needed for every bush, hedge, bench, etc.

David and Shirley hang tags on bushes and lay out extension cords so that when the volunteers arrive, they read the tags, hang the lights, and plug them in. No deviation is allowed. After everything is done, the Bridghams do a walk through. "If I see colors that don't work well together or anything else that I don't like, I change it," says Shirley.

David says, "The word among volunteers is that if you don't do it right, Shirley will ask you to do it over—please."

LIGHT SCULPTURES PARTNERSHIP

While Shirley is the planner, David is the artist, and his expertise shows in his light sculpture creations. He designed and built most of the small ones, including the first ones—the iconic cranes that replicate the bronze sculptures in the pond. He uses animation software to design sculptures that appear to move. New this year is a

hummingbird with "movable" wings.

Renowned local artist Don McMichael, known for his whale paintings, has done the larger light sculptures, including the gray whale and orca as well as the sea lions, leaping frog display, flying pelicans, and the pelican sitting on the Garden House.

The light sculptures follow certain themes. "We don't do religious or commercial symbols," David says. "We do try to keep within the garden and coastal themes. So we have the marine life seen in tide pools and offshore and the flowers that the garden is most noted for—tulips, rhododendrons, roses, and dahlias."

An exception is the clipper ship *Western Shore*, which is a nod to local history. The actual ship was built in 1874 in North Bend by shipping-and-lumber magnate Asa Simpson. His son Louis, who subsequently ran the businesses, built Shore Acres and created these gardens.

Another exception is Santa in the bathtub, upstairs in the Garden House. Kids get the biggest kick out of Santa and make up stories as to why he's there. One year, Santa wasn't in the tub and there were so many sad-faced kids that within two days Santa was back.

This year Santa is not only in the tub, but he's on the buttons that volunteers receive. Each year a new volunteer button is designed, and the 2011 Holiday Lights poster commemorates the 25th year by showing all the buttons since 1987.

Today there are approximately 1,500 volunteers working to see that the Holiday Lights continue to shine. Volunteers receive a pass to the park as well as the button.

BRIDGHAMS RECOGNIZED

Shirley and David have been involved with Shore Acres since the

first meeting of the new Friends group and have been in charge of Holiday Lights since the test run.

All of their years of work and commitment have not gone unnoticed. They have received the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year for 1993, the second BACC Citizens of the Year followed by the Travel Oregon Volunteer Achievement Award both for 2008; and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the city of North Bend in 2010.

After 25 years, they both say that they have thought about letting someone else be in charge. Then they become recharged after reading through comments such as this one: "Tonight he proposed . . . I accepted!"

"What makes Holiday Lights work is the help of the volunteers and the community and our close relationship with the State Parks," Shirley says. David adds: "What also makes it work is the scale and symmetry of the formal garden and that it's a walk-thru—not a drive-by—experience."

"Seeing the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres," adds David, "ought to be on everybody's 'bucket list.'"

FYI:

Shore Acres State Park is located on Cape Arago Highway, 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend and Hwy 101. The park is open daily 8 a.m. to dusk. There is a \$5 parking fee and a webcam on the Friends of Shore Acres site allows for a weather check online.

Holiday Lights—Thanksgiving night to New Year's Eve, 4-9:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Friends of Shore Acres (541-756-5401; www.shoreacres.net) or the Information and Gift Center (541-888-2472). □

Holiday Lights – “Best in the Northwest!”



GARDEN HOUSE LIVING ROOM AND DINING ROOM

The 25th annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park saw an estimated 57,768 visitors as compared to 49,028 last season. Weather is always a factor and Coos Bay-North Bend had less than 2 inches of rain during the lights season as compared to nearly 12 inches the previous season.

The hummingbird and fuchsia flowers sculptures drew rave reviews as did the 300,000 LED lights. And as beautiful as the holiday lights are, everyone is always awestruck by the landscape lighting on the huge evergreens around the gardens and the pond. Welcoming host teams and refreshments in the beautifully decorated garden house and excellent entertainers in the pavilion completed a perfect picture of this very successful *community tradition* on Oregon’s Adventure Coast.

Some comments from visitors: *Another wonder of the world!* - San Francisco; *Love the hummingbird, whales, flowers and frogs* - Beaverton; *Perfection!* - Seattle; and *Best in the Northwest* - Gleneden Beach, Oregon. ■



CHOIR FROM THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NORTH BEND

Holiday Lights 2011 – Another Successful Season

THANKS, LIGHTS PLEDGE SUPPORTERS 2011!

LED LIGHTS *

- 4,466*** Abel Insurance Agency-Harry & Francie Abel *
- 3,333*** Cornelia & Don Barnhart *
Shinglehouse Auto Wreckers *
- 2,800*** The Portside Restaurant *
- 2,000*** Coastal Paper & Supply-Bob & Johanna Dillard *
- 1,666*** Huggins Insurance-Bob & Janet Huggins *
- 1,400*** Azalea Acres, Inc.-Steve, Wesa, Richard & Betty Liles *
Best Western Holiday Motel, David & Shirley Bridgham *
Coos Bay Grocery Outlet-Patricia & Sven Backman & Crew *
Edgewater Inn Motel * Coos Bay, Evens, Havel, Starfyr *
J. W. White Painting-Jay & Melody White *
The Mill Casino-Hotel *
- 1,333*** Nancy Robinson *
- 1,260*** Prudential Seaboard Properties, Inc. *
- 1,125*** Coos Bay Fire & Rescue *
- 1,050*** Michael A. Gordon, CPA (Not Your Basic Bean Counter) *
Honda World *
- 1,000*** This Olde House Bed & Breakfast *
- 706*** SC & AGE, Inc. -Tom's Lock & Key *
- 700*** Art Connection * Benetti's Italian Restaurant *
Bob's Appliance-Bob & Gayle DePeal * Books by the Bay *
Ray Gapp * Kevin & Diane Keiser in memory of
Heidi Nerbovig & Berneice Lange *
Kathy and Ron Metzger * James & Ellen Montalbano *
Northwestern Mutual-Dick & Jan Vigue *
Pacific Corp/Pacific Power * Ted Jay Terry, DMD & Staff *
Thomas & Sons Transportation *
- 400*** Charleston Harbor Inn in memory of John A. Castro *
High Tide Cafe LLC - Carol Rodde & Steve Raplee *
- 360*** Cedar Electric & Construction, Inc. *
- 350*** Charleston Merchants Association* Archi & Jim Davenport *
Gold Coast Truck Repair-Butch & Jacque Shields *
Betsy Groben * Andy & Lynn Nasburg in memory of
Virginia Carroll Cumpston *
Andy & Lynn Nasburg in memory of Barbara McKeown *
North Bend Lanes-Bob, Mark, & Marianna Mattechek *
Shoji Planning, LLC-Crystal & Gene Shoji *
Slippery Slope Soap Shop-Pauline & Ron Vierra *
Weldon & Sons * Donald Zobel *
- 333*** Walter McClure *



— Garden House — Traditional and Magical



Robynn Reed - "House Decorator Extraordinaire"
-at the new dining room windows in 2011.
Robynn's helpers included Michael and Adam Reed, Kathy Hutchinson, Jeri Malone, Ellie Kinney-Martial, Pam Stevens, Larry Becker, Al Gardner, the Shutter Creek Work Crew and the SWOCC Softball team.



Special Thanks to Fred Meyer -

20th Year of donating 100 cases of frozen apple juice for hot apple cider and 10 cases of frozen pink lemonade for punch and discounts on cookies.

AN ESTIMATED 57,768 VISITORS

25 Countries from Argentina to Viet Nam

42 States & Washington, D.C.

Cities & Towns: 205 Oregon; 123 California

58 Washington; 164 cities & towns from other states

- Anchorage, AK - Beautiful/unique.
- Ashland, OR - Amazing, absolutely Amazing
- Boise, ID - Amazing! Glad we came!
- Carson, NV - We will make this a holiday tradition!
- Citrus Heights, CA - Worth the trip!
- Cloverdale, CA - Love the sea creatures!
- Coos Bay, OR - Great house and beautiful lights!
- Crescent City, CA -Amazingly Awesome!!
- Denver, CO - Fantastic!!!
- Eagle Point, OR - What an amazing work of art.
- Edmonton, AB, Canada - Beautiful displays, thank you!
- Florence, OR - Beautiful! - A holiday must
- Gig Harbor, WA - Magical!
- Houston, TX - Wonderful - really enjoyed it.
- Kodiak, AK - This is really Beautiful!!!
- Las Vegas, NV - Fabulous!
- Lincoln City, OR - Stunning!!
- Mariposa, CA - Gorgeous lights... really spectacular!
- Maui, HI - We love coming here every year!
- Milan IT - Bellissimo
- Milpitas, CA - Great job and we will be back
- Montana - Fantastic! - Nothing like it elsewhere.
- New Zealand - It's the boon-diggity
- North Bend, OR - Love the new hummingbird!
- Olympia, WA - Very beautiful & creative
- Paris, France - Beautiful!
- Pensacola, FL - Thanks for letting us make memories
- Pismo & Fresno, CA - The best place on earth
- Portland, OR - Breathtaking, we'll be back next year!
- Salem, OR - A yearly treasure!
- San Andreas, CA - Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!
- San Diego, CA - Shoretacular!
- San Francisco, CA - Another wonder of the world!
- Seattle, WA - Perfection!
- Sonora, CA - First time! So excited! It's beautiful!
- Trinidad, CA - Such clever animal depictions!
- Waterford, VA - Magical! - Love the hydrangeas
- Wilsonville, OR - Amazed at reflection on the pond.





“SHORETACTULAR!”



“WESTERN SHORE” DESIGNED BY RAY DANIELS IN 2010. FLAG MADE BY JOAN CLIFTON AND BLUE LIGHTS ADDED IN 2011

Magic Behind the Sculptures

BY DAVID BRIDGHAM, CO-CHAIR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

After 25 years of the Holiday Lights display, it's time to recognize the ever growing number of lighted sculptures. Each year there is great anticipation for the new sculpture, “What's new?” is often asked. We've learned that each element is expected to be displayed every year and each sculpture is someone's favorite. This means that after 25 years there's a lot of elements to the sculpture display. We have been extremely fortunate to collaborate with some very talented people to help make our lighted sculptures creatively unique and memorable.

Internationally recognized marine artist, Don McMichael, has worked with us on some of our biggest displays, right from the beginning. Not only designing - but often telling a story. Don designed a life-size gray whale that spouts. Then a life-size Orca, jumping and rolling in a very realistic way, followed by a pair of sea lions, one male the other female, with the male showing off to an unimpressed female. Don has artistically designed 4 pelicans in stages of flight - landing on the garden house chimney, as well as a pair of puffins that occupy space on the southwest fence. Another favorite display is his “Schooling” salmon. When we asked Don to design a frog leaping across the pond, he told us this was a great departure from his usual subjects, but our leaping frog remains one of the all time favorites during the display.



LEAPING FROG DISPLAY DESIGNED BY DON MCMICHAEL

When we asked Ray Daniels, recently retired SWOCC welding instructor, to design and create the “Western Shore,” the Simpson's flag ship of their historic shipbuilding and lumbering era - he said “sure.” This was not an easy assignment, but Ray was able to artistically portray the only schooner built on the west coast in metal and lights that makes an important statement about Shoreacres history.

I've had the great fortune to work on all of the sculptures through the years and had much help from Friends' volunteers who enjoy this creative and enjoyable expression.

We've stayed true to our themes of marine and botanical and garden critters. This has kept the Holiday Lights display unique, the lighted gardens - fantastic, and the coastal location — **SHORETACTULAR!** — GUEST BOOK ENTRY FROM A SAN DIEGO VISITOR 2011

"TWELVE NIGHTS..."



OFTEN, I HAVE THOUGHT THAT WE COULD RE-DO THE "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" SOMEDAY — WELL HERE GOES:

- On the **1st night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
1 Gray whale, spouting
- On the **2nd night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
2 Cranes standing and one gray whale spouting
- On the **3rd night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray whale spouting
- On the **4th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting
- On the **5th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting
- On the **6th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
6 Sea lions a-playing . . . 5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting
- On the **7th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
7 Butterflies, puffins, and dragonfly a-flying . . . 6 sea lions a-playing . . . 5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting
- On the **8th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
8 Garden critters munching (*worm, grasshopper, 2 turtles, snail, 2 frogs croaking, and 1 squirrel*) . . . 7 butterflies, puffins, and dragonfly a-flying . . . 6 sea lions a-playing . . . 5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting



LIFE-SIZE (45') GRAY WHALE
DESIGNED BY DON MCMICHAEL



FIRST LIGHTS SCULPTURES OF THE CRANES (HERONS)
MADE BY DAVID BRIDGHAM AND FRANK SMITH WERE
ORIGINALLY DONE IN MINIATURE LIGHTS, THEN IN
STANDARD ROPE LIGHTING, THEN LED ROPE LIGHTING.

- On the **9th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
9 Hydrangea flowers shining . . . 8 Garden critters munching (*worm, grasshopper, 2 turtles, snail, 2 frogs croaking, and 1 squirrel*) . . . 7 butterflies, puffins, and dragonfly a-flying . . . 6 sea lions a-playing . . . 5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting
- On the **10th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
10 Rhodie flowers a-glowing . . . 9 Hydrangea flowers shining . . . 8 Garden critters munching (*worm, grasshopper, 2 turtles, snail, 2 frogs croaking, and 1 squirrel*) . . . 7 butterflies, puffins, and dragonfly a-flying . . . 6 sea lions a-playing . . . 5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting
- On the **11th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
11 Undersea Garden creatures swimming . . . 10 Rhodie flowers a-glowing . . . 9 Hydrangea flowers shining, 8 Garden critters munching (*worm, grasshopper, 2 turtles, snail, 2 frogs croaking, and 1 squirrel*) . . . 7 butterflies, puffins, and dragonfly a-flying . . . 6 sea lions a-playing . . . 5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting
- On the **12th night** of Holiday Lights we lighted just for you . . .
12 Azalea flowers lighted . . . 11 undersea garden creatures swimming . . . 10 Rhodie flowers a-glowing . . . 9 Hydrangea flowers shining . . . 8 Garden critters munching (*worm, grasshopper, 2 turtles, snail, 2 frogs croaking, and 1 squirrel*) . . . 7 butterflies, puffins, and dragonfly a-flying . . . 6 sea lions a-playing . . . 5 Frogs a-leaping . . . 4 Major blooms flowering . . . 3 Pelicans flying . . . 2 Cranes standing and 1 Gray Whale spouting

- . . . and all this without including: 1 Pelican sitting (on the Garden House chimney) . . . 2 mushrooms growing . . . 5 Orcas jumping . . . 1 Ship a-sailing . . . 1 hummingbird fluttering . . . and the new sculpture for 2012 - 3 Koi in the pond.

Celebration: 25th Anniversary of Friends of Shore Acres (FoSA)

“Milestones and Memories” by David Bridgham, Founder and Past President



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.
Founded December 4, 1986

“Congratulations” Note from the Webb’s to the Bridgham’s

Hello again,

We want to thank you both again for the lovely celebration party.

The generous price reduction was appreciated, the program and slides a wonderful trip down memory lane detailing each year of such creative growth directed by you two.

We commend both of you for your years of dedication, artistic talents and endless energy to Shore Acres as “Friends” extraordinaire! Thank you!

Fondly, Debbie and Dean



Debbie Webb in 1995

Many FoSA volunteers and supporters came together on Jan. 21, 2012, to celebrate the successes of our first 25 years. Yes, it’s been 25 years of supporting events in the park – greeting our visitors with educational and interpretive information – and just plain friendly hospitality. The Friends have been fortunate with a 25-year long relationship with Oregon State Parks, specifically Shore Acres State Park, providing improvements to the park year after year. It’s not the same park that it was 25 years ago and it continues to get better all the time.

FoSA isn’t a faceless organization that has magically transformed aspects of the park. The magic lies in hundreds of volunteers and supporters. Our 25th Anniversary DVD - “Celebrating 25 Years of Success” - chronicled the years, the progress, and the theme was clearly the people who have been involved over the years.

The keynote speaker for our celebration was recently retired OPRD Southwest Region Manager, Andy LaTomme. It was fitting that this honor goes to Andy. He was instrumental in pulling together 10 or so community members to discuss the possibility of this new concept – a Friends group for Shore Acres. This clearly was his vision in the beginning, and Andy did something very important. In sharing his vision, he encouraged ownership - from the community and from the Friends’ leadership. The community has always loved Shore Acres. Now we feel it’s an even more important part of all of us.

In a thoughtful and emotional address to the 100+ in attendance Andy admitted that his work with the Friends was the most rewarding part of what was a long and successful career in State Parks. This message was well received by a room full of grateful people for his service to State Parks and his support of Friends of Shore Acres.

So as we look forward to the next 25 years and beyond, we can only hope for as many achievements, great volunteers, and community support. We mark this milestone, recount these memories, and continue to make Friends.

Celebration Dinner Kudos to . . .

Friends’ Treasurer Barb Taylor for taking care of the entrance table; MC and Past President Timm Slater, who kept things moving, including presenting many door prizes provided by the Information and Gift Center; Friends’ President Shirley Bridgham, who created and presented the 12-minute DVD; Sunset Bay Management Unit Park Manager Preson Phillips, who expressed his appreciation for the Friends; and to the Park’s staff, Friends’ members and supporters who helped celebrate this very special event. ■



Keynote speaker, Andy LaTomme visits with former FoSA board member, Kay Valois (L) and Shore Acres’ Ranger Supervisor Ellie Kinney-Martial (R). Shore Acres’ Park Ranger Pam Stevens is in the background.



Board member Betty Kennedy and her daughter Debbie Wigant visit with Friends’ Treasurer Barb Taylor at the entrance.



The Mill Casino Hotel did a great job on the buffet dinner that featured Sirloin Roast Au Jus, Breast of Chicken Florentine and Cheesecake topped with the FoSA Logo.

Friends' Information & Gift Center (IGC)

AN ALL-VOLUNTEER OPERATION MANAGED BY LOU AND SHARON KOLKHORST

BY LOU KOLKHORST, IGC CO-MANAGER



Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst

This all volunteer operation is a primary source of funding for many of the Friends' activities. All proceeds go back into the park. We as volunteers get to meet people from all over the world and share our area with them. It's fun and informative.

- New items are arriving weekly. Please come and see them.
- We carry garden items, bird books and feeders, stained glass look items, night lights, vases, picnic items, puppets, jams, tiles, educational items, playing cards, puzzles, walking sticks, canes, umbrellas, bamboo shirts (Bamboo? Yes, Bamboo). You have to see these great items. Jewelry, clothing, caps, books of local history, Oregon history, gardening, cookbooks, clippers for pruning . . . and the list goes on. Please come and see the gift headquarters for the Bay area, and Coos County and wherever you are from.
- DVD's: "Gardens Above the Waves at Shore Acres State Park" (includes Holiday Lights scenes) and "The Shore Acres Story" (the history of Shore Acres).
- New Shore Acres mugs, bookmarks, playing cards, ruler and magnets with scenes from the park and Holiday Lights
- SCREEN SAVERS and Mouse Pads and matching coasters or use them for doll house rugs.

We hope you will enjoy the gardens and visit us often! ■



(L-R) Rena Frenette, Betty Kennedy, Barb Taylor



PENNY PRESSING MACHINE - 4 GREAT DESIGNS - Garden House, Pond and cranes, Cape Arago Lighthouse, Oregon State Parks Seal - Drill a couple holes in your flattened penny and these are great on walking sticks or just collect them. We have the passports to keep your collection of pennies in too.

Shore Acres and Simpson Reef/Shell Island Postcards Exclusive at Friends' IGC

POSTCARDS DESIGNED BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM; PRODUCED BY WEGFERDS' PRINTING & PUBLISHING, NORTH BEND



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



Shore Acres "Wave"



Shore Acres' Gardens Above the Waves



Marine Terrace North of Shore Acres



Shore Acres' Gardens Above the Waves



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



Shore Acres State Park-Dazzling Dahlias



Simpson Reef and Shell Island



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



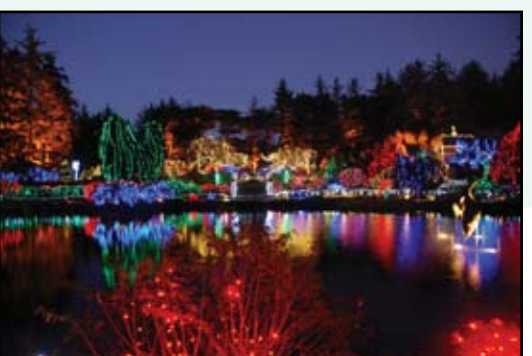
Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



Simpson Reef and Shell Island



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park



South View from Shore Acres

News from the Gardens

BY ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL, RANGER SUPERVISOR, SHORE ACRES STATE PARK



AARS ROSE DISPLAY GARDEN



A QUIET PLACE TO STOP AND "SMELL THE ROSES"



In the southern end of the garden after you walk past the Monkey Puzzle Tree and around the corner you find yourself in an intimate rose garden. This garden, designated as an All-America Rose Selections (AARS) Display Garden, was established in 1977 under the direction of former Superintendent, Dennis Johnson. For the past 35 years Shore Acres has received the newest introductions of AARS roses. After the AARS roses were selected and tested they would be sent to display gardens for public viewing. Each year the garden would receive a gratis shipment of roses from AARS featuring the winning rose selections for the succeeding year. This would allow rose enthusiasts to get a sneak peak at new varieties that would be available the following spring. In 2011, the All-America Rose Selections sent a letter to public display gardens which stated that "All-America Rose Selections (AARS) made the decision to make a major shift in the direction of the organization to better serve home gardeners and the rose industry at large. . . . Due to our reorganization AARS will be discontinuing the public garden program after the 2012 growing year. "

Though this garden will no longer hold the designation of an All-America Rose Selections Display Garden, we will continue to exhibit these favored plants in a setting that allows a person to get up close and literally stop and smell the roses.

Growing roses on the coast is a challenge, to say the least. Anyone who takes on that challenge knows that two basic requirements are sunshine and good air circulation. In order to provide a more conducive environment for the roses, we selectively removed several trees to allow more sunlight into this garden. After a closer look you may ask yourself "Why did they leave those dead trees?"

The snags, aka dead trees, are valuable to wildlife for many reasons. They provide nesting habitat for small mammals and birds, perching and roosting areas and are a source of food for woodpeckers, who feed on the insects that populate these decaying trees. You can frequently hear the sounds of pileated woodpeckers visiting these trees, and if you're lucky you may catch a glimpse of them.

The next time you visit Shore Acres remember to take some time to enjoy this treasured spot: the sights, smells, and sounds that make this such a special place. ■



"DICK CLARK" - GRANDIFLORA - AARS 2011



SNAGS, AKA DEAD TREES, VALUABLE TO WILDLIFE

INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES AT SUNSET BAY, SHORE ACRES, SIMPSON REEF/SHELL ISLAND AND CAPE ARAGO

BY STEPHANIE MILLER, PARK RANGER, SUNSET BAY MANAGEMENT UNIT

PELICANS AT CAPE ARAGO



S.E.A. AT SIMPSON REEF

KUDOS FROM VISITORS . . .

October 16, 2011 - Attn: Sunset Bay Office - Pam Stevens and Ellie - Shore Acres' Ranger and Contact People:

As we make our final report about the Idaho Airstream Caravan to your area a few weeks ago, we are reminded of the wonderful experience we had at Shore Acres. We especially appreciated your willingness to work with us and guide our group through the park.

It was truly an informative and breathtaking excursion, particularly when you shared your knowledge about the variety and care of the beautiful award-winning roses. One of the most touching moments of the tour was when one of our members saw a tree similar to one at the Japanese home she left so many years ago. That really was a "picture" moment. Touring the gardener's house was also a special treat.

Thank you for helping to make this such a memorable occasion for our group.

Darrell & Maureen Ostyn, Airstream Caravan Leaders, Idaho Unit

This year brings a new face to the interpretive team with the Friends of Shore Acres funded Rocky Shores Naturalist position. Katie Jacobson joins returning Seasonal Park Ranger Assistant Kristin Hovenkotter-Greco and Interpretive Park Ranger Stephanie Miller. Katie comes to us with a diverse background in education and strong natural history knowledge. Besides spending time in the tidepools, Katie will also be leading guided walks through the gardens as she shares the rich history of Shore Acres.

With summer camping season upon us, interpretive programming at the park is in full swing. A variety of interpretive opportunities continue to be offered throughout Sunset Bay Management Unit. There is something for everyone with programs offered daily; from guided walks and evening presentations at the amphitheater to Junior Ranger activities and campground programs.

Other opportunities include exploring the Interpretive Center (*the old Friends' Information & Gift Center*) in the campground or visiting Simpson Reef Overlook. During the summer, Shoreline Education for Awareness Volunteers are at Simpson Reef with spotting scopes helping visitors learn more about the diverse wildlife that can be seen along our coast. For more information on any of these interpretive opportunities, please call 541-888-0982. ■



SEALS / SEA LIONS - SIMPSON REEF / SHELL ISLAND



COMING THIS FALL - NEW INTERPRETIVE PANELS IN THE
OBSERVATION BUILDING AT SHORE ACRES

Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day – May 13, 2012

EXPERT ADVICE IN THE GARDEN AND REFRESHMENTS IN THE HISTORIC GARDEN HOUSE



(L-R) RHODODENDRON EXPERTS - SVEN AND ALICE BLOMQUIST, DAN NICKELL, NORA ROADMAN AND RAY LEE



Rose Sunday / Father's Day – June 17, 2012

DAZZLING DISPLAY BY THE SOUTHWESTERN OREGON ROSE SOCIETY
AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY THE FRIENDS



DAVID BRIDGHAM, KATHY METZGER AND KAT FLORES

Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert – July 21, 2012



Bonsai Day – August 11, 2012

EXQUISITE BONSAI DISPLAY BY THE BAY AREA BONSAI SOCIETY



GEORGE AND EVA AHUNA DEMONSTRATE THEIR BONSAI SKILLS

Construction Projects Update – August 11, 2012

BY DAVID BRIDGHAM, FOUNDER AND PAST PRESIDENT

Dou may have heard the buzz of saws and banging of hammers near the Shore Acres garden entrance and out on the bluff through this summer and fall.

THREE BIG PROJECTS THE FRIENDS HAVE SPONSORED ARE:

- A long over-due storage facility for the Information and Gift Center (IGC) means no more treacherous trips up and down the steep attic stairs to the IGC loft. More than just an out building, this addition designed by Stuart Woods, AIA, profiles the historic lines of our IGC and the original Shoreacres mansion once located on the bluff where the Observation is located. Following the completion of the climate controlled and secured storage building, a new West door to the IGC will be used as a temporary entrance.
- The IGC's south deck and the garden's main entrance deck are undergoing replacement with Trex decking (synthetic, recycled materials, vinyl wrapped for durability and esthetics.) During the removal and construction, access to the gardens has been the path from the parking area to the back of the Garden House.
- The Observation Building is getting a make-over with all new interpretive panels describing the story of Shoreacres and Shore Acres State Park.

All three projects are nearing completion.

The Friends are excited about these three large projects.

They are three more examples of our powerful partnership with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department – with Friends of Shore Acres Inc. providing financial support and OPRD staff helping with construction.

This is possible only by the ongoing support from our volunteers, visitors, and the success of the Holiday Lights and the Information and Gift Center. ■



NEW STORAGE FACILITY FOR THE INFORMATION & GIFT CENTER



NEW TREX DECKING ON THE SOUTH DECK OF THE IGC

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 26:

Annual Year - September 1, 2012 - August 31, 2013

Album 25 - Completed November 17, 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