



Shore Acres State Park Before Friends - 1986

Album 26



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.

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, 2012 - August 31, 2013

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Annual Meeting Highlights September 11, 2012 – Shore Acres Garden House

ANNUAL MEETING

- Call to Order: President Shirley Bridgham called the annual Friends of Shore Acres meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Those present were: Board members David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham, Joan Clifton, Jack Gilham, Vee Elliott, Betty Kennedy, Kathy Metzger, Dennis Netter, Kathi Netter, Robynn Reed, Dell Willis and Guests Preson Phillips, Ellie Kinney-Martial and Roberta Willis.
- Welcome, Introductions and Remarks: Shirley distributed a list of accomplishments of the Friends of Shore Acres from September 2011 through August 2012. A lot of good things happened this past year!
- Nomination of Board Members: David Bridgham, Nominations Coordinator presented a slate of renewing board members. David Bridgham, Joan Clifton, Jack Gilham, Betty Kennedy and Dell Willis were nominated to serve for three (3) years, with terms expiring in Sept. 2015. MSP (Dell/Vee) to accept the nominations for Board members and passed unanimously.
- Adjournment: The annual meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM and the group enjoyed ice cream sundaes and a tour of the new IGC storage building, new interpretative panels in the Observation building and the new decking and rails under way at the entrance. All projects were pronounced well done!



FRIENDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS SEPTEMBER 2011 - AUGUST 2012

- Information & Gift Center had ongoing success
- Successful 25th annual Holiday Lights season in 2011 with an est. 57,768 visitors
- “25th Anniversary of Friends of Shore Acres and 25th Holiday Lights” - DVD shown at Celebration Dinner at The Mill Casino, January 21, 2012; Andy LaTomme was keynote speaker; more than 100 people in attendance (story and pictures in Annual Summer Journal)
- New Web Site designed by Allan Ledesma, EPUERTO; Web site maintenance ongoing - Shirley, Lou
- Upgraded Wildblue Satellite service for faster upload and better resolution
- Annual Journal - Summer 2012 (7th full color; 16 pages) mailed to more than 500 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 funding for new plants, plant signs, and other park projects
- Updated and reprinted Sunset Bay Special Places brochure in full color
- Updated and reprinted Rhododendron brochure in full color
- Updated and reprinted Membership brochure in full color
- Provided funding for new IGC Storage Building designed by Stuart Woods, AIA and built by Americorp
- Provided funding for new Trex decking at the Garden Entrance; project completed by Bob Dixon and Shutter Creek work crew
- Completed new interpretive panels for the Observation Building. Director of this project is Stephanie Miller with help from Ellie Kinney-Martial, Pam Stevens, Shirley and David Bridgham. Bob Dixon and crew will install the final Garden Panel at the entrance to the formal gardens.
- Changed budget year to annual January-December cycle. Developed plan and budget for projects to be completed by Dec. 31, 2013 (see budget)
- Holiday Lights 2012 planning and preliminary work in separate report at Board Meeting.



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Board Meeting Highlights September 11, 2012 – Shore Acres Garden House

BOARD MEETING

Call to Order: Outgoing President Shirley Bridgham passed the gavel to the new President Dennis Netter who called the regular board meeting to order at 7:52 PM. Directors present: David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham, Joan Clifton, Vee Elliott, Jack Gilham, Betty Kennedy, Kathy Metzger, Dennis Netter, Kathi Netter, Robynn Reed, and Dell Willis. Directors excused: Lou Kolkhorst, Sharon Kolkhorst, Timm Slater, Barb Taylor
Guests: Preson Phillips (OPRD), Ellie Kinney-Martial (OPRD) and Roberta Willis

Nominations of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer: David Bridgham, Nominations Coordinator presented nominations for officers to serve one year beginning September of 2012: Dell Willis for President-Elect, Kathi Netter for Secretary, and Barb Taylor for Treasurer. MSP (Shirley/Robynn) to accept the nominations and approved unanimously.
Minutes: MSP (Dell/Dennis) to accept the minutes of 2011.

Financial Report: Barb Taylor was unable to attend the meeting, so the treasurer's report was deferred until the October meeting.

Information and Gift Center: Lou and Sharon were unable to attend the meeting, so the IGC report was deferred until the October meeting.

State Parks Report: Preson and Ellie presented the State Parks report:

- The IGC storage building is scheduled to be finalized with the architect on Thursday, September 13, 2012.
- Some seasonal staffing is staying a bit longer.
- The box hedges have been trimmed and are ready to have lights strung on them.
- Kitchen and bath flooring in the Garden House is to be replaced
- Ellie will be attending diversity training
- The new trail work is going well. With the grant received, work is continuing in earnest.
- A bear was sighted August 18th eating huckleberries.
- ODOT will fix the slump in the road before Holiday Lights (at a cost of \$3600).

Old Business:

- Betty reported Bonsai Day went well and the upcoming Dahlia and Orchid Days are well organized.
- David and Shirley presented a list of 30 items that have been completed in preparation for the 26th annual Holiday Lights and summarized the efforts with "We are ready!" (to string the lights!)
- Kathy Metzger has the Holiday Lights Hosting schedule completed with the exception of Christmas Eve.
- Kathi Netter has scheduled the Cider Spice making event on Wednesday, October 10th, tentatively at 10 AM.

New Business:

Shirley re-introduced the topic of creating job descriptions by handing out a draft outline her position as "Program Development Director: and her Co-Chair position with David as the Holiday Lights coordinator. Board members occupying other positions were asked to contribute their job functions and responsibilities in a similar format. A new membership brochure has been made, making credit card payments an option.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2012 – 7 PM at the Coos Bay Visitor Center

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Netter, Secretary



AARS HOT COCOA

Autumn News and Special Event

MESSAGE FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT DENNIS NETTER



It is the goal of the Friends of Shore Acres for the garden to be a gem among the many gems of the South Coast with features that continually attract thousands of admirers. This is the vision that has maintained the tradition along with the strong hard-working, cooperative nature of the Friends of Shore Acres Members and Board of Directors. This past year has seen the continuation of the many on-going events that make Shore Acres a lively place year 'round, as well as the completion of improvement projects that blend in so well, they are hardly noticeable as new. The recently completed storage building located to the west of the Information and Gift Center, mirrors

the design of the larger structure to its side and nestles under the trees as if it had been there for years. The replacement decking surface at the entrance welcomes visitors with solid footing in the wettest weather. Window restoration/replacement in the Garden House maintains the historic elements that make it interesting.

The Board is fortunate to have some outstanding, dedicated, and talented people willing to serve. Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst manage the Information and Gift Center (IGC) in the most professional and progressive manner. Barb Taylor serves as an exceptionally precise treasurer. Betty Kennedy and Vee Elliott keep volunteers organized and on-track. Jack Gilham, Joan Clifton, Dell Willis and his wife Roberta are very gifted "worker bees," always on site, doing whatever needs to be done. Robynn Reed is the creative force that makes the magic of the Garden House happen each year. Kathy Metzger and Dawn Buxton (our newest member of the Board) organize holiday host teams and tree decorators. And David and Shirley Bridgham—well, they do everything and anything!

But of course, it isn't just the Board of Directors who make these things happen. A dedicated Park Staff keeps the buildings, pond, paths and plantings in tip-top shape, accommodating seasonal changes in stride. Local businesses are generous with their support of materials and funds. Dino and Cindy Coolen organize holiday entertainers and volunteers in large numbers readily assist in the Holiday Lights setup and takedown (and what a group that requires every year!). And park hosts and Friends volunteers help keep the Information and Gift Center humming. I guess we all enjoy being part of something that is open to all and highlights our special place.

The Board meetings are held the second Tuesday evening of the month (except November and December) at 7 PM at the North Bend Public Library Conference room. The meetings are congenial, well organized, fast paced and guests are always welcome. ■

DAHLIA DAY - SEPTEMBER 13, 2012 DISPLAY IN THE GARDEN HOUSE BY MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON DAHLIA SOCIETY



State Parks Recognition Lunch – September 19, 2012



PARK MANAGER PRESON PHILLIPS THANKS THE VOLUNTEERS
AND RANGER PAM STEVENS HANDS OUT PRIZES.



(L-R) MAXINE JOHANNESSEN AND JOAN CLIFTON



(L-R) MAXINE JOHANNESSEN, BETTY KENNEDY, JERRY HARRIS,
SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS, AND VEE ELLIOTT



(L-R) CALUM STEVENSON AND DAVID BRIDGHAM

Friends' 26th Birthday and 26th annual Holiday Lights – December 2012

26TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2012 - PROGRESS REPORT - CO-CHAIR - SHIRLEY AND DAVID BRIDGHAM





- Holiday poster created; copies made at Wegferds'; ready for distribution
- 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 greased
- Octopus lights sculpture - powder coated and restrung with LED rope lighting
- Holiday Lights brochure developed and produced
- Parking coupons printed
- Lights pledge campaign packets mailed with responses coming in (\$4,334.50 to date)
- In the process of mailing thank-you cards, posters, and parking coupons to lights pledge donors.
- Mailed brochures and holiday posters to south coast visitor centers and media outlets
- New Undersea Garden frame built by Jack; panels for lights made by David; Mike Perkins and Carol Ventgen are pre-stringing lights on the panels and will set up the display after the new frame is put up by the Shutter Creek crew.
- New lights sculptures by David - 3 Koi carp to be placed in pond
- Orca whale lights sculpture stripped, design fixed by David B. and Don McMichael; David has put new rope lights on it.
- Dahlia light sculpture stripped, repaired by Jack; has been powder coated; Jack & Joan have put new LED red rope lights on it.
- New warm white lighted "Flower" units are being created by Jack and Joan.
- 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.
- Christmas trees have been ordered (26 LG; 4 MD donated by Dave Hannah of Dave's Trees) for delivery by Oct.. 30. To be "planted" Oct. 31 - Nov. 2. Tree decorators start Nov. 3.
- Fred Meyer letter has been sent with tentative confirmation.
- Sanicans have been ordered.
- In the process of updating the plant tags for setup.
- Postcards with lights setup schedule have been mailed to core volunteers.
- Preliminary Lights setup starts October 1. Lights stringers come to help beginning Oct. 13
- Bingo and Ginger Sawyer, are moving to Florida, so we have 2 days of housekeeping to fill. Jack and Joan have offered to do one of them, in addition to the 2 days they already do.
- Dell has made almost 1,000 buttons with the help of a new electric button machine.
- Ordered cups and napkins from Coastal Paper and Supply for delivery Nov. 13
- Ordered chili from Wendy's for pickup Oct. 12, 19, and 26



26TH Annual SHORE ACRES HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve
Nov. 22 - Dec. 31, 2012 * 4-9:30 PM

A "Community Tradition" since 1987 * 300,000 Lights (Mostly LED)
OPEN HOUSE - Hot Cider, Punch, Coffee and Cookies!



Shore Acres "Wave" - Photo by Luis Velasquez

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

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

Vehicle Parking
Fee - \$5
or Current Pass

. . . Valiant and Valuable Volunteers 2012 . . .



SHIRLEY CHAMPAGNE-HARRIS HANGS LIGHTS ON A CHRISTMAS TREE.



SHIRLEY AND DAVID BRIDGHAM
HOLIDAY LIGHTS CO-CHAIR SINCE 1987



ROBERTA WILLIS GETS SNACKS AND LUNCH READY.



CHERYL BALDWIN IS A GREAT NEW VOLUNTEER.



VOLUNTEERS FROM THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
- HEIDI BAER, CHELSEY CORUM, TODD MINCH,
BEN CORDOZA, JACKIE PIERCE, CEANDRA
NELSON, JESSICA KOHL, JEREMIAH WILSON,
CASSIDY KELLER, ADRIEN ENGSTROM, CHANCE
ESPINOSA, CASEY KING



MID COAST MUSTANG AND FORD CLUB DECORATE THEIR TREE.

. . . Juniors and Seniors Alike! . . .



NORTH BEND HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB GETS INSTRUCTIONS FROM DAVID BARNHART (BLUE VEST, CENTER).



DELL WILLIS HANGS LIGHTS ON THE TALL CRYPTOMERIA.



ALAN KING STRINGS LIGHTS IN THE RAIN.



RAY DANIELS HANGS LIGHTS ON A PINE BY THE POND.



JACK GILHAM AND JOAN CLIFTON NOT ONLY MAKE THE POPULAR FLOWER CLUSTER LIGHTS, THEY PUT THEM UP.

. . . Inside and Outside . . .



DAVE BARNHART HANDS THE FROG DISPLAY'S SPLASH TO DELL WILLIS AND DAVID BRIDGHAM.



MIKE REED INSTALLS WIRES FOR THE LIGHTED HOUSES IN THE BOOKCASE.



COOS BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS TAKE CARE OF THE LIGHTS ON THE GARDEN HOUSE WITH DIRECTION FROM DAVID BRIDGHAM (ON PORCH ROOF).



DAVID BRIDGHAM DIRECTS ORCA SETUP. SHUTTER CREEK CORRECTIONS CREW SETS UP THE LARGEST SCULPTURE DISPLAYS, ALL THE CHRISTMAS TREES AND MORE.



KATHY METZGER STRINGS LIGHTS AT THE POND.



4-H STRAIGHT SHOOTERS (L) LEADER SHIRLEY BOWER, (R) JULIA ROSS AND HER MOM JENNIFER DE MARCE (C)

. . . Plentiful Publicity . . .

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 17, 2012

Community

Couple keeps Coastal Christmas shining

By TIM NOVOTNY
The World

CHARLESTON — The North Pole may have Mr. and Mrs. Claus to keep things running smoothly during the Christmas season, but they may not even be able to hold a candle to Shirley and David Bridgham at Shore Acres State Park.

Every year, tens of thousands of people from all over the globe come to the South Coast to have their hearts warmed by the Shore Acres holiday lights display. It is an event that has grown exponentially from humble beginnings under the Bridghams' stewardship.

"It's been a grand adventure," says Shirley, 74, who has been there every year with David, 68, since the event began back in 1987. They are part of the "Friends of Shore Acres," a nonprofit that formed in 1986 after the state of Oregon passed legislation allowing private nonprofits to work with state parks on educational and

interpretive services.

While they have been working side by side throughout, David says there is only one boss. "We don't want to mislead anybody.

Shirley is actually in charge. She's the driving force; I'm her number one gopher."

The amount of work keeps them both busy. The holiday lights display, which begins every year on Thanksgiving Day, has grown from the 6,000 miniature lights and one Christmas tree that was on display the first year, to more than a 300,000 holiday lights, 26

Christmas trees, many lighted and animated sculptures, and landscape lights on the huge trees surrounding the garden.

When it started, Shirley was working at Southwestern Oregon Community College, in the audio/visual department; David was still running his dental lab. Neither could've anticipated the tremendous success that was to follow. "If we had envisioned this," David said, "it probably would have



By Lou Sennick, The World

Shirley and David Bridgham share a laugh about some past events during the Shore Acres State Park Holiday Lights over the years. Since it started, they have led the many volunteers who set up and helped out at the light show.

scared us."

So, how do they do it? "It's our passion," Shirley said. "It's that simple."

And the community has caught that passion as well. The couple has never had to go look far for volunteer help, with the ranks swelling from about 50 the first year to about 1,500 now.

Many volunteers are seniors in the community, but the Bridghams also get help from youth groups, businesses and inmate work crews from Shutter Creek Correctional.

"It's still a grand experience," Shirley said. "I hope it continues long beyond me and David and that someone

will take the reigns and say, 'Yeah, we can do that.'"

People of The World is a weekly feature on outstanding individuals in our community. If you or someone you know are ready to tell The World your story, contact reporter Tim Novotny at 541-269-1222, ext. 235, or at tnovotny@theworldlink.com.

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD



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Share your community event by emailing events@theworldlink.com

Holiday Lights ready for Thanksgiving visitors

CHARLESTON — The 26th annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park opens Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 22, and continues every night through New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31.

This walk-thru display, with its beautiful lighted formal gardens, continues to attract thousands of visitors each season. The garden house, beautifully decorated in a traditional holiday theme, has friendly volunteer hosts from many organizations, businesses and friends serving hot cider, punch, coffee and cookies from 4 to 9:30 p.m. every night, including Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Eve. Choirs, carolers and bands offer entertainment in the performance pavilion. The information and gift center, reminiscent of Louis J. Simpson's original mansion, is open every night. There's plenty of parking for both cars and buses.

Almost all of this year's display features LED lights with several new unique styles and colors, garden landscape lighting, 26 large



Photos by Lou Sennick, The World

Every year, Shore Acres State Park gets new lights for the displays in Louis J. Simpson's formal garden.

holiday trees decorated by various organizations and businesses, and dozens of lighted sculptures, including the Shore Acres' herons, life-size whales, animated sea lions, an undersea garden, flowers, garden bugs and butterflies, the leaping frog in the pond, the Western Shore ship, a fluttering hum-

mingbird and more.

Exciting holiday gifts and raffle tickets for the ultimate bed and breakfast are available in the Information and Gift Center. The bed and breakfast is an overnight stay for two adults in the Garden House on New Year's Eve with a special catered breakfast the next morning. Tickets are \$10 each (only

150 will be sold) with the drawing to be held at 4 p.m. Christmas Day. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

The holiday lights event became an instant community tradition in 1987 when the Friends of Shore Acres in cooperation with Shore Acres State Park decided to "string a few lights" to help

celebrate the holidays. That first season, 6,000 miniature lights, one Christmas tree and the open Garden House drew 9,000 visitors.

Now, at least 300,000 lights — both holiday and landscaping — dozens of Christmas trees, lighted sculptures, a performance pavilion and the beautifully decorated garden house

attract 40,000-60,000 visitors each season.

Inside the Garden House long scrolls of names pay tribute to lights pledges business supporters and the members, volunteers and park staff — more than 1,500 all together — who make it happen for all to enjoy.

SEE LIGHTS | 8

GO! Enjoy



By Lou Sennick, The World

Lights continued from Page 7

Shore Acres State Park is 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay. Admission is a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle or a current OPRD Annual Parking Permit, Coastal Passport or current state park campground receipt. The Friends welcome donations for refreshments and for continuing the event the following year.

Volunteer entertainers should contact Dino or Cindy Coolen, 541-756-2428. For more information call: Bridghams at 541-756-5401, Shore Acres State Park 541-888-3732, or Bay Area Chamber of Commerce 1-800-824-8486 or 541-269-0215, or visit www.shoreacres.net.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. - November 17, 2012

Enjoy the show



Photo by Lou Sennick

Three Koi fish underwater are new at this year's Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park. The annual light display will open to the public Thanksgiving evening and run each night through Monday, Dec. 31. The hours are 4-9:30 p.m. each evening. This year, they have about 300,000 lights in the garden displays.

. . . Shore Acres Day and Night “Shoretastic” . . .

BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM



Shirley Bridgham

SPRINGTIME BLOSSOMS AND HERONS REFLECTIONS AT THE LILY POND



Luis Velasquez

SHORE ACRES “WAVE” - REMBRANDT OF THE SEA - AS DESCRIBED BY SAMUEL BOARDMAN, FIRST OREGON STATE PARKS SUPERINTENDENT



Shirley Bridgham

LED LIGHTS, LEAPING FROG SCULPTURE, UNDERWATER LIGHTS ON THE HERONS AND NEW LIGHTED KOI SCULPTURES UNDERWATER DREW WONDERFUL REVIEWS.

The 26TH annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park saw an estimated 47,336 visitors despite 7.49” of rain (5.77” more than 2011). Visitors came from 28 countries from Argentina to Yemen and 45 states and Washington, D.C. Oregon cities numbered 211; California cities numbered 120; Washington cities numbered 74; and cities and towns from other states numbered 201.

The new Koi lighted sculptures underwater in the lily pond drew wonderful reviews as did the 300,000 LED lights, 48 lighted sculptures, 26 large Christmas trees and landscape lighting on the giant evergreens that surround the gardens and 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 of the wonderful comments from visitors: *I feel like I’m in a Christmas movie- so beautiful!* Alaska; *Looks like jewelry!* - Blue Ridge, Georgia; *A Miracle!* - Reedsport, Oregon; and *Shoretastic!* - Gig Harbor, Washington. ■

. . . Holiday Lights 2012 – An Estimated 47,336 Visitors . . .

28 COUNTRIES FROM ARGENTINA TO YEMEN 45 STATES AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

CITIES AND TOWNS: 211 OREGON; 120 CALIFORNIA; 74 WASHINGTON; 201 CITIES & TOWNS FROM OTHER STATES

— TRADITIONAL AND MAGICAL GARDEN HOUSE . . . AND VISITORS' COMMENTS —



CHLOE EBERLEIN (L) AND ROBYNN REED ("HOUSE DECORATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE) HANG GARLAND IN THE LIVING ROOM.



LIVING ROOM WITH HISTORICAL PHOTOS.

- ALASKA - I FEEL LIKE I'M IN A CHRISTMAS MOVIE - SO BEAUTIFUL!
- ARCATA, CA - 20TH YEAR - STILL SPELLBINDING!
- AUSTRALIA - EPIC!!!
- BLUE RIDGE, GA - LOOKS LIKE JEWELRY!
- CENTRALIA, WA - LONG DRIVE WELL WORTH IT!

- COOS BAY, OR - LOVE THE NEW LIGHTS IN THE KOI POND!
- COQUILLE, OR - YEARLY FAMILY TRADITION!
- CORVALLIS, OR - LOVE IT! WE'LL BE BACK.
- EUGENE, OR - AN ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE
- EUGENE, OR - MORE THAN WE IMAGINED.
- FEDERAL WAY, WA - OUR FAVORITE PLACE FOR LIGHTS.
- FLORENCE, OR - WE COME EVERY YEAR AND LOVE IT!
- FREMONT, CA - IT IS ALL SO BEAUTIFUL.
- FRIENDSWOOD, TX - BEAUTIFULLY DONE IN A NATURAL LANDSCAPE!
- GIG HARBOR, WA - SHORETASTIC!
- GLENEDEN BEACH, OR - BEST IN THE NORTHWEST!
- GRANTS PASS, OR - PERFECTLY MAGICAL!
- HARRISBURG, OR - GORGEOUS! WE'RE 1ST TIMERS!
- HAWAII - VERY ARTISTIC AND BEAUTIFUL!!
- HIDDEN VALLEY, CA - LOVE SANTA IN THE BATHTUB.
- KENAI, AK - GREEEAATTT
- LINCOLN CITY, OR - WORTH THE TRIP!
- MCKINLEYVILLE, CA - COMING BACK EVERY YEAR!
- MILL CREEK, WA - LOVE THE LEDS! KOI ARE AWESOME!!!
- MONROE, OR - A WINTER WONDERLAND!!
- NEWBERG, OR - WHAT A WAY TO START THE HOLIDAYS.
- NORTH BEND, OR - FISH ARE FABULOUS!
- OAKRIDGE, OR - WORTH THE TRIP
- OLYMPIA, WA - LOVE IT EVERY YEAR.
- PANAMA CITY, FL - ON MY BUCKET LIST!
- PLEASANT HILL, CA - COMPLETELY AWESOME!
- PORTLAND, OR - OUR 10TH YEAR! STILL GREAT.
- PORTLAND, OR - MORE LIGHTS THAN EVER! EXQUISITE.
- REEDSPORT, OR - A MIRACLE!
- REEDSPORT, OR - SUCH A SWEET HOUSE!
- ROSEBURG, OR - SO MANY PLANTS STILL IN BLOOM! THANKS!
- SALEM, OR - UNLIKE ANYTHING WE'VE EVER SEEN!
- SEATTLE, WA - LOVE THE HUMMINGBIRD
- SILSBEE, TX - SPEECHLESS
- SILVERTON, OR - AMAZING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM!
- SWEET HOME, OR - SUCH AN INSPIRATION!
- THE DALLES, OR - THE HOUSE IS LOVELY!



BED & BREAKFAST BEDROOM



BEDROOM WITH LIGHTED HOUSES COLLECTION

- TIGARD, OR - SUPER FANTASTIC
- TOLEDO, OR - WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL
- TURLOCK, CA - BREATHTAKING
- VENTURA, CA - SO ROMANTIC!
- VERNONIA, OR - A "BUCKET LIST" TRIP - BEAUTIFUL!

. . . Holiday Lights 2012 – Another Successful Season . . .

— LIGHTS PLEDGE SUPPORTERS . . . AND FAVORITE GARDEN SCENES —



CENTER PATH TO THE LILY POND AND UPLIGHTED EVERGREENS



AWESOME POND REFLECTIONS

SPECIAL THANKS TO FRED MEYER - 21ST 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.

LED LIGHTS

5,667	SHINGLEHOUSE AUTO WRECKERS
4,467	ABEL INSURANCE AGENCY-HARRY & FRANCIE ABEL *
3,334	CORNELIA & DON BARNHART *
2,100	THE PORTSIDE RESTAURANT *
2,000	COASTAL PAPER & SUPPLY-BOB & JOHANNA DILLARD *
1,667	HUGGINS INSURANCE-BOB & JANET HUGGINS *
1,540	PRUDENTIAL SEABOARD PROPERTIES, INC. *
1,400	AZALEA ACRES, INC.- RICHARD, BETTY, STEVEN & WESA LILES *
	BEST WESTERN HOLIDAY MOTEL * DAVID & SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM *
	COOS BAY GROCERY OUTLET-PATRICIA & SVEN BACKMAN & CREW *
	EDGEWATER INN MOTEL, COOS BAY *
	J. W. WHITE PAINTING-JAY & MELODY WHITE *
	THE MILL CASINO-HOTEL * JIM & DIANE VERGER *
1,334	NANCY ROBINSON *
1,125	COOS BAY FIRE & RESCUE *
1,050	MICHAEL A. GORDON, CPA (NOT YOUR BASIC BEAN COUNTER) *
1,000	BARBARA MILLS *
713	TOM'S LOCK & KEY-STEVE & CATHY CLARK *
700	ART CONNECTION * BENETTI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT *
	BOB'S APPLIANCE-BOB & GAYLE DEPEAL *
	BOOKS BY THE BAY * RAY GAPP *
	HONDA WORLD * MILLER'S AT THE COVE *
	JAMES & ELLEN MONTALBANO *
	NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL-DICK & JAN VIGUE *
	PACIFIC CORP/PACIFIC POWER *
	TED JAY TERRY, DMD & STAFF *
	THOMAS & SONS TRANSPORTATION *
667	THIS OLDE HOUSE B & B-SALLY WHITE *
400	CHARLESTON HARBOR INN IN MEMORY OF JOHN A. CASTRO *
360	CEDAR ELECTRIC & CONSTRUCTION, INC. *
	HIGH TIDE CAFE LLC - CAROL RODDE & STEVE RAPLEE *
350	CHARLESTON MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION *
	JAMES & ARCHINA DAVENPORT *
	GOLD COAST TRUCK REPAIR-BUTCH & JACQUE SHIELDS *
	BETSY GROBEN * KEVIN & DIANE KEISER IN MEMORY OF
	HEIDI NERBOVIG & BERNEICE LANGE *
	NORTH BEND LANES-BOB, MARK, & MARIANNA MATTECHECK *
	NORTH POINT, INC. * SHOJI PLANNING, LLC-CRYSTAL & GENE SHOJI *
	SLIPPERY SLOPE SOAP SHOP-PAULINE & RON VIERRA *
	WELDON & SONS * DONALD & PRISCILLA ZOBEL *



UNDERSEA GARDEN WITH NEW FRAME BY JACK GILHAM AND BLUE WATER PANELS BY DAVID BRIDGHAM AND MIKE PERKINS. SETUP BY JACK GILHAM, MIKE PERKINS AND CAROL VENTGEN



PELICANS AND GARDEN HOUSE AT DUSK.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROTO ROOTER- JIM AND MIKE COLLATT - 9TH YEAR OF PROVIDING "SANTACANS" AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNT.

. . . 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

The Information and Gift Center, also referred to as the IGC or Gift Shop, is primarily focused on providing information for the many visitors to Shore Acres State Park. It is also a fun place to work and visit with people from all over the world. Finally, we hope it is a fun place for you to find items that reflect our local area as related to plants, gardening, wildlife, sea life, native culture and the history of our area. First, we try to find items produced locally . . . then made in Oregon or in the United States . . . and finally worldwide to achieve this. All IGC proceeds remain at Shore Acres to help enhance the park's beauty.

Currently, we are producing the majority our own postcards from local photographers and printed locally so that they relate to what you see in our park. *They are sold only in our gift shop.* They relate to our Gardens, Holiday Lights, and other activities in our park and the local area.

MANY
ITEMS MADE
BY LOCAL
ARTISTS AND
VENDORS
USING LOCAL
PRODUCTS

We work with our vendors to produce our photos and images on products such as coasters, blankets, clothing, coffee mugs and various other items that reflect your memories from your visit to our area.

DVDs produced locally by the Friends of Shore Acres include *Gardens Above the Waves* – an overview of the gardens, the park, the sea lions, the famous “Wave” and scenes of our popular Holiday Lights display; *The Shoreacres Story* that tells the history of Shore Acres and the Simpsons; as well as a *Holiday Lights* screensaver. *Watch for a new DVD of Holiday Lights scenes set to music, coming in November, in time for the 27th annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres.*

We invite you to come and enjoy Shore Acres State Park and the formal gardens and take home a memory of your visit from our shop. ■

LOOKING BACK . . . EMAIL MESSAGE TO SHARON AND LOU, SEPT. 28, 2012

Sharon and Lou,

I don't know if you remember my husband and me from our summer respite in Oregon. We stumbled upon what we consider an Oregon Gem, Shore Acres, a visit with you two (talking about our bicycle trek and you kidded me when I asked if you had any raffles left) and the sweet lady that passed out her original photo greeting cards. I bought a paper tablet there that had the darling gardener's house on the front, and I take it to work meetings, and the picture has become my happy place in those boring meetings and makes me smile . . . You truly do a wonderful job and were delightful hosts! Sometimes people don't take the opportunity to thank people that they have met on the journey through life. So, we thank you and wish you a lovely autumn and blissful holiday season. I know you both are probably ramping up to “deck the gardens” for the holiday, have fun.

Warmest regards,
Pamella and Eric Petty



ORNAMENTAL GLASS, HOLIDAY LIGHTS, LIGHTHOUSES, AND ORIGINAL ORNAMENTS ARE POPULAR ITEMS.



BEADWORX BY GRASS-ROOTS



BEADWORX CRAB

. . . News from Sunset Bay Management Unit . . .

BY PRESON PHILLIPS, PARK MANAGER - JUNE 11, 2013



A lot is going on in the park this year. Visitors and patrons alike can count on the gardens, the views, the trails, and the beaches being ready for them to recreate and relax. Our volunteers and staff work diligently to provide memorable experiences for park visitors.

Attendance is up by 8-14%, depending on the portion of the park. Interpretive programs, many staffed by the Friends' grant funding, have seen even higher increases in attendance. Many small improvements and repairs (too numerous to list here) are complete and adding to the park experience we provide. Other projects and garden improvements are in the planning stages.

One of the more visible projects this year is the fuel reduction effort. Underway

about 1 mile south of the park entrance along Cape Arago Highway, this project is being completed with parks operations and natural resources funding. The goals of the project being: fuel load reduction, removal of trees declining due to Port Orford Cedar death, and the eventual planting of disease-resistant cedar trees. Due to a myriad of reasons, this project allowed only manual labor, no mechanization. The cutting is complete, the piles of debris are stacked and ready for controlled burning when fire season is over. This method prevents the possible spread of the pathogen.

Please accept my thanks to each of you for such commitment to our community treasure. ■

One of the more visible projects this year is the fuel reduction effort. Underway about 1 mile south of the park entrance along Cape Arago Highway, this project is being completed with parks operations and natural resources funding.



CONTROLLED BURN TO REDUCE FUEL.



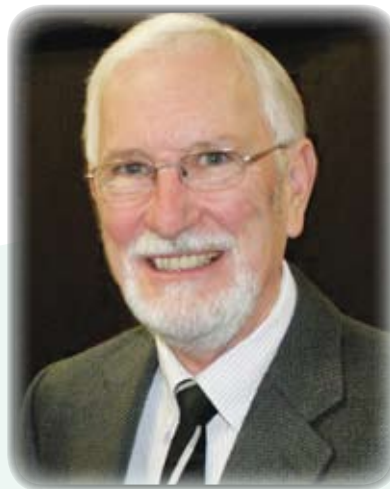
DEBRIS READY FOR BURNING.



... Shore Acres Monterey Pine Accepted Into the Class of 2013 Oregon Heritage Trees ...

LIVING HISTORY CELEBRATED AT SHORE ACRES - JUNE 28, 2013

BY DAVID BRIDGHAM, FRIENDS' FOUNDER, PAST PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBER



This magnificent Monterey Pine was planted by Louis J. Simpson in the early 1900's. An unbroken and living link in history, the Simpson era, and heritage is ours to enjoy and gain a real sense of connection to the past.

Original plantings include the two Monterey Pines – the Oregon Heritage Tree and its slightly smaller companion just to its north side. The Monterey Cypress trees at the north entrance of the gardens also are original plantings. They are truly

magnificent sentinels that have lived through and continue to mark history at the gardens as it unfolds.

The foundation of Friends of Shore Acres Inc. is deeply rooted in the history and heritage of the Simpson story, Shoreacres estate, and the showcase that became Shore Acres State Park. The Oregon Heritage Tree designation places this tree on the cultural and heritage map in Oregon for travelers from around the world. Cultural and heritage travelers are seeking out these places and their stories as they tour through our area. They will learn the history of this special place we all love and they will leave with a greater appreciation of its place in history. Our Oregon Heritage Tree is that living link.

It was an honor for Friends of Shore Acres to co-host the dedication of the inclusion of the Shore Acres Monterey Pine into the OHT registrar. We were joined by Craig Leech, Chair of the Oregon Heritage Tree Committee, Annie von Domitz, Oregon Travel Experience Heritage Program Administrator and invited guests that included L. J. Simpson's daughter Barbara Simpson Griffin, Thomas Griffin and their son Kim.

We have one more great thing to brag about when we bring our family and friends to Shore Acres' beautiful gardens. ■

NOTE: THE SHORE ACRES MONTEREY PINE IS LOCATED NEAR THE GREENHOUSE. IT WAS RECOGNIZED IN 2002 AS THE LARGEST OF ITS SPECIES IN THE UNITED STATES BY THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF BIG TREES.



ELLIE KINNEY-MARTIAL



BARBARA SIMPSON GRIFFIN UNVEILS THE OREGON HERITAGE TREE PLAQUE. JOINING HER ARE DAVID BRIDGHAM, CRAIG LEECH AND PRESON PHILLIPS.



SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM

Preson Phillips, Park Manager, Sunset Bay Management Unit, visits with Marjorie Simmons, Barbara Simpson Griffin, Kim Griffin and Thomas Griffin.



OREGON HERITAGE TREE
SHORE ACRES MONTEREY PINE - PINUS RADIATA
CIRCUMFERENCE - 208 INCHES * APPROX. HEIGHT - 95 FEET
APPROX. AGE - 100 YEARS * DEDICATED BY HERITAGE TREE
COMMITTEE, OREGON TRAVEL EXPERIENCE - JUNE 2013 -

Annual Events – Tradition!



Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day - May

Members of the Southwestern Oregon Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society always take part in Rhododendron Sunday on Mother's Day with a display of cut rhodies and expert advice for visitors. ■

Rose Sunday / Father's Day - June



S.W.O.R.S. MEMBERS ED KREUTZER, CRAIG ATKINS, MIKE KELLY, MARY ANN KREUTZER, AND ELLYN ATKINS ARE READY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. ■



MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN OREGON ROSE SOCIETY (S.W.O.R.S.) SET UP A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF ROSES IN THE GARDEN HOUSE. ■



DAWN BUXTON, KAT FLORES AND KATHY METZGER SERVE COOKIES, COFFEE AND PUNCH IN THE GARDEN HOUSE. ■

Annual Events – Tradition!

Oregon Coast Music Festival Concert - July



THE 35TH ANNUAL OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL IN JULY FEATURED THE IT'S ABOUT TIME JAZZ BAND SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES. KATHI NETTER, ANDREW NETTER AND ROBERTA WILLIS SELL THE VERY POPULAR RASPBERRY SUNDAES AND LEMONADE. ■

Bonsai Day - August



BAY AREA BONSAI SOCIETY MEMBERS DISPLAY THEIR BEAUTIFUL BONSAI PLANTS IN THE GARDEN HOUSE. ■

Orchid Day - September



MEMBERS OF THE PACIFIC ORCHID SOCIETY DISPLAY THEIR *GEMS OF THE RAIN FOREST*. ■

Dahlia Day - September



Every fall, the dahlias in the formal gardens are complemented by the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society display in the Garden House. ■

EXPERTS ANSWER VISITORS' QUESTIONS AND FRIENDS VOLUNTEERS SERVE COOKIES, COFFEE AND PUNCH IN THE GARDEN HOUSE.

Shore Acres – The Place for Projects



AERIAL PHOTO BY MEMO JASSO; ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM



THE IGC'S CLIMATE CONTROLLED STORAGE FACILITY, DESIGNED BY STUART WOODS, IS COMPLETED. STUART ALSO DESIGNED, BUILT AND DONATED THE SCREEN FOR THE PROPANE TANK.

Thanks!



PERGOLA WAS REPLACED WITH NEW STRUCTURE BUILT BY BOB DIXON AND HIS EXCELLENT CREW.

Thanks!

THESE PROJECTS WERE FUNDED BY FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES INC. AS PART OF ITS PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS MISSION

INTERPRETIVE PANELS PROJECT “WORTH THE WAIT!”

From The Shoreacres Story to Shore Acres State Park and more . . .

By STEPHANIE MILLER, INTERPRETIVE PARK RANGER

Almost a year has passed since the new interpretive panels were installed at Shore Acres State Park. They were a long time coming, but well worth the wait!

The panel project began on March 31, 2010 with a meeting to put the idea of 10 new interpretive panels into action. The panel team was made up of Friends of Shore Acres representatives David and Shirley Bridgham, Park Manager Preson Phillips, Park Rangers Ellie Kinney-Martial and Pam Stevens, and Interpretive Park Ranger Stephanie Miller. Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. would fully fund the panels as part of its interpretive mission.

The Oregon State Parks *“How to Get Interpretive Projects Done”* was used as a guiding document to ensure specific goals were met while developing the panels. The goals were to help answer common visitor questions about Shore Acres’ history and natural resources and to guide visitors to other areas of the management unit to continue the overall story of our parks.

Just as the project was ready to move out of the concept phase and into the design phase, a spending freeze was implemented within Oregon State Parks. During that time, the scope of work was completed and the beginning steps of hiring a design team were put into motion.

Lodestar Design won the bid. In May 2011, the panel team met with Lodestar to tour the park and discuss the design of the panels. This involved scanning more historic and garden photos, obtaining photos of the geology, the wildlife and whales and writing the text to go with them. With the design moving forward, review . . . after review . . . after review . . . the panels slowly began to take shape.

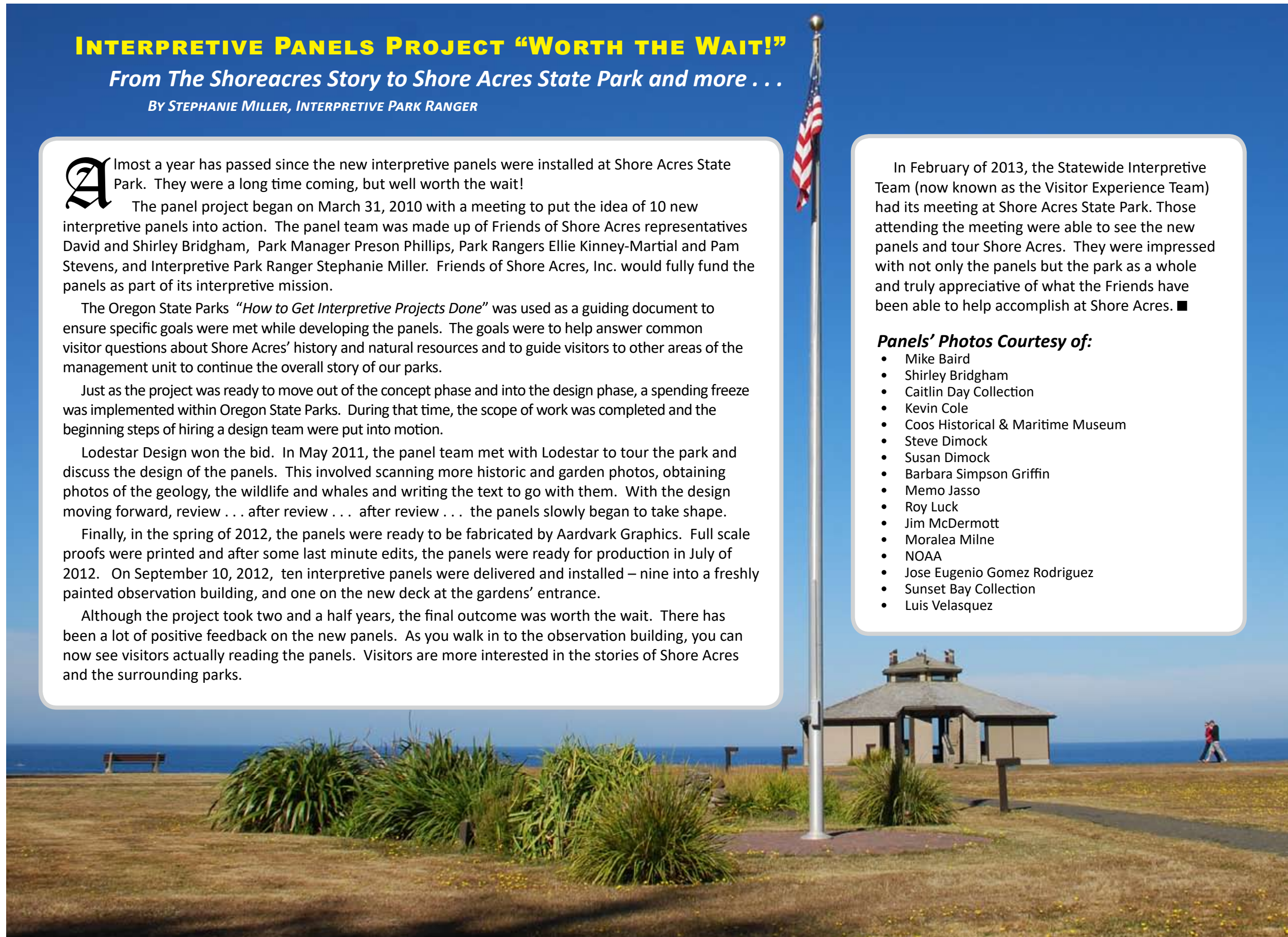
Finally, in the spring of 2012, the panels were ready to be fabricated by Aardvark Graphics. Full scale proofs were printed and after some last minute edits, the panels were ready for production in July of 2012. On September 10, 2012, ten interpretive panels were delivered and installed – nine into a freshly painted observation building, and one on the new deck at the gardens’ entrance.

Although the project took two and a half years, the final outcome was worth the wait. There has been a lot of positive feedback on the new panels. As you walk in to the observation building, you can now see visitors actually reading the panels. Visitors are more interested in the stories of Shore Acres and the surrounding parks.

In February of 2013, the Statewide Interpretive Team (now known as the Visitor Experience Team) had its meeting at Shore Acres State Park. Those attending the meeting were able to see the new panels and tour Shore Acres. They were impressed with not only the panels but the park as a whole and truly appreciative of what the Friends have been able to help accomplish at Shore Acres. ■

Panels’ Photos Courtesy of:

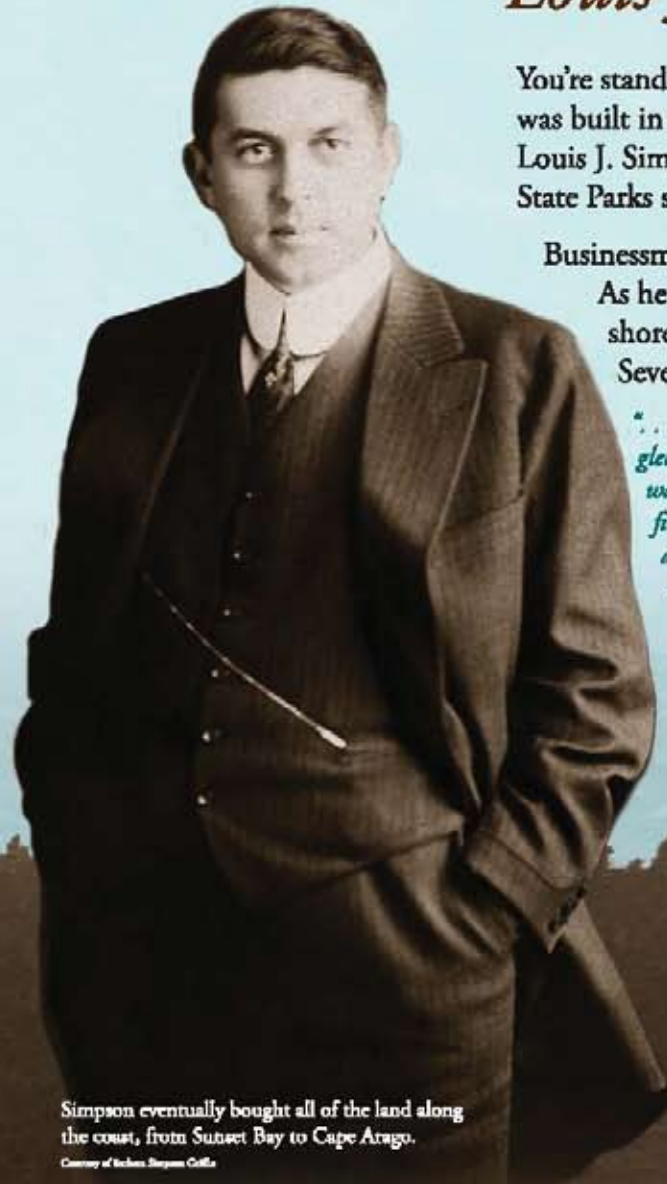
- Mike Baird
- Shirley Bridgham
- Caitlin Day Collection
- Kevin Cole
- Coos Historical & Maritime Museum
- Steve Dimock
- Susan Dimock
- Barbara Simpson Griffin
- Memo Jasso
- Roy Luck
- Jim McDermott
- Moralea Milne
- NOAA
- Jose Eugenio Gomez Rodriguez
- Sunset Bay Collection
- Luis Velasquez



Panel # 1 - The Shoreacres Story - Louis J. Simpson Legacy

The Shoreacres Story

Louis J. Simpson's Legacy



Simpson eventually bought all of the land along the coast, from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago.
Courtesy of Richard Simpson Gable

You're standing on the former site of a beautiful mansion that was built in the early 20th century on the 1,600 acre estate of Louis J. Simpson and his family. It is now part of the Oregon State Parks system.

Businessman Louis J. Simpson came to Coos Bay in the 1890s. As he explored the area, he was attracted to this dramatic shoreline and bought it in pieces beginning in 1906. Several years later, he told the story:

"... While we were resting in front of [Jake Evans'] shack, I caught a gleam of reflected light from the ocean . . . I determined to work my way down to the headland and see what the view might be like . . . finally, hot and breathless, I emerged upon a little open space . . . What a place for a country home! I went back to the cabin and I said, 'Jake, did you ever think of selling?'"

—Louis J. Simpson to the Oregon Journal, 1916



Simpson met and married Cassie Stearns in 1898. The two were enchanted with the beauty of the site, and Cassie named the place Shoreacres.

In addition to the mansion, the family estate included gardens, a farm, a dairy, a two-story carriage house, and a home for the gardener.



Courtesy of Coos Historical & Maritime Museum



"Shore Acres . . . was known far and wide for its beautiful seascape, large rambling home, swimming pool, and a garden adorned with over 3,000 kinds of plants, many of them secured from distant parts of the world."

—Samuel Boardman, first State Parks superintendent, 1956



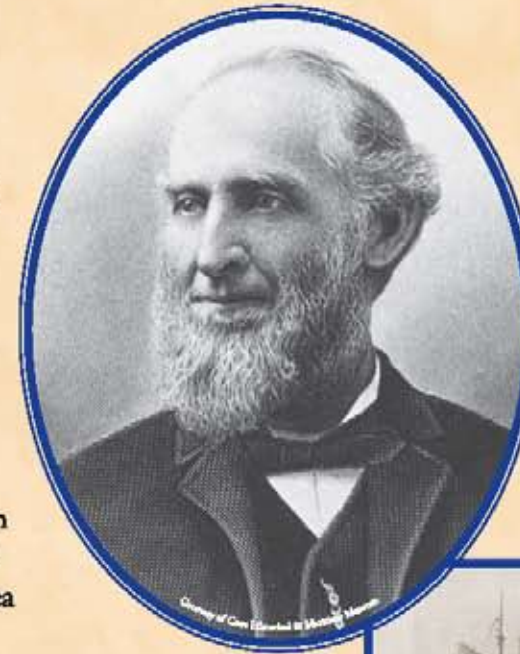
Panel # 2 - Founder of a Fortune - Captain Asa Meade Simpson

Founder of a Fortune

Captain Asa Meade Simpson

The story of Shoreacres begins with Louis J. Simpson's father, master shipbuilder Captain Asa Meade Simpson. Traveling from Maine for the California gold rush of 1848, this visionary entrepreneur created a West Coast lumber and shipbuilding empire that lasted more than 60 years.

Establishing himself first in Sacramento and Stockton, Simpson moved north into Oregon and Washington, opening mills and shipyards up and down the coast. He came to the Coos Bay area in 1856, and set up a lumber mill.



Asa Meade Simpson earned his first money at the gold fields, but he soon realized that the biggest profits from the gold rush would come not from mining, but from supplying food and lumber to the new residents of California.

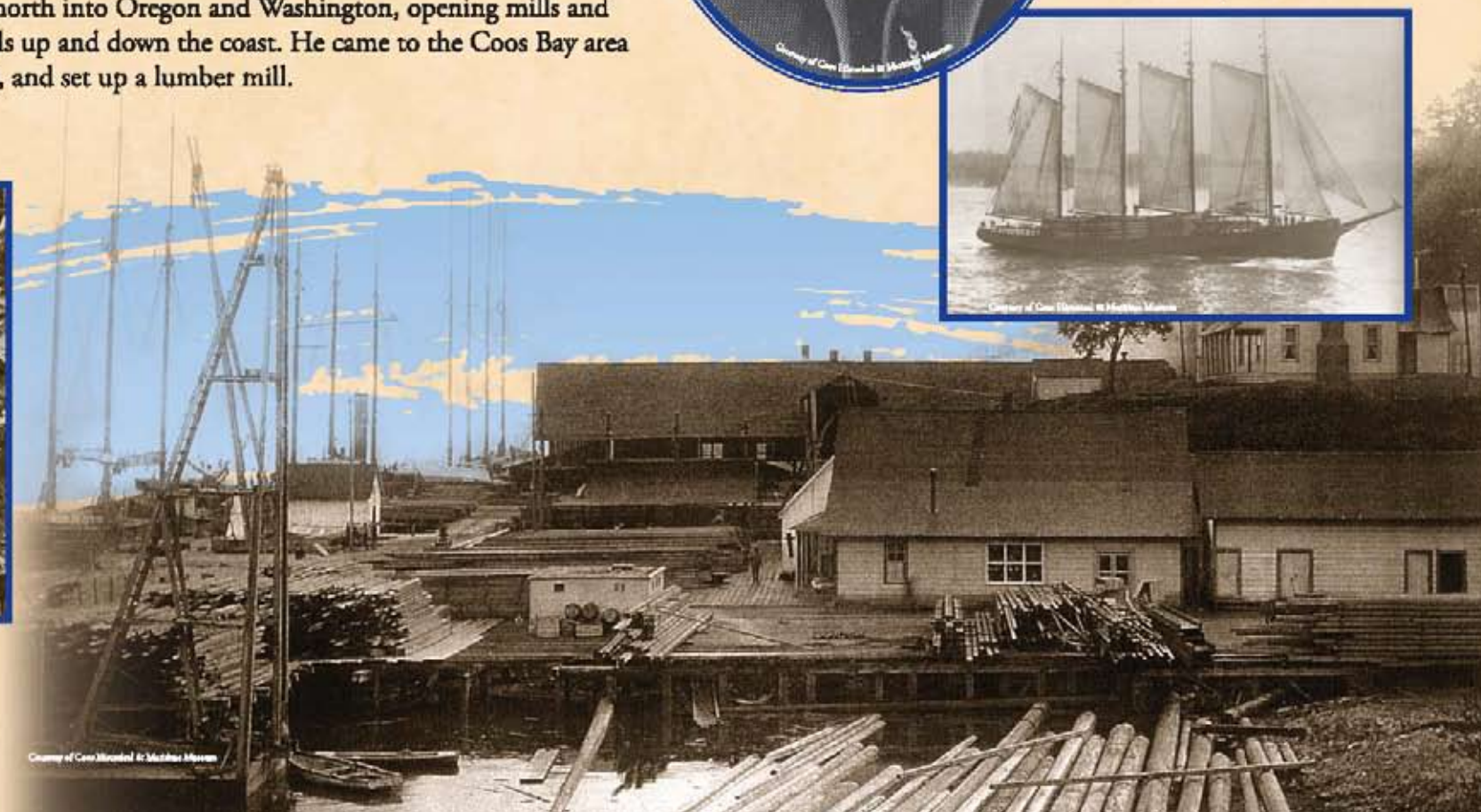
Over the years, Simpson's ships and cargoes went around the world, delivering lumber for homes and buildings from the West Coast of America to Hawaii, Australia, South America, and Africa.



The North Bend shipbuilders were part of a workforce scattered up and down the West Coast. Thanks to their combined efforts, the Simpson shipyards had built more than 50 ships by the end of the 19th century.



Coos area forests, like forests throughout the Northwest, offered a rich source of lumber. Taking full advantage of this resource, Simpson built wooden ships and began transporting lumber throughout the developing West.



Panel # 3 - The Next Generation - Louis J. and Cassie Simpson

The Next Generation

Louis J. and Cassie Simpson

Louis J. Simpson, or L.J., as he was known throughout his life, learned the lumber and shipbuilding business from the bottom up, beginning in 1898. By 1900, he was manager of the Simpson Mill and Shipyard north of Coos Bay in a town called Yarrow.

Seeing Yarrow's potential, L.J. bought the land in 1902, replatted it, and had it incorporated as North Bend in 1903. He invested in several businesses and gave waterfront sites to any businessman who would employ 50 or more people.



L.J. had a good sense for the physical and social needs of his fellow residents. His business strategy was to provide jobs, so that people would come to North Bend. This photo (left) shows the Simpson Lumber Company Store and its employees.



Cassie was an active, outgoing first lady of North Bend, helping to jump start civic improvement, volunteering with the Red Cross, and promoting the arts.



Simpson's political aspirations grew with his success. He served five times as mayor of North Bend and in 1918 sought the Republican nomination for Governor of Oregon.



Panel # 4 - Shoreacres Mansion - Fulfilling a Vision

Shoreacres Mansion

Fulfilling a Vision

The Shoreacres mansion, L.J.'s Christmas present to Cassie, was completed in August of 1908, and the family came to stay every summer. Designed to take every possible advantage of its spectacular setting, the mansion's living room faced the sea, and the family also enjoyed the views from the second story deck and bedroom windows.

In 1914, L.J. supervised an expansion to the house that featured a Roman bath room with a swimming pool, nine guest bedroom suites, and a ballroom. As he hoped, Shoreacres became a fabulous place to entertain guests. By 1915, the Simpsons began living in the mansion year round.

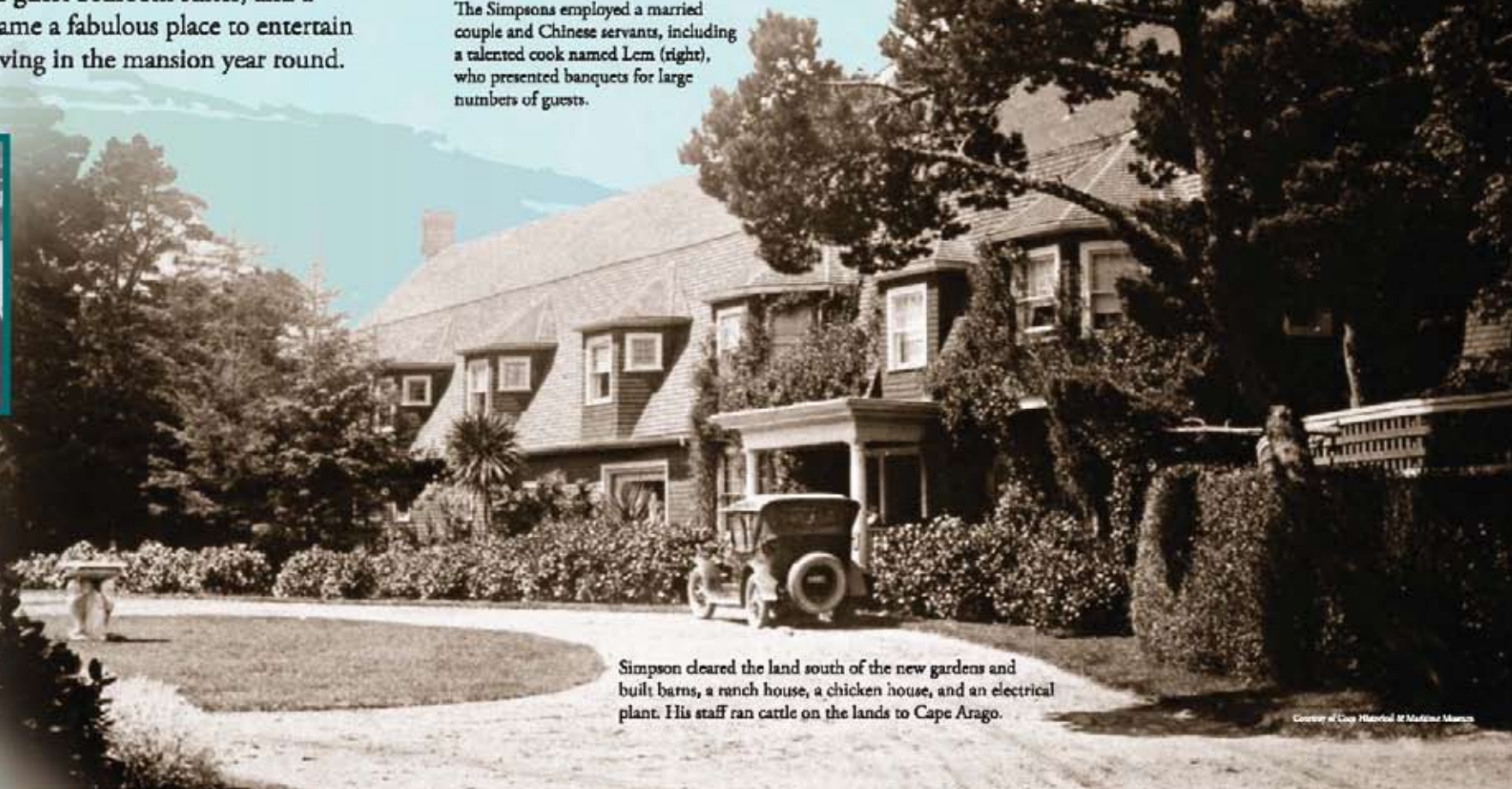


The design of Shoreacres came from a house Simpson saw in Massachusetts. Outside, its pillars, gables, and shingled siding reflected a Cape Cod style. Inside, polished myrtlewood paneling, built-in bookcases, and decorative plaster completed the East Coast theme.



The Simpsons employed a married couple and Chinese servants, including a talented cook named Lem (right), who presented banquets for large numbers of guests.

The Shoreacres mansion was perched on dramatically uplifted cliffs, and the beauty, sound, and occasional fury of the changing ocean was part of everyday Simpson life.



Simpson cleared the land south of the new gardens and built barns, a ranch house, a chicken house, and an electrical plant. His staff ran cattle on the lands to Cape Arago.

Panel # 5 - Losses and Changes - Shoreacres in the 1920s

Losses and Changes

Shoreacres in the 1920s



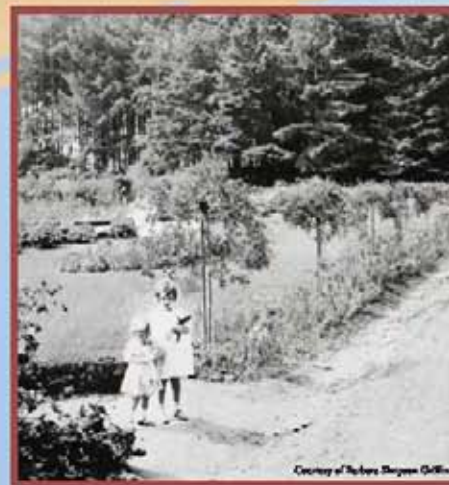
Losses from the fire were estimated at \$120,000, but only about half that amount was covered by insurance. It was a huge financial blow for L.J. The cause of the fire was never determined.

The first two years of the 1920s were very hard for the Simpsons. Cassie fell ill in 1920. Despite the best medical care, she died in April of 1921. Only three months later, in the early morning of July 4th, 1921, a fire destroyed the Shoreacres mansion. The heat of the fire was so intense that only pipes and fireplaces remained; everything Cassie and L.J. had owned together was lost.

In 1927, Simpson hired Swedish builder John Granstom to erect a new home on the original Shoreacres site.

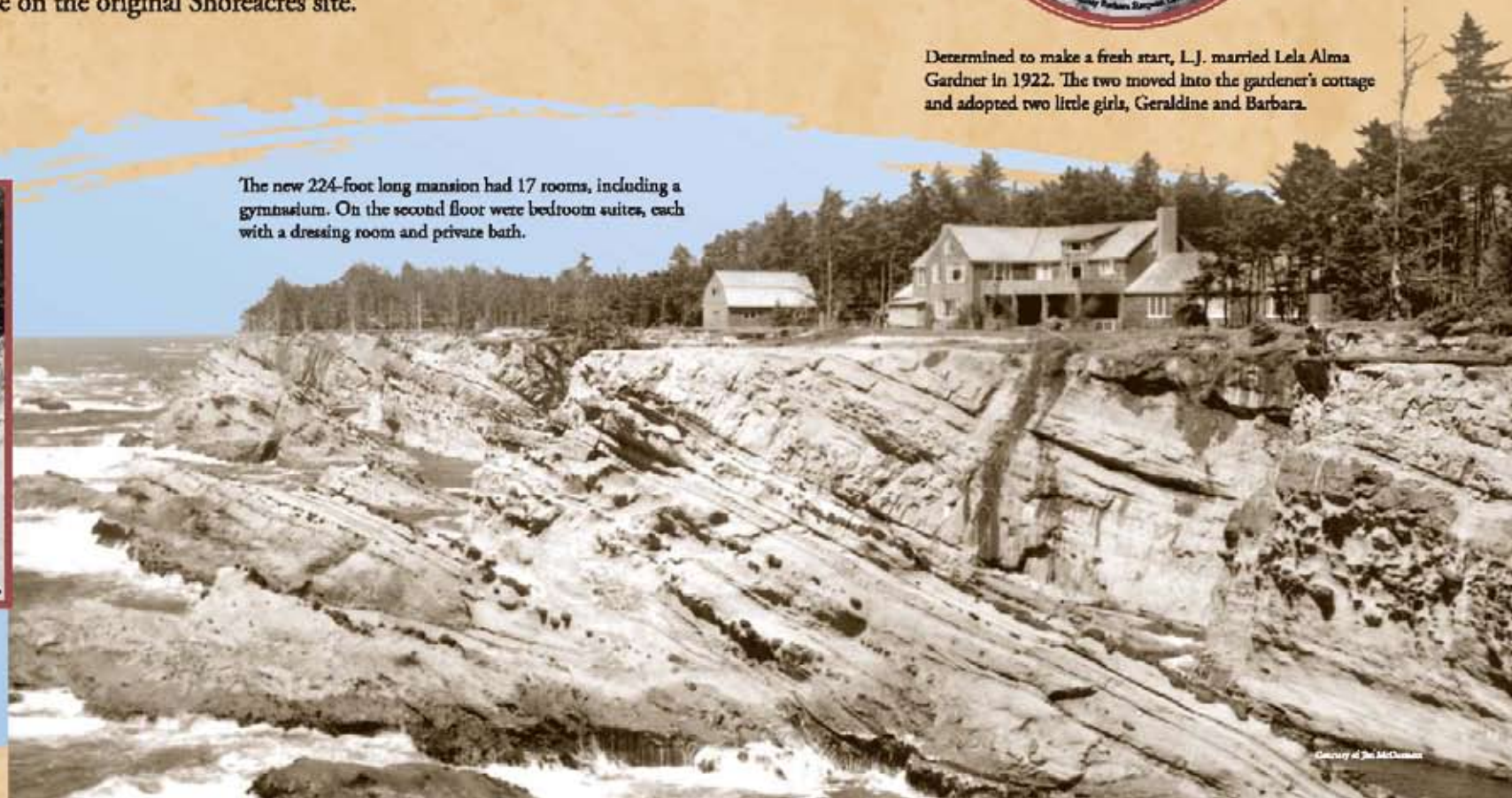


Determined to make a fresh start, L.J. married Lela Alma Gardner in 1922. The two moved into the gardener's cottage and adopted two little girls, Geraldine and Barbara.



Geraldine and Barbara grew up on the estate, enjoying the beach, the gardens, and the family friends who came to visit.

The new 224-foot long mansion had 17 rooms, including a gymnasium. On the second floor were bedroom suites, each with a dressing room and private bath.



Panel # 6 - Transitions - From Shoreacres to Shore Acres



L.J. Simpson died on January 17, 1949. His contributions will be remembered for years to come, as thousands of visitors enjoy the beautiful Shore Acres gardens and lands.

Transitions *From Shoreacres to Shore Acres*

The 1929 stock market crash hit Simpson very hard. In 1932, he and Lela donated the Cape Arago portion of the estate to the State of Oregon. They sold the remainder of the estate to the State in 1942, and Shoreacres became Shore Acres State Park. L.J. and Lela stayed in the area, moving to Barview.

A Bandon-area fire that swept through the estate in 1936 destroyed all the buildings but the house and the gardener's cottage. Time, weather, and war combined to bring deterioration of the second Shoreacres mansion, and it was razed in 1948.

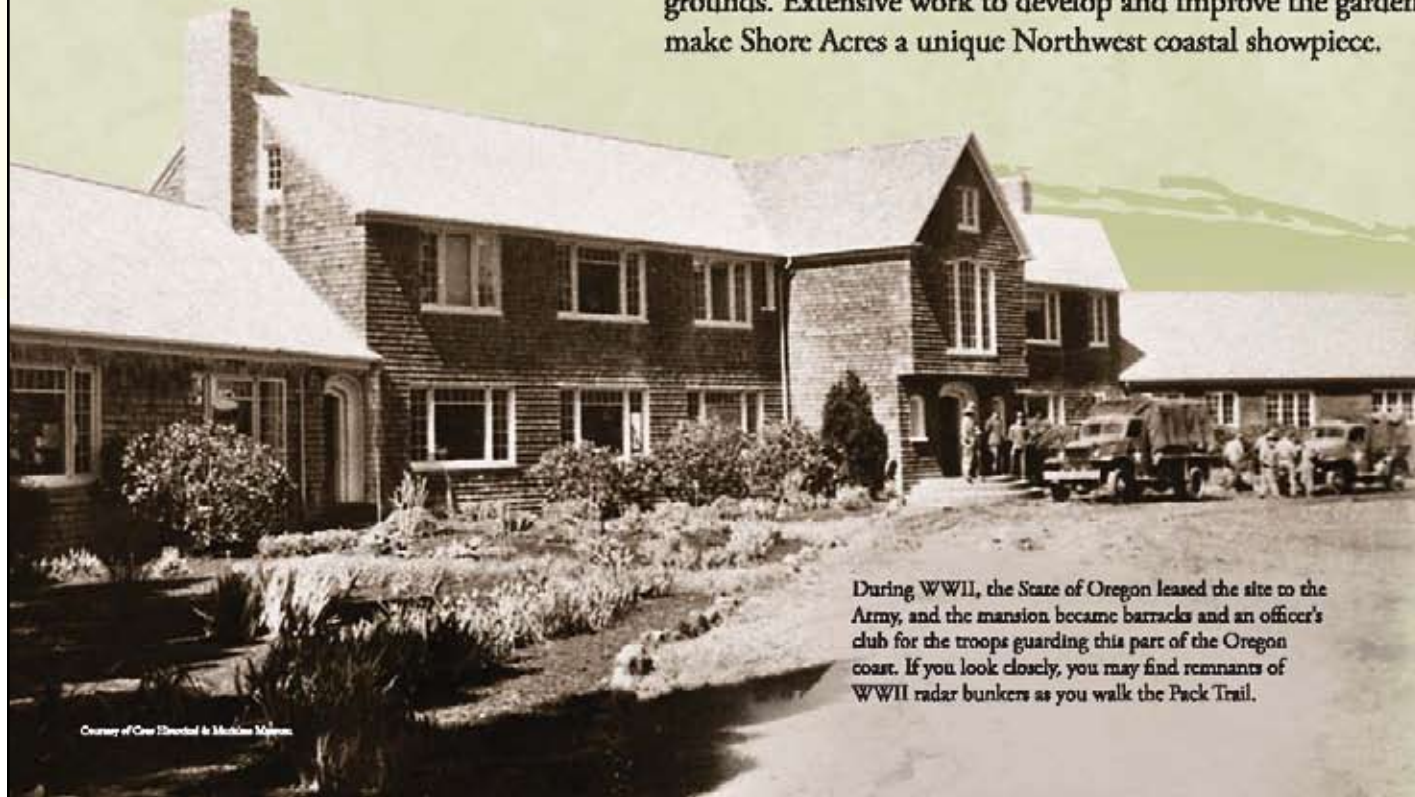
In the 1970s, State Parks landscape architects redesigned and replanted the grounds. Extensive work to develop and improve the gardens continues to make Shore Acres a unique Northwest coastal showpiece.



Following the renovation of the gardens, Shore Acres was rededicated as a State Park on September 18, 1975.

"Mr. Simpson spent many thousands of dollars in the development of Shore Acres, a sure sale to some Hollywood star for much more than the state paid him, but he wanted the people of his state to forever enjoy its beauty . . ."

—Samuel Boardman, first State Parks superintendent, 1956



During WWII, the State of Oregon leased the site to the Army, and the mansion became barracks and an officer's club for the troops guarding this part of the Oregon coast. If you look closely, you may find remnants of WWII radar bunkers as you walk the Pack Trail.



Take a short walk just south of here to experience the history and lush plantings of Shore Acres Gardens.



Panel # 7 - Our Dynamic Coast -

Our Dynamic Coast

The Spectacular Geology of Shore Acres

Shore Acres contains some of the most dramatic geology on the West Coast. Layers of sediment tilt at steep angles, some are spattered with dark round rock formations like cannon balls, and the surf hitting the rocks shoots spectacular waves 50 feet into the air.

Why is the geology so amazing here?

North and south of the observation building are layers of rock that are part of the 45 million year old Cosido Formation. These layers tilt at a 40-45 degree angle from the Juan de Fuca plate colliding with the North American Plate. The flat surface around you is formed by an 80,000 year old wave cut platform called the Whiskey Run Marine Terrace.



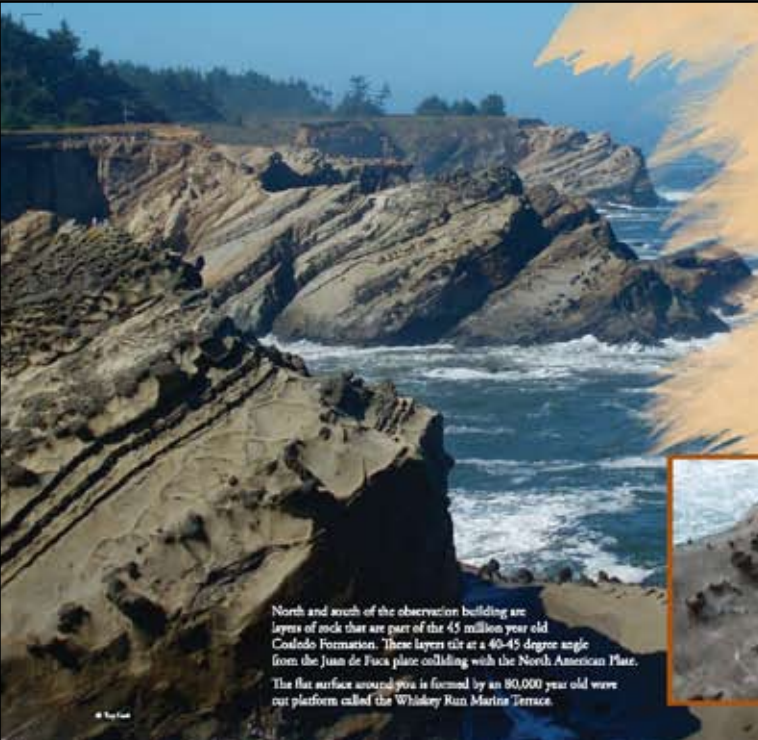
The power of the ocean is wearing away the rock formations day by day, as the waves strike the rocky coastline and explode into the air. But an even more subtle force of geologic change comes from the evaporation of billions of droplets of seawater, deposited on the rocks and causing salt weathering.

The rock formations that look like cannon balls are called concretions, compact masses of mineral matter embedded in a host rock. Concretions usually form before the rest of the sediment has hardened into solid rock. This pre-rock concretions material collects around a nucleus of decaying organic material.

The explosive wave of Shore Acres is best seen during winter storms, when the sea generates 25 to 40 foot swells. It has been famous for decades.

"... The waves break against the reclining slab, spray high into the air, then cascade down the slab into the hollow, its final fury spent against the mother bluff. Spray fifty feet in the air accompanied by the roar of the breakers will long linger in your memory. For seascape photographers, the Rembrandt of the sea awaits the click of your camera."

Samuel Boardman, First State Parks superintendent, 1906



Panel # 8 - Life on the Rocks -

Life on the Rocks

Introducing the Wildlife of Shore Acres

On the dynamic edges of Shore Acres, hundreds of seals and sea lions and a multitude of birds nest, feed, and migrate.

Out the window to the south, you can see Simpson Reef, the largest haul-out for seals and sea lions on the Oregon Coast. For a closer view, visit Simpson Reef Overlook, about a mile south of the entrance to Shore Acres State Park on the Cape Arago Highway.

Watch for the first dive of the osprey, the only raptor in North America that eats live fish almost exclusively. These big birds fish at Simpson Reef, Sunset Bay, and the North and South Coves of Cape Arago.

Simpson Reef is included in the 1,153 rocks, islands, and reefs of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. All marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Simpson Reef is off limits to people.

Simpson Reef provides resting habitat for Steller sea lions, Northern elephant seals, California sea lions, and harbor seals like this mother and her calf (left).


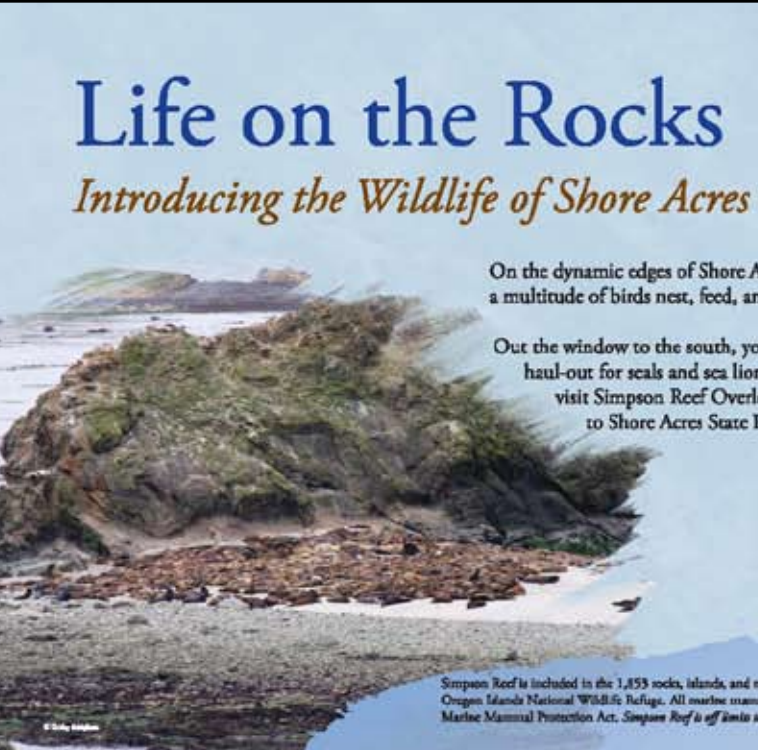





There can be hundreds of these animals on the Reef at any one time. You'll see them most often at mid-to-low tide, when they haul out to rest. At the height of the season, you can hear the California sea lions bawling for milk!

Black oystercatchers stick with one mate, and often nest each year in the same place, usually in low-lying gravel or rocks above the high-tide line.

Watch for brown pelicans soaring over the waves, perching on the rocks, or floating on the water. These fascinating seabirds come here on their way north at the end of their breeding season in Mexico.

Pigeon guillemots make nests in the sides of the cliffs or in rock crevices and burrows.

You'll see pelagic cormorants like this one flying or perching in groups on the steep cliffs where they make their nests.



Panel # 9 - Our Biggest Visitors -



SUMMER
Alaska

WINTER
Baja California, Mexico

Pacific Ocean

Our Biggest Visitors

Migrating Gray Whales

As you explore the coastline here at Shore Acres, you may catch a glimpse one of the 19,000 or so gray whales that pass by the Oregon Coast on one of the longest of all mammalian migrations.

These fascinating animals travel two to three months between their feeding grounds in the Bering and Chukchi Seas and their mating and calving lagoons in Baja California, Mexico.

The southern migration begins in late October, with whales passing Oregon through December and January. The northern migration starts in late February and peaks here between March and April. Some whales feed here in the summer without migrating any further north. Mammal biologists hypothesize that they navigate by the sound of the pounding surf.

Gray whales are 45 to 47 feet long and weigh 30-40 tons. A calf is about 15 feet long at birth and weighs 1,100 to 1,500 pounds. For the first 7-8 months, the calves drink 50-80 pounds of their mother's milk each day.



Gray whales filter their food through fringed baleen plates made of keratin (similar to the material in your fingernails) that hang from the roofs of their mouths. They eat 7% of their body weight, or about 2,600 pounds, every day.

To spot a gray whale, look for its spout, or breath, a vertical cloud that rises 6-12 feet above the water. A gray heathes through two blowholes at the top of its head.

The tail of the gray whale is called a fluke. The fluke can be seen rising above the water as the gray whale dives.



Gray whales usually make 3 to 5 short, shallow dives less than a minute each, then one long, deep dive that lasts up to 15 minutes. This rhythmic breathing pattern is unique to gray whales and helps identify them to viewers on shore.



In spy-hopping the whale's head and upper body appears above the surface as it surveys its surroundings. In a breach, the whale's body goes even further above the water.



... Wildlife Panels in Place ...

Panel # 10 - Welcome to Shore Acres Gardens -

Welcome to Shore Acres Gardens

A Fascinating Past

The gardens you are about to enter were originally developed in the early 1900s by businessman Louis J. Simpson. He bought the land in 1906 and built a three-story mansion on the bluff north of here. His wife Cassie named the estate Shoreacres.

Simpson's landscape gardener David Masterton designed English-style gardens south of the mansion, with pergolas for climbing roses and gravel paths leading to beds of flowers and plants. The gardens were often open to visitors, and Simpson and his gardeners gave away seeds and cuttings to enhance the gardens of hundreds of Oregon homes.



Courtesy of Barbara Blaylock Giffie



© Mike Jones

In the 1970s, a team of State Parks landscape architects restored the Shore Acres gardens. They planted native and exotic ornamental plants, flowers, and trees.



© Shirley Reddick

The Monterey Pines and Monterey Cypress surrounding the gardens were planted during Simpson's time. The garden house is the only historical structure still standing from the Simpson era.



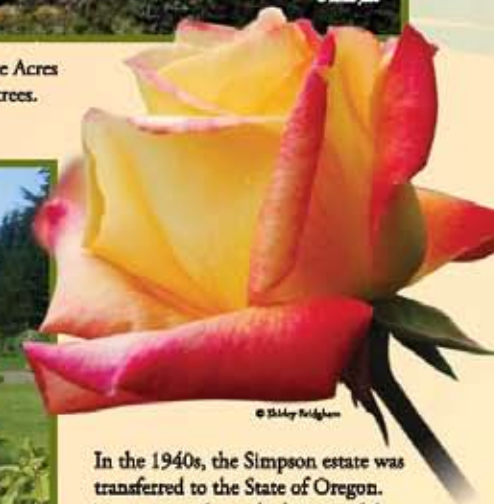
© Shirley Reddick

Masterton's design for the Oriental Garden remains almost entirely intact. A serene central pond is spanned by an arched bridge and surrounded by gravel paths. The rocks edging the pond were hauled up from Simpson Beach by horses in the 1920s.



© Shirley Reddick

Today, under the stewardship of State Parks staff and volunteers, the Shore Acres Gardens continue to thrive and evolve. You will find something in bloom almost every day of the year.



© Shirley Reddick

In the 1940s, the Simpson estate was transferred to the State of Oregon. Learn more about the history of the Simpsons and their gardens in the Observation Building, site of the original mansion.



History
Heritage
Preserving



. . . Welcome Panel in the Gardens' Entrance . . .

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 27:

Annual Year - September 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014

Album 26 - Completed Feb. 20, 2021

Book and PDF Versions

***Note: Album Completed During the
Coronavirus-19 Pandemic of 2020-21***

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

More Information:

www.shoreacres.net – Journal/Newsletters