Shore Acres State Park
Before Friends - 1986
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.
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.
The following pages (andAlbums) 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.

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

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.

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.

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. - Annual Meeting and Board Meeting Highlights

September 9, 2014 – Shore Acres Garden House

**ANNUAL MEETING**

- **Call to Order**: President Dell Willis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- **Directors present**: David Bridgham, Shirley Bridgham, Betty Kennedy, Sharon Kolkhorst, Lou Kolkhorst, Roberta Willis, Ray Daniels, Dawn Buxton, Kathy Metzger, Vee Elliott, Barb Taylor, and Robynn Reed.
- **Directors excused**: Joan Clifton, Jack Gilham.
- **Guests**: Preson Phillips (OPRD), Kathi and Dennis Netter.
- Welcome remarks were given by President Dell Willis along with his thanks for all of the help and support from Board members and volunteers he has received this year.
- Ray Daniels and Roberta Willis were appointed to the Board in March, 2014 to fill out the positions of Dennis and Kathi Netter. The Netter’s terms would have expired in 2016. Therefore, the Nominations Coordinator nominates Ray Daniels and Roberta Willis to serve for two (2) years, with terms expiring in Sept. 2016. The Nominations Coordinator also nominates Shirley Bridgham, Dawn Buxton, Sharon Kolkhorst, Kathy Metzger, Robynn Reed and Barb Taylor to serve for three (3) years, with terms expiring in Sept. 2017. According to the Bylaws of Friends of Shore Acres Inc., “The Board of Directors will be composed of three (3) to fifteen (15) members.” When these nominees are re-elected to the Board, the total number of Directors will be 15. Motion to cast an unanimous ballot for Board members nominated. **MSP: Lou/ Robynn**
- Outgoing President Dell Willis passed the gavel to incoming President Sharon Kolkhorst.
- Adjournment to see Garden House restorations and have Ice Cream Sundaes - 7:07 PM

**BOARD MEETING**

- President Sharon Kolkhorst called the Board meeting to order at 7:20 PM.
- Directors, Guests present and Directors excused: Same as Annual Meeting

**BOARD OFFICERS NOMINATIONS**: President-Elect Kathy Metzger; Secretary David Bridgham, Treasurer Barb Taylor: Elected Unanimously

**REVIEW OF MINUTES** (August 12, 2014): **MSP: Lou/Vee.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT** - Balance Sheet as of Aug, 31, 2014, Total: $76,969.80 (Details on file)

**IGC REPORT** - Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst: Sales are up 9.27% for the year. Sales for August up $4,000. Bed & Breakfast ticket sales total 52 to date

**STATE PARKS REPORT** - Preson Phillips:
- FOSA funded redwood to rebuild garden benches are being stained in preparation for 4 fountain benches and IGC benches/table. Eight more benches to follow in 2015.
- Waiting for bid from Greg Brock (built fountain - concrete, tile and brick work) for replacing asphalt path with exposed aggregate on east side of garden, between formal garden and upper pond path.
- Cal Lewis - nearly completed roof repairs for the Observation Building.
- Replaced memorial bench on the lighthouse loop trail (north of tennis courts).
- Rocky Shores Naturalist Zoe Shaheen is working until 9/19 this year.
- Volunteer “Thank You” luncheon to be held on 9/24 at the Garden House (Coach House/Big Tents).

**OLD BUSINESS**
- Dahlia Day and Orchid Day volunteers have been scheduled - Betty Kennedy.
- Holiday Lights - Fred Meyer will donate 100 cases of apple juice and 10 cases of pink lemonade as well as discount on cost of cookies again. Everything is ready for light stringers in five weeks - Shirley Bridgham.
- Holiday Lights Hosting, we’re booked - Kathy Metzger.
- Holiday Lights Sponsored Trees - Notices sent out to last year’s sponsors and waiting for responses. We have a waiting list if anyone drops out. - Dawn Buxton
- Holiday Lights Cider Spice making, scheduled for Sept. 26th - Kathi Netter
- Lou and Sharon are working with Ellie on a revised schedule for IGC volunteers.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**GOOD OF THE ORDER** - Shirley showed the first album of the Archival Albums Project.

**NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014 - North Bend Public Library 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, David Bridgham, Secretary
September Brings New President for 2014-15

Message from Incoming President . . .
By Sharon Kolkhorst, President 2014-15

Oregon State Parks holds a Biennial Co-op Conference which includes Friends groups state wide. The theme of the 2013 Conference was "A Journey Through Time." In the fabric of my life my Shore Acres Journey is a thread that started for me during the mid 1940s. Our family Sunday drive to the beach included stops at Sunset Bay to beachcomb, Shore Acres to see the waves and what was blooming in the garden and then on to Cape Arago. At Shore Acres and Cape Arago, when in season, we picked wild strawberries that were half the size of a dime. My two favorite places at Shore Acres were the greenhouse when begonias were in bloom and the pond to count goldfish. For years I wondered why, as a child, I didn’t have any strong memory of the Garden House. I have concluded that it was because it looked too much like the old house we lived in.

When Lou and I lived in Seattle, every trip to Coos Bay included a drive to the gardens. On one of these visits we had an opportunity to volunteer in the Garden House on Christmas Eve. We were hooked. It was our first Holiday Lights and we both knew that when we returned to Coos Bay we were going to volunteer at Shore Acres. In 1998 we were able to keep this promise we made to ourselves by helping string lights. What fun! We were standing in pools of water with long sticks trying to get the lights “just right.” To quote the late Seattle Mariners broadcaster, Dave Niehaus, “My, oh my!” When the stringing was completed and the lights turned on it was worth every tingle.

After the Holiday Lights, we were asked if we would like to volunteer about 3 hours a month working in the Information and Gift Center. Now we ask ourselves, “Did they say a month or a day?”

We are proud to be a part of this wonderful community project and members of Friends of Shore Acres. I look forward to my turn as President.
Autumn Brings Traditional Events

**ORCHID DAY - SEPTEMBER 20, 2014**
“GEMS OF THE RAIN FOREST”
Exquisite Display of Orchids in the Garden House
By the Pacific Orchid Society

**DAHLIA DAY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2014**
Annual Display of Dahlias in the Formal Gardens
“Dazzling Display” of Dahlias in the Garden House
By the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society

Cookies, Coffee and Punch in the Garden House at Both Events by Friends of Shore Acres Volunteers
SHIPWRECKS

Many shipwrecks have figured in the history of the South Coast. For instance, the first non-native settlement in Coos County was Camp Castaway, built in 1852 on Coos Bay’s North Spit by the soldiers and crew of the wrecked schooner Captain Lincoln.

The schooner was bringing troops to Port Orford when it was beached off a storm. With the help of natives, the crew and soldiers built a fort on the spit and lived there for several months until another ship came to pick up the supplies and the troops finished their journey to Port Orford on foot.

In contrast, the 1915 wreck of the steam schooner Santa Clara off the South Spit of the bay brought unpleasant notoriety to Coos Bay. Fourteen passengers and crewmen died when their lifeboats capsized in the surf. When the weather cleared, townspeople arrived to aid the survivors — and to illegally loot the cargo. They even tried to dynamite the ship to get into the holds, destroying much of the cargo in the process.

The most troublesome wreck of recent years was that of the New Carlista, an empty ship freighter that ran aground on the North Spit in 1999. Leaking fuel killed wildlife and the bay’s commercial salmon crop, and when the remaining fuel was burned, the ship split into two parts. The bow was towed to Waldport, but the stern remained off Hornfall Beach until 2006, when it was salvaged.

The book, “Shipwrecks of Coos County,” by H.A. Colman, is a fascinating picture history of more than 100 local wrecks.

‘Welcome to North Bend’ sign

In 2011, the city of North Bend installed the current “Welcome to North Bend/Come Back to North Bend” sign at the north entrance to town. It’s the latest in a succession of signs that have graced that location since 1936.

The original sign and its successors underwent various repairs and improvements, but not often, in the rainy and windy coastal climate, they welcomed visitors to No. 74 B N.D. The original sign was red and white, but it was changed to green at some point.

The current sign is a red neon replica installed on new support pylons closer to the bridge than the original. When engineers deemed the old sign and its pylons unsafe, the city considered erecting a new sign using modern LED technology. But tradition won out.

The Oregon Department of Transportation also kept tradition in mind when it “grandfathered” installation of the new sign. The 1936 sign was one of the last over-the-highway neon signs ever approved in the state.

Art deco details on the new sign and the design of the new pylons reflect the style of the iconic McCullough Bridge nearby. The city donated the previous sign to the Coos County Historical and Maritime Museum.

Shore Acres State Park

Shore Acres State Park was originally the estate of lumber tycoon and North Bend founder Louis B. Simpson. A three-story mansion was built in 1907, and the gardens were stocked with exotics brought from around the world on Simpson’s ships. When his wife died and the home burned in 1921, Simpson began building a bigger one, moving into it in 1928 with his new wife and their two daughters. But by 1929, Simpson’s fortunes had declined, and his properties were seized, including Shore Acres. In 1942, the mortgagor sold Shore Acres to the state of Oregon for a park.

Today the gardens have been restored and, in the sheltered setting, something is in bloom almost every day of the year. Visitors can stroll the paths, climb down to the beach, or watch the surf from the enclosed observation structure on the former site of the Simpson residence.

But that’s not all. In 1987, the friends of Shore Acres strung their first 6,000 miniature lights, put up a Christmas tree, and decorated the Garden House. Nine thousand visitors came to ooh and ahh.

Contrast that with 2015, when 1,500 volunteers decorated the Garden House, strung 30,000 LED lights, decorated 25 Christmas trees, placed dozens of landscape lights and erected dozens of light sculptures, including moving animals and underwater displays. Local musicians sang and played carols in the pavilion.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Eve, 48,000 visitors toured the lights.

Now, that’s a lot of volunteer labor — and several hundred thousand oohs and aahs.
Volunteer Recognition Luncheon – Sept. 24, 2014

(L-R) Preson Phillips, Park Mgr, Sunset Bay Mgmt Unit; David Bridgham, Friends’ Secretary, and Park Host

(L-R) Larry Becker, Asst. Mgr, Area 4 Southwestern Oregon and Lou Kolkhorst, Volunteer Co-Manager Friends’ Information & Gift Center

Cindy and Dino Coolen - Entertainment Coordinators for Holiday Lights
To prevent fuse failures, Dell and Roberta Willis inject dielectric grease into each plug end of the LED lights. Dell and Roberta also design and make more than 850 Volunteer Buttons each season!!

NEW AGGREGATE WALKWAY WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE HOLIDAY LIGHTS TIME.
Holiday Lights – A Major Undertaking

BY DAVID BRIDGHAM

What started as...”Let’s put out some Christmas lights and see if anyone will come...” has evolved over the years. We had our issues with a lack of infrastructure for this kind of night time lighting display. No lights in the parking area – a lack of sufficient parking – reliable underground wiring – what were we thinking?

We were determined to interpret the beauty of the gardens at night with lights and invite the community to share it with their holiday visitors. So early on we dug up our beautiful gardens to put outlets in every flower bed, expanded the parking three fold, and installed path lights into the parking areas. The big “WE” are Friends’ members and volunteers, State Parks staff and Shutter Creek Correctional officers and work crews. I’m glad to say this cooperative effort continues today.

Starting with a modest 6,000 lights, we essentially doubled the number of lights each year until we maxed out at 250,000 lights that our extensive lighting system could handle.

Then we discovered LED lights. The peak load of a 30 amp circuit (in each flower bed) was the limiting factor until we started converting to the new LED lighting. What was a 6,000 lights limit maxing a 30 amp breaker with the traditional lights, now measures only 4 amps. Shirley’s response to this revaluation was – “we can add more lights!” Now the limiting factor is the number and surface area of the landscaping. I continue to point out the virtues of negative space and area of the landscaping.

The number of lighted sculptures has grown over time. There’s an expectation of a new sculpture each year – and sometimes she listens of negative space and area of the landscaping. I continue to point out the virtues of negative space and area of the landscaping.

The special flower cluster lights that are unique to Shore Acres have been grouped in LED lights by Jack Gilham and Joan Clifton since 2006.

Dell and Roberta Willis grease both ends of each new set of lights with a dielectric grease to protect it in our harsh environment. Yes, every set – both ends! They also string lights and make at least 850 holiday lights buttons for the volunteers.

Recently retired Ray Daniels expertly places path lighting around the pond, rope lights under benches and rails and gets them up and working. Ray also generously helps with sculptures including some he has fabricated.

Former board members and past presidents Kathy and Dennis Nettler head-up making the cider spice concentrate. This closely held secret recipe goes way back to Peter and Karen Crosby, who still help to this day.

But you don’t have to be a board member to play a significant role.

Cindy and Dino Coolen have done an excellent job of rounding up and scheduling live entertainment in the Pavilion for our visitors’ delight since 2005.

And many of our long time light stringers have specialized over time:

- Mike Perkins and Carol Ventgen do the Undersea Garden and also string lights in the garden.
- Then there is Dave Barnhart. He lives in Gleneden Beach near Salishan and drives down here each weekend to help us string lights. We also ask him to supervise youth groups in his school teacher manner that appreciates and encourage groups of kids in community service – thank you Dave.
- As you can see it takes an army of volunteers to make the Holiday Lights shine. It also takes a group of special dedicated volunteers to fill these unique roles. What brings us together each year is our shared vision. A vision of a magical place, Shore Acres, lighted in all its splendor and cared for by devoted volunteers.
- It’s been Shirley’s and my vision to give up much of what we did in the formative years to dedicated volunteers. This season, we continue to co-chair and provide guidance and continuity to this community tradition. Shirley works on the event – essentially year ‘round – with lights inventory management and display design. She uses an extensive spreadsheet and bed-by-bed photos of the lights display to organize this enormous puzzle. I manage the continued support for the sculptures and admit to all that “Shirley is the brains of this outfit and I’m her number one gofer.”

Shirley and David Bridgham, Holiday Lights Co-Chair since 1987
"Thanks so much for letting our club do a tree. It was so much “fun.” We’re already thinking of one for next year. Our club really does enjoy our time out there at Shore Acres. The hosting is the best time – meeting people from all over the country and hearing the praise for our Area, of this beautiful site, and to be part of this gives our club so much “pride” – keep up the good work.”

Sincerely, Mid-Coast Mustang and Ford Club
Holiday Lights – A Major Undertaking

GARDEN AREA SOUTH OF PAVILION - NORTH BEND HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB


Thanks!

LIGHTS STRINGERS - Cheryl Baldwin, David Barnhart, Shirley AND David Bridgham, Shirley Champagne-Harris, Joan Clifton, Ray Daniels, Bill Davis, Susan Ferguson, Jamie Floyd, Kaye Floyd, David Forkner, Edith Forkner, Don Ivy, Allen King, Kathy Metzger, Joanie Lawrence, Tom Marshall, Mike Perkins AND Carol Ventgen, Southwestern Oregon Community College Softball Team, Dell and Roberta Willis

Ray Daniels

Carol Ventgen, Dave Barnhart, Ray Daniels, Kathy Metzger
Coos County ESD - Front left around to the right: Jammie Thompson, Cathy Thayer, Jennifer Coleman, Mary Coleman

Other Garden Areas - Bay Area Kiwanis and Boys and Girls Club of Southwestern Oregon
Cryptomeria and Butterflies - Charleston Fire and Rescue - Assistant Chief Dave MacManiman, Captain Rusty Shield, Russell Shield, Janette Dunlop, Chris Owen, Ariana Partida, Melanie Teasley, Fred Miller

Installation of large scale sculptures, large Christmas trees, hedge stakes, path chains, etc – Shutter Creek Correctional Officers and Work Crews

Thanks!

Coos Bay Fire and Rescue - Evan Johnson and Matt Sanders; Others Helping: Scott Besser, Michael Goirl, Andrew Slack, Jason Guenther, Andoni Amuchastegui, Jason Wilson, Ben Roucheek, Caleb Owens

Bill Davis

Mike Perkins
Holiday Lights – Early Publicity

In 1997, Friends of Shore Acres decided to jazz up the state park with holiday spirit. They strung up a few lights around the gardens and hung a Christmas tree and decorated the Garden House. Nine thousand people showed up to see the holidayized park, and community kitchens were used. Now, a transformer from 40,000 to 25,000 volts make the stop along Cape Arago Highway to take in the 300,000 lights, sip hot apple cider and enjoy live entertainment in the parking lot. Light shows play throughout the park's beauty with tukus, a shadow play, rose and salsa—and its wooden gazebo with jockeys, phallic, rhythmic, a new horse, a buffet and nit-race area while the holiday lasts from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve, from 5:30 pm, every night.
LIFT YOUR SPIRITS CRAFT DISTILLERIES

Oregon Coast
FRESHEST CATCH!
Garibaldi's New Community Supported Fishery

COAST GUARD RESCUE SWIMMERS
WHEN YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, THEY'RE A WELCOME SIGHT

Siletz Legends
Beware the Whistle Man

Lights & Miniatures
NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 25, CHARLESTON

The much-anticipated holiday Lights of Shore Acres draws thousands of spectators each year, and now wonder: the light display is located in one of the most stunning botanical gardens on the coast. From November 27 - December 31, the garden is ablaze with more than a quarter million lights nightly from 4-10 pm.

Besides the lights, the walk-through display features dozens of lighted sculptures and more than two dozen Christmas trees. The historic Garden Tower is decked with holiday decorations and is staffed with volunteers offering visitors complimentary hot cider, coffee, and cookies. The performance pavilion features live entertainment with choirs, carolers, and bands. (541) 866-3525; www.shoreacres.com

While near Charleston, be sure to check out the Miniature Display and Christmas Train Display. The miniature display has become an increasingly popular tradition, with more than 250 miniatures representing the towns of Coos County. The display is open for public viewing at the Old Charleston School House on 69485 Seawinds Road from 6-10 pm nightly from December 1-31. If the building is dark, don't leave; lights are kept off to see the displays better. (541) 866-3525; www.oregoncoastliving.com

COASTAL HAPPENINGS

Holiday Lights
Hotel Package
Enjoy your festive vacation and treats in the Garden House.

Package includes:
• Overnight stay in one of our beautiful hotel rooms
• Dinner for two (Shore Acres State Park Dinner Patch)
• Shuttle service to Shore Acres State Park
Package available from December 1 through December 23, 2014
Reserve today: 800.953.4800
themillicasino.com

On Tour
Fab Four
NOVEMBER 22, NORTH BEND
THE TIMELESS MUSIC of the Beatles for our show is sure to have audiences feeling like they are watching the real band. The Fab Four, a Beatles tribute band, will perform two shows at the NIH Casino. Besides their uncanny ability to musically mimic the Beatles songs, the Fab Four deliver an entertaining show with several costume changes that represent different eras in the Beatles long life as a band.

Performances include classics such as "Can't Buy Me Love," "Yesterday," "Help!" "We Can Work It Out," "A Day In The Life," "Hey Jude," "More Comes The Sun," and "Hey Jude!
The shows take place at 5:30 and 9 p.m. Call or visit the NIH Casino online for tickets and information. (531) 759-8822 www.thenichicasino.com

FAB FOUR November 22, 2014
Volunteers turned out Saturday to help with the weeks-long effort of creating holiday lighting displays at Shore Acres State Park. Left: Erin Feddersen, a troop leader with Girl Scout Troop 30543, decorated a Girl Scout-themed tree. Bottom left: Ray Daniels, left, and David Bridgham, members of Friends of Shore Acres, assemble an animated hummingbird light sculpture. Bottom right: Bill Davis and Susan Ferguson work together to hang strings of holiday lights in trees. The 28th annual display will open Thanksgiving night and run through Dec. 31.
Holiday Lights ready for Thanksgiving opening

LOU SENNICK / Staff

CHARLOTTESVILLE -- You can fill the holidays with a visit to the annual Holiday Light show at Shore Acres State Park.

Last year, there were more than 40,000 visitors to the annual Holiday Light show at Shore Acres State Park.

Starting in 1993, the Friends of Shore Acres started putting up a few strings of lights in the park to celebrate Christmas.

According to the park's website, they now have more than 50,000 lights, holiday trees decorated by local groups, lighted sculptures and a few light animations.

The Garber's House is decorated with Christmas themes in all the rooms. It is also where volunteers serve hot chocolate and cookies.

It is open to the public Thanksgiving weekend through Dec. 31., from 5 to 9 p.m., with a $5 admission charge per vehicle or the appropriate annual pass.
Shore Acres from page 19

Exciting holiday gifts and raffle tickets are available to the Friends' Information and Gift Center. Tickets are $10 each (only 200 will be sold) with the drawing to be held at 4 p.m. on Christmas Day. Ticket holder does not need to be present to win.

The holiday lights event became an instant community tradition in 1987 when the Friends of Shore Acres in cooperation with Shore Acres State Park decided to "string a few lights" to help celebrate the holidays. That first season, 6,000 miniature lights, one Christmas tree and the open Garden House drew 9,000 visitors. Now, at least 300,000 lights — both holiday and landscaping — dozens of Christmas trees, lighted sculptures, a performance pavilion and the beautifully decorated gardens house attract 40,000 to 50,000 visitors each season.

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

Shore Acres State Park is located at 88030 Cape Arago Highway, Coos Bay, (13 miles southwest of the cities of Coos Bay/North Bend).

Admission is a parking fee of $5 per vehicle or a current OPBDS Annual Parking Pass or the current state park campground receipt. The Friends welcome donations for refreshments and for continuing the event the following year.
Shore Acres Holiday Lights open annually on Thanksgiving and remain open through New Year's.

**Sculptures that adorned the gardens, illuminated by 100,000 LED lights.**

Local musicians add the sounds of Christmas to the visual display each weekend. Visit shoreacres.net for a complete holiday entertainment schedule.

**On your way to an historic holiday**

**Shore Acres State Park**

**Holiday Lights Display**

8 to 9:30 p.m. through Dec. 31

Parking fee by vehicle.

Christmas lights, decorations, music.

The park is open to visitors at the Historic Site Visitors Center and the Shore Acres State Park Visitor Center.

**Historic sites get a festive make-over each year between Thanksgiving and New Year.**

**Shore Acres, the Park of Bandon and Hughes House welcome guests with light displays, live music and sweet treats.**

**Gloria Miller**

For The World

Carefully cultivated evergreens and ornaments make Shore Acres State Park a natural delight year round. And the annual holiday light display is one of the region's brightest winter events.

The grounds were developed more than 100 years ago by Louis Allen, who made his mark in the local lumber industry and founded the city of Bandon. The state parks department acquired the property in 1948. Volunteer supporters of Friends of Shore Acres launched the annual holiday lights display in 1987 with a modest Christmas tree and lights at Garden House.

Some 45,000 visitors toured the park in December 2013. They saw 26 glittering Christmas trees and countless lights and sculptures that adorned the gardens, illuminated by 100,000 LED lights.

Local musicians add the sounds of Christmas to the visual display each weekend. Visit shoreacres.net for a complete holiday entertainment schedule.
Holiday Lights – New Sculptures and a Favorite Scene

Inspired by Robynn Reed, a raccoon, deer and rabbit behind the pavilion gate

Inspired by Carol Ventgen, a ladybug on Shasta daisies

Photo by Luis Velasquez
Holiday Lights 2014 — An Estimated 45,558 Visitors

21 COUNTRIES (OTHER THAN THE U.S.) • 43 STATES AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

CITIES AND TOWNS: 199 OREGON • 126 CALIFORNIA • 67 WASHINGTON • 162 CITIES AND TOWNS FROM OTHER STATES

- Albany, NY - Awesome
- Alexandria, VA - Love it!
- Ashland, OR - THE BEST
- Bedford, VA - Fantastic!
- Billings, MT - Awesome!
- Boston, MA - Stupendous!
- Cathlamet, WA - Always worth the trip!
- Chiloquin, OR - Extraordinary
- Coos Bay, OR - Extremely well thought out
- Eagle Point, OR - Best Ever, Love it!
- El Paso, TX - Gorgeous!
- Eugene, OR - This made my Christmas!
- Eureka, CA - Magical - Thank You!
- Gleneden Beach, OR - Best in the Northwest!
- Glide, OR - Treasure this beautiful experience!
- Grand View, ID - Impressive
- Grass Valley, CA - Beautiful house!
- Grizzly Flats, CA - Thanks!
- Houston, TX - Amazing, we love it!
- Iowa City, IA - Fantastical
- Kenai, AK - Wonderful!
- Leavenworth, WA - WOW!
- Lumberton, TX - Very Beautiful
- Logan, UT - Worth the trip. Wow!
- Los Angeles, CA - Wonderful!
- Marysville, WA - Thank You!
- McMinnville, OR - Amazing - Incredible
- Missoula, MT - Wonderful
- Modesto, CA - SPECTACULAR!!!!
- Mt Shasta, CA - Unbelievable!
- Mt Vernon, WA - Awesome!
- North Bend, OR - Perfect like always
- Pittsburgh, PA - Love it
- Redding, CA - Excellent
- Roseburg, OR - An annual event of joy!
- San Francisco, CA - Best year ever!!
- Scottsdale, AZ - Awesome!
- St. Helens, OR - Family Tradition
- Vancouver, WA - Simply Amazing
- Vancouver Island, Canada - Beautiful - Unique
- Weed, CA - FANTASTICAL!
- Winston, OR - Beautiful! Amazing Experience!
- Zephyr Cove, NV - Incredible! Thank you!

Special Thanks

- Fred Meyer - 23rd year providing 100 cases of frozen apple juice for hot apple cider, 12 cases of frozen lemonade for punch and generous discount on cookies
- Vendo West - Lou Leberti - 26th year of providing "Santacans" at a substantial discount.
- Day Ship Supply - Bruce Day - 17th year - Cookie storage and delivery
- Dave's Trees - Dave Hannah - 14th year - Outdoor Christmas Trees

THANKS, LIGHTS PLEDGE SUPPORTERS 2014!

LED LIGHTS

- 5,450 Abel Insurance Agency-Harry and Francie Abel
- 4,667 Barbara K. Mills
- 3,334 Shinglehouse Auto and Salvage
- 2,667 Hough, MacAdam, Wartnik, Fisher and Gorman, LLC
- 2,100 The Portside Restaurant
- 2,000 Coastal Paper and Supply-Bob and Johanna Dillard
- 1,667 Cornelia and Don Barnhart
- 1,125 Huggins Insurance-Bob and Janet Huggins
- 1,125 Coos Bay Fire and Rescue
- 1,100 Michael A. Gordon, CPA (Not Your Basic Bean Counter)
- 807 Tom's Lock and Key-Steve and Cathy Clark
- 700 Art Connection, Best Western Holiday Hotel Bob's Appliance-Bob and Gayle DePeal Cheslock Optical-Dr. James and Rhea Cheslock Ray Gapp, Honda World, James and Ellen Montalbano Northwestern Mutual-Dick and Jan Vigue, Ted and Carolyn Terry Windermere / North Point Inc.
- 667 Oyster Cove LLC-Marthta Butler
- 500 This Olde House Bed and Breakfast Inn-Sally White
- 400 Charleston Harbor Inn in memory of John A. Castro High Tide Cafe LLC-Carole Rodde and Steve Raplee
- 360 Cedar Electric and Construction, Inc.
- 350 James and Archina Davenport Gold Coast Truck Repair-Butch and Jacque Shields Betsy Groben, Shoji Planning, LLC-Crystal and Gene Shoji Slippery Slope Soap Shop-Pauline and Ron Vierra Donald and Priscilla Zobel

Holiday Lights 2014 – An Estimated 45,558 Visitors

Upstairs Front Bedroom awaits B&B Winners

Special Thanks

- Fred Meyer - 23rd year providing 100 cases of frozen apple juice for hot apple cider, 12 cases of frozen lemonade for punch and generous discount on cookies
- Vendo West - Lou Leberti - 26th year of providing "Santacans" at a substantial discount.
- Day Ship Supply - Bruce Day - 17th year - Cookie storage and delivery
- Dave's Trees - Dave Hannah - 14th year - Outdoor Christmas Trees
End of “Lights” Season Brings Whale Watching Time at Shore Acres
Looking for whales can be fun, spotting them a challenge

TOM NOVOTNY
The World

CHARLESTON — It is time, once again, to brush up on your whale vocabulary and head to the coast. Whale Watching Spoken Here sites are back again, from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1, helping volunteers to try and spot the gray whale population as it begins its southern migration.

The Whale Watching Spoken Here program has been placing trained volunteers at 24 sites along the Pacific Northwest coast, during two watch weeks each year, for more than three decades. Pamela Stevens, a Park Ranger at Shore Acres State Park, near Charleston, said the volunteers are there to provide information on the gray whale, while also helping the "newbies" with what to look for on the horizon.

"People just really enjoy the whales," she said. "They are beautiful animals and they are somewhat limited in their numbers, so it is great to come out and see that and learn more about them."

While the grays can be found off the Oregon coast all year long, thousands migrate south to three major breeding and calving lagoons on the west coast of Baja, Mexico. In spring, as the northern migration takes place, the whales again pass by the coast, on route.

It takes the estimated population of about 15,000 whales three months to make the round trip.

The numbers sound staggering but, it is not always easy to spot the whales passing by, especially on days when rougher weather makes the visibility spotty, at best.

The best winter spotting week in the past 30 years was in 1994-95. That week spotted witnessed 3,392 whales swimming along the coast. Older years, the numbers can be closer to the 1,04 spotted during the winter 2004/05 while watch week.

"Depends on your luck" Stevens said.

"Last spring we had about 160 whales spotted (just at the Shore Acres site), with 500 visitors getting to see that. So, it sometimes just depends on the luck of the draw."

Shore Acres is one of four official Whale Watching Spoken Here locations in our area. The others are at the Umpqua Lighthouse State Park in Winchester Bay, Face Rock at Bandon, and Battle Rock in Port Orford.

"Shore Acres is the only one, however, that has an unobstructed area to watch from, on the days when the weather is cutting loose."

"Shore Acres is a wonderful vantage point and comes with the added bonus of being encased. So you can stay inside, be warm and dry, and still have a great view of the whales when they pass by!" Stevens said. "We have wonderful volunteers here who return every year. They have videos that they show, they have whale books, have T-shirts (killer feeder system in the mouth of the whiten), they show people how long the whales are. It's pretty cool!"

It also can be pretty wet, even when just moving from your vehicle to the enclosed area, so the managers say you should dress for the occasion.

"It's a good idea to wear your rain gear, even though we are enclosed here, you might get hit by rain going to and from, or you might want to step outside and look. Also, you should bring your binoculars, if you have an extra pair, although we do provide binoculars out here as well, with our volunteers."

The Whale Watch staffs are stationed by volunteers from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are four sites, but Shore Acres, that may change a small fee for access $5 per vehicle at that site. The best advice, Stevens said, is to try and go during those volunteer hours. And, plan to stick around for a bit.

"Some days you get lucky, with the weather, especially. If it's calm it is a lot easier to see them versus stormy days, where it can be very difficult to see them. If you really want to see one, you should plan on being there for a couple of hours. It could take that long."

This year, in other words, it might be fun to come to the coast for an hour or two, and leave the long-distance traveling to the whales. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Are you feeling lucky?
Springtime at Shore Acres – April 2, 2015

TULIPS, DAFFODILS, RHODODENDRONS AND HINO CRIMSON AZALEAS TAKE CENTER STAGE.

Photos by Shirley Bridgham
Springtime at Shore Acres – April 2, 2015
Photos By Shirley Bridgham

View from the Pavilion shows the Pacific Ocean in the distance, the reason we call this beautiful place the “Gardens Above the Waves.”
Ready for Rhododendron Sunday | Mother’s Day – May 10, 2015
Oregon State Parks Day and National Garden Week were celebrated on June 6, from 11 AM to 4 PM at Shore Acres State Park. The $5 parking fee was waived and Friends of Shore Acres volunteers served refreshments in the Garden House. Also, the Friends’ Information and Gift Center offered a 10 percent discount on merchandise.

“Many stopped to talk with us in the Garden House saying how impressed they were of the gardens,” said Cheryl Drumheller, President of the Coos Bay Garden Club.

Garden Clubs displaying “what they are all about” included Coos Bay, Coquille Valley and the Friends of Hindsdale Gardens in Reedsport.

Nineteen people stopped by the Coos Bay Garden Club table to craft their own greeting card using pressed flowers. When each masterpiece was completed, they were so delighted. One woman commented, “I remember seeing my grandmother do this.” Another woman was mailing her creation to her mother that day.
Rose Sunday / Father’s Day – June 21, 2015
“RAVISHING ROSES” DISPLAY BY THE SOUTHWESTERN OREGON ROSE SOCIETY

BACKGROUND ROSE “JULIA CHILD” PHOTO AND ROSE DISPLAY PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY BRIDGHAM
Friends’ Information & Gift Center (IGC)

An all-volunteer operation managed by Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst

OPEN HOURS

Jan. thru Feb. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Mar. thru Thanksgiving Eve - 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Thanksgiving thru New Year’s Eve - 3:30 -9:30 pm

541-888-2472  1-866-6100

Researching Colorization
By Shirley Bridgham, Journal Editor

What do you suppose the odds are that I would get the following email from an inquiry to a colorization company I found on the internet?

“Shoreacres! I grew up in North Bend . . .” Well, that’s the reply I got after e-mailing the sepia toned photo of the first mansion to see if it would be a good candidate for colorization.

One thing led to another and the next thing I knew I was deep into a project to produce 25 colorized postcards for the Information and Gift Center. After the project was completed, I contacted Mike McCarty and asked him for a bio and a photo of himself. He responded with both.

— Continued Next Page —

L. J. Simpson’s First Mansion – Sepia Tone
L. J. Simpson’s First Mansion – Colorized 2015

Each set of Shoreacres Historical Postcards contains 25 different scenes and the sets are available in the Information & Gift Center.

— Special Thanks —

• Top Hat Photo Repair - Photo Colorization Discount
• Wegferds’ Printing & Publishing - Production Discount
• Proofreading: Lou and Sharon Kolkhorst; David Bridgham; Ellie Kinney-Martial and Valerie Augustine

Historical Photos Come to Life
By Sharon Kolkhorst, Co-Manager

Postcards have always been big sellers in the Information and Gift Center.

About 5 years ago, after looking at cards in other gift shops and restaurants along the coast, we noticed that we were all selling the same cards. Even the Holiday Lights cards were the same. With all the beautiful and unique views at Shore Acres, why were we not making our own postcards that would only be sold at Shore Acres?

This started our “Postcard Project” and the use of Shore Acres, Sunset Bay, and Cape Arago photographs. Our postcards are printed by Wegferds’ Printing and the pictures are part of the Shore Acres archives managed by Shirley Bridgham. Many of the current pictures are by Shirley and her husband, David. Our iconic “Wave” photo was taken by Luis Velasquez. With the ever changing gardens and Holiday Lights scenes, we retire and add new cards each year.

While attending the OPRD Co-op Conference in John Day we were given an opportunity to talk with other Friends groups to exchange ideas. Friends of Vista House had started reprinting their historic cards in color. When we returned from the conference we discussed the possibilities with our board. Our historical cards were in black and white and we knew that, with new technology, they could be improved upon.

We were off and running as soon as Shirley was able to free up a lot of her time to focus on the project. She located a company in Texas and contacted them for information. Our original packet contained 12 historical cards that we have been selling for more than 25 years. In July we finished the Shoreacres Historical Postcards Colorization project.

Shore Acres 1976 – Colorized 2015

L. J. Simpson’s First Mansion – Colorized 2015

— Continued Next Page —
I was born and raised in North Bend until my family moved to the Portland area in 1998 when I started middle school. Every year since I can remember my family would go and see the lights at Shore Acres. It was always one of my favorite holiday traditions. I continued to go while I still lived in Oregon. I live in Texas now.

I am self taught in Photoshop, having started using it in high school. At some point around 2009 I started restoring and colorizing some old family pictures. I realized that I had an ability and enjoyed doing it a lot. In 2011, I started doing more pictures for friends and family, and started a website to promote my work. I started Top Hat Photo Repair in 2012. Since then the business has grown but I still do most of the Photoshop work myself. I was so happy to see the pictures from Shore Acres and be able to contribute to the project.
Most notably known for the Holiday Lights display at the gardens, Friends of Shore Acres Inc. supports the park in many other ways. The net revenue from sales at the Information and Gift Center provides funds for many of the projects at the gardens. These are just a few of the improvements in the past year that have been funded by the Friends.

Benches throughout the formal garden were installed during the renovation in the mid 1970’s and at that time they were made of redwood. In the 1990’s the benches were in need of repair and the redwood material was replaced with cedar. Last year we were faced with repairing the benches again and the decision was made to return to the original redwood. These were installed by Seasonal Ranger John Sperling with the assistance of the four man work crew from Shutter Creek.

Improvements on the south end of the garden began last fall when the exposed aggregate walkway was extended to the east pond trail. Early this spring that project continued, bringing the exposed aggregate to the entrance of the south rose garden – a vast improvement over the heaving asphalt and gravel paths that it replaced.

Repairs were also made in the Performance Pavilion where the original cedar was showing signs of wood rot. All rotting cedar around the columns was replaced thanks to the Friends and the expertise of retired Park Ranger Bob Dixon.

The artificial turf on the west side of the pavilion was first installed in 2005. Ten years and over 2 million visitors later, it was time for replacement and the new and improved version was installed in March.

Thank you Friends of Shore Acres for another wonderful year.
**News from Sunset Bay Management Unit**

**By Preson Phillips, Park Manager**

I can hardly believe it’s time again for the annual newsletter. Where did the past 12 months go?

The adage that “time flies when you are having fun” must apply. Each day, this past year, has seen small or large accomplishments by staff and volunteers towards the common goal of providing and protecting Shore Acres State Park for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

We continue to plan for future upgrades and renovations to infrastructure while performing the day to day tasks that make it all seamless to our visitors.

The Friends of Shore Acres are truly ‘friends’ of the park and its larger community. The service provided and the respect shown to our visitors is immeasurable.

Thanks to each of you.

**Welcome Jasper Ryan Krug**

Stephanie Miller, Park Ranger, Sunset Bay State Park and her son Jasper Ryan Krug, born on June 3, 2015, visit the Interpretive Center at the Sunset Bay Campground.

“Art in the Park”

**Coming to a Park Near You!**

**By Kristin Hovenkotter Greco, Ranger Assistant**

The play — or quite possibly, scenes from several different plays — will be selected to fit the outdoor, seaside setting of Shore Acres Gardens, and will be a lighthearted comedy or Shakespearian Romance to ensure that it is family friendly. The public will be welcomed to come experience a fun afternoon of the performing arts in a pastoral park setting. This could possibly become an annual event similar to the Oregon Coast Music Festival concert, with the potential to draw large numbers from the local public to our park. “Shakespeare in the Park” is a well-known and much-loved annual performing art event in many cities and towns. I am working closely with Logos to coordinate a fabulous show, which may bring together many members of the several local theatre groups in town to participate in a fun event for the community. The dates are tentatively scheduled for May 7-8 and 14-15.

Sunset Bay’s grant will go toward hosting a Plein-Air Paint Out day, inviting local watercolor artists to come participate in painting the gorgeous landscapes within our park to celebrate State Parks Day, June 4, 2016. In conjunction with this, we will organize some local individuals to provide basic watercolor instruction for the public. I am working with the Coos Art Museum to form a partnership that will assist with contacting local painters as well as loaning the park materials for the public to use.

Both grants offer excellent opportunities to bring new people to our parks so they can appreciate the natural beauty both Shore Acres and Sunset Bay have to offer, and to help foster appreciation of the arts in our community. Everyone at the parks is very excited about these opportunities, so be sure to come take part in our Art In the Parks events!

Earlier this year, Sunset Bay and Shore Acres State Parks took advantage of a wonderful opportunity provided by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department – the Art In Parks grants program. Manager Preson Phillips, Ranger Stephanie Miller, and I put together grant applications for the two parks with each park receiving $1,000 to bring special events with an artistic focus to the parks.

For Shore Acres, the park will be working with a local acting group to present a Shakespeare in the Park event in late spring of 2016. Logos Players, a local theatre group, which works to raise money for area non-profit organizations, will perform two weekends of Shakespeare.

**Stephanie Miller, Park Ranger, Sunset Bay State Park and her son Jasper Ryan Krug, born on June 3, 2015, visit the Interpretive Center at the Sunset Bay Campground.**
Bonsai Day – August 15, 2015

. . . Exquisite Miniatures on Display . . .

Bay Area Bonsai Experts available to answer questions

Refreshments in the Garden House by Friends of Shore Acres Volunteers

Photos by Pam Stevens

L-R George and Eva Ahuna, Betty Kennedy, Virginia and Theo Stanley
Jack Donald Gilham was born on September 18, 1934. He died on October 20, 2014 after a battle with leukemia. He turned 80 one month before he passed away.

His growing up years were spent mostly with his paternal grandparents. They moved a lot around South Bend, Washington. His grandmother passed away when he was 16 and his Aunt Clara and her husband “Cotton” Coma became his guardians.

He married his high school sweetheart, June, when they were 18. My husband Ben Johnson and I met them when we were expecting our first child and their son Steven was a tiny baby. Jack and Ben worked together in the oyster industry in Washington outside of Aberdeen.

In 1957, after the oyster plant closed, Jack and June and their two sons Steven and Thomas moved to Aberdeen, Washington. Later, they moved to Tacoma where Jack went to mechanics school. When he graduated, they took a trip down the coast looking for a good place to raise their sons. They decided they liked North Bend and Jack got a job with Weyerhauser as a heavy duty mechanic in the woods. Very hard work. Under trucks and heavy machinery in the hottest days of summer and the coldest and snowiest days in winter.

They built their home in North Bend, piece by piece. Later, they bought property at Lakeside and built a summer cabin on the lake. There were no roads to their place, so they towed rafts of lumber and materials to build their cabin.

Meanwhile, Ben and I had divorced when our youngest was two and I had remarried Bob Clifton. He helped me raise my four children and we had our daughter, Tiffani. We were married 34 years before he passed away in 2003.

June and I, sporadically, wrote back and forth for about 45 years, mostly at Christmas time.

Christmas of 2003 – I sent a Christmas card to Jack and June and told them that Bob had passed away in September. Jack wrote back to me in January and told me that June had passed away in October. He then asked me for my phone number and asked if he could call me. In February I decided it would be fun to talk to an old friend. Besides, he was in Oregon and I was in Oklahoma, so what could it hurt? So, I wrote back and gave him my number. We talked every week for a while, and then it was twice a week and then before long, it was every night. All this time I was going through breast cancer, surgery and radiation and was afraid to tell him.

In June, Tiffani was ready to have her 4th boy so the day after my last radiation, I was on the plane to Sacramento. I stayed with Tiffani, Jon and the boys for a week and then I took a bus trip up to Eureka where Jack and I had mutual friends from the oyster plant in Washington. We visited with them for a while and then drove up to North Bend. We did a lot of talking and planning and the day before I was to go back to Sacramento, he said, “I’m not going to let those Okies have you!” and took me to Harry Ritchie’s and bought me a ring. He also bought me a plane ticket back to Sacramento because he didn’t want me to take another bus trip and a week later, I was back in Oklahoma telling everybody that I would be moving to Oregon.

Continued next page
A Tribute to Jack Gilham – A Wonderful Man (Continued)

By September, I was here, lock, stock and barrel. We had a lot of discussions as to what to do next, after we got settled. Jack and June had a family trust set up and I didn’t feel I should be a part of it after all the years they had saved for it, so we opted not to marry.

In one of our long discussions, we decided we needed to have some sort of volunteering to do to fill up some of our time and Friends of Shore Acres had an ad in the newspaper asking for volunteers. The next best thing we ever did was to answer that ad and find some of the most fulfilling things we ever did together. We also volunteered at Pacific Cove Humane Society, and the North Bend Senior Center. I still work there every Monday for the lunch crowd.

Jack was a man who never let the grass grow under his feet. He kept himself busy all the time. If he didn’t have something to do, he would invent something to do. He was always helping friends with their cars, trucks, cutting down trees, whatever.

For 20 years, every Tuesday and Thursday, he picked up day-old bread and pastries from Safeway and delivered them to the Senior Center. He called dime Bingo on Tuesday afternoons at the Senior Center for years. Then when they started the evening Bingo, he called every weekend until he got burned out on it and finally decided he wanted to do something else on weekends.

He loved to go salmon fishing, clam digging and crabbing. We ate a lot of sea food.

He was a man you could trust with anything. His ethics were beyond compare. He was a wonderful man and I miss him dearly.

Journal Editor’s Note: When Tiffani Clifton Mooney found out Joan was doing this story she said, “Oh Mom, can I send in a note and tell my take on you and Jack?” Joan said yes. Below is part of what Tiffani wrote.

“. . . Now, when I talked to mom she was busy. Every day they walked or hiked went to the beach. Her life sounded so fun. She had a renewed life. In April of 2005 for Easter we went to Jack and mom’s house. I was excited to meet the man who swept mom off her feet. I did not plan to really like him personally. I liked him because he made mom so happy. I met Jack when we arrived in the evening. He seemed really nice. Very reserved, quiet, I could not read him very well. What I could see was how they looked at each other. Wow, they were so in love. Is that possible to have such a beautiful love at such an older age? I too fell in love with Jack. I was surprised by that. I grew to love him so much. Not just because he made mom happy but because he was so awesome. He very quickly became Grandpa Jack to my kids. They all loved him. For three of my kids he is the only grandpa they know with grandma.

Before Jack was diagnosed with leukemia he wanted to plan a surprise party for mom for her 80th birthday. He told me he was sending her to Norway for her birthday gift. I planned the party and he kept her busy. He was diagnosed with leukemia during the year. He scheduled his chemo around the trip to California for her party. It was a rough year for them. The party was fabulous. A lot of friends and family came. All year Jack was in and out of the hospital. Just a week before Mom was to leave on her three week trip to Norway, Jack was in the hospital. He still insisted that she go. She decided at the last minute she would go. He was home and doing well for the moment. She came back and got to share with him all the wonderful experiences she had on her trip.

He passed away in October 2014. He was 80. They had exactly 10 years. The honeymoon did not end till he was gone. I loved him more then I ever could have imagined. I thank God for the wonderful years mom got to have with him. I feel blessed to have been a part of this very sweet love story.”
Dear Shore Acres State Park,

I want to say THANK YOU to some special people for their recent assistance! My mom and I drove down from Salem Oregon to visit the Holiday Lights display Saturday, December 27, 2014, for the first time. While viewing the Koi Pond, I dropped my cell phone into the water where it quickly sank out of site and reach. I immediately accepted the fact that all my photos and data from the visit were lost. Thinking there was nothing to be done about it, we stopped in the gift shop to at least leave our contact info in case the phone was retrieved and turned in someday. Everyone was terribly busy in the store but the volunteers and park employees still took the time to listen to my sad tale.

One volunteer in particular, Pete, even offered to go the extra mile. He arranged to meet us the next morning with his fishing net to try to scoop up my phone on from the murky pond. He was successful on the very first try! The phone was quite dead, but the media card and SIM card inside were unaffected by the water. So we were still able to extract all our lovely photos from the evening and to recover important phone number data and info! Pete and the other volunteers could easily have told me there was no reason to even try to recover the phone and not wasted any time with me. But they didn’t, and I love them for it.

I work at the City of Salem Senior Center and I know the value of caring volunteers and passionate employees so I want to make sure YOU all know what a terrific group of folks you have working at Shore Acres State Park!

If you have a volunteer of the month program, I nominate Pete.

Please pass on my gratitude to everyone and I look forward to visiting the park many more times in the future.

Best,
Kim Baker and Judy Harrison

---

E-mail Note from Leslie Guldenzopf

Attached is one of our favorite pictures and a copy of Pete’s obituary.

Pete and I began our park hosting career in October of 2002 at the Deschutes State Park. This is where we always vacationed every September. Pete loved to fish! We hosted at 10 different state parks returning to many each year. We also worked the Oregon State Fair. We both have 12,000 hours of hosting experience.

In 2005, when we won Host of the Year, we were very proud. To this day, I’m still giving park guide books to people I come in contact with. We always promoted State Parks and volunteering. Pete always loved coming back to Shore Acres especially during the holiday season. It was his favorite of all the parks.

---

E-mail Letter about Pete, December 2014

Dear Shore Acres State Park,

I want to say THANK YOU to some special people for their recent assistance!

My mom and I drove down from Salem Oregon to visit the Holiday Lights display Saturday, December 27, 2014, for the first time. While viewing the Koi Pond, I dropped my cell phone into the water where it quickly sank out of site and reach. I immediately accepted the fact that all my photos and data from the visit were lost. Thinking there was nothing to be done about it, we stopped in the gift shop to at least leave our contact info in case the phone was retrieved and turned in someday. Everyone was terribly busy in the store but the volunteers and park employees still took the time to listen to my sad tale.

One volunteer in particular, Pete, even offered to go the extra mile. He arranged to meet us the next morning with his fishing net to try to scoop up my phone on from the murky pond. He was successful on the very first try! The phone was quite dead, but the media card and SIM card inside were unaffected by the water. So we were still able to extract all our lovely photos from the evening and to recover important phone number data and info! Pete and the other volunteers could easily have told me there was no reason to even try to recover the phone and not wasted any time with me. But they didn’t, and I love them for it.

I work at the City of Salem Senior Center and I know the value of caring volunteers and passionate employees so I want to make sure YOU all know what a terrific group of folks you have working at Shore Acres State Park!

If you have a volunteer of the month program, I nominate Pete.

Please pass on my gratitude to everyone and I look forward to visiting the park many more times in the future.

Best,
Kim Baker and Judy Harrison

---

Guldenzopf, Pete – March 27, 1946 - April 2, 2015 – Pete, age 69, died peacefully in his sleep April 2, 2015, at home. Pete was raised in Eagle Creek and graduated from Estacada High School. He was a master painter at Freightliner for 34 years. In his 13 years of retirement, Pete and his “glitzy” wife, Leslie, were full-time camp hosts with the Oregon State Parks system, dividing most of their time between the Deschutes and Coos Bay. Pete was an avid fisherman and crabber who was known as a gruff old codger with a heart of gold. Pete is survived by his loving wife, Leslie; son, Jeff; daughter, Amy; and a multitude of family and friends. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. At the family’s request, donations may be made to Friends of Shore Acres, P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

Published in The Oregonian from April 7 to April 12, 2015