

HISTORY OF THE HOLIDAY TREES AT SHORE ACRES HOLIDAY LIGHTS DISPLAY by Shirley and David Bridgham - Co-chair Holiday Lights since 1987

Back in 1990, Debbie Webb had a terrific idea - "Let's get some organizations to decorate three of the large outdoor trees!" When everyone agreed, she said, "I'll see who I can get." Next thing the Friends *holiday committee* knew, dozens of new volunteers from Pacific Power & Light (Debbie Webb, chair) the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay (Rosemary Padgett, chair) and the Friends of South Slough (Mary Enstrom, chair) were working on unique ornaments to decorate *their* trees. A drawing was held to determine their tree location. What followed is history. From a few trees to 8 to more than a dozen to the ultimate number of 26 (*the Park's limit*), the display has been enhanced each season. For many years, the Coos County Forest in cooperation with SWOCC Forestry and Bill Lemoine provided the trees. Since 2003, Dave Hannah of Dave's Christmas Trees has donated the large cultured Christmas trees used in the display. The tree sponsors provide the decorations and the Friends provides the lights and a sign for each tree. When a group, organization or business gets a tree, it's theirs until they want to give it up (*as long as they follow the setup/takedown schedule and rules*). And occasionally the sponsors have changed. For many years, Dawn Buxton, Trees Coordinator, kept a waiting list, but in 2021, with the list numbering more than 17 (*some going back to 2016*), she stopped adding more names. If and when that changes, the information will be posted on our website at www.shoreacres.net.

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