



# Progress Report

A twice-yearly update on the Parks and Natural Resource Fund // Issue 7 // Spring 2004

## Our past, our future

Welcome to our seventh issue of the Progress Report. This series of reports is designed to let you, our key constituents, know of the accomplishments made with Oregon Lottery dollars for parks and heritage conservation and improvement.

The half dozen or so stories here cover a significant amount of ground. The archaeological dig at Champoeg State Heritage Area looks back to the dawning days of the Oregon territorial government. Surprisingly little is known of the day-to-day life of even prominent historical figures, and the project has yielded a treasure trove of artifacts and tantalizing clues to our state's past.

On the other side of the state, in the Columbia River town of Arlington, we awarded a grant to the Port to help improve a small RV park, enabling them to better serve their future customers.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department mission directs us to honor the past by educating and informing our citizens of our state's heritage, while preparing to meet the needs of the future with expanded outdoor recreation resources, like trails and campgrounds. Our long-term strategy for fulfilling the department's mission—a set of eight goals called Target 2014—similarly directs us to create a future worthy of Oregon's long-standing tradition of valuing natural and heritage resources.

Whether or not you live near or visit Champoeg, Arlington or the other places covered in this issue, we hope you will join us in appreciating the work under way across the state with support from the Parks and Natural Resource Fund.

**Michael Carrier,**  
Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department



*Champoeg artifact being reassembled at Oregon State University.*

Photo Brian Z. Snyder, 2003.

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### Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

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# Champoeg's



buried  
treasure

*Pictured: a 19th century ginger jar, pieced together from fragments found at Champoeg*

Have you ever misplaced something really important? Say, your keys? A key is nothing much on its own. A bit of metal carved into a specific shape, it opens doors for you—to your house, car, locker—only when inserted in the right lock and turned the right way. The key isn't important, but the thing behind the door is. Lose the key, lose access to something important.

Some parts of Oregon's history have been locked away, not behind a door, but under the ground. An archaeological dig at Champoeg State Heritage Area is a hunt for those lost keys to Oregon's past.

The site, between Portland and Salem in an area historically known as French Prairie, was settled by fur traders over the first half of the 19th century. Some dates and events are well known: in 1844, the town of Champoeg

was platted by Robert Newell and Andre Longtain. Newell was a prominent community leader: literate, active, and respected. With his first wife, Kitty (a member of the Nez Perce tribe), he was a driving force in the Willamette Valley. In 1843, a majority of people living in the area came to Champoeg and voted to establish a territorial government. In 1853, a flood ravaged the town. Another in '61 finished the town off.

After the first flood, Newell relocated from the prairie to a nearby hill (near the site of the park's visitor center), and then left the area entirely in 1866 to take up work as a Nez Perce Indian Agent in Idaho. With the town destroyed, its people scattered, the area was used for farming and grazing when it was used at all. Between 1901 and 1987, the land was transferred to public ownership and the park was born.

Every tenant of the land leaves behind evidence, and every person has the potential to alter evidence left behind by earlier peoples. People living on French Prairie undoubtedly left behind broken dishes, farming gear, jewelry and other ordinary items. After the site was abandoned, farmers who returned to the land left their own mark by plowing the flood-enriched soil, churning or destroying much of the older evidence in the process.

Some home sites were spared the plough. Buried deep enough by flood-deposited silt, they are literal repositories of Oregon's past people. What was life like in a house in the 1840s? We have precious few photos and scant written documents to go by.

In the mid-90s, staff began to find fragments of old brick in a field where none had appeared before. A ground-penetrating device called a magnetometer was used to probe beneath the surface with digging. The equipment detected the presence of something other than soil, though exactly what remained unknown. Dr. David Brauner, professor of Anthropology at Oregon State University, was intrigued and visited the site with students to excavate several small test pits. More brick turned up.

He returned in 2002 with a larger crew of students as part of an OSU Archaeological Field School. Carefully peeling back the prairie's layers, the group recovered artifacts, and what they believed to be a path made of carefully-fitted broken bricks. Still looking for answers, Brauner returned yet again in the summer of 2003, this time funded with \$36,000 from the Oregon Lottery-backed Parks and Natural Resource Fund. That's when things changed.

This was no path.

More completely excavated, the "path" was revealed to be a large, irregular rectangular area. The remnants of a firebox sat on one end with a jumble of bricks. It was a hearth of an old homesite. But from what time period, and to whom did it belong?

The evidence is there. Clay pipes, stoneware dishes, metal components. Through the painstaking process of reconstruction, dishes are reassembled. From the patterns imprinted on those goods, likely dates for the site emerge: the home was occupied from the late 1830's until the 50's. It's a staggering piece of news. This site likely predated the Champoeg townsite, and was there at least until the first flood came through in 1853. But who lived here?

More evidence. Ink bottles. The owner was literate at a time that literacy was rare. Parts



from a timepiece. The owner was well-to-do in an economy just beginning to grow. A tinkler—a metal clothing ornament popular with the Nez Perce tribe — was among the debris. The owner may have had connections with the Nez Perce.

This is no mere homesite. This was—at least, the evidence to date loudly suggests—the first homesite of none other than Robert Newell himself. Acquired from an earlier resident, and used until the first flood in 1853, the structure was destroyed in one of the floods. Old maps of the area showed Newell’s original home near, but not at, the site. Maps made today are often wrong; imagine what it was like 150 years ago.

The point is this: a mostly intact homesite on the French Prairie had never been found.

“This is the most exciting archaeological find ever at Champoeg,” says Park Manager Dennis Wiley. Wiley began his career as the Champoeg historian back in 1986.

While the house itself is gone, many important parts of it remain. The hearth is just the most obvious example. Just as you might drop your keys in your lawn as you head out in the morning, the area around a site like this is littered with debris, buried where it fell.

Archaeology at Champoeg has answered some questions and raised others. Champoeg has much to tell us about life in Oregon before there was an Oregon as we know it. What did people eat? How was food prepared? What did they own, use and treasure? The past lies buried, and we are making the keys to unlock its secrets.

*Park Manager Dennis Wiley and Dr. David Brauner (center, left) confer at the site of Champoeg’s archaeological dig.*



▲ *Dr. David Brauner speaks to a tour group during the 2003 dig. The tours were popular: “When they came for the tours, they wouldn’t leave,” says Park Manager Dennis Wiley.*

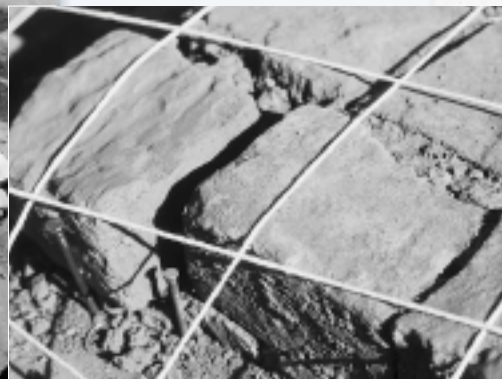
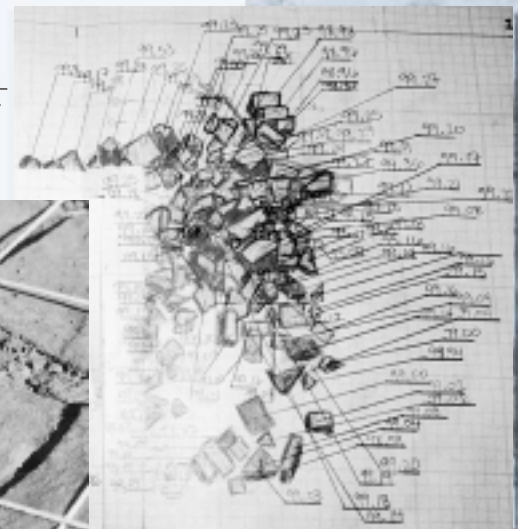
*Oregon State University students pore over artifacts to classify them.*



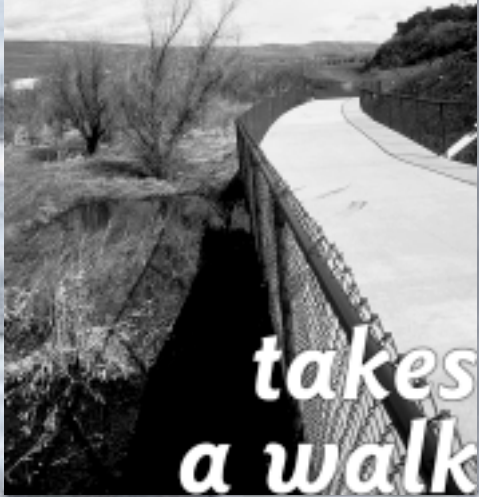
▲ *Buttons, beads, a thimble.*



*A string grid is carefully laid over the brick hearth to help create documentary drawings.*



# The Dalles



Making a public trail is normally a sweaty affair. Flagging the route, clearing brush, grading a bit, surfacing, maybe a few water bars or small culverts to control erosion. Bingo ... trail.

But that's not entirely true. That's how you **build** a trail. **Making** a trail is far more involved. Just ask Cliff

Bennett, who is working for the Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District on The Dalles Riverfront Trail.

Much of The Dalles, the largest Oregon city in the Columbia River Gorge, exists on a relatively flat piece of land between the basalt cliffs and the river. The very word "dalles" is French for flagstone: the area was so named by French-Canadian fur company employees because the river rushing between steep cliffs reminded them of the narrow, flagstone-lined gutters of their homeland. The Dalles Dam lies just east of downtown, and a sizable history museum, the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, is situated just west.

In spite of its location, access to the river itself from The Dalles has been limited in the past. A group of several agencies coalesced in the 1990s and dusted off a plan to create the

Riverfront Trail: a nine-mile path, accessible from many places from one end of the city to the other, so people could take full advantage of the river.

Bennett's job is to make that trail, not by grubbing away with a shovel and axe, but by spending hours on the phone bringing all the necessary parts together: funding, land acquisition and construction. The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, managed by the federal U.S. Forest Service, is a key funder. That startup money is being carefully managed by Bennett to use as matching funds to pursue other grants. This approach sometimes means money already in hand is fed into the project in a carefully metered way to keep the project growing (it is, in effect, fertilizer).

A segment of the trail was built from the Discovery Center west toward town. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed their own portion of the trail from the dam toward their own visitor center further east. The Oregon Department of Transportation paved a central segment, tacking it onto freeway work near the waterfront. The trail's connection to downtown is now complete, and already draws both visitors and locals looking for a place to fish, jog and walk.

Through an OPRD local government grant, funded by the Oregon Lottery-backed Parks and Natural Resource Fund, the project received more than \$132,000 to help pave a

*When completed, the Riverfront Trail in The Dalles will stretch nine miles from the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center west of the city ...* ►

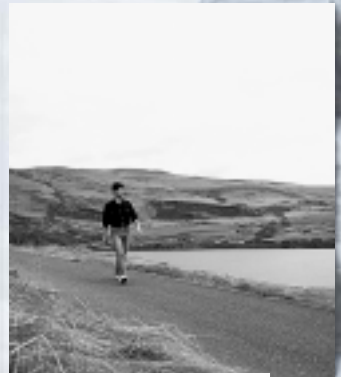


1 ¼ mile-long section between the Discovery Center and downtown on land deeded from the Port of The Dalles. In a bit of serendipitous conservation, the base rock (forming the foundation beneath the trail pavement) was obtained by salvaging old asphalt from a city street project.

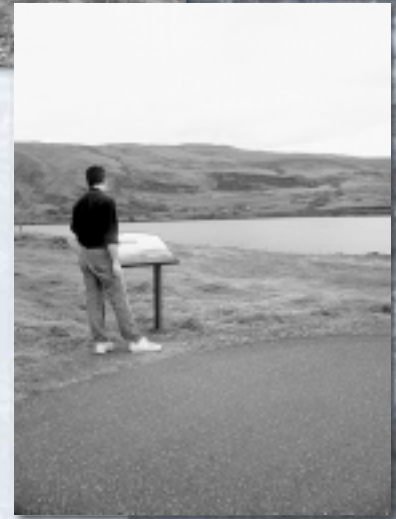
As it's completed, the Northern Wasco Parks and Recreation District is committed to operate and maintain the paths; the Dalles also dedicates lodging tax dollars to maintenance.

Five miles of the trail are paved. Another four miles worth of funding has been secured, including continued support from the OPRD local government grants program. The Dalles Riverfront Trail may connect with federal tracks that lead deeper into the Gorge: Chenoweth Creek, Mill Creek, and possibly even the Chinook trail near the rim of the Gorge and future greenways planned around the periphery of the metropolitan area.

*The paved path is designed to be used by joggers, walkers, bicyclists and people who want to fish from the riverbank.*



*Interpretive signs along the route share stories of the Columbia River's natural and cultural history.*



*... to The Dalles Dam, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

*... along the Columbia River, with connections between the trail and the downtown core ...*






The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's beach safety education coordinator is always on the go. Robert Smith is active in schools, oversees mass media exposure, and serves as the linchpin between several other agencies with responsibilities for public safety.

In November 2003, the newly established Beach Safety Council met for the first time. The council brings together people and organizations interested in beach safety issues, and includes the U.S. Coast Guard, Newport Fire Department, Lincoln City Fire and Rescue, Dr. Richard Beemer, longtime beach safety advocate Diane Wetzel-Price and others. The goal of the council is to coordinate and better communicate the beach safety message.

Second, thanks to the efforts of Diane Wetzel-Price and Smith, Governor Ted Kulongoski proclaimed March "Beach Safety Awareness Month."

"Diane's efforts and the governor's support were instrumental in leading to the proclamation," said Smith. "This action shows the highest level of government support for beach safety." The annual event could give teachers some extra motivation to discuss beach safety in the classroom. Smith hopes that someday, the beach safety message will become an official part of the Oregon curriculum. Until that day, he will continue to add to his "total kids reached" number, which currently stands at more than 63,000.

Finally, OPRD once again collaborated with local television stations on a major advertising campaign. For the first time, the beach safety education program will also reach Spanish-speaking residents. By translating the beach safety message and broadcasting on Univision, OPRD hopes to expand the reach of this important message. 



*Elementary school students prepare for their beach safety presentation.*

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's progress reports tend to focus on completed projects. The historic restoration is finished. The trail has opened. The fantastically exciting sewer system is chugging away. But where do projects begin?

Whether it's a campground upgrade, landscape rehabilitation or historic restoration, there's an in-depth evaluation process. In the case of a lighthouse, this process is called a condition assessment, and is a project in its own right, with its own budget and timetable.

The Cape Meares Lighthouse, recently emerging from an intense round of repairs and improvements, was first subject to this detailed review. The Coquille Lighthouse was next in line and had its condition assessment finished in October 2003, though the actual restoration work has not yet been funded.

# Coquille River lighthouse gets a checkup

Condition assessments are often used as a tool to apply for grants, as is the case with the Coquille River Lighthouse. This page shows you the kinds of things that turn up during an assessment conducted by Wiss, Janney Elstner Associates, Inc., and demonstrates the wide scope of work that must be confronted in order to reverse the effects of time and weather on an old structure.

*Items below in quotes taken from "Coquille River Lighthouse: Historic Structure and Condition Assessment Report," January 2003, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Assoc., Inc.*

*"Some small areas of the stucco have spalled [broken into fragments], revealing the brick backup wall."*



*"Exterior wood window frames show the most weathering. The paint is wearing ... and flaking off."*



*"Water seeps in, logs hammer the base, and corrosion attacks the metal. All buildings, most of all lighthouses, require constant care."*



*"[R]ust deposits have leached through the stucco ... where iron elements have been embedded in the structure."*



*"The granite steps ... are damaged primarily where the hand railing penetrates and is anchored to the stone."*

**Coquille R. Lighthouse**

# Arlington



True or False: There's a state park campground in Gilliam County.

Answer: False. Sort of.

While the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department doesn't operate a campground in the County, the department does support camping there ... through the Local Government Grant program.

Funded by the Parks and Natural Resource Fund, which is in turn fueled with dollars from the state lottery, the grant program directs \$4 million to 5

million dollars every two years into projects throughout the state. Take Arlington. This port community on the banks of the Columbia River received \$17,000 to spruce up the small, Port-owned RV Park.

Built in 1996 on a peninsula between Interstate 84 and the river, the park was a little on the spartan side. No shade trees, no real

privacy or windbreaks between the dozen or so campsites ... the site was little more than a gravel parking lot with utilities next to the marina. Closed in the winter, the campground was occupied at around a tenth of its capacity.

Port of Arlington Commissioners saw the park's potential. Situated on a long stretch of the interstate between Pendleton and The Dalles, Arlington is strategically located for road-weary RVers. To draw people to the campground it needed a little curb appeal.

"Before we started the project it was just a flat, barren piece of ground with posts to support the utilities," says Alice Courtney, Port of Arlington Executive Secretary. "We wanted it to be beautiful and inviting."

The Local Government Grant was used to purchase trees and shrubs, landscape blocks, boulders, and to improve the restrooms. In counties with fewer than 30,000 residents, the grant program provides up to 60% of the funding for a project. The rest has to come from other sources, or through donated materials and time. In Arlington, the park benefited from the assistance of volunteers, including Port employees Craig Jones, who donated his work on the restrooms, and Alice

*Before renovation, the campground was little more than a gravel lot and utility posts, with no protection from the weather. ▼*



*Thanks to a grant from the OPRD Local Government Grant program, the Port purchased shrubs, trees and landscaping material. ▼*





Courtney, who donated time to plant shrubs and take pictures. Other levels of government pitched in, too: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers donated 50 cubic yards of cobblestones, and the City of Arlington contributed crushed rock. Private businesses were part of the park's success: Jonathan Grady Construction built a kiosk and also helped plant trees; Proctor Enterprises donated topsoil and Oregon Waste Systems provided free compost. The General Contractor for the project was Wade Kilby Excavating, a local contractor. All of the plants and trees are irrigated by an automated drip system.

The park kiosk, a small, sheltered pay-&-information station, is an excellent example of recycling in action. The supports are made from old, cut-down pilings from the nearby marina (a grant from the Oregon State Marine Board paid for that project). The roof is made of leftovers from a private home project, and the siding was salvaged from a city construction site.

Now that the area is starting to look more like a park, the Port kept the site open year-round for the first time in 2003. Use is up around 250% compared with prior years. As they mature, the plants will make the area even

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*With low-cost materials and help from other partners and volunteers, the park is taking shape. Hardy plants were selected to provide windbreaks and privacy as they mature.*



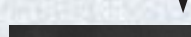
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*Campers are impressed, and use is up, now that the park is open year-round.*



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*Pretty as a picture. OPRD has awarded a second grant to help pay for paving.*



more inviting and help shelter campers from the occasionally vigorous gorge winds. Another Local Government Grant from OPRD, this one for \$13,200, will help with the cost of paving the campsites. Even here the Port has found a way to save money by timing their work to coincide with a City project; by using the same contractor as the City, the project will cost less.

And after that? "Right now, our only plan after the paving is finished is to thoroughly enjoy the park," Courtney says. Their campers would likely agree.



# Hat Rock



When people say, “The more things change, the more they remain the same,” are they truly just nuts, or is there truth behind the cliché?

Consider Hat Rock. Two hundred years ago, the Corps of Discovery led by Lewis and Clark passed through a rapid into calmer waters, and made special note in

their journal of the hat-shaped rock along the Columbia River in what became eastern Oregon.


The present-day town of Hermiston is by most accounts a rapidly growing place. The population has increased by 40% since 1990, and the town lies at the nexus of three major transportation networks: railroads, interstate freeways, and the river itself. Through it all, Hat Rock State Park is still a calm—and calming—place, standing tall amid a busy people. The park is surrounded by rolling sagebrush hills and outcroppings of basalt, and the one notable formation that gives the park its name.



The park is a place to escape the summer heat under the shelter of cottonwood and black locust trees ringed by acres of green grass. The lake is noted for walleye, sturgeon, and other fish. Waterskiing, jetskiing, swimming, and boating are popular here. In short, the park is just what an active people need when they're ready to take a break.

Until recently, though, the park did lack one important feature: drinkable water. The water systems were there, but the level of nitrates in the water exceeded state standards, so the water did not flow for a three-year period.

With around \$85,000 from the Parks and Natural Resource Fund, a filtration system manufactured by Janus Industries of Cove, Oregon, was installed in the park in 2003. Groundwater is pumped through the system, a salt filter removes the nitrates, and then a pond is used to evaporate the excess undrinkable brine-laden water. OPRD engineers Matt Reynolds and Letha Sanderson coordinated the project (though the evaporative pond was the brainchild of Engineering Manager Jay Beeks).

Nitrates were reduced by 81%, and drinkable water began to flow in May, 2003. 

*Inside, the modern system reduces the concentration of nitrates to safe levels, and pumps the undrinkable byproduct to the pond for disposal via evaporation.* ▼



▲ From the outside, the drinking water treatment facility is a nondescript concrete building and a small fenced pond.

With this, the seventh issue of the Progress Report, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has added another six feature stories to the library. Starting with Issue 2 (Issue 1 was just a list of projects), these stories have been written to document our use of the lottery-funded Parks and Natural Resource Fund in several important ways.

Over the next decade, the fund will continue to be used to address deferred repairs and maintenance, expand the capacity of increasingly popular parks, make grants to governments and organizations

throughout the state to help protect and expand Oregon's recreation and historic resources, and acquire property the state's expanding population will need not just in the next ten years, but beyond.

The Progress Report will continue to highlight this wide ranging use of the fund. To order copies of past articles, visit us online at [www.prd.state.or.us/target2014.php](http://www.prd.state.or.us/target2014.php) or call 1-800-551-6949.



## Story

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# Friends Group

updates

## Tryon Creek

The Friends will focus their education programs on regional ecology and history with exhibits, interpretive events and programs that are free and open to the public. They also offer a small but high-quality public library. Other activities include supporting the

conservation and restoration of the natural resources of the park and the Tryon Creek watershed.

## Historic Champoeg

Champoeg's Promise is the big story this season. Through this new program, schoolchildren from grades 2-8 will experience 19<sup>th</sup> century Oregon farmstead life firsthand. Teachers receive material to use before and after their field trip to the park, and these packets reflect current Oregon Department of Education standards for each grade level. Thousands of children have already registered.

## Vista House

The Friends of Vista House have been active this last year even though the Vista House at Crown Point has been closed due to a major restoration. They operated a temporary visitor center mobile home last season, and played a key role in communicating with

visitors at the site about the restoration. They are now gearing up for the grand re-opening this summer.

## Kam Wah Chung

OPRD is happy to welcome its newest Friends group. They are preparing for the busy summer season by opening a temporary visitor center near the Kam Wah Chung museum in John Day. Inside, the Friends will operate a small store, offer information about the area, and support the City of John Day with tours. The group will work with the Oregon State Parks Trust on a strategic plan and fundraising campaign to fund museum restoration.



## Shore Acres

They are very happy to be moved into their newly remodeled information building (*Shore Acres*, p. 14.) Along with their usual outstanding special events, the group will concentrate on wildlife viewing at Simpson Reef and Shell Island and development of a formal English garden.

## Sumpter Dredge

The friends are involved in multiple partnerships with Sumpter Valley Railroad, Cracker Creek Museum of Mining and OPRD. They plan to offer walking tours and tour cards to help interpret the historic site. They are also working on a video about the dredge's history.

## Yaquina Lights, Inc.

The Friends (and the other lighthouse friends groups) will work with the Oregon State Parks Trust office to develop a fundraising campaign for the ongoing restoration and maintenance of all Oregon lighthouses.



## Cape Meares

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With the lighthouse recently reopened after being closed for restoration, the Friends group is planning a ceremony this spring.

## Cape Blanco

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Over the last year, the Friends of Cape Blanco have redesigned their store with a help of a professional consultant. It has helped! Store revenue is up. Projects this year at the historic Hughes House include outdoor trail lights and greeting center; kitchen floor restoration; exterior paint to original colors. Special events include Windfest, Jubilee Parade Entry, Arts and Seafood Festival, Christmas Opening and a Victorian Tea.

## Silver Falls

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The friends are concentrating on recruiting and developing their board, committees and membership. They support several OPRD special events: Mother's Day Wildflower Show, Al Faussett Days, and the Christmas Celebration.

## Point Orford Heritage Society

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This group has identified their interpretive and educational themes for 2004: shipwrecks and rescues, dedication of the coastguardsmen assigned to the station, the role of the station and area in World War II and the architecture and history of the U.S. Coast Guard on the west coast.



## Collier Memorial Logging Museum

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This group is working with the Oregon State Parks Trust on a major fundraising campaign to execute the park's interpretive plan. The plan calls for grouping artifacts in period cells from late 1800s to the 1940s. The group is helping restore the logging museum display, and has planned workdays for volunteers.

## Old Fort Stevens

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The Friends continue to work on the Civil War Earthworks and Rodman Carriages improvement projects, Battery Pratt reconstruction, museum displays, reenactments, truck and jeep tours, and guardhouse operations. Living History has become a focus for 2004; the group hopes to obtain a blacksmith to give demonstrations on the weekends.



## Banks/Vernonia State Trail

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The group, in partnership with the Oregon Equestrian Trails group, recently completed work on a horse crossing at Mendenhall Creek. The crossing was moved downstream to open the previous crossing to family-oriented gatherings, to prevent erosion and to eliminate possible horse pollution in this critical area. They are also continuing their ongoing chip spreading on the trails. Most of all, they are excited about their new next door neighbor: Hares Canyon State Park, currently under development (more about this in upcoming issues of the Progress Report).





of the existing garden house and the original Dutch Colonial Shingle Style, the wood-clad building seems to spring directly from the garden itself. Guided by the vision and support of OPRD Area Manager Andy LaTomme, former OPRD Project Manager Henry Kunowski developed the original design drawings for the new visitor services building, based on the design of the garden house and historic photographs of the former manor house. Saul Zaik of Zaik/Miller Architects of Portland refined the design. OPRD engineer Jean Castillo managed the project with Assistant Area Manager Larry Becker and park staff at Shore Acres. The Friends of Shore Acres spent a considerable amount of time with staff to further refine the design.

You can't go home again. But you can, with dedication, insight (and money), recreate the experience.

That's the philosophy behind the new entryway and retail area at Shore Acres State Park near Coos Bay. A new entryway and building were built in 2003 with \$250,000 from the lottery-backed Parks and Natural Resource Fund and \$64,000-plus from the Friends of Shore Acres. The difference is dramatic.

A pillared entryway replaced squared, rough-hewn timbers. Cream-colored columns hold aloft a central covered pavilion, and open-roofed wings on either side lead into the garden itself.

The new entry building is several times larger than old one. Inspired by both the architecture

It's a big change, especially for people who visit the park regularly for events like the annual Holiday Lights extravaganza every winter. "People have been more awestruck than taken aback at the change," says Becker.

While the facility is larger than its predecessor, the maintenance costs are expected to be about the same, due to careful selection of materials and construction techniques. The retail building's floor is a low-maintenance concrete finished with a colored stain. The pillars are actually cast fiberglass, painted for durability. Low-maintenance landscaping will reduce annual upkeep costs.

And if there's one thing the Shore Acres staff knows how to do, it's take care of the landscape. The park's prime attraction—a formal garden complete with paths, water features, and a pavilion—rests near the site of the former mansion of Louis J. Simpson, a prosperous 19<sup>th</sup> century shipping and timber



*The old entry didn't reflect the park's history.* ▼



◀ *Taking inspiration from the historic garden, a new pillared entry and retail/information building were constructed.* ▼



magnate. Although the mansion burned to the ground in 1921, and the garden now overflows with varieties of blooms Simpson never dreamed of, the original gardener's house still stands and the park still connects visitors with south coast history.

OPRD staff works cooperatively with an active volunteer group, the Friends of Shore Acres, to present the park to visitors. The Friends, formed in 1986, help visitors experience the park's history and appreciate the garden's many features. They offer brochures, slide shows, videos, garden walks, annual flower and plant days, newsletter, and ... you get the picture. The group has long outgrown the small building near the entrance.

The architecture of the old store and entryway reflected popular 1970s aesthetic, making good use of rough, squared timbers and sharp angles. Functional? Yes. But parks like Shore Acres are more than merely functional. The garden is a living remnant of Coos County's past, and while the grandeur of the mansion's heyday may be out of reach, the architecture surrounding this horticultural heaven can help us reconnect with that history.

The new entrance is completed, but Shore Acres will continue to grow in other ways. The Gardener's House is due for restoration and improvements, and the Friends are gearing up to help fund installation of new windows authentic to the building's historical period. Restoring the original gambrel-style roof on the garden house is also planned. No, you can't go home again ... but you can surround yourself with memories of that special place.



*The architecture of the historic mansion lives on in the new retail and information center.*



*The historic 19<sup>th</sup> century Simpson house burned to the ground in 1921.*



The retail and information building at Shore Acres wasn't particularly old, but it was much too small for the growing operation. The new entrance and building were designed to restore the original historic flavor to the park, but what should be done with the old building and entry?

Some timbers from the 30-year old entryway were salvaged and will be used in park construction projects as needed. The retail building was moved in its entirety a couple of miles to Sunset Bay State Park, where it will continue to serve the public, but this time as a center for the Junior Ranger outdoor youth education program.

As luck would have it, recycling is one of the principles Junior Rangers learn, and now they'll be surrounded by it.

More information on the Junior Ranger program is available online at <http://www.jrbeaver.org>, or by calling 1-800-551-6949.

*The park serves more than 250,000 people a year, and also offers trails and a popular cliff-top observation shelter in addition to the garden.*



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