

— February 2018 —

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Welcome our new (but familiar) ASBPA Science Director

By **DEREK BROCKBANK**,
ASBPA Executive Director

ASBPA is pleased to announce that Dr. Nicole Elko is starting as our new Science Director in 2018.

As you may already know, Nicole has been leading ASBPA's Science & Technology work — as chair of the S&T Committee and as VP for Science & Technology — for the past few years and has been a driving force in ASBPA expanding our science advocacy and coordination with federal agencies and the academic community. We are thrilled that she can shift into this new role.

As Science Director, Nicole will be responsible for “staffing” the S&T committee, working with the committee and the board of directors to develop and implement yearly plans. She will also coordinate ASBPA's science work (our conference, *Shore & Beach*, etc.), put on workshops, and represent ASBPA with scientific organizations and at conferences. Finally, since the guaranteed contract is minimal, she will be responsible for securing additional funding to advance ASBPA's scientific goals and objectives.

Elko added: “I'd like to thank

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

the Board of Directors and staff for making this happen and for their belief in ASBPA's mission and potential to expand our advocacy for science-based coastal policy. I'm looking forward to this new endeavor!”

Hiring Nicole was not a given, as we had a number of well-qualified candidates apply and interview. But ultimately Dr. Elko's mix of quali-



ELKO

cations as a Ph.D. geologist, her broad experience and her prospects for bringing in funding made her the right choice.

Nicole will step down as co-chair of the S&T com-

mittee, leaving Dr. Tiffany Roberts Briggs as sole chair, and step down as co-chair of our Technical Advisory Committee, leaving Dr. Julie Rosati as chair. But Elko will maintain her role on the ASBPA Board of Directors. (Our bylaws allow board

■ **Continued on next page**

Save these dates in 2018:

- **March 20-22:** ASBPA's Coastal Summit, ASAE Conference Center, 1575 I Street NW, Washington, DC. Details and registration at asbpa.org
- **Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2018:** ASBPA's National Coastal Conference, Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas

Welcome to the newest member of the ASBPA family

Fiona Kate Brockbank was born on Jan. 13; she weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 19 inches long. ❖



Elko

■ Continued from page 1

members to be contracted by ASBPA up to \$25,000 annually, so our hope is that she will help bring in enough revenue to fund her contract that she will eventually need to step down as board member.)

Nicole can be reached at Nicole.Elko@asbpa.org or (834) 371-7082.

This would not have been possible without generous contributions from many of our members and some of our most distinguished scientists. Thanks to everyone who contributed at the National Coastal Conference, and in particular to the following individuals and companies who generously donated to fund this position:

- Maura Boswell
- Russ Boudreau/Moffatt & Nichol
- Derek Brockbank
- Brian Caufield
- Ralph Clark
- Shannon Cunniff
- Scott Douglass
- Hany Elwaney
- Reinhold Flick

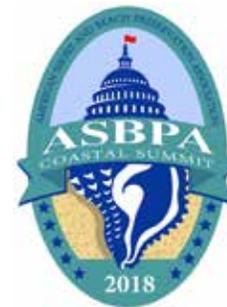
- Bill Dally
- Kim Garvey
- Gooderham & Associates Inc.
- Miles Hayes
- Tom Herrington
- Tim Kana/Coastal Science & Engineering
- Paul D. Komar
- Linda Lillycrop
- Jerry Mohn
- Northeast Shore & Beach Preservation Association
- Britt Raubenheimer
- Tom Richardson
- Julie Rosati
- Greg Rudolph/Carteret County, NC
- Peter Seidle/Applied Technology & Management
- Allen Ten Broek
- Aram Terchunian/First Coastal
- Gordon Thomson
- Reuben Trevino/Galveston Park Board
- Richard Weggel
- Kurt Williams
- Ken Willson/APTIM ❖

2018 Coastal Summit:

Working Together: Science and Policy for Resilient Coasts

By MICHAEL WALTHER,
2018 Coastal Summit co-chair

Differing opinions are broadly reflected in today's media. In our political world, differences exist on almost every issue surrounding the role and reach of government. ASBPA actively seeks to bring the light of science and facts to the federal arena to ultimately benefit ASBPA members and coastal communities. Congress wrestles with these issues; as responsible citizens, we are called to become engaged in the arena.



As the voice of a cause or issue, Washington lobbyists seek to influence political decisions. They achieve success

through their understanding of how the federal government works, as well as the associated rules, regulations, and laws. According to OpenSecrets.org, in 2017, about 11,000 active federal lobbyists spent over \$2.4 billion on lobbying. Our elected officials have many voices seeking their attention. Through the 2018 ASBPA Summit, we have the opportunity to bring the strength of our collective voice to Washington.

To improve understanding of pertinent coastal rules, regulations, and laws, the Summit offers:

■ **Plenary sessions** — featuring speakers from Congress, FEMA, USACE and NMFS, CEQ and BOEM — with discussion of discuss ASBPA's legislative agenda and guidance for effective meetings with your legislator and/or federal agencies.

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ASBPA Coastal Summit 2018

“Working Together: Science & Policy for Resilient Coasts”

Dates: Tuesday, March 20, 8 a.m. – Thursday, March 22, noon

Online registration open at www.asbpa.org

Join us for three days of policy and advocacy

ASAE Conference Center • 1575 I Street NW, Washington, DC

DRAFT PROGRAM

Program as of Jan. 29, 2018 Subject to change

Tuesday, March 20

8:00-11:45 a.m. ASBPA Board of Directors' meeting

10:00 a.m. Registration opens

“ASBPA’s Legacy”

Day Moderator: Joan Pope

1:00 p.m. Welcome

- Joan Pope, Kathleen Riely and Michael Walther, Summit co-chairs
- Derek Brockbank, ASBPA Executive Director, and Kate Gooderham, ASBPA Managing Director

1:15-1:45 p.m. Keynote: “The Corps’ Role in Integrated Coastal Restoration”

- Lt. General Todd T. Semonite, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (invited)

1:45-2:45 p.m. “Agency Response to Executive Order (EO) 13807: Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects”

- Ted Boling, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Associate Director for NEPA (invited)
 - Dale Beter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Interim Regulatory Program Manager, South Atlantic Division/Program Manager, Jacksonville District
-

- Cathy Tortoricci, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Chief ESA Interagency Cooperation Division Office of Protected Resources
- Jennifer Bucatari, Oceanographer, BOEM Office of Environmental Programs
- Moderator: Ken Willson

2:45-3:10 p.m. BOEM presentation on national oil & gas program — panel to be named

3:10-3:35 p.m. Break

3:35-4:35 p.m. “RSM panel on merging science and policy”

- Mindy Simmons, Senior Policy Advisor, USACE Headquarters,
- Elizabeth Godsey, Coastal Engineer, USACE Mobile District
- Steven Goldbeck, Chief Deputy Director, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Moderator: Derek Brockbank

4:35-5:05 p.m. “ASBPA Science and Policy Working Together”

- Nicole Elko, ASBPA Science Director;
- Michael Walther and Kathleen Riely, ASBPA Government Affairs co-chairs

5:05-5:30 p.m. “Making Your Best Case for the Coast: Optimizing Hill and Advocacy Visit Time”

- Michael Rogers, Legislative Assistant, U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

5:30 p.m. National Coastal Conference organizational meeting

- Reuben Trevino, Ashley Judith and Cris Weber, conference co-chairs

5:45 p.m. Awards

6-7:30 p.m. Chill Out Time

Wednesday, March 21

“Emerging Issues”

Day Moderator: Mike Walther

7:45 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:00-9:00 a.m. “Best Restored Beaches: Sharing Best Practices”

2017 BRB award winners panel:

- Dauphin Island, AL – Mayor Jeff Collier
 - Phipps Ocean Park, FL -- Palm Beach, FL, Mayor Gail L. Coniglio
 - Popponesset Spit, MA – Tara Marden, Project Manager, Woods Hole Group
 - Prime Hook Beach, DE – Bart Wilson, Coastal Resilience Coordinator, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
 - Sandbridge Beach, VA – Dan Adams, Coastal Program Manager, Virginia Beach
 - Moderator: Lee Weishar, Best Restored Beaches Chair
-

9:00-9:45 a.m. Keynote: Nick Shufro, Assistant Administrator, Risk Management, Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration, FEMA/DHS

9:45-10:15 a.m. Break

10:15-11:30 a.m. “Storm Surge Panel”

- Chris Penney, FEMA, National Hurricane Program Manager
- Donald E. Cresitello, USACE, Senior Coastal Planner
- Dr. Rick Knabb, The Weather Channel, Hurricane Expert and Tropical Program Manager
- Josh Friedman, Director of GIS, New York City Emergency Management

Wednesday afternoon:

Advocacy visits (advance reservations required) – Times and meeting places to be determined

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 2-4 pm (tentative)
2. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
3. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
4. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
5. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

4:30-5:30 p.m. Hill Briefing with Coastal States Organization

“The 2018 Congressional Agenda, and Getting to Know ASBPA and CSO”

- Staff, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
- Staff, Commerce Committee, U.S. Senate
- Moderators: Bradley Watson, Coastal States Organization, and Derek Brockbank, ASBPA

5:30-7:30 pm Coastal Celebration Reception — Room 902, Hart Senate Office Building
Sponsored by Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.

Thursday, March 22

“What’s Next”

Day Moderator: Kathleen Riely

8:00 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:30-9:10 a.m. “What we heard from the agencies: A recap”

- Michael Walther, ASBPA Govt. Affairs Committee co-chair
- Mark Osler, ASBPA advocacy chair

9:10-9:40 a.m. “What we heard from the Hill: A recap”

- Tony Pratt, ASBPA President
- Derek Brockbank, ASBPA Executive Director

9:40-9:55 a.m. Break

9:55-10:25 a.m. "Local Funding Options"

- Peter Ravella, owner, Peter A. Ravella Consulting

10:25-11:00 a.m. "Planning for Natural Hazards and Climate Change Adaptation"

- Gavin Smith, Coastal Resilience Center, University of North Carolina

11:00-11:35 a.m. "Innovative Financing for Coastal Resilience"

Lynn Scarlett, Global Managing Director for Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy

11:35-11:45 a.m. Next steps and wrap up

- Conference chairs, Derek Brockbank, ASBPA Executive Director

Noon — Adjourn

1-5 p.m. *Short Course: Project management

This course outlines the diverse expertise in a wide variety of areas required to make up an effective project team, and to enable project managers to more efficiently coordinate activities among and between the various specialist elements. This includes facilitating a well-integrated effort that will expedite completion of both large and small projects which often are complicated due to the interdisciplinary composition of the project team, managing the project design, project team and client expectations for an increasing number of projects that have various physical, environmental, and stakeholder constraints. It is one of 10 modules that make up the Certified Coastal Practitioner credential.

ASBPA and Coastal Zone Foundation (CZF) have teamed up together to present a series of short courses as modules for the Certified Coastal Practitioner credential. Professional development certificates will be awarded to those who successfully complete the module.

Registration fees before Feb. 20:

\$395/member ■ \$495/nonmember

	ASBPA member	Non-ASBPA member*	Student member	Student non-member*
Until midnight Feb. 20	\$395	\$495	\$75	\$100
After Feb. 20	\$445	\$545	\$75	\$100
At the door (after March 14)	\$495	\$595	\$85	\$110
Short course	\$75	\$75	\$35	\$35

Deadlines: Cancellation with refund: March 14, 2018 (\$50 cancellation fee)

Sponsorships are available...full details at www.asbpa.org

Send checks or government purchase orders to ASBPA, 5460 Beaujolais Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33919-2704. To be officially registered, payments must be received by March 14, 2018.

* Registration fee includes 2018 ASBPA membership.

VENUE:

J.W. Marriott, Jr.—ASAE Conference Center • 1575 I Street NW, Washington, DC

There is no designated conference hotel.

The conference venue is near to McPherson Square Metro Station (Blue/Orange lines).

**FIND OUT MORE: Send an email to managing@asbpa.org
or call (239) 489-2616 for information**

Thanks to our 2018 Coastal Summit sponsors:

Reception sponsor:



Lanyard sponsor:



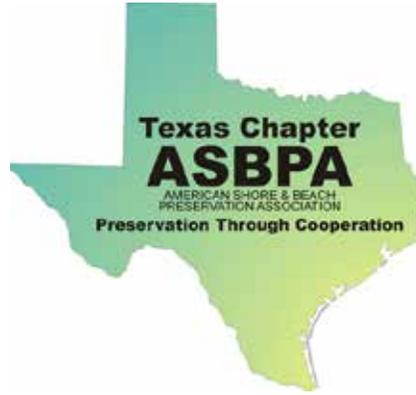
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Mobile sponsor:



Coastal Celebration:



Summit

- Continued from page 5
 - Coastal agency meetings — with NOAA-NMFS, BOEM, USFWS, FEMA and USACE;
 - Advocacy meetings — with members of Congress;
 - Hill briefing — from congressional staff with discussion of key coastal issues;
 - Coastal Celebration reception — to recognize and honor our successful change-makers and projects;
 - Project Management short course — developed by ASBPA and the Coastal Zone Foundation, towards fulfillment of requirements for a Certified Coastal Practitioner;
- Please come to the 2018 Summit to represent our common coastal community interests, help build a government partnership with sound science for good public policy, and benefit your life and coastal community. Register now at <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=2094348> ❖

ASBPA, CSO to collaborate on a Coastal Celebration on Capitol Hill

By DEREK BROCKBANK,
ASBPA Executive Director

At our Coastal Summit, we will once again be co-hosting a “Coastal Celebration on Capitol Hill” with Coastal States Organization (CSO). It will be held March 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the beautiful Room 902 of Hart Senate Office Building overlooking the U.S. Capitol. CSO represents the Governors of the 35 coastal states, territories, and commonwealths on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues. ASBPA and CSO have a joint policy on the “Improved Management of America’s Beaches” and have been coordinating our federal policy efforts with CSO, including drafting joint letters and press statements on the Water Resources Development Act and coastal appropriations.

The Coastal Celebration is an opportunity to recognize and thank Congress and federal agencies for their support of the incredible work

on behalf of our nation’s coasts both now and in the future. This year’s event will be a chance for coastal managers, business owners, conservation groups and other leaders working on coastal resource issues to connect with Congressional members and their staff.

We are thrilled to have Great Lakes Dredge and Dock as our Diamond Sponsor for this event. We are also delighted to be partnering with many other organizations who work on the coast for this celebration.



Thanks in particular to National Wildlife Federation and Restore America’s Estuaries for their generous silver sponsorship, and thanks to Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Defense Fund, National Estuarine

Research Reserve Association and The Nature Conservancy for their sponsorship of this great event!

We’re looking forward this joint event and our continued partnership with CSO and these many coastal partners. ❖



Want some bragging rights?

By LEE WEISHAR, ASBPA
Best Restored Beach Chair

So you think you have the best beach in the United States! You think that your beach is the widest, has the best sand, and provides the absolutely best place to throw down your beach towel and spend a glorious day underneath a picture perfect blue sky. I am also sure that you are convinced that your community does more to maintain your nourished beach than your rivals just down the shore. Well if this is the case you should submit your beach for the ASBPA Best Restored Beach award so that when you win you will have unquestionable bragging rights for years to come.

After winning the Best Restored Beach Award, the benefits continue. For instance, your Convention and Visitors Bureau can use the award to publicize your beach. You can hold press conferences publicizing your award and/or use the award to gain face time with your representatives that have helped support you in obtaining funds to re-nourish your beach. This also gives them good publicity at the beach and also provides you yet another opportunity to show your competitors that you unquestionably have the best beach around. In short, we want to see your beach through your eyes so that we can feel pride that you have in

■ Continued on next page

Digital collection offers 90 years of ASBPA

The digital collection of all the past *Shore & Beach* magazines (including a searchable index) from 1933 to 2016 and conference proceedings from 1927 through 1929 all on a convenient DVD is now available on a flash drive or a DVD. The cost is \$100 for members (or 5 for \$400), \$200 for non-members \$250 for libraries and other institutions. Fill out the order form (online at <http://asbpa.org/wpv2/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/DV-OrderformASBPAfillable.pdf>) and enclose a check or credit card information and send to ASBPA, 5460 Beaujolais Lane, Fort Myers, Florida 33919. If using a credit card, you can email or fax the info. ❖

Shore & Beach
1933-2016

Best

■ Continued from page 8

your beach.

So how do you obtain these bragging rights? Merely go to the ASBPA website (ASBPA.org) and click on the pulldown menu “About Us,” and then click on “Awards.” This will take you to the page with the application for the Best Restored Beach Award. In general, we are looking for the following information from established, as well as new, projects for the 2018 Best Restored Beaches Award:

To meet submission deadlines, all nominations must be sent electronically to Bestrestoredbeach@asbpa.org by April 6, 2018. The nomination text must be in MS Word, WordPerfect, or PDF, and photos must be saved in JPEG or TIF formats. A nomination checklist is available at www.asbpa.org. We encourage all applicants to use this form to make sure their application is complete.

Nomination packages must contain the following:

1. Nominator’s contact information (name, address, phone, fax, email).
2. The name and contact information for the nominee’s public relations specialist who will be coordinating with the media for press releases, etc.
3. The name of the project manager, design engineer, and the dredge contractor who constructed the project.
4. Project description (whether or not it is a federal project, sponsors, designers, engineers, location, length, dates and volumes of nourishment material for each nourishment episode and dates of nourishments, obstacles overcome, success of project).
5. At least one professional quality color photograph of restored beach with release (tourist development councils and local resorts are good sources for photos of this quality).
6. Project locator map.



Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge Barrier Beach, a 2017 Best Restored Beach winner.

7. Before and after restoration photographs.

8. A statement about why you consider this beach a best restored beach in the United States. (It is important to let the Committee know that you love your beach and that the restoration project was a benefit to the Community, storm damage protection, habitat restoration, recreation, or other).

9. If available, please include beach nourishment data for your current project, and historic beach nourishments, to include volume (cubic yards), cost, and length of shoreline restored. Your project will be added to our online geodatabase: <https://gim2.aptim.com/ASBPANationwideRenourishment/>

Winners will be notified in advance. ASBPA will prepare press releases to notify the media of the winner. Winners must agree to provide press releases to their local media and arrange for a representative to be present at the 2019 ASBPA Summit in Washington D.C. to accept the award.

All materials submitted will become property of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association and will not be returned. Upon written request, a nomination from 2017 that was not chosen can be carried over to 2018. ❖

Have you renewed your ASBPA membership yet?

For our individual members, we send the first membership renewal invoice by email. If you didn’t pay that invoice, you will have recently received a mailed invoice. Your membership was due Jan. 1, so we would be grateful if you would renew your membership by online, by mail or by fax as soon as possible. We need each of you! (if you are not going to renew, tell us that as well and we can avoid sending you any further invoices.) ❖

WWW.ASBPA.ORG

We hope you can join us in Washington, DC, this spring for some valuable time with our government officials and agencies. This year’s Summit is later than usual, so make sure to note the date and mark your calendars for March 20-22, 2018! All the essential information is available on our Conferences page. It’s not too late to become a sponsor of the Summit. Consider joining with ASBPA to make this event possible! Many thanks to those companies and groups who have already committed to sponsorships for this year. To sign up, click through the online registration link on the Conferences page.

We’ve had some exciting announcements lately — welcome to Dr. Nicole Elko, our new Science Director! This news and all the latest Beach News and updates on legislative action items are always linked to our home page. Follow us on Twitter and “like” us on Facebook to stay up to date with all of the latest news and happenings. — *Beth Sciaudone, Ph.D., ASBPA Webmaster* ❖

2018 National Coastal Conference call for abstracts open, due May 4

The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), in cooperation with the Coastal Zone Foundation, announces the Call for Abstracts for its 2018 National Coastal Conference, Oct. 30-Nov 2 at the Galveston Island Convention Center on Galveston Island, TX.

ASBPA is the nation's first organization to promote science-based policies for the preservation of coastal areas. The theme of the 2018 conference, "Resilient Shorelines for Rising Tides," continues to broaden our focus across the entire physical coastal and estuarine system. The National Coastal Conference provides an opportunity for coastal stakeholders and managers to develop collaborative networks to promote best management practices, while learning the latest science, engineering and policy needed to maintain and improve the health of our beachfront and estuarine shorelines and ecosystems.

In addition to our usual content of coastal science and engineering, policy and management, restoration and resilience, this year ASBPA's conference has a dedicated call for presentations on the day to day operations of public beaches and coastlines. We invite parks and recreation professionals who manage beaches and coastal areas and are responsible for their general upkeep, profitability, and community engagement to present on their successes and challenges. We hope that the scientific, engineering and restoration community can learn about the challenges of a managing a coastline

after restoration or between nourishments, and coastal managers can learn more about the physical and biological processes that impact their coastline.

Technical, policy-oriented, and "operational" presentations or posters are invited for a broad range of coastal & estuarine ecology, science, engineering, economics, and policy. Specific topics include, but are not limited to:

- Design Concepts and Projects
- Green/Grey Infrastructure and Living Shorelines
- Regional Comprehensive Coastal Studies
- Lessons Learned from tropical storms/hurricanes (Matthew, Harvey, Irma, Maria, etc.)
- Coastal & Estuarine Landscape Architecture
- Coastal & Estuarine Modeling
- Coastal Hazard Mapping & Analysis Tools
- Coastal & Estuarine Resiliency
- Sea Level Guidance, Planning and Adaptive Management
- Beach Restoration and Coastal Structures
- Lagoon, Wetland, Marsh, and Estuary Restoration and Enhancement
- Regional Sediment Management
- Economics of Coastal Resources
- Federal, State, and Local Coastal Policy, Regulatory and Legal Issues
- Sand Source Rights
- Coastal Infrastructure Management
- Coastal Operations topics may include:
 - Community Outreach and Education
 - Day to Day Coastal Operations



Resilient Shorelines for Rising Tides



- Managing the public (e.g. keeping people off dunes, pet issues, hazard warnings)
- Creating and managing revenue streams (e.g. parking, concessionaires, etc.)
- Marketing
- Waste/litter management
- Health and Safety (e.g. lifeguard issues, rip current, ADA accessibility)
- Access issues

Presentations may be PowerPoint or poster format. Abstracts (up to 500 words) are due by May 4, 2018, and can be emailed to abstracts@asbpa.org. Submit abstracts via the online form at www.asbpa.org. Presenters are responsible for all of their expenses including travel, lodging, and registration fees. Notification of presentation status will occur by June 25, 2018. Additional information can be found at www.asbpa.org. ❖

Finding passion for science in the swamp

By **MATTHEW SIRIANNI, Ph.D.**
 Student, Florida Atlantic University
 Department of Geosciences

Coming from a small town in western New York a few hundred miles away from the nearest ocean, it's safe to say that my life has not always revolved around the ocean. One of my earliest experiences of the beach was on a vacation to my grandma's condo in Naples, Florida. I can remember being so excited to swim in the ocean and play on the beach, only to be let down once we got there. We had come during a red tide, so our fun beach vacation had to be relegated to the pool instead.

My appreciation for coastal environments didn't start until I reached middle school. Around this time, my parents bought a house on the South Carolina coast outside of Charleston and we began to spend part of the summer there every year. Here we could bike on the beach, swim in the ocean, kayak in the salt marshes, watch baby sea turtles hatch, and see dolphins strand feeding — all in the same day!

In 2010, I started my undergraduate degree in Environmental Geology at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. While our curriculum didn't include any classes specifically about coastal/marine geology, I was exposed to the basics in my geomorphology and sedimentology classes. Being located in Central Pennsylvania, our department was ideally suited for studying fluvial geomorphology, with the countless rivers, streams, and wetlands that flow through the area.

Because of this, I initially gravitated towards this field and was given the opportunity to participate in many field-based undergraduate research projects. I even had the chance to help design and implement a wetland restoration project for an impaired stream located on Bucknell's campus.



Matthew Sirianni

During my junior year, I was introduced to geophysics by my undergraduate advisor, Dr. Rob Jacob. I immediately fell in love with the subject and decided to pursue it further for my undergraduate thesis. For this project, I employed micro-gravity techniques to map alluvium thickness and bedrock topography along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River near Muncy, Pennsylvania.

Despite having to lug around a 70-pound marine battery all summer to power the gravimeter, I was hooked. While presenting my undergraduate thesis at the 2013 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, I met my current adviser, Dr. Xavier Comas, and decided to apply to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to further my study of geophysics at the graduate level.

I am currently in my fourth year of the Geosciences Ph.D. program at

The Student/New Professional Committee submits a monthly column that either highlights research or experience of ASPBA's students and new professionals. If you are a student or new professional and would like to contribute to the monthly student/new professional column, please contact Corey Aitkin coreyaaitken115@gmail.com. If you are a seasoned professional and would like to connect with any of the monthly writers, please contact Eve Eisemann Eve.R.Eisemann@usace.army.mil.

Students & new professionals

asbpa

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines

FAU. My research is centered around using near-surface geophysical (i.e. ground penetrating radar) and ecological (i.e. gas traps, time-lapse cameras, and eddy covariance) methods to characterize spatial and temporal variability in methane gas-flux dynamics of subtropical wetlands throughout the Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), Florida.

Much of my time is spent doing field-based work, which involves trudging through the swamp with heavy geophysical equipment, getting eaten alive by giant swarms of mosquitos, and attempting to avoid coming too close to an alligator. Despite how awful this might sound, overcoming these hardships is an intensely rewarding experience and has allowed me to develop a strong appreciation for the natural beauty of South Florida's wetlands and the tribulations of swamp life experienced by the early natives and settlers.

This past October I became a new member of ASBPA and attended the National Coastal Conference for the first time ever. Working as a volunteer for this conference, I was exposed to a plethora of examples of how coastal geomorphologic concepts I've learned from Dr. Tiffany Roberts Briggs' classes at FAU are applied to solve real world issues. I feel that the strong presence from academic, government, and industry professionals in ASBPA is a real strength and speaks to the importance that coastal issues play in our modern society.

Being new to the association, I also found the members to be wel-

■ Continued on next page

CHAPTER REPORTS

New Feb. 1 date set for Texas Chapter luncheon

By **JERRY MOHN, Texas Chapter President**

The Texas Chapter of the ASBPA planned a luncheon meeting on Jan. 17, 2018, in Galveston. The Executive Committee was coming to Galveston to plan for the Fall Technical Conference here and to attend the meeting. We had 125 people advise they would attend the meeting and coming from all along the Texas Coast and from the State Capital, Austin. Unfortunately, Mother Nature decided to blanket the entire state and surrounding areas with a hard freeze and sleet.

It's a rarity for the Houston/Galveston area to receive below freezing weather but the uninvited Arctic front blanketing most of the U.S. arrived the beginning of the week. The meeting was on a Wednesday and the Executive Committee planned to come in Tuesday during the day. With the wind and freeze hitting the greater Houston area, all the flights were diverted and the Executive Committee had long waiting times at various airports for a flight to Houston.

As the weather worsened in the area, many flights were then cancelled and most of the Executive Committee were able to return home with one being diverted to Los Angeles! The Texas Chapter decided to cancel the meeting since many members would be driving in on icy roads and we were concerned about their safety.

However, all is not lost, the Texas Chapter Board of Directors agreed to reschedule the meeting date to Feb. 1 here again in Galveston at the same

Storm processes and impacts workshop set for April 16-18

Registration is now open for the U.S. Coastal Research Program's 2018 workshop: Forecasting Storm Processes and Impacts, set for April 16-18 at the Hilton St. Pete Bayfront in St. Petersburg, FL.

The goal of this workshop is to convene coastal stakeholders across all sectors — academics, government, industry, NGOs — to synthesize our present capabilities for modeling storm processes, forecasting impacts, and to

determine/prioritize where advancements are needed. There will be a subsequent call for proposals, funded by the participating federal agencies, for research projects that focus on addressing pertinent questions identified in the meeting. More information and a draft agenda will be posted soon.

Registration and reservation deadline is March 15, 2018; details at <https://uscoastalresearch.org/storms-workshop> ❖

place but unfortunately the Executive Committee will not be able to attend. We really wanted to showcase Texas and Galveston. We are pleased to have the same speakers for the Feb. 1 meeting.

Other meetings we plan will be the fourth Symposium this time in Corpus Christi at the Harte Institute (Texas A&M) the end of April. We also plan another partnering and collaborating meeting with the Galveston District U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, who handle the entire Texas coast, in August. There will most likely be another meeting toward the end of the year either the upper or middle coast of Texas. ❖

California Chapter sets April 17-19 conference

By **KIM GARVEY, CSBPA President**

Save the Date for California Shore & Beach Preservation Association's 2018 Conference, "Coastal Conditions – Strategies for the Present and Future." It will be held at the Bodega Marine Laboratory, Bodega Bay, California, April 17-19, 2018.

Learn from invited speakers, participate in pop-up and poster sessions, and provide input for CSPBA action. Further details and conference website coming in early February. ❖

Student

■ Continued from page 11

coming and supportive, which gave the meeting a community or almost family-like feel. As someone who is interested in learning more about career opportunities in the coastal engineering and coastal research fields, I found this meeting particularly beneficial. Many of the professionals I met were beyond helpful and gracious enough

to share their own experiences and insights into the industry.

My family's tradition of going to South Carolina every year continues to this day, and is one of the only times of the year that my whole family is together under one roof. As a new member of the ASBPA family, I can't wait to be a part of the next "family vacation." ❖

BOEM seeking public comments on offshore drilling

By **DEREK BROCKBANK**,
ASBPA Executive Director

In January, the Trump administration proposed vastly expanding offshore oil and gas production across the entire coastal United States. Despite the opposition to this proposal from most coastal states, Florida has been the only state removed from the plan for expanded drilling.

ASBPA has NOT taken a position on offshore drilling other than to say that revenue from ANY offshore energy leases (drilling or renewable) should include money for coastal restoration. Under this proposal, other than the proposed leases in the Gulf of Mexico, funding would NOT be provided for coastal restoration. ASBPA also does not have a position on



drilling safety regulations, which were significantly weakened at the same time. While these proposals certainly may have implications for shore and beach preservation, our policy focus will continue to be addressing coastal erosion and supporting coastal restoration, and not energy or other development issues.

However, these are issues that all coastal communities should be paying attention to and we encourage you to provide your own comments to BOEM (the agency that manages offshore leasing) and/or attend a public meeting on the topic. Citizens can provide comments by visiting www.regulations.gov or www.boem.gov/comment. The entire list of public meetings is available at boem.gov/National-Program-Participate and the virtual meeting room is available at boem.gov/virtual ❖

Jacksonville District's biological opinion released

By **PETER SEIDLE**, ASBPA
Board Member

In November, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Protected Resources Division (PRD) released the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District's Programmatic Biological Opinion (JAXBO). This consultation document provides determinations, an incidental take statement and conservation recommendations for 10 categories of activities requiring permits throughout the Jacksonville District. The JAXBO provides NMFS PRD Section 7 consultation on the following categories of in-water activities:

- Shoreline Stabilization
- Pile-Supported Structures and Anchored Buoys
- Dredging (limited to maintenance, minor and muck)
- Water-Management Outfalls Structures
- Scientific Survey Devices
- Boat Ramps
- Aquatic Habitat Enhancement, Establishment and Restoration Activities
- Transmission and Utility Lines
- Marine Debris Removal
- Temporary Platforms, Fill and Cofferdams

The JAXBO does have language limiting the cumulative effects to Johnsons seagrasses over a 5-year period. Details of the JAXBO can be found at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/Article/1383940/final-programmatic-biological-opinion-jaxbo/>. This programmatic BO should help alleviate some of the backlog of consultations for the St. Pete's NMFS's Southeast Regional Office. ❖

CONFERENCES

■ **Feb. 7-9:** FSBPA Technical Conference at the Edgewater Beach Resort, in Panama City Beach, FL. Details at FSBPA.com

■ **Feb. 21-22:** Restore America's Estuaries: National Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop, Oakland, CA, Details at estuaries.org.

■ **March 20-22:** ASBPA's Coastal Summit, ASAE Conference Center, 1575 I Street NW, Washington, DC. Details at asbpa.org

■ **April 16-18:** Forecasting Storm Processes and Impacts. Hilton St. Pete Bayfront, St. Petersburg, FL

Details at <https://uscoastalresearch.org/storms-workshop>

■ **April 17-19:** CSBPA Conference, "Coastal Conditions: Strategies for Present and Future. Bodega Marine Laboratory, Bodega Bay." Information at csbpa.org.

■ **July 30-Aug. 3:** International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE 2018), Baltimore, MD. Details at www.icce2018.com/

■ **Oct. 30-Nov. 2:** ASBPA's National Coastal Conference, Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas. ❖