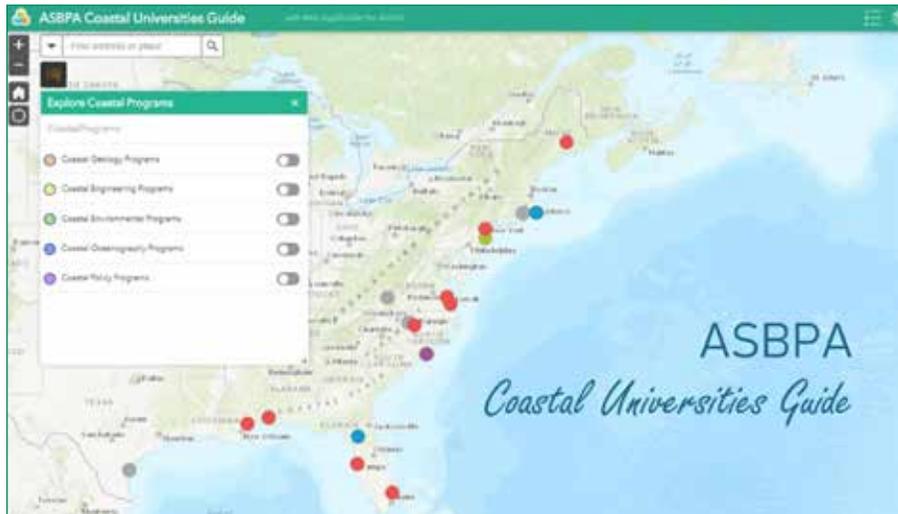


# Coastal Voice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

— December 2019 —



## Save these dates in 2020!

We know that travel approvals take time and that conference registrations needed to be planned in advance. So let us help you plan ahead so you don't miss either of the ASBPA conferences in 2020.

The 2020 ASBPA theme is "2020 Vision for our Coasts." Both the 2020 Coastal Summit and the 2020 National Coastal Conference are using that theme and then adding their own tagline. Please mark your calendars (really, put us in your smart phone calendars right now):

■ **March 24-26:** ASBPA's Coastal Summit: "2020 Vision for Our Coasts: People, Policies and Practices," ASAE Conference Center, Washington, DC. Registration opens in early December.

■ **Oct. 13-16:** ASBPA's National Coastal Conference: "2020 Vision for Our Coasts: Shifting Shores, Surf and Sediment," Westin Long Beach, Long Beach, California. Papers due in early May and with registration opening in mid-May. ❖

## Donate to help us launch coastal guide

By **DEREK BROCKBANK, CCP,**  
ASBPA Executive Director

ASBPA is getting ready to launch an online Coastal Universities Guide for prospective coastal science students. The Guide will be a youthful, flashy, interactive map-based tool for high school or college students looking for an undergraduate or graduate coastal program. Upon visiting the website, a brief "Prezi" — a more engaging, animated PowerPoint — will lead students to an interactive map that allows them to explore university programs based on their coastal discipline (geology, engineering, oceanography, etc.) of interest.

The tool is nearly complete, but we need your help to get it done! Please make a one-time year-end contribution to help us finish, launch and promote this new guide!

The Coastal Universities Guide will be an opportunity to recruit smart minds already interested in science and math to become coastal geologists, engineers and nearshore oceanographers. ASBPA students and new professionals have developed the guide with volunteers, but your donation will allow us to beta test and make the guide live!

Donate at [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=DKZH6MJZ8L5Q8&source=url](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=DKZH6MJZ8L5Q8&source=url) ❖

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Stories from the Coastal Summit:

## Why you can't miss the 2020 Coastal Summit

By **MARGARITA KRUYFF**,  
2020 Coastal Summit co-chair

In a world oversaturated with conferences, it takes a triple-threat — a conference with a cutting-edge program, strategic location and enviable network of participants — to stand out. Enter the annual ASBPA Coastal Summit in Washington, DC.

I attended my first Coastal Summit in 2017 when I was the Environmental Resources Manager for the City



**KRUYFF**

of Miami Beach. The Summit drew my attention because the city's legislative priorities included several requests from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the program included an advocacy visit with higher-level Corps staff. While our federal lobbying team does a great job of communicating our community's needs, I could not pass up the opportunity to share my perspective as a Miami Beach coastal manager and resident in person.

This year (2020) will mark my fourth consecutive year of attending the Coastal Summit. Over the last three years, my reasons for attending have evolved with my role in Miami Beach, as well as our city's priorities. That is the beauty of the Summit: it is dynamic. Regardless of who you are, what your role is in protecting our coasts, or how many times you have attended, the ASBPA Coastal Summit is sure to be the stand-out conference on your calendar year-after-year.

Don't just take my word for it. Here's what other Coastal Summit newbies and regulars have to say:

■ “[The Coastal Summit] gives me a chance to see firsthand how the government works. For instance, in the past we have met with the congressional staff that works on the WRDA



**WEISHAR**

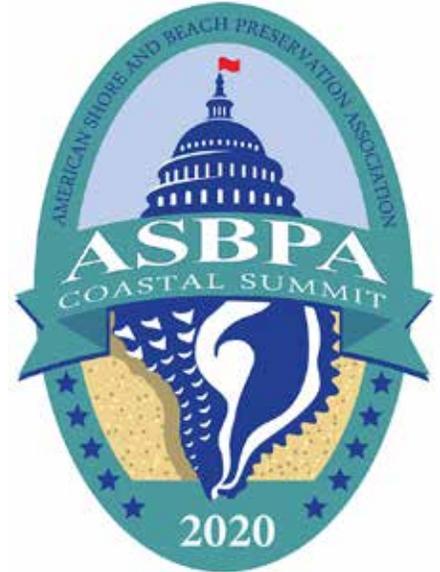
bill. It was an eye opener. Even if you think this congress is dysfunctional there are many dedicated staff members that are working hard to make things happen.” — **Lee Weishar**, Senior Scientist at Woods Hole Group (11 years attending the Summit)



**BOSWELL**

— **Maura Boswell**, Ph.D. student at Old Dominion University (eight years attending the Summit)

■ “Everyone I met was friendly and welcoming, which led to interesting conversations and networking opportunities. I came away from the Coastal Summit with a better understanding of the common issues shared by coastal states and had the chance to hear directly from other local governments about specific coastal issues that exist in their states.” — **Paula Bernston**, Beach Program Assistant at Brevard County (first year attend-



ing the Summit)

■ “I am going to the Coastal Summit to deepen my understanding of federal policies and how they contribute to long-term coastal resilience.” — **Bret M. Webb**, Ph.D., Professor at University of South Alabama (five years attending the Summit)

■ “I go to the Summit for access to and to hear from the policy makers and influences, not just at the Corps but also at NOAA, FEMA and other federal agencies.”

— **Peter Seidle**, Senior Coastal Engineer at Applied Technology & Management (nine years attending the Summit)

■ “One of my favorite presentations was the awards for the best-restored beaches. Listening to the award recipients talk about their teams' hard work and how they connected with the residents of the town, made me excited about my future as a coastal engineer.” — **Brennan Banks**, student at the Florida Institute of Technology (first year attending the Summit) ❖



**SEIDLE**

Submit your Member of Congress:

## Coastal Summit 2020 awards open

Nominations are now open for the ASBPA Congressional awards, Congressional Staffer award, Federal Agency award, Corps award, and Friend of the Coast Media award to be presented during the Coastal Summit in Washington, DC, on March 24-26. The submittal deadline is Jan. 24, 2020.

- Congressional awards include “Coastal Advocate” — ASBPA’s highest award, a lifetime achievement award — and “Friend of the Coast,” for shorter term or more project-specific contributions. Any ASBPA member may nominate one or more Members of Congress for the awards.

- The Congressional Staffer award will be given to a single staff member for his or her efforts both to promote beach preservation and to facilitate project requests in the past legislative session.

- The Federal Agency award will be given to a single staff member for his or her efforts to promote beach preservation.

- The Corps award honors a member of the Corps of Engineers who contributed to the cause of beach management and preservation. For the most part, these are people from the districts who make projects happen.

- And the Friend of the Coast Media award will be given to a media outlet for exceptional coverage of coastal news.

Nominations are due at the ASBPA offices no later than Jan. 24, 2020, and may be submitted using the online form at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). The nominator will need to be in attendance to receive the award. For questions, e-mail us at [managing@asbpa.org](mailto:managing@asbpa.org). ❖



**Robert L. Wiegel Coastal Project Award:**

## City of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

By **TIM KANA, Ph.D., Coastal Science & Engineering Inc.**

The Robert L. Wiegel Coastal Project Award is presented in recognition to a coastal project that has stood the test of time and has shown a positive environmental, social, or recreational benefit. It is the “lifetime achievement award” for coastal projects.

The City of Myrtle Beach is “Reach 2” of a 50-year federal beach nourishment project which was first constructed in 1997. The city is one of four communities along the South Carolina Grand Strand that is part of the federal program, but its beach restoration efforts date back to the 1980s when it initiated planning and interim beach restoration efforts and pioneered many Coastal Zone Management (CZM) methods in South Carolina.

The city has demonstrated a sustained commitment to “soft engineering” beach nourishment (actively opposing a proliferation of seawalls in the early 1980s) and this 35-plus-year effort has paid off with a much health-

ier beach able to accommodate millions of tourists each year and sustain less damage during hurricanes. What was mostly a nine-mile-long armored shoreline in the 1980s is now a continuous strand beach with negligible evidence of exposed seawalls.

Among the firsts for South Carolina by the City of Myrtle Beach were:

- Banned new seawalls in the early 1980s through local building permits before the state’s Beach Management Act (1988) was passed

- Applied a three-phase approach to beach improvement: Phase 1 — sand scraping; Phase 2 — locally funded profile nourishment; and Phase 3 — federally funded large-scale nourishment with protective dune. This three-phase approach is utilized by many South Carolina communities today.

- Was the prototype for a state-sponsored Shorefront Management Plan (SMP 1984), which established methodology for objective determination of a shoreline (ideal dune crest) in the absence of erosion control struc-

■ **Continued on next page**

## WASHINGTON REPORT

### Hill updates

By **DEREK Brockbank**,  
ASBPA Executive Director

**Water Resources Development Act (WRDA):** On Nov. 19, the Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee held a hearing on WRDA with testimony from stakeholder organizations. A common theme amongst the groups testifying was the need to support natural infrastructure, which provides flood risk reduction benefits, with



**BROCKBANK**

many ancillary ecological benefits. National Wildlife Federation suggest that natural infrastructure should be the default flood risk reduction project, and hardened (or “grey”) infrastructure should be authorized once

it was determined that more natural alternatives couldn’t work or would be cost prohibitive.

Committee members who attended seemed very interested in the idea that reforming the Corps’ Benefit-Cost-Ratio (BCR) process would support natural infrastructure since it included the full range of benefits. At least six members brought this up or asked questions about it. This builds directly upon the suggestion ASBPA made at the T&I hearing in which we testified in July.

**Appropriations:** Congress has again punted on passing a FY2020 budget, voting to extend the Continuing Resolution (CR) from November 22 to December 20. While this (temporarily) avoids a government shutdown, short-term CRs do not allow agencies

### Project.....

■ Continued from page 3

tures — a methodology which became codified several years later in the state Beach Management Act of 1988.

- Conducted the first surveys of offshore deposits for beach nourishment.
- Employed large-scale truck-haul nourishment in South Carolina (~1 million cubic yards), making it the second largest in the United States at the time.
- Funded a large-scale nourishment entirely with local accommodations taxes — first of its kind in the state.
- Initiated a detailed beach survey program in South Carolina, which became a template for statewide monitoring.

In short, Myrtle Beach city leaders in the 1980s were in the forefront of progressive CZM efforts and they set the city on a path of sustained beach improvement which continues to this day in partnership with the USACE. By any objective measure, Myrtle Beach is in much better condition today than in 1980.

to spend money beyond the timeframe of the CR. So all projects and plans can only allocate one month’s worth of funding. This makes contracting projects challenging and putting out grant proposal virtually impossible. Fortunately, the chairs of the Energy and Water appropriations sub-committees in both the House and Senate have expressed optimism that they can get a bill worked out by late December, even if the rest of the federal government again lurches toward a government show down.

**New legislation:** Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA20) introduced legislation in November, called the “Coastal Resilience Research and Education Act”, which would bolster collaboration between coastal campuses and federal agencies and designating colleges and



The frequency of renourishment has been approximately one event every 10 years. Costs of the beach improvements averaged ~\$50/foot/year and continue to be well under 0.5% of oceanfront property values per year.

A comprehensive history of Myrtle Beach’s development and beach restoration and management was recently published in the Fall 2019 issue of *Shore & Beach*. ❖

universities as National Centers of Excellence in Coastal Resilience Research and Education. ASBPA will be looking into this promising legislation, and other efforts to advance policies intended to further coastal resilience education in higher education.

**GOMESA:** On Nov. 19 the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate approved the “COASTAL Act” (S.2418), which would increase the percent of offshore energy revenue from the Gulf of Mexico going back to the Gulf states for coastal resilience. It also increased the cap on how much total funding could go to the Gulf state. The bill still needs to pass the full Senate, and an equivalent bill need to be brought up in the House. (See article on pg. 11 for more info on GOMESA) ❖

Best Restored Shorelines:

## The Mispillion River Living Shoreline Project

By JOSHUA MOODY, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Since 2008, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) has been working to develop and test new living shoreline approaches for stemming marsh erosion and enhancing ecological benefits such as those related to water quality improvement. Building on this work, in 2013 PDE began collaborating with Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to install an innovative type of hybrid living shoreline at the mouth of the Mispillion River near Milford, DE, that would provide energetic refuge through the use of offshore structural materials to expand an existing oyster reef and along-shore bio-based materials (i.e. coir fiber logs and oyster shell bags) that would be used to expand salt marsh and ribbed mussel habitat. In addition to testing this new approach, this project also addressed an additional goal to install more demonstration projects, providing numerous new opportunities for education and outreach.

PDE worked closely with the DuPont Nature Center (DNC) at Mispillion Harbor Reserve, on whose property the living shoreline was to be located. The DNC is a science-based educational and interpretive facility designed to connect visitors with the local flora, fauna, and ecosystems of the Delaware Bay. The center is housed in a former Coast Guard station at the mouth of the Mispillion River, where it converges with Cedar Creek and the Delaware Bay. This area is the predominant stopover site in Delaware for Red Knots (*Calidris canutus*) during their



### About the project:

Project planning, design, permitting, management, and construction were all implemented by Joshua Moody, Ph.D., Danielle Kreeger, Ph.D., and other staff of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, along with support partners at the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

spring migration to the Arctic. Along bayfront sandy beaches, the birds feast on nutrient-rich Atlantic horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) eggs, which provide nourishment to complete their journey.

The site is also home to one of Delaware's only intertidal oyster reefs, approximately 30m in length, positioned between mean low water and the existing salt marsh fringe. The Nature Center was interested in expanding the oyster population along the lower intertidal area to

enhance shoreline protection of the adjacent salt marsh and to provide water quality uplift provided through shellfish population expansion and retention. Target shellfish for the living shoreline included the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) and the ribbed mussel (*Geukensia demissa*).

The hybrid living shoreline design consisted of both a series of oyster castle breakwaters in the low intertidal zone and a bio-based design consisting of coir fiber logs and oyster shell bag erosion control structures along the eroding marsh in the mid intertidal zone adjacent to the DuPont Nature Center. The primary goal of the installations was to provide water quality uplift via an increase in shellfish filtration capacity as a result of an enhanced shellfish biomass on the living shoreline materials. The secondary goal was to provide ecological enhancement along the existing salt marsh edge by stemming the current erosion and creating suitable habitat

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## Mispillion.....

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for the indigenous vegetation and the salt marsh bivalve community.

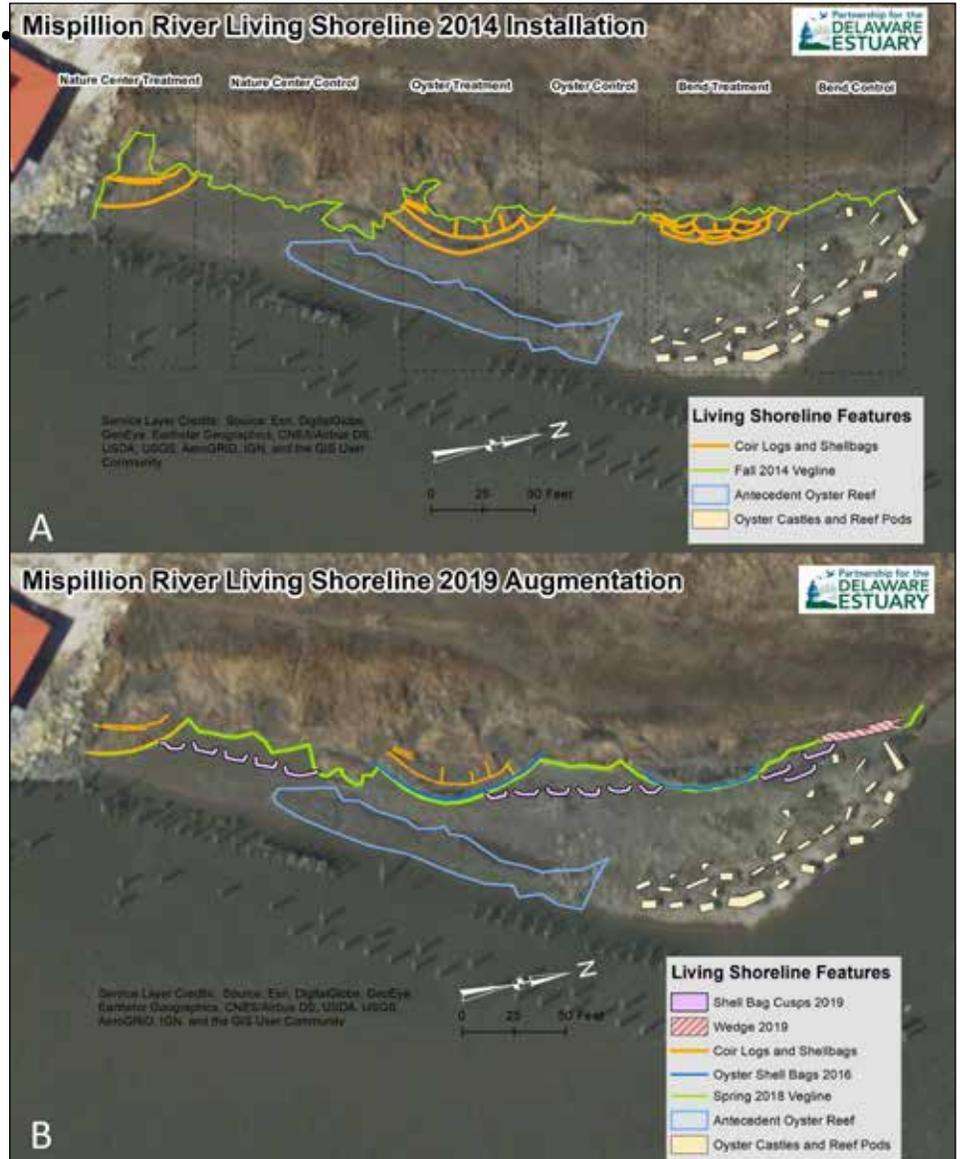
To meet these goals, while also providing an opportunity for research and development studies, the installation was installed as a series of three bio-based treatments along the marsh edge with differing lower intertidal components. Each treatment was paired with an adjacent, un-touched, control which was monitored alongside the treatments from 2014-2018.

Two of the three treatments aimed to capitalize on and expand the carrying capacity of existing populations of indigenous shellfish: ribbed mussels and oysters; and the third was primarily ecological enhancement. Based on site characterization data (elevation, current vegetation community, etc.) and best scientific judgment, a bio-based living shoreline design was selected as the most appropriate alternative to stabilize, and increase, ribbed mussel habitat along the naturally existing marsh edge. The presence of an intertidal oyster reef in one section of the shoreline provided an opportunity to test whether the reef footprint could be increased by installing oyster recruitment substrates. If successful, the expanded reef would also serve as wave attenuating breakwaters.

The three treatments consisted of:

- 1) An intertidal bio-based cell nearest the Nature Center ("Nature Center," 67 feet in length),
- 2) An intertidal bio-based cell situated landward of a protective extant oyster reef ("Oyster," 90 feet in length), and
- 3) An intertidal bio-based cell with a new, waterward, oyster breakwater at the river bend ("Bend," 87 feet in length). The oyster breakwaters were built using two types of substrate: bagged oyster shell and commercially obtained oyster castles.

In 2014, in the lower intertidal area of the "Bend," 21 Oyster Castle



Above: Overview of treatment and control locations. A) Original treatment installations were conducted between 2014 and 2018. B) Original control areas were treated during a 2019 augmentation with shell bags forming cusps and a wedge to the north. Basemap shows 2017 aerial imagery. Left: Location of the living shoreline project north of DuPont Nature Center along the Mispillion River.

structures were constructed in two offset parallel lines, so that the gap between structures along the waterward line was obstructed by structures along the landward line. Coir logs lined with shell bags were installed as the primary structural components of all three

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## Mispollion.....

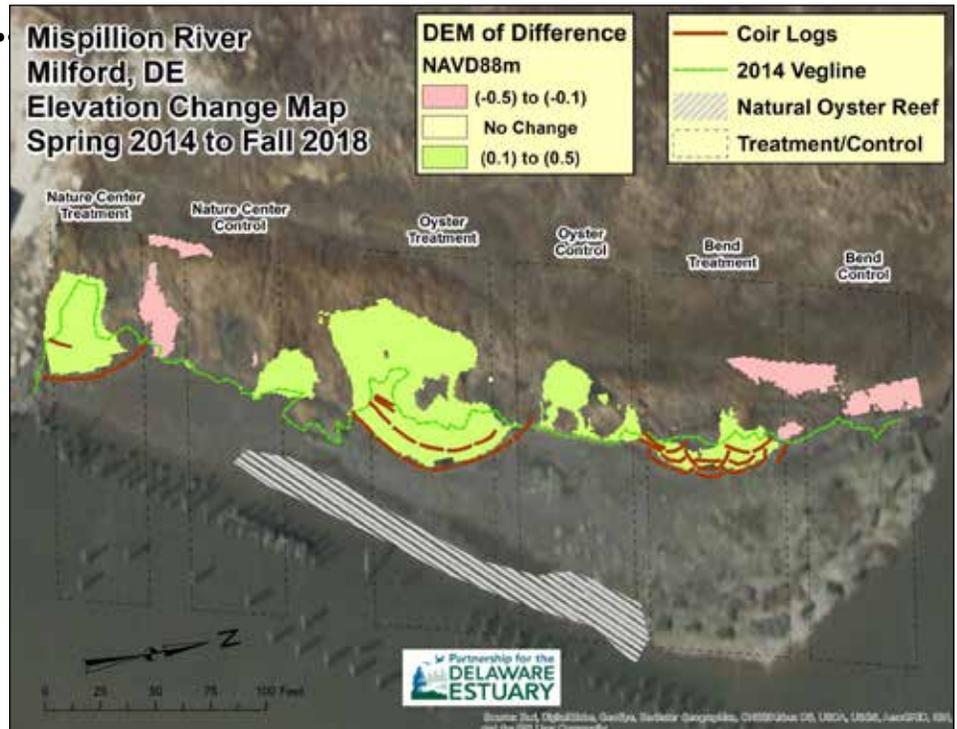
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treatment areas. Natural sedimentation was minimal in the living shoreline's first year, and in 2015 a series of internal Oyster Castle© partitions, oriented perpendicular to the coir logs and natural marsh edge, were installed within the Oyster and Bend treatments to facilitate sediment trapping.

Although vegetation naturally migrated into the Nature Center and along the landward margin of the Oyster treatments within the first year, salvaged and purchased *Spartina alterniflora* plugs were planted on the "Oyster" and "Bend" treatments in 2015 and 2017 to facilitate growth along their waterward margins. A "clumping" approach to planting was used to facilitate growth in the anoxic sediment as described in Silliman *et al.* (2015) and Bertness and Calloway (1994).

Structurally, the coir logs were unable to persist under the high energy regime at the Oyster and Bend treatments. High-energy events (e.g. nor'easters) resulted in coir log damage, and in some cases, removal. Due to the uncertainty regarding coir log persistence across a range of energetic conditions at this site, all coir logs at the Oyster and Bend were replaced in 2015 with 180 and 174 shell bags, respectively. By 2015 at the Nature Center site, due to relatively greater sedimentation within the treatment area, all coir logs were completely covered (i.e. protected) by sediment. As such, no damage was incurred at the site, and there was no need for material replacement. Shell bag cusps were constructed by creating pyramidal stack of oyster shell bags, consisting of a base level of two bags side-by-side, and single row on top. Sediment capture was complete by the end of 2016, and by 2017 vegetation had established itself across the majority of each treatment.

In 2019, due to the success of the



Digital elevation model (DEM) of difference calculating changes in elevation and depicted as sediment gains and losses across the living shoreline study area between 2014 and 2018.



living shoreline treatments, an additional 700 shell bags were placed in cusps along the previous control areas, creating a total of 400 feet of contiguous living shoreline. This included a shell bag "wedge" at the most northerly end of the shoreline, where significant erosion was observed at the Bend control area.

A goal-based monitoring plan was developed to evaluate the ability of each living shoreline treatment to meet its objectives and to persist at the site. The primary aspects of monitoring were a grid-based elevation model and shellfish monitoring. Grid surveys across the entire site using RTK were

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## Mispillion.....

■ Continued from page 7

used to calculate sedimentation and overall changes in marsh area. A subset of fixed monitoring plots tracked annual changes in vegetation density and composition. Since water quality uplift as a result of increases in shellfish biomass was the primary goal of the living shoreline, all oysters were counted on each constructed breakwater, in the intertidal expanse, and on the materials along the marsh edge between 2014 and 2016. No monitoring was conducted in 2017 due to a lapse in funding, and in 2018, due to the large numbers of shellfish present on the structures, a subsampling method was developed to track the expanding community.



Since bio-based materials were added in 2016, the ribbed mussel community in

the higher intertidal area was tracked between 2016 and 2018. Subsampling consisted of three randomly placed 0.25m<sup>2</sup> quadrats on each tier of each breakwater, along the top and face of the bio-based shell bag treatments along the marsh edge, and at 27 randomly selected points across the intertidal expanse. Within each quadrat, all shellfish were counted and a subset of 10 were measured. Shellfish size demographics were converted into biomass estimates using previously established shell length to dry tissue weight allometric ratios. Biomass estimates for the measured portion of shellfish were applied to the entire population, assuming the same distribution as the measured subset.

PDE worked closely with the DuPont Nature Center to engage the public in all aspects of the living shoreline project. PDE gave several educational seminars on the project at the center and many volunteers from the Nature



Center (and elsewhere) were involved with the building of the shoreline and subsequent augmentation. In 2019, PDE and the DuPont Nature Center worked closely to create an interactive exhibit at the center revolving around living shorelines. The exhibit features a 3D model of the evolution of a living shoreline being installed and includes information on eight different “characters”, including a fiddler crab, oyster, ribbed mussel, coir log, and oyster castle. These characters include both materials that are incorporated into the design of a living shoreline, as well as animals and plants that use the living shoreline as habitat. Overall, the display highlights the natural components of the living shoreline and the benefits that they provide, including water quality improvement and habitat creation.

Funding for the project was provided through a State of Delaware Community Water Quality Improvement Grant (CWQIG) when the living shoreline was initially installed in April 2014. This grant allowed for monitoring between 2014 and 2016. A



second CWQIG was awarded by the State of Delaware in 2018 to continue monitoring and adaptive management activities as well as the installation of additional shell bags at the previous “control” cells.

The Mispillion living shoreline effort has, and continues to provide, valuable information on the effectiveness of living shorelines to not only meet goals related to shoreline stabilization, but also goals associated with water quality uplift. Data has shown that the timeframes for achieving these goals differ. Whereas shoreline stabilization can occur immediately after material installation, assuming materi-

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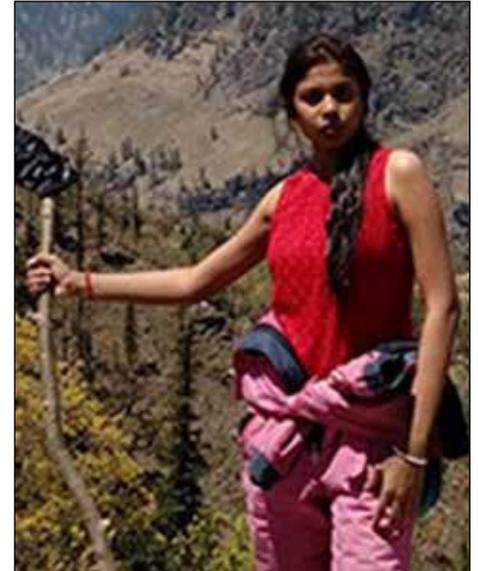
## Welcome our 2020 interns

This year ASBPA has two student interns: Nick Brown for Government Affairs Committee and Jyothirmayi Palaparathi for Science & Technology Committee.

Nick Brown is a Ph.D. student at Florida Atlantic University working under Dr. Tiffany Roberts Briggs studying the role of geomorphology, sediment, and nearshore geology on ecosystem health for certain marine species. Nick has a B.S. in Geology from Grand Valley State University where his research focused on sedimentology and geobiochemistry. He has prior experience in coastal surveying, mapping, and ecological surveys of both aquatic and terrestrial species.

As intern, he will work on projects to advance regional sediment management concepts into U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regional coastal resilience studies, including the South Atlantic Coastal Study and the Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Study. He will also participate on Government Affairs calls, and work with the committee to track congressional issues and outreach.

The ASBPA Science & Technology intern for 2020, Jyothirmayi Palaparathi, is a first year Ph.D. student



ASBPA interns Nick Brown (left) and Jyothirmayi Palaparathi (above).

at Florida Atlantic University working with Dr. Tiffany Roberts Briggs. Her research includes evaluating the role of post-nourishment sediment properties on temperature and morphology change and the potential influences on sea turtle nesting habitat. Her past education comprises of a M.S. in Geosciences at FAU, 2019 (Thesis: "Evaluation of local offshore sediments for coastal restoration projects in Palm Beach County, FL, USA") and five years Integrated M. Sc. Tech. in Applied Geology, IIT(ISM), India, 2015. She was awarded ASBPA Nicholas Kraus Coastal Scholar Award (2019), ASBPA

Educational Award (2018), INSPIRE Fellowship from Department of Science and Technology (DST), India (2010-2015) and, Smt. Renuka Rajhans Memorial Gold Medal, Indian School of Mines (2014-2015 batch).

Jyothi will work on projects to advance the state of science and address challenges facing our coasts, such as sediment suitability requirements for beach placement and quantifying trends in beach nourishment events. She will also participate on Science and Technology calls, work with the committee to develop white papers, and participate in other outreach. ❖

## CONFERENCES

■ **Feb. 5-7, 2020: FSBPA National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology**, Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Sarasota, FL. Details at fsbpa.com.

■ **March 24-26, 2020: ASBPA Coastal Summit**, ASAE Conference Center, Washington, DC. Details to come; see elsewhere in this newsletter for information on focus and awards.

■ **Oct. 13-16, 2020: ASBPA National Coastal Conference**, Long Beach Westin, Long Beach, CA. Details to come. ❖

## Mispillion.....

■ Continued from page 8

al persistence, goals related to population demographics and ecology take more time to develop. These data have helped to gauge temporal expectations surrounding living shoreline development, and have highlighted the need for robust monitoring efforts.

Additionally, due to the success of the original effort, a secondary effort to expand the living shoreline began in 2018 (end date December 2019), and

there are current efforts under way for a tertiary funding award to continue monitoring into 2022. To date, this living shoreline has a robust five-year dataset regarding shellfish densities and demographics, vegetation robustness, elevation of the intertidal expanse and marsh platform, contiguous vegetated edge, and vegetation community composition; and it continues to be a learning tool for practitioners, regulatory agents, and the public alike. ❖

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

### Changes coming for Coastal Barrier Resources Act

By **DEREK BROCKBANK, CCP,**  
ASBPA Executive Director

On Nov. 4, Department of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt sent a letter to Representatives Graves (R-LA), Rouzer (R-NC) and Van Drew (D-NJ), letting them know that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service would be reconsidering the implementation of a section of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act that made it more difficult for communities to restore their beach and increase their resilience. Here is ASBPA's statement:

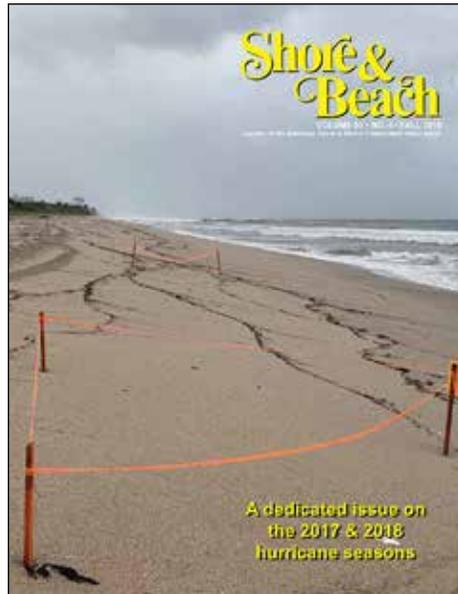


**BROCKBANK**

ASBPA is pleased to see the Department of Interior will be reconsidering a section Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) that has made it more expensive for many coastal communities to

improve their resilience. Allowing communities with federally authorized coastal shore protection projects, including federal beach restoration and ecological restoration, to access sand from inlets and near-shore sediment deposits, will save the federal taxpayer money, help reduce flood risk, and restore habitat – the three primary purposes of CBRA.

A 1994 Fish & Wildlife Service interpretation of Section 3505(a)(6)(g) of CBRA had said that coastal shore protection projects outside of CBRA-units could not use federal funds to access sediment from CBRA protected



### Coming soon in *Shore & Beach*

The next issue of *Shore & Beach* is a dedicated issue on the 2017 and 2018 hurricane seasons, edited by Tiffany Roberts Briggs, Ph.D., and Lindino Benedet, Ph.D. The articles and authors are:

- “Post-Hurricane Michael damage assessment using ADCIRC storm surge hindcast, image classification, and LiDAR,” by Joshua Davis, Diana Mitsova, Tynon C. Briggs and Tiffany Roberts Briggs

- “Geomorphic changes mea-

sured on Dauphin Island, AL, during Hurricane Nate” by Jeffrey S. Coogan, Bret M. Webb, Stephanie M. Smallegan and Jack A. Puleo

- “In situ hydrodynamic and morphodynamic measurements during extreme storm events” by Stanford J. Borrell and Jack A. Puleo
- “JALBTCX/NCMP emergency-response airborne Lidar coastal mapping & quick response data products for 2016/2017/2018 hurricane impact assessments” by Eve Eisemann, Lauren Dunkin, Michael Hartman and Jennifer Wozencraft
- “Application of Storm Erosion Index (SEI) to parameterize spatial storm intensity and impacts from Hurricane Michael” by Matthew S. Janssen, Laura Lemke and Jon K. Miller
- “Scaling protection and restoration of natural infrastructure to reduce flood impacts and enhance resilience” by Shannon E. Cunniff

The issue should be delivered to ASBPA members before the end of this month.

We also want to remind members that they (or their businesses) can advertise in *Shore & Beach*! The journal welcomes new advertisers for 2020. They range from a business-card sized ad for \$200 for four issues to \$1,800 for a full-page ad (\$500 per individual issue). Go to [http://asbpa.org/wpv2/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/0316\\_SBad-rates.pdf](http://asbpa.org/wpv2/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/0316_SBad-rates.pdf) for more information. ❖

areas. This meant federal projects adjacent to inlets in CBRA-units cost federal taxpayers more because these projects have to get sand from far offshore. Given the increased cost to local community and the federal taxpayer, these projects could also be left unbuilt, which would put the community at increased risk of flood and coastal storm damage, while also reducing beach and dune habitat available to nesting shorebirds, sea turtles and other wildlife.

This guidance expanded the

scope of CBRA beyond the intent of Congress – limiting development within CBRA-units – to apply it to previously developed coastlines outside of the Coastal Barrier Resources System. Furthermore, this interpretation was based on the understanding of dredging and beach nourishment impacts to wildlife from the 1980s that has since evolved to show increasing importance and ecological productivity of restored beach habitat, and today's dredging and beach restoration efforts include

■ **Continued on next page**

## Thank you, thank you, thank you!

By KATE GOODERHAM,  
ASBPA Managing Director

You are seeing this just a few days after Thanksgiving... so hopefully all of us are still feeling thankful. We here at ASBPA are thankful for you.



GOODERHAM

From its beginning in 1926, ASBPA has been an organization run by volunteers. As we get larger, we have more staff to do some of the heavy lifting. But ASBPA cannot succeed without the time, talent and treasury of

our members.

### Thank you for your time.

Each month we have myriad committee meetings by phone. Some weeks nearly every day includes a committee call. Then there is the time it takes to work on a white paper, find speakers and sponsors for a conference or

## MANAGING REPORT

prepare for a call.

### Thank you for your talent.

The input from our members all over the U.S. (and internationally) is critical. The talent it takes to write *Shore & Beach* articles, provide input during calls and all the other knowledge you share with ASBPA is critical to the association's growth and success.

### Thank you for your treasury.

You are a great member. Thank you for paying your dues before Dec. 31 when all memberships expire (except those from the 2019 National Coastal Conference). We also want to thank you in advance for your contribution to the Coastal Universities Guide (see page 1). You are not only helping a great idea come to fruition, but you are supporting our Students and New Professionals in their first major project.

Our January "Coastal Voice" is our annual report. You will get to see what amazing things ASBPA has accomplished in 2019... but we couldn't do any of it without you. ❖

## CBRA.....

■ Continued from page 10

numerous science-based conservation measures and best management practices that provide ecological benefits. In short, the implementation guidance was flawed from the beginning, but has only proven to be more problematic in recent years.

To be clear, changes to this guidance will not impact any environmental regulation or allow for dredging activity in any location where it not currently allowed. All environmental laws, protections and procedures must still be followed and areas that were off-limits to dredging will still be off-limits. This includes restrictions on beach sand-mining, dredging and restoration in endangered species critical habitat, essential fish habitat and more. Changes to this guidance simply allow federal funds to be used in the most efficient way possible to help communities that have demonstrated there is federal interest in reducing flood risk and restoring coastline.

Section 3505(a)(6)(g) of CBRA allows for federal expenditures for "nonstructural projects for shoreline stabilization that are designed to mimic, enhance, or restore a natural stabilization system."

ASBPA looks forward to an interpretation of this section that allows for resilient natural infrastructure, such as beaches and dunes, to be eligible for federal expenditures under CBRA, while adhering more closely to the congressional intent of reducing development within CBRA units, but not impacting previously developed areas. Allowing for sand from CBRA-units to be used for non-structural flood risk reduction project in previously developed areas is entirely consistent with the three purposes of CBRA: reducing risk and loss of life, improving or protecting wildlife habitat, and saving the federal taxpayer money. ❖

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### Central Gulf Coast Chapter

By JACK KOBAN,  
CGC Chapter Board Member

The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA), passed in 2006 directs a percentage of Gulf of Mexico oil and gas royalties back to energy producing states along the Gulf Coast to be used in coastal restoration, and flood and hurricane defense projects. The funds provided by GOMESA are of vital importance to coastal sustainability of the Gulf states – particularly Louisiana, where coastal land loss due to subsidence, erosion,

and sea level rise threaten the very existence of some communities and jeopardize infrastructure critical to the national economy.

In August 2019, the formation of the GOMESA Revenue Sharing Coalition (GRSC) was formally announced at the monthly board meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) with the stated purpose of seeking protection and an increased share of GOMESA funding for coastal restoration and flood protection projects along the U.S. Gulf Coast. The GRSC is comprised of approximately 60 representatives from the four energy-producing, Gulf states

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## Chapters.....

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of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas ranging from professionals engaged in coastal restoration projects, local and state government officials, and members of various coastal agencies and advocacy groups. Lauren Averill, Director of Coastal Management for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, and Jack Koban, an engineer and geologist with Fugro, both serve on the board of directors for the ASBPA's Central Gulf Coast Chapter and accompanied the GRSC on a congressional fly-in held on Oct. 23 in Washington, DC.

The GRSC collectively met with nearly 50 members of the House, Senate and other agencies, to discuss pending bills that could potentially divert GOMESA funding away from coastal restoration as well as bills currently under development that aim to preserve GOMESA and increase the percentage of royalties' disbursements from the current rate of 37.5% to 50% as is granted to inland energy-producing states through the Mineral Lands Leasing Act (MLLA). As stated by the GRSC: "We are not looking to take funding from other programs, but rather to increase the parity between GOMESA and MLLA. We see the disparity between the funding derived from energy production inland, and in the Gulf of Mexico to be unfair, and a hindrance to efforts to restore and preserve the environment and infrastructure of the Gulf Coast."

According to data compiled by the GRSC, the gulf coast is home to 10 of the top 20 U.S. ports in terms of tonnage, and the vast majority of wetlands in the continental U.S. with Louisiana alone accounting for roughly 40%. Most strikingly however is that the land loss in Louisiana accounts for approximately 80% of the nation's overall wetlands loss. "The economic



GRSC meeting with Texas delegates (from left): Kelly Rabalais of St. Tammany Parish, Kaitlin Schmidtke of Consumer Energy Alliance, Kaitlyn Murphy of Greater Houston Partnership, Jack Koban of Fugro, John Sullivan of Callan Marine, Senior Legislative Assistant Tom Harvey and Congressman Randy Weber.

and environmental significance of the gulf coast simply cannot be overstated," said Koban, "and frankly we can't hope to preserve and protect our coast without maintaining and increasing the funding that GOMESA provides."

The overall goals of GRSC are in line with ASBPA's position on GOMESA as a funding stream for coastal resiliency and preservation projects which was published in the May 2019 issue of *Coastal Voice*.

## Texas ASBPA Chapter

By **JERRY MOHN**,  
Chapter President

**T**he next Texas ASBPA Chapter meeting will be on Friday, **Jan. 17, 2020**, in Rockport, Texas,

at the newly renovated Pavilions at <http://www.rockportbeach-texas.com> (see also the Facebook page Pavilions at Rockport Beach). The address is 210 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, TX 78382. We will have a luncheon meeting and the event will be from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., including presentations.

This will be our annual meeting with election of Board Members and Officers. More details will follow but please mark your calendar to come to the meeting and spend the weekend in beautiful Rockport. Information on the City of Rockport can be found at the following websites: <https://www.cityofrockport.com/> and <https://www.rockport-fulton.org/>

So mark your calendar for Jan. 17, 2020, for the next Texas Chapter of the ASBPA meeting. ❖

## WWW.ASBPA.ORG

**W**e hope you can join us in D.C. this spring for some valuable time with our government officials and agencies. Please mark your calendars for March 24-26, 2020! Nominations for the Summit awards are also now being accepted via the website. We've also been working to update our new board members and officers – please click the About Us link to get an update on the ASBPA's leadership team.

As always, all the latest Beach News and updates on legislative action items are 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. And please have a wonderful holiday season. — **Beth Sciaudone, Ph.D., webmaster** ❖