

# Coastal Voice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

— June/July 2020 —

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## Coastal Universities Guide is coming!

Later this week, ASBPA will be launching our Coastal Universities Guide, an interactive map-based tool for high school or college students looking for an undergraduate or graduate coastal program. The guide contains over 100 universities nationwide (and growing) that have coastal engineering, geology, policy, and oceanogra-

phy-related programs, with important information for each program, such as degrees offered, research keywords, and a link to the program web page where students can learn more. This tool was developed by ASBPA's Student and New Professionals committee and with generous end-of-year donations by you, our members! ❖

## Plenaries, posters, concurrent sessions and PDHs — all without leaving home!

By **LEE WEISHAR, Ph.D.**,  
2020 National Coastal Conference co-chair

I hope this missive finds you slowly getting back to the new normal. As I write this article, I am in lockdown in my basement working from home. ASBPA found itself in what we thought was a unique position several months ago when the pandemic swept across America and the globe. We had a great conference venue in California lined up, we



were working hard on making the conference one of the best. We were going to do that by not only making

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### UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- **June 12** — Abstract deadline for the 2020 National Coastal Conference
- **June 15** — National Coastal Conference registration opens
- **July 17** — Best Restored Shoreline nominations due
- **Aug. 3** — Professional award nominations due
- **Aug. 28** — Early-bird registration deadline for the 2020 National Coastal Conference
- **Sept. 6** — Student award nominations due
- **Sept. 6** — 2020 National Coastal Conference poster abstracts due
- **Sept. 28** — Regular registration deadline for 2020 National Coastal Conference
- **Oct. 23** — Photo contest submissions due

## Conference.....

### ■ Continued from page 1

it West Coast-centric but also having regional venues to attract presenters from the Gulf Coast, the South, Mid, and Northeast coasts. The concept was to have a venue that cross-pollinated ideas from all across the U.S.

Then the pandemic struck.

The ASBPA conference committee was initially dismayed. All the hard work might have been wasted. However, after many conference calls ASBPA decided to do something somewhat groundbreaking — a virtual conference. ASBPA had dipped its big toe in the virtual conference venue when we held our 2020 Coastal Summit via Zoom in March. It was a huge success, even though we really weren't sure how it would be received or how it would come off.

We are going to use that success as a springboard for presenting a virtual technical conference that will have all the facets of our normal technical conference such as

technical tracks, dedicated sessions, a huge poster session, and much more. As I see the pieces of this conference comes together, I see that this is going to be one of the best conferences that we have ever put on.

One of the biggest advantageous of our virtual conference is we are going to record each session and make it available for viewing to our attendees. You might ask why is this important?

First, we are starting the conference each day at noon Eastern. This means that everyone in the continental U.S. will be able to participate live. Many of our members and attendees do not realize that we have many members and participants from

far-flung places such as Asia, Hawaii, Australia, and many other locations. Recording the sessions and making them available means that international attendees can participate in the conference without having to log into the conference at 3:00 a.m. their time (or some other equally inhumane time).

There are many other reasons this is going to be a unique conference, so submit your abstracts by June 12. ❖

## A National Coastal Conference for all!

By **LEE WEISHAR, Ph.D.**,  
**2020 National Coastal  
Conference co-chair**

The 2020 ASBPA Virtual Technical Conference is going to be one of the best conferences that ASBPA has ever put on. But everyone says that, right? Here is why I can say this with confidence: The virtual conference allows ASBPA to explore some ideas that we have been discussing for years. One of these ideas has been why not make the conference a couple of days longer and spread out the technical sessions so there are fewer concurrent sessions?

We have resisted this in the past because of the expense to our attendees and additional travel time that our attendees would have to incur. With a virtual conference, our participants do not have to travel; thus, we can use this time for the conference. In the past, we also have contemplated having multiple plenary sessions during the technical conference; however, we would have to increase the length of the conference or we would have to take time away from the technical presentations or we would have to increase the number of concurrent sessions. Neither option seemed appropriate.

With the virtual conference, our attendees do not have to travel and therefore we can use this time for technical presentation and additional

**E**ditor's Note: Over the summer, we combine three issues into two. The next issue of "Coastal Voice" will come out July 15, and the deadline for submission is July 7. There is lots going on this month: the virtual conference and abstracts, Best Restored Beaches announced, photo contest winners announced, partnership with Hawaiian Tropic, calls for Best Restored Shores nominations and much more!

plenary sessions.

I think one of the biggest advantageous of our virtual conference is that we are going to record each session and make it available for viewing to our attendees. You might ask why is this important? First, we are starting the conference each day at noon Eastern. This means that everyone in the continental U.S. will be able to participate live. Many of our members and attendees do not realize we have members and participants from far-flung places such as Asia, Hawaii, Australia and other international locations.

Recording the sessions and making them available means that international attendees can participate in the conference without having to log into the conference at their local time. Second, it allows everyone the chance to see all the sessions that you would have missed if you were attending a live conference. I know I have often agonized over which session I should attend. For instance, Dr. Houston (my good friend and colleague) is giving a talk in room 2A while my colleague Cameron Perry is giving a talking at the same time in room 2C. Hmmm, which should I attend? Oh, the agony of the decision. No one has to worry about making these decisions this year. You can see all the presentations.

Submit your abstracts by June 12 and be a part of this really great conference. ❖



**WEISHAR**

## Conference abstracts deadline June 12

The ASBPA 2020 National Coastal Conference will be held through an online platform. In cooperation with the Coastal Zone Foundation, ASBPA has updated the Call for Abstracts, now due June 12, 2020. The new conference theme is “2020 Vision for Our Coasts: Navigating Stormy Times.” During the week of Oct. 13-16, the conference will be offered as a blend of synchronous and asynchronous online presentations, lightning talks, networking events, virtual breakout sessions, and more. The new online format is meant to address the COVID-19 related safety measures and travel restrictions, providing an alternate format for the coastal community to gather and discuss key topics. Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will also be available for full registrants.

Abstracts for oral presentations will be accepted through June 12 and poster presentations through Aug. 21. Abstracts shall be limited to 500 words and submitted via the online form at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).

A select number of presentations will be presented live (and recorded for subsequent viewing). All other accepted abstracts will be required to submit a 10-minute pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation or a shorter poster recording. All presentations will be posted to the virtual Conference platform, which will encourage both live and virtual interaction, questions, and comments. All presenters and attendees must agree to respecting the Intellectual Property of presenters.

Presentations are sought for a broad range of scientific, engineering, economics, coastal management, hazard risk management, and policy topics. We welcome explanation of how these topics intersect with COVID-19 response and recovery. Specific topics include, but are not limited to:

- Beach restoration and management



- Coastal design concepts and projects
- Green/grey infrastructure and living shorelines
- Regional comprehensive coastal studies
- Lessons learned from storms and extreme events
- Coastal & estuarine modeling
- Coastal hazard mapping & analysis tools
- Sea level rise guidance, planning and policy
- Lagoon, wetland, marsh and estuary restoration
- Regional sediment management
- Economics of coastal resources
- Federal, state and local coastal policy, regulatory and legal issues
- Sand source availability and sand rights
- Coastal infrastructure management
- Resiliency and adaptation policy
- “Nuisance flooding” and urban flooding challenges
- Lessons and issues in coastal communication and outreach

This year ASBPA’s conference also invites presentations for a dedicated track on coastal and beach operations and management. (See the article elsewhere in this issue.)

Additional conference information and details on presentation formats will be forthcoming and available at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). ❖

## Beach operations & maintenance abstracts are due June 12

Operation and maintenance (O&M) are crucial to the safety, efficiency and proper function of any private and public amenity. Our nation’s beaches are no exception to that and require a wide spectrum of day-to-day activities necessary to keep them clean, operational and accessible to millions of daily visitors.

This year, due to the current worldwide pandemic, the ASBPA will host its 2020 National Conference as a “virtual,” online-only conference platform. The theme has been changed to “2020 Vision for Our Coasts: Navigating Stormy Times.” The conference will be held virtually Oct. 13-16, 2020.

The conference will again expand beyond the traditional science and policy topics and will include special sessions on beach operations and maintenance (O&M). ASBPA is soliciting abstracts and presentation proposals related to O&M of beaches. Abstracts for presentations will be accepted online through June 12, 2020 and poster presentations through Aug. 21.

Some form of maintenance is required in nearly every type of coastal project; however, it is often overlooked by coastal engineers, scientists and project managers. Cesar Espinosa, Planning Specialist with the County of Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors, and 2020 National Coastal Conference co-chair, is very aware of the array of daily activities required to keep county beaches clean, safe and operational, stating “every project that we undertake along the coast requires O&M.

We work closely with our consultants to make sure that all plans and specifications meet our needs so that we are able to properly maintain our facilities and amenities.” Further-

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## O&M.....

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more, “beach management in Hawaii involves periodic sand pushing using heavy equipment often to restore eroded coastal dunes and stabilize public access ways. Having a special conference session dedicated to O&M allows us to explore this practice more deeply than ever before and share the coastal science, experience and lessons learned with this practice and related operational beach management issues,” says Dolan Eversole, Coastal Management Specialist at the University of Hawaii Sea Grant and Waikiki Beach Management Coordinator.

With this year’s theme, “2020 Vision for Our Coasts: Navigating Stormy Times” the national conference will include presentations on the usual science based topics such as coastal modeling, coastal erosion, coastal engineering, regional sediment management, climate change impacts and coastal resilience among others. However, O&M plays a key role in any coastal project and requires planning, funding, and dedication.

With the closure of many U.S. beaches due to the current pandemic, an array of operational issues has arisen, including coastal access, social distancing, mandatory masks, and parking lot, bike paths, piers, boardwalks and beach access-ways closures. With the initiation of the easing of travel restrictions and beaches begin to re-open, O&M becomes more important than ever. We invite you join the conversation on O&M of these precious coastal assets and ecosystems.

ASBPA invites coastal professionals and managers to present on existing and emerging projects, plans, policies, opportunities and challenges and discuss the O&M efforts for their coastline.

Coastal Operations and Maintenance topics may include:

- COVID-19 related operational issues (e.g., closures, social distancing, sanitation, adaptation, and enforcement)
- Parking lot closures, and management and enforcement operations
- Beach access and challenges
- Day-to-day beach operations (e.g., grooming and sanitation, restroom maintenance/servicing, marine debris-including and even beached boats)
- Waste management
- O&M funding
- Health and safety (lifeguard operations, ADA accessibility)
- Beach permits (right of entry permits, and special events)
- Beach environmental education and activities
- Beach special events and crowd management
- Beach improvements (e.g., capital improvements and deferred maintenance)
- Beach operating

hours/curfews

- Community outreach and partnerships
- Homelessness (e.g., encampments)
- Dogs on the beach - the environmental impact and the ecological threat
- Recreational programs (i.e., surf camps, junior lifeguards, etc.)
- Creating and managing revenue streams (e.g., parking, concessionaires, etc.)

Abstracts (up to 500 words) for oral presentations will be accepted through June 12, 2020 and poster presentations through Aug. 21. Submit abstracts via the online form at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). Additional information can be found at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). ❖



## Nominations for 2020 Professional Awards due Aug. 3

ASBPA is accepting nominations for the 2020 National Coastal Conference Awards including the Morrourgh P. O’Brien Award, the Robert L. Wiegel Coastal Project Award, the Bob Dean Coastal Academic Award and the ASBPA Member of the Year Award. The National Coastal Conference will be held virtually from Oct. 13-16.

**The Morrourgh P. O’Brien Award** is presented annually to an individual or organizational member of ASBPA on the basis of: 1) an outstanding record in achieving the objectives and ideals of ASBPA; or 2) for major direct contributions to ASBPA. Any ASBPA member can submit a nomination that outlines the accomplishments of the nominee and the basis upon which the nomination is being put forth. The winner will be invited to attend the virtual National Coastal Conference from Oct. 13-16.

**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. Nominations must include a statement of objectives of the project and the major design features; evidence that the project achieved the desired objectives with a minimum of five years since completion; the environmental, social, recreational and other effects of the project should be described; a statement identifying the agencies and individuals responsible for planning, designing and constructing the work and the individuals that will receive the award; and the cost of the project. The award will be presented at the 2020 ASBPA virtual National Coastal Conference Oct. 13-16.

**The Robert G. Dean Coastal**

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## ASBPA advocates for federal funds for beach operations and safety

By DEREK BROCKBANK, CCP,  
ASBPA Executive Director

As beaches re-open after stay-at-home orders are lifted, beach departments across the country are facing a triple whammy of challenges:

- Massive budget shortfalls and staffing cuts,
- Increased costs for cleaning and security, and
- Huge crowds of people eager to get outdoors and recreate.

Thus far, communities have faced these challenges with very little support from states or the federal government. ASBPA is working with communities across the country to advocate for federal support to ensure beaches can be healthy and safe places to recreate this summer.



BROCKBANK

With many beach departments funded through some type of tourism-generated revenue – hotel and occupancy taxes, local sales taxes, parking fees, etc. — the past three months have seen their budgets crater. In many places revenue has dropped 90% or more, which has led to huge staffing cuts including maintenance staffing, safety and security (e.g., lifeguards and beach patrol), and seasonal employees. Communities that have plans to limit beach access through offering fewer beach badges or spaced out parking spaces, are further reducing their beach departments' budgets. While a few communities can access some state coastal funding to offset losses, state budgets have also been decimated. The \$2 trillion "CARES Act" only pro-

### WASHINGTON REPORT

vides a limited pot of money to state agencies and that was designated for expenses related to Coronavirus that had not been previously budgeted for, so cannot be used to make up for lost revenue.

At the same time, beach communities face new expenses related to operating a beach during a pandemic. From frequent sanitizing of facilities (showers, bathrooms, picnic tables, benches), to signage documenting what to do and what is safe, to increased beach patrol security to enforce social distancing, beaches are seeing workloads and costs increase. Some of this can be paid for through CARES Act funds or through FEMA as part of the declared federal emergency, but these funds can take time to be approved and staffing is needed now. Overseeing these efforts is putting increased burden on beach managers who are having to layoff operations staff.

Finally, as beaches open — some at the directive of the state's governor before the community has even had a chance to develop health and safety plans — they are seeing huge crowds of people. And while well-maintained, wide beaches can be good places for socially distant recreation and exercise, pent up demand can lead to attendance surges beyond what is safe — particularly when beach patrols and lifeguards have been cut and seasonal employees can't be hired. Whether these numbers stay high through the summer as other entertainment outlets (movie theaters, sports events) stay closed, or drop as the opening enthusiasm wanes is unknown. But this makes planning even harder. Should a beach department plan for a boom year, an average year

### New mailing address for ASBPA

Please inform your bookkeeping department that ASBPA has a new mailing address: 11940 Palba Way, #5102, Fort Myers, FL 33912-9094. The phone number (239-489-2616) and email ([managing@asbpa.org](mailto:managing@asbpa.org)) stay the same. Thank you! ❖

### Awards.....

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**Academic Award** is presented in recognition of an academic who has made significant contributions furthering the community's understanding of coastal science or engineering and in fostering young coastal scientists or engineers. The award will be presented at the ASBPA 2020 virtual annual meeting.

**The ASBPA Member of the Year Award** is an award to be presented annually to an individual on the basis of their giving of time, talent, and treasury to furthering the goals and objectives of the ASBPA during the previous year. The winner will be presented the award at the 2020 virtual annual meeting.

**The ASBPA Rising Start Award** is an award to be presented annual to a student or new professional who has taken on leadership role to further the goals and objectives of the ASBPA during the previous year. The winner will be presented with the award at the ASBPA 2020 virtual annual meeting.

Entries for all awards must be received by Aug. 3, 2020. Please submit nominations using the online form at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). If you have any questions, please call (239) 489-2616 or email [managing@asbpa.org](mailto:managing@asbpa.org). ❖

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South Benson Marina/Jennings Beach, Connecticut



2020 Vision for Our Coasts:

## ASBPA names its Best Restored Beaches for 2020

From a childhood spent building sand castles to adolescent walks on the beach to adults enjoying family time, America’s beaches are synonymous with celebrating summer. Normally, the summer beach season would be beginning in a few days. This year, with COVID-19 still rampant, many of us will have to call upon past beach memories or dream about a future beach visit. In fact, when people were asked the place they will visit on their first post-pandemic trip, beach/resort destinations topped the list.

With future beach visits in mind, ASBPA recently released its much-anticipated annual list of the nation’s best restored beaches. This year’s list provides representation from the northeast, mid-Atlantic, south Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts.

The 2020 winners are:

- Cardiff State Beach, California
- South Benson Marina/Jennings Beach, Connecticut
- Keansburg, New Jersey
- Norriego Point, Florida
- Tybee Island, Georgia

While Americans joyfully celebrate beaches by visiting them, few understand what it takes to keep that beach special. ASBPA created the Best Restored Beach award as a way of highlighting the value of restored beaches. Polls show that beach erosion is the number one concern beach tourists have about beaches.

In order to highlight and document beach re-nourishment efforts across the US, ASBPA and its partners have also developed a Beach Nourishment Database, to provide our members and the public with detailed information on U.S. beach nourishment projects at the national, state, and project level. The database is available at <https://gim2.aptim.com/ASBPANationwideRenourishment>

Why should you plan a post-pandemic visit to a restored beach? Here’s the top reason, according to ASBPA President Tony Pratt — fun. Many of

America’s most heavily used beaches are restored beaches — wide and sandy, providing abundant recreational opportunities for beachgoers.

“As summer 2020 approaches, people across the nation are dreaming of sun, surf and sand. Their time at the

beach is very often the happiest times of their lives,” said Pratt. “We here at ASBPA take that love of the coast very seriously. We honor the efforts that go into managing and, when necessary, rebuilding the beaches that are in the hearts of so many

vacationers.

“This year’s Best Restored Beach winners represent a wide variety of beach types that offer unique and varied attributes. I congratulate the winners for their hard work and for the beautiful beaches they have protected and enhanced,” said Pratt. “For more than 50 years, beach restoration has

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## Best.....

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been the preferred method of shore protection in coastal communities. Beach restoration is the process of placing beach-quality sand on dwindling beaches to reverse or offset the effects of erosion.”

The benefits of healthy coasts are many:

- **Storm protection** — A wide sandy beach helps separate storm waves and other coastal hazards from upland structures and infrastructure.

- **Habitat restoration** — Numerous species rely on wide, healthy beaches as a place to live, feed, rest and nest.

- **Recreation** — America’s beaches are its largest national park, more than 40% higher than more than the numbers of visitors to all our federal and state parks and theme parks combined.

- **Adaptation** — As climate changes trigger both higher sea levels and stronger storm events, a wide sandy beach remains the best protection from both encroaching seas and storm-driven waves. By adjusting their shoreline designs, communities across the country are able to protect upland habitat and properties by raising the profile of their beaches to counter projected sea level rise.

- **Spend millions to save billions** — Investing in infrastructure now saves money in re-building later.

During times of economic hardship, the beach can be an even more desirable vacation destination than other domestic and foreign alternatives, offering families and visitors an accessible and affordable getaway. It is also a jobs bonanza and tax generator—healthy coasts drive local economies:

- Beach tourism is responsible for 2.5 million jobs nationwide.

- Beaches help generate \$225 billion a year for the national economy, contributing about \$25 billion in federal tax revenue.

Cardiff State Beach, California



- Beach tourism generated \$45 billion annually in taxes and returns \$570 in federal taxes for each federal dollar spent.

- Beaches are the leading U.S. tourist destination for both national and international tourists.

- Well over half of the nation’s gross domestic product (\$7.9 trillion) is generated in 673 counties along the oceans, Gulf and Great Lakes, according to NOAA’s National Ocean Economics Program.

To enter the Best Restored Beach competition, coastal communities nominated their projects for consideration, and an independent panel of coastal managers and scientists selected the winners. Judging was based on three criteria:

- The economic and ecological benefits the beach brings to its community;

- The short- and long-term success of the restoration project; and

- The challenges each community overcame during the course of the project.

According to Peter Seidle, co-chair of the Best Restored Beach Committee responsible for making the selections: “I look for commitment and dedication to the project. I want the

applicant to make me love his or her beach. The committee also looks for unique solutions to unique problems, recognizing that every beach has its own challenges and opportunities that can be addressed and augmented by a well-executed restoration project.”

This year’s winners spotlight a diverse selection of beaches: nature based solutions, revitalization of an area, increased diverse recreational opportunities, beneficial use and traditional beach restoration. What they all have in common, however, is working creatively to address complex coastal issues in way that is sustainable and that mitigates the ravages of nature, that is compatible with the surrounding environment and that is achievable in the face of both political and natural obstacles.

Here’s a brief overview of this year’s Best Restored Beaches:

- **The Cardiff State Beach Living Shoreline Project** is an important Southern California pilot project which tests a unique, nature-based solution to provide beach erosion and flood protection of a vulnerable coastal asset. The project created a coastal dune with repurposed buried rock revetment and cobblestone and 30,000 cu-

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Norriego Point, Florida

## Best.....

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bic yards of sand dredged from the San Elijo Lagoon inlet; the dune was then planted with native vegetation. The project extends 2,900 feet and protects Highway 101 from storm events.

#### **Keansburg Beachfront Restoration in Keansburg, New Jersey –**

Implementing a multi-million dollar beach replenishment program and multi-phase beachfront project, the Borough of Keansburg successfully restored their 2.5 miles of shoreline that was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The coastal New Jersey town along the Raritan Bay accomplished their beachfront restoration utilizing 1.1 million cubic yards of sand and reconstructed 10,000 square feet of the Baywalk. The Beachfront Restoration project fortified the Borough's storm resiliency in addition to creating a more robust, damage resistant Baywalk.

**Norriego Point Stabilization and Restoration Project's** primary objective was to provide Destin, Florida,

Tybee Island, Georgia



residents and tourists with more and diverse recreational opportunities such as protected swimming areas and extensive shoreline for boat access/landing, and beach access. This project created 1,200 feet of publicly accessible recreation shoreline by rehabilitating existing groin structures and installing additional T-groins. The project also included dune restoration and re-vegetation with native plants.

**South Benson Marina Dredging & Jennings Beach Nourishment Project** in Fairfield, Connecticut, is a municipal marina serving the community with marina facilities, but is also adjacent to Jennings Beach, which provides over 2,000 feet of sandy beach shoreline for public use. This project dredged approximately 27,000 cubic yards material to benefit navigation

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## Hawaiian Tropic 'Beachside' candle supports ASBPA

**A**SBPA is honored to be named a non-profit partner by Edgewell Personal Care's skin-loving sun care brand, Hawaiian Tropic.

In this challenging time, when not everyone is able to go to their favorite beach, Hawaiian Tropic is bringing the good vibes of the beach inside with a limited-edition Hawaiian Tropic scented candle: "Beachside (Inside)." (Online at <https://www.ebay.com/itm/224015278704>.) All 100% of the proceeds of the candle sales will go directly to ASBPA to help coastal communities and beachside businesses in need. "Beachside (Inside)" can be purchased on eBay for \$25.

"We are grateful to Hawaiian Tropic for supporting our work to improve America's beaches and shorelines, which are the economic engine for coastal communities across the country," said ASBPA Executive Director, Derek Brockbank. "Wide beaches, high dunes, and verdant wetlands also provide communities protection from coastal storms and hurricanes, offer



wildlife habitat and other ecological values, while providing people affordable recreation opportunities."

Since 1926, ASBPA has been dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing our coasts by merging science and public policy. Our members are coastal industry, local government officials, academics and residents of coastal districts — the people who restore, manage, advocate for and research healthy coastlines.

"We're thrilled to be working

with ASBPA, when we originally conceived this idea, we knew we wanted to work with a partner who loved our beaches as much as we do," said Anastasia Tobias, Marketing Director of Hawaiian Tropic. "ASBPA was not only the perfect fit for this opportunity, but we know its community will be as excited as we are to enjoy moments of comfort and reprieve at home with the beloved tropical island scent of this Hawaiian Tropic candle."

ASBPA and Hawaiian Tropic are proud to be working together during this uncertain time. We recognize the tremendous challenges currently facing beach businesses, communities, and all people who love the beach. We hope that "Beachside (Inside)" will help consumers find moments of comfort and scent memories for those unable to go to their beloved beach, knowing the proceeds of the candle will help advance our nation's coastal communities through science and policy to sustain beaches and shorelines. ❖

## Best.....

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and placed it along Jennings Beach to enhance the public recreational beach. A project of this size and type is unique in the State of Connecticut and the Long Island Sound region, where dredged material has historically been disposed of offshore with no chance for beneficial reuse.

**The Tybee Island Beach and Dune Restoration Project**, Tybee Island, Georgia, increased their resiliency to flooding events while enhancing the natural habitat, including federally protected sea turtle nesting sites and endangered bird species that are so vital to the environmental and economic health of the city. It is the first time the city built dunes as an integral resiliency feature augmenting a federal beach nourishment. Approximately



Keansburg, New Jersey

1.3 million cubic yards of sand was placed along 15,000 feet of shoreline, including 70,000 cubic yards for dune construction.

A list of award-winning beaches,

and more information about beach restoration and ASBPA, is online at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). Winners will be honored during ASBPA's Coastal Summit in Washington, DC, in March 2021. ❖

## Pandemic underscores the value of beaches

By TONY PRATT, ASBPA President

I don't believe that I've read a newspaper once in the last three weeks that hasn't included an article about when beaches are going to reopen, and many a national TV news outlet has consistently addressed the same question. Many of those newspaper articles have been on the front page, above the fold and TV coverage has been front and center due to the importance of the issue. Beach re-opening has been on the top five list of most, if not all, coastal states governors as well when they discuss reopening their state.



PRATT

Here in the Mid-Atlantic it has been a major point of discussion among the populace — they want to get back to *their* beach, above all else, it appears. The link between beach based tourism and economic recovery is so absolutely apparent right now to government leadership. Of course we coastal practitioners have known this for a long time, but right now is yet another

## Safety .....

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or a bust year? How should they invest limited resources?

State organizations are trying to address these challenges at a state level. The ASBPA Texas chapter has been encouraging the Texas General Land Office to provide more operation funds to Texas beaches.

ASBPA partner organization, South Carolina Beach Advocates has developed a resolution asking the governor to “evaluate re-open orders and economic revitalization strategies”.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Carpe Diem moment for us. The value of beaches is incredibly high but so taken for granted when investment of public funds are being considered.

When beach protection and enhancement is considered in funding debates the conversation is usually centered on storm damage reduction value of beaches but this time (finally) the high value to a state's and nation's economy through coastal tourism is abundantly obvious. It's *real* news, not fake, and it's high time its importance is included in funding decisions and is persistently in our advocacy going forward.

I sat in on the Government Affairs Committee call recently and listened to many of our member community representatives report on the incredible losses to their economy and operating budgets after a three-month shutdown of their beaches and associated tourism-based businesses. Beaches are big business in the U.S. and ASBPA has what I believe is a mandate to redouble our efforts in arguing for a far better investment at all levels in building and maintaining beaches that protect and serve the full scope of value to our residents and visitors. ❖

Other state organizations are undertaking similar efforts.

ASBPA will be complementing these efforts by leading a national campaign to ensure Congress provides funding to cash-strapped beach communities and reduces local cost-share requirements for federal programs upon which beach communities rely. This is a challenging time for all beach communities, and they all need the federal government to step up.

And on top of it all, hurricane season has just begun... ❖

## ASBPA supports increased coastal funds from offshore energy leases

As Congress considers making changes to how federal revenue from offshore energy leases is spent, ASBPA is continuing to advocate for that money go to coastal restoration and resilience. In the Gulf, this means changing GOMESA so that states' coastal program would get 50% (up from 37%) of the funding from offshore oil and gas drilling without an arbitrary cap on total fund amount (as described in last month's "Coastal Voice" article by our Central Gulf Coast chapter).

It would also mean that the National Ocean and Coastal Security Fund, which funds National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Coastal Resilience Grant program, would get a dedicated source of revenue that could be upwards of \$500 million over the next 10 years.

Legislation could be moving in the Senate in June to allot this money to coastal concerns or National Parks maintenance and the Land & Water Conservation Fund — and while we appreciate the need National Parks and LWCF have, we'd like to see money generated from coastal and offshore development be returned to address coastal challenges. ❖

## Students and New Professionals:

### Handling the transition to working at home

**D**ue to the circumstances presented by COVID-19, many members of the Students & New Professionals committee have transitioned to working from home. Here's how a few SNP members are handling the transition and a few tips on working from home:

**T**he physical transition from working in the office to working from home was relatively seamless. Most of my duties are computer-based already, whether it's running a simulation and processing the results or preparing a report for review. I was able to bring home the necessary equipment (e.g., laptops/desktop) from my office and set them up in my home office. The most disruptive effect of the current situation on my work is the cancellation of travel to conferences and field sites. This was going to be a big year of travelling and networking for most of the organization, I feel.

The toughest challenge over these past six weeks has been staying focused and engaged in the work. The global state of affairs can be heavy, mentally and emotionally. There's so much happening day-to-day in this country and around the world due to this pandemic, and it can feel that your work is irrelevant in the grander scheme of things right now. I'm finding that the current situation adds to the pre-existing stress of meeting project deadlines, but I've learned not to be so hard on myself for not getting as much done as I expected.

Setting small, attainable goals each day or week helps maintain progress and boosts morale. I tend to keep to an early schedule, move around (walk/stand/stretch) every hour, look out the window (or at something far

away) occasionally to relax my eyes from the screen, and get at least 30 min or more of exercise or related moving activity (walks around the block are nice) per day.

■ **Marissa Torres**, General Research Engineer, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, USACE, ERDC

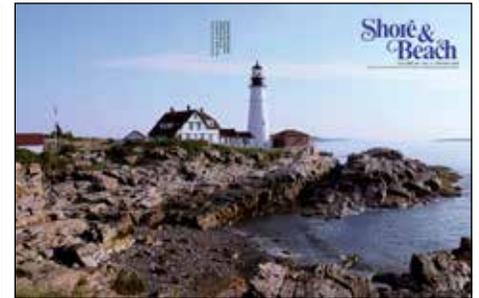
**I**t wasn't easy initially to work as it is a more relaxed environment, we all have at home. As days passed by the number of covid-19 cases were rolling up, I was anxious; meanwhile the deadlines for my assignments were right in front of me. I forget about the world and just started engaging myself in the due works I have, because as an International student I cannot afford to take a semester break. I am now used to it, though it is still

difficult to work on a single screen. Many of us are blessed to have the luxury to work from home and get paid compared to many others around us. So, stay healthy, stay safe and work from home.

■ **Jyothirmayi Palaparthi**, Ph.D. student, Florida Atlantic University

**T**he transition has been easy because most of my duties are based online, the main difference is meetings moving to video conferences. Even before this transition, the easiest way to maintain productivity was to establish routines. I like to get up and get ready then make breakfast so I can have coffee while I check my emails and organize my day. Doing five minute or less of stretching at lunch or taking a 30-minute break to step away also helps me be more focused at tasks during the day.

■ **Annie Mercer**, ASBPA Fellow



### What's in the next Shore & Beach?

**F**eatured in the next issue of *Shore & Beach*, coming soon to a mailbox near you:

- “Beach nourishment versus sea level rise on Florida’s coasts,” by James R. Houston
  - “Groins, sand retention, and the future of Southern California’s beaches,” by Gary Griggs, Kiki Patsch, Charles Lester and Ryan Anderson
  - “Coastal Forum: New 2019 sea level projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change” by James R. Houston
  - “Enhanced tide model: Improving tidal predictions with integration of wind data,” by Thomas P. Huff, Rusty A. Feagin and Jens Figlus
  - “Logistical and technical considerations for the use of unmanned aircraft systems in coastal habitat monitoring: A case study in high-resolution subaquatic vegetation assessment,” by Zachary Olsen, Faye Grubbs, Michael J. Starek, Emma Clarkson and Jacob Berryhill
  - “An ASBPA White Paper: Local funding for coastal projects: An overview of practices, policies, and considerations,” by Derek Brockbank, Annie Mercer, Peter Ravella, Tyler Buckingham, Shannon Cunniff, Ken Willson, Gregory Rudolph, Kate Gooderham, Brian Brennan, and Marc Beyeler
- Plus the winners of the 2019 ASBPA photo contest, and details about this year’s photo contest. ❖

## Best Restored Shores call for nominations

By SHANNON CUNNIFF, Best Restored Shores co-chair

**Y**ou know that happy feeling you have when you look out over a bay and see an osprey soaring over? Or when you spy a red-legged stilt searching for food in shallow wetlands?

American shorelines are special places.

Many people and organizations team together to restore eroding and damaged shorelines to ensure others can have those experiences and share those feelings. And we want to recognize and thank them for their vision, dedication, and success. So last year, ASBPA launched its Best Restore Shores Award.

We are currently seeking nominations for the 2020 Best Restored Shores Award. We desire a diverse set of nominations reflective of various geographies, habitat types, and creative solutions.

We seek nominations for projects from Casco Bay, Maine to Tijuana Estuary, California; from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico; from Alaska to Puerto Rico.

We want to find stellar restoration projects done in shallow water embayments, wetlands, mangroves, or tropical reefs. We want to share news about projects that address current and emerging issues faced by coastal managers and practitioners so we can encourage others to pursue additional efforts and help spread success.

We have three asks of you:

- Please help us get the word out about the award.
- Please look at shore restora-



tion projects you've done and throw your hat into the ring.

- Please suggest to your colleagues, local NGOs, and agencies that they nominate a project.

Nominations are due July 17 and we've made the process easy. We just need some basic information — you probably know it all off the top of your head. Grab some good pictures — before and after really help. And provide a short, compelling explanation of the who, what, why, and how of the project and how you know the restoration project is meeting its desired outcomes.

Now, more than ever, as coastal environmental degradation and climate change-induced storms and sea level rise threaten coastal communities and their quality of life, shore restoration is a key tactic for restoring habitats and ecological functions that reduce risk and improve resilience. So please help us identify projects that address these issues and deserve some recognition.

For more information, go to <http://asbpa.org/about-us/awards-program/> ❖

## ASBPA supports the OFFSHORE Act

**A**t our Coastal Summit in March, a staff member from Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) informed us of the Senator's new bill called the OFFSHORE Act (S. 3485), which directs the federal revenue associated with offshore wind and renewable and directs it back to coastal restoration and resilience. The bill provides directly funds states' coastal programs and the federal Coastal Resilience Grant program. After reviewing the legislation and further communication with congressional staff, ASBPA is pleased to support the OFFSHORE Act, which clearly fulfills one of our recommendations in our 2020 Legislative & Federal Affairs Agenda: "Provide long-term coastal funding from coastal and offshore development [through] lease fees for any new offshore energy production." ❖

## Meet Nikki Zuck, our newest board member

**I** am a Coastal Engineering Ph.D. student at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, and president of the Stevens chapter of ASBPA. My academic background is in Geology and Marine Sciences, with a Masters Degree from Texas A&M University in Geologic Oceanography (Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2014).

Before returning to academics in fall 2019, I was working as a geologist and project manager at a small environmental company. I have also volunteered with a quite a few coastal organizations over the years (i.e., beach sweeps and several "Teach at the Beach" type events) and love being able to work on the community level. Growing up on the shore has giving me a great appreciation for our coasts and inspires me to continue studying and protecting them. ❖



## 2019 ASBPA photo contest winners

*Editor's Note: The ASBPA photo contest Grand Prize winner is normally showcased on the winter issue cover of Shore & Beach. Because that issue was a special issue, it is the cover of the spring issue.*

■ **East Coast and Grand Prize:** "Cape Elizabeth Lighthouse" (above) by Tracie McCauley.

"This photograph was taken in August 2018 within Fort Williams Park/Portland Head Light, Cape Elizabeth, Portland, ME. This photo is looking north towards the City of Portland, showing the rocky shoreline. I

■ **Continued on next page**



## Contest.....

### ■ Continued from page 13

was on vacation in Maine, which I had never traveled to before to enjoy the scenery of a different type coastline.”

Other winners include:

■ **Caribbean (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands):** “El Faro de Arecibo (The Arecibo Lighthouse)” (left top) by Kevián Augusto Pérez Valentín.

■ **Gulf Coast:** “Cedar Key, Florida” (left middle) by Kevián Augusto Pérez Valentín.

■ **Pacific Coast:** “Sunset with Haystack Rock, dunes, and Cape Kiwanda at Pacific City, Oregon” (previous page) by Paige Hovenga.

■ **Honorable Mention:** Caribbean (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands): “Sunset over the Charlotte Amalie harbor” (below) by Danielle Estrill. ❖

## ‘Dual Disaster Handbook’ a community resource for COVID and catastrophes

Our colleagues at the American Flood Coalition (of which ASBPA is a member) recently released a handbook and one-pager on flooding & hurricanes during the coronavirus pandemic, in order to help communities across the U.S. prepare for a “dual disaster.”

The American Flood Coalition created the Dual Disaster Handbook to help community leaders coordinate a proactive response to flooding during COVID-19. Drawing on case studies and best practices from emergency management professionals, the Handbook presents six actionable recommendations for local leaders responding to a flood during COVID-19.

You can find both at [floodcoalition.org](https://floodcoalition.org). ❖

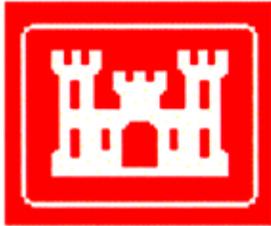


## South Atlantic Coastal Study: SAND Update

The South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) is a regional assessment to define coastal risks and identify measures to address vulnerabilities with an emphasis on Regional Sediment Management (RSM) as an actionable strategy to sustainably maintain or enhance current levels of coastal storm risk reduction. The Sand Availability and Needs Determination (SAND) project is a component of SACS that is examining sand needs for all federal and non-federal beach nourishment projects and available sand resources within the limits of the South Atlantic Division (SAD) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers footprint for the next 50 years. The sand availability analysis includes offshore, upland, and RSM/beneficial use sources such as navigation channels and adjacent areas.

The SAND project was initiated in the summer of 2019 and will be complete in the fall of this year. An emphasis of the project is to engage local, state, and federal stakeholders

through direct agencies involvement on the project delivery team, opportunities to provide data through a project website, and several stakeholder webinars and workshops. The SAND team is scheduled to host workshops for each of the SAD districts (Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Jacksonville, Mobile) in the month of June to roll-out project results and solicit final feedback from stakeholders.



The final products include a geodatabase of all project data and a final report that will be available at: <https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/>. Upon completion, the project will inform long-term coastal resource management strategies from local to federal, and the collaborative approach will support coordinated actions across the region by stakeholders and government to enhance coastal resilience.

■ **Point of Contact:** Clay McCoy, Ph.D., Acting Director, RSM Regional Center of Expertise, email [Clay.A.McCoy@usace.army.mil](mailto:Clay.A.McCoy@usace.army.mil). ❖



## Virtually earn PDHs and become a Certified Coastal Practitioner™

ASBPA has partnered with the Coastal Zone Foundation to bring you live short courses at ASBPA conferences. For the first time ever, one can complete short courses and obtain the Certified Coastal Practitioner™ (CCP) credential from the comfort of home.

Seven courses are now available via recorded webinars which can be taken at your convenience. Available short courses include: Coastal Geology; Coastal Resiliency; Coastal Zone Management and Coastal Regulation; Communication; Government Affairs; Planning and Land Use; and Project Management. Additional courses are coming soon. Visit <https://coastal-zone-foundation.org/ccp-training/> for more details.

The CCP program will provide coastal professionals from government, consulting, and academia a series of short courses structured to expand and grow their knowledge base while enhancing their own collaborations with other coastal professionals. This program defines the body of knowledge, which reflects best practices for coastal management, offers broad knowledge of the topics covered, and complements existing coastal licenses and educational programs. ❖



**Ashley Norton, DNREC:** My favorite and maybe unexpected beach movie: “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind”

There are some key scenes that take place in the off-season on beaches in Montauk, NY. As someone who spent time on those beaches in all seasons — including a snowstorm — as a kid, I thought it captured the winter beaches and resorts really well.

**Enzio Pranzini:** I give you the address of one documentary on beach monitoring “Measuring the beach to manage the coast.” It was produced within MAREGOT EU Project and it’s in four parts: 1. Why

monitoring the beach; 2. Data acquisition; 3. Data processing and interpretation; 4. The use of data for intervention planning.

Unfortunately I’ve done it in two languages only: Italian and French, but English and Spanish speaking colleagues found it very clear.

• **Italian version:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij3UvaOAW\\_k&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij3UvaOAW_k&t=12s)

• **French version:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nTLHz26vGw&t=76s> ❖