# Coastal Voice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

— October 2020 —


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# We will survive these stormy times

**By CESAR ESPINOSA, 2020 National Coastal Conference co-chair**

Lee Weishar was right, we are "Navigating Stormy Times." That is the perfect metaphor for the travesty that 2020 has been. We have COVID-19 that has taken close to 1 million lives worldwide with no end in sight. Wildfires and record temperatures wreaking havoc in the West Coast. Currently there are over 40 wildfires in California, Oregon and Washington — not to mention the fires in the neighboring states of Idaho, Montana and Nevada. On the East Coast we have the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, which has already proved to be the second most active season on record. It is so bad that the World Meteorological Organization is running out of storm names. What an unprecedented year! Truly stormy times we are navigating.

ESPINOSA

I don't want to bog you down with the cruel reality of our existence. On the contrary, I want to encourage you to take action to help out our fellow Americans in need. Whether it's volunteering at a local food bank, temporary shelter, cleaning up or making a donation. We need to pull together and help in every way we can. With no traveling needed for the 2020 National Conference, perhaps we can all put some of that extra free time to good use. As former President Kennedy once said: "If not us, who? If not now, when?" Now is the moment to take action.

While we will still have COVID-19 when the fires and the storms subside, there will be the opportunity to collect data on the devastation left behind by this tragic season. Data that will help us better understand various topics including economic damage, coastal storm processes, develop better coastal storm protection features, restoration and recovery in times of COVID, fire debris flow, geological and hydrological process effects, and climate change to name a few. Many of these topics will for sure be discussed at next year's National Conference in New Orleans.

But we do not have to wait until next year to learn about some of these topics. We have our 2020

■ **Continued on next page**

**UPCOMING DEADLINES:**
- **Oct. 7 — Annual meeting... online!**
- **Oct. 13 — National Coastal Conference begins... online!**
- **Oct. 20-21 — Short courses online**
- **Oct. 23 — Photo contest deadline**

# Normalish?

**By KATE GOODERHAM, ASBPA Managing Director**

As we are Navigating Stormy Times, what we really want to do is to get things back to normal. While we can't do that, we can be "normalish."

What does "normalish" mean? Normalish is what ASBPA's National Coastal Conference allows us to be for four days! We get to listen to our peers from around the world discuss coastal topics. We get to honor our fellow coastal practitioners for their outstanding work. We get to look at posters and "chat" with poster presenters. We get to look at exhibits complete with brochures and videos. We get to network with each other. We get to see the presenters present.

GOODERHAM

While we yearn for the live conference, let's focus on enjoying each other, problem-solving coastal issues, and being normalish. Let's focus on the fact that all the sessions, exhibitors and posters are available for 11 months, so we can go back and enjoy anytime we want.

If you have not registered to be part of this unique event, there is still time. Go to www.asbpa.org/conferences. ❖

# Conference podcast is now live!

On the American Shoreline Podcast Network flagship show, co-hosts Peter Ravella and Tyler Buckingham discuss the upcoming online national coastal conference, "Navigating Stormy Times," with ASBPA Executive Director, Derek Brockbank.

They discuss how a virtual conference will work, what some of the conference highlights will be, including plenary panels on how beach communities handled the pandemic this summer and how to increase diversity and inclusion in coastal STEM, as well as the opportunity to see every single talk — since they'll all be recorded and available after the conference.

Peter and Tyler then talk to the 2020 Morrough P. O'Brien award winner, Joan Pope. The O'Brien award is ASBPA's highest personal honor, and after a ground-breaking career in coastal engineering at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and years of dedicated volunteer service to ASBPA, Joan Pope is well-deserving of this prestigious award.

Joan discusses her career, the changes she's seen in the coastal profession over the years, and shares some thoughts on next steps for the field and its practitioners.

Listen: https://asbpa.org/2020/09/21/2020conference-mpo-brien-winner-podcast/ ❖

# Survive.....

■ Continued from page 1

National Conference coming up in less than a month that will include lessons learned from past hurricanes, beach restoration, living shorelines, and climate change.

I hate to disappoint you, but this year's National Conference will not have mini-golf as we did in Myrtle Beach, it will not have a volleyball competition between engineers and geologists as in Galveston, and it will not have bar trivia night like we did in Fort Lauderdale.

However, thanks to the dedication of great people behind the organization of this year's conference, the virtual conference will be even better. As my fellow co-chair, Gordon Thomson, described in last month's Coastal Voice (CV), we have an amazing set topics and presenters that will include a wide array of topics. But I am particularly excited about the Coastal STEM panel simply because it is way overdue. We have to do more to encourage diversity in STEM and in particular coastal science. At our local schools, universities, workplace, and in every corner possible. There are amazing talents out there waiting for the opportunity.

I encourage you to register to this year's National Conference, if you have not done so, and be part of this year's historic conference. Please go to https://asbpa.org/conferences/ to register, to review the latest program and for up-to-date information on sponsorships. ❖

Please inform your bookkeeping department that ASBPA has a new mailing address: 11940 Palba Way, #5102, Fort Myers, FL 33912-9094. Thanks!

**Thanks to all our conference sponsors!**

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Weeks

# Welcome to our media sponsors

**By DEREK BROCKBANK, ASBPA Executive Director**

We are very fortunate to have THREE media sponsors for our National Coastal Conference this year. These outlets have shared information about the conference and about ASBPA, and they are fantastic resources for coastal professionals to stay abreast of the latest coastal news and learn about important coastal topics. ASBPA strongly encourages you to visit their websites and subscribe for their free news-digests and newsletters to get the best coastal information sent straight to your inbox.

Coastal News Today and the American Shoreline Podcast Network (ASPN) (https://www.coastalnews-today.com/) offer a daily roundup of coastal news from across the country delivered to your inbox every morning, and a variety of coastal podcasts that offer in-depth explorations of timely and fascinating coastal issues. (The podcasts include Derek Brockbank's "The Capitol Beach," with insight into federal policies and decision-makers that impact the coast; and Lesley Ewing's "Shorewords," that interviews authors of coastal books.)

DredgeWire (https://dredgewire.com/) is your primary source for news about dredging, ports and harbors, and marine and offshore infrastructure from around the world. DredgeWire delivers industry updates right to your mailbox, with stories from global media outlets along with news directly provided by the organizations involved in the issues.

USHarbors.com (https://www.usharbors.com/) offers a coastal newsletter with original and compiled stories about fishing, boating, harbors and other coastal topics. The website also offers tide charts, weather and boating information for harbors across the country.

After the conference, these outlets will be contacting conference attendees encouraging them to subscribe to their daily news feeds. We hope you will! ❖

## Join us online for ASBPA's Annual Meeting

In normal times, you'd have to travel to attend ASBPA's annual meeting. This year, we are holding the meeting by Zoom Webinar on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. ET, 3 p.m. CT, 1 p.m. PT and 10 a.m. HT. Each of you have received a Zoom invite., which we will resend closer to the date. Please put this on your calendar. If you cannot join us, please provide your proxy. Go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFRHCK5

We have a big board of directors slate to vote on: Maritza Bareto, Russ Boudreau, Susan Brodeur, Eddy Carter, Cheryl Hapke, Margarita Kruyff, Nancy MacPhee, Jon Miller, Joan Pope, Tom Richardson, Phill Roehrs, Julie Rosati, Peter Seidle and Reuben Trevino.

A great deal is going on with ASBPA. The annual meeting is the place to get a sneak peak! ❖

## Still time to sign up for CZF short courses

Coastal Zone Foundation announces two half-day short courses that can be registered for in conjunction with the ASBPA National Conference at https://asbpa.org/conferences/.

■ **Tuesday, Oct. 20, "Water Quality,"** from noon until 4 p.m., led by Erin Hague (TetraTech). An introductory course where a review of the Clean Water Act of 1972 will be provided, along with discussions of surface water quality standards and compliance applicable to the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coastal zones. Case studies will review basin management tools, primary contributors to water quality degradation, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for treatment, monitoring strategies, bioindicators and state-level efforts at becoming compliant with the Coastal Zone Act. These topics will be discussed in three regional case studies: 1) Southern California Marina del Ray Toxic Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL); 2) Southeast Florida Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Nutrient Criteria; and 3) Mississippi Gulf Coast Monitoring and Management of Non-Point Sources.

■ **Wednesday, Oct. 21, "Coastal Geology"** from noon until 4 p.m. led by Dr. Tiffany Roberts Briggs (Florida Atlantic University). Coastal Geology is an introductory course presenting a geological framework, distinguishing among types of coasts, the forces sculpting the land, and the sediments accumulating in distinct forms. This module will touch on special disciplines of coastal geomorphology, sedimentology, and coastal processes.

If you are unable to attend ASBPA conference and would like to sign up for a short course, please send an email to coastalzonefoundation@gmail.com and a PayPal invoice will be sent from Coastal Zone Foundation.

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# Best Restored Shore award honors unique coastal projects

Managing a community's coastline is more than a walk on the beach. It can mean maintaining vital wetland habitats, preparing for sea level impacts by developing innovative coastal buffers, or even reducing storm and flood impacts by recreating lost ecosystem services.

Such coastal projects are vital to America's shoreline communities and deserve recognition for the many benefits and opportunities they offer.

That's the motivation behind American Shore & Beach Preservation Association's (ASBPA) second annual Best Restored Shores awards, which recognize projects that apply natural and nature-based solutions to enhance the nations shorelines.

The 2020 winners are:

- Stratford Point Living Shoreline, CT
- Gandy's Beach Preserve Adaptive Management, NJ
- Restoration of Cooks Beach, NJ

"Continued public support for shore restoration is crucial to building coastal resiliency to storms and rising seas," said ASBPA President Tony Pratt.

Above: The completed Stratford Point project. Below: Cooks Beach.

"Successfully planning and implementing shoreline restoration projects can be challenging and too often their far-reaching economic benefits go unnoticed."

"Outstanding restoration projects that restore natural resources and reduce the impacts of storms to recreational values and improve coastal resilience merit acknowledgment," said Best Restored Shores Co-Chair Shannon Cunniff.

Here's why these winning projects were deemed Best Restored Shores for 2020:

## Stratford Point Living Shoreline

The Stratford Point Living Shoreline is an outstanding example of how to work with multiple partners and nature to solve some of our most difficult human-caused coastal degradation problems. This project clearly demonstrates the importance of shellfish reefs in the protection of newly restored salt-marsh and their role allowing time for marsh migration to occur as sea levels rise and storms increase. Especially noteworthy were its well-characterized objectives, long-term monitoring plan that demonstrated success, and the multiple funding partners involved in taking the project from concept to execution that achieved real environmental and coastal resilience outcomes.

## Gandy's Beach Preserve Adaptive Management

The Gandy's Beach Preserve Adaptive Management (AM) project demonstrates an innovative approach for shoreline stability and passive nourishment. By working with natural processes (wave energy regime and nearshore currents), the shoreline may

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Gandy's Beach

## Best.....

■ Continued from page 6

become more resilient, helping to ensure continued ecological function and ecosystem services.

The project's monitoring demonstrated a need for AM, and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the AM. This project demonstrates a new tactic for bayshore communities and environmental entities to use for shoreline management.

### Restoration of Cooks Beach

The Cooks Beach project creatively restored a shoreline so that it could continue to be a source of sand to other area beaches while retaining sufficient sediment to provide critical spawning habitat for horseshoe crabs and red knots, a federally-listed threatened migratory bird. Monitoring revealed that of all eight beaches recently restored in Delaware Bay, Cooks Beach is now most used by foraging shorebirds, including red knot, due in large part to the availability of horseshoe crab eggs in surrounding shoals and on its now-protected beach face.

Winners will be honored and projects presented at the virtual 2020 ASBPA National Coastal Conference in October. ❖

WASHINGTON REPORT

# Thoughts on the elections

**By DEREK BROCKBANK, ASBPA Executive Director**

ASBPA is a nonpartisan organization, and we do not get involved in elections. But that does not mean we are apolitical. Our 501(c)(3) tax status allows us to do a limited amount of lobbying , and we actively educate decision-makers on the threats and opportunities facing our nation's beaches and coastal communities. Protecting and restoring the coast should not be a partisan issue, and we work with Members of Congress from both parties and have proudly awarded Democrats and Republicans for their work on coastal policy.

BROCKBANK

One reason coastal policy is not partisan is because, when implemented appropriately, it's based on science. Developing good coastal policy relies on understanding coastal processes and projecting future coastal conditions, which in turn relies on coastal science and engineering. As such, ASBPA vigorously works to inject science into policymaking. Our mission statement is, after all, "merging science and policy to protect, restore, and enhance our coasts."

But to have good coastal policy, we need decision-makers who both value the coast and respect the role of science in decision-making. So while we will never tell you who to vote for, we would like to remind you to consid-

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**Put your coast on our cover:**

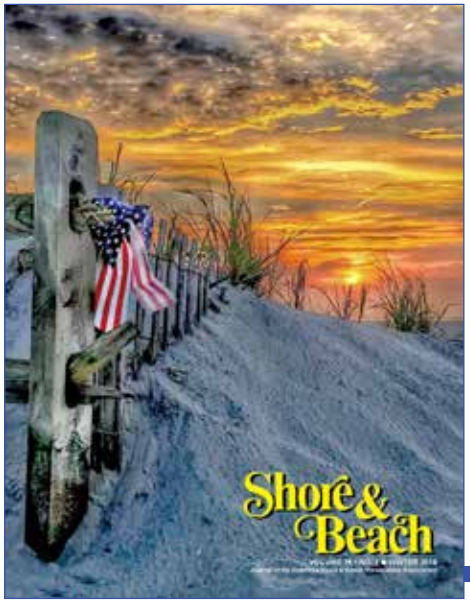
# ASBPA accepting entries for 2020 Photo Contest through Oct. 23

Are you planning to go to the coast in the next month? Will you take your camera or phone? Or have you gone to the coast anytime this year? We bet you took some great photos. Were they of the marshes? The beach? The bluffs? If so, submit them to ASBPA's 13th annual *Shore & Beach* photo contest by Oct. 23. Your photograph could end up gracing the cover of *Shore & Beach* journal in its first issue of 2021!

The purpose of the contest is to highlight the beauty, variety and natural wonders of America's magnificent coasts as part of celebrating more than 85 years of continuous publication of *Shore & Beach* by the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA).

Any photographs depicting the coast that you've taken since Jan. 1, 2019, are appropriate. These include bluffs, beaches, marinas, wetlands, marine life, recreational facilities, and engineered projects as long as they include the setting in which they were built (i.e. no portraits of dredges or your favorite coastal armoring).

Photographs can be full-color, black and white, sepia or colorized. Manipulated photographs (colorized, posterized, solarized, etc.) are also welcome if you briefly describe the changes or procedure. The original base photograph must have been taken by the submitter.




Categories for submission are all U.S. regions, states and territories: east coast, Gulf of Mexico coast, Caribbean (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands), Pacific Coast (one category for U.S. mainland and Alaska and the other for U.S. Pacific Islands (e.g. Hawaii or Guam)

Winning photographs may be used as cover art on *Shore & Beach*. Therefore, VERTICAL-format photographs are highly preferred. Horizontal photographs can be submitted, too, but if a horizontal format photograph is a winner the editors of ASBPA may have to crop some of the scene, at their sole discretion, to fit on the cover of *Shore & Beach*.

Submit up to three photographs total in electronic files in JPEG, TIFF or BMP format to the following e-mail address: contest@ASBPA.org.

Please send the full-size image file as created in your camera (note, minimum camera resolution of 3 megapixels to allow for sufficient printing quality for cover art) or a reduced-size file (800×600 pixels minimum). Winners will have to send the full-size file later.

What will we need to know from you in the text of the email? The basics:

1) Your name,
2) Physical address,
3) Email address,
4) Occupation and place of employment,
5) Photograph title or description,
6) Date taken,
7) Geographic Category (see list above),
8) Indicate if submission is full-size original or reduced size file for contest purpose.
9) Other notes if necessary (what is happening if it is an unusual scene, why you took the photograph, etc.).

Prizes are bragging rights: While *Shore & Beach* is not exactly the cover of *Rolling Stone*, it's still not a bad deal for the amateur photographer to include in their resumé nonetheless.

Winner in each category will have his or her name and photograph printed in either *Shore & Beach* or the ASBPA's "Coastal Voice" e-newsletter, or both. A Grand Prize winner will be selected from among the category winners to have his or her photograph printed on the cover of *Shore & Beach* and receive a one-year annual membership renewal to ASBPA.

Other entries of outstanding merit may be printed in "Coastal Voice," *Shore & Beach*, or on the ASBPA website. All decisions by the ASBPA judges will be final and binding. Editors and officers of ASBPA will serve as the review and judging committee. For more details and a view of past winners from 2019, click here. ❖

Best Restored Beaches:

# Tybee Island's tale of resilience (and persistence)

**By ALAN ROBERTSON, AWR Strategic Consulting**

Tybee Island, east of Savannah on the Georgia coast, is a popular summer beach resort. During peak holiday weekends, the population can go from 3,000 full-time residents to upwards of 30,000 people. The island is, at the same time, an environmentally fragile ecosystem. It is a federally protected nesting habitat for sea turtles and three endangered bird species, and is home to a wide variety of migrating shorebirds and other wildlife.

To the north the island is bounded by the Savannah River and the shipping channel maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) as entry to the Port of Savannah, one of the busiest ports in the country. In fact, because this channel blocks much of the sediment that would naturally flow south to nourish Tybee's beach, the USACE has funded regular beach nourishments every so often since 1975 under an authorization that is due to expire in 2024.

Tybee Island's coastline, before (above) and after renourishment.

The latest and last beach nourishment under the existing authorization was completed in January 2020. It was part of Tybee's overall coastal resilience plan — a plan that began to take formal shape with the publication of the Tybee Island Sea Level Rise Adaptation Study in April 2016 and was further informed by the city's Master Plan of September 2016. Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, the first hurricane to hit Tybee in 30 years, was certainly an impetus to finalizing the plan, exacerbated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria the following year.

Although Tybee had begun implementing its plan in fall 2017, and completed its first ever dune construction with city funds in April of 2018, a State of Georgia grant in July 2018 provided the funding necessary to fully implement the city's coastal resilience improvement plan, including dune construction, dune stabilization for vehicle access, dune vegetation, and a full beach nourishment.

Tybee's coastal resilience efforts are a microcosm of the issues facing all coastal communities in the United States. It began with a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, the first and only one in the state. Tybee's economy is dependent on tourism attracted to the beach resort, as is the case across country. Approximately 40% of the nation's population lives in coastal counties, generating an estimated 45% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (Source: Coastal Strategies LLC Waterlog April 15, 2020). This economic engine operates in the context of a particularly sensitive environment, the home to nesting sea turtles and endangered bird species.

The island is physically impacted by the Savannah River channel, which

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## Tybee.....

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artificially changes the beach morphology by denying naturally accreting sediment and creating ship-induced wakes, further eroding the north end as container ships get ever larger.

While the USACE has been instrumental to maintaining and even growing Tybee's beach over the past 45 years, the agreement with USACE will end in four years, with uncertainty as to whether it will be extended. This is happening all across the country, where the agreements between the Corps and coastal communities are coming to an end and the economic modelling upon which the agreements are based no longer justifies continued nourishments.

Finally, as part of the nourishment, the local USACE District included dune restoration in its Engineering Design Review as a minor modification, only to have it removed during Headquarters review as a potential federalization of the dune system. Fortunately, the USACE placed advanced nourishment on the beach during the project, with which the city could restore its dunes. That added to the complexity of managing multiple regulatory jurisdictions, especially of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the USACE. It required that the city seek a special Section 408 Waiver to build dunes in the federal template.

The restored beach project consists of a 40-foot berm, based off the construction baseline, at +11.2' Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), with a 1:25 foot slope extending to closure. The project begins at the north terminal groin, extends 13,200 linear feet to the south terminal groin and is referred to as Tybee Front Beach. From the south terminal groin to the mouth of Tybee Creek and 1,800 feet along Back River beach is referred to as Back River Beach and is also included in the project, for a total length of 15,000 linear feet.

Approximately 1.3 million cubic yards of sand were placed along this length at a cost of approximately $15 million, $2 million of which was provided by Tybee under the state grant. Of this, approximately 48,000 cubic yards of sand was used to construct Phase 2 dunes. In addition, 20,000 cubic yards of sand was trucked in from an upland source prior to the USACE beach nourishment, to construct Phase 1 dunes.

Our coastal resilience improvements continue, focused on the remainder of the island. We have begun a study and assessment of the Back River with the help of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant. In association with the University of Georgia we will develop a range of potential options to improve flood mitigation in this area.

In concert with the USACE, we expect to initiate a study of the ship-induced wakes on the north end of the island, where the deepening of the Savannah River channel and the introduction of ever-larger freight container vessels are causing tsunami-like wakes posing a danger to people and accelerating beach erosion.

Our proposal to undertake a

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## Tybee .....

■ Continued from page 10

dune vegetation monitoring program and develop a Best Practices Manual has been recommended for full funding by the DNR for a NOAA-funded Coastal Incentive Grant expected later this year.

We have applied for a FEMA grant to develop a comprehensive Master Stormwater Plan and are hopeful of getting approved later this year. This Plan is a natural adjunct to our work, incorporating beach and dunes into an evaluation of the city's stormwater infrastructure and developing a long-range plan for further flood mitigation.

### Opportunities and challenges

We consider Tybee Island one of America's Best Restored Beaches because of its successful execution in building coastal resiliency is indicative of both the opportunities and the challenges coastal communities across the country face:

■ Sea level rise adaptation;

■ Evolving regulatory schemes and the complexity of working with multiple and overlapping regulatory jurisdictions;

■ Uncertainty of future USACE role in helping nourish beaches;

■ The importance of tourism to these communities and to the economy as a whole, balancing economic growth while protecting environments that are natural habitats for fish and wildlife;

■ Often dealing with both ocean and river (and in Tybee's case marsh), each with its distinct morphological and hydrological characteristics and commercial uses.

The primary objective of Tybee's beach restoration was to increase resiliency in the face of increasing storm activity, as a major element in a larger resiliency plan which includes dune restoration, stormwater management, and flood mitigation. We understand that the experience of the past three hurricane seasons suggests we can expect increased incidence of storms and "sunny day flooding" as tides rise.

### Project and construction managers

■ Project Manager, Tybee Island: Alan Robertson, AWR Strategic Consulting

■ Project Manager, USACE: Josh Nickel and Burt Moore, USACE

■ Construction Manager, Beach nourishment: Great Lakes Dredge and Dock

■ Construction Manager, Phase 1 Dunes: Chris Williams, A.D. Williams Construction

■ Construction Manager, Phase 2 Dunes: Beau Adams, Guardian Retention Systems

■ Dune Vegetation Manager, Phases 1 and 2: James Barron, EarthBalance

Becoming more resilient means: Planning for continued improvement; improving the city's ability to *Absorb* the effects of a storm or hurricane event; its ability to *Recover* from storms more quickly by upgrading its infrastructure; and learning to *Adapt* to the changing environment by incorporating lessons learned back into its plan.

The actual beach nourishment is tried and true, with the Corps bringing its expertise and experience to the project in its professional and reliable way. We did expand the footprint of the beach nourishment beyond the normal template by adding significant area to the most popular portion of the beach, for which Tybee contributed $2 million of the total $15 million beach nourishment cost.

We believe our approach to this project, particularly our dune restoration, was innovative in the use of stabilized dunes to provide protection as well as vehicular access to the beach, adapting existing technology (traffic barriers) to storm surge protection, storing sand on-site for use in emergencies, and starting pedestrian crossovers on the seaward side and working landward so we can continue to work past the start of turtle season.

Tybee has been innovative in its approach to funding as well, using a combination of sources including the city's general fund, county funds, state

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## Tybee.....

■ Continued from page 11

funds, and a variety of grants. These other grants include National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Department of Natural Resources Coastal Incentive Grant, FEMA grants, and USACE funds. The state grant of $5 million was, of course, the anchor around which we have been able to execute our plans, but the success of our project and the recognition we are receiving provide the basis upon which we can successfully apply for grants from the wide variety of organizations who share our vision and want to help us continue to succeed.

While the ocean is clearly an attraction for visitors, Tybee Island's marsh, typical of Georgia's tidal salt marshes in general, is one of the most biologically productive natural systems on Earth. According to the Georgia DNR, they produce more than 20 tons of biomass per acre. This enormous productivity helps make the salt marsh a nursery area for blue crab, oysters, and shrimp. The marsh is also home to the Diamondback Terrapin, raccoons, marsh rabbits, and otter. A variety of bird species, including the marsh hen, seaside sparrow, and long-billed marsh wren count the marsh as home. Great blue herons, common and snowy egrets, and other wading birds commonly forage in the marsh at low tide. The salt marsh is of immense value for storm protection, pollution filtering, and a nursery area for Georgia's economically important crustaceans and fish.

We are working to reduce our risk and increase our resiliency to flooding events while enhancing the natural habitat that is so vital to the environmental and economic health of the city. While we are proud of our accomplishments to date, there is work yet to be done. Recognition of Tybee Island as a Best Restored Beach holds Tybee Island up as an exemplar of the work being done by so many coastal communities across the country, all of whom are working to realize their opportunities in the face of the same constraints and challenges. ❖

## Courses.....

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These courses are intended for coastal practitioners, professionals, consultants and representatives from government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. Students and new professionals are also encouraged to attend.

The short course topics are modules that will be offered in partial completion of the Certified Coastal Practitioner™ (CCP) program. The complete program will consist of 10 modules offering a broad, multidisciplinary platform of knowledge for current and prospective coastal professionals and providing an introductory look at the various areas of coastal expertise that are crucial to successful and sound coastal management. The basic objective of this program is to deliver the fundamentals of each topic applied in coastal management, so that individuals obtain exposure to a breadth of knowledge and expertise.

Please visit https://coastal-zone-foundation.org/ccp-training/ for more information on the Certified Coastal Practitioner™ credential. Most short courses are also available via recorded webinar. ❖

## Coastal Summit awards nominations 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 23-25. The deadline is Jan. 22, 2021

- 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. 22, 2021, and may be submitted using the online form at www.asbpa.org. The nominator will need to be in attendance to receive the award. For questions, e-mail us at managing@asbpa.org. ❖

## WWW.ASBPA.ORG

We are looking forward to our first virtual 2020 National Coastal Conference — if you haven't registered, it's not too late! Registration is available linked from our Conferences page. You will be able to view all of the presentations for a full year after the conference, giving you plenty of time to check out any that you missed seeing live.

Don't forget, there's still time to enter the 2020 ASBPA Photo Contest. The deadline has been extended to October 23, and the information is linked to our home page. You could win a free membership to ASBPA and have your photo featured on the cover of *Shore & Beach*.

As always, all the latest 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 the latest news and happenings. — ***Beth Sciaudone, Ph.D., ASBPA Webmaster*** ❖

## Election.....

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er coastal values when you are thinking about candidates this fall.

Chief among these values is science-based decision-making for our coastlines. Whether you are voting at the local, state or national level, think about how candidates uphold science and respect the integrity of the scientific process. Which candidates follow scientific consensus in understanding the root causes of problems along our shorelines? How do candidates use science, engineering and modeling to evaluate proposed policies to improve our coastline? And which candidates support investing in research and data-acquisition to allow coastal science and engineering to improve?

Other coastal values to consider are how candidates prioritize policies and solutions that uphold and advance a) community protection from coastal hazards, b) coastal ecological health, c) the coastal economy, and d) recreational opportunities on beaches and shores. ASBPA believes a healthy coastline supports all four of these values. Maximizing these values takes policy and management that use empirical evidence to measure the problems and determine success. So while some decision-makers might prioritize the protection value of a restored coastline and others might prioritize ecological health, using science to make decisions is essential for either to be successful.

Using science as a barometer for coastal policymaking is not partisan. As you consider candidates, we encourage you to set aside labels and parties, and vote for policymakers who value the coast and who respect the scientific method and will make decisions guided by science. ❖

■ **FIND OUT MORE:** https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/lobbying