Coastal Voice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

— May 2021 —

International jury grants Blue Flag Pilot status to 4 U.S. beaches

By: ANNIE MERCER, ASBPA Program Coordinator

ASBPA has been working with four beaches around the U.S. since last October to submit materials to the Blue Flag International Jury to determine their current level of compliance with the Blue Flag eco-award criteria. The jury met mid-April to review applications from all participating countries in the Northern Hemisphere.

East Beach in Galveston Island, Texas; Lovers Key State Park in Lee County Florida; Zuma Beach in Malibu, California; and Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii have all been granted Pilot Site status and are invited to apply for the Blue Flag award as soon as they fully comply with the Blue Flag criteria.

Kelly De Schaun, CEO of Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees, and driving force behind Galveston's participation said: "The Park Board of Trustees has worked for years with our partners to steward Texas beaches on Galveston Island and the opportunity to validate this work at R.A. Apffel Park (East Beach locally) through the international eco-award Blue Flag will be a real game changer."

The Blue Flag eco-award is one of five programs offered by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The award is offered to beaches, marinas, and tourism boats meeting over 30 criteria for water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, safety and services, sustainable tourism, and social responsibility. ASBPA is the U.S. National Operator for the Blue Flag award and will be launching the program at the 2021 National Coastal Conference Sept. 28-Oct. 1 in New Orleans, LA. ❖

INSIDE:

PAGE 2: Best Restored Beach nominations extended to May 15

PAGE 3: A look back at Coastal Summit 2021

PAGE 5: Best Restored Shores award nominations open

Save the dates:

- **Best Restored Beach nominations due May 15**
- **National Coastal Conference abstracts due May 15**
- **Best Restored Shores nominations due July 16**
- **National Coastal Conference award nominations due July 26**

Abstracts deadline extended to May 15

By: LESLIE PICKEL, ASBPA Managing Director

The Call for Abstracts has been extended to May 15 for the 2021 National Coastal Conference to be held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 at the Hilton Riverside New Orleans. We look forward to being back in NOLA and in person! Please note that if uncertainty around travel restrictions could be an issue for you, we suggest that you still submit an abstract and we will work out the presentation details at a later time. This year's theme, "Geaux Resilient," continues to broaden our focus across the entire physical coastal and estuarine system thus making resilience and living shoreline themed papers an area of particular focus.

We will also launch the Blue Flag program at the conference. We are planning to have several sessions focused on criteria related to aspects of the Blue Flag program such as:

- Beach Accessibility (ADA and ABA standards, and accessibility issues, regulations, practices, and partner solutions for beaches);
- Environmental Management (focus on balancing recreation and the environment and how to integrate development/use or environmental plans and assessments);
- Water quality (federal, state or local water standards, collection techniques, how they are addressing poor water quality, notification to the public, etc.);
- Trash collection;
- Beach safety;
- Beach operations (beach driving,

■ **Continued on next page**

Abstracts.....

■ Continued from page 1

domestic animals, harmful algal blooms, beach cleaning, etc.); and
- Community engagement.

The National Coastal Conference provides an opportunity for coastal stakeholders and managers to develop collaborative networks to promote best management practices, while learning the latest science, engineering, and policy needed to maintain and improve the health of our beachfront and estuarine shorelines and ecosystems.

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

- 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.

Presentations may be PowerPoint

■ Continued on page 6

DEADLINE EXTENDED:

Nominate your beach for 2021 ASBPA Best Restored Beach Award by May 15

We are excited to see nominations rolling in for the 2021 ASBPA Award and want to provide two more weeks (to May 15) for coastal stakeholders to share their success stories. The Best Restored Beaches Award is given annually to beach nourishment projects to help build awareness of the value of America's restored beaches.

The award-winning projects on America's open shoreline and on the Great Lakes' shorelines could include:

■ Beach and shoreline renourishment project on open coastlines.

■ Dune restoration and dune building projects.

■ Coastal resiliency projects with a sandy beach or dune component.

■ Inlet management and regional sediment management (RSM) projects including beach placement.

■ Beach and shoreline projects on open coastlines with structures that enhance the performance of beach renourishment projects.

The intensity of storms hammering our coasts continue to increase. It has been proven that high dunes and wide beaches are the best defenses to minimize the impacts of erosion and flooding from severe storms. In addition, providing protection through restored beaches in advance of a storm is much cheaper than reimbursing losses after the fact.

"Many seasonal or new residents of beach communities do not realize that their beach was built and has been maintained over the years. It is important that everyone realize the time and effort that is required to maintain this critical resource," says ASBPA President Tony Pratt.

Continued public support for restoration is crucial and often difficult to maintain when restoration projects. ASBPA encourages nominations from established as well as new projects for the 2021 Best Restored Beaches Award. To meet submission deadlines, all nominations must be sent electronically to bestrestoredbeach@asbpa.org by May 15, 2021. Go to http://asbpa.org/about-us/awards-program/ to submit your nomination. A nomination checklist is available at www.asbpa.org; we encourage all applicants to use this form to make sure their application is complete. The committee will evaluate the nomination based on your responses to these questions. Please feel free to expand on or describe in more depth what efforts were required.

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

Winners will be notified in advance. ASBPA will prepare press releases to notify the media of the winner. Winners must agree to provide press releases to their local media and arrange for a representative to be present at the 2022 ASBPA Coastal Summit in Washington, DC, or participate in the virtual Coastal Summit to accept the award. All materials submitted will become property of ASBPA and will not be returned. Upon written request, a nomination from 2020 that was not chosen can be carried over to 2021. ❖

A successful 2021 Coastal Summit goes "Wading into New Waters"

By: LESLIE PICKEL, ASBPA Managing Director

We welcomed more than 100 virtual attendees with a stellar lineup of more than 50 engaging presenters for the 2021 Virtual Coastal Summit held in late March. We are pleased to share some of the highlights.

In our opening session, we were welcomed by Major General William "Butch" Graham, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and heard thoughtful presentations from partners from National Wildlife Federation, NOAA, BOEM, CSO and others.

Congressman Garret Graves from Louisiana provided us a pre-recorded message where he shared his visions for the 117th Congress as the Ranking Member for the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, and member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee along with a number of other assignments.

We completed Day 1 with presentations from Peter Seidle, ASBPA Government Affairs Committee co-chair, and Nicole Elko, ASBPA Science Director, discussing recent efforts by the Government Affairs Committee and the Science and Technology Committee, followed by a preview of the 2021 ASBPA National Coastal Conference in New Orleans by Gordon Thomson.

On Day 2, we opened with a discussion of the ASBPA-Coastal States Organization's Partnership and Joint Policy on Beach and Inlet Management. The discussion was led by Tony Pratt, ASBPA President, and joined by a familiar face to attendees — Derek Brockbank, CSO Executive Director, and his colleague Rachel Keylon, Federal Affairs Director for CSO. To learn more about this effort, we invite you to visit the ASBPA website and listen to the five-part Capitol Beach Podcast.

We were also excited to launch a new effort with the CSO regarding State Sediment Regulations Analysis where we were joined by Marriah Abellera of the Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We look forward to sharing more about this project in the coming months and this was a great opening to presentations from Texas, New Jersey, and Delaware on State-led Regional Sediment Management Initiatives.

We ended our afternoon sessions with Hill staff from three Congressional Committees that directly impact the ASBPA's efforts: the House Natural Resources Committee, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Our four speakers in this session educated and entertained attendees through their sharing of wisdom and anecdotes from life as a staffer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Day 3, our focus was on funding, marketing, and planning for the nation's coasts. Erika Keller (National Fish and Wildlife), Suzanne Giles Simon (Restore America's Estuaries) and Chris Darnell (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) led the discussion on funding to highlight opportunities

■ Continued on page 6

Summit attendees make virtual visit to BOEM

By: DAN ADAMS

On March 22, 2021, participants of the ASBPA Coastal Summit "traveled" virtually to the offices of the Bureau of Ocean & Energy Management (BOEM) to discuss issues of importance related to ASBPA stakeholders. The visit was held with several BOEM Division Chiefs and other senior staff members. We are grateful to Dr. Megan Carr, Chief of the Office of Strategic Resources, and BOEM's team for meeting with Coastal Summit attendees, and we look forward to an ongoing collaboration.

Highlights of the meeting included:

1. Marine Minerals: Jeffrey Reidenauer provided an overview of the program.

• Demand for OCS sand resources is increasing. BOEM continues to advance the MMIS through ongoing data collection efforts including an anticipated increase in consulting services to augment their current staff of 18 employees.

2. Oil and Gas Energy: Wright Frank provided an update on the national oil and gas leasing program.

• Executive Order 14008 Sec 208 suspended new oil and gas leases on public lands or in offshore waters pending completion of a comprehensive review and reconsideration of federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices.

3. Renewable Energy: David MacDufee spoke about the renewable energy wind lease program.

• 16 active wind leases have been issued, and 13 construction and operations plans have been approved

• Executive Order 14008 Sec 207 requires a review of the permitting process to identify steps that can be taken to increase renewable energy production with the goal of doubling offshore wind production by 2030. ❖

Congratulations to our 2021 Coastal Summit award winners

We presented several awards during our stellar 2021 ASBPA Coastal Summit held March 23-25, and we'd like to highlight them here.

The first 2021 Friend of the Coast Award was presented to **Senator Cory Booker** from New Jersey, and he was nominated by Margot Walsh. Since joining the Senate, Sen. Booker's tremendous effort protecting our coasts includes sponsoring or co-sponsoring over 50 bills focused on environmental stewardship and resilience, climate change, and environmental justice. Sen. Booker's legislative initiatives parallel and support the mission of the ASBPA to preserve, protect, and enhance our coasts by merging science and policy.

Secondly, we presented a 2021 Friend of the Coast Award to **Rep. Ted Lieu** from California's 33rd congressional district. He was nominated by Gary Jones and Cesar Espinosa. Rep. Lieu received this award for his rapidly growing track record and strong voice of environmental protection, and as a firm opponent of coastal drilling. He has numerous accomplishments on his record of merit since joining the House in 2015 including the Climate Solutions Act and the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act.

Our 2021 Army Corps of Engineers Employee Award was presented to **Dylan Davis**. Dylan's impact cannot be overstated. He has contributed significantly to the success of beach management projects and preservation as the Coastal Program Manager of the South Atlantic Division. Dylan oversees all aspects of the Coastal Storm Damage Reduction and Navigation program throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean. He was nominated by Ken Willson, who praised his critical assessment of each project, along with his curiosity and commitment to develop tools to enhance future projects.

Our 2021 Congressional Staffer Awards were presented jointly to **Ian Bennitt** and **Ryan Seiger**, and nominated by Bill Hanson. Ian was recognized for his time as the Minority Staff Director for the House Water Resource & Environment subcommittee. Ryan serves as Majority Staff Director/ Senior Counsel for the House Subcommittee for Water Resources and Environment under the Transportation & Infrastructure committee. Their bipartisan effort was critical to the 2020 WRDA bill. Their support is far-reaching in showcasing the best interests for coastal improvement, preservation, and protection.

We wholeheartedly congratulate all of our 2021 award winners and bravo to them for their tireless efforts to help preserve our coasts. A BIG thanks to Nick Brown who served as Coastal Summit Awards Chair this year! ❖

2021 conference award nominations open

Awards Season has begun! We are now accepting award nominations for the 2021 National Coastal Conference to be held Sept 28-Oct 1 in New Orleans. To refresh your memories as you think of worthy candidates, here's a run-down of the awards:

■ NEW this year, we are honored to present the first **Gooderham Media and Communications Award** to honor the legacy and dedication of Gooderham & Associates to ASBPA, and, in particular, their leadership in the public media and communication field. This award will be granted to a media or communications professional who has excelled in communicating the value of our nation's coasts. This award has been expanded to encourage recognition of individuals from traditional media outlets and other public media platforms.

■ The **Morrough 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.

■ 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 major design features; evidence 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; the individuals who will receive the award; and the project cost.

■ The **Robert G. Dean Coastal 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 **ASBPA Member of the Year Award** is presented annually to an individual giving of their time, talents, and treasury to further the goals of ASBPA's impact.

■ The **ASBPA Rising Star Award** is presented annually to a new professional or student who has a lead role to further ASBPA's mission.

Award entries must be received by July 26, 2021. Submit nominations using online at www.asbpa.org. All winners will be invited to attend the conference to accept the awards. ❖

Best Restored Shores nominations open

By: SHANNON CUNNIFF, Shannon Cunniff Consulting, and PETER SEIDLE, Applied Technology and Management

SEIDLE

CUNNIFF

ASBPA realizes the creativity, dedication, perseverance it can take to conceive, design, and implement shoreline restoration projects. That's why we want to recognize those efforts and successes and started the Best Restored Shores Award two years ago. By recognizing superior projects we aim to encourage continued expansion of a greater diversity of shoreline restoration projects that preserve, protect and enhance coastal habitats and their resilience to climate change. Information on how to nominate a project for the 2021 Best Restored Shores Award is found at https://asbpa.org/about-us/awards-program/.

As in previous years, we seek shoreline restoration projects from U.S. coasts (West, East, Gulf, and Great Lakes) and U.S. protectorates and territories. But we've made a few tweaks to the call. For example, ASBPA has added "urban waterfronts" to the list of kinds of suitable projects. We continue to seek projects that involve coastal back bays or large freshwater lakes; seagrass, shellfish, coral reef, and other submerged habitats; wetlands, mangroves, and other intertidal habitats; living shorelines; and beneficial use of dredged material. We've made it clearer that projects should be completed by 2019 for this year's awards. As always, projects with innovative design and/or construction methods, implemented at a scale relevant to the challenges, with evidence that they achieved project's purposes as demonstrated with monitoring or other evidence, will be favored.

The nomination process is short and straightforward; it shouldn't take very long for someone familiar with the project to put it together. But don't wait until the deadline to apply! And don't forget to provide data and good then-and-now pictures to help tell your story.

This is a chance to toot your horn or laud someone's efforts. Winners of the 2021 Best Restored Shores will be able to strut their stuff; ASBPA will help encourage media coverage and will use social media to sing your praises. This year's awards are formally given at the National Conference in New Orleans and we'll organize a panel for award winners to share their experiences. Last year's *Shore and Beach* included a nice photo spread with advice from the winners.

So it's time to start nominating projects. Help us get word out so we get lots of quality nominations. Our favorite work is finding the best of the best! ❖

ASBPA photo contest:

Hit us with your best shots!

The editors of *Shore & Beach* announce the ASBPA's 14th annual photography competition! The contest highlights the beauty and natural wonders of America's magnificent coasts as part of celebrating more than 85 years of continuous publication of *Shore & Beach*.

Any photographs depicting the coastal zone including, but not limited to, beaches, bluffs, marinas, wetlands, marine life, recreational facilities, and engineered projects as long as they include the setting in which they were built. Winning photographs may be used as cover art on *Shore & Beach*. Photographs must have been taken since January 1, 2021. Photographs can be full-color, black and white, sepia, or colorized in one of the following categories: U.S. East Coast; U.S. Gulf of Mexico Coast; Caribbean (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands; U.S. Pacific Coast and Alaska; U.S. Great Lakes; Pacific

Submission: Each participant may submit up to three (3) photographs total and include name, address, occupation, business affiliation, photo titles, date taken, category. Photographers may submit all entries in a single category or select different categories as long as the total does not exceed five photographs.

Participants are to send electron-

■ Continued on next page

CHAPTER UPDATES

CSBPA webinar series

On May 20 at noon PST, the CSBPA will host the second webinar of the series titled "The Changing Sediment Landscape & Future of California's Shores and Beaches." The topic for the second event is "Economics and the Value of our Coasts." Call-in information will be posted on the California Chapter website (CSBPA 2021 Webinar Series (asbpa.org).

'Sediment for Survival' report

The San Francisco Estuary institute (SFEI) has released their long-awaited report entitled "Sediment for Survival," which analyzes how much sediment is needed for existing and restored wetlands in San Francisco Bay with two different climate scenarios (wet and dry future) between now and 2100. The document is quite thorough, looking for potential sources of sediment and soils to raise the level of subsided substrate to levels needed for marsh vegetation to develop. This project focuses on San Francisco Bay and the tidal wetlands, but it will be of interest to others as the methodology and potential management options could be applied elsewhere — and for sediment groupies, it's a good read. Check out the report and fact sheet at this link: Sediment for Survival | San Francisco Estuary Institute (sfei.org) https://www.sfei.org/documents/sediment-for-survival. The California Chapter hopes you find it interesting and useful!

Mid-Atlantic webinars

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is planning a series of three lunchtime webinars this summer. The first will be on Wednesday, June 16, at noon EDT. The focus will be the USACE Continuing Authorities Program (CAP).

S&NP podcasts

The Students and New Professionals is launching a new podcast, "Going Coastal," as a part of the ASPN family of podcasts. We can't wait to hear what co-hosts Marissa Torres, Research Engineer at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Jon Miller, Research Associate Professor at Stevens Institute of Technology bring to our happy ears! We will share more on the podcast in future issues. ❖

Contest

■ Continued from page 5

ic files in JPEG, TIFF or BMP format to contest@ASBPA.org. VERTICAL-format photographs are highly preferred. Horizontal photographs can be submitted, but if chosen as a cover shot are subject to editing at the discretion of *Shore & Beach*.

Deadline for submitting entries is 11:59 p.m. ET on Oct. 1, 2021.

Winner in each category will have their name and photograph printed in either *Shore & Beach* or the "Coastal Voice" e-newsletter, or both.

The Grand Prize winner will have their photograph printed on the cover of *Shore & Beach* and receive a one-year annual membership to ASBPA. ❖

Abstracts

■ Continued from page 2

or poster format. Abstracts (up to 500 words) are due by May 15. Submit abstracts via the online form on our Conferences page at https://asbpa.org/conferences. Posters are not due until Aug. 20. Presenters are responsible for their expenses including travel, lodging, and registration fees. Thank you for helping to make the 2021 conference our best yet! ❖

Summit

■ Continued from page 3

for projects of all shapes and sizes for multiple habitats and coastal features. This was especially compelling for efforts regarding resiliency and living shorelines.

A new key topic for the Summit was "Marketing the Coast," where we invited Destination Management Professionals from California, Texas, and Florida to share lessons learned and describe their efforts during the pandemic. We are grateful for the wisdom shared by Nancy Macphee, Lee County (FL) Visitor & Convention Bureau, Kelly de Schaun, Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees and Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Janet Zaldua, Marina Del Rey Convention & Visitors Bureau. These destinations all faced different challenges but three common themes arose from our speakers: Coordination, Communication, and Collaboration.

We ended Day 3 with Planning for the Next Generation's Beaches and Coasts. We heard three overlapping, but unique views of challenges and opportunities by our panel of Coastal Managers — Karina Johnson from California, Tom O'Shea from Massachusetts, and Charles Sutcliffe from Louisiana.

Two highly-appreciated offerings we included this year were Facilitated Discussions and themed Happy Hour Conversations. These were opportunities for participants to attend breakout sessions that spoke to their interests, and allowed for more engagement and dialogue about topics that would normally occur at a coffee break or during a reception. Led by ASBPA hosts, these were a respite for those who had been missing the opportunity to speak with their colleagues not offered in a virtual webinar setting.

We thank and honor the Summit co-chairs Lynette Cardoch, Moffatt & Nichol; Brian Caufield, CDM Smith; and Jack Koban, FUGRO, for their tireless efforts. We cannot do this important work without the generosity of our sponsors and supporters. A final shout-out to the Student and New Professionals Chapter for their delightful, compelling Summit game breaks. ❖