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American Shore & Beach Preservation Association
Advocating for healthy coastlines.

Coastal Voice

The Newsletter of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

— February 2022 —

Planning for the 2022 Coastal Summit is well underway! Our program includes presentations and panel discussions from Congressional Representatives and staff, federal agency partners, and non-governmental organizations. We will also have multiple opportunities for networking and in-depth discussions on various coastal topics.

This year, our invited speakers include:

• Mike Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works;

• Nicole LeBoeuf, Director of the National Ocean Service, NOAA;

• Dr. Megan Carr, Chief of the Strategic Resources Program at BOEM; and

• Christine Harrada, Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Council.

Our agenda includes numerous panel discussions on timely coastal topics such as the RISEE Act, One Federal Decision and Coastal Restoration Investments, Diversity and Inclusion in the Coastal Sciences, along with facilitated discussions, and our popular cocktail- and mocktail-themed virtual "Happy Hour."

Join us for three days of policy, technology, and advocacy each day from 1-5 p.m. EST. You'll find the latest agenda updates online and we invite you to register and join us for a great coastal conversation this March! **Learn more at asbpa.org/conferences/.**

Special thanks to our Coastal Summit Program and Sponsorship Committee members: Co-Chairs: Patrick Barrineau, Coastal Science & Engineering, Inc.; Susan Brodeur, Orange County, CA; Brandon Hill, City of Galveston, TX; Brian Caufield, Sponsorship Chair. Committee Members: Nick Brown, Nicole Elko, Eve Eisemann, Jack Koban, Annie Mercer, Brad and Leslie Pickel, Joan Pope, Tony Pratt and Lee Weishar.

The Coastal Summit is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities by visiting asbpa.org/conferences/. Registration costs before March 15 are:

• $300 Member

• $420/non member (includes a one-year ASBPA membership)

• $75 Student Member

• $100 Student Non-Member (includes a one-year ASBPA membership)

Send checks or government purchase orders to: ASBPA, 11940 Palba Way #5102, Fort Myers, FL 33912. To be officially registered, all registration payments must be received by March 22. ❖

Register for the Coastal Summit at asbpa.org/conferences/

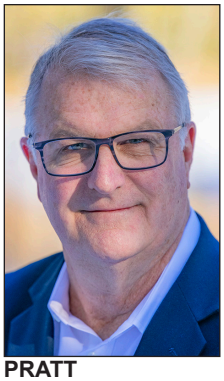
Leadership changes for ASBPA in 2022

By: TIFFANY ROBERTS BRIGGS, ASBPA Secretary

Greetings ASBPA members. During the last year, members of the ASBPA Executive Committee served on a hiring committee to find a new Executive Director, as Derek Brockbank resigned and joined the Coastal States Organization. On behalf of ASBPA, I want to thank the hiring committee for their investment of time and talent. I also want to briefly recap their efforts and highlight leadership changes in ASBPA officers and staff for 2022.

ROBERTS

During the summer and fall months of 2021, the committee reviewed multiple rounds of applications and conducted several interviews, but we couldn't find the right person to lead the organization. It is challenging to find someone who understands all the facets of ASBPA and has the leadership skills to support our existing ASBPA team. The good news is that over the course of 2021 our ASBPA staff was able to pick up many of the pieces. However, we still need(ed) concerted dedication to such as development and fund-raising, chapter engagement, and leadership in Government Affairs. Fortunately, ASBPA had just the right person: now former president, Tony Pratt.



PRATT

JONES

In December, Tony Pratt was offered the opportunity to step down as ASBPA president and serve as Executive Director of the ASBPA. This decision was affirmed by the Board of Directors and Tony stepped into this new role as Executive Director in the January 2022 Executive Committee meeting.

Tony has hit the ground running and staff welcomes his involvement in his new role. We are excited to have Tony fulfill this role for the organization and continue the momentum that has been created over the previous years. Please join me in welcoming Tony as the new Executive Director of the ASBPA!

Moving forward, I am chairing a nominating committee to fill the role of ASBPA President with Gary Jones currently acting President in his capacity of First Vice President. We expect to fill the role of President at our next board meeting in March in conjunction with the Coastal Summit. More information is to come. Thanks to everyone for your support of ASBPA. ❖

Government & policy awards nominations closing on Feb. 4th

Nominate a coastal champion today! Nominations are being accepted 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 2022 Coastal Summit. We appreciate your time to nominate a coastal champion who advocates for healthy, sustainable, and resilient coastal systems. Visit asbpa.org/conferences/ to make a nomination.

The **Congressional Staffer award** will be given to a single staff member for 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 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.

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

Any ASBPA member can submit a nomination via the online form. All nominations should include a brief description of accomplishments with optional support materials. Questions? Email managing@asbpa.org. ❖

Best Restored Beaches call for nominations now open

By: PETER SEIDLE, Co-Chair, Best Restored Beaches Committee

It is that time again! The Best Restored Beaches committee is energized and has reassembled for another year to celebrate the best in beach nourishment projects from coast to coast. We welcome any beach project you consider award-worthy and we are looking for large and small projects — beach nourishments and dune projects on the Pacific, Atlantic, and Gulf coasts, and the Great Lakes.

Please start envisioning which project you would like to see on ASBPA's 2022 Best Restored Beaches marquee. We invite you to reach out to your colleagues, clients, government and elected officials, and consultants to share with them this opportunity. We know the best submissions come from our stellar membership!

SEIDLE

Call for nominations

ASBPA is seeking nominations for the 2022 Best Restored Beaches Award to recognize beach renourishment projects. This award honors the Best Restored Beaches in America annually 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 projects 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 the storms that have been hammering our coasts have been increasing. 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. "During the COVID pandemic, many of America's beaches have become a place to rejuvenate and feel safe with family and friends. It is important that everyone realize the time and effort that is required to maintain this critical resource," says Gary Jones, ASBPA president.

Continued public support for restoration is crucial and often difficult to maintain when restoration projects become successful and routine. The ASBPA encourages nominations from established, as well as new projects for the 2022 Best Restored Beaches Award.

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.

What you need to include

Nominations must contain the following:

- Nominator's contact information: name, email, contact number, mailing address.
- The name and contact information for the nominee's public affairs specialist who will be coordinating with the media for press releases, etc.
- Project location map.

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- The name of the project manager and the construction contractor. If consulting firms were used in the design and/or permitting, provide the consulting firm's principal scientist, biologist, ecologist or and/or engineer as appropriate.
- Project narrative, including the following:
- Effectiveness and Purpose. Describe the primary objective(s) of the project and any secondary objectives. Discuss the effectiveness of the project in meeting both primary and any secondary goals.
- Design features including constraints and challenges. The nominee should provide a comprehensive description of the design, and identify the issues that influenced the design.
- Construction methods. The nominee should provide a description of construction methods. Projects with innovative design and construction methods that were effective and able to meet project's purposes will be favored.
- Funding. Describe the funding sources and how any obstacles or hurdles were overcome. Projects with public / private partnerships and monitoring to document project performance success will be favored.
- Several professional quality color photographs of before and after the restoration project. Please include a release so that we can use the professional photographs in our publications. Tourist development councils and local resorts are good sources for imagery.
- A statement about why you consider this project is a Best Restored Beach in the United States. (It is important to let the Committee know that you are passionate about your project and that the restoration project was a benefit to the shoreline habitat).
- Quantified outcomes (benefits resulting from the successfully executed project) are especially helpful.
- Please include beach nourish-

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CSBPA sets chapter legislative priorities

By: KIM GARVEY, CSBPA President

The California Chapter has been following State Legislature and activities related to shore and beach issues. Two priority topics, from the perspective of the California Chapter, are discussed here and we encourage you to support these actions.

Dedicated funding source for shoreline projects needed

• **Background:** The State of California Public Beach Restoration Program was created by AB 64 (Ducheny — 1999) as an effort by the Legislature to fund public beach restoration projects that protect critical infrastructure and protect public health and safety, as well as create a funding source that could be used as the State's cost share to attract Federal funding for sand replenishment projects. The Public Beach Restoration Grant Program is administered by the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), a division within California State Parks, and was funded mainly through the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund (HWRF) for over the past 20 years through boating-derived fees. However, the HWRF is in a long-term structural deficit with no state funding provided for the programs in fiscal years 2020-21 or 2021-22 budgets. The Boating and Waterways Commission is now seeking to help identify solutions to address the HWRF's shortfall issues.

• **Action:** The State of California is now projecting a $25 billion surplus. Now is the time to fund the Public Beach Restoration Program which is absolutely critical to protect infrastructure and public safety by investing in our beaches which are an essential public recreational resource used by millions of Californians and visitors every year. If HWRF is not used for funding this program, another replacement dedicated revenue source must be immediately identified. Other potential funding sources could include a tax levy on short-term overnight accommodations, mitigation fees from oil spills, requiring development fees for projects influencing sediment transport, i.e. water storage projects, flood risk managements, sand mining, desalination or navigation projects to go toward beach restoration activities.

• **Action:** Similar to beach restoration projects, state funding of the incremental cost of beneficial reuse of dredged sediments in wetland restoration projects in estuaries is necessary to prevent the significant loss of this valuable natural resource — and support nature-based climate adaptation for these systems. California is the only state in the nation that does not provide matching funds for beneficial reuse of sediment for federal projects. State funding covering the incremental cost of beneficial reuse would prevent 1-2 million cubic yards of sediment annual being treated as a waste product while wetland restoration is delayed. Similar funding sources could support this additional program.

Advance California's RSM Plans toward implementation.

• **Background:** The Califor-

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Call .....

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ment 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 national beach nourishment database located at https://asbpa.org/national-beach-nourishment-database/.

To meet submission deadlines, all nominations must be received by April 30, 2022 and sent to bestrestoredbeach@asbpa.org. Visit https://asbpa.org/about-us/awards-program/ to submit your nomination and view the nomination checklist. We encourage all applicants to use the checklist to ensure your application is complete. All materials submitted will become property of ASBPA and will not be returned. Please note that upon written request, a nomination from a previous year submittal which did not receive an award can be carried over to 2022.

Selected recipients will be notified in advance. The ASBPA will prepare a press release and social media to celebrate the award winners, and awardees must agree to provide press releases to their local media and arrange for a designated representative to be present at the ASBPA Coastal Summit to be held in March 2023. ❖

CSBPA

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nia Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW) was formed in 1999 as a collaborative task force of state, federal and local/regional entities to facilitate regional approaches to protect, enhance and restore California's beaches, wetlands and watersheds. California has made substantial progress in developing the baseline information and tools needed to address erosion and accretion issues along the California shoreline.

The California Natural Resources Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jointly chair CSMW and have separate funding for activities. Accomplishments under CSMW include the identification of sediment sources, development of sediment budgets, mapping out beach erosion areas of concern, and completion of 11 Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Plans.

• **Background:** The California Regional Assessment (December 2021) report, prepared as a product of the National Shoreline Management Study (NSMS) authorized by Section 215(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53) and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Institute for Water Resources, provides a regional assessment of coastal change and current management actions based on existing available data and input from stakeholders and tribal interests. It considers the effects of erosion and accretion on socioeconomics and the environment and provides recommendations and example actions to restore and maintain resilient shorelines. An analysis of federal and state policies, procedures, and regulations with the objective of improving governance and restoring sediment imbalances along California's shoreline recognized that comprehensive sediment and erosion management will require significant funding and modified governance. The analysis noted that other coastal states with successful restoration histories have developed comprehensive state-level programs that use focused governance and dedicated funding to restore their affected coastal habitats. This dedicated funding allows these programs to attract and leverage federal funding. The analysis also noted the critical need to inform and educate stakeholders regarding the sediment supply crisis, and the tools needed to assist governance efforts at restoring sediment imbalances.

• **Action:** Establish a state Coastal Sediment Management Office.

• **Action:** Shift the focus from planning needs to strategies for implementation of the RSM Plan activities.

• **Action:** Fund research efforts to develop a shoreline-change and coastal-cliff monitoring program across federal, state, and academic partners that tracks erosion and accretion rates consistently over time so that trends can be established and predicted, especially in relation to shoreline development, protection, and SLR. Cliff monitoring would include tracking cliff shape, position, and potential hazards over time.

• **Action:** Implement pilot projects to validate innovative nature-based, structural, and hybrid methods, and test resilience effectiveness for different types of shorelines. Projects should include clear and manageable monitoring guidelines and a process for applying lessons learned from projects that do not achieve desired outcomes.

• **Action:** Develop a statewide program to identify and prioritize key research questions with regard to the performance and impacts of Natural and Nature-Based Features (NNBF). The research program will be coordinated with the pilot projects to drive the monitoring protocols and project selection based on the emerging research. ❖

BLUE FLAG USA

Blue Flag committee meeting on Feb. 10

By: ANNIE MERCER, Program Coordinator

Blue Flag staff have accepted two new Site Self-Assessments. We had great first meetings with our marketing subcommittee and all our site managers in January. Blue Flag staff is dedicated to fostering partner connections and has several engagement opportunities coming up.

Our first quarterly committee meeting will be held February 10th at 2 p.m. EST on Zoom. Please reach out if you are interested in joining the committee and looking at Blue Flag strategically. We are looking for research, best practices, and industry solutions to beach management topics such as waste and recycling management; safety and risk reduction; environmental education; accessibility; biodiversity; and more.

MERCER

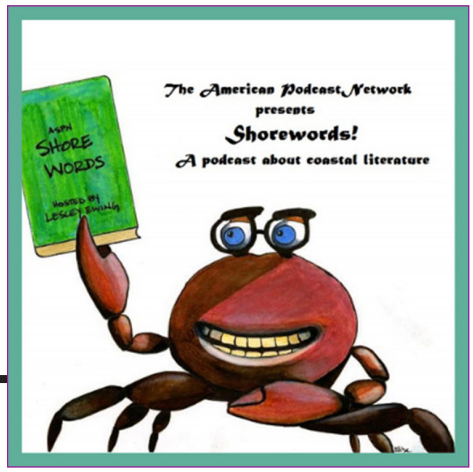
We hope to include this information in upcoming newsletters to partners, presentations to sites, and as dedicated sessions at the ASBPA National Conference. Interested beaches can find award information at blueflag.us. Staff is available for consultation, presentation, and is accepting self-assessments. ❖

Dive in to the ASPN podcast world

The American Shoreline Podcast Network housed on the Coastal News Today media platform has a plethora of engaging podcasts discussing a wide variety of coastal issues, challenges, and opportunities that are immediately relevant to today's working and undergrad coastal practitioners. It's a wonderful resource that we encourage all our members to tune into!

Shore & Beach editor-in-chief Dr. Lesley Ewing hosts the **Shorewords** podcast which combines her love of the ocean and books.

The **Going Coastal** podcast is presented by the ASBPA Student & New Professionals Chapter with rotating hosts Jon Miller, Heather Wade, and Marissa Torres. Visit coastalnewstoday.com to view over 15 current offerings. ❖



USCRP seeks Post-Doc

The U.S. Coastal Research Program is looking for a Post-Doc for their "Research Findings from First 50" project. Since 2016, the USCRP has funded 63 academic research studies to address coastal research needs in several priority areas such as long- and short-term coastal processes. Study results have been documented in literature and implemented in advancements to technology, methods, numerical models, and other mechanisms. There is a need to summarize the outcomes, successes, lessons learned, and degree of transition into practice; and identify technologies that could benefit the field as well as synthesize remaining gaps in each topic area. For information go to: https://www.erdc.usace.army.mil/Locations/CHL/ECHO/US-Coastal-Research-Program-Research-Findings-from-First-50-Projects/. ❖

Register today
for the virtual
ASBPA Coastal Summit
March 29-31, 2022

Human and Ecosystem Health Coastal Systems Paper coming soon

Our Partners at US Coastal Research Program recently announced a forthcoming Human and Ecosystem Health Coastal Systems Paper to be published in mid-March. Prior to the full paper, USCRP will be publishing a two-page recommendation overview next month at https://uscoastalresearch.org/heh-workshop. The new report aims to address our present understanding of the dynamics of human and ecosystem health in coastal systems and highlight the need to better understand near-shore physical process interactions with coastal pollutants and resilient ecosystems. The paper will appear in a future issue of *Shore & Beach* and will be posted at https://uscoastalresearch.org/publications in March. ❖

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership for 2022. Your continued participation in the association is greatly appreciated, and we have a number of interesting events and issues to keep you engaged and informed about all things coastal this year! There's still time to keep your membership up to date, and the quickest way to renew is online at asbpa.org/members. Please send questions concerning your ASBPA membership status to billing@asbpa.org. ❖

SNP Chapter:

Recognizing and promoting students and young professionals in coastal engineering

By: COURTNEY OLNEY, EIT and University of Delaware Graduate Student; SHEPPARD MEDLIN, University of Georgia Graduate Student; and MARO PONTIKI, Social Chair of SNP Chapter, University of Delaware Graduate Student

Courtney Olney: Striving to be a better coastal engineer every day

I am a second-year master's student at the University of Delaware (UD) in the civil engineering program with a concentration in coastal engineering. Prior to starting my master's program, I earned my bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UD. Afterwards, I worked for KCI Technologies Inc., an engineering consultant firm located in Maryland, for two years in various positions. As a Rotational Engineer, I worked with multiple divisions within the company—Land Development, Natural

Resources, and Water Resources—for three-months each. This allowed me to learn a variety of project types and discover what aligns with my interests. I was most enthusiastic about the Water Resources division, so I worked as an Engineer in Training designing systems to control the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff for about a year. Although I thought Water Resources was a good fit for me, I still was not satisfied with my career. Recalling my prior passions for the ocean, stemming from my hobby of recreational SCUBA diving, I knew coastal engineering would better suit me.

Currently, I am advised by Dr. Jack Puleo and perform research related to beach processes where we are trying to quantify the importance of the hydrodynamic forces, specifically pressure gradient and bed shear stress, in a swash zone (the area of the beach where inundation occurs). A double dam-break mechanism is used to drive

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Sheppard Medlin: Investigating the resilience of nature-based flood defenses

My name is Sheppard Medlin, and I am a second-year master's student in the School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural, and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Georgia. I grew up along the Outer Banks of North Carolina where I gained a deep appreciation of the intricate relationship between the coastal environment and its surrounding communities. Moving inland, I attended NC State University for my undergraduate program, where I obtained a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in

physics. Now I am pursuing my master's degree in civil and environmental engineering with a concentration in sustainable coastal systems.

Currently, I am researching the relationship between barrier island characteristics and their effect on reducing inland storm surge penetration under Dr. Matthew Bilskie's guidance. We selected the ADvanced CIRCulation (ADCIRC) hydrodynamic model to accomplish this research goal by simulating various idealized coastal landscapes under multiple storm surge conditions. This research will advance the knowledge on nature-based infrastructure, such as barrier islands, for flood protection and further encourage engineers, community leaders, and policy makers to increase their use within the coastal environment. After completing my master's degree, I plan to continue working with coastal infrastructure in the private sector. When I'm not studying, I enjoy backpacking, listening to live music, and taking every opportunity to get out on the water, regardless of the activity. Research: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/36ec0f0356c54d64828bcda3e1eca02c ❖

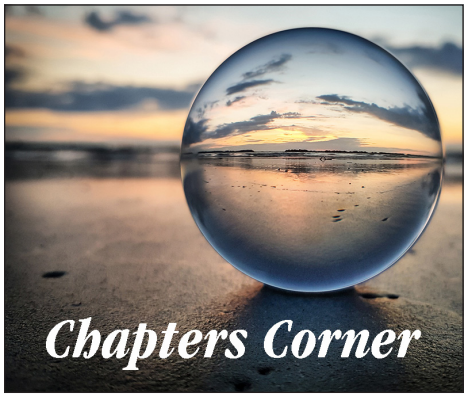
Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The MAC has started planning the 2022 calendar and we are excited to start our year off with a lunch-and-learn webinar in early March (please see our chapter website for date and registration) on coastal advocacy and how to navigate this topic in the virtual world. If you are interested in our upcoming webinars and events, please email MAC.asbpa@gmail.com to be added to our listserv.

Texas Chapter

We hosted our first luncheon meeting of the new year on January 27 at the Houston Marriott South Hobby Airport. We welcomed keynote speaker Lori Brownell, Director of Improvement for the Houston Ship Channel.

Other presentations and speakers included Richard Ruchhoeft, Project Manager, Channel Development "Houston Ship Channel Expansion and Channel Improvement Project"; Sarah Dearing, Callan Marine "Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement



Project" and "Refurbishing Breton Island"; Garrett Gibson, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock "$92 Million Houston Ship Channel Dredge Project"; Phillip Blackmer, HDR Engineering "17 Mile Long Beach Nourishment Project at McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge"; Marisa Weber, Lloyd Engineering "Dredge Material Reclamation: Beneficial Use and DMPA Management"; Jason Chauvin, T.Baker Smith "Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Design–Port Arthur LNG."

Thank you to our corporate sponsors: Callan Marine LTD, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, HDR Engineering, Lloyd Engineering, and T. Baker Smith LLC. ❖

Olney.....

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the wave propagation over a fixed impermeable bed creating a swash event in a laboratory setting. The experimental hydrodynamic data collected will validate a numerical model based on the Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes equations. The model will produce 2D hydrodynamic simulations of the wave flume showing pressure gradients and shear stress as a function of cross shore position. I hope my research on swash hydrodynamics will enhance the coastal community's knowledge about forces importance for sediment transport processes and thus beach erosion and nourishment response.

After I earn my master's degree, I plan to work for an engineering consultant firm as a coastal engineer. I would like to work for a firm that offers commercial diving services and become commercial certified, as well as recreational, so I could combine my personal and work interests. Specifically, projects that involve coral restoration bring a sparkle to my eyes. Outside of my professional life, I enjoy SCUBA diving, hiking, and poi (a performing art). All my hobbies keep me active and inspired. ❖