

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **ASBPA Announces 2007 Winners of Top Restored Beaches**

**Fort Myers, FL** – Put on your bathing suits and board shorts: The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) today announced the winners of the 2007 Top Restored Beach Award.

This year's seven winners are: Chaland Headland Restoration Project in Louisiana; East Beach, Norfolk, Virginia; Surfside-Sunset Beach, Orange County, California; Collier County Beaches, Florida, Perdido Pass, Alabama; West Hampton Dunes on Long Island in New York; and Folly Beach, South Carolina.

“The Top Nourished Beach award was created in 2001 as a way of highlighting nourished beaches,” said Mayor Harry Simmons of Caswell Beach, North Carolina and President of ASBPA. “As Americans begin to flock to our nation’s coastline during the upcoming beach season, most beach-going Americans don’t even realize they may be enjoying a nourished beach.”

Beach nourishment began taking place in America over 40 years ago in coastal communities on the East, West and Gulf Coasts. Beach nourishment is the process of placing sufficient quantities of beach quality sand on eroding beaches to reverse or offset the effects of erosion. The United States has over 370 nourished beaches, including Miami Beach, Coney Island, Waikiki and Southern California’s Venice Beach.

Most nourishment projects are overseen by the US Army Corps of Engineers and funded with local, state and federal money. Studies have shown that for each dollar spent on beach nourishment projects four to five dollars accrue in tax payer benefits. Additional benefits also include an economic boost to the local economy which translates into more jobs and higher tax revenue for building schools and roads.

The Top Restored Beaches were chosen based upon three criteria: the economic and ecological benefits the beach brings to its community; the short and long-term success of the nourishment project and the challenges each community overcame during the course of the project.

One of this year’s winners overcame significant obstacles. The Chaland Headland Restoration Project in Louisiana was granted funds for the restoration project four days prior to the landfall of Hurricane Katrina.

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“This year’s award winning beaches are a great testament to the solid science surrounding beach nourishment,” Simmons concluded.

Coastal communities were asked to nominate their restoration projects and were judged by the aforementioned criteria. Winners of the Top Restored Beach Award were selected by an independent panel of coastal managers and scientists. Past award winners include: Panama City Beach, Florida in 2002; The San Diego Association of Governments Regional Beach Sand Project in 2003; Ocean City, Maryland in 2004; The town of South Padre Island, Texas beaches in 2005; and Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches in Delaware in 2006.

For more information about ASBPA, to schedule an interview with Harry Simmons or to obtain photos, please contact Larry Farnsworth of Crosby-Volmer International Communications at [lfarnsworth@crosbyvolmer.com](mailto:lfarnsworth@crosbyvolmer.com).

**ABOUT ASBPA:** Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. ASBPA strives to engage in a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our beaches; thereby aiding in placing their beliefs within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. For additional information about ASBPA, please visit [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).

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