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ASBPA Honors Top Restored Beaches

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) today honored the recipients of the “Top Restored Beaches Award” for 2006 at its annual Coastal Summit on Capitol Hill.

The award winners were Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches in Delaware, Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland, Captiva Island in Florida, Gulf Shore and Orange Beach in Alabama, Sea Bright to Manasquan Beach in New Jersey and the Pinellas County beaches of Florida.

“This year’s award winners are not only environmental treasures; they’re prime examples as to why these public works projects are so necessary. America gets so much value out of so little investment,” said Harry Simmons, Mayor of Caswell Beach, North Carolina and President of ASBPA.

Each year, ASBPA recognizes the nation’s top nourished beaches. Nourished beaches play a vital role protecting coastal communities because they act as barriers against tropical storms and hurricanes. Beach nourishment projects also play a large economic role. It’s estimated that every one dollar spent on beach nourishment generates four to five dollars in federal taxpayer benefits. Lastly, nourishment projects are necessary in order to sustain the coastal ecosystem and protect coastal habitat such as birds, plants, and sea turtles.

These award winning beaches are a testament to the value nourishment projects provide to coastal towns across the country. Over fifty percent of the American public lives within fifty miles of the shoreline, yet the federal government continues to short change these important projects. Over the last forty-five years, the federal government has contributed \$2 billion to nourishment projects, which is equal to the federal government’s investment to fight forest fires in fiscal year 2006 alone.

Attached is some brief information about the award winning beaches. For more information about a specific award winner or to schedule an interview with Harry Simmons, please contact Larry Farnsworth of Crosby-Volmer International Communications at (202) 232-6574 or by e-mail at 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.