

# Coastal Voice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

— February 2013 —

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**Visit the ASBPA online at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org)**

## Join us in DC to advocate for the needs of Coastal America

By **HARRY SIMMONS**,  
ASBPA President

I have my plane ticket purchased and my hotel reservation made to attend the 2014 ASBPA Coastal Summit, "Advocating for Healthy Coastlines," which will take place in Washington, DC, Feb. 25-27. This annual event is our most important activity to help our federal government better understand the needs of Coastal America. It includes presentations by and discussions with leaders and doers, from 3-star generals to policy makers, coordinated meetings with the administration and our elected representatives on Capitol Hill.

**Who should attend?** Policy makers and policy implementers, city mayors and county commissioners, state legislators, city and county managers, coastal engineers, coastal geologists, marine biologists, Departments of Natural Resources

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

staffers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staffers, local and state planners, coastal property owners, coastal business owners, hospitality executives, environmental agencies and anyone committed to the future of the coast.



**SIMMONS**

We can help you organize your meetings and guide you to the right places at the right times. Join us and meet the folks personally who so significantly impact our Coasts. You'll be very glad you did.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to you on coastal issues, please send me an email at [president@asbpa.org](mailto:president@asbpa.org) or call/text me on my iPhone at (910) 200-7867. ❖



## Why should you attend this year's Coastal Summit?

**W**hy should you attend this year's ASBPA Coastal Summit, the best policy conference on the coast?

1. The 2014 USACE update: A view from the top
2. An update on the National Flood Insurance Program & Biggert-Waters Act
3. Sandy's lessons learned, with a panel of Jersey Shore mayors

4. Advocating for coastal research and projects: A step-back perspective

5. Learn how local coastal agenda successes can be applied nationally

6. Sandy one year later, and the storm's national implications on coastal protection

7. Getting our message out through the media about the benefits of shore protection

8. Critical habitat designations, the Endangered Species Act, and offshore sand resources – hear from the agency staffers themselves

9. Organized visits to the Corps and with key coastal agencies

10. Meet with your Member of Congress and others to tell the facts about protecting and preserving healthy coastlines. ❖

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## “Advocating for Healthy Coastlines”

**Dates: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 8 a.m. – Thursday, Feb. 27, noon**

Online registration open at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org)

Join us for three days of policy and advocacy in Washington, DC.  
ASAE Conference Center 1575 I Street NW, Washington, DC

### — Program — Tuesday, February 25

8:00 a.m.-noon  
1:00 a.m.

ASBPA Board of Directors' Meeting — **Sponsored by CrowderGulf**  
Registration opens

**1 p.m.**

**Preparing to Advocate** (Moderator: Mayor Harry Simmons)

1:00-1:10

Welcoming remarks & Conference overview: Sessions, Advocacy, & Awards

- Nicole Elko, ASBPA Secretary & Lee Weishar, Woods Hole Group

1:10-1:30

ASBPA's Legislative Agenda/USACE agenda and current events

- Harry Simmons, ASPBA President and Tony Pratt, ASBPA Vice President and Chair of Government Affairs Committee

1:30-2:00

2014 USACE Update: A View from the Top

- Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, Chief of Engineers, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (**Confirmed**)

2:00-2:30

Advocating for Coastal Research and Projects: A Step-back Perspective

- Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh (Retired), former Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (**Confirmed**)

2:30-3:00

USACE Watershed Budgeting Approach, re: Its implication for coastal hazards management

- Mark Mazzanti, Director, Programs Integration Division (**Confirmed**)

3:00-3:30

Break — **Sponsored by Coastal Planning & Engineering/CB&I**

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- 3:30-4:00 State Project Perspective
- Mary Munson, Coastal States Organization
- 4:00-4:50 ASBPA Chapter Update: Local Agenda Success Applied Nationally
- Tom Herrington — Northeast Chapter
  - Maura Boswell — President, Central East Coast Chapter
  - Jerry Mohn — President, Texas Chapter
  - Susan Brodeur — President, California Chapter
  - Moderator: Harry Simmons — President, ASBPA
- 4:50-5:15 Florida Regional Sediment Management: How is the State Implementing RSM Now?
- Mark Thomasson, Director, Division of Water Resource Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (**Confirmed**)
- 5:15-5:30 Having Effective Advocacy Meetings
- Howard Marlowe, ASBPA's Director of Government Affairs
- 5:30 p.m. Informal networking — P.J. Clarke's Side Car: 1600 K Street NW
- 5:30 p.m. 2014 National Coastal Conference committee meeting — ASAE Center

## Wednesday, February 26

- 8:00 a.m. Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy (Moderator: Tony Pratt)**  
**Continental breakfast – Sponsored by Marinex Construction**
- 8:30-8:50 National Flood Insurance Program & Biggert-Waters Act
- Greg Burns, Van Scoyoc Associates (**Confirmed**)
- 8:50-9:10 Sand Rights Update
- Todd Roessler, Kirkpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP (**Confirmed**)
- 9:10-9:30 Strategic Plan for Research & Development
- Beth Fleming, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ERDC
- 9:30-10:00 Break
- 10:00-10:30 Hurricane Sandy Comprehensive Plan Update
- Roselle Henn, Deputy Director, Hurricane Sandy Comp Plan, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (**Confirmed**)
- 10:30-noon Jersey Shore Mayor's Panel: Sandy's Lessons Learned with Regional Applications
- Mayor Joseph Mancini, Long Beach Township (**Confirmed**)
  - Mayor Jonathan Oldham, Borough of Harvey Cedars (**Confirmed**)
  - Mayor Dina Long, Township of Sea Bright (**Confirmed**)
- Noon-5 p.m. Advocacy Visits**
- Targeted Advocacy: USACE, FEMA, NOAA, (meetings arranged in advance)
- Noon Brown bag lunch with BOEM (**Confirmed**) — ASAE Center
- 2:30 USACE Headquarters (**Confirmed**)  
FEMA Headquarters

Individual meetings with Members of Congress (meetings arranged on your own)

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5:30-7:30 p.m. Hill Reception & Awards in Rayburn B-338 —  
**Sponsored by Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company**

## Thursday, February 27

**8:00 am** *Advocating for healthy beaches (Moderator: Harry Simmons)*  
**Continental breakfast**

8:30-9:30 Media 101: Improving our communication with the media.  
• Bill Theobald, Washington Editor, Gannett News Service  
• Kevin Bogardus, staff writer, "The Hill"

9:30-9:50 Hill and advocacy recap  
• Harry Simmons, ASBPA President

9:50-10:20 Break

10:20-10:45 Critical Habitat Designations, the Endangered Species Act, and Offshore Sand Resources  
• William Brown, Chief Environmental Officer, BOEM (**Confirmed**)

10:45-Noon Critical Habitat and Endangered Species Act Panel  
• Richard Sayers — Chief, Division of Consultation, Habitat Conservation Planning, Recovery, and State Grants, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
• Marta Nammack — National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA  
• Joe Wilson — Operations, USACE Headquarters  
• Meg Gaffney Smith — Regulatory, USACE Headquarters  
• Moderator: Bill Hanson — Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co.

Noon Brown bag lunch, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service



### **Advocacy:**

Wednesday afternoon is set aside for targeted advocacy. We will discuss ASBPA's legislative agenda and how to have an effective meeting with your legislator or agency on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning during the sessions. We strongly urge you to plan an advocacy meeting for Wednesday afternoon in advance of your travel.

### **Meetings with Members of Congress or their staff:**

ASBPA has a legislative agenda that you can use to develop or perhaps bolster your organization's agenda. This will provide you a template to develop items that your organization will want to discuss with legislators. Most elected officials prioritize their Washington meetings based on constituency. Please confirm your Representative and Senators using the links below, then contact their offices to set up a meeting for Wednesday afternoon.

Representatives: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). use the drop-down box to find your Member  
Senators: [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). use the drop-down box to find your Member

**Meetings with coastal agencies:**

ASBPA is arranging for a number of advocacy meetings with agencies such as FEMA, BOEM, USFWS, NOAA NMFS, and USACE. If you are interested in meeting with another agency, let us know! Please sign up for one of these advocacy meetings during the registration process. You must sign up in order to attend.

**Deadlines: Cancellation with refund: Feb. 19, 2014 (\$50 cancellation fee)**

**Registration fees \$410/member ■ \$510/nonmember**

	ASBPA member	Non-ASBPA member*	Student member	Student non-member*
After January 25	\$410	\$510	\$200	\$225
At the door	\$460	\$560	\$200	\$225

**Register online at <http://www.asbpa.org>**

**Sponsorships are available...full details at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org)**

Send checks or government purchase orders to ASBPA, 5460 Beaujolais Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33919-2704. To be officially registered, payments must be received by Feb. 19, 2014.

\* Registration fee includes 2014 ASBPA membership.

**Conference venue: ASAE Conference Center, 1575 I Street NW, Washington, DC**

**Hotel:**

There is no conference hotel. Conference venue is near to McPherson Square Metro Station (Blue/Orange lines). Nearby hotels include:

- Crowne Plaza Hamilton: (202) 682-0111 ■ 14th Street & K Street NW
- Four Points Sheraton: (202) 289-7600 ■ 1201 K Street NW
- Embassy Suites Washington Convention Center: (202) 857-3388 ■ 900 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Grand Hyatt Washington: (202) 582-1234 ■ 1000 H Street NW
- AKA White House: (202) 904-2500 ■ 1710 H Street NW
- The Eldon Luxury Suites: (202) 540-5000 ■ 933 L Street NW
- Sofitel Washington: (202) 730-8800 ■ Lafayette Square, 806 15th Street NW
- Hilton Garden Inn Washington, DC Downtown: (202) 783-7800 ■ 815 14th St NW

**FIND OUT MORE: Send an email to [exdir@asbpa.org](mailto:exdir@asbpa.org) or call (239) 489-2616 for information.**

Breakfast sponsor

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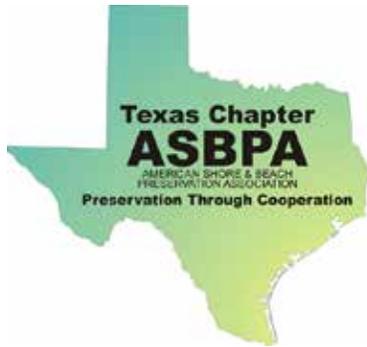


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## Congress shows strong support for coastlines

By **HOWARD MARLOWE, ASBPA**  
Government Affairs Director

For the first time in the last few years, Congress has passed a budget. Top negotiators reached a deal that removes the shadow of the across-the-board cuts of sequestration and instead makes selective cuts by agency. Among the winners of this deal is the Corps of Engineers whose budget was increased by 15%. For beach-related studies and construction projects as well as funding for national programs such as regional sediment management, Congress provided more than \$150 million – more than we have received since 1995-1996!

Given the fact that Congress had already appropriated over \$3 billion for beach construction under the Sandy disaster relief measure passed a year ago, the fact that the just-passed budget contains a high level of non-disaster funding for coastal storm damage reduction shows strong Congressional support.

This is a time for celebration — but once the Happy Hour is over, it will be time to look at the context of what Congress has just done. The congress-

### WASHINGTON REPORT

sional budget reflects a shift toward domestic, non-defense spending. Defense was one of the few agencies to see a significant reduction in its budget. In addition, most of the funding increases essentially restore funds appropriated last year that were subsequently reduced by sequestration.



**MARLOWE**

This is an election year and the concerns of both parties to ease some of the hardships caused by sequestration may not be present next year. For now, let's enjoy the funding, because there are reports that House Republicans may not agree to a budget next year. Also, while this latest funding bill allows a few new Corps studies, the four that were allocated to the entire flood control business line (of which beach projects are a part)

in response to pressure on Congress from ASBPA and other water resource groups.

The Water Resources

Development Act is stalled in the conference committee, whose responsibility it is to resolve the significant differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The conferees have not met recently, with whatever discussions that are taking place limited to the leaders of the House and Senate committees that developed the legislation. It's not time for pessimism, but the more time it takes to get a final bill before Congress, the less likely it will be that we will see a WRDA bill in 2014.

Rolling back flood insurance premium increases mandated by the Biggert-Waters bill has the support of a majority of the members of Congress. Nevertheless, there has been a lot of talk and too little legislative action to support that talk. As I write, the Senate is scheduled to vote on a bill (S. 1846) that would postpone for at least six months all premium increases mandated by Biggert-Waters. House Speaker Boehner has said that he will not consider that legislation. The House passed a bill some time ago that postpones only those increases planned for "pre-FIRM" properties (built before the effective date of the first Flood Insurance Rate Map [FIRM] for a community). That bill has not moved in the Senate. Hopefully there will be more definitive word on this issue next month. ❖



## The gift of a professional career

By **RICHARD J. ALLEN, E.I.,**  
Coastal Engineer

**D**o you ever wish you could be back in school where life was easy, problems had one solution, and the answers were always in the back of the book? Many recent graduates I hear from say, “Yes.” Why? No one ever said the engineering profession would be easy. Engineers are faced with difficult decisions on a daily basis that could cost millions of dollars or result in significant loss of life. These are the facts. However, I believe the rewards are worth the sacrifices.

Nearing the end of my student career, I will admit to being scared — not because of the stress or uncertainty in the professional field, but because I had not secured a job to begin the new chapter in my life. Walking across the stage on graduation day shaking hands and receiving congratulatory celebrations, all I could think about was what I will do when I wake up in the morning.

A few weeks after graduation, I received a phone call from the USACE about a position I applied for months ago and was asked to come in for an interview. The USACE seemed like an excellent employer and a fantastic opportunity to work with a variety of disciplines on large civil works projects. After some debate with a few other career choices, I decided the USACE was the right match for me.

Aug. 12 was the first day of

my professional career. As I sat down at my new desk all I could do was smile and tell myself, “I did it.” I have worked several “jobs” in the past, but now I have a career. The road to where I am now has not been easy, but overcoming the bumps is what makes me appreciate where I am now. The credit for my success goes to the support of my fiancé, family, and the dedicated civil engineering faculty at the University of South Alabama, especially Dr. Bret Webb. Even now, as I sit here at my desk applying all the knowledge I learned in school to multi-million dollar projects, I reflect on the things that have led me to such a rewarding career as a coastal engineer.

Becoming a part of the coastal engineering profession is a gift. As

### STUDENT/YOUNG PROFESSIONAL REPORT

a student attending ASBPA conferences, it seemed as though I was the son in a family of coastal engineers who would do anything to help me succeed. Now, as a recent graduate and new employee for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the coastal engineering community has opened their arms and accepted me into the close-knit profession. ❖

The Student/New Professional Committee submits a monthly column that either highlights research or experience of ASPBA's students and new professionals. If you are a student or new professional and would like to contribute to the monthly student/new professional column, please contact Tiffany Roberts: [tiffanyroberts@lsu.edu](mailto:tiffanyroberts@lsu.edu). If you are a seasoned professional and would like to connect with any of the monthly writers, please also contact Tiffany Roberts.



Richard Allen.

## Call for nominations: 2014 Best Restored Beaches awards

For more than 40 years communities around the United States have been restoring their beaches. Although some areas in the country are relatively new to the process, others have a long history of successful replenishment projects. In many cases, the restoration process is so well established that beach enthusiasts are not even aware they are enjoying a restored beach!

The ASBPA honors the Best Restored Beaches in America annually to build awareness of the value of America's restored beaches.

"In the post-Sandy era it is widely accepted that high dunes and wide beaches are one of the best defenses to minimize the impacts of erosion and flooding from severe storms," says Harry Simmons, mayor of Caswell Beach, N.C., and president of ASBPA. "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."

Continued public support for restoration is crucial and often difficult to maintain when restoration projects become successful and routine. ASBPA encourages nominations from established, as well as new, projects for the 2013 Best

Restored Beaches Award.

To meet submission deadlines, all nominations must be sent electronically to [Bestrestoredbeach@asbpa.org](mailto:Bestrestoredbeach@asbpa.org) by April 11, 2014. The nomination text must be in MS Word, WordPerfect, or PDF, and photos must be saved in JPEG or TIF formats. A nomination checklist is available at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).

Nomination packages must contain the following:

1. Nominator's contact information (name, address, phone, fax, email).
2. The name and contact information for the nominee's public relations specialist who will be coordinating with the media.
3. The name of the project manager, design engineer, and the dredge contractor.
3. Project description (whether or not it is a federal project, spon-

sors, designers, engineers, location, length, dates and volumes of nourishment material for each nourishment episode and dates of nourishments, obstacles overcome, success of project).

4. At least one professional quality color photograph of restored beach with release (tourist development councils and local resorts are good sources for photos).

5. Project locator map.

6. Before-and-after photos.

7. A statement about why you consider this beach a best restored beach in the United States.

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 2014 ASBPA Summit in Washington D.C. to accept the award.

All materials submitted will become property of the ASBPA and will not be returned. Upon written request, a nomination from 2013 that was not chosen can be carried over to 2014. ❖



## CONFERENCES

■ **Feb. 12-14:** National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology, Hutchinson Island Marriott, Stuart, FL.

■ **Feb. 25-27:** ASBPA's Coastal Summit, ASAE Conference Center, Washington, DC. More at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).

■ **May 27-29:** 12th Annual H2O Conference, Catamaran Resort Hotel on Mission Bay, San

Diego, CA, More at <http://www.coastalconference.org/h2o/index.php>. (Abstracts due Feb. 7.)

■ **Sept. 24-27:** FSBPA Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL. More at [www.fsbpa.com](http://www.fsbpa.com).

■ **Oct. 14-17:** ASBPA's National Coastal Conference, Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront, Virginia Beach, VA. ❖

## Plan an abstract for 2014 National Coastal Conference in Virginia Beach

By **PHILL ROEHR**s, National Coastal Conference co-chair

**S**ave the date and consider submitting an abstract for this year's fall conference, "Promoting Healthy Coasts," set for **Oct. 14-17** at the site where colonialists first set foot on an American beach — Virginia Beach, Virginia. Our "healthy coasts" theme opens paper submissions to a wide spectrum of topics ranging from storm damage reduction to habitat and recreation. A formal call for papers will follow shortly with a detailed listing of potential topics. Abstracts will be due **May 9**.

This year's conference location, in the central east coast, is convenient to a significant portion of our membership. We're planning for record attendance and a rich diversity of presentations. The Oceanfront Sheraton, located on Virginia Beach's 2.5-mile boardwalk and freshly renovated, will host the conference.

We're excited about the venue and look forward to an outstanding fall conference. ❖

## CHAPTER REPORTS



**MOHN**



**BRODEUR**

### CSBPA update

By **SUSAN BRODEUR**, CSBPA president

**C**alifornia Shore and Beach Preservation Association members are busy planning the 2014 "Headwaters to Ocean" Conference. This will be the 12th annual conference of its kind and will be held at the Catamaran Hotel on beautiful Mission Bay. Partner organizations include California Coastal Coalition, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Society of Wetland Scientists – Western Chapter, and Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Training Program.

The conference will cover a wide spectrum of coast and ocean issues, including but not limited to, climate change, sea level rise, coastal and estuarine processes, wetlands restoration planning and design, beach nourishment, water quality, ecosystem management, habitat management, invasive and exotic species management, wetlands biology and ecology, regional sediment management, shore protection, and habitat preservation/

management. We are also planning to offer a pre- or post conference training in conjunction with NOAA's Coastal Services Center.

The conference is well attended by a diverse group of people including researchers, coastal engineers, wetland biologists/ecologists, coastal resource managers, coastal scientists, aquatic ecologists, landscape architects, urban planners, coastal geologists, dredging specialists, and water quality specialists from local, regional, state, and federal government, the private sector and NGOs.

Abstracts are currently being accepted until **Feb. 7, 2014**. Online registration is now available and the early-bird registration rate is available until May 8, 2014. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and we would like to thank the Port of Los Angeles who has signed on to be a major sponsor.

### Texas update

By **JERRY MOHN**, Texas Chapter president

**T**he Texas ASBPA Chapter had its first meeting of the year in Port Arthur, Texas, the far east end of the Texas coast. The main emphasis was to finalize a legislative agenda that will be used during the ASBPA Washington Summit the end of February. In addition, the meeting stressed the need for Texas coastal communities to adopt a resolution to send to

■ **Continued on next page**

## Chapters

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the Texas Governor to make certain funds coming from the Restore Act will be used for coastal projects.

One of the biggest issues will be to delay implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and for Congress to pass the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act in order for FEMA to have up to four years to do more research in making themselves whole. It is estimated that 645,000 Texans would be impacted by Biggert-Waters.

## Great Lakes update

By **CHARLES W. SHABICA, Ph.D., Great Lakes Chapter president**

*Editor's Note: References available upon request*

A universal phenomenon in the Great Lakes is cyclical lake levels. Since the late 1990s, water levels have been in a downward cycle and reached near-record lows in early 2013. If low lake levels continue, shipping and recreational boating will suffer as harbor and channel dredging costs increase substantially. Additionally, accelerated lakebed erosion on many urban Great Lakes shores will result in deeper water near-shore, with consequences similar to rising sea level.

Anxiety about global warming has led some to hypothesize that we are in a permanent downtrend in lake levels. Evaporation and pre-



A bracing day at the beach... when this photo of Tower Road Beach on Lake Michigan was taken Jan. 27, the wind chill was at -24 degrees F.

cipitation in the Great Lakes Basin are the primary controls of lake levels and winter ice-cover plays a key role in reducing evaporation. According to Jia Wang (2012), “There was a significant downward trend in ice coverage from 1973 to the present for all of the lakes, with Lake Ontario having the largest, and Lakes Erie and St. Clair having the smallest. The total loss for overall Great Lakes ice coverage is 71%.”

While it might be appealing to some to see this as evidence for global warming, many scientists view this phenomenon as a function of natural meteorological variations. Wang (2012) explains “...lake ice mainly responds to the combined Arctic Oscillation and El Niño–Southern Oscillation patterns.” Geologic history of the Great Lakes shows lake level cycles to be unpredictable over

the short term but relatively stable within a narrow range over the last 2,000 years (Chrzastowski *et al.* 1991).

This year we may be witnessing the end of an 18-year period of low water. Heavy spring rains have resulted in a 20 inch rise in water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan, and a fall region-wide cold snap with associated snow may continue the upward trend in lake levels. Regardless of the variations in lake levels, there is a message for coastal property and beach managers: Maintenance costs will rise. Many areas of the lower Great Lakes are currently suffering high levels of shore erosion, despite a long period of low lake levels.

In Lake Michigan we have learned that most cohesive sediment shores erode regardless of

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whether lake levels are high or low. According to Charles Shabica (2008): “For the last 2,000 years, Great Lakes water levels have varied within a narrow range, for example, 6.3 feet (1.9 m) in Lake Michigan, and are unpredictable and water-budget related. During lake highs, natural beaches are narrow and storm waves eroded the backshore dunes and bluffs. During periods of low water, beaches are wider and the locus of erosion is transferred to the shallow lakebed. The net result under natural conditions is a progressive recession of the shore with beaches in a dynamic equilibrium. Other than relatively stable rocky coasts located mainly in the northern Great Lakes, most Great Lakes shores, including those in Illinois, are cohesive glacial tills and sands with cobble and sandy beaches and erodible lakebeds.”

Over the last century, as urbanization progressed in the southern Great Lakes, shore protection projects proliferated. In some urban areas, extensive coastal armoring cut off the supply of sediments from bluff erosion, a primary source of new sand to the system. Today, the main sand supply on urban cohesive lakeshores is wave erosion of the nearshore glacial till lakebed that often contains as little as 10% sand (Shabica and Pran-

schke 1994).

In Lake Michigan it is estimated that in coastal areas less than 10 feet (3 m) deep, where sand deposits are thin, the nearshore lakebed may erode at rates averaging 8 inches (0.2 m) per year (Nairn, 1997). Lakebed erosion, without concurrent shore recession, has resulted in deeper water nearshore and consequent larger waves impacting the coast. The result is rising costs of shore protection and beach nourishment.

Lakebed erosion in the Great Lakes has similar consequences to sea level rise, deeper water nearshore. But the Great Lakes message for most urban marine coastal managers is that even a several foot rise in sea level over the next century will not have the catastrophic consequences predicted by doomsayers. New construction and maintenance costs will go up as sea level rises and it would be unwise for coastal communities not to be prepared.

But we’ve learned from the Great Lakes experience and recent hurricanes that it is not a few inch rise in sea level that can cause catastrophic damage, but storm surges that can exceed 10 or 15 feet, and high storm waves and flooding. Hurricane Sandy would have been a disaster regardless of whether global sea level were a foot higher or lower. ❖

[WWW.ASBPA.ORG](http://WWW.ASBPA.ORG)

**A** SBPA’s own Lee Weishar and Kate Gooderham were recently featured in a discussion about beach nourishment on a regional NPR affiliate—and you can listen to the discussion online! The link is posted on our home page. As you listen, take the opportunity to click through to



SCIAUDONE

our 2014 Coastal Summit page. Registration is now online along with the draft program and a link to our current sponsors. Sponsorships are still available — details are also

posted on the Summit page.

Did you know that there is a searchable PDF index on our website containing all the papers that have appeared in *Shore & Beach*? It’s on the Publications page and can be used to find articles that you may be interested in checking out in your back issues or ordering from the business office. The *Shore & Beach* archive is an amazing resource.

As always all the latest beach news is linked to our home page, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. Be sure to “like” ASBPA and follow us on Twitter to stay up to date with what we are doing! — **Beth Sciaudone, Ph.D., ASBPA webmaster** ❖

## Beach News Service:

### The valuing of beaches

**B**eaches are a passion for many — a cherished place that calls to them, an ambience and lifestyle that has been alluring for generations. As such, assigning a value to a beach can be difficult, but the process of valuing itself has value when it helps us allocate resources and resolve on a broader level. (Consider the old truism: If you want to know what a society values, don't listen to what is said but watch where it spends its money.)

Valuing is important to beaches on a couple of levels. There are few beaches that have the space and conditions to maintain a natural state — since once people move in, that natural state can be disrupted and very difficult to retain — therefore management or maintenance is often required to help balance the needs of the coast against the demands and disruptions of the people who love it. While we can consider realigning development and infrastructure to give our shores “room to breathe,” it is unlikely landward realignment of development is practical everywhere, in part because of costs. That means time and money must be devoted to such coastal management and maintenance — and if those resources are withheld or directed elsewhere, the coast suffers.

So how should we value beaches? A few thoughts:

**Economic:** Thanks to the work of well-known national and regional economists, we are get-

ting a better grasp of the dynamic economic engines coastlines are (or can be). As such, it starts to become easier to put a dollar value or return on investment for any funds devoted to management and maintenance — a strong justification for government or community funding. The economics of beaches is still in its nascent stages, however, and much more research is warranted to better grasp the variety and volatility of why beaches bring in the big bucks.

**Ecological:** As rookeries, habitat and as a resting place, the beach and nearshore are crucial environmental assets — but putting a dollar figure on that value is more difficult, because valuing almost any environmental asset is still an imprecise science. A monetary value is important for resource allocation, but equally important is any recognition of environmental value so it has a place at the table in all management and maintenance discussions.

**Recreational:** It's easy to forget how valuable beaches are for recreation, because they are almost taken for granted. But it was less than a century ago when the first major urban beach parks were

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#### A resource you can use!

We started the American Beach News Service six years ago this month. Its purpose was and is to provide people with information about the coast and coastal processes. Many of the articles are timeless. When a friend or client is looking for accessible information, check out the archives, at [http://www.asbpa.org/news/newsroom\\_beachnews.htm](http://www.asbpa.org/news/newsroom_beachnews.htm).

developed as a way to ensure more people more access to a convenient coastal playground. Today, as the debate often shifts to maintaining reasonable public access, that recreational value needs to be re-affirmed.

**Protection:** The federal government may not always give beaches their due as a first line of storm protection, but communities, property owners, insurers and disaster planners certainly do. And, in the wake of coastal disasters such as Superstorm Sandy, the value of wide beaches, high dunes and elevated coastal structures cannot be overstressed.

**Infrastructure:** Beaches also play a role in discussions about sea level rise, since increasing the elevation of the beach can be a fast and effective way to address rising tides (either in general or as a first step until longer-term measures can be implemented). But there still are places (usually in other countries) where the coast is a storehouse for natural resources (e.g. sand) or a commercial resource for shipping and industry.

**Societal health:** There's an intangible importance of natural shores and beaches to the health and welfare of Americans. America's coast is as fundamental to our culture as our inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness. To many of us, “the beach” is really part of our lives. Loss of our beaches can be expected to adversely affect our society, and therefore our shores and beaches have great value.

For some of these areas, we

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**Beach News Service:**

## A federal wave of funding support

**W**ith a federal budget in place containing the most funding for coastal programs in almost two decades and a Water Resources Development Act approved by both houses of Congress and awaiting conference concurrence, some might say the coast is the toast of Washington once again.

However, one or two good years does not a trend make – even in Washington, a city where consistency is often measured in days rather than decades. As fast as funding flows in, it can recede — leaving beaches high and dry once more.

Nonetheless, these two bright spots in federal fiscal horizon are reasons to be hopeful:

- The omnibus budget bill contained more than \$150 million for coastal protection – the best since the Clinton administration.

- The Water Resources and Development Act not only got an extra “R” (for “Reform”) — it pulled in some \$8 billion for water infrastructure projects.

What’s behind the current support for the coast?

### **Sandy’s surge of support:**

The devastating storm unleashed a torrent of money from DC, as an obvious need won over a reluctant Congress. This infusion of income ramped up recovery, but the disaster also served as a reminder that federal (and other) funds are needed before the storm to ensure the coast is strong enough to handle

whatever nature can throw at it.

### **The coast as infrastructure:**

Another realization from Sandy (and other catastrophes) was the need to view the coast as infrastructure — a vital asset that needs to be maintained to be effective. The beaches can only fight storms waves when they’re wide, dunes can only push back against storm surge when they’re tall and wide — and the beach can only protect property, provide habitat and preserve recreation and tourism when it’s consistently maintained.

### **The new Corps climate:**

Given sufficient money without the earmark strings that in the past often hamstrung its efforts has freed up the Corps to manage its project list more effectively and make real progress in getting things done. Other positive changes in the Corps coastal management streamlined a process that once took decades to traverse — good news for coastal advocates.

### **The need for work back**

## **Valuing**

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will never be able to assign dollar values to what beaches can offer. But the closer we can come to a better grasp of what the beach and shore means to us, the sooner we can allocate the necessary resources consistently and effectively to keep our beaches and shorelines strong and solid contributors into the future. ❖

**home:** Whatever their political persuasion, any good politician who wants to be re-elected has to realize that one of the important things that gets them elected (and re-elected) is the ability to get things done for the folks back home. Typically, it takes money to make the federal machinery start moving... which is what we saw with both the WRDA bills and the budget.

**Success breeds success:** With the new Corps approach to funding projects, things are getting funding when they need it – so work is getting done rather than being delayed. Seeing results is a reason to devote more dollars to solving coastal issues, as any politician likes to point at progress rather than note another year has passed in a project’s long life.

As mentioned before. One good month does not a trend make. Federal budgets are notoriously fickle, and what’s appropriated today can be axed next year. And WRDA is still tied up in conference — which, in the compromise-phobic atmosphere that has held sway in Washington lately, means you never count your conference bills until they’re passed. So keep the pressure on your local politicians, representatives, and congressmen.

Nonetheless, any positive news on coastal funding is welcomed, and to have two such strong signs of support in a row is good news for everyone along the coast – whether you have a federal coastal project of your very own, or whether a nearby federal project has an influence on your own coastal concerns. ❖