



Coastal Voice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

— JANUARY 2004 —
ANNUAL REPORT

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ASBPA

Representing the interests
of America's coastlines

Visit the ASBPA online
at www.asbpa.org

We speak for the shores

By **HARRY SIMMONS**,
ASBPA President

The ASBPA and ACC merger at the end of 2003 allows us to truly speak for the shores and beaches of America and the people who live along them and enjoy them. No one else does. Some speak for a critter that lives on the shore, others speak for the water body touching the shore, while still others speak for the professionals who care for it. But we speak for the shore itself and have for almost 80 years.

In 2004, our first year as the New ASBPA, we stood up and spoke for the shores, saying:

■ **No** to the administration for their unilateral stand against beach renourishment funding and we won that battle for this year, but the war is not yet over.

■ **Yes** to a strong Summit in DC where we learned and lobbied.

■ **Yes** to more and better scientific and technical knowledge by sponsoring over 80 speakers for our fall conference in New Orleans.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

■ **Yes** to a strong journal dedicated to the intricacies of the science of our shores and beaches with four great issues of *Shore & Beach* magazine.



SIMMONS

■ **Yes** to professional management and strong leadership, so we now have a real chance to make a difference.

■ **Yes** to **more** — **more** visibility, **more** members, **more** credibility and **more** funding to put more sand on more of America's public beaches.

Our membership is the strongest it has ever been and our future is bright because of that. Our efforts in the past year will only be greater in the coming years and the shores for which we speak will be the worthy beneficiaries. ❖



We speak for the shores – scientific and technical voice: Report on 2004 ASBPA conference

By **SCOTT DOUGLASS, Ph.D.**
ASBPA fall conference chair

CONFERENCE REPORT

ASBPA's 2004 Annual Conference in New Orleans Sept. 13-15 was an outstanding success despite the threat of Hurricane Ivan. The conference had record levels of registrations, sponsorships and presentations. The theme, "America's Shoreline: Beach and Ecosystem Restoration in the 21st Century," highlighted the linkage between barrier islands and other, related ecosystems such as bays and wetlands.

The pre-conference field trip to Whiskey Island in the Isle Derniers barrier island chain in south Louisiana provided a first-hand look at one of the nation's most rapidly deteriorating land masses. This uninhabited barrier island has been artificially restored in an attempt to preserve the miles of wetlands to its north. The sponsor of this very enlightening bus and boat trip was the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources with logistical support from the University of New Orleans and Coastal Planning & Engineering.

The conference schedule included 90 technical presentations from many of America's best coastal scientists and engineers on a broad spectrum of topics including beaches, shorelines, storm impacts, and many different solutions from all

of America's coasts: the Pacific, Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes.

This number of technical presentations was over twice the typical number for ASBPA annual conferences.

The keynote address was delivered by Randy Hanchey on "Coastal Land Loss in Louisiana." Professor Robert G. Dean, University of Florida, provided the conference luncheon presentation on "Beach Nourishment: Theory and Practice."

"Science, Engineering and Policy along the 'Edge of the Sea'" was the conference's plenary session with presentations by Professor Shea Penland of the University of New Orleans on the science of the Louisiana barrier island losses; Monica Chasten of the Corps of Engineers on the successful beach nourishment engineering in New Jersey; Howard Marlowe of Marlowe & Associates on the role of appropriate advocacy in Washington for beaches; and Sally Davenport of Coastal Tech on



DOUGLASS

how to tie it all together to ensure access to healthy shorelines for Americans.

One of the highlights of the conference was the greatly increased level of corporate sponsorships. The conference sponsors provided for the exhibit hall booths, meals, coffee breaks and receptions. The support of these sponsors is sincerely appreciated.

As the conference began, Hurricane Ivan was a Category 5 storm moving north through the Gulf of Mexico. The forecast track of the storm on Monday included possible landfall at New Orleans on Thursday. As a result, the awards banquet was moved to noon on Tuesday. The Isles Dernieres project was awarded the coastal project award. Dr. Tarig Ali was given the student award. Dr. Nick Kraus was presented with the coveted Morrrough P O'Brien Award and shared his experiences with Dr. O'Brien.

By Tuesday afternoon, many of the conference speakers had begun to leave and eventually the decision was made to close down the last day of the conference and evacuate. The subsequent landfall of Ivan along the Alabama-Florida coast was dramatic reinforcement of the value of an organization such as ASBPA, the nation's oldest organization promoting science-based policies for the protection of beaches and shores. ❖



We speak for the shores – public policy voice:

2004 Governmental Affairs report

By **HOWARD MARLOWE**,
ASBPA Director of
Governmental Affairs

From the attempt to end federal participation in the renourishment of beaches, to a lack of federal funding for the beach program, to a string of hurricanes that hit Florida, 2004 has been a difficult year for beaches. ASBPA has had to fight tooth and nail in Washington to essentially maintain the status quo. However, that achievement is remarkable considering the challenges we have faced throughout the year.

The year began with the president's Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 "bad-for-beaches" budget. It stated that the administration would no longer support federal participation in the periodic renourishment of authorized, 50-year beach projects. Similarly, the administration would not recommend projects to Congress that planned on 50-year federal participation. Finally, the administration recommended a funding level for the beach program that was roughly 50 percent below the level of funding for the previous fiscal year.

Since then, many in Congress have worked to fight off that initial attack. For instance, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced a beach-friendly amendment in the Senate Budget Committee that was a good

WASHINGTON REPORT

symbolic statement. Shortly thereafter, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced comprehensive legislation that led the fight against the administration's policy while introducing other positive reforms to the beach program.

This legislation made a statement that

Members were willing to fight for their communities. Finally, members of the House Coastal Caucus, led by Reps. Clay Shaw (R-FL) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ), circulated a letter to the House Appropriations Committee stating that they strongly supported legislative language overturning the administration's policy while also fully funding the beach program.

Concerns over funding for Yucca Mountain radioactive waste repository created a difficult situation for the typical consideration of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill by Congress. This hampered Congress' ability to quickly reject the administration's policy on beach renourishment. However, in the recently passed Omnibus Appropriations bill that



MARLOWE

will, among other things, fund the Corps in FY 2005, Congress did include language that rejects the administration's attempts to drastically alter the federal beach nourishment program.

In fact, the bill asserts Congressional authority over the Corps' shoreline protection program by prohibiting the Administration from implementing any changes to existing policies without the approval of Congress. Much of the credit for this provision has to be given to Tammy Cameron and Roger Cockrell of the Senate E&W Appropriations Committee.

In that same legislation, Congress appropriated \$112 million for the Corps' shoreline protection program, of which \$100 million is for construction and the remainder is for studies. The total is seven percent lower than Congress appropriated for FY 2004, but 61 percent higher than the President requested.

This amount does not include the roughly \$62 million in Construction General funding Congress passed for the Corps, with pressure from ASBPA, in the hurricane supplemental appropriations bills. Much of that money will be spent on beaches in Florida. It also does not include other funding from Congress that also will be used to renourish

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Marlowe

■ Continued from page 5

beaches to their design profiles in hurricane-ravaged Florida.

With these additional funds from Congress, the beach program fared fairly well in FY 2005. It is likely that all eligible projects needing renourishment will be nourished in FY 2005. However, there remain ominous signs on the horizon. It seems unlikely that the administration will recommend funding for the periodic renourishment of beaches in FY 2006.

Congress also did not fund any Corps "new starts," and was not eager to move on-going studies along at a rapid pace with adequate funding. Similarly, it is unclear as to whether Congress would have sufficiently funded periodic renourishment projects without having had four hurricanes hit Florida this hurricane season.

Turning to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), many of you are aware of, and helped fight the proposed Beach Nourishment Advisory Committee (BNAC) in the Senate version of WRDA. The BNAC would have added time, costs, and overlapping layers of regulation to shoreline

protection projects being developed by coastal communities.

With significant grassroots support, effective lobbying, and the support of senators such as Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and others, we were able to reach a compromise with Environmental Defense, the main supporters of BNAC.

However, before Congress could consider our compromise, WRDA essentially died. Congress has not passed WRDA since 2000, and one of ASBPA's top goals in 2005 will be to ensure a well-written WRDA passes Congress.

A SBPA will be embarking on a new program to ramp up the pressure on Congress and the administration so beach interests are not continually fighting to hold onto gains won long ago. As it stands now, our continued scrambling leaves us without the time to proactively move our interests forward.

For instance, we organized ASBPA's first "Yes to Beaches" Lobbying Day in Washington, D.C., in September. Several representatives of coastal communities delivered a strong message to Congress,

urging lawmakers to complete the appropriations bills and WRDA. We had productive meetings with Appropriations and WRDA staffers, as well as a well-attended media and congressional staff briefing.

However, there is much to be done. We must, as a community, continue our current efforts, and add to those efforts by doing the following:

■ Help fund the campaigns of supportive members of Congress and political action committees.

■ Do everything we can to activate business interests who support our goals.

■ Ensure our elected community leaders are speaking out on our behalf.

■ Mobilize as a larger grassroots community.

■ Use new means (billboards, newspaper ads, the internet) to introduce others to what we are fighting for.

For more information on how to help us continue this fight, contact us at Beaches@ASBPA.org or (202) 775-1796. We have appreciated the opportunity to represent ASBPA over the past few years, and look forward to next year. ❖



We speak for the shores – fine-tuning our lobbying voice: Report on 2004 ASBPA Summit

By **STEVE HIGGINS**,
ASBPA Summit chair

SUMMIT REPORT

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's 2004 Coastal Summit — the premier lobbying event for beach and coastal interests — was held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 25-27. Based at the Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill, the Summit was attended by 88 eclectic delegates, including representatives of local, state, and federal governing bodies and agencies; the media; private engineering and environmental firms; non-governmental organizations; and coastal advocacy groups.

The Summit hosted presentations, meetings, and panel discussions on a wide variety of coastal and beach issues, focusing primarily on the federal government's financial and regulatory roles in the protection, restoration, and management of the nation's beaches.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 25, the Summit opened with a welcome address by U.S. Rep. Katherine Harris (R-13th FL) followed by Major Gen. Carl Strock, then-Director of Civil Works for the Corps of Engineers (subsequent to his appearance at the Summit, Gen. Strock was promoted to Lieutenant General and named as Chief of Engineers, the Commander of the Corps).

The rest of the afternoon contained tips on lobbying from staffers of the House Subcommittees that recommend funding and authorization for Corps projects; discussions on the Corps' budget by high-level Corps HQ staff; and presentations on coastal environmental issues by legal experts and the Chief of Habitat Conservation for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A visit and speech by Congressmen Steve Israel (D-2nd NY) and Nick Lampson (D-9th TX) rounded out the first day of the Summit.

For the Thursday sessions, we were joined by Congressional staffers at the Longworth House Office Building with a panel discussion on "The State of the Nation's Beaches." Directors of state beach agencies from Delaware, New Jersey, California and Florida compared and contrasted their respective state beach preservation programs in a lively dialogue.

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th NJ) stopped by between votes in the House to address the Summit



HIGGINS

attendees on the economic importance of New Jersey's beaches and to urge the audience to make themselves heard by their Congressional delegations during the afternoon's lobbying sessions. Additional information on the economy of beach tourism was presented by a panel composed of a local government tourism expert, a professor of economics, and an economic consultant.

Overviews of the erosion process were then given by a top engineering consultant and a Corps of Engineers researcher. For lunch the delegates were treated to a box meal in the Rayburn House Office Building where they were addressed by Congressmen David Hobson (R-7th OH and Chairman of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development), Henry Brown (R-1st SC), Ken Calvert (R-44th CA), Mike McIntyre (D-7th NC) and E. Clay Shaw (R-22nd FL).

Thursday afternoon was devoted to the most important activity of all: Delegates visiting their House and Senate Members and their staffs to ask for support of their beach projects, to request funding, and to express their concerns with respect to the administration's diminishing interest in beaches. These visits are really

■ Continued on next page



Higgins

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the primary reason for attendance at the Summit. Nothing means more to a Member or staffer than a personal encounter with a constituent.

Thursday evening saw the Congressional Reception and Awards Presentation in the Capitol Building. "Friend of the ASBPA" awards were presented to Congressmen Henry Brown, Ken Calvert, Nick Lampson, Mike McIntyre and E. Clay Shaw for their tireless dedication to coastal protection and restoration. Congressional Staffer Awards were presented to Kathryn Marks, policy director for Senator John Edwards (D-NC) and Christine Pollack, legislative director for Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Jr.

The Corps award was given to Harry Shoudy, recently retired Corps Headquarters economist and valuable proponent of the Corps' shore protection mission. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ken Smith, an outspoken beach lobbyist and activist from New Jersey, for his persistent and effective support of beach restoration.

Finally, two Top Restored Beaches were honored with awards: Hilton Head, SC and SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments), which managed a series of beach nourishment projects in southern California. A great time was had by all.

Friday morning began with a debriefing of the delegates' lobbying

efforts, led by ASBPA President Harry Simmons. Local government challenges and opportunities for shore protection, beach nourishment, and environmental protection were then related by the Mayor of Westhampton Dunes, NY, and the Beach Project Manager for Brevard County, FL.

Lessons on persuading Congress of the wisdom of regional sediment management were presented by the executive director of the Coastal States Organization, and current and former top-level Corps staff gave their perspectives on "Corps Reform," a topic of great interest to all local sponsors of Corps projects. Finally, President Simmons conducted a summary discussion on the Summit before adjourning.

It was evident by the level of participation in the Summit by Members of Congress and the Senate, Committee and Member staff, and Federal agency leadership that the ASBPA Summit has come of age as a vehicle for national beach advocacy.

In the current struggle with the executive branch to continue the federal role in beach erosion control, shore protection, and coastal management, direct and personal contact with our Members of Congress and with appropriate agencies is the most effective tool we have to make ourselves heard. The ASBPA Summit provides us that tool. ❖

SUMMIT 2005:

Nominations sought for awards

Nominations are now open for the ASBPA Congressional awards, Congressional Staffer award and Corps award, to be presented on March 9-11 at the ASBPA awards reception held during the Coastal Summit in Washington, D.C.

■ Congressional awards include "**Coastal Advocate**" — ASBPA's highest award, a lifetime achievement award — and "**Friend of the Coast**," for shorter term or more project-specific contributions. Any ASBPA member may nominate one or more Members of Congress for the awards.

■ The **Corps award** honors a member of the Corps of Engineers who contributed to the cause of beach management and preservation. For the most part these are people from the districts who make projects happen.

■ And the **Congressional Staffer award** will be given to a single staff member for his or her efforts both to promote beach preservation and to facilitate project requests in the past legislative session.

Nominations are due at the ASBPA offices no later than Jan. 3, 2005, and may be e-mailed to awards@asbpa.org. The nominator will need to be in attendance to present the award. For complete nominations requirements, e-mail us at exdir@asbpa.org. ❖



We speak for the shores – publications

Shore & Beach magazine began its 71st year of publication with a new editor – Dr. Reinhold Flick. Dr. Flick is staff oceanographer with the California Department of Boating and Waterways and a research associate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He conducts research, lectures, and provides expert witness consulting in the areas of tides, sea level fluctuations, waves, beach processes and erosion, and coastal storm damage. He was the 2002 recipient of the ASBPA Morrourgh P. O’Brien Award.

Although *Shore & Beach* already is a highly respected quarterly journal, Dr. Flick is dedicated to increasing and enhancing its content. This year, the spring and summer issues focused on Hurricane Isabel and the California coastline, respectively. Flick has also included guest editors and assistant editors to increase the breadth of voice, and has revised the editorial guidelines to improve the interaction between the publication and its writers.

With our Super Summer *Shore & Beach* sale, we were able to get hundreds of copies of past issues into hands of interested people throughout the world. Of course, the magazine continues to be a strong draw for professionals and libraries to participate in the ASBPA’s activities.

“Coastal Voice” is new to



ASBPA members, but familiar to ACC members. It is a monthly e-mail newsletter that has the advantage of timeliness, ease of delivery and enhanced color photographs and graphics. With content ranging from articles about projects to monthly updates on public policy efforts to tidbits from the various states to information on upcoming conferences, “Coastal Voice” has something for everyone. (We even include the occasional baby picture!)

“Coast Watch,” a regular e-mail publication produced by Director of Governmental Affairs

Howard Marlowe, focuses on public policy in Washington. While *Shore & Beach* provides technical information on the science of shores and beaches, “Coast Watch” is our eyes and ears on the policies and politics.

The ASBPA Web site (www.asbpa.org) is our repository of all things ASBPA. It is a source and resource that includes indexes for all the issues of *Shore & Beach* on record, past issues of “Coastal Voice,” legislative news, conference information, membership information and bios of ASBPA officers, directors and staff. ❖



We speak for the shores:

Increasing our financial soundness

By **BRAD PICKEL**,
ASBPA treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

As the treasurer of the ASBPA, I am pleased to offer this short summary of the successes of our organization throughout the past year. This year posed a number of challenges that we met through the hard work of our executive directors, Kate and Ken Gooderham, and the support of our membership.

Our first challenge involved the combination of financial records from two groups (the ACC and ASBPA) into one. Fortunately, we were able to do this with only minor problems. This does not mean that only minor work was done. The task involved merging different financial information in different accounting software while reconciling billing schedules and billing rate structures. We are happy to report that the merger was completed successfully and now only the ASBPA remains.

A second challenge was to

build an organization that not only ran in the black, but also to begin developing a reserve in times of need. This is an aggressive plan and one that is critical for a professional organization. During



PICKEL

the past year, we worked diligently in putting together conferences that would provide an opportunity to share information between colleagues and also attract sponsors.

For both conferences, we exceeded our expectations. The work is not complete and the challenge remains to build on our technical and political strengths to educate others on the importance of the ASBPA and bring them into our organization, which leads me to the final challenge.

This past year, we were able to hold two well-attended conferences even with Hurricane Ivan bearing down on the Gulf Coast during the fall conference. We must continue this success to build our organization and that depends on involving many different stakeholders. For example, in New Orleans we reached out to the riverine and estuarine community of the central Gulf coast to highlight activities that were occurring on the “other” shores of America.

This must continue for our financial well being as it will increase the membership, and with our conference in San Francisco we must have a similar turnout. As you make your plans to attend the fall conference, please keep that in mind and invite others that have a vested interest in the shores and beaches of America. In closing, we have made great strides in the past year and I am honored to serve as the treasurer of the ASBPA as we continue the process of making our organization financially sound. ❖



We speak for the shores . . . and you amplify our voice

The ASBPA gratefully acknowledges sponsorship support for Summit 2004, Fall Conference 2004 and the *Shore & Beach* magazine

Summit 2004

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Fall Conference 2004

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You help us speak for the shore . . . Through a strong journal dedicated to the intricacies of the science of our shores and beaches

The ASBPA gratefully acknowledges those who wrote articles for "Coastal Voice" and *Shore & Beach* in 2004

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We speak for the shores . . . and you strengthen our voice

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■ Continued on page 13



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(AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAME TAG)

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I am also interested in being a sponsor

— REGISTRATION FEES —

(ALL COSTS IN U.S. DOLLARS)

— ASBPA members —

Before Feb. 4 ~ \$310 After Feb. 4 ~ \$375

— Non-members —

Before Feb. 4 ~ \$410 After Feb. 4 ~ \$475

— At the door —

ASBPA members ~ \$500 Non-members ~ \$600

Total fees enclosed: \$ _____

| SUMMIT SCHEDULE |
|---|
| — WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON — General sessions |
| — THURSDAY — Sessions on the Hill Lobbying on your own Congressional reception |
| — FRIDAY MORNING — General sessions |

— PAYMENT METHOD —

Paying by check: Remit in full to the ASBPA, 5460 Beaujolais Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33919-2704.

Paying by purchase order: Contact us for an invoice. Payment must be received *prior* to conference.

Paying by credit card: (Check one): _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

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(AS IT APPEARS ON THE CARD)

— QUESTIONS? —

**Call (239) 489-2616, fax to (239) 489-9917, e-mail to exdir@asbpa.org
or mail to 5460 Beaujolais Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33919-2704**

REFUNDS: Refunds on conference registrations will be given up to March 3, 2005; there will be a \$50 processing charge for any refund, which will be made via the same payment method for the original registration. No refunds available once the conference has actually begun.
Prices include conference registration only. Speakers and nominators are responsible for any conference registration costs

— HOTEL INFORMATION —

THE WASHINGTON COURT HOTEL

525 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.

(202) 628-2100 ~ (800) 321-3010 ~ Fax (202) 879-7918

The hotel will hold a block of rooms March 8-10 at a conference rate of \$239 (single or double) per night. Mention you are attending the ASBPA Summit 2005 to receive this special rate.

Cut-off date for room block: Feb. 7, 2005

Room availability subject to change — reservations are on a first-come, first served basis.



Thanks

■ Continued from page 11

Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

Fire Island Association, Inc.

Galveston County Office of Emergency Management

Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District

Hawaii Department Of Land & Natural Resources

Hillsboro Inlet District

Jefferson County

Lee County

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South Amelia Island Shore Stabilization Association, Inc.

Sunny Isles Beach Resort Association, Inc.

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The Barrier Island Governmental Council

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Town of Carolina Beach

Town of Caswell Beach

Town of Hilton Head Island

Town of Kill Devil Hills

Town of Longboat Key

Town of Oak Island

Town of Ocean City

Town of Ocean Isle Beach

Town of South Bethany

Town of Wells

Village of Key Biscayne

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Walton County Tourist Development Council ❖

Web site of the month:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has launched a Web site providing coastal mapping of storm-damaged counties. Video clips and photographs of Florida's shoreline from spring 2004 and in the aftermath of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne provide illustrations of beach erosion and damage caused by the four storms. To view the new interactive coastal map, visit <http://bcs.dep.state.fl.us/rcmd>.

■ E-mail submissions for Beach Spotlight, America's Coast, Chapter News and Factoids are due the 20th of each month.

CONTACT LIST:

- White House comments — (202) 456-1111
- White House fax — (202) 456-2461
- George W. Bush's e-mail — president@whitehouse.gov
- Dick Cheney's e-mail — vice-president@whitehouse.gov
- White House mail — 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500
- Capitol Switchboard — (202) 224-3121
- To contact your senators — <http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm>
- To contact your representative — <http://www.house.gov/writerep>

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Online: www.asbpa.org

Executive Directors: Kate & Ken Gooderham
5460 Beaujolais Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33919-2704
E-mail: ExDir@asbpa.org
Phone: (239) 489-2616 • Fax: (239) 489-9917

Director of Governmental Affairs: Howard Marlowe
1667 K Street N.W., Suite 480, Washington, DC 20006
E-mail: beaches@asbpa.org
Phone: (202) 775-1796

Shore & Beach editor: Reinhard E. Flick, Ph.D
c/o Scripps Institute of Oceanography,
9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92092
E-Mail: editor@asbpa.org

President's Office: Harry Simmons
707 Caswell Beach Road, Caswell Beach, NC 28465
E-mail: president@asbpa.org
Phone: (910) 200-7867 • Fax: (910) 278-7982