The Texas ASBPA Chapter had a quarterly meeting on March 4 in Austin Texas at probably the oldest restaurant in Texas, Scholz Garten, which has been in existence since 1866, and they are famous for great Texas barbeque. We had the meeting in Austin to tie in with the 83rd Legislative Session for Texas. The legislators meet every two years from January 1 to May 31 and needless to mention, it’s hectic! We had a great turnout and heard from guest speakers, General Land Commissioner (GLO) Jerry Patterson and State Senator Larry Taylor.

Commissioner Jerry Patterson stated that the Severance Case by the Texas Supreme Court did not affect the rolling easement in Texas, only West Galveston Island. Commissioner Patterson was seeking, during the legislative session, to give the GLO greater authority after a storm event. A bill would be directed toward the easement situation which will allow a three year moratorium allowing enough time to determine the post-storm line of vegetation, and during the moratorium, the easement will be 200 feet landward of the mean low tide line. Since the meeting, Representative Craig Eiland of Galveston filed HB 3459 and Senator Taylor filed SB 1561 to reflect the 3 year moratorium.

As far as the GLO, the State has the Coastal Erosion & Response Act (CEPRA) for shoreline restoration projects and the GLO was able to obtain $17.3 million during the session – same as 2011 session.

For coastal legislation, there was Senate Bill 1560, sponsored by Senator Larry Taylor, which focused on recommendations for an Ike Dike (6 southeastern county storm protection system), making a big impact because of the inclusion of a provision for static easements. Rep Craig Eiland and Senator Taylor amended SB 1560 with provisions for a study of the Ike Dike and attached it as an amendment to House Bill 3459. Senate Bill 1560 then basically died on the floor.

House Bill 3459 passed and was signed by the governor on June 14, 2013. As stated above, this bill primarily provides the GLO a three-year moratorium on determining the natural line of vegetation after a storm or “meteorological event”. During this time, the bill stresses that the public beach shall extend to a line 200 feet inland from the line of mean low tide. If the line of vegetation is determined to be on private property, then it belongs to the State.

The specific implications of public verses private property brought to light by the Severance decision by the Texas Supreme Court were not addressed. The Severance decision still exists for West Galveston Island where the State cannot take private property after a major or "avulsive" storm event even though HB 3459 becomes effective September 1, 2013. Since there is a three year moratorium after a major storm event, the 84th Legislative Session may address this matter more. In addition to the three year moratorium implemented with HB 3459, the legislature will form a committee of senators and representatives to study the "Ike Dike" and the impact not only to Southeast Texas but also to... (Continued page 7)
Windstorm Insurance has kept many good people very busy for the past year and more, but there seems very little to show for it.

Commissioner Eleanor Kitzman replaced the retiring Commissioner Mike Geeslin in August 2011; June 2013 she was replaced by Commissioner Julia Rathgeber. Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) has operated under Texas Department of Insurance ‘Oversight’ since March 2010.

Before and during the 83rd Legislature in 2013, countless hours, meetings and miles were expended by dedicated legislators, coastal residents, chambers of commerce, especially the Corpus Christi based Coastal Windstorm Task Force, and key members of the HB 3 Legislative Interim Study Committee. Results of these efforts included sophisticated concepts as varied as changing TWIA for an assigned-risk-plus-mitigation solution, or a creative funding plan designed to be adequate to pay losses of a 1 in 250 year storm. Only Senator Taylor’s SB 1700 made it out of committee, but not in time to pass into law. No proposal was without serious opposition.

TWIA claims from 2008 hurricanes Dolly and Ike are still coming in. Many paid claims, considered satisfactorily closed, have become the subject of unexpected lawsuits. The total of estimated paid and outstanding 2008 claims has risen to over $2.7 Billion. Since claims have exceeded TWIA’s 2008 available funds, claims are being paid with 2009 – 2012 premiums.

Record policy count, and highest ever rates have provided TWIA gross written premium 2009 – 2012 over $1.6 Billion, but the sorely needed CRTF reserves [net income] have accumulated to only $178.9 Million in these no hurricane, no tropical storm years. By December 31, 2012 TWIA showed a $182.9 Million deficit surplus. In March of 2013, Commissioner Kitzman apparently felt that a reorganization by receivership was appropriate, but the TWIA board has deferred a decision on this matter.

In 2008 the law allowed unlimited assessments of TWIA member insurers to pay claims; but the board rejected the full amount of assessments proposed by management at that time; that law was changed in 2009. It is now being suggested that assessment for 2008 claims can and should still be made under the 2008 law, substantially strengthening TWIA financially. This very controversial issue may play out over several months—or even years—before the outcome will be known.

So what is the answer? In a brief private conversation, Commissioner Kitzman and I agreed: that the core issue is TWIA rates. Fair and just rates, acceptable to insurers and policyholders would attract for profit insurers to write voluntarily and customers to buy as is done in the rest of the state, essentially resolving all TWIA problems.

What is the description of a Fair and just rate? The most basic underlying principle of insurance is that insurance is a contract by which a customer transfers the risk of loss to his property [capital] to the capital of an insurer for an agreed price. A fair price must include all ‘overhead’ costs required to provide a policy, including taxes and acquisition costs; it must include the most correct actuarial calculation possible of the probability of projected loss during the term of a policy; and it must include a fair allowance for contingency and profit. According to the principle of large numbers, its accuracy requires that it be based on the broadest number of similarly exposed risks possible.

From the 1940’s through 2009, Texas windstorm rates have been based on actual experience: dollars of premium and loss, over a period of at least 30 years. In 2009 TWIA changed. Experience was given only half weight, and the other half was based on catastrophe ‘models’—proprietary computer analyses; but the model assumptions are confidential and ‘improved’ frequently—seemingly always upward. This actuarial difference resulted in a significant increase in the actuarial ‘indication’ of the adequate rate. In 2012 a different actuary provided an analysis of TWIA rates using no experience, only models. The predictable result: twice as high of an increase was indicated.

A separate and greater concern is the added series of rate ‘loadings’ having nothing to do with risk of loss, but serve the purpose of providing capital to the insurer. By paying all the costs properly chargeable for risk of loss, the policyholder should not also provide capital to the insurer. The first of these charges is for the cost of ‘reinsurance’, which protects not the policyholder, but the insurer. This product is ‘rented capital’. Its cost has been acknowledged to pay a fraction [well less than half the cost] of projected losses, but the remaining cost is added to the rate. Another TWIA ‘loading’ to fund the Catastrophe Reserve Trust Fund (CRTF) is prepayment of future losses, again providing capital for the insurer. This has been added to the rate for years, as much as 45%. A third looming charge, just waiting for the next significant ‘event’, is the repayment of borrowed money: $2.5 Billion funding when needed to pay future TWIA claims.

(Continued page 10)
The ASBPA National Coastal Conference is returning to Texas this October 23-25 and will be held in South Padre Island. JoAnn Evans, Reuben Trevino, and myself are serving as the conference co-chairs and have been working with some highly talented committees to pull together what we believe will be a fantastic conference. One of the highlights to Texas members will be that the General Land Office is heavily involved in the conference as an organizational co-sponsor. The GLO will have a dedicated session at the conference about long-term coastal planning in Texas, and we are really excited that Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson will be delivering the keynote speech.

While we will be highlighting Texas and Gulf Coast issues, there are many presentations from around the country, including modeling fine grained beach nourishment in southern California, predicting shoreline change in Puget Sound, adaptive coastal engineering in Alaska, and sediment dynamics in South Carolina, just to name a few. There also will be a number of talks about hurricane impacts and response, including recent storms such as Hurricanes Ike, Sandy, and Irene. We even have several presentations from Colombia and another from England to provide some international perspective on coastal systems. One of the fantastic benefits of attending this conference is it allows members to meet, network, and learn from scientists, engineers, educators, public sector staff, and officials from all across the country.

Prior to the start of the conference on October 22nd, we will have a wonderful full day Short Course. The morning session will be “Coastal Processes and Solutions: An Overview” that provides an introduction to coastal processes and engineering solutions. The afternoon session will be presented by Texas Sea Grant and will cover “weTable and CHARM 101: Tools for Participatory GIS and Tabletop Planning.” The CHARM model (Community Health and Resources Management) supported by a weTable (interactive computer/tabletop interface) setup allows citizens and officials to work in a team setting to propose answers to where and how growth will occur. The public can outline areas of growth and redevelopment in the model, while the model calculates impacts to resiliency in real-time.

At the end of the conference, we will have an exciting field trip that offers a rare visit to undeveloped beaches and the mouth of the Rio Grande River. Attendees will travel via amphibious vehicle from South Padre and head into the water to cross the Brazos Santiago Pass, which is the sand source for South Padre Beneficial Use Nourishment beach projects. Once across the pass, the tour will continue down the secluded region of Boca Chica beach to the unspoiled habitat and windswept dunes at the US-Mexico Gulf Coast border.

I encourage our Texas members to participate, attend, and sponsor the upcoming conference. The last time ASBPA was in Texas was 2007 in Galveston, which was one of the most successful conferences in ASBPA’s history. I think we can work together to make this conference even more successful! JoAnn, Reuben, and I can’t wait to see everyone in South Padre.
Letter From the Editors

Howdy, coastal community. Welcome to the Summer - 2013 edition of The Strand Line, the Texas Shore and Beach Preservation Association newsletter. We want to thank our contributing authors for the service they provide to the community. We greatly appreciate the work and effort everyone puts into publishing the newsletter.

As everyone is likely aware, the National ASBPA Conference will be held in South Padre Island in October of this year. This will be a valuable opportunity to showcase Texas hospitality and focus attention on Texas beaches and coastal projects. We encourage everyone to actively participate to make this a wonderful experience for both native Texans and visiting VIPs.

We would like all members to consider volunteering for one of the many committees that make the Texas Chapter of the ASBPA a valuable resource for everyone. This year, that means that we will need members to volunteer for both National Conference and Texas Chapter committees. Though it may seem daunting, our commitment to the coast is what makes the coastal community such a valuable resource. There are many roles to play and much work required to make this such a great organization.

As always, we want to encourage everyone to submit articles to the newsletter relating to your personal interests, professional projects, or general commentary regarding the coastal community. The more articles that we receive provide for a more robust newsletter. If you have ideas for an article, please submit them. It is a group effort to provide content necessary to make the newsletter interesting and relevant. We look forward to reading your submissions.

Regards-
Cris Weber, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair
cris.weber@atkinsglobal.com

Jayne McClure, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair
jdmcclure@gba-inc.com

BE HEARD, BE PUBLISHED!
The TxASBPA Newsletter staff challenge our readers to submit articles for publication.

GUIDELINES:
- 500 to 1000 word articles (pictures welcomed)
- Word format (Garamond @ 10 font)
- Ensure permission to publish is granted.

A Simply Smashing Shrimp

It can move almost as fast as a speeding bullet and packs a punch powerful enough to break aquarium glass. Mantis shrimp aren’t your average cocktail shrimp – technically they’re not even shrimp.

The approximately 400 species of mantis shrimp are divided into two groups, the spearers and the smashers. The difference is the kind of formidable claw they use to catch their prey. Both types of these often colorful crustaceans are excellent hunters, but the smashers are a lot faster. They lie still waiting for a snail, crab, clam or oyster to come within range. Then, the mantis shrimp pound their prey with an acceleration up to 10,000 times the acceleration of gravity, reaching speeds up to 50 mph in as little as 2.7 milliseconds! Though not the mantis shrimps’ usual meal, even octopus and larger fish can be stunned to death by the shrimp’s smasher claw.

The secret to this power and speed is a saddle-shaped structure in their arms which acts like a spring. It’s compressed when the arm is “cocked” under the shrimp. When the shrimp is ready to pounce, this spring mechanism releases its stored energy in a burst that propels the claw out, similar to a catapult launching its goods.

But the claw’s power also takes a toll. During its punch, the claw’s speed heats up the surrounding water, causing a pressure drop that forms bubbles, which then immediately implode when the pressure normalizes – a process called cavitation. Cavitation is so destructive that it can wear down boat propellers, and it wears down the heel of the smasher claw. So, the smasher mantis shrimp molts every few months. Each molt provides it with a brand new claw surface, ready to pulverize its next meal.

Some mantis shrimp smash their prey with a powerful claw. (Credit: Silke Baron, Wikipedia)
In the 83rd legislative session that just ended, there were a number of bills filed with the intent of changing the rules on public vs private property on the Texas beachfront. You will remember (who can forget!) the Severance case in which the Texas Supreme Court said the state had not proven that an easement existed to allow public access.

House Bill 325, sponsored by Rep Harold Dutton of Houston, and Senate Bill 1561, sponsored by Sen Larry Taylor of Friendswood, wended their way through committees but were not able to make much progress prior to the end of the legislative session.

Senate Bill 1560, also sponsored by Sen Larry Taylor, focused on recommendations for an Ike Dike, but made a big – and questionable -- splash because of the inclusion of a provision for static easements. Rep Craig Eiland of Galveston amended SB 1560 (i.e., replaced ALL of the original language) with provisions for a study of the Ike Dike and attached it as an amendment to House Bill 3459, which he had originally submitted.

House Bill 3459 passed and was signed by the governor on June 14, 2013. It primarily provides the GLO a three-year moratorium on determining the natural line of vegetation after a “meteorological event.” During this time, “the public beach shall extend to a line 200 feet inland from the line of mean low tide.”

So while the specific implications of public vs. private property brought to light by the Severance decision were not addressed as such, we have made progress. Here are our thoughts:

1. The Severance decision is a “done deal,” an established part of the law. We are no longer arguing over its legitimacy, we have moved on.

   The key players are clear on their perspectives. Commissioner Patterson of the GLO has met with us as well as homeowners, attorneys, legislators and other key stakeholders.

   The key issues are clearly defined and simply stated: public access on the one hand and protection against losing beachfront property without compensation on the other.

   We understand that the semantics of a “rolling” vs “static” easement should not be a “deal breaker.” We have seen that other states have found resolution to similar issues without getting bogged down in the words.

   There is now a legislative answer to some of the questions, including amendment language and enabling legislation, although we must acknowledge the possibility of future court challenges even now.

   Perhaps most importantly, we have learned how critical it is that we approach issues with a consensus along the coast in order to influence non-coastal decision makers.

   Put into a broader perspective, the Severance issue becomes only one aspect of preservation of a wonderful natural resource that all Texans have been blessed with. Our coastline is unique. We all have an obligation to take this responsibility seriously.

2. Texas is not alone.

   All of the coastal states are dealing with issues such as public vs private property rights, beach renourishment, funding for maintenance and rebuilding of infrastructure along the coast, the balance between environmental and commercial/industrial interests, and others. As we have learned, some states have dedicated funding sources for beach renourishment, others question the sanity of continuing to put sand on a beach that will erode and need it...
Let’s Get Involved In…. You Fill In The Blank

By John Lee, Managing Director, Coastal Strategies Group

How about “Let’s get involved in helping to increase the presence of the Texas Chapter nationally. The Texas Chapter of ASBPA has the potential to have a tremendous base of support. Very few states have the resources, diversity or political clout of Texas. Yet, with all of these benefits in our favor we continually seem to be struggling to catch-up. In October 2013, the ASBPA spotlight will be on South Padre Island as the National Technical Conference will be held in South Padre. The last time this conference was in Texas it was in Galveston in 2007. That conference turned out to be the most successful conference ASBPA had ever held, surpassed only recently by the New Orleans conference in 2011.

Recently, at an ASBPA meeting there was a discussion about national beach funding and many people in the national association don’t understand the funding mechanisms available in Texas as most of their projects are through the Civil Works branch of the Army and the Corp of Engineers. They haven’t participated in CEPRA, or understand the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). This made me think… We (as a Chapter) need to become more involved in the various committees that work to further the mission of ASBPA. If a large segment of our national membership doesn’t understand what our needs are, then we need to go the extra mile and provide that information to them. How can we be successful as an Association if collectively we don’t know the needs of our fellow members? Our diversity is our strength, but that strength requires the knowledge of the needs of our members. We need to have Texas Chapter members on the various committee conference calls; especially on the Science and Technology Committee and the Government Affairs Committee and these participating members need to advocate and educate everyone they come into contact with.

It has often been said that Texas is about 30 years behind other states in getting involved in the federal shore protection program; and that very well may be true. It is also necessary to understand that states and communities in other parts of the country started their efforts a long time ago and most importantly, they also remained engaged and involved in the process. Quite often it was a 15 or 20 year process to get a project through to appropriation and construction. We can, and should, learn from that experience. We have to be ready to do the heavy lifting when the opportunity presents itself; and it won’t be easy. But, it will be worthwhile.

In other states, many of their elected officials understand the benefits of the coastal communities and the impact of their combined economies. I don’t know if that is true in Texas, and that’s sad. We have at least 38 elected representatives (House and Senate) in Washington D.C., second highest behind California’s total of 55. Considering the strength of our economy, number of representatives, and just plain willingness to make things happen why can’t we dig in our heels and get things done?

It’s a simple answer- things will change when enough of us want it to change. It is my hope that in the months and years ahead, we will come together as a Chapter and really get involved in all of ASBPA’s activities. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at the next Chapter meeting in Matagorda and at South Padre for the Fall Conference. Take the time to get involved, suggest changes, then work to make them happen.

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Running of the Turtles. Sea Turtle, Inc. Releases over 300 Kemp’s Ridley Turtle Hatchlings on South Padre Island Beach, Texas
Message from the President (cont’d)

Texas and the U.S. economy. The committee is to submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2014.

The other guest speaker at the March 4 meeting was State Senator Larry Taylor who spoke on windstorm insurance legislation. He advised either fix or replace the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), which was the message during the legislative session. However, the session ended without any fix for TWIA, and we are not certain if it will be changed during the Special Session, which has not materialized as of this writing.

The chapter meeting tied in well with the “Windstorm Insurance Rally” held the next day, on March 5, on the State Capitol steps. After the rally, members were able to walk the halls to visit legislators. TWIA has existed 30 years but one storm, Hurricane Ike, exceeded their resource limits.

For the 2013 hurricane season, TWIA potentially had 3.35 billion dollars in funding. However, former Insurance Commissioner Kitzman denied the request by the TWIA Board of Directors to approve the 2013 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) of $500 million. The Coastal Windstorm Insurance Coalition (CWIC) requested that the new Insurance Commissioner Rathgeber approve this potentially vital source of funds for the payment of TWIA claims in 2013. It is still up in the air, and we hoped this issue would have been addressed during the special session.

This hurricane season is looking very bad for property owners on the Texas Gulf Coast. That’s not just because climate experts are predicting more storms than average, but also because TWIA is on the edge of insolvency. Unfortunately, Gov. Rick Perry declined to add windstorm insurance reform to the agenda of the Legislature’s first special session and does not appear likely to add it to the ongoing second. TWIA is unlikely to be able to pay claims promptly following even a low-severity storm. The windstorm insurance situation is very distressing to the coastal community and we hope the legislators will find a satisfactory solution and not place TWIA into receivership. We appreciate the efforts of the coastal legislators and ask that they continue their efforts to fund TWIA.

**ASBPA Fall Conference:** We encourage all members and friends to attend the ASBPA Fall Conference in South Padre, October 23 – 26, 2013, and to visit the website www.asbpa.org for details in registering and the agenda. We need the Texas members to support the conference and to attend. The agenda is truly outstanding and the topics are really impressive. Hope to see you there.

**Texas ASBPA Chapter Meeting:** Next Texas ASBPA Chapter Meeting will be **July 26 in Matagorda, Texas**, 11:45AM for lunch, at the Matagorda Bay Nature Park, which is a 1600 acre park and managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and located on Matagorda Beach. It has a very impressive conference center, park, pier, adjacent RV facility, and other attractions. This will also be our annual meeting and we have a great agenda planned and hope you all will be able to attend.

Jerry Mohn
President

Running of the Turtles, South Padre Island

*By Johnny Royal, Beach Enthusiast*

I recently was in South Padre Island and had the opportunity to watch Sea Turtle, Inc release over 300 Kemp’s Ridley turtle hatchlings. This was an amazing experience that allowed my entire family to participate in a revitalization activity that is preserving this invaluable coastal resource. Sea Turtle, Inc is a turtle rescue center whose mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release injured sea turtles, educate the public, and assist with conservation efforts for all marine turtle species.

The beach event was conducted by the professional staff at Sea Turtle, Inc. The large group of children and adults began arriving well before dawn. The beach was roped off to provide spectators an extremely intimate view of the hatchlings racing into the mild surf, but not hinder the hatchlings as they began their journey.

The Sea Turtle, Inc rescue center is located at the north end of Padre Blvd. They provide interim habitat for rescue turtles during rehabilitation prior to release, and also provide permanent arrangements for turtles that are too injured to be returned to their natural habitat. For those interested, their website is: www.seaturtleincc.org

Professionally Handled Turtle Hatchling
The Laguna Madre of South Texas has once again been impacted by an extensive bloom of the “brown tide” alga, *Aureoumbra lagunensis*. The first documented brown tide bloom began in 1990, and persisted for nearly 8 years. Brown tides are characterized by very high densities of this single species of algae, with often over five million brown tide cells in a teaspoon of seawater. Brown tide cells are not directly toxic to most marine life, but they block sunlight from reaching the ocean floor even in very shallow waters, leading to the elimination of sea grass beds that form essential nursery habitats for larval and juvenile fishes in the Laguna Madre.

The current bloom began earlier this spring, and it is important to document its distribution and extent, as well as the water quality conditions in brown tide impacted waters, so we can have a better understanding of the conditions that promote the establishment of these brown tides, as well as the conditions that lead to their demise. At the University of Texas Marine Science Institute we have developed an underway sampling system that can be deployed from a small boat traveling at full speed. Using this system, we were able to survey the brown tide concentrations and water quality conditions in the upper Laguna Madre from the JFK Causeway through Baffin Bay and back again in just a little over 2 hours. This allows us to create graphs of the distribution of water temperature, salinity, oxygen, pH, turbidity and chlorophyll along with GPS coordinates of the exact locations where each measurement was made. At full speed, we measure each of these parameters about 10 times for each mile traveled.

The figure below shows the distribution of chlorophyll in the upper Laguna Madre. High concentrations of the brown tide alga, reflected in the high concentrations of chlorophyll, were found throughout the upper Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay. The inset bar graph compares the amount of chlorophyll (algae) in Aransas Bay measured with the same system about a week before the Laguna Madre survey. The brown tide waters have over five times as much algae as the productive waters of Aransas Bay where no brown tide is present.
BREAK OUT YOUR DIGITAL CAMERAS! It’s time to tap into your inner Picasso and find the picture that is worth a thousand words and share it with our friends that read The Strand Line. We would like to start including pictures from our members in the newsletter of places and faces on our Texas Beaches. You may send your pictures via email to any of the newsletter committee members. We look forward to the individual perspectives that make our coastline beautiful and show our readers the diversity that makes our beaches special. Please enjoy these recently submitted photographs of the Texas coast.
Try, Try, Try Again (cont’d)

Policyholders are presently expected to pay based on the high method of calculation of projected losses, PLUS to pay the capital with which the insurer pays those losses. If that is not double payment, what is?

A fair and reasonable outcome can be achieved when insurers and policyholders agree on the underlying actuarial rate analysis methodology and data, utilizing mediation by the expert, impartial Texas Department of Insurance regulatory agency; eliminate capital charges from rate development; balance the models v. experience utilization; develop and apply the rate to the Catastrophe Area equally; and restore full responsibility, proportionately, to all state licensed for-profit insurers with credit to the extent of voluntary writing by each insurer.

Additionally, a state mandated building code in the Catastrophe Area, voluntary structural remediation for credit, and a self funded mandatory Texas reinsurance facility offer valuable supplemental solutions to a fair and reasonable outcome.

Lee Otis Zapp, Jr., Chair
Coastal Windstorm Insurance Coalition (CWIC)

Upcoming Events, 2013

- **Texas Chapter of the ASBPA.** Matagorda Bay Nature Park. Friday, July 27, 2013. Matagorda, TX.
- **Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA).** Annual Conference. September 25-27, 2013. Delray Beach, FL.
- **ASBPA National Coastal Conference.** Responding to Waves of Change. October 22-25. South Padre Island, TX.
- **Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (CERF).** Biennial Conference. November 3-7, 2013. San Diego, CA.
- **American Geophysical Union (AGU).** Fall Meeting. Dec. 9-13, 2013. San Francisco, CA.

Best Picture of Texas

Are you a birder, avid surfer, expert angler, or champion sunbather? The Texas ASBPA Newsletter Committee wants to know why you love the Texas Coast, so get out your camera and share your favorite sights with us in the new “Best Picture of Texas” section of The Strand Line.

Guidelines for Submission:

Please submit photos electronically to Cris Weber (cweber@atkinsglobal.com) or Jayne McClure (jdmclure@gba-inc.com). For each photo submission, provide the first and last name of the photographer, the location of the picture, and the date the picture was taken. To ensure that The Strand Line has permission to print, please only submit your own photography. We look forward to seeing your Texas Coast at its best!

Texas Chapter ASBPA • Preservation Through Cooperation • http://www.texasasbpa.org
The Case for Open Beach Access (contd)

again in a few years. Finding state and federal funding sources is an uphill battle in many states because of the view that renewing the beach provides financial benefit to a few wealthy beachfront property owners.

Partnerships among coastal states such as the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, the Coastal States Organization, and the Surfrider Foundation, have proven track records in pursuing solutions across boundaries, including legislation, to support coastal initiatives. Local partnerships among beach managers are in place within many states, including Texas, to leverage creative ideas and long-range planning.

These multi-level partnerships will be just as important in addressing the issues of global warming and climate change going forward.

3. Making our coasts resilient is going to be an ongoing challenge.

This is particularly evident in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy in the Northeast, where the level of devastation was unexpected and communities were unprepared for such an event. Global warming and climate change will put ever more pressure on our coasts.

The concepts of “survivability” and “resiliency” require all of us to be stewards of our shorelines, working for a balance among the competing coastal interests. But both concepts begin with the acknowledgement of the value of our coastal resources and the need to protect them.

4. Technologies and strategies for protecting our coastlines will continue to change.

Many of us remember when we were asked to donate used Christmas trees to be placed along the dune lines on Texas beaches to prevent erosion. Unfortunately, after the next big storm many of those trees were washed away, and so were the dunes. Then there were geo-tubes or sand socks, “speed bump technology,” the use of sand fences, and bulldozing sargassum in front of the dunes to protect them. Today, we see a new concept of rolling and placing sargassum under the dunes to provide a foothold for dune grasses and plants. Maintaining and/or restoring dwindling beaches provides storm protection, habitat restoration and recreation.

Because no one size fits all, the best recommendations are those that adapt to the coastal conditions of the local area, taking into consideration geological and hydrological, ecological and historical forces. And the approach looks at the beachfront, nearshore and upland as a system that works together; thus solutions must take all three into account, enabling an enhanced natural beachfront system to protect upland infrastructure such as homes. An example of this systemic approach includes a broad beach, a healthy dune system, wetlands and/or seagrass areas, and wide areas of larger plantings, all to absorb and dissipate the effects of wave action and/or storm surge.

5. Whatever the issues, “sustainability” is the silver bullet because it is based on systems thinking.

None of these solutions or technologies works in a vacuum. With so many competing interests – financial, environmental, industrial, military, commercial, economic, personal – the future will require all interested parties to be at the table together. Federal or state legislation, local ordinances, community policies must be aligned. Rebuilding infrastructure, creating new residential, industrial or commercial building, protecting our coastal military presence, and preserving natural habitat must be able to co-exist along our Texas coast. Long-range planning is a necessity for the Texas Gulf Coast as a whole, as it is being done in some of the other coastal states, such as North Carolina.

“Sustainable tourism” has been defined as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.” This is the future we all want for the Texas Gulf Coast.

6. Let’s talk about a culture change rather than paradigm change.

When the issue is about how to pick up garbage on the beach or fighting to gain respect for the coast from inland constituents, maybe we are asking the wrong questions altogether. The emphasis must be on acknowledging the value of the coastline and its natural resources, on taking pride in the beach and every Texan’s right to access it, and working to boost coastal tourism and local economies in balance with industrial and other interests.

Statewide programs such as “Texas: Star of America’s Energy Coast”, the GLO’s branding campaign on sustaining the Texas coast, is a very good start. Local programs such as Galveston’s “Clean, Green, Pristine” are moving Texas in the right direction. Many states have these programs in place.

While the State can enact legislation to give clear direction to this kind of culture change, the rubber will meet the road at the local level, with such actions as:

- Campaigns to educate and create pride in the coastline
- Programs to clean up the beach and keep it clean
- Efforts to set new expectations for beachgoers to “pack it in, pack it out” to reduce garbage on the beach
- Signage to remind people that the beach belongs to all of us
- Use of volunteers in improvement projects to get people involved in environmental management

Finding solutions to public beach access is a part of this system and has an impact on coastal tourism and the health of local economies. Texas is in a strong position to develop sustainable solutions to all of our coastal issues, to insist on a systems approach to resolving issues, to implement long-range planning for the coast, and to partner with – and lead – other coastal states in preserving the natural wonders of our shore.
Texas Chapter ASBPA

BEST PICTURE OF TEXAS!

The Strand Line

Are you a birder, avid surfer, expert angler, or champion sunbather? The Texas ASBPA Newsletter Committee wants to know why you love the Texas Coast, so get out your camera and share your favorite sights with us in the new “Best Picture of Texas” section of The Strand Line!

Guidelines for Submission:
Please submit photos electronically to Cris Weber (cweber@liaengineering.com) or Jayne McClure (jdmclure@qba-inc.com). For each photo submission, provide the first and last name of the photographer, the location of the picture, and the date the picture was taken. To ensure that The Strand Line has permission to print, please only submit your own photography. We look forward to seeing your Texas Coast at its best!
Texas Chapter of the ASBPA, Meeting Agenda

Date: July 26, 2013  
Time: 11:45 AM

Location: Matagorda Bay Nature Park  
Lunch Sponsor: Buddy’s Seafood

Host: Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

Agenda

Meeting begins 12:15 AM

Jerry Mohn - Call meeting to order.

- Introduce Elected Officials, Board of Directors, and Sponsors
- Welcome – Nate McDonald – Matagorda County Judge and Ted Bates – Chairman Port of Palacios

Guest Speakers:

- Helen Young – GLO Deputy Commissioner Coastal Resources – “The Texas Coast: Shoring up the Future”
- Haskell Simon – LCRA – “Overview of Matagorda County”

Technical Committee Presentation:

- “Planning for Beneficial Use of Dredged Material from the Channel to Palacios” Rhonda Gregg, Shelmark Engineering, and Paul Jensen, Atkins Global
- “The Restoration of Sargent Beach” David Campbell – Coastal Tech Corporation

Windstorm Insurance:

- Otie Zapp – Chairman, Coastal Windstorm Insurance Coalition [CWIC]

Newsletter:

- Cris Weber – Chair

ASBPA: Fall Conference South Padre, October 22 – 24

- Reuben Trevino – South Padre

Joe Moseley Memoriam – Jerry Mohn

Next Texas Chapter Meeting: October – Fall Conference South Padre Island

Adjournment
The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association recognizes that the shores, beaches and other coastal resources of America provide important quality-of-life assets within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. This Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the beaches, shores and other coastal resources of America.

The Texas Chapter of ASBPA is dedicated to fulfilling this mission in the State of Texas. We are a member based advocacy organization. For more information on becoming a member, becoming a corporate sponsor, or becoming more active with the organization, please contact Jerry Mohn at the address to the left.

Please remember to visit our website at [www.texasasbpa.org](http://www.texasasbpa.org) for more frequent updates on coastal happenings and the Texas Chapter of ASBPA. If you have information to submit for the website or newsletter please contact Jerry Mohn.

### Corporate Sponsorship costs

Corporate Sponsorship costs $500 and provides for recognition on Chapter website and all publications & events.

Visit us online at: [www.texasasbpa.org](http://www.texasasbpa.org)