Since the last newsletter, the Texas ASBPA Chapter had three meetings. The first one was in Matagorda, Texas on July 26, 2013, and this was our annual meeting where we started our 8th year as an organization. The GLO (General Land Office) Deputy Commissioner for Coastal Resources provided a presentation of their ongoing initiative to advocate the economic, environmental, and recreational values of the Texas coast and identify needs and potential solutions. The GLO has formed a Technical Action Committee (TAC) that has been holding meetings along the Texas coast to identify needs and potential solutions for coastal issues in Texas. With help from America’s Wetland Foundation, this led to the publication of a report that clearly and concisely presents the value and issues along the Texas coast. We had a presentation on the restoration of Sargeant Beach, which received one of the best restored beaches award from the ASBPA at this past summit meeting in Washington, D.C.

A large delegation of Texas members attended the Fall Technical Conference in South Padre, Texas, October 22 – 24, 2013, with the theme “Responding to Waves of Change”, and the Texas Chapter had a meeting during the conference. We heard comments from President Harry Simmons and heard about any issues or concerns from the members. The group would like to pursue funds from the RESTORE Act for coastal projects and recommended the various Texas coastal communities adopt resolutions to this effect. The first Joe Moseley Memoriam recipient, Jacob Sigren, from the Texas A&M University in Galveston, attended the conference.

The next meeting was on January 31, 2014 in Port Arthur, Texas at the Lamar State College. We developed a Texas legislative agenda to bring to the Washington, D.C. ASBPA Summit in late February, 2014, and to present to the legislators. In addition, we reviewed the RESTORE Act Resolution the Texas Chapter adopted, and many coastal communities followed our lead, developing similar resolutions to make certain any funds coming to Texas will be directed to the coastal communities. These resolutions were sent to the Governor of Texas. We also had a brief update on local coastal protection and restoration projects in the area.

Hopefully, Texas Chapter members have saved the date for our next meeting on May 2 in Corpus Christi, which will be at the Fajitaville Grille in North Beach. The City of Corpus Christi is hosting and sponsoring the luncheon meeting. The main speaker will be Derek Herzog (Beach and Aquatics Superintendent for the City of Corpus Christi), and he will discuss their coastal program and beach issues. In addition, the Technical Committee has two short presentations on restoration projects in the area.

The Texas Chapter of the ASBPA is thriving and with the support of our members we continue to grow. We continue to follow the purpose of the Texas Chapter in preserving, restoring, and protecting the shorelines of the Texas Coast for future generations to enjoy by bringing together...
The Texas General Land Office’s Coastal Management Program is funding the Boater Waste Education Campaign (BWEC) to help ensure long-term environmental and economic health along the Texas coast. In 2008, the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) launched the Boater Waste Education Campaign, a marketing and advertising campaign created to decrease the incidence of illegal discharges to the Galveston Bay estuarine system, particularly Clear Lake. Since Clear Lake has the third highest concentration of privately owned marinas in the United States, educating the public about the proper disposal of boat sewage is critical for the overall health of the ecosystem. More than $357,400 in Coastal Management Program grants have made this work possible.

Driven by a committed work group, the BWEC successfully developed a campaign message “Pump Don’t Dump,” created marketing materials, and distributed materials in the boating community through a variety of methods, including advertisements, education packets, promotional items, and presentations. The GBF also introduced several new programs into their effective outreach campaign, including the Water Monitoring Team (WMT), Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN), and Clean Water Partnerships (CWP).

The WMT samples at marinas and near-shore recreational areas to quantify boater waste impacts to water quality. In 2012, GBF established the infrastructure for running the GBF Water Monitoring Team and Bacteria Monitoring Lab by developing an EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan, modifying training materials and data sheets from the Texas Stream Team, ordering equipment, and becoming certified Texas Stream Team Trainers. The WMT currently has 40 certified volunteers sampling at 41 locations throughout Galveston Bay and Clear Lake. Volunteers sample sites at least once a month for temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, water transparency, and field observations; 17 of the monitors are also certified to sample for Enterococci. To date, GBF’s Bacteria Monitoring Lab has processed 458 bacteria samples.

GBAN is a web application that allows citizens to report boat sewage discharges and other common water pollution incidents. Through GBAN, GBF is able to engage citizens in enforcement by providing them with the tools for submitting water pollution reports. A centralized location for mapping incidents allows GBF to identify repetitive problem areas that should be presented to enforcement agencies to monitor. With more citizens reporting discharge incidents, the workgroup hopes to enlighten marina owners, boaters, and enforcement agencies to the reality of the boater waste issue and the impact on coastal waters. Currently, GBF staff is outlining the main components of the GBAN mobile application and seeking price quotes for its development.

GBAN, among other BWEC initiatives and efforts, has helped create the Clean Vessel Committee, a group of entities involved in enforcing laws that protect water quality in the bay. The first meeting was held on December 6, 2013 to discuss each entity’s role in boater waste and the need to collaborate and coordinate more closely on the issue. A plan of action was created to engage marina managers, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Clean Water Certification program, and the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary in collaborative outreach and enforcement efforts.
Multi-beam Bathymetry Along the San Jacinto Battleground Shoreline

By Robert Gearhart, Hydrographer and Marine Archaeologist, Surveying And Mapping, L.L.C., Austin
and Scott Hiller, Geophysicist, Surveying And Mapping, L.L.C., Houston

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) proposes to rehabilitate a sheet pile bulkhead that stabilizes and protects the shoreline of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site along Buffalo Bayou. The decisive battle of the Texas Revolution was fought here on April 21, 1836. Today, the Houston Ship Channel, one of our nation’s busiest navigation projects, follows the route of Buffalo Bayou past the battleground. The TPWD has responsibility to preserve and interpret the San Jacinto Battleground for future generations. Together with the San Jacinto Museum of History Association, they have developed a master plan to assure the future of this site. One important aspect of the master plan is long-term stabilization of the Buffalo Bayou shoreline, as key elements of the historic site are located nearby. Approximate locations of the Texan Army Camps and the spot where Santa Anna surrendered to Sam Houston (based on a TPWD interpretive map of the battleground) are overlaid on the aerial view of the survey results (on page 7).

This project was funded by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The GLO approved a $2.6 million disbursement of CIAP funds to the TPWD for the assessment, design, and repair/replacement of as much of the bulkhead as possible. The goals of the project are to stabilize the toe of the existing slope for another 50 years and to reduce maintenance issues along the bulkhead for TPWD park staff. TPWD awarded a contract for professional engineering services for the preliminary engineering assessment, design and construction observation services to Atkins North America, Inc. The hydrographic survey was subcontracted to SAM, LLC through an Atkins contract with CivilCorp, LLC.

SAM completed a bathymetric survey of the bulkhead in January 2014 using a 400-kHz multi-beam echo sounder. The survey encompassed 10.7 acres, extending 1800 feet along the shoreline and 260 feet into Buffalo Bayou. The sounder was mounted on a rigid pole over the side of a 25-foot SAM hydrographic survey boat. The multi-beam was tilted outward at a 15-degree angle from horizontal, providing bathymetric coverage of the vertical bulkhead to within 1.5 feet of the water surface. Sounding positions were compensated for the orientation of the multi-beam receiver in all axes of movement using an inertial motion unit. The resulting point cloud contains over 48 million elevations providing a detailed representation of the submerged terrain. The data density averages 300 soundings per square foot along the vertical bulkhead surface and 90-100 soundings per square foot overall.

Results of the multi-beam survey assisted Atkins project engineers in plan-
When Changing Sex Improves Survival

If *Finding Nemo* had been more scientifically accurate, it may have caught Disney fans off guard: Nemo’s dad, Marlin, would have become more than a single dad when Nemo’s mother died. Among clownfish, the most dominant male will actually transform into a female if the matriarch of the community dies. Clownfish generally spend their entire lives in one small area, making it difficult to find a new mate, especially one of the opposite sex. Therefore, all clownfish are born as males and once two meet up and spend some time together, one male becomes a female so they can reproduce.

But it’s not just clownfish who will spontaneously change sex when necessary. Had Nemo been a blue-banded goby fish whose father died, it would be his mother who changed sexes. Blue-banded gobies travel in harems of nearly a half dozen females with one male, a strategy that increases the species reproductive success—but only if one of the females becomes a male if the original male dies.

In fact, such a wide range of fishes possess this characteristic that scientists have names for the different transitions that can occur. Among “sequential hermaphrodites,” or species born as one sex who change into another, a male who becomes a female is “protandrous” while a female becoming a male is “protogynous.” The reasons for these sex changes range from maintaining important social hierarchies to enhancing species survival through reproduction. These transitions vary by species and can take weeks or months, during which the fish’s size, color, and markings may change along with its sex organs and behavior. Scientists don’t fully understand how the process occurs, but it appears to be a combination of environmental and chemical factors that trigger the change. So if Disney went by the book, Marlin might have turned into a Marlene.

Letter From the Editors

Howdy, coastal community. Welcome to the Spring 2014 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.

There is a specific issue we will continue to bring to the forefront of everyone’s minds as we move further into the year. We want all members to consider volunteering for one of the many committees that make the Texas Chapter of the ASBPA a valuable resource for everyone. There are many roles to play and much work required to make this a great organization. To find out what committees are available, read through the Meeting Agenda, look through the website, read past editions of The Strand Line, and/or speak with any committee member or board member. Find an area that interests you (membership, legislature, technical, communications, etc.), and then contact someone on the committee. Many hands make quick work.

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 TexASBPA 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.
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 was on South Padre Island as the National Technical Conference was 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.

Just what is Texas? It certainly is unique when considering the public’s right to access the beach. It does have many of the nation’s largest and busiest ports with quick access to the open gulf, and it has many locations just perfect for sitting and enjoying the gulf or bay views. Often when people think of Texas and its cultural identity they think of the King Ranch in south Texas, which is bigger than the State of Rhode Island, the long cattle drives of the 1860-1880’s as dramatized by the old Clint Eastwood TV series “Rawhide”, the cry of “Remember the Alamo” during the war of Texas Independence, the first words spoken from the surface of the moon in 1969- “Houston, Tranquility base here. The Eagle has landed,” or that sad tragic day in 1963 when President Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Our self-image is exhibited in the names of our professional sports teams, “Cowboys”, “Texans”, “Rangers”, “Mavericks”, “Rockets”, and “Spurs” to name a few.

Whatever your point of reference may be, it is most likely influenced by the size of the state. Texas is a huge land area, consisting of over 268,600 square miles with 367 miles of gulf facing shoreline and is the largest of the lower 48 states. Texas is second in state population to California, with approximately 27,000,000 (27M) residents, and almost a quarter of that number living in coastal counties. Texas has 36 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Texas is one of the only places where the distance between cities is often discussed in terms of hours rather than miles. But, if you talk to an Alaskan they’ll tell you that if Texans make too much noise about the size of their state, they’ll have to cut their state in half and then there will be two states bigger than Texas… just saying it’s a matter distance. To those who don’t live here, it’s difficult to understand, and if not native to Texas, many folks say they got here as quickly as they could.

The distance between areas of the state is both a great advantage and disadvantage. A larger state supports a larger population and increased legislative clout, but it also justifies the recent state tourism message of “Texas- Its like a whole other country.” Dalhart up in north Texas is approximately the same distance from Bismark, North Dakota as it is from Galveston. Similarly, residents in Dalhart can drive to the border with Canada about as easily as they can drive to South Padre Island. Residents in El Paso are closer to the beach in San Diego than they are to the beaches of Galveston, Corpus Christi, and South Padre Island. El Paso is also much closer to cities in California than it is to Dallas.

It is just human nature for people to identify and value the areas closest to them. Generally speaking, folks in north and west Texas identify more closely with states and people in the interior of the country rather than the coastline of their own state. This also translates into difficulties at the State level during the legislative session with many legislators wondering why they should allocate funds to protect the coast when their local needs are more closely related to those in Denver, CO or Wichita, KS, or other similar points north and west. Each of us should strive to do a better job in seeking to educate those non-coastal portions of the state about the benefits provided by a healthy coastline. ASBPA’s concept of wide sandy beaches backed by tall healthy dunes has been proven to reduce the impacts of storm surge and increase the resilience of coastal communities. These benefits would reduce the cost of recovering from disasters and lessen their impact on public coffers. Yet, it is often not understood that doing nothing, and retreating from the coast also carries a pretty hefty price tag as well.

(Continued page 8)
In 2012 and 2013, Atkins provided a coastal engineering study, design engineering, and construction management for a project to restore a beach protecting a wetland and bird habitat in Port Alto, Texas. The constructed project was designed to protect over 10 acres of tidal coastal marsh and restore and enhance the habitats of the coastal environment. The project design implemented a sustainable solution to provide a living shoreline.

Port Alto is located in Calhoun County, Texas about 100 miles southwest of Houston. In 2012 Atkins prepared a shoreline access plan for Calhoun County and the Port Alto Beach and Wetland Restoration and Conservation Project was a direct outgrowth of this plan. Port Alto is located on the west side of Carancahua Bay, and the beach is located to the North of the community. The wetlands area is about 10.3 acres in size and is protected on the east and north by a strip of beach. The beach is “L” shaped with the longest leg about 1,200 feet in length.

Prior to construction, the project site consisted of a low lying beach under continuous erosional pressure by high-frequency wave conditions and intense wave energy during elevated storm tides, with various types of debris and detritus placed pall-mall along the shoreline in an attempt to protect the severely eroding shore face. Without action, it was apparent that the narrow beach would quickly breach, and the protected wetlands area would be exposed directly to wave and storm effects. Atkins partnered with Calhoun County to perform a coastal engineering analysis of the area, develop options for continued protection of the wetlands area and sustainability of the shoreline as a barrier to wave forces, and maintain its appeal as a recreation destination in south central Texas.

The design recommended to the county included beach nourishment, construction of two rock groins, and construction of two breakwater reefs off the eastern portion of the beach. The purpose of the rock groins is make sand movement out of the alongshore littoral system more difficult, and the purpose of the breakwater reefs is to absorb wave energy before the impacting the beach. Removing energy from the waves helps sand to remain in place on the beach and reinforces protection of coastal wetlands.

**Upcoming Events, 2013**

- **Texas Chapter of the ASBPA. City of Corpus Christi.** Friday, May 2, 2014. Corpus Christi, TX.
- **Floodplain Managers—ASFPM Annual National Conference.** June 1-6, 2014. Seattle, WA.
- **2014 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC).** May 5-8, 2014. Houston, TX.
- **33rd PIANC World Congress (World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure).** June 1-5, 2014. San Francisco, CA.
- **World Environmental & Water Resources Congress.** June 1-5, 2014. Portland, OR.
- **Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration (CEER).** July 28-August 1, 2014. New Orleans, LA.
- **ASBPA National Coastal Conference. Promoting Healthy Coasts.** October 15-17, 2014. Virginia Beach, VA.
Message from the President (cont’d)

individuals, coastal professionals and academics, property owners, government entities, and groups in finding solutions. The goals of the Texas Chapter are to encourage and educate the public and various levels of government on the importance of the Texas shoreline in terms of economic, environmental, social, and aesthetic values.

Thank you again for your support.
Jerry Mohn
President

San Jacinto Battleground Shoreline (cont’d)

ning dive inspection work and in designing bulkhead repairs. Areas of potential interest were identified from the high-density bathymetry, allowing divers to conduct a targeted structural assessment.

The survey identified intact remains of an older submerged bulkhead fronting each end of the current structure. Atkins determined that the submerged structure is a remnant of the original bulkhead installed during the 1930’s when the monument was built. Knowledge of the earlier structure’s presence prior to dive inspection ensured that divers’ efforts were planned appropriately.

Contact:
rgearhart@sam.biz or shiller@sam.biz
Website: www.sam.biz
Boater Waste (cont’d)

step is to facilitate a Galveston Bay/Clear Lake-wide meeting for marina managers to discuss this plan and gain their support. The committee has agreed to meet again in June 2014.

The CWPs are a community-led effort to improve water quality. GBF partners with local marinas to carry out the BWEC projects, including conducting routine water quality monitoring. This program allows GBF to build valuable relationships around the bay and provides an opportunity for implementing effective outreach. Each year, through the Texas Sea Grant’s Clean Texas Marina Program, marinas apply for the Clean Marina of the Year Award based on a specific project they are implementing to benefit the environment. In 2012 and 2013, Marina Del Sol received this award for its efforts to improve water quality through a CWP with the GBF.

The partnership between the Texas General Land Office and the Galveston Bay Foundation created an opportunity to reach a broader audience and give boaters the tools to take action and to spread the campaign message to their fellow boaters. These sound stewardship practices will continue to preserve and enhance the state’s natural resources for years to come.

What is Texas (cont’d)

One of the ways we can reach out to those interior portions of the state and country is to investigate the addresses of coastal property owners in Texas, then inform the elected officials of those inland areas that many of their constituents have invested in coastal property and need their help to protect the coast. As members of ASBPA and the Texas Chapter we should be bringing the message of our organization to those industry groups who provide services in the coastal area including hotels, motels, real estate associations, convention and visitor bureaus, restaurants, and other destination marketing entities. Many hotel and restaurant chains focus their market selection on building in areas adjacent to beaches, directly benefitting from the efforts of the Texas Chapter and ASBPA. What would happen to that business if the beach were gone?

It’s a simple answer - those businesses wouldn’t be there if it weren’t for the beach. Beaches also have another value aside from their economic and recreational benefits. You might call it the polar bear or rhino value. Each of us has an understanding that polar bears and rhinos have an intrinsic value and the world is a better place because it has polar bears and rhinos alive in it. Beaches are the same thing. The world is a better place because there are beaches, and because there are people that work together to help protect all three. But the task still remains and our efforts must continue.

Since its founding in 1926, ASBPA has advocated for the integration of science into public policy decision making, and the committee structure within ASBPA reinforces this approach. Standing committees of ASBPA include the Science and Technology (S&T) Committee, the Government Affairs (GA) committee, and the Membership committee. Each of these committees is linked and requires the active participation of the other to be successful. As our membership grows, so do our legislative needs and their technical complexity.

It is my hope that in the months and years ahead, we will continue growing as a Chapter, bringing the rest of the State with us, and really get involved in all of ASBPA’s activities. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at the Chapter meeting in Corpus Christi, and possibly the next in Galveston after that, and at Virginia Beach, VA, for the Fall Conference in October. Take the time to get involved, reach out to your acquaintances, both professional and personal, make suggestions, then work to make them happen.
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.

Photographs by Cris Weber, Sundown Island (Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site), Matagorda Bay, TX (January 2014)
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 rest of us in the new “Best Picture of Texas” section of The Strand Line!

Guidelines for Submission:
Please submit photos electronically to Cris Weber (cris.weber@atkinsglobal.com) or Jayne McClure (jdmccure@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!

Best Picture of Texas

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Texas Chapter ASBPA • Preservation Through Cooperation • http://www.texasasbpa.org
Texas Chapter of the ASBPA, Meeting Agenda

Date: May 2, 2014
Time: 11:30 AM

Location: Fajitaville Grille in North Beach, 221 South Hotel Place Third Floor

Lunch Sponsor and Meeting Host: City of Corpus Christi

Agenda

Meeting begins 12:15 AM

Jerry Mohn - Call meeting to order.
  • Introduce Board, Officers, and corporate sponsors
  • Welcome – TBD
  • Introduce Elected Officials – Jerry Mohn

Presentation: Derek Herzog (Beach and Aquatics Superintendent for the City of Corpus Christi) to discuss coastal programs and beach issues

Technical Committee Presentation: Marisa Weber – Chair
  • Cameron Perry, HDR, on the history of North Beach, the past projects, and what the City is working on now.
  • Cris Weber of Atkins Global on the “Port Alto Beach Restoration and Conservation Project”.

Legislative Committee: John Lee and Cameron Perry – Chairs
  • Legislative Agenda
  • Restore Act

Newsletter:
  • Cris Weber – Chair

Discussion: Partnering with the US Army Corp of Engineers

ASBPA Fall Conference – “Promoting Healthy Beaches”
  • October 15 – 17, 2014, Virginia Beach, VA
  • Visit www.asbpa.org

Joe Moseley Memoriam – Jerry Mohn

Next Texas Chapter Meeting: July/August – upper coast?

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

Corporate Sponsors