

Beach Clean project earns national award

The program Beach Clean, whose partners include the Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission, Pender County, and Onslow County, has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The award honors innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

The project is educational for our visitors and residents to keep our beaches, rivers, and waterways clean and sustainable.

“The Achievement Awards demonstrate excellence in county government and the commitment to serve our residents every day,” said NACo President Denise Winfrey. “This year’s winners represent some of the most innovative and collaborative efforts we have seen in more than 50 years of presenting these awards.”

In spring 2022, Topsail Beach Mayor Steve Smith shared Beach Clean at a conference with a host of other coastal



“The Achievement Awards demonstrate

From the chairman...

As chairman of the North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association (NCBIWA), I'd like to welcome you to the Summer 2023 edition of our organization's quarterly newsletter. In this issue, you'll find a wealth of important information and updates about all of our members' ongoing efforts to protect, restore and maintain North Carolina's coastline and coastal communities. I'd also like to remind everyone to save the date for our upcoming fall conference, which is scheduled to be held Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023 through Friday, Nov. 17, 2023 at The Aloft in downtown Wilmington, North Carolina. Those who attended last year's fall conference know that it was a great success, so I hope to see you all — as well as a few new faces—at the fall 2023 event! — **Bobby Outten, Chairman, North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association**



communities. The response by our coastal neighbors was overwhelming.

The Beach Clean program urges residents and visitors to “Leave No Trace.” They are encouraged to use trash containers, don't bring glass to the beach, pick up after pets, fill in the holes dug on the beach, and reduce the use of plastics. The program discourages the use of plastic bags on the beach or on waterways. It also discourages the release of balloons on the beach.

Plastics floating in water look like food to our sea turtles and other animals. Regardless if we are residents or visitors, we are all caretakers of our environment.

For more information, visit <https://tispc.org> or www.visitpender.com.

Welcome to NCBIWA!

NCBIWA would like to welcome their newest members: HDR is a nationally recognized, employee-owned firm that offers program management, planning, design, environmental/regulatory, and construction consulting services to both private and public clients across various sectors, including ports, coastal, water, transportation, resources, and federal infrastructure domains. Having locations in Wilmington, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte, as well as tapping into the experience of 12,000 employees situated in 225+

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Join us for our 2023 Annual Conference on Thursday-Friday Nov. 16-17, at The Aloft in downtown Wilmington, North Carolina

Get updates from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, N.C. Divisions of Coastal Management and Water Resources, as well as many other coastal issues

Information on registration and sponsorships at <https://www.ncbiwa.org/events/upcoming-events/>

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NCBIWA's purpose is to:

- Educate elected officials and the public on the importance of beach renourishment and coastal preservation, sustainability and resiliency through the information presented at our annual meetings and conferences and;
- Advocate on behalf of our members on the Local, State and Federal levels to promote funding for coastal infrastructure including beach renourishment, storm damage mitigation and;
- Encourage the use of science and technology to advance coastal research by governmental and non-governmental organizations and;
- Promote the routine maintenance of federal navigation channels, including the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway, and the proper best use of coastal sediment: better known as Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM).

Elko named ASBPA executive director

Nicole Elko, Ph.D., has been named the new Executive Director for the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association. She recently served ASBPA for over twelve years as Science Director providing science-based guidance to Congress, federal and state agencies, and local communities on national coastal resilience challenges. Prior to becoming the Science Director, she served on the ASBPA's Executive Committee, was a Vice-President and Secretary of the Association.

Dr. Elko serves as a civilian advisor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB). She is a member of NOAA's Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP); serves on advisory committees for the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), S.C. Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, and S.C. Sea Grant Consortium; and is a founder and co-Executive Director of the US Coastal Research Program (USCRP).

Based in Folly Beach, South Carolina, Dr. Elko was appointed to South

Carolina Governor McMaster's Floodwater Commission in 2019. In her role as Executive Director of the South Carolina Beach Advocates, she served a board comprised of mayors and administrators of the state's numerous beach communities. As principal



ELKO

of Elko Coastal Consulting, Nicole has 25 years of experience in coastal management and has led planning efforts to help communities address sea level rise, coastal resilience, and marsh management along the U.S. Southeast and Gulf coasts.

Dr. Elko embraces ASBPA's unique and bifurcated mission to preserve, protect and enhance our nation's coasts by merging science and public policy. Elko states, "I humbly accept this role with great optimism, enthusiasm, and big dreams for the future of ASBPA. As the association approaches our 100th anniversary in three short years, we will continue to bring together national experts on state of the art coastal practices to protect and support the four coasts of the U.S."

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Members

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offices, we seamlessly integrate our diverse skill sets and tailor-fit teams into every project. Our experts cover all aspects of maritime engineering, coastal management, and resiliency planning, with a specific emphasis on the dynamic coastal environment of North Carolina.

The Wrightsville Beach Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has served businesses on Wrightsville Beach (WB) and its general area since 1974. The Chamber's focus is primarily on the businesses that are located within the WB town limits. The Chamber

also operates the WB Visitors Center located in the Salisbury St. Historic Village next to the WB Museum and the NC Coastal Federation Offices. The building is a historic cottage formerly owned by the Howell family of WB. The Chamber's nine-member board represents the various sectors of business on the island. WB in season is a major tourist location hosting hundreds of thousands annually. In the off season, businesses look to the support and participation from local and area residents for a quieter time at the beach.

*Nominations Extended:
Best Restored Shore
Award Due Aug. 20*

The deadline for nomination for this year's Best Restored Shore awards has been extended to Aug. 20. Please think of a project worthy of nomination. ASBPA is looking for great shoreline projects that have been constructed prior to September 2021. Super easy to submit! We have streamlined the submittal process through a new online form.

Let's recognize those projects that demonstrate creativity, dedication, and the perseverance it takes to conceive, design, and implement shoreline restoration projects. ASBPA wants to recognize your efforts and success, and help to share your expertise.

Nominations are due August 20. You can find more information and submit an award at www.asbpa.org.

*ASBPA 2023 Conference:
Program released for
'Anchors Aweigh' event*

ASBPA is pleased to release the 2023 National Coastal Conference schedule. View it at <https://asbpa.org/conferences/>. There is still time to submit a poster abstract for presentation prior to Aug. 15.

And while you're in Providence Increase Impact at the **Sustainable Beach Tourism Workshop** hosted by Blue Flag

Interested in learning how other communities capitalize on everyday management activities to attract visitors interested in taking better care of their beaches? Join us on October 10 along with the Galveston Park Board of Trustees to discover how to incorporate sustainable marketing strategies for your community. Separate workshop registration is available here.

Reservations at the Omni Provi-

dence Hotel are available at the \$189/night group rate. Online reservations link. The reduced rate is available until Sept. 15, or when the room block is filled.

*Spotlight on Blue
Flag USA beach sites*

Blue Flag USA awarded sites host at least five educational activities a year for their communities. These creative events can be passive campaigns like participation in the annual Earth Hour held each spring, or activities such as trash collection in parking lots or roadways adjacent to the sites, and discussing opportunities to reduce sources of waste entering the environment. Here are a few activities



our sites have offered this season:

Delray Beach, FL, offered a Bio-Biitz for participants of all ages focused on the importance of dune

diversity and teaching participants the specific plants and wildlife that call the Delray's dunes home. Coastal plants prevent beach erosion, capture sand, provide habitat and food for wildlife and birds and butterflies, and are aesthetically pleasing for beach goers. This guided tour of unique plants also utilized the iNaturalist app.

The **Westward Beach, CA**, information board publicizes the Ocean Heroes Activity Guide. The guide promotes positive environmental behaviors for children both at the beach and at home and focuses on the importance of water, actions to protect the environment, and how watersheds influence trash at the beach and how they get involved. From games to seaweed jokes, the Ocean Heroes guide engages children to look at the world around them through an environmental lens.



■ **ASBPA Federal Water Resources 2023 Q2 Review:** Carpi and Clay, ASBPA's Government Affairs Consultant, has provided a Federal Water Resources Review for the second quarter of 2023, capturing major congressional and Executive Branch actions and federal resources during the second quarter of 2023.

Click [here](https://asbpa.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=83a52f7fc-4f1735781a55c494&id=129ce1fc26&e=99092ed603) (<https://asbpa.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=83a52f7fc-4f1735781a55c494&id=129ce1fc26&e=99092ed603>) to access the seven-page report.

Elko

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"On behalf of the board of directors, we are excited to announce Dr. Elko as the new executive director. With over 15 years of service to the ASBPA, Nicole has demonstrated her dedication and leadership within the association. Her ability to foster partnerships with coastal stakeholders will serve us well as we move towards our centennial celebration," said ASBPA president Gary Jones, Director at County of Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Dr. Elko received her Ph.D. (Geology) from the University of South Florida after working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Coastal Marine Geology Program, St. Petersburg, and while serving as the coastal coordinator for Pinellas County, Florida. In her free time, she enjoys fishing and surfing with her family and serving as the Director of the Folly Beach Wahine Classic, the longest running all-female surf contest on the U.S. East Coast.