

## **2006 Annual Report of The Coastal Society**

*The Coastal Society is an organization of private sector, academic, and government professionals and students dedicated to actively addressing emerging coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communication and education.*

### **TCS 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference Held, May 14 - 17, 2006, St. Pete Beach, Florida**

The conference theme, "Charting a New Course: Shaping Solutions for the Coast," was reflected in the plenary sessions which focused on innovative solutions to problems faced in coastal and ocean management, especially those placed on the coasts by our energy needs. Despite a full schedule of concurrent sessions presenting solutions to challenges in land use, conflicting ocean use governance, integrating science into coastal decision-making, mitigating hazards and changing behaviors, there was time for the nearly 300 attendees to visit field sites to see first hand solutions to balanced use, restoration, conservation and beach nourishment problems. The conference was sponsored by a broad range of state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations indicating its importance to coastal management professionals in public, private and academic sectors. TCS members gathered for breakfast at the Annual Membership Meeting and learned of the future plans for expanding activities and involving members. Following the conference a special issue of the TCS Bulletin reported the conference events and presentations.

The first *Robert W. Knecht Award for Outstanding Professional Promise* was created to recognize a rising professional in the field of coastal and ocean management who, early in his or her career, best emulated the vigor, dedication, vision and generosity of Robert W. Knecht. The award reflects the TCS goal of helping students transition into their career field. It was awarded at the conference to Kate Killerlain-Morrison, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program.

The next biennial meeting will be held in June, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Redondo Beach, within easy access of the Los Angeles, CA airport.

### **Coastal Resource Recovery Fundraiser Awards Made**

In response to the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, TCS initiated a new fundraising effort to contribute to existing coastal resource protection, restoration and education projects underway in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Approximately \$2,100 was raised at the TCS 20 conference, and awarded via a competitive selection process to coastal resource projects run by the Alabama Coastal Foundation, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society. These organizations will be reporting back to TCS via articles in the *Bulletin*. TCS plans continue to raise funds and award them competitively to assist local coastal communities in areas of need.

### **Healthy Financial Outlook**

TCS began the year with \$20,555 in assets, and ended on 12/31/06 with \$62,031, due to a successful conference. Funds collected for the Coastal Resource Recovery Fund are kept separate from the operating funds, although they are included in the total assets. TCS lent financial support to its chapters through sponsorship of chapter events and student travel funding to the TCS conference. It also supported events during the annual Coastal and Ocean Managers Week in Washington, DC. The Board has adopted a biennial budget for 2007-2008 to plan for both a conference and non-conference year.

## **Member Services and Involvement**

Membership in TCS grew from 338 at year end 2005 to 356 at year end 2006. Part of this increase was from conference attendees and part from student chapter growth. More members are using the convenience of the online credit card option via PayPal to join or renew their membership. Member communications has gone almost entirely to electronic format, including membership renewal reminders, weekly announcements and the quarterly newsletter. A survey of the membership in the fall asked for preferences in membership services and benefits, and feedback on the future direction of TCS. The results were used to guide the TCS Board in their planning and will be reported to the membership in 2007.

## **New Officers and Directors Elected**

The following individuals were elected to serve TCS beginning January 1, 2007:

President-Elect: Jeff Benoit, Director of Coastal and Ocean Programs at SRA, International (VA)

Secretary: Amy Blizzard, Assistant Professor, Planning Program, Department of Geography, East Carolina University (NC)

Director: Rick Burroughs, Professor, Department of Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island (RI)

Director: Tali Engoltz, Coastal Resource Scientist, Coastal Management Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ)

Director: Susan White, NOAA National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Sciences' Hollings Marine Lab, Charleston (SC)

## **Chapters**

There are five chapters affiliated with TCS: Cascadia (CA, OR, WA, BC), Duke University, University of Washington, East Carolina University, and University of Rhode Island. The chapters had an active year of hosting speakers, holding networking events, presenting papers and posters on research done, fund raising for local charities, and conducting community service projects. The chapters supported TCS by helping to plan and attending the conference. A special workshop was held during the conference to connect chapters with each other and to share ideas about both chapter functions and ways to strengthen the relationship with TCS. Look for more chapters to request affiliation with TCS in the next year.

## **Initiatives Begun**

The following initiatives were begun or continued in 2006, and will be carried over into 2007: Bulletin – The *TCS Bulletin* will continue to be published quarterly. The publisher for the past two years, the Urban Harbors Institute, produced a fresh new look to the publication, and kept the TCS web site and conference web site up to date. TCS routinely issues an RFP for editor and publisher of the *TCS Bulletin* every two years. Contracts were awarded to Ellen Gordon (continuing) and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, respectively.

Conference Planning – Evaluation of the 2006 conference has lead TCS to merge the abstract submission, hotel arrangements and registration function under a single conference coordinator to centralize the functions previously handled by three paid contractors for fiscal savings. The 2008 conference will be held June 29 – July 3 in Redondo Beach, CA, near Los Angeles.

Strategic Planning – The TCS Board of Directors began planning for a Board retreat in early 2007 to evaluate the current committee structure, create an updated strategic plan and find ways to involve TCS members in Society activities. Members participated in this retreat preparation by completing an on-line survey about the areas of activity and membership benefits TCS should provide on behalf of its membership. Results of the survey and retreat will be published in the *TCS Bulletin*.

New Student Chapter The Hawaii Chapter submitted the necessary documentation for inclusion as a TCS chapter, and demonstrated a strong commitment, having already established their leadership group, partnering with other organizations and individuals, and holding events. The Board will deliberate and vote on inclusion in early 2007.