

We have elevated our **Private Citizen Award for 2011** to a new level of recognition for lifetime achievement for the cause of beach preservation in Florida, and for a remarkable level of commitment to FSBPA over many years. The recipient of this special award is a very remarkable individual – **Ralph Sexton**. For as long as we can remember, Ralph has been promoting the preservation and repair of Vero Beach’s eroding shoreline. Protection of his landmark restaurant the Ocean Grill was certainly part of the equation, but it was a larger more generous commitment to Indian River County and early appreciation of the importance of beaches to the economic well-being of the entire community, including areas where his citrus and packing interests were located. Many of our successful statewide beach projects can be linked to the efforts of a single individual. After many years of failed attempts, a number of them political, Vero Beach has a “managed” shoreline –inarguably Ralph Sexton played a major role. His support of FSBPA covers as many years. His conference sponsorship (Sexton-Oslo) this year is just his most current contribution, almost always behind the scenes. He supported the Association’s advocacy program, BeachWatch, in its early years; and if we had the proper records, I would assume Ralph would be one of FSBPA’s “most tenured” members. Thank you Ralph for your love of the beaches!

Thomas Pierro, P.E., Senior Coastal Engineer, Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc., is the 2011 recipient of the **Jim Purpura/T.Y. Chiu Award**. This special award is named after 2 individuals of outstanding reputation in recognition of their significant contributions to Florida’s beach management and coastal regulatory programs. For the past decade, Tom has been involved in project management, design and permitting, engineering and modeling, plans and specifications, field investigation, construction oversight, and studies for beach projects in Sarasota, Manatee, Collier, Lee, and Pinellas Counties. He has also worked on projects in Bay County, Boca Raton, and Palm Beach. His clients share their praise for Tom’s timely, pragmatic, and well-founded counsel throughout the increasingly difficult process of getting beach nourishment and other erosion control projects to construction. Tom is a most deserving and appropriate choice for the Purpura/Chiu Award – he supports the ideals reflected in this specific award, as well as the goals of FSBPA.



*Andy Squires (Pinellas County) and Tom Pierro
Courtesy of Paradise News, St. Pete Beach, FL*

Yes, once again our Awards Committee (**Charlie Hunsicker, Chr., Paul Dorling, Bruce St. Denis**) has selected a stellar group of award recipients that we will celebrate Thursday evening in Miami Beach, the resort destination considered by many to be the birthplace of Florida’s nationally-recognized beach program. Please plan on attending to express your appreciation personally for the accomplishments of the 2011 award winners on behalf of Florida’s beaches.

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