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Source: Journal of Coastal Research, 32(3)

Published By: Coastal Education and Research Foundation

URL: https://doi.org/10.2112/1551-5036-32.3.ii

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ISSN 0749-0208

Journal of

Coastal Research

VOL. 32, NO. 3 • CERF • May 2016



Published by

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An International Forum for the Littoral Sciences

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Journal of Coastal Research, an International Forum for the Littoral Sciences, is dedicated to all aspects of coastal research. These include geology, biology, geomorphology (physical geography), climate, littoral oceanography, hydrography, coastal hydraulics, environmental (resource) management, engineering, and remote sensing. Although each field functions effectivelywithin itsownpurview, the cross-disciplinarynature of coastal studies requires familiarity with other fields as well. Hence, the scope of topics is necessarily broad in order to address the complexity of coastal biophysical and socio-economic interactions. Because of the wide range of interrelated topics, the journal invites original contributions and manuscripts dealing with theory, methodology, techniques, and field or applied topic studies on interdisciplinary coastal issues.

The journal encourages the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of the coastal zone by promoting cooperation and communication between specialists in different disciplines. Natural scientists, for example, are encouraged to collaborate with professionals in other fields to prepare contributions relating to the coastal zone that foster increased appreciation of coastal environments and processes. By means of this journal, with its scholarly and professional papers, systematic review articles, book and symposia reviews, communications and news, and special topical issues, an international forum for the development of integrated coastal research is provided.

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Subscription Information: The *Journal of Coastal Research* is a bimonthly publication. Calendar-year (2016) print and online subscription prices for the JCR are: $115.00 for US CERF members / $125.00 for International CERF members ($95.00 for online only), and $519.00 for US institutions / $541.00 for International institutions ($437.00 for online only). Additional surface charges may apply to subscribers located outside of the USA. For additional membership and subscription forms and information, please go to www.CERF-JCR.org. To obtain a membership or subscription form by mail, please send request to Journal of Coastal Research, P.O. Box 7065, Lawrence, KS 66044. Back Issues and Special Issues of the JCR, when available, can be directly purchased at www.CERF-JCR.org.

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Interior swale of the slowly-subsiding Cat Island, Mississippi, U.S.A. Located off the eastern fringe of the subsiding Mississippi delta complex, this slowly-sinking siliciclastic island is the western extent of the Mississippi-Alabama barrier chain. The Cat Island progradational ridge complex is comprised of several exquisite, densely vegetated, strandplain generations welded together throughout the early-late Holocene. This photo displays one of several tidally influenced, medium salinity (10–15 g L^{-1}), east-west trending, dune-swale systems. It depicts the complexity of barrier island ecology, sharp ecotones and zonation, as well as the importance of threshold elevation. In the foreground of the photo, we see the calm interior waters and quick transition from saline tolerant, low-marsh (*Spartina alterniflora*), black needle rush (*Juncus roemerianus*), and high marsh (*Spartina patens*), to the less saline tolerant woody stemmed vegetation consisting of baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*), wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*), yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *elliottii*), and sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*). The century old climax community stands of sand live oak are located on the highest ridges of the most central portions of the island and theoretically will eventually out-compete and replace the slash pine. The forested portion of the island is a nesting home to a diverse population of migratory and non-migratory birds such as snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus*), least terns (*Sternula antillarum*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). (Photograph taken on 10 September 2014 by William (Bill) Funderburk, Gulf Coast Geospatial Center, University of Southern Mississippi, Long Beach, Mississippi, U.S.A.)

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Dr. Charles W. Finkl is President and Executive Director of the Coastal Education and Research Foundation *[CERF]*, publisher of the JCR. Charlie, a founding editor of the *Journal of Coastal Research*, has served as Editor-in-Chief for the past 30 years. He is a Research Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Oregon State University and the Ph.D. from the University of Western Australia. He is a member of more than 20 professional societies and has published more than 200 professional papers, books, and reports. He is a Chartered Marine Scientist (CMarSci) [Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology], Certified Professional Geological Scientist (CPGS) [American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)], Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSSc) [American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils], and a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) [Society of Wetland Scientists]. Charlie has field experience in parts of the USA, Caribbean area, Brazil, Honduras, Russia, South Africa, Western Europe, Australasia, and South Pacific islands. He is also the Series Editor of the Encyclopedia of Earth Sciences Series that is published by Springer (Germany). There are more than twenty-eight volumes in the Series and about twenty-five are available online. Charlie also serves on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Environmental Studies* (Routledge) and is an occasional peer reviewer for many other professional journals.

Charlie has interests and expertise in the general areas of surficial geology, coastal and marine geomorphology (including coastal classification), coastal/marine biophysical environments, exploration geochemistry, soils and weathering (regolith geology), coastal zone management and engineering applications or impacts on natural systems (including erosion control and shore protection), coastal hydrology including submarine freshwater and mineralized seeps, subaerial and marine structural geology, natural hazard mitigation in coastal zones, marine environments and coastal wetland protection and restoration, and remote sensing (*e.g.,* land cover classification in coastal wetlands, advection-diffusion turbidity plumes in coastal waters, delineation of bottom types and sand resources), effluent disposal and pollution of wetlands and estuaries, water resources mapping and conservation, time series studies of wetland hydroperiod and soil moisture.

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The International Coastal Symposium (ICS) was originally set up by Per Bruun (deceased) and Charlie Finkl as the official meeting of the Coastal Education and Research Foundation (CERF), with one of the first meetings being held in Hilton Head, South Carolina, in 1993. After the repeated success of these meetings, CERF moved the ICS to the international scene holding these conferences in conjunction with local sponsors in Australia, Brazil, Iceland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Poland, and Portugal. The ICS brings together delegates from all over the world to collaborate and discuss the most current coastal research studies and projects. During the ICS 2014, which was held in Durban, South Africa, a grand celebration took place to mark the 30th Anniversary of CERF and the JCR. Our next ICS meeting is scheduled for May of 2018 in Busan, South Korea. For more information, please visit www.cerf-jcr.org.

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Journal of Coastal Research

VOL. 32, NO. 3 (pages 465–734) **May 2016**
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