

back and forth to the reference sections to see who said what. Dr. Clark is to be commended for collecting a vast array of reference materials that will no doubt be useful to those not familiar with all the rules, regulations and ecological conditions for particular coastal regions.

There are some repetitive sections but this is almost unavoidable due to the interdisciplinary nature of coastal management. Coastal planners and managers will be pleased to find the compendium "Coastal Ecosystem Management" back in print after a hiatus of several years.

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Coastlands, by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. 1979. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Ltd., London. 120p. \$US7.50, ISBN 0-9501643-6-4

In *Coastlands* the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has compiled a useful handbook for coastal conservation professionals and amateurs alike. Although specifically about the shoreline stabilizing plants of the British Isles, the techniques and tools recommended have world-wide application. Indeed, many coastal plants commonly growing in Great Britain are familiar to coastal workers throughout the temperate zones of both hemispheres.

The 120 spiral-bound pages are divided into seven chapters (A Look at Coastlands; Coastal Conservation Management; Coastlands and the Law; Safety, Equipment and Organisation; Dune Stabilization; Access Control; Vegetation Management), four appendices (Conservation and the Volunteer Worker; Site Studies and Surveys; The Coastal Code; Conservation and Amenity Organizations), an annotated bibliography, and concise glossary. All phases of dune revegetation, from need-determination through species selection, planting procedure, and finally protection via access control are clearly explained. Simple line drawings scattered throughout the text illustrate various planting and protection schemes, proper use of tools, and numerous vascular plants and algae discussed in the book.

American readers may be surprised to discover that cord grass, a hybrid of *Spartina maritima* and *Spartina alternifolia*, is regarded as a weed by British workers. *Spartina alternifolia* is an important stabilizing plant in the United States and, particularly in the northeast, used extensively to stabilize salt marshes. *Coastlands* devotes four pages to its control and eradication via rooting-out, poisoning, mowing, and smothering.

For groups contemplating dune-restoration projects, this book is a "must" acquisition and its practical value will be immediately apparent while reading such helpful tips as avoiding back-injury while moving sand piles around (start at the bottom not the top) and how to "swim" out of deep mud on one's back. Combining *Coastlands* with various Coastal Engineering Research Center (Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi) publications will provide a well-rounded instruction manual for American workers by introducing plant species favored in this country.

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Coasts: An Introduction to Coastal Geomorphology, by Eric C.F. Bird. Blackwell, London, 1984. 320p. £8.50.

This 3rd edition of an introductory level textbook is divided into ten chapters. After the introduction, a brief but adequate treatment of tides, waves and currents in chapter 2 is followed by an examination of "changing levels of land and sea." The succeeding chapters deal with cliffed coasts, beaches, spits, and barriers, coastal dunes, estuaries and lagoons, deltas, coral reefs and atolls, and the classification of coastal landforms. This last chapter I found reminiscent of the brand of coastal geomorphology purveyed during my schoolboy days (a mere 20 years ago!).

The overall impression is of a somewhat rambling text in which the main objective seems to be the naming of as many as possible examples of the presumably limitless continuum of coastal landforms, although even the experienced reader may find some of these novel. The wide geographical spread of the chosen examples is refreshing and the con-

centration in Australia is no drawback since the coastline of that continent is highly varied and is featuring increasingly in the literature. The revision for the 3rd edition consists chiefly of the seemingly random insertion of slabs of text, presumably in the attempt to give a facelift to the somewhat aged references section. There is the obligatory mention of edge waves in chapter 2 although it might have been wiser to note these in the context of the beach morphodynamics model which has been syn-

thesized by Australian workers.

This is an adequate introductory textbook with, however, a somewhat pedestrian and unstimulating feel. Despite being well illustrated with plates and diagrams, it would find it difficult to compete with a text with a more systematic approach.

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