FALL 2022

Rosemary THYMES™

Dune Restoration

BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCY

THE NEW MERCHANTS OF ROSEMARY BEACH

GETTING TO KNOW THE NEIGHBORS

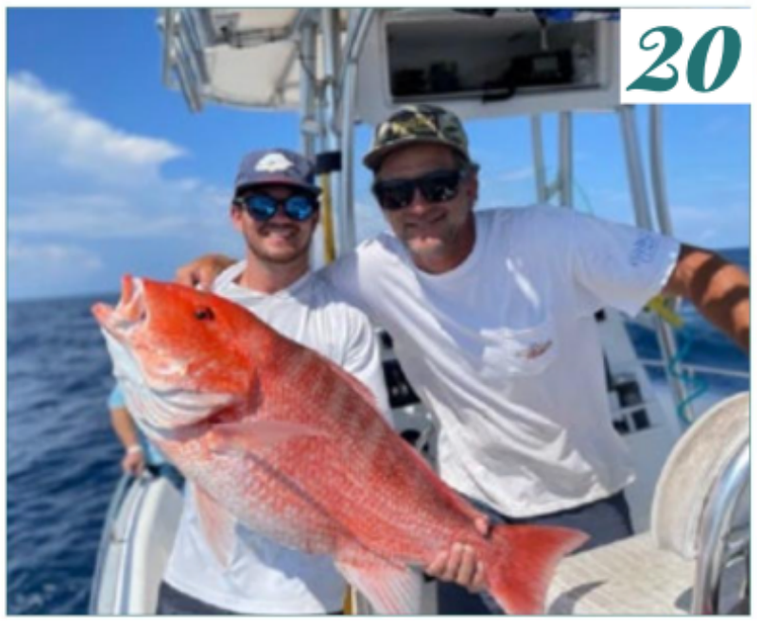
LIQUID RHYTHM AND BLUES

A Rosemary Beach POA Newspaper • rosemarythymes.org

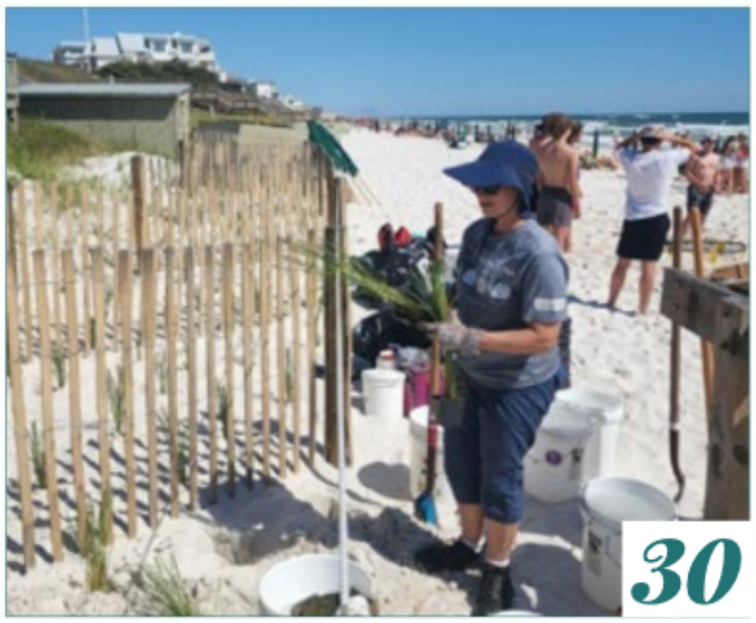
CONTENTS

15

18



20



30

FIND US ONLINE

rosemarythymes.org

@therosemarythymes

Rosemary THYMES™

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION · ROSEMARY BEACH

PUBLISHED BY
THE ROSEMARY BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ROSEMARY BEACH POA
PO BOX 611010
ROSEMARY BEACH, FL 32461

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
MAGGIE JACKSON
FIAMA MASTRANGELO

THE ROSEMARY THYMES IS PRODUCED BY BALLINGER PUBLISHING

MALCOLM BALLINGER
OWNER

KELLY ODEN
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

GUY STEVENS
ART DIRECTOR

FOR ADVERTISING RATES CALL 850.433.1166 EXT 27

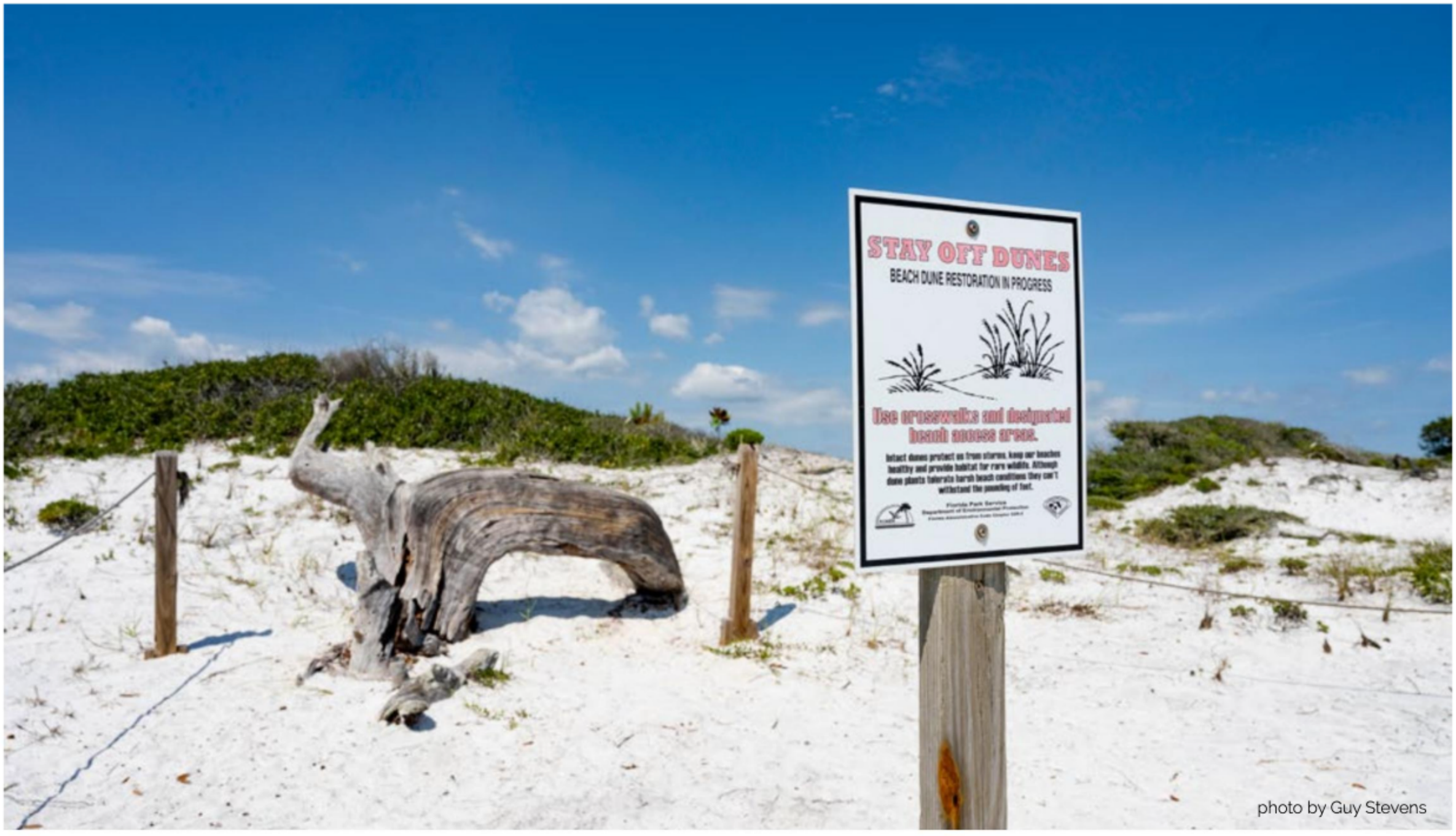


photo by Guy Stevens

DUNE RESTORATION:

HOW THE COMMUNITY OF ROSEMARY BEACH IS BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCY

By Amanda Martins

A quick stroll along Rosemary Beach's shoreline reveals new sand fences, thousands of new native plants, dune signage, and erosion-preventing pathways at the end of each community boardwalk. These initiatives are part of community efforts to become more storm resilient through a multiphase coastal restoration project designed by Dune Doctors. The project's immediate and long-term benefits—such as invasive vegetation removal and erosion control—align with Rosemary Beach's commitment to sustainable development. "We are honored Dune Doctors has been chosen to help this vibrant community lead the way in implementing proactive resiliency efforts for Northwest Florida," Dune Doctors' CEO Frederique Beroset, MBA & MS Biology, said.

COASTAL PROCESSES: WHAT ARE COASTAL DUNES?

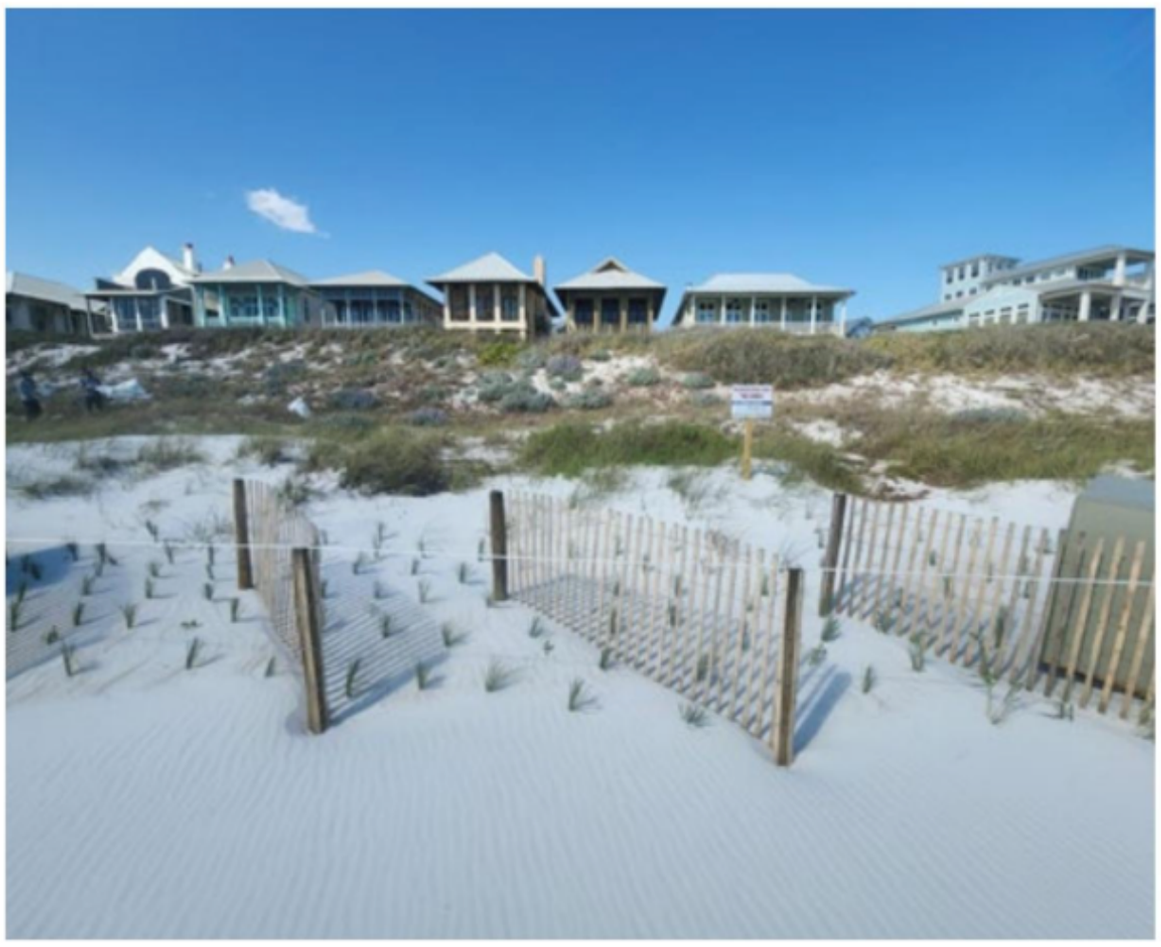
Coastal dunes are vegetated sand mounds that form along sandy beaches. Wind and waves carry sand along the beach, where these particles collide with obstacles, such as sand fences and native grasses, initiating a new dune. If left undisturbed, the dune will slowly increase in size. Over time, multiple dunes will form between the woody scrub zone and the water. Wind and wave action continuously reshape the coastal environment, so dunes grow, shrink, and move in response.

COASTAL RESILIENCY: WHY INVEST IN DUNE RESTORATION?

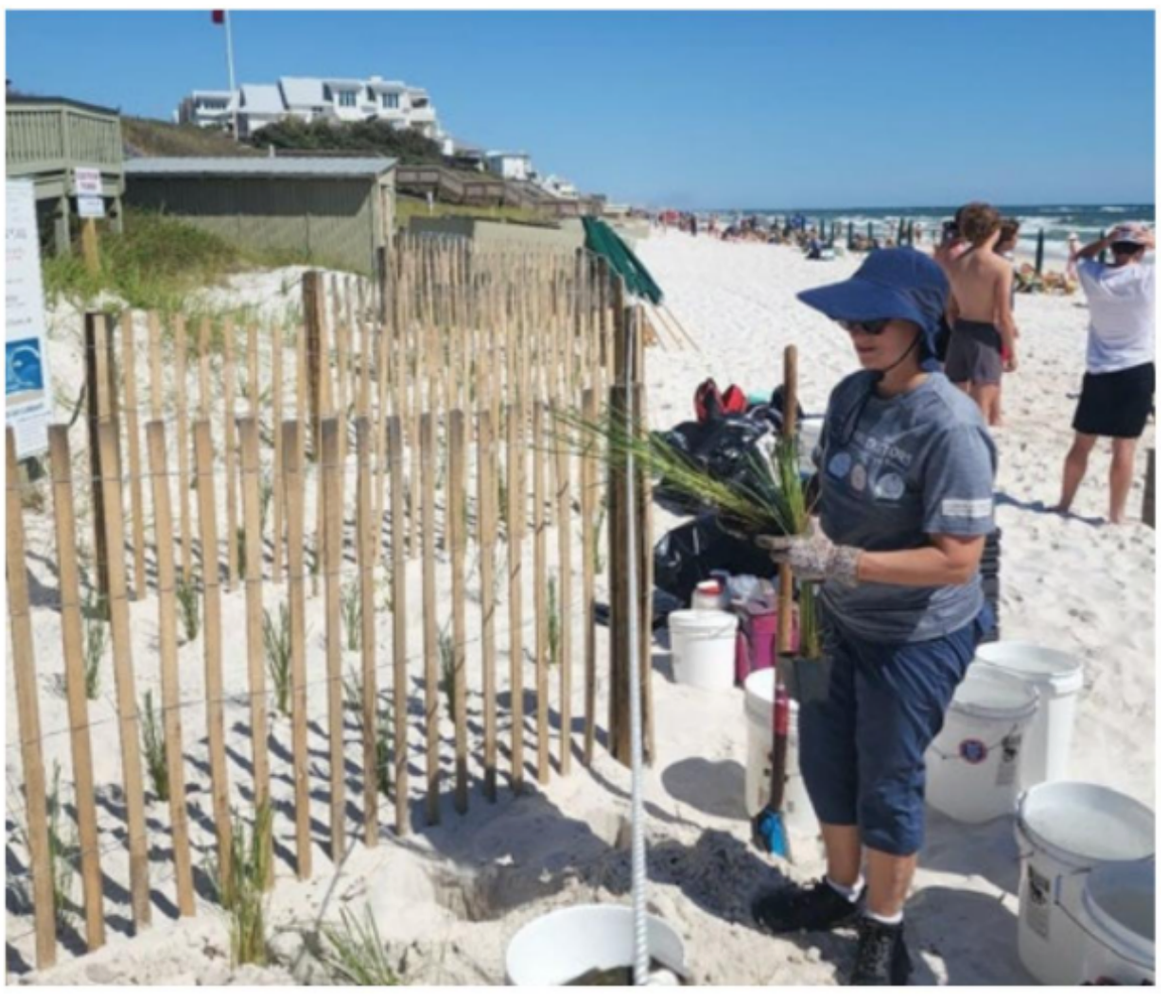
Because coastal dunes are nature's first line of defense against destructive waves, waterfront communities benefit greatly from strengthening this critical environment. To this end, the community of Rosemary Beach is committed to preserving and strengthening their native dune ecosystem. Aware of the coast's regulatory and environmental complexities, Town Manager David Bailey enlisted the coastal restoration experts at Dune Doctors to develop and implement a four-phase Dune Master Plan™. Tailored to Rosemary Beach's unique environmental needs, each phase addresses every aspect of planning, constructing, and maintaining a protective dune ecosystem in compliance with environmental regulations.

PHASE 1: PRESERVATION - ESTABLISHING A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM

In Phase 1, Dune Doctors revitalized native vegetation throughout the existing dune to encourage root growth. Thriving coastal plants weave complex root systems through the sand, which combats erosion. To create



Rosemary Beach's dune was the only protective barrier standing between homes and destructive wave action. A restoration effort is now underway to strengthen and expand this critical environment.



Frederique Beroset, MBA & MS Biology, installs sea oats to initiate a new protective berm.

a healthier environment for the native vegetation, Dune Doctors extracted debris, trash, thatch (dead plant material), and invasive plants. These clean-up efforts reduce the odds of dune fires, plant disease spread, and invasive threats. "This is the quickest way to enhance the vitality, growth, and aesthetics of the existing dune ecosystem," Beroset said.

PHASE 2: PROTECTION - BUILDING A NEW PROTECTIVE BERM

In Phase 2, the community initiated a new line of defense between homes and the water. Dune Doctors worked with local and federal environmental authorities to install wildlife-friendly sand fences, designate pedestrian walkways, add dune signage, and plant thousands of dune-stabilizing plants seaward of the existing dune. The fences' strategic placement will accelerate sand build-up in the form of a new protective berm, and the native vegetation will hold the sand in place. Roped-off pathways at the end of each boardwalk will help beachgoers avoid accidentally damaging the developing berm. To protect the environment, the signs will alert vacationers to stay off the dunes while providing further information for curious beachcombers. All these measures help create a safer environment for dune-nesting wildlife and people. During this phase, Rosemary Beach also transitioned from wooden beach boxes to a sustainable cloth-bag system for beach storage, ahead of Walton County's new beach storage ordinance.

PHASE 3: OPTIMIZATION – STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING DUNE

In Phase 3, Rosemary Beach strengthened the dune closest to waterfront homes: the existing dune. As the last barrier between the community and potential storm surge, the existing dune is a precious asset, stretching across the entire beachfront. This dune's continuous nature is crucial to preventing destructive waves from reaching the community. To limit the likelihood of a storm surge breach, Dune Doctors stabilized erosion-prone areas with native vegetation. During future boardwalk replacements, the community will work closely with Dune Doctors to maintain the berm's integrity.

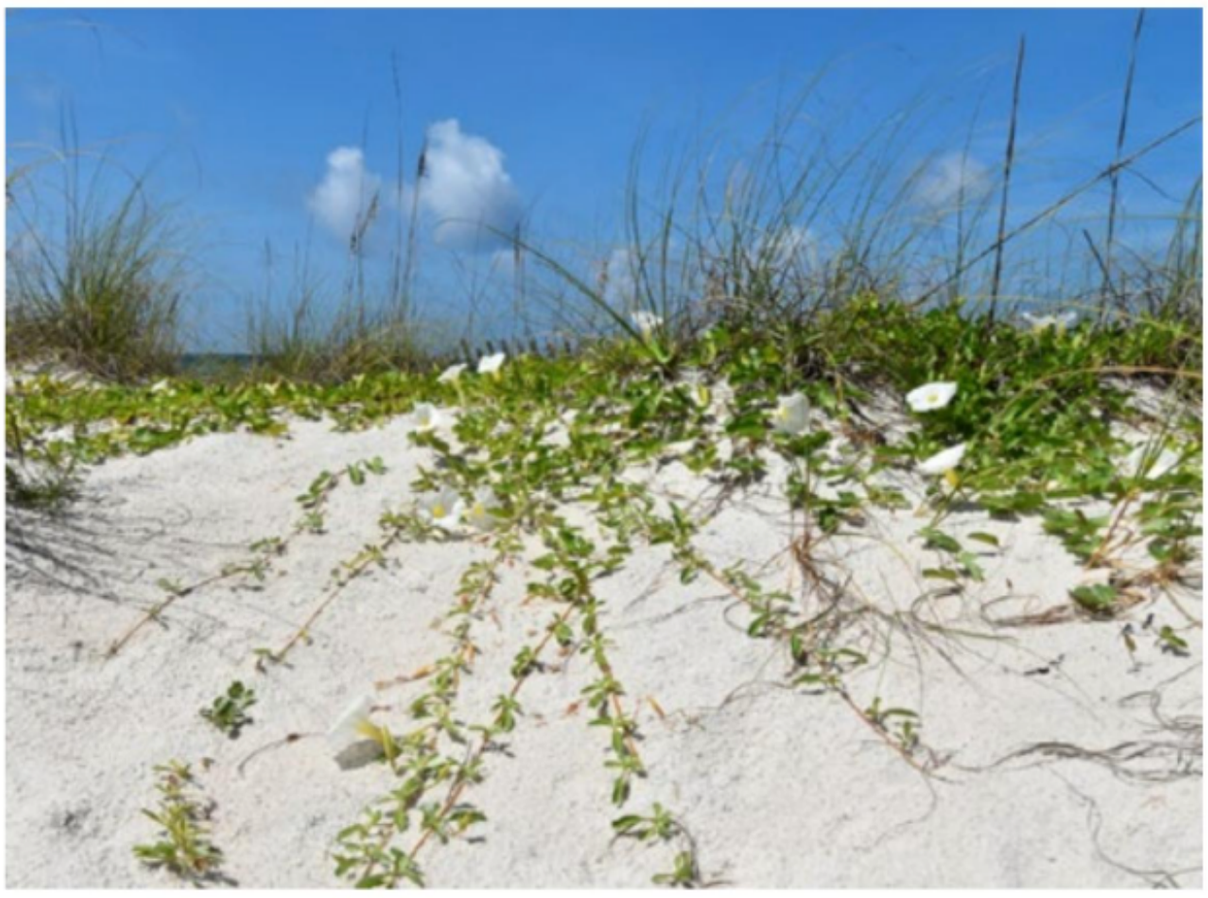
PHASE 4: MAINTENANCE – STEWARDING THE EXISTING DUNE AND NEW PROTECTIVE BERM

Dune maintenance involves season-specific care based on the growth cycles of native plants. Ongoing monitoring allows the coastal restoration experts at Dune Doctors to detect and address erosive threats as they arise. "Uninterrupted dune maintenance counters the natural erosive forces acting on coastal landscapes and builds upon the investment Rosemary Beach has already made," Beroset said.

NATIVE VEGETATION: DUNE STABILIZATION AND ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

When selecting native species for Rosemary Beach, Dune Doctors considered each plant's ecological and protective qualities in terms of erosion control, stabilization capability, and natural beauty. Dune Doctors installed coastal plants that coevolved with Northwest Florida. The rigorous selection process and planting standards ensure that over 95% of the plants will thrive within a few months of installation.

On Rosemary Beach, two plants dominate the spread from the dunes to the water: sea oats



White morning-glory (Ipomoea imperati) is a native groundcover plant that spreads across the dune. The plant's surface level growth functions like a net, holding the sand in place.

(Uniola paniculata) and panic grass (Panicum amarum). These two species are the first plants to colonize the beach after storm damage and can withstand temporary flooding and high-speed winds. To survive, these plants weave an extensive web of roots (reaching over 40 feet long in all directions) through the sand. These resilient grasses initiate, grow, and anchor coastal dunes.

To increase dune height, native groundcover plants, such as white morning glory (Ipomoea imperati) and sea purslane (Sesuvium portulacastrum), sprawl across the dune's surface, helping keep the sand in place. In addition to diversifying and fortifying the dune ecosystem, these plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Rosemary Beach's dune hosts a colorful arrangement of flowers whose seeds feed birds, mammals, crustaceans, and insects. Beyond fulfilling this critical ecological function, the flowers also enhance the dune's natural beauty. Rosemary Beach has a rich history of neighborhood-oriented sustainable practices, and by implementing their entire Dune Master Plan™, the community now also serves as an example of proactive coastal stewardship. For more information on this project or related inquiries, email Bankston at Roberts@DuneDoctors.com.