

Bethany, Rehoboth named best boardwalks in America by magazine

Daily Times (Salisbury, Maryland)

April 25, 2012, Wednesday

Ethan Rothstein

BETHANY BEACH — The honors continue to roll in for the beaches and boardwalks of Coastal Delaware.

The most recent came from American Profile magazine, whose two experts split the vote for America's Best Boardwalk between Rehoboth Beach and Bethany Beach.

"Delaware beaches have the best boardwalks, both of our experts agree," the magazine said. The experts are Stephen P. Leatherman, the director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University, who's also known as "Dr. Beach," and Holly Hughes, a travel writer who has co-authored several Frommer's travel guides.

Rehoboth "is quintessential in the sense that it's a wood boardwalk. A lot of places that they call boardwalks are now concrete," Leatherman said. "There's just something about that boardwalk -- the smell of the saltwater taffy and the popcorn. It's just, to me, the all-American boardwalk."

Hughes gave the nod to Bethany Beach without explaining her selection.

For both resorts, it's just another in a long line of awards. Most recently, Rehoboth -- along with Dewey Beach -- was named a Superstar beach by the Natural Resources Defense Council last summer and one of the 10 best beaches for families by Family Vacation Critic.

"It makes you feel good to be recognized for the efforts that go into maintaining and keeping the boardwalk clean," said Rehoboth Beach Mayor Sam Cooper. "I've got to believe it's not just the boardwalk itself but the businesses along it that give it the ... ambiance."

Bethany Beach was named one of the 15 "Best Secret Beaches on Earth" by Travel and Leisure Magazine in March, and its boardwalk was named one of the best in the country by Forbes Magazine.

"It's very pleasant to hear we have received an award of that nature," said Bethany Mayor Tony McClenny when informed of the honor. "In the last two years, we've replaced the wood with man-made material that's supposed to last longer. It looks much nicer and has a smoother surface, and people have complimented us on it."