

The Drifting Seed

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THE DRIFTING SEED

A triannual newsletter covering seeds and fruits dispersed by tropical currents and the people who collect and study them.

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The 17th Annual International Sea Bean Symposium will be held at the Cocoa Beach Public Library, October 12th and 13th, 2012.

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A Sea Tale

by Sherri Bryant, sherri.bryant@ahss.org

Luck had finally turned for the small Portuguese fishing fleet. For days they had been plying their trade in the crystalline waters of the Caribbean with clear azure skies, balmy tropical breezes and brilliant sunshine - truly a fisherman's paradise. But now a vicious tropical cyclone, speeding westerly from the Cape Verde Islands, had intersected their path in the pre-dawn hours, and all three ships were struggling to hold to course. They were still half a day's sail from their island base port and it's tiny cove where some shelter from the pounding waves might be found. All three ships were heavily laden with the ocean's bounty and riding low in the water. Sturdy, sea-worthy ships they were, but not built for speed and certainly not capable of out distancing such a swift and violent storm when so heavily burdened.

The ships were eventually driven apart by the force of the storm, and the crews struggled through the morning hours against driving winds and rain and increasingly heavy seas. As his craft shuddered with each wave impact and sluggishly listed again - water rushing over its gunwales and now dangerously close to swamping - the captain of the smallest vessel finally made the decision to cut their cumbersome nets, heavily loaded with the previous night's catch. After all, nets and rigging were replaceable, but his crew's lives were not.



In response to the captain's order crewmen struggled on the slippery, pitching deck to reach the violently swinging nets and sever their sturdy bindings. The masses of thick hemp were finally freed and crashed into the dark, turbulent waters beside the ship's hull. There they were seized by the powerful currents to be rolled and tumbled into a hopelessly snarled heap that eventually snagged and tangled on the vast coral reef system of that shallow ocean floor...

The morning could not have been more ideal for a back county hike in the Canaveral National Seashore - strong easterly breezes and intermittent cloud cover had combined to keep the back water mosquitoes at bay and the beach sand cool enough for barefoot hiking. Periodic flocks of pelicans skimmed the off shore rollers and sent small plumes of seawater skyward as they dove into the intermittent schools of fish. An occasional osprey joined them for the feast, snatching large mullet from the surface waters and carrying them to old oak snags, where each steely-eyed bird dined while radiating an intimidating presence.

Thanks to the prevalent easterlies over the past week, the beach is heavily festooned with sargassum; and scattered throughout the heavy weed are ghost crabs on the hunt, stranded Portuguese man-of-war and by-the-wind sailors, innumerable samples of all the diverse flotsam which is the by-product of human civilization, and, yes, an occasional coveted sea bean. This morning's hike has yielded hearts, hamburgers and even a few colorful purses, each of which have been safely stowed in my backpack along with other beach treasures.

I climb the head high dune beside us that is garlanded with sea oats, purslane and an occasional dune sunflower - my goal to peek at the beautiful vista of the back water area. Mosquito Lagoon - what an ungenerous handle for the amazing panorama of pristine Florida wilderness that lies before me. A trio of roseate spoonbills leisurely wing



their way above the mirror-flat silvery water of the closest inlet, where a reddish egret dances crazily with outstretched wings in the shallows in pursuit of small prey. Miles of cabbage palm, palmetto and sea grape fringe the winding shoreline. Gazing west and north I see an expanse of landscape that appears untouched by human hand. Did once in many days bygone some Timucan Indian stand and gaze with appreciation of this vista just as I?

As I turn and descend the dune ocean side, I find that Dave is now deep in conversation near the water's edge with the only other hiker we've seen all morning - a friendly fellow we've encountered before who is habitually clad in only a worn ball cap and backpack. I leave Dave to extricate himself from that conversation and continue down the beach northbound, dodging the occasional craters left by nesting greens and loggerheads.

Then something at the base of the dune ahead catches my eye. There, nestled in a slight depression of sun warmed sand is a beautiful aqua orb, and closer inspection confirms it is made of glass! Is it possible that this, perhaps, could be a "bona fide" fishing float? But what are the chances of that? Excitement mounting, I carefully scoop up and inspect my find. Examination of the sphere reveals a built in "button" incorporating an interesting but foreign symbol that begs researching. Dave's excitement mirrors mine as I share my discovery, and we decide to turn and begin the long hike back to the parking lot. And as we walk, we both ponder - much like we do with the intrepid little sea bean wayfarers that we occasionally find stranded on the beach - what mysterious and fantastical oceanic journeys this little glass float has made, and how on earth, against so many odds, it has arrived intact upon this stretch of sand...

The huge snarl of heavy hemp, now thoroughly tangled on the jagged reef, surprisingly withstands the ravages of ocean submersion for many years. Eventually festooned with barnacles and various species of weed, it becomes a fixture on the reef and a home to all manner of small tropical marine life. But gradually, over time, the huge net's fibers increasingly deteriorate. And periodically their destruction releases to wind and waves and currents the few surviving glass floats that were carefully incorporated during the massive net's original construction...

Subsequent research confirmed we did indeed find a legitimate glass fishing float that September, 2010 morning in the backcountry of the Canaveral National Seashore. The trademark on the float ball's button associates it with the Spanish glass maker of Fabrica de Gijon Fabril - a manufacturer of glass bottles and fishing floats. Their factory, located in El Puerto de Gijon, Spain, was operating since the year 1900. Their trademark, typically located on the sealing button of their floats, is of the two letters 'G' and 'F,' connected by a downward arching underline which curves underneath them and creates the appearance that the letters are seated in a small boat. Their fishing floats were blown in a three-piece mold, and are usually dark green, clear and light blue colors, and are mostly of about 5 inches in diameter.



Author's Note: Just a little over a year subsequent to our discovery at Canaveral, John Beerensson will also make an east coast Florida glass fishing float find - which also was apparently manufactured by Fabrica de Gijon Fabril. John found his float in Nov. of 2011 on the stretch of beach bordering the Patrick Air Force Base – just a few miles south of the Canaveral National Seashore.

Editor's Note: It was also brought to our attention that the day Sherri found her glass float, she also found a Cathie's bean, *Canavalia nitida!* In an e-mail from Sherri to Stephanie Bernstein: "The float ball was an amazing find. Also found a Cathie's bean that same day, so we felt like we had hit the jackpot, though at the time I was not aware how rare it is to find a fishing float on this coast - I just knew it was unusual for us."

Beaning with Michele Kelley

by John Beerensson, beerensson@bellsouth.net

Many of you know Michele Kelley from the annual symposiums, local “beaner’s night out” events, and from seeing her on the beach here in Brevard County, Florida. She is even mentioned in Ed Perry’s book, *Sea-Beans from the Tropics*, page 135. In the September 2009 issue of *The Drifting Seed* (vol. 15, no. 2), Michele wrote an article titled *Spring Tease 2009*. In the article she mentions her skill at eliminating all serious competition by use of quickness, agility, and physical strength. That would include the elimination of yours truly. Allow me to give you an update.

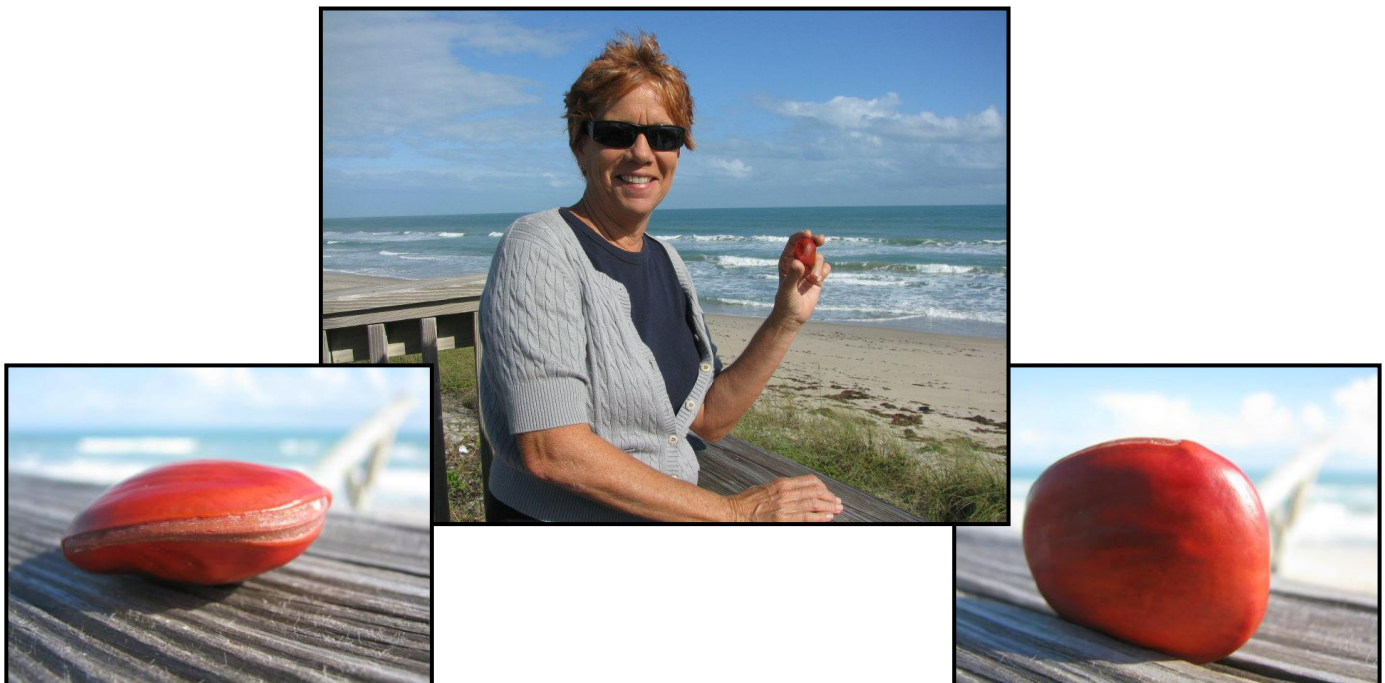
In December 2011 we had great on-shore winds with lots of beans in the large piles of sargassum weed washed ashore. I hit the beach early, figuring it was going to be a bonanza day. Wrong! Michele was already on the beach. When I caught up with her, she gave me one of her sweet smiles and then nicely asked if I had lots of balm and bandages with me. Things were not looking good!

We searched together for a few hours. Michele picked up a lot of *Grand Slam* material. I picked up some black and blue marks, and a limp from one of her nasty tackles. But I did manage to palm a sea purse that she didn’t know about. Anyway, on the walk back to our cars, Michele took the west side of the wrack, and I took the east side. She was a few feet behind me when I heard a loud gasp, followed by “. . . Whoa!, wait till you see this!” I knew Michele had found something very rare. I could see that she was in awe over her find. She slowly opened her hand to reveal the bean find of a lifetime. My reaction was “. . . Whoa!, wait till Ed Perry sees this!”

Michele had a smart phone with her, and with “red sea-bean” as the command, saw the write-up on the *Sea-Bean Website* concerning Mark Bartlett’s purchase on e Bay of an “Amazon Necklace.” On the necklace was *Ormosia coutinhoi*; aka Red Horse Eye Bean. This is an extremely rare find on Florida’s beaches. Up until recently, it was the only find I knew about.

We recently learned that Sherri and Dave Bryant found one in March 2012. Readers, are there any other finds to report?

Below are photographs taken by Ed Perry of Michele’s *Ormosia*. So with no further rambling on my part, look at Ed’s pictures, and drool.



Box Fruit, *Barringtonia asiatica*, Found on the Dutch Coast

by Gerhard C. Cadée & Michel Rühland

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On the 12th of January 2012, Michel Rühland collected a drift fruit on the Dutch North Sea coast near Castricum, province North Holland, which he could recognize easily as a box fruit (*Barringtonia asiatica*) from the drawing published in Brochard & Cadée (2005). No record of this fruit was known up to now from the Dutch coast, but these authors had included it in their booklet because they expected it as they had seen it used in flower decorations en sold in shops in the Netherlands. They expected it because most of the tropical fruits and seeds on the Dutch coast are 'refuse' and not genuine tropical drift material, that came here from the tropics with the Gulfstream and its extension the North Atlantic Drift (Cadée, 1997).

***Barringtonia asiatica* (L.) Kurz**

Box fruits of *B. asiatica* (in older literature often named *B. speciosa*) belong to the most frequently observed drift fruits in the Indo-Malaysian area (Schimper, 1891; Guppy, 1906; Gunn & Dennis, 1976). It originates from this area, but has been introduced by man also in the neotropics and the latter authors give its distribution now as pantropical. Nevertheless it is not as frequent on neotropical Caribbean and Florida coasts as in the paleotropics. Perry & Dennis (2003) report a few box fruits from the beaches of Yucatan, Texas and Florida.

It is interesting to note that Guppy, who studied drift seeds and fruits all over the world, mentions *B. asiatica* (as *B. speciosa*) only from the old world tropics. These he studied between 1884 and 1904 (Guppy, 1906) and he mentions its absence from the neotropical shores he studied between 1906 and 1914 (Guppy, 1917). Apparently introduction of *B. asiatica* in the neotropics started later in the 20th century, after his visits.

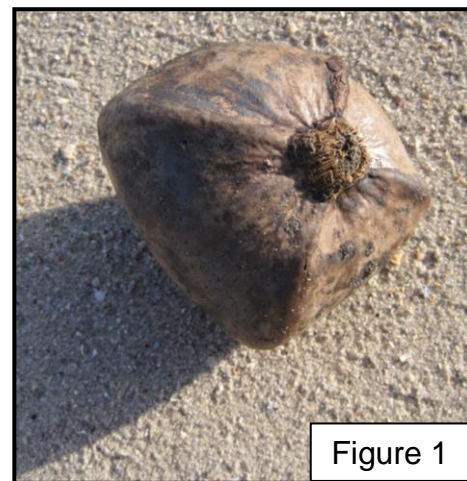
Henry Brougham Guppy's studies

Few have studied drift seeds and fruits for such a long period and on so many different places as Henry Brougham Guppy (1854 -1926). He was born in Falmouth, Cornwall, UK, a now well-known area for tropical drift: Nick and Jane Darke collected over 200 genuine tropical drift seeds in four years since the 26th of February 1999 (Darke, 2003). Has his youth in Cornwall started his interest in tropical drift-seeds? Apparently not; he himself states in the preface to his 1906 book: "My interest in plant-dispersal dates back to 1884, when, whilst surgeon of H.M.S. *Lark* in the Solomon Islands, I made some observations on the stocking of a coral island with its plants". Nevertheless, he visited the coast of Cornwall in his earlier years: "*Ianthina* often came under my notice as a boy on the Cornish beaches" (Guppy, 1917: 29). {*Ianthina* or the violet snail lives as a drifter in warm oceanic waters}. He collected his first *Mucuna urens* and *Caesalpinia bonduc* from English coasts on the 27th of April 1909, near Salcombe, South Devon (Guppy, 1917: 28). His books are still a goldmine for information on drift seeds and currents. His colourful life is worth a biography, including amongst others his kidnapping in Batavia in 1888, on his way to survey guano deposits on Christmas Island for John Murray (Burstyn, 1975).

A 'peregrine' drift fruit?

This specimen from the Netherlands is the second report of *B. asiatica* from Europe. It looks very fresh, not worn like the Irish specimen pictured in Nelson (2000). We suggest this specimen to be transported by man and as refuse contributed to the Dutch coast. Only few genuine tropical drift seeds arrive at the Dutch coast (Brochard & Cadée, 2005). The fact that it is only once found on the NW European coasts that receive numerous genuine tropical drift seeds and fruits make the Dutch

observation 'suspect'. Already Guppy (1917:29) mentions seeds and fruits possibly thrown overboard from ships approaching the English Channel. Of the 55 tropical drift seeds and fruits reported by Nelson from European coasts about half is thought to be 'refuse'. For the Dutch coast Brochard & Cadée (2005) report 41 species of which they think only 8 might have arrived as genuine tropical drift.



It seems that most box fruits introduced to the Netherlands are used for decoration (see figure of a Dutch shop window). However, *B.*

asiatica is also called 'an amazing tree that cures many diseases'. Traditional users scraped contents of the fruit and applied the scrapings to areas affected by boils, cysts, goitre etc. It is sold as Bulubituon in the Philippines (Regoniel, 2010). So maybe it is also

introduced for medical purposes and research.

Figures:

1. Box fruit found on the North Sea beach of Castricum (NL), 12 January 2012. largest diameter 9.6 cm, height 6.6 cm
2. Antique shop-window in Haarlem (NL) with box with box fruits

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The Continuing Saga of Mustang Island's Drift Seed-o-logy

by Gerald Sullivan, (please use carolsully@yahoo.com)

A newly acquired South African drifter friend, Liliane Hosten-Willems (1,2) has gently reprimanded me for not making it crystal clear the precise location of Port Aransas, Texas, on Mustang Island for her and others. I also received the following email from Suzy McElwaine (3) of Ballygowan in Northern Ireland: "I wasn't sure where Mustang Island was, so I've looked it up – what an incredible place!" I will enlist the very proper English/European approach in order to rectify this unintentional slight by furnishing the exact co-ordinates of the Port Aransas Marina; which is the hub of our fishing village and is situated at the nor-eastern tip of the barrier reef. Since I am a bit rusty (salt/sea corrosion) with a sextant, I will use those reported on the internet.

Decimal Degrees	(or if you prefer)	Degrees – Minutes – Seconds
Latitude 27.833N		Latitude 27 – 50' 21" N
Longitude -97.06W		Longitude 097 – 04' 03"W

Whew! Sure hope you know where we are located now. I certainly don't!! This may be my ongoing problem. According to Navillus "if one is unaware of one's exact location, how in the world would one know where one has been or where one is headed?"

Rare Finds on Mustang Island

Cedar rose. A splendid cedar rose, see picture, recently stranded on our shore. This 2 – 2 ½" rose is the tip of a broken barrel-shaped cone of *Cedrus deodara* or possibly from one of three or four other species of *Cedrus*, but commonly referred to as deodar cedar and used extensively by florists, decorators, etc. One should note that this seed-bearing disseminule is a new addition to the world of drift seeds.



Chinese lantern. Over a four day period in November, 2010, an excess of 15 Chinese lanterns washed ashore over a ½ mile expanse of beachfront. With an assist from 10 year old Reed Williams, son of sometimes co-author John Williams, the fruit and its latticed framework were identified. See picture. Each "birdcage" contained a fully developed yellow fruit the size of a marble. Some of the sweet edible fruits were shriveled/shrunken, possibly indicative of time at sea. These are probably from the plant *Physalis alkekengi*. A second species *P. Peruviana* also occurs and is commonly known as golden berry or cape gooseberry. Please Google Chinese lantern for thousands of delightful pictures of the entire structure with their colorful, intact, delicate membrane covering the cage. One should also note that this fruit and its minute seeds are new additions to the world



of drift seeds.

Golf ball seabean. A third endocarp of the elusive, denuded sea coconut arrived. Refer to *Stalking the Golf Ball Seabean in The Drifting Seed*, December, 2010.



Kukui. A 2nd and 3rd candlenut seed finally arrived. This drift seed is rarely-rarely found on the island. Nearly eight years have passed since the 1st one drifted ashore. Refer to picture.



Jamaican walnut. Periodically over the years a *Juglans jamaicensis* seed or two would float ashore, but this year fourteen were garnered which included a rather immense one measuring 5.0 cm in height by 4.5 cm in width with a weight of 1.3 oz. See pic. This nut, also known as West Indian walnut is no longer believed to be native to the island of Jamaica and is rarely found in Cuba, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Wiliwili. A second and third wiliwili haole (*Erythrina crista-galli*) were picked up which seldom happens here, but according to the squinty-eyed Son of Beerens (7) these beans are quite prevalent on Florida shores. In Kauai, all *Erythrina* species are commonly referred to as wiliwili.

Woodrose. After reporting the near absence of *Merremia tuberosa* seeds (8) on the island, this drifter lucked into five new arrivals. Wouldn't you know it! The *rose* in woodrose is derived from the appearance of the opened woody capsule (fruit) which contained the seeds. At one time, these seeds were in demand for the psychedelic effect caused by the lysergic acid (LSD) type compounds it contained.

Antidote vine seed. Occasionally a *Fevillea cordifolia* seed is discovered in the wrack, perhaps less than one a year. But the latest was the largest for the island. Not a world record, measuring a mere 6.5 cm in diameter and 2.5 cm thick, but still a curiosity. Possibly Norton's seed from Padre Island, Texas, is the pacesetter at nearly 8 cm. in diameter (9).



Quill-less porcupine. Possibly a third species of *Caryocar* has washed ashore. We are familiar with the spiny porcupine seed (*C. microcarpum*) and the spineless one (*C. glabrum*) covered with sizable to medium bumps or knobs. This new arrival resembles one of the smooth seeds in plates 9.46b, Perry & Dennis, pg. 144. *C. villosum*. Who knows? A more logical conclusion would be that this deceiver is no more than a *C. microcarpum* with its spines simply worn away by the turbulent action/motion of sea and sand. Please examine accompanying photo which clearly demonstrates the gradual wearing away of its spines resulting in the eventual smooth imposter.

Baybean. All of a sudden these most wonderful and beautiful seeds of *Canavalia rosea* began arriving. Amazing. I had never collected a single one over the eight years on the island and now the wrack was inundated with them. See picture. Remember, in order to become a successful coastal Jack bean collector such as Florida's best baybean beaner Beerensson, one must be aware at all times that these driftseeds are super tricky. They are nearly-nearly weightless, consequently, they really don't float but instead simply magically hover above the surface of the sea. Therefore, one seldom discovers them in the wrack but almost always in the water line which may well be several feet beyond the wrack line.



Nickernuts. A shade different. *Caesalpinia ciliata* is noted for its highly variable colored seeds whereas *C. major's* color has been restricted to chocolate brown. The color of the newest arrival has a refreshing butterscotch hue instead of the drab brown. The normally inconspicuous faint concentric

fracture lines are much more striking since they are of a darker color than the rest of the seed. Re-examination of those nickernuts recently collected revealed a brilliant array of colors among them, not simply drab brown as formerly noted. See picture.



Wracky Oddities

Halloween. What are the odds that a plastic seafaring jack-o-lantern would become stranded on a Mustang Island beach on the morning of Halloween? Probably astronomical, but it happened. The orange colored lantern measured approximately 4" x 4" exhibiting a green stem with eyes and nose simply stamped into the plastic, not cut-outs. It was apparent that the friendly turtles of the sea wreaked havoc with it, as evidenced in the photo. The attached living marine organisms suggests that this imitation pumpkin had been out to sea for a considerable period of time.



Holiday season. In the realm of coincidences, a sprig of Christmas berry (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) washed ashore two days after Christmas.



Thorns. Kapok thorns are fairly abundant on our beaches, but the discovery of the "Twin Peaks" added a new twist from the mundane, somewhat suggestive of a Madonna costume, possibly in "Like a Virgin." Some of the silk floss trees are thornless, while others are covered with single thorns but seldom double.

Mystery of the Gulf. The stranding of thousands upon thousands of crucifix catfish skulls and other bony parts, totally devoid of any fleshy tissue, has occurred on two occasions two years apart. These sailcat remains covered an area approximately three tenths of a mile long by 100 feet wide, creating the ghastly impression of a massive graveyard. With each step one or more skulls would be crushed beneath one's sole. These skulls ranged in size from 1" to nearly a foot in length. The more inquisitive might query: {a} why this massive accumulation; {b} why the nearly identical site; {c} why skeletons of both young (small) and old (large) and {d} how far had these armadas of fish skulls traveled?



Pictured is a fairly large catfish skull accompanied by rosary seeds (non-seabeans) with cross attached and numerous sailcat otoliths. Otoliths are the integral parts of the fish's hearing mechanism. When the skull is physically shaken, the two otoliths located in separate cranial chambers, rattle. This has been interpreted as the noise from the dice beggars used vying for His garb. Believe me, they do rattle nicely.

Hair scrunchies. These unique beads of the sea (10) continue to wash ashore steadily as the ticking of a Timex watch ("they take a licking but keep on ticking"). Since last report, 80 additional true seabeans have reached the final destination of their sea odyssey on a Mustang Island beach. This brings the overall

(in hand) total of collected seabead scrunchies to a whopping 460. Not included in this total would be 15-20 additional seabeads previously incorporated into necklaces and given away. One might wonder if this “happening” qualifies for the Guinness Book of Records.

The current plan is to contact the Bead Museum (11) in Glendale, Arizona, and inquire if they would like to receive and display this one-of-a-kind collection of true seabeads. See pic. I've visited the Bead Museum, not only in Glendale, but also when it was previously located in Prescott, AZ. Believe me, if you are in the near vicinity, you should make a concerted effort to tour the Museum. It is unbelievably fantastic!



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Editor’s Note: We are saddened to report that during the production time of this newsletter issue, Gerald Sullivan passed away at the age of 77 (8-11-1934 to 5-15-2012). His wife, Carol, informs us he was working on one more driftseed-related article and we will work to bring that to you in the upcoming Sept. issue of this newsletter. Carol can be reached via e-mail at CarolSully@yahoo.com.

Southend *Nypa*, *Sepia*, fruit and Cocos January 2011- April 2012

by Dr. Roger A. Hewitt, 12 Fairfield Road, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 5SB, U.K.

It is strange to report that coconuts put into the Thames Estuary from Hindu rituals involving the River Ganges, strand upon fossil drifted palm fruit of a genus which still disperses them from the Mouths of the Ganges (Jarzembowski & Jarzembowski 2009). I promptly found one of these *Nypa burtini* (Brongniart) mesocarps when I added a walk of the whole length of the beaches from Shoebury to Chalkwell railway station to my weekly shorter walk in January 2011. It was at Shoeburyness like finds given by the Army to the Natural History Museum in 1913 (Chandler 1961). They probably came from the base of banded claystones that I termed the "Beaver Tower" bed; underlain by two other bands full of Eocene burrows that normally destroyed this organic matter sunk on the seabed offshore.

The host concretion had dimensions of 710 mm by >550 mm by 110 mm and protected a plinth of London Clay of 70 mm thickness worn away when storms displaced it in May. Since the *Nypa* was breaking up with the concretion, it was collected and put back together in June, and in October, smaller pyrite cemented specimens were collected *insitu* together with three removed by the tides (Table 1). They appeared to have sunk into the London Clay in an offshore Eocene environment and formed a band of storm deposited debris, rather than a modern strandline concentration of pyrite pushed back into the clay. Since an intact Eocene fish head was aligned in their band, it could be deduced to represent suddenly buried and separated fruit, rather than a whole tree sunk at that spot of the sea bed.

Table 1. Preserved width in pyrite at distances in mm along axis of symmetry of seven *Nypa* empty mesocarps and twigs associated with complete skull of *Rhynchorhinus* in London Clay at Shoeburyness. Finds aligned North-South on clay sloping S.S.E. on 70° E. of Mag. N. beach contours and showing random individual arrow-head directions, like *Cocos* mesocarps on Table 2.

Sample	Vectors from 3	Points to	Umbo mm	Width	Max. at	Other end
1.	Above & South	-	20, to 30 at 15	81 at 31	100 at 100	<100 at 175
2.	4m loose N.E.	-	3, to 4 at 3	20 at 12	28.9 at 50	8 at 71.8
3.	0.00 m	155°	4, to 6 at 4	12 at 13	39.3 at 33	18.2 at 83.0
4.	0.86 m on 178°	283°	2, to 6 at 5	14 at 8	49.3 at 43	48.3 at 59.6
5.	1.37 m on 181°	13°	3, to 5 at 2	19 at 16	33.3 at 35	4 at 92.8
6.	Loose 0 m	-	3, to 4 at 2	-	31.7 at 35	24.2 at 67.0
7.	Loose N.E.	-	4 worn	-	28.3 at 28	15.1 at 71.9
Twig	1.38 m on 205°	318°	8.8 end	-	13.2 at 60	9.3 at 72
Twig	5 m N.E.	44°	14.8 end	-	-	18.8 at 160
Fish	1.36 m on 171°	124°	4 Ant. end	12 at 15	28.4 at 52	3 at 74.2
Twig	1.41 m on 165°	?221°	8.2 end	-	-	9.7 at 41.4
Twig	<i>Insitu</i> E.N.E.	332°	28.8 end	-	37.3 at 200	25 at 225



Fig. 1 Basal part of *Nypa burtini* mesocarp showing truncated umbo of fibres with carbonaceous endocarp inside largely gone uncovering the inner face of the rest of the mesocarp. Scale of cm bars.

The main motive for my extended weekly walk along the latest recently made hightide mark, during the period January 18

2011-April 5 2012, was to promptly record the orientation, position and size of all the *Sepia officinalis* L. cuttlebones (usually with Fulmar marks of Cadée 1997) over a standard distance (Table 3). Intact (Table 2) and broken coconuts with still prismatic, white endosperm flesh still undecayed (Table 5) were equally easy to study on same strandlines.

Explanation of columns on Tables 2-5

N. Specimen identification numbers were given to undamaged collected *Cocos nucifera* (L.) endocarps Z4 to Z17, a previously cut juvenile husk with endosperm undecayed (U3) and all the adult (2nd winter) *Sepia officinalis* cuttlebones (including flesh to 90 mm width on Number 14) on the latest, or penultimate, adjacent tidal sand or gravel surface. The mud and sandflats below and the older strandlines seen above neap tide strandlines were not surveyed.

To W. km. Distances around the coast westwards from the south edge of the pool on Shoebury East Beach are defined by intermediate sites (Hewitt 2010b) and termed positive. About 2.7 km of this distance of 9.9 km seldom stranded flotsam, but it was still looked at. An additional, negative distance, of 0.65 km was walked largely on good sandy strandlines to the North-East of the pool. The 85 walks therefore represent 896 km. Random strandings would have an averaged position half way along my walk at +4.52 km and a standard deviation around 3.0. This is similar to the 16 large cuttlebones (Table 3, Av.+4.71, std. dev. 3.3) which provide some control on the effects of wind, tides and breakage on walls on local coconut distributions. The 13 still intact and dry coconuts seen one day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival attended by 20,000 people on September 11 averaged -0.51 km (range -0.19 to -0.62 km). Four freshly broken coconuts were seen in one square metre of the October 17 strandline at +5.14 km. Other fruit offerings were made at +2.07 km. The 14 intact endocarps that had drifted on to 80 strandlines unrelated to the September Ganesh Chaturthi festival (Table 2 excluding U3, Z12-15) averaged +3.63 km (std. dev. 2.33).

Tide m. The relative heights of the walked high water marks is reported here laterally up the even and unobstructed sand slope from the base of the bastion at 3.96-3.97 km (exactly six feet below base of curved stonework and around 3.1 m above mean sea level O.D.). The four highest of 54 measured strandlines reached the wall at the arbitrary defined 15.0 m distance and the lowest was measured as 1.4 m. Their average of 9.70 m up the slope corresponded to an average of their predicted elevations of 2.65 m O.D. at Southend Pier.

Lat. m. The lateral distance of the seaward end of the flotsam above (+) or below (-) the high tide mark was also measured laterally in metres, on sand or gravel slopes that were similar to or steeper than that at the bastion. Positive lateral values, rounded up from zero in 0.1 m units probably represent deposition by the previous tide or tides. It is however difficult to trace the parent probable strandline to the bastion. As a rough guide to the heights of tides stranding coconuts intact and cuttlebones I have added their positive lateral positions to the lateral positions of the tides at the bastion and obtained average relative heights of 12.5 m for the coconuts (excluding U3) and 10.91 m for the large cuttlebones. Then having rejected specimens with positive lateral values, their relative heights were averaged below the contemporaneous high tide marks as -0.72 m for 13 cuttlebones and -1.38 m for 15 coconuts. Husk U3 was on the sand but near mud. At lateral positions ranging from -0.5 to -2.0 m there is usually a gravel band, or raised berm, formed under the final breaking wave as it moves up the sand behind the front of *Fucus* with the rising tide. Even cuttlebones can be seen being buried by the pebbles as the berm forms. Later it prevents coconuts and other flotsam from being removed by the ebb tide from the strandline or lagoon produced on the sand nearer to the land at similar or lower vertical elevations.

Date. The month and day of my walk in 2011 is recorded (but *Cucurbita* on Table 4 are from 2010 Ganesh festival) and not the tide which can be earlier at around midnight G.M.T. or perhaps before that when positive lateral stranding are involved. There are two tides per 24½ hours at Southend.

Line. The trend of the strandline (defining beach contours, not minor wave sinuosity) is reported as degrees East (clockwise) of Magnetic North on the west side of the compass. Algae under U3 was measured, not the distant curved strandline there.

Wind. The Beaufort Number of the wind and the direction from which it was extended sea front flags (B>2) is ideally reported as the tide turns in degrees E. of Magnetic North. Higher wind speeds are roughly compared from regional weather report. The direction of the wind during the early morning tide of June 18 is cited from flags seen later to be parallel to adjacent reed alignments in the wet *Fucus* and the new berm enclosing the lemon at 2.2 km. A small sample of other stranded fruit or seeds averaged the same trend there, and it is represented on Table 4.

Base or rear to. As reported above the directions of stranded items on Tables 2-4 are cited as degrees East of Magnetic North for comparison with the wind and beach contours. True North is roughly two degrees West of Magnetic North. The attached end of the fruit or seeds is defined as the base and therefore the direction pointed to by the cone of fibres on coconuts Z4 to Z17 is at their base. The base of the egg was the blunter end. The base or posterior of the cuttlebone was denser and included the pointed rostrum and intact, undecayed chitinous white conus vane (note that this was also present on the Galveston cuttlebones of Harry & Snider (1969) which need to be looked for again on the beaches there to be verified as local *Sepia* records). The orientation results on Table 2 appear to be random, even though ZB was last seen floating North-East parallel to the ebb current (husk pointing both ways from time to time) and Z4 was stranded with the cone buried in the sand pointed nearly downwind. The cuttlebone posterior ends point into the wind, but do not show much indication of beach contour lines

A and T mm. Coconut circumferences are measured as in Table 2 of Hewitt (2002) and the cuttlebones etc. as linear triaxial dimensions. Only the width (Tmax) of the cuttlebones is universally undamaged and it includes the chitinous margins measured promptly. The O column records random dorsal-shield-up and ventral-chamber-up cuttlebone orientations.

$X_{\square}=1, \square X=8$. The mass of each coconut was weighed within one day of stranding and again after being in seawater for 8 days. These approximate weights in air in g include water which drips off into a bag, but excludes the water pored out of the open endocarp of U3. After 20 days the endosperm of U3 had decayed to exfoliated white flakes producing an endocarp capacity around 500 ml. A similar volume was lost from the husk by machete cuts before stranding. However, the circumferences cited are complete and when it sank after 126 days the mass of the undecayed exocarp and endocarp plus basal decayed mesocarp was about 1736 g. This implies their volume was c.1690 ml. Combining data from the circumferences and the weightings, with observations of the waterlines if was evident that the 2011 May (Vaishakh) strandings, were like the 2009 and 2010 post-Holi strandings in being of low density dried coconuts (Hewitt 2009a-2010a).

Sank days. Only cuttlebones 14,15 and the latest small one were kept in seawater, like the bird's egg, old *Cucurbita* and new *Mangifera* fruit. However, the egg developed holes (>1 mm) from the start of the test. It had just started to develop cracks between them, which shed shell fragments from the intact egg membranes with liquid and gas contents. The last part of the chitinous conus vane of cuttlebone 14 was consumed by a shrimp on October 23rd. One of the intact coconuts (Z13 from +1.38 km, between concrete beach blocks and seawall but undamaged) sank when tested, but refloated after 12 days.



Fig. 2 Ornamented *Cocos* endocarp with husk cut into cones at each end and Gujurati label. Found stranded as Z7 (Table 2). Scale of cm bars. Sank in 187 days at 607 g.

Table 2. Stranded intact coconuts (- = one pore open) and open husk U3, January 2011–April 2012

	To W.	Tide	Lat.	Date		Wind		Base	A	T	X=1	X=8
N.	km	m	m	M/D	Line	B	from	to	mm	mm	g	g
ZB	-0.6	14.0	-0.8	3/22	232°	2	Calm	52°	-*	-	-	-
4	4.3	6.8	-5.2	4/15	250°	3	140°	309°	414*	324	-	622
5	2.9	12.7	+2.0	5/17	280°	6	W.S.W.	145°	406*	349	403	520
6	1.5	12.7	-0.3	5/17	275°	4	242°	265°	414*	375	337	480
7	1.5	12.7	+1.3	5/17	275°	6	W.S.W.	307°	419*	274*	240	402
-	3.7	15.0	-0.1	6/18	271°	6	258°	345°	324*	294	413	459
8	8.1	15.0	-0.3	6/18	270°	6	258°	114°	444*	330	583	653
U3	6.0	5.9	-8.5	6/28	300°	4	65°	95°	569*	511*	1610	1584
9	3.1	12.1	-1.6	7/6	290°	4	206°	Up	425*	355	667	687
-	3.5	12.1	-3.9	7/6	290°	4	206°	112°	341	314	565	576
10	4.2	12.3	+0.1	8/5	270°	4	245°	319°	374*	298	442	452
11	5.9	8.5	-3.9	9/7	289°	5	260°	141°	362*	301	532	554
12	-0.2	13.8	-0.4	9/16	232°	3	104°	295°	433*	330	630	624
13	1.4	3.9	-0.1	9/22	289°	4	S.W	250°	420*	319	651	663
14	3.2	12.2	-0.1	9/27	289°	3	191°	91°	420*	292	394	400
15	-0.6	15.1	-0.4	9/28	217°	3	91°	191°	460*	341	524	619
16	6.8	11.2	-0.7	10/10	306°	6	265°	121°	366*	300	324	388
-	3.2	13.7	-2.7	11/24	312°	4	234°	111°	337	304	-	-
17	2.6	11.5	-0.2	4/5	312°	6	65°	65°	403*	343	371	-

Table 3. Stranded cuttlebones at Southend January 2011-April 2012.

	To W	Tide	Lat.	Date		Wind		Rear	A	Tmax	Tmin	
N	km	m	m	M/D	Line	B	from	to	mm	mm	mm	
1	0.1	2.9	+1.3	3/29	236°	3	80°	318°	122	59.8	11.8	v-up
2	1.5	6.2	-0.7	5/11	275°	3	232°	196°	210	80.4	24.6	v-up
3	4.2	12.7	-0.4	5/17	272°	4	242°	157°	177	71.0	21.2	v-up
-	9.8	9.4	-2.3	5/23	291°	4	205°	4°	90	32.9	10.1	d-up
4	4.3	9.1	-1.5	6/8	260°	6	218°	120°	185	82.1	23.4	v-up
5	3.8	11.7	-0.3	6/15	281°	3	249°	81°	187	77.8	21.9	v-up
6	2.1	11.7	-0.2	6/15	300°	3	249°	293°	172	63.8	19.9	d-up
7	-0.5	11.7	-1.7	6/15	232°	3	249°	273°	175	74.3	24.8	d-up
8	8.3	11.7	-2.9	6/15	282°	3	249°	196°	149	69.2	23.2	d-up
9	8.3	11.7	+1.6	6/15	282°	3	S.W.	298°	176	72.1	15.8	v-up
10	3.3	15.0	-0.9	6/18	301°	6	258°	169°	195	76.4	22.3	d-up
11	9.5	15.0	-0.1	6/18	284°	6	258°	180°	204	77.8	21.8	d-up
12	8.8	7.6	+0.4	6/23	279°	5	282°	340°	197	83.4	24.1	v-up
13	1.9	12.1	-0.2	7/6	295°	4	206°	285°	175	68.9	18.3	d-up
14	4.0	13.4	-0.3	7/15	290°	4	210°	210°	190	76.9	23.3	d-up
-	3.5	9.3	+0.1	8/9	300°	4	310°	44°	82	32.0	9.6	d-up
15	6.7	11.2	-0.1	10/10	301°	6	265°	125°	136	62.7	16.0	d-up
16	9.0	7.4	-0.1	10/18	299°	6	260°	135°	96	47.4	15.5	d-up

Table 4. Orientations on latest *Fucus* strandlines, or 0.5 m laterally down the seaward face of gravel (shorter *Cucurbita* flotsam only). Buoyancy subsequently tested in seawater. Known wind directions are on Table 1-2; apart from the *Cucurbita* (258° in 2010). The rear of the porpoise and the broader axial end of the intact bird egg are the base. Separated undried endocarp (77 x 32 x 8.9 mm) sank in a record 186 days. White eggplant fruit appeared in September.

	To W	Date		Base	A	Tmax	Tmin	Sank
N	km	M/D	Line	to	mm	mm	mm	days
<i>Cucurbita</i>	-0.5	9/20	240°	246°	73.8	62.8	60.3	454
<i>Cucurbita</i>	-0.3	9/20	220°	220°	70.1	63.9	63.4	454
<i>Mangifera</i> endocarp	3.3	5/17	301°	195°	108.9	56.7	21.7	35
<i>Mangifera</i> endocarp	3.7	5/17	286°	202°	83.9	44.3	16.4	26
Citrus limon	2.2	6/18	310°	268°	101.6	66.2	61.8	62
Pinus sylvestris	3.1	6/18	298°	51°	60.2	30.6	29.5	20
<i>Aesculus</i> endocarp	3.6	6/18	290°	260°	29.8	42.5	37.7	>141
<i>Citrus limon</i>	4.5	6/18	270°	10°	102.4	57.2	51.0	40
? <i>Anas platyrhyncha</i>	4.1	7/15	275°	115°	56.7	41.7	41.2	>114
Solanum? melongena	1.9	9/7	299°	110°	48.9	42.2	42.0	26
Phocoena phocoena	1.2	9/28	240°	257°	1168	c.255	c.250	-
Mangifera indica	2.1	10/21	284°	167°	100.4	74.8	67.3	27*

Table 5. Stranded items and endosperm compared to pre-September festivals 2011. A purchased 340 g black egg-plant fruit sank in 67 days at winter temperatures (4 to 11°C), and a 1460 g whole pineapple in 30 days in October (18 to 14°C). The leaf-part of another one continued to float to day 73. Ed Perry identified the gourd (*Cucurbit*) fragment from a photograph. It had probably been in sand dunes since the September 19 2010 festival. It was washed out by a surge tide and sank in 23 min. when tested.

Hindu Festivals, fresh	To W	Tide	Date	Wind	
Endosperm(e) etc.	km	m	M/D	B	from
Makara Sankranti	-	-	1/14	6	S.W.
Endosperm from endocarp	4.7	Neap	1/18	4	N.W.
Sarasvati-puja	none	c.12	2/8	3	270°
<i>Ananus sativus</i> in cords	2.2	6.2	2/11	4	S.W.
Mahashivaratri	None	9.1	3/3	3	32°
Endosperm in endocarp	5.1	9.1	3/8	4	210°
Holi	None	11.7	3/19	2	S.
Oystercatcher egg	-0.5	10.8	4/6	4	218°
Ramanavami	-	-	4/12	3	N.W.
Solanum melongena black	4.7	6.8	4/15	3	140°
Mortality of <i>Carcinus</i>	All	5.2	4/28	4	10°
Hanumaan Jayanti	None	13.4	5/3	6	82°
Naraoimha Jayanti, e.	8.4	12.7	5/16	6	W.S.W.
100 <i>Cyanea</i> per km, endosperm	3.6	7.2	6/1	3	190°
Savitri	None	11.7	6/15	3	249°
Nag Panchami	-	14.3	8/3	5	S.W.
Raksha-bandhan	-	-	8/13	4	W.S.W.
Dense <i>Mangifera</i> endocarp (sunk)	4.3	11.3	8/16	4	240°
Jamashtami	-	8.8	8/21	4	S.W.

<i>Cucurbita</i> fragment	-0.6	20.2	12/9	7	256°
Dattatreya - <i>Citrus</i>	1.5	12.1	12/10	5	260°
<i>Punica</i> fragment	6.8	12.4	1/4	7	240°
<i>Persea</i> fragment	3.1	12.5	1/11	3	245°
Makara Sankranti	-	-	1/15	3	E.
Endosperm in endocarp	8.7	5.2	1/16	3	115°
Holi -	-	-	3/8	3	W.
Citrus aurantium	1.4	14.0	3/10	3	262°
Ramanavani-	-	-	4/1	-	-



Fig. 3. Pyrite and carbonaceous mesocarps 2-5 of *Nypa burtini* and the *Rhynchorhinus major* skull, photographed within one week of collection and showing cracks developed in that time when dry.

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Drift Sea Ménagerie & Sweet Beauxregard the Green Anole

by Stephanie Bernstein, queenseabean@aol.com

Over the past decade of beachcombing or "beaning" as I like to call it along the strand in Florida on Palm Beach and in Cocoa Beach during The Annual Sea Bean Symposium, I have found great joy in more than coveting just drift seeds. Some of my most favorite things I have ever found to add to my impressive collection have been precious fossils of small ghost crabs (*Ocypode quadrata*), a rare 1950s Japanese metal fishing float (identified by oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer), a pretty colored fishing buoy painted vibrant red and pink, shell fossil rocks, twisted blond driftwood and weathered columns of bamboo. Each unique find has made its permanent home from the vector of flotsam and jetsam to the serenity of my backyard patio. What was most surprising about all the kickshaws I have collected is that I was not the only admirer of this special drift sea ménagerie. Amazingly, reptiles such as large Curly-tailed lizards, feisty Mediterranean geckos, flashy Carolina anoles (Green anoles) and sneaky Brown anoles also fancied the very same things!

The first evidence of this shared admiration was my discovery of lightning fast Green anoles with their pink mouths agape and bright dewlaps extended filled to the brim with stolen green sea glass booty running out from my patio and back into the wild. It did not seem that they ate the glass but instead carried my glass beach treasures away like a packrat might do after finding something rather pleasing. One of the largest Curly-tailed lizards I have ever seen, whom I call Thor, found a home atop the Mjöltnir "Hammer of Thor," a curious wood I found after a hurricane stuck it in the wet sand of the intertidal zone at high tide. I was literally offered \$50 from a local at the time I found it as he wanted it for his beach home décor, but to me it was so new and exciting that I decided to keep it. Lucky too as it serves as a handsome perch for my lizard friend each day. It begs the question as to whether Thor would even bother to visit me each day without such a cool pad and exotic axe on which to relax and escape the South Florida heat. I think he too knows how rare a wooden club I found.

But there is no better example of how beaning and other such neat beachcombing finds have merit and have come in handy than in the case of sweet Beauxregard. One afternoon while leaving my condo to go bird watching for Wood storks and Limpkins at the Wellington polo grounds, I stumbled upon a very sluggish Green anole. He was too weak to run as I came down the brick path and he could have easily been stepped on. I crouched down to observe him more closely and much to my surprise he took a small jump onto my right hand. I tried to place him on a tree trunk but he did not want to leave me. He clung to my finger with all his might and I have to admit I was



immediately taken with him. He was small and dark brown at the time and could hardly keep his eyes open. It was then that I decided to stay home and take him indoors for some tender loving care.

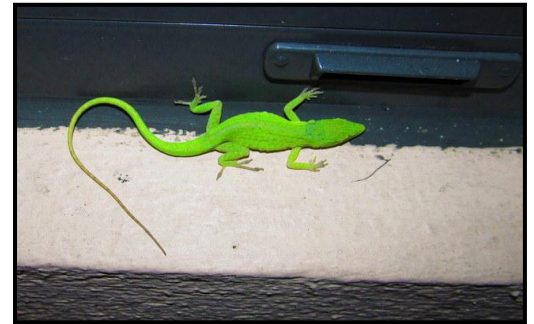
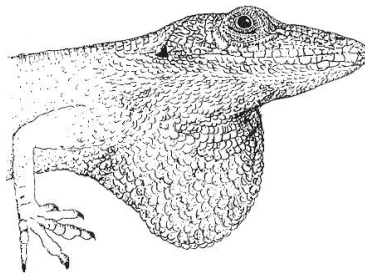
I emptied a handsome glass sea bean box that I had been using to display my finest sea bean specimens to make a temporary home for Beauxregard. I lined the bottom with sea hearts (*Entada gigas*) and placed a pretty lacy wood perch for him that was also collected in the wrack line. As I misted him with water throughout the day and observed him, I learned that he was tired because he was molting! Therefore, a large black pumice stone from a recent trip to the beach that I placed inside

his cage turned out to be just what Beaux needed. Over the coming days he relaxed and slept comfortably on the large flat sea hearts, rubbed up against the rough pumice to slough off his old itchy papery skin and then perched proudly on the lacey wood to bask in the warm afternoon sun. Who knew that all my years of collecting funky sea finds would serve as a make-shift triage and prove quite useful for my exhausted lizard friend?

To my pleasant surprise Beaux regained his strength and his brilliant emerald green color in just a few days. On a warm spring halcyon weather eve, I released him onto the trunk of a mighty Royal Palm tree adjacent to the path where we first met. It was a real thrill to see him strong enough to climb to the top of the tree to prove his new found health. After having fasted for days to get through the molt, I'm sure he filled his little belly full of fresh bugs as soon as he could. In fact, it is common for lizards to have rather large meals prior to molting for this very purpose.



Caring for Beauxregard, the Green anole, was a truly fanciful experience indeed and encourages me to continue gathering sea weary curios while I comb the beach for my beloved sea beans. My backyard lounge of lizard friends may never make it to the ocean themselves but will forever admire and delight in the gifts I bring home for them from the ever present tides and gentle winds of the mighty Atlantic currents.



News and Notes

Please **do not** use the P.O. address anymore (P.O. Box 510366, Melbourne Beach, FL, 32951). It has been closed. The new postal contact is Ed Perry, 1770 Mason Terrace, Melbourne, FL, 32935, USA. THANKS!

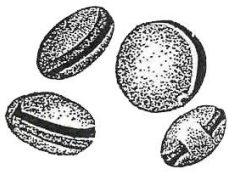
We were saddened by the news from Carol Sullivan that her husband, Gerald (Jerry, aka. Navillus, and/or "Seabeader") passed away on May 15th, 2012 after a short time with cancer. He was 77 years old.

After eight years of travelling and collecting seeds from around the world, Izumi and Jim Godfrey/Hanno have found the perfect location to open a place to house their "world's largest driftseed collection," an art studio for Izumi's botanical artwork and offer a beautiful setting for exploration.....**The Seed Museum of Bali**. They are living at 4000-feet with 1000's of orchids, establishing a permaculture with fruit trees, adaptogenic herbs and vegetable gardens. Please feel free to contact them and join their mailing list for updates at theseedmuseumofbali@gmail.com. Patronage is welcomed. Also follow their activities at www.seabean.com/MrSeabean.

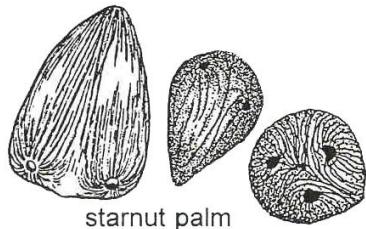


Simple Guide to Common Drift Seeds

(Illustrations by Cathie Katz and Pamela J. Paradine)



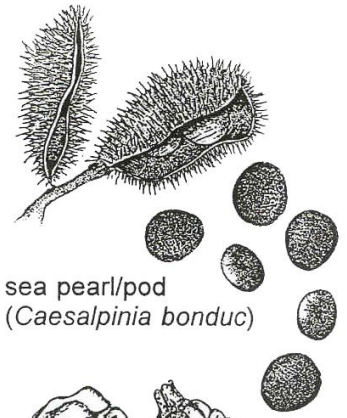
hamburger bean
(*Mucuna* spp.)



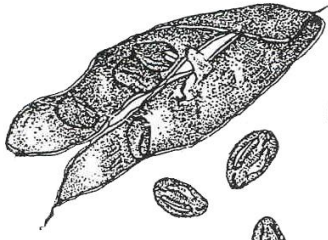
starnut palm
(*Astrocaryum* spp.)



country almond
(*Terminalia catappa*)



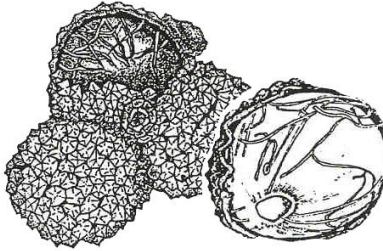
sea pearl/pod
(*Caesalpinia bonduc*)



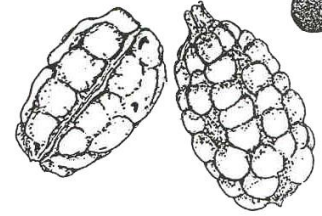
bay bean/pod
(*Canavalia rosea*)



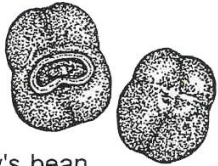
sea heart
(*Entada gigas*)



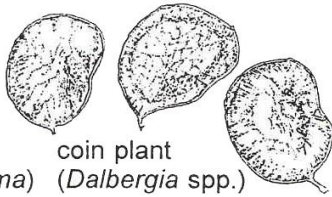
golfball/pod
(*Manicaria saccifera*)



hand grenade
(*Sacoglottis amazonica*)



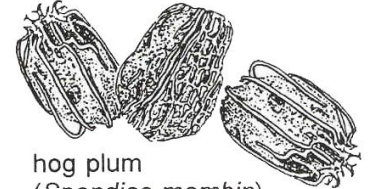
Mary's bean
(*Merremia discoidesperma*)



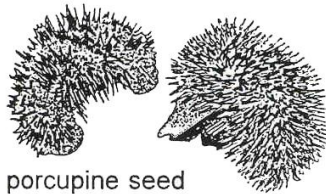
coin plant
(*Dalbergia* spp.)



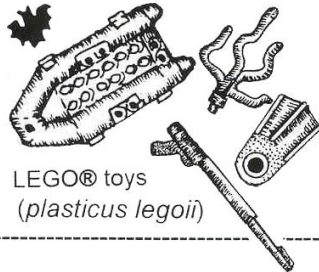
sea purse
(*Dioclea reflexa*)



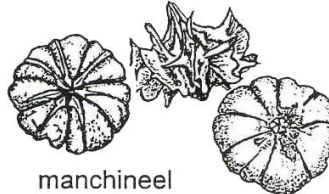
hog plum
(*Spondias mombin*)



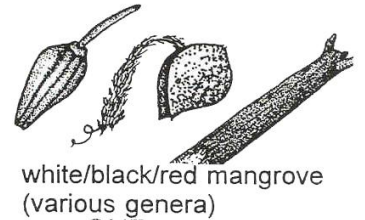
porcupine seed
(*Caryocar microcarpum*)



LEGO® toys
(*plasticus legoii*)



manchineel
(*Hippomane mancinella*)



white/black/red mangrove
(various genera)



The Drifting Seed

1770 Mason Terrace
Melbourne, Florida 32935
USA

