

Sixteenth Annual International Sea-Bean Symposium and Beachcombers' Festival

Cocoa Beach Public Library—550 North Brevard Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931

Open Free To The Public, October 21st & 22nd, 2011

Schedule of Events*

Through the weekend: Sea-bean collections and displays, experts, sea-bean polishing, the famous Bean-O-Matic, jewelry, T-shirts, slide-shows, speakers, books, authors, international guests, raffle and contests (including the ever popular “ODD-BEAN” contest, and the Saturday morning “BEAN-A-THON” beachcombing bonanza!).

We are pleased to announce that our very own Blair Witherington will be our featured Keynote Speaker for this year's event. Blair is a Research Scientist, photographer, author, and avid beachcomber. He will present to us “Georgia and the Carolinas, a Beachcombing Odyssey” on Saturday evening. Blair's wife, Dawn, is also a great contributor to this effort and behind-the-scene preparation.

Natural history writers and books will be available through the weekend. Returning this year for her second visit will be “Dr. Beachcomb” Deacon Ritterbush, with her book *A Beachcomber's Odyssey: Treasures from a Collected Past*; Deacon will be onsite with us all weekend to sign books and share knowledge. Krieger Publishing Company will be pleased to present *Sea-Beans from the Tropics: A Collector's Guide to Sea-Beans and Other Tropical Drift on Atlantic Shores*, by Perry/Dennis (reprint edition 2010). Ed Perry will be on-hand to sign copies. Krieger will also have the reprint edition of the *World Guide to Tropical Drift Seeds and Fruits*. Blair and Dawn Witherington are the authors of *Florida's Living Beaches* (Pineapple Press, 2007) which is a guide to anything and everything you may encounter on Florida's beaches, featuring not only sea-beans, but also shells, fish, plants, birds, and even the “green flash!” Blair and Dawn will be at the Symposium with copies of their Florida book as well as their newly released *Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas, A Beachcomber's Guide*. The ever-popular *The Little Book of Sea-Beans* will also be available. Jim Angy, Marge Bell and Matt MacQueen of Still Nature Productions will be offering their digital books and *Beach Basics* packages. Also present will be Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer with his book *Flotsametrics and the Floating World*, and Beach Hunter David McRee with his book *Florida Beaches*. This year we will again also make available for sale Cathie Katz' beautifully written and illustrated *The Nature of Florida's.....series*.

Thursday, October 20th (3-5pm)

Everyone is invited to the main conference room at the Cocoa Beach Public Library for an informal get-together and introduction, discussion of symposium plans, and to set up displays for the weekend. We need lots of help setting up tables, chairs, and displays, so please feel free to donate time and suggestions. At 6pm those interested can meet at Roberto's Little Havana Restaurant (1/2 mile south of the library at 26 N. Orlando Ave.—this place has GREAT Cuban food, and has become a Symposium tradition).

Friday, October 21st (9am-6pm)

Displays and collections open to the public all day, free, from 9am to 6pm. Enter your seeds for the ODD-BEAN contest (see 22nd).

11 to 11:45 am: *The Context of Beachcombing* (slide show)—by Dr. Beachcomb Deacon Ritterbush

2 to 3 pm: *Wall Across the Atlantic and Tsunami Debris* (slide show)—by Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer

4 to 5 pm: *Eyes of the Ocean: Glass Fishing Floats, their History, Use, and Beauty* (slide show)—by Ann and Dan Sherwood

6 pm: The library closes.

Saturday, October 22nd (8am-9pm)

Displays and collections open to the public all day, free, from 9am to 5pm. Enter your seeds for the ODD-BEAN contest (see 4:30).

8:00 to 10:00 am: Bean-A-Thon 2011—You are on your own; don't come to the library first if you participate. Collect sea-beans and or toys/trash/sea-glass on any beach between Canaveral National Seashore and Sebastian Inlet. You MUST have your beans/toys/sea-glass at the library by 10:30am. Contest is judged/tallied per individual effort in the 2hr. time frame, please. No doubling-up.

9:00 am: Library opens.

10:30 to 11:30: Judges will tally Bean-A-Thon entries outside in front of the library (awards at 7pm that night).

11:30 to Noon: *I Think It's a Jellyfish!* (updated! slide show) learn about the jellies that wash up on our beaches—by David McRee

1:00 to 2:00 pm: *Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Sea Glass* (slide show)—by Dr. Beachcomb Deacon Ritterbush

4 to 4:30: **GROUP PICTURE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY! Be in it! Bring your camera!**—photos taken by Jim Angy

4:30 pm: ODD-BEAN contest judging (for entries submitted all through the weekend). In a baggie with your name, address/phone number place your squarest sea heart, largest hamburger bean, and largest nickernut from an existing sea-bean collection. “Oddness” will be determined by the judges. These entries DO NOT have to be found in the Saturday morning Bean-A-Thon. Please enter!!!!

Dinner Break: 5:00pm to 7pm: Tables and displays will be taken down in main room in preparation for the keynote presentation.

7:00 pm: Prompt! Bean-A-Thon and contest awards and certificates presented. Raffle winners chosen.

7:45 to 8:45 pm: **Keynotes** Blair and Dawn Witherington—*Georgia and the Carolinas, a Beachcombing Odyssey* (slide show)

9 pm: Library closes for Symposium.

Sunday, October 23rd (9-11am)

Take down displays; small business meeting to discuss and schedule dates/help for next year's symposium.

*October is still HURRICANE SEASON in Florida, so our schedule is at the mercy of the powers beyond our control. Hurricanes are wonderful for beaning, but can be dangerous for beachwalkers. Our beachcombing and Symposium activities may be cancelled because of severe weather, in which case we'll follow evacuation procedures to the mainland. In the event of a hurricane, information will be available at your hotel and at the library.