

# **Seventeenth 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 12th & 13th, 2012**

## **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 Deacon Ritterbush (Dr. Beachcomb) will be our featured Keynote Speaker for this year's event. Deacon is an avid beachcomber and runs the International Beachcombers' Conference which will be in Lewes, Delaware, at the Virden Retreat Center, on October 4<sup>th</sup> –7<sup>th</sup> ([www.beachcombingconference.com](http://www.beachcombingconference.com)). She has written *A Beachcomber's Odyssey: Treasures from a Collected Past* and plans to have her second book in the series available, entitled *Strands in the Sand*. Deacon will be onsite with us all weekend to sign books and share knowledge. As Saturday night's Keynote Speaker she will present *Beachcombing as a Portal to History*.

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. 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 recently 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 11<sup>th</sup> (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 12<sup>th</sup> (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 13<sup>th</sup>).

11 to 11:45 am: *Basic Beachcombing and Sea-Beans*—by Margie Mitchell

2 to 3 pm: *Beach Survival Guide*—by David McRee

4 to 5 pm: *Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Sea Glass* (slide show)—by Dr. Beachcomb Deacon Ritterbush

6 pm: The library closes.

### Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (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 2012—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: *Plastic, Garbage Patches and Tsunamis* (slide show)—by Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer

1:00 to 2:00 pm: *Drifters from our upstream Gulf: sea-beans, oil, and other drifters*—Blair and Dawn Witherington

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 **bluntest starnut, reddest hamburger bean, and flattest sea purse** 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: **Keynote Speaker** Dr. Beachcomb Deacon Ritterbush talks about *Beachcombing as a Portal to History*.

9 pm: Library closes for Symposium.

### Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> (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.