

Twentieth 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 16th & 17th, 2015

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 *Zen and the Art of Drifting!* Blair and Dawn Witherington are professional naturalists. Blair has his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from the University of Central Florida and a doctorate in zoology from the University of Florida. He has contributed numerous scientific articles, chapters, and books on sea turtle biology. Dawn is a graphic design artist and scientific illustrator trained at the Art Institutes of Colorado and Fort Lauderdale. Her art and design are prominent in natural history books, posters, and museum exhibits. Blair and Dawn have merged their art, writing, photography, and design in a number of projects, including *Florida's Living Beaches: A Beachcomber's Guide*, *Florida's Seashells*, *Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas: A Beachcomber's Guide*, *Seashells of Georgia and the Carolinas: A Beachcomber's Guide*, and *Our Sea Turtles: A Practical Guide for the Atlantic and Gulf, from Canada to Mexico*.

“Beachy” books of all kinds will be available at the library. *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) will be on hand and Ed promises to be around, somewhere! Terri Kirby Hathaway, co-author of *North Carolina's Amazing Coast* will be present all weekend to sign copies of her latest accomplishment! Blair and Dawn Witherington will be with us all weekend with *Florida's Living Beaches* and their most recent *Our Sea Turtles*. Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer will have his *Flotsametrics and the Floating World* throughout the weekend, and the ever-popular *The Little Book of Sea-Beans* by Cathie Katz and Paul Mikkelsen will also be available. This year we will again also make available for sale Cathie Katz' beautifully written and illustrated *The Nature of Florida's.....series*.

Thursday, October 15th (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 16th (10am-6pm)

Displays and collections open to the public all day, free, from 10am to 6pm. Enter your seeds for the **ODD-BEAN** contest (see 17th).
10:30 to 11:30 am: *Basic Beachcombing and Sea-Beans* (slide show)—by Margie Mitchell
12:30 to 1 pm *An Interview with Cathie Katz* (audio presentation)—by Paul Mikkelsen
2 to 2:45 pm: *LEGO® & Malaysian Airliner Debris in Florida?—Atlantic Flotsam Update* (slide show)—Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer
4 to 4:45 pm: *All Washed Up: A Close Look at What's Drifting to the South Florida Coastline* (slide show)—by George and Suzy Pappas
6 pm: The library closes.

Saturday, October 17th (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 2015**—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 11:15: Judges will tally Bean-A-Thon entries outside in front of the library (awards at 7pm that night).
11:00 to Noon: *Mindful Beachcombing—Becoming Part of the Solution to Marine Plastic Pollution* (slide show)—by Linda Emerson
1:00 to 1:45 pm: Texas Beachcombing Panel Discussion; question & answer session with our Texas beachcombers!
2:15 to 3:00 pm: *The Hole Story* (slide show)—by Terri Kirby Hathaway
3:00 to 4:00 pm: *Time to visit tables (tables taken down at 5pm!), enter the Odd-Bean Contest, and prepare for the group photo.*
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 **largest hamburger bean, largest seaheart, largest sea purse, and prettiest “sea-pig”** 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 **ODD-BEAN** contest awards and certificates presented. Raffle winners chosen. Door to the event room will open back up at 6:30 pm for those arriving back early from dinner.
7:45 to 8:45 pm: **Keynote Speaker** *Zen and the Art of Drifting* (slide show)—by Dr. Blair Witherington
9 pm: Library closes for 2015 Symposium.

Sunday, October 18th (8-10am)

You are on your own. Enjoy Brevard County, hit the beaches, or visit the Space Center. Meet, if interested, at Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands in Viera, north end of Wickham Road as far west as you can drive, 8 am. Jim Angy will lead a field trip showing off some of our local wildlife; bring your camera.

*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. Also check www.seabeam.com for possible Symposium schedule changes and/or cancellations.