

**Twenty-Eighth 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 20th & 21st, 2023**

**Schedule of Events\***

Through the weekend: Sea-bean collections and displays, experts, sea-bean polishing, 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!).

“Beachy” books of all kinds will be available at the library. Blair and Dawn Witherington will be with us all weekend with *Florida's Living Beaches* and *Our Sea Turtles*. The ever-popular *The Little Book of Sea-Beans* by Cathie Katz and Paul Mikkelsen will also be available. *Sea-Beans from the Tropics: A Collector's Guide to Sea-Beans and Other Tropical Drift on Atlantic Shores*, by Perry/Dennis (reprint edition 2019) will be available. 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 book! This year we will again also make available for sale Cathie Katz' beautifully written and illustrated *The Nature of Florida's.....series*.

**Thursday, October 19<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.

**Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> (9am-5pm)**

Displays and collections open to the public all day, free, from 9am to 5pm. Enter your seeds for the **ODD-BEAN** contest (table provided). Enter your item for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mike Burnett Award** for the most unusual beachcombed item found during the past year (table provided). The item needs to be displayed or a photo of it. Items for these two contests do not have to be found in the Bean-A-Thon and may come from existing collections. Judging for the Mike Burnett Award will be done by the viewing public.

10:30 to 11:30 am: *A Gulf Beach Odyssey* (slide show)—by Blair & Dawn Witherington

11:30 to 11:45 am: Ed Perry—Saturday's **Bean-A-Thon**, and *Baobab Seeds on Our Beaches*—by Dan Minchin, presented by Ed Perry

12:30 to 1:15 pm: time to tour the room and visit tables

2 to 2:45 pm: *Beachcombing and Whale Watching* (slide show)—by Julie Albert

4 to 4:45 pm: time to tour the room and visit tables

5 pm: The library closes.

**Saturday, October 21st (9am-5pm)**

Displays and collections open to the public all day, free, from 9am to 5pm. Enter your seeds for the **ODD-BEAN** contest.

8:00 to 10:00 am: **Bean-A-Thon 2023**—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 10-10:30am. Contest is judged/tallied per individual effort in the 2hr. time frame, please. No doubling-up.

9:00 am: Library opens. Time to tour the room and visit tables.

10:00 to 11:00: Judges will tally Bean-A-Thon entries outside in front of the library. If you beachcombed 8-10am, meet outside.

10:00 to Noon: time to tour the room and visit tables

1:00 to 1:45 pm: *What's Floating our Oceans Now* (slide show)—by Dr. Curt Ebbesmeyer

2:00 pm: **ODD-BEAN** contest judging (for entries submitted all through the symposium up to 2pm). In a baggie with your name, address/phone number place your **smallest hamburger bean, smallest seaheart, smallest 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!!!! Contestants are responsible to pick up their entries before closing of the library at 5 pm.

2:15 to 3:00 pm: *A Beachcomber's Guide to Coastal Stewardship* (slide show)—by George and Suzy Pappas

3:00 to 3:30 pm: **GROUP PICTURE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY! Be in it! Bring your camera!** —photos taken by Jim Angy

4:00: *Awards Ceremony and Raffle Prizes*, Mike Burnett Award given, Bean-A-Thon awards given, Odd-Bean awards given

5:00 pm: Library Closes and 2023 Sea-Bean Symposium is over until the following year in Galveston, Texas!

**Sunday, October 22nd**

You are on your own. Enjoy Brevard County, go beachcombing, or visit the Space Center, or Sebastian Inlet State Park!

\*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.seabean.com](http://www.seabean.com) for possible Symposium schedule changes and/or cancellations.