

# Twenty-Fourth 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 25th & 26th, 2019

### 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!).

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 *From the Rio Grande to Alligator Point: A Scavenger Hunt*. 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. Krieger Publishing will have a table with *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). 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! 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. This year we will again also make available for sale Cathie Katz' beautifully written and illustrated *The Nature of Florida's.....series*.

#### Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> (3-6pm)

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 25<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.

10:30 to 11:30 am: *Basic Beachcombing and Sea-Beans* (slide show)—by Margie Mitchell

12:30 to 1:15 pm *Beachcombing for Sea Glass* (slide show)—by Julie Albert

2 to 2:45 pm: *Beach Dynamics: Exploring the Forces at Play Along the Southeast Florida Coastline* (slide show)—Kim Mohlenhoff

4 to 4:45 pm: *A Sea-Beaner's Guide to Coastal Stewardship* (slide show)—by George and Suzy Pappas

6 pm: The library closes.

#### Saturday, October 26<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.

8:00 to 10:00 am: **Bean-A-Thon 2019**—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.

10:00 to 11:00: Judges will tally Bean-A-Thon entries outside in front of the library.

11:15 to Noon: *Florida's Sea Turtles* (slide show)—by Jim Angy

1:00 to 1:45 pm: *Beachcombing and Whale Watching* (slide show)—by Julie Albert

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 **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!!!! Contestants are responsible to pick up their entries before closing of the library at 5 pm.

2:15 to 3:00 pm: **Keynote:** *From the Rio Grande to Alligator Point: A Scavenger Hunt* (slide show)—by Blair & Dawn Witherington

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*

5:00 pm: Library Closes and 2019 Sea-Bean Symposium is over until the following year in Galveston, Texas!

#### Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> (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. Let Jim know if you plan to attend.

\*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.