

The Drifting Seed

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THE DRIFTING SEED

A triannual *Newsletter* covering seeds and fruits dispersed by tropical currents and the people who collect and study them.

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**The 8th Annual International Sea Bean Symposium will be held at the
Cocoa Beach Public Library, October 10th-11th, 2003.
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

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From Ed

Another year has come and gone, and this year's Seventh Annual Sea Bean Symposium was a great success. Hundreds of the interested and curious stopped in to discover, converse, and share stories about people, places, and things in their lives and how it all related to driftseeds. Cathie Katz' spirit shined over all of us, renewing our strength and helping to carry us through the long days of answering so many of those same-old, but important questions.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's awards. In the **Odd Bean** contest Robert McCown of Melbourne Beach, Florida had the yellowest nickar; Mark Bartlett of Sarasota, Florida had the sharpest starnut; Mike Burnett of League City, Texas, had the roundest hamburger bean. In the Saturday morning **Bean-A-Thon** competition, Alice Surrency of Satellite Beach, Florida showed her bean-astuteness by finding 32 species! She took the coveted **Most Beans** award. "You go girl!" Wim Kruiswijk from Holland took the **Cool Bean** award by finding a nice specimen of sugar-apple, *Annona squamosa*. The **Young Beaner** of the year turned out to be Justin Lemieux, who at 11 years of age, was able to find 16 species on a pretty picked-over beach. Good job Justin. No one in this year's competition was able to find a Grand Slam or a LEGO® toy. Mary's beans were found by a few—just before, and just after the competition this year. Wait until Saturday before you guys get out there next year!

On another note, it is with great sadness I report the passing of our long time friend and columnist John V. Dennis. He has been a contributor, without fail, to this newsletter since its inception back in May of 1995. A freelance writer and biologist, John took an interest in seabean when he found his first—a sea heart—on a Nantucket, Massachusetts beach in 1955. His subsequent interest included trips to Florida where he found a great many other species of driftseeds. An article published about the late Bob Mossman (aka 'Jack Beans') finally brought John together with Dr. Charles R. (Bob) Gunn. They decided to work together on a book at that first, fateful meeting.

We are all familiar with the groundbreaking piece of work given to us by John and Bob, but some of John's other interests are reflected in his best selling works written about bird feeding. *A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding* (1975), and *Beyond the Bird Feeder* (1981) are well known among bird enthusiasts. John also wrote *The Great Cypress Swamps* (1988). John's last work, written with myself, did not see finalization before he passed away. However *Sea-Beans from the Tropics: A Collector's Guide to Tropical Drift on Atlantic Shores* is currently in production and should be 'copy-in-hand' very soon. Of great interest will be John's 30-year tests (and still going!) on floating driftseeds in tanks of saltwater.

A Lifetime Achievement Award was present to John by the Drifters in October 1997 (at the Second Annual Sea Bean Symposium) for the fieldwork John had embodied over the last four decades. As much as Dr. Gunn had done for our hobby with his careful research and identification, it could not have been accomplished without the tireless specimen collecting done by John.

This newsletter and its readers will sorely miss the lack of John's input in years to come, but at least we have 8 years of his wonderful columns to look back on and use as reference. I will personally miss John's wisdom and guidance, but be forever grateful that our lives crossed paths. John lived to be 86.

I want to personally thank all of you who came out to the symposium this year. I was showered with gifts from many of you—thanks, I cherish them all. I always thought Curt Ebbesmeyer and Wim Kruiswijk tied for the 'distance-traveled-to-a-symposium record' until this year. Izumi Hanno and her boyfriend Teruo came all the way from Japan for the symposium! Wow! Thanks to everyone who came and helped!!!!!!!

"I have been to most of the annual symposiums. From sea beans, to coquina fossils, to flotsam and jetsam, it is all there...a beachcomber's paradise. There is some kind of magic in the air during these get-togethers. We have to be the most eclectic, eccentric, and diverse group of people imaginable. What a grand forum for knowledge and fun."— Barbara Rolph, Merritt Island, Florida

Of Pigs and Beans and Dragonflies

By Curtis C. Ebbesmeyer

On Thursday, sea beaners set up for the **Seventh Annual Sea Bean Symposium** in the Cocoa Beach Public Library (Friday-Saturday, October 17-19, 2002), this time without Cathie. Though she'd passed away a year ago on Thanksgiving Day 2001, each day Cathie signaled us in a unique way.

As we greeted each other, high above our booths flew a large dragonfly. We knew it was Cathie 'cause she adored dragonflies, particularly in one of her favorite books: *Animal-Speak* by **Ted Andrews**. “. . . *some Native Americans believe dragonflies represent the souls of the dead,*” still brings goose bumps. Other poignant signals were yet to come.

On Friday, the Symposium's first official day, when **Ed Perry** said 'Cathie's Bean' in his delightful presentation, the Space Shuttle sonic-boomed twice on approach to Cape Canaveral. Cathie had semaphored her approval of the superb red *Canavalia nitida*, the species we'd chosen to carry her name.

“If dragonflies have shown up, look for change to occur,” writes Ted Andrews. Sure enough, Cathie signaled different and delightful things, as if to divert our hearts from her absence. On Saturday, *Florida Today* headlined November's pig crate referendum — a ballot initiative to prohibit inhumane treatment of pregnant pigs.

It was piggy banks, however, that shed a special glow on the folks Cathie had assembled. During November 2001 – October 2002, sea beaners reported a dozen peripatetic piglets: blue, yellow, pink, cream and white 3- to 10-inch-long piggy banks. But none suggested their origin. Only Ed's yellow porker sported a hint: *Amor es . . . ahorrar* on one flank, and *amor es . . . seguir ahorrando* across the other, or *Love is . . . saving* and *Love is . . . to keep saving*, respectively. Perhaps, as **Kari Sauers** suggested, the Spanish proverb symbolized a regional charity drive. Kari's idea — a pig-pothesis, quipped **Cathy Yow** — explained why the banks' coin slots had been hastily slit to extract contributors' money.

We guffawed when Ed wryly suggested they'd floated from Cuba's Bay of Pigs. There is, however, something to this. Previously, messages in bottles drifted from Cuba's Bay of Pigs through the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico to eastern Florida. And the first pig arrived about when Hurricane Michelle devastated Cuba (November 4-5, 2001). Approaching its Bay of Pigs' landfall from the southwest — a sow-wester, Jim Ingraham quipped — Michelle intensified to Category 4, becoming Cuba's worst hurricane in 40-50 years. When the pigs landed, measured dose inhalers (MDIs) for asthmatics also began washing up in eastern Florida. Some MDIs carried the label *MediCuba*, fueling the Cuban origin pork-pothesis.

As to the numbers of the plastic sow-age, the 50:1 rule-of-thumb that 2% of flotsam set adrift winds up found and reported (developed from messages in bottles), suggested Michelle rooted out 500 banks. **Sue Bradley** recalled from the Bible the earliest known enumeration of a porcine spill:

***“. . . and the herd [of pigs] ran
violently down a steep place into the sea,
(they were about 2000)
and were choked in the sea.” — Mark 5:13***

Cathie, I'm sure, delighted in other Symposium highlights. For the first time, Alice Lowe and Bill Blazek demonstrated how to polish sea-coconuts into fine jewelry. “It takes a fair amount of effort even finding sea-coconuts suitable for polishing (maybe one in twenty or so). And then the sandpapering is a quite protracted process,” said Bill. “I'm glad everyone else enjoyed them. Who would have thought?!”

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Then Bill added an artificial seed to our lexicon — Ban Beans, the plastic balls in deodorant stick applicators. In a three-year period, along 75 miles between Fort Pierce and Boca Raton, Bill picked up 396. “They should be banned!” Jim Ingraham punned. “That’s not a solution,” I retorted. “I found a wig, not a pig,” chimed Wim Kruiswijk who’d traveled from the Netherlands specifically for the Symposium.

Just as I finished editing, back came a reply to my query to CubaNet, a network of independent journalists in Cuba. “*We asked about the plastic pigs,*” replied CubaNet’s **Rosa Berre**, “*and learned that around 1993 and 1995 there was a national saving campaign, because people had too much cash and few articles to buy in the government shops. The authorities feared the money was going to private farmers and black market. In the banks (in Cuba there is only a government controlled central bank) there were these plastic pigs, probably the ones arriving in Florida. The Cubans I talked to did not recall the word “Amor” (Love) on the piggy banks, and I doubt the government would use this word in lieu of a more ideological term.*”

“In Cuba, the charity drives were prohibited many years ago (probably since 1959 or 1960) based in the idea that the government takes care of everything and everybody. People needing humanitarian aid have to rely on family and close friends.”

Looks like there’s something to our Cuban hypothesis.

There you have it! I wonder what Cathie’ll wash our way next year? (Eighth Symposium, October 10-11, 2003). By then, I expect more beached piglets — Friends, Cubans and Floridians send me your pigs! And Europeans, too, for some should cross the Atlantic.



Special thanks to (no particular order): Ray Dickinson, director, Cocoa Beach Public Library, for hosting the *Sea Bean Symposium*; Jim Angy, Symposium photographer; Harpo Katz, Cathie’s husband; Lisa Hutchinson (Cathie’s sister-in-law); Margie Mitchell, Cocoa Beach’s official beach cleaner; coworkers at Seattle Evans-Hamilton, Inc. (Ken Fitzgerald, David Fitzgerald, Susie Ebbesmeyer, Jim Meusey, Kari Sauers); Ed Perry, park ranger at McLarty Museum and author with John Dennis Sr., of the soon-to-be-published book *Sea-Beans from the Tropics: A Collector’s Guide to Tropical Drift on Atlantic Shores*; Sue Bradley of

Misawa, Japan, conducted the business operations of Atlantic Press (founded by Cathie Katz); Wim Kruiswijk of Zandvoort, Netherlands, world traveler extraordinaire; Cathy Yow of Jamaica Beach, Texas, author of *Jewelry From Nature* for her research and word-smithing; Bill Blazek of Jupiter, a most inventive sea beaner; Alice Lowe, bean-vacuum of Indialantic, Florida, and creative crafter of beach things; Marge Bell, continuing Symposium supporter; CubaNet journalists.

Pictured above with the group of SeaBean Symposium 2002 participants are some of the plastic piggy banks found in the vicinity of Cocoa Beach, Florida, during November 2001 through October 2002.

**Plastic piggy banks found along eastern Florida,
November 2001 through October 2002**

Length (inches), Color	Date, location found	Finder	Remarks
10-inch blue pig	November 2001, Sebastian Inlet	Ed Perry	
11-inch yellow pig	August 2002, Sebastian Inlet	Ed Perry	With Spanish proverb
??-inch white pig	???	Ed Perry	This was the first one Ed found, but he threw it away not knowing others were to follow.
7-inch yellow pig	October 22, 2002, A tad south of McLarty Museum	Ed Perry	Head cut off!
__-inch ??? pig	???	Eleanor Hillman	
__-inch ??? pig	???	Eleanor Hillman	
5-inch blue pig	March 2002, Jupiter	William M. Blazek	
5-inch cream pig	October 2002, Jupiter	MariAnn Hannon	
3.5-inch blue pig	November 11, 2002, Hobe Sound Refuge	MariAnn Hannon	Smallest pig with coin slot slit.
7-inch blue pig	September 2002, A tad south of McLarty Museum	Bethany Walkup	
__-inch pink pig	???, Satellite Beach	Lauren Kuveke	
5-inch yellow pig	October 2002, Melbourne Beach	Curt Ebbesmeyer	On the beach opposite Mark's Landing

Non-piggy bank pigs.

Length (inches), Color	Date, location found	Finder	Remarks
1-inch blue pig	May 2002, Boynton Beach Inlet	MariAnn Hannon	Solid plastic
2.5-inch orange pig	????	????	Hollow with no coin slot.
2-inch tope pig	????	????	Solid plastic; Made in Hong Kong

The Inside Story – *Manicaria saccifera* Sea-coconuts, golfball beans

By Cathy Yow

Surely the second-most common drift seed on my beach in Texas, after the tropical almond (*Terminalia catappa*), is the little sea-coconut, *Manicaria saccifera*—also known as golfball bean. Personally, I like the term sea-coconut, since its insides are decidedly different than that of a golf ball. Break or slice open a sea-coconut, and you'll find hard white endosperm, much like that of the coconut, even though the sea-coconut is more closely related to the coco-de-mer (*Lodoicea maldivica*)—which is, confusingly, also known as “sea-coconut”— than to the coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) (Gunn & Dennis, 1976).

The host of the sea-coconut is a tall palm tree with simple and partially pinnate leaves (up to 8 meters—the largest entire leaf blade of any plant [Gunn & Dennis, 1976]!). This palm grows in swampy areas of South & Central America and is also known as “sleeve palm” (“manicaria” means “sleeve”), “troolie palm”, and “monkey cap palm.” Seeds are produced by the tree in pods that may contain 1, 2, or 3 seeds. As to the most common type of pod, a group of students collected 301 sea-coconuts from 30 trees in South America in 1997 and determined that the 2-seed pods were produced most frequently—twice as often as 1- or 3-seed pods (Ross, 1998). They also considered the relationships among the number of seeds, their individual weights, and their viability. Seed weight, they found, decreases with the number of seeds per pod; 3-pod seeds were lighter than 1-pod seeds. They also determined that heavier seeds were more likely to be viable. Interestingly, and an important note if you are trying to germinate sea-coconuts you've found on the beach, only 1 seed per pod, whether from a 1-, 2-, or 3-seed pod, germinated in their sample. Therefore, it would be likely that not all drifted sea-coconuts will be viable, even if fresh. Personally, I have had no luck at all in germinating any of the sea-coconuts I have picked up and cannot report that any other beaner has had any luck. Gunn & Dennis (1976), however, states that most seeds are viable.

Exactly what's inside of this seed is hard to say, as little is mentioned in the literature. It has been reported as a food for pigs and other frugivorous animals (Tico Ethnobotanical Dictionary), but I am unable to find any reports of human consumption of the endosperm. One source, however, does mention that the liquid inside was consumed by the Warao Indians of Delta Amacuro in Venezuela (Wilbert, 1976; Henderson, 1995). Another source states that the juice has been used to cure asthma and colds (Tico Ethnobotanical Dictionary). Although I've found a few specimens with liquid inside, I've not yet found one with soft endosperm. My assumption, unproved, is that the insides of the young seeds may be soft and soupy like that of young coconuts and coco-de-mers. The soft endosperms of both the coconut and coco-de-mer are edible. The bland endosperm of coco-de-mer is considered a delicacy in the Seychelles (Gunn & Dennis, 1976.) I have found a few mentions of “sea coconuts” as ingredients of dessert recipes on the Internet, yet none of these sites tell us the scientific name of these ingredients.

So, if you care to dine on the endosperm of the sea-coconut, proceed with caution. I have scraped out some of the hard, dried endosperm and tried it. It's rather tasteless and, in such a small quantity, certainly not harmful.

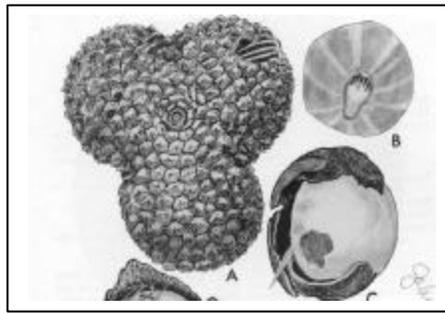


Distribution of *Manicaria saccifera*
(Henderson, 1995)

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Photo of *M. saccifera* in cross-section, C. Yow, 2002



3-seeded pod
Gunn & Dennis, 1976

Manicaria saccifera tree and fruit
Henderson, 1995.

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Bill Blazek's Recipe for Polishing *Manicaria*

By William Blazek, Jupiter, Florida

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(Bill is pictured below with Cathy Yow)

Every "beaner" is no doubt familiar with the ubiquitous *Manicaria saccifera*, more commonly known as the "sea coconut" or "golf ball pod." For a number of years, other than to occasionally collect a very large, or an exceptionally small, specimen for my "Biggest Bean/Littlest Bean" basket, I pretty much ignored them. After all, they were common, nondescript and without the "cachet" of, say, a hamburger bean, a sea purse, a sea heart, or Lord knows, a Mary's Bean. Well, I was wrong in my disdain for this ever-present sea bean! I discovered, much to my surprise, that like many other sea beans, the "lowly" sea coconut can be polished to a brilliant sheen with a wide variety of coloration patterns and hues.



Here's my approach: First, as one can well imagine, not every sea coconut is suitable for polishing. Most, upon having shed their rough, outer husks, dry in the sun and have crinkled and wrinkled exterior layers. Obviously, I discard these. I usually search for suitable ones in the old, "high wrack." The "keepers" (maybe one in twenty-five or so) are basically spherical, have no pronounced flat areas, have a relatively smooth exterior and appear to be sufficiently "dried out." I then bring them home and put them on a shelf for a week or two to ensure that desiccation is complete and no significant wrinkling has taken place.

Then I begin the sanding process (a small piece of sandpaper approximately 3 in. by 3.5 in. seems to work best for me). I start with "50 grit," progress to "220 grit," then to "400 grit," then to "600 grit," then to

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“1500 grit.” Next, I utilize the reverse side of the “1500 grit” paper for the final, smooth sheen. (After a few attempts, one gets a “feel” for how rigorously and how long to polish each specimen with each size of “grit.”) Finally, I sometimes apply a dab of carnuba wax and buff with a smooth cloth. With a little luck, the result will be a bright, shiny, multi-colored orb, arguably a rival to those sea beans we have traditionally polished.

So, with just a few pieces of sandpaper and four to five hours of effort (!!) you, too, will be able to amaze friends, neighbors and fellow “beaners” with these unexpected “treasures from the sea!”

News and Notes

Fellow seabeaner Bob Nordstrom has had some incredible luck beachcombing Brevard County beaches of late. Just before the October Symposium, Bob found his first Mary’s bean, only to top it off with another after the symposium, along with a black mucuna, *M. holtonii*.

Speaking of black mucunas, Cornwall beachcombers Nick and Jane Darke also recently came across a dark-seeded *Mucuna* which we think to be *holtonii*. This is a very rare find for their side of the Atlantic, indeed. Their find is shown pictured to the right—in-between another *Mucuna* (left), and a *Dioclea*.



The passing of John Dennis, Sr. on December 1st is sad news to all fellow beachcombers. His regular columns in this newsletter will be sorely missed. A very insightful article/obituary about his life was published in the *Washington Post* and interested persons should go to www.WashingtonPost.com to read it. John lived to be 86.

Sara Fellows shared with us that her father, John Strickland (now 88), ran the first charter boat out of Port Canaveral, Florida in the early 50’s. The 28 footer was named *The Lucky Sea-Bean*.

Keeping Records on a Florida Beach

By William Blazek

Jupiter, Florida

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Sun, sand, and palm trees! Back in April of 1998, and ready to say good-bye to local governmental service in the Washington, D.C. area, that was my idea of retirement. As a matter fact, it still is. Only the emphasis certainly has been on “sand.” Shortly after retiring, and having moved to Palm Beach County, beachcombing soon became a major leisure activity. Then lo, later in December my sister in Cocoa Beach gave me, as a Christmas gift, a copy of Cathie Katz’s *The Nature of Florida’s Beaches*. What an inspiration! All that information on “sea beans,” those weird little ocean visitors which I had been picking up from time to time!” Suddenly, I was really hooked. OK, obsessively compulsed, I admit it.

Anyway, as a former engineer and an inveterate data collector and record keeper, I’ve maintained, first simply a few “beaning” totals, then progressively more extensive records, since 1998. For the 1998-1999 “season” (which I arbitrarily define as beginning on or around September 1 and continuing until that same date the next calendar year), totals were 426 “hamburgers,” 168 “sea hearts,” 108 “sea pearls” and 27 “sea purses.” The 1999-2000 season brought 554 “hamburgers,” 205 “sea hearts,” 608 “sea pearls” and 47 “sea purses.” With the 2000-2001 season, came totals of 871 “hamburgers,” 383 “sea hearts,” 1625 “sea pearls” and 130 “sea purses.”

Inasmuch as the 2001-2002 season to date has been one of what, to me anyway, are banner proportions, I though it might be of interest to present a breakdown of various monthly “beaning” totals. This season’s collections took place generally on beach areas ranging from Boca Raton all the way to the north end of Hutchinson Island, with “beaning endeavors” carried out on 271 out of the 334 calendar days available.

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	<i>Mucuna</i> spp. (Hamburger)	<i>Entada</i> spp. (Sea Heart)	<i>Caesalpinia</i> <i>bonduc</i> (Sea Pearl)	<i>Dioclea</i> spp. (Sea Purse)	<i>Astrocaryum</i> spp. (Starnut)	<i>Merremia</i> <i>discoidesperma</i> (Mary's Bean)
Sep 01	50	22	43	9	14	0
Oct 01	187	129	190	15	55	2
Nov 01	119	70	372	9	31	0
Dec 01	239	127	144	16	25	0
Jan 02	114	59	149	10	31	1
Feb 02	355	157	86	12	31	1
Mar 02	155	56	16	3	4	0
Apr 02	515	104	48	14	26	1
May 02	423	49	60	11	20	1
Jun 02	189	37	43	7	16	0
Jul 02	156	23	77	5	24	1
Season Totals (thru 07/31)	2502	833	1228	111	277	7
All Seasons Totals (thru 07/31)	4353	1589	3569	315	835	29

Speculating as to why the current season's totals are so much larger than those of previous ones, a few thoughts come to mind. As I've become more familiar with the south Florida area, I've visited more and differing beach areas each season. Certainly my companion, MariAnn Hannon, has been instrumental in arriving at the increased totals (of course, four eyes are better than two). Plus, she has the uncanny ability to set foot on any beach anywhere and find a bean! In addition, I feel that I've "beaned" more "aggressively" each successive season; that is, simply "going out" more often and sometimes on more than one beach area a day, particularly when local wind, weather and sea conditions would seem to be conducive to influxes of disseminules. Then again, maybe for some reason, there was a bumper crop of beans awhile back, or maybe inordinately heavy amounts of rain carried more than the usual number of

beans into the rivers, estuaries and, eventually, the Gulf Stream. Maybe the Gulf Stream, itself, swung closer to southern Florida than normal. Who knows? So many variables!



At any rate, it's been a most enjoyable season of "beaning," and I look forward to September and the advent of yet another year of "walking the wrack" and finding still more of nature's special beach treasures.

Pictured at left. Some of Bill Blazek's beautifully polished *Manicaria* shine in the morning sunlight.

And just when we think that the way it is now is the way it will be forever, another season begins.
Melody Beattie in *Journey to the Heart*

Notes from Lanzarote, Canary Islands

By E. Charles Nelson

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Lanzarote is the eastern- and northern-most of the Canary Islands, lying off the coast of northwestern Africa at a latitude of around 29°N. It is situated within the influence of the Canary Current which is the eastern portion of the Northern Atlantic gyre, a south-flowing extension of the Gulf Stream. *Potentially* any seed adrift in the northern Atlantic could be swept onshore, or indeed past the island and on into the Sargasso Sea or perhaps even towards the West Indies.

Drift-seed records from the Canary Islands are few and far between – unlike the Azores which lie to the northwest in mid-Atlantic and which are within the influence of the Gulf Stream. Guppy (1917) found none on beaches in Tenerife. Lanzarote, however, has now yielded four species. Cadée and Dijkzen (1999) reported *Dioclea reflexa* and *Mucuna* aff. *flagellipes* from the northwestern coast of Lanzarote; Sytske Dijkzen-Overbeeke collected them on a small beach near La Caleta de Famara. *Entada gigas* was reported to me in 1985 by Kraus from the island (see Nelson 2000: 89).

El Caballo, a small, coastal *urbanization* (township) a few kilometres to the west of Famara, has a minuscule beach protected by rocky shores from all but the north-eastern quarter. On 6, 7 and 8 December 2002 at El Caballo I found five seeds of Convolvulaceae indistinguishable from, if not identical to, seeds found on beaches in Ireland and Britain. They were stranded with fresh *Spirula* shells and the innumerable tell-tale nurdles. The seeds are cream in colour, approximately 4 mm long, with 2 somewhat flattened sides, a circular, basal scar-like hilum, and prominent projections near the hilum. While such seeds cannot be reliably identified to generic or species level unless they are germinated and the resulting seedlings grown to flowering stage (see Nelson 2000), they are known (from Irish and British specimens) to represent such species as sea bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*) and moonflower (*Ipomoea alba*). The seeds from Lanzarote most closely resemble the seeds known to be from sea bindweed.

Remarkably, sea bindweed is *not* represented in the flora of the Canary Islands, including Lanzarote (see Chilton 1999; Hohenester & Welss 1993). Thus, once again, seeds have been found stranded on the Lanzarote coast that apparently are from species not recorded as native to the island. There seems no good reason why plants such as *Calystegia soldanella*, or *Ipomoea alba* for that matter, should not grow on Lanzarote – several *Ipomoea* species are cultivated on the island but it is most unlikely that the stranded seeds come from such plants. Until the seeds are germinated and the seedlings identified, the identity of these seeds remains uncertain.

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Symposium 2002 Photo Gallery



Left column: Top box-Curt Ebbesmeyer and Izumi Hanno (from Japan) try to identify some of her driftseeds from the Japanese Islands-Middle box. Bottom box-one of artist Pat Ryan Frazier's "shell spirits."

Middle column: Top box-Curt gives his lecture to a packed house on Saturday evening—over 150 people packed the Cocoa Beach Library. An interesting squirt gun found on the beach is shaped like a toilet. "Why?" Curt asks. He's gone to work already to find out. Bottom box-Pat Ryan Frazier with her beachcomber's vest (made from net fragment and other items from the beach) and a shell spirit.

Right column: Top box-Cathy Yow from Texas and her wonderful display of things made entirely from natural objects. Middle box- Cathy's "what's in an *Entada* seed, and how they are fashioned into snuff boxes and lockets," display. Bottom box-Pam Scrimsher (devoted symposium lend-a-hander, along with her entire family) talks to Eleanor Hillman-the shell lady.

*We need above all, I think, a certain remoteness from urban confusion.
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings in Cross Creek*

The Drifting Seed, December 2002

Symposium 2002 Photo Gallery



Left column: Top box-The beautiful “Cathie’s bean” necklace on loan from Ruth Smith of Arlington, Virginia. Sue Bradley wore it throughout the symposium in remembrance of Cathie Katz. Middle box-Rosemary and Melody from the Environmental Learning Center in Indian River County, Florida stopped in to chat about beans, books, and beachcombing. Bottom box-Pictured are just some of the yellow nickernuts that were brought in for the symposium Odd Bean Contest. The nickar in the lower right is presumably a yellow specimen bleached completely white (except the hilum area).

Middle column: Top box-This brick was dedicated by all of us ‘Drifters’ in memory of Cathie Katz at the new Melbourne Beach Public Library. Cathie walked by the spot where the library is now everyday on her trip to the beach. Bottom box-These are some of the delightful sea-bean sculptures by French artist Séverine Cadier Soltysiak. Check out her artwork on the Internet at <http://artgraine.free.fr>.

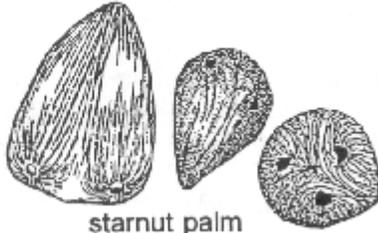
Right Column: Top box-Wim Kruiswijk from Zandvoort, Holland sizes up the beach from the deck at McLarty Treasure Museum in Indian River County, Florida. Wim enjoys as much beachcombing as he can possibly squeeze-in during his annual visit to Florida. Middle box-Mike Stewart of Indialantic, Florida showed off his inventive displays of driftseeds to the delight of attendees. Bottom box-Pete Zies managed to drop by briefly to bring in the ever-popular, now-even-famous, Bean-O-Matic to fill his absence and expertise for identifying beachcombers’ finds. We hope you are doing better Pete.

“Carefully observe what way your heart draws you, and then choose that way with all your strength.”
Hasidic saying

Simple Guide to Common Drift Seeds
 (Illustrations by Cathie Katz and Pamela J. Paradine)



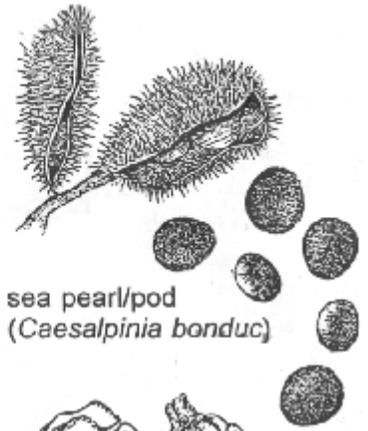
hamburger bean
 (*Mucuna* spp.)



starnut palm
 (*Astrocaryum* spp.)



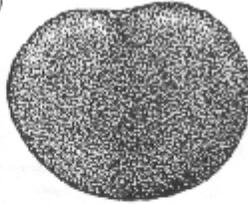
country almond
 (*Terminalia catappa*)



sea pearl/pod
 (*Caesalpinia bonduc*)



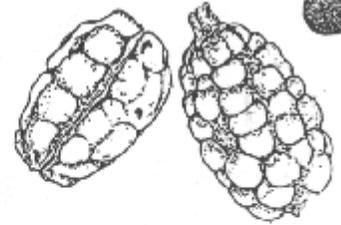
bay bean/pod
 (*Canavalia rosea*)



sea heart
 (*Entada gigas*)



golfball/pod
 (*Manicaria saccifera*)



hand grenade
 (*Sacoglottis amazonica*)



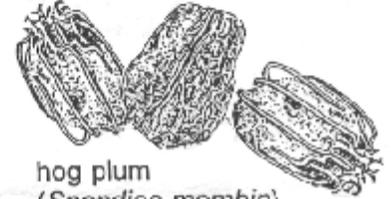
Mary's bean
 (*Merremia discoidesperma*)



coin plant
 (*Dalbergia* spp.)



sea purse
 (*Dioclea reflexa*)



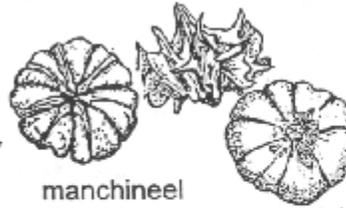
hog plum
 (*Spondias mombin*)



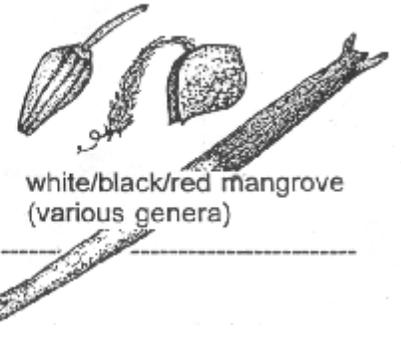
porcupine seed
 (*Caryocar microcarpum*)



LEGO® toys
 (*plasticus legoii*)



manchineel
 (*Hippomane mancinella*)



white/black/red mangrove
 (various genera)



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