

23rd Annual Sea-Bean Symposium & Beachcombers' Festival 2018

October 12-13 * Friday and Saturday
NOAA Ballroom - 4700 Avenue U - Galveston, TX 77551
9 am – 5 pm

A Free and Educational Event!

Displays and Speakers throughout each day!

Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Scientists, Beach Lovers, Historians, and Naturalists can discuss and answer your questions about Ocean Treasures, World Ocean Currents, Sea-Beans, Indian Relics, Natural Flotsam, Plastics, Sea-Turtles, Flower Garden Banks and much, much more!

TRASH ART CONTEST! Deadline Oct. 12th @ noon 4'X4'X4' maximum. See the Sea Beans or Texas Beachcombers FB group pages for details.

GREAT RAFFLES! Including carved wood sculpture by **Jim Phillips**, Local Artist **Stoney Reynolds'** Driftwood Art, **Joey Quiroga's** Photography Art, **Mark Moynahan's** Crawfish Table, and Much More!

Bring your found beach treasures to trade or share on our **Sharing Table!**
Bring YOUR **Sea-Beans** and unidentified treasures to the experts for ID and Info!

2018 Symposium **T-shirts** and **Beachcombing Bags** as well as **The Little Book of Sea-Beans** by Cathie Katz and Paul Mikkelsen will be available.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th 9am – 5pm

9:00 am: Symposium Day 1 Begins! Come browse the many displays!

9:30 am: **Symposium Group Photo!** Be there!

10:00-10:45 am: "Sea-Beans and Beachcombing 101" - Margie Mitchell

11:30-12:15 pm: "Beachcombing: What You Are Combing Over!" - Theresa Morris,
Turtle Island Restoration Network-Gulf Program Coordinator

2:00 pm: Art Contest Winners announced!

2:30-3:15 pm: "Plastics and the Environment" - Owen Cowan

3:30-5:00 pm: Browse and Visit!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th 9am - 5pm

9:00 am: Symposium Day 2 begins! Come browse the many displays!

10:00-11:00 am: "Who Were They?" - J. A. Soukup, Archeologist, Historian

11:30-12:15 pm: "Take It To The Banks; Protecting YOUR National Marine Sanctuary"
- Shelley Du Puy, NOAA Education and Outreach Coordinator

1:30-2:45 pm: Raffle Drawings

3:00-4:30 pm: **Keynote Speaker:** "Atlantic Flotsam in Texas" - Dr. Curtis
Ebbesmeyer, Oceanographer, Author.

4:30-5:00 pm: Visit, say goodbye, and wrap up the 2018 Sea-Bean Symposium!!!

Margie Mitchell - Margie first got "sand in her shoes" as a child when her Floridian grandparents took her to Clearwater Beach. She decided then and there that a Florida beach would be her home someday. After a 23-year career as a US Army officer, mostly in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, she finally got the chance to fulfill that lifelong ambition, and came to live in Cocoa Beach in 1999. In 2000, she was lucky enough to get the beachcomber's dream job as the City of Cocoa Beach Public Works Department's Beach Coordinator. This mostly entails cleaning up the beach trash, but once in a while, she finds a sea-bean or two along the way. She loves her "retirement" job on the beach and life with her husband Pete on the sunny East Coast of Florida. Margie has been a part of many past Symposia and a key organizer of the event. She will be at this year's **23rd Annual Sea-Bean Symposium and Beachcombers' Festival** throughout the two-day event to answer questions and share information. She also will be presenting the event program opener, "**Sea-Beans and Beachcombing 101**" Friday morning.

Theresa Morris – Theresa is the Gulf Program Coordinator for the Upper Texas Coast Sea Turtle Patrol. She has her M.S. degree in Marine Biology from Texas A&M University at Galveston. Her work with sea turtles began in 2007 working as a fisheries biologist for NOAA's Sea Turtle Research Facility. Since then, her science background has expanded to microbiology, genetics, marine mapping, conservation, outreach and education. Theresa will be presenting "**Beachcombing: What You Are Combing Over**", on Friday morning.

Owen Cowan - Owen has been beachcombing in Galveston, Texas, and around the world, since he learned to walk (just over 15 years ago). He has an extensive collection of plastic bottles from around the world and can identify the origin of most bottles that wash up in Galveston, labeled or not. He caught the sea-bean bug and has enjoyed the past two symposia. He is a certified "Leave No Trace" trainer through Boy Scouts, and has been a winner in the Artist Boat Marine Debris Art Contest. He also enjoys tinkering and holds a patent on a magnetic hand tool. Owen will present "**Plastics and the Environment**" on Friday afternoon.

J. A. Soukup – Who were they? For decades, Indian artifacts have been found on Texas beaches, particularly on Bolivar Peninsula and eastward, but left by whom? Galveston resident J.A. Soukup possibly has answers to this mystery. As a boy raised on the shores of Galveston Bay, he was always intrigued by old tales of the local Indians and pirates that had once roamed those same shores. After earning a B.A. in Anthropology with honors from the University of Houston, Soukup began work as a field archeologist for contract archeological firms. He was also active in field investigations by the Houston and Texas Archeological Societies. He recalls that the archeological work, while fulfilling, at times tended to diminish the personal stories of the very human subjects under study. That being the case, he set out to conduct independent historical research on Texas coastal Indians, and their interactions with Europeans. J. A. will present "**Who Were They?**" Saturday morning.

Shelley Du Puy - Shelley Du Puy joined the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary team in 1994. As the sanctuary's Education & Outreach Coordinator, she is responsible for coordinating all education, outreach, public relations and non-research volunteer activities for the sanctuary. Her current focus is on climate change and ocean acidification. Shelley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science from Texas A&M University at Galveston and has over 30 years of experience with NOAA in areas ranging from fisheries data collection to wetlands conservation to environmental education. While working as a Fisheries Biologist, Shelley observed that many people had little or no concept of how activities on land and in coastal areas affected the larger ecosystem. This was the motivating factor in her decision to focus her career on the education aspects of natural resource management. Shelley will be presenting "**Take It to The Banks: Protecting YOUR National Marine Sanctuary**" on Saturday morning.

Dr. Curt Ebbesmeyer – Curt is a great-humored scientist and expert of all things that float on ocean currents; glass fishing floats, tsunami debris, weather sondes, sneakers, and of course, those now famous plastic duckies. His book, "Flotsametrics and the Floating World" is part lesson and part memoir of his life and career studying bodies of water as well as beachcombed items. Today, Curt says the human propensity for creating garbage has made flotsam an environmental concern, with too many studies "neatly filed away and forgotten". He will be at this year's **23rd Annual Sea-Bean Symposium and Beachcombers' Festival** throughout the two-day event to answer questions and share information. Curt will be our **Keynote Speaker** this year, presenting "**Atlantic Flotsam in Texas**" on Saturday afternoon.

For More Information about Sea-Beans and Beachcombing, Visit:

www.seabean.com

Facebook groups: Sea Beans, Texas Beachcombers, Bolivar Beachcombers