

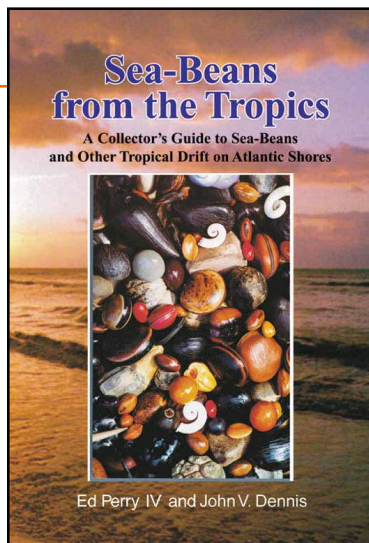
# SEA-BEANS FROM THE TROPICS

## A Collector's Guide to Sea-Beans and Other Tropical Drift on Atlantic Shores

by Edward L. Perry IV & John V. Dennis

Foreword by Cathie Katz

*"...a wonderful resource that uncovers every aspect of sea-beans, from the roles of currents and early uses to collecting and polishing what you find...a brilliant body of effort with the heart being the descriptive species catalog."—www.ecobeetle.com*



Atlantic Coast beaches offer a variety of souvenirs and curiosities to those beachgoers that care to look. Shells have long been treasured finds, and their descriptions are well documented in a variety of books and guides. But what about the other things found on the beach? These are the things that drift in the ocean and are carried in with the winds: sea-beans, spirula, mermaid's purses, and other tropical treasures. This book references them in a convenient form for the beachcomber, while keeping the oceanographer and botanist in mind. Interesting descriptions of each sea-bean species, or other drift treasure, and 175 color photographs make this book a valuable collector's guide. Perry and Dennis provide the results of a 30-year study on sea-bean flotation tests. No other book combines personal experience, use of color photography identifications, and the scientific field of botany into a complete, friendly user's guide for identifying sea-beans and other drift from the sea.

Orig. Ed. 2003    232 pp.    ISBN 978-1-57524-181-4    Price: \$36.25

*"...a well-organized primer with eight chapters on everything you ever wanted to know about sea-beans, but were unsure of whom to ask—the history and early uses of sea-beans, growing them, polishing them, how to build a collection, as well as where and when to search for them...hundreds of beautiful color pictures will leave no doubt about whether that thing you just found is truly an exotic sea pod that has drifted over the undulating sea from the Caribbean or whether it's a bolt from an old boat engine."—Florida Today*

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## About the Authors

**Edward L. Perry IV** is a park ranger with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Park Service. He has had a lifelong love and appreciation of the sea and its inhabitants. His interest in sea-beans and drift seeds began at an early age as his grandmother operated the Sea Bean Boutique in Cocoa Beach, Florida. After graduating from the University of Florida, he decided to dedicate himself to the diversity of wildlife and habitats on the east coast of Florida. His specialties are guided sea turtle programs, narrated boat tours, fishing programs, and hands-on programs that allow schoolchildren to experience the environment firsthand.

**John V. Dennis** (1916-2002) was a biologist, ornithologist, botanist and freelance writer with a master's degree in biology from the University of Florida. He participated in oil pollution research on Florida beaches where he became interested in collecting tropical drift seeds and fruits. He authored or coauthored more than seven books on natural science topics, including *World Guide to Tropical Drift Seeds and Fruits*, with Charles R. Gunn.

## Also Available

### WORLD GUIDE TO TROPICAL DRIFT SEEDS AND FRUITS

by Charles R. Gunn & John V. Dennis


Illustrated by Pamela J. Paradine

Orig. Ed. 1976, Reprint Ed. 1999 256 pp. ISBN 978-1-57524-147-0 \$33.25

This guide is for amateurs and professionals who find pleasure and excitement in beachcombing for stranded tropical seeds and fruits (sea-beans) on beaches ranging from Norway and Holland to South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and South Florida. Included are over 100 accurately and beautifully illustrated line drawings of the common sea-bean. These drawings, along with a key and detailed descriptions, make it possible for the first time to correctly identify a sizable number of tropical drift fruits and seeds from beaches around the world. Also contained in this guide is a section on planting and growing these seeds and fruits, many of which are from common plants of the tropics. Much useful information on polishing sea-beans and making them into artifacts of various kinds is also provided, as sea-beans are commonly fashioned into jewelry and keepsakes in many parts of the world. Readers will be fascinated by the histories of these tropical seeds and fruits.

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