



*SEASTARS are some of the treasures on the beaches this time of year.*

# Treasures On The Beach

**TEXT AND PHOTO  
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**S**ome of the stories the old-timers tell us about our Brunswick County beaches would have us believe the sand was covered with shells and fish were jumping out of the water, trying to get hooked! Well, maybe not quite that, but even I can remember when both seemed more plentiful.



We should easily understand that more people on the beaches means more folks looking for shells and more people trying to snag the remaining fish. It is a simple matter of supply and demand, with the

supply seemingly dwindling each year. Still, there are treasures on the beach for those who are "treasure hunters" of all ages. This is certainly true during the months of autumn.

Early morning strollers along the high tide line are tempted to collect all sorts of things, from plastic cups and glass bottles to seastars and driftwood. Somewhere between the high tide line and the water may be a sand dollar, the red bead of a buried fishing rig, or a live snail. Here, too, may be someone's lost fishing cap, plastic bags half-filled with sand, pieces of rope partially buried, and bits of colored glass, ground down by the waves.

Later in the day, at low tide, we can join the many people walking in the water's

edge, finding an occasional olive shell or whelk, and watching the mole crabs and coquinas dig in after a wave moves them landward. We can watch the fishermen with all varieties of gear and bait, eagerly seeking a strike, or a nudge from something other than the rolling surf.

These are all treasures on the beach. Another treasure we ought not to overlook is the friendly smile and casual conversation of someone newly met. Relaxed walks along the beaches have been responsible for friendships that are renewed and strengthened each new season.

And these "people treasures" are available at any time, in any season, whatever the tide!