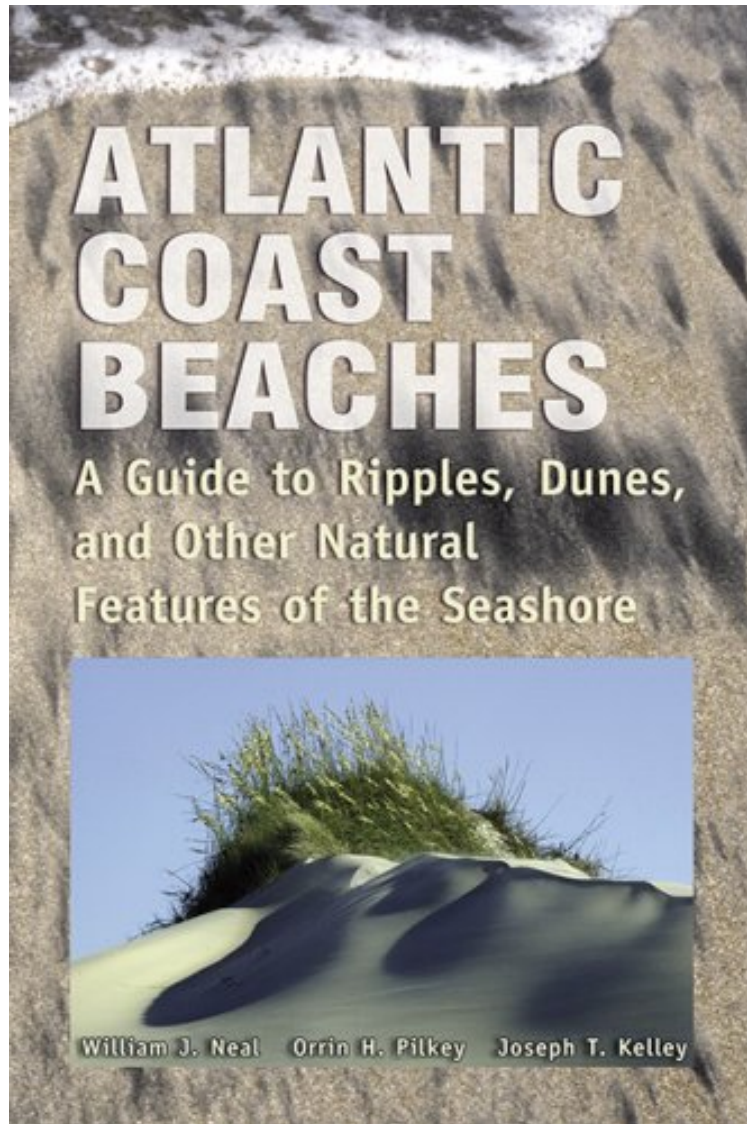


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Atlantic Coast Beaches: A Guide to Ripples, Dunes, and Other Natural Features of the Seashore

William Neal

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William Neal : Atlantic Coast Beaches: A Guide to Ripples, Dunes, and Other Natural Features of the Seashore before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Atlantic Coast Beaches: A Guide to Ripples, Dunes, and Other Natural Features of the Seashore:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and InterestingBy otolithThe book is full of excellent diagrams and photos to help illustrate the concepts. I really like how it is both scientific and informative. It is written

in plain English and flows nicely. This book is an excellent supplement to an oceanography course.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good oceanography for the non-scientist and the professional naturalistBy science nerdA delight to read and as a coastal ecologist I learned stuff not taught in oceanography classes.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book was my beach guide for 3 monthsBy pikabikeI bought Atlantic Coast Beaches near the beginning of a 3-month stay at a barrier island community. After walking the beach nearly every day, I am happy I read this book early on. Pretty much any geologic question I had pertaining to the beach was answered in this book, plus a bunch more about the creatures I found washed up on shore. I studied and underlined and highlighted and re-visited the book many times. I made lists of features to look for and identify. In other words, the book served as a sort of self-paced introductory class on beach formation and shaping.Previously, I had tried to buy a copy of an out-of-print book about beaches and waves by Willard Bascom but I could not find one. I also got the impression that Bascom's book was not written for laypeople. Neal, Pilkey, and Kelley, OTOH, made their book both fascinating and easy to read. Lots of photos and illustrations help drive home the principles described in the text. Clear identification of photo locations also adds the "real life" element that sometimes is lacking in more generic treatments of the same features.I consider this book to be a real "keeper" for all my future beach visits, regardless where on the Atlantic coast they may be. If I had read it when I was much, much younger I probably would have decided to study marine geology in college. People who live on the coast would do well to make this book required reading.Now if only I could find a similar book on the Pacific coast!

At first glance, the beach may appear to be an endless, flat, monotone landscape meant only for swimming, snoozing, or working on your tan. Upon closer inspection, though, the beach reveals that it has myriad treasures for the curious to locate, such as ephemeral beach ripples decorating the sand, traces of miniature organisms inscribed on dunes, and armored mudballs. Atlantic Coast Beaches, from Maine to Florida, are full of amazing features formed by the interactions between tides, currents, bedrock, weather, beach critters, and much more. Written for a general audience, Atlantic Coast Beaches: A Guide to Ripples, Dunes, and Other Natural Features of the Seashore covers everything, from microscopic nematodes to the potentially cataclysmic changes occurring along the coastline due to rising sea level. Its clear writing, illustrative photographs, and instructive diagrams answer some curious questions, such as why do some sands bark and sing, how do miniature sand volcanoes form, and how do barrier islands migrate?

About the AuthorWilliam J. Neal is professor emeritus and past chairman of the Department of Geology at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. As a sedimentologist he has been involved in coastal studies since the 1970s. In 1993 he received (with) Orrin H. Pilkey the American Geological Institute's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of Geology. Orrin H. Pilkey and Joseph T. Kelley are contributing authors.