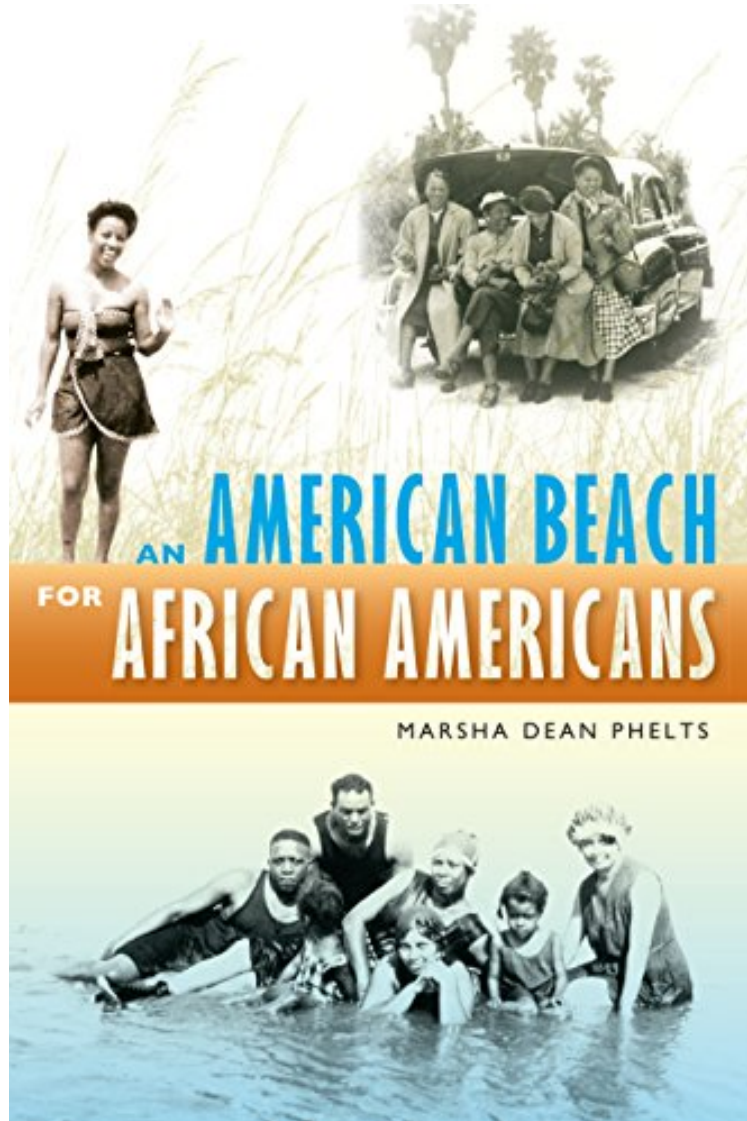


(Free download) An American Beach for African Americans

## An American Beach for African Americans

*Von Marsha Dean Phelts*

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**Von Marsha Dean Phelts : An American Beach for African Americans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An American Beach for African Americans:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A special treasure of knowledge and history. Outstanding!Von Ein KundeAn American Beach for African Americans is a special treasure of knowledge and history for everyone interested in reflecting upon the love, strength, and beauty of African American culture in Florida. Marsha Dean Phelts is truly a remarkable writer. She has dedicated a significant

part of her time and expertise as a writer in order for all of us to appreciate times when the Beach Boys were not likely to be the first group to book a concert tour at American Beach, (although they had the choice), even though I sometimes wondered as a child growing up in Florida and New York in the 60s and 70s, if The Beach Boys were ever going to entertain an audience at American Beach. Thank God for Marsha Dean Phelts for writing this book. She was instrumental in her sharing her writer-to-writer knowledge to me as I finalized the pages of my book titled Surfing the Sea, which is planned for release very soon. An American Beach for African Americans is more than a mere contribution to literature and Florida history. It is simultaneously long overdue and right on time! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a most important book for Florida Von Ein Kunde This is really one of the most important contributions to Florida history in recent years. Some may think that black people just disappeared during the Jim Crow era, but this book will disabuse them of that notion. It has it all, from stories to recipes to photographs, covering a part of history that is still almost studiously ignored hereabouts. I hope this will encourage others to do the kind of digging Marsha Phelts has done, because Florida's black beaches from the age of segregation are an endangered species. They should all be studied, documented, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places to preserve what remains from the endless bulldozers of developers. Cheers to the author for telling this story so well!

Kurzbeschreibung In the only complete history of Florida's American Beach to date, Marsha Dean Phelts draws together personal interviews, photos, newspaper articles, memoirs, maps, and official documents to reconstruct the character and traditions of Amelia Islands 200-acre African American community. In its heyday, when other beaches grudgingly provided only limited access, black vacationers traveled as many as 1,000 miles down the east coast of the United States and hundreds of miles along the Gulf coast to a beachfront that welcomed their business. Beginning in 1781 with the Samuel Harrison homestead on the southern end of Amelia Island, Phelts traces the birth of the community to General Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15, in which the Union granted many former Confederate coastal holdings, including Harrison's property, to former slaves. She then follows the lineage of the first African American families known to have settled in the area to descendants remaining there today, including those of Zephaniah Kingsley and his wife, Anna Jai. Moving through the Jim Crow era, Phelts describes the development of American Beach's predecessors in the early 1900s. Finally, she provides the fullest account to date of the life and contributions of Abraham Lincoln Lewis, the wealthy African American businessman who in 1935, as president of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company, initiated the purchase and development of the tract of seashore known as American Beach. From Lewis's arrival on the scene, Phelts follows the community's sustained development and growth, highlighting landmarks like the Ocean-Vu-Inn and the Blue Palace and concluding with a stirring plea for the preservation of American Beach, which is currently threatened by encroaching development. In a narrative full of firsthand accounts and "old-timer" stories, Phelts, who has vacationed at American Beach since she was four and now lives there, frequently adopts the style of an oral historian to paint what is ultimately a personal and intimate portrait of a community rich in heritage and culture. Pressestimmen "This is a lively story of a place marked by community, sociability and food, where generations of families found an oasis from racism." - Publishers Weekly "The vivid, personal story of American Beach, a coastal community on Amelia Island in northeastern Florida... blends oral history with never-before-collected documents dating back to the turn of the century, including photographs, historical records, and even recipes for such local favorites as Daddy Charlie's Jamaican Con Pollo." - Preservation "More than a study of African American recreation, the book provides insight into the self-sufficient African American communities that were commonplace in the days of Jim Crow and their ultimate decline after desegregation." - Alabama "Marsha Dean Phelts uses facts, photographs, profiles, memories and recipes to tell a story as intimate as the epics we enjoy over pie and coffee. It's less a book about racial discrimination than it is a story of the consequences for the people of a particular community and their triumph over confinement." - Tampa Tribune

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