

TRAVEL

Little museums tell another side of Cape Cod

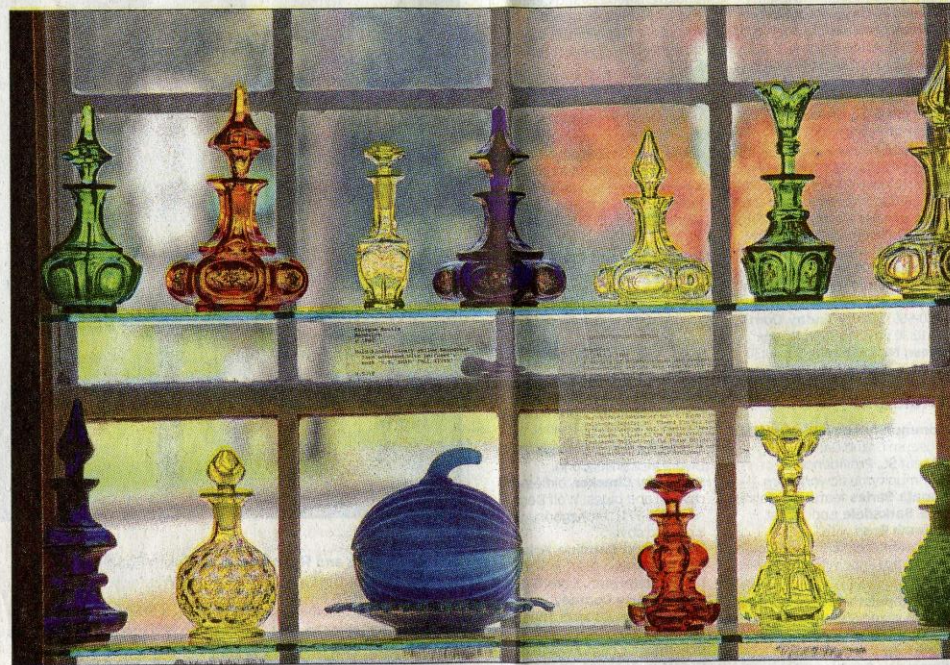
By PETER SMOLENS
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Cape Cod offers many interesting places to visit — the J.F.K. Memorial in Hyannis, the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, miles and miles of beaches, some run by the National Park Service as part of the Cape Cod National Seashore and visited by thousands of people each year.

But there are other museums that tell a different part of Cape Cod history, making us aware of the natural wonders that can be found on the “arm that sticks out into the ocean.”

One such museum is the Sandwich Glass Museum, which is run by the historical society and houses a collection of cut glass from the Old Boston and Sandwich Glass Company produced between 1825 and 1888. On display are some of the most beautiful pieces of glassware in the country. Visitors with an eye for fine detail will see glass craftsmanship at its very best.

Although it’s great to see the finished product, watching a real glassblower work his art is the highlight. Glassblower Alex Kilker educates visitors in the art of glass blowing as he molds heated glass into vases,



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Cologne bottles from the 1850s line the windows of the Sandwich Glass Museum. The museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and display of glass produced by the Old Boston and Sandwich Glass Company.



If you go ...

Sandwich Glass Company, 129 Main St., Sandwich. sandwichglassmuseum.org

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 86 Water St., Woods Hole. whoi.edu

Marine Biological Laboratory, 7 MBL St., Woods Hole. mbl.edu
National Marine Fisheries Services, 166 Water St., Woods Hole. nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/woodshole

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Main St., Brewster. ccmnh.org

used by MBL researchers. Visitors are guided through the building to view and learn about the many species used in research. Across the street is the Robert W. Pierce Visitor Center, housing a gift shop and exhibits including a couple of Clown fish made popular by the movie “Finding Nemo.”

Around the corner is the National Marine Fisheries Services Aquarium. From the playful Atlantic Harbor seals outside, this museum gives the visitor a close up look at the many different kinds of marine life, most of which can be found off the shores of Cape Cod.

For the past 50 years, the

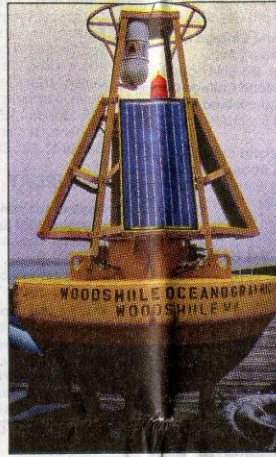
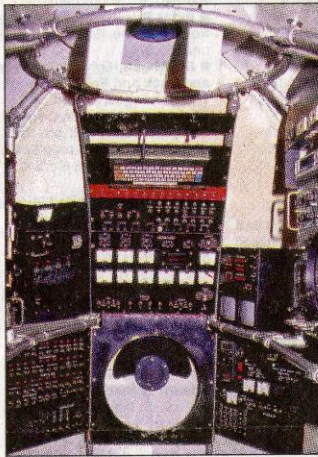
Although it's great to see the finished product, watching a real glassblower work his art is the highlight. Glassblower Alex Kilker educates visitors in the art of glass blowing as he molds heated glass into vases, bowls and other products that can be purchased in the museum gift shop.

Travel south to Woods Hole — the picturesque village in the town of Falmouth which has become a world-renowned center for marine science. Located downtown is the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Marine Biological Laboratory and the National Marine Fisheries Services. Visitors can learn about marine science by visiting one or more of these organizations.

The centerpiece of the WHOI Exhibit Center museum is a life-size model of the personnel cabin of Alvin, the institution's deep-diving submersible that provides a claustrophobic look at underwater research. In its 40-year history Alvin has made more than 3,700 dives and gone as deep as 14,764 feet. In 1985, Alvin was used by deep-sea explorer Robert Ballard (now at the University of Rhode Island) to find the Titanic's final resting site.

Living off the credo "Discovery is to see what everyone has seen, and think what nobody has thought," the Marine Biological Laboratory is known as "boot camp" for biologists and has been home to 37 Nobel Laureates in biology. The Marine Research Center is equipped with saltwater tanks designed to house, care for and culture more than 200 species of marine life

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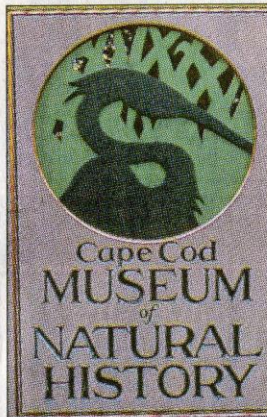
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Inside the deep-sea submersible Alvin, at left, used to uncover the remains of the Titanic, on display at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. At right, a sensor that measures water currents using data collected from monitoring tools deep in the ocean.



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A bottle, above, is created by a glass blower at the Sandwich Glass Museum. Far left, a sign hangs in Brewster, Mass. Left, a starfish on display at the Museum of Natural History.



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For the past 50 years, the Museum of Natural History has delighted visitors who are interested in plants, animal and marine life that abounds on the land and in the waters around the Cape.

On 75 acres in the Stony Brook Valley section of Brewster, the museum provides visitors with a look at the development of Cape Cod from 12 millions years ago to today. Using interactive displays, visitors see how land, water and air interact with each other. From showing how wind direction can make a sand dune to how the current effects the sea, each exhibit educates the visitor about the fragile nature of our world.

Downstairs, more than 250 mounted birds, including Cape favorites such as the seagull and the white tern, are on exhibit. The Marine Room has several saltwater tanks providing a close-up view of sea life.

Around the museum are three nature trails that introduce visitors to the famous salt marshes of Cape Cod. The museum regularly schedules nature walks led by local naturalists to educate both young and old about the natural history of the Cape.

Peter Smolens is a photographer-writer from Manassas, Va., who has published articles in the Philadelphia Inquirer, New Haven Register, Cleveland Plain Dealer and The Original New England Guide.