

# New England Travel

CAPE COD



MICHAEL MAGYAR

## SEE GLASS

BY ELLEN ALBANESE | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The Cape continues to add to its rich history of glass making

**SANDWICH** — The history of glass making on Cape Cod is well and beautifully told in the Sandwich Glass Museum. Visitors trace the rise of the Boston and Sandwich Glass Co. from its beginnings in 1825 through its heyday, moving from galleries displaying functional objects like goblets and pitchers in clear glass to exhibits of ever more decorative items in a burgeoning array of colors — nearly 6,000 pieces of glass in all.

The Boston & Sandwich Glass Co. closed in 1888, but Cape Cod remains a hotbed of glass artistry, where visitors can not only buy hand-

made glass creations but also watch artists gathering, blowing, casting, fusing, and shaping glass using centuries-old techniques and tools and, in some cases, innovative new approaches.

In Sandwich, glass blowers Michael Magyar and the husband-and-wife team of David McDermott and Yukimi Matsumoto both welcome visitors to their studios. Magyar opened the Glass Studio on Cape Cod on Route 6A in 1992. A native of St. Louis, Mo., he came to Cape Cod to be near the ocean. Watching the action of waves shortly after he arrived, he noticed that the salt water against seaweed appeared dark blue but against sand it looked emerald. He mixed emerald and cobalt glass

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Sand- and shell-filled “ocean balls” are a popular item in Michael Magyar’s Cape Cod Sea Bubble glass line.

FALMOUTH

## A big house with big plans

Highfield Hall and Gardens, once in tough shape, is now in full bloom

By Janet Mendelsohn

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

**FALMOUTH** — Have you heard of Highfield Hall and Gardens? Maybe not, because although the Falmouth estate is creatively programmed with arts, culinary, and garden events for kids and adults, it’s still under the radar for most Cape Cod residents and vacationers. Time to take a look.

About 15 years ago the mansion was a sorry sight, destined for demolition. Built in 1878 for Boston’s Beebe family, the 17,000-square-foot Victorian on 700 wooded acres was one of the Cape’s first summer “cottages,” helping to jumpstart the area as a summer resort. After the last Beebe heir died in 1932, the property passed through several hands. Josiah K. Lilly bought the compound to keep it safe from developers. He donated portions to local organizations, including the mansion, and the rest, more than 400 acres, for conservation. But over the next two decades the house and gardens were abandoned and repeatedly vandalized.

The seed of an idea was planted in the late 1980s when local artists proposed holding art shows and plays here. In 2000, Town Meeting members authorized taking the property by eminent domain, allowing a nonprofit Historic Highfield Inc., to raise funds and begin the \$8.5 million restoration that was completed in 2006.

“We really want to embrace families, and



JANET MENDELSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

**Annie Dean, Highfield Hall’s director of programs and exhibitions, inside artist Danielle Kreemar’s sculpture.**

it’s working,” says Annie Dean, director of programs and exhibitions. Dean, who has managed collections at the Smithsonian, collaborated with the College Women’s Association of Japan to bring CWAJ’s dazzling 60th anniversary exhibition and sale of contemporary Japanese prints here, from June 26 to Sept. 15, with highlights through Oct. 31. Previous CWAJ print shows have traveled to the Library of Congress and the British Museum. For the show, “Kanreki: A 60 Year Journey,” Highfield is the only venue outside Japan.

Weeklong classes for children this summer will teach participants how to make terrarium zen gardens, kimonos for American Girl Dolls, prepare bento boxes, and design miniature Japanese houses. For adults, in a professional kitchen that’s also used for catered events, there are classes on cooking “Farm-to-Table with a Japanese Flair” as well as a series on healthy cooking and demonstrations by chefs from regional restaurants.

The renovated mansion is staid on the outside but airy and elegant indoors.

The interior blends original architecture and new modifications to accommodate cultural programs and celebrations. Art is displayed throughout.

In the 19th century, the Beebe family hired architects Peabody & Stearns to design a

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## The best lobster roll? Yes. And so much more.

By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright

GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

Is it possible that the best lobster roll in New England is in — get ready for it — Falmouth, and not in Maine? That was the discussion at our table at Quahog Republic, which sounds like something out of “Family Guy” but is actually a bar in a Falmouth strip mall. The place is famous for its Bloody Mary, made with vodka infused in house with sundried tomatoes, poblano peppers, and elephant garlic, served with a crispy strip of bacon instead of a celery stalk. A worthy beverage, for sure. But the lobster roll steals the show.

**The Monsta Lobsta Roll at Quahog Republic.**



DIANE BAIR FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

They call it the Monsta Lobsta Roll. This two-fisted triumph features 10 ounces of chunky tail and claw meat with the lightest touch of mayo. It’s big enough to share, served with hot drawn butter if you like (you’ll like), plus a scoop of tangy slaw and some salty fries. Lobster roll connoisseurs, put this place on your short list.

Lobster rolls notwithstanding, Falmouth has plenty to recommend it. The second-largest town on the Cape, it is made up of eight villages, with 11 harbors, 30 ponds, and 68 miles of coastline — the most shore and coastline of any town on Cape Cod. Given that 101,000 people visit in summertime, adding to the year-round population of 33,000, nobody would call it a hidden gem. But, as one Cape

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