



# Weights and Treasures

Captiva Island is renowned for a host of reasons, not the least of which is its array of fascinating galleries and gift shops. They're home to many memorable wares, including some very unusual paperweights. In fact, the paperweights shown on these pages are nothing short of, well, captivating!

BY LIBBY GRIMM  
PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BLASE



## VACATION REMINDERS

Paperweights make great souvenirs and there are plenty perfectly suited for just that at **South Seas Shoppe at South Seas Resort**. The glass globes are filled with colored sand and a beach chair, complete with miniature sunglasses and a tiny *USA Today* newspaper, and come in a choice of three sizes. Each is also filled with seashells—or fish or birds or turtles or palm trees. *South Seas Shoppe at South Seas Resort, 5400 Plantation Road, Captiva Island, 239/472-5111.*



## ASHES TO ART

It's the ultimate in recycling. Intriguing paperweights made with Mount St. Helen's volcanic ash are available at **T.H. Osprey**, the gift shop inside The Old Captiva House at 'Tween Waters Inn. The original dark ash isn't recognizable anymore, because the glass paperweights, which come in teardrop or round shapes, now have bubbles or swirls in every color imaginable. They are "Collectible Art Glass" pieces from The Glass Eye. The resort store also carries paperweight stands made of brass. *T.H. Osprey, The Old Captiva House, 'Tween Waters Inn, 15951 Captiva Road, Captiva Island, 239/472-5161.*



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### A BEACON

Etched-crystal paperweights with a “laser-burned” image of the Sanibel Lighthouse practically fly off the shelves at **Captiva’s Finest**, a gallery of art and crafts. The unique paperweights are also available at the gallery’s sister store, **Sanybel’s Finest**. “It’s hard to have enough of the lighthouse paperweights in our stores, they sell so fast,” explains Renee Atkins of the Captiva shop. *Captiva’s Finest, 110 Chadwick’s Square, Unit 240, Captiva Island, 239/472-8222 or Sanybel’s Finest, Jerry’s Shopping Center, 1700 Periwinkle Way, Unit 8, Sanibel Island, 239/472-6776.*



### GLASS MASTER’S WORKS

Luminescent jellyfish paperweights from the single-named master glassblower, Richard, are highly sought-after artworks carried by **Jungle Drums** gallery. The California-trained artist is known for his “vivid colors and portrayals of nature, and his works are included in numerous public and private collections throughout the world.” Jungle Drums’ co-owner, Kathleen Mazzotta, says, “We can’t keep these gorgeous jellyfish in stock. They are unique and range from the simple to the elaborate.” Each reverse teardrop-shaped piece “is a mesmerizing creation that offers a different effect with each small change of light upon it.” *Jungle Drums, 11532 Andy Rosse Lane, Captiva Island, 239/395-2266.*



### CANDLES AND CRYSTALS

**The Bubble Room Emporium** is the source for paperweights that do double duty. Each has a tea light candle set in the middle, surrounded by sand and such tropical trinkets as seas-hells and sea stars. Emporium manager Michaela Sustrova says they’re called Sand and Shell Tealight Optics and come from Dune Design Studio in Orlando. In addition, the store offers unusual paperweights that are decorated with light-blue “crystals” and bas-relief dolphins. *The Bubble Room Emporium, 15001 Captiva Drive, Captiva Island, 239/472-6545.*