

macro-scale profile features such as bars and berms proved highly productive, both for providing more thorough and quantitative understanding of beach profile change to wave action and for promoting development of numerical models for simulating coastal processes aimed at engineering use.", is endorsed.

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**Cape Cod Field Trips**, by Stephen Leatherman, 1988. Coastal Publication Series, Laboratory for Coastal Research, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA. 132p. No ISBN. \$6.00 (plus \$1.00 handling).

Steve Leatherman has stepped bravely into the shoes of Henry Thoreau, John Wilson, Barbara Chamberlain and Arthur Strahler and has written a book about Cape Cod. One can only speculate as to what cerebral and even mythical processes have operated to draw these geologists, like moths to a flame, to proselytize and extol on the natural wonders and beauty of 'America's beckoning finger.'

Steve Leatherman is well-qualified to produce this volume as he has published a number of papers about the Cape, especially on its ever-changing coastline. The forerunner of this book was the Author's "Environmental Geologic Guide" published some ten years ago. However there is a difference. While the original volume was aimed at the professional, this one is aimed unashamedly at the amateur. Its low cost format suggests this book is clearly designed to be sold with sun hats, ice creams and postcards, rather than through specialist academic book stores. With the Cape attracting around 3 million visitors a year the prospects for a good sale are high.

The book comprises two sections. The first 33 pages gives a brief, but wide ranging introduction to glacial and coastal processes (including sea-level rise and coastal ecology), plus a few lines on 'human development'. Despite the limited space, the text conveys many thoughtful and crucial points. The second section (80 pages) forms the Guide itself, providing landform interpretation for 27 sites from the Cape Cod canal to Provincetown. These interpreta-

tions are augmented by historical anecdotes, details of memorable storms and descriptions of now-vanished railroads, quarries, roadways and buildings. Everything is profusely illustrated by cartoons, photographs and sketches, sixty five in all.

It would be unfair to be too critical of this volume, as it is clearly designed to attract and hold the attention of non-geologists. In this sense I think the book succeeds admirably. Some of the explanations of landforms are a little glib and superficial, and the figures are somewhat stylised. The mix of Imperial and SI units is unfortunate. Personally I don't like the black and blue printing, it makes the photographs (all in shades of blue) look old-fashioned. But overall this is a nicely produced volume. I wish more of us took the time to explain our ideas so lucidly to the general public.

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**Tides, Surges and Mean Sea-level**, by David Pugh, 1987. Wiley, New York. 472p. \$110.00. ISBN 0-471-91505-X

Our knowledge of tides and particular tidal prediction has come a long way since the late 18th century when models of tidal prediction were a closely guarded family secret in England. In today's more cooperative scientific community we can all benefit from the knowledge of tidal specialists such as David Pugh, particularly with the publication of this excellent text. This book is subtitled 'a handbook for engineers and scientists.' It is aimed at the vast majority of those who deal with the coast specifically hydrographers, engineers, geologists and biologists, who while not tidal specialists require an understanding and working knowledge of tides and perhaps surges and mean sea-level.

The book contains eleven chapters. Following the Introduction, tides are treated in the following four chapters. Chapter 2 "Observation and Data Reduction" covers instruments from tide poles to satellite altimetry and drouges to remote sensing. Chapter 3 covers "Forces," while chapter 4 "Analysis and Prediction" presents a clear and lucid account of all 35 har-