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CREATIVE FORECASTS


Weathervanes have diligently served one simple purpose for centuries. But like a swirling summer breeze, their evolving designs have proved pleasantly unpredictable.

As Bob Dylan said, you don't need a weathervane to know which way the wind blows. The 1960s philosophizing troubadour was right. We don't need weathervanes—even on Cape Cod, where the wind alternately blusters and purrs, and catches us by surprise just when we think we have a handle on it.

But we *want* weathervanes, and we want them badly. With our elemental connection to the sea, the wind, and the outdoors in general, Cape Codders hold weathervanes in very high esteem. Old or new, stamped from a mold or exquisitely rendered by hand, they are a connection to the natural world and—even without bells or whistles—give us useful, if not critical, information about our world.

"They're nostalgic and functional. People like the duality of them," says Jim Alex, owner of The Antiques Warehouse in Dennis. He cites another plus: "You have to walk outside your house to look at them." It's clear that Alex is fond of this aspect, especially when he compares weathervanes to "these newfangled gadgets for temperature and wind direction, all with dials, in your kitchen."

On the Cape and Islands, wondrous weathervanes are easy to find. Perched atop houses and commercial enterprises, they are gorgeous, whimsical, silly, sublime—and always intriguing. A horse farm might sport an elegant steed, legs held high, in a gallop above the cardinal points (directional arrows). A beautiful captain's house by the water may be crowned with an



■ Anthony Holand, owner of Tuck & Holand, Metal Sculptors, and Carol Jack, his resident apprentice, in the company's Vineyard Haven studio. Beside him, the shark weathervane is an edition piece finished in 23-carat gold leaf. The first edition, designed by Travis Tuck for the movie *Jaws*, was placed atop Quint's boathouse. Although the boathouse appears in the movie, the weathervane unfortunately was edited out of the final film.

BY MARY GRAUERHOLZ
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BETSY CORSIGLIA



■ In the foreground, the lobster weathervane, one of Holand's first original designs, was crafted out of copper and is now available as an edition piece. The West Chop Lighthouse weathervane, created by Holand for the Lucas family, is constructed of copper sheet, with bronze and brass touches and details in 23-carat gold leaf.

elegant clipper ship, burnished with the green patina of oxidized copper. Down the street, a neighbor may have erected a stainless steel weathervane that serves as a compendium of family history.

One of the world's most masterful weathervane sculptors can be found in a Vineyard Haven studio on Martha's Vineyard. Anthony Holand is the owner of Tuck & Holand, Metal Sculptors, on State Road. Holand apprenticed with the renowned Travis Tuck, who passed away in November of 2002, and has continued the business. His weathervanes, which run the gamut from fantasti-

cal to simply elegant, grace boardrooms, college stadiums, and the homes of entertainment big-wigs—in short, those who want a weathervane that reflects originality and fine craftsmanship. Be forewarned: Holand's custom pieces start at \$12,000 and have a 12- to 18-month waiting list. He also offers numbered editions—weathervanes made from a pattern but with a limited production—for \$3500 to \$7500.

In 1996, Holand and Tuck sold a weathervane to director Steven Spielberg for the barn on his Long Island property. A velociraptor, it is modeled

Creative Forecasts

English setter and much-loved family member. Billy Boy's owners have a house on Martha's Vineyard and others in Alabama and Mississippi. This piece will be displayed at the Alabama home.

Crafting such a piece as *Billy Boy* is a complex, exacting project. First Holand took photographs of the dog. "I also spent time with him," he says. "From there, I came up with a drawing. Once it's approved, it gets blown up to size." He then broke the project into "workable sections," much, he explains, like making a garment. This step takes particular skill: "It comes with time, knowing how far you can push something, what will work." The segments are then annealed (the metal is heated to red-hot) and then

plunged into cold water. By this time fairly pliable, the pieces are shaped and attached by brazing with a torch.

At 27, Holand considers himself very fortunate to have apprenticed with Tuck. Before Tuck's death from cancer, the two had already begun the process of transferring the business to Holand. He still lives by many of Tuck's principles. "Travis instilled the idea of taking the high road," says the artisan. "Our society is so into prefab homes and computers that are out of date in a few months. Everything is so throwaway. This is something that will last hundreds of years," says



TERRY POMMETT

■ One of The Weather Store's most eye-catching pieces: a stainless steel marlin weathervane designed by Steve Swain of Centerville.

Holand, who invites visitors to stop by and view his work in progress.

The earliest-recorded weathervanes were produced by the Greeks to honor their gods. *Cape Cod Pilot* by Jeremiah



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