



## Bradford L. Decker

June 18, 1957 - March 30, 2017

Bradford Langston Decker, 59, of Easton, MD, died on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Easton. Brad was born at home in Philadelphia, PA, on June 18, 1957, son of the late Philip Langston Decker and Marilyn Bauman Decker.

A graduate of Country School and Easton High School Class of 1975, Brad played varsity football and ran track and field for the school where he competed in state championships in the 440. Brad initially began college at the University of Richmond where he enjoyed life as a 'Spider' and then transferred to the University of Maryland. A graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park with a degree in horticulture, Brad returned to the Eastern Shore to enjoy his two passions, sailing and landscape design and the conception of Windy Hill Landscape and Design, Inc, began.

Introduced to sailing at an early age, the Decker family spent weekends at Wharton Creek with their boat Morning Star. At the age of 12, his family moved to Oxford from Haddonfield, NJ, and his lifelong dedication to Skylark began. Brad grew up on the beautiful Mercer 44, and she was part of his DNA. In 1972 at the age of 15, he experienced his first ocean race, sailing on Skylark with his father from Newport to Bermuda. The race encountered a myriad of events including the center board being knocked off its pin by a whale and being demasted at sea by Hurricane Agnes resulting in an entire

summer in Bermuda at Burt Darrell's boat yard with his family waiting for the new mast to arrive from Cape Code Ship Builders. This was only the beginning of his sailing adventures that spanned five decades including his final Annapolis Bermuda race in June 2016. Every race had a story, losing a pinky, being rammed and nearly losing his friend Price overboard, screaming down the bay in the Governor's Cup. He enjoyed the Caribbean and many bareboat charters and the delivery of boats with his friend Juliane Putley of Tortola. He shared this love with his wife, Annie, and his son, Philip, on numerous Caribbean sailing adventures.

Brad's other greatest gift was his beautiful eye for design that translated into magnificent gardens all over Talbot County. He knew which native varieties would always do well in the local soil and each garden was a present waiting to be opened by the eye as the buds sequentially opened into a season of color and beauty for all to enjoy.

Among the many things Brad enjoyed, one of them was music. His special love was for Bluegrass music which he shared with his wife. Any opportunity he had Brad would rush off to see the Seldom Scene at the Birchmere or the Avalon. Brad truly loved life and everyday was an adventure.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Annie Decker of Easton; his loving son, Philip Decker; stepdaughter Julia Jesu; stepson, Stephen Jesu; his dear sister, Holly Decker of Portland, OR; and a multitude of family, friends and litters of Labrador Retrievers all over Talbot County. The smell of fiberglass, diesel, and rum will forever be etched into our hearts; he was best friend to all.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Brad on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, beginning at 11:00 AM, at the Tred Avon Yacht Club (TAYC), 100 West Strand, Oxford, MD 21654.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the TAYC Jr. Sailing, PO Box 337, Oxford, MD 21654 so that all young people learn to love sailing as Brad did and the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department in gratitude for saving Skylark from her fire.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tred Avon Yacht Club  
100 W Strand  
Oxford, MD 21654  
(410) 226-5269

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bradford L. Decker*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Bradford L. Decker*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Bradford L. Decker*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bradford L. Decker.*



May 22, 2017 at 03:55 PM



“ *I learned to love Brad's spirit and smile as we raced to Bermuda . I was blessed to spend this time with him.*  
*Jay Martin*

**Jay Martin** - May 20, 2017 at 05:23 PM

EA

“ Eric Andersen purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Bradford L. Decker.



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**Eric Andersen** - May 17, 2017 at 05:35 PM

DC

“ I went to school with Brad. He was such a nice guy with a great smile. Haven't seen him for many years but will always remember him and the black lab he gave me, "Moose".

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**Dolly Callahan** - May 07, 2017 at 08:56 AM

SF

“ Shelly Furst lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker



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**Shelly Furst** - May 01, 2017 at 02:01 PM

TF

“ The Teale Familyt lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker



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**The Teale familyt** - May 01, 2017 at 09:17 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bradford L. Decker.*



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April 27, 2017 at 08:35 PM



“ *Lynn & Jeff Smith lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker*



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**Lynn & Jeff Smith** - April 21, 2017 at 08:03 AM



“ *Annie, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help you, You and your family are in my prayers, My condolences, Lynn*

*Lynn & Bob Stone ( Trappe MD)*

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**Lynn** - April 05, 2017 at 02:12 PM



“ *Lynn & Bob Stone ( Trappe MD) lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker*



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**Lynn & Bob Stone ( trappe MD)** - April 05, 2017 at 02:10 PM

AS

“ *Adrienne Treadway Shorter lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker*



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**Adrienne Treadway Shorter** - April 05, 2017 at 11:00 AM

MJ

“ *Annie,  
So very sorry to hear about your loss. Just wanted you to know that I was thinking of you and your family. My deepest sympathy.*

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**Mavis Jones** - April 05, 2017 at 07:31 AM

CP

“ *Many fond memories of Brad on the sidelines of Phil's pop warner football games. He always had a smile on his face and his old camera in hand taking fantastic action shots of his son and teammates on the football field. I had not seen Brad in a few years but can remember the love he had for his son and how proud of him he was. My deepest sympathy to his family and I will always remember that smile and cheerful attitude.*

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**Christy Paugh** - April 04, 2017 at 02:47 PM

EN

“ *Evelyn Nazare lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker*



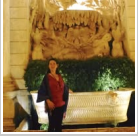
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**Evelyn Nazare** - April 04, 2017 at 06:50 AM

LD

“ *Many Memories , All of them GOOD . My Deepest Sympathy !  
Sincerely, Libby Kelley Dawkins*

Libby Kelley Dawkins - April 03, 2017 at 01:49 PM



“ *Dear Dear Annie and Phillip,  
There are few words that can express my support and love for you  
through your most sorrowful time. A most joyful, sweet, loving man -  
it was my privilege to know him. A loving son, father and husband  
and caring, dedicated creator and curator of beautiful places in our  
area. He will remain in the memory of countless people always.*

*I wish you strength in carrying forward in the best spirit that would  
make Brad feel proud and happy.*



Joyce DeLaurentis - April 03, 2017 at 11:44 AM

VZ

“ *Brad was the sweetest, kindest person we've ever known. And he  
was responsible for making our home's landscape the most  
beautiful and well cared for which made our lives on the Eastern  
Shore so much more enjoyable. He was so dedicated to his beloved  
family, loved his dogs and was passionate about sailing. We are so  
grateful that he was such an important part of our lives....we were  
privileged to have known him.*

*Victoria and Harvey Zuckerman*

Victoria Zuckerman - April 03, 2017 at 09:55 AM

CF

“ *Christine Farmar lit a candle in memory of  
Bradford L. Decker*



Christine Farmar - April 03, 2017 at 09:39 AM

SB

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Brads passing. He helped us with our landscaping and also, our mother's yard . We would talk about his love for his son Phillip. He was such a sweet sole and we will surely miss him . Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time  
Richard and Susan Blake*

Susan Blake - April 03, 2017 at 06:28 AM

SC

“ *Annie and family I am so very sorry for this terrible loss.. I remember Brad, always with a great big smile. He was very kind.. keeping all in my prayers.*

*Sharon Clark*

Sharon Clark - April 02, 2017 at 07:40 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of  
Bradford L. Decker.*



April 02, 2017 at 07:31 PM

JC

“ I too was completely shocked at the news of brad's passing. A buddy and client told me what had happened , and I was really upset, and still am.

*Brad was a terrific fellow and a link to the former glory days of my generations contribution to world karma , a " devil may care , but ..." attitude. A Tidewater version of Jimmy Buffet. A terrific guy who believed in strong friendship, comradery, hard work, celebration and congeniality. Always inclusive of people and trying to link friends, Not always the best judge of character but always giving people the benefit of the doubt, never missing an opportunity to make friends and to put a friendly foot forward.*

*One of his best sayings was " you know Tim s ...don't you? And of course you didn't. But after he said it you felt like you did. He always bridged the gap of awkward and dissenting opinions. He was always smiling.*

*Brad had a very rare sense of natural Landscape design and love of plants people and living things. His influence will be seen throughout talbot county and specially in Oxford. We worked on many projects together . I can see brad in the landscape with his use of crepe myrtle, wild grasses and knock Out roses.. I hope to create a new large memorial garden in cambridge that's dedicated to brad. We were working on this museum project last fall and we were looking to launch it this spring. ... darn....*

*He will be dearly missed. I wish more people had the affable generosity brad had. We need more people like brad. The world is short of generous spirits like brad.*

*Jay corvan , local architect and friend  
410-476-1800.*

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**jay corvan** - April 02, 2017 at 10:27 AM

TS

“ Terry And Sherry Saville lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker



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**Terry and Sherry Saville** - April 01, 2017 at 07:13 PM

JF

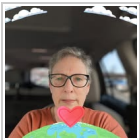
“ Annie, Phillip and Family

*We are so sad to hear about Brad's passing, and we will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. He was so kind and caring, loved his family, loved the flowers & trees, loved our Ravens, love love love. We will miss you.*

*Love, Janette and Mike Fine*

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**Janette Fine** - April 01, 2017 at 02:41 PM



“ Annie, you're in our hearts and prayers. We love you, Michael, Judy, Jay & Brad

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**Judy Jacobs** - April 01, 2017 at 05:58 AM

BR

“ Bill & Lisa Roth lit a candle in memory of Bradford L. Decker



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**Bill & Lisa Roth** - March 31, 2017 at 02:08 PM



“ *Annie and family,  
Thinking of you in this difficult time, you are in  
our thoughts and prayers*

*Tracey, Theresa, Kathy, Jeni, and Joy*



. - March 31, 2017 at 01:24 PM



“ *Debi RothBowles lit a candle in memory of  
Bradford L. Decker*



**Debi RothBowles** - March 30, 2017 at 10:19 PM



“ *Anne and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. May you find  
peace in days to come.*



**Nancy Hettling** - March 30, 2017 at 08:31 PM