

welcome home

JUNE

COASTAL ARTISTS

In 1714, King George III granted a parcel of Currituck County land to Chandler Sawyer's ancestors. His family sold the land, but decoy carving and duck hunting still run in his blood.

SAWYER DECOY CO. CURRITUCK

It was pitch black as Chandler Sawyer waded through the shallow waters around Pine Island. He carefully spread his hand-carved decoys across the creek to attract the attention of nearby waterfowl, just like his great-great-grandfather, renowned decoy carver Bob Morse, did nearly a century ago. "I want to carry on the family legacy of Currituck decoy carving because it's a dying art," Sawyer says. "And I want to do it the old way."

Sawyer's work is steeped in family history. His shop, located in what was formerly the detached kitchen of his family's 1800s farmhouse, smells heavily of juniper, the wood that carvers in his family have been using for generations. Across the sound is the land where he learned to hunt ducks, to wield a hatchet used to carve decoys by hand, and to appreciate Currituck, the land of wild geese. — Katie Kane

To learn more about Sawyer Decoy Co., call (252) 202-5066 or visit [instagram.com/sawyerdecoycompany](https://www.instagram.com/sawyerdecoycompany).